

■ Rayne High
Baseball, Softball
Collect District Wins

■ Birthday Celebrations
Honor Rayne residents
■ Festival Pageants Set



126TH YEAR, NO. 27

RAYNE, LA

The Rayne
Acadian - Tribune

THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2021

1 SECTION, 12 PAGES

\$1.00 COPY

Armstrong threat,
student arrested

RAYNE - As of Wednesday morning, Rayne Police Chief Carroll J. Stelly advised that his office is currently investigating a threat that was emailed to a local junior high school.

On Monday April 12, staff at Armstrong Middle School received an email making threats towards students and the staff. School officials immediately notified the Acadia Parish School Board of the email, who then asked the Rayne Police Department to conduct an investigation.

In addition, Rayne Police also posted officers at the school as a precautionary measure.

Detectives working late into Monday evening, were able to determine the source of the email and have charged a 14-year-old female juvenile, a student at the school, with terrorizing.

The investigation is continuing and more arrests are expected.

Gun violence awareness rally this weekend
Saturday rally to bring about gun violence awareness

BY LISA SOILEAUX
Managing Editor

RAYNE - Community members and the general public is invited to attend a community-wide rally on Saturday, April 17, to help bring awareness of the shootings and gun violence that continues to inflict tragedy in the Rayne community.

Due to the senseless attacks incurred by many families as their loved ones have been killed or injured due to gun violence, the "Time Out Shout Out" gun violence awareness Rally will be held at 1 p.m. at the business establishment of Rick's Grocery (former Venable's Grocery) located at the corner of West Jeff Davis and Reynolds Avenue.

With help from city leaders and Rayne Police Department, Coordinator Cutrese Minix, District 1 Councilwoman, urges all community leaders, religious leaders, law enforcement officers, educators, youth and their parents, businesses, non-profit organizations and clubs to come out and support this event to make a change in our community.

Among guest speakers will be special guest Pastor Lawrence Levy III, activist who will, with assistance, perform the production of "The Funeral is Cancelled."

This will be a televised event with as many businesses and

sponsors to participate by helping to promote this day of peace, bring comfort to hurting families and offer assistance to individuals who would want to work with the City of Rayne and the Police Department in putting an end to the violence that is affecting our city.

Anyone who would like to assist in sponsoring the event is asked to contact Curtrese Minix, Nicole Y. Norman, Tiffany Babineaux, Debra Guidry Thomas or Ryan Charles by Facebook message or cash app \$CurtreseLMinix.

Donors can also call 337-384-3542 or 337-382-2162 for needed support as volunteers are also needed to cook and prepare food.

Sales Tax collection is main topic of Legislative Breakfast

By. STEVE BANDY
La. State Newspapers

CROWLEY - If there was a central theme at the 2021 Legislative Breakfast held the morning of Friday, April 9, it's that Louisiana needs a centralized sales tax collection system.

Sen. Mark Abraham, Rep. John Stefanski and Rep. Phillip DeVillier addressed a gathering of local and parish business leaders at the Crowley Town Club Friday morning during the annual event hosted by the Acadia Parish Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by Acadia Parish Farm Bureau Insurance.

All three agreed that a central collection agency would benefit Louisiana businesses as well as state coffers, a sentiment that was echoed by at least one member of the audience.

Scott Soileau, a local CPA, explained that a firm he represents does business in all 64 Louisiana parishes and across Texas. "We have to file

tax returns for each of the 64 parishes and one for the state of Louisiana — that's 65 tax returns," he said. "Texas has 200 counties and we file one tax return for the entire state."

DeVillier, as a member of the House Ways and Means Committee, is leading the charge for a centralized system.

"If we could just simplify things for businesses and for individuals I think that you would have a Louisiana that is taking the initiative to change our tax landscape and hopefully attract more businesses to want to be here," he said.

"What we are trying to do is to put the state on the right path to have a commission set up. That would make Louisiana businesses more competitive with out-of-state businesses."

Abraham pointed out that it will take a two-thirds vote of congress to pass a proposal and send it to a vote. "But if you don't have the sheriffs

and the parishes behind you, it's dead," he said.

Stefanski agreed. "Change is extremely difficult in Louisiana."

Each of the lawmakers

spoke about his personal goals for the upcoming Legislative Session which kicks off Monday.

Stefanski, a Crowley Republican, was recently moved

from the House Ways and Means Committee to the chairmanship of the House and Governmental Affairs

See TAXES, Page 3A



FIELD QUESTIONS DURING LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST - Rep John Stefanski, center, fields questions at the conclusion of Friday morning's Legislative Breakfast at the Crowley Town Club. Stefanski, along with Sen. Mark Abraham, left, and Rep. Phillip DeVillier spoke on the upcoming Legislative Session. (LSN Photo/Steve Bandy)

City Council addresses damaged properties for demolition
Zoning reports heard; water plant, street project updates given

BY LISA SOILEAUX
Managing Editor

RAYNE - Eating up a good amount of time of Monday's City Council meeting was the discussion of blighted properties and neglected homes brought before the Council for demolition.

"Most of these projects are the result of the hurricane we had in the fall," stated City Inspector Mark Daigle while presenting five properties and structures presented to the Council by the permit department for demolition.

"We tried to give people time to locate contractors for repairs since the hurricane, and I believe we are at the point where these properties need to be addressed," Daigle continued.

The five projects discussed included:

- 104 West Anding, gave owner 60 days to demolish and clear property;
 - 707 East Branche, gave owner 90 days to demolish and clear property;
 - 812 South Eastern, gave owner 90 days to demolish and clear property;
 - 412 Seventh Street, gave owner 60 days to demolish and clear property;
 - 206 West Harrop, a motion was passed by the Council to rescind a demolition order since the homeowner plans to renovate structure for his family home. Homeowner was given a six-month time frame for a project review by Daigle.
- Daigle also submitted a request by the Planning and Zoning Board to renew Lee Seilhan as chairman of the Rayne Planning and Zoning Committee for the 2021 calendar year.
- In addition, Daigle submitted a

request by the Planning and Zoning Board to approve Southstar Urgent Care moving forward with the pre-application process to purchase a portion of the property owned by PCB Company, LLC, at the address 1316 The Boulevard. The Council held an informal discussion but now action was needed. Daigle noted that neighboring businesses will be contacted prior to the next Planning and Zoning Board meeting due to future driveway access.

Following an amendment to the agenda, Ordinance 2024-2021, an ordinance to sell property to Carlie C. Davis not needed for public purposes, was introduced and approved by the Council to hold a public hearing during the May council meeting.

City Clerk Annette Curtrera presented the monthly financial update, explaining adjustments and revenue

under the new accounting system. She also noted the city was doing well with revenues and keeping expenditures down.

Under new business, the Council approved a street drive for Precious Paw Prints Animal Rescue to be held on May 8 at the major intersections in the city.

The Council also approved a Fredrich room air conditioner as surplus by the water treatment plant.

The Council approved a request by Rayne Police Chief Carroll Stelly to declare two police vehicles as surplus.

Presenting the engineer's report was Tim Mader with Mader Engineering, who addressed the DOTD Enhancement Grant Project for South Adams Avenue. He noted a pre-construction conference was held and a

See COUNCIL, Page 3A

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Outside Louisiana: \$32

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Weekend Outlook



Rain Early,
Remaining Cloudy,
Cool Temps

Highs: 69 - 72
Lows: 52 - 56

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Chamber plans Frog Festival Pageants and Cook-Off Contest

Board approves full agenda of new events, new Chamber programs

BY LISA SOILEAUX
Managing Editor

RAYNE - A full agenda was discussed and voted upon by the board of the Rayne Chamber of Commerce during its monthly meeting held Wednesday, April 7, at the Chamber office here.

With participation and attendance seeing an increase now that the state is in Phase 3 as cases are declining during the coronavirus pandemic, a number of upcoming events were presented by chairmen, including:

- Queen's Pageant and Cook-Off: Discussion was held for the upcoming Frog Festival Queen's Pageants planned May 8 at the Festival Pavilion which will be conjoined with the inaugural Frog Festival Cook-Off. The committee and volunteers were slated to meet in the next week with details to be released soon as announced by Suzette Leonards, director.
- Frog Festival: Marietta Sikat, Jamie Conques and Jeremy Lavergne were scheduled to meet within the next week to provide a schedule and details for coming committee meetings for the 2022 Frog Festival

"We have a lot to do as we prepare for the 50th anniversary celebration," stated Chairman Marietta Sikat of next year's 2022 Frog Festival slated May 12-15. "We will meet and get things rolling with committees."

- OST Day: Chairman Eddie Palmer gave a brief background of the five-year-old event for new board members, followed by a tentative date in November in and around the Depot (Pavilion in case of inclement weather). The Chamber approved co-sponsoring the event by providing the budgeted funds and also voted to provided the needed manpower for the OST events.

- Chamber booth: It was approved to make needed repairs and complete a major clean-up of the Chamber booth used for the Frog Festival and other Chamber events.

- Board members volunteered to complete an inventory of the Chamber's storage building for what is needed for future events.

- Plans will begin soon for the Chamber's Mardi Gras Ball and Parade. Co-chairmen will meet to provide a schedule for the 2022 celebration.

- Discussion was also brought up concerning the Chamber hosting a "First Saturday" music event during the summer months. Board members will meet with plans to be given at the May meeting.

- Madeline Bullock will begin serving as intern in late April at the Chamber, providing work in marketing.

- The Board approved two Chamber projects proposed by Executive Director Jennifer Autin: a week-long summer day camp and a "Princess and Frog" tea party one-day event.

During committee reports, the financial report was approved, but approval of the budget delayed until next month due to revisions.

The director's report was given by Chamber Executive Director Jennifer Autin, including the following:

- Chamber membership stands at 163, a growth including new members and renewals ;
- The Chamber Facebook page is still showing an increase and members are continuing to be added since it has surpassed the goal of 3,000 to 3,287 to date;
- Continuing the "Feature



Business Fridays" Facebook feature; and

- Continuing live videos from local Chamber businesses;
- Continuing new website efforts;
- Zoom meeting for By-Ways Committee;
- Filmed three spots for KATC - Easter Kid's Camp, Easter Raffle and 2022 Frog Festival; and
- Began Chamber list of youth scholarships.

Sikat gave a brief report of the recently held quarterly Rayne Marketplace held Saturday, March 13, at the Rayne Depot. Only a dozen vendors were in attendance, but the turnout of visitors was good.

Under old business, the following was discussed:

- * Following discussion of the advertising budget and annual scholarships, it was noted the Business Easter

Baskets was a huge success, raising enough funds to finance the four Chamber graduation scholarships with left-over funds to be deposited into the general fund.

- A report was given of the new Chamber sign being worked on by the Rayne High ag department;

- Suzette Leonards gave a brief report of the Queen's Day held in honor of Kennidy Peavy, the reigning Frog Festival Queen. The event is usually held the day of the Frog Festival Pageant; but due to the planned Cook-Off, it was held on a separate day last month in her honor.

Kennidy and her parents also contacted visiting queens of the local Scouting program at the Chamber office, who in turn, provided \$400 to benefit the ongoing frog pond project.

- Chamber Easter Camp

See CHAMBER, Page 5A

Obituaries



Millard "Melo"
Leo Comeaux

RAYNE - Funeral services will be held Thursday, April 15, 2021, at a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Rayne, for Millard "Melo" Leo Comeaux, 75, who died Monday, April 12, surrounded by his family at his residence in Rayne.

Interment will be in St. Joseph Cemetery #2 in Rayne.
Rev. Brent Smith,

Pastor of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Rayne, will be the Celebrant of the Funeral Mass and will conduct the funeral services.

Survivors include his spouse, Ruby Guidry Comeaux; three daughters, Danette Arabie and spouse Greg, Jodi Benoit and spouse Kurt, and Mika Conques and spouse Jamie; one son, Blake Comeaux and spouse Donna; 10 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren; five sisters, Dorothy Wright, Darla Bryson and spouse Mac, Irma Primeaux and spouse Joe, Carol Savoy and spouse Sherman, Bernetta Pelsia and spouse Kenneth; and four brothers, Beverly Comeaux and spouse Sybil, Milton Comeaux and spouse Rachel, Preston Comeaux and spouse Cynthia, Larry Comeaux and spouse Ginger.

He was preceded in death by his father, Eudy Comeaux; mother, Lena Benoit Comeaux; three brothers, Eudy Comeaux Jr., Kermit Comeaux, and Darrel Comeaux; and three sisters, Anerly Borde, Allen Dale Roy and Lenora Constantin.

A rosary will be prayed Wednesday, April 14, at 6:30 p.m. in Gossen Funeral Home in Rayne.

The family has requested visitation in Gossen Funeral Home in Rayne, on Wednesday, April 14, from 2 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., and on Thursday, April 15, from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Friends may view the obituary and guestbook online at www.gossenfuneralhome.net.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Gossen Funeral Home, Inc. of Rayne, LA, (337) 334-3141.



Gladys Eve
Douet Garrie

RAYNE - Funeral services were held Monday, at 10:30 a.m. at Gossen Funeral Home Chapel for Gladys Eve Douet Garrie, 71, who died Friday, April 9, 2021, at her daughter's home in Branch.

Interment was in the Calvary Cemetery in Lafayette.

Rev. Benjamin Pitre, Proical Vicar of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Rayne, conducted the funeral services.

Survivors include her two children, Pamela G. Kibodeaux and spouse Steve, and Ronald W. "T-Ron" Garrie Jr. and spouse MaKayla; five grandchildren, Cody Kibodeaux and spouse Abigail, MaKenzie Garrie, Lance Kibodeaux, Damon Garrie and Whitney Kibodeaux;

eight siblings, Elizabeth "Liz" Savoie and spouse Michael, Thomas Douet and spouse Stephaine, Maurice Douet and spouse Sheryl, Hilda Broussard and spouse Chris, Timmy Douet and spouse Liz, Mary Daigle and spouse Donald, Diane Trahan and spouse Harold, Jerry Douet and spouse Jacqueline "Jackie"; and many other family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Ronald Wayne Garrie Sr.; father, Louis Douet Jr.; mother, Verina Benton Douet; brother, Stephen Douet; sister, Vivian D. Granger; and in-laws, Howard and Mazie Benton.

A very special woman/mother/grandmother/friend was lost; a woman who loved riding horses and working along side her husband and son in construction for many years. She spent many days loving on and living for her five grandchildren, whether it was just enjoying their company or following them to an assortment of activities they were involved in. Gladys was known by many for the years she worked at ABL Bingo Ranch and the casinos in Dusen. She will be deeply missed by so

many.

The Garrie family would like to extend a special thank you to Joann McCall for being like a second daughter to Gladys and for bringing so many happy memories to her life. Also, thanks are expressed to Elizabeth Savoie, one who could always be counted on to help when needed as Gladys' health declined over the years.

Pallbearers were Ronald W. "T-Ron" Garrie Jr., Damon Garrie, Steve Kibodeaux, Cody Kibodeaux, Lance Kibodeaux and Timmy Douet.

Honorary pallbearers were Makenzie Garrie, Whitney Kibodeaux.

A Rosary was prayed at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 11, at Gossen Funeral Home in Rayne.

The family requested visitation at Gossen Funeral Home in Rayne, on Sunday, April 11, from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m., and continue on Monday, April 12, from 8 a.m. until the time of the funeral services.

Friends may view the obituary and guestbook online at www.gossenfuneralhome.net.

Arrangements were entrusted to Gossen Funeral Home, Inc. of Rayne, LA, (337) 334-3141.



Dawn
Michelle Delhomme

SCOTT - Memorial services will be held Friday, April 16, 2021, at 3 p.m. at Gossen Funeral Home Chapel in Rayne, for Dawn Michelle Delhomme, 42, who died Sunday, April 11, at her residence in Scott.

Dawn loved her family, friends and grandkids. Her hobbies included wood burning, painting and crabbing.

She enjoyed going to Pecan Island, the beach, traveling and barbecues.

Special thanks are expressed to Hospice Compassus, nurse Jenna and CNA Lisa.

Survivors include her spouse, Shelia Trahan Delhomme of Scott; six step-children, Rocky Castellucio, Ashley Castellucio Hoffpauir and spouse Nicholas, Shanna Castellucio Canida and spouse Brandin, Frankie Castellucio, Joey Castellucio and spouse Mariah, and Tara Castellucio Tidwell and spouse Nicholas; mother-in-law, Dorothy Trahan; mother, Brenda Delhomme; and two siblings, Dallas Delhomme Jr. and April Delhomme Sarver and spouse Shannon.

She was preceded in death by her father, Dallas James Delhomme Sr.; grandfather, Dallas

Delhomme; uncle, Steve Delhomme; father-in-law, Steve Trahan; aunt, Norma Duhon; maternal grandmother, Anna Mae Comeaux Langley; maternal grandfather, Leon Langley; and paternal grandmother, Dora Broussard Delhomme.

Honorary pallbearers will be Nick Hoffpauir, Rocky Castellucio, Dysion Bull, Guy Sarver, Hayden Sarver, David Hoffpauir, Jacob Hoffpauir and Alex Duhon.

The family requests visitation be observed in Gossen Funeral Home in Rayne, on Friday April 16, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Friends may view the obituary and guestbook online at www.gossenfuneralhome.net.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Gossen Funeral Home, Inc. of Rayne, LA, (337) 334-3141.

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Dinner 5:30 - 9 pm

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Tuesday Fried Pork Chops	Saturday Night Fried Chicken Meatloaf
Wednesday Varies Please Call Steak Night	Sunday Pork Roast in a Gravy Fried or Baked Chicken
Thursday Fried Chicken	
Friday Seafood	

Buffet subject to change.
Menu also available.

TAXES

Continued From Page 1A

Committee.

“Since then I’ve spent about 75 percent of my time in Baton Rouge,” he said. “I’ve met with 96 of the 104 members of the House to start the redistricting process.”

He said that process “will probably dominate my time for the next year or so.”

But he promised he would continue to work for Crowley and Acadia Parish.

“I’m passionate about capital outlay,” he said. “I believe that if we don’t fight to make sure we get our dollars back here we won’t get any. That’s my No. 1 or No. 2 priority ... to get our fair share for Acadia Parish and Crowley.”

He said he and DeVillier are currently working on securing funding for rehabilitation of Louisiana Highway 35 from Rayne to Branch and for Louisiana Highway 13 from Crowley to Vermilion Parish.

“I’m optimistic about these project with the federal (stimulus) money coming in,” he added.

Abraham spoke extensively about Louisiana’s \$5 billion share of the \$1.9

trillion federal COVID relief package.

The Lake Charles Republican said the funding will go a long way toward balancing this year’s state budget. “But we have to be very careful not to use any of that money on recurring expenses,” he added.

Abraham said he would like to see the money used to replenish the state’s unemployment trust fund and pay back some of the federal money used for coastal infrastructure.

“After that, it’s a free-for-all for anything else,” he said.

DeVillier who has been touring the state meeting with other legislators, said he is “going to be focused on business and trying to do good tax reform policy that takes Louisiana in a different direction.”

“That’s nothing new for the legislature. We talk about it all the time but it never happens.”

The Eunice Republican pointed out that, while the state will be “flush with money” this year, the 2025 roll-off of the 0.45 percent sales tax is going cost the state about \$450 million.

He added that he expects the federal income tax cut implemented during the Trump administration will likely be reversed and, since federal income tax is tied directly to state income tax in Louisiana, that will cost the state between \$500 million and \$600 million.

DeVillier also has a plan focusing on personal income tax. He is looking at a 4 percent flat tax instead of the three brackets of 2 percent, 4 percent and 6 percent.

The path to do that, he said, is to remove the federal income tax credit, ex-

cess itemized deductions and increase the standard deduction, he stated in an email.

DeVillier said he also has a bill to create a 5 percent corporate income tax rate instead of the system now with five rates topping out at 8 percent.

Eliminating the franchise tax, then cutting corporate credits and exemptions by 50 percent would help create the 5 percent flat rate, he stated.

Each of the legislators urged those present to “stay in touch” during the upcoming session.



ENJOY SODALITY EASTER EGG HUNT - The St. Leo Sodality of Mary sponsored its annual Easter egg hunt for the children of Saint Leo IV Church Parish in Roberts Cove on Easter Monday, April 5, on the church grounds. Prize winners included, from left, Emma Charles (silver egg); Maverick Quibodeaux (gold egg); Alyson Reiners (gold egg); Caroline Reiners (most eggs); Katherine Meche (silver egg) and Bryant Meche (most eggs). (Acadian-Tribune Photo by Josie Henry)

COUNCIL

Continued From Page 1A

start date of mid-June is expected by Garden City Contruction. The anticipated completion date is in the fall, considering weather conditions, for the 120 calendar day time period.

Mader also gave a brief update of the ongoing Water Treat Plant Improvement project, noting the generator was delivered and installed in December, followed by the delivery of clarifier equipment delivered in mid-December. The filter controller shop drawings were received and returned with needed revisions. The contractor, Wharton-Smith, Inc., is currently working on valve replacements and the clarifier by-pass system. Mader, along with Water-Waste Superintendent Mike Judice, gave a completion date of June if weather allows.

In addition to Ro-

bichaux, City Council members in attendance were Lendell J. “Pete” Babineaux (Mayor Pro-Tem), Kenneth J. Guidry (District 2), Calise Mi-

Assistance needed for stolen military plaques

Members of our military serve to protect and defend the freedoms of America. Often at their final resting place, plaques are placed on their graves to show their military service.

This week Crime Stoppers of Acadia Parish needs your help to identify persons who have been stealing military plaques off of graves at several cemeteries in Acadia Parish.

Since March, six plaques were stolen from Woodlawn Cemetery in Crowley and two were reported stolen from St. Joseph’s Cemetery in Rayne. Replacement value is \$1,500 each.

Help us bring these people to justice and preserve the memory of our military heroes.

Anyone having any information regarding this crime is urged to call the tips line at 789-TIPS or download the P3 app on a mobile device to report a tip anonymously.

All callers will remain anonymous and can receive up to a \$1,000 cash reward for information leading to an arrest in this case.

Rayne man charged with molestation

RAYNE - A Rayne man has been arrested and accused of committing a lewd or lascivious act upon a child.

Rayne Police say Tyson Dain Clavier was arrested on Wednesday April 7.

He was booked into the Acadia Parish Jail on a charge of molestation of a juvenile.

The Department says Tyson has denied the allegation.

He is being held at the Acadia Parish Jail on a \$75,000 bond.



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141 LABELLE DR
6358 MIRE HWY
201 S 1ST STREET
LOT 1 BOUDREAUX RD
LOT 2 BOUDREAUX RD
LOT 6 MECHE RD
800 E BRANCHE ST
335 TOBY MOUTON, DUSON
331 TOBY MOUTON RD

PENDING PROPERTIES

6309 WINBECK RD, GUEYDAN
LOT 3 L BOUDREAUX RD
108 LOUISA
916 BUTLER
1322 BAJAT RD

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210 S PARKERSON ST - Turn of the century home that is ready for your loving care! 4,502 sq. ft. 2 story home features 4 beds and 3 baths on over 4 city lots. Make this your forever home and own a piece of history!
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600 S CUNNINGHAM - Generous spaces with 1,862 sq. ft. of quality construction, new roof and carpets and beautiful wood floors! In addition to the beautiful corner lot for outside recreation, the interior offers amazing storage space, eat in snack bar, breakfast area and more! Additional finished 520 sq. ft. area with bath for in-law suite or recreation.
NEW PRICE \$195,000

RESIDENTIAL HOMES

609 E JEFF DAVIS - 3 bedroom 1 bath with extra room for 3rd bed. Neat interior. Covered parking and storage.
NEW PRICE \$55,000

600 7TH ST - 3 bed 2 bath 1239 sq. ft. with wood floors and updating including new central ac/heat! Won't last long!
\$69,000

200 LODGE DR #505 - Rare find! 2 bed 2.5 bath, 1077 sq. ft., all appliances included with upgrades! Galley kitchen, fresh paint, granite and more!
\$93,500

NEW LISTING - 104 CAMPANIA - Spacious 3 bed 3 bath home is 3354 sq. ft. and possible 4th room/office. Plenty of storage space, ample yard and convenient location!
\$277,000

258 SHADY LANE - 12 acres & horse farm ready and the home of your dreams! Finally get that country property you've been

RESIDENTIAL HOMES

dreaming of! 4 bedrooms and baths, over 4000 sq. ft. and horse amenities abound!
\$1,250,000

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\$70,000

0 CONNIE ROAD, IOTA – Unrestricted acreage! 9.53 acres cleared and ready for your homestead!
\$142,950

EAST D ST – 5.72 acres for development at dead end of East D St and Mounger. Great location for investors or builders!
\$135,000

201 W. BRANCHE - 2652 sq. ft. retail and office space located on highly visible corner, well kept and ready for business!
REDUCED \$179,000

F STREET - 26.82 acres at the dead end of F Street with city sewage and water, good location for homesite.
\$215,000 or 8,016 per acre

0 MIRE HWY - 28 acres unrestricted cleared land. Slemco Utilities Mire Branch Water.
\$420,000

Over 45 acres of READY TO ROLL crawfish pond or agricultural land! This property comes complete with a 10" well and established levee road. Jump in to crawfish or rice with no hassle!
\$436,000

LA HWY 356 SUNSET - 60 pristine grazing acres, high and dry and possibilities are endless on this country property!
\$480,000

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

804 SADAMS – Main St lot 63 x 128 - slab, city utilities, corner lot.
\$23,000

912 E. BRANCHE - INVESTORS! Existing Trailer Park with renters as well as available spaces.
NEW PRICE \$60,000

118 POLK – 4,750 sq. ft. commercial property ready for your transition! Currently used as a dance studio but many options are available on this find!
NEW PRICE \$62,500

820 EAST TEXAS AVE – 4 lots corner of South Bradford and Texas Ave, 160' frontage by 120' on North Bradford. City Utilities.
REDUCED \$68,000

708 AMERICAN LEGION - INVESTORS! 3 buildings for sale on 6 lots, 240' x 119.84', convenience store, 60' x 40', 2460 sq. ft., warehouse 38' x 67', 2546', warehouse 80' x 51', 4080', seller may separate, seller will owner finance.
\$295,000

2510 CHURCHPOINT HWY – LOCATION! I-10 exchange 2 miles from this 25,000 sq. ft. office/warehouse/professional business space ready for your business! Warehouse offers 16 ft overhead doors for splitting it up if it's too much space and the 2 story office space offers lease space as well! Or use it all! Endless possibilities!
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Editorial

Page 4A ■ The Rayne Acadian-Tribune

www.acadiaparishtoday.com

Thursday, April 15, 2021

Around the world of woke in 80 days

The first 80 days of the Biden administration have been a nightmare for Americans who love our constitution and appreciate limited government. On Thursday, President Joe Biden announced another batch of executive orders, in this case, dealing with expanding gun control. It follows a blizzard of executive orders he has issued since his inauguration.

Biden is proving his “woke” credentials by pursuing a full-fledged progressive agenda. Although all leftist dreams have not been realized, dramatic action on their agenda has occurred in the first 80 days of the Biden administration.

This has happened despite a disputed election in which Biden did not achieve anything close to a mandate. Even accepting the official election results show that Biden lost 25 states and his party barely maintained control of the U.S. House of Representatives, while achieving 50 seats in the U.S. Senate. With Vice President Kamala Harris voting, Democrats can control both houses of Congress; however, it is the slimmest of margins.

Instead of showing moderation and trying to work with Republicans, President Biden is dealing with Democrats only and acting like he achieved a 50-state landslide. In the process, he is working overtime to overthrow as many actions of President Donald Trump as

possible.

The overwhelming flood of illegal immigrants at our southern border is the biggest crisis facing the country. Prior to Biden's invitation for illegal immigrants to surge into the country, President Trump had the border under control. Unfortunately, Biden stopped construction of the border wall, re-instituted the failed “catch and release” program and wanted to enact a 100-day moratorium on all deportations, until his actions were challenged in court by Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton.

To say Biden has been a disaster is an understatement and an insult to disasters. In actuality, he has been a total catastrophe. His major legislative achievement, the so-called “COVID Relief bill” was a \$1.9 trillion giveaway to failed Democrat Mayors and Governors. Despite his call for unity and bipartisanship, the bill passed with no support from GOP members of Congress.

His next monstrosity will be a \$2.5 trillion “Infrastructure” bill that will be another budget buster, including only 6% for true infrastructure projects. He also supports H.R.1, the hilariously named



Jeff Crouere

Columnist

“For the People Act.” This bill passed the U.S. House of Representatives with no Republican support. It will destroy election integrity, end voter identification, expand mail-in voting and create a pathway for illegal immigrants to become voters. In essence it will give Democrats a lock on the presidency and Congress for generations to come.

On Friday, Biden moved on to his plan to pack the Supreme Court with liberal justices. He announced the creation of a “commission” to study the issue.

While Biden is pushing a socialism on steroids agenda, this is a center-right country ideologically. The reality is that these policies are being proposed and implemented against the will of the American people. Unfortunately, Joe Biden is governing like United States Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) would have acted as President.

It is no wonder that former Vice President Al Gore said that Biden has made the “strongest start...since Franklin Delano Roosevelt.” In one sense Gore is correct. Biden has expanded the government in a way not seen since the New Deal era

of the Roosevelt administration.

Sadly, the actions have been destructive, and not positive in any fashion. For example, in typical Democrat “tax and spend” fashion Biden is advocating an increase in corporate taxes and wants to boost the top rate to 28%.

While increasing taxes, Biden is also seriously increasing federal spending, which will only add to our already gargantuan national debt of \$28 trillion. His new budget calls for \$1.52 trillion in spending, an increase of 8.4% from the previous year.

Under President Trump, the United States reached energy independence for the first time in decades. However, President Biden immediately reversed course. He placed a moratorium on new drilling leases on federal territory and ended construction on the Keystone XL pipeline. Not surprisingly, Americans are paying more for gasoline as oil prices have skyrocketed since January.

The President's globalist friends are also happy that he wants to revive a nuclear deal with Iran, has returned to the Paris Agreement and vowed to act aggressively on climate change issues. Biden will also be keeping our military in

See CROUERE, Page 5A

Legislative auditor retires - parting words a concern



Steve Gardes

Columnist

Daryl Purpera, CPA, CFE and the former Louisiana Legislative Auditor (LLA) from 2010 to March 2021, was recently interviewed by the State Society of Louisiana CPA's with an article titled “Better Information, Better Louisiana”. State taxpayers should read this

article closely, especially considering the \$405 million (LLA says “number is probably much higher”) of Unemployment Benefits the state sent to 100,000 ineligible people-- and Legislative Leaders have called for fiscal reform to the \$36 billion state budget that the Edwards Administration has proposed to increase again by \$18 million.

Mr. Purpera, who has an accomplished career that includes chairing legislative committees, crafting legislation, testifying in both the U.S. House and Senate on Medicaid Fraud - - and who will now become Pastor for the First Baptist Church of Central in Baton Rouge, made these parting comments that should cause concern for all taxpayers:

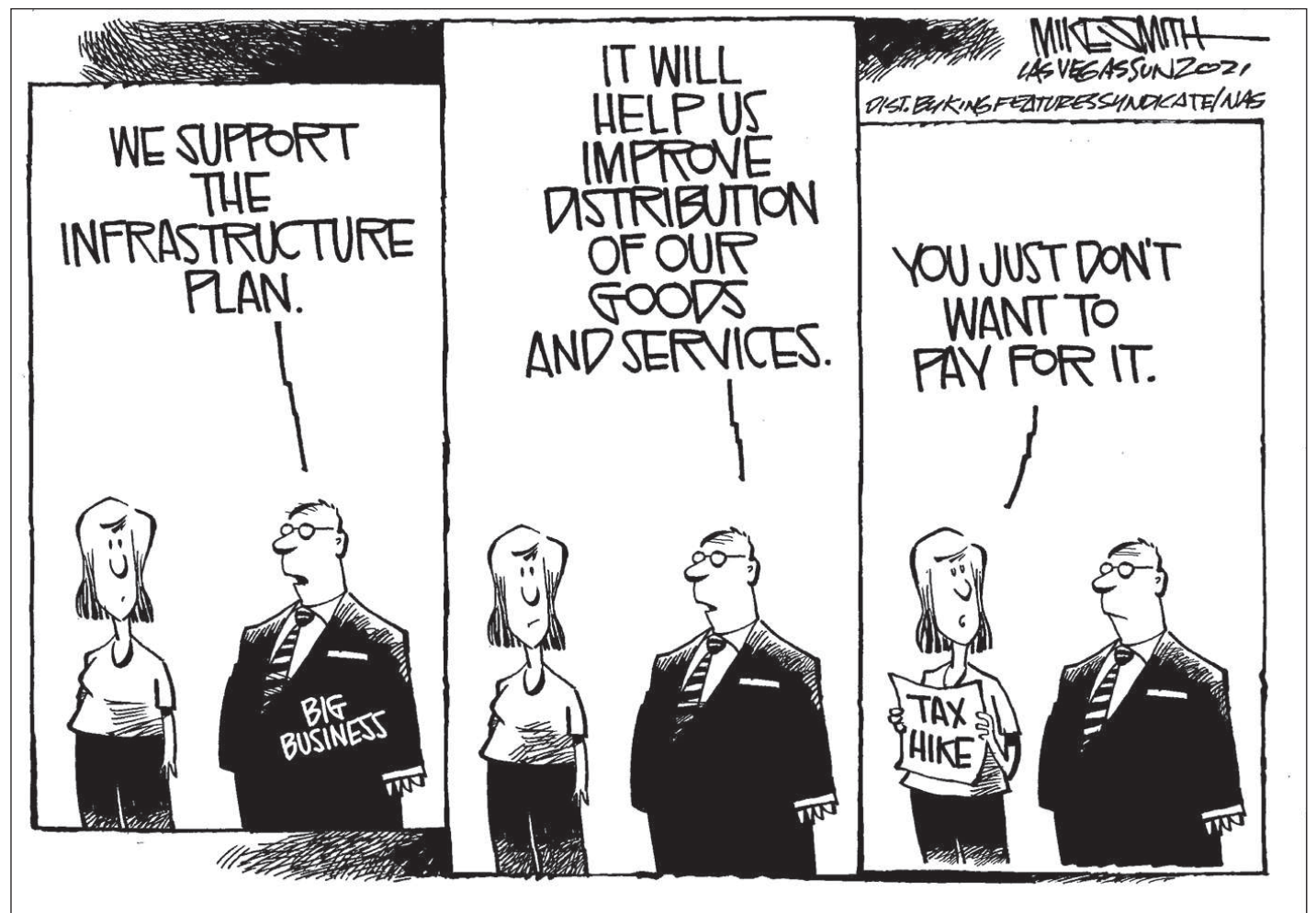
* “Medicaid was my greatest personal and professional challenge, as it had grown to 35 percent of the state budget in 2015 and would eventually crowd out other valuable services (and is at 45 percent today)—and a huge issue was the level of error and fraud which the GAO had estimated to run about 10 percent.” Today, Medicaid is now \$16 billion of the state budget-- meaning fraud could be \$1.6 billion every year. Determined to fix this staggering problem, not only for Louisiana but also other states, Mr. Purpera “made major changes that have resulted in savings, and other state auditors also made changes in their states—but several of these positive changes were later reversed”, and in Mr. Purpera's opinion, “this was just not good government.”

* “Once COVID hit, any previous appetite for reducing the improper payment rate seems to have disappeared in favor of paying out fast and furious even if that means reducing controls and increasing the rate of improperly paid taxpayer monies.”

* “My most memorable and rewarding experience when I and several colleagues uncovered and investigated the biggest fraud case I have ever known of in the Louisiana government (over \$15 million) involving the purchase of voting machine parts and resulted in the indictments of 21 individuals including the elected Secretary of the Department of Elections.”

Louisiana, and the Federal Government, are spending money today that is “just not good government.”

Steve Gardes is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and Certified Valuation Analyst (CVA) with over 40 years of public accounting experience.



Romance and piracy on the Mermantau

C'est Vrai



Jim Bradshaw

Columnist

1800s “with the avowed determination of extirpating the horde of villains who had made the Calcasieu and Mermantau the scene of their exploits.”

The villains, a band of pirates, are never found, but Leon does find and is smitten with the lovely peasant girl, Nina l'Estrange. The story is one of the romantic pieces of serialized fiction that newspapers once used to fill their columns, and is reminiscent of the tale of Evangeline. They marry, he goes to sea again and is reportedly killed, she refuses to believe it and waits for his return, sitting each day at the base of an oak gazing out to sea, until “one bright spring morning” she is found, “one hand grasping a bunch of wild flowers which grew near, and her head turned toward the Gulf.”

There is just enough fact to give the tale a ring of authenticity, or at least believability, and make it hard to figure what parts are romance and what parts are real, or nearly real. Especially the part about the pirates.

The story is set at just about the time that the notorious Lafitte gang was scattered from its stronghold at Barataria, and some of them may have come to l'Isle des Pecaniers where the story is set. This was not the Pecan Island we know today. It was somewhere in the marsh near the Mermantau, but, according to the story, its exact location

was no longer known.

“Through this marsh ... the numerous pirates who infested the Mermantau and Calcasieu constructed a canal by opening a communication with the various little bayous which intersect the low marsh land,” according to the tale. “They so skillfully concealed the outlet which opened on the Gulf, by thick clumps of muskeet bushes, as to render it impossible for even those most familiar with every brake and briar on that unfrequented coast to detect their lurking places.”

The anonymous writer admits that “the legendary lore which ascribes to the pirates a rendezvous at every marked spot on the Gulf shore has probably been exaggerated far beyond the bounds of truth,” but claims that “the ghastly relics of their crimes are sufficiently numerous to prove that tradition has added little to the actual horrors which have been enacted on the peaceful and lovely coast of the Mermantau.”

It is fact that the Mermantau area was once known as a refuge for smugglers. John Landreth, a government surveyor, visited the area in 1818 and wrote in his journal that “these places, particularly the Mermantau and Calcasieu are the harbours and Dens of the most abandoned wretches of the human race ... smugglers and Pirates who go about the coast of the Gulph (sic) in vessels of a small draught of water and rob and plunder without distinction every vessel of every nation they meet and are able to conquer and put to death every soul they find on board without respect of persons age or sex and then their unlawful plunder they carry all through the country and sell at a very low rate and find plenty of purchasers.”

There is also a persistent tale that Captain James Campbell, purportedly one of Lafitte's most trusted lieutenants, is supposed to have stashed a horde of gold coins somewhere near the Mermantau. That legend has been kept alive by discovery from time to time of

old gold coins in the area.

But I can find nothing other than this account about the hero and heroine, Leon and Nina. Did such a pair of lovers really exist? Is the story based at least partly on a real and tragic romance?

It could have been, but to paraphrase the story told in the old newspaper, it is a mystery that will likely remain forever unraveled.

A collection of Jim Bradshaw's columns, *Cajuns and Other Characters*, is now available from Pelican Publishing. You can contact him at jimbradshaw4321@gmail.com or P.O. Box 1121, Washington LA 70589.

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Published weekly every Thursday by Louisiana State Newspapers, Inc., at 108 North Adams Avenue. Entered in the Post Office in Rayne, Louisiana, for transmission through the mail as a Periodical under the Act of Congress, March 3, 1976. Second Class Postage paid at Rayne, Louisiana 70578.

CIRCULATION RATES

Mail in Acadia Parish - \$27.00 per year
Mail out of Acadia Parish - \$30.00 per year
Mail out of state - \$32.00 per year
Single copy - \$1.00

Entered as a Periodical Postage Paid at Mail at Rayne, Louisiana 70578 - ISSN 1069-2398

POSTMASTER: Send Form 3679 to The Rayne Acadian-Tribune, 108 N. Adams Ave., Rayne, LA 70578

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Numerous drug arrests made by Acadia Parish Sheriff's office

CROWLEY - As the Acadia Parish Sheriff's Office continues its efforts to rid Acadia Parish of illegal drug activities, seven arrests were recently made of individuals involved in drug sales and possession.

Sheriff K.P. Gibson has announced the following arrests:

- Bobby Bigger Jr., 58, of Crowley: distribution of methamphetamine, possession of CDS in drug free zone; non drug charges of two counts of home invasion and failure to register as a sex offender

- Torey Boudreaux, 30, of Church Point: possession with intent to distribute marijuana, possession of oxycodone, proceeds from drug offense,

possession of drug paraphernalia

- Samantha Bridges, 30, of Rayne: felony possession of marijuana

- Crystal Dogua, 35, of Rayne: possession of methamphetamine, proceeds from drug offense, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of marijuana, possession of clonazepam

na, possession of clonazepam

- Lucke Moore, 41, of Church Point: possession with intent to distribute marijuana, proceeds of CDS, obstruction of justice, CDS in a drug free zone

- Cory Royer, 43, of Lafayette: pos-

session of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of CDS in drug free zone

- Codey Trumps, 36, of Crowley: possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia, CDS in a drug free zone



Bobby Bigger Jr.



Torey Boudreaux



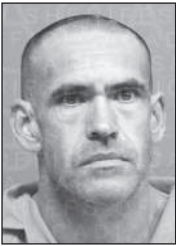
Samantha Bridges



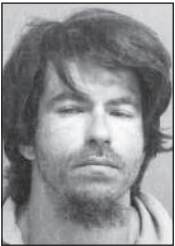
Crystal Dogua



Lucke Moore



Cory Royer



Codey Trumps

CHAMBER

Continued From Page 2A

was a great success as noted by Autin with youngsters in attendance enjoying a number of fun events and projects.

- The Board approved a \$1,000 reimbursement

to Kennidy Peavy following her two-year reign as Frog Festival Queen for traveling expenses.

In addition, it was also motioned and approved to amend the

Frog Festival Queen's contract as to the mandatory amount of reimbursement.

Under additional new business, Board members were reminded of

the Chamber's neutral political stance and Sikat asked board members to submit ideas before the May meeting for revenue events to be hosted by the Chamber

Announcements included:

- Members urged to attend April Tourist Commission meeting;
- Room Rentals:
- Rayne Marketplace on June 12; and
- Frog Festival Queen's Day on March 28.

Thanks were expressed to Cherie Gautreaux for providing a delicious lunch from Nonc Kev's and dessert

from Gautreaux's Donuts for the meeting.

Board members in attendance were Marietta Sikat, Docq Gaspard, Cynthia Oliver, Crystal Underwood (phone), Cherie Gautreaux, Mona Meche, Denise Brignac, Suzette Leonards (phone), and past president Jeremy Lavergne, along with Executive Director Jennifer Autin and intern Lexi Babineaux.



SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION - Parishioners of St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church and St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Catholic Church receiving the Holy Sacrament of Confirmation on Wednesday, March 24, at St. Benedict the Moor Church were Jonté Douglas Andrus, Kaia Leigh Bob, Kámyrie Joann Charles, Kelsey DéSean Cole, Trevor Jules Davis, Asiah Simone Dupont, Keerstin Bianca Brilot, Simone Alyse Gordon, David Warren Guidry II, Trevion Lamar Hollier, John Ethan Jolivet, Khloe Sage LeLeux, Malik Joseph Mouton, Landon Paul Ryder, Amyrie Danae Sonnier, Laci Renee Trahan and Maci Renee Trahan. Presiding for the Sacrament was Most Rev. J. Douglas Deshotel, Bishop of the Diocese of Lafayette, con-celebrated by Fr. J. Aaron Melancon. (Acadian-Tribune Photo by Josie Henry)

CROUERE

Continued From Page 4A

Afghanistan for a longer period, refusing to end a war that has lasted twenty years.

In addition, President Biden is changing the military by welcoming transgender service members once again, reversing the policy of the last administration. His Defense Secretary is purging "extremists" from the ranks of the military, but many Republicans suspect it is strictly an effort to target and remove Trump supporters and conservatives.

As a "woke" President, Biden is focusing on racial issues. His CDC Director, Rochelle Walensky, announced that her agency will "further investigate the impact of racism on health and efforts to achieve health equity for all."

This follows the President's criticism of the new Georgia election law as "Jim Crow in the 21st Century." Never mind that election hours were expanded, and that Georgia will offer 17 days of early voting, a longer period than many other states provide. Biden offered support for Major League Baseball moving the All-Star game from Atlanta and other businesses condemning the law and even boycotting the state of Georgia.

Of course, while Biden supports a boycott of Georgia, he refuses to advocate a boycott of the upcoming Olympic Games in China, a country that offers no free elections or voting and engages in actual genocide.

The President is pursuing these initiatives while claiming mask wearing is "patriotic" and virtue signaling by adorning two of his own. As

Biden goes "woke," Americans must realize this is no joke, but the greatest attempt to expand government and limit freedom in our country's history.

Biden's "woke" agenda

is dangerous and destructive and must be opposed for the actual survival of our country is at stake.

Jeff Crouere is a native New Orleanian and is a political columnist, the author

of America's Last Chance and provides regular commentaries on the Jeff Crouere YouTube channel and on Crouere.net.



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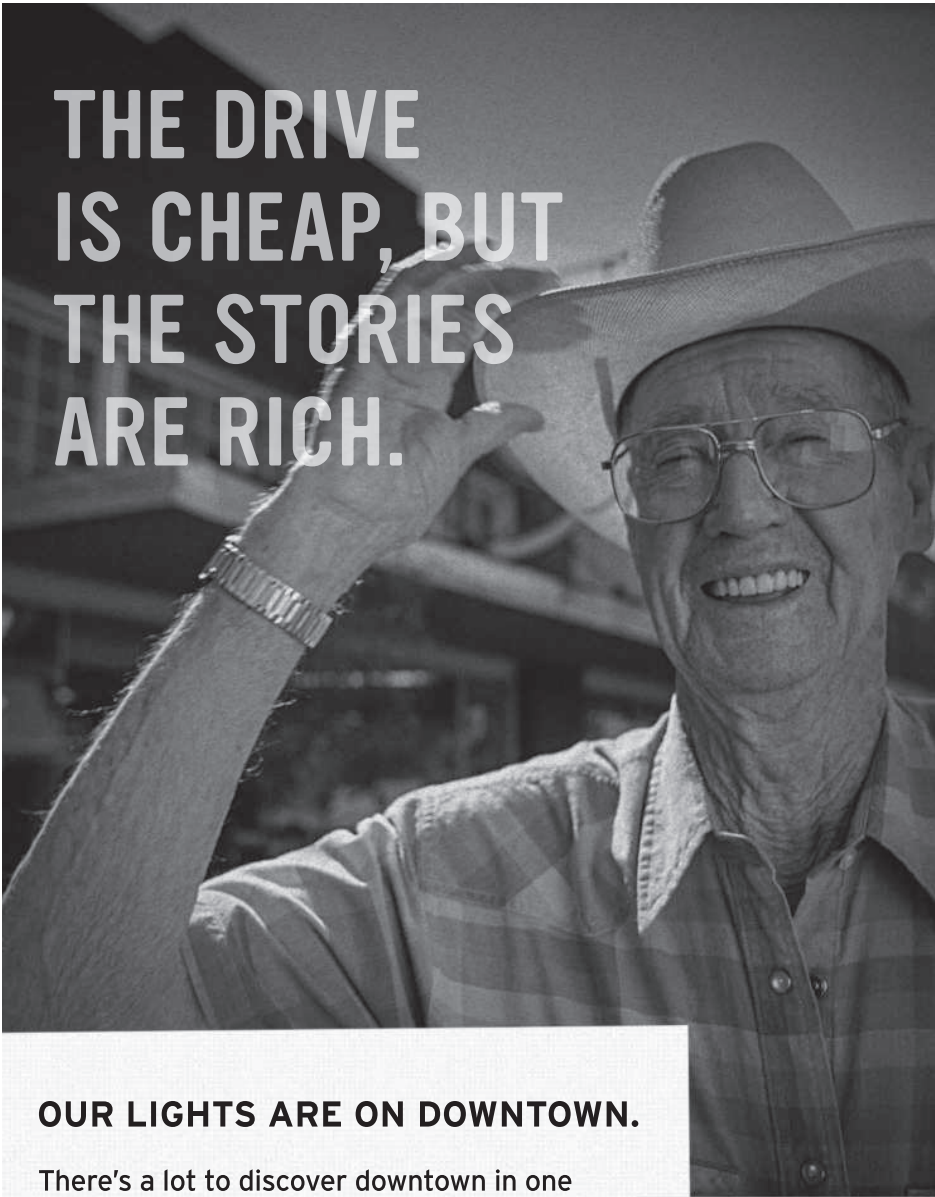
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Thursday, April 15, 2021

98th birthday celebration honors Earl Guidry Sr.

RAYNE - A special birthday parade and family celebration was held Saturday, April 3, in honor of Earl Guidry Sr. in observance of his 98th birthday.

Mr. Guidry was born February 10, 1923, to Mr. and Mrs. Lester Guidry of Rayne.

He was a dedicated member and served on the Rayne Police Department for over 20 years retiring in 1985, one of the first two people of color to become a Rayne Police officer in 1959. He now resides in Branch with his wife, Gwen Guidry.

His lone living sibling is Dallas Guidry Sr. Other siblings include the late John Guy, Ida Jackson, Timmie Guidry, Elzina Harmon, Horace Guidry Sr., Rosanna Smith, Norma Jean Alexander, Robert Guidry, Rodney Guidry, Rose Mary Guidry, Lester Guidry and Harry Guidry.

The festivities, hosted by his children and grandchildren, included a drive-by parade followed by a family celebration in his honor.

Making a presentation during the birthday celebration were Rayne Police officers Michael Cormier and Treavor Pellerin who presented the birthday honoree a special birthday cake on behalf of the Rayne Police Department.

Mr. Guidry's children include Julia Figaro of Houston, Rosie Boudreaux of Houston, Ida Goffney of Houston, Veris Rhodes of Crockett, Alberta Guidry of Houston, John Guidry of Houston, Randy Guidry of Houston, Robert Nickson of Rayne, Nolah Broussard of Chicago, Emma Francis of Port Barre and Osirin Price of Rayne.

His family also includes 31 grandchildren and 59 great-grandchildren.



CHILDREN HONOR FATHER - Children in attendance for a 98th birthday celebration held in honor of Earl Guidry Sr. (seated) included, standing from left, Julia Figaro, Rosie Boudreaux, Veris Rhodes and John Guidry. (Acadian-Tribune Photo by Josie Henry)



MEMBER OF RAYNE POLICE DEPARTMENT - Earl Guidry Sr. is noted in this picture taken in 1959 of the Rayne Police Department, including, seated from left, George Mouton, Ulysses LeJeune, Chief of Police Jake Morgan, Esta Lanthier, George Boudreaux; standing, Melvin Trahan, **Earl Guidry**, Buster Melancon, Wright Laverigne, Lennis Meche, John Bergeron, Oran Pryor and Cleveland Meche. Guidry served the Rayne community for over 20 years. (Photo Courtesy/Tony Olinger)



GIFT FROM POLICE DEPARTMENT - Rayne Police officers Michael Cormier and Treavor Pellerin present a birthday cake to Earl Guidry Sr. during a special 98th birthday party held in his honor. Guidry is a retired member of the Rayne Police Department. (Acadian-Tribune Photo by Josie Henry)

90th birthday celebration honors Margaret Young

LAFAYETTE - A special birthday celebration and crawfish/shrimp boil was held Saturday, April 3, in honor of Margaret Young of Rayne.

Mrs. Young was born March 25, 1930.

The special event was held

at the home of Rick and Kathy Young of Lafayette, hosts.

Mrs. Young and her husband, the late Merrick Young, are the parents of Pamela Gibbens of Houston, Texas, Rick Young of Lafayette, Susan Roberts of Lafayette and Steve Young of

Rayne. She is also the proud grandmother of 10 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

In addition to boiled crawfish and shrimp for everyone, family members were served a special Chantilly birthday cake.



The family of Margaret Young was in attendance for a special birthday celebration and crawfish/shrimp boil held in Lafayette on Saturday, April 3, in honor of her 90th birthday.



Margaret Young was honored on Saturday, April 3, during a special family celebration and crawfish/shrimp boil held in honor of her 90th birthday.

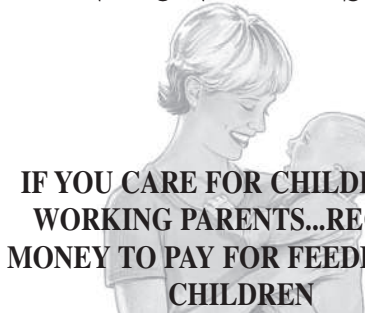
Pageants planned

RAYNE - All new Frog Festival queens will be crowned during a day-long program at the Rayne Pavilion including a Festival Cookoff.

The new Golden Frog Festival royalty will also be introduced during the festivities.

Additional information, along with times and schedules, will be given soon.

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Sports

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Wolves improve in district with win over LaGrange Ladies collect district wins, wait for state playoff brackets

BY LISA SOILEAUX Managing Editor

RAYNE - The Rayne High baseball team had a good week with three wins in as many outings. In district play, the Wolves captured back-to-back shutout wins against LaGrange, upping their district slate to 5-1. In their Tuesday 21-1 win, sharing pitching duties throughout four innings of play were Ryan Pellissier,

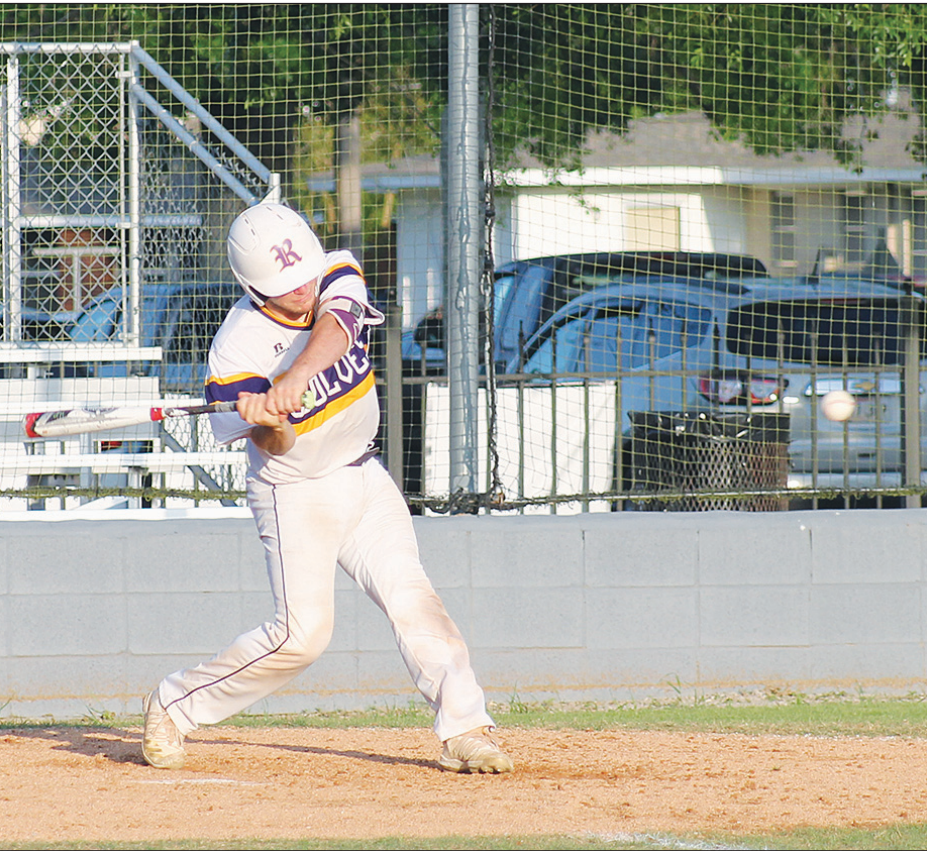
Colin LaCombe and Dayton Lewis. Leading at the plate were Ethan Theriot and Trey LaGrange, each knocking in five RBIs and 3-for-3 on the day. Kaleb Olivier, Colin LaCombe and Deuce Comeaux each were 2-for-3, while Reid Dupont and Wil Arceneaux added one hit each. During Thursday's 16-0 Rayne win over the Gators, Dylan Judice completed the five-inning contest with six strikeouts behind a tough Rayne de-

fense. Pellissier led at the plate with a 3-for-3 day and two RBI, while Baylon Leon and Kaleb Olivier were 2-for-2 with four RBIs. Completing the day with hits for Rayne were Ethan Theriot and JD Dupont. In a non-district contest, Rayne traveled to Caremcro where they scored a 8-5 win over the Bears. Behind LaCombe on the mound, who threw three innings with four strikeouts and no hits, the win was completed with Baylon Leon, Dayton Lewis and Derek Istre. The Wolves are scheduled to face Washington-Marion in important back-to-back games on April 20 and 22 to complete district play. Both Rayne and North Vermilion enter the last week of district play with only one loss. North Vermilion is slated to meet a tough Eunice team.

Lady Wolves

The Rayne High Lady Wolves grabbed an early lead on its way to a 17-7 victory over LaGrange on Thursday. Rayne scored on a stolen base by Ani Comeaux and a home run by Analie Dupuis in the first inning. There was plenty of action on the basepaths as Rayne collected 13 hits compared to LaGrange's four. After LaGrange scored one run in the top of the second, Rayne answered with one of their own. Rayne put up six runs in a big third inning seeing Harlee Doucet, Eryn Shreve, Demi Billings and Cali Billings knocking in runs. LaGrange scored three runs in the fourth inning. Lagrange batters contributing to the big inning included T

Humphrey and J LaFleur, who each had RBIs in the inning. Lizzie Comeaux was in the pitcher's circle for Rayne, allowing four hits and seven runs over five innings, striking out two. Rayne ripped two home runs on the day. Comeaux left the yard in the fifth inning with Dupuis hitting a long ball in the first inning. Rayne High totaled 13 hits on the day as Emily Marks, Shreve, Comeaux, Dupuis and Billings all managed multiple hits for the Lady Wolves. Marks went 3-for-5 at the plate to lead Rayne in hits. Rayne stole 11 bases during the outing as three players stole more than one with Dupuis led the way with three. Rayne's Emily Marks was in the zone on Wednesday, tallying four hits and leading Rayne High Lady Wolves to a 13-2 win over Westgate Lady Tigers. Marks singled in the first, singled in the second, singled in the third and singled in the fifth. Rayne fired up the offense in the first inning, when Demi Billings grounded out, scoring one run. Lizzie Comeaux led things off in the circle for the Lady Wolves lasting six innings allowing three hits and two runs, while striking out four. Marks went 4-for-4 at the plate to lead Rayne in hits. Rayne stole 19 bases during the game as five players stole more than one. Shreve led the way with five. The Lady Wolves stand at 2-4 in district play as they wait to meet Washington-Marion this week. They stand in the No. 21 position in power rankings. State playoffs are set to begin April 19 with brackets to be released this weekend.



SWING FOR A HIT - Rayne High's Deuce Comeaux turns on a pitch during the Wolves' 21-1 shutout of LaGrange during a district contest at Gossen Memorial Park last week, placing the team in good position with a 5-1 district tally. (Acadian-Tribune Photo by Lisa Soileaux)

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Teen Scene

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Thursday, April 15, 2021

Honor Roll

As announced by principal Alicia Ardo-in, students who have attained principal's list and honor roll status for the third nine weeks at Rayne Catholic Elementary during the 2020-2021 school year include:

Principal's List

1st grade: Camille Schexnayder, Eleanor Simon, Isla Stewart, Viet Tran.

2nd grade: Ava Anderson, Leigh Katherine Granger, Jacob Guidry, Anna Claire Hoffpauir, Stella Hollier, Kaylee Meche, Max Murrell, Beckett Sanders.

3rd grade: Nicholas Hoffpauir, Adler Pom-mier.

4th grade: none.

5th grade: Savannah Faust, Cheyenne Guidry, Caroline Prevost, Andrew Ronkartz.

6th grade: Samuel Cramer, Benjamin Fogleman, Anna Guidry, Andrew Hoffpauir, Jackson Trahan, Kate Trahan.

7th grade: Emily Abshire, Hannah Bearb,

Jaya D'Augereaux, Griffin Doucet, Mia Hazlett.

8th grade: Hayden Cary, Parker Faust, Nicholas Fogleman, Ava Foreman, Chloe Guidry, Emma Guidry, Madalyn Reiners.

Honor Roll

1st grade: Emma Fogleman, Hailey McGoffin, Bryant Meche, Karsyn Stutes, Elizabeth Trahan, Stella Woods, Graison Credeur, Parker Smith, Maddox Aucoin, Cecilia Gagliano.

2nd grade: Jude Gagliano, Hunter Hains, Ty Primeaux, Addy Arsement, Harrison Faust, Isaac Hormell, Vivian Moody, Beau Arceneaux, Ellie DeRouen, Will Hormell.

3rd grade: Sarah Guidry, Sawyer Thomas, Jackson Comeaux, Vivian Futch, Ella Ardo-in, Roman Daigle, Jack Fogleman, Patrick Prevost, Benjamin Granger, Lyndi LaRue, Audrey Lemaire, Aryana Pellissier, Allison Reiners, Ellie Zaunbrecher, Avery Beslin, Eli Rosinski.

4th grade: Addison

Beslin, Evan Schexnayder, Chloe Guidry, Emilie Trahan, Lukas Theunissen, Amelia Vienne, Ally Trahan,.

5th grade: Logan Alleman, Layne Autin, Maci Hazlett, Ava Pryor, Abigail Johnson.

6th grade: Audrey Fusilier, Gracie Hensgens, Avery Futch, Alexander Satchell, Mallory Aucoin, Dallas Beslin, Madelynn Dunseith, Lou Thomas.

7th grade: Ava Istre, Alyson Hebert, Logan Miller, Luke Ronkartz, Peighton Simoneaux, Samuel Casanova, Grant Pellissier, Max Trahan, Hayden Bergeaux, John Cramer, Jack Fontenot.

8th grade: Nylan Billy, Lily Futch, William Gautreaux, Eli Gros, Seth Miller, Gavin Gallet, Charly Scott, Lane Gautreaux, Jackson Casanova.

Alleman among area graduates receiving Woodmen scholarship

A number of local high school graduates were recently awarded WoodmenLife Focus Forward Scholarships.

The students, who are all WoodmenLife members, submitted applications highlighting their high school grades, activities and volunteerism, as well as an essay on patriotism.

Among this year's \$500 scholarship recipients is Morgan Alleman of Rayne.

A senior at Notre Dame High School of Acadia Parish, Morgan is the daughter of Brent Alleman and the late Christy Alleman.

Morgan is very involved with school clubs and excels in sports, recently signing a letter of intent to continue her softball career on the college level. She plans to become a pharmacist



Morgan Alleman

and eventually own her own pharmacy.

Area honorees include Sophie LeMaire of Lafayette, Libby Bult of Eunice, Alahnnah Broussard of Opelousas, and Elizabeth Parker of Lafayette.

"These youth embody all that WoodmenLife stands for," said WoodmenLife President & CEO, Patrick L. Dees.

"We are honored to provide these scholarships to help our deserving young members further their education and realize their dreams."

The WoodmenLife Focus Forward Scholarship program is just one of the wide range of valuable extras the organization offers its members. A person becomes a member when they purchase a WoodmenLife life insurance or retirement product.

Since the organization started the scholarship program in 2017, it has awarded more than \$2 million in scholarships to nearly 4,000 students who are pursuing their education at trade schools, colleges or universities. This year, WoodmenLife will award 497 scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$25,000.

Engineering students second in PetroBowl

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette PetroBowl Team knows its stuff about the oil and gas industry.

The quiz bowl team also knows a thing or two about data analysis, machine learning, geo-energy politics and other topics related to petroleum engineering.

It finished second in North America during recent PetroBowl competition, and claimed a spot in the international finals of the Society of Petroleum Engineers' contest. As part of the PetroBowl competitions, students who belong to SPE student chapters square off against each other in a series of rapid-fire rounds.

Thirty-two teams earned berths in the finals based on performances in recent qualifier tournaments. The finals are expected to be held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, sometime this fall. Should pandemic considerations change current plans, the finals will be held virtually.

Either way, teams from Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Europe, the Middle East, North America and South America will face off to determine which knows the most about the petroleum engineering industry.

UL Lafayette's team earned its chance during the virtual North America tournament won by the University of Texas at Austin. Along the way, it beat former international champions LSU and the University of Oklahoma.

The five quiz bowlers have taken the University's PetroBowl team into familiar territory.

In 2016, it placed second in the world during the PetroBowl finals in Dubai. That showing followed a fourth-place finish in Houston the year before, and a fifth-place finish in Amsterdam in 2014.

The team's faculty advisor and coach, Dr. Chinedum Ezeakacha, participated in all three events.

Undergraduate and graduate students from any major who belong to Society of Professional Engineers campus chapters can participate in PetroBowl events.



RCE SHADOW WAY OF THE CROSS PRESENTED - Holy Week at Rayne Catholic Elementary ended with the annual 8th grade reenactment of the Shadow Way of the Cross, bringing to life the "Passion and Death of Jesus Christ." Here, one of the final scenes is shown, portraying the three crosses during His Crucifixion. (Photo Submitted)

76.5% districts provide full in-person learning

BATON ROUGE - Louisiana school districts that offer in-person learning to all grades made up 76.5 percent of the total, the sixth-highest share among all 50 states, according to an online instructional tracker developed by the American Enterprise Institute.

Among the remainder of the Louisiana districts, 19.1 percent were classified as hybrid, while 4.4 percent had fully remote in-

struction, according to the instructional tracker, which was created in partnership with Davidson College.

Florida ranked No. 1 in the findings with

98.5 percent of its school districts offering in-person learning.

The Acadia Parish School System offers in-person learning at 100 percent of its

schools.

Also in the top five were Nebraska, 83.7 percent; Alabama, 82.7 percent; Kansas, 80.8 percent; and Missouri, 77.2 percent.

Nutrition Educator 1 - Paraprofessional (EFNEP)

The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) is a federally funded program to help limited-resource families and youth to develop skills and behaviors to eat healthfully.

This position will be responsible for conducting nutrition education programs with diverse, limited-resource families and youth in a group setting within the community. Educational outreach will include presentations, exhibits, and food demonstrations based on provided curricula through virtual and in-person delivery methods. Regular duties include recruiting and enrolling adult and youth participants and volunteers into EFNEP; program planning and organizing the education delivery; collecting and maintaining data for evaluation; submitting required reports into the computer; and attending all trainings and conferences. The ability to communicate (written & orally) is an important aspect to the position. The nutrition educator will be supervised by an LSU AgCenter nutrition agent.

- Pay Scale: SS404
- Position Number: R00053960
- Location: Crowley, LA
- Minimum Requirements: No specialized training or experience required.
- Resumes will not be accepted in lieu of completing the work experience section of the application. Please list all work experience. Resumes will not be accepted in lieu of a completed application. You must include all relevant education and experience on your official application.
- No Civil Service test score required.
- Apply online at <https://lsu.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/LSU>
- Application Deadline: 04/24/2021 or until suitable candidate is identified.

The LSU Agricultural Center is a statewide campus of the LSU System and provides equal opportunities in programs and employment. An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.



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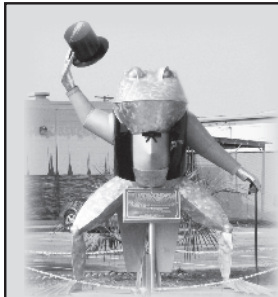
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Early Childhood and Pre-Kindergarten Registration 2021-2022

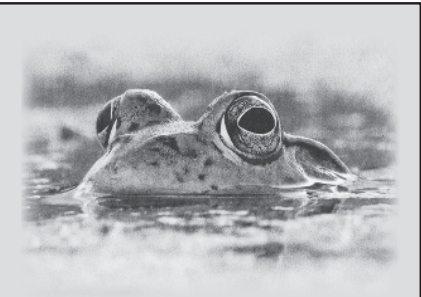
All Acadia Parish Early Childhood Network participants, including public schools, Head Start programs, and child care centers, are beginning to accept applications for all early childhood programs for the 2021-2022 school year. In addition to onsite registration at each site, the district office has launched an initial, online application to begin the application process. Once completed, the initial information will be sent to the school/site of interest. If you have questions, please feel free to contact your school or program of interest or email prek.support@acadia.k12.la.us. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we ask families to follow all state and local protocols to maintain safety for all.

To complete the initial, online application, please go to the Acadia Parish School Board Website at acadia.k12.la.us and click Acadia Parish Pre-K Application 2021-2022. We look forward to working with you and your child!



Lot 13, Block 1 Plan of Rayne

"That fellow that owns his own home is always
just coming out of the hardware store." — Barbed Wire



Les Cuisses de Grenouilles

Frog Legs

An Over-View of the Frog Industry in Rayne

Pucheu

Weil

Baer

Babineaux

Chatelain

“Les ouaouarons sont un cadeau de la Bon Dieu”

Anonymous Cajun Frog Catcher

By **SIDNEY STUTES**
Special to the Tribune

In **July, 1944**, the Rayne Lions Club contracted with the Gossen Lumber Yard to build a “Roll of Honor” at the town center, the Depot Square.

At a time, unlike our own, when patriotism to country was considered a virtue by all, the Lions decided not to wait any longer to honor publicly all local area men who were in the nation’s service (WW II did not end until September, 1945).

There would be a slight delay at the start of construction of the huge, wood-board sign measuring some 18 feet in height and 40 feet in width. The Tribune sought to explain, “*Work will begin as soon as carpenters are available.*” The great war would create all sorts of shortages.

Clifton H. Besse, widely-known furniture store owner, and a charter member of the Rayne Lions Club, served as chairman of the project – and the entire Lion membership would unveil the “Roll of Honor,” **which listed an astounding 824 names of Rayne area men in the service of their country**, with more to be added by war’s end

The “Roll of Honor” stood for years in the Depot Square, facing Highway 90, attracting many a traveler who drove through town on this, the main east-west route in this part of the country at the time.

It became a “landmark” of sorts, figuratively overpowering those who stopped to reflect on the magnitude of this small community’s contribution in treasure to the victory of freedom over tyranny.

And – all could not but notice the 15 “Gold Stars” painted next to the names of the several “Boys of Rayne” who gave the supreme sacrifice

Of the many “visitors,” two from Rayne could be seen regularly, in early morning hours, with bowed heads before the “Roll of Honor” – Edmond and Jacques Weil, father and uncle of “fallen soldier” Sgt. George Weil.

And, since Mr. Jacques’s and Edmond’s business house was just across the square and down Polk Street only a few yards, it was said that they did not seem to be able to step out of their office without glancing toward the “Roll of Honor,” which stood for all, a silent sentinel of the valor that victory had required.

The sign had been built as a solid wood background, in 4” center-match



The entire Lions Club membership turned out for the dedication of the “Roll of Honor” at the Depot Square, which listed an astonishing 824 names of Rayne-area men in the service of their country. Shown kneeling, from left, Walter Bruner, Marcus Bordelon, Otis Lalande, Cliff Besse, Romain Navarre, Thomas Johnson Sr., and Willie Gilbert, Standing, from left, Emile Daboval, Louis Butaud, Unidentified, Orton Besse, Paul Breaux, Waddy Arceneaux, Adolph Sommer, Red Norris, Ed Allen, Edel Jankower, August Chappuis and Earle Craig.

boards, and painted white. On hooks, name placards hung in alphabetical order for every man serving the country.

Years later, WW II veteran William “Kootsie” Simoneaux provided a special recollection of Rayne’s “Roll of Honor.” In Kootsie’s memory, the name placards were likely “written” by local sign painter Luke McGee. And, interestingly, it was Kootsie himself who, in the early 1950’s, was asked by local officials to take the sign down. By then, it looked a bit dilapidated, with many name placards missing, most of them removed, Kootsie believed, by family members of the veterans

Kootsie used the lumber to add an extension to his coffee shop which he operated at the time on Texas Avenue (Fontenot’s Insurance Company).

The Tribune would continue to report the schedule of train arrivals with remains of the “Rayne boys” who had died in battle, well into 1949 and beyond.

The end of the great war brought relief to most households in Rayne. For one thing, “rationing” was halted. Coffee, sugar, cooking oil, et al. reappeared on grocery shelves, and the local “tire police” unit was disbanded. One could actually buy “new tires,” which meant that all those patched inner tubes were now available

to be cut up into slingshots by the kids.

And almost weekly, the Tribune headlined the opening of some new business, with car dealerships and service stations leading the pack, one on every corner it seemed. Furniture stores, radio repair and dry-cleaning shops sprang up. Mervine Kahn expanded into groceries and air-conditioned its soft-goods departments, inviting shoppers to make their selections “in comfortable and inviting temperatures.”

And – it went without saying that “night clubs” and bars enjoyed “new life” in the tradition that was Rayne’s from its beginnings.

Through it all, the war had not, of course, exempted the frog and farm produce businesses from a “fall-off.” But, Rayne’s two “Frog Pens” outlasted the troubled times, and both the Jacques Weil and Babineaux brothers’ frog operations would mirror the optimism a new war-free year offered.

Moreover – the turn of the calendar page into 1946 brought more than a restoration of confidence to the Babineaux-owned **Louisiana Frog Company**. The firm’s original partner, Lionel, would decide to leap beyond “The Pen” and into civic and public life.

With the end of the war insight, Rayne’s four-term mayor Joseph Gossen, Jr. (1930-1946) had himself decided to change course. He went into the construction business in Lafayette, leaving businessman Herbert J. Sills

as Mayor Pro-Tem for the last four months of the term.

Therefore – in the spring of 1946, Rayne was to have an “open election” without an incumbent mayor, that is, for the first time in years. And, in well-rooted tradition, two political “tickets” formed.

The returns of the April, 1946 election proved decisive.

For mayor – prominent lawyer and recent school board member N. Curtiss Petitjean won over his opponent George W. Butcher by a wide margin of 582 votes – 1,324 to 742.

In fact, the entire “Petitjean Ticket” swept into office. At a time when council members were elected “at large,” the top five vote-getters were declared winners, all “Petitjean Ticket” members, including:

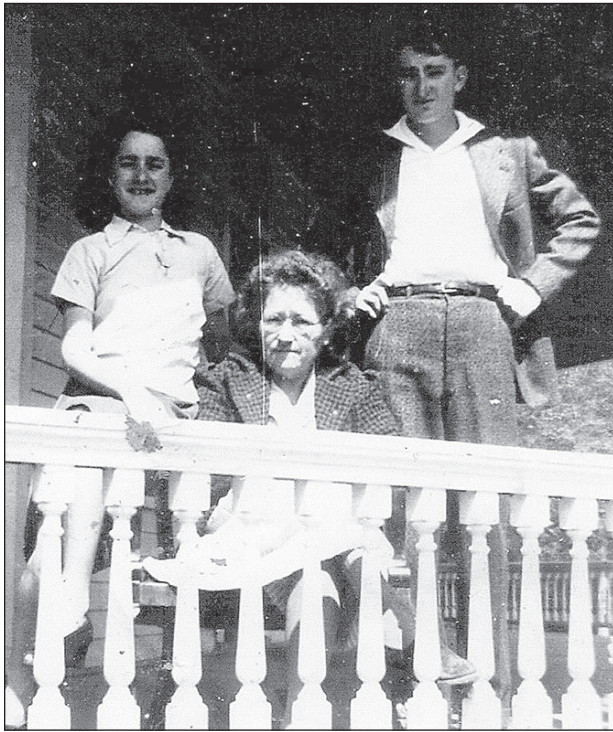
- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| Lionel Babineaux | 1,296 |
| Barney Foreman | 1,262 |
| Walter McBride | 1,242 |
| Louis “Mike” Fields | 1,191 |
| Adam Trahan | 1,180 |
- And, Petitjean-supporter Clyde La-Croix defeated Rene “Block” Bergeron by a count of 1,360 to 656 in the race for Chief of Police.

Lionel Babineaux – the young vagabond of 1930, who had found his way from Cade to Mermentau, to settle finally in Rayne as a co-partner in the Louisiana Frog Company, had within sixteen years, become the top vote-getter on the Rayne Council of Aldermen.

The new administration would come into office in dramatic fashion – **at 12:01 o’clock, Monday morning, July 1, 1946 at City Hall** – literally at the stroke of midnight!

The Tribune celebrated Mayor Petitjean’s election with a congratulatory editorial and commented that Rayne’s new leaders took office “. . . with the very best wishes of all their friends and supporters and all who are interested in the future welfare and progress of Rayne.”

The Rayne paper continued, “James C. Arceneaux, Jr., campaign manager for the Petitjean



The so-called “White House” on Clegg Street was fronted by a long, wrap-around porch which became Jeanne Baer’s “retreat,” to spend her evenings there, allowing the gathering nightfall to absorb her heartache. Shown with Jeanne is son Max (left) and oldest son Bernard.



In the years following her husband’s death, Jeanne Baer purchased a wood-framed house on the corner of Malvern and West “B” Street, began refurbishing it, but realized it was too small to accommodate her family of 11 children. Jeanne next moved to a house on Clegg Street.

PLAN

From Page 9A

ticket . . . and recently returned WW II veteran, administered the oath of office to Mayor N. Curtiss Petitjean, who, in turn, gave this pledge to the members of the city council and the new chief of police.”

Thusly inaugurated

– at that unusual hour – the Mayor and Council unanimously passed its first resolution, a call for “a special census numeration of the residents of this community.” The complaint was that the federal census- takers of 1940 had under-count-

ed our residents, thereby causing the town to “lose the advantage of its due rating as a city.” Afterwards, it was announced that the next regularly scheduled meeting would take place on Tuesday, July 2, 1946. Then, the session adjourned – and everyone “went home to bed.”

The first week of July, 1946 would, indeed, prove to be eventful beyond the exhilaration of a political campaign.

Lionel and Lucy Cary Babineaux, senior partners in the Louisiana Frog Company lived at the south corner of the 700 block of S. Adams. **Jeanne Caillouet Baer** (widow of Louis Baer, original co-partner with Lionel), after a series of moves brought about by financial trouble, now lived on Clegg Street in North Rayne with her 11 fatherless children.

As noted, Lionel Babineaux was sworn into political office at midnight that Monday, July 1, 1946 morning

Jeanne Baer, as the Tribune reported, “. . . passed away at 5:07 p. m. on Friday, July 5, 1946 . . . following an illness of almost five years duration and a critical condition of just a few days preceding her death.”

Dr. Joseph Clyde Bruner, the faithful family physician, was left to explain, “**Jeanne died of a broken heart**,” having been unable to contend with the sadness that descended into her life at Louis’s death five years earlier in 1941.

Over the years – the **Baers** and the **Babineauxs** had joined the **Pucheus** and **Weils** as “royalty” in the frog industry of Rayne. Now,

in mid-summer, 1946, the Pucheus were “long gone,” the Weils were “rebounding” on S. Polk, and “**the eleven orphaned Baer children**” (who would return to the “Green House” on S. Adams), had relinquished to the Babineaux brothers the operation of the **Louisiana Frog Company**.

In partnership, the three brothers – Lionel, (50%), Desire (25%), and

Pete (25%) headed what many considered the premier frog company in the country.

Desire and Cecile (Bernard) Babineaux, with children Patrick, Bernard, and Sue, resided at 210 Second Street, up a few blocks from **Pete and Gladys (LeBlanc) Babineaux**, and young daughter, Yvette, who lived at 812

See PLAN, Page 11A



When Jeanne Baer died in July of 1946, her wake was held at the new Gossen Funeral Home on West Texas Avenue, across Wiltz Street, from where her husband Louis Baer’s services had been held.

The Rayne
Acadian - Tribune
Devotional/Directory

This Devotional and Church Directory are made possible by these businesses who encourage us all to attend the worship service of your choice.

APOSTOLIC	
FIRST APOSTOLIC Mire-Duson Exit, Duson Walter Richards, Min. W.S. 10 a.m. & 7 p.m. Wed. 7 p.m.	STARLIGHT BAPTIST 206 Webb St., Rayne Nathan T. Stevens, Min., 334-2242 S.S. 8 a.m.; W.S. 9 a.m. Tues. 6 p.m.
ASSEMBLY OF GOD	CATHOLIC
ABUNDANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD Gossen Park Drive, Rayne Melvin Finley, Min., 334-2781 W.S. 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.	ASSUMPTION B.V.M. Hwy. 95, Mire Rev. Mike Arnaud Sat. Mass 4 p.m. Sun. Mass 8 & 10 a.m.
BAPTIST	OUR MOTHER OF MERCY SHRINE 600 W. Jefferson Davis St., Rayne Rev. Emmanuel Awe, 334-3516 Sat. Mass 5:30 p.m. Sun. Mass 10 a.m.
DUSON BAPTIST MISSION 812 Cameron St., Duson Felix Seller, Min., 873-4702 S.S. 9 a.m.; W.S. 10 a.m. & 6 p.m. Wed. 6:30 p.m.	ST. BASIL CATHOLIC Judice Rev. A Rex Broussard, Sat. Mass 4 p.m. Sun. Mass 8 & 10 a.m.
ELIZABETH MEMORIAL BAPTIST Hwy. 365, Branch Kevin Colson, Min., 334-4004 S.S. 9 a.m.; W.S. 10 a.m. & 6 p.m. Wed. 6:30 p.m.	ST. BENEDICT DE MOOR Hwy. 90, Duson Rev. Aaron Melancon, Sat. Mass 5:30 p.m. Sun. Mass 8:30 a.m.
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF RAYNE 1715 E. Jefferson Davis Gene Lee, Min., 334-4154 S.S. 9 a.m.; W.S. 10 a.m. & 6 p.m. Wed. 6:30 p.m.	ST. EDMUNDS CHAPEL Hwy. 385, Branch Rev. Paul Broussard,

Sat. Mass 4 p.m. Sun. Mass 7:30 a.m.	ST. LEO'S IV CATHOLIC 7166 Roberts Cove Rd., Rayne Rev. Paul Broussard, 334-5056 Sat. Mass 5:30 p.m. Sun. Mass 9 a.m.
ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC 401 S. Adams Ave., Rayne Rev. Brent Smith, 334-2193 Sat. Mass 4 p.m. Sun. Mass 7 & 10 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.	ST. TERESA CATHOLIC 200 C St., Duson Rev. Aaron Melancon, 873-4962 Sat. Mass 4 p.m. Sun. Mass 7 & 10 a.m.

CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST	NAZARENE
CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST 311 Holt St., Rayne Ben Wells, Min., 334-7418 S.S. 9:30 a.m.; W.S. 11 am. Thurs. 4:30 p.m.	EBENEZER CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 1020 Ebenezer Rd., Crowley Joe Talhelm, Min., 783-7586 S.S. 9:45 a.m.; W.S. 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m. Wed. 7 p.m.
METHODIST	PENTECOSTAL
BRANCH UNITED METHODIST Branch; Charles Floyd, Min. W.S. 8 p.m.	THE PENTECOSTALS OF RAYNE Wayne Blanchard, Min. W.S. Sun. 2 p.m. Wed. 7:30 p.m.
CUNNINGHAM C.M.E. 300 W. Harrop St., Rayne Louis P. Curriere, Min., 334-3303 S.S. 9:30 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m.	PRESBYTERIAN
EBENEZER UNITED METHODIST Ebenezer; Chris Blanchard, Min. S.S. 9 a.m.; W.S. 10 a.m.	FIRST PRESBYTERIAN 321 E. 4th St., Crowley Jimmy Broussard, Min., 783-2249 S.S. 9:45 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m.
INDIAN BAYOU UNITED METHODIST Hwy. 700, Indian Bayou Robert Johnson, Min., 334-7166 S.S. 10 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m.	OTHER
MARYLAND CHAPEL C.M.E. Branch, Rev. Banks, Min. S.S. 9:45 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m.	ACADIAN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP 511 Clegg St., Rayne Charland Jordan, Min., 334-7122 W.S. 10 a.m. Wed. 6 p.m.
	NEW TESTAMENT MINISTRY 216 E. Texas Ave., Rayne Mary Ann Cole, Min. S.S. 10 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m.

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The Power of No

"Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world."
1 John 2:15-16 NIV

There is power in saying no, insofar as it allows us to say yes to what is important in life. If you are one of the many people who have trouble saying no, you know intuitively how true this is. That is, we are often stuck doing things we did not want or need to do simply because we couldn't say no. How often have you been pulled away from something that was important to do and aligned with your values by someone asking you to do something that didn't need to be done, or worse, something frivolous. Parents, teachers, and managers all have to say no with some frequency during their lives and their occupations. A parent who cannot say no will raise unruly children who are difficult to be around. It is good advice for parents and teachers to not let their children or students do things which are bothersome to them, lest they raise children who are bothersome to others. Perhaps the power of no is most relevant to our moral and spiritual lives. Leading a good life requires us to affirm our values, and this necessarily entails rejecting the things which are antithetical to them. Loving God and living a truly spiritual life requires us to say no to much of this world's values. —Christopher Simon

The Rayne
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PLAN

From Page 10A

Second.

And though the “frog pen” fronted Devil’s Alley, it was still located in Lucy and Lionel’s yard on the 700 block of S. Adams

And, from there, all the activity of the family-operated business transpired – and all sorts of fumes, odors, and scents emanated.

Now – “Miss Lucy” had “put-up” with all this for years, but she didn’t like it, just out her side door and all. “Miss Lucy” had complained – and Lionel had promised.

So – when Lionel got to fulfill one of his fantasies by jumping into politics, “Miss Lucy” insisted.

“The Pen” would be moved. But truth be told, Lionel had already thought well-beyond the re-location of the pen. Of the Babineaux brothers, it was said that Lionel was the “dreamer,” the visionary who anticipated the opportunities a post-war economy would offer.

By 1946, Lionel Babineaux had come so far from the sugar cane fields of St. Martin Parish and the river’s edge at Mermentau. He owned a highly profitable business and was a leader of his community’s government. But, there would

be so much more to accomplish.

Lionel – and his brothers – began by purchasing a new site for their frog business, the whole



Dr. Joseph Clyde Bruner, long-caring family doctor, stated at Jeanne Baer “died of a broken hear,” having been unable to contend with the sadness that had descended upon her at her husband’s death in 1941.

of Lot No. 8 in “Comeaux Addition” in Rayne. The property was oddly shaped, extending southwardly along its western edge some 1,003 feet, with some 658 feet of east-west frontage along Highway 90 – and, in a somewhat triangular shape therefrom, extending to the south across the “dredged ditch” that drained all of south Rayne at the time.

At Mayor N. Curtiss Petitjean’s law office, the formalities were signed on September 10, 1946. **Whitney Comeaux** sold the “said property” for \$9,000 to the Louisiana Frog Company which was certified in legalities as “a partnership composed of *Lionel Babineaux, Desire’ Babineaux, and David Babineaux, Jr., herein represented by Lionel Babineaux.*”

Still – “Miss Lucy” would have to wait, for a while yet, to have the frog pen removed from her yard. To Lionel, it was always, “First Things First” – in business, civic responsibilities, politics – and, perhaps, more importantly, in the planning required for success.

And that – and more – would occupy a very busy Lionel Babin-eaux in the fall of 1946.

Upcoming events

April 16

The Acadia Parish Chamber of Commerce will host its annual Golf Classic. The event is open to the public and the cost of \$300 per team. Call 788-0177 for more info.

April 17

Time Out, Shout Out, Gun Violence Awareness Rally will be held at 1 p.m. at the corner of West Jeff Davis and Reynolds.

April 18

Notre Dame High School will host “Project Graduation” at the ND Ag Building on the school campus 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Jambalaya dinner tickets are \$10 each and will include jambalaya, green beans and bread.

April 19

The program for seniors, “Food For Seniors,” will continue at the Southside Community Center between the hours of 7-10 a.m. For info, call

334-4848.

April 24

Sportsmen are invited to participate in the 2021 Skeet Shoot Fundraiser for Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church. The event will be held at Ed’s Sporting Goods & Shooting Clays Range, 21325 Chestnut Road, Kaplan, LA 70548.

Rayne Catholic Elementary will host its annual auction at The Warehouse Event Center in Rayne.

April 28

Rotary Club of Rayne will sponsor its annual Spring Blood Drive at Rayne Building and Loan between 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

May 1

The Ebonite Civic and Social Club of Rayne will host the 2021 annual Debutante Ball “A Spring Bouquet” at The Crossing at Mervine Kahn.

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