

Energy aid offered to households

Applications are being taken by the Cameron Community Action Agency for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program to assist with home cooling and heating expenses by making payment to energy companies on behalf of eligible households. Eligible households with children age five years and younger, the elderly and handicapped persons will be given priority. To be eligible, the total income for all persons in the household cannot exceed 60 percent median income.

Applicants must bring proof of income and/or receipt of AFDC, Food Stamps, SSI, Veteran's VA Survivors' Pension, Social Security, Retirement, Pensions, and Annuities. Applicants must bring the energy bill they need assistance in paying as well as Social Security cards for all members of the household.

Applications are by appointment only, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please call the Cameron office at 775-5145 or the Grand Lake office at 598-5158 for an appointment.

Christmas bird count held here

The annual Christmas Bird Count was conducted on Saturday, Dec. 20 by members of the Louisiana Ornithological Society on the Sabine National Wildlife Refuge in Cameron Parish.

Nineteen members participated and observed 37,780 birds of 162 species.

This compared to 49,643 birds of 174 species seen last year.

"These results should place Sabine as the top count in Louisiana and one of the top 30 U.S./Canadian counts," a Society spokesman said.

In 2002 Sabine was first on the 22 Louisiana counts and ranked 17th in the U.S./Canadian counts.

The spokesman expressed the Society's appreciation for their help with the count to Diane Billiot at Sabine Refuge, Scott Rosteet with Apache Oil, Terry Shaunesey and Kirk Stansel of Hackberry Rod & Gun, Mrs. Buddy Morris, Mrs. Joe Sanner, the Henry Family and Mariana Tanner.

The Cameron Parish count included the Sabine refuge and several other locations along the west Cameron coast.

The 2004 Christmas count in Cameron parish will be held on Saturday, Dec. 18. This will be 50th year for the count which was begun by Johnny Mouton and Earl Atwood.

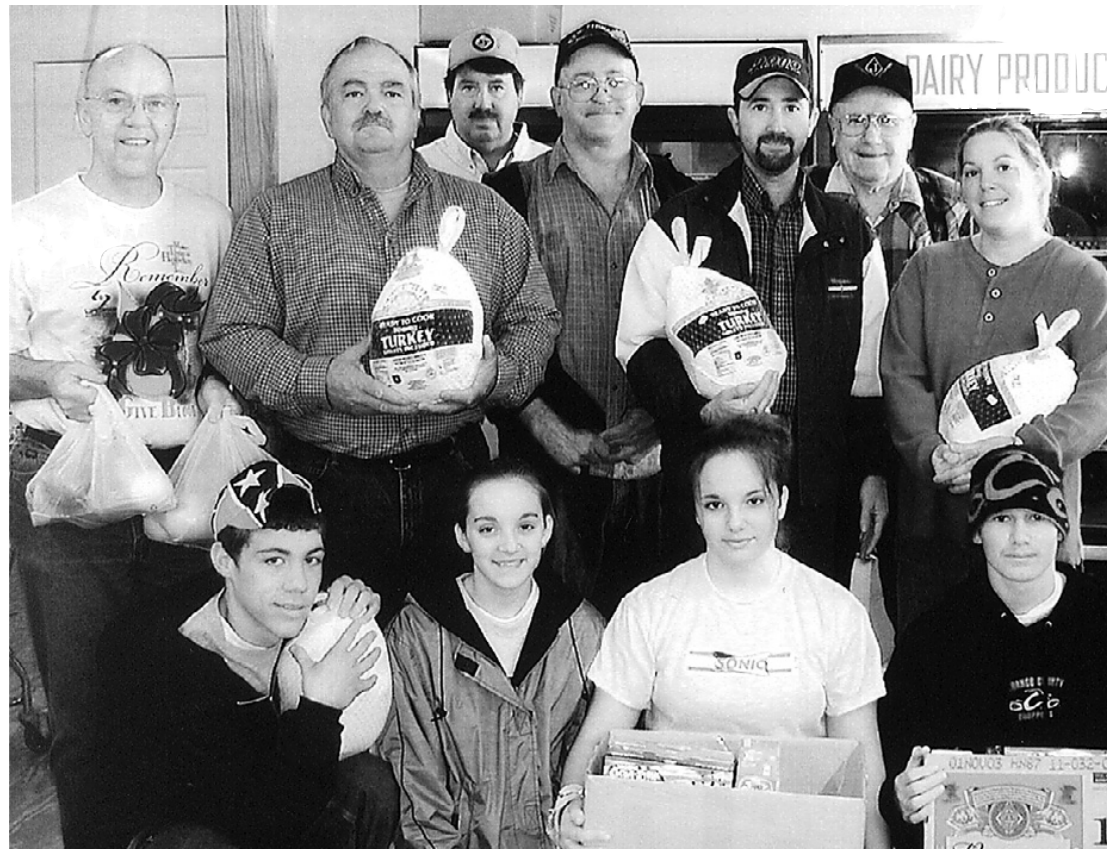
Duhon named

Two time All-Stater Beau Duhon was named the Lake Charles American Press All Southwest Louisiana Small Schools Defensive MVP. Duhon led the South Cameron Tarpons with 112 tackles, 18 of those behind the line of scrimmage. He had 2 sacks and three forced fumbles.

The Cameron Parish Pilot

04 35¢ Happy New Year!!!

January 1, 2004 Vol. 48--No. 1 Cameron, La. 70631



MEMBERS OF F. J. Pavell Knights of Columbus Council 8323 of Johnson Bayou-Holly Beach met Dec. 23 to assemble and distribute food baskets from food and cash collections from the community. Pictured from left to right are KC members Gerald Touchet, Sonny McGee, Ricky Romero, Farrell Blanchard, Ricky Menard, Tommy Pease, and Terri Menard. Front row are youths Rustin Trahan, Dani Storm, Katrina McGee, and Travis Romero.

Odom says beef is safe

Louisiana consumers can continue to eat meat with complete confidence, Commissioner of agriculture and Forestry Bob Odom said.

"In the face of the discovery of mad cow disease in one cow in Washington state we have gotten calls from Louisiana citizens concerning the safety of our meat," Odom said.

"To as near a certainty as humanly possible, we know the disease is not present in Louisiana livestock or in the meat being sold to Louisiana consumers," Odom said.

Louisiana has a surveillance program in which Louisiana state veterinarians monitor any sick animals. Samples of those animals are taken for further testing. "This program is in full effect. All tests have been negative," Odom said.

Now a trace back of the infected Washington state animal to its herd of origin shows that the cow came into the United States from Canada.

Odom noted that the chief ramification from the positive test for mad cow is the severe economic impact to the U.S. cattle market. "The cattle markets have closed down the maximum possible in the trading days since the U.S. Department of Agriculture's confirmed mad cow in the animal."

"The responsibility for the major damage being done to the cattle industry rests squarely with the Bush administration," Odom said. "I have made the point on several occasions to federal officials that they should be testing all the herds that come into the U.S. from Canada fol-

lowing the finding earlier this year of mad cow there.

"They failed to do that and now we are paying a heavy price."

Mad cow disease is properly known as Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, or BSE. It infects brain, spinal column and lower intestine tissue. The meat sold to consumers is muscle meat. It does not contain parts from the brain, spinal column or intestine.

But, he added, "I have our meat inspection division canvassing the state looking for any meat products that may have come into Louisiana from the plants identified in Washington State as having processed meat from this animal."

Also, the department's veterinary division is checking all dairy herds to determine if any replacement dairy cows have been moved into Louisiana from dairy herds in

Cont. on page 2.

Christmas trees to be used in Cameron marshes

The annual Christmas tree recycling project is underway. The Calcasieu and Cameron Police Juries have joined in a wetlands restoration project.

Department of Natural Resources project manager Kenneth Bahlinger explained that wooden fences are built in eroding marsh areas to hold the discarded Christmas trees. As a result, the wave action in the water is slowed, sediment movement is increased, and fisheries habitat is enhanced.

This year, the Christmas trees will be used for three project sites in Calcasieu

Parish and Cameron Parish--Prien Lake (Calcasieu) and Kelso Bayou and Portier Lakes in Hackberry (Cameron).

To have your tree included, place the tree at the roadside next to your home before Monday, Jan. 12 for pickup by the Cameron Parish Road Crew. Please keep separate from other garbage.

Please remove all ornaments and tinsel from your tree. Flocked trees will not be picked up, as they are a hazard to wildlife and fish; therefore, they are not acceptable for this project.

Police Jury to meet on January 12

Although the Cameron Parish Police Jury usually meets on the first Monday of the month, the January meeting has been postponed to Monday, Jan. 12.

This was the earliest date that the recently elected police jurors could be sworn in. This ceremony will take place at 3 p.m. followed by the regular meeting at 5 p.m.

Jurors will elect a president and vice-president and appoint the parish administrator and treasurer.



THESE YOUNG LADIES will give up their crowns at the 2004 Louisiana Fur and Wildlife Festival to be held next week. They are Tiffany Wing, left, Fur Queen, and Trista Semien, Miss Cameron Parish. The Miss Cameron pageant will be held Friday, Jan. 9 and the Fur Queen contest will be held Saturday, Jan. 10.

48th Annual Louisiana Fur and Wildlife Festival Schedule of Events January 8, 9, & 10, 2004 Held on the fairgrounds behind the Cameron Courthouse

Honoring the Oyster Industry

Thursday, Jan. 8, 2004	Saturday, Jan. 10, 2004
7:00 P.M. - Little Mr. and Miss Cameron Parish at Cameron Elementary Auditorium	8:00 A.M. Fairgrounds Open State Trap Shooting Contest Carnival Rides
8:00 A.M. Fairgrounds Open Carnival Rides Parish Trap Shooting Competition	9:00 A.M. Carnival \$10.00 Armbands 9:00 A.M.-Noon Ladies and Men's Oyster Shucking Contest Jr. and Sr. State Dog Trials Registration Display of Scrapbook
9:00 A.M. Jr. and Sr. Parish Dog Trials Registration	10:00 A.M. Jr. and Sr. State Dog Trials
10:00 A.M. Jr. and Sr. Parish Dog Trials	12:30 P.M. Parade
11:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M. Carnival \$10 Armbands	2:00 P.M. Jr. and Sr. Duck and Goose Calling Contest Visiting Queen's Reception at Fur and Alligator Council Booth in Multipurpose Building
2:00 P.M. Children's program at Fur and Alligator Council Booth in Multipurpose Building	2:00-5:30 P.M. Dance on Fairgrounds Little Chenier Playboyz
2:00-5:00 P.M. Dance on Fairgrounds Midnight Special	3:00 P.M. Skinning Contest: Ladies and Men's Muskrat Jr., Ladies, and Men's Nutria Trap Setting
4:00-8:00 P.M. Carnival \$10 Armbands	4:00-8:00 P.M. Carnival \$10.00 Armbands
5:30-9:00 P.M. Dance on Fairgrounds Kingfish	7:00 P.M. LA Fur and Wildlife Festival Queen Pageant at Cameron Elementary Auditorium
7:00 P.M. Deb, Teen, Jr. and Miss Cameron Parish Pageant Crowning of King Fur at Cameron Elementary Auditorium	9:00 P.M. Adult Dance Barry Badon and the Bayou Boys - KC Hall - Cameron Admission \$10.00 per person

Cookbook is out

By Jerry Wise

One of the biggest and best Louisiana Fur & Wildlife Festival cookbooks was recently published and is on sale at various locations around Cameron Parish.

This year's book contains many photographs of the 2003 participants in addition to all of last year's event winners.

There are many pages of recipes from cooks all over Cameron Parish and Southwest Louisiana.

Telesha Bertrand, Stephanie Richard and Tanya LaBove were the cookbook coordinators.

David Eakin of the Mixed Media Group was cover artist for the book and did the layout and printing.

Books may be purchased at Cameron Parish banks, Clipper Office Supply and several other locations in the parish. Details on sale locations may be found in the story on page 2.



DO YOU REMEMBER? This photo was taken over 40 years ago and showed Mrs. Robert LaTourneau conferring with Cameron Parish officials, including J. B. Jones, Hadley Fontenot, and police jury members. Mrs. LaTourneau and her husband were looking into the possibility of building an offshore rig assembly plant in Cameron. However, the project never became a reality. The LaTourneaus were well-known at that time for their earth-moving equipment manufacturing.



THE ANNUAL Louisiana Fur and Wildlife Festival parade will be held at 12:30 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 10 in downtown Cameron. This photo of a float entered in one of the past parades by the South Cameron Memorial Hospital was taken by the late Bill Turnbull.

FUNERALS



Jean Landry

JEAN W. LANDRY

Funeral services for Mr. Jean W. "Shorty" Landry, 83, of Cameron, were held Saturday, Dec. 27 in Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church.

The Rev. Peter Kohler officiated. Burial was in Mimosa Pines Cemetery.

Mrs. Landry died Tuesday, Dec. 22, 2003, in a Lake Charles hospital.

Mr. Landry was born in Abbeville. He was a member of Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church. He worked as a commercial fisherman and shrimper, and owned and operated Landry's Net Shop in Cameron. He was a U.S.

Army veteran.

Survivors include his wife, Beatrice Landry of Cameron; two sons, Louis Landry of Kaplan and Lawrence Landry of Cameron; one daughter, Louella Graham of Cameron; four sisters, Alice Sonnier of Delcambre, Velta Landry of Abbeville, Betty Landry of Abbeville and Joyce Richard of Lake Arthur; ten grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

HILDA DUHON

Funeral services for Hilda I. Duhon, 95, of Welsh, were held Wednesday, Dec. 24, from St. Theresa Catholic Church. The Rev. Peter Kohler officiated. Burial was in Mimosa Pines Cemetery.

Mrs. Duhon died Monday, Dec. 22, 2003, in a Lake Charles hospital.

After her marriage to the late Ovie Duhon, they resided in Hackberry for 21 years. She and her husband ran a boarding house for teachers in Hackberry. Mrs. Hilda also substituted as school bus driver. She was a charter member of Catholic Daughters of America in both Hackberry and Carlyss. She was a member of St. Theresa's Catholic Church.

Survivors include her son, Carl Duhon of Lacassine; three grandchildren; four step-grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and 10 step-great-grandchildren.

It Seems Just Like Yesterday

By Keith Hambrick



Lake Charles American Press, Dec. 24, 1929.

HACKBERRY SNOW

Hackberry was covered with ice, sleet and snow Saturday and Sunday. Heavy ice on the trees caused many limbs to break off. Fruit trees that were not protected are thought to have been killed. The Gulf States Utilities Company's high line broke in Hackberry Saturday at 8 p.m., cutting off all electricity in Hackberry until the line could be repaired at 3:30 Sunday morning.

The Hackberry oil field managers had to go to Sulphur to phone in their reports. Three boys were kept busy shoveling snow at the ferry crossing the Intracoastal Canal.

Lake Charles American Press, Dec. 26, 1940.

VINCENT FAMILY REUNION

Members of the Vincent family gathered at the home of Benson Vincent in Hackberry for their annual reunion on Christmas Day, a custom which has been observed by the family for more than 56 years.

Since the death of his mother, Mrs. J. M. Vincent, several years ago, Benson Vincent has assumed leadership of the annual reunion preparations and members of the family celebrate with a big Christmas dinner at this home.

Present were: Mrs. Dorisse Kaough, Mr. and Mrs. Gibbs Duhon, Gerald, Lorraine, Delores and Fleta Duhon, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Sudwicher, Tommy and John Martin Sudwicher, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Vincent, Willadene, Vida and Ione Vincent, Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Richard, Clarisse Ann Richard, Mr. and Mrs. Burton Vincent, Mrs. Jesse Vincent, Herman Glenn Vincent, Bruce Vincent.

Everett Vincent, Helen Jane Vincent, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Sanner, Mrs. Jim Sanner, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Cox, Jena Linda Cox, Dean, Arlene, and Laura Mae Sanner, Burl Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Ducote, Lionel, Kenneth and Marilyn Ducote, Lawrence Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Sanner, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Sanner, Anita Jo Sanner, Lawrence Vincent, Mrs. Columbus Moss, Geraldine Moss, Mr. and Mrs. N. E. Vincent, Norinne, Rodney and Wayne Vincent, Mr. and Mrs. Dave Dugas, Virginia, Virg and Anna Vincent, Mr. and Mrs. Benoit Guidry and son.

Cameron Pilot, Dec. 25, 1970.

WORK ON WATERSHED HERE

Work on the Cameron-Creole Small Watershed project now is in progress, it has been announced by the chairman of the Cameron and Creole Gravity Drainage districts which are sponsoring the project.

J. A. Davis, chairman of the Cameron district, and Joe Rutherford, chairman of the Creole district, announced that plans will be completed about March 1 for the water control structure to be located near the Louisiana Menhaden Co. plant at Cameron.

The structure will be located on the canal running east and west north of Cameron and will keep salt water out of the marsh there and permit excess water to drain off.

Mike Hooks Construction Co. has completed about half of the foundation for the large control structure at Grand Bayou.

The two drainage districts have asked the Soil Conservation Service to give the next priority to the clearing of the Creole canal between Creole and the Gulf.

DAVID NEW PRESIDENT

Percy David, long time school board member from Klondike, has been elected president of the Cameron Parish School Board. He succeeds Ray Dimas of Cameron who was not re-elected to the board in the recent Ward 3 school race.

Cameron Pilot, Dec. 25, 1970.

DUHON HOME ON LEAVE

Sp/4 David L. Duhon, son of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Duhon, Grand Lake, is home on leave after an 11-month tour of duty in Vietnam and Cambodia.

Twice he was wounded while in combat, for which he was awarded the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster, June 10. He received the Army Commendation Medal, July 25. On Oct. 31, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and also the Army Commendation Medal for service with the 25th Infantry Division in Vietnam.

CREOLE LIGHTING

In the Christmas lighting contest staged in the Creole area, Mrs. Alma Rome's residence was named first place winner in the overall decorating category while the Alvin Ray Mudd home captured first place in the door decorating. The contest was sponsored by the Creole HD Club.

Second-place honors in overall decorating went to the Winston Theriot residence and third place to the Enos Sturlese home. Honorable mention was shared by the Joe O'Donnell and the Dalton Richard residences.

In the door decorating, second place was won by the Preston Boudreauxs, third place by the Jerry Broussards, and honorable mention by the Clifford Connors and the Clifford Myers.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Christmas story was presented Sunday night by the pre-school and children's department of the Hackberry Baptist Church. Angela Mejia was Mary; Darren East, Joseph; Sharon Nunez, Bitsy Shoves and Duane Kershaw, Wise Men; Randy LeBlanc, Lisa Sanders and Steven Kershaw, shepherds; Denise Lambert and Lorrie Mejia, angels.

Readers were Mona Nunez, Jeannie Sanders, Busty Shoves and Carol Moore. The children and youth department participated in the choir.

Director of the program was Margaret Shoves; pianist, Molly Reasoner and choir director, Gwen Reasoner.

Festival cookbooks available

The La. Fur and Wildlife Festival 2004 Cookbooks are on sale at the following locations through Sat., Jan. 31 in Cameron Parish for \$10 per

book at: Hackberry, Brown's Grocery; Johnson Bayou, Young's Grocery; Cameron, Hibernia National Bank, Clipper Office Supply; Grand Lake/Sweet Lake, Chesson's Grocery; Creole, Canik's True Value and Grand Chenier, Kelley's Mart.

Cookbooks are also available by mail. Send a money order for \$12 (includes shipping and handling) to: La. Fur & Wildlife Festival, P. O. Box 19, Cameron, La. 70631. Cookbooks are sent daily.

This year's festival will be held Thurs., Fri., and Sat., Jan. 8, 9, and 10 honoring the oyster industry.

BEEF SALE

Cont. from Pg. 1

Washington state or Canada, Odom said.

The state is in daily contact with U.S. Department of Agriculture officials keeping abreast of the latest developments in the Washington state case, Odom said.

In addition to the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry's surveillance program, Louisiana's meat supply does not typically come from the far western states.

"The meat that is sold in our supermarkets is normally from animals much closer to home than 2,000 thousands miles away in Washington state," Odom said.

A Web site with links to a wide range of topics on mad cow is www.louisianalivestock.org.

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January 8, 9 & 10

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Cameron Outdoors

By LOSTON MCEVERS



DUCK BLIND RAGE

Watching the news and reading local newspapers, we see this thing they call "Road Rage," you know, don't cut me off. Well, as bad as hunting has been on some days, you just think you have "Blind Rage," as you move to another blind or even hide in the grass, cut the decoy spread down or trying, you take out the electric duck. I thought this was like road rage, however you go out for the second split, and after seven days you can't shoot pintails anymore. Yes, this is the time the pintails start to move in.

Every day I've hunted since the pintails season has closed, only killed two in the last two days of legal season. I've had pintails come across my decoys almost every day, and see flocks pass by. Well, Sunday I had a fair hunt with five birds, but then there's three pintails in gun range, can't shoot. While I'm waiting to get another duck for my limit, out of the corner of my eye, I see a flock of ducks. I get down and get on the old duck caller. When I turned around, there's 26 pintails in a flock, wings capped. Friends, this really got to me. I packed the shell box, put the gun in the gun case, cranked up the boat and headed for home. Now I'm not a doctor, nor was there one around, but when I returned home, I looked up the medical journal and yes, they call this "D, Duck Blind Rage." It's like the East Zone got the gold mine and here in the west zone we got "D" Shaft." Case closed, no-no, pintail season closed.

2004

Well, we're starting a new

year off this week, and January brings quite a few hunting seasons that will be closing or has already closed.

Closed seasons: deer-still hunt-area 3, and rail and gallinules in west zone. Crow season statewide closes Jan. 2, dove season statewide closes Jan. 5. Archery season area 3 closes Jan. 15. Duck-coot-canvasback season west zone closes Jan. 18, and woodcock statewide closes Jan. 31. Although all these seasons close in our area, we'll still have squirrel, rabbit, snipe, geese, quail, and nutria season opens. Oh, pintail season is closed.

January is the month we'll see New Years Day, squirrel breeding begins, we should see peak waterfowl numbers in coastal Louisiana, but don't make me lie.

It's time to clean and repair purple martin nest boxes, and if you're wanting to plant native trees and shrubs, the end of January is a good time to do so. This is also the month that we normally begin to get colder weather, and this usually runs through February. Don't forget to make your New Year's Resolution and stick to it.

FISHING NEWS

A few nice redfish have been taken in the Hog Bayou area in Grand Chenier. Working an outgoing tide, fishing has been good, but don't stay too long and get caught on a low tide and stay on a mud flat.

Local anglers fished Toledo Bend a couple of days, doing very well on white perch, using live bait. With the temperature in the 70's and water



RICKY MENARD and wife Terri were selected as Family of the Month for December and Gerald Touchet was selected as Knight of the Month by F. J. Pavell Knights of Columbus 8323 of Johnson Bayou-Holly Beach. Ricky Menard was also selected as Knight of the Month for November while Maurice and Debbie Rivet were selected as Family of the Month for November.

Cameron Parish Library News

MEMORIAL BOOKS

Many of the new books at the Cameron Parish Library were purchased by library patrons as memorials to deceased or living persons. Among the current memorial books are these, listed by title, honorees and donors.

Red, White, Blue and temperature running 58 or so degrees, Toledo Bend fishing is still good.

DEER CROSSINGS

There are certain areas, especially the Grand Chenier area, where we are always on the lookout for deer, even in the spring and summer months. I often wonder what would happen if a deer would hit the windshield and come inside the vehicle you're driving and riding in.

This happened in the state of North Carolina. A North Carolina State Trooper said an SUV was driving, collided with a six-point buck, and an antler broke off into the 15 year-old daughter's eye. The girl is okay, but will probably lose her eye.

DID YA KNOW

There are signs in some of our private marshes showing "D-MAP." This is some of the state's "Deer Management Assistance Program" acreage where in 1981, there was 129 cooperators with 200,000 acres of land. Today there are 1,436 cooperators and 2.6 million acres in DMAP. In 2003, the group of cooperators have paid fees that amounted to \$172,275. That goes to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation Fund.

SUNRISE-SUNSET

Friday, Jan. 2: 7:09 a.m. and 5:24 p.m.
 Saturday: 7:10 a.m. and 5:25 p.m.
 Sunday: 7:10 a.m. and 5:26 p.m.
 Monday: 7:10 a.m. and 5:26 p.m.
 Tuesday: 7:10 a.m. and 5:27 p.m.
 Wednesday: 7:10 a.m. and 5:28 p.m.
 Thursday: 7:10 a.m. and 5:29 p.m.

As we go into a new year, I thank our readers for your comments and questions. I wish each and everyone of you a beautiful and prosperous new year. Happy New Year.

Gold, Ronnie Murphy by Danny and Charlene Boudreaux; Let the Games Begin, Amber Broussard by Danny and Charlene Boudreaux;

Tell Me the Secrets, Delia DeBarge by Mr. and Mrs. Jaimie Boudreaux and Girls; The Ultimate Slow Cooker Cookbook, Enola Saltzman by Jaimie and Tina Boudreaux and Girls;

Monarch's of the Sea, Eddie Hebert, Jr. by the Family of Eddie Hebert, Jr.; Bayou Farewell, Roy Bailey by Penelope, Darren, Devon and Brayden Richard;

Trim and Terrific Cookbook, Camelia Bourriaque by Penelope, Darren, Devon and Brayden Richard; The Encyclopedia of Golf, Ronnie Murphy by Kimberly and Ricky LeBoeuf;

Nurses 3 Minute Clinical Reference, Angie Powell by Kimberly and Ricky LeBoeuf; A Prayer for the Earth, Elizabeth Jo Sturlese by Souther Tank Employees.

NEW NOVELS

Highlights to Heaven, Nancy J. Cohen; Port Hazard, Loren D. Estleman; Sacred Time, Ursula Hegi; Texas Vendetta, Elmer Kelton;

Odd Thomas, Dean R. Koontz; Secret Santa, Robert Tate Miller; Rape, Joyce Carol Oates; The Trade, Shirley Palmer;

The Big Bad Wolf, James Patterson; A Christmas Journey, Anne Perry; Changing of the Guard, Steve Perry.

Attention Future Massage Therapists Weekend Classes start March 12 in Lake Charles 474-9435 Sign Up Now!



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Lagniappe Two Retirement Home Living Notes

By Geneva Griffith



By GENEVA GRIFFITH

Things have begun to settle down here in the village after the beautiful Christmas day. However it doesn't feel like winter here today.

We have been to many Christmas parties over the last few days. I enjoy hearing about what is going on and what people are doing. After this week there will be plans for Mardi Gras.

Santa did find his way to Village Woods Christmas day and left his many presents for us.

I'm sure the powers that be at Cameron are getting ready for the Fur and Wildlife Festival. They have been left with a wonderful legacy and must keep it going without those of us who started it.

I ran across a bit of history that I wrote about in the August 3, 1975 Pilot which you should know about.

OLD TOKEN FOUND

Two Cameron parish boys, Ben Welch and Caleb Jeffers, learned a history lesson this week when they found an old tarnished coin in an old trash dump.

There was one thing peculiar about this coin, however, it had a triangular hole in the center.

When steel wool was applied to it the writing on the coin showed up plainly, "Luxury Tax" across the top, "Token Louisiana" on the bottom, and the figure 5 on each side of the coin.

This called for an investigation of the brass token and revealed that the coin is the descendant of a 1936 state law.

During the depression years, the Louisiana legislature, in Act 75 of the 1936 legislature, passed a "Luxury" tax, which went into effect Oct. 1, 1936, and called for a two percent on many items sold for retail. The act called for the coinage of tokens.

In its regular session of 1938 the state legislature passed the Public Welfare Revenue Act, a one per cent sales tax.

The act was a complex one which provided a number of areas of exclusion from payment of the tax.

It also provided for the coinage of Welfare tax tokens. At the same time it repealed Act 75 of 1936, effective July 1, 1938, and provided for redemption of the "Luxury Tax" tokens.

One of the platforms in candidate Sam Jones 1939 campaign for governor called for the abolition of the welfare tax and simultaneously of the tokens.

With Jones as governor, the state collector of revenue was empowered by the 1940 legislature to redeem the Welfare Tax tokens, and, in fact, the collector's office had held in escrow \$93,000 for redemption.

Act 82 of the 1940 regular session abolished the Welfare Tax and allowed citizens until March 31, 1941, to redeem their tokens.

The tokens were issued in 1938 in one-mill and five-mill denominations.

One mill tokens were made of aluminum; five mill tokens were of brass.

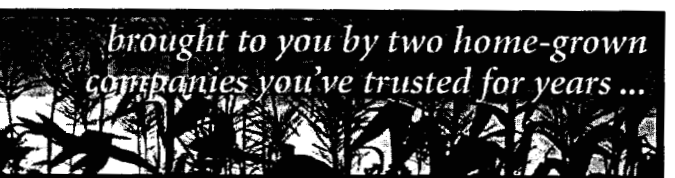
A total of 57,000,000 tokens were minted, 49,000,000 being one-mill pieces, at a value of \$87,000.

A purchaser would pay one-mill on purchases from 5 to 14 cents, two mill purchases from 15 to 24 cents and at similar rates up to a dollar, where the tax reached a penny.

On March 28, three days before the redemption deadline, \$80,000 worth, or about 50,000,000 of the coins had not been redeemed.

This collectors item today is a contact with a time when the Louisiana sales tax was only one percent.

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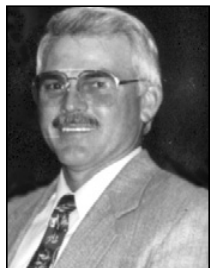


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Take good care of your body

by **Mindy Hermann, RD** (NAPSA) When You Donate Blood. Before you donate, a blood bank volunteer will take a small sample of blood and evaluate the health of your red blood cells. If you have too few red blood cells or they contain too little iron, you will not be permitted to donate. People who are rejected for this reason (there are several situations where a donor may be rejected) should eat plenty of iron-containing foods, and try again in a couple of months.

After donating, your body replaces the liquid part of your blood, the plasma, within a few hours, so be sure to

drink plenty of fluids. Red blood cells require several weeks to come back to normal levels. A well-balanced diet that includes lean meat, green vegetables, beans, fruits and whole-grain bread can help. Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City also recommends iron-rich breakfast cereal to people who donate blood.

Eat plenty of foods high in iron. Enjoy foods rich in vitamin C, like orange juice and tomato sauce, with non-meat foods like fortified cereal and pasta. An interesting little-known fact is that vitamin C helps boost iron absorption.

Open-faced mushroom burgers

(NAPSA)-Want to raise your hamburgers to a new level? Add chopped fresh mushrooms to the mix. The mushrooms not only add wonderful, savory flavor, but they release their juices as the burgers cook, keeping them moist and juicy. Serve your beautiful burgers open-face with the perfect topper-sliced mushrooms and onion, sautéed in the same skillet. Mushrooms also give your burgers a nutrition boost! You get B vitamins, heart-healthy potassium and cancer-fighting selenium. For



more ways to add mushrooms to your meals, visit www.mushroominfo.com or send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Cooking with Mushrooms, P.O. Box 636, New York, NY 10159-0636.

Open-Faced Mushroom Burgers

- 1 pound fresh white mushrooms
- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 2 tablespoons olive oil, divided
- 1 medium onion, sliced
- 1/4 teaspoon each salt and ground black pepper
- 4 slices crusty bread, toasted

Chop enough mushrooms to measure 1 1/2 cups; slice remaining mushrooms. In a bowl, combine ground beef, chopped mushrooms and mustard; gently form into 4 burgers. In a large heavy skillet, over medium heat, heat half of the oil. Add sliced mushrooms and onion; cook and stir just until tender, 5 to 6 minutes. Remove to a bowl along with juices. In the same skillet, heat remaining oil. Add burgers; cook until browned and cooked through, 4 to 5 minutes on each side; remove to a plate; keep warm. Pour off excess fat; return mushroom-onion mixture to skillet; add salt and pepper. Cook and stir until hot. Arrange each burger on a toasted bread slice with a lettuce leaf and tomato slice, if desired. Spoon mushroom-onion mixture onto burgers.

YIELD: 4 portions

Young Writers and Illustrators contest is told for K-3 graders

Children from kindergarten to third grade are invited to take part in the tenth annual Reading Rainbow Young Writers & Illustrators Contest. To enter, a child must write and illustrate his own short story.

Every child who enters the contest receives a Certificate of Achievement from Reading Rainbow host Levar Burton.

Entry forms are available from public libraries, on the LPB website: www.lpb.org and PBS Kids website: www.pbskids.org or by calling 1-800-272-8161, ext. 4206.

Louisiana teachers are urged to use the contest as a class project.

The deadline for receiving entries is March 15.

Raining rats and mice?

(NAPSA)-Rain may make flowers grow and crops more plentiful, but it also can play a significant role in bringing rodents indoors.

A mild winter with temperatures at a national average of 500, in addition to heavy rainfall, may increase rodent populations.

To help prevent rats and mice from taking over your home, national home improvement expert Lou Manfredini, a.k.a. "Mr. Fix-It," suggests that homeowners take these simple steps to prevent rodent infestation:

- Keep a clean house-Wash dishes and cooking utensils immediately after use. Dispose of any trash and clutter.

- Store food and water properly-Keep all food, water and garbage in metal or thick plastic containers with tight-fitting lids. Never leave food or water out overnight, even for your pets.

- Keep the areas surrounding your home well maintained-Trim bushes, hedges and plant debris away from your home's foundation to avoid rodent nesting.

- Seal up potential entrances-Mice can squeeze through spaces as small as a dime, so it is wise to seal up potential entrances to your home with sheet metal, steel wool or cement. Pay particular attention to spaces around pipes, vents and

ducts.

- Remove items that are potential nesting sites-Remove stacks of newspapers, cardboard boxes, firewood, lumber and building supplies from shelves and floors.

- Use rodenticides-Keep a supply of on hand and use regularly to help prevent a small rodent problem from becoming an infestation. Setting baits and traps simultaneously in the home will ensure better control of the problem.

For more information on rodent prevention, or for a free brochure, call d-CON(r) Rodenticides at 1-800-395-3266.

The 48th annual Louisiana Fur and Wildlife Festival honors the Oyster Industry



Manage your finances to increase savings

Taking a fresh look at your finances in January gives you the opportunity to implement savings strategies all year. The Society of Louisiana CPAs (LCPA) offers the following checklist to help you assess and take charge of your financial future.

1. Set Clear Goals - "Establishing financial goals should be the first step in the financial planning process," says Tina Demarest Barrett, CPA, LCPA Lake Charles chapter president. "Commit your goals to paper and then plan and prioritize objectives for achieving them."

2. Resolve to Spend Less Spending less than you earn is the key to being able to save and invest money. Continually look for ways to cut your expenses and/or increase your income. Trying to live beneath your means from time to time could be a priority.

3. Create an Emergency Fund - CPAs recommend that you have three to six months of living expenses that you can tap into the event of an emergency. Many people select a savings account for their emergency funds. If your balance is high enough, you may wish to open a money market account or a money market mutual fund that pays a higher rate of interest but still allows ready access to your funds.

4. Make Saving a Priority - The best savings strategy is to set aside money before you have the chance to spend it. Some employers offer automatic savings plans that deposit money directly from your paycheck into a savings account or a tax-deferred retirement plan such as a 401(k). There are also many brokerage or mutual fund companies with programs that allow you to invest as little as \$25 or \$50 a month through

automatic deductions from a savings or checking account.

5. Reduce High Credit Card Debt - If you're carrying high interest rate credit card balances, make debt reduction your first financial objective. Consider consolidating your debt on one low interest credit card and making the highest monthly payment you can manage. For several months, only make cash purchases.

6. Evaluate Your Insurance Coverage - Ensuring that you have adequate insurance coverage is vital to protecting your family and your assets. Key policies to review include health, disability, life, automobile, and homeowners, insurance. Make a checklist of your policies and the amount of coverage you have. Determine whether changes in your financial and family life warrant adjusting coverage. For example, if you recently started a business in your home, you may need to augment your homeowners' insurance to protect business equipment or other related items.

7. Think Taxes - Effective tax planning is a year-round endeavor. Developing long-term tax-saving strategies is the key to keeping more of what you earn. Now is a good time to consider the impact of taxes on your investment, savings and business strategies for 2004.

A CPA can help you create a comprehensive tax plan as well as offer advice on how to improve your overall financial position. Consult your CPA to make the most of your money in 2004.

To find a CPA who can help you with your personal or business tax and financial matters, visit the LCPA's Web site (www.lcpa.org) and use the CPA Locator Service.

MAZE

Find the starfish.

Start Here

Happy Birthday to J.R.R. Tolkien

In December the last of The Lord of the Rings films came out in theaters. The movies were based on the book written by J.R.R. Tolkien.

John Ronald Reuel Tolkien was born on January 3, 1892. At the time he and his British parents lived in South Africa where Tolkien's father managed a bank. The weather there, however, made Tolkien sick, so his mother packed up him and his brother and returned to England in 1895. Tolkien's father stayed behind. Sadly he died a year later.

The family settled in the village of Sarehole. Tolkien attended the King Edward VI School in nearby Birmingham. In 1904, Tolkien's mother died, leaving him and his brother in the care of a priest, who placed them in a boarding house. There, Tolkien met his future wife, Edith.

In 1911, Tolkien entered Oxford University. After graduation, he married Edith and enlisted in WWI. When he returned, Tolkien and his wife moved to Oxford where he became a professor. In 1928, Tolkien began work on The Hobbit. Published in 1937, the book was an instant hit.

Hoping for another smash, Tolkien's publisher asked him for a second hobbit tale. Tolkien gave him The Silmarillion, a book he had been working on since his days in WWI. The publisher hated the book, so Tolkien began writing what was to become The Lord of the Rings. He finished the book in 1949, but the publisher hated it, too. Luckily another publisher liked it and printed it in 1955. The book became a bestseller, making Tolkien famous.

For the rest of his life, Tolkien continued working on The Silmarillion. On September 2, 1973, he died at the age of 81, leaving his son Christopher to finish the book. Published in 1977, The Silmarillion was also a success.

Today Tolkien's work continues to be popular. Millions of his books have been sold, delighting children and adults all over the world.

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