

IN THE NEWS

CASA of NELA to cancel March training

Due to the recommendations of the CDC, CASA of NELA will not be holding training sessions in March due to the COVID-19 virus. We ask that all interested community members, follow CASA of NELA on social media or check our website at www.casaofnela.org to keep up with our next training dates.

Census jobs still available in Union Parish

The 2020 Census Bureau is actively pursuing Union Parish residents to become employees now for the 2020 US Census taking project. There are still 21 job openings, with starting pay of \$14.50 with paid training. Minimum age of 18 years old. You must submit for a background check. The jobs are available from now through the end of 2020.

Learn how you can help collect important data that will determine our state's representation in Congress, as well as how funds are spent in our community on things like roads, schools, and hospitals.

For more information or to apply online, visit 2020census.gov/jobs or call 1-855-JOB-2020. Once you apply online, you will need to create your job portal.

D'Arbonne Dutch Oven Cookers event canceled

The D'Arbonne Dutch Oven Cookers event at Lake D'Arbonne State Park, set for Saturday, has been canceled for safety reason due to the recent Coronavirus situation.

SNAP recipients affected by new rules

A new federal rule requiring able-bodied food assistance recipients to find work or face limited benefits will affect less than 4 percent of Louisiana's recipients.

Starting April 1, the federal government says SNAP recipients in La. who are classified as an ABAWD can receive benefits for only three months in a 36-month period unless they meet the federal work requirements or qualify for an exemption. Recipients in that category are age 18 to 49, do not have a child living with them, and are considered physically able to work.

CORRECTION

Last week's UPSB article stated that UPHS is a failing school. It is actually a C school.

Organizations offer Hope to many in UP



Mary Barrios (far right standing) speaks to a group of community members gathered for a recent Community Outreach meeting at the Union Parish Library.

By Charlette McGuire
news@fgazette.com

Miriam Webster defines community as a group of people with common interests living in a particular area and united through social, economic, political, and governmental interests. Union Parish is just such a community.

Farmerville and all of Union Parish offer the citizens of this community a variety of programs and enriching opportunities to better themselves in sports, arts, history and other social activities. Unfortunately, as in many communities across Louisiana and the United States, those who need help the most are often overlooked. According to a Parish Health Profile published by the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals in 2005, nearly 20 percent of the Union Parish population lives in poverty. That same report points out that drug abuse violations make up nearly 40 percent of adult admissions into the correctional system. Those numbers have only increased over the years and there is a need for programs to address these sobering statistics.

Meet Mary Barrios and Ashley Gilbert, two members of the Union Parish community who have decided to step up and offer programs that minister to the underprivileged and those at risk for drug and alcohol abuse.

Mary Barrios, who works with The Children's Coalition for Northeast Louisiana, has lived in Union Parish for 12 years. When her mother passed away, Mary moved here to be closer to her father. Mary's father was a local minister for many years and instilled in Mary a strong belief in community service and giving back to the community.

"My father said that you can't talk to someone about Jesus if they are hungry," Mary stated, "and my work with the community in Union Parish began with a fundraiser for our church 10 years ago."

Mary saw the need in the community then and with her work for the Children's Coalition for North Louisiana knew that the need in Union Parish was growing larger and larger.

The Department of Health & Hospitals-Office for Behavioral Health, awarded a Partnership Grant to the Northeast Delta

Human Services Authority, a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration-Center for Substance Abuse and Prevention (SAMHSA-CSAP). This grant was meant to build coalitions in Union Parish that addressed Underage Drinking and prescription pill use.

Union Parish was selected to receive these funds because it was one of nine high-need communities in Louisiana and had one of the highest rates of underage drinking and prescription drug abuse, and the lowest levels of social and economic factors that help communities promote health, wellness and safety.

With this grant money, Barrios began putting her coalition together in 2015. She put together a group of like-minded community members who have worked extremely hard to create an action plan to address alcohol and drug abuse issues. This coalition became Union Parish Alliance for Community Transformation (U-ACT). U-ACT focuses on reducing underage drinking and non-medical use of prescription drugs. The message of U-ACT focuses on the concept of Choose U meaning choose what is best for you, for your family and for your community. "U-ACT has meant not just telling young people not to do drugs, but giving them the facts so that they can see why it benefits them to make better choices," says Barrios, "we want our parents to know, U can raise a drug free child, we want our community to understand, U make a difference and we want our youth to know, U count."

Ashley Gilbert represents Brokers of Hope, a community program that connects those most in need of help to members of the community who can help meet those needs. The vision for the BOH organization was created when Glen Post of Farmerville expressed a desire to give back to the community of Union Parish. His love for the area, specifically those citizens in need of help, led him to The Center for Children and Families. Post and The Center for Children and Families collaborated to form a program that would be able to give those most in need access to a high level of care in regard to their concrete, mental health,

See HOPE, Page 5

State education board asks for \$80 million funding increase

Center Square News

Louisiana's state school board is asking for an \$80 million funding increase from state government for the 2020-2021 school year.

The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education on Wednesday unanimously approved requesting the increase, which is twice as large as what Gov. John Bel Edwards has asked for and represents the board's first salvo in its negotiations with state lawmakers.

BESE crafts each year's funding formula, which the legislature can approve or reject but cannot change. Rejection likely would trigger another BESE discussion about possibly tweaking the proposed spending plan and sending it back to the capitol before this year's session ends June 1.

If the session ends without approval of a new formula, last year's funding plan remains in place.

The approved Minimum Foundation Program formula includes a 2.75 percent increase to the statewide base per pupil allocation, from \$4,015 to \$4,125. The proposal would require schools and school districts where the average annual teacher salary is below the southern regional average to dedicate half of the increase to teacher raises.

"The teacher pay raise provision builds on the commitment expressed last year to ensure that the salaries of Louisiana teachers are brought up to the regional average," BESE President Sandy Holloway said. "The formula sets a solid starting point in the funding process for 2020-21, and our Board looks forward to working with the Legislature to meet the financial needs of all Louisiana students and school districts."

Last year, teachers received a \$1,000 state-backed raise, while support personnel got an additional \$500. Edwards described the pay bump as the first step toward raising teacher pay at least to the regional average.

Edwards' current proposed state budget would add almost \$40 million to K-12 education. While he initially didn't stipulate the money should go to raises, drawing criticism from teachers who have been an important political constituency for the governor, he has since urged districts to use the money for that purpose.

Current projections indicate that 50 local districts and 40 charter schools would be required to dedicate funds to a pay raise, BESE says.

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Gazette photos by BYRON AVERY

New exhibit opens museum location

A large exhibit of equine art by Hooshang highlighted the opening and ribbon cutting for the new location of the Union Parish Museum of History and Art recently. Other pieces of art and equine history are also on display.

CHURCH NEWS

Deliverance Ministries

Regular services are prayer on Mondays at 6 p.m., Bible study on Wednesdays at 6 p.m., and morning worship is every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. 318-368-2634.

Antioch Baptist

Weekly service times are: Sunday – Sunday school, 10 a.m. and worship service at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. and Wednesday – 6:30 p.m.

The church is located at 3501 Louisiana 828 in Farmerville. 368-3591.

Bethel Temple Pentecostal Church

2144 Hwy 33 North, Marion, Sunday school 11:00 A.M
Worship Service 12:00 P.M
Phone 318-608-6766

Blooming Grove Baptist

Blooming Grove Baptist Church, where the Rev. Lester C. Sims is pastor, is located at 702 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. in Farmerville.

Dean Baptist

Please be in prayer for: Haven Foster, Brandon Foster, Pam Roberson, Jake Russell, Lisa Cain, Janie Scarborough, Judy Smith, Kaitlyn Rhodes, Buster Wisecarver, Margie Wisecarver, JR Fife, Bessie Mae Ray, Owen Turner, Brent Franklin, Jerry Brantley, Annie Brantley, and Laura Futch.

If you don't have a church home we would like to invite you to Dean Baptist Church. Sunday School is at 9:45 a.m., Worship Service is at 11 a.m., Sunday Night Worship is at 5 p.m., and Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting is at 6:30 p.m.

Farmerville United Methodist Church

Rev. Hank Hamilton
All are welcome here.
If any of you came out to our Quarterly Community Prayer Breakfast this morning, we know that you enjoyed the message, the fellowship and the amazing breakfast our "Kitchen Krew" put out for us.

Thank you for attending and thanks to all who made it happen!

Easter morning is swiftly approaching and our anticipation grows. We can hardly believe mankind's good fortune in receiving the gift God gave us in His Son, Jesus Christ. The anguish of Jesus' last days on earth guaranteed each of us who follow him an eternal life with Him.

As we continue our Lenten self-examinations and reflections; we grow in our relationship with God. We also continue to grow as disciples for Jesus and we look for ways to tangibly extend ourselves in the service of the Lord. God gave us His Son. Jesus gave His life. We are asked to give also. Please, as you worship this Easter season, look for - plan for - Do for others.

In helping others, we often find transformation

for ourselves – which is exactly what Jesus wants for us. To 'come clean' (repent), to believe in and follow Him, to serve others, to rise from our 'old selves' and become New! Embrace your New callings, Embrace your New beginnings and Embrace your New destination – heaven! God loves us and wants to (eventually) share His home with Himself and Jesus!

Please, join us Sunday mornings
Coffee & Fellowship: 9:00am
Sunday School: 9:30am
Worship Service: 10:30am
Youth Group: 5pm
301 Anthony Street (318) 368-3840

First Baptist Farmerville

If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to come worship, learn, love and serve with us. First Baptist Church is located at 400 North Main, Farmerville. Bro. Kurt Auger is our Pastor. Sunday Bible Study for all ages begins at 9:45 a.m., and our Morning Worship Service is at 11 a.m. Sunday Evening Worship Service is at 6 p.m.

Bro. Kurt Auger's sermon, "Our Hope is Eternal," was taken from II Corinthians 4:16-18. Paul was writing to a church that was in the midst of trouble and distress. God's Word tells us that even when fear is gripping the world, believers can have peace. Now is a scary time, but as Christians, our confidence and our faith is in

the Lord Jesus Christ.

Panic is not an option for the believer. God has this. Yes, it's serious and the world is in a panic, but there is peace in Jesus Christ. We have an opportunity to convey that truth to the world. We realize that because our hope and our faith is in Jesus, there is something greater awaiting us one day, an eternal home with Him.

As long as we have that eternal hope, we are going to be okay. Now is the time for us to step up. We may not be able to meet like we want, but this is a time to roll up our sleeves and say, "OK, Lord, use me today. Help me be faithful to use the opportunities of service You give me."

At the present time, Sunday morning activities are still scheduled, but that could change. Visit our website, www.fbcfarmerville.com or our Facebook page, [fbcfarmerville](https://www.facebook.com/fbcfarmerville), for up-to-date information regarding schedules.

All Sunday evening activities, weekday activities, including Wednesday night activities, walking, small group meetings, bible study, quilters, etc., are suspended for the next two weeks.

If we must limit group numbers or suspend meetings for a while, we will still conduct and broadcast the Sunday Morning Service on our website and Roku Channel.

If you are a senior adult or if you have preexisting health issues, please plan to stay home. We will be contacting this group soon with instructions on how

we might be better able to assist you during this time.

It is very important that we do not allow fear to grip our lives but at the same time, use common sense and precaution to help get this situation under control. We are trying hard to do what is best for everyone involved.

Prayer Meeting is at 6:30 on Wednesday evenings. Music/Worship Pastor Frank Nihart oversees our music ministry. In addition to the Adult Choir, we have a Praise & Worship Group, Men's Choir, Women's Choir, and Handbells. We have an active and vibrant Youth Program led by Interim Youth Minister Bro. Mark Spradling. FBC also offers Mission Friends, Children in Action, and Children's Choirs programs. Please visit our website at www.fbcfarmerville.com to learn more, and to stream our Morning Worship Services live each Sunday.

First Baptist Church — Marion

Shoebox items for March: kids and adult toothbrushes, toiletries, bar soap and travel size shampoo and conditioner.

We are continuing to collect supplies for the Navajo Christmas Shoe Boxes each month.

Today was indeed a different kind of service. Troy Gene Pridgen passed away and his funeral will be at 2 p.m. today. He was only 54 and spent his life living for Jesus. He was a simple man, always ready to help others. His Father, Gene was his role model,

and taught him well.

The service today was a Prolog to Troy Gene's funeral. Bro. Bubba read several scriptures that were about the way Troy Gene lived. He was part of our family here at FBC. Everyone had a story to tell. So often, just a few hear one or another, but the church today was filled not only with our church family, but also New Beginnings where he was a member too, and his family members as well. It gave many an opportunity to tell a story.

Ms. Virginia (Kate) Baker, is always here early to get coffee started and bring Donuts – and Troy Gene was here as well. He had been confined to a wheelchair lately, and several people have rubbed his knees with ointment to help with the pain. Recently, Ms. Kate told him to pull up his pant legs as she had some ointment to put on his knees. She said 'you should have seen the look on his face'! Probably, no other woman had done this for him. When she was finished, he thanked her and said 'if I am not able to do so, please be sure that you tell everyone at

See CHURCH, page 7

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UP Chamber says thank you

The Union Parish Chamber of Commerce would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to those who donated items or money to make our silent auction a success.

SILENT AUCTION SPONSORS

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Brokers of Hope
Bruce Hampton-Judge
Butch & Debra Sensley
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Dubach Deer & Crawfish Factory-Kyle Green
Dusty Gates, Sheriff
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Eagle Point RV-Kenny & Leslie Cobb
Edgewood Plantation
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John Crow
Kenneth & Judy Auger
K & M Coffee, Corks, & Camo-Kenny & Marcy Kavanaugh
LA Bridge-Bradley Jones
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Legacy Motors
Lexi Lou's- Tara Neathery
Mack's Express Lube
Mamoo's-Paul Murray
Marion State Bank
Marion Tire & Lube
Matte's Pharmacy-Bruce & Kathy Matte
NELA Dental
NELA Rehab
Origin Bank
Pam Holloway

Partyville-Ricky & Debbie Albritton
Pepper Green
Pest Guard-Bill & Dianne Barr
Read Lumber-Stanley & Judy Read
Red Peach Radio
Reladyne
Revelations-Rhonda Sevin
Rhett's Tails & Shells-Rhett & Allyson Trahan
Second Chance Car & Truck Show
Southern Chalkin' It Up-Daniele Sherrill
Spirit Zone-Misti Weakley
State Farm-Janet Fortenberry
Southern Ag Credit
Taylor & Wilkes-Joel Taylor
Thomas & Farr
Thomas Nursery & Feed-Jason & Paula Thomas
Tiger Bend Outdoors-Peyton McKinzie
Town of Farmerville
Tractor Supply
Trees of Righteousness
Town of Farmerville U-ACT
Union Auto Parts
Union Station-Trey & Bridget Fulton
Union Parish Police Jury
Union Parish Tourist Commission
Union Vet
Victory for Velvet
Village of Spearsville
Walmart
Banquet Sponsors-CommuniHealth, Reeves Memorial, and Union General Hospital



Submitted photo

Party gifts for puppies

Eva Grace Jones (center, green shirt) is shown with her friends at her 8th birthday party. Eva Grace asked her friends to bring gifts for the animals being fostered by Union Humane Society because "she has plenty of toys and the animals need them more than she does." She donated all the items shown and over \$100 to the animals. She is the daughter of Lisa and Kevin Jones. The "fur babies" and Union Humane Society are extremely grateful.

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CABL

Focus on Important Issues

The 2020 legislative session began March 5, and in many ways it was a new day at the Capitol as term limits ushered in a host of new members, and leaders in both chambers signaled that they will be seeking a more independent role in the governing process.

A number of those points were made this week at a legislative conference focusing on the RESET Louisiana agenda held in conjunction with the Blanco Public Policy Center at the University of Louisiana, Lafayette. RESET is a joint initiative of CABL, the Public Affairs Research Council, and the Committee of 100 for Economic Development to focus on issues of importance to Louisiana.

Senate President Page Cortez and House Speaker Pro Temp Tanner Magee were among the legislators in attendance. Both stressed their desire to see the House and Senate working more closely together in a coordinated fashion to move legislation through the process. In recent years, the two chambers were often at odds over money matters. Both leaders talked of striking a better balance on the budget and working more cooperatively together on issues as a whole.

There were four major issue areas in the RESET agenda: education and workforce, state fiscal policies, transportation infrastructure, and criminal justice reform.

For the 2020 session, it appears it's another issue, "tort reform," that will likely be the most prominent matter debated, as a number of legislators campaigned on it. But of the RESET items, it looks like education and criminal justice reform will get the most attention.

The governor's budget calls for increased spending on early education for children birth to age three, K-12 education as a whole, and postsecondary education. Much of that new investment is targeted to areas that were prominent in the RESET agenda.

On criminal justice there is legislation to continue the implementation of reforms passed in 2017, as well as bills to water down some of those efforts. CABL will work to keep the reform process moving forward.

Most of the big issues involving state fiscal policies and transportation will have to wait until next year, when they can be addressed more fully in a fiscal session. But there will be some activity on each of them in 2020. Bills have been introduced to move toward a single tax collector for sales taxes. Louisiana is a huge outlier on that one with a patchwork of tax collectors and differing sales tax rates in jurisdictions across the state.

On transportation, some lawmakers are looking at ways to either divert revenues from other sources into the Transportation Trust Fund, or take some administrative expenses from DOTD out of the fund to free up more money for infrastructure projects. Both of those could face difficulties because of the impact they would have on other parts of the budget.

But one thing that emerged from the RESET conference in Lafayette is that there is a willingness and desire to begin to address many of the RESET issues, if not all this year, at least during the current term. Legislative leaders indicated strong support for improving the state's tax structure and putting more resources into roads, bridges, and other transportation projects.

Things can change quickly once sessions begin, but we are encouraged by the attention legislators are giving to the RESET issues, and hope this year marks the beginning of a legislative focus on the things that will truly help move Louisiana forward.

CABL is a nonprofit, nonpartisan statewide organization that works on issues in the public interest. It does this by raising citizen awareness, advancing sound public policies, holding government accountable, and fostering civic leadership. CABL values cultural diversity within its programs, and is dedicated to seeking and advocating for solutions that will move Louisiana forward. Learn more at cabl.org

GUEST COLUMN

La. DA uses program to fund his foundation

This is part 8 in a multi-part series about questionable behavior in Calcasieu Parish, reprinted from The Washington Post. The L.A.C.E. program is statewide and has been criticized and found to have many issues all across the state.

But Langley doesn't appear to have the connections to Bryant that he has with DeRosier. A search of campaign finance records reveals no donations by Langley to Bryant's campaign, and no expenditures by Bryant's campaign to Langley's firm.

I asked DeRosier if given all of this, Langley should be doing the public audit for his office. He replied, "I don't see a conflict." Langley also said he sees no conflict.

The DA's defense

In our phone call, DeRosier said he was certain that judges in Calcasieu Parish are aware of what he is doing. "I'm assuming that only because it's not a secret," he said. Under Louisiana legal ethics guidelines, judges are strongly discouraged from speaking to the media. But several people I spoke with, including two former Louisiana prosecutors and two current public defenders, say they'd be shocked if judges had approved of the option to buy out community service, especially for

misdemeanor probation.

"Misdemeanor probation is a court-ordered sentence," one former Calcasieu Parish prosecutor said. "A district attorney cannot unilaterally alter the community service portion of that sentence in exchange for a donation to his slush fund. When the judges hear about this, they'll be livid."

DeRosier also told me that he ran the idea for his nonprofit by Louisiana Inspector General Stephen Street, implying that Street gave approval for the idea. "I visited with the legislative auditor and the bar association, and both referred me to the state inspector general," DeRosier said. "We went and met with him and explained the whole program to him. That's about the time I formed the foundation."

But in an email, Street was emphatic that this was not the case. "OIG has no legal authority to approve or disapprove of the non-profit activities described," he wrote. "I have not reviewed, nor am I familiar with the specifics of this foundation or its activities, and therefore did not give any permission, approval or disapproval for its establishment, funding and operations."

DeRosier also repeatedly told me he wanted to be completely open and transparent, and said I was welcome to return to Lake Charles to view any documents

I wished. But when I asked for a couple of specific documents, the conversation could get confusing.

For example, according to Jenny Odom, McKenzie Newman and two other former employees of the DA's office, there should be boxes of receipt books in which defendants' gift cards and money orders were recorded, dating back at least to 2011. But when I made a public records request for a copy of these books, DeRosier's public records custodian wrote, "no such item exists."

"Multiple receipt books definitely existed as of July 17, the day I left," Newman says. "I personally helped pack some into boxes. I remember at least three boxes, and there must have been 100 or so receipt books in each box. If those books no longer exist, it's because they got rid of them after they received your request."

Odom agreed. "There should be receipt books," she says. "Lots of them. They're either lying to you, or they've done something with them."

Radley Balko blogs and reports on criminal justice, the drug war and civil liberties for The Washington Post. He was previously a senior writer and investigative reporter at the Huffington Post, and a reporter and senior editor for Reason magazine.

TUFF TALK

It's only a bug

Many years ago a movie was produced that was based on H.G. Wells 1901 book, First Men in the Moon. There have been numerous versions of the book to hit the big screen. One of these depicted space travelers going to the moon, fighting aliens and all but one earth traveler returning to earth. Later, another mission went to the moon and discovered an underground civilization dead and the buildings in a state of decay and disrepair.

As the movie closed the narrator stated that the one earthling left behind did have a bad cold. This eluded that the moon people had no resistance to the cold virus and could have destroyed the moon civilization.

While this is science fiction there are actual cases where a small microscopic bug that has natural human immunities in parts of the world has decimated cultures in other parts of our planet. Many of our Native Americans died out with little reason. It was later identified that many of the indigenous groups had a dramatic drop in population and a degraded culture as Europeans traveling through the native lands on exploration trips came in contact with the Indians. The theory is that viruses unknown to the Indians were introduced to the population and decimated the tribes.

In 1519 Hernando Cortez entered the land of the Aztec in Mexico and set siege to its capital. One soldier had caught smallpox from a soldier that had come from Cuba. That soldier died and his body was looted by an Aztec warrior. The Aztec carried the virus to the city where the disease spread like wildfire. The Aztecs had never been subjected to the virus and smallpox would kill six million. The sickened Aztec nation then fell to the Spanish under Cortez.

When I was a small child I traveled to Ruston with my father. We were at the train station waiting for a train to pass. My father pointed to the depot and said that when he was boy his father took him to Ruston and showed him World War I coffins stacked as high and as far as could be seen. "Killed in War," I asked. "No", he responded. "They died of the flu."

The Spanish flu devastated the world in 1918. Fifty million people died. This equates to two hundred million people today. With half a million being in the United States, the legacy of this world-wide pandemic has left a lasting impression on America and the rest of the world. The flu was devastating by killing more in 24 weeks than HIV/AIDS has killed in 24 years. The origin of the virus is debated; however, the greatest number of researchers believe the origin was Northern China. Once it reached the army camps of World War II it quickly spread and covered the world. Viruses such as this mutate or change. The Spanish flu came in two waves. The second deadly wave diminished as quickly as it appeared. In the week of October 16 of 1918, 4,915 people died from the Spanish Flu in Philadelphia. By the week of November 11, 1918, the flu had practically disappeared from the city. The flu suddenly vanished.

There have been current world-wide infections that threatened the world. SARS is a virus that reared its head in 2003. The virus originated in China and came from a type of bat. Over 8,000 cases were reported and 774 deaths occurred. This is a fatality rate (CFR) of 11 percent. Like other viruses it ran its course without a developed vaccination. The virus is defined as "a viral respiratory disease of zoonotic origin caused by the SARS coronavirus". No world-wide out-

break has been reported since 2004. Like the current Corona virus, the disease likely began in open air markets in China.

We are currently in the grips of a pandemic as proclaimed by the World Health Organization. There are two elements to this pandemic. One is the health issues and the fear it brings to American citizens. The second issue is the economic hardship and how this pandemic will affect the individual person's ability to live a comfortable life. The first issue is not new and will be a normal response for a civilization to address. The second issue is new for a federal government to address en masse. The federal government has helped in various aspects during financial problems but nothing to compare to what the federal is attempting at this time.

America is finally rising to the occasion and there are now signs of Americans coming together for a common cause. When the CEOs of COSTCO and Walmart and Target can stand on a podium next to the President of the United States and declare unity to work together to combat this virus, we are together. When Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez can appear on Fox News and call for unity and forget political bias, we are together. When the President can call a National Emergency, we are in unity.

All we need is for the rest of Capitol Hill to forgo political drama and get behind a common cause. When Congress developed an economic support bill it included a billion dollar inclusion for abortion rights. I am still scratching my head trying to figure out what that had to do with confronting the Corona virus. Fortunately it was killed before the package went to a vote.

Keep going America. You look pretty good when you are in unity.

Tuffy Fields may be reached by emailing thelouisianaexplorer@yahoo.com.



By
Tuffy Fields

Cedar Creek A-B Honor Roll for Union Parish

“A” and “B” Honor Roll for the third 9-weeks of the 2019-2020 school year. The only students who are listed are those who live in Union Parish.

Please publish at your earliest convenience. Thank you.
All A's
GRADE 7: Zoey Venters.
GRADE 10: W Wells.

GRADE 12: Sidney Wilhite.
A-B Honor Roll
GRADE 4: Avery Moon.
GRADE 7: Landon Burnham.

GRADE 8: Lucy Fisher, Brett Johnson.
GRADE 9: Brady Wade.
GRADE 10: Millie Venters.
GRADE 11: John-Barron

Johnson, Gabriel Kenley, Logan Wade.
GRADE 12: Brooks Auger, Lydia George, Devin Jung, Dixie Venters, John Ross Wilhite.

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UNION PARISH ARRESTS

March 7, 2020
Quatarreius Browhow, 29, 433 Fountain Dr., Ruston; Sch 1; Sch 2; Sch 5
Orlando Davis, 26, 932 Fourth St., St. Joseph; Sch 1; Sch 2; Sch 5
Tyler Ward, 24, 3506 MLK Jr., Marion; Sch 1; Sch 2; Sch 5
March 8, 2020
Virgina Wherton, 35, 404 Sandle St., West Monroe; Failure to registered Vehicle; Expired MVI; Obstruction of Justice; Poss. of Drug Paraphernalia; Poss. of Sch I; Poss. of Sch II; Poss. of Sch III

March 9, 2020
Catherine Reeves, 35, 108 Sarah Lane, Farmerville; FTA Domestic Abuse Battery; FTA Domestic Abuse Battery 1st
Patience N Skains, 25, 216 Lennie Lane, Farmerville; Dist. Poss. w/intent of sch II CDS; Taking of contraband to/from penal institution; Conspiracy to dist. Sch II; Conspiracy to from penal Institution
Stephen E Bodine, 51, 1411 Hwy 15, Spearsville; Poss. Of Sch II; Failure to Register Vehicle
Mark Forwood, 37, 296 Old Sterlington Rd., Ster-

lington; Fugitive from Justice Ouachita; FTA DUS
Joseph Minter, 23, 501 Stevenson Dr., Monroe; FTA Speeding and DUS
Jammie Nation, 33, 710 MLK Dr., Farmerville; FTA Damage to Property; Fugitive from Justice (FPD)
March 10, 2020
Gregory Rayner, 23, 142 Jennings Rd., Downsville; FTA Failure to Comply w/ out deer tags; FTA Hunting w/out a resident big game license; FTA hunting w/out no residential license
March 11, 2020
Antonio Terrell Smith,

502 Folse St., Bastrop; Driving on roadway laned for traffic; Operating vehicle while license is suspended; DWI 2nd offense; Open Container
Lamequa Gipson, 31, 601 Plum St., Junction City; Fugitive from Justice Junction City
Hezekiah Perry Jr., 56, 820 Long Lane Dr., Farmerville; Fugitive from Justice Ouachita Parish
March 12, 2020
Ashley Jemerson, 36, 375 Glen Acres, Calhoun; FTA Expired DL
Juan Eric Hopkins, 24, 706 Walter Rd., Spearsville;

Violation of Protective Order
Michelle Marie Douglas, 205 Bernice Hwy, Farmerville; Poss. of Sch 1; Simple Battery
Mark Edward West, 38, 205 Bernice Hwy, Farmerville; Michelle Marie Douglas, 205 Bernice Hwy, Farmerville; Poss. of Sch 1; Simple Battery
Amy Holleman, 48, 517 Oakland Bridge Rd., Spearsville; FTA Improper Supervision of Minor Child
Carla D Rollings, 53, 1810

N McGuire St., Monroe; FTA Angling w/out License
March 14, 2020
Gregory Williams, 22, 311 West St., Farmerville; FTA Contribution to Juvenile Delinquent; FTA Poss. Of Marijuana; FTA Simple Burglary
March 16, 2020
Christopher Tylor Odom, 27, 515 Pouncey Rd., Downsville; Fugitive from Lincoln

HOPE continued from page 1

and emotional needs. Brokers of Hope began servicing the people of Union Parish in December of 2018. Through BOH, families with Medicaid or those without access to health insurance or health care, are given therapeutic services and family advocacy. Through those family advocacy services, concrete needs of the family are identified. Once those needs are identified, the family advocate works to connect those families with existing resources in the area or to a community group or even individual who can help meet that need.

“Union Parish is a community that has shown us all what caring for our own truly means,” says Gilbert, “we have seen citizens of this parish rally behind each other in times of need as well as celebration.” Seeing the people of Union Parish love and support one another has inspired the Brokers of Hope team to work harder and give more to the community. “The Brokers of Hope program has afforded our team an amazing opportunity to provide services for children and families that would otherwise not receive assistance,” Gilbert says, “and we have been able to work alongside

citizens and professionals who offer support, encouragement and most importantly hope to these families.”

Brokers of Hope is funded by the Post Family Foundation, and The Center for Children and Families has secured various other grants and sources of revenue to help fund the project. Families with children in Union Parish can qualify for assistance from Brokers of Hope if they have Medicaid or no insurance coverage at all. To find out if you or a loved one is eligible for services through BOH, you can call 318-398-0945.

However, in order to qualify, the family must have at least one child in their custody and living in their home. Brokers of Hope is always seeking donations such as baby care items, canned goods, new school supplies and new school uniforms. Monetary donations can be made by visiting www.standforhope.org.

Barrios and Gilbert realized that joining forces would allow them to help both programs and reach more needy individuals and families of Union Parish. They decided to create a round table, collaborative effort in dealing with the issues that their families were experiencing.

Out of this collaboration came the Union Community Outreach. The Union Community Outreach has a very simple goal. “We hope to build a place for providers to share information about services as well as discuss cases/families in our community that need assistance,” says Barrios, “through our collaboration we have learned that we live in a community that is open to offering its resources as needed. Not once have we called upon a partner that has been unwilling.”

Union Parish has two very wonderful and giving programs in U-ACT and Brokers of Hope. Both organizations welcome volunteers to help with their work. Barrios says that Union Community Outreach is currently working on creating work groups and a directory that will be shared with the community. If you are interested in helping, contact Mary Barrios or Ashley Gilbert and they will help plug you in with these organizations of hope.

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CenturyLink participates in a government benefit program (Lifeline) to make residential telephone or qualifying broadband service more affordable to eligible low-income individuals and families. Eligible customers are those that meet eligibility standards as defined by the FCC and state commissions. Residents who live on federally recognized Tribal Lands may qualify for additional Tribal benefits if they participate in certain federal eligibility programs. The Lifeline discount is available for only one telephone or qualifying broadband service per household, and can be on either wireline or wireless service. Broadband speeds must be 20 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload or faster to qualify.

A household is defined for the purposes of the Lifeline program as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Lifeline service is not transferable, and only eligible consumers may enroll in the program. Consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain a Lifeline discount can be punished by fine or imprisonment and can be barred from the program.

If you live in a CenturyLink service area, please call 1-888-833-9522 or visit centurylink.com/lifeline with questions or to request an application for the Lifeline program.



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UP native climbs way to Outdoors Hall of Fame

Gazette News Services

Garry Mason, Founder of the Legends of The Outdoors National Hall of Fame, and Peyton McKinnie, Southern Regional Director, recently announced that Paul Meeks of Tallulah, will be inducted into Legends of the Outdoors National Hall of Fame, August 15th, in Nashville, TN.

Meeks was inducted into La. State Chapter of the Legends of the Outdoors National Hall of Fame, in Sept. of 2019, in Monroe at the Barak Shrine Temple.

Meeks invented one of the first climbing deer stands and started API Outdoors. Along with numerous other accomplishments. At one time he had 350 employees manufacturing stands. He sold API to Bass Pro Shops several years ago, and now owns Great Day Inc., with his son Ilar Paul Meeks.

Ilar Paul, upon the retirement of his dad, assumed the leadership of Great Day. The company continues to maintain its position as leader of the outdoor industry and grow its product range to over 200 products, which are 100 percent manufactured in America.

Paul Meeks grew up in the Spencer community of Union Parish. He is



Submitted photos
Peyton McKinnie (far left), Southern Regional Director for the Legends of The Outdoors National Hall of Fame and Garry Mason (founder), stand with soon-to-be inductee Paul Meeks, originally of Spencer. (photo at right) Meeks began stumping for his climbing stands 40 years ago.



a graduate of Linville High School and Northeast Louisiana University.

Meeks will be only the 5th Outdoor Industry Sportsman from Louisiana to receive this National Award

Induction.

Some of the previous inductees include Will Primos, Harold Knight, David Hale, Preston Pittman, Ray Eye, Ray Scott, Bill Dance, Roland

Martin, Jimmy Houston, Pete Shipley, Michael Waddell, Drury Brothers, Jerry Antley, Terry Denmon, and Eli Haydel. For a Complete list go to LegendsOfTheOutdoors.com

D'Arbonne Woods Varsity Claims Victory

Gazette News Services

D'Arbonne Woods Varsity took home a 7-3 victory over South Beauregard on Saturday. Jared Norsworthy was credited with the victory for D'Arbonne Woods Varsity. He went two innings, allowing zero runs on one hit, striking out one. Austin Riser and Jack Long entered the game out of the bullpen and helped to close out the

game in relief. Long recorded the last three outs to earn the save for D'Arbonne Woods Varsity. Jessie Broussard took the loss for South Beauregard. He went three innings, allowing six runs on five hits and striking out one. Nic Long led D'Arbonne Woods Varsity with two hits in three at bats. Charles Keith went 2-for-3 at the plate to lead South Beauregard in hits.

LHSAA cancels spring sports

From the LHSAA

The governor's office and the state health department have mandated a 30 day suspension of schools, school activities and facilities. If this timeframe holds true, it would not further impact the remainder of the 2020 spring sports' regular season and postseason play.

We will keep all processes in place for postseason play. If the spring championship season extends for any period of time, the LHSAA will be ready to conduct tournaments in their entirety.

The earliest possible date for the resumption of competition will be Tuesday, April 14 unless otherwise notified. At this time the association will respect all decisions made by schools and school districts in regard to practices during this time of suspension. Yet, we strongly recommend all LHSAA member schools and non-regulated club/travel/non-school athletic programs follow the Governor's mandate of social distancing and cease practices and play immediately. Our first objective is to get students back into the

classroom and then have them return to the athletic arenas when appropriate.

All LHSAA constitution and bylaws in the handbook will continue to be applied including, but not limited to, independent team rules, inter-squad scrimmages and practices, workouts and individual training sessions.

We will continue to monitor the communications from the governor's office, as well as the state health department, and consider recommendations as they come.

ULM AD McDonald speaks about spring sports cancellation

Gazette News Services

"We support the Sun Belt's decision to cancel all spring sporting events and any team-related activities as well as NCAA's immediate moratorium placed on all on- and off-campus recruiting.

"These are unprecedented times, and the impact goes well beyond intercollegiate

athletics.

"Conference commissioners and athletics directors across the country have been monitoring the coronavirus (COVID-19) for weeks, and last Thursday, it seemed like our world got turned upside down. We went from monitoring the situation on a daily basis to hour-by-hour and then literally minute-by-minute. And things will definitely

change in the coming weeks. Questions are often being asked faster than well-informed responses can be formulated.

"Throughout this process, our primary focus has been on attempt-

ing to make difficult decisions that are in the best interests of all the people we serve while ensuring the health and safety of our student-athletes, coaches, administrators, staff, alumni and fans. With

the well-being of all members of our campus community our highest priority, ULM Athletics in concert with the University's leadership team will continue to closely monitor the situation.

"I appreciate the leadership and guidance that has been provided by both Dr. (Nick) Bruno and Sun Belt Commissioner (Keith) Gill during these uniquely challenging times."



Jack Long

D'Arbonne Woods Charter School Baseball

9-16 with 2 double, 1 triple, and 6 RBI at the plate over 4 games. He threw 2.1 innings on the mound surrendering 1 R (1 ER) with 1 strikeout and 1 save over 3 appearances. Jack has a 10-game hit streak and leads all D'Arbonne Woods hitters in H, AVG, OBP, SLG, OPS, 3B, and Runs.

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CHURCH NEWS *(Continued from page 2)*

church, thanks for all the help and love they gave me'. Thank you, Ms. Kate, for bringing his message to us.

Always remember to APPRECIATE ALL THAT GOD GIVES YOU EVERY DAY!!

JESUS SHOULD ALWAYS BE #1 IN YOUR LIFE!

Haile Church of Christ

Webster defines “legalism” as a strict, literal or excessive conforming to the law or to a religious or moral code. The definitions of “liberalism” include the freedom of restraint and licentiousness. Legalist may charge those with views of the Scripture less rigid than their own as liberalists. On the other hand, those with a more lenient view of Scripture may accuse those with stricter views as being legalists. Is there a “weigh station” or “happy medium” between legalism and liberalism? There is, and it is grace! Grace instructs through the written word (Titus 2:11-12), and a theme throughout the New Testament is to abide within the doctrine of Christ, pay close attention to doctrine and expose strange or false doctrines (2 John 9-11; 1 Timothy 4:16; Hebrews 13:9, etc.). Grace is not licentiousness (Jude 4), and prohibits taking liberty with God’s word. A precise pattern for obeying the gospel, worship and every aspect of Christ’s teaching is revealed (Ro-

mans 6:17-18; John 4:24; Philippians 3:17). Striving to follow Christ’s teachings as closely as possible isn’t legalism, unless one depends on their own ability to life perfectly. Since all sin and fall short (Romans 3:23), earning one’s salvation through merit is impossible. If one obeys all of Christ’s commands, they remain “an unworthy servant” (Luke 17:10). Why? Because of sin!! Grace provides a remedy; but only for those who “walk in the light” and do not practice sin (1 John 1:5-9; 3:9). “Walking in the light” doesn’t allow legalism or liberalism. Grace teaches that faith that comes from God’s word is essential (Hebrews 11:6) and an acceptable faith is an obedient faith (James 2:14-26) with total reliance on Christ’s blood for pardon.

Bible study: Sundays 9:30 a.m.; 6 p.m.; Wednesdays 7 p.m.

Liberty Missionary Baptist Church – Spearsville

Liberty Church Road, Spearsville

Pastor: Bro. Bill Styron

Bro. Rickey asked Bro. Brandon to lead singing while he was in Arkansas. Bro. Bill sang “What a Friend”.

Bro. Bill delivered the message from Revelation 22:17: “And the Spirit and the bride say, Come....” How many have heard the phrase “Last Call”? Our spiritual life has a direct

impact on our personal life. After we are saved by repentance through faith, our greatest purpose is to serve the Lord. We need to allow Him to be Lord of our life. You may be saved, but have not allowed Him to be Lord of your life. Your salvation is secure, but you may need to surrender to God’s will for your life. We need to dedicate our life to serving the Lord His way. We need to realize that we are His servants. We should come to church to worship; leave to church. We should be doing His commandments. We tend to get all excited about worldly things, but not get excited about going to church or doing what God has asked us to do. The church is the bride of Christ. Just as surely as He calls us for salvation, He calls us to serve Him in a local, visible church. You cannot serve the Lord if you are not part of a local, visible church. There is no ministry of the pew or the recliner. This could be your last call. What are you going to hear when you face Jesus? Will it be “Well done”? There is not a more convenient time. You will answer to Him. You will bow before Him. Please do not allow your last call be “no” to Him.

The invitation is still open. But, this could be your last call.

We invite you to attend services at Liberty Baptist Church. If you are seeking a warm, loving church we have Sunday School at 10; morning worship at 11; evening lesson at 5:30; and

Wednesday at 6. We invite you to come worship and learn with us. In case you missed it before, we invite you to join us at Liberty to feast on God’s Word and enjoy sweet fellowship. We invite you to join us as we learn and grow in God’s Word.

Mt. Tabor Baptist

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Sunday School is at 9:45 a.m.; Sunday Morning Service is at 10:45 a.m.; Sunday Evening Bible Study is at 6 p.m.; and Wednesday Night Bible Study is at 6:30 p.m.

Please feel free to call us if you have any questions regarding Mt. Tabor or would just like additional information.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic

Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, for His kindness endures forever. 1 Chronicles 16:34

Regular Mass times are 7 p.m. on Saturdays (Spanish dominant) and 9 a.m. Sundays (English dominant.) First Wednesday each month Mass – 6 p.m.

The church is located at 600 E. Water St. in Farmerville. For more information, please call 368-9239.

Pleasant Grove Baptist - Downsville

Pleasant Grove, where

the Rev. Lethon Hay is pastor; is located at 365 Pleasant Grove Rd. in Downsville.

Rocky Branch Baptist Church

Pastor: Terry Mims
Associate Pastor: Stephen Murry

Children’s Time: Tim using a cup of water upside down with only a card holding it in place, showed that sometimes things are trustworthy. However, we can always trust in God.

James 2:18 – But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. Paul and James preach, what to some appears as two different gospels; however, they actually complete each other. Paul tells us we are saved by grace through faith, it is a gift of God. James challenges us to live out our faith by our works. Thus our faith is a faith that works! The value of our profession of Christ in our lives should be seen in the way we live.

Everybody is “Somebody” in the house of God. Beginning within the walls of the church and then reaching out to others around us, we should live out our faith by the love we show. Where there is a need that we can meet, then we should meet that need. As the Lord places on an individual’s heart to serve, however He calls

one to serve, we should respond in love. There are those who believe they ‘deserve’ to be saved. But saving faith will be lived out in the lives of the believer. Just saying you are a Christian, does not make one a Christian, for a Christian will be known by the way they serve God by serving others. ‘Love grew where the blood fell. I’m so glad this precious blood has covered me.’ Do we as Christ-followers practice what we know to do?

Church Services: Sunday School – 9:45 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m.; 6 p.m. Wednesday service – 6:30 p.m.

Triumph the Church and Kingdom of God in Christ

Triumph the Church and Kingdom of God in Christ will host our Family and Friends Day program March 22nd at 3 p.m. Pastor Joe Watson will be our guest speaker and the Pleasant Hill Baptist Church

Zion Community Outreach Ministries

Zion Community Outreach Ministries is located at 606 Bernice St. in Farmerville.

Every Friday night there is a Fifth Quarter for all area youth.

And every Thursday at 10 a.m., we have fun for seniors.

Come and join us for activities and fellowship.

What you need to know about the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19)

From Union General Hospital

Coronavirus disease 2019 (covid-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. There are simple everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses. These include:

- Take the flu shot annually
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue and discard tissue in the trash.
- Cough inside your elbow if no tissue is available.
- Clean and disinfect frequently-touched objects and surfaces.
- Stay home when you are sick.

Patients with Coronavirus have had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of fever, cough and shortness of breath. There is no specific antiviral treatment for Coronavirus. People

with coronavirus can seek medical care to help relieve symptoms. When patient seeks medical care, notify the staff IMMEDIATELY of your health concerns.

Union General Hospital and Rural Health Clinic are doing everything possible to protect our staff, patients and community from the transmission of respiratory viruses. We are providing personal protective equipment for all direct patient care and training for those staff members. We require all employees to wash their hands with soap and water and if not available, use alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Housekeeping

and the different departments will wipe down the facility and equipment with a disinfectant numerous times a day.

The CDC is recommending travelers, particularly those with underlying health issues, to defer all cruise ship travel worldwide. When traveling by air, people who are acutely ill, or still within the infectious period for a specific disease, should delay their travel until they are no longer contagious. For example, otherwise healthy adults can transmit influenza to others for 5–7 days.

Travelers should be up-to-date on routine vaccinations and re-

ceive destination-specific vaccinations before travel.

Travelers should be reminded to wash their hands frequently and thoroughly (or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol), especially

after using the toilet and before preparing or eating food, and to cover their noses and mouths when coughing or sneezing. Check with your airline as some airlines have canceled their flights into affected countries at this time.

UPHS students compete in Ag events

Gazette News Services

Union Parish High Schools Agriculture Department Competes

The UPHS Ag students competed in the Ouachita Invitational Mechanics Contest on February 20, at Ouachita Parish High School.

Anthony Foreman and Daniel Martinez took 1st place honors in Small Engine. Silvano Medrano and Jose Izaguirre also competed in this contest. Jose Hernandez and Alex Jones placed 2nd in Expert Welding, and though they didn’t place, Ricky Jones, Josh Gaspard, and Matthew Jones had a strong entry in Novice Welding.

UPHS Ag Department students then

participated in the FFA District 2, Area 1 Mechanics Competition at Delta Community College, Ruston Campus, on March 5. This competition is a qualifier for the next Area competition, which is scheduled for later in March at Louisiana Tech University. Anthony Foreman and Daniel Martinez continued their team’s progress by placing 4th in Small Engine, allowing them to move forward to the area competition. Jose Hernandez and Alex Jones will join seven other teams at the area competition, with the top eight teams vying for honors at the next level. Other students who performed well in this competition but won’t progress are

Silvano Medrano and Jose Izaguirre.

On March 6, UPHS hosted the Spring FFA Career Development Events at the Union Parish High School Ag Shop. Over 10 other schools came to compete in the areas of poultry evaluation, nursery/landscape, floriculture, meat evaluation and technology, milk quality and products, and veterinary science. UPHS home

teams placed in the top three in two categories. The team of David Avila, Gabriel Aguilar, Summer Briendine, Riley Jones, Da’Marquez Watson, Matthew Jones, and Jalen Johnson placed 2nd in meat evaluation and technology. Jonathan Nunez, Ryleigh Mobley, Mason Duncan, Nicholas Brummett, and Charles Landaverde placed 3rd in veterinary science.

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CHICKEN CASSEROLE

1 lb boneless Chicken Thigh Meat, cut up

2 Tbsp. minced onion

1 Tbsp. chopped garlic

Salt & Pepper to taste

1 can Cream of Mushroom Soup

1 can Cream of Celery Soup

¼ cup Half and Half or milk

1 cup Instant Minute Brown Rice

Preheat oven to 350°. Brown the cut up chicken with the minced onion, garlic, salt and pepper. Warm the Cream of Mushroom Soup, Celery Soup and milk. Add the Instant Brown Rice to the soup mixture. Combine chicken with the soup mixture. Pour into a 9 x 9 greased casserole dish. Bake uncovered for 35-40 minutes until rice has cooked & liquid is absorbed.

Bon Appetite’

Joe Cusimano is a private attorney in Farmerville who serves as town attorney for Bernice and Farmerville. The New Orleans area native also likes to cook.

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Mary F. Hill
Ashlea and Scott Hill
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Kelly and Bill Hogan
Johnnie Hogan
Faye and Dan Hollingsworth
Shelley and Richard Hollis
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Connie and Don Howard
Keith Huffman
Karen and Trott Hunt
Nancy and Trott Hunt
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Leslie and Bob James
Jim Johnson
JoAnn Johnston
Lamar and Tami Johnston
Ava and Scott Jones
Danni and Bert Jones
Rhonda and Bill Jones

Pat and Brad Jones
Patricia and Edward Jones
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Mary Belle and G.T. Kilpatrick
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Holly and Richie LeBlanc
Melanie and Bob Levy
Melanie and Jedd Lewis
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Diane and Ray Madden
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REGULAR MEETING, UNION PARISH SCHOOL BOARD
March 9, 2020
The Union Parish School Board met in Regular Session at the Union Parish School Board Office in Farmerville, Louisiana, on Monday, March 9, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. Members were present as follows: Mrs. Sharon Dixon, Mr. Roger Reeves, Jr., Mr. Tommy Bennett, Mrs. Judy Mabry, Mrs. Shannon Barkley, Mrs. Donna Cranford, Mrs. Sharon Stewart, Mrs. Challana Dean, and Mr. Clyde Hays.
President Barkley called the meeting to order and Mr. Bennett gave the invocation.
On motion by Mrs. Dean, seconded by Mrs. Mabry, the Board approved the agenda as printed.
On motion by Mr. Hays, seconded by Mrs. Cranford, the Board approved the minutes for the February 10, 2020 Regular Board Meeting as printed.

Scott Walker, Taylor and Sons Insurance Agency, presented a special engraved award to Debra Roberts, speech therapist for Union Parish Schools and homebound students, as Employee of the Month.
The Board was given a letter from Richard Royal, First National Bank Commercial Lender, stating they would like to sponsor the Union Parish Honors Banquet again this year, to be held Monday, April 6, 2020 at the Union Parish High School cafeteria. First National will give a \$1,000 scholarship to one of the honor students.
On motion by Mrs. Mabry, seconded by Mrs. Stewart, the Board granted permission for Mike Tynes to attend ISTE, the National Educators Technology Conference in Anaheim, California June 27, 2020 July 2, 2020. Title II Professional Development funds will cover the expenses of the trip.
The Board was informed that on Tuesday, March 17, 2020, the statewide ACT will be administered to all juniors and the Pre-ACT to all sophomores who attend Union Parish High School. In order to decrease any distractions, ensure test security, and to use all available space, students in grades 6th – 9th, and 12th grade will be dismissed from school on that day. Following all the testing, those 10th-11th graders will be allowed to check out of school (usually around noon).
On motion by Mrs. Dean, seconded by Mr. Hays, the Board approved the Testing Policy at its first viewing.
The Board reviewed the personnel report.
Superintendent Reeves reported to the Board on MFP funding and his meeting with the BESE Board regarding Union Parish School District's finances. Shirley Burch spoke to the Board concerning education in Union Parish. After all agenda items were concluded, there were three public comments.
On motion by Mr. Hays, seconded by Mr. Bennett, the Board agreed to remove from the table Enter into executive session to discuss and take action necessary in regards to the professional competence of the Superintendent in regards to his contract since the Board tabled it at the February 10, 2020 Board Meeting.
A motion was made by Mr. Bennett, seconded by Mr. Reeves, for the Board to enter into executive session to discuss and take action in regards to the professional competence of the Superintendent and his contract.
President Barkley called for a roll call vote, and the vote was as follows: Yeas: Mrs. Dixon, Mr. Reeves, Mr. Bennett, Mrs. Barkley, Mr. Hays, Mrs. Mabry, Mrs. Stewart, Mrs. Dean
Nays: Mrs. Cranford
Absent: None
A motion was made by Mrs. Dean, seconded by Mrs. Cranford, for the Board to come out of executive session.
President Barkley called for a roll call vote, and the vote was as follows: Yeas: Mrs. Dixon, Mr. Reeves, Mr. Bennett, Mrs. Barkley, Mr. Hays, Mrs. Mabry, Mrs. Cranford, Mrs. Stewart, Mrs. Dean
Nays: None
Absent: None

Superintendent Reeves tendered his resignation, effective July 1, 2020. The Board, having set its next Regular Board Meeting for Monday, April 20, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. to be held at the Union Parish School Board Office in Farmerville, Louisiana, adjourned on this the 9th day of March, 2020.

Ted Reeves, Secretary
Union Parish School Board
Shannon Barkley, President
Union Parish School Board
Personnel Report for March 9, 2020

Employments: (Information only, no action required)				
Name	Date	Dept/School	Position	Replaced
George Freeman	02/03/2020	UPES	Bus Driver	Yvonne Autry

Resignations: (Information only, no action required)				
Name	Date	Dept/School	Position	Years
Mason Howard	03/01/2020	UPHS	Band Director	2 Years
	05/22/2020			

Medical Leaves for March 9, 2020

Extended Medical Leaves: (Information only, no action required)			
Name	Dates	Position	Dept/School
Erin Williams	03/01/2020 – 05/22/2020	Teacher	UPHS
Joy Goldsby	02/14/2020 – 03/02/2020	Bus Aide	UPES

1td: March 19, 2020

West Sterlington Water System, Inc.
P.O. Box 692
Sterlington, La. 71280
Date: 03/18/2020
To: West Sterlington Water System Customer
Dear Member,
The West Sterlington Water System is currently in violation of the maximum containment level (MCL) for total trihalomethanes as set forth by the State [Part XII of the Louisiana State Sanitary Code (LAC 51:XII)] and the Federal Primary Drinking Water Regulations (40 CFR Part 141). The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) set drinking water standards and requires the

disinfection of drinking water. Where disinfection is used in the treatment of drinking water, disinfectants combine with naturally occurring organic and inorganic matter present in water to form chemicals called disinfection byproducts (DBPs). EPA and LDH set standards for controlling the levels of disinfectants and DBPs in drinking water, including trihalomethanes (THMs) and

haloacetic acid (HAAs). Some people who drink water containing THMs in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. In December 1998, EPA set enforceable drinking water standards for TTHMs at 80 parts per billion (ppb) and for HAAs at 60 parts per billion

(ppb) to reduce the risk of cancer or other adverse health effects. Compliance with the TTHMs and HAAs standard for public water systems serving less than 10,000 individuals initially became effective and enforceable on January 1, 2004. Compliance with the TTHMs standard is determined by calculating a locational running annual average (LRAA) of quarterly TTHMs sample results. Compliance calculations performed for the first quarter of 2020 show that the system's current TTHMs LRAA are 211 ppb at DBP01- 112 Hill Road and 222 ppb at DBP02- Wallace Rd and Ouachita City Rd.; Thus, the system is currently in violation of the TTHMs standard. Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail. This is not an emergency. If it has been, you would have been notified immediately. EPA and the LDH do not consider this violation to have any serious adverse health effects on human health as a result of short-term exposure; however, continued long-term exposure to TTHMs and HAAs levels above the standard (e.g., 20 years of exposure) has the potential to have serious adverse effects on human health. If you need further clarification or have questions concerning this letter, please contact President Tommy Ormond at (318) 726-6040 or Operators Dave or Linda Garriss at (318) 726-4188. 1td: March 19, 2020

RJ Trahan Enterprises, LLC DBA: Rhett's Tails & Shells is applying to the Office of Alcohol & Tobacco Control of the

State of Louisiana for a permit to sell beverages of low alcohol content at restaurant in the Town of Farmerville in the Parish of Union at the following address: 125 old Hwy 15 Farmerville, La 71241 Rhett's Tails & Shells Members: Rhett Trahan 1td: March 19, 2020

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us via our
website www.fgazette.com/contact

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BLACK EYES
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