

# Reservoir debate, ambulance wars topped

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**THE BIG HEADLINES** — The big news this past year has included job losses and gains in Bogalusa arrests and deaths and big battles over ambulances and a possible reservoir, all chronicled in the

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THE DAILY NEWS

BOGALUSA — The local news this past year has been a roller coaster of negative and positive events and issues, many of which have divided the parish.

Members of The Daily News editorial staff have put together the following recaps of the "Top Ten" local news stories of the year, many of which will likely continue to be big news during the coming year.

## **No. 1 — The Reservoir Debate**

### *Water, water everywhere?*

Water was the main focus of Washington Parish residents in 2004 — and many are still left with questions and ideas about where to find it, where to put it, and what to build around it.

The Washington Parish Reservoir Commission made headway in narrowing several sites down to three potential locations for a proposed reservoir project.

But as soon as the locations were announced in the summer, a group of concerned citizens in Angie voiced a strong opposition.

Commission consultant Mike Thompson has promoted the reservoir as providing a viable source of clean water for generations ahead, as well as a way to attract business, new residents and tourism to the area.

But some experts, including hydrologist Bruce Darling, have said the state has plenty of water sources, and that the problem lies instead with water management.

Opponents, including Save the Pushepatappa

spokesperson Hayward Boone, conducted their own research and say they have not found the facts to back up Thompson's claims.

Many questions will be answered Wednesday, as the commission plans to take action on the recommendation of Denmon Engineering. The firm was hired by the commission to evaluate all potential sites and determine if — and where — a reservoir could belong in Washington Parish.