

ways changing. The fundamentals are the same.”

Bertman said those people who wonder how to make their business “the best in Pointe Coupee” need to understand they first need to understand that “they believe they can.”

Roger Bannister was the first man to break the four-minute mile, Bertman said, and he did it because “he believed he could do it. He enthusiastically worked at it.”

He finally in 1954 accomplished his goal, but Bertman said it didn’t

“gave them permission” because “it had been done before.”

Bertman said Bannister’s accomplishment is no different than any other.

“You get there early and you (Continued On Page 3)

Engineers to begin siltation control efforts in M1 Canal to start phase II of False River restoration plan

U.S. Corps of Engineers approves permit for work to get underway

Engineers will soon implement a series of recommended rock weirs, baffles and vegetation plantings in the M1 Canal to reduce the amount of siltation that is now being dumped into False River, thanks to the U.S. Corps of Engineers’ recent approval of a plan proposed by False River Watershed Council.

The U.S. Corps approved the proposed improvements for the M1 Canal last month, clearing the way for engineers to begin Phase II of the comprehensive False River restoration effort, which has been underway since late 2012.

State Rep. Major Thibaut, D-Oscar, and State Sen. Rick Ward, D-Livonia, have led efforts to establish the False River Watershed Council, which is overseeing the project, and to prioritize funding for the many recommended improvements to False River. At the same time, those improvements are being jointly managed by the state departments of Natural Resources and Wildlife and Fisheries, and the Pointe Coupee Parish Police Jury.

“We are excited about receiving the go-ahead to begin Phase II of our restoration effort,” Thibaut said. “The False River restoration project has been a long-time com-

ing, and it is taking some time to put into place. But as each facet of the project is approved and implemented, we are beginning to see the positive impacts of our work.”

Over the years, sediment runoff from the adjacent farm and pasture lands has formed a thick cover over vegetation in False River, damaging the lake’s habitat and creating shallow areas that hinder boat traffic and produce excessive muddy water. The M1 Canal is the primary canal that drains into False River. It dumps approximately 17,600 acres of water each year on its south end.

Gerald Babin, vice president of Professional Engineering Consultants (PEC) Corporation, which has been contracted by the Pointe Coupee Police Jury to implement and manage the improvements, said modifications to the M1 Canal are expected to begin after the design phase is completed and construction bids are approved.

“Now that we have approval from the U.S. Corps, we can begin moving forward on our improvements to the M1 Canal,” Babin said.

Babin said riparian vegetation and giant cutgrass will be planted throughout the canal, and rock

weirs and baffles will be placed at strategic locations. The natural and man-made obstructions will significantly reduce turbidity and the flow of sediments from the canal into Falser River.

Rep. Thibaut said the improvements to the M1 Canal will be funded with part of \$1 million dedicated by NRG Energy Inc. for the project. The NRG monies will also go toward improvements in the M2 Canal, which are still awaiting approval from the U.S. Corps.

NRG is a Fortune 500 company that owns and operates a diverse portfolio of power-generating facilities through the United State, and in Australia, Germany and Brazil. The company’s South Central offices, as well as NRG’s Big Cajun I and II plants, are located in New Roads. NRG also owns and operates natural gas plants in Jennings and Sterlington, La.

Thibaut noted that last year, under Phase I of the restoration plan, 4.3 million cubic feet of bottom sediment in the south end of the lake was removed and placed in a 16.5-acre containment dike “island.” The containment dike was created in the South Flats by

(Continued On Page 3)

INDEX

Editorial..... 4
Social..... 9-10

Obituaries..... 11
Classified..... 11

Legal
Police

Engineers to begin ... (Continued From Front Page)

dredged material taken from lake. That dredging is expected to improve water quality and fish habitat; first, by removing sediments that have lowered water quality; and second, by providing additional water depth that will allow the area to maintain a cooler water temperature in a healthier range for fish. Other benefits include the natural return of aquatic plants near the shorelines of False River, which act as sediment filters, as well as habitats and part of the food chain for fish.

Phase II of the restoration plan includes improvements to the M1 and M2 canals and dredging the North Flats of False River, which is also expected to begin soon.

"We are excited about beginning the second phase of our restoration efforts within the lake, which will now focus on the North Flats," said Babin. "In addition to making improvements in the M1 Canal, we will be looking at dredging to remove sediment and deepen the lake on that end. We currently are testing the soil and

identifying locations to redistribute the sediment."

Babin noted that the north end of False River is more densely populated, which will impact how engineers will proceed with the work. He also noted that the soil composition of the lake bed is also different from that in the south end of False River.

"Our goal is to eventually make a positive impact on every aspect of the lake to restore it to a healthy status so it can be enjoyed for generations to come," Babin said.

Promotion Association and member board member of the Louisiana Restaurant Association.

The winner of the charity Impact Award, Soprano played a vital role in our since opening his business in 1997," Soprano's Supermarket in Livonia, Langlois said.

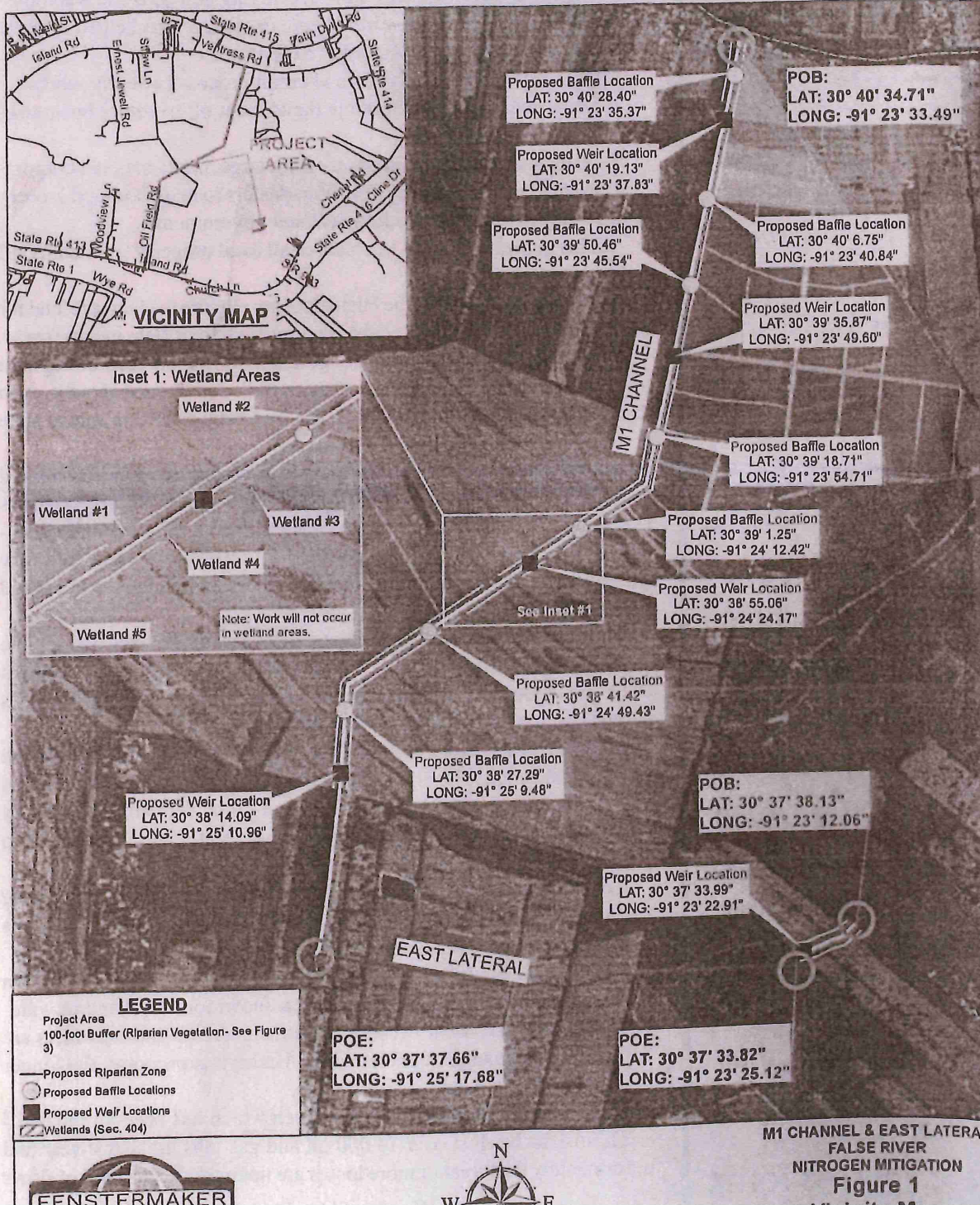
"This organization opens doors and been doing business with the mindset of helping the local community with the necessary needs," Langlois concluded, adding the store originally 15 square feet in size and employed 15 people.

Skip Bert...

stay late," he said. "You have to stay in your product and a sense of urgency. You trust yourself and you trust your skills and you have a good team."

"In athletics or business, it doesn't matter what you do," the man said. "If you vividly imagine... ardently desire something and if you sincerely believe you are deserving of it and you enthusiastically work on it every day, it absolutely must, come to pass."

"How can we get our business going in Pointe Coupee Parish?"



You should NOT buy

- You cannot afford
- You have limited
- Your only source of Income (SSI).
- You often have trouble
- You are on Medicaid

You should CONSIDER

- You have significant
- You want to protect your
- You can pay for the difficulty.
- You want to stay in the most comfortable
- You want to have the most comfortable