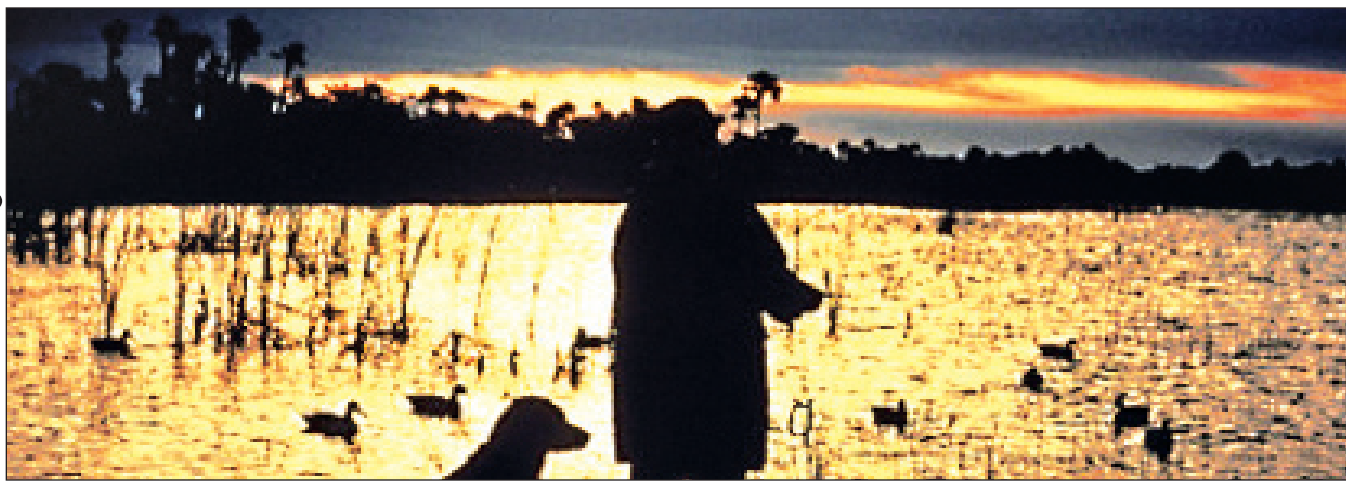


Duck hunters ready for new season opener this Saturday, Sports, 1B



The Eunice News

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Huge turnout

75 percent of registered in Eunice cast a presidential vote

Three out of four registered voters in Eunice went to the polls on Tuesday.

The 75 percent turnout favored Republican Sen. John McCain over Democrat Sen. Barack Obama 3,106 to 1,944.

Obama, the nation's 44th president-elect and first of color, also trailed in the St. Landry Parish vote. He had 47.7 percent of the vote to McCain's 50.9.

Eunice voters also favored incumbents Sen. Mary Landrieu and Rep. Charles Boustany, both of whom were re-elected.

Landrieu received 2,499 Eunice votes, com-

pared to Republican John Kennedy's 2,426, according to complete but unofficial returns.

Boustany had 2,903 votes compared to St. Landry State Rep. Don Cravins, Jr.'s 1,868 and native son Peter Vidrine's 311.

Landrieu, winning her third term, had 57.9 percent of the St. Landry Parish vote and Boustany garnered 51.4 percent of the total.

The city and the parish pretty much tracked state-wide results on the constitutional amendments.

Amendments No. 1, 2 and 3 passed, while No. 4,

5, 6 and 7 all failed.

The presidential voting in the city was close in a few precincts, and one-sided for one candidate or the other in many.

For instance, Pct. 5 went to Obama 93-84 and Pct. 6 went to McCain 272-227.

On the other hand, Pct. 7 went to McCain 729-87 and Pct. 15 to Obama 441-42.

In Evangeline Parish, it appears a new school attendance plan is just over the horizon.

Ward One voters again rejected a tax proposal that would have funded construction and operation of a new high school in Ville Platte.

U.S. Dist. Judge Tucker Melancon has scheduled a Nov. 17 hearing on motions to further desegregate the school system.

The Department of Justice proposes sending all the Ville Platte High students to Pine Prairie.

The School Board proposes distributing them to several schools if the court decides to close the Ville Platte facility to high school-level classes.

Tuesday's defeat was the third time in the past 13 months that such a proposal has failed and the seventh time in the last quarter century.

The desegregation suit was filed in 1963.

Presidential Points

Barack Obama will be the 44th president, but there actually have only been 43. Grover Cleveland was elected for two nonconsecutive terms and is counted twice, as the 22nd and 24th president.

Obama is a member of the Church of Christ. The most common religious affiliation among presidents has been Episcopalian, followed by Presbyterian.

Obama is 46. The oldest president inaugurated was Ronald Reagan, 69; the youngest was John Kennedy, 43. Theodore Roosevelt was the young-



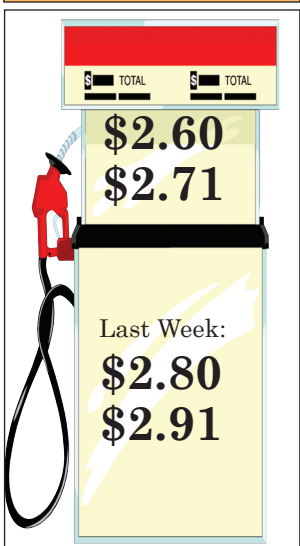
est man to become president, 42 when he succeeded William McKinley, who died in office.

Sports



LSUE hands out 2008 title rings, Page 1B

Tank Talk



eunicetoday.com poll

eunicetoday.com asked which quarterback is the answer for LSU.

The responses:

- Andrew Hatch 23%
- Jarrett Lee 23%
- Jordan Jefferson 21%
- Neither 33%

This week:

Will the Saints make this year's NFL playoffs?

Yes

No

Vote at eunicetoday.com

Inside

- Deaths.....5A
- Accent.....11A
- Sports.....1B



Photo by Myra Miller

St. Edmund students decorate the sophomore floats for Friday's Homecoming parade. The parade is set for tomorrow at 5 p.m. and the theme of the parade is "Video Games." From left Lauren Heinen, Kelsey Hebert, Blair Wallett and Taylor Tujague. Their chosen float theme is "PAC Man."

St. Ed good news abounds as Homecoming '08 arrives

By J. Anfonson-Comeau jamieenews@bellsouth.net

St. Edmund celebrates homecoming Friday with \$1.5 million banked in its "Believe in Blue" capital campaign project, an academic booster club revitalized and a football team poised to contend for a state championship.

Construction will begin on a new building in January 2009, developmental director Aimee Summerlin told the Eunice Kiwanis Club last week.

The fundraising project originally had a goal of \$2 million, but Summerlin said Hurricanes Gustav and Ike caused construction costs to increase, and the project will likely be more expensive.

Exactly how much more it will cost is unknown at this time; construction bidding is currently under way, and financing for the project will begin as soon as the bids are returned.

"We'll have to work on paying off the debt as we go," Summerlin said.

The new building, which will be located across the street from the current campus, will be a 29,000 square foot facility with seven new classrooms and a new high school gymnasium; the old gym will



be remodeled and used by the elementary.

If all goes well, the construction should be complete well in advance of St. Edmund's centenary in 2011.

Meanwhile, the Fighting Blue Jays are undefeated, have won the district championship and close their regular season with Friday night's contest against Kinder.

St. Edmund has been ranked No. 2 in Class 1A since early in the season, with down-state powerhouse South Plaquemines

between them and the top spot.

During her appearance, Summerlin also told the Kiwanians that the St. Edmund Scholastic Booster Club has been resurrected after a 10-year hiatus by Dr. Chip Hebert and other family and friends of St. Edmund.

The club will assist teachers in skills development and will recognize and reward the academic achievements of students and teachers.

St. Edmund will also begin a dual credit program in cooperation with Louisiana State University at Eunice, beginning in the fall of 2009.

The program will allow seniors to earn college credit while completing their high school requirements.

More information: Aimee Summerlin, 457-3777 or asummerlin@stedmund.com.

Friday Schedule

- Homecoming Mass, 9 a.m.
- Alumni gathering, 10 a.m.
- Pep Rally 10:30 a.m.
- Parade, 5 p.m.
- Alumni tailgate, 6 p.m.
- Kinder vs. St. Ed 7:30 p.m.

Dec. hearing set on Morris motion to strike lawsuit

By Jim Butler jimenews@bellsouth.net

Mayor Bob Morris doubts two City Council members can succeed in their defamation claim against him and asks a judge to rule on their chances before allowing the matter to proceed.

Twenty-seventh District Court Judge Alonzo Harris has set a Dec. 5 hearing on Morris' special motion to strike the matter.

The motion, filed by Morris' attorney Christian Goudeau of Opelousas, asks that if Harris agrees with Morris' argument

that he remove their claims, dismiss the suit and order them to pay costs and attorney fees.

Morris argues that the comments that are the basis of the suit by Chawana Fontenot and Bubba Bourque fall within his free speech rights regarding issues of public interest and concern.

The council members sued Morris in August after he failed to comply with their demand for a public apology for allegedly referring to them and two radio broadcasts

See HEARING, xA

Shopping gala nears



Jan Olivier, known as the mother of Noel on the Prairie, arranges a holiday display at Jan's Merle Norman on West Laurel as she prepares for this weekend's 9th annual holiday shopping gala. See a list of participating merchants on Page 12A. See a related letter on Page 4A.

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