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**Kirby Smith no longer ResLife building
Hall to be used for administrative offices
The Daily Reveille | 07.01.08**

By: Allen Womble

Its trash cans have been used as kegs, and many Facebook.com groups pay homage to its myriad of fire alarms and funky bathrooms. Now, the residence hall many men used to return to after a full night of partying will permanently house administrative offices.

Kirby Smith Hall was permanently relinquished from the Residential Life building inventory to the general campus inventory in the spring, said Emmett David, Facility Development director.

David said the University began its architect selection in March 2008 to draw plans for an "adaptive re-use" of Kirby Smith's 8th floor from living space to office space. He said the University will put the \$2 million 8th floor project up for bid in May 2009.

David said upon its completion, the 8th floor of Kirby Smith will be used as "swing space." If new hires need a place to work while their offices are being completed, they would be placed on that floor.

Currently, the 14th floor of Kirby is set up in an apartment style and houses equity actors - paid, traveling actors who support different productions on campus.

Parts of the first floor, and floors nine through 12, have been renovated for use as temporary office space. Other space on the first floor has been turned into large conference rooms. The floors are now occupied by the LSU Health Care Services Division from New Orleans.

David said the LSU System paid for the renovations to floors nine through 12 because they needed the space. LSUHCS moved into the space May 16 and will stay for about 12 months.

After that time is up, the space will be given back to the University.

Chuck Wilson, vice provost of Space and Facility Management, said before permanent assignments are made to Kirby Smith, the University will probably have to redo the renovations made to the space by the LSU System. He said the fire marshal zoned the area for temporary office space, and before it becomes permanent office space, the University will have to apply for a new permit.

Wilson said the University has not determined which departments will officially move into the Kirby Smith office space, but he would like to see departments that are not critical to the University's "core mission" placed in Kirby Smith.

Kirby Smith may house some of the new research programs on campus, he said.

Wilson said if the University receives funding for some of its other renovations projects, such as renovating Howe-Russell Geoscience complex, then the University would need to use Kirby Smith for temporary office space for offices in Howe-Russell.

But for long-term housing, Wilson said he would like to see the Continuing Education department move to Kirby Smith to free space in Pleasant Hall. He said if this shift were made it would allow Pleasant Hall to be a "one-stop shop" for freshmen because the University could move its orientation offices and even the Office of Disability Services into Pleasant Hall.

Steve Waller, ResLife director, said losing Kirby Smith subtracts more than 700 beds from ResLife's inventory. But he said the loss is not a problem.

"In 2007, enrollment was level, and the number of housing applications were down," Waller said.

Waller said current and incoming students will not feel the loss because the building has not housed students since 2006, when it served as temporary dorm space.

He said Kirby Smith housed various summer camps in summer 2007.

David said after the renovations to the 8th floor are complete, the University plans to continue renovating other floors if funding is available.

<http://media.www.lsureveille.com/media/storage/paper868/news/2008/07/01/News/Kirby.Smith.No.Longer.Reslife.Building-3386794.shtml>

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New fire chief hits ground running

The Daily News | 07.01.08

BY MARCELLE HANEMANN

BOGALUSA - Richard Moody didn't have long to settle into the fire chief's desk at the central fire station in Bogalusa before he was called to action across town. In fact, he didn't even make it to the desk.

Before 8 a.m. on the first day of his stint as acting Bogalusa Fire Chief, a call came in that the city dump was on fire. There wasn't just a fire at the dump. There were about 10.

The whole expanse was shrouded in smoke, and flames slapped skyward from various points throughout. The scene was reminiscent of Dante's Inferno.

"I got a call on my cell phone," said Moody. "I didn't even make it in to the station. I got to the dump around 7:30."

He got his initiation under fire, so to speak. He spent his first full day breathing smoke.

"I stayed out there until about six o'clock," said Moody. "I usually get off at four."

Bogalusa fire chiefs have a long history of facing major events within the first few months of their taking the top job. Ronnie Manning, for instance, was welcomed by Hurricane Katrina.

But Moody's dump fire was immediate. It ranks right up there with LeVern Meades' first day as administrator of Bogalusa Medical Center in early 2003. Two days before Meades started, the hospital was the site of a hostage situation and the situation was still pretty hot when he arrived. Moody's was in flames. He faced acres of long-composting materials that were flaming, smoking and smoldering. Moody took control. He got the Bogalusa Fire Department to start knocking down flames. He called for assistance.

Soon, Fire District Six and Fire District Seven tankers were also on-site and working the fires. The Forestry Service arrived and cut a fire line to help keep the situation contained. Bogalusa Public Works wrangled equipment and got to work. The nearest track hoes were located and brought in to clear land and move dirt that was smoldering deep below the surface.

"After six or seven hours, we turned the volunteers loose," said Moody. "But we pumped continuously for 36 hours."

Even then they weren't finished. A week later, the BFD was still putting out hot spots and staying alert in case others flared up from below. And the investigation continues.

It was certainly a memorable how-do-you-do for Acting Fire Chief Moody.

"I will remember it," he said. Moody finally made it to his new desk Monday.

And, of course, the dump fires weren't the only business for the BFD during the chief's first seven days.

"We had several house fires," he said. "And Thursday night we were called to rescue a boater and his two little kids on the Pearl River. They were OK, but his motor broke down. So we had a variety of calls this week."

Moody didn't appear any worse for the wear. He's been a firefighter for more than two decades, and was assistant chief for six months under his predecessor Roy Adcox. He thanks Adcox for helping him get ready to assume the role of chief.

"He taught me a lot and helped me get prepared," said Moody. "I'm still working on my typing skills, but this is a transition. I've got some good ideas and a lot of good men to help me with them."

He said he wants to "continue what's been going on."

"I want to keep working to get the best rating the city can get," said Moody. "I hope to get the equipment we need to serve the people. I want to keep working with Emergency Medical Services. And I'd like to get the two new fire stations opened."

Moody is in the process of rising from captain to assistant chief to acting chief in just eight months.

"I hope I can do good, and that the mayor sees fit to appoint me permanently," he said. Moody said firefighting is a "good job for somebody that's got public service in his blood."

"My main goal is to protect the city," he said. "I look forward to the challenge."

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Blotter: Reported pipe bomb under investigation
Shreveport Times | 07.01.08
Staff Reports

Reported pipe bomb under investigation

The Shreveport police and fire departments are investigating a reported pipe bomb explosion at an area apartment complex Sunday.

The incident occurred around 4:30 p.m. in the 3000 block of Colquitt Road. **Officers were dispatched to the scene, where they met up with a courtesy officer with the LSU Health Sciences Center police, according to a police report of the incident.**

The courtesy officer said he heard a loud explosion similar to a transformer exploding. Two men from one of the apartments in Building 6 were seen leaving the area in a white extended cab truck.

Members of the Shreveport Fire Department as well as the Police Department DART members were called to the scene. There were no arrests.

<http://www.shreveporttimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080630/NEWS03/806300305/1062>

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Diabetes: Underrated, Insidious and Deadly

The New York Times | 07.01.08

By TARA PARKER-POPE

In a set of recent focus groups, participants were asked to rank the severity of various health problems, including cancer, heart disease and diabetes.

On a scale of 1 to 10, cancer and heart disease consistently ranked as 9s and 10s. But diabetes scored only 4s and 5s.

"The general consensus seems to be, 'There's medication,' 'Look how good people look with diabetes' or 'I've never heard of anybody dying of diabetes,'" said Larry Hausner, chief executive of the American Diabetes Association, which held the focus groups. "There was so little understanding about everything that dealt with diabetes."

But diabetes is anything but minor. It wreaks havoc on the entire body, affecting everything from hearing and vision to sexual function, mental health and sleep. It is the leading cause of blindness, amputations and kidney failure, and it can triple the risk for heart attack and stroke.

"It is a disease that does have the ability to eat you alive," said Dr. John B. Buse, a professor at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine who is the diabetes association's president for medicine and science. "It can be just awful — it's almost unimaginable how bad it can be."

Diabetes results when the body cannot use blood sugar as energy, either because it has too little insulin or because it cannot use insulin. Type 2 diabetes, which accounts for 90 to 95 percent of cases, typically develops later in life and is associated with obesity and lack of exercise. Type 1 diabetes, which is often diagnosed in children, occurs when the immune system mistakenly destroys cells that make the insulin.

The disconnect between perception and reality is particularly worrisome at a time when national diabetes rates are surging. Just last week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced that the number of Americans with diabetes had grown to about 24 million, or 8 percent of the population. Almost 25 percent of those aged 60 and older had diabetes in 2007. And the C.D.C. estimates that 57 million people have abnormal blood sugar levels that qualify as pre-diabetes.

To be sure, diabetes is treatable, and an array of new medications and monitoring tools have dramatically improved the quality of care. But keeping the illness in check requires constant vigilance and expensive care, along with lifestyle changes like losing weight, exercising regularly and watching your carbohydrates.

Dr. Buse says patients who are focused on their disease and who have access to regular medical care have a good chance of living out a normal life span without developing a diabetes-related disability.

But some patients say they are too busy to take better care of themselves, and many low-income patients can't afford regular care. Even people with health insurance struggle to keep up with the co-payments for frequent doctor visits and multiple medications.

And to make matters worse, diabetes is associated with numerous other health problems. Last week, for example, The Journal of the American Medical Association reported that people with depression were at higher risk for Type 2 diabetes, and vice versa.

That is not surprising: according to data published last year in the journal Diabetes Care, depression tends to interfere with a patient's self-care, which requires glucose monitoring, medications, dietary changes and exercise.

Ultimately, diabetes can take a toll from head to toe. In the brain, it raises the risk not only for depression but also for sleep problems and stroke. It endangers vision and dental health. This month, The Annals of Internal Medicine is reporting that the disease more than doubles the risk of hearing loss.

Moving down the body, diabetes can lead to liver and kidney disease, along with serious gastrointestinal complications like paralysis of the stomach and loss of bowel control. Last year the journal Diabetes Care

reported that in a sample of nearly 3,000 patients with diabetes, 70 percent had nonalcohol fatty liver disease.

Poor circulation and a loss of feeling in the extremities, called neuropathy, can lead to severe ulcers and infections; each year in the United States, there are about 86,000 diabetes-related amputations.

Diabetes can also take a toll on relationships. By some estimates, 50 percent to 80 percent of men with diabetes suffer from erectile dysfunction. Experts say women with diabetes often lose their libidos or suffer from vaginal dryness.

The challenge for doctors is to convince patients that diabetes is a major health threat. For years, the message from the American Diabetes Association has been one of reassurance that the disease is treatable. Now, beginning in 2009, the association plans to reframe its message to better communicate the seriousness of the disease.

“Our communication strategy is going to be that diabetes has deadly consequences, and that the A.D.A. is here to change the future of diabetes,” said Mr. Hausner, a former executive with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society who came to the association 10 months ago. “It’s the word ‘deadly’ that was the potentially controversial word for the organization. In the past, people said, ‘We don’t want to get anybody scared.’”

The new strategy is not a scare tactic, he added. Prevention and hope will still be part of the message.

“It’s not that we don’t want people to have hope,” he said. “We want people to understand this is serious.”

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/01/health/01well.html?_r=1&adxnnl=1&oref=slogin&pagewanted=print&adxnnlx=1214920593-BxAFu9d/IC2wkEPaV75KMw

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VA to open outpatient clinic in Bogalusa

The Daily News |07.01.08

BY JOHN H. WALKER

BOGALUSA - Veterans in Washington parish will no longer have to travel for basic healthcare following an announcement By U.S. Rep. Steve Scalise that the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs will be opening a community-based outpatient clinic in Bogalusa.

"Our military veterans have served our country with honor and it's very important that they have access to quality care," Scalise said. "In many cases, veterans in Washington Parish were traveling hours for basic care and that is unacceptable. I'm pleased the VA recognized the need for this clinic. As a member of the Veterans Affairs Committee I am honored to help our nations veterans who have sacrificed so much for the freedoms we all enjoy."

The clinic will provide comprehensive primary care, health promotion, maintenance, routine/urgent care procedures and education for an estimated 3,932 unique patients.

The clinic will also have access to mental health services, radiology services and specialty care. The projected opening date will be 12 months following the approval of the lease.

Scalise is a member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee and the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity.

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Bush administration delaying Medicare fee cut

Yahoo News | 07.01.08

By JIM ABRAMS, Associated Press WriterMon

The Bush administration said Monday it will delay paying doctors for treating Medicare patients in early July to give Congress more time to block a scheduled 10.6 percent fee cut.

The move by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services doesn't block the cut, scheduled to take place Tuesday. It's up to Congress to decide that.

But to give Congress more time to act, the agency will instruct its contractors to delay the processing of any physician or non-physician Medicare claims for health care services given during the first 10 business days of July. Claims for services received on before June 30 will be processed as usual.

CMS will not be making any payments at the 10.6 percent reduced rate until July 15, at the earliest, agency spokesman Jeff Nelligan said. The delay in processing claims probably means that claims that would have been paid in mid-July will be delayed up to a week, the agency estimates.

Another option would have been to issue on-time payments at the lower rate and pay the rest later after Congress fixes the problem.

Congress, facing the prospect of millions of angry seniors at the polls in November, will be under tremendous pressure to act quickly when it returns to Washington the week of July 7 to prevent the cuts in payments for some 600,000 doctors who treat Medicare patients. The cuts were scheduled because of a formula that requires fee cuts when spending exceeds established goals.

But Senate Republicans and the White House are in a standoff with Democrats seeking to cut subsidies to insurance companies that provide Medicare coverage to "pay for" easing the payment cuts to doctors. There's no guarantee the standoff will be broken soon.

Lawmakers on all sides promise that if the impasse goes on and doctors receive the lower payments, they'll get repaid retroactively through automatically reprocessed claims. That's more difficult than it sounds, given the millions of Medicare claims that have to be processed every day. A comparable situation that occurred in early 2006 took six months to fully fix.

HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt had promised Friday that his agency "will take all steps available to the department under the law to minimize the impact on providers and beneficiaries." On Monday, the department used its administrative tools to delay implementing the scheduled 10.6 percent cuts.

Democrats on Capitol Hill say that the administration is following existing anti-fraud rules that require a two-week delay before most Medicare payments to doctors can be paid anyway. Republicans say the real issue is processing of claims, not the payment of them.

Almost every year, Congress finds a way to block the automatic Medicare cuts. But last week the Senate fell just one vote short of the 60 needed to proceed to legislation that would have stopped the cut.

In a particularly vitriolic exchange, Democrats and Republicans blamed each other for what Dr. Nancy H. Nielsen, president of the American Medical Association, said has put the country "at the brink of a Medicare meltdown."

"Seniors need continued access to the doctors they trust. It's urgent that Congress make that happen," the AMA said in ads taken out in Capitol Hill newspapers read by members of Congress and their aides.

Doctors have complained for years that Medicare payments have failed to cover rising costs.

This year, majority Democrats homed in on cutting the Medicare Advantage program, which is an ideological issue for both parties. The Bush administration and Republicans like Medicare Advantage

because it lets the elderly and disabled choose to get their health benefits through private insurers rather than through traditional Medicare. Democrats argued that government payments to the insurers are too generous.

The White House warned that President Bush would be urged to veto a bill that contained cuts to Medicare Advantage.

That didn't stop the House last Tuesday from approving the legislation 355-59, well above the margin needed to override a veto. Every Democrat supported it, and Republicans, bucking their president, voted 129-59 for it.

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Associated Press writers Kevin Freking and Andrew Taylor contributed to this report.

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The bill is H.R. 6331.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080630/ap_on_go_co/congress_medicare

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ERROL'S COMMENTARY: NEW ORLEANS: JULY 4, 1776

New Orleans Magazine | 07.01.08

BY: ERROL LABORDE

* July 4th was on a Thursday in 1776 so it would have been a busy day for fishermen who were preparing to bring their catches to the markets in Catholic New Orleans for the next day's meatless Friday.

*Louisiana's Spanish governor, Luis de Unzaga, was secretly helping the American cause by arranging for five tons of gun powder to be shipped up the Mississippi, under the flag of Spain, to help colonial forces ward off British efforts to capture Fort Pitt.

*Unzaga was awaiting word from the Spain, to whom he had written 12 days earlier asking to be relieved of his command because of failing health and eyesight. The Spanish government would not hear of it but did transfer him to Caracas, Venezuela and made him governor general there.

*A rule issued by the Cabildo, the seat of government, under Unzaga demanded that all devices used for measurement when selling goods had to be inspected and marked annually. **If a measuring device was found to be fraudulent, the offender's goods were donated to Charity hospital.**

*There were no speeches given by the mayor of New Orleans because New Orleans did not have mayors until the beginning of American rule in 1803.

*Residents of the remote Canary Islands which are controlled by Spain, were being dispersed by the Spanish government in spots along the isolated Louisiana gulf coast partially to help provide defense. One large settlement would be along Bayou Barataria. The area would eventually be named after the patron saint of Bernardo de Galvez who succeeded Unzaga as governor. It would be called St. Bernard parish and the settlers would be known as Islenos.

*On a plot of land northwest if the city stood an oak tree. The tree would one day be named after John McDonogh, who eventually purchased the land. Later, the property would become New Orleans' City Park, the site of many future Fourth of July Celebrations. The oak's age is estimated to be approximately 800 years. In 1776 it was already around 568 years old.

*An armed British boat, the West Florida had been patrolling the Mississippi Sound since January and thus gave the British control of the lower Mississippi and the lakes. The boat would become a source of contention between the British and the Spanish government that controlled New Orleans. The West Florida was yet another reason why Spain would become a supporter of the revolution that erupted in July 1776.

<http://www.neworleansmagazine.com/a/news/errols-commentary-4097.html>

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