



Michelle Thompson Mudd

## Mudd gets congeniality award

Michelle Thompson Mudd of Cameron Parish was named "Mrs. Congeniality" at the Mrs. America Pageant held in Palm Springs, Calif. Tuesday, Sept. 7.

Mrs. Mudd had previously been named Mrs. Louisiana in the state pageant.

She is married to Chad Mudd of Cameron and they have 2-year-old twin daughters.

The pageant will be televised on Sept. 27, from 8 to 10 p.m. on the PAX network.

## Absentee voting now in progress

Absentee voting is now in progress through Saturday, Sept. 11 in the Cameron Registrar of Voters office on the bottom floor of the Cameron courthouse.

Voting will be from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

There are four items to be voted on as follows:

\*Court of Appeal judgeship--Billie Woodard, incumbent; David Painter, challenger.

\*Constitutional Amendment No. 1--Defining marriage as the union of one man and one woman.

\*Renewal of a 8-mill property tax in the Parish Law Enforcement District.

\*Renewal of a 2-mill property tax in the Parish Law Enforcement District.

The election will be held Saturday, Sept. 18.

Voters are reminded to bring a picture ID when they go to vote.

## Benefit set for deputy


A benefit will be held for Cameron Parish Deputy Robert LaBove beginning at noon Saturday, Sept. 11 at the Cameron K.C. Hall.

Deputy LaBove was seriously injured in a car accident while on duty recently.

Barbecue lunches will be sold and there will be live music, an auction, a moon walk, 50/50, door prizes, Idlers cub car show and bake sale.

Anyone wishing to make donations may call Carolyn at 775-5596.

The Cameron Parish  
**Pilot** 35¢  
 September 9, 2004 Vol. 48--No. 37 Cameron, La. 70631




SHOWN WITH the new Confederate marker on the grounds of the Cameron Parish Courthouse are, from left: Mary Pace and Johanna Pate with the Louisiana Society of the Confederate Rose, dressed in Civil War-style dresses, and Tina Horn, parish administrator.

## Historical marker is dedicated

The Louisiana Society Order of the Confederate Rose dedicated a new state historical marker Saturday at the Cameron Parish Courthouse. In charge of the ceremonies were Mary Pace and Johanna Pate of the OCR, and Cameron Parish

Administrator Tina Horn.

The marker tells the story of Pvt. William Guehrs of Creuzbauer's Battery, who received the Confederate Medal of Honor for his "self-sacrificing actions above and beyond the call of duty" in the May 6, 1864, Battle of Calcasieu Pass.

Taking part in the dedication ceremony were women dressed in 1860's-style mourning dresses; the Semmes Battery, which fired a cannon salute; and Confederate infantry re-enactors, who fired a musket salute.

## Hwy. work is slated

W. E. McDonald & Sons submitted the low bid of \$612,207.95 on repaving Hwy. 384 in Cameron Parish when bids were opened recently the La. Dept. of Transportation.

The highway is the one that runs east from Boone's Corner at Grand Lake and connects with Hwy. 27 at Hackett's Corner near Sweetlake.

The work will consist of lime treatment, cement treated base course, superpave and related work.

## Johnson Bayou school to be discussed at meet

Two items pertaining to Johnson Bayou High School will be on the Cameron Parish School Board's agenda when it holds its monthly meeting Monday, Sept. 13.

The board will hold an agenda meeting at 3 p.m. followed by the regular meeting at 4 p.m.

Johnson Bayou High Principal Gene Reynolds will give a report on the 2004-05 goals, objectives and an overview of activities for the

school.

The board also will go into executive session to discuss the lease of property for uses by the school.

An executive session may also be required to discuss a resolution pertaining to pipeline property litigation.

The board is expected to grant the superintendent authority to proceed with the opening of bids at Grand Lake High School on school additions and improvements.

## United Way kickoff is held here

The Cameron Parish division of the United Way of Southwest Louisiana held a kickoff breakfast at Stella's Restaurant on Monday, Aug. 30.

The parish's goal this year is \$31,000, according to Scott Trahan, chairman, and Bobbie Jo Jinks, co-chairman. Kathy Williams is the United Way representative for the parish.

The Cameron Council on Aging receives a \$73,000 United Way grant each year for providing meals for the elderly and provide public transportation for doctor visits, etc.

United Way agencies served 4,588 persons in Cameron parish this past year.

The local campaign will run through Nov. 3. For more information or to make a pledge call Dinah Landry or Mary Johnson at 775-5668.



## Capture of Big Tooth recalled

By W. T. Block (Reprinted from the Beaumont Enterprise, Saturday January 2, 1999.)

NEDERLAND -- It was early July of 1929, and the Neches River had just returned to within its banks. A month earlier, there had been long torrential rains throughout East Texas, causing it to rampage out of its banks until it was 2 miles wide at Port Neches Park.

One morning I went down to pump out the boats at our boat landing on Block's Bayou, in place of my brother Broomtail, who was ill. Immediately I saw a huge alligator, half of its body above water and swimming slowly toward the mouth of the bayou.

I quickly ran up the bluff toward our barnyard, screaming for Dad to bring his 73 Winchester and kill old "Big Tooth." Dad had already left for the field, but a neighbor, Roy Sterling, was still in the barnyard, hitching up a team of mules.

As Roy ran for the boat landing, Mama handed him the loaded Winchester. Roy began rowing the big skiff toward the alligator, which by then was already swimming

# Tax millages rolled back

By CYNDI SELLERS

Lower tax rates will be seen by Cameron Parish taxpayers as a result of the action taken at Tuesday's regular Police Jury meeting. Millages were levied on the 2004 tax roll that reflected rollbacks to at least a revenue neutral position for all entities over which the Jury has control.

Parishwide taxes affected are:

- General Fund - 3.57 mills
- Parishwide Road Tax - 6.61 mills
- Courthouse Maintenance - 2.64 mills
- Parishwide Garbage - 7.54 mills
- Health Unit - 1.32 mills
- Library - 5.75 mills

Various Fire Protection districts also levied reduced millages for 2004:

- Hackberry Fire District #1 - 4.52 mills
- Cameron Fire District #1 - 0.00 mills
- Cameron Fire District #7 - 4.07 mills
- Cameron Fire District #9 - 2.32 mills
- Cameron Fire District #10 - 7.71 mills
- Cameron Fire District #14 - 5.06 mills
- Cameron Fire District #15 - 7.96 mills
- Cameron Fire District #16 - 11.17 mills

Three sinking funds administered by the Jury had their millages adjusted so that enough money will be collected to pay the notes on bond issues.

- They are:
- Cameron Fire District #16 Sinking Fund - 10.00 mills
- Hackberry Fire District #1 Sinking Fund - 4.00 mills
- Cameron Fire District #7 Sinking Fund - 6.00 mills

These adjustments were all brought about as a result of the recent parishwide property re-assessment which caused a many taxpayers' rates to go up. Because of the reduced levies no more funds will be generated for the above items than last year.

The Police Jury agreed to ask for an Attorney General's opinion regarding a clause in the contract between the South Cameron Hospital Board and Pacer, the hospital's management company. Juror Douaine Conner asked for clarification of a clause that would allow Pacer to purchase the hospital under certain conditions.

Assistant District Attorney Jennifer Jones said that because so many entities

would have to agree to such a sale, including the bankruptcy court, and because such a purchase would include Pacer's taking on the hospital's debt, it is extremely unlikely that Pacer would ever consider such a move. She agreed to write a letter to the Attorney General asking for clarification.

The Hospital District also asked the Jury to consider moving the boundary of the district northward in order to increase revenue. The requested area is between Little Chenier and the Intracoastal Waterway and does not affect any homeowners, according to the district.

There are pipelines in the area that would add to the district's tax base. District Attorney will prepare an ordinance to be presented at next month's Police Jury Meeting.

Contracts were approved for the architectural firm The Sellers Group to design the Grand Chenier Library Branch for Asphalt Associates to perform work on Parish Road 459 (Eric Road) in Grand Lake.

The Jury voted to advertise for bids to overlay four roads in the Cameron area, at the request of Juror James Doxey.

Juror Charles Precht's request for a \$10,000 appropriation for Gravity Drainage District #8 was approved by a vote of 3 to 2, with Jurors Scott Trahan and Douaine Conner opposed and Jurors Precht, Doxey, and Sonny McGee in favor.

Mike Perry, of the Imperial Calcasieu Resources, Conservation, and Development Council, asked the Jury to participate in a beach stabilization project. The Council proposes to partner with the Department of Natural Resources, the USDA, and Cameron Parish to add a second row of sand fences and vegetative planting south of the existing sand fences at Johnson Bayou. He asked the Jury to commit to \$26,000 in kind assistance with labor and equipment, and the Jury agreed.

In other business the jury agreed to:

Request the disbursement of Priority 2 Capital Outlay funds which have been designated for a Bike Trail Study

Accept as substantially complete the Creole Waterworks project

Send a resolution in favor of two CWPRA projects

Re-appoint Coy Mudd to Recreation District #6.

## Hackberry Festival set

St. Peter's Catholic Church in Hackberry will hold its annual Fall Festival Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 10-12.

Seafood gumbo will be served Friday starting at 10:30 a.m.

Fried catfish dinners will be sold Saturday beginning at 11 a.m.

On Sunday barbecued

brisket plates will be sold starting a 11 a.m.

A concession stand will operate all three days and bingo will be played on Friday, 7 to 8 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Sunday, 11 a.m. until.

Prize money in the amount of \$500, \$200 and \$100 will be awarded.



SHOWN ABOVE ARE JoAnn Nunez and Library Director, Charlotte Trosclair showing some of the Quilted Christmas Balls that will be made at the Johnson Bayou, Hackberry, and Grand Lake Branches of the Cameron Parish Library. Johnson Bayou has the Quilted Christmas Balls class scheduled for Thursday, September 16 from 5-6 p.m. Hackberry has the Quilted Christmas Balls class scheduled for Thursday, September 23 from 5-6 p.m. and Grand Lake has the Quilted Christmas Balls class scheduled for Thursday, September 30 from 5-6 p.m. The class is free but the participants need to bring a thimble and lots of straight pins. Please contact the library to ensure a place is saved for you in the class. All library events can be found on the calendar of events on the library web site located at www.cameron.lib.la.us



Big Tooth

Cont. on Page 2.

## Funerals

**SHERMAN MAYNE**  
Sherman Mayne, 81, died Saturday, Aug. 28, 2004, in Wilmington, N. C.  
His funeral was held Saturday, Sept. 4, from Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Creole.  
Burial was in St. Rose of Lima Cemetery under the direction of Hixson Funeral Home of Creole.

## Blood drive

LifeShare Blood Centers is located at 214 South Ryan Street in Lake Charles. Center hours are 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday, and the first Saturday of every month, 8 a.m. to noon. Appointments are appreciated and may be made at 436-4932 or 1-800-256-4932.

## Shooting Ins. class set

Cameron Parish 4-H Shooting Sports is offering a class to teach adults to teach children in the 4-H Shooting Sports Project. The adults must be 21 years of age and not had a felony or hunting violation in the last two years. If you are interested in taking the class offered at the Burton Coliseum on Sept. 24-25 please contact Jake Fontenot at 775-5516 or Dede at 249-9754 for registration as soon as possible.



## Our Lady Star of The Sea Youth News

Confirmation students are reminded to attend the mandatory dioceses meeting with Bishop Braxton this Sunday at St. Margaret's Catholic church in Lake Charles from 2-4:30 p.m.. This meeting is for you and your sponsor, if your sponsor is not able to attend please bring a parent with you. This meeting Bishop Braxton will be explaining why the Triduum is so important. CYO will hold its first meeting for the year on Sunday, Sept. 19. Our meeting will start with attending the 9:30 a.m. mass with meeting and meal following. CYO is open to any youth in grades 7 thru 12. If you would like to join please come to mass or you may call Mrs. Margaret at 542-4300. The diocese monthly DYC meetings will also start on Sept. 19, it will be held at Christ the King in Lake Charles starting at 2 - 4 p.m. Fr. Wayne LeBlue and Fr. Keith Pellerin will conduct the meeting on "The Role of Music in Spirituality and Liturgy".

## 4-Hers plan work days

Hackberry High School 4-H members will be working on the school courtyard on Sept. 9, 13 and 27, according to Reporter Jeb Backlund. Members must have a note to stay after school. On Saturday, Sept. 11 a courtyard workday and picnic will be held. Members should bring their lunches; the drinks will be furnished.

# Lagniappe Two

By Geneva Griffith

I attended the wake this week for a well-known Cameron young man, Kent Mudd, and met the Baton Rouge Mayor who said that Kent was very well liked by all of his fellow workers in the city government here, which was evidenced by all of the beautiful floral offerings. Kent worked for the city after he graduated from McNeese. His mother, Mildred, and I shared some memories as we both cared for our mothers at the same time many years ago. I saw many of my old friends from Cameron Parish and everyone wanted to know all about my dog, Beau, about whom I write so much. I am anxiously looking forward to seeing my great-granddaughter, McCall, tomorrow. Cherie, Pat and I are going to pick her up tomorrow and keep her for the weekend while her mother hosts the

Northwestern Alumni in several events. I counted the orange colored blooms on my "Jennie" plant this morning. There were nine which covered the plant - a beautiful sight I still don't know the name of it, but someone suggested that I cut a bloom and take it, along with a leaf, to a florist and get them to identify it for me, so I plan to do it. In the meantime I call it after Jennifer who sent it to me. I was thumbing through my keepsakes recently and came across a letter from my Russian friend I met when I got lost on a tour Moscow. I corresponded with him with the help of Judge Ward Fontenot who can write in Russian. But after a skirmish in Red Square a letter I had written to him came back so I figured he may not have survived. That was in the latter part of 1989.



GENEVA GRIFFITH is pictured in Moscow in 1989 with a young man who came to her rescue when she became separated from her tour group. She corresponded with him, but later her last letter was returned, and she feared that something may have happened to him.

## Hackberry 4-Hers win awards in competition

By JEB BACKLUND

Mrs. Margaret Ann Shove, Hackberry 4-H leader, was the state winner in Electric-Environmental Project Leader division. She won a trip to the 4-H Leader Training Center at Rock Eagle. She was a blue ribbon winner for a Congress trip and a blue ribbon for the alumni award. Lori Beth Shove, Jr. 4-H member, was the state winner in Grade 7 Junior Achievement division. She won a \$75 savings bond. She was first alternate in the Good Provider Contest and also won a blue ribbon in Community Study and Services division. Jacob Poole, Jr. 4-H member was the state winner in the Good Provider contest. He won a trip to New Orleans. He was also first alternate in the Communications division. Kayla Backlund, Sr. 4-H

member, was the state winner in Housing and Home Environment division. She won a Congress trip to Atlanta, Ga. She was also a blue ribbon winner in Leadership. They will be recognized, as well as all other blue ribbon winners from 4-H U and summer records contests, at the school board meeting Monday, Sept. 12, at 4 p.m. and at the police jury meeting on Oct. 4, at 5 p.m.

## BIG TOOTH

Cont. from Pg. 1

stream of Model T and Model A cars parked down at our farm house, for everyone wanted to sit on the alligator and have his photograph taken. A photograph of Big Tooth, appears on page 135 of Sapphire City of The Neches. "Big Tooth" measured only 2 inches short of 15 feet long and was estimated to be 60 years old. His mouth measured 32 inches from the tip of his snout to the end of his jaw, where his teeth stopped. One person believed that the big alligator was possibly ill and had drifted down on the flood tides from Angelina River. As of 1930, large alligators ten feet or longer had already been hunted to near extinction in the vicinity of Sabine Lake. Because of the smell, Sterling eventually had to stack drift wood and pour crude oil on Big Tooth, and set him ablaze, but not before about 500 people got to see him and snap photos. Because of the lack of television or other amusements around the then-small town of Port Neches, old "Big Tooth" provided each with a moment of mirth, much like the big whale at Port Arthur had provided in 1910. And nearly everyone commented that Big Tooth, could also have provided an hour of grief if the big gator had caught a small child in his jaws. W. T. Block of Nederland is a historian and author. His website is <http://block.dynip.com/wtbloc.kjr>. This database is very large (150 articles) and is intended as an area history source for students.

## Parking for games at McNeese

Parking spaces for McNeese State University football games are still available in Lots A and D. Lot A is between the stadium and McNeese Street and Lot D is located on the east side of the stadium, and the remaining spots will be sold for \$60 each and include all home games and any playoff games. Lost parking passes cannot be replaced. The McNeese Cowboys play the Southeastern Louisiana Lions this Saturday at 7 p.m. in Cowboy Stadium. The McNeese Ticket Office will be open from 8 a.m.- 6 p.m. through Friday and at 11 a.m. on game days. Parking passes are purchased through the ticket office. Fans are reminded that game day parking passes will

not be sold and the appropriate parking pass must remain visible in the vehicle during the time it is parked in the stadium lots. Drivers with state issued handicapped parking passes must have a stadium parking pass to park in the handicapped spaces around the stadium. Free parking will be available on the main campus. Drivers will be allowed to drive up to the field house to

drop off passengers. The stadium lots will be secured at 9 a.m. on game days and vehicles parked in the stadium lots without parking passes will be towed at the owner's expense. The McNeese Ticket Office staff will be available to answer specific questions about football stadium parking. The telephone number is 475-5200.

**CHOOSE THE TASTE YOU WANT!**

Sweet Onion Chicken Teriyaki Italian B.M.T.

Our subs with 6 grams of fat or less include the 6" Sweet Onion Chicken Teriyaki on Honey Oat Bread with 3/4 oz. Teriyaki and 3/4 oz. Sweet Onion Sauces (6.0g of fat), prepared according to standard sandwich recipe with meat, red onions, lettuce, tomatoes, green peppers and olives. Customer requests to modify standard sandwich recipes or add cheese or condiments may increase fat or calorie content.

**SUBWAY**  
choose well

New Hours: Mon. - Thurs., 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. - Fri - Sun., 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.

501 Marshall St., Cameron 775-5814

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## Please join us for a community open house

Tuesday, September 14, 2004  
5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

VFW Hall  
2219 S. Highway 109  
Vinton, LA

Sempra Energy LNG and Sempra Energy International are applying to Federal and State agencies to permit a new liquefied natural gas (LNG) receipt terminal near Port Arthur, TX and a new natural gas pipeline that will connect from the terminal to the Transco compressor station 45 in Beauregard Parish, LA.

The Port Arthur LNG and Port Arthur Pipeline projects will bring many benefits to the Southwest Louisiana region including hundreds of construction jobs and tax revenues. In addition, these projects will play an integral role in providing a competitively-priced supply of natural gas to the nation, which in turn may help local manufacturers that rely on natural gas to run their operations more competitively.

Come to the open house for all the latest updates on these two projects. Information stations will be set up so that you will be able to talk one-on-one with company representatives, who will seek your comments and input on specific topics.

Please RSVP to this event using our toll-free number at 1-877-736-7729. A light dinner will be provided. We hope you'll join us.



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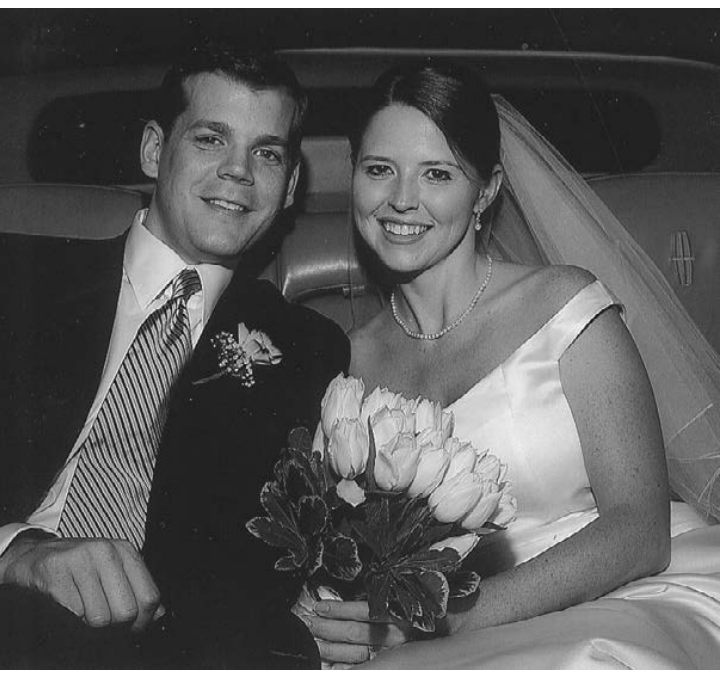
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Mr. and Mrs. Lee Hoffoss

## Hoffoss-Nash vows are said in Lake Charles

Corlissa Nash and Lee Hoffoss were married at 7 p.m. Aug. 6, in Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church in Lake Charles. Officiant at the double-ring ceremony was Mon-signor Ronald Groth.

Corlissa is the daughter of Enrette Nash Borel of Boones Corner and the late Corliss Nash. Lee is the son of John and Gail Hoffoss of Minden.

B.A. He also earned a Master's Degree from Tech., and a Juris Doctor from Southern University Law Center in Baton Rouge.

Both are lawyers with Raleigh Newman, APLC.

After honeymooning in the Napa Valley, Calif., they are residing in Lake Charles.

Grandparents of the bride are Ernest and Agnes Hebert of Boones Corner and Julius and Enell Nash of Lake Charles. The groom's grandparents are Roy and Joan Kinnard of Berryville, Ark., and Mrs. Yvonne Hoffoss of Minden.

Matron of honor was Kelly Pedersen. Junior bridesmaid was Chanler Borel, sister of the bride. Flower girl was Lexi Peck.

## Births told

Best man was Adam Hoffoss, brother of the groom. Ring bearer was Jake Elliott.

Readings were presented by Christine Hebert and Kelly Elliott, sister of the groom.

Ushers were Butch Hebert and Callan Borel, brother of the bride.

### GRANT JOSEPH DAIGLE

James and Nanette Daigle of Grand Chenier announce the birth of their second child, Grant Joseph, July 14, at Women & Children's Hospital in Lake Charles. He weighed 7 lbs. 11 ozs.

Grandparents are Harold and Sally Domingue of Grand Chenier, Brenda Daigle and Warner and Linda Daigle of Cameron.

Great-grandparents are Melanie Domingue of Grand Chenier, J. Berton and Audrey Daigle, Frank and Ella Rose Benoit of Cameron.

Great-great-grandfather is Elmer Miller of Singer.

The couple's other child is Tyler, 7.

### HILLARY JANE KELLEY

Carl and Asha Kelley of Cameron announce the birth of their daughter, Hillary Jane, August 24, 2004. She weighed 6 lbs. 3 ozs.

Grandparents are Rocky and Jackie Kelley of Creole and Mike and Connie Johnson of Cameron.

The couple's other child is Sabrina, 8.

## Breast cancer 3-K event set Oct. 16

Thank you for the article in the paper. However, Ethel Precht is the founder of the Breast Cancer 3K Fun Run/Walk, not the chairman as previously printed.

This will be the first of its kind. All monies will stay in Cameron and Calcasieu parishes to help breast cancer survivors who cannot pay for wigs, prostheses, etc. -- no money will leave the parishes.

This event will be held Saturday, Oct. 16, at 7:30 - 11:30 a.m. at the Lake Charles Civic Center Outdoor Arena. Local cheerleaders will present each survivor a rose at the end of the walk.

There will be a brief closing ceremony with special guest speakers, including Sen. Willie Mount and local breast cancer survivors. A new rendition of "I Will Survive" will be performed live by Valerie Precht. Local D.J. Marshall Granger is donating sound and music.

All survivors, families and friends are asked to sign up and join us in this special celebration. Flyers can be picked up at Donna's Lingerie, LCMH Breast Health Care Center and other local businesses.

## Cameron Library News

### CAMERON LIBRARY NEWS

#### Memorial Books

Hunting Dabblers, Orrie Canik by Charlotte Trosclair family.

Offensive Football Strategies, Jennings Jones by VFW - Doxey Post #10019.

The Diver's Handbook, Kenneth McRight by VFW - Doxey Post #10019.

Getting Started in Woodworking, Kenneth McRight by American Legion Post #0176.

Uses For A Garden, Jennings Jones by American Legion Post #0176.

Wilder Mississippi, Dusty Mayard by Benny and Linda Welch.

Coming To Light, Orrie Canik by Benny and Linda Welch.

Sluggers, Clyde "Tooty" Doxey, Jr. by Wayne and Suzanne Sturlese.

Country Living: Making & Displaying Quilts, Anna I. LeBlanc by Wayne and Suzanne Sturlese.

Suzanne Sturlese.

King of the Cowboys, Orrie Canik by Wayne and Suzanne Sturlese.

Hush Little Ones, Elouise Booth by Wayne and Suzanne Sturlese and family.

#### New Novels

Dale Brown's Dreamland - Dale Brown.

White Hot - Sandra Brown.

Showdown at Rio Sagrado - Ralph Compton.

Something Rotten - Jasper Fforde.

The Man From Boot Hill - Marcus Galloway.

Body Double - Tess Gerritsen.

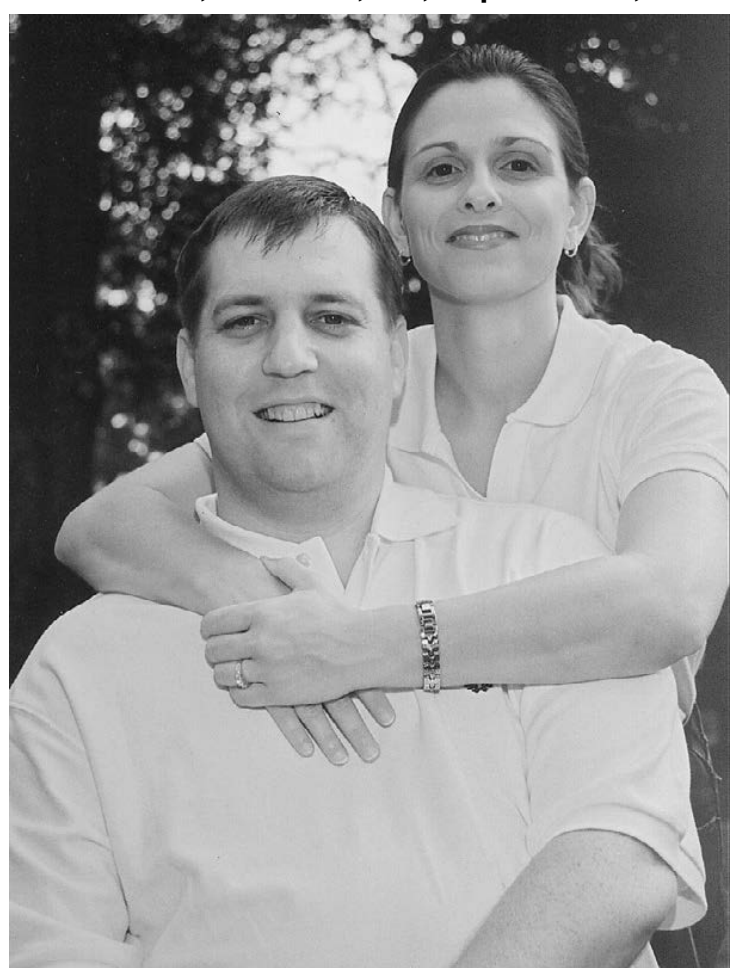
The Winds of Change - Martha Grimes.

Hear No Evil - James Grippando.

Hunting Fear - Kay Hooper.

One False Move - Alex Kava.

McNally's Bluff - Vincent Lardo.



**LONNIE AND JANE Black of Cameron announce the engagement and forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Elizabeth "Beth" Ann Black, to Brian Anthony Chapuis, son of Dickie and Edna Chapuis of Pascagoula, Miss. The wedding is set for Saturday, Sept. 18, at Eastlawn United Methodist Church in Pascagoula, Miss., beginning at 6 p.m. Through this means, friends and relatives are invited to attend.**

## Mount tells her platform

By MIKE JONES  
American Press

Congressional candidate state Sen. Willie Mount, D-Lake Charles, unveiled her economic development platform Tuesday.

Mount is running for the 7th District seat against Charles Boustany Jr., R-Lafayette; Malcolm R. Carriere, D-Lafayette; state Sen. Don Cravins, D-Arnaudville; and David Thibodaux, R-Lafayette. The election is Nov. 2.

Mount said Louisiana has made great strides in changing its negative image nationally and that she will continue to emphasize accomplishments and a positive image for the state.

She said that if elected, she would:

- Work to ensure that the Calcasieu Ship Channel remains dredged at levels needed to provide passage for cargo ships to the Port of Lake Charles and local industries.
- Work to secure improvement to La. 82 in Cameron for an adequate evacuation route, which is needed in the cases of hurricanes and homeland security and also to facilitate heavy-vehicle movement.

## Local fig tree was the oldest in United States

(EDITOR'S NOTE--Cameron Parish some years ago had the distinction of having what was then called the oldest fig tree in the United States. Geneva Griffith wrote this story about the old tree and it was published on Sept. 9, 1971. She now reports that the old tree "gave up the ghost" a few years later, and apparently no one thought to get a cutting to propagate another tree.)

(Cameron Pilot, Sept. 9, 1971)  
By GENEVA GRIFFITH

Did you know that Cameron Parish has the distinction of having the oldest fig tree in this country, and possibly in the world? It is located on the Welch farm on Oak grove. It has been standing over a century and has withstood numerous storms, diseases, and ravages of time.

It has been blown over in different hurricanes and the branches have taken root in the ground and have formed the trees which are now in a clump measuring about 100 feet in diameter.

The late Amedy Pujou Welch, who was the grandfather of Benny Welch, who resides nearby, recalled that the tree was standing when he was a small child. He was born in 1862. It was possibly planted by his father, James Welch.

The late Dr. Julian C. Miller, internationally known horticulturist and one of the world's foremost authorities on breeding sweet potatoes, heard about the tree, and in 1957, took some cuttings from it to start a research program at LSU, where he was working.

It was his hope at that time to develop it and observe the fruit and to possibly use it for a cross breed in developing a new strain of fig for this area and to call it the Welch fig.

Dr. Miller said that any tree that has been sturdy enough to withstand the ravages of time for over a century must have some special quality. He said that the life span of a fig tree is only about 20 years.

A check with LSU this year was answered by Donald W. Newsom who is head of the Department of Horticulture. He said that the original plants developed from the cuttings were lost in the 1960-61 freeze, but this material was used as parental stock in the department's fig breeding program.

He said that they currently have progeny from crosses between this fig variety and various types in the testing program. He also stated that nothing in the way of a variety has been developed as yet, but the department is still working on it.

This famous old fig tree was instrumental in saving the lives of nine people in 1957, during Hurricane Audrey. The Warren Jones family and others that were in the Jones home, started across the field to try to reach the safety of the stately old Welch home when they were trapped by the swirling flood waters just as they reached the tree. Grabbing branches of the tree and climbing up in the tops of the tree, the family members rode out the fury of the storm until the waters subsided at nightfall.

Jones said that the trees even provided food during the day. It was in the midst of the fig season and the tree was loaded with fruit. When they got hungry they ate the fig.

Little did they know at the time that they were indeed lucky. The Welch home disintegrated during the hurricane and the family members were washed out by the floodtides and landed in the oak trees nearby. If they had reached the big house they might not all have been saved.

This tree has certainly outlived its life span and has furnished fruit for five generations of the Welch family. Who knows what the new variety being developed will bring.

### LEGAL NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE TO AT&T CUSTOMERS IN LOUISIANA

Notice is hereby given that AT&T Communications of The South Central States, LLC, has filed a tariff that will affect intra-parish interLATA calls. Effective October 10, 2004, intra-parish direct-dialed long distance (interLATA) business and residential calls will be rated according to the pricing terms of your current AT&T calling plan, using the same long distance or local toll rates that you currently pay for calls that are not intra-parish and interLATA.

AT&T Communications of the South Central States, LLC

**— NOTICE —**

**The Cameron Parish School Board will meet in special session on Monday, October 4, 2004 at 3:00 p.m. for the purpose of receiving public comments on millages.**

RUN: Sept. 9 (S -23)

**New!**

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Cameron Communications' continues work on their 3-phase FTTH project in Grand Lake that began in July of 2004 and should be completed by fall of 2005.

## Fiber optic cable to be placed at all G.L. homes

When Cameron Communications committed to installing Fiber to the Home (FTTH) in Grand Lake, that meant burying fiber optic cable to every threshold, ensuring that the community is fully linked for future technologies.

"Fiber to the Home is really economic development for our rural communities. Our fiber infrastructure is 100% future proof. Once every building has fiber to the premises, we can easily upgrade to new technology and services without truck roll-out," explained Matt Montgomery, Project Manager. "Service additions will be made with software,

not trench digging."

Property owners are being offered a special incentive to allow a fiber termination unit to be installed on the outside of their building at no cost and with no commitment to any future purchase of services.

Although initially there will be no electronics installed at the termination box, the site will be ready and available for a quick installation of service when the homeowner desires. Cameron Communications 3-phase FTTH project began in July of 2004 and will complete FTTH installation by fall of 2005.



## Sabine Pass battle to be recreated Sept. 11 & 12

It's been 141 years since cannon fire echoed through the Sabine Pass and brave men fought -- and some died -- for a cause. On Oct. 8, 1863 less than 50 Confederate artillerymen under First Lieutenant Richard W. "Dick" Dowling repulsed a Union naval invasion at Sabine Pass.

During Sept. 11-12, those days will be recreated in "Dick Dowling Days" at Sabine Pass Battleground State Park and Historic Site. Reenactors and living historians from Southeast Texas and Louisiana will demonstrate Civil War cavalry, infantry, and artillery techniques throughout the weekend and recreating the 1863 battle of Sabine Pass on Saturday.

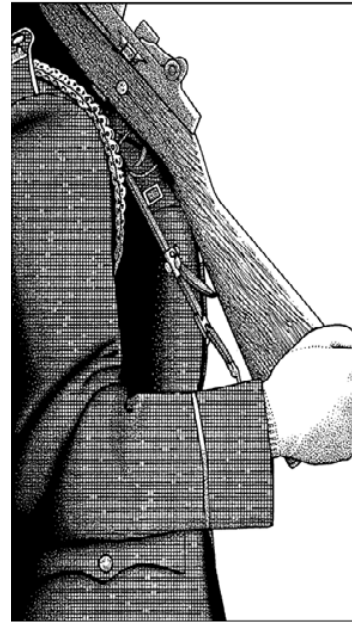
In addition to the reenactment of the epic battle, other highlights of Saturday's program will include a 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony with State Representative Mike "Tuffy" Hamilton as speaker, a Tribute to Dick Dowling and the Davis Guards presented by Dick Dowling Chapter 404 of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and the Irish Heritage Society and the dedication of two new historical markers remembering Union soldiers and sailors who fought and died at Sabine Pass.

Featured speaker at the historical marker dedication will be Edward T. Cotham, Jr., author of the new book on the battle, Sabine Pass: The Confederacy's Thermopylae. Sunday events will include a period outdoor church service open to the public and a reenactment of the 1862 skirmish at the Sabine Pass Lighthouse. Drills, skirmishes, demonstrations and living histories will be presented throughout both days.

"We're really excited about the return of Dick Dowling Days", comments Park Interpreter Jonathan Plant. For the last three years, tropical storms and torrential rains have canceled the annual event. Although not anticipated, if severe weather does curtail the event, it will be rescheduled for the weekend of Jan. 8-9.

The event opens to the public Saturday, Sept. 11, at 9 a.m. and closes to the public at 5:30 p.m., with the Reenactment of the Battle of Sabine Pass at 4 p.m. Sunday, the event opens at 9 a.m. and closes at 3 p.m., with the reenactment of the Sabine Pass Lighthouse skirmish at 2 p.m.

Admission to the park and event is \$8 per car. "Dick Dowling Days" is sponsored by Camp 1295, "Dick Dowling," of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. For more information, call Sea Rim State Park at 409-971-2559.



THE GRAND LAKE High School Senior class elected officers as follows: President - Matt Reon; Vice president - Ravelle Reed; Secretary - Tabitha Nunez; Treasurer - Katy Lavergne; and Reporter - Ashley Broussard. Brandy Guidry was named Sr. Class Representative for college information.

## Louisiana shrimpers to be included in study

MRAG Americas has been contracted by NOAA Fisheries to conduct a socio-economic survey of the Gulf of Mexico offshore shrimp fishery. (Includes federal and state offshore waters) Fisheries economic and social data are needed to accurately assess the positive and/or negative impacts of federal rules and regulations.

In 2003, the effort focused on shrimp fishermen in Texas; this year it is expanding to include Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida.

They have been training local folks in all five states to conduct interviews with shrimp vessel/boat owners in an effort to gather all the information needed for the survey.

They are currently looking for interviewers in the

Cameron, Vermillion area. They are looking for someone who is familiar with the area, the shrimping industry, and its personalities, has good communication skills and can document required information.

Once chosen, representatives will come in and provide training for interviewers. The training only lasts one day, after which interviewers are to go out in the field and collect data. Interviewers will be paid \$20/hr + expenses related to the interviewing process (i.e. phone calls and travel expenses).

Anyone needing additional information can contact Kevin Savoie with the LSU AgCenter at 491-2065 or Oleg Martins with MRAG Americas directly at (813)639-9519.

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