

THE CAMERON PARISH Police Jury meeting room was filled at last week's Department of Natural Resources hearing on a proposed waste treatment facility to be located at A. B. Dock in Cameron.

Oilfield waste facility is opposed locally

By CYNDI SELLERS

A standing room only crowd packed the Cameron Parish Police Jury meeting room on Jan. 14, for a public hearing on an oilfield waste treatment facility being proposed for the AB Dock site near the mouth of the Calcasieu River.

A team from the Louisiana Dept. of Natural Resources was present to hear public comment on the permit application of Environmental Partners, LLC, for a low temperature thermal desorption unit to process used drilling mud.

Opposition to the proposed facility was strong, ranging from site suitability, to potential for hazardous discharge, to cancer rates, to impact on tourism and development. Officials from various local public bodies opposed the project, as did potential neighbors and ordinary citizens.

The only comment in favor of the facility was from James Ducote, S.W. La. Director of the La. Dept. of Economic

Development, who said, "As businesses grow and indus-



PER SORENSON of the Danish company Soil Recovery A/S, designers of the proposed Oilfield Waste facility, gives some background on the process at last week's public hearing.

tries expand we are faced with waste by-products that needs to be either treated or disposed. The Oil and Gas industry is a big part of Cameron Parish and is a likely place to locate this type of facility. The Louisiana permit process system will assure safety and environmental issues are addressed."

SUBRA'S PRESENTATION

The most comprehensive opposition was presented by Wilma Subra of New Iberia, a consultant who cited many examples of regulation not being followed and requirements not being met in the permit process. Subra stated there were so many flaws in the permit that it shouldn't have even reached the public hearing.

She presented highlights from her 18 pages of comments which claimed these deficiencies: Flawed site selection process; Inadequate and inappropriate closure cost and plan; Ongoing permit application review; Facility location in close prox-

Cont. on page 4.



RODNEY GUILBEAUX, JR., long-time Cameron Parish resident, was specially honored by the Cameron Chamber of Commerce at its annual banquet Monday night in Hackberry. Here he is presented with a trophy by Lake Charles Mayor Randy Roach, a former state representative for Cameron Parish.

Guilbeaux, Carter are honored by Chamber

By CYNDI SELLERS

The Cameron Parish Chamber of Commerce dedicated its annual banquet Monday night to Rodney Guilbeaux, "the Mayor of Constance Beach."

The Mayor of Lake Charles, former State Representative Randy Roach praised Guilbeaux saying, "Because of his efforts in wetlands restoration, we are going to have Cameron Parish for a long, long time. If there is anyone in Louisiana who loves the wetlands of Louisiana, it's Rodney Guilbeaux."

An article in the current issue of Louisiana Life magazine chronicles Guilbeaux's efforts to save the Cameron coast from the ravages of the Gulf of Mexico.

Guilbeaux's family was present to see him receive his award as Roach declared, "Because of the love that Cameron Parish has for you, the love that your family has for you and the love that you and Mickey shared.... tonight is your night."

Roach also praised the people of Cameron Parish as "probably the most wonderful people in Louisiana (but don't tell the people in Lake Charles I said that)" comparing them to a big family that may squabble occasionally but will compromise and work together for a better future.

Keynote speaker Senator Willie Landry Mount continued the positive mood by sharing a number of Louisiana's positive achievements. She brought a list which has grown from half a page to twelve pages as agencies have been challenged to look for positive news to share in and out of the state.

Mount focused on education and economic development as areas in which Louisianians need to start feeling and talking positive about the state. She noted that Education Week magazine recently ranked our state's education accountability program number one in the nation and teacher quality in the top five, that our Pre-K program is one of the top programs in the nation,

and that our Family Literacy Program is so good it's being exported to other states.

In economics, Mount shared that Site Selection magazine has ranked Louisiana 17th in overall business climate, up six spots since last year, "which shows we're moving in the right direction," and Entrepreneur magazine recently listed three La. cities in the top 25 in the nation for new business climate.

The annual Memorial Award was dedicated to Mrs. Olga Louise "Butsy" Carter, who died exactly one month previously. "Ms. Butsy" was remembered by Charlotte Trosclair for her community service. Myrna and Harry L. Conner accepted a plaque as her "adopted" children. Myrna shared the information that Mrs. Carter had been born in Texas on Texas Independence Day and was raised in New Orleans on Bourbon Street. She was an avid swimmer and still holds records in the New Orleans area; she kept her trophies at her ranch in Crockett, Tex.

Following a live and silent auction, and the distribution of many door prizes, the 2004 officers and board were installed. They are: President - Carl Broussard, Vice-president: Greg Wicke, Secretary - Carolyn Thibodeaux, Treasurer - Tina Horn, Board Members - Jimmy Brown, Wilson Conner, Hilda Crain, John DeBarge, E. J. Dronette, Rodney Guilbeaux, Cindy McGee, Marianna Primeaux, Cecil Sanner and Charlotte Trosclair.

Help needed Saturday

Tables, chairs, etc. will be moved into the new St. Peter's Catholic Church hall at 9 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 24. Help is needed in moving the items.

The church expressed thanks to those who made donations for the new tables.



Duck Off to be held at Hackberry

The sixth annual Hackberry Duck Off will be held Saturday, Jan. 24 to raise money for the Hackberry High School athletic program.

Sponsored by the Hackberry Rod and Gun Club, the event features a four-person scramble golf tournament, which begins at 9 a.m. at the Bayou Oaks Country Club. Each four-person team may enter for \$200. For information call Guy Stansel at 762-3391.

A skeet shooting contest begins at 9 a.m. Shooters may compete in two divisions, 16 years old and over or 15 years old and under. Each shooter may enter for \$25 per round of 25 shots. For information call Mike Dennis at 274-4897.

A duck and goose calling contest will be held at 3 p.m. at the Hackberry Community Center. There is a \$10 entry fee. Contact Grant Miller at 762-3934 for more information.

The duck cooking contest begins at 6 p.m. in the Hackberry Community Center. Any chef may enter a dish that contains at least five ducks. To enter the contest cost \$10 per dish.

During and after the cooking contest, people may participate in dancing, a silent auction, or partake of various food items. Admission costs \$2. Children six years and younger enter for free.

For more information call Pauline Stansel at 762-3391.

Klondike to get lower ins. rates

Commissioner of Insurance J. Robert Wooley says Cameron Parish homeowners in Fire District 15 (Klondike area) can expect a significant rate reduction in their fire insurance premiums, effective Feb. 9, 2004.

Wooley commended the community and local officials in Fire District 15 for the improvement of their protection rating from level 7 to level 6. This improvement will bring about insurance rate reductions for many policyholders.

For example, fire insurance for a home valued at \$80,000 has been costing residents in Fire District 15 about \$1,197 a year. That cost is likely to drop to about \$1,126 a year for fire insurance under the new rating, which will save homeowners about \$71 in premiums.

"That may not sound like a lot," Wooley said, "But when you consider how many homes there are in the district, it's a major impact."

"The amount of the premi-

um rate reduction will vary, depending on the value of the property, the fire district where the property is located and the rate schedule of the company insuring the property," said Wooley.

Fire insurance premium rates for fire protection districts are promulgated by the Property Insurance Association of Louisiana and approved by the Louisiana Rating Commission of the Department of Insurance. Fire districts are rated on a scale of 1 to 10 by PIAL, with 1 being the best.

PIAL conducts surveys of a fire district's fire protection services before issuing a rating. Factors that affect an area's rating include the number and type of training of firefighters, the number of fire stations and fire trucks, and the availability of water.

Policyholders in the affected area should contact their insurance producer (agent) if the expected reduction in fire insurance premiums is not reflected in their next renewal notice.

For the Record

First runner-up in the Little Mr. Cameron Parish contest was Alec January of Cameron Elementary School.

Blood drive

A blood drive will be conducted by Life Share Blood Centers on Thursday, Jan. 22 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at South Cameron Hospital.

Hospital may be sold to Florida company

By BRENDA MERCHANT American Press

The discussion of PACER Health Corporation's proposal to take over the financial side of Camelot Health Care Services operations of South Cameron Hospital was held behind closed doors on Tuesday.

Representatives from PACER Health Corporation, Camelot Health Care, the board and members of the Police Jury attended the closed-door session.

The Dec. 17 board meeting minutes noted that Bob Hicks, CEO of Camelot Health Care, said the planned merger with PACER Health Corporation will allow the hospital to have access to \$10 million.

A press release on the Yahoo Finance Web site dated Thursday, Dec. 18, 2003, said, however, that PACER, a Miami-based owner-operator of medical treatment, assisted living and residential care facilities had signed a letter of intent with Revival Healthcare Inc., a Camelot-related facility, to purchase a 49-bed acute care facility in Cameron.

The letter of intent covers the purchase of the local hospital and Calcasieu Oaks, a 24-bed geriatric behavioral health unit in Lake Charles

run by Camelot. The December minutes also state that if the merger occurs, Camelot would continue to run the hospital using the infusion of cash to meet its current financial obligations and help in the future development of new revenue producing resources.

The Yahoo article state that as part of the agreement, Hicks will join the PACER team and act as president and CEO.

Hicks reported then that he was also continuing to pursue a line of credit with Cameron State Bank.

Cont. on page 4.

Loan approved for hospital

The State Bond Commission approved a \$1.2 million loan for the Lower Cameron Hospital Service District to purchase equipment for South Cameron Hospital.

The commission has a new makeup because of the election of Kathleen Blanco as governor. Among the new members is State Sen. Willie Mount, D-Lake Charles. She is the chairman for the Senate's Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Committee.



OLGA (BUTSY) CARTER, who died recently, was honored by the Cameron Chamber of Commerce at its annual banquet Monday night in Hackberry. Close friends Harry and Myrna Conner are shown accepting a plaque presented by Charlotte Trosclair on behalf of the Chamber.

Ethics board rules on three local questions

The State Ethics Board recently ruled on four matters involving Cameron residents.

The board had ruled in 2002 that Grand Chenier school board member Dorothy Theriot could not vote on matters involving the closed Grand Chenier school as her husband, Freddie Richard, was one of the heirs trying to have the property returned to his family.

In the recent ruling, the board noted that Freddie Richard had given his interest in the property to his uncle and therefore his wife can now vote on issues involving the school.

In another school matter,

the Ethics Board ruled that School Board employees Philip Bell and James C. Murphy can work as both custodians in the central office and as school bus drivers.

The Board also ruled that Police Jury employee Sharleen Renee Theriot who is assigned to the district attorney's office can clean that office but not other Police Jury offices.

The board declined to waive a \$1,600 late fee against the Cameron Political Action Committee for its support of a candidate last fall. The report was eight days late.



SENATOR WILLIE MOUNT was the guest speaker at the Cameron Chamber of Commerce banquet Monday night in Hackberry. Here she is presented with a gift by Chamber President Carl Broussard.

FUNERALS



Ella Daigle

ELLA MARIE DAIGLE

Ella Marie Daigle, 90, of Cameron, died Friday, Jan. 16 in the South Cameron hospital.

She was born in Abbeville. She was a member of Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church. She had worked for Cameron Food Mart, Trosclair Canning Co., and the Carnegie's Grocery. She also operated an ice-cream stand in Cameron.

Survivors include her husband, Jessie A. Daigle of Cameron; two daughters, Irene Chestnut of Beaumont, Texas, and Dorothy H. Daigle of Big Lake; two step-daughters, Jessie Mae Schuchard of Redmond, Wash., and Irma Joyce Gainer of Front Royal, Virg.; two step-sons, Harry Daigle and Larry Daigle, both of Lake Charles; one sister, Lena Mouton of Abbeville; one brother, Loucise Mouton, Jr. of Abbeville; 13 grandchildren, and numerous great-grandchildren.

Her funeral was held Monday, Jan. 19, from Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church. Monsignor Louis Melancon officiated. Burial was in Big Lake Cemetery

under the direction of Hixson Funeral Home of Creole.

CHARLES HENRY HESTER

Mr. Charles Henry Hester, 72, died Friday, Jan. 16, 2004 in Lake Charles.

He was born in Beaufort, N.C., and lived in Lake Charles most of his life. He attended high school in Beaufort. He was a commercial fisherman for 42 years, employed by Zapata Haney of Cameron.

Survivors include his wife, Pearl Longs Hester of Lake Charles; two sons, Nathan Daniels of Goldsboro, N.C., and David Sharp of Lake Charles; one brother, Frank Hester of Beaufort; three sisters, Vivian Hester, Julia Hester and Sylvia Hester, all of Beaufort; three grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

His funeral will be at 11 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 22, in Fondel Memorial Chapel. The Rev. Erica R. Jenkins will officiate. Burial will be in Perkins Cemetery of Westlake.

VERSIE VINCENT

Versie Vincent, 90, of Grand Chenier died Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2004 in Lafayette.

She was born in Grand Chenier and was a lifetime resident. She was a member of St. Eugene Catholic Church and Ladies Auxiliary Post No. 364.

Survivors include four nieces and three nephews.

Her funeral will be at 1 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 22, at St. Eugene Catholic Church. The Rev. Eugene Vadakkedath will officiate. Burial will be in St. Eugene Catholic Cemetery under the direction of Hixson Funeral Home of Creole.



RODNEY GUILBEAUX, JR., who was specially honored by the Cameron Chamber of Commerce at its annual banquet in Hackberry Monday night, is pictured above with his five children. From left are Jim Guilbeaux, Denise Donahoe, Analee Gregory, Rodney Guilbeaux, Jr., Gisele Puckett, and R. John Guilbeaux III.

Guilbeaux featured in Louisiana Life article

Rodney Guilbeaux, a Cameron parish activist for coastal erosion restoration, is featured in an article in the recent issue of Louisiana Life magazine.

Since Guilbeaux moved to Constance Beach after retiring in 1985 he has been one of the most outspoken supporters of coastal restoration in the parish and state.

Working with parish and state officials and agencies, and several governors, he helped get breakwaters constructed along La. 82 in the early 1990s and was also one of the chief proponents of the \$20 million Holly Beach Sand Management Project.

Guilbeaux and his wife Mickey ran a shell and gift shop for years and served as a

source of information for the thousands of visitors who visit the beach each year.

Guilbeaux became known over the years as the "Mayor of Constance Beach."

For his many contributions the Cameron Parish Chamber of Commerce on Monday honored Guilbeaux at the Chamber's annual banquet.

Guilbeaux's wife of more than 50 years died last year and he recently moved to Sulphur where he will be near his five children and their families.

Louisiana Life magazine can be found on many newsstands. The Cameron Parish Library does not carry the magazine but may be able to furnish patrons with reprints of the article.

Cameron Council on Aging News

FREE RIDES

The Cameron Council on Aging Public Transit Systems is celebrating another year of accident free driving and miles of safety. During the week of Jan. 26 -30, "Try Transit" week will be celebrated. All new riders to the system will receive their first ride free during that week. Call 775-5668 at least 24 hours in advance to schedule a ride.

SAFE DRIVING

The Cameron Council of Aging and Community Action Agency employees and other residents took the AARP Driving Safety Program last week. All staff members involved in driving for public transit were also involved in the safety training. Martin Troy with AARP was the instructor.

ENERGY TALKS

The Grand Lake Senior Citizens had a presentation from Entergy representative Margaret Harris.

Jeff Davis Electric representative Douaine Gary spoke to a group of senior citizens at the Creole Satellite center. The Council on Aging is celebrating Energy Month during January.

5 named to Academic All State

The Louisiana High School Athletic Association has announced the academic all-state teams for football. Several South Cameron Tarpon players were named to the team.

Those players honored and their GPA are John Trosclair, 3.89; Kris Benoit, 3.10; Beau Duhon, 3.94; and Joseph Treme, 3.64. Oliver Primeaux was named as honorable mention. His GPA is 3.18.

Dance set at Cameron Elem.

The 6th and 7th grade classes at Cameron Elementary will have a dance on Friday, Jan. 23, at the Cameron Elementary gym. Chance Doxey will be the D.J. Admission will be \$3. The dance is from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. K - 8th grades may attend.



Lagniappe Two Retirement Home Living Notes

By Geneva Griffith



My dog, Beau, and I have just completed our afternoon walk around the village and now will take our daily nap. We do nothing out of the ordinary here, because everyone does just what they feel like doing, and mostly just that.

I am looking forward to our weekly Bible study in the morning, because I am not able to go to church as I no longer drive due to my eyesight. I am taking a king cake for us to have as refreshment. We have a lot of left over birthday cakes since everyone brings the leftovers for us all to enjoy.

I really enjoyed my trip back home to Cameron, even though it was for a short time. We had to hurry back to attend a shower for my granddaughter in Baton Rouge.

OLD COLUMN

This is a column from Sept. 6, 1957 which I called "Lagniappe, with the Refugees," when the majority of us were living in Lake Charles waiting to get back to Cameron after "Hurricane Audrey."

(Cameron Parish Pilot, Sept. 6, 1957)

The Sam Dolands have moved into their new home on Grand Chenier.

Familiar faces returned - Agnes Broussard, Martin Gayle Theriot and Leslie Richard are back at work in the Tax Assessor's office in Cameron courthouse. They have been working in the Calcasieu Parish courthouse since the storm.

I saw Johnny Meaux the other day. Johnny, Esther, J. C., Madge, and Roessa Reina are all living together in Lake Charles. J. C. will teach in Bell City this semester.

The "Bee" Nunez's are living in the back of their store while they are rebuilding.

The Gorden Nunez's are living with them.

The Nick Pichnics expect to be in their home soon. They have been working mighty hard getting all fixed up. Mr. Nick gets a kick out of the way his '50 model Plymouth has been running. His son got it out of the marsh where it landed during the storm, and cleaned it up and they have been using it constantly while daughter Iris' new car has been constantly in the shop.

Allie and Harold Cooling have bought a home in University Place. The Peter Henry Jr.'s have also bought a home in Lake Charles.

I dropped by Madam Ursin Primeaux's home Sunday. The Red Cross built her a home over the weekend. Lottie Primeaux (Mrs. Willie) was there. I had not seen Lottie since the night of the storm in the South Cameron High School. She furnished all of us who needed them sedatives that she had managed to save in her purse that night.

Elza Miller (Mrs. Cap) had her whole family out this weekend pulling nails and cleaning up around her place. Even the grandchildren were in on the work. I notices Dottie Sweeney was pulling her share of nails.

I had coffee with Eunice and Junior Boy Rutherford in their home Sunday afternoon. The Arceneaux LeBouef's and Betty came by while we were there. The LeBouef's are living out from Lake Charles and plan to build there. Betty has just graduated from Hotel Dieu in New Orleans and will nurse at St. Patrick's in Lake Charles.

Have you noticed the new building going up next to the drug store? That is the new office of Dr. C. J. Landreneau. His office was formally located across from Ola's beauty shop.

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**Candice Guillory
Ms. Guillory
graduates**

Candice (Benoit) Guillory graduated from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (ULL) on Dec. 13 with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and a minor in English. She is the daughter of Scott and Julie Benoit of Hackberry.

Candice was named the Outstanding Graduate for the Psychology Department and was a National Award Winner with the United States Achievement Academy. She was also named to the National Honor Society for Psychology where she served as President at the local Psi Chi Chapter in Lafayette.

She was on the Dean's list for seven semesters. During her enrollment at ULL Candice performed volunteer work for Acadiana Visitation and Exchange center, Acadiana Therapeutic Riding Organization, The Extra Mile, Big Brothers and Big Sister program, Violence Prevention program, and the Regional Social Studies Fair.

She is a member of the Professional Development Committee, Outreach Committee, Psychology Colloquium Drafting Committee, Academic Support Committee for the Psychology Colloquium, and Student Force for the Prevention of Child Abuse.

She advises her peers on course scheduling, served as A.V.E.C. Les Enfants training session liaison, presented information on majoring in psychology to Acadiana High School psychology classes, and co-authored an amendment for the Psychology Colloquium constitution.

She will attend graduate school this fall at the Clinical Psy.D. Program at Baylor University. Her focus/specialization will be children and with this degree work with abused and neglected children as well as do some work with the school system.

**Qualifying
period for
candidates**

According to Carl Broussard, Cameron Clerk of Court, the qualifying period for candidates seeking the below named offices in the Tuesday, Mar. 9, Presidential Preference Primary Election is from Wednesday, Jan. 28 through Friday, Jan. 30.

Democratic Parish Executive Committee Members for District 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Republican Parish Executive Committee Members for District 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6.

For a copy of qualifications and qualifying fees for the above named offices; interested persons can call the Cameron Parish Clerk of Court's Office at 775-5316 Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

The Clerk of Court's Office hours during qualifying will be as follows:

Wednesday, Jan. 28 - 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 29 - 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 30 - 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m.



MR. & MRS. JOHN (Annette Boudreaux) Baccigalopi of Creole will celebrate 50 years of marriage on Saturday Jan. 24 at the Creole Community Center. Hosts are their children and spouses, all of Creole: Mr. & Mrs. Michael (Melasey) Baccigalopi, Mr. & Mrs. Danny (Gail) Shay, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas (Debbie) McDaniel, Mr. & Mrs. Mitchell (Dana) Baccigalopi. They also have 9 grandchildren and 1 great-grandson. The couple was married Feb. 6, 1954 at Camp Stewart Army Base in Savanna, Georgia.

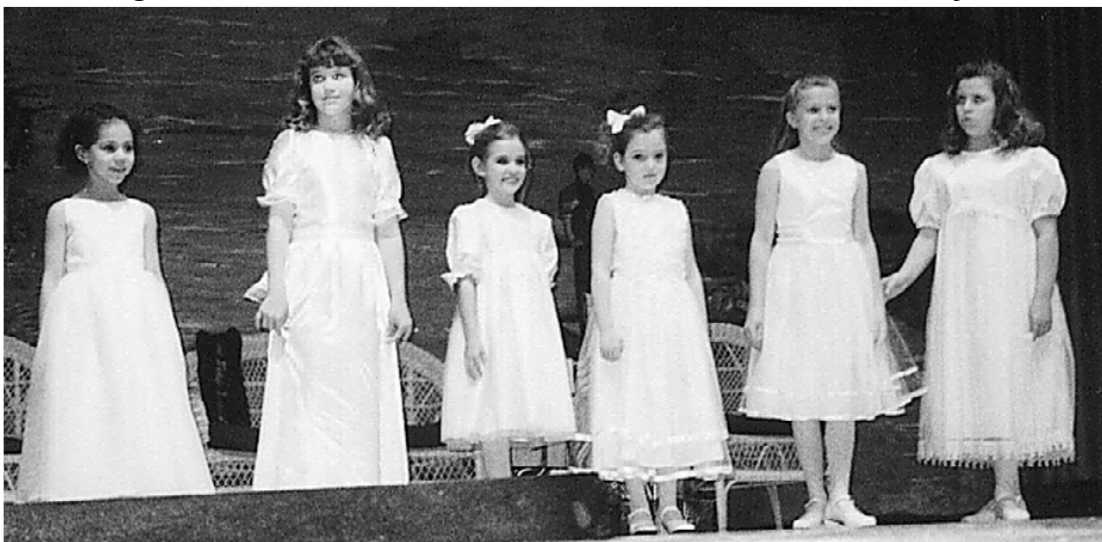
Named to Dean's list

The following Cameron Parish students have been named to the Dean's List at LSU for the fall semester:

College of Arts and Sciences - Ryan Joseph Bourriaque, Cameron and Shannon Leigh Day, Hackberry;

College of Education - Melissa Anne Lalande, Creole University College Center for Advising and Counseling - Kayla Victoria Kelley, Cameron

University College Center for Freshman Year - Lindsay Kay Labove, Hackberry.



THESE YOUNG LADIES served as Cameron Parish Ambassadors to escort the queen contestants at the recent Louisiana Fur and Wildlife Festival in Cameron. They were Savannah Quinn, daughter of Kirk and Jene Quinn of Bell City; Kerrigan Meaux, daughter of Dr. Mike and Kim Meaux of Creole; Kennedy Darbonne, daughter of Kent and Michelle Darbonne of Hackberry; Baylie Duhon, daughter of Brady Duhon and Kara Bonsall; Hallie Boudreaux, daughter of Curt and Larica Stalsby of Lake Charles; and Becca Richard, daughter of Jeff and Shari Richard of Grand Chenier. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)

South Cameron High School News

YEARBOOK NEWS

The 2003-04 yearbook will be on sale from Jan. 26 thru Feb. 6.

Students may purchase yearbooks at lunch recess during the above dates.

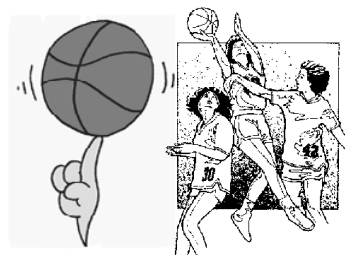
This year's yearbook costs \$35, and includes a senior portrait, as well as coverage of sports, clubs, and events of the school year. A deposit of \$10 will reserve a book with your name stamped on the front.

If you have any questions about the yearbook or would like to arrange payment by mail, contact Tracy Lannin, yearbook adviser at 542-4628.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

- Jan. 22 - Blood Drive
- Jan. 23 - Junior Beta meeting; Basketball game - Basile (home)
- Jan. 24 - Wrestling meet - Ken Cole
- Jan. 26 - FBLA (5th hour)
- Jan. 27 - 31st - District Livestock Show
- Jan. 29 - Basketball game - St. Edmund (away)
- Jan. 30 - No school

Jan. 31 - Wrestling meet - SCHS



ATTENTION HORSEMEN!

Giant Saddle and Tack Auction, Tuesday, Jan. 27th, 7:30 p.m. VFW Post, 1900 Country Club Rd, Lake Charles, LA. Huge discounts on quality name brand saddles and tack. We'll treat you right and save you big bucks! Saddles! Saddles! Saddles! Billy Cook, Circle T Longhorn and more 1000's of tack items, work and show gear, assorted tools, decorative items and more. Bring your used saddles for trade-in credit before auction.

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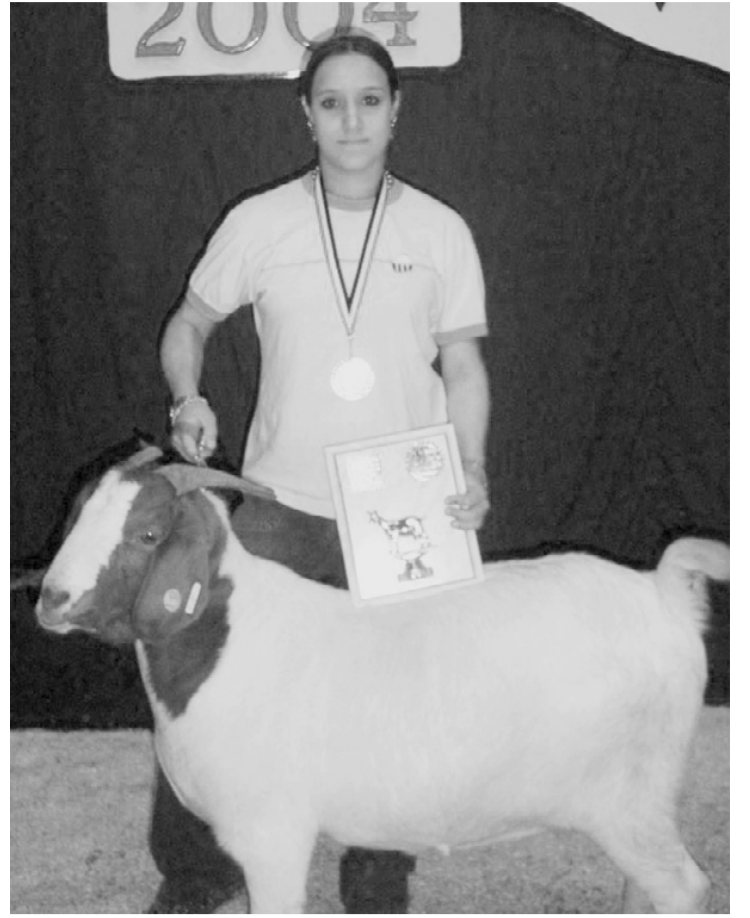
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TOREY MCKAY LITTLE, 7-year-old daughter of Chad and Stacy Little, is shown with the All-Around Cowgirl saddles she won in the 2003 season. Torey, a second-grader at Hackberry High School, won top honors at the DeRidder Riding Club and the Wagon Wheel Riding Club in Slagle. Grandparents are Dirk and Cindy Perry Desonier of Carlyss, Ernie and Mae Doris Little of Hackberry, Lucien Cooper of DeQuincy; and great-grandmother is Lucille Perry of Fields.



THESE GIRLS were the winners in the Miss Cajun Christmas queens of Grand Lake School, sponsored by the Senior class in December as a fundraiser. They were, from left: Misty Lesueur, Miss Deb Miss; Heather Breaux, Miss Teen Miss; and Ashley Broussard, Miss Cajun Christmas. The girls have made an appearance in the Fur Festival, at VFW Post 2130, and in the school's Christmas program. Helping host the pageant were Ashley Picou, newly crowned Miss Cameron Parish; Kelsey Chesson, Miss Farm Bureau; Danielle Broussard, 2003 Homecoming Queen; and Mrs. Vickie Little.



MELISSA NUNEZ of Cameron won first place Goat Premier Exhibitor at the recent Cameron Parish Livestock Show and is shown with her goat Jessie. She is in the 10th grade at South Cameron High School. Melissa is the 16-year-old daughter of Gerard and Dede Nunez. This is her third year showing goats in the 4-H project.

Cameron Outdoors

By LOSTON MCEVERS



IT'S ALL OVER

"It's All Over But the Crying." Our duck and coot season has come and gone, and yes the crying is still there. Many hunters thought last year's duck season was bad, but after this season, many of us will remember the 2003-04 duck season as anything but good.

What's hard for me to understand, is each time we have a duck count, there is always more birds, but just where are the birds? I understand Little Pecan has a large number of ducks as well as the AMOCO Lands at the White Lake area and to the east. I just find it hard to believe the last duck count, although our Southwest area, is a large area.

This is the last duck count for the Coastal Zone, Jan. 6 - 8. Mallards - 207,000; mottled ducks - 32,000; gadwal (gray ducks) - 549,000; wigeons - 49,000; g.w. teals - 338,000; b.w. teals - 19,000; shovelers (spoonbills) - 61,000; and pintails - 266,000; with the total for dabblers ducks being 1,521,000. Scaup had a count of 26,000; ringed necked ducks - 36,000 and canvas-backs - 1000 with the total divers being 63,000. The grand total for the Southwest Zone was 1,584,000 ducks and 57,000 coots. The Southeast Zone had a total of 1,055,000 dabblers and 459,000 divers for a grand total of 1,514,000 ducks and 397,000 coots.

Catahoula Lake had 17,000 dabblers (all pintails), but had 274,000 divers for a grand total of 291,000 ducks and 3000 coots. This gave the entire state a grand total of 3,389,000 ducks and 457,000 coots. This seems like a large number of ducks, to still, at the end of the season have

zeros, one or two, with some limits being taken. I do know lots of our hunting clubs have suffered from this duck season. Oh well, here it's over with.

HUNTING TALK

Last Saturday we saw lots of rain, making a miserable morning for hunters. This put lots of water in our marshes and didn't help Sunday, the last day.

Some hunters started hunting afternoons instead of mornings and did better than morning hunts. Hunters say about an hour before sunset, ducks came in to roost and they would get a limit in 20 to 30 minutes.

I got decoys, pirogues and boats out of the marsh all cleaned up for the year. I normally buy two cases of shells each year, one case of number 6's and one case of number 4's and like last year, I hunted 53 days. I had to get another case, even though I thought it was slow. This year, including teal season, I started with two cases and I still didn't shoot all my shells. I had two boxes left, if I wouldn't have used so many to shoot cripples, I would have probably had an extra two or three boxes. I do know I did better the second split, by only 14 birds; but trailed last year's total by 50 or so ducks, hunting 50 days this year.

FRIENDS CHAT

I was talking to a friend and told him "I'll sure save lots of money of electricity now that duck season is over." He wanted to know if it was the boat house lights, camp lights, or did I have a light in my blind? After I told him I had two electric ducks that I call my two muskovees.

What I was trying to tell him was the usage of electric-

Basketball action told for Cameron Parish teams

BASKETBALL BOYS

East Beauregard 63; South Cameron 31 - John Lute led the Tarpons with 10 points. Oliver Primeaux and Jerry Lane Thomas added 6 points each.

Starks 77; Johnson Bayou 53 - The 12-20 Rebels were led by Jared Trahan with 14 points. Keith Badon added 8 points and Beau Rodrigue chipped in 8 points.

Hackberry 44; Grand Lake 42 - Wade LaBove was the leading scorer for the Mustangs with 17 points and Travis Lavergne scored 14 for the Hornets.

ity to keep the equipment charged up, such as, boat batteries, spot light battery, cell phone battery, three duck batteries, dog collar batteries, and then putting lights on at 4 a.m., making coffee... I think you get the idea.

BIRD WATCHERS

Bob and Nancy Fruge, of Cameron, both enjoy watching birds and ducks. They really enjoyed the hunting season, watching for new and different species of ducks. Mrs. Fruge really enjoyed the visit at the Cameron Prairie Refuge. She saw cinnamon teals and plenty of gallinules, as well as other ducks and geese. She helped me identify a duck I killed out of a book she had. It turned out to be a red-breasted female merganser. I've never seen many of them in the marsh.

They also enjoyed the Sabine Refuge, using the walkway, watching 24 black belly whistling ducks and also pintails at Cameron Prairie.

I have brought my binoculars in the duck blind that I use sometimes to identify certain ducks, especially pintails (at a distance or in the early mornings) when the season closed. Well, we'll still get a little goose hunting in as well as rabbit and snipe.

DID YA KNOW!

Spring breeding population for gadwal (gray ducks) was up 67% from 1958 to 1997, northern shovelers (spoonbills) up 198% from 1958 to 1997, and green-winged teal up 95% from 1958 to 1999. However, scaup were down 51% from 1959 to 1998 and pintails were down 83% from 1956 to 2002. I'd sure like to know what our percentages are for the last three years?

Hey, it's time to get the fishing equipment ready. My doctor told me that I got over the "duck fever," beat the "deer fever," but was coming down with "fishing fever." His prescription was take 2 rods and reels and 1 tackle box 3 - 5 times per week and "Go Fishing." Okay Doc, will do! Catch you later!

GIRLS

East Beauregard 65; South Cameron 33 - Kayla Rutherford scored 13 points for the Lady Tarpons. D.Nae Desonier added 9 points.

Johnson Bayou 52; Starks 48 - The Lady Rebels, Megan Roberts led all scorers with 20 points. Charmaine Barrentine added 7 points and Sara Conner scored 8 points. The Lady Rebels improve to 13-11 on the year and 2-1 in district.

Hackberry 54; Grand Lake 23 - Edie Leonards paced the Lady Mustangs with 22 points. Mandy Michalko added 11 points. Katie Laverne scored 9 points for Grand Lake. Hackberry improves to 28-4 on the year while Grand Lake falls to 10-15.

Horticultural workshop to be Feb. 2nd

Noted landscape architect, Dr. Neil G. Odenwald, Professor Emeritus, LSU Landscape Architecture, will conduct two workshops Monday, February 2, announced Robert Turley, Calcasieu Parish Extension Horticulturist.

Dr. Odenwald will conduct the first lecture from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. with the second to be held from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., said Turley. Both will be held at the Calcasieu Parish office of the LSU Cooperative Extension Service located at 7101 Gulf Highway, Lake Charles, LA.

Registration is \$10 person. Pre-registration is encouraged as seating is limited and is available on a first come first serve basis. Registration forms are available at the county agent office or at area garden centers. Persons may also request a form by calling the extension (county) agent office at 337/475-8872.

The lecture topic is "Landscape and Design Basics and How to Get Started", said Turley. New home owners, new landscape contractors, horticulturists and gardeners will find this lecture of special interest, said Turley.

Dr. Odenwald is Professor Emeritus and former Director, School of Landscape Architecture, Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. He earned his BS and PhD degrees in Horticulture from Mississippi State University and a MS in Landscape Architecture from LSU.

The program is being sponsored by the Master Gardener program of the LSU Ag Center.

Persons wanting more information may call the LSU Ag Center.

OPPOSITION

Cont. from Pg. 1

imity of other industrial activities; Question of waste streams to be accepted; Sampling and analysis of incoming waste; Hazardous characteristics of waste to be accepted; Lack of materials testing processes and criteria; Hazardous recovered materials; Toxic and hazardous air emissions; Waste water not properly addressed; and Questionable reuse of solids.

She stated that "the errors in the application process are so substantial that the application should be denied based on the record."

OTHER SPEAKERS

Other speakers and comments included: Sammy Faulk, Cameron Parish Economic Development Director - "Although we would appreciate any type of economic development in Cameron Parish, I'm not sure hazardous types are in our best interest. Also, it could be detrimental to tourist interests and not a good option for the parish at this time."

Barry Hunt, Hunt Homes, LLC, beachfront developer - "We promote the wildlife, oyster, and fishing industries. For 18 full-time jobs we are willing to risk 9000 lives?"

Jessie Conner, Cameron - "We need to address the fact that a majority of people in this room and in the parish have had someone in their family who have had cancer."

Teddy Broussard, commercial fisherman, Grand Chenier - "When the winds are westerly we get the smell (from Omega Protein) in our clothes. We have storms, hurricanes and rains. This type of thing should not be in this type of area."

Steve Trahan, president, Cameron Parish Police Jury - "In the last four years we have been cleaning up projects with superfund help. We would like to be pro-active now and stop clean-up before it starts so generations after us don't have to fight this."

Dorothy LaBove, bus driver, cancer patient, Hackberry - "This company that's trying to come in here is not welcome. We do not need any more garbage brought into this parish, nor

do we want it."

Glen Alexander, former District Attorney - "What they say tonight, we hope they'll do, but we don't know what will happen. All those people who've come in here in the past we've had to clean up after. Past experience with other companies shows the parish and citizens have to pick-up and clean-up the mess after they leave."

Greg Wicke, secretary, West Cameron Port Board stated the board would be adopting a resolution at its Jan. 20 meeting in opposition, citing development of port property adjacent to the proposed facility which would be affected detrimentally by the project.

The board has a joint agreement with attorney Chad Mudd's company for developing the port property. Mudd said "the future of Cameron doesn't lie in this type of process." David Bruckhaus asked how many jobs it would cost Cameron in shrimpers, fisherman, marinas, and camps that would not want to locate near it.

Don Merrish of Lake Charles, who owns the property immediately south of the AB Dock site expressed concerns about floods, ship traffic, and "the people involved and what is next on their agenda."

RESPONSE GIVEN

In response, Barry Heinen of Environmental Partners stated that the comments were very good. He said the proposed process is a closed loop system which will meet standards, but "if the application is short, we are not aware and maybe it should be brought up to date."

Per Sorenson, representing the Danish company Soil Recovery A/S, designers of the proposed facility, noted that they have 20 units in operation around the world, including Scotland, Holland, Norway, Denmark, Azerbaijan (Sp) and Khazakistan (Sp). In response to some comments he asserted "There is absolutely not any plan to place an incinerator at the site."

Hearing office Stephen Walker reminded the audience that written comment would be received through Jan. 21 and a decision would be made within 120 days thereafter. He said all relevant comments would be responded to in writing at that time.

HOSPITAL

Cont. from Pg. 1

He said that in the past six months the emergency room had been closed six times because of outdated equipment not working properly.

At Tuesday's public meeting, board member Greg Fawvor said that he and bond Attorney Jay Delafield had gone before the Louisiana State Bond Commission last week to ask permission to incur debt of \$1.1 million in the form of excess revenue bonds for a term not to exceed six years at a rate not to exceed 4.75 percent.

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