



i m a g i n e

A publication for all Iberville residents by your government leaders

Iberville

MARCH, 2010

are you up to the **Take 10** Challenge?

Fill out the census

You will be receiving the 10-question U.S. census form in the mail in March. Filling in the census is very important to Iberville Parish and your local community. The demographic data from the census determines how \$400 billion in federal funds are distributed, and also determines how local sales tax revenues are divided!

It takes only 10 minutes to fill out the form, and federal law prohibits the Census Bureau from sharing individual information with anyone. Please complete the census and mail it in.

Parish provides space for Medicaid

When the State of Louisiana closed the Iberville Parish Medicaid office last September due to budget cuts, the parish stepped in to provide office space for two Medicaid workers at the Iberville Health Unit so that residents have local access to assistance with Medicaid. For more information call the Health Unit at 687-9021.

Coming Events:

Ribbon cutting for new visitor center in North Iberville
Friday, March 19, Noon
See article on page 3

Special election to vote on whether to eliminate term limits from the Iberville Parish home rule charter.

Saturday, March 27
Polls open 6 a.m.-8 p.m.

Iberville parish pushes forward to re-open hospital

Iberville Parish officials are continuing to take proactive steps to reopen River West Hospital to ensure residents have immediate access to emergency and acute care.

Iberville Parish President Mitchell J. Ourso, Jr. requested and obtained Parish Council approval of a resolution that would modify the parish's current hospital service districts from two old districts to one that includes the entire parish at the Council's January meeting. At that time, he also asked the council to allow him to proceed to negotiate for the acquisition of the former hospital facility by purchase or lease, which was also approved.

"I have talked to many seniors and other residents in our parish, and they all have expressed a serious need to have a medical facility here," Ourso said. "Getting medical facilities open here is my top priority at this time."

The hospital ultimately closed due to financial problems under previous management and damage sustained from Hurricane Gustav. Westside Physicians, a group of local doctors, tried to reopen the facility by applying for needed repairs and equipment funding through the Louisiana Recovery Authority, but approached the parish in December to take over the application, since they felt the process would be facilitated more quickly with the hospital under a public entity.

Since then, the parish has made significant strides to move the process forward and reopen the hospital. Ourso hired an architectural team to survey the building and determine repair and renovation costs of the facility and mechanical equipment. That report is expected to be complete by the first week of April.

The parish has also contracted



River West Medical Center, shown above, is currently closed, but parish officials are working to determine repair costs and get federal funding to repair and re-open the hospital.

with Principal Valuation, LLC of Chicago in March to determine the value of the facility so that the parish can amend the application to the Louisiana Recovery Authority for funding. "We will know whether they will fund it by the end of the year," Ourso said.

If funding is approved, a hospital district board of directors, including five to seven members, will be established. These board members will be appointed by the parish, and their function would include tasks such as creating and implementing policies

and procedures for the hospital, and finding and contracting with a company to operate the hospital.

"The reopening of a hospital facility will certainly take some time due to the approval required from the numerous state and federal regulatory agencies, however, we must continue with our negotiations at a fast pace in order to move the project along," Ourso said.

Ourso said the parish will not seek any property tax millage or sales tax from residents to fund the hospital.

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Parish funds social worker position at Health Unit

Iberville Parish has stepped in to ensure that parish residents continue receiving the services of a social worker to assist residents with medical and other issues.

Following Hurricane Gustav, the Capital Area Human Services District (CAHSD) received a Red Cross grant that funded free physical and mental health services for Iberville residents impacted by the natural disaster. The grant ended last summer, but Parish President J. Mitchell Ourso, Jr. and the Parish Council stepped in and provided the funding to ensure a continuation of services by paying the salary of a social worker.

“The grant finished and the state was undergoing budget cuts,” explained Ourso. “However, residents still had severe problems that needed to be addressed.”

Kimberly Anderson, the

new social worker employed by CAHSD with parish funding, now provides services at no charge for Iberville Parish residents Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Parish Health Unit at 24705 Plaza Drive, Suite A in Plaquemine. She offers psycho-social counseling, patient education, disease management, and care coordination services.

“The health care needs of our residents are a major concern to us, and we saw during the grant period that the social worker was a great asset to help residents get access to needed health services and handle personal issues,” Ourso said.

In 2009, 89 referrals were handled through the social worker program. For more information call 687-9021.

Government meetings and contacts:

Following is a schedule of meetings of Iberville governmental agencies. All meetings are open to the public.

- Iberville Parish Council** third Tuesday of each month, meetings begin at 6:30 p.m.
Parish of Iberville office - 225-687-5190
- Iberville Parish School Board** second Monday of each month, meetings begin at 6 p.m.
School Board office - 225-687-4341
- City of Plaquemine** second and fourth Tuesday of each month, meetings begin at 6:30 p.m.
Plaquemine office - 225-687-3116
- City of St. Gabriel** third Thursday of each month, meetings begin at 6 p.m.
City of St. Gabriel office - 225-642-9600
- Town of White Castle** second and fourth Monday of each month, meetings begin at 6:30 p.m.
Town of W.C. office - 225-545-3012
- Town of Maringouin** first Monday of each month, meetings begin at 6 p.m.
Town of Maringouin office - 225-625-2630
- Village of Rosedale** second Tuesday of each month, meetings begin at 6 p.m.
Village of Rosedale office - 225-648-2333
- Village of Grosse Tete** second Thursday of each month, meetings begin at 6 p.m.
Village of Grosse Tete office - 225-648-2131
- Sheriff's Department - 687-5100**
- District Attorney - 687-5210**

Give us your feedback

This publication is funded by local government agencies, and is coordinated through the Iberville Chamber of Commerce. It is written and designed by Peacock Communications for these agencies.

Comments or suggestions can be made by calling Peacock Communications, L.L.C. at 225-929-9661 or emailing Ellie Hebert at ellie@peacockcommunications.com

G r o s s e T e t e

Village gets new police car with \$35,000 grant

The Village of Grosse Tete received a \$35,000 state grant to purchase a new Chevrolet Pursuit Tahoe SUV which will be used for traffic enforcement and routine patrols.

“We were able to purchase the vehicle through the help of Senator Robert Marrioneaux,” said Grosse Tete Police Chief Tommy Dardenne. The department received an Act 22 appropriations grant, which paid for the entire cost of the vehicle and equipment.

The SUV will be a marked unit, outfitted with a 200-watt siren, laser radar capabilities, a WatchGuard DVD digital recorder, an in-car recorder, and new 700 megahertz radios.

Money left over from the grant will be used to help pay for video recording systems installed in the town hall. These video recording systems were installed at the exits and entrances of the water and police departments within the town hall building.



Shown above is the new Grosse Tete Police Department SUV. It will be stripped and outfitted with complete police equipment and on the road in March.

New I-10 visitor center opens March 19

Iberville Parish President J. Mitchell Ourso Jr. and the Iberville Parish Council will unveil not only its new visitors center on Interstate 10, but also details on its rejuvenated and updated tourism program on Friday, March 19, at noon. The public is invited to a grand opening ceremony to mark the opening of the north Iberville visitors center.

The new visitor center, located just off the Grosse Tete exit on I-10, is a gateway to the parish and a natural stopping point along the heavily traveled interstate. Located on La. 77 in the midst of historic oak trees, it includes a 3,500 square-foot cottage with pine floors, walls made of cypress and a beautiful view of Bayou Grosse Tete.

The opening will also include the unveiling of four oak sculptures created from a fallen oak on the property. The sculptures by Lynn Varnado include a pelican, an outline of the parish including significant sites, an 800-pound crawfish standing on its tail, and a cross section of the base of the huge tree that is carved to include significant events in parish history.

“The development of this visitors center was one big aspect of the parish’s award-winning master plan developed in 2007,” said Parish President J. Mitchell Ourso, Jr. “We saw the value in welcoming tourists off I-10 to the parish and have developed a beautiful facility that represents Iberville with pride. We think it will be a real asset to the parish for many years to come.”

Courtney Zito-Elliott, consultant for the parish and its Tourist Commission, said travelers stopping at the center will be engaged by friendly staff who are knowledgeable about Iberville and its sites. In addition, the Visitors Center will also offer maps, driving directions, brochures, travel directories for Iberville and other statewide venues, wireless Internet access, current weather and traffic information, clean restrooms, beautiful grounds and complimentary coffee and bottled water, she added. “It is our goal to have the Visitor Services Manager and each Visitor Services Specialist certified as Certified State Travel Counselors at the annual Louisiana Travel & Tourism Summit,” Zito-Elliott said.

The Visitors Center represents just the latest effort of the parish to entice tourists to come to Iberville. In 2008, the parish completed a tourism master plan that charts the course for promoting the unique sites and attractions in Iberville Parish. Since that time, a structured and coordinated tourism program have been developed.



View of the back of the new Iberville Visitors Center from Hwy. 76. Shown in the foreground is Bayou Grosse Tete.

Enterprise Boulevard extension project moves forward

The Enterprise Boulevard extension project continues to progress, and the construction phase is expected to go out to bid within the next 30 days, according to Parish President J. Mitchell Ourso, Jr. The state recently completed its review of the plans for the project.

“We should be able to go out to bid by the end of March or the first week of April,” Ourso said. The Enterprise Boulevard extension will be located south of Plaquemine. It will essentially create a loop around the city and will also serve as an alternative evacuation route. The extension is expected to bring a variety of new retail businesses and developments to the area.

Free blood pressure, diabetes screenings available here

Concerned about diabetes or high blood pressure? Iberville Parish is now offering free blood pressure and blood sugar screenings to all parish residents through a new health care program.

The free screenings, which officially launched in January, are offered to any parish resident the first, second, and third Friday of the month from 8 a.m. until 10 a.m. at the Iberville Parish Health Unit, 24705 Plaza Drive in Plaquemine.

This new program is provided by the Capital Area Human Services District (CAHSD), with the help of funding provided by Parish President J. Mitchell Ourso, Jr., and the Iberville Parish Council.

These new screenings are a result of a recent health care survey that asked Iberville Parish residents about health care conditions and services that were important to them.

If a resident has an abnormal finding during a screening, the individual is referred to a parish social worker who then helps the resident obtain primary care treatment, said Jamie M. Roques, Director of Behavioral Health and Primary Care Integration with CAHSD.

“Our primary goal is early identification for those who have diabetes and high blood pressure but don’t know they have it,” Roques said. “For those who have abnormal findings, we want to get them into treatment so these conditions can be controlled.” In addition to the screenings, education on diabetes and high blood pressure is also provided.

Diabetes and high blood pressure are common conditions. As of 2007, 23.6 million people, or 7.8% of the U.S. population, have diabetes, according to the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. “We have the highest diabetes mortality rate in the country,” Roques said. For more information on the Iberville Parish blood pressure and sugar screenings, call 225-687-9021.

St. Gabriel

St. Gabriel meeting emphasizes future priorities

More than 200 citizens attended a community meeting held at the St. Gabriel Community Center on Monday, February 1. A cross section of the citizenry was well represented and included members of the clergy, US Army and National Guard, health and education, housing, and finance and governmental consultants.

Rev. Lionel Johnson, Sr., pastor of the St. Joseph Baptist Church in St. Gabriel, served as the Master of Services. Health services were discussed by Victor Kirk, CEO of the St. Gabriel Health Clinic, Inc. Local residents were encouraged to make use of the services of this clinic. Qualified residents of St. Gabriel, as a result of a cooperative endeavor agreement between the health clinic and the City, will be allowed to access at a free or reduced cost.

Educational opportunities available in the St. Gabriel area was an

Mayor George L. Grace explained to the audience that the citizens of St. Gabriel had a lot to look forward to based on plans for infrastructure improvements and additional housing that will be available in all areas.

important topic discussed. Plans for the proposed St. Gabriel Baby College were presented by Adren Wilson, a consultant who previously served as Assistant Secretary for the Louisiana Department of Social Services. The proposed Iberville Math and Science Academy East, as well as future plans for East Iberville Elementary and High School, was presented by Iberville School Board Superintendent Dr. Edward Cancienne.

The US Army made a Power-Point presentation of the elements which comprise the Army's March 2 Success Program. The Louisi-

ana National Guard Youth Challenge Program is also available to the youth of St. Gabriel as well as Iberville Parish. The programs at the Carville Job Corps Center were also highlighted along with printed materials on display. The principal elements of the P-TEC program was an interesting topic presented by Lori Gary, representing East Iberville INC.

Mayor George L. Grace explained to the audience that the citizens of St. Gabriel had a lot to look forward to based on plans for infrastructure improvements and additional housing that will

be available in all areas. These improvements include expansion of the sewer system at two (2) of the sewer plants under the control of the City of St. Gabriel. He also revealed that 11 roads/streets will either be completely replaced or overlaid. These roads and related projects will cost approximately \$12.5 million. They will be paid for by a combination of grant funding and government funds from the city's infrastructure bond. Gordon King and Nnamdi Thompson of Government Consultants, Inc. were on hand to get a feel for community support of these programs.

Other Community Development Block Grant projects, Hurricanes Gustav/Ike and Code Enforcement/GOHSEP were also identified and discussed by Mayor Grace and/or members of the mayor's office.

The next meeting will be held on March 22, 2010 at 6:30 pm.

Rosedale

Rosedale storage building transformed into gathering place for residents

Village of Rosedale residents who are looking for a nice place to meet for small gatherings will soon have an attractive new addition to the community.

The village is in the process of rehabbing a 2,300 square foot building that was previously used for storage purposes. The building, which is located next to the old firehouse on Hwy 77, has undergone several recent updates.

"Once we have completed all the work, the building will be used as a museum of village historical documents and memorabilia and for small gatherings, such as family gatherings after funerals or club meetings," said Rosedale Mayor Lawrence "Football" Badeaux.

The village invested \$6,000 to fix the building's foundation and another \$8,000 to install a new roof. The village also received two direct appropriation grants from the state in the amounts of \$20,000 and \$35,000 through the assistance of Senator Robert Marrison. These funds were used to purchase and install new windows, doors, flooring, electrical wiring and air conditioning, and to replace studs and sheetrock on the inside walls.



Cracks such as the one shown above were common throughout the building before its restoration.

The village plans to replace the outside awning and add a small kitchen and bathroom in the rear of the building whenever additional funds are received.

The village originally purchased the building and adjacent property in 1993

for \$28,000 under the administration of Mayor Andrew Major.

Mayor Badeaux said the old firehouse, next to the building, will also be restored as funds become available. Currently being used for storage, it will house a firefighter museum.



Village Clerk Ken Amedee and Mayor Football Badeaux show off the new interior of the Village of Rosedale's new museum and meeting facility.



Cyber-publishing and other web innovations-Alive and well at Plaquemine High

“It’s very exciting. Students are engaged with the latest technology. They are seeing their own writing published in print and on the web—and it gives them great confidence,” says Sallie LeBlanc, an award-winning Plaquemine High School English teacher.

Cyber publishing is alive and well in PHS’s “East Wing” of classrooms on any given day. Students are focused intently on making final corrections to *Devil’s Pride*, the new bi-monthly 8-page, full color newsletter. Across the hall English II students are designing and developing the school’s new website, while other students are nearing the completion of the 2010 PHS yearbook, completely online.

It’s all possible now because of the internet, interactive computer white boards, laser color printers, specialized software, other technological innovations and a team of creative and hard-working teachers with “can do” attitudes.

This East Wing at PHS is dedicated to English I, II, III, and IV as well as Business Administration and Journalism, says PHS Principal Dianna Outlaw. The team includes LeBlanc, Suzanne Landry (English II), Shelia Hill (Business Administration), Brittini Jones and Danielle Williams (English I). Jones is also working with students in theatrical productions.

“Our students are far more engaged through their work on the *Devil’s Pride*, the web, and the yearbook. They are learning about research, interviewing, software design, editing, layout, and production,” says LeBlanc. Landry, who directs the website teachings, also extends invitations to other students to produce web pages for their clubs and organizations.

“This team is exceptional and we salute their innovative teaching,” says Superintendent P. Edward Cancienne, Jr.

Other new learning tools, technology, and courses are also planned at PHS in the near future. “We have great teachers at PHS and they are helping to transform the school from good to great,” he says. Plaquemine High is creating a place for both strong academic learning and for career choices. More hands-



(left to right) Students, Joshua Varnell, a junior, and Rickikie Thomas, a senior, are currently enrolled in the PHS newspaper publications course. Students are working with English teachers, Sallie LeBlanc and Suzanne Landry (seated) and Business Administration teacher Shelia Hill on numerous communication skills projects, including a new PHS website and the online created yearbook. Superintendent Cancienne will soon announce a new comprehensive career curriculum for parish schools, and the Master Plan creates 23 new classrooms at PHS for an Advanced Learning Center scheduled to open in the fall of 2011.

on teaching relevant to industry jobs, specialized software and career classes, as well as Advanced Placement and Honors courses are changing the face of Plaquemine High School, the parish’s largest high school.

Major career and technical planning is well underway—led by career curriculum consultant Chris Weaver—to give students the most exciting classes, courses, and career tracks that have ever been offered

in the parish. These pathways will seamlessly interface with vo-tech schools, community colleges, and universities. By starting earlier, students gain confidence, perform better in school, and increase their chances for higher education success, says Gwen Atkins, Iberville Career Development Coordinator, who says the parish’s 3 year plan is to be announced in May.

A new Advanced Learning Center, designed with 23 specialized

classrooms, is now being designed and will be introduced in the fall of 2011. These classrooms will focus on technology, laboratories for science and math, and for innovative seminar teaching.

“We want our students to have every opportunity for lifetime success,” says Dr. Cancienne.

And, that’s how you get from good to great.



PARENTS & COMMUNITY

Please encourage and support the students in your home, your neighborhood, and in the community during these important spring testings. *A word of encouragement goes a long way!*

IMPORTANT STUDENT TESTING DATES FOR ALL SCHOOLS

- **March 23-25 -LEAP Testing- 4th and 8th grade students (Phase I)**
Graduate Exit Exam-10th and 11th grade students
- **April 12-16 -LEAP Testing-4th and 8th grade students (Phase II)**
iLEAP Testing-3rd, 5th, 6th, 7th, 9th -Phase II, GEE 10th and 11th grades and any re-testers
- **May 3-21 - End-of-Course tests**
-Algebra I, English II, Biology, Geometry students

If you have questions, contact your child’s school principal.

Calendar of Events

- **March 13 - Parish Spelling Bee**
- **March 18 - Safety Town for kindergarten students**
- **March 30 - Teacher of Year Awards Program**
- **April 2 and April 5 - Easter holidays**
- **April 26-30 - Spring Break**
- **Talent Machine Performances-“Bridges”**
- 7 p.m.-May 10 and May 11
MSA West/E.J. Gay Campus
- 7 p.m.-May 13 MSA-East
St. Gabriel Community Center
- **May 25 - Last school day for students**
- **May 26 - Last day for teachers**

White Castle

White Castle receives water enhancement grant

After a long wait, the Town of White Castle has been approved to receive a water enhancement grant from the Office of Governor Bobby Jindal.

The grant will be used to replace the old existing back-up power supply for the water well number two, which is located next to driveway of White Castle High School. The grant totals \$35,000, and the town will fund the difference for the cost of the backup power supply. According to Mayor Maurice Brown, the project will enhance the town's water system, which has a new water filtering system that was previously added.

"I am grateful that the governor awarded the town with the grant because small towns and communities like White Castle depend on state and federal government to provide financial assistance for infrastructure projects. By the governor awarding the grant, the town can continue to complete our desired projects and help make the town a better place," said Mayor Brown. "I am thankful that the governor and his office considered our town to receive the grant. As well as any other monetary assistance, the grant will be put to a good and beneficial use."

Brown explained that the town applied for the grant in late 2009 and learned that it was going to be awarded with the grant in early January.



The Town of White Castle has been awarded a water enhancement grant by the Office of Gov. Bobby Jindal. The grant will cover the cost of replacing the old existing back up power supply for the water well number two, shown behind the fence in the photo above.

SUSTAINING THE HUMAN ELEMENT



Beneath the cane fields and backroads stretching from south Louisiana to Texas, is the pipeline to new solutions that address the challenges of **energy and climate change.**

The Dow-Denbury partnership will capture by-product carbon dioxide via pipeline and use it to pump more oil from underground sources right here in the U.S. This innovative project reduces Dow's greenhouse gas emissions and provides the CO₂ needed to enhance oil recovery.

That's the Human Element working on a more sustainable future.



Plaquemine

Bayou park pavilion project kicks off

Construction of the third phase of Plaquemine's award-winning Bayou Plaquemine Waterfront Park will soon be underway, and will provide residents with the facilities for a variety of activities by the end of 2010.

The 13,000 square feet covered pavilion, with rest-rooms and a stage are included in this phase, which is anticipated to be put out for bid in April. The walls of an old existing metal building at the far north corner of the park will be stripped away, but the concrete base of the building will remain and will be stained and scored for the pavilion. An adjacent brick building, which was the original Nadler's Foundry office building, will be renovated to accommodate a kitchen, meeting hall, and office area.

"This phase will really make the park functional for family reunions, receptions and events," said Mayor Mark "Tony" Gulotta. "It will also enable us to do more with community events, such as the July 4th Festival. This is a much needed addition to the park."



Renderings of the new Waterfront Park pavilion provided by Fusion Architecture.

New Plaquemine water park to open in late May

Kids will enjoy a cooler summer this year, as the city continues to plan opening of the the City of Plaquemine Spray Park at the Plaquemine City Park on Belleview Drive in May. The water spray park will include numerous water elements that

will both entertain local children and keep them cool on hot summer days. It will be operated by the Iberville Parks and Recreation District. Watch for the opening!

Maringouin

Town Maintenance Supervisor Lee Butler and Mayor John Overton are shown in front of the new engine that powers water well #2.



New natural gas engine to power water well

The Town of Maringouin recently installed a new natural gas engine to power the town's water well #2. The town water system supplies water to more than 5,000 people not only in Maringouin, but also in areas of Iberville outside of the town limits and in areas of Pointe Coupee Parish.

The new engine was installed a month ago and replaces a previous diesel engine at the town's well #2, which was damaged during Hurricane Gustav. The town received

the money to pay for the new engine from insurance payments related to damage accrued during the hurricane.

"This new engine is a six cylinder natural gas engine. When the previous engine was damaged, we had to use a back up that was diesel generated," said Maringouin Mayor John Overton. "This new engine is quieter, and uses natural gas which is less costly. It is a great improvement for our water system."

\$42,000 grant to provide generators for town, police facilities

When Hurricane Gustav struck, Maringouin residents

went without power for 11 days, and town officials relied on generators to operate critical response and clean-up activities from town hall and the police station.

To ensure that power is accessible at these critical government facilities even when disaster strikes, the Town of Maringouin recently received

a grant for the purchase and installation of two new generators that will provide electricity in the wake of another event such as Gustav.

These generators, which cost \$21,000 each, were purchased through a Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOSEP) grant. The parish Office of Emergency Preparedness assisted in obtaining the grant.



One of the new generators purchased with a GOSEP grant is shown above.

Tips on how to avoid becoming a victim of a violent crime

Whether you are at home, at the mall, or in an unfamiliar city on vacation, being aware of your surroundings will help you avoid becoming a victim of a violent crime.

“Iberville Parish is a safe community,” said Iberville Parish Sheriff Brent Allain. “However, violent crimes can happen anywhere. So, whether you are at home or away, there are key safety tips that you should always keep in mind.”

The Iberville Sheriff’s Department offers these tips on how to avoid being the victim of a violent crime, no matter your surroundings:

In general:

Always know where you are and what is going on around you. Keep your head up, be alert, don’t show fear. Don’t walk alone in an alley or drive through a bad neighborhood at night. Take the safer route even if it is the longer way home.



Close windows in slow traffic and at red lights.

When coming to a stop, leave enough room between you and the car in front of you. This will allow you to maneuver around the vehicle if necessary.

At home:

List only your last name with an initial on your mailbox and even in the telephone directory unless you can post an address that is non-residential.

Don’t broadcast that you live alone and also beware of giving personal information to strangers over the phone.

Require proper identification for repairmen about to enter your home or place of business.

Keep windows and doors locked.

Keep curtains drawn after dark.

Install deadbolt locks.

Consider having a personal weapon at home that is located in a safe place.

On the street:

Carry purses close to your body. It is not advisable for women to carry a large, easy to access purse that hangs loosely over the body.

Avoid using automated teller machines as night.

Stick to well lit, well traveled streets.

Also, wherever you are, trust your instinct. “If you feel uneasy about a situation, there’s probably a good reason why you feel this way,” Sheriff Allain said. “Trust your instincts and don’t do something that your gut tells you not to do.”



If a predator has a gun and you are not under his physical control, RUN! The predator’s chances of hitting you (a running target) are four in 100 times. And even then, it most likely will not be a vital organ. RUN! It may save your life. Do not let a predator take you away in a vehicle.

In your car:

As soon as you get into your car, lock the doors and leave. Always keep your doors locked.

When getting into your car in a parking lot or parking garage, be aware, look around, look into your car, look at the passenger side floor, and also look in the back seat. If you are parked next to a big van in a large parking garage and your driver’s side is adjacent to the van, enter your car instead from the passenger door.

Don’t tempt fate by leaving valuables visible and accessible inside your vehicle.

