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Eleuterius: Roller coaster, hockey rink could be coming to D'Iberville

City leaders say tourism money is new big target

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D'IBERVILLE — Tourism is the newest industry D'Iberville is going after, officials said Tuesday during the State of D'Iberville address at the Civic Center.

"Let me begin by saying there's going to be a lot of change in D'Iberville," said City Manager Bobby Eleuterius. "A lot of change. But we want to manage that change, we don't want that change to manage us."

The city is talking to developers who want to build an indoor hockey rink with synthetic ice, an indoor cart-racing track, roller coasters and a Ferris wheel, Eleuterius said. "We're still in the planning stages with all of these," he said.

The miniature golf course being built at the new Scarlet Pearl Casino will bring championship matches to D'Iberville, he said.

The French Market concept downtown also is in discussion. Eleuterius said there is talk of a convention center with parking underneath. "It's all within walking distance to the casino," he said.

D'Iberville will start a



MARY PEREZ/SUN HERALD

Mayor Rusty Quave is surrounded by graphics showing plans and progress for the city as he speaks at Tuesday's State of D'Iberville presentation. The city is focused on tourism as the Scarlet Pearl Casino is going up on at the waterfront.

community branding and business advertising campaign, he said, and has applied for a beautification grant for Rodriguez Street. Crews also will pave D'Iberville Boulevard from the clock to Automall Parkway.

Eleuterius reported the city's finances are good. D'Iberville is 50th in the state in size, he said, but 17th in the state in sales-tax revenue.

A report released by the Gulf Coast Business Council shows since Hurricane Katrina in 2005, D'Iberville's sales-tax diversion has in-

creased 62 percent, the most in South Mississippi. The next-closest cities are Ocean Springs and Moss Point, both of which have increased by 20 percent.

Other highlights of the presentation:

■ The first diverging-diamond intersection in the state will open in D'Iberville the first week of June.

■ A \$200,000 grant was approved to dredge the area near Fountain Pier.

■ The city still expects to see a big-box store on the southeast quadrant of Interstates 10/110 and up to three new car dealerships,

and hopes to see work start soon on the proposed Gulf Coast Galleria mall.

■ MDOT has announced it will pay to build a roundabout at the Lamey Bridge and Mississippi 15 intersection where so many accidents have occurred. Work will likely start in January, Eleuterius said.

■ D'Iberville's fire rating has improved to a Class 5 rating from a Class 6, which will reduce homeowner premiums.

■ A new public safety facility is planned next to fire station at the highest point in the city.