



CAMERON PARISH Registrar of Voters Ruby Kelley will retire on June 30 after 21 years overseeing elections. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)

Ruby Kelley retires after 21 years

By CYNDI SELLERS

Cameron Parish Registrar of Voters Ruby Kelley will retire on June 30 after 21 years overseeing elections here. She says she'll miss the people at the court house, and the job has been a blessing from God, but she's ready to have time for herself after working all her life.

She started out as a teenager working at a hospital in Waco, Tex., then worked for years at her late husband Ed's TV repair shop.

Kelley became Deputy Registrar in 1982 under Fae Jones and was appointed Registrar on Feb. 1, 1983 upon Jones' retirement. She says she had an excellent teacher in Jones, and used her outlines for years.

The work has changed over the years. In the early days, Kelley says, the big books took three weeks to prepare for every election. Every ten years, when districts were re-apportioned, new maps had to be prepared and voter lists changed by hand.

Computers have made the work easier, but also created more work. For example, about every two months a list of all convicted felons is sent out by the state. Each parish's staff must then compare the names from their parish with the voter rolls.

Kelley says the biggest and most ferocious elections she has overseen have been the last two sheriff's races, with over 600 absentee votes cast. Rep. Conway LeBleu's races always had high turnouts, too.

Kelley says most people don't realize that the Registrar's job really is full-time. "It's not as easy as it looks," she says. She has enjoyed her 22 years in the "monk's cell" in the court house basement, though. Meeting people has been the best part.

She leaves confident that the office is going to be run well. She says her deputy Suzanne Sturlese has had five years to learn the office, has been to all the classes and schools, and "will do a really good job."

An open house at the court house on Friday, June 25, will honor Kelley and others who are retiring, including Sheriff Sono Savoie.

BB Clinic set

A McNeese Basketball Clinic will be held Monday through Friday, June 21-25 at the Cameron Recreation Center.

The free clinic is open to girls and boys of all ages. For information call 775-5081.

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KAHLIA PELOQUIN flew this dragonfly kite last Saturday at Constance Beach at the Cajun Riviera's Beach Festival. (Photos by Captain Sammy Faulk.)

Lake Charles teens booked in accident

Two teens from Lake Charles were involved in an incident in Cameron Sunday that landed them both in jail. A runaway juvenile was reported to be at the Cam Mart Shell station.

When Deputy Jim Smith responded and attempted to restrain the juvenile, the driver of the vehicle she was in left her behind, striking another vehicle in the process.

The driver, Patsy S. Abshire, 18, of Lake Charles, was apprehended at Francis Drilling Fluids in Cameron and charged with hit and run and contributing to the delinquency of a juvenile.

The juvenile, age 16, was charged with resisting and battery on a police officer. Deputy Charles Smith assisted in the arrests.

Other arrests in the past two weeks include:

June 2: Paul D. Parham, 50, Westlake - Hit and run (warrant); Tina J. Godeaux, 32, Creole - Aggravated Battery; Mark P. Boudreaux, 35, Creole - Battery

June 5: Russell J. Robertson, 32, Westlake - DWI; Thomas C. Rowland, 44, Cameron - DWI

June 7: Britt H. Eaves, 44, Lake Charles - DWI, AL warrant

June 10: Stephanie B. Broussard, Lake Charles - Battery; Donald Broussard, Lake Charles - Battery; Shanon Breaux, 29, Lake Charles - Warrant, worthless checks

June 13: Christie D. Murray, 23, Hackberry - Simple Battery

June 14: Rita F. Comeaux, 31, Creole - DWI; Curtis W. Bannell, Seminole, OK - OK warrant - bad checks.

Fundraiser told

The South Cameron High School Cheerleaders will be selling pizza Friday, June 18 to raise funds for their activities.

Mr. Gatti's Pizza wagon will be at the Cameron Gulfway Donut Shop from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and at Creole 7X Square from 3 to 5 p.m.



TRAVIS AND BAILEY Labove built a sand turtle on the new beach at Constance Beach during the Cajun Riviera Beach Festival held this past Saturday, June 12. (Photos by Captain Sammy Faulk.)

State mandates to cost parish

By CYNDI SELLERS

The Cameron Parish School Board has joined others across the state in protesting what they call a "mandated unfunded liability" from the legislature.

Recently the board was notified that the employers cost of contribution to the teachers' and school employees' retirement systems will be increased effective July 1. The estimated cost to the school board will be \$407,000.

According to the board, Article 10, Section 29 of the Louisiana Constitution requires the state to fund the employers share of retirement contributions.

The board passed a resolution to join other public school boards, through the Louisiana School Board Association, in legal action if necessary to force the state to comply with the constitution.

"We're facing almost half a million dollars increase," said Supt. Doug Chance, "but other districts' costs will run into the millions."

Chance will be in Baton Rouge today (Thursday) to lobby a Senate committee for a bill which would reduce the amount of increase by 1.8%.

The employer's cost for teachers' retirement is set to increase from 13.8% to 17.3% while the cost for school employees' retirement will go from 8.5% to 18.8% unless something changes before the end of the session on Monday.

Proposals for physical education and athletic needs as well as management of new revenue were left tabled until the end of the legislative session.

A special meeting was set for 9 a.m., Wednesday, June 30, for adopting final budget revisions and proposed policy and personnel revisions.

Laser pointers were added to the list of forbidden items in the Student Code of Conduct, along with several other minor changes adopted by the board. The usual 30 day waiting period was waived so the manual could be printed in time for school in August.

Special Education Supervisor Willyne Kestel present-

ed the 2003 special education monitoring results which showed improvement in most areas. Special Ed students receiving diplomas reached 80% in 2003, the highest in the state. Dropouts were reduced for the second straight year, from 10.3% in 2002 to 6.7% in 2003.

Regular class placement (no more than 21% of time in Sp. Ed. classroom) fell somewhat from 71.7% to 67.5%, but still ranked 7th in the state.

Ninety-one percent of 8th grade special ed. students passed the English Language Arts test, while 58.3% passed math. Out of school suspensions continued to drop, to 5.04%, and expulsions were again zero.

Results of the second grade Iowa Tests of Basic Skills, presented by Nancy Boudreaux, showed that out of 49 components, Cameron Parish second graders scored above the national average on 43, even on 3, and below on only 3 items.

These three will be flagged for extra attention next year. In some categories the Cameron students scored 10 to 12 points above the national average. Their highest score was an 88% in geometry concepts.

Bids were awarded for cleanup and mowing at Audrey Memorial and Grand Chenier schools and for general school bus and vehicle maintenance.

The low bids on the mowing and cleanup jobs were submitted by 4-T's Lawn Service, LLC of Creole, for a total of \$9,000. Cameron Marshland Enterprise, LLC submitted the only maintenance bid at \$47,000, which was accepted.

In personnel matters the board: Accepted the resignation of:

Judy Fruge, Central office staff, effective Aug. 1

Nicole Fassano-Newman, Cameron Elem. teacher

Heather Gaspard, Cameron Elem. teacher

Appointed Gwen Fruge sweeper at Grand Lake

Cont. on Page 3.

Weather Bureau tells plans for coverage for hurricane season

By CYNDI SELLERS

Just in time for the first tropical disturbance of the 2004 hurricane season, the Cameron Parish Office of Emergency Preparedness held its annual meeting Tuesday, June 15 at the Cameron Fire Station.

Officials and volunteers from all areas of the parish met with representatives of the National Weather Service, Lake Charles office, to plan for the upcoming season.

NWS Meteorologist in Charge Steve Rinard called the recent disturbance a "wake-up call" and congratulated the group on the large turnout saying, "You guys are right on the forefront."

He advised that the NWS would continue issuing 3-day forecasts any time a storm enters the Gulf of Mexico. He added that 5-day forecasts are somewhat helpful, but they have a large margin of error.

Roger Erickson, Warning Coordinator Meteorologist for SE Texas and SW Louisiana invited emergency personnel to feel free to call the Lake Charles NWS office in an emergency any time day or night.

The NWS building is hardened to withstand a tornado and staffed around the clock. In a storm, they keep working until communications go down, and then stay because leaving would be too dangerous.

The 2004 Hurricane Season is predicted to be active, producing 15 tropical systems, with 6-9 reaching hurricane strength and 2-4 reaching Category 3 or higher.

According to Erickson we may be in the middle of a 20-30 year cycle of increased activity, but residents were warned not to get "bogged down" in weak season, busy season.

"It's where you are that counts. Andrew was in a weak season, but the people in Homestead didn't see it that way."

The meteorologists gave these tips for hurricane watching:

The average 1 day forecast has a 75 mile variance.

Generally, you can figure five feet of storm surge per

category. Category 1 = 5' Category 2 = 10' and so on to Category 5 = 25'.

The strongest wind and surge is at the right eyewall, but the eyewall could be from 5 to 50 miles from the center of circulation. For example, Hurricane Audrey's eye passed over Johnson's Bayou, but the greatest surge was between Cameron and Creole.

The NWS reports the highest sustained winds in a storm, but gusts can reach up to 50% higher. A 100mph (sustained) storm can produce gusts of up to 150mph.

Coastal residents should keep an eye on the weather reports and be ready to leave when an evacuation is called.

Johnson's Bayou residents are especially warned that the Martin Luther King Bridge into Port Arthur will be closed by the Texas DOTD when wind speeds reach only 35mph, and by that time debris is usually washing over Hwy. 82.

Hurricanes and Tropical Storms for 2004 will be named Alex, Bonnie, Charley, Danielle, Earl, Frances, Gaston, Hermine, Ivan, Jeanne, Karl, Lisa, Matthew, Nicole, Otto, Paula, Richard, Shary, Tomas, Virginia, and Walter.

The list is recycled every six years, with deadly or very damaging storms having their names removed from the list and a new name added in its place. Cameron Parish residents know why Audrey is no longer on the list.

At the end of the meeting, Cameron Parish O.E.P. Director Freddie Richard thanked the guests for giving their time to keep the people of Cameron Parish safe, saying that without everyone's cooperation it couldn't be done.

Beach board meetings told

The Beachfront Development District 2 has changed its regular meeting date and time to the third Monday of each month at 5 p.m.

The next meeting will be on Monday, June 21 in the Creole Multi-Purpose building.

The district includes the beaches on the east side of Cameron Parish. Board meetings are open to the public.

Athletic Assoc. sets meeting

The South Cameron Elementary Athletic Association will hold a meeting at 6 p.m., Monday, June 21 at the Creole fire station to plan an upcoming fundraiser.

All parents of the school's athletes are invited to attend. For more information call Darwin Thibodeaux at 542-4238 or Tina Payne at 542-4462 or 542-4069.

Labels to aid Cam. Elem.

The Cameron Elementary School is collecting UPC labels and cash receipts for Dickies school uniform items. The school earns points for supplies, sporting goods, office equipment, etc.

These labels and receipts can be turned in to the school office when school resumes in August. Call 477-6331 for information.



LOTS OF FOLKS enjoyed the sun, sand, and water at the Cajun Riviera Beach Festival last Saturday at Constance Beach. (Photos by Captain Sammy Faulk.)



AMONG THOSE taking part in the hurricane preparedness meeting in Cameron on June 15 were the above, from left: Tom Barrett, Assistant District Attorney; Cecil Sanner, District Attorney; Steve Rinard, National Weather Service; Freddie Theriot, Cameron Parish Director of Office of Emergency Preparedness; Roger Erickson, National Weather Service; Scott Trahan, Police Juror; and Theos Duhon, Cameron Parish Sheriff-elect. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)



MR. AND MRS. Walter D. (Bonnie Jean) Cupstid of Ferriday announce the engagement and forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Tammy Dale, to Michael Lawrence Gray, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Gray of Cameron. The wedding is set for Saturday, June 26 at the Lake Charles Civic Center beginning at 6 p.m. in the Contraband Room. Through this means, friends and relatives are invited to attend.

McNeese State Univ. President List told

The president's list for the spring 2004 semester at McNeese State University has been announced by Registrar Stephanie Tarver. To be on the president's list, students must earn at least a 3.5 grade point average while carrying at least 15 semester hours.

Area students on the president's list are as follows:

CAMERON: Lynsi

Kaitlyn Conner, Brooke Leigh Gripp, Misty Oliver Romero, Chelsi L. Styron, Kendall Dain Styron;

CREOLE: Dustin Kent Broussard;

GRAND CHENIER: Robert Kristopher McKoin;

GRAND LAKE: Melissa Kaye Sonnier;

HACKBERRY: Jessica L. East, Lindsay Kay LaBove, Paige LeAnne Sanders.



JUDY FRUGE WAS surprised with a cake and ice cream by Dr. Doug Chance and the Cameron Parish School Board Monday in honor of her years in the central office. She will retire on Aug. 1.

Lagniappe Two Retirement Home Living Notes

By Geneva Griffith



I spent the whole day Friday watching the funeral of one of our most beloved presidents, Ronald Reagan. I felt sorry for his wife, who though she is so frail, stood it beautifully.

I also read of the passing of music legend Ray Charles, who didn't let his blindness since birth stand in his way of becoming a great musician.

I met him once in an airport when I was on the way to one of my overseas trips. He was very gracious when I asked him to take a picture with me to take back and show my kids. That seems so long ago.

I am thoroughly enjoying all of the beautiful flowers that we have around our village, especially the ones I have in my flowerbeds that my daughter and son-in-law planted for me. I sit on the front porch a lot due to the inclimate weather. It rains every day, if only for a short while.

This morning I am enjoying the white spider lillies and the fuschia hibiscus and yellow mums. Also my everblooming "Jennie" plant which I have named after my dear attorney who sent it to me. Her late mother was one of my dearest friends.

Vacation Bible School

Children attending Cameron First Baptist Church's Vacation Bible School next week will experience the atmosphere of Japan. The school's theme this year is "Far Out, Far East Rickshaw Rally - Racing to the Sun." It will be held June 21-25 from 6 - 8:30 p.m..

Children from age 5 through just having completed 6th grade will learn songs, make crafts, learn about missions, have refreshments, and study Bible stories in Japanese settings ranging from downtown Tokyo to Mt. Fuji, a kite festival, a peaceful garden, and a traditional home.

Along the way they will learn some Japanese words and phrases, create Japanese art, and experience some of the culture of this ancient country.

A Family Night program will be presented by the students on Friday evening. A Pre-registration Party with games and food is set for Friday, June 18 at 5 p.m. at the church.

Parents who do not pre-register their children should arrive at 5:30 p.m. Monday, as children must be registered to attend.

For more information, call Rev. Alton Hodnett at 775-5446 or Mary Jane Racca at 775-7139.

McNeese Honor Roll

The McNeese State University Honor Roll for the 2004 spring semester has been announced by Registrar Stephanie Tarver.

The honor roll lists undergraduate students earning at least a 3.0 or B average while carrying 12 or more semester hours.

The Honor Roll for area students is as follows:

CAMERON: Christopher Ryan Billings, Jennifer Diane Conner, Nandi Lynn DeSonier, Tess Alixandra Dimas,

Jeremy Wayne Furs, Melissa Rene Este Guidry, Jessica Lynn Murphy, Shantelle L. Lancon Richard,

Lacey D. Rodrigue, John Leonidas Snyder;

CREOLE: Bethany Nicole Nunez, Trista ZaNora Semien;

GRAND CHENIER: Ashley Michelle Kelley;

HACKBERRY: Meagan Elizabeth Broussard, Lindy Sue Delome, Trevor Lee Duhon, Ashley Marie Granger,

Miranda Marie Hicks, Haley Susan LaBove, Michael John Orgeron, Lori L. Sanders, Micah Aaron Silver.

SCHOOL BOARD

Cont. from pg. 1

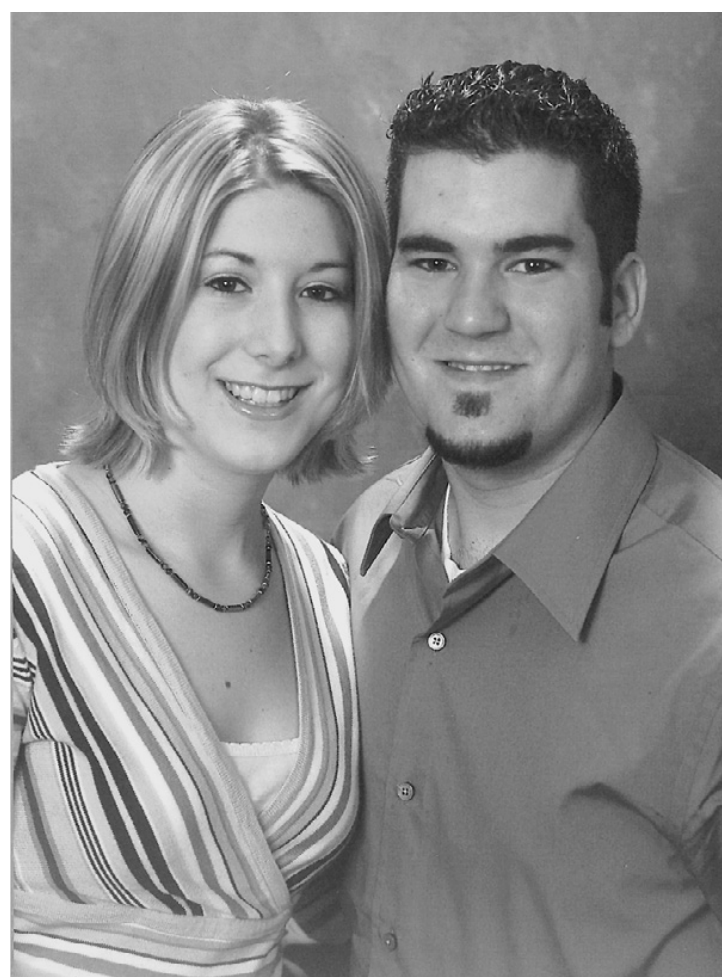
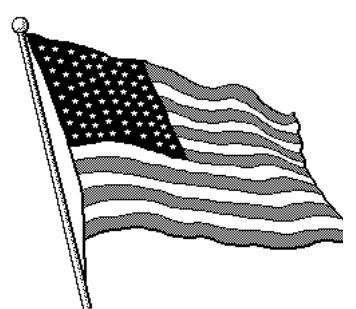
School (transfer from cafeteria)

Terminated employment of:

Brenda S. Hantz, JBHS
Kevin Abshire, JBHS
Mary Long, SCHS
Christine Eastman, SCHS
Granted a medical sabbatical leave to Linda O. McKinney

The appointment of a paraprofessional for JBHS was delayed until July.

The board voted to advertise for bids on food and supplies for the 2004-05 school year and to authorize the advertisement for bids on the Grand Lake School expansion and renovation.



JEFFREY AND ANGELA Jouett of Big Lake announce the engagement and forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Brooke Leah, to Cade LaFarque, son of Carlos and Paula LaFarque of Kinder. The wedding is set for Saturday, Aug. 7 at 6 p.m. at Trinity Baptist Church in Lake Charles.

Reading is a great way to spend a summer vacation. Pick up a good book at your local Cameron Parish library today.



★ DANCE ★
Mac's Shack - Creole
Friday, June 18 -- 9 p.m. Til
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Midnight Special
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MR. GATTI'S PIZZA
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From 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
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Ages 5 Through 6th Grade
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• BIBLE STORIES • REFRESHMENTS
For More Information Call:
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Pre-Registration
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At The Church
— Games & Food —

Are you bound by
Drugs?
Alcohol?
Depression?
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GLENN W. ALEXANDER
Of Counsel

Mr. Alexander served for 12 years as District Attorney of Cameron Parish until retiring in December 2002. He has practiced law in Southwest Louisiana for 29 years and has extensive experience in civil litigation, including oil and gas, banking, corporate, maritime, insurance and tort law. He is certified in civil trial advocacy by the National Board of Trial Advocacy and he is admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States and all federal and state courts in Louisiana.

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