

Cleanup progressing

By **CYNDI SELLERS**

The Emergency Operations Center announces that clean-up of the parish is progressing in various areas - with 64,156 cubic yards of debris having been removed by the Corps of Engineers in the past 18 days.

The EOC is arranging for six additional collection sites for the debris, and the pace of clean-up is expected to increase as soon as more sites open.

The demolition of condemned parish-owned structures has begun and will continue for the next few weeks.

The Corps of Engineers reports that 81% of requested blue roofs in the parish have been completed.

The strike team has identified abandoned vehicles and boats in order for them to be removed. The State Police will be sending a team to record vehicle identification numbers, as they did in New Orleans. Insurance companies and future car buyers will be able to use the information later.

Temporary housing continues to be a problem area, as many people are anxious to move onto their property in lower Cameron Parish to begin rebuilding. The EOC wants people to understand that if private trailers are placed on land, the Corps of Engineers cannot clean up any private property in the parish.

To accommodate residents,

the EOC is trying to set up group sites in the local communities which will not jeopardize the clean up. Officials hope to have sites approved in the very near future.

More areas are getting water systems up and running. Grand Chenier is pressured up and flushing the system. Creole is testing for potability. In Cameron, several breaks, some caused by clean-up crews, and structures still obstructing lines are slowing the process. Even so, additional streets are being brought up daily.

The sewer system in Cameron has been filled with mud, and all the lift stations must be replaced, so it is farther away from operation. FEMA requires working water, power, and sewer before trailers can be placed. Those with septic systems or mechanical systems will need to have them inspected by the health department.

Medical services in the parish are being provided in Hackberry at the Community Center by the West Cal-Cam Hospital Rural Health Clinic. It will soon move to a mobile facility in the parking lot of the clinic.

The South Cameron Rural Health Clinic is expected to open in Grand Lake within the next two weeks, as inspections are complete. A mobile clinic is being set up west of the school.

In Cameron, the DMAT emergency mobile clinic is still operating near the Court House.

The DMORT team reports that over 250 caskets and remains have been recovered, all from cemeteries. To date 70 have been identified in Lake Charles, and there are 63 at St. Gabriel in the process of being identified.

The team is re-counting the missing from each cemetery to verify the number they are looking for, as they continue to search for and find remains.

Families of the identified have been contacted and the DMORT team is working with them and with the cemeteries on reburial plans.

Beware of powerlines

By **CYNDI SELLERS**

Jeff Davis Electric Co-op is happy to report that electric lines in lower Cameron Parish will begin to be energized this week, with electricity to be delivered to the Cameron Court House by Friday.

However, this means that all residents and visitors should consider all lines hot at any given time.

Power will be on and off as workers test various sections of the lines and gradually increase the capacity of the system.

Everyone should treat every line with care, even those on the ground. This is a tricky phase of the recovery, and officials do not want a tragedy to mar the effort.



Veterans' Day

A Veterans' Day assembly will be held at 2 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 11 in the front gym at Grand Lake High School.

All veterans and military personnel are invited to attend.

Information sought on damaged boats

By **KEVIN SAVOIE**
LSU AgCENTER

Hurricane Rita dealt a mighty blow to the shrimping industry in southwest Louisiana. The U. S. Coast Guard is working diligently to restore the maritime infrastructure as quickly as possible. Their efforts include conducting damage assessments, and vessel casualties.

Anyone with a sunken, damaged, or stranded vessel is asked to contact the U. S. Coast Guard-Rita Salvage Office on the second floor of the Chase Bank building in downtown Lake Charles 491-7805.

Any vessels in the coastal areas from Intracoastal City eastward should contact the USCG Marine Safety Unit

Morgan City office at 985-380-5350.

They will need to know the owners plans for removal/salvage if any. If you do not have a means to remove your vessel, the USCG has the authority to do so and will examine each vessel on a case by case basis, but will not be responsible for damage or destruction of your vessel.

Phone service in lower Cameron Parish is non-existent, so if anyone knows of a sunken/damaged vessel and has cell phone numbers or other contact information for the owner please contact the Coast Guard to assist them in this operation.

I may be contacted at 475-8812 or cell 263-2880, 1701 Gulf Hwy., Lake Charles, La. ksavoie@agcenter.lsu.edu.

Bridge closure told

Beginning Monday, Nov. 14, and ending Nov. 18, temporary closures of the Ellender Bridge will be made from 8 p.m. every evening until 5 a.m. each morning, therefore temporarily closing LA 27 north of Hackberry.

Bridge reopenings will be made at 10 p.m., 12 a.m., 2 a.m. and 4 a.m. as needed for the flow of vehicular traffic to go across the bridge.

In the event there is an

emergency, and there is a need for emergency services personnel to cross the bridge, it will be re-opened.

Notification should be made to Mr. Jerry Jones at 912-8593 or an alternate contact person, Mr. Jim Golding, at 884-9705.

This closure is required to reconstruct the fender system located beneath the Ellender Bridge.

Two fatalities reported in Cameron Parish

By **CYNDI SELLERS**

The Cameron Parish Sheriff's Office reported two fatalities this week, the first since the hurricane hit.

Earl Kenneth Kimbrel, 52, of Panama City, Fla., was killed when he was swept off the deck of the tugboat Mr. Galen by a cable on Saturday afternoon.

The accident occurred in the Calcasieu River Ship Channel one-half mile south of the Cameron Ferry. Kimbrel was presumed drowned.

A second fatality resulted from a one vehicle accident Tuesday morning south of Hackberry. An eighteen

wheeler hauling bottom ash failed to negotiate a curve and rolled over.

The driver, whose name is being withheld pending notification of the family, was killed. The exact cause of the accident is still being investigated.



THE JOHNSON BAYOU Community Center was severely damaged by Hurricane Rita although the building remained standing. (Photo by Rhonda Morrison.)



THE OYSTER SEASON is open in Calcasieu Lake and fishermen are bringing them to this Cameron oyster dock. They say there are plenty out there. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)

Temporary trailer parks debated at jury meeting

By **CINDY SELLERS**

The Ellender Bridge north of Hackberry will be closed at night next week for repairs, the Cameron Parish Police Jury learned Monday night.

Bobby Hennigan, of the Department of Transportation and Development explained that the fender system under the bridge needs to be replaced. The contractor was planning to close the bridge during the daytime, but with the hurricane recovery activity, he is willing to do the work at night.

The plan is to close the bridge for two hour increments from at 8:00pm through 4:00am. After each two hours, the bridge will be opened for vehicular traffic.

Arrangements are being made with the ambulance district to open at any time there is an emergency.

Lumber Co. is in business

Savoie Lumber Co. suffered great loss in inventory in Hurricane Rita but has managed to restock most of essential plumbing needs and is working to restock fence building materials.

Please call before you come by to make sure they are open-274-4165 or 842-3160.

Cam. woman found dead

Brandy Reene Dyson, 32, formerly of Cameron, died in Lake Charles. Her body was found in the lake last week at Lake Charles.

Survivors include her parents, Adley L. Dyson Sr. and Lydia T. Dyson; one son, Nicholas Allen Dyson; one daughter, Holly LeeAnn Searcy; two brothers, Adley Dyson Jr. and Clarence Dyson III; one sister, Miranda A. Brown.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Clarence and Ludie Dyson and Al Goerisch and Wanda Watson.

Her funeral will be at 1 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 10, in Hixson Funeral Home. Burial will be in First Baptist Cemetery in Cameron.

The repairs will last from Monday the 14th through Friday the 18th. Another week of repairs will be scheduled at a later date.

Hennigan reported that the contract to replace the Trosclair Road bridge at Oak Grove will be let in January. This is a federal bridge replacement project which was scheduled before the storm.

The contract for road shoulder repair was let last week, Hennigan said, but the pre-construction conference will not be held for 3 weeks, and the whole project may take 4-5 months to complete.

Shoulder repair will begin at the Vermilion Parish and Texas lines, then work to the north. Crews will fill the eroded shoulders with limestone, then overlay the damaged areas.

At this time, there is no money in the budget to repair damage caused by recovery equipment, just storm damage, Hennigan said.

On the positive side, the

Grand Lake bridge will be fully operational by the end of this week.

FEMA HOUSING

Ramona van Cleve, FEMA Housing Officer for Hurricane Rita in SWLA, explained the procedures the agency uses for group housing.

She said an existing RV park, with pads available, existing sewer, water, and electricity, can be used. If not enough spaces are available, FEMA will try to set up a group site, with parish permission under any applicable zoning.

Trailers will be set up and maintained by FEMA and leased to the resident. If the client later wishes to move onto another site, for example at their house, they will have to wait until another trailer is available. The one they are in will then be leased to another person or removed.

Cont. on Page 5

Burn ban still in effect

By **CYNDI SELLERS**

The Emergency Operations Center reminds everyone that the burn ban is still in effect for Cameron Parish. Some residents may have seen a notice on television that the Calcasieu burn ban has been lifted, and assumed that Cameron's has also, but it has not.

Officials with the EOC and with the Cameron Parish Police Jury are still very concerned about the large piles of Hurricane Rita debris piled near communities and the

hazardous material, including poisonous chlorine gas canisters, that may still be in the debris or in the marshes.

They ask that, until the Environmental Protection Agency has declared an area clear of haz-mat and the Corp of Engineers has picked up debris, the public be patient and refrain from burning anything.

The EOC is working with the EPA to find out which areas are safe to begin controlled agricultural burns. Maps should be available soon.

Highways dangerous

By **CYNDI SELLERS**

The Cameron Parish Sheriff's Office reminds everyone traveling in lower Cameron Parish to slow down and be very careful. The shoulders of the roads are damaged or non-existent in many places. In some areas the edges crumble if weight is put on them. In other places, huge holes have been washed out alongside the roads.

In addition, many alliga-

tors have been seeking refuge on the roadways, causing a hazard. With the fog lately, this is especially dangerous.

The speed limit in lower Cameron Parish is 45 mph for everyone. Motorists are reminded to watch out for utility crews and obey flagmen. The crews are involved in very hazardous work trying to get the parish running again, so everyone is asked to give them the utmost consideration.



MOTORISTS SHOULD heed the 45 - mph speed limit. Large areas of shoulder damage make driving dangerous. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)

Funeral

ROSE LEDOUX GARY

Rose LeDoux Gary 95, died Wednesday Nov. 2, 2005, in a local care center.

She was a lifelong resident of Sweetlake. She was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church and the Ladies Altar Society.

Survivors include three sons, Paul C. Gary of Hayes, Albert Gary of Westlake and Charles Gary of Bell City; four daughters, Hazel Breaux of Holmwood, Helen Owen of Westlake, Clara Granger of Carlyss and Mary Demary of Spring, Tex.; 29 grandchildren; 48 great-grandchildren; and six great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Ferdinand Gary; and two sons Lester and Arthur Gary.

Her funeral was held Friday, Nov. 4, in St Patrick Catholic Church. Monsignor Harry Greig officiated. Burial was in Bertrand Cemetery in Hathaway.

Angels

When you were born,
an angel smiled,
As you became a child, an
angel sat on your shoulder
When you became an adult, an
angel held your hand
As you grew old, an angel
walked down the
road with you,
And, when you died,
another angel got
their wings.
-Unknown

Lagniappe Two Retirement Home Living Notes

By Geneva Griffith



Never have I seen a more resilient band of people as Cameronites (people living in Cameron). I have just finished reading this week's Cameron Pilot and of all their plans for recovery. They do not seem to plan to leave and go elsewhere.

I am sorry, I do not plan to ever go back, I am too old. I remember all the good times I had in Cameron, the dear friends I had and the organizations I worked with. But all of that is memories now, and I feel fortunate to have them.

I am settled now in a retirement village and have met many interesting people, I have grown to love. We have a busy schedule of activities here, and I am gradually getting to know more and more of my neighbors.

I just love my next door neighbors, one is the other Geneva, and we go every where together. I tell everyone I moved next door to her so I could remember my name. (That's more truth than fiction.)

She has been living here for several years, and has introduced me to several people. I have joined several clubs we have here, and with the bridge clubs I am kept pretty busy.

I have found a new church, and have a new church home (University Baptist). I have a darling pet who lives with me named Beau and am very attached to him so I guess I have so much to be thankful for.

The people at Village Woods are a very close knit bunch. We all help one another. One is retrieving the morning paper, which is thrown in front of the condo. The first one up of a morning retrieves it and leaves it at the front door.

I have not forgotten Cameron, besides, part of my family and heart are still there.

Telephone service being restored in the parish NAACP meets in Grambling

Cameron Communications announced the continued restoration of telephone, high speed internet and digital television service to their communities in Cameron Parish. Although all the communications in lower Cameron Parish were affected as a result of Hurricane Rita; Cameron Communications fiber connectivity remained intact enabling us to restore services in an expedient, highly responsive manner.

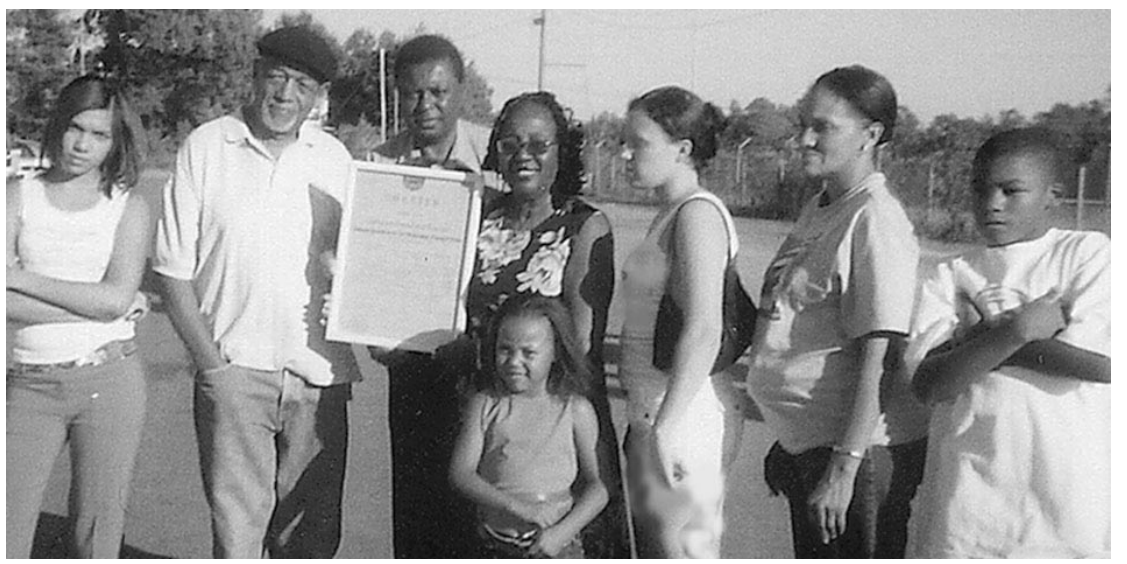
Today, Johnson Bayou is operational and ready to return service to anyone requesting to be reconnected with telephone, high speed internet or digital television services. Each week we are seeing businesses returning to the affected areas, planning their returns or relocating temporarily to other areas of Cameron Parish or Carlyss.

This week's significant installations include services for the: the Johnson Bayou EMS, a circuit for the State Police in Grand Chenier, dial tone and internet services at Grand Lake High School and a firewall for Hackberry High

Hackberry and Grand Lake schools get phone service

Telephone and Internet services were up and running when the school bells rang at the two operational Cameron parish schools sites this past week. As students and teachers began the process of co-sharing their schools both Hackberry and Grand Lake High had working communications thanks in part to Cameron Communications foresight in rebuilding their facilities underground after Hurricane Audrey.

"We are most appreciative of Cameron Communications efforts. On Friday, Oct. 28 at 4 p.m., we were able to request the connection of 2 phone and fax lines and hoping to have them installed before the start of school Monday Morning. By the close of the day, we actually had six lines. We can't thank



THESE WERE some of the members of the Cameron NAACP Chapter who attended a membership meeting of the organization in Grambling on Oct. 16. The Cameron residents had evacuated to Grambling prior to Hurricane Rita hitting the parish. Louise Cole is the chapter president.

School as well as the return of service to all businesses located on the west side of the river. The company continues daily work for businesses located on the east.

"Our employees are working hard under very trying circumstances despite their own personal losses in order to restore service as quickly as possible," said George Mack, President and General Manager of Cameron Communications. "Our commitment to service remains unchanged. We will be there for our customers as they rebuild, and, as before, we will provide these communities with the latest technology available. By working together we can rebuild a better Cameron Parish."

Customers desiring more information in reestablishing communications should call toll free to 1-800-737-3900 to speak with a customer care professional. Our highly trained customer support group will be more than happy to address any questions or concerns you have about getting connected.

Members of the Cameron Parish NAACP Chapter met on Oct. 16 in Grambling, La. and voted to put all chapter activities planned for this fall on hold due to Hurricane Rita.

This included the 27th anniversary of the chapter, a calf raffle and a banquet.

The group voted to thank State NAACP President Ernest Johnson for making making Grambling Plaza available to many residents who evacuated Cameron Parish.

Special thanks was given to Grambling Mayor Martha Andrus.

Sewer system discussed

A meeting was scheduled to be held Wednesday evening, Nov. 8 at the Hackberry Community Center to discuss the proposed sewer system for Holly Beach.

A grant had been approved

for this work about a year ago and plans were being made for the construction.

With virtually all buildings destroyed by Hurricane Rita, the future of this project is now in doubt.

Grand Lake, Cameron was also able to provide services and connect Grand Lake High offering communications services despite adverse conditions. As Cameron Communications continues to

enhance functionality to the areas of Grand Lake it services, those areas will continue to benefit from the advanced technologies accompanying their ground breaking fiber to the home project.

Our country is not the only thing to which we owe our allegiance. It is also owed to justice and to humanity.

-James Bryce

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George Mack, Gary Hightower, Katy Large, and the rest of the company enough for their outstanding efforts," said Dr. Douglas Chance, Superintendent of Cameron Parish Schools.

Cameron Communications investment in its infrastructure and 100% underground buried plant facility paid off, by enabling it to be one of the first utility companies to restore service in the areas affected by Hurricane Rita. Proactive planning by Cameron Communications, insured continued fiber optic ring connectivity would remain intact during the recent hurricane, enabling them to restore services in a highly responsive manner.

"Many of these kids lost everything in Hurricane Rita: homes, belongings, you name it, and they've been out of school for more than a month. We've got a responsibility to help them get their lives back to normal and refocus on continuing their education," says George Mack, President and General Manager of Cameron Communications. "I couldn't be prouder of our team here at Cameron Communications. They've restored communications services to our two remaining schools in Cameron Parish ahead of schedule and I think that speaks volumes about our continued commitment to the community. I'm just amazed at their level of dedication."

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Aid offered to affected students

McNeese State University students affected by hurricanes Rita or Katrina can apply for assistance from a special fund established by private donors through the McNeese Foundation.

Students can apply for funds to assist with tuition, fees, books, academic supplies or housing expenses, according to Ralynn Castete, McNeese director of scholarships and testing.

"Students will be asked on the application to briefly explain the extent of their loss and need for assistance," Castete said. Nov. 18 is the priority deadline to apply for the special funds.

Applications are available on the McNeese Web site, www.mcneese.edu, and in the Scholarships and Testing Office located in Room 156 of Kaufman Hall.

According to Castete, the criteria include:

* Students must be enrolled at McNeese State University for the fall 2005 term.

* For Katrina relief, students must have had primary residence in the New Orleans or Mississippi Gulf Coast areas OR must have been in attendance at one of the colleges/universities temporarily inoperable as of Aug. 29.

* Students must complete the HKRSRF Request for Assistance application.

For more information about the student relief fund, call 475-5140.

Individuals or corporations that would like to contribute to this student relief fund should contact the McNeese Foundation at (337) 475-5588.

MR AND MRS Earl (Kathy) Guthrie of Cameron announce the engagement of their daughter, Kassie Leigh, to James Robert Boudreaux, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry (Lana) Boudreaux of Creole. The couple will exchange wedding vows at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 18 at Saint Raphael Catholic Church in Iowa. A reception will follow in the Knights of Columbus Hall.

School Lunch Menus

Lunch menus for all Cameron Parish schools for the week beginning Nov. 10 are as follows:

Thursday, Nov. 10 - Oven fried chicken, seasoned rice, green beans, fruit cocktail,

wheat biscuits, milk.

Friday, Nov. 11 - Beef finger steaks, mashed potatoes, orange wedges, white sauce, wheat sliced bread, milk.

Monday, Nov. 14 - Chicken Alfredo, tossed salad, orange

wedges, salad dressing, wheat biscuits, Jello w/fruit, milk.

Tuesday, Nov. 15 - Meatballs for gravy, brown gravy rice, carrots, fruit salad, peanut butter spread, wheat rolls, milk.

Wednesday, Nov. 16 - Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes, fresh fruit cup, yellow cake, chocolate glaze, wheat sliced bread, white sauce, milk.

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JOHNSON BAYOU High School suffered great damages in Hurricane Rita. Johnson Bayou students are now attending school in Hackberry for the remainder of the school year. (Photo by Rhonda Morrison.)



THIS LINE of camps at Little Florida survived Hurricane Rita pretty well, but many others did not. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)

Recovery Roundup

FLAG RAISING
Cameron Parish officials, in conjunction with the Third Battalion of the La. National Guard out of Baton Rouge, conducted a flag-raising ceremony at the Cameron Courthouse on Thursday, Nov. 3.

The flag flew over the 256 Bayou Bandits guard unit in Iraq. Some of the residents of Cameron parish are in this unit.

ENERGIZE TESTS
Jeff Davis Electric will be conducting "energized" tests on their main distribution lines in a few days. Service may be interrupted while these tests are being conducted.

There are many power lines still on the ground throughout lower Cameron Parish.

All downed lines should be treated as live and should be avoided. If you have a question about a power line call Jeff Davis at (800) 256-5332.

NUMBERS TO CALL
Anyone with questions or information related to Cameron Parish operations may call 775-5439, 775-7770 or 775-7495.

BURN BAN
All of Cameron Parish is still under a burn ban, according to Office of Emergency Preparedness Director Freddie Richard.

Due to dry conditions and the large amount of debris around the parish, the fire danger level is very high. Residents are asked not to burn storm debris or other

trash, brush or building materials.

WASTE PICKUP
Garbage and waste pickup has resumed in Cameron parish on the following schedule:

Monday--Hackberry, Wednesday--Grand Lake and Sweet Lake.

Thursday--Klondike and Grand Lake.

Household garbage should be placed by the curb prior to 7 a.m. Do not mix storm debris with household garbage.

LOOK & LEAVE
Southern Cameron Parish is still under mandatory evacuation order but is open daily from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. for residents and business owners to "look and leave."

Personally owned property may be removed during this time as long as the removal does not impede ingress and egress for others.

DRINKABLE WATER
The water systems in Grand Lake, Sweet Lake, Hackberry, Johnson Bayou and Holly Beach have been tested and the water is safe to drink.

The water in lower Cameron Parish and Big Lake is still not safe to drink.

DISASTER TEAM
A Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT) is maintaining a mobile emergency room that is open to emergency responders and to the public. It is located on Marshall St. next to the courthouse and is available for

Rutherford urges jurors to cancel flood insurance

(EDITOR'S NOTE--Cameron Parish resident Jay Rutherford made a presentation to the Cameron Parish Police Jury at its monthly meeting Monday evening at the Grand Lake School urging the jury to remove the parish from the requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program. This was in part, his presentation.)

BY JAY RUTHERFORD

I support our Cameron Parish Police Jury and staff. Just like the EOC, the police jury makes difficult decisions the best they can, gets the blame, takes all the heat, and rarely receives any thanks. Many times our police jury is bullied by the Feds who

acute car emergencies and short term prescription issues.

FERRY OPERATING
The 50-car ferry on the ship channel at Cameron is now operating on a daily schedule of 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. The Monkey Island ferry is not operating at this time.

BLUE ROOF
Operation Blue Roof is continuing in the parish with the Corps of Engineers providing temporary covers for hurricane-damaged roofs. There is no cost to homeowners but they must sign a "right of entry" form to allow the Corps contractors to do the work.

For information call (888) 766-3258.

threaten to withdraw funding if we don't comply. It's tough to make the right choice with a gun at your back, but sometimes it's necessary to take a stand for your rights and your freedom.

As an Army combat veteran, I get stirred up when freedoms are taken away, because I know firsthand the sacrifices our armed forces have given to keep our great nation free, paid for in the blood of their very own lives. I ask you to always, always keep this in mind on all issues that affect the freedom of landowners, homeowners, and businesses in Cameron Parish.

I am respectfully requesting that Cameron Parish withdraw from the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and amend the building permit ordinance to strike out all elevation requirements. I am asking that you restore the freedom from building elevation restrictions that FEMA and the NFIP took away from us—back to the homeowners and businesses in Cameron Parish. We want to be able to build ON-THE-GROUND.

The penalty to do this is that no one will be eligible for flood insurance and threats to take away our funding will surely come. Let them threaten to cut off funding. What can they do? Shut Cameron Parish down? We have nothing else to lose.

Strong public opinion voiced by the residents of Cameron Parish at a recent FEMA meeting indicates that Cameron Parish residents want out of the NFIP in order to rebuild without elevation restrictions.

The FEMA Flood Insurance Manual, revised October 2005, reveals the following information:

Section 1316 (Definitions p. DEF 8) states that FEMA elevation "ordinances are intended to discourage or otherwise restrict land development or occupancy in flood-prone areas." FEMA started the NFIP in 1968. My translation is that FEMA intends to run us off our land, our homes, and our businesses if we are not in "COMPLIANCE" with FEMA elevation regulations. This is clearly a violation of our property rights, and FEMA has taken the freedom to build without elevation restrictions away from us. We want our freedom back.

The Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS p.1) states that the federal government sets "initiatives to minimize loss of human life

Acadia cattlemen given hay for distressed cattle

By TRACY DELATTE
THE RAYNE
INDEPENDENT

This past Sunday afternoon a group of men, each in their own tractors, worked in cooperation to bale a field of hay.

According to Acadia parish Cattlemen's Association member Bryan Alleman the men worked across fields off Standard Mill in Rayne. They gathered hay to donate to cattlemen whose properties were affected by Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita.

"It will be feed to winter the cattle," Alleman said.

Those participating were Alleman and his brother Troy, of the small cattle operation Alleman Enterprise, Terry Duhon of Tripe T Farm, Tippy LeBlanc and Keith LeBlanc of the Scott-based implement dealer Alton LeBlanc and Sons, Randal Girouard of Rayne Pharmacy, Nick Simoneaux of Complete Lawn Care and Jeff Bouillion of Jeff Bo Farms.

Also, Scott Lopez and Jeremy Richard, FFA students of Rayne High participating in the Ag Internship Program assisted.

Everyone wanted to donate their equipment and time to their counterparts in Pecan Island, Cameron, Abbeville and other places where salt water swamped hay fields.

Alleman said he is working with multiple county agents to get hay supplies to cattle farmers who need it most. Former Acadia Parish Cattlemen's president Jeff Bouillion helped coordinate efforts with a group of volunteers.

"We want to help the farmers," Bouillion said.

Sunday, the men baled hay in fields Alleman leases from siblings Philip Habetz, Hilda Habetz Simoneaux, and Pauline Habetz Reiners. The group will collect hay in a few other places in the next week as well.

"They are going to need more than this here to make it through the winter," Alleman said.

The three hundred or so bales collected Sunday will help though. Nine tractors worked up and down fields to bale all 75 acres in just a few hours.

Additional people who helped on Monday were Mac Bryson, owner of Mac's Exterminating; Larrell Richard, who donated the truck and trailer to haul loads to Vermilion Parish farms; Jeremy Richard, Vincent Zaunbrecher, VTZ Cattle Ranch Incorporated and Zaunbrecher Air Conditioning and Darrell Zaunbrecher with BB Farms.

On Wednesday, an additional 120 acres were baled.

by discouraging development in high-risk areas... The laws prohibit financial assistance including flood insurance" to those who do not give up their freedom and comply.

This is the time to take a stand. The notion that we must elevate to be safe is false. Everyone got out safely. No lives were lost in Cameron Parish because everyone got out safely. Elevation does not matter. Buildings high and buildings low all sustained major damage.

Elevators in Cameron Parish homes and businesses are absolutely absurd. Many of the residents of Cameron Parish cannot afford flood insurance and do NOT want flood insurance.

Individual landowners, homeowners, and businesses should have the freedom to decide what flood damages they can afford and build accordingly. Individuals should have the freedom to not get flood insurance if they do not desire to purchase flood insurance. If a person wants to get flood insurance, they should also have the freedom to do so, if they desire—if they also meet the flood insurance requirements.

Beware the upcoming changes that FEMA will

demand in May 2006, only six months from now. Cameron Parish could be declared a "Repetitive Loss Target" through the NFIP S.D.F. Special Direct Facility, and insurance premiums will skyrocket. It will be much more difficult and much more expensive to get insurance in Cameron Parish, if insurance is available at all.

Most Cameron Parish residents cannot afford insurance now. It's a sick joke that few can afford. Those who might "break even" now with insurance will not be able to do so in the future. When prices go up, more residents will drop out of the insurance admin nightmare.

The police jury has the power and the authority to add, amend, and repeal any ordinance, including the FEMA elevation restrictions that prevent us from building on the ground. I respectfully ask the police jury to please withdraw from the NFIP and allow our homes and our businesses to be built on the ground for the sake of our elderly and handicapped residents.

Let's kick the NFIP out of Cameron Parish. We want our freedom back.

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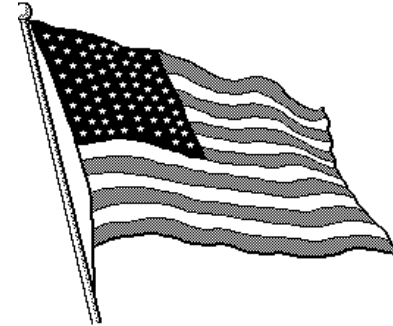
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Gisele McKinney, MD, OB/GYN received her medical degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago and completed her residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Cook County Hospital in Chicago. She is Board Certified and a Junior Fellow of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Dr. McKinney is actively involved with organizations that mentor youth, with an emphasis on education.



Damian Meehan, MD, Pediatrician, received her medical degree from Meharry Medical College in Tennessee and completed her residency in pediatric medicine at the University of Texas Southwestern/Children's Medical Center of Dallas. Dr. Meehan has volunteered for several medical mission events.



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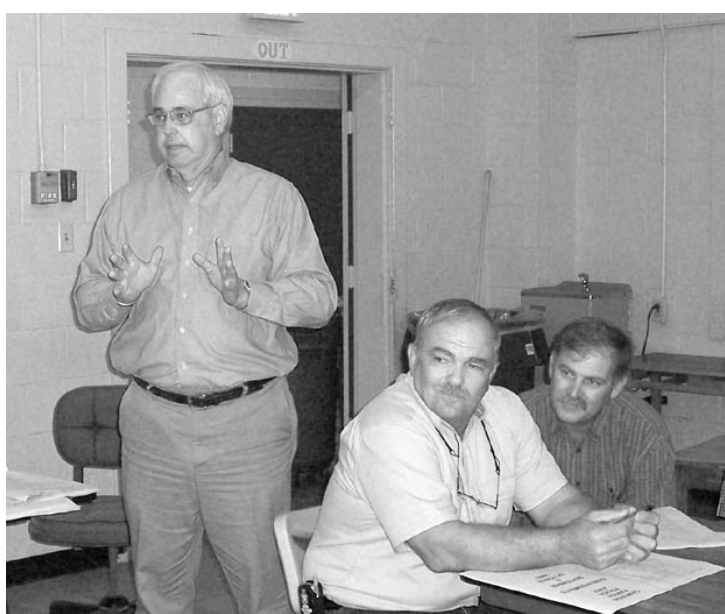
• NOTICE •

Cameron Parish School Board Meeting will be held at Grand Lake School Cafeteria on Monday, November 14, 2005.

Finance Meeting.....4:00 p.m.

Regular Meeting.....5:00 p.m.

RUN: Nov. 10 (N-11)



PUBLIC SERVICE Commissioner Dale Sittig offered his support to the people of Cameron Parish at Monday's Police Jury meeting in Grand Lake.

(Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)

POLICE JURY

Cont. from Page 1

Van Cleve said there are 10,892 applications now pending in Southwest Louisiana for trailers. All of these will be filled before a second trailer can be made available for an existing client to move to another site.

FEMA does not tell local authorities when or where to set up group sites, she said. Also, the trailers remain the property of FEMA, and do not revert to the state, as was rumored.

The issue arose when Assistant District Attorney Tom Barrett suggested changes to the temporary housing permit ordinance to require a minimum square footage for new permits.

The discussion of square footage led Holly Beach camp owner Ann Scrivener to question whether the 500 square foot lots in Holly beach would be affected. Barrett replied that all existing lots remain unaffected, only new permits

would have to meet the new requirements.

After much discussion, the amendment was tabled.

Juror Sonny McGee mentioned that state health requirements call for the minimum lot for septic systems to be set at 5000 sq. ft., but that the sewer system to be installed in Holly Beach would eliminate that problem.

McGee announced a meeting for Holly Beach residents regarding the sewer system to be held at the Hackberry Community Center Wednesday, Nov. 9.

PAYING FOR RITA

The Jury adopted a resolution authorizing a loan application to FEMA to continue to fund parish operations. The loan would be for \$1,921,629, this amount represents 25% of the parish's annual operating budget, the most allowed by law.

Darrell Williams, parish



HURRICANE RITA didn't read the sign: It is unlawful to litter in Cameron Parish! (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)

accountant, said the uncertainty of next year's tax collections makes it prudent to begin the process at this time, since it has to get to the State bond commission by the 16th to be considered.

The jury agreed to start the paperwork in case the funds are needed.

BURN BAN ORDINANCE

District Attorney Cecil Sanner presented a proposed ordinance to give procedures and penalties during a burn ban period. The ordinance would set the penalty for disregarding the ban at \$300 and/or 30 days. It also would set procedures to apply for a permit for controlled burns during the ban.

The full text of the proposed ordinance will be advertised for 30 days and voted on at the next regular meeting.

Gary Wicke, of the LSU Extension office asked the jury to allow some agricultural burning at this time, for sugar cane farmers and cattle ranchers. Citing fears of fires jumping to the large piles of debris or igniting hazardous materials, jurors decided to wait.

EOC Director Kisha Killmer offered to work with individual farmers and the EPA to see if certain areas could be approved for controlled burn.

DUCK AND DEER HUNTING

Jurors agreed to amend the 6am curfew entry time for duck hunters, provided they leave by noon and do not hunt in the evening.

This was done to try to help hunting businesses operate while protecting the recovery teams who are working in the marsh each day, many in camouflage clothing.

A request to allow deer hunters to hunt in the evenings was denied, for lower Cameron Parish, due to the danger to workers.

The deer season was opened by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, however, and cannot be closed by the Jury. A resolution was sent to the DWF asking for the closure of the deer season in the evacuated areas.

OTHER MATTERS

Cameron Communications announced that all exchanges have some facilities at present, the Jetty Road has dial tone, and Holly Beach should have service in 1-2 weeks.

Jeff Davis Electricity announced that lines in lower Cameron Parish will be hot beginning this week, although it won't stay on all the time. Lines will be tested and work will be ongoing, requiring power to be cut for short periods of time at various locations.

To progress smoothly, no residential accounts will be

Update FEMA on addresses

Cameron Parish residents who have registered for assistance with the U. S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are reminded to update their contact information whenever it changes.

It is important for residents registered for disaster aid with FEMA to check their application status regularly and ensure their address and phone numbers remain current in the system. If contact information is out of date, inspectors and other federal and state disaster-recovery officials may not be able to contact disaster victims.

It is urgent for residents who have registered for disaster assistance to provide FEMA with their most current mailing address. People who have moved and not updated their contact information, may not receive important correspondence, calls about temporary housing and other disaster assistance. For this reason state and federal officials urge disaster applicants to stay in touch and to update their contact information immediately should they move or change telephone number.s

Call the FEMA Helpline, 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or log on to www.fema.gov to update contact details. The TTY number is 1-800-462-7585 for people who are speech- or hearing-impaired. The Helpline operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week until further notice. People without telephones or Internet access can use these services at any of the disaster Recovery Centers located across the state.

All disaster victims regis-

turned on for the present, only commercial ones.

Johnson Bayou will get power at about the same time, it is not dependent on the Holly Beach substation at this time.

The Jury agreed to re-hire the full time temporary person who manages tuberculosis issues for the health unit.

A request to consider hiring a full-time OEP director was taken under consideration.

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•Beautiful 5 acre tract of land off Big Pasture Road. Mature oaks and pecan trees. No value given to trailer. Underground utilities. Located at end of dead-end street. Seller to provide supplemental abstract only. \$60,000. 9/1tfc

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NOTICE

HI FRIENDS in Cameron Parish! If you are interested in buying or selling houses/properties, please call me. RE/MAX Realty Pros at 478-2668 or 274-9996. Ask for Analee Guilbeaux Gregory. 10/17 - 11/30p.

A+ Mini-Storage offers climate controlled facilities. We utilize the latest technology to ensure clean, safe, and secure storage for all your goods. 24-hour surveillance and computer controlled access. Located at 4611 Hwy 27 South, Carlyss. Call 558-5805 for information. 9/14 - 2/21 eow

TREE REMOVAL

TREE REMOVAL and yard cleanup anywhere in Southwest Louisiana. T.J. Porche and family of DeQuincy and Cameron. Phone 781-6466, 224-0097 or 786-2477. 10/5 - 11/26p.

NOTICE

MARY CANIK, formerly of Mary's New Looks, will be working at Darla's, Monday's only, in Grand Lake. Call 598-4866 or 540-5422. 11/3 - 11/30p.

address forms are also available at any Post Office.

tered for assistance with FEMA are urged to update their mailing address with the U. S. Postal Service at 1-800-275-8777, or visit online at www.usps.com. Change of

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TWENTY AMERICORP members from around the United States were on hand this past weekend to lend helping hands in an effort to clean up the mess left by Hurricane Rita. They worked tirelessly to help Mrs. JoAnn Nunez of Oak Grove to collect what belongings she could save from her backyard after the storm washed away the downstairs rooms of her home. The young volunteers spent hours shoveling mud and marsh grass that reached the upper floor of the house in an effort to help Mrs. Nunez return to her home of 48 years. Pictures by Ruby Dupuie.



VOLUNTEERS FROM Channahon, Illinois, near Chicago, are helping repair the roof of First Baptist Church of Johnson Bayou. Team leader Kenton Ayers has 40 - 50 volunteers on site. Istrouma Baptist Church of Baton Rouge is supporting the team's effort. Pastor Les Fogleman says two Sunday services have been held so far in the building, which had three feet of flood water and marsh debris. Firemen from Roanoke, Virg., removed the carpeting and Pastor's Council Resource cleared debris. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)



Tarpons finish the year with a loss to Oberlin Tigers

By **CHRIS & LAURIE MUELLER**

The Oberlin Tigers ended what has been a very tough season for the South Cameron Tarpons. The Tigers (5-5) beat the Tarpons 34-20 in district 5-1A regular season finale.

This was the first time in 15 years that Oberlin has managed to beat the Tarpons. South Cameron (1-4) lost half their season due to Hurricane Rita.

The Tarpons, whose school was demolished, knew it would be a struggle to try and finish the season. But, in a meeting several weeks ago the coaches, players, and parents decided they would like to try and play their last two games.

Thanks to the heartwarming hospitality of Barbe High School, the Tarpons were able to finish their season. Barbe provided the use of their stadium, practice facilities, concession stand, and even the Barbe band for the game against Oberlin. Unfortunately, Oberlin was not as giving as they knocked off the Tarpons.

Oberlin scored a safety by blocking a punt and having the ball roll out of the back of the endzone and later added an 80 yard punt return by Gerald Artis. Jesse Ceasar scored twice for the Tigers, including a 71 yard jaunt to

give Oberlin a 19-7 lead in the third quarter.

The Tigers took advantage of a Tarpon fumble on their opening possession. They took the ball and drove 62 yards before settling for a 3-0 lead on a 23 yard Josh Pearson field goal.

The Tarpons put together a 99 yard scoring drive capped by a 10 yard TD pass from Deil Lalande to Justin Picou on the 15th play of the drive.

The Tarpons put up 13 points in the 4th quarter on a 71 yard touchdown pass from Lalande to Byron Quinn. Lalande also added a one yard TD run.

Wildlife refuges are now closed due to damages

The 184,000 acre Southwest Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex, which includes, Cameron Prairie, Lacassine, and Sabine National Wildlife Refuges, was ravished by Rita. The damages are widespread across the Refuges and the hazards to human health and safety are many. It is for this reason that refuge managers have closed the National Wildlife Refuges in Southwest Louisiana to all recreational uses including hunting.

According to Sabine National Wildlife Refuge Manager, Terry Delaine, "storm surge damaged access bridges, removed recreational facilities, severely damaged all buildings and other structures, removed and moved marsh vegetation, and left thousands of acres of debris strewn across the hunting and fishing areas throughout the refuge. Over five miles of Central Canal, the main access canal into Sabine refuge, has been filled in with debris."

Also at Sabine, the Environmental Protection Agency is using the West Cove Recreational Area parking lots as sorting sites for hazardous materials being collected throughout Cameron Parish. Utility companies are using the Hog Island Gully Recreational Area parking lots as staging sites as they work to restore power and phones to the parish. Oil and gas companies are also using the refuge to stage their marsh clean up operations.

Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge Manager, Glenn Harris, reported that "The visitor center, offices, and the Pintail Drive were all damaged and require extensive repairs. The surge left large debris piles, including entire houses, littered throughout the marshes of both the Gibbstown and East Cove Units. Additionally, it caused a 10,000-gallon oil release and washed out protection levees along the eastern edge of Calcasieu Lake within the Cameron Creole Watershed Project." There have been quite a few inquiries about whether or not the Grand Bayou Boat Bay is opened for people to fish in East Cove. Harris said "The East Cove unit is closed

to all recreational activities, including fishing at this time."

Larry Narcisse, Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge Manager, said "the Lacassine refuge marshes, including Lacassine Pool were most notably affected by the lack of dissolved oxygen, inundation by salt water, and hazardous debris scattered throughout the marshlands."

The debris piles throughout the refuges include everything picked up from ravaged residences and more. Examples include hazardous material containers, tractor-trailer trucks, tanks, houses, trees, washers, refrigerators, buckets, coolers, dolls, dead animals, etc.

In addition to the forceful surge damage throughout all of southwest Louisiana, the resulting salt water and reduced dissolved oxygen levels have also detrimentally impacted plant and animal life. Plant and animal species intolerant to the highly saline water from the Gulf of Mexico have perished. Dissolved oxygen levels in the water have been decreased or used up by the mixing of detritus throughout the water and the process of decaying vegetation and wildlife. This is one of the most common causes of post-storm fish and crab kills. When oxygen levels get too low, fish and other species like crabs and shrimp, are unable to obtain the required amount of oxygen necessary for metabolism and they die.

In addition to all the noted damages above, Refuge Biologist, Steve Reagan said "the lack of rainfall, although good for our blue tarped roofs, is adding insult to injury when it comes to the marsh vegetation. The marsh grasses, many of which are important duck and goose foods, need fresh water to flush out or dilute the high salinities so they can at least save their root systems. If the high salinity areas do not freshen up soon enough, we may lose hundreds, if not thousands of acres of additional marsh over the next few months."

Refuge employees are working with state and other federal agencies to efficiently and effectively clean up the refuges to make them safe for public enjoyment once again. Plans to repair and rebuild refuge infrastructure are ongoing. When areas are made safe, they will be reopened to the public. If you have any questions or concerns about the refuges please call 598-2216.



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It Seems Just Like Yesterday



By **Keith Hambrick**

**Cameron Pilot,
Nov. 2, 1972**

DRONET TO WORK WITH CONVENTION

Arthur C. Watson, chairman of the Democratic State Central Committee of Louisiana, has announced the appointment to work with the Constitutional Convention.

The purpose of the committee is to assist the convention delegates in examining and preparing provisions needed for the primary and general election laws in the state.

TARPS TO BE IN PLAYOFFS

South Cameron Tarpons will go into the state AA playoffs as the No. 2 in District 4-AA as the result of a 9 - 0 win over the DeQuincy Tigers last Friday.

The victory gave the Tarps a 7 - 1 - 1 district record. The win for South Cameron was the result of a 25 - yard field goal kicked by Jody McCall and a TD by McCall on a 48 - yard run.

SHRIMP BOAT SINKS

The shrimp boat "Mary Lynn" sank in the Gulf off Holly Beach at about 5:45 p.m., Sunday, according to the Cameron Sheriff's Department. The boat was owned by Charles Gaskin of Cameron.

The boat captain, Bob Jackson, and the deckhand, Everett Barfield, were able to make it to shore. The latter floated to safety on the hatch and walked to Riley Richard's house for help.

DEBBIE PRECHT ROTC SPONSOR

Debbie Kay Precht, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Precht of Sweetlake, has been elected to serve as ROTC sponsor of the Pershing Ware Rifles of McNeese State University.

She will serve as an official hostess of the ROTC group and will march in parades and at other functions with this group.

Debbie is a freshman elementary education major. She is a graduate of Grand Lake High School where she served as Homecoming Queen, FHA Queen, member of the Beta Club, member of the basketball team, class treasurer and was active in 4-H Club work.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

Mr. and Mrs. Claiborne J. Duhon, Sr. of Hackberry will celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary Saturday, Nov. 11, with an Open House given by their children at St. Teresa's Educational Building in Carlyss from 2 to 5 p.m. Friends and relatives are invited.

GENERAL ELECTION SET TUESDAY

Cameron Parish voters will be faced with a complicated ballot when they go to the polls Tuesday to vote in the general election. However, there is generally not much

interest shown except in the presidential and senatorial races.

In the presidential and vice presidential races, voters will have four choices: American Party, Democratic Party, Republican Party and Socialist Workers Party. Voting will not be for the candidates directly but for the electors for each party.

Four names are on the ballot for U.S. Senator to fill the post formerly held by Allen J. Ellender: Hall M. Lyons, American Party; J. Bennett Johnston, Democratic Party; Ben C. Toledano, Republican Party; John J. McKeithen, Independent.

SWEETLAKE OUTSTANDING CLUB

The 21st annual Extension Homemakers Council Achievement Day was held Saturday in the Cameron Elementary school and featured displays of the year's work of Cameron parish club women.

Mrs. Charles F. Hebert, council president, was master of ceremonies, and the Sweetlake Club served as hostess.

Outstanding club women from each club in the council, who earned the honor on the point system for civic, community and club activities during the past year were each presented a corsage. They were: Mrs. Robert Ortego, Creole; Mrs. Wayne Wood, Grand Chenier; Mrs. John Prescott, Johnson Bayou; Mrs. Mayo Cain, Klondike; Mrs. Albert Guidry, Sweetlake; Mrs. Nata Hebert, Hackberry; and Mrs. Charles F. Hebert, Cameron.

ROUNDOABOUT THE PARISH

Lanette Vincent, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Vincent of Hackberry won 1st place in her twirling division and grand champion of all divisions at Cal-Cam Fair held in Sulphur recently.

Baylor University student Arlene Tarter of Creole has been elected vice president of her dormitory, Allen Hall, on the Waco, Tex. campus. Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. R. Tarter, Miss Tarter is a sophomore sociology major at Baylor.

There were three entries in the baby contest of St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church Bazaar. They are John Patrick Moore, Ronald Moore and Iris Teresa Jones.

Tina Dupont and Dolores Davis served as Sweetheart and Queen, respectively, at the Cameron Elementary School homecoming on Oct. 19.

Wilson Montie turns on the machinery to start the Verdon bells donated in memory of Father Francis Bishop to toll the Angelus every day.

Santa Claus will be at the Sears Catalog Store on Nov. 14, 15 and 16 according to Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Watts, managers. Children can talk to Santa and tell him what they want for Christmas. Free candy.

Basketball Roundup

BASKETBALL GIRLS

Grand Lake 59, Centerville 38 - Elizabeth Reon led the Lady Hornets with 18 points. Brandy Carroll chipped in 15 points and Liz Kingham and Meagan Miller added 11 points each.

Grand Lake 42, FCA 23 - Meagan Miller paced the Lady Hornets with 16 points.

New column will answer: 'Where are they now?'

Dear Editor,

I'm writing to propose a new column for your paper. Would you let me do a weekly titled: Where Have All Our Dear Friends Gone? by Nell Colligan.

If everyone else is like me, they are wondering where their friends and neighbors are.

It took me weeks to find my next door neighbors, Elodie Cheramie and Betty Savoy. In fact, I had heard they were in Lake Arthur, but as I drove through Lake Arthur on my way to Cameron several weekends ago, I still did not know how to find them. It would be like looking for needles in a haystack, knocking on doors in Lake Arthur and asking for them.

What really complicated matters was the fact that Lake Charles had to evacuate as well as Cameron Parish. This placed people with relatives in every direction imaginable with aunts and cousins we never knew they had. One was with a son's girlfriend's sister-in-law, if you can follow that. We scour the Pilot every week hoping to hear news of them, but it is hit-and-miss so far.

This can be a short-term column, as space permits, to last perhaps until Christmas or shortly thereafter, or as

long as the news trickles in. I would like this to be my contribution to the victims of Hurricane Rita and the people of Cameron Parish. In other words, you don't even have to pay me to write it. It will be my pleasure.

We'll start when you print this letter in the paper. The relocated folks can write to me and tell me what part of the parish they lived in before, and where they are living now. And they could include news about other friends who perhaps don't get the Pilot yet, but will soon because they also will want to know where everyone is. And if they wish to, they can tell me what their plans are. What a question, right?

Incidentally, my subscription to the Pilot is the best money I've spent since we moved to Lafayette eight years ago. For anyone who moves away, it's a must. It should be on top of every Cameron Parish residents' Christmas list.

My address in Lafayette is: 302 Trailwood Lane, Lafayette, LA 70508. They can email me at: nnadc67@aol.com. Please write "Cameron Column" in the subject area so my computer won't think it's spam and throw it away.

Sincerely,
Nell Colligan

Christmas in Roseland

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