

BISHOP GLEN PROVOST of the Lake Charles Diocese, assisted by Fr. Ruben Buller and Fr. Joe McGrath, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Creole, read Psalm 103 and blessed the Habitat for Humanity house dedicated on Saturday in Cameron.

(Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)

Habitat for Humanity dedicates home here

By **CYNDI SELLERS**

Calcasieu Area Habitat for Humanity dedicated a new house in Cameron on Saturday, built on the site of the former home of Dr. Cecil Clark. The new owners are Cecil and Leslie Clark.

The Clarks were chosen through an application process, and the Board didn't even know that they were of the same family that originally lived on the site.

It was the first house the organization has built outside Calcasieu Parish and the first it has ever built on pilings, which posed certain challenges according to Habitat's Board President Bob Shannon.

"We are really appreciative of the Catholic Daughters, Swift Energy, and all the volunteers who worked on the house for their perseverance," Shannon said.

While most Habitat houses are built over a short period of time in "blitz builds," the Clark house took several months, due partly to the distance from Lake Charles where most of the volunteers are located and to the type of construction, which posed many challenges to volunteer workers.

Louisiana Catholic Daughters were the sponsoring agency for the new house, the result of a bequest given to the state chapter. Vicky Broussard, National Director for Louisiana Catholic Daughters, said the state convention voted early in 2005 to start a Habitat for Humanity fund with the gift.

When Katrina, and then Rita, came along later in the year, the state officers decided to first build a home in Cameron, and then to build one in New Orleans.

Their funds were combined with a grant from the national Catholic Daughters, Habitat for Humanity, and Swift Energy of Houston to purchase the materials.

Volunteers from Catholic Daughters, Americorps, youth groups, and the Reformed Church of America worked with project managers Chester Jones and Brian Kingsnorth and skilled volunteers from the Calcasieu Habitat for Humanity organization.

Barry Turcotte, representing Swift Energy, said employee donations, matched by company funds, have contributed to building several Habitat houses over the years, and they were happy to be able to help in Cameron Parish.

Habitat for Humanity chooses its owners based on three factors: need, ability to pay a 25 year note, and willingness to contribute 300 hours of "sweat equity" working on their house, another house, or another with non-profit organization. The no-interest mortgage includes principle, insurance, and taxes. As with any other mortgage, the land, either purchased by Habitat or donated, is included in the note.

On hand for the dedication was Bishop Glen John Provost of the Diocese of Lake Charles, who said he couldn't think of a better way to celebrate his birthday than the dedication of a home.

The bishop read from Psalm 103 about God's power and provision, led the assembly in prayer, and blessed the house. He was assisted by Fr. Joseph McGrath, pastor of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, and Fr. Ruben Buller.

Louisiana Catholic Daughters State Regent Alice Tassin said the house was a "work of love." Members from all over Southwest Louisiana helped with the building. Immediate Past Regent Sylvia Waits led the litany of dedication.

Get ready! the mosquitoes are coming

By **CYNDI SELLERS**

Tropical Storm Edouard left another legacy besides storm damage. Cameron Parish residents are experiencing higher mosquito populations that they have seen all summer throughout the parish, due to the storm's surge and heavy rains, according to Cameron Mosquito Control biologist Josh Hightower.

He also reports that spraying has been difficult due to high winds and rain over the past several nights, but efforts are being focused on the worst hit areas first whenever the weather allows.

Hightower said staff has been working day and night, checking traps and landing rates and trying to spray any areas possible.

Salt marsh and rice field mosquitoes are strong fliers and can travel up to 20-30 miles per day. As many people already know, salt marsh mosquitoes are especially aggressive.

Hightower recommends those who must be outside during the outbreak wear light colored, long protective clothing, avoid using perfumes or strong scents, and apply a repellent containing at least 29% DEET.

He said most of the pests are coming from marshes and pastures, but he recommends that homeowners empty any containers with standing water every three days. Such containers can breed 100-1000 mosquitoes a day, he said.

The threat of West Nile virus is not great at this time, because it takes about two weeks for the virus to build up in a mosquito's body to a point that it can be transmitted. (Mosquitoes can live up to a month.) However, it only takes one infected mosquito to make someone sick, so precautions are advised.

To report severe infestations, the public is urged to call the office at 905-5941.

Donations sought to aid family

Donations are being accepted for the family of Joe Young, Brown Neighborhood Market employee, who was involved in a major accident on Saturday, Aug. 2 at the store. He was accidentally backed over by a vehicle in the parking lot.

"Mr. Joe," as customers know him, was air lifted to a Houston Trauma Center due to multiple life threatening injuries. He will be there for several months for multiple surgeries.

You may make donations at any branch of the Cameron State Bank to the account: The Vineyard Christian Fellowship for the benefit of the family of Joe Young.

If you have any questions please contact: Carol Benoit at 274-9727 or Nicole Coleman at 513-5538.



THE HARDWORKING weigh station crew of the Cameron Saltwater Fishing Festival is shown above, from left: George Melancon, Karen McCall, Jennifer Melancon, Sydnee McCall, and Vida Landry. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)

Alternative schools are approved for the parish

By **CYNDI SELLERS**

Students heading back to school this week should be aware of new consequences for misbehavior. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education has approved the Cameron Parish School Board's plan for alternative schools for suspended students, it was announced Monday afternoon during the Board's regular meeting.

Under the plan, alternative school sites, required by the state for all parishes, will be available at Hackberry and Grand Lake Schools.

Students who are under suspension may attend the special classrooms and complete assigned work without losing class credit. Attendance is optional, but those who do not attend will receive zeros for the days

they are suspended.

Bus transportation will be provided from Johnson Bayou and South Cameron Schools for the students, who must ride their regular bus route to their school first.

All suspended students will be housed in the same classroom, a practice which is followed in most parishes, according to School Superintendent Stephanie Rodrigue.

There will be two adults in the room at all times. Students will eat breakfast and lunch in the lunchroom when no other students are eating.

While in alternative school, students will not be allowed to participate in any extra-curricular or co-curricular activities or to attend any of their school's functions.

Students who are sus-

pending toward the end of the school day will remain isolated at their school for the remainder of the day and attend the alternative school the following day.

It was estimated that the Grand Lake alternative school sees as many as 200 students through the year, with Hackberry having less because of the lower student population.

FINANCIAL ACTIONS

High bids for hunting leases raised eyebrows and spirits at the meeting. Several areas were advertised for lease, and the high-lights were \$12,944 for Section 16-14-7 from Greer Oaks, LLC; \$21,626.51 for Section 16-15-4 from Robert Wimer, Jr.; and \$31,050 for Section 16-14-13 from Hackberry Rod and Gun.

Cont. on Page 2.

Haynie variance denied by Police Jury Monday

By **CYNDI SELLERS**

The Cameron Parish Police Jury held its regular voting meeting on Monday, Aug. 11, having been postponed from Aug. 4 by Tropical Storm Edouard. A storm of another kind was dealt with during the meeting as a variance request by Mac Haynie for a business in Creole was denied.

The variance request by Ebenezer Baptist Church of Cameron was tabled until a meeting could be set up between the pastor, Rev. Lannis Joseph, and FEMA representatives who are expected to meet with parish officials in September regarding flood plain management issues. Jennifer Jones has been working to arrange the meeting to discuss agricultural and accessory buildings, and possibly mobile homes.

Ebenezer Baptist Church is one of the oldest churches in the parish, having recently celebrated its 117th anniversary. The reduced congregation wants to rebuild, but elevation costs, handicapped requirements, and space constraints made it necessary to request a

variance, Joseph said.

Juror Thomas McDaniel again stated his belief that all variance requests should be considered equal, and if one is given then all should be given. Other jurors were concerned that a letter from FEMA Region 6 clearly implied that granting a variance for economic reasons would not meet their criteria and the parish would then have to choose whether to remain in the National Flood Insurance Program.

Juror Darryl Farque pointed out that many people would have their loans called in if they couldn't get insurance, affecting possible thousands of people.

McDaniel and Scott Trahan were the only two jurors to vote for Haynie's

variance, all others voted against, with president Sonny McGee abstaining. McGee said Haynie had made a good point about the need for businesses in the area, and the Jury would continue to take the issue to FEMA and the Congress.

ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

At long last, the contract for overlay of Trosclear Road, between Cameron and Oak Grove, was approved. The \$1.9 million contract was awarded to R. E. Heidt Construction. The funds will come from a Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) grant. CIAP grants are designed to repair damage caused by oil and gas activities in coastal areas.

NAACP banquet is 23rd

The Cameron Parish NAACP's 30th annual freedom awards banquet will be held Saturday, Aug. 23 at 3 p.m. at the Martin Luther King Center, 2008 N. Simmons Street, Lake Charles.

The program is as follows: Invocation - Edgar Wise, Sixth Street Baptist Church, Port Arthur, Tex., Entertainment - Youth Ministry, Sixth Street Baptist Church, under the direction of Mrs. Mae Lois Streeter.

Introduction of Cameron Parish Branch President, Mrs. Louise Cole, Rev. Wayne Morris, First Vice President of the Cameron Parish Branch NAACP. Introduction of Guest

Speaker - Mrs. Louise Cole. Guest Speaker - Dr. Ernest Johnson, President of the Louisiana State Conference NAACP and a member of the NAACP National Board of Directors.

Appeals and Gifts - Allen Semien, Businessman, Baton Rouge and Charles Z. Cole, Secretary of the Cameron NAACP, Benediction - Dr. Ernest Johnson.

Cameron NAACP officers are Mrs. Louise Cole, President; Rev. Wayne Morris, First Vice President; Charles Cole, Secretary; Mrs. Mary Cockrell, Treasurer; Mrs. Margaret McArthur, Assistant Secretary; Michael McArthur, Executive Committee Member.



CECIL AND LESLIE Clark are the owners of this new home, built by SWLA Habitat for Humanity and the Louisiana Catholic Daughters. It was the first house Habitat has built on pilings, and presented special challenges to the builders. The house stands on the site of the home of Clark's father, the late Dr. Cecil Clark, well remembered for his heroism during Hurricane Audrey. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)



CAMERON COMMUNICATIONS Public Relations Coordinator, Trina Johnson presented a \$1,000 check to Carl Broussard for the Cameron Saltwater Fishing Festival. The fishing festival was held at the Grand Chenier Park on Aug. 8 and 9.



A TORNADO touched down in Johnson Bayou on Friday, Aug. 8 causing damage to Johnson Bayou High School and several cars. (Photo by Paul Sellers.)



REPRESENTATIVES OF Habitat for Humanity, Louisiana Catholic Daughters, the Diocese of Lake Charles, and Swift Energy assembled to dedicate the first house built in Cameron Parish by Habitat for Humanity. The homeowners are Cecil and Leslie Clark. Shown above are (front row, from left) Barry Turcotte (Swift Energy), Jeannie Goodeaux, Joyce Stein, Pat Myers; (middle row) Cecil and Leslie Clark, Bishop Glen Provost, Fr. Joseph McGrath, Vickie Broussard, Catholic Daughters State Regent Alice Tassin, Chester Jones, and Jennifer Parker; (back row) Clint Helmke (Swift Energy), Gloria Newman, immediate Past Regent Sylvia Waits, and Brian Kingsnorth. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)

SCHOOLS

Cont from Page 1

The Board was advised that \$2 million had been placed in a Certificate of Deposit in a local bank, the interest rates having come closer to other institutions.

Higher costs of food preparation required the Board to raise the cost of guest meals in school cafeterias to \$2.10 for breakfast and \$4.15 for lunch. Student and faculty/staff meals remain the same as last year. The search for a new auditing firm resulted in a decision to enter into a contract with Kelder, Champagne, Slaven, and Co. of Abbeville, pending the company's final decision to take on another school system and final financial arrangements.

Rodrigue said the firm

has considerable school and FEMA accounting experience, and has associates in the SWLA area. She said fees would be comparable to those of the former firm.

FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS

The Board agreed to appoint architect Randall D. Broussard to provide engineering and architectural services for repairs and additional to all athletic fields and accessory buildings at all four Cameron Parish schools.

Broussard will provide designs and estimates for a softball field and track repairs at Johnson Bayou, a Softball field, track repairs, and gym expansion at Grand Lake, track and rodeo arena repairs and possible gym expansion at Hackberry, and completion of the baseball field, concession stand and restrooms at South Cameron (the former SCES site).

A spread sheet will be provided to the Board so they can prioritize the projects. Most of the funding will come from the Special Projects fund, some from FEMA, and there may be other resources, said Rodrigue.

PERSONNEL

Resignations were accepted from Beth Ferguson, Grand Lake teacher; Corrina Hoffpauir, Grand Lake sweeper; Carole Fetters, Johnson Bayou teacher; Stephanie Coleman, South Cameron teacher; and Laurie Miller, Johnson Bayou Registered Nurse. Resignation for retirement was accepted from Beverly Thomas, South Cameron aide, effective Aug. 28.

Numerous teachers, nurses, aides, sweepers and bus drivers were appointed in preparation for the beginning of school.

VARIANCE

Cont from Page 1

The Jury approved two resolutions to put before the Region 7 annual meeting of SWLA parishes next month. One is to raise 8 miles of Hwy. 384 near Boone's Corner in Grand Lake 10-12 inches to protect from flooding. The other is to make Fournerat Road from Hwy 384 to Ward Line Road a hurricane evacuation route, based on the increased population of the Grand Lake area and the poor quality of the road.

Repairs to Holly Beach roads were accepted as complete, with a final adjustment of an additional amount of \$328,700 for quantities of materials. The repairs are to be reimbursed by FEMA.

Advertisement for bids on raising Little Chenier Road where it goes underwater was approved. The project will be funded by another CIAP grant.

CHENIERE BOND ISSUE

The issuance of bonds, to be paid for with proceeds from the Cheniere tax prepayment program, is about to happen. The Jury voted to sign the resolution authorizing the bond issue, with the exception of the portion for Mosquito Abatement District 1.

The Mosquito Abatement Board was in a meeting at the same time ironing out the final shape of their part of the bond issue. The Jury was reluctant to be responsible for more than the amount of the Cheniere PILOT income, so that part was deleted. The Board can come back later with a proposal for its bond issue, however.

APPOINTMENTS

Two new members were appointed to the Mosquito Abatement Board, with terms to take effect starting Aug. 15, as provided by the state legislature during the spring session. Paul Sellers was appointed for 3 years and



CHESTER JONES, of SWLA Habitat for Humanity, presented Cecil and Leslie Clark with the keys to their new house and a hammer representing the work that went into it. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)

Marck Smythe for 2 years.

Grant Gremillion was appointed to fill the position vacated by the resignation of Alex "Black" Seay on the Gravity Dist. #9 board. Jerry Goss was appointed to the Waterworks Dist #11, replacing Andre Abadie, who resigned. Carlton LeBlanc was appointed to Recreation Dist. #6, replacing Mary Clark.

Anthony Swire and Joe Devall were re-appointed to Gravity Dist. #5 and the West Cal-Cam Hospital boards, respectively.

OTHER BUSINESS

Juror Kirk Burleigh announced efforts to place an ambulance in Cameron. He said he is working with Ambulance District #1 to try to get one of its ambulances posted to the town of Cameron, due to the level of construction and industry there, but the District says they would have to buy a new ambulance and hire four people to do so.

Scott Trahan presented a resolution designating the site of the former LSU AgCenter office in Cameron as the site for the replacement. The model "Chenier House" was supposed to be built over a year ago, but for several reasons construction has not begun. Trahan wanted to clarify that the building, which is to house the extension office, should be built on the original site. The office is currently located in Grand Lake in a temporary building.

Parish Planning and Development Director Ernie Broussard reported that the land use (zoning) plan is almost ready, with completion of the draft maps due next week. The plan was prepared with input gained in several community meetings around the parish. The draft plan will be studied by jurors and presented at public meetings for input before a final plan is presented for adoption by the Jury, Broussard said.

Broussard also reported that \$144,000 will be available to the parish through LGAP funds this year, and asked for input on what to spend it on. Previous LGAP grants have gone to drainage, water meters, and parish road equipment.

He said his office has been in meetings with interested developers and the state concerning the Cameron waterfront and ship channel. He

G. Chenier Library News

Please come join us for the different activities we have at the Grand Chenier Library.

"Crossword Daze" 10 a.m. daily.

Thursday, Aug. 14 - After School Time, Web surfing, Wii games, or Karaoke 4 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 15 - Inside and outside games 1-3 p.m.

Monday, Aug. 18 - Story time with puppets 1-2 p.m., Low Impact Walking Program 2 p.m.

Tuesday, Aug. 19 - Fitness Programs, Elmocize for Children 1 p.m., Low Impact Walking Program 2 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 20 - Story time with puppets 1 p.m., Low Impact Walking Program 2 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 21 - After school time, Web surfing, Wii games, or Karaoke 4 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 22 - La. Spirit Arts & Crafts 1-3 p.m.

Please call 538-2214 for more information about weekly programs.

also said the Corps of Engineers has agreed to extend the dredging area for the Cameron Loop to include 1000 foot approaches.

Broussard reported that the West Cameron Port Authority has requested a summary judgment from the 38th Judicial District Court in the dispute with the Lake Charles Harbor and Terminal District. A summary judgment would mean that the judge decides the case without a trial being held, based on briefs presented by both sides.

OEP Director Clifton Hebert reported that the Coast Guard is in the process of identifying storm debris for removal from parish waters. They are working on visible debris now, and will begin side-scan sonar within the next two weeks. Once all targets have been identified, a contractor will be hired to remove the items.

The parish travel mileage and meal allowances were raised to match the state level - 52 cents a mile and \$34 per day for meals. Jurors also approved a new medical insurance plan, raising the amount the parish pays so that employees will not be impacted by increased costs.

-The CAMERON PILOT- (USPS 086980)
Telephones: (337)786-8004 or (337)786-2870
 Jerry and Joy Wise, Editors & Publishers; Jeffra Wise DeViney, Advertising Manager; Shirley Johnson, Production Manager; Sue Crise, Julie Fletcher, Crystal Nix, Tina Poole, Dustin Royer, and Dawn Spears, Staff Members
The Cameron Pilot, 110 Asa St., P.O. Box 1486, Cameron, La. 70631. Published Weekly. Entered as periodical mail at Cameron, La., 70631 and Lake Charles, La., 70601. Post Office, Periodical Postage paid.
POSTMASTER; Send address changes to: The Cameron Pilot, P.O. Box 995, DeQuincy, La. 70633.
Subscription Rates: \$23.00 a year (tax included) in Cameron & Calcasieu Parishes; \$25.40 elsewhere in La., \$33.60 elsewhere in USA.

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South Cameron High School News

PARENT NOTICE
Parents please sign all parent forms and send back to school with your child.

BOX TOPS
South Cameron High School Senior 4-H is collecting box tops for education and community coffee coupons. Donations can be sent to the school.

SHOW YOUR TARPON SPIRIT
SCHS Danceline is selling tarpon boxer shorts (\$15/\$16), tarpon pajama pants (\$20/\$21), and tarpon flip-flops (\$15). Boxer shorts and pajama pants will be on sale until Oct. 23. Flip-flops will be on sale until Aug. 29.

Please see any dance line member, Ms. Sheri Dubard, or Mrs. Sharon Picou. Members are Falon Welch, Devon Richard, Jerica Boudreaux, Katelyn Horn, Molly Wigley, Lakin LaBove, Taylor Canik, and Destiney Crowe.

Tarpon sunglasses are for sale in the high school office for \$5 a pair.

SCHOOL CALENDAR
Aug 14, Back to School Dance, 7-11 SCHS gym, \$3 cover charge and concession will be sold. K-12 students are invited

Aug 21, SCHS vs. Delcambre - Home (scrimmage)

School lunches told

Cameron Parish school lunch menus are as follows:
Tuesday, Aug. 12, Sloppy Joe, carrots, oven fries, oatmeal cookies, catsup, hamburger bun, milk.

Wednesday, Aug. 13, Chili dog, chili sauce, whole kernel corn, pickle wedges, apple crisp, mayonnaise, hot dog bun, milk.



CAMERON 4-H JR. Leaders enjoyed the breeze on the Galveston Ferry during their summer trip in July. Shown above, from left, were Mikalee Mooney, Jenna Conner, Samantha Williams, Katelyn Horn, Devon Richard, Ethan Nunez, and Cody Jouett. Sea Turtles, a 4D movie experience, waterpark fun and a seafood dinner were the highlights of the trip to Texas in July. While in Galveston, the teens visited the Sea Turtle Hatchery, Moody Gardens, The Historic Strand District, and Schlitterbahn waterpark. Chaperones were Janet Miller, Penny Thibodeaux and Gary Wicke.

Marcantel to serve on LCA Board

Wade Marcantel, M.Ed., LPC will serve on the Executive Board of the Louisiana Counseling Association (LCA) for 2008-09. He will serve as Co-Chair of Public Relations.

He is currently employed as a School counselor at South Cameron High School, a counselor at the Educational and Treatment Council (ETC) in Lake Charles, and a Visiting Lecturer for McNeese State University.

The Louisiana Counseling Association is a 1500 member organization that serves and represents the professional counselors in the state of Louisiana.

Thursday, Aug. 14, Hot ham & cheese, green beans, Tator Tots, Jello, hamburger bun, mayonnaise, catsup, milk.



PICTURED ARE Rebecca Monceaux and Sydney Myers, along with 4-Hers across the state, learning to lift latent fingerprints using a procedure known as "fuming". This activity was part of the Forensic Track held during 4-H LOST Camp last week. The girls were two of nine Cameron Parish 4-H participants who attended the camp to learn more about robotics, energy, rocketry, outdoor skills, and GPS navigation.

4-H members attend La. Outdoor Science and Technology Camp

Nine Cameron Parish 4-H members had the opportunity to attend the 4-H Louisiana Outdoor Science and Technology Camp (LOST Camp) held at Camp Grant Walker on Aug. 4-8.

As a part of the Louisiana 4-H SET program, camp activities were developed to improve science, math, and technology literacy in Louisiana's youth through hands-on learning experiences.

The camp's goal is to increase the number of students pursuing undergraduate degrees in science, engineering, and technology areas; thus increasing the number of young adults pur-

suing careers in these fields.

Each 4-Her participated in three-eight hour tracks intended to promote the awareness of these career choice opportunities through scientific learning and discovery.

Over the next 5 years, the Louisiana 4-H club hopes to reach an additional 25,000 new youth through the SET curriculum activities.

4-Hers attending from Cameron Parish were: Rebecca Monceaux, Sydney Myers, Ethan Nunez, Dillan Welch, Cody Trahan, Calley Conner, Shelby Conner, Bailey Richard and Cody Jouett.

McNeese fall schedule of events told

McNeese State University will welcome back students for the fall semester with its annual "Howdy Rowdy Days" from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Aug. 18-22 in the New Ranch.

The scheduled events are as follows:

Monday, Aug. 18 -- "What's Your Major?" Support offices and academic departments will staff information tables for students.

Tuesday, Aug. 19 -- "Grand Openings & Get Connected" Chartwells Food Service will offer free samples from its new dining options -- Jow Jing Asian Cuisine, Momma Leone's Italian Eatery and Einstein Brothers Bagels. The Student Government Association is sponsoring its annual fall student organizations fair.

Wednesday, Aug. 20 -- "Going Greek and Welcome Back Wednesday" Greek organizations will hand out information and the Student Union Board is hosting the Welcome Back event with food and music for students.

Thursday, Aug. 21 -- "Campus Ministries Day"

Local campus religious organizations are providing a fun day of free food and music in the Quad.

Friday, Aug. 22 -- "Community Day" Local businesses and community service agencies will be in the New Ranch with freebies and information about what is available in this area.

Meeting set for V.F.W. Post 176

Richard Brothers American Legion Post 176, of Cameron, will have its regular monthly meeting in the home of past Commander Roland Primeaux, at 258 East Creole Hwy, Creole, on Wednesday Aug. 20, at 5 p.m.

All post 176 members are urged to attend. Refreshments will be served. Contact Commander Vernon Primeaux at 802-6685 for additional information.



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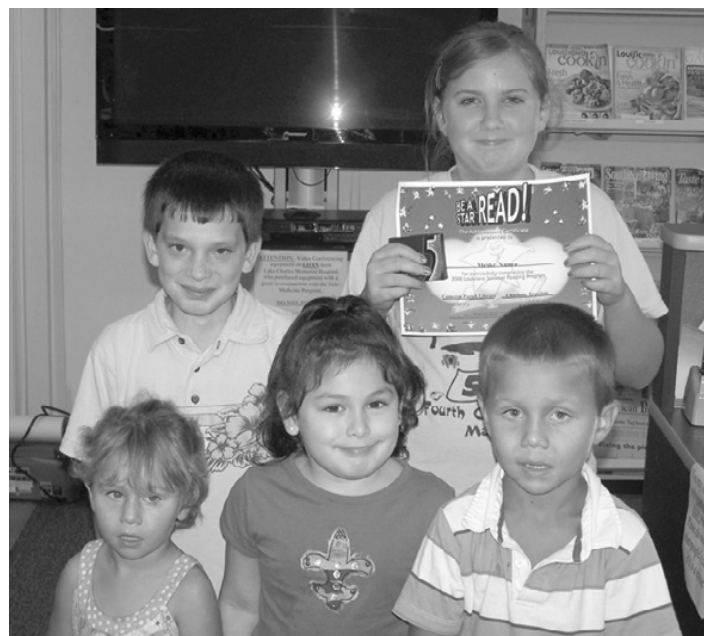
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SHOWN ARE this summer's first place winners in each of the Cameron Branch Library's Summer Reading Program categories (back row, from left) Braydon Guillory (110 books) age 8 to 10, Meike Nunez (71 books) age 11 to 13; (front row) Demi Theriot and Ceyanna Brown (38 books) tied in the birth to age 4, Hunter Theriot (38 books) age 5 to 7. Each branch library gave out reading logs for the children to write down the books they checked out from the library. The Cameron Branch Library handed out over 20 certificates to children who read this summer. All of the children who read books at the library were invited to the library to enjoy an end of summer party.

Ring week at McNeese set for Aug. 20-22

McNeese State University students and alumni can meet with representatives from Balfour Wednesday through Friday, Aug. 20-22, in the McNeese Bookstore during the Official Ring Week where they can see the rings up-close, have their fingers sized and ask questions about the Official Ring program.

A Balfour representative will be available from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 20 and from 9:30 a.m.- 2 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Aug. 21-22 and orders can be placed at the bookstore or persons can go online at www.balfourcollege.com

H. Beach improvement group meeting to be held

Holly Beach Improvement Group meetings will be held the 3rd Saturday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Holly Beach Fire Station.

All board members and the general public are invited. New officer elections will

<http://www.balfourcollege.com>

Those purchasing a ring will have the opportunity to participate in the fall ring presentation ceremony scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 9, where alumni and students will receive their rings in a ceremony detailing the meaning and symbolism of the ring.

The McNeese Official Ring is available to all alumni, undergraduate students having earned a minimum of 75 hours while pursuing a baccalaureate degree, and degree candidates for the associate, master's or specialist degree.



PICTURED ABOVE are the winners of the Be A Star Program at the Grand Chenier Library. They are: Brennen Bonsall, Austin Swire and Brooklyn Frerks. Other first place winners not pictured were: Madison Anderson, Carissa Primeaux, and Kendal Badon.

It Seems Just Like Yesterday

By KEITH HAMBRICK



Cameron Pilot Aug. 14, 1975
UNIQUE BOTTLE FOUND

By GENEVA GRIFFITH
If this bottle could talk, what kind of a tale do you think it could tell? Terry Rutherford found it on Hackberry Beach, south of Oak Grove, this week while working cattle. It had floated in from the Gulf.

It is a beautiful shade of aqua made of hand blown glass with many bubbles and irregular dents in its surface.

Did it come from Mexico, which is due south across the Gulf? Did it wash overboard from any number of foreign boats plying the Gulf, or come up from the Yucatan Peninsula? Or perhaps it was from a Japanese long-liner boat which has been seen in the Gulf illegally fishing.

CANDIDATES IN PARISH RACES

Races for sheriff and assessor will be included on the ballot for Cameron Parish voters in the Nov. 1 open primary.

Roland Primeaux is unopposed for the clerk of court post.

Incumbent Sheriff Claude Eagleson of Sweetlake will be opposed by Lee Boudoin and Butler Boudreaux, both of Cameron.

Dr. C. W. Clark is unopposed for coroner.

Archie Berwick and Ernest C. Trahan will vie for the District 1, Division A seat on the police jury while Roland Troclair, Jr., Willie Ray Conner and Ulrick D. Doxey are in the Division B race.

John R. Rollins is unopposed in District 2.

Ernest J. Myers, Allen B. Nunez, Joseph "Joe" LeBleu and Russell Gary are candidates for the District 3 seat.

In the District 4 race are Elray Nunez, Lester Richard, Jr., Louis Canik and Clifford Conner.

Justice of the Peace candidates are Loree Elliott, Ward 1; Edward "Buddy" Richard, Ward 2; Mrs. Tommie E. "Bo" Alexander, Ward 3; Wilson P. Hebert and Victor Lee Conner, Ward 4; Johnny D. Little, Betty Nunez and Nora Guidry Winton, Ward 6, and Kenneth L. McRight and Ronald Istre, Ward 5.

Constable candidates are L. P. Guidry, Ward 1; Ual Charles Bonsall, Ward 2; Louis LeBoeuf, Ward 3; Lawrence L. Faulk, Ward 4; Carroll L. Trahan, Ward 5; and George H. LeBoeuf and Evelyn Welch, Ward 6.

FONTENOT IN JUDGE'S RACE

H. Ward Fontenot, Cameron attorney, has announced his candidacy for Judge for the new Division "F" for the 14th Judicial District. Fontenot has been a practicing attorney in Cameron for 11 years.

He is first vice-president of the Cameron Lions Club, treasurer of the South Cameron Jaycees, member of the Democratic Parish Executive Committee, vice-president of the Louisiana Fur and Wildlife Festival, past advisor to the Cameron Parish Draft Board and a member of the Calcasieu Area Boy Scout Council.

He is a graduate of South Cameron High School and obtained a BA and LLB from Louisiana State University.

Fontenot is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Hadley Fontenot of Jennings. He is married to the former Martha Morazan of New Orleans and they live with their four sons in Cameron.

ELECTION UNDER NEW BOARD

With the passage of the open primary law recently by the Louisiana legislature, Democrat executive committees now have little to do.

In the past, when election in the Democratic primary was tantamount to election, the Democratic committee was responsible for calling the election, tabulating and declaring the results.

Now the Democratic committee only accepts the filing of Democratic candidates and its job is done.

In Cameron Parish, the running of the general primary and the general election will be handled by the board of supervisors of election.

This board, recently appointed by Gov. Edwards, is composed of W. F. Henry, Jr., chairman; Mrs. Faye Jones, registrar of voters, and Lee J. Harrison.

LEBLEU, KNOWLES ARE COMMENDED BY BOARD

The Cameron Parish



CARISSA PRIMEAUX was the winner of the Grand Chenier Library Bookmark contest.

Camp permit is sought

Billy Gage of Lake Charles is seeking a Coastal Use Permit to construct a 65 by 17 foot fish camp on Calcasieu Lake near Jubert Point about 3 miles south of Grand Lake. It will adjoin an existing pier and wharf.

Jeff Kudla is the architect on the project.

School Board Monday adopted a resolution commending Rep. Conway LeBleu and Sen. Jesse Knowles for getting a bill passed in the recent legislature that will bring in thousands of dollars of additional revenue to parish schools.

Under the old state equalization formula, Cameron Parish and other parishes that had revenues from school owned land were penalized when state school funds were distributed.

LeBleu and Knowles secured the passage of a bill that does away with this discrimination, thereby meaning much additional funds from the state for parish schools.

BLACK BAYOU BRIDGE PLANNED

Rep. Conway LeBleu and Sen. Jesse Knowles announced that the Louisiana Highway Department has applied for a permit to dredge the ferry slip adjacent to the Black Bayou ferry in the Intracoastal Canal.

The Highway Department also plans to do the construction work with its own equipment on the approaches for a pontoon bridge to be placed there with pontoons from the Ellender or Gibbstown bridges as soon as one is completed. Estimated cost is \$400,000.

CRAVEN ACCEPTS NEW POSITION

Bruce Craven, Director of the Cameron Mosquito Control program since its inception in October, 1972,

Hackberry News

By GRACE WELCH

CHURCH NEWS

Friday, Aug. 15, there will be a Holy Day of Obligation, Feast of the Assumption at St. Peter Catholic Church in Hackberry.

THE BISHOP'S GOLF CLASSIC

There will be a golf tournament held at Gray Plantation Golf Course, on Friday Sept. 5. For more information contact Chip Gauthier at 439-7400 ext 307. Proceeds from the tournament will benefit Priest Retirement Fund and Seminarian Education Fund.

PIE SALE

There will be a pie sale on Saturday, Aug. 24. Anyone wanting to order a pie, please contact Velma Lowery at 762-4750, Lou Johnson at 762-4756 or the church office.

There is a sheet in the foyer of St. Peter's church to sign up for pies. The price of the pies are \$8.

CCD TEACHERS

Our Lady of Assumption in Johnson Bayou is looking for CCD teachers for grades K-6, Wednesday 4-5 p.m. and Wednesday 7-8 p.m. for grades 7-12. If anyone is interested please call Anne Trahan.

has accepted a similar position with the new Calcasieu Mosquito Control program effective Sept. 8. The board of directors of the Cameron program are taking applications for a new director. The program has six persons on its payroll with an annual budget of \$165,000.

ROUNDOUT THE PARISH

Gregory O. Harrison participated in the Tulane summer medical education program in New Orleans, June 4-Aug. 14. He was among 35 outstanding pre-med students in the this year's program. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lee J. Harrison of Grand Chenier, and has two brothers, Marlon, an LSU sophomore, and Dexter a SCHS senior.

The Co-Champion Pee Wee Boy's Baseball team of Grand Chenier attended a swimming party and wiener roast at the Garrette Mayon Camp Tuesday, Aug. 5. Those attending were Pete McCall, Derrick Brown, Todd Dupuis, Darren Richard, Joseph Mhire, Stephen Canik, John Canik, Paul Canik, Ronnie Mhire and Willie Winn.

The "Appreciation Day" services honoring Rev. R. B. House, pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church, will be held Sunday, Aug. 17. Rev. House became pastor of the church in 1948.

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Barbecue Chicken Plate Lunches

Hamburgers and Desserts

Silent Auction Begins

12:00-3:00 p.m. - Teardrops Perform

3:30-7:30 p.m. - Steel Shot Performs

Silent Auction, Regular Auction, Bake Sale, Refreshments, Raffle and Ice Cold Beer

Proceeds will defray the cost of advanced therapy due to Guillain Barre Syndrome





DAMAGE TO THE shoulder of Hwy 27/82 west of the Cameron Ferry caused by storm surge from Tropical Storm Edouard. (Photo by Paul Sellers.)



LIGHTNING STRUCK the Crosstex gas plant in Johnson Bayou on Friday, causing a fire in the turbine room. Local firefighters were able to extinguish the fire before it spread to the rest of the facility. (Photo by Paul Sellers.)

LWFC sets tentative dates for waterfowl season

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission (LWFC) voted to tentatively adopt proposed season dates, bag limits and shooting hours for the 2008-09 migratory waterfowl season at their Aug. 7 meeting. The dates will be ratified by a declaration of emergency from the commission, after approval from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) is once again recommending a 60-day season be adopted for ducks and coots. In the West Zone, the first segment will open on Nov. 8 and close on Nov. 30. The second segment will open on Dec. 13 and run through Jan. 18. In the East Zone, the first segment will go from Nov. 15-30. The second segment will last from Dec. 13-Jan. 25.

Youth waterfowl weekend in the West Zone is Nov. 1-2 and in the East Zone Nov. 8-9.

The daily bag limit on ducks is six and may include no more than four mallards

(no more than two of which may be females), one pintail, three mottled ducks, one black duck, three wood ducks and two redheads. The daily bag limit for scaup is one per day until Dec. 30 in the West Zone and one per day until Jan. 6 in the East Zone. Daily bag limit for scaup is two per day on those dates and thereafter in both zones. The daily bag limit on coots is 15. In addition to the daily bag limit for ducks, the daily bag limit for mergansers is five, only two of which may be hooded mergansers. The possession limit on ducks, coots and mergansers is twice the daily bag limit.

Light geese and white-fronted geese will have a 72-day season. The first segment in the West Zone will open on Nov. 8 and close on Nov. 30. The second segment in the West Zone will run from Dec. 13-Jan. 30. The first segment in the East Zone will open on Nov. 3 and run until Nov. 30. The second segment will run from Dec. 13-Jan. 25. The daily bag limit on light geese is 20, with no possession limit. The daily limit on white-fronted geese is two, with a possession limit of four.

The special-permit-required Canada goose season will be from Jan. 10-25 statewide, except for a small area in southwest Louisiana. The daily limit for Canada geese is one and the possession limit is two. The special \$5 permit may be obtained from any license vendor.

The Statewide Conservation Order for light geese will open in the West Zone on Dec. 1, and the first segment will close on Dec. 12. The second segment in the West Zone will run from Jan. 31-March 8. The first segment in the East Zone will run from Dec. 1-12, and the second segment will be from Jan. 26-March 8.

During this time, only snow, blue and Ross' geese may be taken and daily bag and possession limits are eliminated. The use of elec-

tronic calls and unplugged shotguns is permitted. Shooting hours during the Conservation Order begin one-half hour before sunrise and extend until one-half hour after sunset.

Rails may be taken from Nov. 8-Dec. 31. For King and Clapper rails, the daily limit is 15 in the aggregate, with a possession limit of 30. Sora and Virginia rails have a daily and possession limit of 25 in the aggregate.

Gallinule season will open on Nov. 8 and close on Dec. 31. The daily bag limit is 15 and possession limit is 30.

Snipe may be taken in the first segment from Nov. 1-30 and from Dec. 13-Feb. 27 in the second segment, with a daily bag limit of eight and a possession limit of 16.

Shooting hours for migratory bird hunting, except for the Conservation Order, are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset, except at the Spanish Lake Recreation Area in Iberia Parish where shooting hours, including the Conservation Order, end at 2 p.m.

An extended falconry season for ducks, rails and gallinules will take place from Nov. 1-Jan. 30.

For more information, contact Larry Reynolds at 225-765-0456 or lreynolds@wlf.louisiana.gov.

Always Practice Hunter Safety!



Modified rules to be declared by LWFC

At its Aug. 7 meeting, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission issued a declaration of emergency and notice of intent to modify rules for the harvest of gray triggerfish, the recreational harvest of greater amberjack, and issued a notice of intent to establish rules regarding devices required to be on board and in use when harvesting or possessing reef fish in federal waters. These actions will provide consistent regulations with those in place in federal waters offshore of Louisiana.

The minimum size limit for gray triggerfish has been increased from 12 inches total length to 14 inches fork length, for both recreational and commercial harvesters.

The minimum size for greater amberjack for recreational harvesters has been increased from 28 to 30 inches fork length. The commercial minimum size limit remains at 36 inches fork length.

Captain and crew members shall not harvest or possess greater amberjack, as well as red snapper or grouper of any species while operating as charter vessels and headboats as defined in Federal Regulations 50 CFR Part 622.2. Their bag limit is zero for all of these species.

The notice of intent also proposes rules that would require that for a person on board a vessel to fish for or possess Gulf reef fish in the Gulf EEZ (the waters outside Louisiana State waters), the vessel must possess on board and such person must use the devices as specified below.

a. Non-stainless steel circle hooks. Non-stainless

steel circle hooks are required when fishing with natural baits for reef fish.

b. Dehooking device. At least one dehooking device is required and must be used to remove hooks embedded in Gulf reef fish with minimum damage. The hook removal device must be constructed to allow the hook to be secured and the barb shielded without re-engaging during the removal process. The dehooking end must be blunt, and all edges rounded. The device must be of a size appropriate to secure the range of hook sizes and styles used in the Gulf reef fish fishery.

c. Venting tool. At least one venting tool is required and must be used to deflate the swim bladders of Gulf reef fish to release the fish with minimum damage. This tool must be a sharpened, hollow instrument, such as a hypodermic syringe with the plunger removed, or a 16-gauge needle fixed to a hollow wooden dowel.

A tool such as a knife or an ice-pick may not be used. The venting tool must be inserted into the fish at a 45-degree angle approximately 1 to 2 inches from the base of the pectoral fin. The tool must be inserted just deep enough to release the gases, so that the fish may be released with minimum damage.

The commission's actions ensure that regulations in state waters will complement regulations of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for federally managed waters. NMFS and the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council typically request consistent regulations for Louisiana waters to enhance effectiveness and enforceability of regulations.

Public comments on the notice of intent to modify the permanent rule will be accepted prior to Thursday, Oct. 7, 2008. Comments should be submitted to Harry Blanchet, Marine Fisheries Division, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, P. O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000.

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VOTER REGISTRATION Week was observed July 14-18 by the Cameron Parish Registrar of Voters office. Visitors to the Registrar's office were shown how early voting machines work. Michelle Richard, Registrar employee, here shows Keaton Boudreaux how to use the activation card on the early voting machine.

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Library now offers online tutoring & homework help

Cameron Parish Library is pleased to announce that as of Aug. 1, families with young children, and adults seeking to support their studies or improve their math or grammar skills, will all have experts waiting to help on the Library's website www.cameron.lib.la.us.

Expanding one-to-one online tutoring and homework help to more students is a natural next step for the library as we continue to find new ways to serve everyone in the community. Parents are teaching younger children to use the computer, to learn and explore their world, just as adults turn to technology to help them with everything from GED preparation to resume writing.

Parents who bring their young children to the library's Live Homework Help service expose them to rich learning resources, increase the child's ability to succeed in computer literacy and provide practice for fine motor skills.

Adults have always come to the library for assistance with research, earning their GED and other Adult Continuing Education support—as well as grammar help with their resume or work-related writing. Now you may connect to a live expert online, either on the library's computers during

library hours 8 a.m.-6 p.m., or from the privacy of your home computer from 3-10 p.m.

Anyone with a library card may log-on to www.cameron.lib.la.us, go to the Live Homework Help link at the bottom of the webpage, select a grade level from K-12, College Intro, or Adult Learner, and pick from one of 12 subjects, depending on your grade level. You will then enter an Online Classroom where a certified subject expert tutor will work with you in a chat window, on a drawing board, and through website and file sharing, to resolve your educational challenge. Once the session is complete, the session will be available for printing for future references.

The service is available from 3-10 p.m. daily in English and Spanish. The library's live, online service is provided by Tutor.com, the largest online tutoring company with more than 2,000 certified, background checked tutors. Tutor.com recently won a Parent's Choice Gold Award, their highest honor. Cameron Parish Library is very proud to provide this award-winning resource to the young people and adults of each community.

Playground accidents are one of the leading causes of injury

Playground accidents are one of the leading causes of injury to children in elementary school. Each year, in the United States, more than 200,000 children receive emergency department care for injuries that occurred on playground equipment.

Approximately 3 out of 4 playground accidents occur on public playgrounds, including school facilities, as opposed to backyard play equipment.

The leading cause of deaths related to playgrounds and playground equipment is strangulation. Approximately 15 children per year die from playground-related injuries such as strangulation when a piece of loose clothing or jewelry gets caught on equipment or the child's head gets stuck between climbing bars.

Falls are the leading cause of playground-related injuries. Almost half of all playground-related injuries are severe including fractures, internal injuries, concussions, dislocations, and amputation.

A child who falls 10 feet is at risk of spinal cord injury, paralysis and death," says Sarah Anders, Safe Kids Louisiana Executive Director. "Protective surface materials can make a life-and-death difference."

The U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission issues guidelines for playground surfacing and age-appropriate warning labels on playground equipment.

In 15 states, some or all of the guidelines in the CPSC's Handbook for Public Playground Safety are mandatory under state law.

"Nothing can take the place of active supervision, but we do need to make sure our kids are playing in safe environments in the first place," says Anders.

"The ground should be covered 12 inches deep with shredded rubber, hardwood fiber mulch or fine sand, extending at least six feet in all directions around the equipment."

Even with proper surfacing, teachers and playground monitors need to keep kids in sight and in reach on the playground. "Simply being in the same place as the children isn't necessarily supervising," says Anders. "Kids on a playground need an adult's undivided attention."

For outdoor play, children's clothing and outerwear should be free of drawstrings and should fit snugly to minimize the risk of getting stuck in a piece of equipment.

Do not allow kids to wear helmets, necklaces, purses or scarves on the playground or engage in any pushing, shoving or crowding around playground equipment.

The CPSC handbook is available at <http://www.cpsc.gov/CPSC/PUBS/325.pdf>. "Before your child goes back to school, you might want to take a look at the school playground and, if necessary, discuss the CPSC guidelines with school authorities," says Anders.

For more information about playground safety, call 225-342-7077 or visit www.usa.safekids.org.

Safe Kids Louisiana works to prevent accidental childhood injury, the leading killer of children 14 and under. Safe Kids Louisiana is a member of Safe Kids Worldwide, a global network of organizations dedicated to preventing accidental injury.

Safe Kids Louisiana was founded in 1994 and is led by Louisiana Office of Public Health Maternal Child Health Program and Children's Hospital.



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- Primers work hard to block stains. If you try to cover a stain with a fresh coat of paint, the stain will probably bleed through—no

matter how many coats of paint you apply. Quality primers seal in stains and prevent them from ruining your paint job.

- Primers prevent common paint problems. Because primers are formulated to prevent problems such as cracking, peeling and blistering, they'll make any painted surface more durable and washable—and last much longer!

- Primers provide a sound base for paint. Paint is formulated to provide rich, beautiful color—but don't expect it to do a primer's job. High-quality primers are rich in resin and provide a firm base for paint to adhere. Primers such as Zinsser's Bulls Eye 1-2-3® even stick to glossy, hard-to-paint surfaces without sanding, so you can paint paneling, cabinets, glossy paints, vinyl siding and more.

Here's a little secret from the pros: By tinting your primer toward your paint color, you'll use less paint—plus get all the benefits of priming. Just ask your paint store or home center associate to add the same colorant they use to mix your paint.

Remember, if you want to paint like a pro, prime like a pro. For more helpful "tips" for a professional-quality paint job, visit www.zinsser.com.

Liberty Gas Storage LLC

Please take notice that Liberty Gas Storage LLC ("Liberty") filed, on July 31, 2008, an application ("Application") with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("Commission") for approval to construct and operate new natural gas storage and pipeline facilities in Cameron and Calcasieu parishes in Louisiana. The underground natural gas storage facilities that Liberty proposes to construct will be located on a 159-acre tract of land owned by Liberty in Cameron Parish. This tract is located approximately three miles west of the town of Hackberry, Louisiana. In addition, Liberty proposes to construct natural gas pipeline and compression facilities and saltwater pipeline and disposal wells and other appurtenant facilities, which will be located in both Cameron and Calcasieu parishes. Liberty expects to begin construction activities in 2009, after receipt of approval from the Commission and other government agencies. Specific descriptions of the nature and location of all of the proposed facilities are set forth in the Application, as filed with the Commission. The Commission has assigned the following docket number to the Application: CP08-454-000.

The Commission has available a pamphlet that describes the Commission's procedures for the review of natural gas pipeline and storage projects, the rights of affected landowners, how the location of natural gas pipeline and storage projects are determined, and what safety and environmental issues may be involved. This pamphlet is entitled "An Interstate Natural Gas Facility on My Land? What Do I Need to Know?" and is available for viewing and printing at the Commission's internet website: www.ferc.gov.

Copies of the Application are available for public viewing at the following locations in Cameron and Calcasieu parishes:

Hackberry Public Library
 983 Main Street
 Hackberry, Louisiana 70645
 Telephone: 337-762-3978

Calcasieu Parish Public Library
 301 West Claude Street
 Lake Charles, Louisiana 70605
 Telephone: 337-475-8792

Grand Lake Public Library
 961 Highway 384
 Lake Charles, Louisiana
 Telephone: 337-598-5950

Sulphur Regional Library
 1160 Cypress Street
 Sulphur, Louisiana 70663
 Telephone: 337-527-7200

In addition, information regarding the Application may be obtained by contacting the following person:

Hugh Berglund, Operations Manager
 Liberty Gas Storage LLC
 2100 West Burton Street
 Sulphur, Louisiana 70663
 Telephone: 337-527-2256
 Email: hberglund@semprapipelines.com

To the extent that the facilities proposed in the Application cross a landowner's property, Liberty will need to acquire an easement from that landowner. Questions about the rights of landowners at the proceedings to be conducted by the Commission regarding the Application, and the rights of landowners under the eminent domain laws of Louisiana, may be addressed by visiting the Commission's internet website (www.ferc.gov) or by calling the Commission's Office of External Affairs at 866-208-3372 (toll free). Liberty will be mailing to each landowner whose land will be crossed by the proposed facilities or whose land abuts a right-of-way or site that will be crossed or occupied by the proposed facilities a more detailed notice and description of the Application.

Liberty is engaged in the business of developing and operating natural gas storage projects. Liberty currently is completing construction of two natural gas storage caverns located in Sulphur, Louisiana.

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- HEBERT CAMP Road lots: Tract 3&4 \$25,500, Tract 1 \$22,500
- 10962 HWY 384: 3/2 Modular home w/additions on 17.5 + acres. Owner will look at all offers \$275,000
- 229 McCAIN: Acadian 4/2 in Grand Lake in restricted subdivision w/large upstairs game room \$219,000. 2/13ffc.

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FOR SALE: 2006 16x80 Clayton Mobile Home, Zone 3, 3 bedrooms 2 bathrooms, includes leather recliner, 2 loveseats, kitchen table, refridgerator, washer and dryer, custom wooden steps and a 20'x24' awning. \$35,000. Call 337-499-3866. 8/6- 8/20p

FOR SALE: Rutherford Beach, 2 - 50' x 100' lots, fenced, landscaped, electricity, water, telephone and approved septic tank. 20' x 40' screened patio on slab. Camper trailer hookup. \$37,500. Phone: (800) 752-2807 or (337) 893-8009 (Nights) 8/6 - 8/20p.

GRAND LAKE: 173 Brian Circle, 4 Bedroom/2 Bath, 2015 Living, Hard Wood Floors, Custom Cabinets, Built-ins, 24x30 Shop, Restricted Subdivision, \$198,500. Phone: 802-5735. 8/13 - 9/3

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FOR SALE: House to be moved. Cute & in good shape. Approximately 1100 sq. ft. Can be seen in Hackberry. Call (337) 526-4127 or 762-3841. Leave Message. 8/13 & 20mc



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FOR SALE: Aluminum Livestock Trailer, 1995 Southern Classic Model. 16 foot 2-3500 lb axle, low profile bumper pull. Can be seen at Cameron Parish 4-H Office, 80 Acres Lane, Grand Lake. Accepting sealed bids beginning at \$4000.00 until September 1, 2008 at 3:00 pm. Submit bids in sealed envelope marked trailer to the Cameron Parish 4-H Office. Bids can be mailed or dropped off at Cameron Parish 4-H Office, 10086 Gulf Hwy, Lake Charles, LA 70607. Call 905-1318 for more information.

NOTICE

JACKSON HEWITT Tax Service: Free tuition computerized income tax course. Limited seating. Employment opportunities for successful graduates. Call 478-1099 for more information. 7

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AIR CONDITIONING equipment and ductwork installers needed. Pay up to \$17.50 depending on experience. Must have clean driving record and pass drug screen. Sheet metal layout experience helpful. Call Moreno's Air Conditioning, Inc. 1721 E. Napoleon, Sulphur, La. Phone: 1-800-960-6224. Ask for Ken. 8/12 - 9/3p.

LPN NEEDED Private Duty w/pediatric experience. Monday-Friday 3pm-9pm and every other Saturday 8 hrs. Grand Lake area. Complete Home Health. Call 337-233-0079. 8/13 - 9/3p

Now you know: Drivers must stop for a stopped school bus

When a school bus stops to load and unload children, other drivers must stop at least 30 feet from the bus. The law requires this whether a driver is meeting the bus or traveling behind it. However, if the bus is stopped in a loading zone completely off the roadway where pedestrians are not allowed to cross the roadway, drivers do not have to stop.

If there is a median separating roadways, drivers are not required to stop for a stopped school bus in the opposite lane. But if a school bus stops on a multiple-lane roadway that is not separated by a median or any barriers, drivers must stop until the bus moves again or until visual warning signals are not in use.

The Louisiana Highway Safety Commission reminds motorists that it is important to stop 30 feet from a school bus to ensure the safety of our young pedestrians.

Shark fins shall not be

The following arrests were made by the Cameron Parish Sheriff's Department, July 30-Aug. 6:

- Jason Sturlese, 21, 141 Mallard Rd, Cameron; Bench Warrant.
- John C. Johnson, 43, Gideon, Mo.; Probation Violation, Bench Warrant.
- Charles H. Gremmel, 59, Devine, Tex.; Careless Operation, Resisting an Officer (2 counts), D.W.I.
- Kenneth D. Davis, 45, 1207 Ravia Rd, Sulphur; Careless Operation, Possession of Marijuana, D.W.I.
- Larry J. Thibodeaux, 27, 2913 18th St, Lake Charles; Possession of Marijuana.
- Robert Alton Watson II, 29, 159 John St, Cameron; Theft.
- Kenneth J. Champagne Jr., 32, Lake Arthur; No Tail Lights, Expired Lic. Plate, Theft of Gas.
- Leroy J. Saxon, 36, Elizabeth; Bench Warrant.
- Tracy D. Rice, 41, 62 North St., Singer; Bench Warrant.
- James D. Hartman, 59, Marshall St., Cameron; Public Intoxication.
- Richard P. Price, 44, Chavin; Public Intoxication.
- Tony R. Deshotels, 28, Marshall St., Cameron; Simple Burglary.
- Chance L. Case, 20, 299 Hicks Rd., Hackberry; Aggravated Assault.
- Danielle L. Clostio, 25, 1777 Claude Hebert, Lake Charles; Bench Warrant.
- Damien LeDay, 32, 319 Glenn St. Apt. 3, Lake Charles; Bench Warrant.
- Aubry M. Burns, 53, Lynn

Haven, Fla.; Public Intoxication.

- John Paul Blake, 36, Mandeville; Bench Warrant.
- The following arrests were made Aug. 5 - Aug. 12.
- Steven Kerry Boullion, 18, 150 Mildred St., Cameron; Careless Operation, D.W.I.
- Diane Mayne, 42, Bench Warrants (3 counts)
- Chad Daniel Touchet, 39, St Martinville; Possession of CDS III, Possession of Marijuana, Illegal Carrying of a Weapon.
- Clinton W. Morgan, 30, 111 Twin Oaks Road, Lake Charles; Probation Violation.
- Jessica Renee Sturlese, 31, 1883 Trosclair Rd, Cameron; Battery of a Police Officer, Simple Battery, Resisting an Officer (2 counts), Public Intoxication, Property Damage.
- Terry Franklin Williams, 52, 276 West Webber, Lake Charles; Remain after Forbidden.
- Gerard Moore Francis, 40, 1000 E. Town Dr., Iowa; Bench Warrant.
- Robert Vernon Stanley, 33, 303 S. Division St., DeQuincy; Possession of Paraphernalia, Possession of CDS II, Possession of Marijuana.
- Ashley Nicole Crater, 19, 125 Donna Rd., Lake Charles; Illegal Possession of CDS in Presence of Persons under 17, Possession of Marijuana.
- Matthew Christopher Elam, 24, 207 Hebert T/P #26, Lake Charles; Illegal Possession of CDS in Presence of Persons under 17, Possession of Marijuana.

Rules for harvesting sharks to be modified

At its Aug. 7 meeting, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission issued a declaration of emergency and notice of intent to modify rules for the harvest of shark in the large coastal shark species group (great hammerhead, scalloped hammerhead, smooth hammerhead, nurse shark, blacktip shark, bull shark, lemon shark, sandbar shark, silky shark, spinner shark and tiger shark).

The modifications to the existing rules are summarized below.

The commercial fishery for large coastal shark in Louisiana state waters will open at 12:01 a.m. Aug. 11, 2008 under the regulations provided below. The pertinent parts of these rules will also be effective for the recreational fishery for large coastal shark at 12:01 a.m. Aug. 11, 2008.

No sandbar or silky sharks may be retained under a recreational bag limit.

These species are in addition to those species included in the prohibited species group (basking shark, white shark, bigeye sand tiger, sand tiger, whale shark, smalltooth sawfish, Atlantic angel shark, Caribbean sharpnose shark, smalltail shark, big-nose shark, Caribbean reef shark, dusky shark, Galapagos shark, narrow-tooth shark, night shark, bigeye sixgill shark, bigeye thresher shark, longfin mako, sevengill shark and sixgill shark).

Persons possessing a Commercial State Shark Permit but no Federal Shark Permit shall not possess on any trip, or land from any trip, or sell, barter, trade, or exchange in excess of 33 sharks from the large coastal species group, taken from Louisiana state waters.

Persons possessing a Commercial State Shark Permit shall not possess any sandbar sharks unless they also have in their name and in possession a valid Federal Shark Research Permit under 50CFR635.32(1).

Shark fins shall not be

possessed aboard a fishing vessel unless naturally attached to the original shark carcass by at least some portion of uncut skin. All sharks possessed aboard a commercial fishing vessel shall have fins including the tail intact and naturally attached to the shark carcass by at least some portion of uncut skin.

It is illegal to replace sharks that are onboard a fishing vessel for retention with sharks of higher quality or size that are caught later in a particular trip.

Dealers purchasing sharks from state or federal waters must report the landings by species, and must specify the total shark fin numbers, values and weights separately from the weights, values and numbers of the shark carcasses.

If a harvester retains the fins after offloading from the fishing vessel, the harvester must also be licensed as a wholesale/retail dealer, and must complete and file a trip ticket that includes the numbers and weights of fins retained immediately after being offloaded from the fishing vessel.

Later transactions of fins must have documentation referring to the original trip ticket number for those fins. Such numbers and weights must be recorded on dealer records in compliance with R.S. 56:306.5 and R.S. 56:306.6.

Wholesale/Retail Dealers handling federal and state regulated shark species should contact the LDWF Trip Ticket office at 225-765-2393 for detailed instructions on these requirements.

Public comments on the Notice of Intent will be accepted prior to Thursday, Oct. 7, 2008. Comments should be submitted to Harry Blanchet, Marine Fisheries Division, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, P. O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000 or by email to hblanchet@wlf.louisiana.gov, with "August Large Coastal Shark Notice of Intent" in the subject line.



THESE TWO PHOTOS, taken a month apart, show the deterioration of a sunken shrimp boat along Hwy 82 near Holly Beach. The first was on July 4, the second was on August 8. The boat is being buried in the sand behind the breakwater. (Photos by Paul Sellers.)

Five major child injury hazards listed below

Each of five major child injury hazards -- motor vehicles, drowning, burns, falls and poison -- can be found in the back yard during the summer.

Riding mowers, inflatable pools, home playground equipment and even natural vegetation and sunlight require a few simple precautions.

"All of the safety guidelines you apply to sports, playgrounds and swimming apply to those activities in your own back yard," says Sarah Anders, Safe Kids Louisiana Executive Director. "An inflatable pool needs to be surrounded by a fence, just like any other pool. A home playground needs to be anchored on an appropriate surface just like equipment on a public playground."

Kiddie pools should be emptied when not in use. "Kiddie pools are just as dangerous to a small child as full-size pools -- a child can drown in just a few inches of water," says Sarah Anders.

Safe Kids Louisiana offers detailed guidelines about pool safety and playground safety at 225-342-7077 or www.usa.safekids.org. In addition, Safe Kids Louisiana recommends these precautions for activities in the back yard:

Always supervise your children in the back yard or at playgrounds. Make sure they play on a safe surface, such as mulch, rubber or fine sand.

Treat a riding mower like any other motor vehicle: keep ignition keys out of reach and look around before backing up. Never carry children as passengers on a lawnmower; children should stay in the house whenever a mower or other power equipment is being used.

Children should be at least 12 years old before they

operate any lawn mower, and at least 16 years old for a ride-on mower.

Allow children to perform age-appropriate yard work only under supervision. Don't allow a child to attempt tasks inappropriate for his or her age, size, strength, cognitive ability or prior experience.

Make sure your children wear a properly fitting helmet and other protective gear every time they ride their bikes, scooters, skateboards, rollerblades, and other wheeled toys.

Remove potential poisons from your yard, including poisonous plants, pesticides and pool chemicals. Teach kids not to handle or eat any part of a plant unless you know it is safe.

Keep children away from the grill area while preheating and cooking and while the grill is cooling.

Following the manufacturer's instructions carefully, apply insect repellent to a child's clothing and exposed skin. (Check with your pediatrician if you have any questions about the instructions.)

Teach children not to disturb or feed any wild animals, no matter how harmless the animals may seem.

Apply sunscreen rated SPF 15 or higher to your child's exposed skin 15 to 30 minutes before going out, and reapply frequently. (It is possible to get a sunburn in cloudy conditions.)

Make sure your child drinks plenty of water. A child who seems tired or achy should rest in the shade or go inside for a while. Get immediate medical help any time a child's skin is hot to the touch (with or without perspiration) or if a child has a seizure or becomes disoriented in hot weather.

For more information about summer safety, call 225-342-7077 or visit www.usa.safekids.org.

MILITARY ADDRESSES NEEDED

The Cameron Parish Registrar's Office is trying to locate our military personnel. We need to get updated addresses on our Cameron Parish military men and women; they need a chance to be able to vote in any of our state and local elections.

If you know or if you have an address of our military personnel please call or send that information to our office.

Our phone number is: 337-775-5493. Our address is: Registrar of Voters, P O. Box 1, Cameron, LA 70631.

Thanks for your help,
Registrar of Voters Office

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THE CREW OF the "Whopper Stopper VI" of Grand Chenier brought a boatload of deepwater fish in to the dock at Grand Chenier Park for the Cameron Saltwater Fishing Festival. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)



GERALD "COE" DAIGLE brought in this 39.92 pound Black Drum for the adult division of the Cameron Saltwater Fishing Festival. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)



VINCE THERIOT wrestles his team's two live redfish out of the boat for the Redfish Challenge weigh-in on Saturday at the Cameron Saltwater Fishing Festival. His team-mate was Mark Theriot. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)



VISITING QUEENS at the Cameron Saltwater Fishing Festival at Grand Chenier last Saturday were: Miss Christmas on the Bayou, Cottonport, Whitney Cole; Miss Westlake Family Fun and Food Festival, Ruth Fruge; and Miss Mardi Gras of SWLA, Danielle Harrell. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)



THESE TWO mangrove snappers were the only entries in the scuba division, brought in by Greg Duval. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)

Jones, 20.14. Outstanding offshore Male angler - Alex Jones 30 points and Female angler - Shelly LeBleu 7 points. The offshore division had no Red Snapper, because the season was closed. Also no weigh-in of Triggerfish, Bonito, tuna, wahoo and blackfin tuna.

BAY AND SURF DIVISION
Speckle trout: 1st James Hebert, 5.84, 2nd Brian DeBarge, 4.02, 3rd Jimmy Saltzman, 2.96.
Redfish: 1st Chad Touchet, 32.54, 2nd and 3rd Jimmy Miller with 28.82 and 28.18.

Black Drum: 1st Gerald Daigle, 39.92, 2nd Andy Oliver Jr., 34.40 and Scott Creel, 21.40.
Flounder: 1st and 3rd Jimmy Saltzman, 2.70 and 1.92, 2nd Brandon DeBarge, 2.08.
Sheephead: 1st Fred Patrick, 3.98, 2nd Andy Oliver Jr., 3.71.

Gafftop Catfish: 1st William Baker, 5.14, 2nd Lisa Broussard, 4.10, 3rd Roxanne Clark, 4.02.
Garfish: 1st Brandon DeBarge, 56.90, 2nd Shake and Bake, 46.92, 3rd Bubba Richard, 44.5.

Croaker: 1st and 3rd Ronnie Picou, 1.30 and 0.62, 2nd Tremayne Picou, 1.12.
White Trout: 1st Michelle Welch, 3.14, 2nd Jimmy Saltzman, 0.46. (This was a nice size white trout for Michelle Welch).

Outstanding angler for Bay Surf with 11 points was Jimmy Saltzman and the female angler was Michelle Welch, 6 points.

CCA's STAR
The speckle trout western division leader is now John Adams with a 8.85 weight.

DEER HUNTERS
Deer hunters in Louisiana will see a change for the 2008 season. Every deer hunter will have to have deer tags, that means any age. They are free. Although you have your licenses to hunt bought for 2008-09, you need to get your deer tags and if you hunt turkey, you need to get your turkey tags. You can also get our tags at the Lake Charles wildlife and fisheries office, Walmart or Academy.

The limit on deer for 2008 is six, but only three bucks and three does. The new rules are to tag your deer right away, putting the date and what parish you killed the deer. Something of importance is, hunters will only have 72 hours to report their deer, either by phone or internet.

You will have to have the La Dept of Wildlife and Fisheries ID number that's on your hunting license. Your deer tag number and that's on the tag. You have to tell if its with or without antlers and whether antlerless deer is a male or female; the date of the kill and whether it was on a wildlife management area, private land. U. S. forest land or any other state and federal land.

Hunters not reporting their deer bagged, can be fine from \$150 to \$300. This is a new way to keep track of deer killed, population of deer in different areas, so follow the new rules.

Cameron Outdoors

By LOSTON MCEVERS



The Cameron Saltwater Rodeo was a great success, plenty of food, drinks, music and over 200 entries in the different categories for the day.

Congratulations are in order to Yvone Mhire and Carl Broussard and their staff for a job well done. I would also commend Veda Landry and Karen McCall for a tough job of keeping up with all the entries, weights and the weight board and for helping me in compiling these separate divisions.

Results are as follows:

REDFISH CHALLENGE

1st Todd and Justin Morales 26.96, 2nd Monty Pierce and Doug Daldon 24.10, 3rd Vince and Mark Theriot 22.02.

SCUBA DIVISION

Only one entry, Greg Devall took the mangrove snapper 1st with 5.66 and 2nd with 3.26 as well as outstanding angler for the division.

JUNIOR DIVISION

Tripletail: Kenny Brechtel took it all with a

3.68, 3.48 and 3.00

Spanish Mackerel: 1st Shelby Welch 4.40, 2nd Caleb Foreman, 3.08, 3rd Keith Foreman, 3.00.

Speckle Trout: 1st Brandon LeBeouf, 2.96, 2nd and 3rd Grand Davis, 2.74 and 2.18.

Croaker: 1st and 2nd Jameson Picou, 1.18 and 1.10, 3rd Madison Frazier, .98.

Black Drum: 1st Dylan Dowd, 28.66, 2nd Aimee Clark, 26.84 and Grant Davis 25.58.

Spadefish: Keith Foreman took all 3 places with 4.54, 3.70 and 3.62.

Gafftop catfish: 1st T-Chad DeBarge, 7.06, 2nd Brandon LeBeouf, 6.86 and 3rd T-Chad DeBarge, 6.24.

Redfish: 1st Brandon LeBeouf, 28.28, 2nd Maeleigh Conner, 25.42, 3rd Nate Stickler, 24.96.

Flounder: Grant Davis took 1st and 2nd with 4.40 and 2.56, 3rd Dylan Dowd, 2.36. Outstanding angler in the junior division was Brandon LeBeouf with 15 points.

OFFSHORE DIVISION

Dolphin: Alex Jones took all 3 places with 1.30, 1.14 and 1.00.

Amberjack: 1st Beth Rushing 36.38, 2nd Susan Benoit 21.16.

Grouper: Alex Jones took all 3 places with 1.42, 1.00 and 0.66.

Barracuda: 1st Nita Jones, 16.36, 2nd Shelly LeBleu, 7.16 and 3rd Beth Rushing, 4.48.

Cobia (Ling): 1st. Kenneth Brechtel, 28.24, 2nd Ricky Hay, 27.26, 3rd Patrick Hay, 16.42.

Jackfish: Bryce Burch 16.26.
Spadefish: 1st Alex Lopez, 3.42, 2nd Kenny Brechtel Sr., 3.28, 3rd Mike Foreman, 2.90.

Spanish Mackerel: 1st Matthew Law 4.16, 2nd Mike Foreman, 3.80, 3rd Kenny Brechtel Sr., 3.66.

Tripple Tail: Brad Lester, 13.34, 2nd Patrick Owens, 7.78, 3rd Matthew Law, 6.10.

Blue Fish: 1st & 2nd Alex Jones, 3.44 and 2.66, 3rd George Heard, 4.44.

King Mackerel: 1st Shelly LeBleu, 33.66, 2nd J. C. Andries, 30.94, 3rd Alex



AMY CLARK is shown with her 26.84 pound Black Drum, which she caught all by herself. Her dad said the fish "pulled the boat." (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)



ATTENTION

STUDENTS & PARENTS

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Where: www.cameron.lib.la.us

When: 3:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

How: Cameron Parish Library Card Number is all that is needed for access

Who: Live qualified tutors will provide online help via a white board. (Printing of the entire help session is available for future reference.)

Availability:
Online from your home or at any library location
Note: (All library locations are open 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.)

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Local Man Travels Backwards Through Cafeteria

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LEGAL NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

Auction of surplus vehicles by Cameron Parish Sheriff Dept. will be on August 16th, 2008 Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m. location 3800 Mallard Cove Drive, Lake Charles, LA 70615. Auction will be conducted by Pedersen & Pederson, Inc.

ITEM DESCRIPTION

(1) 2003 Ford Crown Victoria
(2) 2004 Ford Crown Victoria
(3) 2005 Chev. Impala
Preview/Inspection Dates:
Friday August 15, 2008 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

/s/ Theos Duhon, Sheriff
Run: July 31, Aug. 7, 14 (Ju 41)

Advertisement for Bids

The Johnson Bayou Recreation Center located at 135 Berwick Road Cameron, LA 70631 will be accepting sealed bids on the following:

The Purchase of a 30 HP 4x4 New Holland Tractor or equivalent with industrial tires, front loader, 5ft cutter, 5ft tiller, 5ft box blade and 5ft harrow. The bid shall also include a tandem axle, pipe top, bumper pull utility trailer with capacity to haul tractor.

The Johnson Bayou Recreation Center is a Tax Exempt organization

Bid price shall include Tax, Title and License.

Bids may be mailed or dropped off at the Johnson Bayou Recreation Center Temporary Trailer located at 135 Berwick Road Cameron, LA 70631.

Bids shall be sealed and clearly marked "Johnson Bayou Recreation Center Tractor bid" on outside.

Bids shall include Name, Address, Phone number and name of Authorized Representative.

For any questions or further details contact Christen Trahan at 337-304-4622.

Deadline to submit a bid will be Monday August 22, 2008 at 8:00 p.m.
Run: July 31, Aug. 7 & 14 (Ju 46)

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to advise that the Cameron Parish Police Jury intends to abandon the following described Road Right-Of-Way being of no further use or necessity:

Parish Road No. 205 which is approximately 235 feet in length and located in Section 22 Township 14 S, Range 7 W, Cameron Parish, LA.

Anyone having objections to said abandonment should make their objections known at the meeting of the Cameron Parish Police Jury, to be held Tuesday, September 2, 2008 at 5:30 P.M., in the Cameron Courtroom in Cameron, Louisiana.

/s/ Bonnie W. Conner
BONNIE W. CONNER,
SECRETARY
CAMERON PARISH
POLICE JURY
Run: Aug. 7, 14, 21 & 28 (Au 1)

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Bids are being solicited as follows and sealed bids will be opened and publicly read by the Purchasing Section of the Department of Natural Resources, Room 1263, 12th Floor, 617 N. 3rd St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802 at 11:00 A.M., on September 04, 2008.

Bid Proposal Number 431-2003-PA09-004

Abandonment of oil field sites located in East Cameron Block 17 Field, Cameron Parish.

Only those contractors on the list of contractors approved by the Oil Field Site Restoration Commission as of August 07, 2008 the first public notice of solicitation, will be eligible for consideration. (Reference: Louisiana Oilfield Site Restoration Law, R.S. 30:80 et seq., ACT 404 of 1993)

A notice to bidders will be mailed to eligible contractors. Bid proposal form and specifications will be presented at the mandatory site visit to pre-registered contractors. Additional information may be obtained from the Department of Natural Resources, Office of Conservation, P. O. Box 94275 (617 N. 3rd St-9th Flr), Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275, Attention: Oilfield Site Restoration Division (or call Oilfield Site Restoration Division at 225/342-6397).

Evidence of authority submit the bid will be required in accordance with R.S. 38:2212 (A)(1)(c) and/or R.S. 39:1594 (C)(2)(d)

This notice published to comply with Public Bid Law.
Run: Aug. 7, 14, 21 (Au 6)

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Cameron Parish Police Jury
Owner
122-A Recreation Center Ln
Address
PO Box 1280, Cameron, LA 70631

Separate sealed BIDS for the construction of pumper apparatus with related equipment for Fire Protection District No. 14 of the Parish of Cameron, Louisiana (Grand Lake/Sweetlake Fire Department) will be received by Cameron Parish Police Jury at the Cameron Parish Police Jury Administrative Office until 1:00 p.m. Central, (Standard Time-Daylight Savings Time) Monday, August 25, 2008, and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud.

The BID DOCUMENTS may be obtained at the following location: Cameron Parish Police Jury, 122-A Recreation Center Lane, PO Box 1280, Cameron LA OR by calling (337) 775-5718

/s/ Bonnie W. Conner
Bonnie W. Conner
Secretary/Treasurer
Date: 7/31/08
Run: Aug. 7, 14, 21 (Au 10)

PUBLIC NOTICE

ADVERTISEMENT FOR REVIEW OF LISTINGS
Notice is hereby given that I have completed the listings of all property in the Parish of Cameron and have established the valuations thereon; and that

the said listings will be exposed in my office at the Cameron Parish Courthouse, Room 24, for public inspection and corrections for a period of 15 calendar days, beginning Thursday, August 28, 2008 at 8:00 a.m. and ending at 4:00 p.m. Friday, September 12, 2008. Any taxpayer desiring to examine his/her assessment is requested to call during the 15 day period. Forms for appeals are available to taxpayers and must be filed in person or by certified mail at P. O. Box 1280, Cameron, Louisiana 70631 by 4:00 p.m. Monday, September 15, 2008 or with the Cameron Parish Police Jury Administrative Office located at 122-A Recreation Lane, Cameron, Louisiana.

R. E. "Bobby" Conner, CLA
Cameron Parish Assessor
Run: Aug. 14, 21 (Au 13)

PROCEEDINGS

Parish of Cameron
July 14, 2008

The Cameron Parish School Board met at its regular meeting on this date, members in attendance are: Karen Nunez, R. Scott Nunez, Loston McEvers, Dot Theriot, Dwayne Sanner, Marsha Trahan and Marvin Trahan.

The prayer and the pledge was led by R. Scott Nunez and Loston McEvers.

On the motion of Mrs. Trahan, seconded by Mrs. Nunez, the Board approved the agenda with addendum.

On the motion of Mr. Nunez, seconded by Mrs. Trahan, the Board approved the minutes as printed from the June 9, 2008 regular board meeting and June 24, 2008 special board meeting.

On the motion of Mrs. Theriot, seconded by Mr. McEvers, the Board heard an ongoing recovery project request from Cameron Parish Police Juror Scott Trahan and approved continuing a bus route from Grand Lake to South Cameron High School and from Hackberry to Johnson Bayou High School, if needed, with a December 2008 report on numbers of students participating. Roll call motion carried.

Roll Call Vote:
YEAS: Mrs. Trahan, Mrs. Theriot, Mr. McEvers and Mr. Trahan

NAYS: Mr. Sanner, Mrs. Nunez and Mr. Nunez
On the motion of Mr. Nunez, seconded by Mr. McEvers, the Board approved the following Financial Issues:
Authorize payment of the bills - Ms. Lannin
Consider Financial Statement and reports of Current Investments including - Mrs. Smythe

Receive monthly update on FEMA issues, with overall payments of \$5,755,140.29 to date, per spread sheet, - Superintendent

Receive advisement of cost of Builder's Risk Policy for Cameron Parish School Board

Administrative Building at \$63,670.20 (in review for FEMA eligibility) presented by the Superintendent.

On the motion of Mrs. Theriot, seconded by Mrs. Trahan, the Board received the letter of June 28, 2008 receipt of "Notice of Determination for a Consolidation Project" from Louisiana Public Assistance to FEMA requesting the status of South Cameron High School as a building replacement project out of the "Improved Project" que, making it eligible for actual costs, rather than capped at the value of the Project Worksheet, with FEMA approval pending, as presented by the Superintendent.

On the motion of Mrs. Theriot, seconded by Mrs. Nunez, the Board received bids and approved the acceptance of the low bidder, for South Cameron High School, a FEMA Change of Location Project, as presented by Mr. James Hoffpauir, Project Manager. The low bidder is denoted by *

Contractor, Base Bid, Alternate -ADD, Total Bid
Don M. Barron Contractor,
Inc., \$24,050,000.00,
\$800,000.00, \$24,850,000.00

K.A.S. Construction, L.L.C.
No Bid
*Alfred Palma, L.L.C.,
\$23,100,000.00, \$934,034.00,
\$24,034,000.00

Alternate ADD - Alternate
Emergency Generator
On the motion of Mrs. Theriot, seconded by Mr. McEvers, the Board received a report with an update on FEMA and local projects, including expansions to Grand Lake High School, as presented by the Superintendent and Mr. James Hoffpauir, Project Manager, and voted to accept the concept of the plan and approve building the Grand Lake High School softball field next to the Grand Lake High School baseball field with special projects money and the \$12,000 (dirt work) already spent from special projects money for previous location of softball field to be returned to Grand Lake High School Special Projects Fund.

On the motion of Mr. Trahan, seconded by Mrs. Theriot, the Board accepted the sole bid as the official journal of Cameron Parish School Board from the Cameron Pilot as at \$6.00 per square of 100 words, as presented by the Superintendent. Board Member Loston McEvers did not vote on the bid acceptance because of his conflict of interest as a writer for the Cameron Pilot.

On the motion of Mr. Trahan, seconded by Mrs. Nunez, the Board approved the contracting of Pre-Construction Services, Inc., at a cost of \$7,500.00, for the video survey of adjacent and surrounding structures at the site of the Cameron Parish School Board office to provide documentation for possible litigation that might later be attributed to the construction; contracting Pre-Construction Services Inc. for South Cameron High School; for any further construction moving

forward that might also involve alleged damage to adjacent and surrounding property (to be submitted for FEMA eligibility review, as appropriate) and to document current damages, as opposed to new weather events as presented by the Superintendent.

On the motion of Mrs. Nunez, seconded by Mrs. Trahan, the Board approved a one year contract of the Bus Maintenance Contractor Troy Brown as presented by the Superintendent and Mr. Doug Welch, at a cost to the board of \$50,000.00, plus mileage of .585 per mile.

On the motion of Mrs. Trahan, seconded by Mrs. Theriot, received an updated environmental report inclusive of gasoline leakage and wetlands issues, and approved the purchase price of the land adjacent to Johnson Bayou High School at \$20,000 per acre with no mineral rights attached.

On the motion of Mr. Nunez, seconded by Mrs. Nunez, the Board authorized District Attorney Cecil Sanner to request wetlands and environmental checks and approved right-of-way access on the west side of the property and hold mineral rights in common in the swap of Grand Lake property with the Cameron Parish Police Jury.

On the motion of Mrs. Theriot, seconded by Mr. McEvers, the Board approved the only bid for mineral lease section 16-15-15 [South Half (S/2)] Johnson Bayou, 320 more or less, from Allen & Kirmse, LTD., in the amount of \$112,000.00 per year (\$350 per acre) with 25% royalties for three(3) years as per Mr. Benoit. There were no bids received on Section 16-15-15 (N/2).

On the motion of Mr. McEvers, seconded by Mr. Trahan, the Board approved the advertisement for bids on the following expired and unexpired surface leases as presented by Mr. Benoit.

1. 16-12-13
2. 16-14-3 Lot 1
3. 16-14-3 Lot 2
4. 16-14-3 Lot 3
5. 16-14-3 Lot 4
6. 16-14-3
7. 16-14-7
8. 16-14-10
9. 16-14-13
10. 16-14-14
11. 16-15-3
12. 16-15-4
13. 16-15-7

On the motion of Mr. Trahan, seconded by Mr. Nunez, the Board authorized the solicitation of engineering and architectural services for repairs and additions to all athletic fields and accessory buildings at Grand Lake High School, Hackberry High School, Johnson Bayou High School and South Cameron High Schools with bid proposals to be captured individually for the purpose of FEMA and other project funding sources presented by Mr. Hoffpauir, Project Manager.

On the motion of Mrs. Nunez, seconded by Mr. Nunez, the Board approved the annual revisions to Policy JCDA - Student Code of Conduct and Policy IDFA, Interscholastic Athletics as presented by Mr. Benoit.

On the motion of Mr. Nunez, seconded by Mrs. Nunez, the Board approved the contract with Interquest Detection Canines of Southwest Louisiana for the purpose of detecting contraband in student vehicles as presented by the Superintendent.

On the motion of Mr. Nunez, seconded by Mr. Trahan, the Board approved the procedure whereby all students found to be in possession of any and all contraband will be immediately recommended for expulsion with investigative results considered at the expulsion hearing only and the recommendation from that hearing eligible to be reversed by the Cameron Parish School Board, in accordance with existing policy, as presented by the Superintendent.

On the motion of Mrs. Theriot, seconded by Mr. McEvers, the Board approved the revisions to policy based on Cameron Parish School Board, Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and/or legislative action from 2002-2007 as follows:

ABCA - Number
BA - Goals and Objectives
BC - Meetings
BH - School Board Ethics
CE - School Superintendent
CEA - Superintendent

Qualifications
CEC - Recruitment of Superintendent
CED - Employment of Superintendent

CN - Administrative Records
DFI - Lease of School Lands
DJED - Bids and Quotations
EB - Buildings and Grounds Management

EBC - Buildings and Ground Security
EBCB - Video Monitoring of School Board Property
ED - Student Transportation Management

EDCA - School Bus Safety Inspections
EE - Child Nutrition Management
EGAA - Workers' Compensation

EGAC - Health and Group Hospitalization Insurance
GAK - Personnel Records
GAMA - Employee Tobacco Use

GAMFB - Guidelines for Handling Bodily Fluids in Schools
GBC - Recruitment
GBD - Employment of Personnel

GBE - Assignment
GBK - Employee Discipline
GBKA - Suspension
GBL - Tenure
GBN - Dismissal of Employees

GBNA - Reduction in Staff Personnel
GBNA-P - Reduction in Force Procedures
GBRA - Employee Conduct
GBRH - Professional Leave
GBRIA - Sabbatical Leave
GBRIA - General Leaves of Absence

GBRIF - Bereavement Leave
GBRJ - Substitute Personnel

GBRL - Holidays
IDBB - Alcohol, Tobacco, Drug, and Substance Abuse Education Program

IDDG - Alternative Schools Education Program

IDDH - Limited English Proficiency Program

IEC - Class Size

IFBGA - Technology/Internet Acceptable

IFCB - Field Trips and Excursions

IHF - Graduation Requirements II - Testing Program

JBA - Compulsory School Attendance Ages

JBCD - Student Transfer and Withdrawal

JBCE - Public School Choice

JCABB - Student Interrogation

JCD - Student Conduct

JCDAB - Dangerous Weapons

JCDAE - Electronic Telecommunication Devices

JCDAF - Bullying, Intimidation, Harassment, and Hazing

JGC - Student Health Services

JGCE - Child Abuse

JHC - Student Organizations

JJ - Employment of Students

JQL - Language Minority Student

JR - Student Records

LDDB - Relations with Armed Forces/Military Agencies

On the motion of Mrs. Nunez, seconded by Mr. Nunez, the Board approved revisions to policy based on recent legislative action, of April, 2008, as follows:

IDCA - Summer School
IDCH - Home Study Program
IDCC - Homebound

Instruction
IDG - Adult Education

IHF - Graduation Requirements

II - Testing Program

JB - Attendance

JBC - School Admission

JBD - Student Absences and Excuses

On the motion of Mrs. Theriot, seconded by Mrs. Trahan, the Board approved to receive for review, the policies listed based on recent legislative action, as well as revisions to various Louisiana Department of Education bulletins, as presented by the Superintendent.

APPROVED:
Dwayne Sanner, President
CAMERON PARISH
SCHOOL BOARD

ATTEST:
Stephanie D. Rodrigue,
Superintendent
CAMERON PARISH
SCHOOL BOARD
Run: Aug. 14 (Au 14)

ADA - School Census
CEA - Superintendent

Qualifications
DIC - Inventories

IDCJ - Supplemental Educational Services

JGC - Student Health Services

JGCD - Administration of Medication

JGFG - Illness and Accident

On the motion of Mr. Trahan, seconded by Mr. McEvers, the Board received the report on advisement of Hackberry High School selected as a recipient of the "Ensuring Literacy for All" grant with Grand Lake High School, Johnson Bayou High School and South Cameron High School also implementing the same preK-4 reading initiative through the use of general and other funds as presented by the Superintendent.

Personnel Report
Personnel Recommendations:
The following personnel items are recommended by the Superintendent

/s/ Stephanie D. Rodrigue
7-14-2008
Stephanie D. Rodrigue,
Superintendent

PERSONNEL REPORT

RESIGNATION

Erica Johnson Hackberry High School, Special Education Resource Teacher

APPOINTMENTS
Kris Howerton Grand Lake High School, Head Basketball Coach with Middle School Social Studies

Monica Vincent Grand Lake High School, Special Education with other Teaching Duties

Tammy Demary Grand Lake High School, Teacher Aide for Alternative Program with other duties

Jendi Benoit Grand Lake High School, Teacher of Non-Categorical Pre-School Handicapped students

Angie Theriot Grand Lake High School, Teacher of Mild/Moderate and/or Severe Profound students

Allison Devall Hackberry High School/Johnson Bayou High School, Adaptive Physical Education Teacher

Emma Hobbs Hackberry High School, Special Education Teacher for Alternative Program with Other Teaching duties

Elise Stine Hackberry High School, Special Education Resource Teacher

Regina Aucoin Hackberry High School, Teacher Aide for Alternative Program with other duties

Wendy Burleigh Hackberry High School, Middle School Teacher (replacing year sabbatical position)

Carol W. Fetters Johnson Bayou High School, Pre Kdgt - Kindergarten Teacher

Jennifer Norris Johnson Bayou High School, 1st Grade Teacher

Misty Welch Johnson Bayou High School, Middle and Secondary English/Language Arts

Todd Jinks Johnson Bayou High School, Middle School Social Studies and Girls Basketball Coach

Lacey Dougharty Johnson Bayou High School, Middle School Science

Stephanie B. Coleman South Cameron High School, PreK Teacher

Christine Coleman South Cameron High School, Sweeper
Ashley Bridges South Cameron High School, Mild/Moderate Special Education

SABBATICAL LEAVE - MEDICAL
Teresa LeBlanc Hackberry High School, Elementary Teacher, 2008-2009 school year

ROLL CALL VOTE to enter into Executive Session:
YEAS: Mr. Nunez, Mr. McEvers, Mrs. Nunez, Mr. Sanner, Mrs. Theriot, Mrs. Trahan, Mr. Trahan

Zesty Potluck Pasta Salad

Love to bring home an empty bowl from potlucks? Here's a crowd-size pasta pleaser that almost guarantees an empty bowl.

Prep Time: 15 min
Start to Finish: 20 min
Makes: 14 servings (1 cup each)

2 boxes Betty Crocker® Suddenly Salad® classic pasta salad mix
3 cups Green Giant Select® frozen broccoli florets
2/3 cup Italian dressing
1/3 cup cold water

2 cups cut-up cooked chicken or ham
1 1/2 cups halved grape tomatoes

Empty contents of both pasta mix pouches into 4-quart saucepan
2/3 full of boiling water. Gently boil uncovered 12 minutes, stirring occasionally and adding broccoli during last 2 minutes of cooking.

Meanwhile, in large bowl, stir contents of both seasoning mix pouches, the dressing and cold water; set aside.

Drain pasta with broccoli; rinse with cold water. Shake to drain well. Stir pasta with broccoli, chicken and tomatoes into dressing mixture. Serve immediately, or refrigerate.

Nutrition Information: 1 Serving: Calories 170 (Calories from Fat 35); Total Fat 4g (Saturated Fat 1/2g, Trans Fat 0g); Cholesterol 15mg; Sodium 660mg; Total Carbohydrate 24g (Dietary Fiber 2g, Sugars 4g); Protein 10g Percent Daily Value*: Vitamin A 10%; Vitamin C 25%; Calcium 2%; Iron 8% Exchanges: 1 Starch; 1/2 Other Carbohydrate; 0 Vegetable; 1 Lean Meat Carbohydrate Choices: 1 1/2

*Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet

NAYS: None
ROLL CALL VOTE to enter into Regular Session:

YEAS: Mr. Nunez, Mr. McEvers, Mrs. Nunez, Mr. Sanner, Mrs. Theriot, Mrs. Trahan, Mr. Trahan

NAYS: None

The Board received information in reference to Case 2:06 - cv - 0970 - PM - KK - Cameron Parish V. RSUI Indemnity Company.

On the motion of Mrs. Theriot, seconded by Mr. McEvers, the Board adjourned the regular school meeting.

APPROVED:
Dwayne Sanner, President
CAMERON PARISH
SCHOOL BOARD

ATTEST:
Stephanie D. Rodrigue,
Superintendent
CAMERON PARISH
SCHOOL BOARD
Run: Aug. 14 (Au 14)

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7-14-2008
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Superintendent

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Catholic Calendar

Vol. 34, No. 17

A PAGE DEVOTED TO LOCAL CATHOLIC INTERESTS † THE DIOCESE OF LAKE CHARLES † LCDIOCESE.ORG

August 14, 2008

Catholic students back for 2008 - 2009 term

LAKE CHARLES - Students in all eight Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Lake Charles are back in their classrooms this morning for the 2008-2009 school term.

Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School in Jennings opened school first on Wednesday for a half-day session while the remaining seven schools have a half-day of class today.

Mary Ann Moses, superintendent of schools for the Diocese, felt that enrollment would be higher this year.

"We look forward to more students in our school system," Moses said. "Our total enrollment has increased from last year."

At the beginning of the 2007-2008 term, 2,707 students were enrolled. That number was an increase of 60 students, system-wide, from the year

before.

Schools in the Diocese of Lake Charles system are St. Louis Catholic High School, Immaculate Conception Cathedral Catholic School, St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic School, Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School, Sacred Heart St. Katharine Drexel Catholic School, all in Lake Charles; St. Theodore's Holy Family Catholic School, Moss Bluff; Our Lady's Catholic School, Sulphur; and Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School, Jennings.

"For the beginning of school I have great anticipation and great expectations for the school year in our Catholic schools due to the fact that it's a starting point to the path of a lifetime of accomplishment and that always excites me."

Sacred Heart/Saint Katharine Drexel will begin the

year fully moved back into their offices/elementary classrooms following several years of using the former Immaculate Heart of Mary school on Cherry Street. The move was due to the extreme damage done to the building by Hurricane Rita in 2005.

"Sacred Heart will reopen on its main campus," Moses said. "They are celebrating their 100th year, which is in itself a celebration. They are very excited returning to their original campus. It's like a new building."

The students and teachers probably won't recognize the inside of their building as the interior was stripped to the bare walls and rebuilt with the most up-to-date technology installed.

"The infrastructure of their school has taken on a whole new dimension due to the reconstruction of the building,"

she said. "It has allowed them to completely rewire and set up for technology as much as any other school anywhere. The technology grant received by all our schools from the state, allowed them to be able to put the absolute latest and most up to date equipment into these newly reconstructed classrooms. The school is equipped now and for the future."

With last spring's dedication of the new St. Louis Library and Msgr. DeBlanc Multimedia Center, the construction made possible by the school's Opening Windows Capital Campaign has been completed.

"The new library will be able

to better serve the students at St. Louis," Moses said. "It is very versatile in its design and very user friendly. It was a crowning touch to all of the efforts of the capital campaign and the major improvements at the school."

"Summer time has always been a time of fast and furious work to spruce up the school for the Fall. Everyone has done things over the summer to improve their campuses."

Moses looks to the challenges of the new year as one of preparation.

"What I perceive as one of our greatest challenges is that we must prepare our students

for a modern world, a world of fast paced, vast new frontiers of knowledge and opportunity," she said. "The other thing that makes me such a believer in Catholic schools is that because of these challenges I believe that we, as Catholic schools, are so uniquely prepared, like no other schools, to deal with these challenges."

"I have extreme confidence that not only will we meet these challenges whatever they may be but that we will meet them and be able to excel in areas," she continued. "Based on our faith, based on our values, based on who we are, we are prepared for the challenge."



Rev. Whitney Miller, Secretary for the Ministry of Christian Formation, preaches at the Mass for Catholic school principals and administrative assistants held at Chapel of the Assumption at Saint Charles Center prior to this week's start of the new school year.

The Bishop's Golf Classic set Sept. 5

LAKE CHARLES — The Bishop's Golf Classic, benefiting seminarian education and the priest retirement fund will be held Friday, September 5 at Gray Plantation golf course. Host sponsors for this inaugural event are Alfred Palma Contractors and Cameron State Bank while Bubba Oustalet and Jeff Davis Bank are presenting sponsors.

The need for funds for the men studying for the priesthood as well as those who have given their lives in the service to the Church is absolutely necessary and the need is increasing.

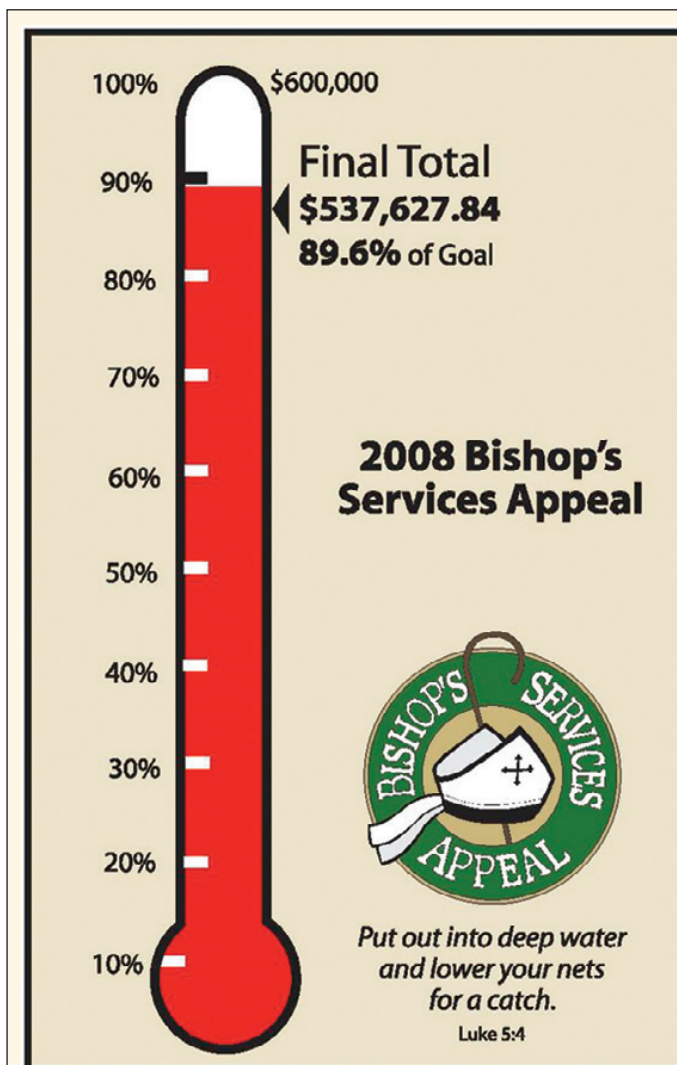
The four-person scramble will have morning and afternoon shotgun starts. Food and beverages will be provided on the course. Prizes will be awarded and a hole-in-one will win the lucky golfer a car.

Entry fee is \$125 per person and \$500 per team.

Tournament entry forms are available in every parish of the Diocese, area golf courses, and from the Office of Development of the Diocese, 411 Iris Street.

For more information contact Chip Gauthé, Director of Development, 337-439-7400, Extension 307, or at chip.gauth@lodiocese.org.

Members of the tournament committee are Robert Piper (474-6814), Bill LeBlanc (540-3543) and Larry Deroussel (794-8339).



Thank you ...

For your generosity to the Bishop's Services Appeal for 2007-2008. Your financial gifts have made it possible for a number of programs and ministries of the Diocese of Lake Charles to operate more effectively during the year. Ministries supported in part by the Bishop's Services Appeal are Catholic Education, Youth Ministry, Vocations/Seminarians, Catholic Charities, Family Life, Seafarers Center, Diocesan Counseling Services, Evangelization, Communications, and Saint Charles Center. We hope you will consider continuing your unselfish support of these programs and ministries of the Diocese of Lake Charles in the year ahead.

Did you know ...

St. Paul Church in Elton and Immaculate Conception Church in Maplewood along with St. John the Evangelist Chapel in Lacassine have all faced destruction by fire. St. Paul has actually been destroyed twice, first in 1929. The parish used the former school auditorium, which

was remodeled and used until 1951 when a new church was built and dedicated. That structure was destroyed in 1982. The new St. Paul was built and dedicated in 1984. Immaculate Conception Church was destroyed in 1981 and the new church was dedicated in early

1984. St. John the Evangelist was destroyed by a fire in May 2003 and the new construction was dedicated in 2005.

Priests from Religious Orders have been very important in the area of what is now the Diocese of Lake Charles. Which Order has had the greatest presence in the area. Find out in our next Catholic Calendar.

An "Altar-ed" Existence

By the Reverend Deacon J. Scott Conner

On May 10th of this year I experienced a significant change in my life. On that day, His Excellency, the Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, ordained me to the Sacred Order of Deacon. Through the laying on of his hands, I was made a Deacon of the Holy Catholic Church, receiving the obligation to participate in the Church's life and mission a new way by proclaiming the Gospel at Holy Mass; preaching homilies; assisting the Bishop or a Priest at the altar; presiding at public prayer, such as baptisms, marriages, funerals; committing to prayer and study; and of course, the ministry of charity. These activities will prepare me for ordination to the Sacred Order of Priesthood, which I hope to receive within the year.

Since entering formation for the Priesthood, I have discovered that many have questions about what influences a man to a priestly vocation. There are, of course, as many answers as there are men. In my case, though, I know that the activities and experiences from my childhood and adolescence played an essential role in bringing me to where I am today. Yet, when I recount some of these to whoever may be asking about my past experiences, they tend to become fascinated when I tell them that I used to rodeo. Usually I see a



Deacon J. Scott Conner

curious expression on their faces, and then find that they want me to tell them all about "the rodeo."

Before I can really get very far into my explanation, though, my questioners often break in with this question first: "What was it like riding bulls?" Having some fun, I might reply: "Well, growing up I wasn't always the most prudent of individuals, but I did at least have some common sense. So, I never rode bulls." (Since only the brave receive glory, I suspect that this may be why bull riders come to mind first when rodeo is mentioned.)

The primary event that I participated in, which is much more "human friendly" than bull riding, is called tie-down calf roping. For those who have ever watched a rodeo, this is

the event where the cowboy ropes the calf, dismounts from the horse, runs to the calf, "flanks" (that is, throws down) the calf, and then ties three of its legs together.

In rodeo there are "timed events" and "judged events". In timed events, the winner is determined by the fastest time. Examples of timed events are tie-down roping, team roping, barrel racing, etc. In judged events, conversely, competitors are not ranked according to time but score. In judged events, such as bull riding, bare-back riding, and saddle-bronc riding, the animal and the rider each receive a score according to how well they perform. The winner is the one with the highest aggregate score.

I began roping, I tell my interlocutors, at about eleven. It all started when my dad became interested in roping, and as is the case with most fathers and sons, my other siblings and I adopted a similar interest. (I will leave it to the fathers reading this to consider how their interests may affect their children.) Initially my involvement in roping was unfocused. Success was not the primary aim. I supposed that I merely enjoyed being around the gang, doing things together. But later, perhaps a few years before entering high school, I developed a more intense passion for roping. For me, this was my football or baseball practice. Fortunately, we were blessed with wonderful parents



"Cowboy" Scott Conner participated in tie-down calf roping during his rodeo days. Here, he has roped the calf, is dismounting before he runs to the calf, throws it down, and then ties three of its legs together in the timed event.

who sacrificed their time and resources for their children. Because of their generosity and support, each afternoon we could spend several hours practicing roping and riding.

We always had specific goals in mind when we practiced. The first was improvement. Rodeo is just like any other sport. To be successful a few things are necessary: dedication; a certain degree of athleticism; the elimination of mistakes; and finally, be a little lucky. So our labors were always focused on honing our talents. To be perfectly frank, even though we enjoyed roping itself, no one really does anything to lose. The same was true for us, traveling to rodeos and winning was always the ultimate goal.

When I think back on our rodeo years, I now realize that I never fully appreciated the places they took us, and for the experience it gave me. We went as far as from south Florida to northern Wyoming, and from South Carolina to west Texas,

and everywhere else in between. Rodeo gave us many exceptional travel opportunities and allowed us to make acquaintances with many people from throughout the United States. Occasionally I had a few little successes here and there, though at the time I was never satisfied with these. Looking back now, I have learned to be more appreciative, for those days were truly a gift. It's easy to see how the experience and virtue I gained through my involvement with rodeo and roping calves prepared me for the many challenges that come along in life, and have helped me become the man I am today.

When I am visiting with people about my rodeo experiences, I have come to think that what they are really asking me to do is to help connect the dots. For the real question is essentially this: How does one go from the rodeo arena to the altar of God? It would of course take another article to

explain this adequately. Suffice to say, that roping taught me a lot about discipline, personal responsibility and accountability, stewardship of creation, and sacrifice. These have gone a long way in helping me discern a priestly vocation.

The days and years when I roped calves and rode horses were indeed very meaningful, full of highs and lows, bumps and bruises. Eventually, though, after making time for serious personal reflection, I could see that through these experiences God was calling me to "follow Him" as a priest. In the years since, there has been a transformation: a roper of calves has become a fisher of men. If the time ahead is anything like what came before, I know that on the one hand it will be a wild ride, but on the other, it will be the ride of my life.

May God bless you. Please pray for me as I continue my formation in preparation for the Priesthood of Jesus Christ.

(This page paid for by the Diocese of Lake Charles.)