

DEMOLITION OF the Cameron Elementary School has begun. The Louisiana National Guard is conducting the demolition. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)

Thanksgiving dinner to be served residents

A number of organizations from Friendswood, Tex. will host a Thanksgiving dinner for Cameron Parish residents on Thursday, Nov. 24 at the Hackberry Community Center.

The food will be served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and the group would like to cook for as many as 1000 persons.

Kenneth W. Crabtree, Jr., one of those heading up the dinner, said Friendswood residents had feared the storm would hit their area and when instead it went to the east hitting the Cameron Parish area the Calvary Chapel, which has two members from Hackberry, decided to offer their help there.

Joining with the church in preparing the Thanksgiving dinner will be the Lighthouse Cooking team from Friendswood and members of the Friendswood and Forest Bend volunteer fire departments, their friends and other area churches.

Also aiding with the dinner will be the Cornerstone Fellowship Church from Livermore, Calif. which has had teams in Hackberry for several weeks helping with the cleanup work.

For more information on the Thanksgiving dinner call 1-800-777-5893 and ask for Gwen.

Quilts given out by Diocese

The Diocese of Lake Charles has quilts available to anyone who lost their blankets due to Hurricane Rita.

If you would like some quilts for your family please call Margaret Theriot at 249-1406, leave a message of how many quilts you would like and a contact name and number.

Calif. church aids Hackberry

A church from Livermore, California has adopted the town of Hackberry and is doing its part to help the Cameron Parish community recover from Hurricane Rita.

Cornerstone Fellowship, a Calvary Chapel Church, in a missionary outreach effort established a fund to purchase supplies such as chain saws, tools, work trailers, rental vehicles to help Hackberry.

They then sent a team of helpers to help with the cleanup work. Using Jimmy Brown as a contact person, the team has during the past several weeks come to the aid of many Hackberry families.

They have cleared trees and debris from yards, moved appliances and performed other cleanup jobs.

The first team has just departed and another one has arrived. The teams are made up of six to eight employed, professional people who are giving of themselves and their time to help others in need.

Cornerstone is also taking names of families to sponsor

Doctor now in new location

Dr. Richard Sanders, long time Creole physician, has relocated his family practice to The Clinic in Moss Bluff due to Hurricane Rita.

The office is located at 277 Hwy. 171 North, Suite 8, and is open 8-5, Monday-Friday.

Dr. Sanders joins Dr. Jason Morris and Dr. Mary Sherk in the newly-opened office.

For more information call 337-312-0030.

Christmas gifts. They expect about 200 families to be helped.

If you know of someone or a family who could use a little help with Christmas this year, go by Brown's Food Store and talk to the Cornerstone helper at the table in the front of the store.

The Cornerstone Fellowship teams are also being sponsored by the First Baptist Church of Hackberry.

Vet's clinic is relocated

Southwest Louisiana Veterinary Clinic, located at 7X Square in Oak Grove suffered major damages to their facility during Rita. As a result, Dr. Mike Meaux, veterinarian, is now caring for large and small animals at both the Sulphur and DeQuincy Clinics.

He is at the DeQuincy Clinic located at 204 Velmer St., each Monday and Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 12 noon and available at the Sulphur Clinic, located at 128 W. Napoleon St., the rest of the week with the exception of Tuesdays.

The Sulphur clinic hours are: 8:30 a.m. - 12 noon and 2 - 5 p.m., Monday - Friday, and appointments are required. The phone numbers are 786-5520 or 527-7143 (also used for emergency, after hours.)

The clinic also has two other veterinarians, Dr. Dennis Stelly and Dr. Steve Nicholson.

A Harvest Feast
The Pilgrims held a feast in 1621 near Plymouth, Massachusetts, after their first harvest.



LSU AGCENTER natural resource and fishery agent Kevin Savoie makes friends with a Labrador retriever while looking at a pile of debris near Big Pasture in northern Cameron Parish. The natural marsh vegetative debris contains many items from homes and industries devastated by the hurricane. Some of the items in the debris should be considered hazardous waste. Residents are urged not to burn the debris. (Photo by John Chaney.)



JEFF DAVIS Electric Co-operative General Manager Mike Heinen addressed a gathering at the Cameron Courthouse last Friday marking the turning on of power at the courthouse. Shown seated in front were Gov. Kathleen Blanco and members of the Jeff Davis Board. Jeff Davis workers and other workers are shown on the courthouse steps in the background. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)

Governor pays visit as power comes on

"I've come to associate light with life," said Gov. Kathleen Blanco just before Jeff Davis Electric Cooperative turned on the lights at the Cameron Court House for the first time Friday.

The mood was festive around the Court House steps as Jeff Davis employees and board members, parish officials, recovery workers, and Cameron citizens gathered to witness this important milestone in the road to recovery from Hurricane Rita.

Gov. Blanco, who had formerly served on the Public Service commission, praised the 40 plus JDEC employees for their outstanding job doing their own work and organizing the efforts of the 1400 workers from across the United States who came in to help bring power back to the stricken area.

She said "Cameron Parish will come back, and come



Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco

back strong," because the people are "tough, strong, and smart. We've been here before and we know what to do."

The task at hand is to "renew our economy, ourselves and our spirits," Blanco said, acknowledging that recovery won't be easy.

The Governor noted that

the national media has paid little attention to Southwest Louisiana, possibly because Rita missed the larger Houston area.

Yet, "Southwest Louisiana took a brutal blow which all by itself would have been a terrible blow for Louisiana, a monster hurricane in its own right," Blanco said. She praised Cameron people for being "so smart," in taking action first to protect life and second to start again. "We're here about bringing renewed life to Cameron Parish and Southwest Louisiana."

JDEC General Manager Mike Heinen gave credit to his board of directors, who were all present for the ceremony, for the speed with which the electrical system has been restored. "The Board told me to do whatever it takes," he said.

He also thanked the 900 fellow co-operative reorganizations around the country who sent line construction specialists to help, as part of a mutual assistance agreement, and also independent linemen and tree-trimming crews.

Board member Scott Henry acknowledged that "by the grace of God we're able to have electricity." He declared, "We've done it before, in 1957, except that then we had over 500 lives lost, which a diligent OEP helped prevent this time. Now we've got to get the people back. Light, electricity, is the first step."

Board member Garner Nunez said the JDEC board

Cont. on Page 3.

FEMA deadline extended

The deadline for applying for assistance from FEMA for losses incurred in Hurricane Rita has been extended to Jan. 11, 2006.

FEMA representatives will be at the Disaster Recovery Center at the Hackberry Community Center Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Nov. 17-19 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday will be the last day open.

The Disaster Recovery Center at the Grand Lake

Recreation Center will continue to be open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Persons who have received SBA loan applications are urged to mail them or take to a DRC center for processing.

"Even if you are not eligible for the loan, you may be referred back to FEMA for additional assistance," a spokesman said. "If their application is not processed through SBA no further assistance will be granted."

Telephones progressing

Cameron Communications work crews continue restoration of telephone, high speed internet, and digital television service to the hurricane affected areas of Cameron Parish.

Electrical service is in the process of being restored to the Cameron Communications facilities located in Johnson Bayou, Cameron, and Grand Chenier, meaning dial tone will be available in nearly every South Cameron exchange, allowing for the removal of our temporary generators.

In Johnson Bayou and Grand Chenier, all services are available to anyone requesting to be reconnected with telephone, high speed internet or digital television services.

Cameron already has the same services restored to

majority of the area.

"The restoration of service to our customers is our top priority, without a doubt," said David Goldstone, Director of Marketing and Public Relations. "We are working with area businesses and organizations doing our utmost to keep the area residents informed as to exactly what is going on and how our efforts are progressing."

Customers desiring more information in reestablishing communications should call toll free to 1-800-737-3900 to speak with a customer care professional.

Attorney tells new office

Penelope Richard, Cameron Attorney, has announced the relocation of her law office due to damages from Hurricane Rita. The new office is located at 1587 Hwy. 384, Grand Lake (next to Shear Simplicity Hair Salon.)

The new telephone number is 905-8135; the fax number is 905-8137; and she can also be reached by her cell phone, 370-6416. The mailing address remains the same as before, P. O. Box Drawer 579, Cameron, LA 70631.

Office hours are 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday - Friday, or by appointment.

Pilot will be out early

Because of Thanksgiving, the Cameron Pilot will be printed a day early next week.

Persons with news, classified ads, legal notices or display advertising are asked to get these items to the Pilot by Monday, Nov. 21.

Telephone: 337-786-8004 or 1-800-256-7323.

Items may also be faxed to 337-786-8131 or e-mailed to: dequincynews@centurytel.net



JEFF DAVIS Electric Board member Scott Henry is shown addressing the crowd at Friday's lighting ceremony at the courthouse. E.O.C. Director Kisha Killmer and O.E.P. Director Freddie Richard look on. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)

Funerals

LULA MAE SWIRE

Lula Mae Swire, 77, of Hackberry, died Saturday Nov. 12, 2005, at home.

She was preceded in death by her son, Lester Lee Swire; and grandson, Lester Lee Portie.

Survivors include her husband, Wilfred Swire of Hackberry; sons, Leslie Swire of Houston and Joseph and Lionel Swire, both of Hackberry; daughters, Mary Katherine Portie, Lillian Dronet, Carolyn Sue Hebert and Gay Lynn Varnes, all of Hackberry; brother, John L. Venable of Hackberry; 23 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; and 17 great-great-grandchildren.

Her funeral was held Monday, Nov. 14, in Sulphur United Pentecostal Church. The Rev. Allen Celestine officiated. Burial was in New Hackberry Cemetery under the direction of Hixson-Sulphur Memorial Funeral Home.

WILLIE RAY "DOC" VEAZEY

Willie Ray "Doc" Veazey, 82, a Dayton, Nev. resident for 28 years, died Sunday, Oct. 23, 2005, in Dayton. Before moving to Dayton, he had lived in Hackberry for many years.

He served in the U. S. Army during World War II and received the Purple Heart, American Theater service medal, European African Middle Eastern service medal and World War II victory metal.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Agenore and Ada Veazey, sister Ethel

Grand Lake - Cameron Agencies Roundup

Grand Lake Firemen are asked to attend a meeting on Nov. 18 at 7 p.m. at the Grand Lake Fireman Center in the back room. A meal will be served. This is a very important meeting and all volunteer firemen are urged to attend.

The Cameron Community Action Agency will be sponsoring a Job Fair on Nov. 22 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Grand Lake Community Center in the back room. Anyone interested in work is urged to attend the meeting.

The Cameron Council on Aging is sponsoring a Senior RX sign up program. If you are interested in signing up for assistance with purchasing your medications, please bring your medications and your physician phone number and address to the sign up day on Nov. 29 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Grand Lake Community Center in the back room.

Quilts available

The Diocese of Lake Charles has quilts available to anyone who lost their blankets due to Hurricane Rita.

If you would like some quilts for your family please call Margaret Theriot at 249-1406, leave a message of how many quilts you would like and a contact name and number.

Burch, and brother A. J. "Cake" Veazey.

He is survived by his children Prefecto Veazey of Dayton, Nev.; Sheena Veazey of Baker, Mont.; Nita Veazey and Wanda Arnold, both of Sulphur; seven grandchildren.

His remains were cremated.

noon, Monday through Friday with the exception of holidays. If you were on the program prior to Hurricane Rita and would like to continue, please call us at 598-5158.

If you were not on the program but would like to join call us at 598-5158. All home delivered meal recipients must have a doctor's excuse for receiving meals at home. The Council on Aging must have this excuse from the doctor for the records.

In addition to meals served, there are guest speakers, entertainment, games played, etc... We invite you to come on out and join us. Please let us know if you are interested. We have to order meals each day.

The Cameron Community Action Agency and Council on Aging will be saying good bye to new friends that we have made. For the past several weeks a group of 23 AmeriCorp workers have been in our area helping with debris clean up, mass distribution centers and the Head Start program. It is with heavy hearts that we see this fine group of students leave. We appreciate their fine attitudes, their great work, their kind hearts and eagerness to please. Special thanks to each of these fine folks.

A new group of helpers will be assigned to our area following their departure. We will miss them!

Casket ID is needed

(AMERICAN PRESS)

The coroner's offices in Cameron and Calcasieu Parishes are asking for the public's help in identifying caskets that have been washed away from mausoleums and cemeteries by Hurricane Rita. Calcasieu Coroner's Office investigator Zeb Johnson said that 300 caskets in Cameron Parish were moved from their resting places by the storm.

Johnson said 260 of those caskets have been recovered, but only 70 have been positively identified.

"We need for families to contact our office or Dr. Sanders, the Cameron Parish coroner to help us identify these caskets," Johnson said.

He said that with the opening of hunting season this weekend, some hunters may come across caskets in the marsh.

"If those hunters will call our office or if they can record the GPS location, we'll take care of recovering the casket," Johnson said.

People with information or questions can call the Cameron Parish Coroner's Office at 755-5102, the Calcasieu Parish Coroner's Office at 477-7537 or Calcasieu Family Assistance at 842-0321.

Medication help offered

Senior citizens needing to apply for help with medications are invited to meet with Senior RX personnel on Tuesday, Nov. 29, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Grand Lake Multi-Purpose Bldg. For questions contact Cameron Council on Aging at 598-5158.



CHAD DESHOTEL, president of the Home Builders Association of Southwest Louisiana, and J.O. Heath, member of the Northern Arizona Building Association, stand before a truckload of tools that Heath's organization donated.

\$10,000 donation made to Cameron Parish Schools

The Home Builders Association of Southwest Louisiana (HBASWLA) received a donation of more than \$10,000 in tools and money from the Northern Arizona Building Association (NABA) today and passed it on to benefit Cameron Parish schools.

NABA member J.O. Heath of Flagstaff, Ariz., drove the truckload of tools to Lake Charles and presented a check in the amount of \$5,713 to the HBASWLA. The money and tools were collected through a drive called "Operation Toolbox" during the month of October.

"Everyone is doing such meaningful things to help in the aftermath of the hurricanes," said NABA President Don Henry. "We wanted to help as well, but it was important to us to make sure that our efforts were relevant."

Half of the tools and money was given to Grand Lake High School and the other half was given to

Hackberry High School. The money will be used by the schools to purchase uniforms for the students and the tools will be given to each school's agricultural department where the students will be taught how to use them.

"We are very grateful to the Northern Arizona Building Association for this very kind donation," Chad Deshotel, president of HBASWLA, said. "When we got the call that they were bringing this in we thought long and hard about the best way to distribute their donation and decided that the students in Cameron Parish could really put it to good use."

For more information, contact the Home Builders Association at 477-7893 or visit www.hbaswla.org



MR. DUPRE HEBERT JR.

Memorial Services for Mr. Dupre Hebert Jr., 77, of Hackberry, were held Tuesday, Nov. 15, at Robison Funeral Home Chapel. Deacon Johnny Mounce officiated.

Mr. Hebert died Thursday, Nov. 10, 2005, in a Houston hospital. He was a native of Hackberry, and was a Veteran of the Korean War for which he received the Purple Heart Award.

Survivors include two sons: Kirby Hebert and wife Amy, and Kevin Hebert, all of Hackberry; one daughter: Paula Hebert, Westlake; two grandsons; one great-granddaughter; two brothers, August John Hebert, Hackberry and Lester Hebert, Sulphur; two sisters, Urlene Deason, Carlyss and Linda Lou Hebert, Hackberry.

-The CAMERON PARISH PILOT-

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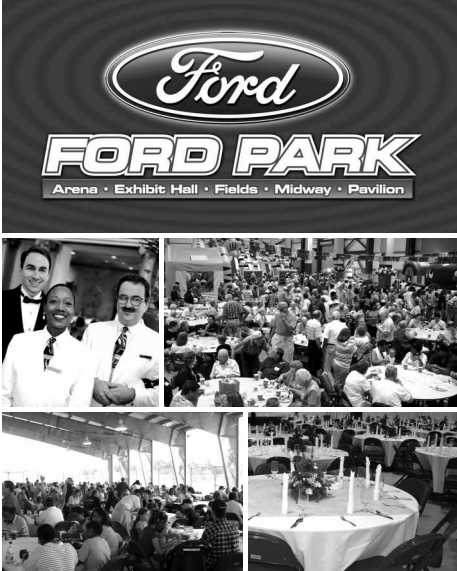
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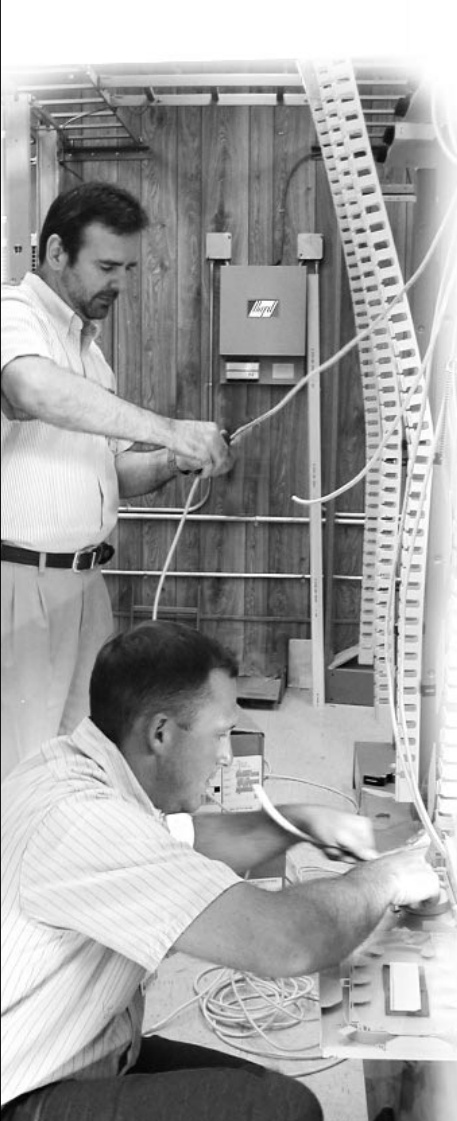
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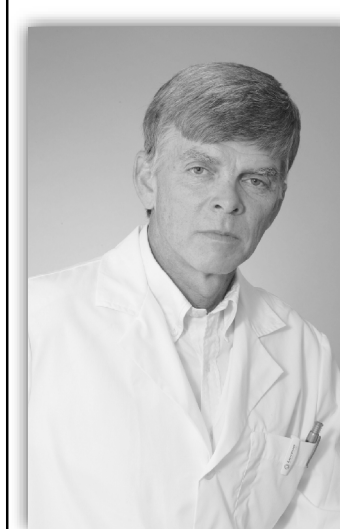
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OR FOR MORE INFORMATION GIVE US A CALL... 337-786-8004 or 1-800-256-7323

Dr. Sanders is Seeing Patients in a New Office



Due to damage from Hurricane Rita, Dr. Richard Sanders has relocated his family practice from Creole to The Clinic — Moss Bluff.

The office is located at 277 Hwy. 171 North, Suite 8, in Moss Bluff. Office hours are 8am - 5pm, Monday - Friday.

The Clinic — Moss Bluff provides comprehensive primary care for patients of all ages. Dr. Sanders joins Dr. Jason Morris and Dr. Mary Sherk in this newly-opened office.

Dr. Sanders will see patients by appointment as well as walk-ins. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (337) 312-0030.



337-312-0030
277 Hwy. 171 North, Ste 8
Moss Bluff

www.lcmcs.com

Dear Editor

Appreciation for the Pilot

Dear Editor:

First, thanks to all of you for the effort each of you has made to put out the Cameron Pilot over the past several weeks. This is one link that we, the residents of Cameron, have that brings all of us closer together. I know that it probably isn't easy getting the paper out under the circumstances, hats off to each of you.

Phillis Doxey
Southern Screen Printing

Yard giveaway told Saturday

To the people of lower Cameron Parish:

Due to the kindness and generosity of family, friends, and neighbors we have been able to collect clothes, toys, household items, and more to be given to you. We know we cannot replace everything you lost. However, we can try to replace some material things you need right now to survive.

On Saturday, Nov. 19 we will have a yard "giveaway". The only requirement is to bring your lower Cameron Parish driver's license with you. The address is 8096 Nelson Road (on the corner of Lincoln and Nelson). Time will be from 9 a.m. until. You can call 474-8703 with any questions or for more information.

Please come even if only to visit.

Geraldine Savoie McDaniel
Lacey Delcambre

Evacuees appreciative

Dear Editor:

Please find the enclosed check to subscribe to the Cameron Pilot. We have an elderly couple living with us who like many have lost their home to Rita. I want to thank

you on their behalf for continuing to provide news from the area. My brother and his wife have lost their home of thirty years as well.

On Saturday my sister-in-law and I were going through the mud as many residents have been to find any shred of their life, to somehow piece the years together, neighbors stopped to visit. It was very warming to find the fellowship of the community still alive.

Please continue the excellent reporting in helping to keep the people informed of the place they have always known and loved.

Sincerely,
/s/Becky Young
Elton

Not happy with FEMA

Dear Editor:

I am a very proud resident of Cameron Parish. The people of Cameron Parish always help each other. I attended the FEMA meeting and this is no longer true. FEMA told us everyone must build up in the air, everyone even if you have no insurance, schools, hospitals, lumber yards, gas stations, all businesses.

We also have Cobra Zones and if you are in one of these zones you can not get Federal Flood Insurance, but you still must build up. When asked about handicap exceptions, the District Six Deputy Director said FEMA does not grant medical exemptions. FEMA discourages handicap persons returning to Cameron Parish.

It causes problems with evacuations and endangers first responders in the aftermath. Cameron Parish was evacuated without any help and no one was endangered because there was no one to rescue. Why is New Orleans, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and Texas not put under these same handicap restrictions only Cameron Parish?

Our Parish Administrator defended FEMA at every point. The administrator is a FEMA puppet, they pull the string and the administrator dances. No one stood up for us when FEMA made the comment about the handicapped. Our Police Jurors were sitting on stage swinging their legs and talking on their cell phones. The Police Jury did not stand up for us and we don't have the voting power to get State Representatives to speak for us much less our Senators or Representatives in Washington to talk to us.

To our Administrator and Police Jurors you do not need to respond to this letter, I'll do it for you, the regulations are..... and we have to follow the regulations.

FEMA played the music and our Parish Administrator lead our Police Jurors in the dance and they waltzed all over the residents of Cameron Parish.

Jean Dimas
Cameron Parish Resident

Compromise is proposed

Dear Editor:

The following information is not law in Cameron Parish, but is a new proposal by a concerned citizen. I am working on a proposed "compromise" ordinance for elevation variance permitting which could possibly satisfy the demands of FEMA, the Cameron Parish Police Jury, and the residents of lower Cameron Parish with special focus on the elderly and handicapped.

This is because FEMA will not allow our Police Jury to issue any elevation variances to anyone at any time for any reason, and I offer this compromise as an alternative to sitting back and doing nothing.

If this compromise does not work, the voters of Cameron Parish will vote to kick FEMA and the NFIP out of Cameron Parish, and completely do away with all elevation requirements on a community by community basis if necessary.

I have heard locally that someone is printing tee shirts that read "I survived Rita, but the insurance companies did me in." Some big name insurance companies are already pulling out of Southwest Louisiana.

This "compromise" proposal is not an official legal document yet, but I plan to present it at the Cameron Parish Police Jury agenda meeting on Monday, Nov. 21, 6 p.m., Grand Lake High School for possible consideration and review by the Police Jury and the D.A.'s office.

If approved by the Police Jury and FEMA, eventually it may be possible for Cameron Parish to retain FEMA "participating community" status, and for elderly and handicapped residents to build on the ground through a simple, free, and easy to use elevation variance permit process if they desire to build on the ground.

Maybe homes and businesses could choose to build on the ground for a small permit fee, generating some permit income for Cameron Parish, otherwise we have no

chance of ever building back on the ground, and our elderly and handicapped will continue to suffer.

Those who build on the ground will not be eligible for flood insurance or any FEMA disaster benefits. This is very acceptable to some residents like myself who desire no flood insurance and no elevation restrictions, but does not address the problems of securing mortgages and loans-it is up to our local banks to step up and support our mortgage and loan needs.

Those who elevate will be eligible for flood insurance and FEMA disaster benefits. Another key point of this proposal is that no one can ever raise our elevation standards beyond the existing 1992 elevation requirements, which is already too much to bear.

The freedom to build on the ground has been taken away by FEMA, but maybe we can get a little or some of our freedom back. The name of the game is COMPROMISE, and it may take some time to change the laws.

Until then, we're stuck with these laws. These heavy handed federal tactics to drive us off our land began in the late 1960's and both political parties are to blame for allowing elevation restrictions to grow out of control.

No matter what is done, not everyone will be happy with the result, and this elevation variance permit will be free only to the elderly and handicapped. The choice to pursue

A. Legion members are sought

The Louisiana Department of the American Legion has launched a program to locate all Legionnaires who were evacuated because of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

In the Seventh District of Louisiana current addresses of members of Legion Post 176 of Cameron and Post 364 of Grand Chenier are being sought.

Members of these two Posts have been requested to notify the Legion's Seventh District Commander of their current addresses. They should notify:

Larry J. Abshire, 910-C Sampson St., Westlake, LA 70609. Business phone: 497-1885; Cell phone: 513-3860

this, or not, rests in the hands of the Cameron Parish Police Jury. Our police jurors are willing to listen to your concerns and opinions.

Let our police jurors know what you think about this. Speak up, be heard, and remember to vote.

Jay Rutherford
Cameron Parish Resident

School lunch menus told

Lunch menus for all Cameron Parish schools for the week beginning Nov. 17 are as follows:

Thursday, Nov. 17 - Oven fried chicken, seasoned rice, green beans, fruit cocktail, wheat biscuits, milk.

Friday, Nov. 18 - Beef finger steaks, mashed potatoes, orange wedges, white sauce, wheat sliced bread, milk.

GOVERNOR Cont. from Pg. 1

made a good decision when it "hired a leader (Mike Heinen) four years ago." He said Heinen and the employees "performed a miracle" in restoring power in such a short time.

JDEC is still working in some of the outlying areas. The co-op plans to shut down its Chenault base on Nov. 18 and complete the remainder of its work with existing employees and private contractor crews.

Until the mandatory evacuation order is lifted in Cameron Parish, the cooperative will restore service only to industrial and commercial accounts.



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Notice to Hibernia Safe Deposit Box Owners at Hibernia's Cameron Banking Office

For customers who have safe deposit boxes at Hibernia's Cameron Banking Office, we would like to assure you that all safe deposit boxes are intact and have not been compromised by any unauthorized person. Boxes have been moved to the Hibernia Tower in Lake Charles. Access to safe deposit boxes will be by appointment only.

Appointments are available to access the Cameron safe deposit boxes on the second floor of the Hibernia Tower (1 Lakeshore Drive, Lake Charles) on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays between 10am and 3pm. Call (337)494-3458 or (337)494-3583 for an appointment.



Where are they now? Report on the evacuees

By NELL COLLIGAN

It took no time at all to fill a column with news coming in by phone and email. By the looks of things, everyone else is as anxious as I am to find out where our friends are.

(The Beniot family) Peggy Benoit writes that she and Eddie and their family as well as Kent and Janette Beniot first went to Thibodaux where they were taken in by relatives, 22 in one household.

They went from Thibodaux to the KAO campground in Scott, eventually ending up in Rayne where Peggy and Eddie spent 13 days in their camper. The family has finally settled in Lake Charles: Janette and Kent in the home that was

Janette's mother's, and Eddie and Peggy and their family in a vacant home owned by a cousin who lives in Texas. Janette's house was totally wiped out. Kent lost his trailer and the house he was moving into (Penelope and Darren Richard's former home). Peggy and Eddie's house is still standing but filled with collapsing, moldy ceilings and wet carpets. Peggy said it is such a mess,

they don't know where to start.

(Hilaire and Alta Hebert's family) I finally did locate my neighbors, Eldie Cheramie and her sister, Betty Savoy. They spent the storm at Claude and Vernie Hebert's in Lacassine, and then went on to stay with relatives in Lake Arthur.

Now Eldie is with her daughter, Toni and husband, James Boudreaux in Grand Lake. She's waiting for a FEMA trailer to put on Toni's land in Grand Lake. Betty and her daughter Kathy and Giz Guilbeaux are living in a mobile home in Grand Lake. Kevin and Michelle are living in a mobile home next door.

Jerome and Myra Rutherford are in Lake Arthur but will be moving to the LeBleu Settlement. Richard Hebert and Cricket are in Basile, planning to buy a home there. Other news from Eldie: Dale and Galton Boudreaux are in Grand Lake living in a mobile home owned by Dale's daughter, Genji who is at Fort Polk with her husband who is in the service. Hazel and Pamme Dronet have purchased a home in Lake Charles.

(The Peshoff family) Jane



CRYSTAL CONNER of Creole was named Homecoming Queen at the Louisiana School for the Deaf.

Crystal Conner reigns as School for the deaf queen

The Louisiana School for the Deaf, located in Baton Rouge, announced that Crystal Conner, senior, daughter of John and Linda Conner of Creole, was named Homecoming Queen on Saturday, Nov. 5.

Football competition started at 2:30 p.m. when the Georgia School for the Deaf played the Oklahoma School for the Deaf. Georgia won the first game of the "Battle on the Bayou" by 20 points.

Later in the evening, LSD

won the homecoming game against the top ranked Mississippi School for the Deaf, 86 to 64 to complete an undefeated season.

The Louisiana School for the Deaf offers a K-12 educational program for deaf and hard-of-hearing children from all parts of the state, at no cost to their parents.

For more information please contact Trish Mann, Director of Outreach Services at the Louisiana School for the Deaf, 225-757-3327.

Peshoff Whiteman phoned me from Chesapeake, Va. were she has been staying with her daughter since before the storm. Jane and Robert lost their trailer but plan to get another one.

They will probably stay in Lake Charles or somewhere within driving distance of Robert's job on the Cameron Ferry. Kathy Peshoff Navarre, David Peshoff and Paula Acosta are all with Kathy's daughter, Teffany Miller in Lake Charles.

Deanna Peshoff Jordan is in Opelousas with her son Larry Kiser. She plans to go back to Cameron and put a trailer on her daddy's land.

Elaine Thompson, Dori Taylor and Pat Saltzman and her friend, C-Bob Doxey are in Lake Charles with Joe and Edith Miller. Jane's son, Joey Sedlock and his wife Dawn are with family members in the Grand Lake area.

Nealie Kay McDaniel and family are in a motel in the Toledo Bend area. Other news from Jane: Glenda Bailey is with her daughter in DeRidder.

Kenneth Roux initially evacuated to Winston Salem, N. C. but is now with his son, Kenneth Roux, Jr. (I guess that's in Lake Charles.)

(The Colligan/McCall Families) The Colligan home across from Cameron Elementary School is totally gutted. Deanne and Madeleine salvaged only a few of their belongings and are living with Joyce and Norman McCall at their farm in Singer.

The McCall home was also destroyed as was the old drug store, which was leased by the Seacor company for its Cameron office.

Norman is now working at the Seacor office in Lake Charles.

The Cameron Drug Store closed in 2002, and the building was being used as a warehouse for Seacor. It is now just a slab with a roof suspended on steel beams. I understand various members of the national press have used it as a makeshift headquarters when they exit their helicopters on Smith field next door. It's a fair shelter from the sun.

Joyce's daughter, Phyllis and her husband, Billy Johnston, live in the Grand Lake area. Their home sustained damage but they have managed to remain in it. Joe McCall's home in Grand Chenier sustained some damage but I am not sure how much. Joe and Paula and the family are in their Lake Charles home.

Alan McCall had no damage to his home in Lake Charles. The Colligan's long-time family friend Mary Richard is also staying between the McCall's farmhouse and her parents' home in Kaplan. Her home sustained major damage.

Deanne tells me she saw Anna Boudreaux and Theresa Martinez at the "new Cameron-Creole post office" located at the Chennault Air Base. Anna and Theresa's home in Creole was totally wiped out. They are buying a home in Moss Bluff. Ralph and Betty Newton



THE OLD FEED store in Creole, which was filmed for the movie "Little Chenier" last summer, still survives. Note the fake jail bars in the windows.

(Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)

Sha Sha Styron and her family in Creole, the Touchets in Holly Beach and my friend from school-nursing days, Diane Price in Johnson Bayou.


I guess we are assuming everyone in Grand Lake is still in their homes along with

many other friends and relatives.



Happy Thanksgiving

A bounty of best wishes to our many kind neighbors this Thanksgiving holiday. We're really grateful for all your support.



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- Do not try to extinguish a fire

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- Dead plants or vegetation amid healthy ones
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ATTENTION CAMERON PARISH CUSTOMERS

The Cameron, Creole, and Grand Chenier Banking Centers of Cameron State Bank were completely destroyed during Hurricane Rita, however, we were able to retrieve the Safe Deposit Box vaults from each location.

We are in the process of moving the boxes to the Cities Service Banking Center and will have them available for you to take possession of your box as follows:

Safe Deposit Boxes from **Cameron** will be available on November 16th

Creole will be available on November 17th

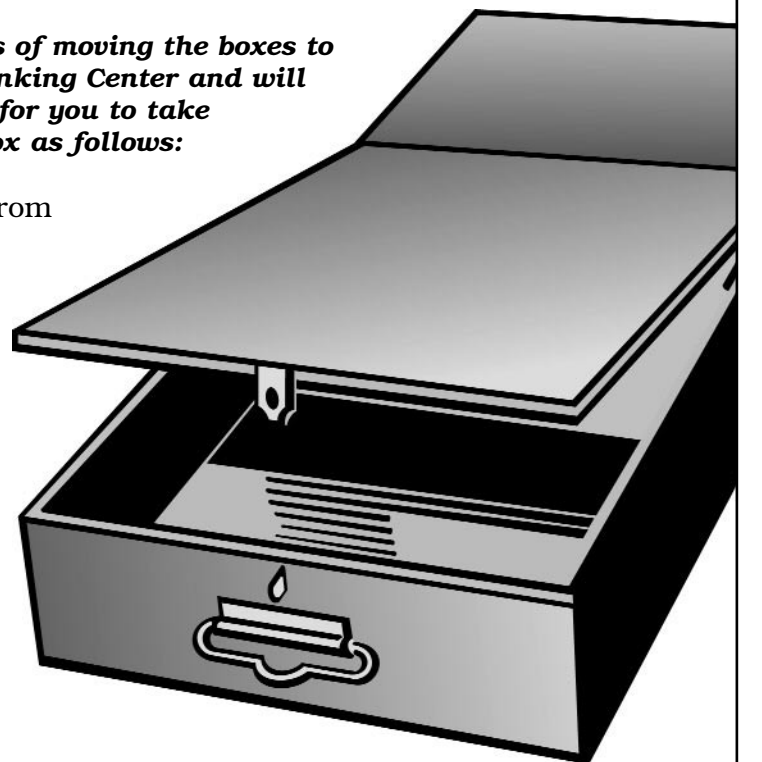
Grand Chenier will be available on November 18th

Any remaining will be available on November 19th

The Cities Service Banking Center is located at 4100 Maplewood Drive.

We will have staff on hand from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, November 16th - 18th, and from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm on Saturday, November 19th.

We apologize for this inconvenience. You will be eligible for free safe deposit box rental for one year when you rent the same size box at any of our other banking center facilities (subject to availability). **If you have any questions or would like more information, please call 312-7890.**



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Since the founding of our nation, the importance of newspapers in informing the public and providing a sense of community has been recognized and valued.

Hurricane Rita wreaked havoc on all in this area – citizens, businesses, schools, governments – and yes, newspapers.

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THE CAMERON PARISH Courthouse survived another hurricane. The Courthouse also survived Hurricane Audrey in 1957. (Photo by John Chaney.)

School board hears report on damages from Rita

SCHOOL BOARD
The Cameron Parish School Board heard reports on storm damage and insurance and made plans for the future at their regular meeting Monday afternoon, held in Grand Lake.

Steve Racca, vocational agriculture teacher at Hackberry High School reported that broken windows and damaged roofs have been repaired, all rooms cleaned and sanitized, grounds cleared and raked, downed trees removed and stumps ground.

The building repairs are down to trim, fascia, some lights, gutters, drain pipes and stove hoods. Two gym floors and bleachers still need to be replaced.

Racca credited the help of the 877th Brigade engineering company, who helped clear debris for eight days, and the Belfor company which was contracted to complete the clean-up. "At one time we had 240 people at a time working on the site," he said. "The grounds were raked three times."

At Grand Lake School, principal David Duhon reported, most damage was from wind, with windows blown out and roofs damaged. He praised the crew from Bessette Construction who left their job site next door and secured the roofs the day after the storm, the Belfor crews, and Jeff Davis Electric Co-op who found a way to get power for repair crews.

The floor of the back gym is presently being prepared for a new surface.

INSURANCE
The School Board's insurance consultant M.B. Slocum reported on expected insur-

ance payments for storm damage.

The Board had \$500,000 worth of flood insurance on each building and on the contents of each building in lower Cameron Parish. Except for the contents on the Cameron Elementary gym, all policies should pay in full, he said.

At Hackberry, damage will be a combination of wind and flood, and engineers are still assessing how much of each. Grand Lake's damage was all wind related.

The cost for Belfor to clean the schools will be "in the millions," he said, but it should be a pass through to the insurance company except for the deductible, which he hopes FEMA will reimburse.

BESE board member Dale Bayard addressed the Board to bring them up to date on the measures being considered by the state legislature this week affecting education. He said he will be trying to keep the budget cuts small, but the fight is still on.

No Child Left Behind requirements and testing waivers are under discussion as well, he said.

Architect Gayle Zembower reported that the new roof at Johnson's Bayou School held, but storm surge reached 54" above the floor. He estimated it will cost \$1.5 million or less to get the school back in shape, after clean-up costs.

The Board is working with FEMA to try to keep the new gym at South Cameron High School, even though the rest of the building will have to be replaced. This would save \$1.5 million to \$2 million.

The new tracks at Hackberry and South Cameron will both require repair.

DISASTER LOAN
The Board voted to adopt a resolution to apply for a bond sale and to authorize the sale of such bonds if needed for operations, under the disaster loan program.

The money can only be used for operations, not buildings, and may not be needed, said Margaret Jones, Board accountant, but the process needs to be put in place in case of need.

Legislature is still considering what to do about tax assessments for the next year, so the budget is uncertain.

SCHOOL UNIFORMS
The Board voted to begin enforcing student attire rules after the Christmas break. This means uniforms will again be required beginning Jan. 2, however anyone with a hardship in this area may contact the school principal or the School Board office. Donors have already come forward to help supply students' needs.

MODULAR BUILDINGS
The Board agreed, for the most part, with a comprehensive plan presented by Supt. Dr. Doug Chance for management of student populations and school campuses during the recovery period.

Chance proposed to improve parking and driveways at Grand Lake and bring in modular buildings to house the South Cameron High School, and combined CES and SCES students, including restrooms, kitchens, administration, and computer lab. The buildings would be placed on the grounds of the school.

At Hackberry the same sort of arrangement would be made for the Johnson's Bayou

Cameron Parish Sports Roundup

BASKETBALL BOYS

Lacassine 63, Grand Lake 57 - The Hornets were playing for the championship of their own tournament and came up just short to take second place. Brett Griffith paced the 6-2 Hornets with 57 points. Deon Bergeron added 18 points.

Hackberry 53, Bell City 34 - The Mustangs claimed third place in the Grand Lake tourney. Individual stats not available.

Grand Lake 79, Reeves 55 - Brett Griffith scored 23 points for the Hornets and Justin Howerton and Deon Bergeron added 18 points each. The Hornets improve to 5-1 on the year.

Grand Lake 59, Hackberry 45 - Brett Griffith led the Hornets with 14 points. Deon Bergeron added 13 points and Kory Dahlen chipped in 12 points. Jay Sanner was the leading scorer for the Mustangs with 17 points. Judd Addison added 11 points.

GIRLS
Bell City 58, Grand Lake 39 - The Lady Bruins spoiled the chance for the Lady Hornets to win their

own tournament as Grand Lake dropped to 6-4 on the season and claimed second place in the Grand Lake tourney. Liz Kingham was the leading scorer for the Lady Hornets with 10 points.

Lacassine 37, Hackberry 21 - No stats available.
Grand Lake 56, Reeves 21 - After a 26-0 first quarter lead, the Lady Hornets let their second stringers get

some playing time. Leading the scoring route were Kat Kingham and Brandy Carroll with 10 points each.

South Cameron High News

BASKETBALL
The SCHS girl's basketball team's community calendar have arrived. Due to Hurricane Rita all records of who ordered calendars were lost. If you ordered and paid for a birthday community calendar please contact the player you ordered from or come by Grand Lake High School on any Monday or Tuesday from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. to pick up your calendar. We are sorry for the inconvenience. And we thank you for your support

FBLA NEWS
FBLA members are reminded to pay \$20 dues to Mrs. Hession before the end of November.

BASKETBALL NEWS
Tarpon basketball players will be in Kinder on Nov. 21 for the Kinder Tournament.

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS
Seniors are to check online for Horato Alger and

Walmart Scholarships. Those students interested in attending McNeese State University may pick up applications and scholarships forms next week from Mr. Broussard. ACT packets are in the counselor's office.

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Attending school on Monday, Nov. 21 will be Cameron Elementary, South Cameron Elementary and South Cameron High School. The holiday will begin on Tuesday, Nov. 22 through Friday, Nov. 25. Classes will resume on Monday, Nov. 28 on the normal platoon schedule - 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

November 21 - Kinder Basketball Tournament.
November 22 - 25 - Thanksgiving Holiday.
November 28 - Classes resume.
November 29 - Basketball Bethel Christian (home).

NOTICE TO CAMERON PARISH CITIZENS. . .

The Cameron Parish Police Jury is considering the following proposed ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE TO ENACT SECTION 9-2 RELATIVE TO THE UNLAWFUL OUTDOOR BURNING OF GARBAGE, TRASH, WOOD, TREES, LIMBS, LEAVES, HOUSEHOLD GOODS OR CONSTRUCTION/DEMOLITION MATERIALS; AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE VIOLATION AND ENFORCEMENT THEREOF. "BURN BAN"

Be it enacted by the Cameron Parish Police Jury: Section 9-2, Unlawful burning of garbage, trash, wood, trees, limbs, leaves, household goods or construction/demolition materials "burn ban"; violation; enforcement.

(a) Unlawful Burning: No person, firm or corporation shall burn or dispose of by outdoor burning, any garbage, trash, wood, trees, limbs, leaves, household goods or construction/demolition materials during a period of "mandatory evacuation", "declaration of emergency", or any other time period as mandated by the Cameron Parish Police Jury, State of Louisiana, United States Government, or their Agencies.

(b) Waiver Permit: Any person, firm or corporation who desires to request a waiver of this "burn ban" shall apply to the Police Jury for a permit, and which application shall describe in detail the items to be burned, the location, the method and type of ignition/fuel, and the date(s), time and place of burning. The Police Jury, in its sole discretion, shall determine whether or not this waiver may be granted and the conditions of the waiver. The application fee for a waiver permit is \$25.00

(c) Violation and Penalty: Any person, firm or corporation who violates any provision of this Section shall be punished by a fine not exceeding \$300.00 or imprisonment for a period not exceeding thirty (30) days or both, plus the payment of court costs, in the discretion of the Court. Each occurrence shall constitute a separate offense.

(d) Enforcement: The Cameron Parish Sheriff's Office shall enforce the provisions of this Section.

Approved unanimously by the Cameron Parish Police Jury on Monday, November 07, 2005 in regular session at Grand Lake, Louisiana.

For Comments Please Call:

337-616-9667 RUN: Nov. 17, 24 & Dec. 1 (N-16)

A Time To Give Thanks. . .

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Attorney At Law

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We value our customers and friends who have been affected by Hurricane Rita and are dedicated to helping you in any way we can. Please count on us during this difficult time of recovery.

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By LOSTON MCEVERS



Despite Rita La. seafood is safe!

By KEVIN SAVOIE

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita dealt a heavy blow to coastal Louisiana. Our already suffering seafood industry was not spared any of the hurricanes' wraths. Fisheries losses from Katrina and Rita are expected to total more than \$2 billion over the next 12 months, and many consumers are questioning the safety of Louisiana's seafood following the storms. However, Louisiana seafood is closely monitored and tested and is safe to eat.

The immediate damage of some fish kills is minor compared to the long-term effects from destruction of marsh habitat and nearly total devastation of the commercial seafood and charter/recreational fishing infrastructure. Louisiana's vast coastal marsh ecosystem serves as critical nursery for estuarine dependent species, including fish, crabs, shrimp, oysters, etc...

In the weeks immediately following the hurricanes, there was a boon to production, especially in the shrimp and crab harvesting sector. This was caused by the huge storm surge.

Carried along with the enormous surge of Gulf water were aquatic organisms inhabiting the near-shore waters. Essentially, the Gulf covered the coastal zone up to 20 miles inland, creating a vast habitat for shrimp, crabs and other aquatic organisms. The downside is that this windfall will be short lived, and in the long-term there will be a decrease in production because of the destruction of coastal marsh habitat.

While coastal resources will recover, the commercial, charter and recreational industries associated with these resources are badly damaged and may not come back as quickly. Many commercial fishing and charter boats were sunk, stranded onshore and badly damaged. Much of the infrastructure required for the fisheries industries to operate is also devastated. Shrimp loading docks, freezers, ice plants, fuel docks, marinas, etc. were wiped out or badly damaged.

In addition, news stories across the nation reported storm water contamination of coastal waters could affect seafood. This has caused concern among consumers and may cause them to reduce seafood consumption unnecessarily. In fact, the only significant problem identified to date has been higher than usual levels of bacteria. But that is expected whenever storm runoff occurs.

Bacteria (and associated viruses) are a concern for oysters because they are filter-feeders that concentrate water-borne particles and because oysters are often consumed raw. But a spike in bacteria in the water will not change the food quality of any seafood that is cooked properly.

Monitoring of oyster-producing waters is a continuous process. The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) must certify that waters are clean enough that oysters growing in them are safe to consume uncooked. For that reason, no oystering is allowed unless waters have been tested and found safe. After any storm, all waters must be tested.

Oyster harvesting areas along the Louisiana coast have begun reopening. The Calcasieu Lake and West Cove conditionally managed areas were opened on Oct. 26, a little over a month after Hurricane Rita hit the area. This quick opening is attributed to the dedication and work of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and DHH.

I'll say it again, Louisiana's seafood is closely monitored and tested - and is safe to eat.

- Memorabilia found -

During the cleanup efforts from the aftermath of Rita, if someone's precious memories or items are recovered, please contact the Cameron Pilot at 1-800-256-7323 or 337-786-8004. The following items have been found:

In Cameron, near Subway:
Size 16 wedding dress, football trophies, 1991-92; box with Webelos ribbons. Call 764-3352.

In Primeaux Subdivision:
WWII Veteran's flag, with name written on side. Call (337) 836-1627.

HUNTER'S ON THE RISE

I know our state will lose lots of dollars this hunting season, not only on big game, but also on migratory waterfowl licenses and duck stamps, but for some die-hard duck hunters, life as a Louisiana Sportsman goes on.

We do know some of the Big Lake and Hackberry guide services will go on, as well as a couple of clubs in the Grand Chenier area. Although I spent the weekend on a clean-up detail, it was hard for me not to hit the marshes to pop a few caps.

Little Pecan had a fairly good opening on ducks, as blinds with three hunters had their 18 duck limits. I talked to my brother-in-law, Barry Richard, and he and his brother, Lester "Ferpo" Richard, tried the Grand Chenier marsh and they had five gadwalls. They found five decoys, tied on weights and eight ducks came and five stayed. Barry tells me that there wasn't lots of ducks, but they did have ducks flying high. I think with colder weather, we'll see ducks in our southwest Louisiana marshes, but I don't think they'll stay as we just don't have the feed or freshwater.

We've seen heavy rains and saltwater come into our marshes before, but the fresh and saltwater mix wasn't so bad, as we still had plenty of submerged aquatic vegetation, lots of wigoin grass for feed. However, we were pestered with rosecanes, cattails, salvinia and other bad grass that now is way thinner than before and hoping saltwater will kill the bad stuff and not the good. With the amount of saltwater staying so long, as well as all the chemicals and oil spills, I think it'll take a few years for the good grass to grow. I keep wondering, will this kill and keep the hyacinths out.

State biologists think that birds will come down, but will move to our northeastern part of Louisiana, northwestern Mississippi and southern Arkansas. I think you'll see way more ducks in our rice fields, where the impacts of saltwater wasn't as great and

feed will be there.

I understand that some duck hunters who normally hunt our federal refuges are mad because of the closure of duck season on these refuges. I don't think they really know how bad things are, with structure of our marshes being different, trails and canals plugged up, lots of debris piled up, plus chemical and other hazardous materials.

We all have to realize that things won't be the same in our parish for many years, so we need to bear with it.

THINGS HAPPEN

Remember reading about the high profile hen mallard that had a nest in a mulch pile near the entrance of the Treasury Department, well the eggs hatched and there's eleven ducklings and the Secret Service transported the entire duck family to a nearby park.

There was a few weeks where the mallard nicknamed Duck Cheney and T-Bill, among other things, had high ranking alongside Donald Duck, Howard The Duck and the AFLAC Duck, as one of the most famous quackers on the continent. She was even featured on television shows, in newspaper stories, and certainly was the only duck ever to be guarded by the U. S. Secret Service. I still think that mallard mistook the "Mulch Pile" for a "Bush". What a Quack!

Our government spent money on this project, but to send more "Duck Stamp" dollars for our breeding grounds, wasn't even heard when the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission met in June. Washington doesn't always have its priorities straight when it comes to do what's best for ducks and our duck hunter.

REMINDER

The recreational red snapper fishing in the Gulf of Mexico federal waters has closed effective Nov 1 and will remain closed until 12:01 a.m. local time Jan. 1, 2006. Possession of red snapper during this closure taken from the EEZ is prohibited.

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 Bernice Booth Grand Chenier Now At University	 Lynette Granger Grand Lake Now At University	 Brandy Ackley Grand Lake Now At Moss Bluff	 Brandi Boudreaux Grand Chenier Now At Ruth Street

 Matt Valentine Grand Lake Branch Now At Westlake	 Monique Faulk Grand Lake Branch Now At Hwy. 14	 Cindy Duhon Hackberry Now At Maplewood
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