

Recent muskrat shortages dismay Louisiana trapper

United Press International
POYDRAS, La. — It's easy enough for salesmen and auto workers to curse President Reagan for hard times, but who can Irvan Perez blame for the serious rat recession?

The muskrat trapper from Plaquemines Parish says pollution and saltwater intrusion have severely reduced the rodent population in the bayous of southeast Louisiana.

"It used to be a lot better than what it is now," Perez said as he prepared to leave his Plaquemines Parish home for the extensive marshland along Louisiana's choppy coastline.

"We ain't going to get many rats today," he said. The Louisiana native, 59, has been catching muskrats every winter since his early teens. But because of the faltering muskrat population, he says he can no longer make a living solely from trapping.

Tough times have hit the rat trappers, he says, and relief does not appear imminent.

In the years before and after World War II, Perez and his family could catch 350 to 400 muskrats daily from their traps scattered throughout the maze of bayous in Plaquemines and St. Bernard parishes, he said.

These days, however, Perez routinely comes home with fewer than 10 rats in his 70 traps.

Perez accepts the small catch without anger though. Because of dropping prices for muskrat — \$3.30 a pelt down from \$7 last year — Perez is one of the few remaining trappers in a dying trade.

Old South Restaurant

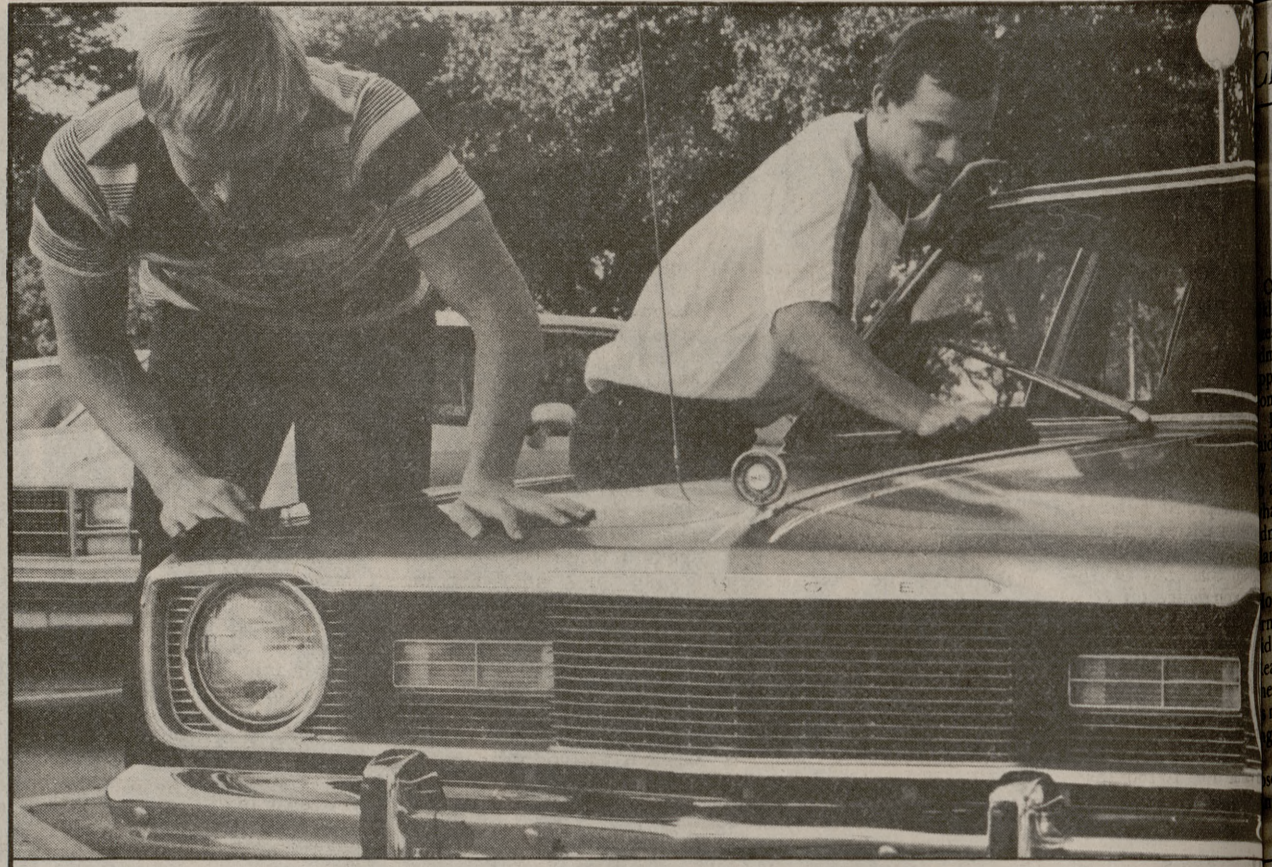
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Spit shine

staff photo by Sumanesh

Kordell Reid, left, a junior journalism major from Spring, polishes his car with the help of Jay Holmes, a sophomore management major from Corsicana. They were caught taking advantage of the sunny weather.

Adding dialysis unit in Texas makes summer camp reality

United Press International
HOUSTON — At least 50 children with kidney disorders

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will be able to enjoy summer camp this year because a \$100,000 dialysis unit is being built at the Y.M.C.A. camp near Trinity.

Rader Walker, executive director of the National Kidney Foundation chapter in Houston, said the three-building dialysis unit to be built at the 482-acre Camp Cullen should be finished in time for summer camp.

Dialysis works as an artificial kidney, mechanically eliminating impurities from the blood. It requires a patient to be hooked up to the machine for several hours at a time.

Children who suffer from kidney disorders usually must stay near a dialysis facility, where they can receive weekly treatments. A report by the National Kidney Foundation indicated parents of the handicapped children often are overly protective

and frequently keep their youngsters from getting involved in physical activities.

But kidney foundation officials said a survey taken by the Texas Department of Health's kidney care program showed parents of at least 97 children with renal disorders would like their sons and daughters to attend summer camp.

There is only one other similar facility at a camp in New York, Walker said.

The new buildings in the dialysis unit will be constructed in a wooded area at the camp and they will look like cabins. Two of the buildings will house the physician and nurses, assigned to the camp by the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. The third building will serve as the dialysis facility during the summer months.

During the next few months of the year, the camp will be used by the Houston Independent School District's temporary term program.

If an emergency arises during the camping season, the children can be transported by helicopter to the camp to Hermann Hospital. A helicopter landing site provided adjacent to the camp.

Walker said the unit is able to handle 56 children a day, divided into seven shifts. Fees for campers, especially indigents, are absorbed by different sponsoring organizations.

Walker said in Texas there are six different kidney foundation affiliates across the state that will pick up the \$300 for each child's stay at the camp.

Dallas psychic fails to give police missing child clues

United Press International
TOPEKA, Kan. — The latest hopes of the parents of a girl, 5, missing since September have been dashed because a Dallas psychic summoned to help find the child did not turn up any new clues.

John Catchings, 34, arrived in Topeka late Friday and spent about nine hours Saturday searching in the snow with detectives

for Jackie Hay. Catchings, who left Topeka Sunday, says he has been receiving information about the child since about a month after her disappearance.

"Everything he brought out was already in the police reports he got to read," Weidner said. "It was another source that so far hasn't panned out."

Catchings told detectives he thinks the girl will be found in an area parallel to a mobile home park. The girl was chased by a man and then strangled, he said Saturday.

Although Catchings admitted he is not on target with every prediction, he says he has helped turn up information in

about all of his cases.

Detective Sgt. Ed Kuehl spent Saturday searching for Catchings, said police had a hunch in mind in the case had done nothing because no body had been found. The girl's appearance still is considered missing persons case, Weidner said.

Catchings has thought the beginning of the investigation was killed shortly after her appearance, he said.

Friends and relatives of Catchings and Judy Hay, the child's parents, raised the money to hire the psychic to Topeka. Police to resume their search when snow melts.

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	ADVANCED GLASS ETCHING	Mar. 1-Mar. 29	7pm-9pm	\$12.00	
Tuesday	BEGINNING STAINED GLASS	Feb. 16-Mar. 9	7pm-9:30pm	\$15.00	Connie Hester Ann Dobbs Helen Finney
	BEGINNING POTTERY	Feb. 16-Apr. 13	7pm-9pm	\$24.00	
	CREATIVE ILLUSTRATION	Feb. 23-Apr. 6	7pm-9pm	\$18.00	
	A Course in Enhancing Creativity and Artistic Confidence A Fresh Approach To Developing Your Drawing Skills				
	GLASS STAINING	Feb. 23-Apr. 6	7pm-9pm	\$18.00	Jana Perry
	Alternate Method to High Cost of Genuine Stained Glass. Inexpensive Plate Glass Used in Conjunction With Stains to Create Affects of Stained Glass. Various Methods and Techniques Will Be Taught.				
	MATTING & FRAMING	Apr. 13-Apr. 27	7pm-9pm	\$ 9.00	Russell Cox
Wednesday	CHINA PAINTING	Feb. 17-Mar. 31	7pm-9pm	\$18.00	Inge Vasovski
Thursday	BEGINNING GLAZE MAKING	Feb. 18-Mar. 4 & 25	7pm-9pm	\$ 9.00	Rebecca Roberts-Hirsch Wayne Helton
	WOODSHOP ORIENTATION	Feb. 25-Apr. 6	3pm-5pm	\$20.00	



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