

THESE PHOTOGRAPHS taken the day after Hurricane Audrey hit Cameron Parish on June 27, 1957, were taken by Willard Pulkrabek from an Army helicopter which was searching for survivors. Pulkrabek was a 21-year-old soldier stationed at Ft. Polk at the time. He donated the above photos to the Cameron Parish Library during a visit here last week. The top photo shows a house that was washed off its foundation. The lower photo shows cattle struggling to reach higher ground.

## 48-year-old photos loaned to library

By CYNDI SELLERS

Willard Pulkrabek was 21 years old and nearing the end of his Army enlistment when he returned to the U.S. from Korea early in 1957. He found himself stationed at Ft. Polk, where he was assigned to a helicopter crew. He had only been there a few months when the base got word of an approaching hurricane, the first of the year. As a precaution, his crew flew their helicopter to a base in Texas for safety and waited. As soon as it was safe to fly back, they returned to Ft. Polk, where word was received that a disaster had befallen the coastal parish of Cameron.

Helicopter crews and other resources were immediately dispatched to assist in rescue operations, including Pulkrabek's crew. On they way out, he grabbed the 35mm camera he had bought in Korea, loaded with film for color slides.

Last Friday, Willard and his wife, Dorothy, brought those slides and memories back to Cameron.

Now retired from teaching engineering at the University of Wisconsin, he has been revisiting the places that had the greatest effect on him as a young man. The couple have already been to Korea, and this year came to Louisiana to visit Ft. Polk and Cameron.

In Cameron, they first sought out the newspaper office. They found Giz Guilbeau at Clipper Office Supply, who identified some of the places in their photos and arranged to have a reporter meet with them at the Cameron Parish Library, which has a collection of Audrey photos and articles.

Looking at the stories in Nola Mae Ross's "Hurricane Audrey" and the scrapbook photos brought back many details which had faded over the nearly 50 years since the disaster, many very unpleasant.

### DAY OF STORM

The weather was beautiful when the helicopter crew arrived in Cameron the day after the storm, Willard remembers. It was hard to believe it could have been so terrible the day before. But there was water everywhere, and people, living and dead, scattered throughout the devastation.

For the first two days the crew searched for survivors. Pulkrabek remembers being in the water a lot, as the helicopter hovered above rooftops or small islands in the flood. It was his job to jump down and help them into the craft for evacuation.

Each day they flew from dawn to dusk, landing in Cameron at night to service

the helicopter by flashlight and eat at the Red Cross tent. The young crewman slept in the craft and wasn't able to change clothes for days, yet he says it never felt like it was too much. The job had to be done.

Memories came back. There were water moccasins and other creatures fighting for survival on the high ground or bits of debris to which people clung. He saw shark fins in inland waters, washed in by the huge tidal surge. And there was death. Across miles and miles of marsh were strewn the remains of cattle, pigs, wildlife, and people.

After the first two days, the crew began to search for bodies. The fine warm weather had not been kind to the remains. "After two days, you couldn't tell white from black," he said. After four days, it was hard to distinguish human from animal as the crew flew over the area.

The odor of death was everywhere, and soon there was the smoke from fires lit to destroy the carcasses of the thousands of dead animals in order to prevent the spread of disease. Many unidentifiable human remains were buried in mass graves.

### HERE TWO WEEKS

Pulkrabek and his crew spent almost two weeks in Cameron, sleeping in their craft at night and flying all day. It was a terrible time. And yet, as he looked at the photos of survivors and victims, choked with emotion, he said "Of the whole time I was

in the Army, this felt as good as anything I did."

While in Cameron, the Pulkrabeks visited the shrine at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church and the First Baptist Church Cemetery, where a section is dedicated to Hurricane Audrey. They tried to identify places in the photos, but everything was so changed it was difficult. Yet seeing the recovery of the parish, and knowing he had some part in making it possible, has given him a sense of satisfaction in a job well done.

The color slides have been loaned to the Library, whose director Charlotte Trosclair plans to use them to make large prints, the only color prints of Audrey's aftermath in the collection. A display is planned in the near future.

"We are very excited to have these unique records made available, and grateful to Mr. Pulkrabek for providing this important piece of Cameron's history to us," she said. "His personal recollections of the rescue effort will be an invaluable addition."

The Pulkrabeks hope that future generations will take heed of the lessons learned from Audrey, and no lives will ever be lost again due to hurricanes.

### 1965 class tells reunion

The South Cameron High School Class of 1965 will hold a 40 year reunion at Pat's of Henderson in Lake Charles on Saturday, April 2 at 5:30 p.m.



WILLARD PULKRABEK and his wife Dorothy, of Platteville, Wisconsin, visited Cameron last week. He was in the Army in 1957 when Hurricane Audrey devastated the parish, and was a member of a helicopter crew charged with rescuing survivors. The Pulkrabeks were directed to the Library, where they looked over the scrapbooks and news stories of the event. After seeing the photos of the victims, he said he felt his service in Cameron was "as good as anything I did" in the Army, including Korea.

## Public meeting set here on LNG plant, pipeline

Cheniere Energy, Inc., will host several public meetings to provide information on the proposed Creole Trail Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Terminal and Creole Trail Pipeline Project, located in Cameron, Calcasieu, Beaufort, Allen, Evangeline, St. Landry, Jefferson Davis, and Acadia Parishes, to interested groups, affected landowners and the general public.

The meetings will also provide the public an opportunity to offer comments on the

project now being prepared under the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission pre-filing process.

The meetings will be held at 6 p.m. at these locations:

Thursday, March 31 - Rice Festival Building, 717 W Mill Street, Crowley.

Wednesday, April 6 - Grand Lake-Sweet Lake Fireman's Center, 963 Highway 384, Grand Lake.

Thursday, April 7 - The DeQuincy Neighborhood Center, 500 South Grand Avenue, DeQuincy.



Tavia Carter

## Mrs. Carter dead at 101

Tavia Rutherford Carter, 101, died March 20, 2005 in Creole.

Mrs. Tavia was born in Creole and she lived there all of her life. She was a member of the Oak Grove Baptist Church and the Eastern Star.

She was active in the Cameron Council on Aging and she was the Senior Queen of the Alligator Festival in 1992.

She attended Southern University in Lafayette and had been a school teacher.

Survivors include her daughter-in-law, Barbara Trahan of Creole; three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Her husband, the late O. B. Carter, preceded her in death.

Her funeral was held Monday, Mar. 21 in Hixson Funeral Home of Creole. The Rev. Robert Fruge officiated. Burial was in Consolata Cemetery.

## Duck decline due to a variety of factors

By JEREMY HARPER AMERICAN PRESS

Local hunters say they have noticed a sharp decline in the number of migratory ducks stopping in Southwest Louisiana marshes over the past few years.

Their observations were backed up Tuesday by duck experts from three different organizations who attended a meeting of the state Senate and House Natural Resources committees at the Lake Charles Civic Center.

The decline is because of a variety of factors, the experts said, including unusually warm weather, the destruction of breeding habitat, changes in farming techniques and the proliferation of high-tech decoys.

"The last three years we've

seen a dramatic decline," local sportsman Jim Robinson told the committee.

His thoughts were echoed by other hunters who packed the meeting, including Jim Bel, who said hunters at his Hackberry lodge killed half as many ducks last season compared to the year before.

The legislative committees are traveling across the state to get input from Louisiana duck hunters, said committee chair Sen. Max Malone, R-Bossier City.

"What we decided to do was to have a meeting to have input from the people that are out in the trenches who are trying to find the ducks here in Louisiana," Malone said. Malone said the information gathered at the meetings will be compiled and turned over to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

Louisiana duck hunters were in paradise in the late 1990s when ducks took refuge in the state's marshes in record numbers.

But the boom soon went bust; duck numbers have declined for the past three years, said Robert Helm, waterfowl study leader for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

The most likely factor--and most difficult to control--is climate change, the experts said.

The past three years have been some of the warmest on record for many states, Helm said, and the hotter the weather the shorter the distance ducks need to travel to escape winter snow and ice.

Another factor, Helm said, is no-till farming--a soil preservation technique that allows corn crops to stay in the ground after they are harvested. The corn attracts hungry ducks and can slow or stop their southerly movement.

John Devney with Delta Waterfowl, a preservation group that works in Canada and the United States, said urbanization and farming have claimed large portions of duck habitat in the northern Midwest and Canada.

Most waterfowl breeding habitat is located on privately owned farmland, but many

Cont. on Page 3.

## Turning garbage into usable power

By LORETTA THERIOT

Don't think that smelly pile of garbage could be worth anything? Think again.

CPL Systems is easy to miss if you are driving down Industrial Parkway in Lafayette, but the small company is gaining a national reputation as a leader in helping develop alternative fuel sources. A small group of technicians and engineers is developing ways of using everything from landfill gas to wood chips.

Solae Co. teamed up with BFI Waste Systems of North America, Memphis Light, Gas and Water and CPL Systems, Inc and invested several million dollars to develop a way to power it's Memphis plant and today it's successfully using the gas created by the decomposing trash. CPL Systems designed, constructed and operates the equipment for the land fill gas which is transported by a pipeline operated by MLGW from the landfill to the Solae Plant. The effort is expected to reduce the plant's greenhouse gas emissions and ground-level ozone emissions by 20% and reduce it's fossil

fuel use by 25%-30%

St. Louis based Solae develops branded, plant-based specialty food, feed and industrial ingredients, focusing on soy. It was formed through an alliance between Bunge Ltd. And DuPont.

CPL Systems also finished a project to convert a system to burn methane gas collected from a nearby landfill at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md.

Another plant, The International Paper Mill is now producing much of its own power using a fuel that was considered trash at one time.

"We helped them begin using the wood waste they produced as a more efficient fuel source," Conner said. "They are using this to generate steam to create electricity at the plant." The end result is that they are not as reliant on natural gas as they were and they are saving \$2.5 million a year. "From a business point, that's some good news," Conner added.

Luke and Gary are the sons of Loretta Theriot and Adam Conner and live in Lafayette and Moss Bluff.



LUKE CONNER, left, and his brother Gary Conner, are shown above at the Solae Co. plant they constructed in Memphis, Tennessee, to collect and use gas generated from decomposing solid waste at BFI's landfill in South Shelby County. Both are graduates of South Cameron High School.

# FUNERALS

## ELOISE BEAM BOSARGE

Margaret Eloise Beam Bosarge, 70, died Friday, March 18, 2005, in her son's residence.

She was a lifelong resident of Lake Charles and was a graduate of LaGrange Senior High School. She was a former employee of Lake Street Chevron and Lakeshore Pharmacy.

Survivors include two sons, Billy Johnston and wife Phyllis of Grand Lake and Mike Johnston and wife Marie of Morgan City; two brothers, Dale Beam and Jim Beam, both of Lake Charles; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Her memorial service was held Saturday, March 19, in Johnson Funeral Home. The Rev. Henry Bowdon Jr., officiated.

## VOORHIES CHOATE

Funeral services were held Tuesday, March 22, at Vincent Funeral Home for Voorhies Choate, 92, of Kaplan, who died March 20, 2005, at West Calcasieu Cameron Hospital in Sulphur.

He was buried at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Cemetery in Leroy with Rev. Joe Breaux officiating at the services.

He is survived by two sons, Norris Choate of Holly Beach and George Choate of Lafayette; a daughter, Evelyn Hoffpauir of Lafayette; one brother, Frank Choate of Rayne; one half-brother, Murphy Choate of New Iberia; five grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and seven great-great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his first wife Elodie Schexnider; and his second wife Eulalie Ryder.

## JAMES ROBERT LEBOEUF

James Robert LeBoeuf, 74, died Tuesday, March 22, 2005, at his residence.

He was a lifelong resident of Cameron and a member of Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, Knights of Columbus and VFW.

Survivors include his wife, Margie Glover LeBoeuf of Cameron; two sons, Michael LeBoeuf and wife, Janet of Dallas, Tex., Rodney LeBoeuf and wife, Natalie of Kinder; two daughters, Pamela Kay Roy and husband, Henry of Cameron, and Jacquelyn Veillon and husband, Terry of Sulphur; four step-children, Anita Lidig of Cameron, Henry Roy and wife, Pam of Cameron, Corey Roy and wife, Jodi of Sulphur, Carlton Roy and wife Yvonne of Okla.; one sister, Helen Sutton of Lafayette; two brothers, George LeBoeuf of Cameron and Bootsy LeBoeuf of Pecan Island; six grandchildren and numerous step-grandchildren, great-grandchildren and step-great-grandchildren.

His funeral will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, March 24 in Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church. Monsignor Louis Melancon will officiate. Burial will be in Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Cemetery under the direction of Hixson Funeral Home of Creole.



# Hackberry News

By GRACE WELCH

## LUNCH BUDDY PROGRAM

Hackberry High School through Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwest Louisiana will participate in the Lunch Buddy program beginning in April. The program will be for students in grades 1 through 5. Volunteers will spend approximately twenty minutes of their lunch period twice a month with a needy child.

You will be asked to stay an extra ten minutes after lunch visiting with the child. If you are interested, applications can be obtained at the main office. If you desire more information please call Austin LaBove at 762-3305.

## SPELLING BEE

Hackberry winners in the recent Spelling Bee were:  
Third grade - Mattie Stine.  
Fifth grade - Amberlee Baque.  
Seventh grade - Meghan Shipp.

## Council on Aging Events

Monday, March 28 - 9 a.m. - Cameron, pokeno; Creole, cards; Hackberry, puzzles; Johnson Bayou, crafts; Grand Lake, Seth Trahan, 10 a.m.; noon - Cameron Community Action Board meeting at Cameron COA office.

Tuesday, March 29 - 9 a.m. - Cameron, pokeno and exercise; Creole, cards; Grand Lake, dominoes; Hackberry, puzzles; Johnson Bayou, crafts; 1 p.m. Grand Chenier, bingo.

Wednesday, March 30 - 9 a.m. - Cameron, bingo; Creole, bingo; Grand Lake, dominoes; Hackberry, bingo; Johnson Bayou, crafts.

Thursday, March 31 - 9 a.m. - Cameron, pokeno; Creole, cards; Grand Lake, dominos; Hackberry, puzzles; Johnson Bayou, bingo.

Friday, April 1 - 9 a.m. - Cameron, pokeno and exercise; Creole, cards; Grand Lake, dominoes; Hackberry, puzzles; Johnson Bayou, puzzles.

## Johnson Bayou Recreation Center News

Beginning March 28, the Johnson Bayou Recreation Center's kitchen will be open from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Monday - Thursday. Hot plate lunches will be available on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Call in orders at 569-2288.

Here are the winners of the Easter Egg Hunt held recently:

Jordan Synder, Keagon Ellender, Phoenix Webb, Cage Jinks, Braleigh Dearbonne, Joe Storm, Chance Jinks, Marcie Sandifer, Katie McNeil, Kennedy Ellendar, Natalie, Haleigh Jinks, Kimberlynn Hebert, Blake Hebert, and William Cramer.

## Sloppy Chicken

28-ounce can boneless chicken  
10 3/4-ounce can cream of chicken soup  
1 stack better crackers, crushed  
15-ounce can chicken broth  
10 3/4-ounce cream of mushroom soup

Combine all ingredients in slow cooker.  
Cover. Cook on Low 5-6 hours, stirring occasionally. Makes 4-6 servings



NEW MEMBERS of the Hackberry Show Team recently received jackets from Jim Bel. Shown above, are (front row, from left) Lesley Sanner, Madison Shove, Jolie Trahan; (back row) Mr. Bel, Kelsey Helmer, Samantha Little, Meghan Shipp, Megan Reed, and Principal Austin LaBove.

## Cam. State installs talking ATMs

Roy M. Raftery, Jr., President and CEO of Cameron State Bank, recently announced improvements made to several ATMs in Cameron Parish.

The ATMs at the Creole and Cameron Banking Centers have been upgraded with a newer and faster model and they also accept deposits.

The ATM at the Grand Lake Banking Center, now a Drive-Up ATM, is a newer and faster model that accepts deposits. A Night Deposit drop has also been installed.

Both the ATM in Cameron and Grand Lake has voice response features. "We continue to be the fastest growing bank in the area with the most branches and ATM locations, and will continue to provide the latest state-of-the-art equipment as replacements are needed", stated Raftery.

## Thrift Shop aids needy

Faith Share Outreach is a "community thrift shop" in which the Sweetlake Methodist Church is involved. The thrift shop is supplied by members of the community. Volunteers help maintain the shop along with helping the needy with food baskets, clothing, furniture, and household items. They loan out medical equipment for those in need.

The outreach also supplied clothing along with other items to missions all over the world. Recently they sent clothes, toys, and coats as well as other items to needy families in Calcasieu and Cameron Parishes as well as to Mexico, Israel, Iraq, a newly started children's orphanage in Mexico, and other places in the world.

The shop is open Monday - Thursday from 8 a.m. till 12 noon and on Fridays from 10 am. till 12 noon.



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Becky LaFleur, Owner  
A Big Lake Resident

## Mrs. Tavia stayed active in Cam. Par.

By CYNDI SELLERS

Tavia Rutherford Carter, widow of the late O. B. Carter, former Sheriff, was Cameron Parish's oldest resident, at 101.

An Eastern Star service was performed by members of Thelma Hackett Chapter, of which she had been a member for almost 50 years, prior to the regular funeral service. She was an active member of the chapter in Cameron, serving as Chaplain until her 100th birthday and attending nearly every meeting.

In fact, "active" always described her. She lived on her own until the last year or so, participating in activities of the Council on Aging and using the Cameron Public Transit van to get around when she stopped driving, around age 95. When South Cameron Hospital still had its Physical Fitness Center, she would drive herself there to exercise on the stationary bicycle.

Bro. Bob Fruge, interim pastor of Oak Grove Baptist Church, officiated at Mrs. Tavia's funeral service. He recalled how she used to drive to church from Cameron every Sunday, and he would follow in case she had a flat tire or car trouble. Rev.

Wallace Primeaux, who gave the obituary, was Oak Grove's pastor from 1948 -1958. He recalled the generosity of the Carters to a young pastor, still in seminary, with a growing family.

She passed away Sunday afternoon, March 20, five months and five days short of her 102nd birthday, at South Cameron Hospital, where she had been a swing bed patient for several months. On the occasion of her 99th birthday party, she said "I don't know why God has allowed me to live so long." One visitor replied, "It's so you can be an example to the rest of us."

## Signs available

The Cameron Community Action Agency is now selling Reflective Address Signs for road side house identification. These signs will make it easier for emergency vehicles to locate your home in case of an emergency. The signs are blue with white numbers on both sides. For \$10 you can purchase these signs at the Cameron Community Action Agency office or by calling 598-5158 and 775-5668.

All proceeds will benefit the elderly and low income families of the parish.

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South Cameron High School Winter Court

## South Cameron High School News

### 4-H NEWS

Members are reminded that record books are due April 11 at the 4-H office. Club leaders must sign the record book, therefore the SCHS record books are due April 8 to Mrs. Janna Kay or Mrs. DJuana. All strawberry sales are due on April 5 to the 4-H office.

### LITERARY RALLY WINNERS

Rachael Fountain 1st place: English I.  
Daniel Dupre 2nd place: Introduction to Business.  
Kendall Broussard 2nd place: English IV.  
Meagan Trahan 3rd place: Accounting I.  
Chelsi King 4th place: English II.  
Theresa Baccigalopi 4th place: English III.  
Lexie LeBoeuf 5th place: Environmental Science.  
Arlis Duhon 5th place: Free Enterprise.  
Kami Savoie 5th place: BCA.  
Lauren Theriot 5th place: Spanish II.

### MCNEESE SPEECH FESTIVAL

Placing at last week's MSU Speech Festival are:  
John Moon: 2nd place  
Individual Event Radio Speaking and 4th place  
Overall Radio Speaking.

Blake Broussard: 3rd place Impromptu Speaking.  
Baret Bercier: 3rd place individual event Extemporaneous Speaking.  
Aaron Doxey: 3rd place individual event Extemporaneous Speaking.  
Chad Andrews: 4th place Impromptu Speaking.

### STATE CHESS

Arlis Duhon placed 3rd at the State Chess Championship and Collisse Dupont placed 5th.

### LIFE GUARD

Students interested in taking lifeguard classes need to pick up forms in the office to be turned in to Ms. Phyllis Swire at the Grand Chenier Recreation Center or contact the Red Cross in Lake Charles.

### JR BETA

Jr Beta members are collecting phone calling cards for our local troops in Iraq. Anyone interested in contributing should bring the cards to Mrs. Kellie.

### SCHOLARSHIPS

Catholic Daughter Scholarship applications can be picked up from Mr. Broussard.

### JR/SR PROM

Junior and Senior class officers need to get door

prizes for prom to Mrs. Little or Mrs. Vaughan.  
"Elegant Evening" prom night will be April 9. Pictures will begin at 5 p.m. til 8 p.m. The dance is from 8 p.m. til Midnight. A special court presentation will be at 11 p.m.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 24 - Softball East Beau (home 4 p.m.). Baseball East Beau (home).  
March 25 - April 1 Easter Holiday.  
March 25 - Softball Oberlin (away). Baseball Oberlin (away).  
March 31 - Softball St Edmund (away). Baseball St Edmund (away).  
April 2 - South Cameron Softball Tourney.  
April 4 - Professional Development Day - No school for students.  
April 5 - Students return to school.  
April 5 - Softball Merryville (away) 5 p.m. Baseball Merryville (away).  
April 7 - 4-H Meeting 12 p.m. Tarpon Hall. Softball East Beau (away). Baseball East Beau (away).  
April 8 - Welsh Track Meet.  
April 9 - ACT Testing. Jr. - Sr. Prom.

### DUCK DECLINE

Cont. from Pg. 1

Canadian farmers have shown increasing resistance to conservation programs that affect their profitability, Devney said. And the Canadian preservation programs that do exist lag

## New books at library

New books at the Cameron Library are as follows:

### MEMORIAL BOOKS

Angels In Our Midst, JoAnn Dupont Schneider by Virginia Dupont;  
Garden Style Projects, Fabiola Dupont by Jaimie, Tina, Christina and Jolie Boudreaux and Virginia Dupont;  
LSU Basketball, Thomas "Tommy" Broussard by Eugene and Cindy Jones;  
Woodworker's Problem Solver, Robert Doxey by Leann Stewart and Kade;  
The Greatest Adventures Of All, C. H. Unkel by T-Boy McCall;  
Atlas Of World War II, C. H. Unkel by C. L. Arceneaux;  
Fodor's Belgium, Marcel Praile by Judge Ward Fontenot;  
The Heart Of A Champion, Tommy Broussard by Charlotte Trosclair family;  
Mary - Images Of The Virgin In Art, JoAnn Schneider by Charlotte Trosclair family.



King Joel Racca and Queen Lexie LeBoeuf

## Sunrise Services

Easter Sunrise Services will be held at two lower Cameron Parish locations this Sunday.

The Cameron Parish Ministerial Alliance will hold a service at the Grand Chenier Park at 6 a.m., hosted by the Grand Chenier Methodist Church. The music will be led by the First Baptist Church of Cameron music team and the message will be delivered by Rev. Tom Beeler, pastor of Wakefield and Grand Chenier Methodist Churches. A light breakfast will be served at the church following the service.

Another joint service will be held in Cameron at the Macedonia Baptist Church on Isaac St. The service will begin at 5:30 a.m.

All are invited to attend the services.

Tex. would love to have it across the river.

I would love to have anyone visit me at Village Woods if you ever come to Baton Rouge.

## Lagniappe Two Retirement Home Living Notes



By Geneva Griffith

I got a call from Jo Ann Nunez, a welcome surprise. I am so proud of her involvement in various projects in the parish, including the Creole Nature Trail All American Road which covers 180 miles, through Cameron Parish and Southwest Louisiana.

She wanted to know if I knew any wild flowers that grow in our ditches in the parish that are on the endangered species list. I told her I didn't know of any. She said that the spraying by the Highway department leaves a bunch of unsightly dead weeds on each side of the road, hiding the beautiful cat-tails and other wild flowers.

She is on the committee that covers the trail that is getting national recognition. Maybe just a call to the district highway department would be sufficient. You might mention the story in the May

2004 issue of Southern Living by Wanda Mckinney describing her trip along the trail. We should be very proud that our area, which was often referred to as Louisiana's Outback is finally being recognized for its beauty.

Jo Ann told me that she had gone to Maryland with the Fur Festival group and had a wonderful time. They were treated royally by the Maryland festival. That brings back many memories to me.

I am so glad there is some young blood to keep the Festival going all these years.

I hope Carolyn and Hilda can get their lighthouse project off the ground. They have worked so hard on it. It deserves the recognition that it has never had since the beam went out. Port Arthur,

behind U. S. initiatives, he said.

"Essentially, the Canadian duck factory is broken," he said.

Wolves were once the only major foes for ducks in their northern breeding grounds, but foxes, skunks and raccoons have elbowed their way into the ecosystem and can play a major role in the breeding process, Devney said.

Better management of the breeding grounds can help more ducks survive, he said.

Michael Checkett, a biologist with Ducks Unlimited, said more preservation, from restoring Minnesota breeding grounds to rebuilding Louisiana coastal habitat, is the key to increasing duck populations.

Local legislators who attended Tuesday's meeting were Reps. Brett Geymann, R-Moss Bluff; Herman Ray Hill, D-Dry Creek; and Chuck Kleckley, R-Lake Charles; and Sen. Willie Mount, D-Lake Charles

★ DANCE ★  
**Mac's Shack - Creole**  
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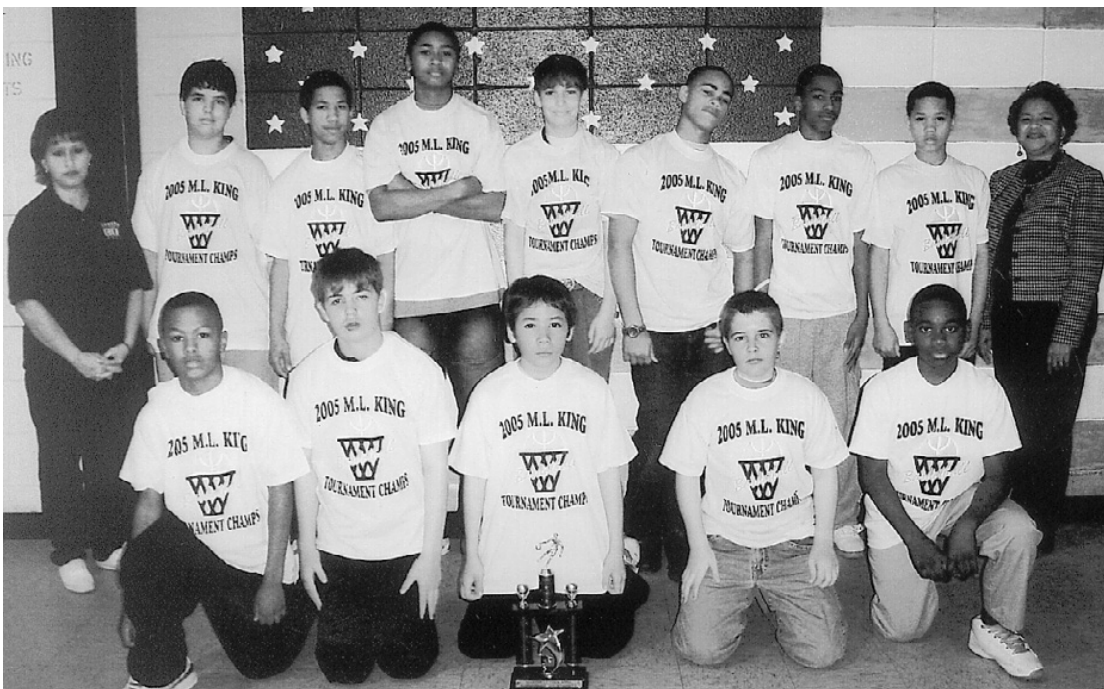
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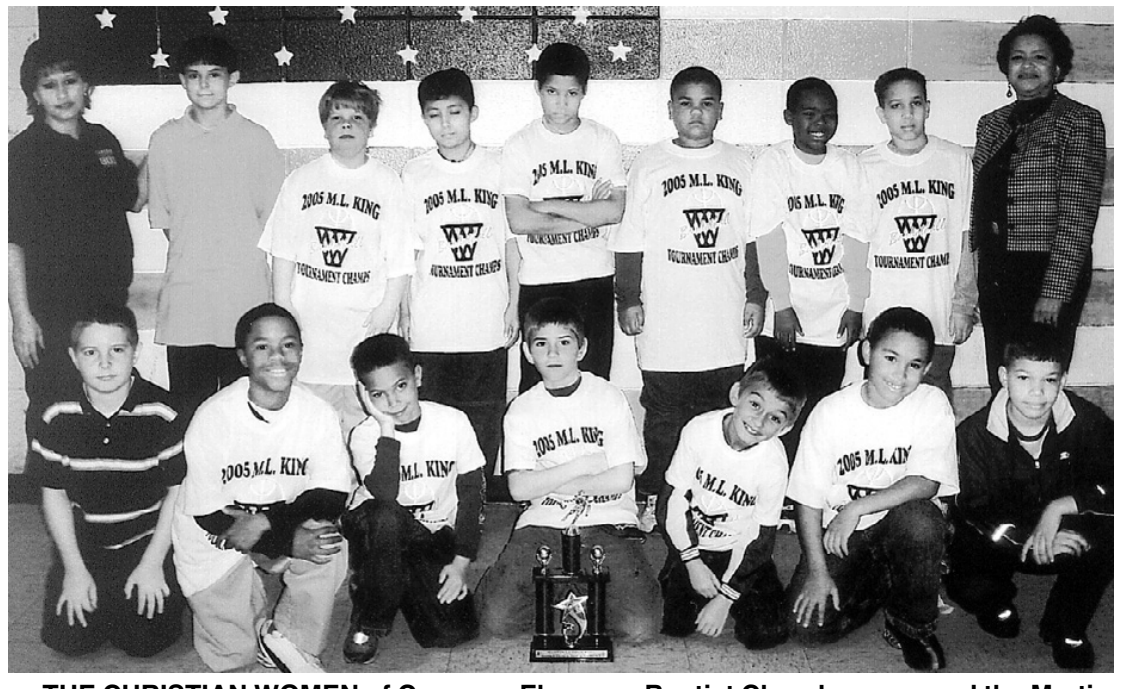
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THE CHRISTIAN WOMEN of Cameron Ebenezer Baptist Church sponsored the Martin Luther King basketball tournament on Saturday, Jan. 22 at South Cameron High School. The sixth and seventh grade boys Cameron Elementary Cuda team placed first. They received t-shirts and a group trophy. Team members shown above are (kneeling, from left) Jordon Poullard, Jared Nunez, Shawn Lamas, Barrett Doxey, Kevin Pitre; (standing) Jason Theriot, Paul Gauthier, Jordon Sturlese, Quinton Poullard, and Steven Sturlese. They are pictured with Coach Lori Smith and Sandra Ford, Christian Women representative. Gerard Smith and Ronald January are also coaches.



THE CHRISTIAN WOMEN of Cameron Ebenezer Baptist Church sponsored the Martin Luther King basketball tournament on Saturday, Jan. 22 at South Cameron High School. The fourth and fifth grade girls Cameron Elementary Cuda team placed first. They received t-shirts and a group trophy. Team members shown above are (kneeling, from left) Kent Doxey, Xavier Stanley, Alec January, William Wittman, Caleb Authement, DeVaughn Thompson, Nicholas LaSalle; (standing) Jeffrey Evans, Ryan Bordelon, Jose Vargas, Troy Briggs, Isaiah Mason, Donavan Darby and Holden January. They are pictured with Coach Lori Smith and Sandra Ford, Christian Women representative. Gerard Smith and Ronald January are also coaches.

## Baseball & Softball

**BASEBALL**  
**Grand Lake 23, Hamilton Christian 4** - The Hornets pounded out 19 hits in their district opener over Hamilton. Grand Lake scored in every inning of the game, except the first, including 10 in the top of the 7th. Sixteen batters stepped up to the plate in the seventh inning. Sean Collett went the distance for the Hornets. He struck out nine and gave up 2 walks. Top hitters were Collett, 3-4 with a double and 6 RBIs; Adam Precht, 4-5 and a RBI; Heath Romero, 4-6, with a double and 2 RBIs; and Dustin Leger, 3-5 with a homerun, double, and 4 RBIs.

**SOFTBALL**  
**Merryville 4, South Cameron 2** - Laken Mock pitched for the Lady Tarpons, (6-11, 2-1), striking out 7. Top hitters were Mock, 3-3 with a triple and 2 runs; and Haley Willis, 1-3 and a RBI.

**Grand Lake 4, Hamilton Christian 0** - Lakeyn Duhon struckout 12 and gave up one hit as the Lady Hornets shutout Hamilton. Top hitters were Haley Pesson, 3-3 with a triple; Shelly Granger, 3-4 with a double, and Maggie Fruge, 2-4 with a double.

**Singer 19, Hackberry 2** - Sarah White pitched for the Lady Mustangs. Amanda Ducote was 1-3 with a RBI and White had a base hit.

**Starks 22, Johnson Bayou 0** - Britni Oswalt threw for the Lady Rebels. Kimberly Trahan had a base hit.

### Softball tourney

The 2004 South Cameron High School Softball Tournament will be held Saturday, April 2 at the Cameron Recreation Complex.

## Cameron Outdoors

By LOSTON MCEVERS



### BASS FISHING

Anglers fought off a winter type week for bass fishing, although spring came last Sunday. It seems the launches at Lacassine Refuge were as it was in what we call "Old Times." The two boat landings had over 200 boats and fishing was good opening day.

The record bass from Lacassine Refuge caught by Harris O'Blanc of Hayes back in 1999, before the drought, still stands as of now. However a young Kinder youth came close, catching a 11.187 pounder, measuring 24 1/2 inches. He caught the bass on a plastic bait. There was also a ten pounder caught, a couple of eight plus pounders, and lots of four to six pounders caught. Lots of these fish were kept. They are in the heavy stuff so it takes something to pass over the matted grass.

We did catch fish on spinner baits on the edges of the thick stuff. Fishing wasn't as

good Wednesday through Friday as it turned cold. We saw lots of beds Friday, but nothing on the beds. I'm sure they were already caught.

Most areas have had fair fishing, but our weather has got to straighten up, and the water needs to warm up. It's spawning season!

### CRAWFISH SEASON

This is the time of the year for what we call crawfish season. What's better than boiled crawfish with all the trimmings? More boiled crawfish with all the trimmings. Now a good crawfish bisque, or gravy, or fried, is not so bad either.

Scientists have identified over 450 species of freshwater crawfish. North America is the crawfish headquarters with 353 species, with 95% of them found in the southeast. Here in our state, we have 30 species, with ten being common. The most commonly recognized species are the Red Swamp Crawfish (90% of La. Commercial Harvest) with white river crawfish making up most of the rest. Both species will reach five to six inches in length.

There's the devil crawfish, which you seldom see, where they live in burrows, low wet areas with lots of clay in the soil. Look at many yards, even in town, especially if dirt was hauled in and see the chimneys over the entire yard. These are also called American mound building crawfish, thunder crawfish or coffin cutters.

Many anglers use live crawfish as bait, especially during the spring season. We also use crawfish colored artificial lures like topwater baits, crank baits, plastic formed like crawfish, spinner bait skirts crawfish color, and these do work.

There are 90% more businesses that sell either live or boiled crawfish to customers than there were ten years ago. There are also lots of clean crawfish sold, especially during the lenten season.

Farmers and crawfish buyers tell me that crawfish this year are plentiful. They think overcrowding will cause the crawfish to be smaller in size. I asked one seller if this would make the prices drop and he told me "Oh No," it just takes more to make the pound.

## Lady Hornets win Lake Area Relays

The Grand Lake Lady Hornets scored 141 points to win the Lake Area Relays last week. Tabitha Nunez was named the Outstanding Field Athlete and teammate Amber Taylor was named Outstanding Track Athlete. The Hornets finished 3rd in the boys team standings. Johnson Bayou finished 5th in the boys and girls standings. Hackberry also participated in the meet.

Individual results:  
 Grand Lake: Tressa Theriot, 1st - shot put; Hailey Quinn, 3rd - shot put; Tabitha Nunez, 1st - discus, 1st - javelin; Brittany Hebert, 2nd - discus; Brittany Houston, 3rd - high jump, 1st - triple jump; Molly Precht, 2nd - triple jump; Maggie Fruge, 1st - pole vault; Amber Taylor,

1st - 100, 1st - 200; Lakeyn Duhon, 2nd - 200; Sonya LaVergne, 2nd - shot put, 3rd - javelin; Adam Precht, 1st - javelin, 3rd - 100; Ravelle Reed, 1st - 400; Justin Howerton, 3rd - 1600; Joel Barrow, 3rd - 110 high hurdles.

Johnson Bayou: Kayla Barratine, 2nd - shot put, 2nd - 110 high hurdles; Katie Young, 3rd - discus; Shai Greer, 2nd - long jump, 2nd - high jump; Natalie Griffith, 3rd - triple jump; Keith Badon, 2nd - long jump, 3rd - 400; DJ Conner, 3rd - long jump, 1st - 1600.

Hackberry: Jason Ducote, 3rd - shot put; Nathan Hebert, 2nd - javelin; Jay Sanner, 2nd - high jump; Wiley Clement, 3rd - 3200.

## Tarpons place at Welsh

The South Cameron Tarpons finished in 7th place at the Welsh track meet last week. The Lady Tarpons came in 6th place in the team standings.

Individual results:  
 Jonathan Rutherford, 3rd - high jump; Bradyn Carter,

2nd - pole vault; Chance Savoie, 3rd - pole vault; Dane Dupont, 1st - 3200; Rachel Fountain, 3rd - long jump, 1st - high jump, 1st - 400, 2nd - 100 low hurdles; Kayla Rutherford, 2nd - high jump; Christian McCall, 3rd - triple jump.



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