



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
New Orleans District

# Riverside

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July 2003

A photograph of a white, two-story building with a red roof and a tower, surrounded by large waves crashing against it. The building has a porch and a balcony. The waves are white and foamy, splashing against the building. The sky is overcast.

Hurricane  
emergency guide



# Wheeler Tour



Photos by Lane Lefort



## Visitors climb aboard for Wheeler event

The Dredge Wheeler was open to tours on June 20 at Woldenberg Park to celebrate the Army's 228<sup>th</sup> and the Corps' 201<sup>st</sup> birthdays. Clockwise from left: visitors line up to tour the Wheeler; Al Pereira, maintenance clerk, motivates passersby to take the tour; Brian Kavanagh, assistant chief engineer, watches as Christopher Ayala and his son, Nolan Christopher, try out the bridge controls; Ed Creef, environmental resources specialist, uses a display and video to explain sea turtles to children; Doyce Cooke, third mate, describes dredge operations on the bridge.



### Riverside

July 2003

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### Riverside



Lane Lefort

**Surf pounds the old Coast Guard lighthouse on Lake Ponchartrain during Tropical Storm Isadore in September.**

# Park promoted to Operations deputy

By Amanda McLain

The new deputy chief of Operations Division is Mike Park. A native of New Orleans, Park is responsible for assisting Greg Breerwood, chief of Operations.

"The job is a mixed bag of customer coordination, management, technical and administrative duties," said Park. "The pace is frenetic. I'm changing hats every few minutes, all day long, and the days fly by. It's very gratifying to occupy a position which offers seemingly unlimited opportunities to assist people and fulfill such important federal responsibilities in south Louisiana."

Previously, Park served in Operations as chief of Technical Support Branch, navigational function leader, operations manager for the GIWW, chief of lock operations and operations manager in the old dredging planning section. "I think that I have interpersonal skills that help me to work well with the district leadership and also with the staff here in Operations Division. I have good solid relationships with the customers. It's an asset to be able to work with folks from the outside and have a good inventory of trust with them right from the start."

Park knew at an early age that he wanted to be an engineer. "I liked mechanical things," Park said. "I liked structural things. That was always something that appealed to me." Although there are no other engineers in his family, Park's father was a master mechanic. "I think his penchant for mechanical things kind of translated to me," said Park.

Park has worked for the New Orleans District for 18 years. He received a bachelor's in civil engineering and a master's in engineering management from the University of New Orleans.



Lane Lefort

# Dutton packs off to Florida

By Amanda McLain

Rea Dutton, secretary to the commander, retired on July 3. She began working at the district in 1980 and served 10 different commanders.

"The best part of this job is the interaction with people, both internal and external," said Dutton.

Dutton was born in Atlanta. A stepfather in construction caused her to move a lot around the country. She attended college in Georgia and went to business school in Oregon.

Dutton then worked for two years in Africa before deciding to go to Italy. There she began her career with the Corps. "I put an ad in the *Daily American* English-

speaking newspaper. It said, 'American secretary seeks work.' The Corps of Engineers office in Livorno called me. Picked me up as a local hire 'off the street.' I loved working in the Mediterranean Division."

Dutton spent 12 years working overseas before getting a job for an oil company in New Orleans.

"However, while on vacation in

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**"It had to be destiny!"**

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Washington, D.C., I decided I would like to get back with the government and went over to the Pulaski Building one morning. The Corps picked me up off the street again. It had to be destiny!" Dutton said.

During her work at the district, Dutton made numerous visits back to Europe, managing to travel a

couple of times a year. Dutton said, "This is a great place to work, and I think sometimes we need to pause and take stock of the advantages we have here: credit hours and comp time, sick leave accumulation, vacation when we want to take it, not when the corporation tells us we can go."

Dutton used to enjoy skiing on her European vacations, but now she mostly likes to watch the French Open tennis and enjoy the food.

Dutton now moves to the Florida panhandle, settling down in Panama City. Said Dutton, "I will very much miss the district and it's great work, and particularly the comfort of friends here . . . but I do plan to never set my alarm clock for 5 a.m. ever again!"





## Your SELA Team

### Project Management, East

By Eric Lincoln

The Southeast Louisiana Urban Flood Control Project (SELA) will improve drainage lines and canals, add pumping stations and larger pumping capacity to current stations in Jefferson and Orleans parishes. The work is about 65 percent complete and scheduled to be finished in 2005, if funding can keep pace.

The team is also studying rainfall flooding areas in St. Tammany, St. Charles and Plaquemines parishes, though these are not part of SELA.

#### □ Stan Green

In 1980, Green began working with the Corps in Planning Division. He was study manager for CWPPRA from 1992 to 1997, then moved to Project Management, where he handled the Lake Ponchartrain Hurricane Protection Project. He began working with SELA-Orleans in 2000 and became senior project manager in 2003.

As senior project manager, Green is responsible for the overall supervision of SELA.

He is quick to credit the other project managers. "None of our work would get done without them."

"SELA offers unique challenges," he added. "It's major construction in urban settings. We work in people's backyards. There's direct public interaction. Most Corps projects don't have that kind of impact on people's daily lives."

#### □ Connie Carr

Carr began working with the district over 23 years ago. She worked in Programs and Project Management, and now handles funding for SELA. "I'm proud to work with the team," she said. "We're making a significant, positive difference to people's lives by minimizing flooding."

#### □ Soheila Holley

##### *Jefferson Parish*

Holley has worked 15 years with the district: ten in Engineering and the last five in Project Management. She is a registered professional engineer.

She agrees with Green that the project is one-of-a-kind. "It's interesting because of the relationship we have with our Jefferson Parish sponsors and the community," she said. "There's a mutual respect, a chemistry that's unusual, and we're lucky to have that. Once we over-

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Left to right: Soheila Holley, Connie Carr, James St. Germain, Stan Green and Lori Wingate.

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come our immediate funding problems, we should see great success ... the parish already has reduced flooding damages. I'm certain this will be a success story and a project we'll be proud to stamp with the Corps castle."

#### □ James St. Germain

##### *Orleans Parish*

St. Germain has worked with the district for 15 years, in Planning, Construction and Engineering divisions.

"Our close proximity to the community presents some challenges," he says. "We have to be careful of impacts on private property since we're working in streets and neighborhoods. But overall, it's a terrific, very interesting project to work on."

#### □ Lori Wingate

##### *Orleans Parish*

Wingate started with the district in 1996 in Planning Division and moved to Project Management in 1998. Much of her work involves managing the Dwyer pumping station contracts in New Orleans East and managing ongoing studies in Orleans and Plaquemines parishes.

Wingate said she doesn't work as much with the public on the Dwyer contracts because they aren't in very populated areas, but she still gets phone calls from people with questions or suggestions regarding the ongoing studies.

"It's definitely challenging," she said. "We try to take everything into consideration, all the benefits and minor problems, and keep the public informed about what's happening. We can't make everyone happy, but we can find a good middle ground."

# Salamone cues up at Vegas tournaments

By Eric Lincoln

While he was in Las Vegas two months ago, Benjamin Salamone smoked a Canadian and pounded a gang of Germans. Then he took on a fellow from Syria, but lost by two balls.

“That one really hurt,” said Salamone.

Salamone, Cost Engineering, is a semi-pro pool player in a league that travels to Las Vegas once a year for a worldwide pool tournament. Up to 8,000 players compete for 10 days until one team wins the \$10,000 jackpot.

“Some of those guys, they’ll kill you for twenty bucks, so if you throw money like that at them, they’ll come firing bullets,” said Salamone. “The Germans still think there’s a war on. They train in communes for years, secluded from friends and family. They take competition very seriously. They hate to get beat by a bunch of coon asses from Louisiana.”

“It’s tough. The first few days, you can do all right, but after that, if you miss a ball, it’s over with. Forget about it.”

Salamone started playing pool when he was about 12 years old, playing on his best friend’s table.

When he was 19 and attending LSU, a friend taught him how to stroke a ball.

“I could have picked up golf, but everybody was playing pool,” Salamone quipped. “It’s addictive. And you make a lot

of friends. We all have nicknames. ‘Legs’ taught me to play defensively. ‘Thumbs’ taught me that if you ever want to get your hunger back for playing for money, just go sleep on a park bench.”

“I just play because I enjoy it. Well, that, and I really want a gold cougar statue, the award they give each member of the winning team.” He formally trains every Thursday night at the home of the local Valley League operator, where they evaluate each other’s game and consider ways to improve the league.

Informal training for Salamone means evenings spent in local bar rooms, such as Big Berts, Animal House and the Avondale Truck Stop. “The Vegas tournament is just like shooting in one big bar room—there are 240 tables in one room in the convention center—so playing in the bars around here is good training. It’s tough getting used to the smoke and the smell.”

Salamone has been to Las Vegas every year since 1996, and to St. Louis once for an American Poolplayers Association tournament.

He has a few words of wisdom to new players.

“In Vegas, the first thing to do is go to Caesar’s Palace and buy a new pair

of shoes. A Vegas block is one mile long and you’ll wear out a pair of shoes during your visit. And when you play, you have to know how to win and loose gracefully.”



Salamone has collected “a barrelful” of pool tournament trophies, some displayed in his office.

## Disney World military resort beckons

Reservations are available for the new, improved Armed Forces Recreation Center *Shades of Green* Hotel at the Walt Disney World Resort.

All rooms include the regular amenities as well as refrigerators and Internet access, and some conform to standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Prices range from \$70 to \$116.

For details or to make reservations, call 1-888-593-2242, or visit the Web site at [www.armymwr.com/shades](http://www.armymwr.com/shades).

### Corrections

● The June Riverside article “Task Force meets with Ashcroft” contained two errors by no fault of the writer, Jameson Eisenmenger. Eddie Jordan is the New Orleans district attorney, not the U.S. attorney, and the district commander, not the division commander, attended the April 30 conference on homeland security. The editor apologizes for the errors.

● Also, Tracy Falk was incorrectly mentioned as Tracy Fitzgerald (her maiden name) in our “Ask the Answer Man” column.

● And in the April issue, NOD at Work, the Bonnet Carre trail-building photo caption should have said that the trail is reserved for horseback riders, bicyclists and hikers, but not ATV users.



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# Hurricane Emergency

## *contact reference*

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### *Our responsibilities*

The Corps has critical jobs to do during an emergency, including repairing levees and working for FEMA. The next two pages describe what we do and lists contacts during an emergency.

#### **What We Do:**

Assist levee boards and emergency officials before, during, and after a storm. Examples include supplying technical assistance, pumps, rock and sandbags. The Corps would help shore up or repair levees, and so on.

Restore construction projects to pre-construction levels of protection before a storm arrives. We will tell contractors when to carry out the hurricane plans written into their contracts, specifying how to restore protection to the pre-construction level. Contractors pre-position materials, such as sheet-steel piling, to close any gaps. Hurricane plans limit these gaps to those that may be closed within 24 to 36 hours.

Act to maximize safety of Corps personnel and protection of federal facilities, including locks, floodgates, vessels, and headquarters and other offices.

Support the Federal Emergency Management Agency after a storm. If the president declares a national disaster area, FEMA assigns the Corps various missions, including clearing and removing debris from streets and highways (public rights of way), and providing ice and fresh water.

#### **What We Do NOT Do:**

Provide individuals or private interests with sandbags.

Close hurricane floodgates on land. Levee districts have the responsibility of deciding when to close gates that block roadways and railroads - and for carrying out the closures and placing sandbags if necessary.

### *Our teams*

Responsibility for district operations during an emergency is delegated to different teams. These teams will manage our operations from remote locations and help us get back in business in New Orleans.

#### **Emergency Operations Center (EOC)**

This is the dedicated focal point of emergency operations at the district. Located in Room 292 and initially staffed 24-hours, this team collects data, analyzes situations, allocates resources, disseminates operational directives, furnishes reports and provides overall management of all district activities in response to and throughout an emergency.

#### **Crisis Management Team (CMT)**

This team consists of senior leaders and relocates to Vicksburg prior to the disaster. It provides strategic planning for the district, advises the commander in response to crisis situations, assesses situations and determines the district's capability to execute missions. The team also initiates re-establishment of district headquarters and personnel.

#### **Crisis Action Team (CAT)**

This is the support and execution team for emergency operations. Led by the deputy district engineer, the team relocates to Vicksburg before the emergency, and provides requested technical expertise to FEMA, oversees the DRT and DRST, provides technical expertise to the EOC and re-establishes the district's Civil Works functions after the event.

#### **District Reconstitution Team (DRT)**

Along with the District Reconstitution Survey Team (DRST), this team relocates to the Port Allen Lock before the event and returns to assess the integrity and safe operation of district buildings after an emergency.

#### **Emergency Response and Recovery Office Team (ERRO)**

If the district is declared a victim district then Memphis will support it by executing FEMA missions with the aid of the Planning and Response Teams, until MVN is able to take over.

#### **Planning and Response Teams (PRT)**

These are specially trained teams that manage specific missions such as water, ice, debris, temporary roofing and housing, and emergency power. Each district has at least one PRT that is assigned on a rotational basis to emergencies. This district has a Debris Team, which organizes contractors for debris cleanup missions.

#### **Damage Assessment Teams (DAT)**

These teams report district-wide damage data to the EOC and CAT.

#### **Personnel Administration Team**

This team is headed by Human Resources, supported by Logistic Management as part of the CAT, and relocates to Vicksburg before an emergency. It processes and organizes deployed personnel, and handles time and attendance. It is responsible for acquiring lodging and vehicles for deployed personnel as well as work schedules and pay information.

# Emergency Contacts

If the district is rendered inoperable, an information center in Vicksburg will handle communication between the Crisis Management Team and employees.

The first regularly scheduled workday following the event, employees unable to report to work must contact their office by telephone. If outside of the local area, employees may call **1-800-362-3412**.

If unable to contact the office, employees must call Vicksburg at **601-631-7337** and identify themselves as members of the New Orleans District workforce.

To find out the district's status after an emergency, call **1-877-533-5224**.

## Vicksburg Points of Contact:

Readiness Branch: 601-631-5015  
Public Affairs: 601-631-5052  
Office status: 1-877-533-5224  
Outside the local area: 1-800-362-3412

As a precaution, 72 hours prior to a threatening hurricane, the commander will order a 40-person team to establish alternate headquarters at Vicksburg.

**24-hour recorder: 504-862-2358**

## Local parish hurricane structures

*These structures were built by the Corps, but are locally maintained and operated.*

- Bayou Bienvenue  
Orleans Levee District, 504-243-4000
- Bayou Dupre  
Lake Borgne Basin Levee District, 504-682-5941
- Empire Floodgate  
Plaquemines Parish, 504-682-0081
- Golden Meadow Floodgate  
South Lafourche Levee District, 985-632-7554
- Larose Floodgate  
South Lafourche Levee District, 985-632-7554

## Parish emergency offices

|                                  |              |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Ascension, Gonzales              | 225-621-8300 |
| Bossier, Shreveport              | 318-425-5351 |
| Calcasieu, Lake Charles          | 337-439-9911 |
| East Baton Rouge, Baton Rouge    | 225-389-2100 |
| Iberia, New Iberia               | 337-369-4427 |
| Iberville, Plaquemine            | 225-687-5140 |
| Jefferson, Marrero               | 504-349-5360 |
| Lafayette, Lafayette             | 337-291-5075 |
| Lafourche, Thibodaux             | 985-446-8427 |
| Orleans, New Orleans             | 504-565-7200 |
| Pointe Coupee, New Roads         | 225-638-9014 |
| St. Bernard, Chalmette           | 504-271-0411 |
| St. Charles, Hahnville           | 985-783-5050 |
| St. James, Convent               | 225-562-2364 |
| St. John                         | 985-652-2222 |
| St. Tammany, Covington           | 985-893-4978 |
| Terrebonne, Houma                | 985-868-5500 |
| West Baton Rouge, Port Allen     | 225-343-9234 |
| West Feliciana, St. Francisville | 225-635-6428 |

## Key levee districts

|                        |              |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Atchafalaya Basin      | 225-387-2249 |
| East Jefferson         | 504-733-0087 |
| Grand Isle Independent | 985-787-3196 |
| Lafourche Basin        | 225-265-7545 |
| Lake Borgne Basin      | 504-682-5941 |
| Orleans                | 504-243-4000 |
| Plaquemines            | 504-682-0081 |
| Pontchartrain          | 225-869-9721 |
| St. Mary Parish        | 337-828-4100 |
| South Lafourche        | 985-632-7554 |
| Terrebonne             | 985-594-4104 |
| West Jefferson         | 504-340-0318 |

## Hurricane tracking Web links

New Orleans District - hurricane and emergency information  
<http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/pao/response/index.asp>  
National Hurricane Center - tropical storm tracking and predictions  
<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>  
National Data Buoy Center - Gulf of Mexico weather information  
<http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/rmd.shtml>  
University of Hawaii - worldwide tropical storm tracking  
<http://www.solar.ifa.hawaii.edu/Tropical/tropical.html>  
Weather Underground - tropical weather map  
<http://www.solar.ifa.hawaii.edu/Tropical/tropical.html>

## Federal Emergency Management Agency

The lead federal agency that handles response and recovery to the state following an emergency, 1-800-621-3362.

## U. S. Coast Guard

New Orleans, 504-589-6261

## National Weather Service

Slidell, 504-589-2808

## La. Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness

The state's coordinating agency during emergencies, 225-925-7500.





Joe Olson



Jodie Sinegal

Michael Maples / Lane Lefort

## Disabled students get summer jobs

By Eric Lincoln

Two disabled college students are finding out this summer what it's like to be a Corps employee. **Jodie Sinegal**, from Lafayette, and **Joe Olson**, from East Lansing, Mich., are working with the district through the Workforce Recruitment Program, a Department of Defense and Department of Labor initiative that places college students with disabilities in summer government jobs

for up to 14 weeks. The program's goal is to increase hiring of employees with disabilities and achieve a two percent disability-employee representation in the DOD workforce.

Students are recruited and interviewed by local universities across the country, then rated on the basis of communication skills, goals, maturity and experience.

In 2003, 188 federal agencies requested students; however, DOD only had funding to fill 51 slots. The district participated in the program in 1999 with one student, and received two this year.

"I like it," said Sinegal, Construction Division. "I didn't think the Corps would have related work for me, but working with contracts is good experience. I'm learning about contracts and filing systems, and that will help me run my shop."

She hopes to open her own pastry business someday, where she'll sell special pastries for diabetics.

Sinegal has a language and learning disability that makes it hard for her to write and understand people speaking to her. More than 12 years of speech therapy helped her do well in school and score higher on the interviews. Now, at 26 years old, she's working her second summer in a row with the government.

See **STUDENTS**, page 9

# TAC

## Team Achievement Awards

Ten teams were awarded at the TAC ceremony on June 24. Among them was the **Freshwater Bayou Lock Rescue Team** (right), which formed unexpectedly on June 2 when nine employees helped rescue a truck driver in Freshwater City. The driver lost control of his vehicle and was pinned underneath when it flipped. Among other safety precautions, they used jacks to lift the vehicle until emergency crews arrived. Team members were *Larry Broussard, Rixey Broussard, Casey Choate, Chris Greene, Randall LeBlanc, Craig Morgan, Jason Petrey, Jerry Stoute and Bobbie Sue Vincent.*

Other teams recognized:

- PMBP Curriculum Implementation Team**
- Algiers Canal Levee Right of Entry Team**
- Partnering Conference Team**
- Chalmette Power Line Project Team**
- Dredge Wheeler Hopper Door Team**
- MIRGO Barite Tank Removal Team**
- Bayou Segnette Sediment Evaluation Team**
- Military Equal Opportunity Climate Survey Team**
- Soil Strength Team**

### Length of Service

**30 years**

*James Addison, Betty Brogna, Jeanie Brooks, Peter Cali, Michael Maples, Timothy Roth, Charles Studdard, Burnell Thibodeaux, Arturo Villarreal*

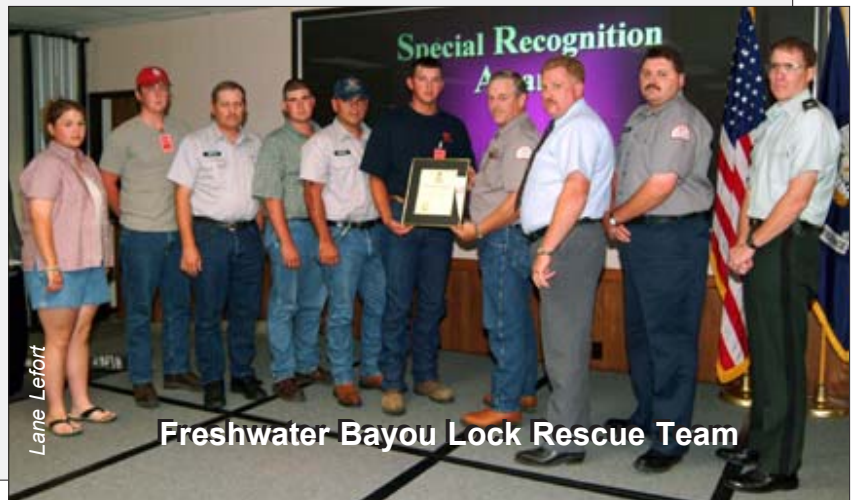
**35 years**

*Paul Bordelon, Paul Gautreau, Audrey Gunn, Henry Hill, Bill Lewis, James Miles, Jane Orlopp, Margaret Tucker, Brenda Weber*

**40 years**

*Quinn Humphries*

*Hugh Howat and Michael Breaux were given special recognition for outstanding achievement.*



Lane Lefort

**Freshwater Bayou Lock Rescue Team**



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# Spillway nesting boxes attract feathered tenants

By Keith Chasteen

The eastern bluebird is a favorite migratory songbird of bird watchers, photographers and nature lovers. With the bird's bright blue color and melodious song, it is a welcomed visitor to backyards, public parks and bird viewing areas.

Boy Scout Troop 710 of Kehoe-France School initiated a wood duck nesting box program on project lands in 1999. Since then, additional wood duck nesting boxes have been placed throughout the Bonnet Carré Spillway. During annual box inspections and maintenance, it was found that bluebirds, Carolina chickadees and Carolina wrens had established nests in the boxes. This indicated a lack of natural nesting cavities.

In the spring of 2003, a nesting box program was started by placing 20 bluebird boxes on Bonnet Carré Spillway lands. Initial surveys indicate an approximate 25 percent use of these boxes during the first breeding season. Typically, bluebirds produce two broods each year. If weather conditions are favorable and food supplies adequate, a third brood might be produced. Bluebirds prefer semi-open habitat, such as the open grass areas along project levees.

Historically, bluebird populations declined from the late 1800s through

the 1980s. The introduction of the European starling and English house sparrow increased competition for suitable nesting habitat. The increased use of harmful pesticides, replacement of wooden fence posts with metal posts, clearing of field borders and fence rows, and a growing human population all contributed to the problem. Luckily, programs such as this have contributed significantly to ensuring a future for the eastern bluebird.

About two-thirds of the diet of an adult eastern bluebird consists of insects and other invertebrates. The remainder of the bird's diet is made up of wild fruits. Bluebirds at the Bonnet Carré Spillway have been observed catching crickets, katydids and grasshoppers, which are all readily available in the grassy areas along the levees. Other food includes earthworms, millipedes, spiders, sow bugs and snails.

The program will continue with the placement of additional boxes, continued monitoring and maintenance of boxes, and through environmental education with visitors and local school groups.

For more information or to start your own program, contact Keith Chasteen, park ranger, at 985-764-0126.

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I can do and that I'm capable of working a full week."

Olson was paralyzed in 1999 when he broke his neck in a diving accident. But he says he considers himself lucky in comparison to those born with disabilities. "I think they have it tougher, really," he explained. "They're ostracized all their lives; they're always on the outside. I didn't have that problem."

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Olson is staying at Tulane University. "I can get to work in 15 minutes riding in my chair from Tulane," he said. "The sidewalks, though, they're ridiculous. You think the potholes in the streets are bad, try navigating a wheelchair over the sidewalks.

"But the bar scene is fantastic," he laughed.



Keith Chasteen

Bluebirds are using about 25 percent of the nesting boxes placed in the Bonnet Carré Spillway.

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## STUDENTS, from page 8

After she graduates from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette with her Hospitality and Management Degree, she wants to join the Air Force and later attend pastry school.

"Then, hopefully, I can go to Hawaii and France with the Air Force and learn their different cooking techniques."

Olson, Operations Division, is a 22-year-old senior mechanical engineering student from Michigan State University in his first year in the program. He found out about it through the disability student office on his campus.

"It's not quite what I expected," he said. "The last job I had was more routine. Here, I'm left to my own a lot. On my first project, I did a lot of research for the fire suppression system for the Port Allen Lock. It's good work experience. I've had an opportunity to meet other mechanical engineers. I'm setting up my professional network."

"Right now, I'm designing a storage shed for the Harvey Lock. I'm using my academic training in a real work setting. Because of this program, I'll be able to show an employer what



Lane Lefort

**BAYOU SORREL TOWBOAT SINKS** — Ed Bernard, Safety Office, oversees the removal of a towboat that sank in the chamber of Bayou Sorrel Lock on July 6. The cause of the sinking is still unknown. Personnel at the lock immediately responded by helping the passengers get to land and calling emergency response vehicles, though the captain lost his arm as he jumped to another boat. Private contractors, hired by the owner, removed the vessel in about five days.

## Project Management

**ANGOLA LEVEE DEDICATION CEREMONY** — A dedication ceremony was held on June 25 for the strengthening and raising of the 12-mile protection levee at Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola. The project cost was \$25 million, with the Corps providing 75 percent and the state paying 25 percent. The project will benefit 5,100 inmates and 1,800 employees. Improvements were needed after a 1997 flood showed there was a danger of under seepage from the levee, causing sand boils. The Louisiana National Guard assisted by constructing berms to stop the boils.

**PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS** — In response to community suggestions, the Corps, New Orleans Recreation Department and Friends of NORD Foundation will renovate nine playgrounds in areas near construction of the new Industrial Canal Lock. The project will take five years and cost about \$1.25 million, part of \$38 million authorized by Congress to serve neighborhoods impacted by the lock-replacement project.

## Engineering

**LCA/CERB MEETING** — The Coastal Engineering Research Board (CERB), advisory to the Corps, met on June 17 in Lafayette to discuss progress of the Louisiana Coastal Area Ecosystem Restoration Study. Speakers included Maj. Gen. Robert Griffin, chief of Civil Works and CERB president, and experts from the Corps, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Geological Survey and the National Academy of Sciences.

## Operations

**GRAND ISLE DUNE REPAIR** — Emergency repair of a hurricane protection dune, damaged by Tropical Storm Bill, was completed in July. Operations hired labor crews repaired or replaced 1,275 feet and Blanchard Contractors Inc. repaired 1,000 feet, building a temporary clay and concrete structure up to six feet. Total cost of the project was \$400,000 including Corps labor costs.

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### ANSWER, from page 12

pass here are empty.

The individual railroads have their own policies for security. Most railroads have their own police departments.

Tracks were laid here around 1905. The oldest locomotives that we usually see were built in the early 1970s. We also see brand new locomotives and everything in between.

Trains vary from just a few cars to over 100. The speed limit on the tracks at NOD is 15 mph. The speed on other tracks around the city vary.

Many trains run with just two people, an engineer and a conductor. Other trains may have three or four crewman. It depends on where they are going and what they are going to do.

There are only two rail routes for traffic moving across New Orleans. One is the NOPB here at NOD and the other is the track that follows I-610 through City Park. Our track handles 12-18 trains a day, while the track through City Park handles 18-24 trains.

*Michael Palmieri  
Real Estate*



# Around the District

## Congratulations

to **William Rossignol** (CD) and his wife, Kelly, on the birth of their son, William Richard III, on May 29.

to **Kirk Dietrich** (OD), whose son, Matthew, is the first third grader at St. Robert Bellarmine School to win first place in the Accelerated Reading Program. Matthew read 91 books during the school year, outscoring a sixth-grade competitor.

to **Karen Zeringue** (IM), whose daughter, Michelle LeRouge, graduated from LSU, summa cum laude with a bachelor's in biological science. Michelle will attend medical school in the fall at LSU, Shreveport.

to **Stephen Finnegan** (PM), whose daughter, **Megan** (IM), graduated cum laude from Archbishop Chappelle High School. Megan will attend LSU in the fall.

to **Robert Guichet** (ED), who was selected by NCB TV to appear in a new fall reality television show.

to **Scott Riecke** (IM), who was awarded the Vivian Thacker Award from the Louisiana Pulmonary Disease Camp, for volunteering one week each year for the last 17 years. Riecke is also stepfather to two of the campers, now grown.

to **Jo Ann Rosenfeld** (CD), whose daughter, Jamie Barowka, gave birth to a girl, Logan Mae, on June 4.

to **Kirt Jacob** (OD), on the birth of his fifth grandchild, Courtney Marie Brouwer, on June 2. Also, his 5-year-old grandson, Justin DuBose, won a \$2000 savings bond and the

title of Supreme King in the Orlando, Fla., America's Cover Miss and Cover Boy competition in July. Justin can be seen in two television commercials for the Saints ("Peyton on the carry") and East Jefferson Hospital.

## Thanks

from **Skip Sirkis** (LOA-CD), who said, "I would like to thank all of you who donated leave, sent flowers, cards, best wishes and prayers during my recuperation from bypass surgery. I feel very grateful to be part of an organization with so many caring and thoughtful people."

## Condolences

to **Carl Guggenheimer** (ED), whose mother, Anne, passed away on May 28.

to **Raymond Floyd** (PM), whose father passed away on Jan 1.

to **Kelly Gele** (CT), whose father, John McDonough, passed away on July 12.

to **Irma Reinike** (OD-retired), whose sister, Marie Reinike Cassady, of Long Beach, Miss., passed away on June 9. She was married to Milton Cassady for 61 years.

An 8-by-2-foot mural is the result of a day of painting by kids with autism at Truman Junior High School. Nancy Mayberry (IM) volunteered to assist the project by doing outline drawings for the kids to fill in using special sponge brushes. Mayberry dedicates one day a year to a Jefferson Parish school for Very Special Arts Week.



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# Ask the Answer Man



Michael Maples

## Query

What does "P2" stand for, and how does it affect the district?

**Susan Mabry**  
Information Management

## Answer

P2 isn't an acronym. It's the name of a project management system that will replace several budget and scheduling systems currently operating at the district. P2 is comprised of several software packages such as Oracle Project, Oracle Financial Analyzer, Primavera and Primavision to name a few. It will replace existing databases such as PRISM and ABS in addition to all network analysis software such as Openplan and Microsoft Projects. It will integrate with CEFMS and allow PDT's to link project schedules with financial data and produce very detailed reports. Ultimately, it is envisioned by headquarters that every item of work at the district, whether its overhead, training, facilities or project related, will be tracked as a project using P2.

Please visit the PMBP Web site for more info: [www.hq.usace.army.mil/pmbp/P2.html](http://www.hq.usace.army.mil/pmbp/P2.html).

**Rodney Greenup Jr.**  
Project Management

## Query

What can you tell us about the trains that pass in front of the building every day?

**Ima N. Umbskull**  
Public Affairs

## Answer

The tracks in front of NOD are owned by a city agency, the New Orleans Public Belt Railroad, and are operated by the NOPB and three major railroads: Burlington Northern Santa Fe, Union Pacific and Kansas City Southern. Some of the trains that pass here are just moving cars from one local railroad yard to another, or are going to serve local industries; but almost all of these cars are on much longer trips across the country. For example, we usually see three westbound intermodal trains (carrying containers and trailers). One of these originates in Atlanta and two originate in Gentilly, but all three terminate in the Los Angeles area. East-bound trains originate in places such as Los Angeles, Galveston and Shreveport; but all of these trains can handle cars from almost anywhere in the western portion of the U.S., as well as Mexico and Canada.

The trains carry almost everything imaginable. We get lots of intermodal

containers, chemicals, plastics and paper; but we also see interesting things such as Titan missile and space shuttle rocket motors. Many of the cars that

**See ANSWER, page 10**

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