

THE DAILY ADVERTISER

Monday, May 6, 2002

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Acadiana's Daily Newspaper

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Drugs drive Lafayette sex trade



Brad Kemp/The Advertiser

Arrests for prostitution have been made at this now-closed business called the Four Season Model Studio in Carencro.

Todd Billiot and Richard Burgess
Staff Writers

LAFAYETTE — Two of the 10 women picked up on prostitution charges two weeks ago near Four Corners were arrested in 1996 — the same area in a nearly identical undercover operation.

Their arrests demonstrate the persistent nature of street-level prostitution in Lafayette — a problem largely driven by drug addiction, according to police officers, prosecu-

tors and social workers. Four Corners is one of a handful of areas in Lafayette where two groups with strong desires meet to deal — addicts who need money for drugs and men who want sex.

"Most of these females are hooked on drugs," said Capt. George Alfred, supervisor of the Police Department's ACTION Unit. "That's their way to feed their habit."

"It creates all kinds of problems. A lot of these girls have STDs (sexually

transmitted diseases). And a lot of these men picked up in the last operation were married. They bring home these diseases to their wives or girlfriends."

Police officers say the key to the problem is putting prostitutes into drug treatment so they don't feel forced to sell their bodies.

Police keep applying the pressure to areas known for prostitution. It won't solve the problem, they say, but it can create obstacles for the sex trade.

Prostitution, drugs work together

If 10 women are receiving substance abuse treatment at Acadiana Recovery Center, at least five will have prostituted themselves for powder-form or crack cocaine, said Todd Dugas, service coordinator.

"Women do not turn to prostitution because they want to be a prostitute," said Valerie Keller, director of Acadiana Outreach Center. "They're trapped in a lifestyle of substance

Prostitution Arrests	
Year	Arrests Made
1998	81
1999	99
2000	0
2001	22
2002	25

Ron Domingue/The Advertiser

abuse, often faced with hopelessness. And they feel there are no other options."

Prosecutor Floyd Johnson works closely with the See **SEX** on Page 6A

Inside TODAY

Stopping fraud

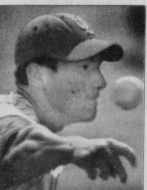


Tips given on how to avoid online auction fraud. See **Technology**, Page 1C

Best of the best

Schools select the students of the year. See **Scrapbook**, Page 1B

What a relief



Kraig Schambough pitches Cajuns to key win Sunday. See **Sports**, Page 1D

Siege may end

Agreement reached to lift stalemate at holy site. See **News**, Page 3A

The big winners

Powerball winners learn to manage their money. See **State**, Page 7A

Acadiana Deaths

Agnes C. Beard, 88, Coteau Holmes
Ivy Mae Burleigh, 84, Bellevue
Irving Corrier Jr., 43, Lafayette
Tarik Jon Johnson, infant, Carencro
Yvonne C. LeBlanc, 68, Jeanerette
Willie Leckett, 79, Iota
Mona M. Martin, 66, Scott
Dennis L. Moody, 52, Eunice
Leroy J. Roy, 75, Estherwood
Luther C. Stoute, 81, Port Barre
For obituaries, please see Page 6A

Today's Weather

Partly cloudy, warm and humid.
See Page 2A

High: 88 Low: 74

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Meeting called to consider I-49 impact on Sterling Grove

Claire Taylor
Staff Writer

LAFAYETTE — Sterling Grove Historic District property owners will have the opportunity in mid-May to comment on a plan to offset the effects of Interstate 49 on their neighborhood.

A public meeting will be set for mid-May to

allow comment on a proposed Memorandum of Agreement between federal and state highway and historic preservation offices. The Memorandum of Agreement is one step in a process leading to final approval of the interstate construction project.

Proposed is construction of a 5-mile section of elevated freeway that shadows Evangeline Thruway, veering toward the railroad tracks from Mudd Avenue to Pinhook Road. It is part of a larger plan to extend

Want to go?

The Lafayette Metropolitan Planning Organization's Transportation Policy Committee meets at 3 p.m. Monday and the Citizen Advisory Committee meets at noon Tuesday in the One-Stop Shop Auditorium in Postal Square, 101 E. Cypress St.

See I-49 on Page 6A

More than crawfish for festival patrons



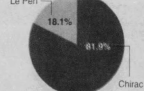
Brad Kemp/The Advertiser

Roosevelt Owens, left, and his brother, Leo, of Baton Rouge place turkey legs on the grill Sunday while they prepare for the day's events at the Afro-American Association's 2002 Crawfish Festival in Breaux Bridge. The turkey legs and crawfish were just some of the food that festivalgoers found at the popular festival. The weather cooperated with warm temperatures that reached almost 90 degrees during the day.

Chirac wins re-election bid against extremist

A landslide victory

President Jacques Chirac was re-elected Sunday over Jean-Marie Le Pen by the highest margin in the history of France's Fifth Republic.



Note: Percentages reflect 95 percent of the national vote.
SOURCES: Associated Press, Interior AP Ministry



Associated Press

French President Jacques Chirac speaks at his campaign headquarters in Paris Sunday after early results showed he had won a major victory over extreme-right leader Jean-Marie Le Pen.

PARIS (AP) — President Jacques Chirac was re-elected Sunday in a landslide victory over extreme-right leader Jean-Marie Le Pen, after a dramatic presidential race that shook France to its foundations.

The conservative Chirac was re-elected by the highest margin in the history of France's 44-year-old Fifth Republic. But the win, though huge, was less of a ringing endorsement of Chirac than a ringing rejection of Le Pen, joined by all of France's major political forces.

With 96 percent of the national vote counted, Interior Ministry figures gave Chirac 81.9 percent of the vote, and Le Pen 18.1 percent. Just two weeks ago, Chirac had scored just below 20 percent in the first round of voting — the low-

est score for an incumbent president.

Chirac's victory was fueled by a larger turnout than for the April 21 first round, when 28 percent of voters stayed home. Turnout on Sunday was estimated at about 80 percent, with 20 percent abstaining.

In victory remarks, Chirac acknowledged that he had been re-elected in part by left-leaning voters who normally wouldn't have chosen him, but did so to block Le Pen, a fixture on the fringes of French politics who is widely viewed as racist and anti-Semitic.

"You took your decision in full reflection, going beyond the traditional divisions," he told voters, "and for some among you, going above and beyond your personal or political

preferences."

"We have gone through a time of serious anxiety for the country," Chirac said. "But tonight, in a great spirit, France has reaffirmed its attachment to values of the Republic."

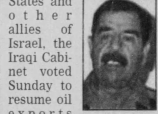
Later, under a driving rain, Chirac greeted a few thousand supporters at Paris' Place de la Republique, where earlier supporters had danced for joy when the results popped up on a huge TV screen. He told them France had "refused to cede to the temptation of intolerance and demagoguery."

He also promised to immediately address the issue of rising crime — a top voter concern.

Le Pen, from his headquarters near Paris, called the result "a stinging defeat for hope in France."

Iraq decides to resume oil exports

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — After failing to win support for an oil embargo against the United States and other allies of Israel, the Iraqi Cabinet voted Sunday to resume oil exports beginning midnight on Tuesday, national television reported.



Saddam Hussein

In a statement broadcast on the state-run service, the Cabinet said its April 8 decision to suspend oil exports for 30 days "did not find a response from Arab oil-producing brothers to take similar measures so that it would succeed."

Referring to Iraq's unilateral suspension of oil exports, the Cabinet statement added: "Suffice that we expressed the conscience of the (Arab) nation."

The television quoted Saddam as saying during that meeting: "We consider that the Palestinian stand has triumphed, thanks to the determination of the heroic Palestinian people."

Saddam announced the suspension as a move to press the United States and other allies of Israel to put pressure on the Israeli government.

Saddam followed up the suspension by calling on April 22 for all Arab oil-producers to halt sales to the United States and Israel.

However, other oil-producers did not heed his call. Saudi Arabia, the No. 1 exporter of oil to the United States, publicly rejected Iraq's call to use the so-called "oil weapon." Another major producer, Kuwait, also rejected it.

Even Iran, which had suggested cutting oil exports before Iraq did, failed to reduce its own exports.

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