



A VOTER PREPARES to cast his ballot in Cameron on Tuesday. Voting was heavy in all precincts, despite the disruption caused by Hurricane Ike.
(Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)

McCain - Palin carry Cameron Parish Tues.

John McCain and Sarah Palin were Cameron Parish voters' choice for the White House in the presidential election Tuesday but Barack Obama and Joe Biden were the winners nationwide. Parish voters also elected Ward 3 Justice of the Peace and Constable and a Ward 6 constable.

In the presidential race, McCain received 3,089 votes, or 81 percent, while Barack Obama received 613 votes, or 16 percent.

In the U. S. Senate race, Mary Landrieu, the incumbent, got 51 percent of the vote, or 1,863 votes, while opponent John Kennedy got 47 percent of the vote, or 1,738 votes.

In other local races, voters in Ward 3 chose Harold W. "Buddy" Hardie to serve as Justice of the Peace by 56 percent, or 386 votes. His opponent, Vernon Primeaux, got 44 percent, or 306 votes.

Davy Doxey was picked as Ward 3 Constable by 67 percent, or 460 votes. His opponent, Ronald Nunez, got 33 percent, or 227 votes.

Voters favored "Gwen" Sanner Constance in the Ward 6 Constable's race by 66 percent, or 426 votes. Her opponent, John H. Poole, received 34 percent, or 216 votes.

Cameron voters approved

four of seven constitutional amendments, favoring Amendment 1 - changes in limits of terms on state boards and commissions - by 73 percent, or 2,401 votes, to 27 percent, or 878 votes; Amendment 2 - advance notification for special sessions - by 59 percent, or 1,927 votes, to 41 percent, or 1,319 votes; Amendment 3 - temporary replacement of legislators called to active duty - by 67 percent, or 2,185 votes, to 33 percent, or 1,056 votes; and Amendment 4 - increase in severance tax allocations to parishes - by 58 percent, or 1,914 votes, to 42 percent, or 1,363 votes.

They voted against Amendment 5 - transfer of assessment level of property expropriated by the federal, state or local governments - by 52 percent, or 1,670 votes, to 48 percent, or 1,516 votes; Amendment 6 - offer owners of expropriated property right of first refusal to buy it back - by 53 percent, or 1,688, to 47 percent, or 1,499 votes; and Amendment 7 - allow investment of money for post-employment benefits - by 54 percent, or 1,744 votes, to 46 percent, or 1,457 votes.

Cameron had a voter turnout of 49 percent; 3,214 of the 6,607 eligible voters in Cameron voted in the election.

Final debris removal will begin in parish Friday

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and its contractors will begin its third and final pass of debris removal in Cameron Parish, starting Nov. 8.

This will be the last chance for residents to move their debris to the public right-of-way and have it removed.

To assist in making this operation as efficient as possible, the Corps requests residents sort debris into the following five piles: construction and demolition materials, vegetation, hazardous household waste items, white items (large appliances such as refrigerators, washing machines, dryers, freezers, etc.) and electronic (E-Waste), such as computers, microwave ovens, VCRs, televisions, etc.

Corps have picked up debris from a substantial portion of the parish right-of-ways. As of Oct. 30, more than 24,000 cubic yards of debris has been removed.

The Corps estimates there is less than 40,000 cubic yards of debris left and that it will take until mid-November to finish the cleanup. Amounts

are less than initial estimates.

Under the umbrella of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, the Corps is removing authorized debris along the public right-of-ways of local roads.

Disposal efforts associated with this cleanup are being done in close coordination with Cameron Parish officials, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and the Environmental Protection Agency, among others.

In accordance with the National Response Framework, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers serves as Emergency Support Function 3 (ESF3), which is public works and engineering.

The agency's response capabilities following a disaster can include providing emergency power, water, ice, technical assistance, debris removal, temporary roofing and temporary housing. Its purpose in accomplishing these missions is to facilitate a rapid recovery from natural disasters.



Anita Dimas Mrs. Dimas dies at age of 107 in N. M.

Anita Gonzales Dimas, of Albuquerque, New Mexico, died peacefully in her home Oct. 28, 2008 at 107 years of age among family and friends, including her daughter-in-law, Margie Dimas and grandson, Jean Dimas of Creole. She would have turned 108 on Christmas Eve.

Mrs. Dimas was very active until a recent bout with the flu. Dimas and her late husband, Ben married in 1920 and built their adobe house from scratch. She stayed in this home for the rest of her days.

Residents of the Cameron/Creole area may remember her many visits here and the fact that she celebrated her 100th birthday in Creole, just to return two months later to bury her oldest son, Raymond Dimas.

The secret to her longevity was "work, work, work". Excluding family who predeceased her, she has left as her legacy 268 children through great, great, great grandchildren.

Memorial donations may be made to: Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, 9502 4th St. NW, Albuquerque, NM. 87107.

Baptist services

First Baptist Church of Cameron will hold a worship service this Sunday, Nov. 9, in its building at 110 School Street at 9:30 a.m. Rev. Henry Prentice will lead the service.

All are welcome to attend the worship service, which will be followed by a business meeting for members.

Krewe to hold fall meeting on Nov. 16

The Krewe De Deux Lac of the Grand Lake, Sweetlake, and Big Lake areas will hold their fall meeting and lunch at the Grand Lake Multipurpose Building on Sunday, Nov. 16, at 1 p.m.

The meeting is for old and new members wishing to join to discuss the election for the Mardi Gras court, run and ball. The Krewe will serve crawfish etouffee for lunch. Members are asked to bring their own drinks.

Pilot now on sale in Creole

Savoie Lumber in Creole has re-opened and the Cameron Parish Pilot newsstand is available.

The Pilot requests that newsstand vendors please call and let us know when they re-open at the following number 1-800-256-7323.



THE GRAND LAKE branch of the Cameron State Bank will reopen for business on Friday, Nov. 7. The branch bank had been closed for repairs caused by Hurricane Ike. There will be refreshments and door prizes from 9 a.m. to noon.
(Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)

G. L. bank to re-open

Cameron State Bank's Grand Lake Banking Center will re-open for business on Friday, Nov. 7. A Grand Re-opening celebration will take place from 9 a.m.-12 noon, with refreshments and door prizes.

The Grand Lake location has been closed for repairs to damage caused by Hurricane

Ike. Cameron State Bank President and CEO Roy Raftery, Jr., says the bank has worked hard to repair and re-open this banking center in Cameron Parish as quickly as possible, in an effort to be available and responsive to the financial needs of the community. "We are very committed

to the recovery of Cameron Parish and are proud of our ongoing relationships with residents and businesses in the region," he stated.

The Grand Lake Banking Center is located at 10323 Gulf Hwy. Customers and the public are invited to the grand re-opening event.

Hospital has new management

Two Southwest Louisiana hospitals will now be managed by Rural Healthcare Developers, Inc. a healthcare management and development company based in Plantersville, Miss.

Pacer Health of Miami Lakes, Florida, the management company of South Cameron Memorial Hospital in Cameron and Calcasieu Oaks Psychiatric Hospital in Lake Charles, were purchased last week by Rural Healthcare Developers.

South Cameron Memorial Hospital remains under the ownership of the Lower Cameron Hospital Service District; Calcasieu Oaks is owned by a private entity.

South Cameron Memorial Hospital operates as a 25-bed acute care facility with 15 skilled nursing beds. The facility offers emergency room, inpatient, outpatient, ambulatory services and skilled nursing services to the residents of Cameron and the area's several thousand oil and gas exploration personnel, commercial and recre-

ational fishermen. South Cameron is also currently serving as a base of operations for parish governmental offices destroyed by Hurricane Ike. The Hospital also has an off-site rural health clinic in Grand Lake.

SCMH opened its doors in 1963. The idea for the hospital was developed after Hurricane Audrey in 1957 when the American Legion approached doctors and businessmen of Cameron Parish with a substantial donation to assist the parish in obtaining a hospital. Property owners in the region then voted for a \$350,000 bond issue and federal Hill-Burton Act funds were obtained to finance the new building.

South Cameron Memorial Hospital was completely destroyed by Hurricane Rita in September 2005. The hospital was rebuilt and reopened for business in November 2007.

Calcasieu Oaks Psychiatric Hospital is a 24-bed, 24 hour hospital that assesses the mental health

and medical status of adults. Calcasieu Oaks provides short-term acute care to individuals with emotional and behavioral disorders. The facility offers both private and semi-private rooms and is equipped with a spacious family room.

Rural Healthcare Developers is a healthcare management and development company with a mission of "bringing modern healthcare to rural underserved communities."

Rural Healthcare Developers was founded in January 2007 by Ray Shoemaker, an innovative hospital administrator who had just received Modern Healthcare magazine's "Up and Comers Award" for healthcare achievers under 40 years old. The award cited the dramatic financial turnaround he had guided at a north Mississippi hospital.

The company targets struggling medical facilities in rural communities that RHD acquires, manages or leases.

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Mosquito control issue debated

By CYNDI SELLERS

The Cameron Parish Mosquito Control Board moved a step closer on Monday to resolving the question of the location of the agency. The controversial issue pre-dates Hurricane Rita, but was made more urgent following the storm's destruction of the parish barn on Trosclair Road.

In a move designed to cut transportation costs and remove chemicals and equipment from the coastal flood zone, the Board purchased and improved property in a Sweetlake industrial park with plans to construct a new building using funds from the Cheniere PILOT bond issue and ad valorem tax revenue.

Some Police Jurors objected to both the move and the use of ad valorem taxes for capital construction. Scott Trahan, in particular, was adamant that the facility should return to the former location when the new parish barn is completed.

With the addition of two new seats on the Mosquito Control Board, and two appointments to replace retiring members, the make-up of the Board changed significantly. The new Board asked for an opinion from the District Attorney on the parish ordinance naming the "village of Cameron" as the domicile of the Board and the legality of using ad valorem taxes for capital projects.

Monday night, District Attorney Cecil Sanner

answered both questions. Sanner said the "domicile" refers to the principle place of business or primary office, and said it should be in or near the town of Cameron, but the exact boundary of the "village of Cameron" in a parish with no incorporated towns would be difficult. He said it was not a critical issue, since all that is needed is an office at or near Cameron.

On the tax issue, Sanner quoted from two Louisiana Attorney General opinions. He said the wording of the last tax proposition "10 mills per annum for the purpose of purchasing, maintaining, and operating machinery and/or equipment necessary for mosquito or other arthropod control, and maintaining an adequate administrative staff within and for said district," was key.

The most recent Attorney General opinion, given in 2005, directly addressed this issue. The opinion reads: "In our opinion, the words 'for the purpose of maintaining, operating, and purchasing Parish equipment' must, of necessity, be deemed to include the acquisition of items that are essential to the performance of maintenance and operation of parish equipment.

However, we do not believe that the words can be considered as authorizing capital expenditures, i.e. capital outlay for land and buildings, even if the purpose of the capital expenditure is related to the mainte-

nance, operation and purchase of equipment."

The Attorney General went on to advise that the entity could ask its voters to rededicate the proceeds of its tax to a different purpose, such as a building, but such an election would have to be approved by the State Bond Commission.

Sanner interpreted the opinion to mean that it would not be permissible to construct an office building with proceeds from the current tax proposition. However, a building just to hold chemicals would be permissible, since it would be necessary to maintain the integrity of some of the more sensitive products.

Police Juror Thomas McDaniel offered to use his heavy equipment to help evacuate the thousand-gallon chemical tanks if another flood threatens.

With this in mind, and considering the offer of the Police Jury to provide the office space and house the trucks and chemicals at the new parish barn chemical storage area, and to seek details from the State Department of Environmental Quality as to the requirements for such a building. Once these questions are answered, the Board will be able to make a final decision at its Dec. 15 meeting in Cameron, the Board voted to ask the Jury to commit to building

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THE NEW FACILITY for the Cameron Sheriff's Office is nearly complete. The space next to the Cameron Multi-purpose Building will house investigation and records staff.
(Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)



NEW TEMPORARY units for South Cameron High School have begun to arrive in Creole. Even the trucks were red, white and blue. The school was destroyed by Hurricane Ike. A temporary school facility is being operated in Lake Charles.
(Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)