



Fur Festival aided by sister festival

BY JERRY WISE



FOR ALMOST 50 years the Louisiana Fur & Wildlife Festival has shared good times and wonderful memories with its sister festival, the Outdoor Show, in Cambridge, Maryland. Now, the people of Dorchester County, Maryland are sharing with the people of Cameron Parish in a different way. Johnny LeBlanc, president of the Fur and Wildlife Festival, traveled to Maryland to accept a \$3,000. check from the Outdoor Show given to benefit the schools that were damaged during Hurricane Rita. Traveling with him were James and Patty Trahan, Blane and Angela Conner, Dylan and Maylee Beth Conner, and Justin Trahan. (Photo courtesy Ruby Dupuie.)

Southeast Cameron parish may be open soon; electricity OKed

By CYNDI SELLERS

Residents in lower Cameron Parish, east of the Calcasieu River, will be able to receive electrical permits and the entire evacuation may be lifted due to actions taken at the regular Police Jury meeting held Tuesday night in Grand Lake.

Spurred on by chanting audience members, the jury voted unanimously to allow electrical connections to residences in southeast Cameron Parish, the only areas still unable to connect.

Virgie Hebert, who has been rehabilitating his son's home in Cameron, requested the change, noting that shrimpers were able to have campers connected nearby, yet his application was denied.

Freddie Richard, Director of the Office of Emergency Operations, then recommended to the jury that the entire evacuation be lifted. He said, "If you don't do something, the docks and businesses can't survive without people at home."

In response to concerns about the cleanup being funded by FEMA, Richard said that if the Jury waits, "You may be stuck without a tax base when FEMA does pull out."

Juror Scott Trahan made a motion to lift the evacuation for all areas, but only if such action would not affect FEMA funding.

The motion passed on a 4-3 vote, with Jurors Darryl Farque, Steve Trahan, and Charles Precht voting no., and James Doxey, Sonny McGee, Douaine Conner, and Scott Trahan voting yes.

Jurors have requested that a FEMA representative be on hand at the thursday meeting to clarify the funding issue.

OFFICERS ELECTED

Douaine Conner and Darryl Farque were unanimously elected as President and Vice-President of the Police Jury for the coming year. Bonnie Conner was unanimously elected to the posts of Secretary and Treasurer of the Jury.

Tina Horn was elected to the position of Parish Administrator for another term, but the vote was split 4-3, with McGee, Farque, and Scott Trahan opposed.

Conner thanked his predecessor Scott Trahan for his leadership during the dis-

Police Jury to meet at 6 p.m.

A special voting meeting will be held by the Cameron Parish Police Jury on Thursday, Jan. 5, at 6 p.m., in the Grand Lake School cafeteria.

Topics will be FEMA trailer parks in Grand Lake, consequences of lifting the evacuation for lower Cameron Parish, and Emergency Operation Center reports and issues.



RED CROSS Volunteer Peter Coco, of Sulphur, hands Mrs. Agnes Verna Trahan of Johnson Bayou the 13 millionth meal served by the agency in Louisiana since the Hurricanes Katrina and Rita hit the state. Also on board the Sacramento, Calif., based relief van was Nancy Forsell, a volunteer from Bellingham, Wash. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)

ter, the jurors for their confidence in him, and the people of Cameron Parish for their patience in these times of hardship.

He announced his belief that "with God's help and unity from all, together we can rebuild a better Cameron Parish.

Jurors then voted to resume the pre-Rita procedure of holding an agenda meeting on the last Monday of each month, followed by a voting meeting on the first Monday of the next month.

Until there is a permanent meeting place, meetings will be rotated between communities which have appropriate space. Next month's meetings will be held in Hackberry.

DOTD UPDATE

Lester LeBlanc, of the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, reported that work has begun on the \$35 million contract let on Oct. 27 for the repair of shoulders on the state highways in Cameron Parish.

Work has been completed on Hwy. 82 between the Texas line and Holly Beach, and that road is now open to all traffic, although the shoulder are still not in top shape.

The contractor was to have begun work on stretch of road beginning at the Vermillion Parish line on Tuesday, and on thursday work is set to begin in the Big Lake area near Black Bayou.

Work has been slow due to the holidays, low water for barges on the Missouri River, and lack of electricity at Freshwater Bayou to power the scales which weigh the gravel. Also there has been a shortage of trucks, with most being in the New Orleans area. Those are starting to return to SWLA, he said.

LeBlanc said the contractor, R. E. Height, hopes to finish all work by mid-May.

The contract to replace the Oak Grove bridge is to be let next month, with construction to begin by April or May, LeBlanc said.

MOSQUITOES

The Jury gave approval to the Mosquito Control board to borrow \$650,000 to purchase a new plane for aerial spraying. Their two planes were destroyed when the hanger at Lake Charles Regional airport collapsed during the hurricane.

The new plane is still being built, one of two in the country, and will not be ready until March.

The Board reported that it has used all of its surplus to hire contract spraying and the unseasonably warm weather is causing the mosquito problem to increase.

Land based spraying is continuing in populated areas, a representative said.

HOSPITAL REPORT

Jennifer Jones gave an update on South Cameron Memorial Hospital's efforts to return to operation bringing health care to Cameron Parish residents.

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JENNA NICOLE DIBARTOLO, the 2005 Petite Miss Mardi Gras, will give up her title on Jan. 14. She is a past Contraband Days queen and a winner in the Beautiful Faces and Thousand Dollar Faces national photo contest. She is the 9-year-old daughter of Chris and Chermaine DiBartolo of Grand Lake and the granddaughter of J. T. and Bobbie Primeaux of Creole and B. A. and Grace DiBartolo of Lake Charles.

Hospital tax to be explained

A community meeting will be held at the Hackberry Community Center on Jan. 12 at 6 p.m. to discuss an upcoming vote regarding a \$25 million bond issue for West Calcasieu Cameron Hospital for residents in Ward 4 and 7 of Calcasieu Parish and Ward 6 of Cameron Parish.

Tim Broussard, CEO of WCCH, will explain the reason for the proposal at the community meeting and how the money will be utilized. The public is invited.

The issue will be on the ballot for affected voters on January 21. The proposed tax is homestead exempt. The amount of tax paid will be based on the assessed value of an owned home.

Estimated homeowner's tax costs for the bond are between zero for homes assessed at up to \$75,000 and \$32.50 annually for a home valued at \$200,000.

Broussard spoke to the Police Juries of both parishes, providing an overview of the request and seeking approval for the bond issue to be placed on the ballot. Both governing bodies gave their approval and agreed with the hospital on an initial issuance of \$10 million in bond funding which will be used for a new Intensive Care Unit and remodeling of existing patient rooms.

Precincts are moved at Hackberry

Due to the damage caused by Hurricane Rita to the voting precincts located at the Hackberry Recreation Center, 1250 Recreation Lane, these Polling Places have been relocated to the Hackberry Fire Station, located at 1025 West Main Street for the upcoming Calcasieu-Cameron Hospital Service District Proposition Election to be held on Saturday, Jan. 21.

This move was authorized and approved by a resolution passed on Jan. 3, by the Cameron Parish Police Jury.

More MSU grads told

The names of the following students were inadvertently omitted from the list of McNeese graduates on Dec. 23:

Toni Kay Sibille, Grand Chenier, Bachelor of General Studies; Jada Beth Darbonne, Grand Lake, Bachelor of Science in Management; Shelli Nichole Busby, Hackberry, Associate of General Studies.

John LeBlanc, president of the Louisiana Fur and Wildlife Festival, has confirmed that the 2006 festival will be cancelled due to Hurricane Rita.

The festival would have been held next weekend in Cameron had it not been for the storm.

LeBlanc said that due to the devastation of lower Cameron parish and the scattering far and wide of parish citizens it would not have been possible to hold the festival in the parish this year.

He said there had been offers to hold the festival in Lake Charles this year, but the festival board did not feel it appropriate to move the festival from the parish.

He said it was hoped the parish will be sufficiently recovered that the 2007 festival can be held.

However, there will be one festival event that will be held this year, the sending of a local delegation to the National Outdoors Show in Maryland.

The two festivals have exchanged delegations for nearly 50 years including queens of each.

LeBlanc and Cadi Pedigo, the 2005 Fur Queen will be attending the National Outdoors Show Feb. 24-25.

Miss Pedigo is the 19-year-old daughter of Roger and Gail Pedigo of Eunice. She is currently attending LSU-E majoring in business management.

The 2005 King J. A. Miller will continue as king this year and Miss Pedigo and the junior queens will continue in their positions.

LeBlanc recently flew to Maryland to accept a \$3000 check from the National Outdoors Show as a contribution to the Cameron Parish School Board to help with the rebuilding of parish schools.

The Outdoors Festival also sent nine portable buildings in an 18-wheeler to aid the parish relief efforts.

Libraries have new hours

Grand Lake and Hackberry Libraries will be open from 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday thru Friday, it was announced by Parish Librarian Charlotte Trosclair. Grand Lake Library is located behind the Grand Lake multi-purpose building in Grand Lake.

Hackberry Library is located temporarily in the bookmobile across from the Hackberry multi-purpose building in Hackberry.

The libraries are now taking memorial and honor book requests.

Honor grads announced

Two area McNeese State University students graduated with honors in fall commencement ceremonies held Friday, Dec. 23, at Burton Coliseum.

They are: Magna Cum Laude (3.70-3.89): Gregoire Theriot, Creole.

Cum Laude (3.50-3.69): Lacey Rodrigue, Cameron.

Fur Festival was born here 50 years ago

(EDITOR'S NOTE--The Louisiana Fur & Wildlife Festival would have held its 50th festival next week if it had not been cancelled due to Hurricane Rita. The following is an account of the first festival held in December, 1955, as printed in the Cameron Pilot, January, 2003.)

The idea for the Louisiana Fur and Wildlife Festival in Cameron was originated in 1955 by the late Congressman T. A. Thompson who represented the area.

On a challenge from the Congressman in Cambridge, Maryland, Representative Thompson sent 52 year-old Leon Hebert, a 25 year trapper, from Cameron to the National Outdoor Show to compete in the National Fur Skinning Contest. Mr. Hebert placed fifth in the nation that year.

(Leon Hebert won the

Louisiana title at the first annual Fur and Wildlife Festival on Dec. 2-3, 1955 by skinning five muskrats in 53 3/5 seconds, nosing out John Broussard by five seconds.)

A small group of people met during the summer of 1955 in the old Police Jury meeting room in the Cameron Courthouse Building (where the Sheriff's tax office is now located), to make plans for the first festival. Whitney Stine was the chairman of the meeting and enthusiastically endorsed having the festival.

Those attending included: Whitney Stine - Cameron Lion's Club, Edward Swindell, Sr. - Cameron Lion's Club, Hadley Fontenot - County Agent, Alvin Dyson - State Representative, Ray Burleigh - Cameron Lion's Club, Joe O'Donnell - Cameron Lion's Club, Mrs. Iva Free - Home Demonstration Agent, Roberta Rogers -

Cont. on Page 4.



LAST WEEK a delegation from the Maryland Outdoor Show delivered materials to construct nine storage buildings. They also drove through Cameron to witness the destruction caused by the Hurricane Rita. (Photo by Ruby Dupuie)

Funerals

ANITE JACQUELINE CORBELLO

Funeral services for Anite Jacqueline Corbello, 54, of Carlyss, were held Saturday, Dec. 31, in the Hixson-Sulphur Memorial Funeral Home. The Rev. Arvin Harrell officiated. Burial was in the Mimosa Pines Garden of Memories Cemetery in Carlyss.

Mrs. Corbello died Friday, Dec. 30, 2005, at her residence.

She was a member of Grace Baptist Church in Sulphur and had taught at the former Vincent Christian Academy.

Survivors include her husband Gregory Corbello of Carlyss; one son, Heath Corbello of Carlyss; one daughter, Sherie Corbello Alston and husband Darian of Sulphur; mother, Lulia Bertrand Conner of Lacassine; five brothers, Eddie Conner of Cameron, Alvin Conner of Lake Arthur, Kenneth Conner of Cameron, Berton Conner of Walker, and Erron Conner of Lacassine; nine sisters, Norma Price of Lake Arthur, Linda Hanson of Snellville, Ga., Wendell Welch of DeQuincy, Sandra Kelley of Baton Rouge, Marie Higginbotham of Walker, Tessie Johnson of Houston, Jeanette Conner of Walker, Bertha Fruge of Bell City, and Mona Johnson of Houston; and four grandchildren.

J. W. CROSS

Funeral services for Mr. J. W. "Gator" Cross Jr., 42, formerly of Creole, were held Sunday, Jan. 1, at Robison Funeral Home Chapel in Sulphur. Rev. Bobby Leger officiated. Burial was in Big Woods Cemetery in Ederly.

Mr. Cross died Thursday, Dec. 29, 2005 in Sulphur.

He was a native of Pineville and was a lifelong resident of Creole. He was a contract lineman for the past 20 years. He was an alligator trapper which earned him the nickname "Gator".

Survivors include his wife, Sonya Cross of Sulphur; two sons, Joshua Cross of Sulphur and David Cross of Florida; three daughters, Alexis Cross, Annalise Cross and Rachel Cross, all of Sulphur; one sister, Victoria Cross of Kentucky, and two grandchildren.

HENRY JOSEPH DINGER

Henry Joseph Dinger Sr., 76, died Sunday, Jan. 1, 2006, in a Lake Charles hospital.

Mr. Dinger was born in Morgan City and lived most of his life in Cameron. He had lived in Lake Charles since 1997. In Cameron he ran a commercial shrimp boat for most of his life. He was a member of Luke-Simpson Methodist Church.

Survivors include his wife

Facts about Medicare's prescription program

If you or a loved one has Medicare, you may have some questions about Medicare's new prescription drug coverage that began Jan. 1. To help you better understand this coverage and the decisions you need to make, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, AARP, and the Federal Citizen Information Center have put together an informative, free package of publications, which includes The New

Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage: What You Need to Know.

Everyone with Medicare, regardless of health or level of income, can get coverage for both their brand-name and generic prescription drugs. There's even extra help available if you have limited income and resources. However, to begin receiving coverage, you must enroll in one of the Medicare drug plans. Just like other insurance, if you decide not to join when you're first eligible (before May 15, 2006), and later change your mind, you may have to pay more.

You can choose from a variety of different plans, so the new coverage gives you the ability to find one that meets your needs. When deciding you should keep a few things in mind: What kind of medications do I take now? How expensive is the plan? Do I want to get my prescriptions at a certain pharmacy, or would I like to get my prescriptions through the mail?

Also included in the Medicare package is Your Pharmacy Benefit: Make It Work For You! from the National Pharmaceutical Council. This informative publication has a handy worksheet that you can use as a guide when comparing different benefit plans. And it also features tips on what to do if you're having problems getting your prescriptions filled or your plan won't cover your medication.

Get the answers to your questions about Medicare's new prescription drug coverage by sending for the free Medicare package. There are three easy ways to get your free publications:

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*Visit www.pueblo.gsa.gov/rc/n32m/edicare.htm to place your order online or to read or print out this and hundreds of other federal publications for free.

*Call toll-free 1 (888) 8 PUEBLO. That's 1 (888) 888-3256, weekdays 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern Time and ask for Medicare.

Get even more information and take advantage of federal online resources at www.FirstGov.gov - your official front door to federal and state government websites.

Program is expanded

Community Coffee Company expanded its 17-year-old Community Cash for Schools® program to provide relief for hurricane-affected schools.

This year, in addition to the more than \$250,000 that schools will earn through the long-standing UPC-clipping program, Community is offering an additional \$162,500 in the form of grants to schools that were closed for a minimum of two weeks due to hurricane damage. The funds from these grants can be used by each school in any way it deems best, as examples - for anything from structural repair to the purchase of new computers.

Hurricane-affected schools are encouraged to apply for the Community Cash for Schools Restoration Fund grants by completing an application available online at: www.CommunityCoffee.com/CashForSchools. Schools without internet access can call the Customer Service Department at 1-800-525-5583. The application deadline is Jan. 31, 2006.

S. P. Henry was considered 'Father of Cameron Parish'

(EDITOR'S NOTE-- Although W. T. Block has announced his retirement as an historical columnist for the Pilot, we plan to reprint some of his previous articles in upcoming issues. This article is about S. P. Henry, the "father of Cameron Parish.")

By W. T. BLOCK

It seems certain that Southwest Louisiana has provided the world with some unique personages, that rare breed who give all of themselves to humanity, also their time, talents, or whatever was needed to make the world a better place. Such a person was the Hon. Samuel P. Henry, who can easily be dubbed the "Father of Cameron Parish."

Samuel P. Henry was born on Aug. 24, 1830 in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, the son of Stewart Henry, born Sept. 9, 1804 in Delaware, and Mary Ann Lynch, born March 24, 1808 in Maryland. While growing up in a household of seven children, it was noted that Henry had no middle name or initial, so he picked up the letter "P" in Southern Pacific. Descended of sturdy Scotch and Irish stock, Sam's parents then emigrated to Wheeling, West Virginia in 1832, and to Cambridge, Guernsey County, Ohio in 1836, where young Henry grew to adulthood.

As a youth, S. P. Henry had a penchant for knowledge as is visible in his pursuit of education. He graduated with honors in the classics and liberal arts courses at Franklin College in Athens, Ohio, in 1854. As a concession to his parents, Henry studied divinity at a Presbyterian seminary and was licensed to preach. He also graduated from Jefferson Medical College, although it seems doubtful that Henry ever pastored a church or practiced medicine. After completing his education, S. P. Henry became professor of mathe-

matics and languages at the New Iberia College of Ohio, serving 15 years in that capacity throughout the Civil War years.

Henry married Harriet I. McDonald, born Oct. 3, 1838, in New Concord, Ohio, the daughter of William (b. 1806 in Scotland) and Sarah McDonald. The couple became the parents of three children, born in Ohio, and three more born in Louisiana. After leaving his teaching position of 15 years, Henry was associated briefly with a Cincinnati newspaper, before the couple left for New Orleans in 1869, where Henry became the representative of the Wilson and Hinkle Publishing Company of Cincinnati.

It was probably an easy decision for the couple to move to New Orleans--Henry's brother, Dr. Stewart Henry, had served as a Union Army assistant surgeon in New Orleans during the Civil War, and when the war ended, Stewart Henry chose to remain in New Orleans.

S. P. Henry apparently became dissatisfied with his new position in New Orleans, for a public eulogy delivered after his death credited his great grandfather, Duncan Smith of Leesburg, with soliciting and eventually enticing S. P. Henry to resettle in Cameron Parish.

For his exploratory journey to Leesburg, Cameron Parish, in 1871, Henry apparently rode the train to Morgan City, after which he left by stage coach for Abbeville. According to another source, Henry came into Cameron Parish by the back door. Henry walked from Big Pecan Island to the Pierre Valcour Miller residence on the extreme east end of Grand Chenier. Later Miller gave Henry a horse, upon which he completed his journey to Leesburg. Apparently Henry was so impressed with the prospects of Leesburg, that he returned to New Orleans. (Contd. on Pg. 3)

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Henry--Cont. from Page 2

Orleans as once in order to move his wife and children.

S. P. Henry soon bought the Jerry V. Smith saloon building and remodeled it into a large residence. He soon built the first steam cotton gin and gin house in Leesburg. According to Galveston Weekly News, Henry lost both his gin and gin house to the horrific hurricane of Aug. 22, 1879. He replaced his old gin with another one during the following year.

When J. W. Sweeney Jr. was elected the first sheriff of the parish, he sold the "Old Red Store" to John McCall, who in turn sold the business to S. P. Henry. For many years it was the only store in Leesburg, so Henry had to purchase all the cotton, deer skins, peltries, produce, and satsuma oranges, as he traded with the settlers of his parish.

Commensurate with Henry's excellent education and his affinity to accept civic responsibility, he was appointed postmaster at Leesburg on Jan. 11, 1873, an office he could perform easily in conjunction with his store until 1880, at which time his wife Harriet became postmaster. Mrs. Harriet Henry held that office until Aug. 1896, when she resigned.

In 1874 S. P. Henry ran for and was elected parish judge, winning over his worthy opponent, Judge Andrew J. Kearney, Leesburg's first lawyer, who was highly respected also. Thereafter Henry was addressed as

"Judge Henry," long after that office was abolished in 1878. He was also elected president of the Cameron Parish School Board, beginning about 1873.

Judge Henry ran for state representative in 1880, and was reelected every term until 1892. His brother, Dr. Stewart Henry, was the state representative from the New Orleans area during the same period. Both S. P. and Dr. S. L. Henry voted against and opposed the state lottery vigorously. Being entirely cognizant of Leesburg's offshore waters, he fought for the necessary legislation which created the Gulf Biological Station, which operated until 1912. Henry donated 10 acres of land for its building site, stipulating that should no longer be needed for the station or the station closed, it should be returned to Henry's estate. S. P. Henry was twice elected speaker of the Louisiana House, and during one term, his office was combined with state senator.

Henry was always regarded by his Baton Rouge peers as a man of sterling and impeccable character. And whether a trapper, trading pelts, or a planter ginning his cotton, S. P. Henry was likewise respected and regarded in high esteem by the working classes of Cameron Parish. According to New York Sun of March 29, 1902, S. P. Henry played a role in the naming of the parish, favoring the name of his friend, the Hon. Simon Cameron of Pennsylvania.

Samuel P. and Harriet Henry were the parents of six children, the oldest three, Mary, Charles F. and Arthur, being born in Cincinnati, and the youngest three, Elray, Grace, and Leroy, being born in Cameron. Four of the children and their spouses are buried beside the parents in Oak Grove Cemetery. Grace Lambert is buried in Texas, and Leroy Henry, who died quite young in an accident, is buried in Ohio.

At the end of his final term as state representative in 1892, S. P. Henry was already 62 years old, and apparently, he limited his activities thereafter to running his store and cotton gin. He also owned considerable real estate, also cattle and a farm. During the same period, he was elected a board member of the Calcasieu Marine National Bank of Lake Charles.

Early in 1901 Harriet Henry became seriously ill, and she caught a train to New

Orleans, to be under the care of her brother-in-law, Dr. Stewart Henry. She died in New Orleans on Feb. 25, 1901, but her remains were returned to Lake Charles and interred in Oak Grove Cemetery. Perhaps grieving still from the loss of his wife, S. P. Henry became ill with pneumonia about Mar. 5, 1902, and 12 days later he died at his home on Mar. 17, 1902.

The same night C. F. Henry engaged the steamer Ramos to take his father's remains to Lake Charles so they could be prepared for burial. Soon afterward he was interred beside his wife in Graceland-Oak Grove Cemetery.

He was also survived by three brothers, Dr. Henry of New Orleans, and Dr. Robert Henry and Thomas Henry of Ohio. Charles F. and Arthur Henry, assisted by a grandson Pete Henry, continued to operate the "Old Red Store" until 1915. Judge Henry had also continued his duties as parish treasurer for the 15 years prior to his death.

Perhaps no other person is so eminently qualified to be called the "father of Cameron Parish" than is Samuel P. Henry. He was educated quite beyond the norm for his day and age in which he lived. As state representative, speaker of the Louisiana House, as well as state senator, he was the parish's advocate for better schools, and for 12 years, he was associated with Louisiana's most influential politicians in Baton Rouge.

As judge, school board president, postmaster, treasurer and merchant, he was a friend to and in daily contact with all the citizens of Leesburg, all of whom loved and respected Henry as their



MEMBERS OF the Red Cross crew which has been serving meals in Cameron Parish are shown above with Mrs. Agnes Verna Trahan of Johnson Bayou. The crew members come from several states. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)

Temporary housing site proposed at Sweet Lake

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for a proposed temporary housing site. The site would house disaster victims displaced by major home damage caused by Hurricane Rita on Sept. 24.

The proposed action includes developing an approximately 12-acre site (termed "William Johnston

friend. Hence, a suitable biography of Samuel P. Henry should be on file in every library and genealogy office in Southwest Louisiana.

Property") for approximately 135 modular structures and 15 travel trailers to be located north of Louisiana Highway 384, between Newell Road and Alfred Duhon Road in the Sweet Lake community.

Public comment period ends Jan. 6.



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FESTIVAL... Cont. from Pg. 1

Home Demonstration Club, Geneva Griffith - Home Demonstration Club and Sam Tarleton - Lake Charles Television and Radio Station.

From this grassroots group of organizers came one of the oldest, most successful festivals, the Louisiana Fur and Wildlife Festival.

In spite of the bitter cold weather in December of 1955, and operating on a "shoe-string" budget the festival was a huge success. Funding was provided by the Cameron Parish Police Jury and private donations.

J. B. Jones, Jr. served as master of ceremonies for the program which was the festival climax. The program was presided over by Hadley Fontenot, Festival President 1955.

Miss Vida Bess Brown, a 17-year-old beauty from Abbeville, was crowned "Miss Outdoor of Louisiana" by Ted O'Neal, Chief of the Fur and Bottoms Division of the Louisiana Wildlife Commission. She was presented with a nutria stole, a bouquet of roses by the Cameron Service Garage, and an expense paid trip to the National Outdoor Show in Cambridge, Maryland.

The Cambridge, Maryland National Outdoor Show became a "Sister Festival" with the Cameron festival and the two exchanged fur skinnings and festival queens each year. The tradition of exchanging festival representatives continues to the present time.

Miss Meredith Giles (Montie) was named "Cameron Parish Queen" and won the title from a field of 34 contestants. She was crowned by Hadley Fontenot.

Ted O'Neal told the audience (a Cameron Elementary full house) that night, that "Nutria skins are saving what would have been a vanishing fur industry for this area." He also pointed out that in the previous year Cameron Parish trappers netted \$400,000.

Eleven year old J. A. Miller captured the Louisiana Junior Duck Calling contest that year. In years to come he grew to become the World Champion Fur Skinner, following in the footsteps of his father Fletcher, and teaching his daughter, Selika the art with her becoming the Women's Champion. His wife, Mary Jane Miller, held the Local and National Women's title many times.

Jones gives update on insurance mediation Oyster harvest extended in Lower Cameron Lake

By JENNIFER JONES
JONES LAW FIRM

I am writing to give you another update on the Cameron Parish hurricane insurance claims. Some of you may have noticed the article in the Lake Charles American Press regarding mediation. The Louisiana Insurance Commissioner, Robert Wooley, has ordered all the insurance companies to participate in a mediation program.

A neutral party (the mediator) will meet with the policy holder and the insurance company to try to resolve the dispute and settle the claim. You do not have to participate if you don't want to, but there is no cost to you. The insurance companies will have to pay all costs of the mediation. You may have an attorney present.

At the mediation, the mediator will listen to both sides and make a recommendation for resolution of the claim. You do not have to accept the mediator's recommendation-neither does the insurance company. If you are not satisfied, you can still bring a law suit. However, as I have noted before, a lawsuit can be a slow and sometimes expensive process, and I am encouraging everyone to participate in this free process. The company conducting this mediation has a very good record and has performed this type of work before in Florida following the hurricanes over there.

Here is how you get started on participating in the mediation:

(1) Call your insurance adjuster or your insurance agent and tell them you want a NOTICE OF RIGHT TO MEDIATE FORM.

(2) When you receive the form, fill it out and return it to the address on the form. If you need assistance filling out the form, call me.

(3) I suggest you send the form certified mail so you can have a receipt telling you when it is received by the insurance company.

(4) Once the insurance company receives your form, they have 21 days to make you a new offer. If you do not receive a new offer within 21 days, call me and we will contact the Insurance Commissioner.

(5) If the new offer is not acceptable, you need to reject it and request mediation. I would suggest you also do this in writing by certified mail.

So far, the only approved mediation sites are in New Orleans. I have explained that this is not a feasible location for Cameron Parish residents, and we are working on getting a site in Cameron Parish.

I am preparing a mediation paper with legal authorities which everyone can use. I am also going to secure affidavits from our public officials as to the wind damage they observed as they were leaving the parish. You should each bring your own pictures, videos, and engineering reports, if you have one.

I want to emphasize that this is a win/win opportunity for us. Mediation will cost you nothing. I don't know how much we will be able to get from the insurance companies at mediation, but we cannot lose what we already have, and might come out really well.

Should you have any questions, please call my office at our temporary location in Lake Charles at 337-494-5563.

The Department of Health and Hospitals announced the expansion of oyster harvesting in the Lower Calcasieu Lake Conditional Management Area, as of Dec. 26, 2005.

"The DHH Molluscan Shellfish Program conducted an extensive sampling program over the past year, which showed that the expanded area meets the water quality criteria necessary for us to allow oyster harvesting there," said State Health Officer Dr. Jimmy Guidry. "Beginning Monday, fishermen will have more than 6,000 additional acres to harvest from in this part of the state."

This area, located at the south end of Calcasieu Lake in Southwest Louisiana, has been increased from 8,559 acres to 14,743 acres.

"This creates a significant improvement in areas available for harvesting oysters around Calcasieu Lake," said Michael Voisin, chairman of The Louisiana Oyster Task Force. "We appreciate DHH's effort to help us with our post-hurricane Oyster Recovery Plan, which includes improved and expanded use of the Calcasieu Lake harvesting area."

In addition to expanding Lower Calcasieu Lake Conditional Management Area, the state has also assigned numerical designations to this area and to West Cove Conditional Management Area. As of Dec. 26, the Lower Calcasieu Lake area will be known as "Area 29" and the West Cove area will be "Area 30."

Any states that allow oyster harvesting must have a system of designating each area, and all oysters harvested from that area must be tagged with the designation clearly showing. This system was developed so that health officials can trace any outbreaks of foodborne illness from oysters to a specific harvest area, as that area could require a temporary closure to protect public health.

Previously, of the 30 harvest areas in Louisiana, the first were designated numerically as Areas 1-28, with the two in Southwest Louisiana known by name. However, because these two areas did not have a number like the others, there was some confusion among other states that received Louisiana oysters. Effective Monday, all oysters harvested in Louisiana will be identified by harvest area number to simplify the identification process.

Oyster fishermen who harvest in these two areas will now be required to identify their catch with oyster harvester tags from Area 29 rather than Lower Calcasieu Lake Conditional Management Area, and as Area 30 rather than West Cove Conditional Management Areas.

For more information on oyster harvesting areas in Louisiana, please visit the DHH Web site at: <http://www.opf.dhh.louisiana.gov/sanitarrianservices/molluscshellfish/index.html>



POLICE JURY... Cont. from Pg. 1

She reported that while FEMA will not compensate the hospital for the rural health clinic in Grand Lake, they will pay for "something" in lower Cameron Parish.

The Grand Lake clinic has been waiting on a series of inspections, and now awaits a DHH survey before it can open.

The hospital district is looking at temporary building for lower Cameron Parish, but they must meet all the standards for a permanent hospital.

The DMAT in Cameron cannot be run by SCMH, but is set to be taken over by the state.

Stating the "Health care is not a privilege, it's your right," Jones vowed that the hospital will be back in lower Cameron Parish in some form. The district is also looking into ways and means to provide service to the Johnson Bayou area in the future.



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Do You Remember?

By KEITH HAMBRICK

(Lake Charles American Press, Jan. 3, 1942)

CAMERON FARM MACHINERY QUOTAS ARE ANNOUNCED

Quotas for new farm machinery than can be sold in Cameron Parish in 1943 were announced this week by Ray Pevoto, chairman of the parish USDA war board and ex-officio chairman of the parish farm machinery rationing committee.

The sale of farm machinery, frozen recently by the war production board, is now unfrozen and those who wish to buy new machines may make their applications to the farm machinery rationing committee at the war board office in Cameron.

The war board chairman asked that only those whose need is urgent should apply for new machinery. Second-hand machinery and repair parts are not being rationed and can be bought and sold as usual.

Cameron quotas for certain important types of farm machinery were listed as follows:

One horse single row corn and cotton planters, 2; lists (with and without planting attachments), 2; grain drills, 1; moldboard plows, walking, one horse, 2; moldboard plows, walking, two horse and larger, 1; moldboard plows, tractor drawn or mounted, 1; spike tooth harrow, 3; spring tooth harrow, 3; disk harrow, 9; cultivators, one horse, walking, 3; cultivators, two horse, walking, 1; tractors, wheel type, 4; farm wagons, 2; combines, 6 feet and less, 1.

Snipe hunt to be held on Refuge

According to Refuge Manager, Glenn Harris, snipe hunting will open on Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge, Jan. 23, 2006. Hunting will be allowed through Feb. 28, 2006. New this year, hunting will be allowed all days of the week, and refuge hunting hours will be one half hour before sunrise to sunset.

Snipe hunting will follow the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries regulations with the exceptions that only approved non-toxic shot may be used and shotguns must be encased or dismantled while transporting them on the refuge. All hunters are required to carry a signed copy of the refuge regulations on them personally while hunting. Hunt regulation brochures may be picked up at the Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center.

Access to the refuge is limited to designated roads and parking areas only. West Cameron Prairie Road is the only road open to access snipe hunting areas. No vehicles are allowed on any other levees or roads. Areas around the visitor center and maintenance buildings are closed to all hunting activities. All terrain vehicles (airboats, 3 and 4 wheelers, and marsh buggies) will not be permitted anywhere on the refuge.

Hunting dogs are permitted for use during hunting activities, but must remain under the immediate control of the hunter. A post hunt "Harvest Form" must be filled out at the self clearing check station, located near the entrance to the Refuge Visitor Center, immediately following each hunt even if no birds were harvested.

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Sales Representative

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Disaster Recovery Cleaning up The LSU AgCenter can help.



As hurricane recovery efforts continue in South Louisiana, the LSU AgCenter can provide reliable, research-based information on home and garden damage, food and water safety, avoiding hazardous molds, personal finances, stress management and other topics. Through our unique network of parish offices around the state, we can answer many of your clean-up questions. You can find more detailed information by visiting our Web site at www.lsuagcenter.com/disasterrecovery or contacting us for a free Storm Recovery Guide.

Food and Water Safety Water

For instructions on purifying water, contact your local LSU AgCenter office or call for our free Storm Recovery Guide. You may also visit our Web site at www.lsuagcenter.com

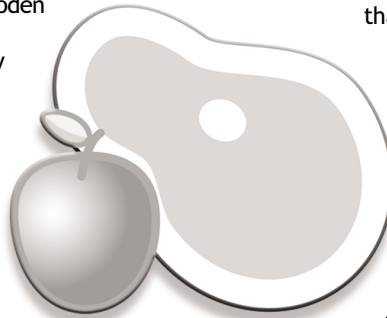
Water Well Purification

After a flood, it is important to take every precaution to ensure the safety of your well water. First, it is necessary to inspect and clean the well and pump before using them. You may want to have your water well driller or contractor check out the well before using it.

Have the water sampled and tested. The water IS NOT safe for drinking until lab results show no indication of total coliform bacteria. You can discuss the final lab results with the lab or local parish health unit. It is important to remember that disinfection will not remove chemicals that may have contaminated your well during a flood.

Foods and Food Preparation Items

- Do not eat food that may have come into contact with floodwater.
- Discard all food that came in contact with floodwaters including canned goods. It is impossible to know if the containers were damaged and the seals compromised.
- Discard wooden cutting boards, wooden spoons, plastic utensils, baby bottle nipples and pacifiers. There is no way to safely clean them if they have come in contact with flood waters.
- Thoroughly wash metal pans, ceramic dishes and utensils with hot soapy water and sanitize by boiling them in clean water or by immersing them for 15 minutes in a solution of 1 teaspoon of chlorine bleach per quart of water.
- Clean and sanitize all kitchen surfaces.
- Wash and sanitize dishes, utensils and appliances.



Salvaging/Cleaning Furniture Submerged or wet wooden furniture

Take furniture outdoors, and remove as many drawers, slides and removable parts as possible. Drawers and doors will probably be stuck tight. Do not try to force them out from the front. With a screwdriver or chisel, remove the back and push out the drawer from behind.

After you have removed movable parts, clean off mud and dirt, using a hose if necessary.

Take all furniture indoors and store it where it will dry slowly. Furniture left in the sunlight to dry will warp and twist out of shape.

When furniture is dry, reglue it if necessary. You will need equipment and clamps to reglue some pieces. Before you start, decide whether you have the time, equipment and ability to do the work. Consult an experienced carpenter if necessary. Many books are available on the subject.

To reglue loose joints or rungs, cut or scrape off old glue so the area will be as clean and free of glue as possible. Use a white all-purpose glue, following directions on container. Hold parts together with rubber rope tourniquets or C-clamps. To prevent damage from ropes or clamps, pad these areas with cloth.

Damp furniture - removing white spots

White spots or a cloudy film may develop on damp furniture that has not been submerged.

If the entire surface is affected, rub with a damp cloth dipped in (a) turpentine or camphorated oil or (b) in a solution of 1/2 cup household ammonia and 1/2 cup water. Wipe dry at once and polish with wax or furniture polish.

If color is not restored, dip 3/0 steel wool in oil (boiled linseed, olive, mineral or lemon). Rub lightly with the wood grain. Wipe with a soft cloth and re-wax.

For deep spots, use a drop or two of ammonia on a damp cloth. Rub at once with a dry cloth. Polish. Rubbing cigarette ashes, powdered pumice or a piece of walnut into spots may also help remove them. Be sure to wear rubber gloves when using these solutions.

Cleaning Tips

- Always wear rubber gloves when using cleaning solutions or working with flood-damaged or moldy furniture. Clean furniture outdoors.
- If mildew has developed, vacuum (preferably with an HEPA filter) surface or brush off with a broom.
- Read fiber content labels of upholstery. Test a hidden area using a solution of lukewarm soapy water (1 tablespoon soap to 1 quart water), or dilute denatured alcohol (1/2 alcohol and 1/2 water) or bleach solution (1 tablespoon bleach to a pint of water) to see if color is removed or fabric shrinks. Allow to dry, then decide if the fabric can be cleaned. Sponge fabric to remove dirt, and use bleach or alcohol solution to remove mildew. Fabric may be removed from frame to clean, depending on the damage.
- Remove tacks, nails, braid, other fasteners.
- Although wet synthetic foam padding can be restored, the risk of contamination and costs usually make replacement a better option. Wet cotton or other organic padding should always be replaced.
- Wipe down wooden frames with a wood cleaner or alcohol solution to remove mold or mildew. Wipe dry and allow to air dry in an open shady place (never dry furniture in direct sunlight).
- Dry springs and other metal parts. If rust has formed, you may need to replace or clean. Use steel wool and coat with paint. A light oil could be wiped on metal parts to help prevent later rusting. Many major manufacturers keep records of fabric or metal parts which can be ordered from the dealer for replacement.
- Be sure all parts are dry before reassembling.
- A reliable furniture repair shop will give estimates on cost of redoing furniture. Also, consider replacement cost and value of each piece. If insurance allows part value on flood-damaged furniture, it may be financially worthwhile to apply the money to new articles, rather than pay for extensive repairs.

Cleaning Carpets and Floors

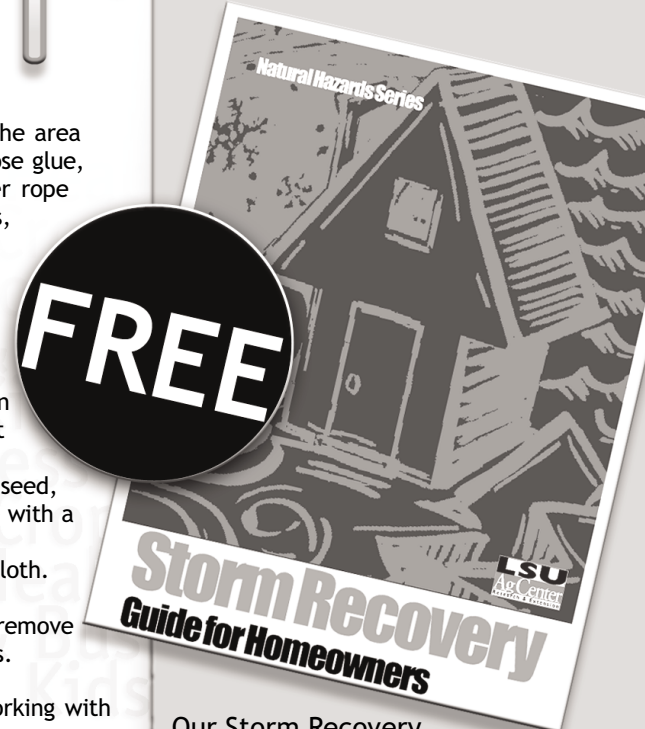
Cleaning water-soaked carpets and floors is difficult in itself, but in the aftermath of a storm or flood, contamination by mud, silt, sewage and mildew can compound the problem.

It's best to replace carpets and get professional cleaners to work on floors, but this may not be possible. Begin cleanup as soon as possible.

- Pull up all saturated carpets and rugs, and take them outdoors.
- If you wish to salvage valuable rugs and water was not contaminated, hose muddy carpets down. Work a low-sudsing, disinfectant carpet cleaning product deep into soiled spots with a broom.
- If only small areas of carpet got wet from leaks, pull up and prop the wet carpet to dry. Cut away wet padding.
- To discourage mildew and odors, rinse the backing with a solution of 2 tablespoons bleach to 1 gallon water. Don't use this solution on wool carpets. Also disinfect the slab or subfloor.
- Discard and replace foam pads.
- Sections of subfloors that separate must be replaced to avoid buckling. When floor coverings are removed, allow subfloors to dry thoroughly. It may take several months. Disinfect wet surfaces.
- In wood floors, remove a board every few feet to reduce buckling caused by swelling. Ask a carpenter for tips on removing tongue-and-groove boards.
- Clean and dry floor thoroughly before attempting repairs. Using a dehumidifier will speed the drying process.
- In vinyl floors with wood subflooring, the floor covering should be removed so the subflooring can be replaced. With concrete floors, removal isn't necessary except to hasten drying of the slab.
- Loose tiles may be replaced if the floor has not been soaked. If water has seeped under sheet flooring, remove the entire sheet.
- While cleaning, wash exposed skin frequently in purified water. Wear rubber gloves.

The LSU AgCenter has information to help you avoid and recover from some of the problems created by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Here are tips to keep in mind when restoring your home and belongings. You can also find this information and other recovery topics in our free Storm Recovery Guide. To get yours, call your local LSU AgCenter office or visit our Web site:

lsuagcenter.com/disasterrecovery



Our Storm Recovery Guide includes information on:

Be Safe: Stay Healthy after a Disaster

Safety in a Disaster Area, Dangers of Debris, Entering a Damaged Building, Food and Water Safety, Critters in Unusual Places, Avoiding Mold Hazards, These are Trying Times

Surviving/Recovering from Power Outage

Using Generators for Electrical Power, Play it Safe with Food, How to Cook when the Power Goes Off, Removing Odors - Refrigerator/Freezer, Power Outage in Winter

Restoring Storm-damaged Buildings

Determining Structural Damage, Preliminary Repairs, Dry Well to Prevent Decay, Flooding and Damage-causing Pests, Repairing the Roof, Strengthen Weak Points

Salvaging Water-damaged Belongings

Caring for Large Electrical Appliances, Salvaging/Cleaning Furniture, Cleaning, Carpets/Floors, Cleaning Storm-soaked Clothing

Lawn and Garden Losses

Salvage Tips, Tree Debris and Renewal, Assessing Landscape Tree Loss, Small Fruit Strategies, Salinity and Turfgrass

Financial Recovery and Risk Management

Documenting Losses/Claims, Filing for Insurance, Homeowner's Insurance, Flood Insurance, Credit and Other Sources of Relief, Contracting Repairs/Rebuilding, Contract Essentials

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for this and other disaster recovery information, visit our Web site: www.lsuagcenter.com or call for a free Storm Recovery Guide

Louisiana Fur & Wildlife Festivals Of The Past

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