



THERE WAS A lone visitor on the beach between Holly and Constance Beaches when this photo was taken recently but there will be thousands there this Fourth of July Weekend which is Cameron Parish's biggest beach event. (Photo by Mike McCall)

Thousands expected to visit beaches for Fourth of July

Cameron Parish's population could nearly double this weekend as thousands of Fourth of July celebrants flock to Cameron Parish beaches--particularly the newly replenished Holly-Constance beaches.

Theos Duhon, who will take office as the parish's new sheriff Thursday, said there will be about 45 law officers patrolling the beaches Thursday through Sunday keeping the peace and controlling traffic.

These will include about 25

parish deputies, 16 Alcohol/Tobacco Control officers, and 4 or 5 state police officers.

The biggest congregation of beachgoers will be at Holly and Constance Beaches and on the sand replenished area in between.

There will also be celebrations in the Big Lake Settlement and at Myers Landing near Lake Arthur.

Another popular beach will be Rutherford Beach located south of Creole and Oak Grove.

Deputies will be patrolling

the beaches on four-wheelers and in pickup trucks.

A police command center will be set up at the Apache Camp just west of Holly Beach.

Officers will be enforcing laws on speeding, careless operations, drunken driving. They will be paying special attention to the speed law on the new section of beach sand and the law pertaining driving on the beach dunes.

Cameron has the largest expanse of accessible beaches in the Louisiana.

Cameron Parish is sinking, LSU official tells Police Jury

By CYNDI SELLERS

Cameron Parish is sinking, as is the rest of south Louisiana. This was the sobering report given by Dr. Roy Dokka to the Cameron Parish Police Jury Tuesday afternoon.

Dr. Dokka is the director of the Louisiana Spatial Reference Center at LSU. In conjunction with the National Geodetic Survey being done by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the LSRC is working to update vertical benchmarks in Louisiana.

"Bottom line, for much of the state, we haven't known elevations for a long time," Dokka said. His job is to "try to understand what's going on with coastal Louisiana...trying to put together the hard science, the numbers, and figure out the elevations."

The LSRC has completed a study of subsidence rates for Cameron Parish and found that it, along with SW Louisiana, is the most rapidly sinking area in the state, contrary to popular belief. Land in Cameron Parish has been sinking at an average rate of 1/2 inch per year since 1965. In 40 years that adds up to 20 inches. In 72 years, most of the parish could be at or below sea level, Dokksaid.

One result of this sinking is that the area is now much more vulnerable to hurricane storm surge. "If Hurricane Audrey came today, water would be pushed much farther," Dokk reported. He believes South Louisiana needs a levee for protection.

A bulletin from LSRC states, "Currently, 25 to 35

square miles of wetland per year are lost in Louisiana due to ground subsidence and coastal erosion. Cities and cultures are at risk of losing their land and having to relocate. Flooding and sea level rise threaten the coastal region, most of which is only three feet above sea level.

"Flood plain models and evacuation plans, developed using outdated elevations, put the citizens of the low-lying areas at great risk during heavy rains...Problems with historic surveys, land movement, and sea level rise have made the current vertical geodetic control in Louisiana obsolete, inaccurate, and unable to ensure safety."

The LSRC's mission is "height modernization" using GPS measurements and ten new Continuously Operating Receiving Stations (CORS) around the state. Dokk would like to place a CORS in Cameron for accuracy. The new data will help surveyors establish elevations accurately, allow farmers to plan for irrigation and chemical application, and alert safety planners to sinking storm evacuation routes.

It also adds another component to the wetlands loss picture. According to Dokka, this subsidence is due to a bending of the earth's crust caused by the weight of tons of silt deposited along the coast.

This type of subsidence cannot be stopped; it is a natural phenomenon. Shifting salt deposits and faults in the Lake Charles area, which move as fast as any in North America, have accelerated the

changes in Calcasieu. The bending effect stops around Oakdale. The result has been that places that didn't flood before are now flooding and fresh water marshes are turning salty.

Height modernization is funded through the NOAA Geodesy Program, and is taking place in California, Louisiana, Mississippi, North and South Carolina, and Wisconsin.

Who's who to be published

The Cameron Pilot's 2004 Who's Who Edition will be published on Aug. 12, according to Jeffra DeViney, advertising manager.

The section will carry stories and photographs on Cameron Parish businesses, organizations, churches, etc.

Anyone wishing to reserve space in this addition should contact DeViney by July 23. Phone 1-800-256-7323 or 337-786-8004.

Baby is born in Mexico

While visiting relatives in Veracruz Mexico, Rosario (Charo) Hebert, wife of Keith Hebert of Cameron, gave early birth to a baby girl, Sara Marie Hebert, on June 18.

Both baby and mother are doing fine. The family will travel to Mexico City this week to get Sara's U. S. papers at the American Embassy.

The family hopes to be home after this holiday weekend.

Officials to be sworn in to office Thursday

Three Cameron Parish public officials--two of them new--will be sworn in to office at 10 a.m., Thursday, July 1 at the Cameron courthouse.

The ceremony will probably be held on the front steps of the courthouse.

Taking their oaths of office will be:

*Theos Duhon, who will become the parish's new Sheriff succeeding Sono

Savoie who is retiring.

*Suzanne Sturlese, who will be the new Registrar of Voters, succeeding Ruby Kelley, who is retiring.

*Carl Broussard, who will begin his third term as Clerk of Court. Broussard was re-elected without opposition.

Although police jurors and other parish officials took office Jan. 1, these three offi-

cials take office on July 1 to coincide with the beginning of the new fiscal year.

Sheriff deputies and employees of the Clerks office will also be sworn in, although some may take their oaths a day or two early.

A fourth parish official, Assessor Bobby Conner, who was re-elected to a sixth term last fall, will not start his new term until Jan. 1, 2005.

Theos Duhon, 1st new sheriff in 24 years, takes office Thurs.

By CYNDI SELLERS

Cameron Parish's first new Sheriff in 24 years takes office today, July 1. Theos Duhon, of Sweetlake, brings almost 34 years of law enforcement experience to the position. He served 9 years and 10 months with the Calcasieu Sheriff's Department and joined the Cameron S.O. in 1980 as Chief Criminal Investigator for Sheriff Sono Savoie.

Duhon says his biggest immediate challenge will be money. Two special law enforcement taxes, one for 2 mills and one for 8 mills, come up for renewal this fall.



Sheriff Theos Duhon

Together the income they bring in accounts for almost half of the department's budget.

Liability insurance has gone up \$48,000 this year, gasoline costs have increased by almost 50%, and tax revenue was cut by about \$50,000 when a large business left the parish last year.

Duhon has a lot of plans for the future. He wants to get more portable radios into patrol cars, and maybe some computers if funds can be found. In four or five years a new statewide communications system will allow all emergency agencies to talk to each other.

This homeland security initiative will probably have some federal money to support it. All existing radios will have to be replaced to accommodate the new system.

Duhon says he will be pursuing grants for equipment and training. In fact, two deputies have already attended a school on Elderly Abuse courtesy of a grant. Deputies Milton Collins and Chris Savoie have already started using the information for education.

Public education will be a strong focus for the upcoming term. Identity Theft classes have already been held, and seatbelt requirement classes are planned for the near future. The state has donated some infant seats to distribute with the classes. Firearms locks are available now and have been distributed around the parish.

Appointments: Sheriff Duhon ended the suspense and announced his pick for Chief Deputy today. He is Ron Johnson, of Cameron, who has been an investigator for a number of years and has been assuming greater responsibility lately.

Other personnel matters are pressing as Duhon begins his term since his entire civil division has just retired. Danny Laverne has been

Cont. on Page 4.

Death was not foul play here

By CYNDI SELLERS

The Cameron Sheriff's Office has released the following statement regarding the death of a local man last month.

"The body of Clyde Dewitt Doxey was found in the canal just west of Lambert Bayou Wier at 12:18 p.m. on May 27, 2001. This was in Cameron Parish northeast of Cameron Court-house.

"Clyde was a native of Cameron Parish, born on January 27, 1977, 27 years of age. He was residing in Lake Charles at the time of his death. The cause of death was drowning according to the coroner.

"No foul play is suspected after an investigation from the Cameron Sheriff's Dept. A copy of the investigation report is being submitted to the District Attorney's office and the Federal Bureau of Investigations since the death occurred on a Federal Refuge."

Boat safety class planned

The Creole Recreation District #7 Board will sponsor a free boating safety class Saturday, Aug. 7 at the Creole Multi-Purpose Building. The class will be held from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., and is open to all students 13 years and older.

Anyone born after January 1, 1988 is required to have certification in order to operate a watercraft, which is 10 hp or more as well as a wave runner. Wildlife and Fisheries will teach the class. Anyone interested should call Angelia Conner at 775-5516 prior to the class to register.

Have a safe and happy Fourth of July weekend.



Library tells programs for the week

Because of the July 4th holidays, next week's Cameron Parish Library Summer Reading Program schedule has been changed.

David LeBouef will put on a show including storytelling, puppets and magic on July 6 at the Johnson Bayou Branch at 10 a.m. and Hackberry Branch at 2 p.m.

The Harvey Rabbit and Friends Puppet Show will be put on July 7 at the Cameron Main Library at 10 a.m. and the Grand Lake Branch at 2 p.m.

This show will be put on July 8 at the Johnson Bayou Branch at 10 a.m. and at the Hackberry Branch at 2 p.m.

Children of all ages are invited to the free programs.

Drive closed

According to Assistant Refuge Manager Mike Hoff, the Pintail Wildlife Drive at Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge is temporarily closed.

Rainfall totals for the year are 14 inches above average at the refuge headquarters. Due to this rainfall and saturated soils, the shoulder of the wildlife drive has slipped into the canal.

The Pintail Wildlife Drive will remain closed until the road shoulder can be repaired. Repairs should be completed by mid-July.

New Registrar of Voters has a lot of work ahead

By CYNDI SELLERS

Cameron Parish's new Registrar of Voters Suzanne Sturlese, of Creole, is looking forward to an interesting tenure of office.

In her previous four and a half years as Deputy Registrar she has seen the first electronic voting machines, voter registration by mail, voting by fax, the parish's first recall election, and record absentee voting.

In the next few months, changes in the voting laws will be implemented, and eventually, all voting machines in the parish will be

replaced with electronic machines.

With the strong support of her husband, Wayne, their three daughters, and six grandchildren, Sturlese says "I will try to do my utmost to continue to keep the Registrar's office running as well as it has in the past."

To help in this task, she has already appointed a Chief Deputy, Michelle Richard of Creole. Richard, formerly of Images photography studio and Farm Bureau, is looking forward to learning the job. She and husband Philip have three children.



AN OPEN HOUSE held Friday, June 25, at the Cameron Court House honored several persons who will retire on July 1. Pictured holding their plaques are (l-r) Registrar of Voters Ruby Kelly, Sheriff Sono Savoie, and Sheriff's Department employees Mary Cockrell, Robert Primeaux, Sanders LaBove, and George Kelly. Refreshments were provided by the Court House staff, from many offices. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers)



SUZANNE STURLESE, left, will assume her new position as Cameron Registrar of Voters on Thursday. She is shown with Michelle Richard, whom she has named as Chief Deputy Registrar. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers)

Lagniappe Two Retirement Home Living Notes

By Geneva Griffith



"Rain, rain go away - come again some other day" certainly applies to us here in the village. We have had rain every day for ages, which means we are house bound, as it is dangerous to walk on wet pavement. Beau, my dog, and I have about had it with television.

I am now a member of the "Red Hatters" club, here at the village, and have been to my first meeting. We met in the club house and went out to eat together at O'Henry's, a new restaurant in town. That is something the club is good at - trying out the good restaurants.

The aim of the club is to get with other clubs and plan trips and get-aways.

We all wear red hats and purple outfits (trousers or dresses) to our meetings and always draw plenty of stares from other customers at the various cafes we try out.

It doesn't take a lot of fun, at this age, to please us. It's amazing to see what some club members have come up with. For instance, one has made a darling hat of a table napkin and a bunch of artificial silk flowers.

Leslie's wife, Peggy, called to tell me that her daughter, Kherry, had just delivered a son in Houston and they had named him Sloan. So that means I now have two great-grandchildren this year -- McCall and Sloan. I have so much to be thankful for.

Precht is on honor list

Natalie Precht, daughter of Donna and Charles Precht of Grand Lake, was named to the Chancellor's List for having a 4.0 average for the Fall 2002, Spring 2003 and Spring 2004 semesters at L.S.U.

She was also on the Dean's List for the Fall 2003 semester.

She was the 2002 Grand Lake High School valedictorian and is enrolled in the Arts and Science Dept. at LSU.

(The Pilot had previously overlooked Natalie's achievements as LSU has her listed with a Bell City address.)

Let Freedom Ring!



Have a Safe and Fun Fourth of July.

Installation is held by Pavell KCs

On June 21, District Deputy Jeff Hanchey with the assistance of Alex Clostio, installed the new officers of F. J. Pavell Knights of Columbus Council 8323 of Johnson Bayou-Holly Beach for the 2004-05 fraternal year.

The officers are Ray Young, Grand Knight; Ricky Romero, Deputy Grand Knight; Tommy Pease, Chancellor; Barry Badon, Recorder; Gerald Touchet, Financial Secretary; Edmond Trahan, Treasurer; Rev. Roland Vaughn, Advocate and Chaplain; Farrell Bland-chard, Warden; Tim Trahan, Inside Guard; Maurice Rivet, Outside Guard; Lecturer Gerald Touchet and Sonny McGee, Glenn Trahan, Heath Jinks, Trustees.

The council held its monthly meeting after the installation, selecting Aaron (Bubba) Lagneaux as Knight of the Month and Tommy and Mable Pease as Family of the Month. The next KC meeting will be Monday, July 19, at 6:15 with the Rosary, 6:30 meal prepared by Sonny McGee and 7 p.m., meeting.

The KC Senior Citizen Bingo will be Monday, July 12, at 9:30 a.m. at the JB Fire Station. KC Bingo is set for July 11, with jackpots of \$1,000 and \$1,400 and July 25, at 2 p.m. at Assumption Hall in Johnson Bayou.

A community blood drive, sponsored by the council is scheduled for Monday, Oct. 25, from 2-6 p.m. at Johnson Bayou High School. A fund raising barbecue is planned for Saturday, Sept. 4, (Labor



THESE WERE the new officers of the F. J. Pavell Knights of Columbus council of Johnson Bayou-Holly Beach who were installed on June 21: Front row, from left: District Deputy Jeff Hanchey, Tommy Pease, Ricky Romero, Rev. Roland Vaughn, Ray Young, Alex Clostio. Back row: Debbie & Maurice Rivet, Alberta & Edmond Trahan, Caige, Brandy, & Heath Jinks, Terry & Ricky Menard, Margaret Young, Farrell Blanchard, Tim Trahan, and Gerald & Linda Touchet.

Day weekend) at the Holly Beach Fire Station. Funds will be used to facilitate the many council, community, church, family and youth projects for the year.

It was announced that the council selected Christopher Welch as the recipient of the \$1600 Patti Domatti Scholarship Fund for this year. Chaplain Rev. Roland Vaughn made the presentation at the Johnson Bayou High School graduation in May. Each recipient receives \$200 for each 8 semesters in college. Christopher is planning to attend LSU.

The council has been responsible for several improvement project at Holy Trinity Chapel in Holly Beach. It funded and provided labor (KC members including Ray Young, Tim Trahan, Maurice Rivet, Heath Jinks, Ricky Romero and volunteer Lynwood Trahan) for cementing the front and side

entrances to the church. Ray and Lynwood also worked on repairing siding on the church, while Aaron Lagneaux patched a leaky roof.

Workers are needed for Marsh Fest

Workers are needed to help at the Marshland Festival to be held July 30-Aug. 1 at Burton Coliseum in Lake Charles.

Anyone wishing to help should contact the Hackberry Catholic Rectory.

Birth told

COOPER JUDE DEVALL
Brandon and Mary Ellen Devall of Hackberry announced the birth of a son, Cooper Jude, June 4, 2004 at Women & Children Hospital in Lake Charles. He weighed 6 lbs., 8 ozs.

Grandparents are James and Lana Devall of Hackberry and Sue Ellen Yates of Sulphur.

Great-grandparents are Alfred Devall of Hackberry and Annie Hennington of Sulphur.

The couple has one other child, Mikala, 4.

Have a Safe and Happy Fourth of July

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 Friday, July 2 -- 9 p.m. - 1 a.m.
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Saturday, July 3 -- 9 p.m. - 1 a.m.
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Forms may be picked up at these businesses:
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 Kute Stuff Originals - Westlake, La.
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If you have questions or need a form mailed to you call: 433-4661, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

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2004-2005 Cameron Lions Club Officers are, from left, Cecil Sanner, Lion Tamer; Penelope Richard, Immediate Past President; JoDee Roberts, President; Nannette Daigle, Treasurer; Dinah Landry, second Vice President/Secretary; Willie Daigle, first Vice President. Not pictured are Theos Duhon, third Vice President and Yvonne Mhire, Tail Twister.

Grand Lake-Lake Charles students are pen pals

This past school year, Mrs. Donna Precht's and Mrs. Valarie Precht's fifth grade students of Grand Lake School participated in a penpal exchange with an inner-city school in Lake Charles. Students corresponded throughout the year with other fifth grade students of John F. Kennedy Elementary.

The students discovered throughout the year that, although diverse in many ways, they all share common interests and relate with each other on various social issues.

Every major holiday was celebrated by an exchange of some kind -- poetry, cards, etc. The classes prepared and shared activities across the curriculum, for example, J. F. Kennedy made heart glyphs at Valentine's Day and GLS students responded by creating and sending shamrock glyphs for St. Patrick's Day.

At the end of the school

year, Grand Lake students went to Kennedy school to meet their pen pals. Games involving both classes were played, lunch was served, and friends were united.

Kennedy, in turn, paid a visit to Grand Lake and experienced rural life. Mr. Gary Poole's Agriculture class allowed the classes to visit the barn and interact with various farm animals. The students viewed student-created Power Point presentations, and ate picnic lunches with each other. This was a novel experience for city kids.

The goal of this cultural exchange was to involve two groups of socially diverse students in activities designed to foster acceptance and understanding of different ways of life.

Both Grand Lake and J. F. Kennedy found this project to be a successful one and plan to continue it in the future.

Natural gas plans told

By **SONNY MARKS**
AMERICAN PRESS

There will be an open house next month for the public to learn more about the proposed Gulf Landing liquefied natural gas port in the Gulf of Mexico, 38 miles south of Cameron.

The Coast Guard and Maritime Administration will hold the open house 2-4 p.m., Jul 15, at the Courtyard by Marriott in Lafayette.

The Coast Guard and Maritime Administration reported that Gulf Landing "would be capable of storing up to 200,000 cubic meters of LNG and vaporizing up to 1.2 billion cubic feet per day."

Shell's plan is to build, own and operate five pipelines that would connect with existing pipelines in the Gulf. "Gas would then be delivered to the onshore national pipeline grid for delivery to any consumption market east of the Rocky Mountains," reported the Coast Guard and Maritime Administration.

"The project would consist of two concrete gravity-based structures, living quarters and a ship-berthing system.

Gulf Landing would be able to receive and unload up to 135 LNG tankers per year.

DUHON

Cont. from page 1

appointed Chief Civil Deputy, replacing Robert Primeaux. Tammy Gaspard and Larry Broussard will round out the civil office.

Duhon said each will be trained to do all of the duties of the civil office - court bailiff, seizures, and serving papers. He said all three have graduated from the Training Academy and are fully qualified to take care of any situation that may arise.

Deputy Gaspard will also be available to assist in special cases involving women. Duhon says he has no problem with women working patrol if they are qualified and can handle it. "Law enforcement is changing, and we have to change with the times," he says.

Also in many situations involving women suspects, having a female officer present could be a big help.

Other changes in the department's structure will be implemented overtime. For example, investigators will work a 5 and 2 shift, allowing more continuity in follow-up on cases. He plans to assign two full-time narcotics officers and looks to acquire a drug dog in the future; however, a trained K-9 unit will cost between \$6,000 and \$10,000, so finances will have to be available.

Before other changes are announced Sheriff Duhon wants to get through the July 4 weekend, which is always very busy.

Letter to the editor

Dear Editor:

I wish to acknowledge all the persons who have supported me during the past 24 years that I have served as Chief Civil Deputy and Court Bailiff for the Cameron Parish Sheriff's Department.

I especially want to thank my wife, Jean, for her sacrifices and Sheriff Sono for placing his trust and confidence in me.

Thank you to all those individuals for providing the open house retirement function last Friday at the Courthouse, honoring those retiring June 30.

Special thanks to my wife Jean; children, Chad and grandson, Jordan; Michelle and husband Brett with granddaughter, Brenna; Phillip and his fiancée Dawn; my mother-in-law, Bertha; my cousin, Marion, and all those who came last Friday to help me celebrate my retirement.

Also, thanks to Judge Fontenot and District Attorney Cecil Sanner and their staff for the recognition in open court today for myself and George Kelley as bailiffs for the 38th Judicial District Court.

Thanks to all co-workers at Cameron Courthouse for the memories. I wish you the best in the future. My retirement plans are to relax and be home with my wife and family.

May God Bless each of you.

/s/ Robert G. Primeaux

Confined list being compiled

Cameron Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is now registering parish residents who are confined to home in bed and would need ambulance transportation in case of a storm evacuation.

If you or your family member will need ambulance transportation in case of a hurricane evacuation, please contact the EMS office at 542-4926.

Contact information will be filed along with any special needs the patient will require enroute. The patient's destination must be prearranged and be within a reasonable distance, and a caretaker should be at the location.

Evacuations from private residences will be scheduled around hospital transports, but should be completed well before inclement weather occurs.

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ing.





CAMERON LIONS CLUB President Penelope Richard is pictured with 2004 Cameron Lions Club Golf Tournament Gross Winners Pat Brown and Darrell Williams. Not pictured are the second place winners, Cameron Communications Team.

Shrimping season ends in the Cameron parish area

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Secretary Dwight Landreneau announced the closure of the 2004 spring shrimp season in inside waters within portions of Shrimp Management Zone 3. Zone 3 is that portion of Louisiana's inside waters from the western shore of Vermilion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island to the Louisiana-Texas state line.

Zone 3 will close at 6 a.m. Tuesday, June 29, except for that portion of the Calcasieu Ship Channel originating at Channel Marker 68 southward to a point along the inside/outside shrimp line at Calcasieu Pass and including East Pass from its origin at the Calcasieu Ship Channel to the south end of Calcasieu Lake and West Pass from its origin at the Calcasieu Ship Channel to the south end of West Cove which will remain open until Tuesday, July 6, at 6:00 a.m.

The closure was based on recommendations made by LDWF Marine Fisheries Division biologists. The relative number, percentage and distribution of small white shrimp immigrating into the areas to be closed has

increased substantially in the past week and the region is being closed to protect these developing shrimp.

According to Michael Harbison, Biologist Supervisor of the region, the seven-day season extension limited to the Calcasieu Ship Channel should provide shrimpers with opportunities to harvest immigrating brown shrimp during a period of high tidal ranges predicted for the next full moon.

Shrimpers are advised that the Department may take emergency action to end the season extension should biological data indicate the need to do so or if enforcement problems develop.

Effective 6:00 a.m. July 6, all inshore waters from the South Pass of the Mississippi River to the Louisiana-Texas state line, except for a portion of the Calcasieu Ship Channel are closed to the harvest of shrimp. Zone 1 will remain open until further notice. State territorial waters south of the Inside-Outside Shrimp Line, as described in Louisiana R.S. 56:495, will remain open to shrimping.

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WHO'S WHO

2004 EDITION

To Be Published In
Cameron Parish Pilot on Thurs.
August 12, 2004

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