



THIS PHOTO of a roseate spoonbill in a Cameron marsh was taken by the late nature photographer Bill Turnbull. Once rare here, the rose-colored birds have become common throughout parish marshes.

## Improvements for Creole are discussed

By GENEVA GRIFFITH

A variety of subjects including fire protection, drainage, waterworks, ambulance service and recreation were discussed at a meeting held Wednesday evening of last week at the Creole Fire Station. The meeting was called by Police Juror Scott Trahan who reported on the following matters:

The No. 10 fire rating caused insurance rates to go up due to the lack of volunteer firemen, lack of sufficient training and adequate equipment. The new water system, which is scheduled to go on line soon, should help he said, but we will not see a difference unless the community gets some volunteer help, stated Robert Montie, head of the fire department.

Rickey Miller was praised for keeping up the equipment and the Cameron Fire Department was thanked for donating their old fire truck when they purchased a new one. Under consideration is a paid fire chief.

\$21,000 is allocated for the Creole Fire Department from taxes.

There was some good news for the East Creole area that has been plagued with high water. Two five-foot structures costing \$175,000 will be constructed to help the drainage.

Lonnie Harper, engineer, reported on the \$600,000 federal grant that the Creole water department has applied for to con-

struct an elevated water tank and more fire hydrants. He said the new water line will be completed in 120 days.

Under the subject of recreation, it was reported that the swimming pool is in need of some work. It was decided to hire an adult to oversee pool operation and to apply for a grant to build a new pool.

The beachfront development committee reported that they have applied for a grant to build a covered pavilion at the picnic area. They are having a picnic with people stealing the barbecue tables.

## Bridge is knocked out

A barge accident shut down operations on a pontoon bridge off of La. Hwy. 384 last Friday night.

Cameron Parish Sheriff's Office officials said the barge hit the bridge around 9 p.m. Damage was done to the west side of the bridge.

The accident has caused residents to take alternate routes in the Big Lake area.

Cameron officials expect that it will take some time before the bridge is reopened.



Captain Sammie Faulk

## Faulk named Police Jury sales rep.

Sammy Faulk of Big Lake was named as parish sales representative by the Cameron Parish Policy Jury Monday. His duties will be to sell the economic values of Cameron Parish to industry and business prospects.

The position was vacated recently when James Ducote of Hackberry accepted a position as regional representative of the La. Dept. of Economic Development.

The part-time position will pay \$1,250 per month plus travel, food and lodging while on jury business.

Faulk had operated Hebert's Marina at Big Lake for the past nine years. Recently he decided to return to full time work as a fishing and hunting guide which he has been doing for the past 14 years.

He is a member of the Cameron Parish Tourism Commission and is a past member of the local dock board. He has been active in the last few years in promoting tourism, fishing and hunting in Cameron Parish.

## Rabbit show, cook-off set

The Grand Lake Jr. 4-H Club will host a rabbit show and rabbit cook-off Sat., Mar. 23, at 8 a.m. The event will be held at the Grand Lake School Ag Barn.

The rabbit show is open to all 4-H and FFA members in Cameron, Calcasieu and Beauregard parishes.

Entry fee is \$2.50 per rabbit, \$3 day of show and \$10 fee for the cook-off. The cook-off is open to everyone. For more information or to pre-register, call Cypi Atwell, 337-598-4299.

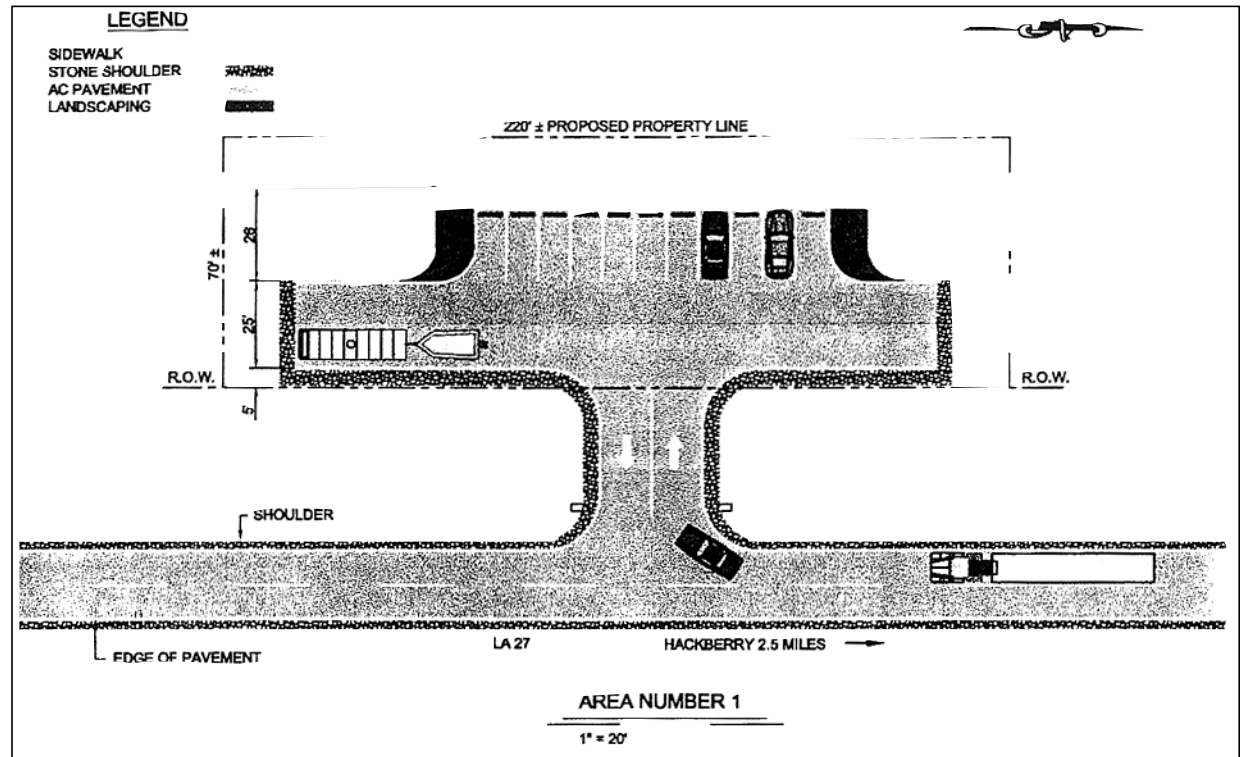
## Pilot's fax was down

The Cameron Pilot's fax machine was not working Tuesday night and up until 8 a.m. Wednesday when it was repaired.

If anyone sent the Pilot a fax while the machine was down, it may not have reached the paper. If you think we failed to get your fax please call us at 1-800-256-7323.



Cameron Parish Champion Winners at the Southwest District Livestock Show shown above were: (kneeling, from left) Keaton Boudreaux, Shylyn Nunez, Kallan Mudd, Kyle Benoit, Kyle Fontenot; (standing, middle row) Bryan Meche, Mika Benoit, Lancey Richard, Christina Boudreaux, Desiree Nunez; (back row) Lesla Woodson, Miss Rodeo Louisiana, Wayne Nunez, Lance Guidry, Trinity Cline, Kimily Bourriaque, Michael Boudreaux, Chance Baccigalopi, and Ernie Broussard, president of the Southwest District Livestock Show Committee. Cody Jouett, Bryce Manuel, Kami Savoie, Nicholas Wolfe, Santana Conner, Joel Rogers, Jacob Nunez, Lynsi Conner, and Jeremy Rider also won awards.



ABOVE IS a sketch of one of the four turnouts to be built off of Hwy. 27 between Hackberry and Holly Beach to provide parking for motorists who wish to view the birds and wildlife in the marshes. A bridge will cross the roadside canal and there will be paved parking for about a dozen vehicles. One of the turnouts is 2.5 miles south of Hackberry in the Sabine Wildlife Refuge. The other three will be on privately-owned property. A permit is presently being sought by the Southwest Louisiana Convention and Visitors Bureau for the work.

## Lady Mustangs State Champs!

By CHRIS MUELLER

For the second time in three years the Hackberry Lady Mustangs are the Class C State Champions, beating Atlanta 57-43 in the championship game Saturday.

The Lady Mustangs won with a stingy defense and balanced scoring. Tobie Devall, Sirena Duhon, Edie Leonards and Leah Billedeaux all scored between 9 and 11 points for the Lady Mustangs.

Hackberry junior Leah Billedeaux, who played on the 2000 championship team, was named Most Valuable Player of the Class C State Championship game.

Billedeaux, who tore her ACL in last year's semi-final game, made a great comeback as she scored 9 points and finished with a game high 14 rebounds Saturday.

Hackberry head coach Eddie Michalko has built a basketball dynasty that is the envy of all of southwest Louisiana. With two crowns in three years, the Lady

Mustangs lose but one senior and should be in the hunt again next year.

Atlanta (34-5) led 12-11 after the first quarter but did not hit a shot from the floor in the second quarter as Hackberry outscored the Lady Bulldogs 12-3 in the second and 15-8 in the third period.

Atlanta threatened late in the fourth quarter when it cut the lead to 10 with less than two minutes left, cutting the lead to 50-40, but Hackberry took five trips to the free throw line and hit 7 of 8 shots from the stripe to salt away the victory.

The Lady Mustangs beat Fairview 36-33 in the semi-final round. Hackberry sophomore Edie Leonards scored 12 points and drew the defensive assignment of guarding top ranked Fairview's Courtnee Hollins. Leonards limited Hollins to just two field goals on 12 attempts.

Leah Billedeaux added 8 points and 10 rebounds, on the same floor where she tore her ACL last year, for the Lady Mustangs.



Sheila Conner

## Mrs. Conner candidate for board

Sheila Conner of Creole has announced that she will be a candidate in the April 6 special election to name a District 4 school board member.

Mrs. Conner is married to Douaine Conner and she has two children and one stepson.

She attended South Cameron High School and worked for A & R Pipeline for 19 years.

She is a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church and is active in various youth activities.

## Coastal Zone rules amended by jurors

By JERRY WISE

Public notices on a variety of wetland projects will no longer be required as results of an amendment to the Coastal Zone Ordinance adopted by the Cameron Parish Police Jury Monday.

The changes, designed to make such work quicker and cheaper to do, removes public notice requirements on such projects as the Christmas Tree project, maintenance of existing canals, driveways, storage buildings and dredging for boat slips and bulkheads.

The Coastal Zone ordinance was adopted some years ago so that the jury could have some control over projects that might have an adverse effect on parish wetlands.

It was reported to the jury that the 2001 Christmas tree project had been completed with 4000 used trees being used to refurbish pins in the marsh built to prevent erosion and the rebuilding of the marsh.

M & M Electric was the low bidder on the King Bayou Water Control Structure Project at \$105,700.

Dinah Landry was reappointed to Ambulance District 2. A replacement for Edmund Trahan, whose term had expired, will be made at a future meeting.

## INDUSTRIAL DEV. BOARD

Assistant District Attorney Cecil Sanner gave the jury information on the proposed parish Industrial Development Board.

He said it would be non-profit corporation that could pass bond issues, buy and lease land, and attract industries to the parish.

It would have a three-member board with no elected officials as members.

The jury also ratified the calling of an election for Waterworks District 1 on the May 6 ballot. A 5.2 mill tax is up for renewal for ten years.

## Bank meeting

The annual meeting of Cameron Bankshares, Inc. will be held at 2:30 p.m., Friday, March 15 at the Mid City Plaza branch of the Cameron State Bank, 2911 Ryan St., Lake Charles.

The following directors are up for re-election: Arthur Cooling, David J. Drez, Jr., E. J. Dronet, Charles F. Hebert, John A. Henning, Jerry G. Jones, Sr., Robert M. McHale, Roy M. Raftery, Jr., Enos J. Sturlese and Sue C. Watson.

The bank, which was started in Cameron Parish, now has numerous branches throughout Cameron, Calcasieu and Allen parishes.

## Fire Dept. gets new fire truck

The acceptance of a new fire engine pumper by the Cameron Fire Dept. is a continuing effort to upgrade the department. The truck, manufactured by Emergency One and acquired through Sunbelt Fire Apparatus, Inc., is the newest truck added to the department.

The new pumper body is made of aluminum which will eliminate damage from rust, extending usage life. The truck is a 1250 G.P.M. triple combination pumper with a 1000-gallon polypropylene tank.

The new unit is equipped with the latest fire fighting features and will be a welcome addition to the community.

## Hearing set on 2002-03 hunting seasons

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries will hold a public meeting on the 2002-03 hunting seasons at 7 p.m., Wed., March 20 in the Chalkley Room of the Burton Coliseum in Lake Charles. All interested persons are invited to attend.



THIS IS A picture of the Grand Chenier 4-H club taken in the 1935-36 school year. All of these "youngsters" would be in their 70s today.



# Cameron Outdoors

By Loston McEvers

## MOTHER NATURE CALLS

Mother Nature made her call twice in the past two weeks, with rain 3 to 4 inches and temperatures that dropped to record lows in the 20's. This has really put a hurt on fishing, not only for the cold weather, but fresh water will surely flush out the saltwater on Calcasieu Lake and the Mermentau River area.

It sure made the Oilman Tournament on Toledo Bend miserable. I'm hoping to have more on this next week, as we had a few of our local anglers fish this tournament.

The geese were in my area of Creole for a few days, but the rains moved them out. I do know we still have lots of speckle belly and ducks down, more than we had during the regular season.

## LOCAL YOUTH CASTING

The Lake Charles boat show two weeks ago had the 2002 casting kid contest at the Civic Center. We had a number of Cameron Parish youth take part in this contest - Justin and Blake Payne from East Creole tried their luck, and did rather well.

Justin took third place in the 13-year-old and scored 100 points. Brother Blake, casting in the 10-year-old group, but competed in the older group, because their age will change before the state competition, tied for first place with 110 points, but lost the cast-off to break the tie. He told me he got on the edge of 25 points on the target and his opponent got on the 25 points, beating him out of first place. Blake said he would enjoy the rod and reel and target he won and be read for next year.

## BIRDS IN THE WILD

Spring time is coming and we'll see many small birds or animals that seem to need help, but

it's really not the case. Most of the time especially small birds, are not orphans, so they should be left alone. The mother may be teaching their young how to walk, find food or how to fly. It may seem that it's left alone, but usually the mother is not very far, and has an eye on the young. If a young bird or animal is injured, call wildlife personnel and let the professionals take care of the matter.

## FISHING BASS

A few years ago 5 and 6 pound bass here in Louisiana were a wall hanger, but all that has changed. Over the past decade stocking programs of Florida strain largemouth bass have been stocked in most rivers and lakes in Louisiana. Now 10 pounders are common in our state and we see the top 30 largemouth bass in Louisiana record book have all been caught since the Florida strain program began. Some say it's a miracle, but I say it's just large bass. It's kind of like they say, the man who knows all about bass fishing does not exist, but I bet you have probably met him.

## FISHING TIMES

Best - Fri., Mar. 8, 7:30 a.m. to 8:50 a.m.; Sat., Mar. 9, 8:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.; Sun., Mar. 10, 9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.; Mon., Mar. 11, 10:15 a.m., to 11:30 a.m.; Tues., Mar. 12, 10:50 a.m. to 12:20 p.m.; Wed., Mar. 13, 11:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.; Thurs., Mar. 14, 11:50 a.m. to 2 p.m.

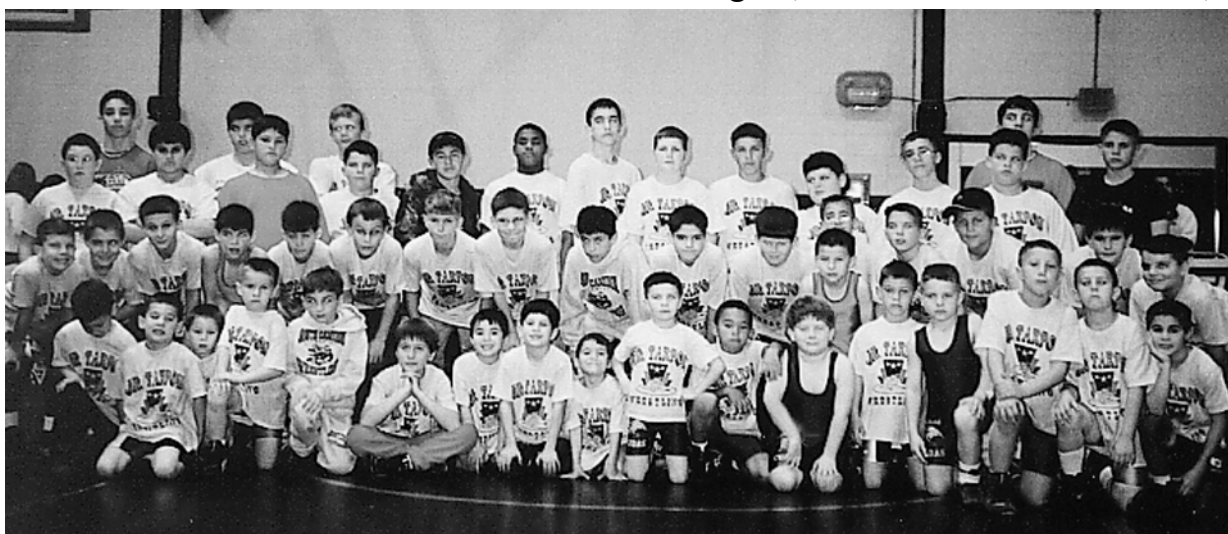
Best days for March - 23, 24 and 31.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Through Dec. 1 - Rockefeller Refuge is open.

Through Mar. 10 - West Zone - snow-blue-Ross goose season.

Mar. 14 - Sabine National



**THE CAMERON JUNIOR Tarpon wrestlers** competed in Lafayette on Feb. 23. The boys and their placings were: Christopher Guillot, fourth; Marcus Doxey, DeVaughn Thompson, Kent Doxey, second; Kaleb Stoutes, third; Travis Trahan, first; Barrett Doxey, Matthew Morgan, first; Dex Murphy, third; James Cormier, second; Ross Rowland, Jody Troclair, first; Brian Doxey, fourth; Thomas Brown, first; Garrett Shipman, Jacob Alexander, second; Justin Picou, second; Justin Gordon, first; Thomas Troclair, Jordan Istre, Ronnie George, fourth; John Holden, Andrew Bonsall, third; Luke Miller, fourth; Tyler Joe Nunez, second; Jaron Theriot, first; Kelby Comeaux, first; Jody Landry, third; Jason Theriot, second; Jarrett Nunez, second; Joshua Wicke, third; Jacob Landry, second; Client Miller, fifth; Brendan Trahan, first; John Comeaux, first; Trever Nunez, second; Scottie Nunez, Alex Bonsall, fifth; Kaleb Broussard, second; Hunter Canik, first; Rudy McEvers, third; Jade Miller, first; Blake Payne, second; Ty Savoie, Kody Willis, third; Kyle Little, first; Colby Nunez, first; Brett Richard, second; Jonathan Trahan, first; Jacob Wilkerson, second; Ryan LeBleu, third; Matthew Miller, fourth; and James Richard II, fifth.

## Johnson Bayou Rec. Calendar

### EASTER EGG HUNT

The Johnson Bayou Recreation Center will have the Easter egg hunt for the Johnson Bayou and Holly Beach community Sun., Mar. 17, at 2 p.m. All children walking to 9 years old may participate.

### EASTER BINGO

The Easter bingo will be Thurs., Mar. 21, at 6:30 p.m. Senior citizens may arrive at 5:45, the public at 6 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

## Memorial books told

### NEW MEMORIAL BOOKS

New memorial books in the Cameron Parish Library are listed as follows, with names of the ones in memory and donors, respectively:

More Animals In My Life, John Savoie by Charlotte Troclair and family.

Musical Feast, Ena Broussard by Charlotte Troclair and family.

Cooking Class Seafood Cookfood, Delores LaBove by Charlotte Troclair and family.

Collecting Antique Bird Decoys and Duck Calls, Malcolm "Butch" Crain by Charlotte Troclair and family.

Flea Market Decorating, Louverta Vincent by Charlotte Troclair and family.

Second Home, Lois Watts by Charlotte Troclair and family.

The Horse, Charles S. Duhon by Charlotte Troclair and family.

Quick Country Decorating, Vivian Murphy by Charlotte Troclair and family.

American Architecture, Joseph David Peltier by Charlotte Troclair and family.

Ring of Fire, John Savoie by Dave and Debbie Savoie and family.

Shark's and Other Sea Creatures, Steve Mejias by Dave and Debbie Savoie and family.

### NEW NOVELS

The Oath, John T. Lescroart; The Dream of the Broken Horses, William Bayer; This Bitter Earth, Bernice L. McFadden; Enemy Women,

Wildlife Refuge opens.

Mar. 14 - Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge opens.

Mar. 15 - Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge opens (outside of pool).

Mar. 17 - Lemesche Bass Club tournament - Big Burn. Pick-a-partner, sunrise to 3 p.m. weigh-in.

Mar. 20-23 - annual Louisiana Sportsman's Show - La. Superdome.

Apr. 21-Oct. 31 - red snapper sports season opens, limit 4 - minimum total length 16 inches.

Apr. 11-16 - Southwest La. Bird Festival - Lake Arthur.

May 25-Sept. 2 - Coastal Conservation Association (CCS) starts state wide tournament and anglers rodeo. Call (225)952-9200.

Mar. 16 - Miami Corporation Permit fishing opens, which includes the Big Burn.

### NEWS BRIEFS

The Oilmen's Tournament was won by a father-son, with 10 fish going 37 plus pounds. Anglers tell me it was rough waters, fog, then strong winds and then cold. Fish were caught by fishing along the banks, trailing your boat to different locations as the lake was too rough to cross.

Our Sunday morning 10 a.m. temperature was 31 degrees with snow flakes falling, so Old Man Winter is still here.

## S. Cameron girls make third team

Two South Cameron High School players made Girls All District 5-1A Basketball Team honors this week.

Katie McKoin was named to the third team and Ashley Nunez made honorable mention.

Kim Captain of Elton was named most valuable player and Tammie Gipson, East Beauregard, was coach of the year.

Kellie McKoin is the South Cameron coach.

## Wrestlers in tournament

Members of the Cameron Elementary School wrestling team competed in a tournament in Franklin on Saturday, March 2 and had the following placings:

Christopher Guillot, second; Kent Doxey, first; Kaleb Stoute, third; Travis Trahan, Barret Doxey, Third; Matthew Morgan, second; Dex Murphy, second; James Cormier, first; Ross Rowland, Jody Troclair, first.

## Parish Sports Roundup

### BASEBALL

Welsh 15, Grand Lake 2 - Eric McComb and Blake Dobson were on the mound for the Hornets. Brett Bergeron led Grand Lake offensively going 1-2 with a homerun and 2 RBIs. Grand Lake remains winless at 0-4.

Oakdale 15, Grand Lake 0 - No stats available.

### SOFTBALL

South Cameron 1, South Beauregard 0 - The Lady Tarpons scored 1 run in the first inning and that was all they needed as they improve to 5-1 on the year. Brittany Mudd picked up her fifth win of the year. Julie Trahan led the Lady Tarpon batters going 2-3 with an RBI. Courtney Conner was 1-2 with a double and a run scored.

Grand Lake 10, Starks 0 - Cheri Sammis struck out 8 Lady Panther batters enroute to victory. The Lady Hornet are a perfect 4-0 on the season. Top hitters were Shelly Granger, 2-4 with 2 runs and 2 RBIs; Lauren Courville, 2-2 and 3 runs; Tiffany breaux, 2-3 with an RBI and one run; and Katy LaVergne, 2-3 with 2 runs scored and an RBI.

Thomas Brown, first; Garrett Shipman, third; P.J. LeJeune, first; Roman McElfresh, third; Jacob Alexander, third; Justin Picou, second; Justin Gordon, first; Thomas Troclair, Brett Labove, Jordan Istre, Ronnie George, John Holden, third; and Glenn Trahan, first.

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Easter is Sun., Mar. 31

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