

Nov. 13



## Area

NEWS IN BRIEF

### Trees planted

**THERIOT (NYTRNG)** - A group of students from Thibodaux, intent on preventing coastal erosion, have planted 400 trees on the edge of the hurricane-protection levee by the Falgout Canal.

The seedlings are similar to the marsh-building grasses students from New Orleans planted on Isle de Jean Charles last week in that they will form marsh and help hold the land together.

On Monday, about 50 students from St. Joseph Catholic School 4-H Club brought the tiny trees — southern baldcypress, southern waxmyrtle and black mangrove — they've grown in yellow foot-long tubes to the levee damaged by Tropical Storm Isidore and Hurricane Lili.

"A month ago, you guys would have been standing up to your necks in saltwater," David Bourgeois told the students, as they stood on the levee.

Bourgeois, with the LSU AgCenter and runs the fisheries program in Terrebonne and Lafourche parishes. The students' work is part of Coastal Roots Project.

"This is not about reforesting the coast. It's about stewardship," Bourgeois said. "It's a drop in the bucket, some say. But when the bucket gets full, keep it coming. I got plenty of buckets."

Students in 14 schools in Louisiana are participating in the project, growing seedlings native to the marshes that they plant during the fall in south Louisiana. Five of those schools are in Lafourche and Terrebonne parishes.

And while each school plants about 1,000 seedlings or grasses each year, spreading each plant about 10 feet apart could equal about 30 miles a year of new plant life infused in waning marshes, Bourgeois estimated.

### Meeting planned

Lafourche parishes...