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# The Eunice News

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\$1.00

## Stefanski became public face of COVID-19 response

By Sandy Melancon  
The Crowley Post-Signal

One of Acadiana's most trusted voices throughout the COVID-19 pandemic has been that of Dr. Tina Stefanski.

As the medical director of the Louisiana Office of Public Health for Region 4 (Acadiana), she has spent the past year dashing from meetings with doctors and public officials to televised news conferences to schools to public health units to numerous public speaking engagements, always sharing the latest news and advice on COVID.

With so much contradictory information on the virus, many people were not sure whose advice they should follow. But peo-

ple around here knew and trusted Dr. Stefanski. And when she spoke, they tended to listen attentively.

Most people in Crowley who watched her grow up simply call her Tina; and all around town you could hear people saying, "Tina was on TV last night and she said....." And their tone of voice let you know that they trusted her words and were willing to follow her advice.

Although she now resides in Lafayette, Stefanski is very proud of growing up and receiving her education in Crowley. Inspired by Dr. Jack Frank and Dr. Tom Casanova, beloved local physicians known for compassionate care of their patients,

she decided to become a pediatrician. So off she went to LSU and then LSU Medical School.

While working with children in community clinics during her residency, she began to realize the important role that public health plays in providing critical information and services to all Louisiana citizens.

So upon graduation, Stefanski began working with the Office of Public Health, a state organization that typically deals with infectious diseases and environmental hazards such as unsafe drinking water. But a year ago, COVID suddenly became their main focus.

In the beginning of the pandemic when little was known

about the virus or its treatment and there was no cure, death was the usual outcome of a COVID infection. So as disagreeable as they may have been, she says the restrictions that were put into place were absolutely necessary to slow transmissions, buy time for scientists and doctors to figure out this new virus, and ultimately save lives.

She feels that Region 4/Acadiana handled the new protocols of lockdowns, shutdowns, mask wearing and social distancing of the past year quite well. When trying to get people to follow these new guidelines, Stefanski found that if she explained the



Dr. Tina Stefanski

(See Stefanski Page 2)

## Wreck on Interstate 10 kills 2



Louisiana State Police say two people were killed in a crash Thursday morning on I-10 East near mile marker 69. Authorities say the crash happened after a vehicle crossed the median and struck an 18-wheeler. Traffic was

diverted to Exit 65 to U.S. Highway 90 until just before 1 p.m. Turn to Page 6 for the story. (Photo courtesy of The Crowley Post-Signal)

## Board vote on deputy chief was years in the making

By Harlan Kirgan  
Editor

Eliminating a top position in the police department is a major decision and it is one the Eunice Board of Aldermen took at their March 9 meeting.

The move probably shouldn't have come as a surprise and there's nothing subtle about a rift between Police Chief Randy Fontenot and the Board of Aldermen.

For example, earlier in the meeting, the Board decided unanimously to rescind approval given in July 2020 to lease-purchase seven new police vehicles.

Fontenot won approval to buy the vehicles in a plan that he said would save the city by buying two vehicles equipped for pursuit and the rest without pursuit packages. The idea is non-pursuit vehicles would be used for transportation other than patrolling.

What followed were months of delays by the Board. What happened at the March 9 meeting is an example of the delay that has occurred since July 2020.

Aldermwoman Connie Thibodeaux, who introduced the motion to rescind the July vehicle-buying vote, said, "He was supposed to give us a list of vehicles ..." referring to the police chief providing a vehicle inventory.

Alderman Ernest Blanchard followed with, "Another reason you didn't have the correct information on those vehicles is because even we thought they were paid for and they still had, what, two or three months left, Randy, on the budget."

The police chief replied, "But the vehicle that we

had gotten prices on you can't even order them now. So, now we have to wait until the 2022s start production."

Later, Thibodeaux brought up the list again. "So, you were supposed to get us a new list for the vehicles. I think last month, right?"

Mayor Scott Fontenot said the inventory list had been provided.

The mayor said fiscal consultant Steve Moosa would be asked to attend the next meeting "to get the ball rolling" on the equipment.

And, a special meeting might be called to address the issue, he said.

The police chief countered, "It doesn't pay to do that until they come out with their new 2022s list and pricing. That's going to be this summer at the earliest..."

Later in that meeting the decision was made to scrap the deputy police chief position over the protest of the police chief.

Board members cite a top-heavy department. Fontenot says the department doesn't get a realistic budget that covers the entire year.

The relationship is one where the Board has the votes and the police chief has none. But the police chief has control of his department on day-to-day basis.

The surprising thing is the police chief won reelection in November 2018 with 78% of the vote. In December 2014, Fontenot won a runoff election with 59% of the vote. Those votes suggest the police chief has public support.

In May 2019, Eunice voters approved a 0.25% sales tax for police pay (See Police, Page 6)

## New DA Pitre announces sentencing of murderer to 3 life sentences

In his first major announcement at St. Landry Parish district attorney, Chad Pitre announced that murderer Phillip Wayne DeWoody, 54, was sentenced Tuesday to three life sentences.

Pitre also took the occasion to note that Dewoody was on parole, having been re leased from prison 91 years early by the Louisiana Parole Board when he went on a deadly crime spree in February 2020.



Chad Pitre

Pitre indicated that Louisiana's liberal criminal justice reform which began a few years ago is a main reason Dewoody was paroled early.

Pitre stated District Judge Ledricka Thierry accepted DeWoody's guilty pleas to first-degree murder of Joyce Thomas, 72, and aggravated kidnapping and rape of a second woman.

The life sentences are to run con-

currently.

"Finally justice was delivered today for these two victims and their families," Pitre said.

Pitre said the sentences were supported by the victims' families and allowed Dewoody to plead as originally charged.

Pitre's office agreed not to seek the death penalty in exchange for the plea.

Pitre said his staff has prioritized and aggressively started prosecuting the most violent criminals in our area.

"Our prosecutors are extremely busy and will remain that way for the foreseeable future," Pitre said.

The Advocate reported Thomas was deaf and last seen leaving her apartment on North Chataignier Street in Ville Platte with DeWoody on Feb. 26, 2020. The 54-year-old text-messaged and called the woman's family with ransom demands and sent a video of her inside an abandoned home in St. Landry Parish. He threatened her family not to involve law enforcement, an affida-

vit said.

Her body was later discovered in a wooded area off Interstate 49 in Grand Coteau adjacent to the abandoned property where the ransom tape was filmed, The Advocate reported.

On Feb. 22, DeWoody forced an Opelousas woman into his vehicle and drove her to the same abandoned property where he later murdered Thomas. DeWoody forced the woman to lie on the ground, while she kicked him and begged to go home. DeWoody sexually assaulted the woman, then cut her feeding tube, an arrest affidavit said.

The Advocate reported DeWoody later returned her to the intersection of Market and Foulard streets in Opelousas, the same

(See Sentence, Page 5)



Phillip DeWoody





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The University of Louisiana at Lafayette's Dr. Benjamin Yates is seeking donated musical instruments he will pass on to students in the Dominican Republic. Yates, an assistant professor and trombonist, will perform with professional orchestras in the Caribbean nation in August. (Photo courtesy of University of Louisiana at Lafayette)

## Music professor seeks music instruments to donate to Dominican Republic students

LAFAYETTE — Dr. Benjamin Yates' trombone isn't the only instrument he'll take to the Dominican Republic when he travels to the Caribbean nation to perform with professional orchestras.

The assistant professor in the School of Music and Performing Arts at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette plans to bring flutes, clarinets, saxophones, bassoons, oboes, trumpets, horns, violins, and other band instruments.

Yates needs help packing, though.

He's seeking donated instruments — working instruments or those needing minor repairs — that will be passed on to student musicians in cities such as Santiago, La Vega, San Pedro de Macoris and Santo Domingo.

"Maybe you have a family member who started in band in fifth grade then dropped out on high school. Or, you've got an old instrument that's been sitting in the attic forever that you don't know what to do with. Whatever it

may be, I can find a home for it," Yates said.

He's helping two professors from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa — Tony Guzman and Michael K. Smith — coordinate the donations. Yates studied under Guzman and Smith at the college, where he earned a bachelor's degree in music education and trombone performance in 2008.

The Dominican Trombonists Association invited the trio to be featured artists and clinicians at its 2021 conference from Aug. 4-8. They'll play with the Moca Youth Concert Band and the La Vega Youth Symphony Orchestra and teach a master class.

They'll also visit several community ensembles, groups of amateurs ranging from schoolchildren to adults that don't receive funding from school systems or governments. They'll provide instruction to the ensembles, and instruments for the students.

"It's inconceivable to some of us, but many play-

ers in these ensembles don't have the money to repair or replace instruments, so many of them are left with instruments that barely work," Yates explained.

It's a dynamic he's seen firsthand. During a previous visit to the Dominican Republic, Yates "watched someone play a trombone that had a water key missing from the end of the slide. They plugged the hole with a piece of gum and wrapped some tape around it."

The educators have also established a GoFundMe page with a \$2,500 goal to cover repairs needed for donated instruments and shipping costs. Any money left over will be used to purchase "moderately-priced used instruments that are in working condition" from outlets such as eBay, Yates explained.

For more information about the project, where to bring instruments or how to donate, contact Yates at benjamin.yates@louisiana.edu or 337-482-5219.

## Sheriff's deputy runs into trouble for refusing to wear a mask

**From The Advocate**  
A St. Landry Parish Sheriff's deputy was arrested over an altercation at the Opelousas OMV, where witnesses say the deputy banged his gun against the OMV door after being denied entrance for refusing to wear a mask.



Ryan Fenton Sr.

Opelousas Police Chief Martin McLendon said Ryan Fenton Sr., 48, was arrested on a count each of public intimidation and aggravated assault with a firearm. Fenton will be booked into the St. Landry Parish Jail.

McLendon said officers responded to the distur-

bance at the Office of Motor Vehicles office on Crewell Lane at 11:10 a.m. Investigators determined Fenton was arguing with OMV employees after he refused to wear a mask to enter the office and conduct business. During the argument, witnesses provided written statements that Fenton, who was in uniform, drew his weapon and began "banging it on the closed door of the building demanding to be let in."

Fenton made people in the area waiting for assistance "fearful for their safety," McLendon said.

The St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office deputy was taken into custody at the scene. Officers determined he was assigned as a full-time courtroom bailiff with the sheriff's office.

St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office spokesperson Eddie Thibodeaux said Fenton is on leave pending investigation, and his badge, deputy commission, police unit and department weapon were confiscated while the administrative investigation is conducted. Investigators will review the details of the incident, collect evidence and determine which, if any, department policies Fenton breached.

Thibodeaux said if the incident occurred as reported, there are several policies Fenton may have breached, such as behavior unbecoming an officer, which are separate from his criminal charges.

"We don't take that lightly, especially when we're dealing with a weapon," Thibodeaux said.

## Stefanski

(Continued from Page 1)  
"why," people were more likely to do the right thing and act for the greater good.

The most enjoyable part of Stefanski's job is being able to educate people in all walks of life on health strategies that can prolong and enrich their lives.

During the ongoing pandemic, the most satisfying part of her job has been helping set up vaccination centers that allow people to feel safe and start living again. And the most difficult part of her job has been talking to the many people who lost family members due to COVID.

Stefanski's motto is "Treat other people as you want to be treated," and she tries to treat all her patients as though they were members of her own family. She defines success as doing something that makes you happy

while also benefiting others.

Empathetic, grateful, and practical are the three words she would use to describe herself. And if she weren't a doctor, she would like to be a pre-K teacher.

Stefanski holds her family very close to her heart. Being able to see her grandparents almost every day is what she loved most about growing up in Crowley. Asked what makes her happy, she said her nieces and nephews always make her laugh. And her greatest inspiration has come from her parents who taught her that being a good person has nothing to do with money or possessions or fame.

Her love for her hometown is evident. She said she couldn't have chosen a better place to grow up because Crowley is such a beautiful little town with friendly people who look out for each other.

She enjoys visiting family and returns to Crowley

frequently to see her parents, Steve and Mary Ann Stefanski, and to enjoy her mom's delicious grape leaf rolls and iced tea.

Looking back on the past year, Stefanski said that the pandemic has made her realize that perhaps we run too much, too fast and that slowing down and cutting back are not necessarily bad things. She has also learned that smaller gatherings that bring people and families closer together in meaningful ways can be much more rewarding than big, crowded events.

In conclusion, Stefanski says health care professionals are beginning to see a light at the end of this long, dark tunnel. But she warns that the pandemic is not over and urges everyone not to become complacent. She encourages all people to continue to follow the recommended protocols and advises everyone who truly wants to be part of the solution to get vaccinated.

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Learn more at [ochsnerlg.org/oagh](https://ochsnerlg.org/oagh)



## LSUE's Brooklyn Boardman named a 2021 New Century Transfer Scholar

JACKSON, Miss. — LSU Eunice's Brooklyn Boardman has been named a 2021 New Century Transfer Scholar and will receive a \$2,250 scholarship.



Brooklyn Boardman

The prestigious scholarship is awarded by the honor society, Phi Theta Kappa. New Century Transfer Scholars are selected based on their academic accomplishments, leadership, activities, and how they extend their intellectual talents beyond the classroom. Over 2,000 students were nominated from more than 1,200 college campuses across the country. Only one New Century Transfer Scholar is selected from each state.

The program is spon-

sored by The Coca-Cola Foundation, the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, Phi Theta Kappa, and the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC).

"We congratulate Brooklyn for receiving this prestigious scholarship, and we are honored to partner with the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, The Coca-Cola Foundation, and the AACC to recognize her outstanding achievements," said Phi Theta Kappa's President and CEO Dr. Lynn Tincher-Ladner.

Boardman is the first ever recipient of a Phi Theta Kappa competitive scholarship in the history of the LSU Eunice chapter. The Crowley native is already putting her scholarship to use, as she is currently enrolled at UL-Lafayette pursuing a psychology degree. Boardman graduated after the Fall 2020 semester with

a 3.7 grade point average.

A Regional Officer in Phi Theta Kappa, Boardman coordinated the planning of a two-day service trip to Lake Charles in the aftermath of Hurricane Laura. The LSU Phi Theta Kappa chapter, as well as the LSU athletic department, helped more than 1,500 families in the greater Lake Charles area through the American Red Cross.

Boardman was also a vital piece to the LSU Eunice Phi Theta Kappa chapter receiving five-star chapter status, recognizing it as one of the premier chapters in the entire world.

Phi Theta Kappa is the premier honor society recognizing the academic achievement of students at associate degree-granting colleges and helping them to grow as scholars and leaders. The Society is made up of more than 3.5 million members.



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## Eunice Police radio logs

The following are excerpts from the Eunice Police Department radio dispatch logs.

**March 15**  
 10:43 Lobby complaint in reference to a theft.  
 11:22 Disturbance reported in the 200 block of Jelks.  
 11:31 Harassment reported in the 600 block of South 5th Street.  
 11:47 Report of a stolen catalytic converter at Showtyme Furniture.  
 12:41 Disturbance reported in the 100 block of Mamie.  
 12:48 Wreck reported in the area of Circle K. No injuries.  
 13:41 Disturbance reported in the 100 block of Mamie.  
 13:23 Report of stolen items in the 400 block of Perrotti.  
 13:34 Caller in the 1600 block of West Magnolia advised of a subject that took too many pills.  
 14:18 Advised of a motorcycle speeding at a high rate of speed on Hwy. 13 coming into Eunice.  
 16:43 Lobby complaint in reference to a stolen trash can in the 400 block of North Cane.  
 16:58 Caller in the 800 block of South Beulah advised of a subject that seems possibly intoxicated and will not leave.  
 17:51 Caller in the area of Corn advised that when she returned home her window on her vehicle was shot.  
 21:15 Report of a stolen vehicle in the 700 block of South 3rd Street.  
 21:44 Caller in the area of Ash and 9th advised of a vehicle horn that constantly goes off.  
 22:15 Caller in the 900 block of West Ash advised that he is out of town and will have a family member take care of the situation with the vehicle.  
 23:02 Caller in the 900 block of West Ash advised of an unwanted subject in his backyard.  
 23:27 Caller in the area of North CC Duson near Coburn's advised of a subject who appeared and jumped out in front of her vehicle and she swerved to miss him.  
**March 16**  
 03:50 Caller advised of a subject walking that appears to be intoxicated. Subject is near Eunice Inn on East Laurel.  
 06:33 Disturbance reported at Day's Inn.  
 07:50 Lobby complaint in reference to a child run away.  
 08:27 Mother located juvenile.  
 10:38 Indecent exposure reported in an alley way in the area of Kim's Market.  
 12:07 Suspicious person reported in the 600 block of West Vine.

12:40 Caller in the 900 block of West Ash requested extra patrol near his home.  
 12:58 Suspicious vehicle reported at Tropical Car Wash.  
 13:00 Report of a vehicle that hit a pole at Fred's parking lot.  
 15:17 Report of three buses blocking the road, subject advised that a jeep went around the bus into the grass to the tennis courts.  
 15:44 Report of a child in a floaty at City Lake, and father cannot swim well, and child is too far out from him. Eunice Fire department was contacted.  
 15:49 Subject asked for assistance from a subject launching a boat. Child is safe now.  
 18:43 Shoplifting reported at Walmart.  
 19:05 Reckless driver reported in the 1300 block of West Peach.  
 19:30 Disturbance reported in the 800 block of South Beulah.  
 20:04 Caller in the 200 block of Corn advised that someone is playing under his residence, and a subject is in an abandoned home next door.  
 20:41 Worker from Acadian Medical advised of a child with a dog bite, advised that it occurred on Dean.  
 20:47 Caller in the 700 block of Lewis requested removal of a subject from her home.  
 21:25 Disturbance reported in the 1800 block of West Dudley.  
 22:42 Caller requested extra police patrol in the area of Jake and Park. Advised of suspicious vehicle driving back and forth.  
 23:00 Shots fired in the area of Fuselier and Maple.  
**March 17**  
 00:29 Caller reported several subjects in the area of Circle Park making lots of noise.  
 00:43 Caller from Day's Inn advised that a subject appears to be intoxicated, has a child with her, and is behind a vehicle with trunk wide open.  
 06:37 Caller in the 2100 block of West Magnolia advised of shots fired.  
 08:37 Report of a break-in at a home in the area of 4th and Maple.  
 11:36 Report of fraud in the 1800 block of West Dudley.  
 13:25 Report of a stalled vehicle on Hwy. 190 in front of Burger King.  
 13:26 Caller in the 1400 block of Athabaska advised that kids let a dog out of the fence.  
 17:39 Report of several teen subjects on the roadway flipping off vehicles as they pass by.  
 19:16 Caller in the 500 block of South 5th Street

advised that someone stole his trailer.  
 19:22 Caller in the 400 block of Corn advised that someone broke into her home.  
 20:23 Caller requested extra patrol in reference to a dog that keeps barking in the area of North 8th Street.  
**March 18**  
 02:23 Caller from Eunice Inn advised of a young juvenile with his father, but it appears that the father may be on drugs.  
 02:57 Caller in the 500 block of Nimitz advised that she found items in her home that is not hers.  
 04:18 Caller in the 1700 block of West Vine advised that a trash truck just pulled down an electrical power line out of his home.  
 05:43 Suspicious vehicle reported at Tobacco Plus.  
 07:21 Disturbance reported in the 200 block of Acadia.  
 07:37 Disturbance reported in the 400 block of Pearl.  
 08:57 Caller in the 300 block of North Martin Luther King advised that he is having problems with another subject.  
 11:29 Caller from Sunrise Apartments advised of run away juvenile from DeRidder that is in the area of the apartments.  
 11:39 Caller from Valero advised of a subject that may be a possible overdose, and advised subject is inside a vehicle.  
 11:52 Caller in the 700 block of South 12th advised of finding drugs on a subject.  
 11:55 Caller from Best Western advised of a subject in a vehicle that may have stolen items.  
 13:04 Wreck reported in front of Mr. Bee's car wash.  
 13:43 Caller in the 400 block of Cotton requested to speak to an officer in regards to rental questions.  
 16:02 Caller reported a low hanging electrical wire in the area of Vine and St. Joseph.  
 17:45 Reckless driver reported in front of City Lake, and subject caused an accident.  
 17:55 Reported no injuries, road blockage.  
 18:30 Lobby complaint in reference to phone harassment.  
 19:15 Call came through Iberia sheriff department advised of a subject that may be driving through town, and may be suicidal and unsure if subject has weapons.

## Church Point man faces negligent homicide charge in toddler's drowning

A 30-year-old Church Point man faces a negligent homicide charge after his 9-month-old child drowned in the bathtub, according to St. Landry Parish Sheriff Bobby Guidroz.



Nicholas Ducote

Guidroz said Nicholas Lee Ducote placed the toddler and a 2-year-old in the bathtub and allowed them to play with

bath toys while he folded clothes. He then exited the bathroom and played a video game on the television for a short amount of time, Guidroz stated.

"While occupied in the other room, he heard a loud splash and went inside the bathroom to check on the children. The 9-month old juvenile was unresponsive in the water in the back of the tub. The 2-year-old was sitting in the front part of the tub and was not injured," the sheriff stated.

Ducote removed the juveniles from the tub

and called out to a family member for assistance. Emergency services were immediately contacted.

Guidroz said an autopsy was conducted on March 8.

"The death of the juvenile was ruled an accidental drowning, however, Nicholas Ducote committed the act of criminal negligence. His simple carelessness resulted in the accidental death of an infant child," Guidroz stated.

Ducote was booked at the St. Landry Parish Jail on March 15 with negligent homicide.

## 2 indicted on multiple counts of attempted second-degree murder

### Staff Report

An Opelousas man and a Church Point teenager were each indicted on six counts of attempted second-degree murder following a Feb. 22 shooting on Marie Street in Church Point.



Christopher Freeman

Church Point Police Chief Dale Thibodeaux stated, in a news release the 16-year-old was indicted for his involvement in a shooting of an occupied residence which occurred on Marie Street in Church Point on Feb. 22.

Thibodeaux stated shots were fired at the residence with an AR15 .223-caliber rifle. The 16-year-old has been arrested for six counts of attempted second degree murder with a \$600,000 bail was booked into the Acadia Parish Jail.

On March 15, an Acadia Parish grand jury indicted Christopher Freeman, 22, of Opelousas, and Jaden Citizen, 16, of Church Point on the attempted second-degree murder charges. Freeman was also indicted on charges of felon in possession of a firearm and illegal use of a weapon.

Citizen was arrested by the Church Point Police following the indictment.

Freeman is still at large and is considered armed and dangerous. He is also known to frequent the Lake Charles, Ville

Platte and Eunice areas. Those with any information on Freeman's whereabouts are asked to call the Church Point Police at 337-684-5455.

Additionally, Freeman is wanted by the Evangeline Parish Sheriff for a shooting on March 10 along with Kendall Pete of Ville Platte.

Evangeline Parish Sheriff Charles Guillory stated Pete is out on bail from a previous charge of armed robbery. He is known to be armed and dangerous. If anyone comes in contact with Pete is urged to contact their local law enforcement agency immediately. Pete has several outstanding warrants for his arrest from multiple agencies.

Anyone with information about the shooting or any other criminal activity is asked to contact Evangeline Parish Sheriff's Office investigators at 337-363-2161 or on the agency's website at www.evangelineparishsheriff.org.

Freeman is also wanted on another six counts of attempted second-degree murder in connection with a Feb. 17 shooting on Labbie Street in Church Point.

"In this incident, an investigation revealed Freeman shot five rounds into the residence from a 9mm," Thibodeaux stated. "The residence contained adults and young kids. Warrants have also been issued on Freeman for that shooting."

In total, Freeman is

wanted on: six counts of attempted second-degree murder for the Feb. 17 shooting with a bond of \$600,000; six counts second-degree murder for the Feb. 22 shooting with a bond of \$600,000; assault by drive by shooting with a bond of \$100,000; felon in possession of a firearm with a bond of \$100,000; contributing to the delinquency of a juvenile with a bond of \$20,000; and illegal discharge of a firearm with a bond of \$20,000.

The indictments are just two of the many handed down by the Acadia Parish Grand Jury on March 15. Nearly a dozen of the indictments were related to what police believe are gang-related shootings in Crowley.

At a Church Point Town Council meeting earlier this month, Thibodeaux said Church Point is also home to two local gangs that include individuals from Opelousas and Lafayette.

In a Feb. 25 news release, Thibodeaux stated that Freeman is known to be the leader of the street gang 5CM, a local gang consisting of juveniles and younger adults.

Thibodeaux said he requested assistance from the U.S. Marshals Service in locating the suspects in the recent shootings around Church Point.

## Eunice Police arrests

The following are arrests by Eunice Police.

**March 18**  
 Amanda Marie Lavergne, 38, 700 block of South 12th Street, Eunice. Possession of drug

paraphernalia, possession of Schedule I CDS, less than 2 grams.

Douglas Pitre, 36, 600 block of Dufilho Road, Opelousas. Bench warrant.

## St. Landry Parish Sheriff's arrests

The following are arrests reported by the St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office.

**March 18**  
 Anthony James Ventress Jr., 41, 200 block of Oklahoma Street, Lafayette. Bench warrant. Arrested by St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office.

Cynthia Louise Asbill, 61, 1300 block of West Peach Street, Eunice. Hold for Payne County, Oklahoma. Arrested by Eunice Police.

Ryan Fenton, Sr., 48, 100 block of Ivory Drive, Opelousas. Aggravated assault with a firearm, public intimidation. Arrested by Opelousas Police.

Blake Coley Mascarella, 36, 7000 block of Highway 93, Arnaudville. Domestic abuse battery (child endangerment). Arrested by St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office.

**March 19**  
 Brycelyn Ray Anderson, 20, 500 block of South Mallet Street, Eunice. Careless operation of a motor vehicle, speeding,

illegal carrying of a firearm by a convicted felon, possession of Schedule I CDS (2 counts). Arrested by St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office.

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**Monday, March 22**  
 Country Meatballs  
 Mashed Potatoes  
 Green Beans  
 Wheat Bread  
 Chocolate Pudding  
 Milk

**Tuesday, March 23**  
 Red Beans & Sausage  
 Rice  
 Turnip Greens  
 Orange Juice  
 Combread  
 Pineapples  
 Milk

**Wednesday, March 24**  
 Hamburger  
 Lettuce & Tomato  
 Baked Beans  
 Hamburger Bun  
 Peach Cobbler  
 Mustard  
 Milk

**Thursday, March 25**  
 Chicken & Rice  
 Carrots  
 Navy Beans  
 Wheat Bread  
 Fresh Orange  
 Margarine  
 Milk

**Friday, March 26**  
 Shrimp Fettuccini  
 Spinach  
 Chuckwagon Corn  
 Wheat Bread  
 Yellow Cake  
 Milk

Your donations toward meal cost are appreciated.

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# Colorful ball brought governors, trappers together

As late as the middle 1950s the end of the trapping season was celebrated by an elaborate Trapper's Ball that included the crowning of a king and queen, speeches by governors and assorted dignitaries, and, of course, dining, dancing, and a sip of something stronger than soda pop.

The tradition was begun in 1941, when, according to J. L. Boudreaux, the state representative from Vermilion Parish, Gov. Sam Jones changed the way trappers were paid and "the big shots ... were removed from the graft" that had been associated with getting trapping rights on state land. That first Balle Des Piegeurs, in the estimation of Abbeville Meridional editor Ralph Bienvenu, "was a nice banquet and dance," and over the years it grew into something more. The second soiree in 1942, according to the Meridional, attracted 450 trappers and their guests, to what was "the largest gathering of Louisiana trappers ever held in this area."

World War II did not interrupt the balls, but the one in 1943 reflected the temper of those days. Like before, the Silver Star Club was decorated with "quaint grass stalks taken from the marsh and with native flowers," muskrat pelts and traps were hung "at various places on the wall, and, according to the newspaper, "the club was packed for the event." But Gov. Jones was on a tour selling war bonds and wasn't part of that crowd. He did send a telegram congratulating the trappers and urging them to buy bonds "to safeguard your earnings and help the boys on the battle front."



**Jim Bradshaw**

There were good profits to put aside that year. State Treasurer Pat Tugwell said the 140 trappers who operated on state refuges in Vermilion, Iberia, and Cameron parishes sold \$300,000 worth of pelts in 1943. That would be about \$4.5 million in today's dollars. Trappers got 65% of that and the state took 35% that was ostensibly used to maintain the refuges.

Secretary of State James Gremillion said the trappers were doing important work "in bringing from the marsh the pelts that will keep our men in the armed forces warm and protected." Vermilion sheriff K.P. Landry continued the theme, urging the trappers and all citizens "to accept their responsibilities for the war effort." He had a vested interest. Three of his sons were serving in the armed forces and "five others will be available when they become of age," he said.

Governor Jones did make the ball in 1944, when "most all of Abbeville was there to see the lovely fur coat presented to Mrs. Jones, who refused to take it off while dancing with 'all the trappers I can, before Sam takes me home.'" Gov.

Jimmie Davis was on hand for the 1945 festivities. He didn't make a speech, but, as was his wont, joined with the band "to sing a few of his compositions."

There were apparently two fetes in 1946. Vermilion Parish trappers and "many visitors from several sections of the state" gathered in Abbeville in early May, according to the Meridional, but another article on the same page reported that "the trappers of Iberia Parish joined in marking the end of a successful trapping season with a dance and supper ... at the Pecan Grove Club in Erath."

If there was a rift it was healed in 1947 as 150 trappers and 400 guests from both parishes gathered at the Belvedere Club in Delcambre.

In 1949, "1,000 Iberia and Vermilion trappers, their wives, friends and other spectators" applauded as Earl Long crowned the trapper royalty at Prim's Place, "only a stone's throw from the small community of Delcambre."

I'm not sure when the balls ended. The last reference I find is to one in 1954, when it was held at the Rockabye Club at Forked Island. If that wasn't the last one it was probably close to it. The times were changing by then. Old trappers were coming in from the marsh and their sons were finding better jobs on the oil rigs. I suspect the tradition just died for lack of celebrants.

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.*



**Danny Tyree**

# Aggravation: Is it a board game or a way of life?

First off, Louis Armstrong was right about it being a wonderful world. And I realize many people suffer far worse troubles than mine.

But still ... I would die of shock if I ever experienced 10 consecutive minutes of comfort, serenity and dignity. (Okay, anesthesia gave me two of the three; but instead of Doctors Without Borders, we need to mobilize Procedures Without Hospital Gowns.)

Through a combination of overcommitment, aging, Murphy's Law and innate klutziness, I am a man of constant aggravation.

True, I have outgrown zits, dandruff, warts and absent-mindedly locking my keys in the car. But aches, pains, frequent bathroom visits, sinus pressure and mild asthma play tag team to fill the vacuum.

Ten minutes after I bypass a Nail Clippers R Us kiosk, I spontaneously develop the Mother of All Hangnails. Half an hour after I've scrutinized myself in my bathroom mirror, acquaintances are abruptly exposed to a nose hair that resembles something a junior high P.E. class always dreaded climbing.

I faithfully strive to look presentable in public, but inevitably I transform into what my mother would call "slouchy." There is a pants leg crammed into a sock, a smear of who-knows-what on my eyeglasses, a mysterious food stain from an animal that was hunted to extinction 150 years ago and a trousers fly that is 95% zipped but will elicit a Good Samaritan's shout from across a crowded room, nonetheless.

Jeans that fit perfectly yesterday suddenly have me tugging at them like I'm a (slightly) more svelte "Matt Foley, Motivational Speaker." And I dread going to my own version of the "van down by the river," because there is always a seatbelt buckle that gets slammed in the car door, a sideview mirror that (truth in advertising!) gives me a panoramic view of the SIDE OF THE CAR and a towering pile of food wrappers that show the calorie content in hieroglyphs.

Granted, I have seldom experienced the classic toilet-paper-trailing-from-the-shoe humiliation, but I believe I could unerringly step in dog poop at a Garfield Look-alike Contest.

Similarly, I have a sixth sense for seeking out staplers without staples, sticky notes without stickiness, and battery-operated devices without batteries. I'm glad I'm just FLIRTIN' with disaster, because if I tried to write down her phone number, the pen would promptly explode in my pocket. ("Wait ... I'll just MEMORIZE it ... after deleting extraneous information. There. Hey, didn't I used to know how to drive a stick?")

Coins and keys relentlessly create holes in my pockets. Receipts can't wait to wiggle out of my wallet. Notes containing brilliant column ideas somehow defy gravity and escape from my shirt pocket. (Surely it was aftereffects of anesthesia, but I thought I heard my left nipple cheering, "Nobody's looking — let me boost you over the top to freedom.")

Honestly, I try to live a simple life. For me, a "three-way" means the cat is throwing up on IRS documents at the same time the unbalanced load of laundry goes "WHOMP WHOMP ..." and an altruistic individual calls to Make My Day with an extended warranty on band candy.

Thanks for letting me vent. I could ramble on a lot longer, but I see by the clock on the wall ... allow for not springing forward ... remember you're running three minutes fast...

\*Sigh\* Only I could get nostalgic for zits, dandruff and warts.

Danny Tyree welcomes email responses at tyreetyrees@aol.com. Danny's weekly column is distributed exclusively by Cagle Cartoons Inc. newspaper syndicate.



"SO SCORCHED SHALL BE THE EARTH THAT NO SENATOR SHALL RECOGNIZE IT!"

# Evil comes in all colors

The hashtag #White Supremacy is trending this week in the Twittersverse. That is due to the horrific murders of eight Asian Americans in Georgia. They were likely hate crimes, with ample evidence that the shooter of those innocent women was motivated by hostility against Asians.

Asian Americans have often been among the most vulnerable populations in the United States. Until recently, they didn't have the lobbying groups and voices that spoke out on behalf of other minorities, and suffered from the perception that they were so successful they didn't need protection.

Asians were basically out there, on their own, and anyone who pointed out that they were endangered by the same sort of hatred that targeted Blacks or Hispanics or members of the LGBT community were dismissed. I was dis-



**Christine Flowers**

missed many times when I made the same claim. I remember one particular instance when a Korean grocer was gunned down in his store in West Philadelphia by an African American, and when I mentioned the fact that there was a lot of hostility between the Asian and Black communities in the city, I was called a racist.

But now, it's not racist to suggest that Asians are being targeted by "White Supremacy." Now that everyone has a new hashtag to use, a new philosophy to exploit, a new narrative to push, we don't have to worry about pointing fingers. The blood that was spilled in Georgia this week was apparently spilled by a man whose skin color identified the content of his character.

And we slip further back into the muck of civilization, the gravitational pull downward toward blaming hatred on skin color as opposed to ideology.

Evil comes in all sorts of packages, including the obvious ones that you can see from a mile away. The Nazi swastikas, the Stalinistic purges, the Cultural Revolution of Mao, the killing fields of Pol Pot and the jails of Fidel Castro are all forms of evil. They are clear and blatant instances where some men felt that they were better than others, and so decided to eliminate the "lesser humans" from existence and circulation. They chose domination and annihilation over reconciliation and acceptance. And the men at the head of those movements represent all the colors of the rainbow, a somewhat perverted Rainbow Coalition.

Is this an attempt to deflect attention from the fact that the murderer of these

Asian victims was a white man? Absolutely not. If he targeted the ethnicity of his victims, he committed a hate crime. And if he was one of those people calling COVID the "China virus" and blaming foreigners for ruining the country and spouting off about how the people at the border are bringing leprosy and other diseases along with them, his is, in fact, a bigot.

But his skin color and race do not define him, just as the skin color of the Black robber in West Philadelphia does not set him apart from any other killer on the streets. This idea that we have to use labels to distinguish "hate crimes" from other garden-variety offenses is, in and of itself, offensive. And it gives a very easy out to the people who have "Hate Has No Home Here" signs on their lawns in eight different languages, but who are quite willing to swallow the idea that "white hatred" is unique.

It's not. Any time you have someone targeting someone else because of their identity, that is a form of supremacy. I see it all the time in my immigration practice, and I'm really tired of hearing folks whine about how only a certain sort of human, white and conservative and religious and poorly-educated with only a few dollars in his bank account, is capable of rage.

You can disagree with me, and you can say that white supremacy is a thing, and that our country is being destroyed from within by people who wear red hats and cling to their guns and religion and you can measure the value of a human by his level of melanin, and you can perhaps feel virtuous while doing it.

But while you are doing it, you are doing a grave injustice to the people who were gunned down in Georgia, because you are using them to advance your own political and philosophical agendas.

And you are too blind to see it. Color blinded.

Christine Flowers is an attorney and a columnist for the Delaware County Daily Times, and can be reached at cflowers1961@gmail.com.

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## Staying in touch

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District 24 Sen. Gerald Boudreaux (D), 2900 Moss St., Suite B, Lafayette, LA

## Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor are always welcome at the News, but it's necessary for confirmation/identification purposes to include author's printed name, signature and work/home telephone number.

While the News does print the author's name it doesn't print telephone numbers or residence/business addresses unless such a request is made in writing on the letter. However, without a phone number to verify the letter, we can not print it.

No anonymous letters are published.

Typed letters can be mailed to 465 Aymond, St., Eunice, LA 70535 or e-mailed to harlan.kirgan@eunicetoday.com.

Brevity is encouraged.

We no longer accept hand-written letters. Letters we deem as political copy may be placed as advertising.

All letters are subject to editing. Keep those letters coming. Thank you.

**Edwin "Uncle Ed" David Gutentag  
June 20, 1931-March 17, 2021**

EUNICE—It is with heavy hearts that the family of Edwin David Gutentag announces his passing on Wednesday, March 17, 2021 in the comfort of his home with his loving wife by his side. He was 89.



A Celebration of Life will be celebrated at 2 p.m. on Monday, March 22, 2021 at Ardoin's Funeral Home Chapel in Eunice. Entombment will follow in the St. Augustine Mausoleum with Father Sal Istre, Celebrant.

Edwin "Uncle Ed" David Gutentag was born to Dora and Morris Gutentag and grew up in the South Bronx, New York where he spent his formative years with his brother, Harold.

After graduating high school, Ed joined the US Army during the Korean War but in basic training contracted Tuberculosis, and was honorably discharged after 6th months. Ed then attended Brooklyn College to pursue a degree in Geology, and after receiving it furthered his education at The University of Kansas and earned his Master's degree where his colleagues became lifelong friends.

While living in Louisiana working for the USGS, Ed met the love of his life and wife of 61 years, Annabelle Ashford. Ed continued working for the USGS, moved to Garden City, Kansas and started a family. Ed became father to 4 boys; Robert, David, Donald, and Richard, while he continued to advance himself in the field of geology/hydrology.

He eventually got into the Kansas Geological Hall of Fame for his incredible contributions. His job eventually led him and his family to Denver Colorado, where he retired from the USGS but began work as a full time Grandfather.

Through the years Ed became grandfather to 9 children, all of which he loved deeply. In his retired days, he enjoyed spending time with his grandkids, watching sports and regaling anyone who would listen to his stories of a long and eventful life, with that added Ed flare of course. After living in

Denver for 30 years, Ed and Annabelle moved to his wife's birthplace of Eunice, Louisiana where he lived out the rest of his days until March 17, 2021.

He will be sadly missed by his loving wife of 61 years, Anna Belle Gutentag of Eunice; his children, Robert Samuel Gutentag and wife, Nancy of Baton Rouge, Donald Mark Gutentag and wife, Tracy of Grand Junction, CO, and David Preston Gutentag and wife, Diane of Lakewood, CO; nine grandchildren, Kathryn Osbourne and husband, Stephen, Preston Joseph Gutentag and wife, Emily, David James Gutentag and wife, Angelle, Nicole Gutentag, John Michael Gutentag and wife, Derin, Benjamin Thomas Gutentag, Savannah Lynn Kirksey, Dillon Paul Kirksey, and Celeste Marie Gutentag; three great grandchildren, Lillian Jane Osbourne, Catalina Milan Gutentag, and Max Randall Osbourne; as well as extended family and friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Morris and Dora Rothapel Gutentag; son; Richard Paul Gutentag; and brother, Harold Gutentag.

At the request of the family, visitation will be held at Ardoin's Funeral Home in Eunice on Monday, March 22 from 10 a.m. until time of services. A Rosary will be prayed at 1:30 p.m. on Monday.

Family and friends may view this obituary and sign the guestbook at [www.ardoinfuneralhomes.com](http://www.ardoinfuneralhomes.com)

Ardoin's Funeral Home of Eunice, 1301 West Laurel Ave, 337-457-3371 is in charge of arrangements.



**Help programs ongoing at First Baptist**

Two programs are ongoing at the First Baptist Church of Eunice Fellowship Hall.

Grief Share meets on Sundays through May 30 from 4 to 6 p.m. with new material every week.

Single and Parenting meets on Wednesdays from 4 to 6 p.m. through May 19 also with new material each session.

Activities for children of all ages is available.

For more information, contact Kim Loewer at 337-580-3280 or First Baptist Church of Eunice 337-457-2361.

**Free Family Fun event at First Baptist**

There will be a free Family Fun Hallelujah Hop event from 10 a.m. until noon March 27 at First Baptist Church.

There will be a petting

**Sentence**

(Continued from Page 1)

ducted her from. The woman's daughter found her wandering in the street after going missing for hours and contacted the Opelousas Police Department, the documents said.

DeWoody moved to Opelousas after being granted parole on June 10, 2019, The Advocate reported. He was serving a 117-year, two-month and 12-day sentence for crimes including armed robbery, aggravated escape and second-degree kidnapping after he robbed two Lincoln Parish residents and their toddler at their home in 1993, then escaped custody from the Lincoln Parish Detention Center by kidnapping a female officer at knife-point, court records say.

DeWoody became parole-eligible in 2013 under Act 790, a 1990 law that stipulates offenders sentenced to 30 years or more, with or without benefit of parole, will become parole eligible after serving at least 20 years in prison and reaching the age of 45, The Advocate reported.

**News notes**

zoo, pony rides, food and drinks, carnival games, face painting, balloon animals, crafts and thousands of eggs. There will be door prizes.

Ave., Eunice.

**Concealed carry class set March 27**

The St Landry Parish Sheriff's Office is hosting a one-day concealed carry permit class at 7:30 a.m. Saturday at 211 W. Park

The course is \$100 dollars and \$80 for a spouse. The course includes fingerprints, notary or online help, application, classroom, range, and a hot Cajun meal. The course is taught by the certified police training staff of the sheriff's office with over 70 years of police, military, and civilian training.

To reserve a seat call the training center at 337-

948-7599. If the office is closed, leave a message. The staff will call back a week prior to confirm. All proceeds go to local charities and the course is 100% non-profit. In the past donations have been made to Shriners, eye and speech foundations, Dyslexia foundations, community health units, and youth charities, etc.

Call 337-948-7599 for more information.



**Job Purpose:**

Manages the operations of a designated clinical laboratory. Performs biochemical, hematological, serologic, virologic and other laboratory tests and procedures to provide data for the use in diagnosis and treatment of patients in a medical facility.

**Minimum Qualifications**

**Education:**

Bachelor's Degree in a related field

**Experience:**

2 years work-related experience in lab management

**Required Licensure, Certification, Registration, or Other Requirements:**

- Medical Technologist Certification

**Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities**

**Knowledge of:**

- Biological Science or Health Science theories, concepts and methods.
- Biochemical, hematological, serologic, virologic and other tests and examinations.
- Qualitative and quantitative chemical analyses and their approved laboratory procedures.
- Specimen procurement processes and procedures, including phlebotomy.
- Principles, procedures, and techniques of laboratory testing.
- Safety, radiological, chemical and biological hazards of the occupation.
- Operation and maintenance of research instrumentation.
- Applicable hospital, state and federal policies and procedures.
- Applicable research rules, regulations and protocols.
- Computer software applications applicable to area.
- Supervision methods and techniques.

**Skills and Abilities to:**

- Perform a range of clinical laboratory tests and chemical analyses on biological samples.
- Perform standard clinical procedures according to established protocols.
- Monitor and maintain quality control standards.
- Safely follow laboratory and procedure protocols.
- Utilize, calibrate, configure and/or troubleshoot laboratory testing systems and instruments.
- Analyze, verify and manipulate clinical and/or laboratory data.
- Adhere to time and priority management.
- Supervise, train, and evaluate assigned staff.
- Provide effective communication with effective interpersonal skills.

**Characteristic Duties and Responsibilities**

**Essential Functions:**

Perform quantitative and qualitative chemical analyses on specimens such as blood, urine and tissue by following approved laboratory procedures; obtains specimens for testing; provides results to physicians and nurses.

Culture, isolate and identify pathogenic microorganisms and parasites.

Set up, maintain, calibrate, clean, and test sterility of medical laboratory equipment.

Analyze the results of tests and experiments to ensure conformity to specifications, using special mechanical and electrical devices.

Maintain records of tests examination; plot or chart results according to approved procedures.

Provide training to medical students and residents in the principles, procedures and techniques of laboratory testing.

Develop and maintain quality control procedures to ensure accuracy of results.

Hire, train, schedule work assignments, and supervise support staff including medical technicians, phlebotomist and student workers.

Manage and direct the daily operations of a designated laboratory.

**Supplemental Functions:**

Order supplies; keep inventory; ensure supplies are not outdated.



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**Grade:** 3rd.

**School:** Highland Elementary.

**Siblings:** Trinity, Tristian & Legacie.

**When I grow up I want to be:** A pilot.

**My Favorite Movie/Cartoon:** Lion King.

**My favorite book is:** The Boxcar Children by Gertrude C. Warner.

**My favorite junk food is:** Reese's.

**My favorite subject is:** Science.

**My favorite sport is:** Basketball.

**My favorite animal is:** Cheetah.

**My least favorite chore is:** Folding clothes.

**My Hero is:** Nana.

**The first thing I like to do when I get home from school is:** Do my homework.

**The grossest thing I ever had to eat was:** My school sandwich.

**The best thing about summer is:** I can sleep later.

**If I could buy one gift for myself it would be:** Flower seeds so I can grow a garden.

**I really like it when my Mom says or does:** Tells me she love and adores me.

**The best thing about me is:** I actually like to go to school!

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### St. Landry Parish man killed in single-vehicle crash

A single-vehicle crash at about 8 p.m. Thursday on La. 103 near Herbert Ortego Road in St. Landry Parish took the life of 20-year-old Caleb Alexander Doucet of Washington, according to a Louisiana State Police Troop I news release.

The initial investigation by State Police revealed that the crash occurred as Doucet was driving south on La. 103 in a 2003 Chevrolet Silverado. For reasons still under investigation, Doucet's vehicle ran off the roadway. Upon doing so, the Silverado overturned and struck a tree.

Doucet was unrestrained at the time of the crash. He was pronounced deceased at the scene by a representative from the St. Landry Parish Coroner's Office. Impairment is unknown but a standard toxicology sample was obtained for analysis. This crash remains under investigation.

Due to the severity of the crash, restraint use on the part of Munos was unable to be determined. Carson was restrained but suffered fatal injuries. Both Munos and Carson were pronounced dead at the scene by a representative from the Acadia Parish Coroner's Office. The driver of the 18-wheeler was properly restrained and was uninjured. The driver of the 18-wheeler submitted a breath sample and had no alcohol present and showed no signs of impairment.

### 2 drivers killed in 3-vehicle crash on I-10 in Acadia Parish

A three-vehicle fatality crash on Interstate 10 near mile marker 69, east of Jennings claimed the life of 28-year-old Erik Antonio Munos of Lafayette and 60-year-old Johnny Gene Carson of Spring, Texas, according to a Louisiana State Police Troop I news release.

The initial investigation of the crash that occurred about 8 a.m. Thursday revealed that Munos was driving a 2012 Chevrolet Silverado west on I-10. For reasons still under investigation, the Silverado struck a guardrail then ran off the roadway, crossing the median. Upon entering the eastbound lanes, the Silverado collided with an 18-wheeler then was struck by a 2014 Ford F350, being driven by Carson. At some point during the crash, Munos was ejected from the Silverado.

due to the severity of the crash, restraint use on the part of Munos was unable to be determined. Carson was restrained but suffered fatal injuries. Both Munos and Carson were pronounced dead at the scene by a representative from the Acadia Parish Coroner's Office. The driver of the 18-wheeler was properly restrained and was uninjured. The driver of the 18-wheeler submitted a breath sample and had no alcohol present and showed no signs of impairment.

Toxicology samples were obtained from, both, Munos and Carson; results are pending. This crash remains under investigation.

### Men accused of raping girl

Two men have been charged with detaining two sisters and raping the younger one, according to a news release from St. Landry Parish Sheriff Bobby Guidroz.



Peyton Vidrine, 19, of the 200 block of Safe Haven Drive, Carencro, is charged with second-degree rape, indecent behavior with a juvenile and two counts of false imprisonment.

Vidrine. Both juveniles were allegedly forced to remain inside a small trailer located on the residence property."

It was determined that the juvenile under 17 years of age was forcibly restrained while both Bacque, and Vidrine had sexual intercourse with her, Guidroz stated. Additionally, it is alleged, Vidrine forced the juvenile to perform inappropriate acts, it stated.

The juvenile under 18 years of age was forced to remain inside the room as these acts were being performed. When the opportunity arose, the juvenile was able to unlock the door and escape to get help for the younger juvenile.

Bacque and Vidrine were booked into the St. Landry Parish Jail. Bacque's bail was set at \$100,000 and Vidrine's bail was set at \$120,000.

### Police

(Continued from Page 1) raises with 78% of the voters approving.

In April 2018, aldermen approved the lease-purchase of five new police pursuit vehicles.

Going back through the headlines the contentious nature of the relationship comes into focus.

In September, 2019, the Board voted to strip the police chief of his hiring and firing authority. The vote reversed its action in July 2016 that moved the hiring and firing authority from the Board to the police chief.

In July 2020, the Board decided to keep a police dog the police chief declared surplus. At the last inquiry, the city continues to pay for the dog's upkeep. The dog's handler has sued claiming his rights were violated.

Over the past couple of years, the police chief has made public his frustration over the city's budget process that he says leaves him out of discussions. The city's budget is formulated by the mayor who says it is his responsibility.

The latest issue, which coincided with the deputy chief decision, is the revelation that three police officers, two lieutenants and one sergeant, were paid more than \$80,000 in 2020 in a department that is having a difficult

time keeping its ranks filled with patrol officers, dispatchers and jailers.

A year ago, the police chief presented a plan to reduce the number of lieutenants from seven to three and create three new lower-paid supervisory positions. The lieutenant ranks would have been thinned by attrition under the plan. The Board didn't buy the plan and the department continues to have seven lieutenants.

However, when the deputy chief job opened up with a retirement, the police chief proposed promoting a lieutenant to deputy chief and a sergeant to lieutenant.

Besides voting to end the deputy chief position, the Board members rejected promoting the sergeant to lieutenant. A hearing is to be held at the April city meeting on the deputy chief action.

There may be light at end of this tunnel. Mayor Fontenot said he and Police Chief Fontenot have had successful talks about the issues recently.

### VA van trips are available again

The Veterans Administration (VA) has started making van trips to the facilities, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Riders are asked to meet at the Eunice City Hall parking lot.

For more information, call 305-1801 or 396-6392.

## From The Eunice News March 2001 files



State Champions. The St. Edmund Power Lifters are the state champions for the second time in three years. They established the top record over the past weekend beating False River by one point. In the back from left are Drake Leonard, Matthew Huckaby, Andre Miller, Jason Zaun-

brecher, Alex Ardoin, Michael Laughlin, Nick Frey, Coach Peter Miller, and Blaine Clement, faculty sponsor. Middle row from left are Robbie Miller, assistant coach, Jimmy Wilson, and Jacob Langley. In front from left are Brett Venable, Eric Baham and Mitch Miller.



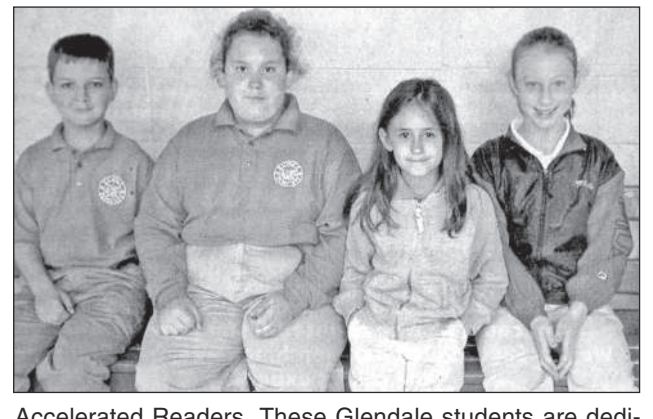
Parish Winners. These Glendale students placed first at the Social Studies Fair recently. The Project, "Mardi Gras, Did You Know?" placed first in the Overall Division, and the Group Project Division, which included Jami Stelly, left and Danielle Fontenot. Taylor Fontenot, right, took first place in the individual category at Parish.



Trio awaits courts. Lady Jay tennis team await a vacancy on the Fairground tennis courts last Thursday afternoon so they can demonstrate their ability against the Lady Cats from Eunice High. They are from left Terra Frederick, Catherine Bihm and Caroline Duos.



Mardi Gras gumbo. Curtis Joubert, long ambassador of Mardi Gras and the Cajun Culture in our community, cooked a gumbo for guests who watched the parade from his home. From left are Eric Brown, Joubert, Dudley Manuel, Barry Soileau and Bobby Rozas.



Accelerated Readers. These Glendale students are dedicated readers in the Accelerated Reading program. They have accomplished and advanced to the 25 point reading program and having tested and receiving the designated points. From left are John Lomas, Lauren Reppond, Jennifer Cormier and Courtney Fontenot.

### St. Louis Cemetery asking for donations

The St. Louis Cemetery, located at the corner of St. Louis Road and Sittig in Eunice is seeking donations for the upkeep and maintenance of the cemetery. The cemetery strictly operates by donations and volunteers. The cemetery is not a private one.

Families who wish to donate are asked to send to Keith Lavergne, cemetery manager, at St. Louis Cemetery, P.O. Box 325, Eunice, LA 70535.

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## Team Phyllis retakes ELTL lead

By Tom Dodge  
Sports Editor

Team Phyllis battled for a 16-8 win over Team Margaret to retake the lead in Eunice Ladies Tennis League action.

After six weeks of competition, Team Phyllis leads 72-68 over Team Margaret.

On Court One, team captain Phyllis Hargroder and Jamie Kirsch grabbed a 6-4, 6-4 win over Team Margaret's Sylvia Fontenot and Michelle Lafleur.

On Court Two, Jeanine Kibodeaux and Janet Prudhomme of Team Phyllis earned a 7-5, 6-1 win over Team Margaret's Robin Savoy and Allie Ogea.

On Court Three, Team Phyllis' Ellen Myers and Cynthia Tanner grabbed a 6-2, 3-6, 7-6 split set victory over team captain Margaret Young and Daphne Simoneaux.

On Court Four, Team Margaret's Gayle Godeaux and Cindy Turk earned a 6-2, 6-0 win over Connie Tupper and Caroline Andrus of Team Phyllis.

On Court Five, Team Phyllis' Maureen Fontenot and Cheryl Manuel battled for a 7-6, 6-4 win over Team Margaret's Heidi Dischler and Rachel Andrus.

# Lady Jays cruise in district opener



St. Edmund catcher Jacey Cobb and pitcher Karleigh Soileau enjoy a laugh between innings. (Photo by Tom Dodge)

By Tom Dodge  
Sports Editor

BELLEVUE — The Lady Jays remained perfect on the season as St. Edmund rolled to a 14-1 road win over Westminster Christian Academy in the District 5-1A opener.

After leaving four stranded over the first two innings, the Lady Jays exploded for five runs in the top of the third, begun when Jacey Cobb singled and Mary Beth Lafleur reached on a bunt.

Courtesy runner Hannah Benoit scored when Anna Belle Fontenot reached on an error.

Kennedy Ardoin reached on the second WCA miscue and Harlie Guillory walked to load the bases.

Karleigh Soileau singled in Fontenot as the Lady Jays moved ahead, 3-0.

Alice Brown reached on an error to drive in Ardoin and Guillory as SEH held a five run lead.

Westminster (6-6, 0-1) took advantage of two Lady Jay errors to score its only run of the game in the bottom of the inning.

St. Edmund responded with five runs in the top of the fourth inning to extend its lead to 10-1.

Fontenot was hit by a pitch, while Ardoin and Guillory both singled to load the bases.

Anna Chapman reached on an error that allowed Fontenot to score.

Soileau advanced on another WCA error that cleared the bases.

Courtesy runner Elizabeth Mcgee scored on another Lady Crusader miscue for a 10-1 Lady Jay advantage.

St. Edmund sealed the mercy-rule win with four more runs in the top of the fifth inning.

Madison Comeau led off with a double to centerfield and scored when Fontenot doubled to left field.

Guillory walked and Chapman singled to keep the rally going.

Soileau singled in Guillory, while both Fontenot and Chapman scored on WCA errors to push the lead to 14-1.

Guillory went 2-for-2 with two walks and three runs scored, while Fontenot finished 2-for-3 with two RBIs and three runs scored.

Soileau earned the win as she struck out nine, walked one and scattered one hit.

Soileau helped her own cause as she finished 2-for-4 with five RBI.

St. Edmund (11-0, 1-0) entertains Catholic High of Pointe Coupee on Tuesday and Sacred Heart of Ville Platte on Thursday as district action continues.

## UL's Russell named to All-District

KANSAS CITY, Missouri — Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns Men's Basketball player Cedric Russell picked up more postseason honors this week when he was named to the 2020-21 National Association of Basketball Coaches Division I All-District, selected by NABC-member head coaches in NCAA Division I.

The senior guard finished among the SBC leaders in scoring, 3-point field goal percentage and 3-pointers made per game.

The senior guard was 14th nationally in total made 3-pointers (76), 15th in 3-point FG attempts (190), 21st in 3-pointers per game (2.92), 22nd in total field goal attempts (363) and 36th in 3-point FG percentage (40.0)

Russell produced 10 games with 20-or-more points, with a season-high 30 coming at Arkansas State.

He had 17 games with three or more 3-pointers with a season-high six coming at Texas State.

Russell opened the year with 26 points against then top-ranked Baylor and scored 20-plus points in consecutive wins over in-state foes Louisiana Tech, New Orleans and McNeese.

## Lady Patriots down Lady Cats

By Tom Dodge  
Sports Editor

The Lady Bobcats kept the game close before North Vermilion broke it open as the Lady Patriots downed Eunice 8-2 in District 4-4A play.

Eunice (14-3) entertains LaGrange on Tuesday before visiting Rayne on Thursday as district competition continues.

North Vermilion jumped out to a 1-0 lead in the first inning when Lexi Broussard singled and scored on a hit by Madie Broussard.

After a scoreless second inning, the Lady Patriots exploded for three runs in the top of the third, begun when Lexi Broussard singled before Kennedy Semien and Rani Meaux both reached on a fielder's choice to load the bases.

Natalie Naomi's sacrifice fly allowed Lexi Broussard to score for Lady Patriot 2-0 lead.

Alyssa Akers then doubled in Semien and Meaux as North Vermilion pushed ahead, 4-0.

The Lady Pats added two more runs in the top of the fourth inning to move ahead, 6-0.

Abigail Lopez singled and scored when Lexi Broussard reached on an error.

Madi Broussard reached on a two-out error that allowed Lexi Broussard to score and increase the margin to six runs.

North Vermilion pushed across two more runs in the top of the fifth when Naomi reached on an error and Akers followed with a home run to left field.

After threatening in the first, second and fourth innings, the Lady Cats finally scored on a solo home run by Alissa Pate to lead off the bottom of the fifth to close the gap to 8-1.

Eunice added a run in the bottom of the sixth when Gabby Mitchell tripled and scored when Olivia Thibodeaux reached on an error.

Guillory finished 2-for-2 with a walk, while Pate went 1-for-1 with two walks.

Akers went 2-for-4 with four RBIs and also earned the win as she struck out two, walked four and allowed two runs on five hits.



Eunice's Alissa Pate hits a solo home run against North Vermilion. (Photo by Tom Dodge)

# Bengals win second straight title



LSUE's Malik Criner brings the ball down the court against Baton Rouge CC.

BATON ROUGE — In just three years' time, LSU Eunice has established itself as the toast of the junior college basketball in the state of Louisiana.

The Bengals secure their second straight LCCAC regular season crown with a 71-62 victory over Baton Rouge Community College on Thursday.

LSUE would use strong bench play in the first half as Malik Criner and Joshua Davis both poured in eight points before intermission to the give LSUE a 37-30 edge at the break.

The duo of Jonathan Cisse and Isaiah Payne would then take over in the second half.

Cisse and Payne combined for 23 points to help ward off a comeback attempt from the Bears. Payne led the Bengals with 20 points while Cisse added 16.

Davis joined the pair with double digit scoring as eight different Bengals scored on the night.

**LSUE 79, BRCC 70**

The LSU Eunice Lady Bengals picked up its 37th straight win in conference with a 79-70 road victory at Baton Rouge Community College.

LSUE (14-2, 9-0

LCCAC) wasted no time, outscoring BRCC 20-8 in the first quarter. The Bengals' lead would stay in double digits at the half, 38-25, thanks to a breakout performance from Tanisha Hester.

The freshman scored 14 of her career best 20 points in the first half including eight in the second quarter.

Hester would pass the baton to Alona Washington after intermission, who scored 16 of her 19 points out of the halftime break.

The Bengals got a balanced effort with five players in double figures including Trastasia Hester (10 points), Tahjea Smith (10 points) and 14 points from Abby Lynch off the bench.

**LSUE 13, LSUA 3**

LSU Eunice used an eight-run opening inning to set the stage for a 13-3 baseball victory over LSU Alexandria in seven innings on Thursday at Bengal Stadium.

It is the 13th time this season LSUE (20-3) has scored double digit runs in a game.

The Bengals lead the nation in runs with 336.

Ayden Makarus got the

See LSUE on Page 8

## Saints sign RB Armah

The New Orleans Saints announced Friday that they have signed unrestricted free agent full-back Alex Armah to a one-year contract.

Armah, 6-2, 255, is a four-year NFL veteran who was originally selected by the Carolina Panthers in the sixth round (192nd overall) in the 2017 NFL Draft out of West Georgia.

In four seasons for Carolina, the Dacula, Ga. native has played in 57 regular season games with four starts, carrying 21 times for 35 yards and three touchdowns, catching eight passes for 29 yards and five special teams tackles.

Armah, played in all 16 regular season games with one start in 2020 and rushed six times for nine yards and caught a career-high five passes for 18 yards.

In 2019, Armah was lead blocker for Panthers' Christian McCaffrey, who led the NFL with 2,392 total yards from scrimmage and tied for second with 19 touchdowns.

# LSUE

From Page 7

offensive showcase started with a two-run home run, his team's best sixth long ball of the season.

Thomas Papadopoulos would extend the inning with a bases loaded three run double to push the lead to six.

Bryce LaRocca capped the big inning with a two-run single.

All eight runs came with two outs in the inning.

After LSUA scratched two runs back, Papadopoulos would produce a sacrifice fly in the fifth inning.

LSUE would then score four more runs in the sixth highlighted by a solo home run from Cade Hart and a RBI single from Papadopoulos.

Papadopoulos would enjoy a five RBI game in his first start as a Bengal.

LaRocca and Makarus joined the redshirt freshman with multi-hit games.

Jackson Rodriguez (3-0) picked up the win after going four innings, giving up one earned run off three hits and three walks while striking out seven batters.

Luke McGiboney, Dylan Beier and Jase McDonald finished out the game as the Bengals combined for 11 punch-outs.

The Bengals travel to Carthage, Texas on Monday to take on Panola College.

**LSUE softball**  
BATON ROUGE – LSU Eunice's high powered offense continued its tear with a pair of impressive mercy rule wins over Baton Rouge CC on Thursday.

The Bengals (21-8) scored 28 runs off 31 hits, smashed six home runs and collected 16 extra base hits over the two games.

Karli Fontenot enjoyed a career day, tallying six hits, eight RBIs and three runs scored.

The freshman also belted three home runs.

**LSUE 15, BRCC 5**

LSU Eunice raced out to an eight-run lead and never looked back in a 15-5 mercy-rule victory in five innings.

The Bengals plated four runs in both the first and second innings, using a two-run Olivia Hennen double to get the onslaught started.

Karli Fontenot would drive in one of her three RBIs a few batters later, followed by a run off passed ball.

An inning later, LSUE used three hits and walk to push the lead to 8-0. Fontenot would cap the frame with a RBI double.

After BRCC responded with a pair in the second, both teams scratched three runs in the third including a two-run home run from Syndei Simon.

The Lady Bengals would trigger the mercy rule win with four runs in the final two innings including a two-run single by Olivia Hennen, part of her four RBI game.

Fontenot paced LSUE's 15-hit outburst with a 3-for-3 game, followed by multi-hit games from Hennen, Simon and Maddie Leal.

Simon also picked up the win after tossing three innings, scattering two runs off six hits and three walks.

Simon combined with Raegan Pilgreen and Chloe Brouillette for eight strikeouts.

**LSUE 13, BRCC 5**

LSU Eunice belted four home runs to help the Bengals secure another run-rule victory over Baton Rouge CC, 13-5. The Bengals were led by another offensive gem from Karli Fontenot, smashing a pair of home runs as well as collecting five RBIs.

Fontenot and the Bengals put up four quick runs in the first inning highlighted by a two-run double by the freshman. Her two-run homer in the fourth pushed the LSUE advantage to 8-2.

Syndei Simon, Fontenot and Rylie Candella would blast a trio of home runs in the final two innings and LSUE separated itself from the Bears late.

Fontenot, King, Candella and Simon all had three-hit games while Maddie Leal also had a multi-hit contest.

Cendall Barton picked up her third win of the year after twirling four innings, giving up three earned runs off five hits and three walks.

The Lady Bengals entertain South Arkansas University Tech in a 1 p.m. doubleheader on Wednesday.

# SENIOR SPOTLIGHT



Jacob Southall – St. Edmund basketball

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

SHERIFF'S SALE

ROUNDPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING CORPORATION VS

THOMAS JORDAN FILES AND DANNA BROUSSARD FILES (THRU ATTY BEN TRANT)

NO. 20-C-0186-D, CIVIL DOCKET, 27TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT ST. LANDRY PARISH, LOUISIANA

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT BY VIRTUE OF A WRIT OF SEIZURE AND SALE ISSUED OUT OF THE HONORABLE, THE 27TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF LOUISIANA, IN THE ABOVE ENTITLED AND NUMBERED CAUSE AND TO ME DIRECTED, I HAVE SEIZED AND TAKEN INTO MY POSSESSION AND WILL OFFER FOR SALE TO THE LAST AND HIGHEST BIDDER, ACCORDING TO LAW, COMMENCING AT THE LEGAL HOUR OF 10:00 A.M. AT THE PRINCIPAL FRONT DOOR OF THE COURT HOUSE AT OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA ON WEDNESDAY, THE 24TH DAY OF MARCH, 2021, THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PROPERTY, TO WIT:

A CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF GROUND, TOGETHER WITH ALL BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON, IF ANY, CONTAINING 0.952 ACRES, AND IDENTIFIED AS LOT 7-E OF THE SHADY MEADOWS SUBDIVISION SITUATED IN SECTIONS 74 AND 75, TOWNSHIP 7 SOUTH, RANGE 4 EAST, ST. LANDRY PARISH, LOUISIANA, AS PER PLAT OF SURVEY PREPARED BY MORGAN GOUDEAU & ASSOCIATES, ROBERT L. WOLFE, JR., R.L.S., DATED APRIL 16, 1998, A COPY OF WHICH IS ATTACHED TO ENTRY NO. 830236, RECORDS OF ST. LANDRY PARISH, LOUISIANA.

PROPERTY ADDRESS IS BELIEVED TO BE: 183 SKYLARK LANE, SUNSET, LA 70584

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE:

CASH WITHOUT BENEFIT OF APPRAISEMENT TO PAY AND SATISFY THE SUM OF TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-SIX THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED SEVENTEEN AND 92/100 DOLLARS (\$226,717.92), TOGETHER WITH INTEREST AT THE RATE OF FOUR AND THREE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSANDTHS (4.375%) PER ANNUM THEREON FROM OCTOBER 1, 2018, AND ATTORNEY FEES OF \$2,000.00, AS WELL AS ALL OTHER COSTS OF THIS SUIT.

ANYONE PURCHASING PROPERTY AT SHERIFF'S SALE IS GIVEN UNTIL 2:00 P.M. ON SALE DAY TO PAY THE FULL PURCHASE AMOUNT.

BOBBY J. GUIDROZ, SHERIFF ST. LANDRY PARISH, LOUISIANA

(PUBLISH: FEBRUARY 18 & MARCH 21, 2021) 2T

## PUBLIC NOTICE

SHERIFF'S SALE

GMFS LLC VS

LUKE ROBIN

NO. 19-C-4643-A, CIVIL DOCKET, 27TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT ST. LANDRY PARISH, LOUISIANA

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT BY VIRTUE OF A WRIT OF SEIZURE AND SALE ISSUED OUT OF THE HONORABLE, THE 27TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF LOUISIANA, IN THE ABOVE ENTITLED AND NUMBERED CAUSE AND TO ME DIRECTED, I HAVE SEIZED AND TAKEN INTO MY POSSESSION AND WILL OFFER FOR SALE TO THE LAST AND HIGHEST BIDDER, ACCORDING TO LAW, COMMENCING AT THE LEGAL HOUR OF 10:00 A.M. AT THE PRINCIPAL FRONT DOOR OF THE COURT HOUSE AT OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA ON WEDNESDAY, THE 24TH DAY OF MARCH, 2021, THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PROPERTY, TO WIT:

THOSE CERTAIN PIECES OR TRACTS OF GROUND, TOGETHER WITH ALL BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON AND ALL RIGHTS, WAYS, PRIVILEGES, SERVITUDES, EASEMENTS AND APPURTENANCES THERETO BELONGING OR IN ANYWISE APPERTAINING, SITUATED IN SECTION 41, TOWNSHIP 7 SOUTH, RANGE 5 EAST, ST. LANDRY PARISH, LOUISIANA, WITHOUT CORPORATE LIMITS OF ARNAUDVILLE, TRACTS A & B, CONTAINING 13.908 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN BY REFERENCE TO A PLAT OF SURVEY PREPARED BY RICHARD C. SPIKES, INC., DATED MAY 25, 1978, FILED FOR RECORD JUNE 2, 1978, UNDER ACT NOS. 621925 AND 621926, RECORDS OF ST. LANDRY PARISH, LOUISIANA. TRACTS BEING CONTIGUOUS AND HAVING A FRONTAGE OF 497.97 FEET ON PARISH ROAD 3-41 WITH A SOUTHERLY BOUNDARY OF 1269.83 FEET, A WESTERLY OR REAR BOUNDARY OF 498.63 FEET AND A NORTHERLY BOUNDARY OF 1183.35 FEET AND BEING BOUNDED EASTERLY BY PARISH ROAD 3-41; SOUTHERLY BY PROPERTY TOM SHELTON OR ASSIGNS, WESTERLY BY PROPERTY OF ALINA O. DELFREY OR ASSIGNS; AND NORTHERLY BY PROPERTY OF ASHTON GUILBEAU OR ASSIGNS AND WITH SUCH FURTHER DIMENSIONS, MEASUREMENTS, BOUNDARIES, SHAPE, FORM, LOCATION AND CONFIGU-

RATION AS SHOWN ON THAT PLAT OF SURVEY, AND MADE A PART HEREOF BY REFERENCE THERETO; SUBJECT TO RESTRICTIONS, SERVITUDES, RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND OUTSTANDING MINERAL RIGHTS OF RECORD AFFECTING THE PROPERTY.

PROPERTY ADDRESS IS BELIEVED TO BE: 470 MECHE ROAD, ARNAUDVILLE, LA 70512

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE:

CASH WITHOUT BENEFIT OF APPRAISEMENT TO PAY AND SATISFY THE SUM OF TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-EIGHT THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED FIFTY-SIX AND 57/100 DOLLARS (\$228,656.57), TOGETHER WITH INTEREST AT THE RATE OF FOUR AND SIX HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE THOUSANDTHS (4.625%) PER ANNUM THEREON FROM APRIL 1, 2019, AND ATTORNEY FEES OF .25%, PERCENT OF THE PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST, AS WELL AS ALL OTHER COSTS OF THIS SUIT.

ANYONE PURCHASING PROPERTY AT SHERIFF'S SALE IS GIVEN UNTIL 2:00 P.M. ON SALE DAY TO PAY THE FULL PURCHASE AMOUNT.

BOBBY J. GUIDROZ, SHERIFF ST. LANDRY PARISH, LOUISIANA

(PUBLISH: FEBRUARY 18 & MARCH 21, 2021) 2T

## PUBLIC NOTICE

St. Landry Parish Council is accepting applications for appointments to the following commissions/boards:

• Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for two appointments to the Ward Two Gravity Drainage District No. 1 for a four year term. (04-19-2021 – 04-19-2025).

\*\*\*ALL APPLICANTS MUST PROVIDE A VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE WITH ADDRESS MATCHING BOARD AND COMMISSION HE/SHE IS APPLYING FOR TO BE CONSIDERED FOR BOARD.\*\*\*

All applicants must be residents of St. Landry Parish and reside in the District of which they are applying to serve. Applications are available online at www.stlandryparishgovernment.org or at the Council's Office at 131 West Bellevue St. in Opelousas. Deadline for applications is April 7, 2021 before 12:00 pm. Contact the Council's Office for more information at (337)942-6863.

(PUBLISH: MARCH 21, 2021) 1T



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**10 RENT HOUSES** located near Ville Platte. \$195,000 for all (Annual Income \$39,000) 337-831-6651

**Model:** Generac Run Watts: 8000 Bluetooth: No  
**Product Type:** Electric Start Portable Generator  
**Width:** 27in  
**Engine Manufacturer:** Generac  
**Low Oil Shut-down:** Yes  
**Depth:** 27.2in  
**Number outlets:** 3  
**Volts:** 120v  
**Continuous Run Time:** 11hrs  
**Starting Watts:** 10,000  
**Height:** 26.5in  
**Fuel Gauge:** Yes  
**Fuel Tank:** 7.9 gal  
**Power Type:** Gas  
**Engine Displacement:** 420 cc  
**Engine:** OHV  
**Wheel Kit Included:** Yes  
**Carb Compliant:** No

**CDL DRIVERS NEEDED**. Babineaux's Concrete in Eunice is looking to hire Class A or B CDL Drivers. Must have clean driving record and be able to pass drug screen. Health insurance and benefits offered. Drivers apply at 550 S. 12th Street, Eunice or call 337-457-4959 or 337-580-0019.

**PORTABLE TOILET AND** dumpster company needs driver. Must have at least a chauffeur's license, pass a drug screen, have a clean driving record/work history, and must have a TWIC card or quality to get one. Apply in person at 578 Highway 13 North, Eunice.

**HOMES FOR SALE**  
**FOR SALE BY** owner: 3 bedroom, 2 bath. 1,855 SQFT. 1230 Nile, Eunice. \$120,000. Appointment only. 225-800-7603.

**PUBLIC NOTICES**  
**KROTZ SPRINGS EXXON, LLC d/b/a** Krotz Springs Exxon is applying to the Office of Alcohol & Tobacco Control of the State of Louisiana for a permit to sell beverages of high and low alcohol content at retail in the Parish of St. Landry at the following address: 24446 Highway 190, Krotz Springs Exxon, LLC. Krotz Springs Exxon. Members: Sam Morrow, Gloria Faye Leger Morrow, Jeffery Lane Morrow.

**Apartments & Houses for Rent**  
Call Frey Development  
161 W. Maple St  
337-546-6036



**FOR SALE**  
**21 ACRES OF** land on Chicot Park Rd. Some woods & some cleared \$80,000 337-831-5892 337-581-5640

**HELP WANTED**  
**(VILLE PLATTE CLINIC** Pharmacy has an opening for a part time delivery driver. The position is 3 days a week. Please apply in person.) I would like to run the ad for 3 weeks. Also can you please send us a bill and I will remit payment. If you have any questions please call Kayla at 337-363-0941.

**DSW NEEDED TO** care for disabled adult in the surrounding area. Apply at True Home Care, 241 E Main St, Ville Platte. 337-363-7879

**PART TIME NEEDED** Personal Assistant to Aircraft Sales Company \$16/hr Experience such as, computer & Banking knowledge, Degree preferred but not necessary. Email resume to keith@usaaircraft.com

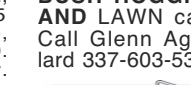
**HOUSES AND APARTMENTS** Furnished apartments, including utilities, Eunice. Call 337-305-3350.

**FOR SALE**  
**10 RENT HOUSES** located near Ville Platte. \$195,000 for all (Annual Income \$39,000) 337-831-6651



**COMMERCIAL BUILDING: 1022** S Q F T. \$ 4 5 0 monthly. 337-457-4229

**SERVICES**  
**BUSH HOGGING AND LAWN** care. Call Glenn Aguilard 337-603-5321.



**THANK YOU St. Jude for your continued intercession and prayers answered. MDL**

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or Fax Resume to 337-550-1143  
or e-mail to DON  
hvidrine@oaklanewellness.com  
Owned & Operated by the Frankie Lafleur Family

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### NOTICE OF INTENTION TO CREATE AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT IN THE TOWN OF SUNSET, STATE OF LOUISIANA, AND TO LEVY A 2% SALES TAX THEREIN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Sunset, State of Louisiana (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of the Town of Sunset, State of Louisiana (the "Town") proposes to consider the adoption of an ordinance, pursuant to La. R.S. 33:9038.32, creating an economic development district within the Town to be called "Sunset Economic Development District No. 1, State of Louisiana" (the "District").

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN THAT upon the creation of the District, the Governing Authority, in its capacity as the governing authority of the newly created District, further proposes to consider the adoption of an ordinance, pursuant to La. R.S. 33:9038.39, levying in the District an additional two percent (2%) sales tax, for the purpose of financing economic development projects, as defined in La. R.S. 33:9038.34(M) and La. R.S. 33:9038.36, located within the District, and also to pay the costs of infrastructure improvements outside the District that benefit property in the District (the "District Tax"). The proceeds of the District Tax will be deposited in a special trust fund to be used for the aforesaid purposes, all pursuant to the authority of Part II, Chapter 27, Title 33 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended (La. R.S. 33:9038.31, et seq.).

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN THAT the Governing Authority, acting as the governing authority of both the Town the District, (i) will meet in open and public session on Thursday, April 8, 2021, at SIX O'CLOCK (6:00) P.M., at the Sunset Community Center, 108 Leo Richard Lane, Sunset, Louisiana 70584, to hear any objections to the creation of the District and/or the proposed levy of the District Tax as described above, and (ii) will also meet in open and public session on Thursday, May 13, 2021, at SIX O'CLOCK (6:00) P.M., at the Sunset Community Center, 108 Leo Richard Lane, Sunset, Louisiana 70584, to consider the adoption of an ordinance levying the District Tax.

A map of the proposed District is attached hereto as Exhibit A and a description of the boundaries of the proposed District is on file with the Town Clerk and available for review during normal business hours at the Town Hall.

The following map depicts the boundaries of the District, which consists of nine (9) areas all within the corporate limits of Sunset. A legal description is on file with the Town Clerk:



(PUBLISH: MARCH 18 & 21, 2021) 27

## PUBLIC NOTICE

The St. Landry Parish Tourist Commission is seeking an electrical contractor to coordinate work on a wind turbine at the Visitor Center in Opelousas. The turbine, damaged during Hurricane Delta, must be repaired or removed. Installation of a new turbine will likely require work with other contractors and suppliers to finish the project. Details are available from executive director Herman Fuselier at 337-948-8004 or silandry@cajuntravel.com.

(PUBLISH: MARCH 21, 25 & 28, 2021) 3T

## PUBLIC NOTICE

3/17/2020

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

#### STATEWIDE FLOOD CONTROL PRIORITY PROGRAM

#### AIRPORT CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT PRIORITY PROGRAM

#### PORT CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT PRIORITY PROGRAM

To review the proposed Statewide Flood Control Program, the Airport Construction and Development Priority Program, and the Port Construction and Development Priority Program for Fiscal Year 2021-22, as follows:

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA: 10:00 A.M., Wednesday, April 7th, 2021

Up Adjournment of the Joint Highway Priority Construction Meeting Louisiana State Capitol House Chamber

This Public Hearing will be conducted in accordance with Act 351 of the 1982 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature and Acts 451 and 452 of the 1989 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature by the House and Senate Committees on Transportation, Highways and Public Works, meeting jointly.

The purpose of this Public Hearing is to review the proposed Statewide Flood Control Priority Program, the proposed Airport Construction and Development Priority Program, and the proposed Port Construction and Development Priority Program for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. All interested persons are invited to be present.

Oral testimony will be received. However, so that all persons desiring to speak have an equal opportunity to do so, it is requested that every effort be made to complete individual testimony as quickly as possible. Oral testimony may be supplemented by presenting written statements and comments to the Committee by mailing the same postmarked within ten (10) calendar days following the hearing to the Department of Transportation and Development, Attn: Office of Multimodal Commerce, P.O. Box 94245 Baton Rouge, LA 70804. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Elizabeth Eastwood, Department of Transportation and Development, phone (225) 379-3038.

Senator Rick Ward, III, Chairman  
Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways, and Public Works

Representative Vincent Pierre, Chairman  
House Committee on Transportation, Highways & Public Works

(PUBLISH: MARCH 21, 2021) 1T

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### SHERIFF'S SALE

### SCOLOPAX, LLC VS

#### RAY CHARLES EDWARDS THRU ATTY BRETT GARCILLE & PATRICIA ANN BAKER MOORE THRU ATTY OGDEN PITRE

NO. 20-C-0193-B, CIVIL DOCKET, 27TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT ST. LANDRY PARISH, LOUISIANA

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT BY VIRTUE OF A WRIT OF SEIZURE AND SALE ISSUED OUT OF THE HONORABLE, THE 27TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF LOUISIANA, IN THE ABOVE ENTITLED AND NUMBERED CAUSE AND TO ME DIRECTED, I HAVE SEIZED AND TAKEN INTO MY POSSESSION AND WILL OFFER FOR SALE TO THE LAST AND HIGHEST BIDDER, ACCORDING TO LAW, COMMENCING AT THE LEGAL HOUR OF 10:00 A.M. AT THE PRINCIPAL FRONT DOOR OF THE COURT HOUSE AT OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA ON WEDNESDAY, THE **24TH DAY OF MARCH, 2021**. THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PROPERTY, TO WIT:

ITEM I: A CERTAIN LOT OR PARCEL OF GROUND, TOGETHER WITH ALL BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON, SITUATED IN THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS, ST. LANDRY PARISH, LOUISIANA, IDENTIFIED AS LOT SEVEN (7) OF BLOCK THREE (3) OF PLAT A OF THE HEIRS OF JULIA BULLARD GARLAND, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 11 OF THE RECORDS OFFICE OF ST. LANDRY PARISH, LOUISIANA. SAID LOT HAVING A FRONT OF RECORDERS OFFICE OF ST. LANDRY PARISH, LOUISIANA. SAID LOT HAVING A FRONT OF FIFTY (50) FEET ON MARIE STREET BY A DEPTH BETWEEN PARALLEL LINES RUNNING IN AN EASTERLY DIRECTION OF ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-NINE (139) FEET, AND BEING BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS: NORTH BY LOT 6 OF SAID BLOCK, SOUTH BY LOT 8 OF SAID BLOCK, EAST BY LOT 9 OF SAID BLOCK, AND WEST BY MARIE STREET.

ITEM II: A CERTAIN STRIP OR PARCEL OF LAND, TOGETHER WITH ALL BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON, SITUATED IN THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS, ST. LANDRY PARISH, LOUISIANA, MEASURING THREE (3) FEET ON THE EAST SIDE OF MARIE STREET BY A DEPTH BETWEEN PARALLEL LINES RUNNING IN AN EASTERLY DIRECTION OF SIXTY (60) FEET, LOCATED IN THE EXTREME NORTHWEST CORNER OF LOT EIGHT (8) OF BLOCK THREE (3) OF PLAT A OF THE HEIRS OF JULIA BULLARD GARLAND, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 11 OF THE RECORDS OF ST. LANDRY PARISH, LOUISIANA. SAID STRIP BEING BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS: NORTH BY ITEM I ABOVE, SOUTH AND EAST BY THE REMAINDER OF SAID LOT 8, AND WEST BY MARIE STREET; SUBJECT TO RESTRICTIONS, SERVITUDES, RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND OUTSTANDING MINERAL RIGHTS OF RECORD AFFECTING THE PROPERTY.

PROPERTY ADDRESS IS BELIEVED TO BE: 208 MARIE STREET, OPELOUSAS, LA 70570

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE:

CASH WITH BENEFIT OF APPRAISEMENT TO PAY AND SATISFY THE SUM OF THIRTY-FOUR THOUSAND FIFTY-EIGHT AND 34/100 DOLLARS (\$34,058.34), TOGETHER WITH INTEREST AT THE RATE OF SIX AND FORTY-EIGHT HUNDREDTHS (6.48%) PER ANNUM THEREON FROM AUGUST 1, 2020, AND ATTORNEY FEES OF .25% PER CENT OF THE PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST, AS WELL AS ALL OTHER COSTS OF THIS SUIT.

ANYONE PURCHASING PROPERTY AT SHERIFF'S SALE IS GIVEN UNTIL 2:00 P.M. ON SALE DAY TO PAY THE FULL PURCHASE AMOUNT.

BOBBY J. GUIDROZ, SHERIFF  
ST. LANDRY PARISH, LOUISIANA

(PUBLISH: FEBRUARY 18 & MARCH 21, 2021) 2T

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### SHERIFF'S SALE

### EUGENE & CONNIE PATIN ENTERPRISES VS

#### SUPERIOR DEVELOPMENT LLC THROUGH ITS REGISTERED AGENT SCOTT BUTAUD THRU ATTY BENJAMIN TRANT

NO. 20-C-4309-D, CIVIL DOCKET, 27TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT ST. LANDRY PARISH, LOUISIANA

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT BY VIRTUE OF A WRIT OF SEIZURE AND SALE ISSUED OUT OF THE HONORABLE, THE 27TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF LOUISIANA, IN THE ABOVE ENTITLED AND NUMBERED CAUSE AND TO ME DIRECTED, I HAVE SEIZED AND TAKEN INTO MY POSSESSION AND WILL OFFER FOR SALE TO THE LAST AND HIGHEST BIDDER, ACCORDING TO LAW, COMMENCING AT THE LEGAL HOUR OF 10:00 A.M. AT THE PRINCIPAL FRONT DOOR OF THE COURT HOUSE AT OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA ON WEDNESDAY, THE **24TH DAY OF MARCH, 2021**. THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PROPERTY, TO WIT:

A CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF GROUND TOGETHER WITH ALL BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON, IF ANY, SITUATED IN SECTIONS 13 AND 24, T-7-S, R-3-E, ST. LANDRY PARISH, LOUISIANA CONTAINING 32.94 ACRES AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS TRACT 2-A AS SHOWN ON THAT CERTAIN PLAT OF SURVEY PREPARED BY ROBERT L. WOLFE, JR., REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR DATED SEPTEMBER 11, 2006, WHICH PLAT IS ATTACHED TO THAT ACT RECORDED UNDER ENTRY NO. 970169 OF THE RECORDS OF THE ST. LANDRY PARISH CLERK OF COURT'S OFFICE. THIS TRACT CONTAINS SUCH DIMENSIONS, BOUNDARIES AND CONFIGURATIONS AS SET FORTH ON THE REFERRED TO PLAT OF SURVEY BEING THE SAME PROPERTY ACQUIRED BY IRA LEE LANGE, ELAINE LEAR LANGE, EUGENE J.PATIN AND CONSTANCE REED PATIN BY ACT OF CASH SALE DATED SEPTEMBER 26, 2006, RECORDED UNDER ENTRY NO. 970169; BEING THE SAME PROPERTY ACQUIRED BY SUNSET STABLES, L.L.C. BY ACT OF CONVEYANCE/CONTRIBUTION DATED DECEMBER 21, 2006, RECORDED UNDER ENTRY NO. 974963; BOTH OF THE RECORDS OF THE ST. LANDRY PARISH CLERK OF COURT'S OFFICE.

AND

A CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND, TOGETHER WITH ALL BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON, AND ALL RIGHTS, WAYS, PRIVILEGES, SERVITUDES, APPURTENANCES AND ADVANTAGES THEREUNTO APPERTAINING, SITUATED IN SECTIONS THIRTEEN (13) AND TWENTY-FOUR (24), TOWNSHIP SEVEN SOUTH (T-7-S), RANGE THREE EAST (R-3-E), ST. LANDRY PARISH, LOUISIANA, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY IDENTIFIED AS PARCEL I-A, CONTAINING TWELVE AND 876/1000THS (12.876) ACRES, ON PLAT OF SURVEY BY MORGAN GOUDEAU & ASSOCIATES BY ROBERT L. WOLFE, JR., DATED SEPTEMBER 8, 2009, ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART HEREOF, AND HAVING SUCH DIMENSIONS, CONFIGURATION AND BOUNDARIES AS SHOWN ON SAID PLAT.

AND

THAT CERTAIN LOT OR PARCEL OF GROUND, TOGETHER WITH ALL IMPROVEMENTS THEREON AND THEREUNTO BELONGING, SITUATED IN SECTION 24, TOWNSHIP 7 SOUTH, RANGE 3 EAST, ST. LANDRY PARISH, LOUISIANA, BEING KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS TRACT THREE A (3A), IDENTIFIED AS CONTAINING 0.552 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, SAID PROPERTY HAVING A FRONTAGE OF 122.41 FEET, MORE OR LESS, ON STATE HIGHWAY 178, WITH THE FURTHER DIMENSIONS, BOUNDARIES, SHAPE, FORM, LOCATION AND CONFIGURATION AS SHOWN ON THAT CERTAIN PLAT OF SURVEY OF SAID SUBDIVISION DATED MAY 31, 2004, PREPARED BY JESS L. THIBODEAUX, P.L.S. ATTACHED TO THAT ACT RECORDED UNDER ENTRY NO. 927273, OF THE RECORDS OF ST. LANDRY PARISH CLERK OF COURT.

AND

A CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF GROUND, TOGETHER WITH ALL BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON, IF ANY, TOGETHER WITH ALL RIGHTS, WAYS, PRIVILEGES, SERVITUDES, APPURTENANCES AND ADVANTAGES THEREUNTO APPERTAINING, SITUATED IN SECTION THIRTEEN (13), TOWNSHIP SEVEN SOUTH (T-7-S), RANGE THREE EAST (R-3-E), ST. LANDRY PARISH, LOUISIANA, CONTAINING TWENTY-FIVE AND 087/1000THS (25.087) ACRES, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON PLAT OF SURVEY PREPARED BY ROBERT L. WOLFE, JR., REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR, DATED JUNE 25, 2012, ATTACHED TO THAT ACT RECORDED UNDER ENTRY NO. 1075871. SAID TRACT HAS SUCH DIMENSIONS, BOUNDARIES AND CONFIGURATIONS AS SET FORTH ON THAT PLAT OF SURVEY REFERENCED HEREIN.

AND

A CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF GROUND TOGETHER WITH ALL BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON, IF ANY, SITUATED IN SECTION 24, TOWNSHIP 7 SOUTH, RANGE 3 EAST, ST. LANDRY PARISH, LOUISIANA CONTAINING 0.094 ACRES AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY IDENTIFIED AS TRACT 3B AS SHOWN ON THAT CERTAIN PLAT OF SURVEY PREPARED BY BRANDON S. BREAU, REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR, DATED JUNE 15, 2015 WHICH PLAT IS ATTACHED TO THAT ACT RECORDED UNDER ENTRY NO. 1146322 OF THE RECORDS OF THE ST. LANDRY PARISH CLERK OF COURT'S OFFICE. THIS TRACT CONTAINS SUCH DIMENSIONS, BOUNDARIES AND CONFIGURATION AS SET FORTH ON THE REFERRED TO PLAT OF SURVEY.

AND

A CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF GROUND, TOGETHER WITH ALL BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON, IF ANY, TOGETHER WITH ALL RIGHTS, WAYS, PRIVILEGES, SERVITUDES, APPURTENANCES AND ADVANTAGES THEREUNTO APPERTAINING, SITUATED IN SECTION THIRTEEN (13), TOWNSHIP SEVEN SOUTH (T-7-S), RANGE THREE EAST (R-3-E), ST. LANDRY PARISH, LOUISIANA, CONTAINING TWO AND 68/1000THS (2.680) ACRES, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON PLAT OF SURVEY PREPARED BY ROBERT L. WOLFE, JR., REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR, DATED APRIL 28, 2010, ATTACHED HERETO TO THAT ACT RECORDED UNDER ENTRY NO. 1034510 OF THE RECORDS OF THE ST. LANDRY PARISH CLERK OF COURT'S OFFICE. SAID TRACT HAS SUCH DIMENSIONS, BOUNDARIES AND CONFIGURATIONS AS SET FORTH ON THE REFERRED TO PLAT OF SURVEY.

PROPERTY ADDRESS IS BELIEVED TO BE: 354 CHRIST THE KING ROAD, OPELOUSAS, LA 70570

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE:

CASH WITH BENEFIT OF APPRAISEMENT TO PAY AND SATISFY THE SUM OF ONE MILLION TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY-NINE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED FIFTY-TWO AND 76/100 DOLLARS (\$1,289,552.76), TOGETHER WITH INTEREST AT THE RATE OF FOUR AND EIGHTY-FIVE HUNDREDTHS (4.85%) PER ANNUM THEREON FROM NOVEMBER 25, 2020, AND ATTORNEY FEES OF .25% PER CENT OF THE PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST, AS WELL AS ALL OTHER COSTS OF THIS SUIT.

ANYONE PURCHASING PROPERTY AT SHERIFF'S SALE IS GIVEN UNTIL 2:00 P.M. ON SALE DAY TO PAY THE FULL PURCHASE AMOUNT.

BOBBY J. GUIDROZ, SHERIFF  
ST. LANDRY PARISH, LOUISIANA

(PUBLISH: FEBRUARY 18 & MARCH 21, 2021) 2T

## Get it growing



Pine straw mulch is a great choice for ornamental landscape beds and for vegeta-

ble beds. (Photo by Heather Kirk-Ballard/LSU AgCenter)

## Must-knows about mulch

By Heather Kirk-Ballard  
LSU AgCenter horticulturist

Mulching is one of the most basic and essential tasks of gardening. Most of us mulch because it helps reduce the amount of time we spend pulling weeds.

Mulch provides many other benefits, however. It helps maintain soil moisture and reduces the amount of water lost to evaporation — which decreases the amount of time we spend watering and the amount of water we use.

Mulch also helps buffer the soil temperature by trapping radiant heat from the soil in the winter and insulating roots from the heat of the summer. Aesthetically, it provides a neat and uniform appearance to landscape beds.

It's a good practice to check mulched areas every spring and fall as part of your routine gardening maintenance. Check for thinned areas that need to be replenished with fresh material.

The best depth for a mulch layer is 2 to 4 inches. Too thick a layer can reduce oxygen reaching the soil. Too thin, and you give weeds a fighting chance.

There are two main types of mulch: organic and inorganic. Natural, organic mulches include wood chips, shredded bark, pine needles, leaves, compost, straw, grass clippings, and even paper or cardboard. Inorganic mulches can be rocks, plastic mulches and landscape fabrics.

One additional benefit of organic mulches is that as they decompose, they improve soil fertility, aeration, structure and even drainage. All of these will improve plant growth and health. Major bonus!

Each type of mulch material offers benefits — and sometimes, drawbacks. What you choose ultimately depends on the design, intended use of the area and the types of plants growing there.

Let's talk about some of the most common mulches available. Bark mulches are one of the most commonly used, readily available and often the least expensive. Available in larger nuggets or shredded, they come from several types of trees, including pine, cedar and cypress.

When weighing the benefits of bark nuggets vs. shredded, be aware that nuggets break down much slower but do not stay in place well. Heavy rains can carry them away, and if not layered at a good depth, they leave large gaps where weeds can grow. Shredded bark provides good coverage and stays in place well, but breaks down more quickly than nuggets.

When choosing the tree source from which the mulch is made, please seriously consider avoiding the use of cypress. Mulches made from bald or

pond cypress are not as sustainable or environmentally friendly as other types. The harvesting of cypress trees can increase the loss of coastal wetlands and wildlife habitat — a situation we are desperately trying to stop.

Bark mulches are great for landscape beds, but are not recommended for vegetable gardens because they can tie up nitrogen from the soil, making it less available to the plants. However, leaves, pine needles and straw are ideal for vegetable gardens.

Straw mulches, including pine needles, are excellent choices for both vegetable and ornamental landscape beds. They have the benefit of slower breakdown than leaves or grass clippings, and you can find them in small, shredded options in addition to larger sizes. They are readily available and affordable. Both help prevent soil from splashing up onto fruits and vegetables when laid properly.

Fallen leaves are economical because they are free. You've got to get them cleaned up, so why not put them to work for you? Additionally, it is a sustainable landscape practice to use fallen leaves as mulch or to make compost. They may not be as uniform and aesthetically pleasing — but practicality goes farther than beauty in my book.

One other organic option is paper and cardboard. Place a thick layer down and use a few rocks to hold in place, or cover it with a thin layer of another type of organic mulch. Voila — you are reusing and reducing waste! Paper will eventually break down. Paper mulch rolls also are being produced now. They can be purchased online and sometimes in stores.

Inorganic options are landscape fabric and plastic mulches. They can be very effective, especially when growing vegetables and in rows. They are readily available, but are often more expensive and labor intensive to install. They do a great job of suppressing weeds, retaining moisture and preventing soil from splashing up onto plants. But black plastic mulches get very hot during the summertime, take time to pull up and are persistent, meaning they don't break down and are not environmentally friendly.

Rocks also can be used as an inorganic mulch. They don't break down, so you won't have to reapply, but they do not improve your soil and they can get very hot in the summer. If they are not laid thickly enough, they allow weed growth.

You will likely need to use a landscape fabric underneath rocks to help prevent weeds, making this one of the most expensive options. However, rocks are uniform and add aesthetic interest



Leaf litter can be utilized as a sustainable mulch option for both landscape and

vegetable beds alike. (Photo by Heather Kirk-Ballard/LSU AgCenter)

## State tax filing and payment deadlines extended

BATON ROUGE — The Louisiana Department of Revenue has granted automatic filing and payment extensions to individual and business taxpayers affected by severe winter weather in February. The extension applies to income, excise, franchise, sales, severance and withholding taxes.

For income and franchise taxes, the extension applies to all taxpayers and paid tax preparers in Louisiana and Texas regardless of parish or county. The extended due date is June 15 for individual income, corporation income and franchise, fiduciary income, partnership and partnership composite tax returns and payments with original or extended due dates on or after Feb. 11 and before June 14.

For excise, sales, severance and with-

holding tax returns and payments due on or after Feb. 11 and on or before Feb. 28, the automatic extended due date is March 31. This extension is available to all individual and business taxpayers in Louisiana, regardless of parish of residence.

The extension is available to individual and business taxpayers in Texas whose homes, principal places of business, critical tax records or paid tax preparers were located in areas designated by FEMA as eligible for both individual and public assistance. Read FEMA-4586-DR for Texas counties eligible for individual and public assistance.

Read Revenue Information Bulletin 21-007 for more information, including a list of all sales, severance and excise tax returns and payments eligible for this relief.



Jennifer Weishaupt

Ruby Slipper CEO

b1BANK Client

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