Parish has first jailbreak

By CYNID SELLERS

In what is probably Cameron Parish’s first successful jail break, a prisoner escaped from the Cameron jail on Saturday and has left the area.

Size of the escape

Jailbreak was reported at around 11 a.m. on Aug. 8. Richard Laronacent, 47, was able to slip out of the upper-tier jail cell area while nurses were being served by a hospital nurse and a medical intern.

Laronacent said he had been fighting with another inmate and had been told by jailers that there was no way to get out of the jail. Laronacent said he would be trying to get out on his own.

When the break was reported by the Marion Parish Sheriff’s Office, the contact at the Cameron Parish Sheriff’s Office was not notified by the inmate, who had been arrested on charges of possession of methamphetamine.

The inmate was able to cross the bar and make his way to the exit. He was later found in the woods near the jail.

By CYNID SELLERS

A group of Cypress High School students formed the Cypress High School Band and performed at the Jamboree, a local festival held in field during the season. They stated that they were able to raise money for a new field for the school.

Projects progressing

The Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana (CRCL) and Chenier Energy through the National Partnership for the Oceans (NPO) have part- nered to develop a new coastal wetland restoration project. The project will be implemented at the CRCL’s research facility and in partnership with the NPO.

The goal of the Coastal Basin Project is to assist students in developing and implementing strategies to promote resilience of the coastal ecosystem. Within the project’s framework, students will be trained in coastal science and conservation.

Wetlands plants program funded for parish schools

The Wetlands Plant Program, funded by the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA), is designed to foster the growth and restoration of wetland plants in Louisiana. The program provides grants to schools in the state to purchase and maintain wetland plants.

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Funerals

DONALD WILLIAM KELLEY

DONALD William Kelley, 77, died Thursday, Aug. 6, 2009, in his residence. He worked as a boat captian and owned and operated the Libby’s Motto Motel. He served in Korea with the 82nd Airborne. He was a Christian. He is survived by his wife, Betty Kelley; his children, Kevin Kelley, Karen Kelley, Kevin Kelley, Jr., and Sherry Kelley; his sister, Ann Kelley; his brother, George; and his grandchildren. Services will be held Sunday, Aug. 9, at 2 p.m. at the cemetery.

MICHAELEN GLENN MCMARTHUR

MICHAEL Glenn McMurtry, 54, died Wednesday, Aug. 5, 2009, in Lake Charles. He was born on March 20, 1955, in Camden to Louis and Mildred McMurtry. He attended South Louisiana State Community College and worked in the lumber and millwork business. He was a member of the Lake Charles Elks Club and was an avid outdoorsman. He enjoyed hunting and fishing. Survivors include his two daughters, Margarita McMurtry and Elizabeth McMurtry; his son, Jeff McMurtry; and his four grandchildren. Services will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 12, at 10 a.m. at the cemetery.

MAKALA SNYDER is the winner of the Johnson Branch Library's weekly drawing.

School Board

Cont. from Pg. 1

About next year’s budget for school, Superintendent Mark B. Howard said that $3.5 million in state and federal grant money will be available to support the budget. He also said that the state is considering a bill to allow local school districts to collect a property tax for school improvements. The board will meet next week to discuss these issues.

Sowela Tech Dean’s List

The Sowela Technical Community College has announced its spring 2009 Dean’s List students. The list includes: Nelson Williams, Eric Morgan, and James Steele.

CHRISTOPHER MURRILL and Charitie Miller were some of the children who completed the Grand Lake Summer Reading Program.

WETLANDS

Cont. from Pg. 1

The proposal to designate the area as a national park was rejected by the Department of Interior. The proposal was supported by many local residents, but was opposed by others who were concerned about the impact on the local economy. The Department of Interior has stated that it will consider the proposal again in the future.

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FOR THE PROGRAM AT THE GRAND CHENIER LIBRARY IN THE B.19 YOE old age group were, from left: Kelly Murray, Sarah Westley, Alexis Reeves, and Narcissa Romero. Not pictured was Cara Bristor, the winner of the 520 gift card.