



Exterior of the new Hackberry Branch Library

## Hackberry, Johnson Bayou branch libraries are opening

Since opening its doors in 1958, the Cameron Parish Library has been a single library with a bookmobile traveling to outlying areas to serve the needs of the people.

Upon passage of the 6-mill tax election of November 1999, the library has acquired the means to expand its facilities to outlying areas of the parish. New branches have been constructed in Hackberry and Grand Lake and the old Cameron State Bank branch of Johnson Bayou has been bought and renovated to better serve the people of the parish.

Cameron Parish Library announces the Grand Opening of their first branches, Johnson Bayou and Hackberry.

The Johnson Bayou branch will be opening on

Wednesday May 28th with a ribbon cutting at noon followed by an open house until 4:30pm.

Branch manger Penny Trahan and assistant manager Belinda Simon will be hosting the Open House with refreshments being served and a walk through tour of the facilities.

The following day, Thursday May 29th at noon the Hackberry branch will have its Grand Opening with an open house following the ribbon cutting.

Branch manager Nannette Hickey and assistant manager Emma (Bobbie) Kershaw Gueho will be hosting the Open House with guest speaker and former library board member Velma Lowery speaking on the history of Hackberry.

Refreshments will be served and a walk through tour of the facilities will follow the Grand Opening.

All of the new libraries will offer free video, DVD, book and magazine loaning upon issuance of a patron library card. Some other services all of the branch libraries will offer are black and white and color copier, Internet computers to the public, and Tele-Medicine programming classes and seminars for both the public and continuing education classes.

Everyone is invited to attend the Grand Openings and Open Houses for the new library branches. The normal branch hours are Monday-Wednesday 12 - 4:30 p.m., Thursday 12 - 6 p.m. and 12 - 4 p.m.

For more information call 775-5421.

## West Nile found in dead bird on Front Ridge Rd.

By DON MENARD,  
Director, Parish Mosquito Control

The Louisiana Office of Public Health notified Cameron Parish Mosquito Control this week that a blue jay has tested positive for West Nile Virus.

The bird was found on Troclair Road (Front Ridge) on May 2nd and is the first confirmed evidence of the disease in Cameron Parish this year. A number of other birds were tested this year and all have been negative.

Statewide, over half of the parishes have had WNV positives in dead birds, but as of today, still no human cases have been confirmed.

The Health Department is still testing some species of birds which may be reservoir hosts for encephalitis and WNV, so the public should contact them if any dead birds are found.

They are mainly testing cardinals, blue jays, sea gulls, grackles, house sparrows and birds of prey, such as hawks and owls.

The phone number for the Health Unit in Cameron to report dead birds is 775-5368.

Mosquito Control has placed sentinel chickens in every community of the parish and is taking blood samples on a weekly basis for testing. So far, all tests have been negative.

Although WNV is mainly a disease of birds, it can affect horses and a small percentage of humans, so people need to be aware and protect themselves, especially after dark. Horse owners must make sure that their horses have been vaccinated for WNV and have their booster shots every 6 months.

Again this year, all areas of the Parish are being sprayed on a rotating spray

schedule and with good spray conditions, should be sprayed every 3-4 days.

Unfortunately, high winds for the last several weeks have almost shut down our entire spray operations, allowing night active mosquitoes to build up especially in barns, garages, etc.

Since our spray has a hard time reaching mosquitoes in hiding, people can help reduce these by using residual insecticides such as permethrin which can be purchased at feed and seed stores locally. Permethrin is very safe, long lasting and is labeled to be sprayed directly on livestock.

## Scholarship is offered

The Cameron Association of Educators is offering a \$500 scholarship. An applicant must be a graduate of a Cameron Parish high school, reside in Cameron Parish, have a 2.5 grade point average, and be a Junior Education Major.

A Cameron Parish teacher who is returning for further education and is a member of the Cameron Association of Educators may apply.

Please send applications to Mary Richard, P. O. box 1444, Cameron, LA 70631.

## Notary exam set July 14

The notarial examination for Cameron Parish will be given Monday, July 14, 2003, at nine o'clock a.m. at the office of Jones Law Firm in Cameron. Applications may be picked up at Jones Law Firm in Cameron during regular business hours and must be returned by Thursday, July 3, 2002.

## Johnson B. pool to open

The Johnson Bayou Recreation Center will open its swimming pool on Saturday, May 31. The gates open at 1 p.m. and swimming will start at 3 p.m. Refreshments will be served. The pool schedule is as follows:

Monday: closed.  
Tuesday: 3 to 7 p.m., 7 to 8 p.m., Ladies Night.  
Wednesday: 3 to 7 p.m.  
Thursday: 3 to 8 p.m., open late for everyone.  
Friday: 3 to 7 p.m.  
Saturday: 3 to 7 p.m.  
Sunday: 3 to 7 p.m.

## Grand Lake pool to open

The Grand Lake Recreation Dist. 5 swimming pool will open on Tuesday, June 3. Hours will be 2 to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday, close on Monday.

Family memberships are \$40; single memberships, \$25; and walk-in fee, \$2.50 per visit.

## Hernandez completes course

Marine Corps Pfc. Pablo Hernandez, Jr., son of Sanjuana and Pable Hernandez of Cameron, recently completed the Small Arms Repair Course at the U.S. Army's Proving Ground in Aberdeen, Md.

With his newly acquired skills, Hernandez is now ready to work at a military base armory, providing weapons support to troops deploying for

Hernandez is a 1999 graduate of South Cameron High School of Creole.



Interior of the new Hackberry Branch Library

The Cameron Parish

# Pilot

May 22, 2003

Vol. 47-No. 21

Cameron, La. 70631



35¢

## Sand dunes bill to be considered Thurs.

A bill affecting Louisiana beaches, including those of Cameron, passed by the Louisiana House by an almost unanimous vote this week and will be heard the Senate Natural Resources Committee Thursday morning at 10 a.m.

House Bill 2003 was introduced by Rep. William Daniel of Baton Rouge on behalf of some residents of Grand Isle.

It would prohibit the destruction of sand dune on Louisiana beaches and prohibit the riding of any motorized vehicle, including 4-wheelers, on the dunes.

The bill, if passed, would provide for a \$100 fine for the first offense and a \$500 fine for the second offense. A third offense could draw a \$1000 fine and a jail term from 30 to 60 days.

The bill passed the House with only one vote against

and one abstention.

The bill probably will be one of the topics to be discussed at a meeting of the Cameron Parish Beachfront Development Board at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, May 22 at the Johnson Bayou Recreation Center.

Concern was expressed at the May Police Jury meeting about the dunes being destroyed on Cameron Parish beaches by 4-wheelers.

It was noted that Texas has a law prohibiting 4-wheelers on beach dunes and that some riders on the Louisiana beaches are coming from Texas.

In Rep. Daniel's bill, dunes are defined "to mean a natural or man-made mound or bluff of sand located landward of the beach which has sufficient vegetation, height, continuity, and configuration to be of protective value."



Magnus "Sonny" McGee

## Mr. McGee candidate for P. Jury

Magnus (Sonny) McGee, 47, of Johnson Bayou has announced his candidacy for Police Juror District 1 in the October elections.

He is a life long resident of Johnson Bayou and graduate of Johnson Bayou High School and has an Associate of Science Degree in Management.

He is married to Cindy Trahan McGee and they have five children Selina, Regina, Chris, Katrina and Hunter and five grandchildren.

McGee has been employed by Williams Co. for 25 years.

He and his family are active members of Assumption Catholic Church. He is a member and former Grand Knight of F. J. Pavell Knights of Columbus Council 8323.

He currently serves on the board of directors for the Cameron Council of Aging and is board president of Gravity Drainage District #7.

## S. Cameron girls named All-District

The Class 1A state runner-up Lady Tarpons placed four players on the district 5-1A first team and head coach Heather Monsef was named Coach of the Year.

Brittany Mudd was named in the pitcher's position. She had a district record of 9-1 with a 1.03 ERA. Junior Courtney Conner, who batted .419, was named as a catcher. Santana Conner was named as shortstop. The junior had a .518 batting average. Senior Casie McDaniel was named as a utility player with a .444 batting average.

Named to the second team were Laken Mock, third baseman, Erin Dinger, outfielder, and Amber Trahan, utility player.

## Parish Civil Defense meeting set May 29

The annual meeting of Cameron Parish Civil Defense workers will be held at 6 p.m., Thursday, May 29 at the Cameron Fire Station. Supper will be served.

National Weather Service meteorologists Steve Rinard and Roger Erickson will be guest speakers.

Government forecasters are predicting 11 to 15 tropical storms developing in the Gulf and Atlanta during the hurricane season that run from June 1 to Nov. 30. The historical average is 10 tropical storms and six hurricanes during a season.

Two to three hurricanes typically hit the United States in seasons such as this one, but there is no way to predict if any will strike the

country this year.

Cameron Parish residents well remember Hurricane Audrey which it on June 27, 1957 and took nearly 500 lives. The parish's Civil Defense agency was formed following Audrey and has been active ever since in supervising evacuations when hurricanes threaten.

Hayes "Pete" Picou, who has been the Cameron Parish Civil Defense director for the past 28 years, is retiring as of June 19 and Freddie Richard, assistant director, is assuming the parish C. D. director's post and will conduct the May 29 meeting.

Picou, who is a South Cameron High School coach and teacher, plans to continue in those roles.

## Military is honored here

Members of the military were honored at the recent National Day of Prayer held in Cameron. Friends and relatives brought photos of their loved ones in service to display at the ceremony. These included the following persons:

Chris Doshier, Staff Sgt.; Gilbert Lee Daigle, Navy;

Christopher Dimas; Jewelle L. Gardner, 1st. Sgt.; Dusty LeBlanc, Communication Specialist; Cody Styron, PFC; Jody Styron, Specialist; Kelly Madden, U. S. Air Force; Josh Strasburg, U. S. Army, Korea; Matt Soder - U. S. Air Force, Florida; Senior Airman Derrick Roberts, Lakenheath, England AFB.



THE SOUTH CAMERON girls softball team, Class 1 A state finalists, were honored at the recent Cameron Parish School Board meeting. They are shown above with School Board members Clifton Morris, Loston McEvers, and Dorothy Theriot; manager Chandler LeBoeuf, Coach Heather Morse, Principal Eddie Benoit, and Assistant Principal Sethie Troclair. The girls are: Courtney Conner, Brittany Mudd, Amber Trahan, Casie McDaniel, Laken Mock, Santana Conner, Erin Dinger, Lauren Roberts, Cassandra Trahan, Christian McCall, D'nae Desonier, Meagan Trahan, Kelsi Kiffe, Kayla Rutherford, and Jessica Freks. Douaine Conner is the other assistant coach.

# FUNERALS

## MICHAEL GERALD GUNN

Funeral services for Michael Gerald Gunn, 40, of Decatur, Tenn., were held Monday, May 19, in the Bowers Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Richard Tallent officiating. Burial was in the Roberts Cemetery, Ten Mile, Tenn.

Mr. Gunn died Wednesday, May 14, 2003, in Jefferson City, Mo. He was of the Church of God Faith.

He is survived by his father, Richard Gerald Gunn of Hackberry; his mother, Alice Faye Hopper, Ft. Myers, Fla.; one son, Jason Shepherd, South Ft. Myers, Fla.; two brothers, Mark T. Gunn, Decatur, Tenn. and Gregory F. Gunn; six sisters, Gloria D. Roby and Joyce R. Judy, both of Ft. Myers, Fla., Lillian Eaton, Debra Foster, Tonya Rogers and Carrie Lowe, all of Louisiana.

## CHARLES LEE SEMAR

Funeral services for Charles Lee Semar, 70, of Welsh, was held Friday, May 16, from St. John Vianney Catholic Church of Bell City. Father Albert Borel officiated. Burial was in Lacassine Cemetery.

Mr. Semar died Tuesday, May 13, 2003, in a local hospital.

He was a native of Egan and a lifelong resident of Hayes. He retired as a mechanic with Calcasieu

Parish Police Jury.

Survivors include his wife, Mary Jane Semar of Hayes; three sons, Kenneth Semar, Holmwood, Walter Semar, Hayes and John Semar, Bell City; three daughters, Mildred Hebert, Iota, Pamela Gauthreaux, Grand Lake and Janet Semar, Bell City; one brother, Clarence Semar, Hayes; 17 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

## Kyle Swoope a winner at Regatta

The Lake Charles Yacht Club held its annual Contraband Days Regatta Sat., May 10, in winds of 17-23 knots. Race one was sailed with the lightest winds. Race 2 was sailed around 2 pm in gusty winds with several of the smaller catamaran sailboats capsizing in the Lake. Race 3 followed race 2.

Fourteen boats participated in the Regatta. Awards were presented at the Lake Charles Yacht Club the evening of the races.

Results in the Stiletto 27 class, Gary Duplechien from Kinder was 1st, Kyle Swoope of Hackberry-2nd and Mike Petry of Gueydan-3rd.



SHOWN TAKING PART in the groundbreaking for three scenic overlooks on the Creole Nature Trail Scenic Byway south of Hackberry last week were these officials, from left: Diane Borden-Billiot, Sabine National Wildlife Refuge; Ty Bromell, La. Scenic Byways Coordinator; Tina Horn, Parish Administrator and Creole Nature Trail Board member; Sammy Faulk, Vice President Creole Nature Trail Board; Shelly Johnson, Director of Southwest Louisiana Convention and Visitors Bureau and Creole Nature Trail Board member; Monte Hurley, President of Southwest Louisiana Convention and Visitors Board; the contractor's representative; Bobby Hennigan, La. DOTD; and Jimmy Brown, Creole Nature Trail Board member.

## Groundbreaking held for scenic overlooks on Creole Nature Tr.

Groundbreaking ceremonies were held Thursday, Mat 15 for scenic overlooks on the Creole Nature Trail All-American Road, a 180-mile loop through the bayous and marshes of Calcasieu and Cameron Parishes, and along the shores of the Gulf of Mexico.

Three overlooks will be constructed on the western leg of Highway 27 between Hackberry and Holly Beach. Two are being built in Sabine National Wildlife Refuge under a cooperative agreement with the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and the third will be built on private property under a long-term surface lease with Apache Oil.

"These overlooks will provide opportunities for the nearly 300,000 motorists who navigate the two-lane byway to safely pull off to observe wildlife and the surrounding landscape," said Monte Hurley, chairman of the board for the Creole Nature Trail Scenic Byway District, the byway's governing organization.

As the hurricane evacuation route for Southwest Louisiana, the Creole Nature Trail All-American Road provides a vital service to the 10,000 residents of coastal Cameron Parish.

"There are few opportunities for disabled vehicles to safely leave the roadway, and these overlooks will be invaluable in the event that an evacuation is ever necessary," said Tina Horn, Cameron Parish administrator.

Funding for the overlooks was originally awarded in 1995 through the National Scenic Byway Discretionary Grants Program, but was temporarily reversed a year later pending environmental clearance, according to Hurley. The project was reissued \$320,000 from the Federal Highway Administration in 1999, and the project has been in the design and planning stages since.

Construction is expected to begin within the next few weeks, and should take three to four months to complete.

Thursday's ceremony was held at the first overlook located just north of the Sabine National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters. Originally designed as a visitor parking lot for the refuge's interpretive center, it had become a holding area for construction debris, scrap metal and derelict equipment, said Diane Borden-Billiot, the outreach coordinator for the Southwest Louisiana Refuge Complex.

"The refuge was in the process of identifying potential sites to develop environmental education and interpretation facilities at the same time the byway was identifying potential overlooks," said Borden-Billiot. Selected in 1999, the sites provide adequate parking for automobiles, tour buses and recreational vehicles without damaging wetland habitat.

"Today visitors to the overlook nearest the refuge headquarters will have the opportunity to use the elevated, and handicap-accessible Blue Goose Observation Tower or the primitive Blue Goose Trail, a path that follows the canal adjacent to the headquarters. A winding path through the marshes, the Blue Goose Trail offers hikes, open views of the marsh and temporary ponds where waterbirds congregate. The trail leads to the open waters of West Cove."

Subsequent funding from the National Scenic Byway Discretionary Grant Program will enable the Creole Nature Trail Scenic Byway District to develop and construct interpretive kiosks on each of the three overlooks.

"The kiosks will provide an

opportunity to showcase the Creole Nature Trail, our wildlife and wildscapes," said Captain Sammie Faulk, economic development director for Cameron Parish and vice-chairman of the Creole Nature Trail Scenic Byway District.

The refuge also has plans for additional enhancements at both Blue Goose overlook and the second overlook, which will be built on an abandoned oilfield site.

## Cameron 4-H members are given awards

By ROSS ROWLAND

Cameron Elementary 4-Hers who received awards at the annual awards night were:

Jr. Award of Excellence: Ross Rowland.

Reuben Bryan Morales memorial Small Animal Livestock Award: Thomas Lee Trosclair, 2nd place.

Channing Conner Memorial Large Animal Livestock Award: Kami Savoie, 3rd.; Ross Rowland and Jody Trosclair, Honorable Mention.

High Point Award: Jr. 1st year boy: Ross Rowland, 1st. Jr. 1st year girl: Shelby Willis, 3rd. Jr. 2nd year boy: Jody Trosclair, 3rd. Jr. 3rd year girl: Kami Savoie, Honorable Mention.

Outstanding 4-Her: Elementary 2nd year boy, Kade Pierson, 1st. Jr. 1st year girl: Shelby Willis, 3rd. Jr. 1st year boy: Ross Rowland, 2nd. Jr. 2nd year boy, Jody Trosclair, Honorable Mention. Jr. 3rd year girl, Kami Savoie, Honorable Mention.

Achievement Award: Jody Trosclair, Honorable Mention.

Program Cover contest Achievement Day: 2nd Kade Pierson; 3rd Ross Rowland, Honorable Mention, Kami Savoie.

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Clarence Vidrine - Football, Wrestling  
Cheryl Parks - Basketball  
Scott Henry - Wrestling  
Douaine Conner - Softball  
Joey Boudreaux - Baseball  
Renee Reyes - Danceline  
Sheila Conner - Cheerleader

**Thank You Thank You Thank You THANK YOU**

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## Special Thank You

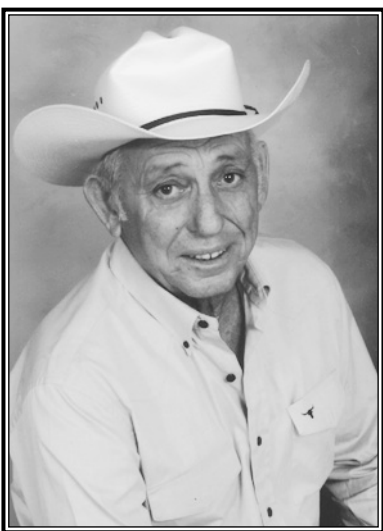
A special thanks to you, Mrs. Geneva Griffith, for your many years of service to the Cameron Parish N.A.A.C.P.

We, the officers, President, Mrs. Louise Cole and staff, say thanks. When we were first organized on June 12, 1978, you covered our big moment and much, much more coverage. Thanks for a job well done.

May God richly bless you in your retirement.

# CRAB BOIL & BBQ

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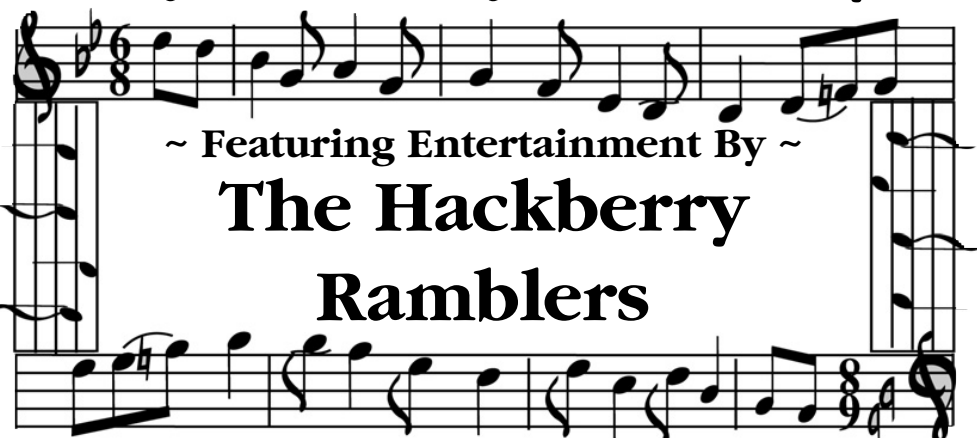


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Of Cameron Parish

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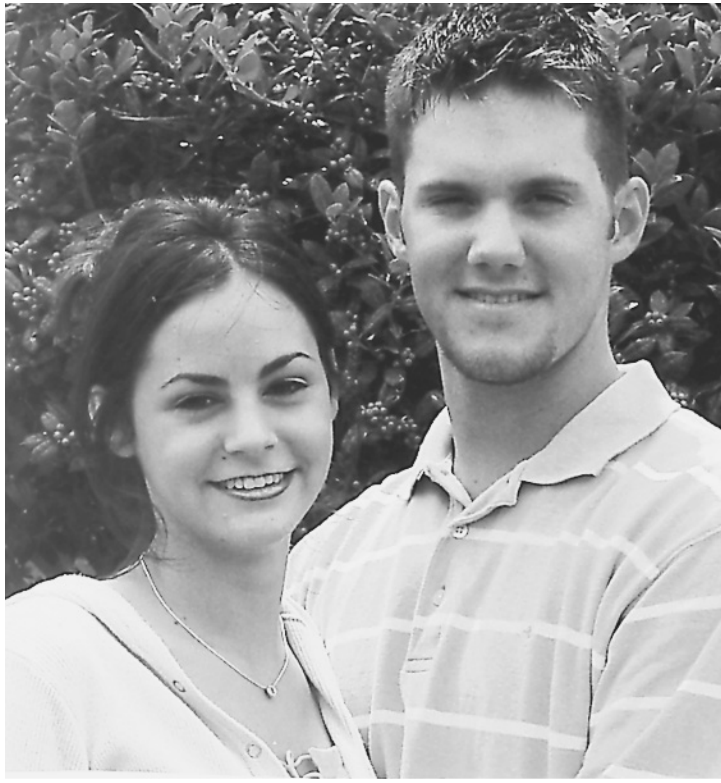
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MR. AND MRS. Kent (Arlene) Crochet of Grand Lake announce the engagement and forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Amanda Gail Crochet, to Brandon Michael Fitkin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael (Jackie) Fitkin of Grand Lake. The wedding is set for Friday, May 30 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Mary of the Lake Catholic Church in Big Lake. A reception will follow at St. Mary of the Lake Church Hall. Through this means, friends and relatives are invited to attend.

## Creole KC Council elects new officers

The J. P. Boudoin, Sr., K. C. council 3014, of Creole elected officers at the May meeting.



John P. Bourgeois

## Bourgeois to attend school at Natchitoches

John P. Bourgeois, a student at DeRidder High School, has been chosen for admission to the Louisiana School for Math, Science and Arts in Natchitoches. He will attend his junior and senior years at the school beginning in the fall.

John has lived most of his life in the Johnson Bayou/Holly Beach area, moving last summer to DeRidder where he lives with his mother, Mary S. Bourgeois, brother and sister. His father, Bryan D. Bourgeois, continues to live in the Johnson Bayou/Holly Beach area.

At DeRidder High, John has been active on the speech team, mock trial, quiz bowl, drama club and JROTC.

At Johnson Bayou High he was active in FBLA, 4-H Club and Beta Club.

He was also in the Governor's Program for Gifted Children.



REGINA ELLENDER graduated from McNeese State University on May 17 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing. She is a member of the Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society. Regina resides in West Lake with her husband Justin and three children Kennedy, Leah, and Keagen. She is the daughter of Sonny and Cindy McGee and granddaughter of Alvin and Belle Trahan all from Johnson Bayou.



SELINA TRAHAN graduated from McNeese State University on May 17 with a Masters of Business Administration Degree. She is currently employed at US Unwired as a Senior Financial Analyst. She resides in Sulphur with her husband Justin and her two children Tanner and Ava. She is the daughter of Sonny and Cindy McGee and granddaughter of Alvin and Belle Trahan all from Johnson Bayou.

## Two events are set by Bargeman

Bargeman Memorial Church of God in Christ will host two special events this weekend.

On Friday and Saturday, May 23-24 at 7:30 p.m. they present "Chicken Soup for the Christian Soul-2nd Bowl" with the Rev. Al Bartie, Jr.,

Sunday, May 25 at the Life Center.

At the June meeting officers will be installed by District Deputy Paul Farnell. This will be Ladies Night.

*Congratulations Area Graduates!*



THE THIRD GRADE class of Cameron Elementary School recently toured the Baton Rouge Zoo, the State Capital, and the Old State Capital. Mrs. Hicks, Mr. J. C. Murphy, and Mrs. Newman are pictured with the group on the steps of the State Capital.



DISPLAYING EDUCATIONAL materials distributed to Cameron Parish schools during EMS week were, from left: EMT Intermediate Jerri Miller; School Board member Loston McEvers; Ambulance District 1 Board President Phyllis Pinch; and Paramedic Reese Perry. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)

## Hardy has returned from deployment

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Kenneth J. Hardy, a

### BIRTH

LOGAN ERIQ COLEMAN Bo and Jackie Coleman of Norfolk, Va. announce the birth of their first child, Logan Eriq, May 19. He weighed 6 lbs. 15 ozs.

Grandparents are Sam Coleman of Johnson Bayou, Annie Conner of Little Chenier, Jackie Wilson of Indiana and Rose Hutchinson of Florida.

Greatgrandparents are Flora Conner of Little Chenier and Ann Coleman of Leesville.

Both parents are serving in the U. S. Navy stationed in Norfolk, Va.

pastor of New Galilee Baptist Church, as speaker.

The church adult and youth choirs will be featured.

On Saturday, May 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the DeQuincy District Women's Workshop will be held led by Evangelist Sheila Bartie of the New Galilee Baptist Church.

Registration fee \$5. Elder Charles E. Porter is church pastor.

1988 graduate of South Cameron High School recently returned from a 10-month deployment to the Western Pacific and Arabian Gulf while assigned to the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln, homeported in Everett, Wash.

Hardy was one of more than 10,000 Pacific Fleet Sailors and Marines aboard the ships of the USS Abraham Lincoln Carrier Battle Group and USS Belleau Wood Amphibious

Ready Group who participated in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Hardy's scheduled six-month deployment began in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Southern Watch in July 2002. As the battle group neared completion of its deployment in December 2002, the USS Abraham Lincoln Battle Group was recalled to duty in the Arabian Gulf in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF).



*A Classy Class* **Class of 1963**  
May 23, 1963

We may be moving slower with a little more gray hair, a few more inches and pounds.

But after 40 years, we're the same get up and go bunch!

R A R

## A Sense of What is Important

I have a family of my own, and I am committed to making our parish a safe and secure place for all of our families. I believe that education is the key to protecting our youth. Among other things, I plan to implement a **Stranger Danger Awareness Program** and further develop school-based programs that focus on drug awareness and the consequences of drug abuse.

I have been married to Kelly Foster Mudd for twelve years and we have three children: Kallan, Marlie, and Quincy. My family is important to me. If elected as your sheriff, I vow to protect what is most important to you.

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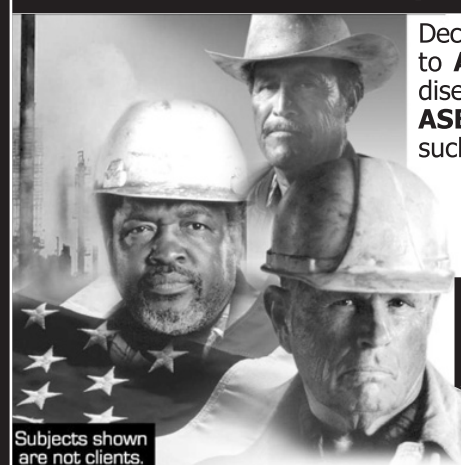


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**TONY JOHNSON** and **Jordan Richard** recorded their first 25 straight targets and scored 94 out of 100 to win individual titles at the recent Louisiana Trapshooters Association state tournament held in Evangeline. Their team, **Cajun Clay Crackers**, also won the state championship.

## CAMERON OUTDOORS

By **Loston McEvers**

National Safe Boating Week is May 17-23 and boaters are reminded to wear life jackets. With the Memorial Day weekend coming the waters will be crowded, so pay special attention.

In 2001 there were 681 deaths and most would be alive if they would have worn their life jackets. It's easy to capsize a boat or get thrown overboard, it's too late then to put on a life jacket. Louisiana ranks third nationally in death by boating, also stay sober. If you drink while on the water, let someone who is not drinking operate the boat.

### FISHING REPORTS

This past week we again had strong winds making it hard for fishing. Travis Broussard and I fished Big Lake last week and it was plenty rough. All the boats were on the south and southeast side of the lake. We did manage to land 4 nice trout, but had many hit top water plugs. The trout were 3 to 4 pounds, but we did see a couple of boats land some trout around 5 pounds. One angler on a guide boat hooked a large drum, well over 30 pounds and he fought the fish for 25 minutes before landing it and then released it.

### GIBBSTOWN DOGFIGHT

Results of the May 12 Gibbstown Dogfights showed that bass fishing is still tough. 1st team of Darren Richard and Todd Conner had

3 bass weighing 4.81 pounds with their largest bass of 2.51 also taking first place. Second team was Carl Broussard and Ricky Canik, 3 bass weighing 4.54. Third team was Scott Lewis and Joey Fontenot 4.14 and second largest bass of 2.34 pounds.

### CRABBING

Many folks are crabbing and I'm sure with the Memorial Day weekend coming up this weekend, there will be plenty along the roadside trying their luck.

I ate some nice blue crab last week and they were fat and full, however tough as crabs are, concern is rising that they may be in a fight they can't win without help. Declining harvest not only in our Louisiana waters, but all across the Gulf Coast and Atlantic Coast is becoming a problem. North Carolina's commercial blue crab harvest has fallen in 5 years, from 65 million pounds to 30 million pounds.

There are many factors for the decline such as droughts, hurricanes, bad pollution in our waters, heavy rains, but the average fisherman will tell you there are too many crab traps putting to much pressure on the crab population.

Some states have gone to certain times, to closed seasons, such as Texas, Maryland, Delaware and Virginia. This gives time to take abandoned traps out of

the water. Our neighbors in Texas had a crab trap clean up last year and removed 8,000 abandoned traps in coastal waters.

Some of our local crabbers do well, but will tell you that it's not as good as it used to be. Some who crab in the marsh will stop when water gets bad.

### LEMESCHE BASS CLUB

The Lemesche Bass Club had their third club tournament of the year this past weekend. Teams were fishing out of Amoco or Miami Corporations Permit lands. Fishing can be tough, but the mosquitoes before sunrise and the deer flies all day long, can be tougher.

The landing was crowded as a Lafayette Bass Club also had a tournament.

Water is getting low and vegetation is growing up fast in the ponds and along the canals, with lots of muddy water.

The tournament results were: 1st place team stringer (5 bass), Loston McEvers and Scottie Trosclair, 7.06; 2nd was Jeb Linscombe and Rudy McEvers (5 bass), 6.34, there was a 3rd place tie between teams, Ricky Canik & Tony Conner and Carl Broussard & Rod Richard with (5 bass) 5.23. Tony and Ricky ended up with third place with the largest bass. Teams in order were Darren Richard and Johnny LeDoux 4.01 and Tom Hess and Shane Surett, 2.17.

Largest bass was Rufus McEvers and Jeb Linscombe, 2nd Loston McEvers and Scottie Trosclair, 3rd Richard Canik and Tony Conner. Loston and Scottie had the largest choupique 6.05 lbs.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

Every Monday - Gibbstown dogfights, 5:30 p.m.

May 20 & 27 - Trout dogfights, Hebert's Marina, 5 p.m.

May 24 - C.C.A. Statewide Tournament begins.

June 2 - 8 - National fishing & Boating Week.

June 7 & 8 - Free Fishing Day in Louisiana.

### FISHING TIMES

Friday, May 23: Best, 6:30 a.m. & 7 p.m., good 12:30 p.m.; Saturday, May 24: 7:15 a.m. & 7:30 p.m., good 1:30 p.m.; Sunday, May 25: 8 a.m. & 8 p.m.; good 2 p.m.; Monday, May 26: 8:30 a.m. & 8:45 p.m.; good 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 27: 9 a.m. & 9:30 p.m.; good 3:15 p.m. Wednesday, May 28: 9:45 a.m.; good 4 p.m. Thursday, May 29: 10:30 a.m.; good 4:30p.m.



**PRESENTING CHECKS** for Class C Basketball Championship rings to Hackberry High School representatives are, from left: **Bryan Crismon**, Dynegy Midstream Services Area Manager - Lake Charles; **Lady Mustangs Edie Leonards** and **Tobie Devall**; **MeMe Reider**, Cameron Communications; and **Eddie Michalko**, Hackberry High School Coach.

## H'berry girls get championship rings

Cameron Communications and Dynegy Midstream Services partnered again this year to purchase championship rings for the Hackberry High School Lady Mustangs Girl's Basketball players after their third LHSAA Class C Basketball Championship. The Lady Mustangs won the State

Championship in 2000, 2002 and 2003.

Cameron Communications and Dynegy representatives presented checks for the rings. Bryan Crismon, Dynegy Midstream Services Area Manager - Lake Charles, and MeMe Reider, Cameron Communications, made the presentation to Lady Mustangs

Tobie Devall, Edie Leonards and Coach Eddie Michalko at Hackberry High School.

Cameron Communications and Dynegy are also associates off the Lady Mustang's basketball court. Together they are Partners in Education for Hackberry High School and Vincent Settlement Elementary School.

## S. Cameron Elementary tells athletic banquet

The South Cameron Elementary Athletic Banquet will be held Friday, May 23 at 6 p.m. at the Creole Fire Station. All football players, cheerleaders, pep squad members, wrestlers, and basketball members will be presented and their awards on Friday night.

### Cameron Elem. 4-H Club

The Cameron Elementary 4-H club met May 18. Pledges were led by BreAnn DeBarge and Brittany Hicks. Reports were given by Ross Rowland, Thomas Lee Trosclair, Dex Murphy, Shelby Willis, Jody Trosclair, Kade Pierson, and Kami Savoie.

The CRD project for May was a monetary donation given by the club to S. J. Welsh Middle School in memory of Colter Hoffpauir who drowned in a boating accident last month. Mrs. Penni discussed the clover and distributed awards.

Ross Rowland, Reporter

Anyone who hasn't turned in their uniforms need to bring them to school by Friday, May 23rd to be able to receive their trophy on Friday night.

After the awards are presented, a meal will be served for the students and their families.

### Older American Month is May

The Cameron Parish Police Jury has proclaimed May as Older American Month in support of such agencies as the Cameron Council on Aging, which conducts numerous programs for senior citizens around Cameron Parish.

## School lunch menus told

The South Cameron Elementary Athletic Banquet will be held Friday, May 23 at 6 p.m. at the Creole Fire Station. All football players, cheerleaders, pep squad members, wrestlers, and basketball members will be presented and their awards on Friday night.

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After the awards are presented, a meal will be served for the students and their families.

**Congratulations to all of the Cameron Parish graduates of 2003!**



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1999 Dodge Caravan	Stk.#72303A, auto, A/C, AM/FM cass., tilt, cruise, fully loaded	\$6,997
1998 Mercury Mountaineer	Auto, A/C, AM/FM cass., tilt, cruise, power windows, locks, loaded	\$8,997
2000 GMC Excab Pickup	Auto, A/C, AM/FM cass., tilt, cruise, lots of extras	\$9,997
1998 Honda Civic	Auto, A/C, AM/FM cass., power windows, locks, 4 dr., loaded	\$9,997
1999 Chevrolet Reg. Cab Pickup	350 engine, longwheelbase, low miles, power windows, locks, loaded	\$10,997
2000 Pontiac Bonneville	Auto, A/C, AM/FM CD player, power windows, locks, loaded	\$12,997
2000 Dodge Durango	Auto, A/C, AM/FM cass., leather, loaded	\$21,997
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## Two persons are charged

Cameron Sheriff's Deputies arrested two people for battery in separate incidents this past weekend.

In an incident May 17 at Holly Beach, Donna G. Guidry of Grand Chenier was charged with five counts of assault, one count of simple batter, and possession of a

firearm on premises of an alcoholic beverage outlet.

On the same day, an altercation at the courthouse stemming from a boat collision at a Cameron dock resulted in a charge of simple battery against Monroe Gray, of Cameron.



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**BOBBY JOE DOXEY**, leader of pack 210 for the Wolves, is shown with his group at graduation night. They are Marcus Doxey, Christopher Guillot, Caleb Stoute, Kent Doxey, Corey Miller, T. J. January, and Garrett Mock. The boys graduated from Wolves to Bears.



**JERRY RACCA** And **Rolland Roux** are the leaders of the Webelos. They are shown with their group at graduation night. The boys graduated from Webelos to Boy Scouts. They are Jordan Hanks, Jared Racca, Travis Trahan, Caleb Roux, and Joel Racca.



**TIGER CUBS** ARE shown with their leader **Mary Jane Racca** at graduation night. The boys went from Tiger Cubs to Wolf. The boys that graduated are Caleb Authement, Jeffery Racca, and Henry McCall.

## Indianapolis survivors interviewed

Dear Editor:  
This is the time of the year as we prepare for a day of remembrance, honoring those that have fought and given their life for their country, our country, also all that have served their country in uniform.

Last January I read a book titled "We Were There." The first hand story of the USS Indianapolis tragedy. This was the last U. S. War ship to be sunk, just before the end of World War II.

Since then, and ordering several more books, I always receive a personal note from the author, L. Peter Wren. He was a young officer, one of the first of the rescuers.

I learned of two sailors that had been aboard the Indianapolis as crew members, and had been rescued after surviving in the Pacific oil covered, shark infested waters for four and a half to five days. One of these men, Grover Carter, called me from Vernon Parish and invited me to their family reunion in Leesville. I met him there in late April, and it was an honor.

I also had the phone number of another survivor, E.J. Dronet. He lives in Cameron Parish. I called him and asked if he knew Grover Carter, he didn't; we had a nice chat.

About two weeks after the Carter reunion, while watching the story of the sinking of the USS Indy, I couldn't believe my eyes, there was Grover Carter along with three of four shipmates giving their story of this tragedy, each one of the survivors spoke five or six times in the hour long film.

Over the last year, we have lost several of the faithful that have always been there in front of the Court House for the Memorial ceremonies, also participating one way or the other, they will be missed this year.

We salute all those that have and are serving our country honorably.

/s/ Jack L. Daniels  
DeRidder, La.



\*\*\*\*\*

# Wendell Wilkerson

## for Sheriff

Cameron Parish

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\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Citizens of Cameron Parish,

I would like to take this opportunity to ask for your vote for Sheriff of Cameron Parish. I am not a career politician, and I promise to be fair and reliable. My work ethic and my desire to serve my community are the assets I offer the voters of Cameron Parish.

I am 44 years old and a resident of the Creole community. I have been married to Barbara (Dupont) Wilkerson for 22 years and have 3 children: Trey, 18, Victoria, 13, and Jacob, 12. We balance a life of family, business, sports and community activities.

I am a 1976 graduate of South Cameron High School and served in the United States Marine Corps from 1976 to 1979. I also studied criminology at Palomar College.

As a child and while in the Marine Corps, I was indoctrinated in the love of God, Country and the Corps, which I have carried into my marriage and in raising my children, running my business, and serving my community. My beliefs in the love of God and Country have been demonstrated in many ways, including serving on staff at Camp Edgewood as a young boy to serving in the Marine Corps. As an adult, I have helped coach and sponsor youth, church and elderly organizations. Serving my community is not something that I just began doing in order to gain political recognition. Whether elected to Sheriff or not, I will continue to serve.

My decision to run for Sheriff is not one of a political nature or for personal gain. It is strictly to continue to serve my God, Community and Country. I believe that I have the integrity it takes to be fair and honest to everyone of Cameron Parish. I have nothing to personally gain from becoming Sheriff and would probably be, humanly speaking, better off staying where I am, but I am willing to commit myself to serving my community in this capacity.

I think Cameron Parish needs leaders who are willing to serve for the betterment of the Parish as a whole and not for any particular group or area. Anyone who truly knows me knows that I try to be as fair and impartial as I can be. But, if elected, I am not perfect and will make some mistakes. Hopefully, I will learn from them.

Why do I think that I am qualified for Sheriff? There are many reasons I believe that I am qualified. It takes someone who can manage a budget as large as the Sheriff's Department. It also takes someone who can deal with the everyday pressures involved in running an office of such importance. I have demonstrated my abilities to do so in many ways. It takes someone who can deal with the public and employee relations which I have done for practically all of my life. Also, I have been serving the community in many ways:

1. Served on staff at Camp Edgewood Boy Scout Camp
2. Served in the United States Marine Corps: While serving in the USMC, I was meritoriously promoted twice for setting up legal files for the 9th Com Battalion. Was an expert rifleman and scored 1st class on the physical fitness test.
3. Donate to youth sports, churches, livestock, rodeo, and many others.
4. Serving on many boards in Cameron Parish, including:
  - a. Cameron Parish Economic Task Force
  - b. South Cameron Hospital Board
  - c. South Cameron Rodeo Booster Club
  - d. Corporate Sponsor of South Cameron High School Athletics
  - e. West Cameron Port Board
5. Have owned and run my own business for 23 years.

I have been asked what difference I could make as the Sheriff of Cameron Parish. That is not an easy question to answer. We have been served and protected by a Sheriff that I think I have a lot in common with as far as feeling that we need someone who is committed to serve from the heart and not for personal gain. I will not make promises that I do not know that I can keep. I will promise to do my best at being fair and impartial to all citizens of the Parish. I will be personally involved in everyday operations of the office and will participate in drug and alcohol programs such as DARE.

In talking to the people of the Parish, one of their greatest concerns, if elected, is what I am planning to do about the current and growing drug problem. This is one of my biggest concerns, also. Drugs have become so readily available and transportation for the young people has become so much better in the last couple of years, that if they cannot find it in the Parish, they can easily travel to other areas. I don't know if there is any way to completely stop the drug problems, but without complete cooperation of the parents, children, the Sheriff's Department, and the District Attorney's Office, it cannot happen. Everyone has to work together as one to find a solution to the problem. Drugs have been the ruin of many families and will continue to be if we don't address this problem. I would continue to have a DARE program and look into any other programs and funding to fight this problem. Having children and working with kids between the ages of 10 to 25 every day, I do think that I understand a lot of the issues and problems they face, and will be able to help council them and hopefully direct them to the correct path.

I do not believe that the current administration or the District Attorney's Office want to ruin anyone's life or reputation, but there does come a time when laws have to be strictly enforced. When enough chances have been given, people need to pay the price, no matter who it is. The reasons for the laws that are in place are to save lives, not to keep people from having a good time.

We are lucky to have the protection that the current Sheriff and his Department have provided for us over the past twenty years, and I will strive to keep up the good work and look for ways to improve upon anything that I can. I will also work closely with the deputies and the public to continue to improve upon relations with each other.

I cannot and will not make promises about what I will do unless I am elected and sitting behind the desk looking at the budget and can see what can be done with the monies available. If you look at the current Sheriff's Budget Report, it may appear to some that there is plenty of money to go around for new programs and pay raises. That is not the case. The current Sheriff has done a wonderful job of spending your tax dollars and giving the Parish quite a bit for its money. If the payroll is running around 2.3 million dollars and you promise a 5% raise to everyone, this will result in a \$115,000 increase, in addition to the additional costs of pensions, unemployment insurance, Social Security, Medicare, and other costs associated with salaries.

Please be careful when making your choice for Sheriff and make sure that the one that you choose will be able to keep the promises they make. Although promises may be made in good faith, there may be constraints, such as available funds, that will prevent them from keeping them. With the dredging of the old river, there has been an increase in our offshore supply activity, which increased our ad valorem tax, but this could change with the economy, and has in the past. We need to retain monies in surplus to cover this real possibility. It will take a person with the right administrative skills to see that our surplus is not wasted so that it is not available in case of an economic slow down. I have had to deal with problems in the past with business and have proven I can weather the storm. We certainly do not want to have to lose any of our current protection because of poor decisions made or trying to keep campaign promises.

I have an open door policy in my business today and will do the same if elected as your Sheriff. I believe that if you talk to anyone who knows me, they will tell you that my door is always open.

I have a philosophy that if you stick with something, it will eventually work out. This includes school, sports, marriage, job and finances. I believe that if you have a problem, no matter what it is, it can be worked out and you can get back on the right track even if it takes the help of a parent, teacher, church, or a sheriff. Elect me as Sheriff of Cameron Parish and together we can make this the safest and greatest Parish to live in the State of Louisiana.

I would sincerely appreciate your support in becoming the next Sheriff of Cameron Parish.

Sincerely Yours

*Wendell Wilkerson*

Wendell Wilkerson  
Candidate for Sheriff

(Paid for by Wendell Wilkerson)

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