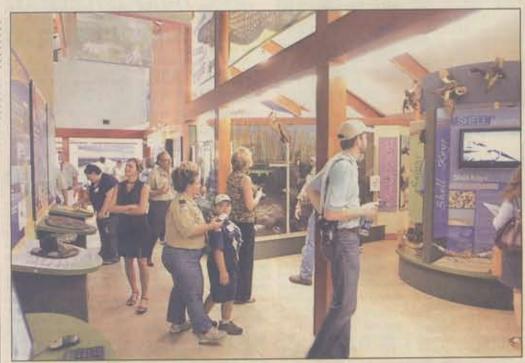
VETRO · STATE

Drug fight

Substance abuse takes toll on youth. Drug court program proves effective tool in battling problem.

Rita rebound

Wildlife refuge center back in business



Visitor friendly

The Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge officially reopened its doors Thursday, Visitors can learn the history of the area and see wildlife in its natural environment. The new center features several displays and interactive computers. About 200 people attended the opening ceremony. which was also held to honor those involved in the center's rebuilding effort.

INVAD PUCKETT / AMERICAN PRESS



Center gives Cameron reason to celebrate

BY CLAUDETTE OLIVIER

The Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge's visitor center, heavily dam-aged during Hurricane Rita in 2005, has reopened, marking another step in bringing ecotourists and others back to the area, said one refuge

Rebuilding the center will be good for Cameron Parish. " said Don Voros, Southwest Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex project leader.

The new center - whose repair and refurbishment cost about \$2 million includes two animatronic characters in a diorama; a scale-model water control structure; alligator displays; computers; and a fiber-optic

Our new elevated building is hurricane prepared. Our new elevated



building is hurricane prepared, with a metal roof

and concrete siding, and will better withstand future storms.

Don Voros

SW La. National Wildlife Refuge Complex project leader

with a metal roof and concrete siding, and will better withstand future storms," Voros said. "The building also won a Refuge Directors Award for being a green building. It's built from recy-

For more scenes of the refuge center opening visit our Web site www.americanpress.com

cled materials, and as little

wood as possible was used. "The new building is a feather in our cap," he said. About 200 people attended

the center's opening ceremony, including Shelley ny, including sneare, Johnson, executive director of the Southwest Louisiana Convention & Visitors

"Since 2005, outdoors and recreation are a large part of what we promote to draw people to Southwest Louisiana," she said. "We Southwest people have resilient people and resilient wildlife, and without the people, opening this center would not be possi-

Monte Hurley, Creole Nature Trail All-American Road District chairman, spoke of the importance of

"These refuges are some-thing that some people have never experienced before," Hurley said. "We've got the greatest little piece of earth here, a little piece of heaven at home. We have to retain the wildlife we have. We're doing this for future genera-

tions to enjoy what we did." Also on hand were 22 stu dents from School Episcopal Lafayette Parish.

The center is great, a wonderful time," said teacher Chad Chase. "A biologist talked to the students, and they invited us to opening ceremony since we were here. The kids loved it, by accident, and we will contin-ue to bring students yearly."

The students, along with another teacher, Danielle Ware, visited the center as part of their biology, chemistry and forensics classes.

Six men indicted for alleged ambush of LC police officer

Calcasieu Parish grand jurors indicted six men Thursday who allegedly ambushed a police lleutenant as he left a substation Sept. 2. Jurors also cleared a motorist who struck and killed a cyclist Aug. 1. Indicted on charges of

attempted first-degree murder were Brandon Andra Trahan, 33, of 17618 Lasting Rose Drive 33, of 17618 Lasting Rose Drive in Houston; Edmond Lawrence Jr., 23, of 1617 12th St.; David Dwayne Royster, 22, and Joshua Wayne Royster, 23, both of 1712 Eighth Ave.; Anthony James Aaron, 23, of 1805 Hunter Drive; and Eddie Joseph Banks, 23, of 1725 13th St. Judge David Ritchie previ-ously set bond at \$2 million

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At 12:30 a.m. Sept. 2, Lt. Arnold Bellow was leaving his office in the 2400 block of Anita Drive when he was fired on by up to six men, Police Chief Don Dixon said when the men were arrested last month

'Lt. Bellow returned fire. took cover and was not injured," he said, "These cow-ards clearly had no regard for

human life whatsoever."

He said residences surrounding the scene were hit
by bullets during the shootout

Dixon said the attack was the result of recent investiga-tions by Bellow that "severely disrupted narcotics traffick-ing" in the Carshop area of Lake Charles — mainly Progressive and Tulip streets and Ninth and 10th avenues.

"Search warrants in the past few weeks led to arrests

'Lt. Bellow returned

fire, took cover and was not injured. These cowards clearly had no regard for human life whatsoever.

Police chie

and seizures of narcotics, dry-ing up the drug trafficking in the area," Dixon said.

He said the people arrested were major suppliers of drugs in that area.

Bellow has been with the department for 22 years and most recently worked in the community policing division, which works with Neighborhood Watch groups. He previously worked as a patrol officer and with the drug task force

Dixon did not say how many of the attackers were armed or how many guns have been recovered or the

types used.

Also Thursday, grand jurors declined to indict Orville E. Kuiken, 85, on a charge of vehicular homicide in connection with the death of Martin Dale Nicholson, 56 of Sulphur.

A truck driven by Kuiken struck Nicholson from behind as he rode his bicycle on Houston River Road at 7:30 a.m. Aug. 1. Nicholson was taken to a

local hospital, where he died from his injuries at about noon, authorities said.

CNN Web post draws tips in investigation into unsolved deaths

BY DORIS MARICLE

JENNINGS

gators are checking out leads that resulted from a CNN Web post about the unsolved slayings of eight women whose bodies have been found dumped in Jeff Davis Parish over the last four

The post, about a Web site recently established by a task force assigned to investigate deaths, appeared esday on CNN.com.

"On Tuesday the Web site had over 600 hits, but by 3 p.m. Wednesday - after CNN had put the story on their Web site — we had had 2,700 hits," Sheriff Ricky Edwards said Thursday

He said many of those going to the site are posting tips and information for authorities to follow up on.

"We have a lot of people who are comparing different similar circumstances in others parts of the country and said. "Most we already had IN JEFF DAVIS

'We have a lot of people who are comparing different similar circumstances in other parts of the country and making us aware of them.

Ricky Edwards

because of the FBI, but we are keeping a close eye on all of

Several e-mails have also been generated from the site many of them offering help, support and prayers; Edwards said.

He said the task force takes every bit of information seriously and follows up on every lead, even if it is something officials have received before.

See UNSOLVED, Page B2



October 17" . 11pm - 3am

SAMBLING PROBLEM?