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The Eunice News

VOL. 117 NO. 32 THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 2021

\$1.00

Catalytic converter thefts on the rise

By Harlan Kirgan
Editor

Reports of stolen catalytic converters off vehicles are increasing in Eunice, which follows a national trend.

The Eunice Police Department radio dispatch logs noted two instances on Monday — one at Sears and the other at the John R. Young dealership.

“That’s one of those crimes that is happening all over,” Police Chief Randy Fontenot said.

Thieves are selling the stolen convert-



Randy Fontenot

ers, which are part of the exhaust system, for \$200 to \$800, Fontenot said.

“Some of these catalytic converters are being sold in Mamou. We’ve alerted the Evangeline Parish Sheriff’s Office. Some are being sold in Mississippi,” he said.

The converters contain precious metals including rhodium, platinum and palladium. Vehi-

cle made after 1974 are required to have catalytic converters.

The theft occurs in minutes. The converter is sawed off the exhaust system.

One thief was caught with a charging station for the portable saw in the back of a pickup truck so he could operate with a fresh battery charge.

More than a week ago, an attempted theft was discovered at John R. Young.

“They didn’t finish cutting it off. Something spooked them and scared them off. I want to hope it was a patrol car passing

through the area that spooked them,” he said.

Dozens of the converters have been stolen locally in a series of thefts that started several months ago.

“They hit a few apartment complexes and some houses. They mostly hitting places where they have cars stored outside that are waiting to be worked on,” he said.

“Older model vehicles and vans are a target they are after because some of the

(See **Thefts**, Page 2)

First criminal trial held in 27th District since onset of COVID-19

OPELOUSAS — A jury found an Opelousas man guilty of second-degree murder in the shooting death of his wife in what St. Landry Parish District Attorney Chad Pitre said was the first criminal trial since the onset of COVID-19.



Chad Pitre

The jury verdict came on Friday for Daniel E. Johnson, who was charged in June of 2017 with murdering his wife Lashanna Ward-Johnson, according to a news release from Pitre.

Johnson faces sentencing on Thursday before 27th Judicial District Judge Jason Meche.

“The State presented sufficient evidence to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant, Mr. Johnson intentionally killed his wife Ms. Lashanna Ward-Johnson,” Pitre said.

The defendant claimed he mistakenly identified his wife as an intruder and shot her five times, Pitre stated.

“My heart goes out to the family of this lady who was a loving mother and daughter,” Pitre stated.

This was the first criminal jury trial in St. Landry Parish since October 2019, he stated.

This also is the first post-Covid jury trial. The Louisiana Supreme Court just recently lifted the moratorium on jury trials which had been in effect for several months.

In addition, criminal jury verdicts now require a unanimous decision from all 12 jurors, raising the burden on the state.

Pitre acknowledged the professionalism of Opelousas Police investigators and thanked his lead prosecutor in this case, Don Richard for delivering justice to the victim’s family.



Retired Eunice High School coach John Burson was honored Sunday at Bobcat Field. Burson’s jersey was retired as part of the honors. Front row, from left, Sandifer Burson, John Burson,

Cameron Burson, Josie Snorgrass, Cole Burson, Staci Snorgrass and Brian Snorgrass. Second row Caiden Burson and Holli Burson. Back row, Willie Burson. (Photo by Tom Dodge)

Retired Eunice High coach John Burson’s jersey retired

By Tom Dodge
Sports Editor

It was John Burson Day Sunday at Bobcat Field as the Eunice baseball program retired the long-time assistant coach’s jersey in a pre-game ceremony.

Burson spent 41 years as a teacher and coach at Eunice High and left a legacy as a mentor and the head of the Social Studies Department.

A 1967 St. Edmund graduate, he earned his degree from USL and starting his teaching career at EHS in 1971.

He retired from teaching in 2012 and was inducted into the Eunice High Sports Hall of Fame in 2019.

“He coached me in high school and was my American Legion head coach for years,” Eunice baseball coach Scott Phillips said. “We are friends and he is one of the most trustworthy people I have been associated with.”

“When I took over the program, he thought of me as a son and I thought of him as a dad — he was going to make sure I was going to be OK.”

“I trusted his opinion as a coach and a teacher,” Phillips said. “He is a true Bobcat and represented our school very well.”

Burson and head coach Clarence Merricks built the Bobcat baseball program in 1973 and the team reached the semifinals of the state playoffs their first season.

From 1977 to 1979, the Bobcats won three straight district titles and won the 1979 Class 3-A state championship.

Burson spent the next 25 seasons as an assistant baseball coach and head statistician.

“He recorded every baseball statistic from when our program started until a couple of seasons ago,” Phillips said. “He loved doing

“He is a true Bobcat and represented our school very well.”

— Scott Phillips,
Eunice High baseball coach

the stats for us and the football team.”

He served as head coach for Eunice American Legion team and was also the football statistician.

From 1973 to 1975, Burson was the assistant coach for the Lady Cats basketball program.

Burson joined the football staff under head coach Leroy Taylor, before given the task of starting the Lady Cat softball program in 1975.

Burson was a sports writer for the Eunice News from 1977 to 2019, covering both Bobcat football state championship games.

“He is very worthy of the attention and having his jersey retired,” Phillips said. “He helped our program even after he retired as a teacher.”

“This is a big deal,” Phillips said. “Coach Burson deserves it — no doubt.”

Burson was given a shadow box with his jersey and photo from state championship season.

They also unveiled a cutout of his jersey displayed on the outfield fence.

Joining him at the ceremony were his wife Sandifer, sons Willie Burson and Brian Snorgrass, daughters-in-laws Hollie Burson and Staci Snorgrass.

Grandchildren Caiden Burson, Cole Burson and Cameron Burson along with Josie Snorgrass joined him at the ceremony.

Sixth body recovered identified as Pitre

The Advocate

Divers searching the wreckage of the Seacor Power in the Gulf of Mexico have recovered the body of a sixth crewman, the Lafourche Parish coroner said late Tuesday.

He was 31-year-old Quinon Pitre of the St. Mary Parish community of Franklin, said the coroner, Dr. John King.

Pitre has been identified as a resident of Pitreville near Eunice.

Misty Pitre, an older sister of Quinon, spoke on the phone on April 15 about her brother.

“He works as surveyor for Fugro out of Lafayette, and the crew had just left the port,” she said.

Pitre is the son of the late Ellis and Missy Pitre of Pitreville.

Pitre is the nephew of Kenneth Pitre of Eunice.

Pitre’s cause of death wasn’t immediately available.

Pitre was one of 19 crew members aboard the Seacor Power lift boat when it capsized about 4:30 p.m. on April 13 after it was hit by a sudden squall packing hurricane-force winds and creating destructive waves roughly seven miles south of Lafourche. Rescuers saved six crewmen that day, but the bodies of a half-dozen others have since been recovered.

The other crew members who have been confirmed dead are Capt. David Ledet, 63, of Thibodaux; Ernest Williams, 69, of Arnaudville; Anthony Hartford, 53, of New Orleans; James “Tracy” Wallingsford, 55, of the northeast village of Gilbert; and Lawrence Warren, 36, of the Jefferson Parish community of Terrytown.

As of Tuesday, seven remained unaccounted for: Jay Guevara, Dylan Daspit, Gregory Walcott, Chaz Morales, Jason Krell, Darren Encalade and Cooper Rozands.

The U.S. Coast Guard suspended its search by air and sea for more survivors at sunset Monday, seven days into the efforts. But the founder of the United Cajun Navy said Tuesday that private divers working for the owner of the doomed Seacor Power were continuing to comb through the jack-up boat.

The civilian rescue fleet’s founder also said his group had two seaplanes in the air searching across a wide area around the Seacor Power, with the missing crewmen’s relatives holding out hope for more survivors.



Quinon Pitre (Photo courtesy of Misty Pitre)



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A tomato leaf exhibits early blight circular lesions with concentric rings. (Photo by Raj Singh/LSU AgCenter)

Warm, rainy weather brings vegetable plant diseases

By Johnny Morgan
jmorgan@agcenter.lsu.edu

BATON ROUGE — Current weather conditions may present Louisiana vegetable growers with great challenges to combat plant diseases.

Raj Singh, director of the LSU AgCenter Plant Diagnostic Center, said vegetables are susceptible to a wide variety of plant pathogens, including, fungi, water molds, bacteria and viruses.

“Some plant pathogens affect roots, and others cause disease on above-ground plant parts,” Singh said. “Most plant pathogens that affect above-ground plant parts require high humidity and temperatures to be successful in causing diseases, and these optimal conditions aid in their faster development and rapid spread.”

Bacterial plant pathogens require free water on foliage to enter plant tissue and cause infection, said Singh, who is known across Louisiana as “the plant doctor.” One such bacterial disease, known as bacterial leaf spot of peppers, is caused by *Xanthomonas* species.

The pathogen may produce symptoms on all above-ground plant parts. Initial symptoms appear as small, brown, water-soaked lesions. As the disease develops, lesions become necrotic in the center. During prolonged rainy weather, the pathogen spreads through splashing rainwater to nearby healthy plants.

“Bacterial lesions coalesce and result in excessive premature defoliation. Defoliation of leaves exposes pepper fruits to direct sunlight and may lead to sunscald,” Singh said.

Another disease that rapidly develops during prolonged rainy and warm weather is early blight of

tomatoes.

It is a fungal disease and may affect all above-ground plant parts. The disease is more damaging on foliage and starts on older foliage first and then progresses up the plant.

“Symptoms appear as small, dark-colored, circular lesions surrounded by yellow tissue,” Singh said. “As the lesions expand, concentric rings or ridges become evident within them.”

If favorable weather conditions prevail during fruit production, the disease causes excessive defoliation, exposing the fruit to potential damage from the sun and causing sunscald.

Successful disease management in home gardens and commercial vegetable production systems requires an integrated approach and begins with rapid and accurate identification of the cause of the problem.

“Prevention is the key to successfully managing plant disease,” he said. “When available, resistant or tolerant varieties should be planted.”

Start with clean, disease-free seeds and seedlings. Fungicide-treated seeds may help avoid pathogen infection.

Vegetable growers must choose a well-drained planting site or plant on raised beds that allow for adequate drainage. Plant in sunny locations with good air circulation to reduce the length of time the foliage remains wet.

Avoid the use of overhead irrigation and water in the early morning hours to reduce the extended period of wetness. Water on a regular basis, but do not overwater. If a disease occurs, avoid planting the same or other susceptible plants in the same location in the following year.

Acadia Parish sheriff cites drug arrest increase

By Steve Bandy
Crowley Post-Signal

CROWLEY — Nearly \$1.5 million of illegal narcotics and more than 150 illegal weapons were seized by deputies of the Acadia Parish Sheriff's Office during the past year.

Sheriff K.P. Gibson released his annual “Year in Review” during this past week, highlighting some of the accomplishments of his office during a “challenging” 2020.

“As 2020 was challenging for all, I want you to know that your deputies at the Acadia Parish Sheriff's Office have exceeded my expectations in performing their duties while focusing on the challenges involving the COVID virus.”

In the last four years, narcotics arrests by the Sheriff's Office increased by 235%, from 75 to 251.

In 2017, 158 narcotics cases were opened compared to 265 last year, an increase of 68%.

Criminal investigations have also increased in the last four years, according to the sheriff's statistics.

In 2017, 657 investigations were opened resulting in 172 arrests. In 2020, 763 investigations were opened resulting in 349 arrests.

Property recovered increased from \$319,746 four years ago to \$1.3 million, up 312%.

The Sheriff's Civil Division recovered \$494,988 in debt and conducted 17 Sheriff Sales during the year.

Deputies patrolled 1.1 million miles, averaging 46,000 per unit

and answering 11,602 calls for service during 2020, according to Gibson. Patrol's average response time was 13 minutes, 29 seconds with just 4% response to calls taking longer than 20 minutes.

Other accomplishments during 2020 highlighted in the annual report include:

— Deputies received a total of 10,122 hours of training.

— E911 handled 44,16 calls from more than 20 parish agencies.

— A total of 978 outstanding warrants were served.

— SWAT conducted 37 training sessions and had 13 operations.

— A total of 19,272 criminal and civil court documents were served.

— A total of 2,078 pieces of evidence was received.

— The Transportation Division transported 538 inmates to court, medical appointments or transfers, totaling 33,191 miles.

— Of the 207 sex offenders in Acadia Parish, 40% were checked for compliance with two found non-compliant.

Technology upgrades also were completed during the past year, including new body cameras, digital radios and iPads in patrol units.

“We have also begun the process of implementing a new records management system for the department which will be build for our agency needs,” the sheriff added.

Gibson explained that, thanks to the many extra precautions taken by deputies during the year, “we

have had roughly 15 deputies and only three inmates who have tested positive for the virus.

“These are amazing numbers and serve as proof that our personnel continues to focus on their service to our parish.”

And not only was there a pandemic to deal with, but 2020 was a record year for hurricanes in Louisiana.

“Hurricanes Laura and Delta were devastating to our coast and many parishes in our state,” Gibson said. “In an effort to assist, APSO teamed up with many Acadia Parish residents for a supply drive to support parishes who were more adversely affected. This supply drive was extremely successful and appreciated.”

Gibson said many local deputies were also deployed to work in multiple parishes to assist with recovery and law enforcement needs.

“I applaud all who worked above and beyond to support our neighboring parishes in their time of need,” he said.

“As you can see, APSO has remained busy both in performing the duties of the department and being involved in numerous activities to support our community as well as hurricane relief. I credit these great efforts to the employees of our department,” Gibson concluded.

Gibson dedicated this year's annual report to the deputies “for their hard work and dedication.”

Panel designates Office of Broadband to auction 4.9GHz band

By Emily Wood
LSU Manship School
News Service

BATON ROUGE — The House Commerce Committee advanced a bill Monday that designates the state's newly created Office of Broadband to oversee the auctioning of parts of the 4.9GHz band in Louisiana.



Mike Johnson

“This is an opportunity that you nor I can afford to miss for our citizens, and we have sought and will continue to seek ways to try and find ways to make this perfect,” said the bill's author, Rep. Mike Johnson, R-Rapides.

Last year, the Federal Communications Commission allowed each state to lease some of the 4.9GHz spectrum for businesses and consumers to encourage greater broadband use.

The Louisiana Legislature created a 4.9 GHz Spectrum Task Force to

recommend how to auction off the spectrum. The task force met with stakeholders around the state, specifically public safety agencies that have been the main users of the spectrum in some areas.

The task force delivered a unanimous report to the Legislature recommending that the 21 parishes using the spectrum for public safety measures talk to state officials about how much they are utilizing it.

The report also recommended that 10% of the allocated 50 megahertz remain available for public safety use during emergencies, while the remaining spectrum would be auctioned off in 10 megahertz blocks to businesses and internet service providers.

There would be a three-year trial period that could be extended for two more years.

Johnson's bill, HB 465, closely follows the recommendations. But many representatives on the House Commerce Committee requested amendments that would add their districts to the list of

parishes exempt from the auction while they sought to understand how much of the spectrum is being used for public safety.

Rep. Johnson responded with frustration, stating that the task force spent months allowing for stakeholders to express their concerns but concerns were still coming up on the morning of the committee hearing.

Rep. Edmond Jordan, D-Baton Rouge and Rep. Debbie Villio, R-Kenner, agreed to wait to talk with Rep. Johnson about their amendments when the bill gets to the House floor.

“This is not an us-versus-them mentality,” Johnson said about public safety stakeholders expressing their concerns about the auction of the

spectrum. He said the bill would grandfather in the allocations set aside for public safety usage.

Ray Sabourin, Nokia's head of business development for private wireless enterprise focusing on emerging markets, testified in favor of the bill, stating that it could help ease the digital divide — the term for the lack of access to the internet faced by many poor people and rural residents.

Auctioning the spectrum would benefit the public safety ecosystem rather than hurt it because it would create more usage of the 4.9 GHz, therefore creating better devices for the spectrum and lower prices.

HB 465 will move to the House floor for debate.

Thefts

(Continued from Page 1) the older model vehicles' catalytic converters are selling for higher prices,” he said.


“If these people would quit buying them from

thieves the market would drop,” Fontenot said.

There is not much protection from the thefts except for vigilance, he said.

Between the value of the catalytic converter and damage to the vehicle, the crime is a felony, he said.

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Eunice Police radio logs

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

April 16

08:26 Report of shoplifting at Tobacco Plus.

11:03 Worker at Champagne's reported a fraudulent check.

11:07 Caller from the 400 block of North Cane advised of subjects cutting electrical wires.

11:22 Loud music complaint reported in the area of Corn.

12:45 Caller at Brentwood Apartments reported a stolen card.

13:29 Report of a verbal dispute at the Post Office.

13:58 Stolen tire reported at Sweetridge Apartments.

14:23 Caller in the 300 block of South Martin Luther King reported fraud.

16:46 Worker at Burger King reported a threatening subject.

17:00 Disturbance reported at Raceway.

17:11 Report of several suspicious subjects in the area of Corn.

17:56 Caller in the 2000 block of Park advised that her husband threatened to kill her. He is not at the residence at this time.

19:34 Caller in the 100 block of North 6th advised of suspicious subject looking into residence from the alley.

21:00 Wreck reported in the area of North Martin Luther King. Vehicle in the ditch.

21:18 Shoplifting reported at Walmart.

22:44 Caller advised of a reckless driver in the area of Hazel.

22:52 Report of a vehicle in the ditch at Hazel.

April 17

01:22 Caller advised of three pit bulls running into yards in the area of Goldman and Mathilda.

02:41 Report of three suspicious subjects in the middle of the roadway behind Tobacco Plus.

07:30 Suspicious vehicle parked for several days at the City Lake.

12:32 Report of noise complaint in the area of Leon.

13:26 Lobby complaint in reference to a stolen vehicle.

14:12 Caller in the 500 block of Nimitz advised that a subject took her vehicle.

18:12 Caller in the 200 block of Benoit advised of multiple subjects fighting.

19:08 Caller in the 800 block of Tate requested to speak to an officer in reference to a stolen firearm.

20:47 Disturbance reported in the 400 block of Mathilda.

20:57 Caller in the area of North Beulah advised that she heard a gun shot fired.

21:35 Report of juveniles throwing rocks at vehicles near Coburn's.

22:53 Caller in the area of Juanita advised of too many vehicles parked on the side of the roadway and she cannot get to her home.

April 18

00:42 Report of suspicious vehicle at Circle Park.

01:10 Report of a suspicious vehicle at 7th and Walnut near the dance studio.

01:43 Caller from ER at Acadian Medical advised that she was involved in a hit and run.

06:20 Caller in the 200 block of South Mallet advised he locked keys in the vehicle.

08:25 Caller advised that he heard several gun shot in Zone 4.

10:29 Report of an injured dog in the 1000 block of West Park.

12:37 Caller in the 1600 block of West Peach requested assistance for a peaceful exchange of items.

12:43 Requested to speak to an officer in reference to a wreck from last night. Call came from the 200 block of East Ardoin.

12:48 Caller in the 1900 block of West Ash advised that he shot his dog and is threatening to kill another.

12:55 Disturbance reported at Brownie's.

13:08 Caller advised of a disturbance with juveniles in the area of Magnolia.

14:18 Noise complaint reported near John R. Young Chevy.

14:59 Report of a stolen trash can in the 400 block of South 2nd Street.

15:42 Disturbance reported in the area of North 2nd Street.

16:01 Wreck reported inside the tunnel of Mr. Bee's Carwash.

16:20 Requested extra police patrol in the area of Vivian and Hwy. 190, motorcycles are traveling too fast.

17:24 Wreck reported in front of Circle K. No injuries.

17:33 Report of four-wheelers going back and forth in the area of Jake.

17:40 Lobby complaint in reference to a juvenile.

17:45 Reckless driver reported in the 1500 block of West Magnolia.

18:18 Loud music complaint reported in the area of West Magnolia and North 2nd Street.

18:58 Noise complaint reported near alley way near Acadiana Wrecker.

20:06 Attempted break in reported in the 100 block of North 6th Street.

22:10 Report of suspicious vehicles parked in the roadway in the 1200

block of Paris.

22:26 Disturbance reported in the 100 block of Jeansonne.

22:37 Suspicious subject reported in the parking lot of Champagne's.

April 19

00:08 Suspicious subjects reported in dumpsters near Maple Avenue Place Apartments and loudly arguing.

00:23 Disturbance reported in the 900 block of North 4th Street.

04:29 Caller from the 200 block of Acadia advised that a subject is threatening him with a knife.

07:21 Caller advised that a young child is standing alone by herself at a bus stop in the area of Vine.

08:00 Lobby complaint in reference to physical inspection.

08:56 Caller in the 300 block of East Maple requested an officer to assist her to turn the water off the car, it is against a meter.

10:04 Lobby complaint in reference to harassment.

11:28 Caller advised that there is money missing off of a teacher's desk at St. Edmund Elementary.

13:33 Disturbance reported in the 1400 block of West Peach.

14:14 Report of theft of a catalytic converter at Sears.

14:42 Report of burning of a mattress behind a home at Williams and Neva.

15:04 Intruder reported at the 700 block of Richard.

15:13 Shoplifting reported at Walmart.

15:47 Report of a catalytic converter theft at John R. Young Chevy.

16:00 Loud music reported in the 1200 block of Duck.

16:29 Report of a stolen car in the 600 block of Ida.

16:31 Caller at Day's Inn reported a subject that doesn't want to leave a room.

16:39 Report of a stolen receiver hitch taken off someone's truck at John R. Young.

16:59 Loud music reported in the 1200 block of Duck.

18:07 Report of four-wheelers speeding up and down 9th Street.

20:23 Report of two pit bulls loose in the area of East Bacciochi.

20:44 Report of an 18-wheeler that took down a stop sign by Joyce's.

20:48 Loud music complaint in the 300 block of North St. Joseph.

23:24 Caller in the 100 block of East Oak requested removal of a subject from his property.

Eunice Police arrests

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

April 16

Wayne Deon Kerry, 27, 200 block of North Gum Street, Melville. Probation/parole violation. Arrested by Louisiana State Probation and Parole.

Paul Boudreaux, 52, 100 block of Gold Medal Drive, Lafayette. Home improvement fraud. Arrested by St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office.

Tredrean Lamb, 24, 700 block of North Wilson Street, Church Point. Bench warrant (2 counts). Arrested by St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office.

Michael James Hebert, Jr., 28, 400 block of Pearl Street, Eunice. Bench warrant. Arrested by St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office.

Alonzo Collins, 22, 3100 block of David Street, Livonia. Possession of Schedule I CDS, possession of drug paraphernalia. Arrested by Opelousas Police.

Joshua Eugene Tyler, 30, 5800 block of Highway 68, Jackson. Theft (2 counts), resisting an officer, possession of drug paraphernalia. Arrested by Opelousas Police.

Tony D. Houle, 36, 500 block of College Road, Eunice. Bench warrant (2 counts). Arrested by St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office.

April 19

Tony Curtis Lavergne, 38, 1700 block of Progress Street, Opelousas. Sexual battery. Arrested by Opelousas Police.

Todd D. Thomas, 19, 1300 block of Park Avenue, Opelousas. Windshield obscuring view, first possession of Schedule I CDS, resisting an officer. Arrested by St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office.

Gerry Hayes, 28, 100 block of St. George Street, Eunice. Simple burglary, contributing to the delinquency of juveniles. Arrested by Eunice Police.

Tyrese Trevon Bennett, 22, 8000 block of Dolph Street, New Roads.

Illegal possession of stolen things. Arrested by Opelousas Police.

Heaven Bradley, 20, 800 block of Ina Claire Drive, Opelousas. Disturbing the peace, resisting an officer. Arrested by Opelousas Police.

Joseph Martin Jerry, 20, 200 block of Lemelle Street, Leonville. Operating a vehicle while intoxicated, driving on roadway laned for traffic. Arrested by Louisiana State Police.

Lisa M. Menuet, 46, 200 block of Morning Mist Drive, Sunset. Contributing to the delinquency of juveniles (50 counts), operate or permit operation of sound amplification system that produces loud sound. Arrested by Sunset Police.

Gilbert Anthony Lee II, 24, 300 block of Portage Levee Road, Arnaudville. Simple battery, simple criminal damage to property (less than \$500), bench warrant, 3 counts. Arrested by Leonville Police.

Quentin Leckelt, 49, 200 block of Morning Mist Drive, Sunset. Contributing to the delinquency of juveniles (50 counts), resisting an officer, interference with a law enforcement investigation. Arrested by Sunset Police.

Odin Dan King III, 26, 100 block of Kennedy Circle, Opelousas. Bench warrant, two counts. Arrested by St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office.

Justin Shane Chambers, 27, 800 block of Hall Street, Opelousas. Possession of Schedule II CDS, possession of Schedule I CDS with intent to distribute, possession of Schedule V CDS with intent to distribute, possession of a firearm in the presence of CDS, possession of drug paraphernalia. Arrested by Louisiana State Police.

Gaylin Tezeno, 35, 800 block of Bolden Road, Palmetto. Criminal trespassing, driver must be licensed, possession of Schedule II CDS. Arrested by Opelousas Police.

Travis W. Janise, 50,

1200 block of Highway 741, Arnaudville. Operating a vehicle while intoxicated, careless operation of a motor. Arrested by Louisiana State Police.

Jeremy Ryan Ashworth, 28, 100 block of Pat Bidez Road, Eunice.

Unauthorized use of a motor vehicle. Arrested by St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office.

Nathan Seth Ortego, 35, 600 block of West Vine Avenue, Eunice. Illegal possession of stolen things. Arrested by Eunice Police.

Joseph Keith Vories, 26, 100 block of Boudreaux Street, Eunice. Bench warrant, 3 counts. Arrested by St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office.

Deondre Donquarr Thomas, 24, 1200 block of Ina Clare Drive, Opelousas. Domestic abuse battery with a dangerous weapon, disturbing the peace/simple assault. Arrested by St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office.

Nya Andornae Charles, 22, 1200 block of Ina Clare Drive, Opelousas. Criminal damage to property, domestic abuse battery, disturbing the peace, bench warrant. Arrested by St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office.

Tommy Crowell Jr., 30, 100 block of Ponderosa Road, Sunset. Domestic abuse battery-child endangerment law. Arrested by St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office.

Hunter Jude Lanclos, 27, 100 block of Rodney Road, Sunset. Bench warrant. Arrested by St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office.

Lynn Devillier, 24, 200 block of La Compagne Street, Opelousas. Possession of legend drug, possession of Schedule IV CDS, possession of Schedule II CDS, possession of Schedule I CDS. Arrested by Opelousas Police.

Jamillo K. Jones, 19, 200 block of Martin Luther King Drive, Port Barre. Domestic abuse battery-child endangerment law, simple battery. Arrested by Port Barre Police.

Eunice Police arrests

The following are arrests by Eunice Police.

April 16

John Edward Mayo, 20, 1000 block of North Vivian, Eunice. Theft, value less than \$1,000.

Jonathan Larry Bourgeois, 59, 1200 block of Clifford, Eunice. Simple assault, telephone communications, improper

communications, improper language, harassment.

April 19

Gwendolyn Rung LeBlanc, 30, 200 block of Mill, Eunice. Theft.

Joshua C. Weathersby, 29, 1800 block of State Ave., Ville Platte. Money warrant.

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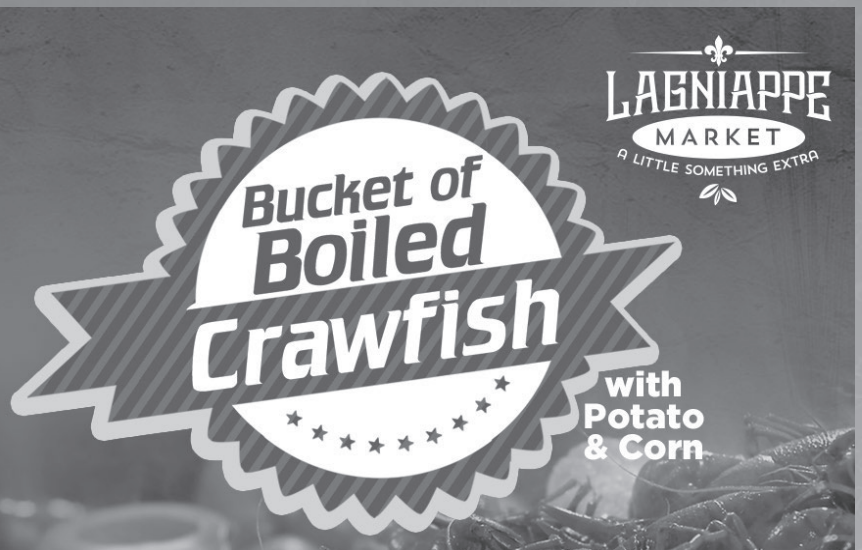
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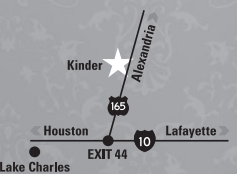
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Life comes with more side effects than COVID-19 vaccine

I knew it. I get the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine and three days later, "J&J vaccine paused due to blood clots."

I have to admit I felt a little uneasy when I trudged into the local public library in an Orwellian procession of citizens on their way to inoculation. My hesitancy had nothing to do with the vaccine. The shot hurt a bit but I never let on, mostly because the elderly man next to me, who looked as if he'd seen the Civil War — not the Ken Burns series, the actual war — never even blinked.

My reluctance had everything to do with my natural tendency not to do what most everyone else believes is a good idea. This often works to my detriment. Holiday trash pick-up for example. All the neighbors have their cans at the curb. I don't. "What could they know that I don't?" Everything, as it turns out.

Now that I think of it, I can come up with several instances in my childhood when my tendency to swim upstream really didn't help me.

I can remember, in junior high school, standing in the middle of two dozen or so of my classmates, most of whom — but not me — were throwing snowballs at teachers pulling into the parking lot. There I was, minding my Ps and Qs, doing the right thing, when an art teacher whom I recognized but didn't know parted the crowd like the Red Sea and pointed directly at me.

"J'accuse!" she shouted. I didn't know French but I knew whatever she said wasn't good.

My plaintive cries of "I didn't do it! I didn't do it!" were ignored as I was



Rich Manieri

dragged by my earlobe to the principal's office.

In a similar incident when I was about 10 — as many of my childhood traumas involve snowballs — I was with a group of boys who were throwing snowballs at buses. I was the only one not throwing.

In this particular case, and in a highly unusual and unexpected turn of events, the driver stopped the bus, dismounted and gave chase while his passengers, noses pressed against their windows, viewed the unfolding drama. The other boys scattered while I stood there. After all, I hadn't done anything. Then, the burly busman grabbed me by the arm.

"Where do you live?" I told him immediately, of course, assuming that he was merely in the exploratory stages of investigation and simply wanted some background information. Wrong again. I wintered in my room that year.

Given my history, and despite my skepticism in following government recommendations of any sort, I joined the crowd and got the vaccine.

I thought I was in the clear. No side effects, though I did naturally wonder if this vaccine push was nothing more than

a deep-state cover to collect my DNA which, my wife predicts, will be used to build a superior life form and create millions of progeny. Obviously. But no one said anything about blood clots.

I felt better when I learned that the clots were discovered in only six of some six million who received the vaccine. A minuscule percentage. Fine. But as my physician wife says, "If it happens to you, it's a hundred percent."

Nevertheless, I was feeling OK about it until I made the dreadful mistake of doing some research online. Now, I'm not only convinced I'll develop a blood clot, but I'm pretty sure I also have Adams-Oliver syndrome, Papillitis and hysterical pregnancy.

The good news is that in another week or so, I'll be impervious to COVID and I can make a long overdue visit to my mother who had banned me from the premises, I think because of COVID but I can't be sure.

However, I do believe in planning for the worst. So, in the event that something other than COVID kills me, I've been workshoping a few epitaphs, you know, for the headstone.

"The government killed me." Not married to this one. "At least I didn't have COVID." This one will be dated in 20 years. Or my personal favorite, "I was just minding my own business..." It works on so many levels.

Rich Manieri is a Philadelphia-born journalist and author. He is a professor of journalism at Asbury University in Kentucky. You can reach him at manieri2@gmail.com.



Myra Miller
Lifestyles

Helpful and harmful insects

Butterflies and other helpful insects, such as bees, pollinate flowers and can keep dangerous pests at bay in the garden.

Insects are the most diverse group of organisms on the planet. Nine hundred thousand different kinds of insects are known to exist. At any given time, it is estimated that there are around 10 quintillion individual insects living.

Gardeners grow frustrated when seeing their gardens infested with insects. In an effort to restore their gardens, homeowners might be tempted to eradicate any bug that moves in their yards.

Newspaper Metro gives the gardener helpful and harmful insects to be aware of become watchful.

Gardeners would be wise to first learn which insects are hurting their gardens and which can actually help gardens in the long run.

Harmful

Certain insects can be dangerous to animals and plants. The following are a handful of insects that can threaten the vitality of gardens.

Aphids: These insects suck on the juice needed to sustain plants, particularly when they congregate.

Bald-faced hornet: Hornets tend to be an aggressive species that can sting repeatedly. Should you find a nest near an entertaining space or garden, it can cause trouble.

Carpenter ants: These ants will burrow into wood causing damage. They may compromise any wooden structure in and around a home.

Locusts: Various species of locust can damage plants and crops due to their voracious appetites.

Treehoppers: These small, green insects mimic the look of leaves, and their appetites can affect crops and gardens.

Red pavement ant: As they feed on all manner of human food, these ants can quickly overtake areas with their staggering numbers and deliver painful bites.

Grasshoppers: Certain grasshoppers, like the red-legged grasshopper, can decimate food crops and transfer parasites to birds when eaten as prey.

Caterpillars: Many caterpillars, the precursor to adult moths, will feed constantly on leaves, stems and other parts of plants. The tobacco hornworm moth caterpillar can damage potato and tomato plants.

Helpful

Plants depend on insects to transfer pollen as they forage, and many insects are quite beneficial to have around. While some pollinate, others are predators of other pests.

Antlion: A foe of ants, they'll help eat and control ant populations and pollinate flowers. They pose no threat to humans, either.

Big dipper firefly: These colorful insects feast on earthworms, slugs and snails during the larval stage. Fireflies add drama to evening gardens with their twinkling lights.

Garden spiders: Although some spiders can be venomous, many are quite handy to have around the garden. They'll help control pest populations that can damage plants and crops.

Dragonflies: These arial artists that zip around the yard are consuming smaller insects that would otherwise pester plants and humans.

Blue-winged wasp: This wasp attacks the larvae of Japanese beetles, helping to control beetle populations.

Bees and butterflies: Butterflies and bees are some of the best pollinators out there, and each can add whimsy to gardens.

Staying in touch

State representative
District 41 Rep. Phillip DeVillier (R), P.O. Box 986 Eunice, LA 70535; voice — 337-457-0194 fax — 337-457-5649; e-mail: devillierp@legis.la.gov.

State senators
District 28 Sen. Heather Cloud (R), P.O. Box 269, 13988 Veterans Memorial Highway, Turkey Creek, LA 70585. District phone voice 337-461-2595. E-mailsen28@legis.la.gov.

District 24 Sen. Gerald Boudreaux (D), 2900 Moss St., Suite B, Lafayette, LA 70501; voice 337-267-7520 and 844-885-6578; e-mail: boudreauxg@legis.la.gov.

U.S. representatives
Mike Johnson, 327 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515; phone, 202-225-2777. mikejohnson.house.gov.

Clay Higgins, 1711 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515; phone, 202-225-2031; info@captainhiggins.com.

The First Amendment

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."



Some people shouldn't be in a position of authority

At a time when police are being attacked on all sides for brutality, racism, recklessness and all sorts of social sins and criminal acts, I hesitate to write this column.

I hesitate, not because I think that what I am about to say is wrong, but because words have been used as weapons and in the wrong hands, they misfire and they wound. I hesitate, because the very last thing I want to do is wound the good men and women of the fragile blue line.

On Dec. 5, 2020, Caron Nazario, a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Medical Corps, was kicked and pepper sprayed when he refused to get out of his car during what turns out to be an illegal traffic stop.

The reason we are only hearing about this now after four months is that Nazario has filed a lawsuit against the small Virginia town where the assault took



Christine Flowers

place. He's seeking damages in excess of \$1 million.

The video of the incident is unassailable proof that the two police officers involved in the traffic stop, allegedly due to Nazario driving his SUV with a missing license plate, don't deserve my support. If I were to extend the benefit of the doubt to them, I'd never again have the right to stand up for an officer who, in the course of putting his life on the line, is attacked by a raging mob.

One of the officers involved, Joe Gutierrez, has been fired. There's still no information on what's happening with his partner, Daniel Crocker.

Race should not be an issue, because Nazario is Afro Latino, and Gutierrez is also Latino. Race is going to be an issue, because in this climate, it's unavoidable.

But I am a white woman who knows of white men and women who have also had problems when the police have stopped them, people who cannot be characterized by their epidermal attributes. I have witnessed some extremely unreasonable acts by those who wear the uniform, abuses in attitude and authority. None of them were justified, but none of them rose to the level of actual abuse.

Making this about race obscures a greater problem if we excuse the actions

of Joe Gutierrez. And those of us who don't believe the police should be defunded and who honor their presence in our lives and communities need to speak out.

There are people who should not be in positions of authority over the rest of us. Either because of their temperaments, their lack of self-control or empathy, their inability to calmly assess a situation or their sense of Nietzschean supremacy, they are unfit to hold the societal imprimatur that commands "obey me."

And that's why the people who have said to me something along the lines of "Well, if you do what the police say you won't have a problem" just don't get it.

That is not supporting the police. That is enabling the bad ones to do the things that the good ones find abhorrent.

That must be what it's like to live in, say, Myanmar.

Some have said that the officers were justified in their actions because when they put their sirens on, Nazario didn't initially stop. And I understand that argument.

But the circumstances of that "stop" turned out to be illegal, since the officers were aware that Nazario had temporary plates and still pursued him. The circumstances of that "stop" were also charged because there was no reasonable suspicion that the driver had done anything wrong, that he was weaving, that he was speeding, that he was causing a threat to other drivers. They apparently had nothing other than their subjective sense that this car was not his car.

And the worst thing about it is that the driver of that car was in the military. Here you have a man wearing the uniform of his country being treated as if he was a second-class citizen, by a brutish officer who — when told by Nazario that he was afraid of getting out of the car — was told "you should be afraid."

"You should be afraid." No American should ever say that to an American soldier, an Army medic. The fact that another man in uniform said it is reprehensible.

I hate that I have to write this column, at this time. But if I remain silent when this sort of thing happens, I have no right to shout out my support for the honorable warriors who police our streets competently, courageously and with humility every day, every hour, every minute. And I have no intention of ever giving up that right.

In my daily walks, I pass by the memorial plaque that commemorates the place where Daniel Faulkner was murdered by Mumia abu Jamal. I also walk by the memorials to Charles Knox, and the mural to Sgt. Robert Knox.

I hope they'd understand why I wrote this column.

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

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.

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Audrey Fontenot Martel May 30, 1945-April 18, 2021

EUNICE—It is with heavy hearts that the family of Audrey Martel announces her passing on Sunday, April 18, 2021 at the Opelousas General Hospital with her loving family by her side. She was 75.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. on Thursday, April 22, 2021 at St. Thomas More Catholic Church in Eunice. Burial will follow in Mt. Calvary Cemetery with Father Randall Moreau Celebrant.

Audrey also known as "AJ" enjoyed Mardi Gras, sewing and sitting on her back porch watching the birds. She loved her family and spending time with family and friends.

She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and friend and will be missed dearly by all who knew and loved her especially her husband, of fifty-five years, Gerald Martel of Eunice; her daughter, Amy M. Rider and husband, Sean of Eunice and her son, William "Billy" E. Martel of Sulphur; her five grandchildren, Sarah, Sadie, William, Audrey and Nicholas; as well as extended family and friends.

She is preceded in death by her son, John Nicholas Martel; father, Poleg Fontenot; mother, Media LaFleur Fontenot and stepfather, Jean Fontenot; five siblings; Huvan Fon-



tenot, Houston Fontenot, Theresa Belle Prejean, Juanita Miller and Wayne Fontenot.

At the request of the family, visitation was held at Ardoin's Funeral Home in Eunice on Wednesday, April 21 from 3 p.m. until 9 p.m. and again on Thursday, April 22 from 8 a.m. until time of services. Father Mitch Guidry led a Rosary at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday evening.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Alzheimer research. Alzheimer's Research Foundation, 620 Sea Island Road, Suite 288, St. Simons Island, GA 31522 www.alzheimersresearch-foundation.com/donation

Family and friends may view this obituary and sign the guestbook at www.ardoinfuneral-homes.com

Ardoin's Funeral Home of Eunice, 337-457-3371, 1301 West Laurel Ave, Eunice, LA 70535



Debbie C. DeRouen July 18, 1954-April 16, 2021

EUNICE—It is with the heaviest hearts that the family of Debbie C. DeRouen announces her passing on Friday, April 16, 2021 at the age of 66.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 1 p.m. on Monday, April 26, 2021 at St. Anthony Catholic Church in Eunice. Entombment will follow in the St. Paul Mausoleum with Father Hampton Davis, Celebrant.

Debbie was a graduate of LSU and fervent Tiger fan. Debbie was an active member of St. Anthony Catholic Church.

She was a Eucharistic Minister, a member of the Catholic Daughters of Americas, the Teresian's, and the ACTS Community. Debbie enjoyed traveling but most of all she loved her family and spending time with them was a great deal of joy to her.

She will be missed dearly by all who knew and loved her especially her husband of 48 years, Mark DeRouen, Sr. of Eunice; her son, Mark DeRouen, Jr. and wife, Erica of Fulshear, TX; her daughters, April DeRouen of Eunice and Lauren Amacker and husband, Jason of Houston, TX; brother, Andrew Courville and wife, Darleen of Eunice; six grandchildren, Matthew DeRouen, Annabelle DeRouen, Katheryn "Kate" Amacker, Elliott Amacker, Ethan Amacker, and Mi-



chael Amacker; as well as extended family and numerous friends.

She is preceded in death by her parents, George and Anna Aguiard Courville; brother, Charlie Courville; and sister, Gwen Maxfield.

At the request of the family, visitation will be held at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Eunice on Monday, April 26 from 9 a.m. until time of services. Father Hampton Davis will recite a Rosary at 12 noon on Monday.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the New Life Pregnancy Center, 1415 7th St Mamou LA 70554, Ph: 337-468-2312.

Family and friends may view this obituary and sign the guestbook at www.ardoinfuneral-homes.com

Ardoin's Funeral Home of Eunice, 131 West Laurel Ave, 337-457-3371 is in charge of arrangements.



Albert Dupre Jr.

It is with great sadness that the family of Albert Dupre Jr. announces his passing on Friday, April 16, at 3:45 a.m. at Academic Medical Center. He was 65.

A celebration of life will be celebrated on Saturday, April 24 at 10 a.m. at Frank Brothers Chapel in Eunice with the Rev. Neil Citizen officiating.

A visitation will be held from 8 a.m. until 10 a.m. at Frank Brothers Funeral Home with burial at Reed's Cemetery in Mamou.

Albert was known for his cooking. He enjoyed going to the casinos, building bikes, and spending time with his family and friends.

He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him, especially his mother Lillie Mae Dupre of Eunice, a son, Eric D. Dupre of Lake Charles, his daughters, Tawanda D. Gonzales, and Shalonda Dupre, both of Lake Charles, his brothers, Joseph Jones Dupre, Lee Dupre, both of Eunice,



David Dupre of Lake Charles, Charlie Dupre, Frankie Dupre, Joseph Wayne Dupre, all of Eunice, and Kevin Dupre of Moss Bluff, one sister, Linda Gallow of Sulphur, 11 grandchildren, and 4 great-grandchildren.

He is preceded in death by his maternal and paternal grandparents, father, one sister, and two brothers.

Pall bearers will be Robert Roosa, Kavin Roosa, Deric Dupre, Darren Dupre, Kedrick Richard, Pierre Dupre and Dabien Dupre.

Frank Brothers Funeral Home in Eunice is in charge of all arrangements.

Petals of Mercy plan Eunice event

A morning of reflection for women is being offered by Petals of Mercy, a Theresian community in Eunice, on May 7.

The event will take place in the Jeanmard Hall at 250 N. 3rd St. in Eunice with refreshments from 8:30 to 9 a.m. and the program ending at 11 a.m.

The theme for the morn-

ing will be "Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World".

Alone offering will be accepted with funds going to the New Life Pregnancy Center.

Come and start off your Mother's Day weekend with a gift to yourself. To register call 337-457-7046, as space will be limited.

Eunice Players' 'Aboveboard' auditions Sunday

In person auditions for "Aboveboard" written by Peter Bloedel & Emily Kimball will be held at Eunice Players' Theatre

at 2 p.m. Sunday.

The theater is looking to cast three men and three women. No experience necessary. The play will be directed by Amy Maricle, Jeanne Eddins, and Sharon Blankenship.

If you can not make it

out but still would like to audition, contact the theater on the Eunice Players' Theatre Facebook page on how to send a virtual audition.

Registration

Highland Early Childhood Center

Fall registration for the New Highland Early Childhood Center will be held from 9 a.m. until noon April 24.

To register, a child must

be 4 years old by Sept. 30, 2021.

When registering, one must bring a birth certificate, immunization record, 2 consecutive check stubs for each working parent or SNAP verification with child's name,

proof of residence, legal custody papers (if applicable), and Medicaid or child's insurance card.

Highland Early Childhood Center is located at 1341 Duck Ave., Eunice.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

SHERIFF'S SALE

DITECH VS

CLINTON ALBERT MILTON

NO. 19-C-5188-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 26TH DAY OF MAY, 2021, THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PROPERTY, TO WIT:

THAT CERTAIN LOT OR PARCEL OF GROUND, BEING LOT NO. 24 OF SHUTESTON HEIGHTS SUBDIVISION, TOGETHER WITH ALL BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON, AND ALL RIGHTS, WAYS, PRIVILEGES, SERVITUDES AND APPURTENANCES THEREUNTO APPERTAINING, SITUATED IN SECTION 23, T7S, R3E, ST. LANDRY PARISH, LOUISIANA, FRONTING ON 50-FOOT RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR A PRIVATE ROAD KNOWN AS RUE JOUBERT (AND INCLUDING ALL OF VENDOR'S UNDIVIDED RIGHT, TITLE AND INTEREST, UP TO THE CENTER LINE, IN AND TO THE SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR PRIVATE ROAD IMMEDIATELY IN FRONT OF SAID LOT), ALL AS MORE PARTICULARLY SHOWN ON "A PRELIMINARY PLAT OF SHUTESTON HEIGHTS A SUBDIVISION SITUATED ON A PORT I ON OF THE PROPERTY OWNED BY MELVIN JOUBERT LOCATED IN SECTION 23, T7S-R3E, ST. LANDRY PARISH, LOUISIANA", BY IRVIN L. DERANGER, PE & RLS, LA. REG. NO. 1220, DATED JANUARY 18, 1998, A COPY OF SAID PLAT BEING RECORDED UNDER ENTRY NO. 826466, IN CONVEYANCE BOOK T-36, AT PAGE 853, OF THE RECORDS OF ST. LANDRY PARISH, LOUISIANA. SAID LOT HAVING SUCH METES, BOUNDS AND DIMENSIONS AS SHOWN ON SAID PLAT OF SURVEY.

PROPERTY ADDRESS IS BELIEVED TO BE: 250 RUE JOUBERT RD. LOT 2, OPELOUSAS, LA 70570

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE:

CASH WITH BENEFIT OF APPRAISEMENT TO PAY AND SATISFY THE SUM OF FIFTY-FOUR THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED SEVENTY-NINE AND 52/100 DOLLARS, (\$54,479.52), TOGETHER WITH INTEREST AT THE RATE NINE AND ZERO TENTHS (9.0%) PER CENT, THEREON FROM MAY 5, 2019, AND ATTORNEY FEES OF \$1,900.00, 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: APRIL 22 & MAY 23, 2021) 2T

PUBLIC NOTICE

SHERIFF'S SALE

CITIBANK, N.A., NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR NEW RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2018-3 VS

CLARENCE C. FONTENOT, JR. THRU ATTY BRETT GARCILLE & PATRICIA GAIL O'PRY FONTENOT

NO. 21-C-0022-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 26TH DAY OF MAY, 2021, THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PROPERTY, TO WIT:

A CERTAIN LOT OR PARCEL OF GROUND, TOGETHER WITH ALL BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON, SITUATED IN THE CITY OF EUNICE, ST. LANDRY PARISH, LOUISIANA, BEING FURTHER IDENTIFIED AS LOT NO. TWO (2) OF BLOCK ELEVEN (11) OF THE PIERROTTI ADDITION TO THE TOWN OF EUNICE, ST. LANDRY PARISH, LOUISIANA. SAID LOT HAVING A FRONT OF EIGHTY-SEVEN (87) FEET ON ACADIA STREET BY A DEPTH RUNNING SOUTH BETWEEN PARALLEL LINES A DISTANCE OF TWO HUNDRED (200) FEET, AND BEING BOUNDED NORTH BY ACADIA STREET, SOUTH BY PUBLIC ALLEY; EAST BY LOT THREE (3) OF SAID BLOCK; AND WEST BY LOT ONE (1) OF SAID BLOCK.

LESS AND EXCEPT:

A CERTAIN LOT OR PARCEL OF GROUND, TOGETHER WITH ALL BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS SITUATED THEREON, SITUATED IN THE CITY OF EUNICE, ST. LANDRY PARISH, LOUISIANA, AND BEING SITUATED IN LOT NO. TWO (2) OF BLOCK ELEVEN (11) OF THE PIERROTTI ADDITION, SAID LOT HAVING A FRONT OF EIGHTY-SEVEN (87) FEET ON ACADIA STREET BY A DEPTH BETWEEN PARALLEL LINES RUNNING IN A SOUTHERLY DIRECTION OF SEVENTY (70) FEET; AND BEING BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS: NORTH BY ACADIA STREET, SOUTH BY OTHER PROPERTY OF CLARENCE C. FONTENOT, EAST BY LOT 3 OF BLOCK 11 OF SAID ADDITION, AND WEST BY LOT 1 OF BLOCK 11 OF SAID ADDITION; WHICH WAS SOLD BY CLARENCE C. FONTENOT, ET UX BY ERASTE GUILLOIRY, ET UX, AS PER ACT OF CASH SALE DATED FEBRUARY 18, 1960, RECORDED UNDER ORIGINAL ACT NO. 434109, IN CONVEYANCE BOOK I-12, AT PAGE 527, RECORDS OF THE CLERK OF COURT'S OFFICE OF ST. LANDRY PARISH, LOUISIANA; SUBJECT TO RESTRICTIONS, SERVITUDES, RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND OUTSTANDING MINERAL RIGHTS OF RECORD AFFECTING THE PROPERTY.

PROPERTY ADDRESS IS BELIEVED TO BE: 270 MILL STREET, EUNICE, LA 70535

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE:

CASH WITH BENEFIT OF APPRAISEMENT TO PAY AND SATISFY THE SUM OF TWENTY-ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND 00/100 (\$21,500.00) DOLLARS, TOGETHER WITH INTEREST AT THE RATE OF FOUR AND ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE THOUSANDTHS (4.125%) PER CENT, THEREON FROM OCTOBER 1, 2019, 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: APRIL 22 & MAY 23, 2021) 2T

PUBLIC NOTICE

SHERIFF'S SALE

PHH MORTGAGE CORPORATION VS

IDA MAE HUMPHRIES STEELE THRU ATTY BRIDGETTE GAUDIN

NO. 21-C-0886-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 26TH DAY OF MAY, 2021, THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PROPERTY, TO WIT:

THAT CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF GROUND TOGETHER WITH ALL IMPROVEMENTS THEREON, SITUATED IN THE TOWN OF GRAND COTEAU, CONTAINING 0.19 ACRES AND BEING LOCATED IN SECTION 83, T-7-S, R-4-E, ST. LANDRY PARISH, LOUISIANA, MEASURING 81.1 FEET ON THE EAST SIDE OF MARKET STREET BY A DEPTH OF 100.00 FEET ON ITS NORTH BOUNDARY LINE AND 100.25 FEET ON ITS SOUTH BOUNDARY LINE AND A REAR LINE OF 83.33 FEET, ALL AS SHOWN ON A PLAT OF SURVEY PREPARED BY IRVING L. DERANGER, REGISTERED LAND SURVEYOR 01220, DATED MAY 19, 1990, AND PARAPHRASED FOR IDENTIFICATION WITH ACT OF CASH SALE FILED UNDER ENTRY NO. 742371 ON 5/24/90, RECORDS OF ST. LANDRY PARISH, LOUISIANA, AND BEING MADE A PART HEREOF, AND BEING BOUNDED, NOW OR FORMERLY, AS FOLLOWS: ON THE NORTH BY OZEITA DALPHREY OR ASSIGNS, ON THE SOUTH BY THE PROPERTY OF JOHN MILLER AND ALTON J. LEGER, ON THE WEST BY MARKET STREET IN THE TOWN OF GRAND COTEAU, AND ON THE EAST BY LARRY LEGER.

PROPERTY ADDRESS IS BELIEVED TO BE: 130 MARKET STREET, GRAND COTEAU, LA 70541

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE:

CASH WITH BENEFIT OF APPRAISEMENT TO PAY AND SATISFY THE SUM OF SEVENTY-TWO THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED SIXTY-FOUR AND 80/100 (\$72,764.80) DOLLARS, TOGETHER WITH INTEREST AT THE RATE OF FOUR AND TWENTY-FIVE HUNDRETHS (4.25%) PER CENT, THEREON FROM JANUARY 1, 2020, AND ATTORNEY FEES OF \$1,150.00, 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: APRIL 22 & MAY 23, 2021) 2T

Pinwheel Garden at St. Ed



April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month and St. Edmund Catholic School was chosen from a drawing to receive a Pinwheel Garden planted at the school. The pinwheel is the national symbol for child abuse prevention. From left, are, Lisa Frederick, safe environment coordinator for the diocese and Michele Stelly, SECS safe environmental coordinator. (Submitted photo)

Grant given to Highland



Highland Elementary received the 2021 Educational Alliance grant of \$500 from the Exxon Mobil Educational Alliance Program, Store Tobacco Plus #4 in Eunice. The grant is awarded each year to recognize achievement in educational field. From left, are Keisha Freeman, manager, and Lorie LeDoux, principal at Highland Elementary. (Photo by Myra Miller)

Accent covers school and family news. Send articles and pictures submissions to myra.miller@eunicetoday.com

Students of the Week at Glendale Elementary



Glendale Elementary announced its Students of the Week for April 7-9. In front, from left, are Zylee McQuirter, Mason Higginbotham, Bailey Ashworth, Victoria Hernandez, Khloe Glaze and Hayden Hooter. In back, from left, are

Eden Nelson, Tania Shillow, Zerrick Williams, Sophie Richardson, Jassmine Rico, Dash Keeven, Jah'Naya Marshall and Logan Turner. Not pictured are Amariyah Pickney and Colton Lucas. (Submitted photos)



Students of the Week for April 12-16 were honored at Glendale Elementary. In front, from left, are Paisley Miller, Brionna Hudson, Kaeden Lejeune, Kinlee Edwards, Sawyer Herbert and Brianna Knippers. In back, from left, are Ja'Kobien

Thomas, William Carron, Kilia Sittig, Cali Thibodeaux, Sophie Richardson, Jaydin Ashworth, Jayla Kennedy, and Wailen Leitz. Not pictured is Jeffery Bushnell.

Three techniques to keep mosquitoes out of your backyard oasis

Newspaper Metro
A backyard retreat can be even more enjoyable when homeowners find ways to keep mosquitoes at bay.

The value of a retreat-like backyard was never more apparent than in 2020. Over the last year-plus, much of the world has been forced to stay home as a global pandemic has claimed millions of lives while countless others have had to fight to survive in hospitals. It's no surprise people have looked for a respite from the harsh realities of living during a deadly pandemic, and many turned their attention to their own backyards to provide such an escape.

The online home remodeling platform Houzz reported a 58 percent annual increase in project leads for home professionals in June 2020.

Contractors who specialize in outdoor spaces saw the biggest increase in demand. A revamped outdoor space can provide the perfect retreat for homeowners who want to get away from it all. But one winged, unwelcome guest can quickly transform an oasis into an uninviting space.

Mosquitoes make their presence felt in many areas each summer. These pesky, often hungry insects can carry disease, and their bites can be painful and itchy.

Homeowners can try these three techniques to keep mosquitoes out of

their backyards.

1. Remove standing water.

Standing water is a breeding ground for mosquitoes, who don't even need a lot of water to successfully breed. A daily walk around the property may uncover kids' toys, empty flower pots or other small receptacles that can collect water. Even clogged gutters can lead to the accumulation of a small amount of water, and that can be enough for mosquitoes to breed. Remove these potential breeding grounds when you find them, and do so each day, as mosquitoes mature from eggs to nymphs in roughly four days.

2. Mow regularly.

Mowing the lawn so the grass never gets too high

is another way to make a backyard less hospitable to mosquitoes.

The pest experts at Terminix® note that mosquitoes seek tall grass to protect them from the elements, including wind and hot summer sun. Mowing enough so grass never gets too high in summer can make backyards less inviting to mosquitoes.

3. Plant with mosquitoes in mind.

The home remodeling experts at HGTV note that plants can be part of homeowners' strategy to repel mosquitoes.

Various plants have mosquito-repellant qualities. For example, bee balm releases a fragrance as it grows, and mosquitoes don't like that fragrance.

Bill supports victims of domestic violence

By Brittney Forbes
LSU Manship School News Service

BATON ROUGE — A House bill that removed a notarization requirement to make it easier for people to seek court orders to protect them from domestic violence moved forward Monday.

Rep. Aimee Freeman, D-New Orleans, said her bill, HB55, would remove a requirement that victims provide notarized complaints about domestic or dating violence, stalking or sexual assault. It would allow them to simply file a signed statement with the court.

"The reason for this bill is for the many survivors of domestic violence where the first step is the courage to come forward and actually ask for that temporary restraining order," Freeman said at a hearing of the House Committee on Civil Law and Procedure.

The bill "will ease the process for them in the already tumultuous decisions that they're already having to make to change their lives," Freeman said.

More than 10 million

adults experience domestic abuse — 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men — per year, with violent incidents happening every three seconds, according to the National Coalition against Domestic Violence.

Rep. Gregory Miller, R-Norco, said there were concerns if there would be enough safeguards to keep accusers from providing false statements even with a notary.

Freeman's bill notes that under Louisiana law if anyone makes any false statements about such an incident, they are subject to being fined \$1,000 or being sentenced to up to five years of imprisonment or both.

The committee also passed an amendment requiring accusers to date their statements and sign them in front of a witness who also signed the document. Another amendment noted that any false statements would be subject to the penalties for perjury.

Rep. Sam Jenkins, D-Shreveport, thanked Freeman for coordinating with the committee to ensure all concerns were

addressed and made the motion to advance the bill.

Freeman said she wanted to simplify the process because finding a notary can be difficult.

Rep. Denise Marcelle, D-Baton Rouge, said she was proud to co-sponsor the legislation to help people in domestic violence situations.

Present law provides for a temporary restraining order when an affidavit shows that injury, loss or damage was caused.

Brandi Melissa, a domestic violence survivor who was identified only by her first and middle names, came forward at the hearing representing not only herself but her mother who succumbed to domestic violence trauma in 2017. She wore a shirt that read "end the silence on domestic violence."

Brandi began her testimony, shaking, discussing how she was conceived through sexual violence and has experienced severe brain trauma. At the age of six, her father left her mom to die, she said.

She and her mother relocated from their home



Rep. Denise Marcelle, left, and Rep. Aimee Freeman testified Monday about a bill to make it easier to seek court protection

from domestic violence. (Photo by Brittney Forbes/LSU Manship School News Service)

to Baton Rouge, but this did not stop her mother's abuser from continuing his violence. She added that her mother ran into several bureaucratic hurdles until her restraining order was finalized.

"Allowing survivors to affirm first with affidavits makes the risky first step, legal step of escaping abusive situations easier," Brandi said, holding back tears. "Notaries are not charged with deciding someone's honesty,

and those in true danger should not be punished...If this bill, God forbid, doesn't make it out today we could have countless more victims in the condition my mom currently is."

She held up a photo of her mother's urn inside of her apartment.

In Louisiana, 35.9% of women and 35.2% of men have experienced intimate partner physical violence and intimate partner stalking within their lifetimes. In every Louisiana parish,

there has been at least one domestic homicide.

Several legislators, including Miller, Rep. Mike Johnson, R-Pineville, and Rep. Beryl Amedée, R-Houma, commended Brandi for her bravery in speaking for thousands of survivors and those who can't be here to testify."

If you or a loved one needs help, call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) or visit www.TheHotline.org.

Traffic stop in Eunice leads to drug charges for 2

A traffic stop by the St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Crime Suppression Team resulted in the arrest of an 18-year-old man and a 16-year-old juvenile.

According to Sheriff Bobby Guidroz, after the stop on April 14 detectives located 21 bags of prepackaged marijuana, weighing a total

of 139.7 grams, eight one-gram pods of THC oil, one black digital scale, one box of Clear sandwich bags and a Ruger 9mm firearm.

Arrested was Logan Anthony Kennedy, 18, of the 800 block of South Beulah Street, Eunice. Kennedy was charged with two counts of possession with

intent to distribute Schedule I controlled dangerous substance, illegal possession of a firearm in the presence of a controlled dangerous substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, contributing to the delinquency of a juvenile and traffic charges. His bail was set \$13,750.

The juvenile was in possession of a small amount of methamphetamine and one gram pod of THC oil, Guidroz stated.

Guidroz stated, "It is evident Mr. Kennedy is involved in the sales of illegal narcotics. The fact he was in possession of 21 prepackaged clear plastic bags of

marijuana, a scale to weigh the marijuana and unused clear plastic bags to package the marijuana confirms the theory of drug sales."

Anyone with illegal drug activity is urged to call Crime Stoppers at 337-948-TIPS or download the P3 app on any mobile device to tip anonymously.



Logan Kennedy

Jays earn district victories

By Tom Dodge
Sports Editor

The Blue Jays opened District 5-1A play with wins over Sacred Heart of Ville Platte and Opelousas Catholic.

In the 11-1 romp over the rival Trojans (15-10, 1-1), Blue Jay pitcher Daven Benoit earned the complete game win as he struck out five, walked one and allowed one earned run in six hits.

He helped his own cause with a 3-for-4 outing at the plate with a walk and two RBIs.

Remi Guillory went 3-for-4 with a walk and four runs scored.

Luke Vidrine finished 2-for-4 with a walk, one RBI and two runs scored.

In the 1-0 win over Opelousas Catholic (15-11, 1-1) Vidrine earned the complete game victory as he struck out five, walked two and scattered five hits over seven innings.

The only run of the game came in the bottom of the second when Justin Landry singled and scored on hit by Guillory.

The Blue Jays claimed the district championship with a 10-3 victory against Catholic High of Pointe Coupee.

The Blue Jays jumped out to a 1-0 lead in the first inning when Benoit singled and scored on a hit by Ian Dupre.

CHPC (21-7, 0-3) responded with two runs in the bottom of the inning, but the Blue Jays retook the lead with two runs in the second inning.

Kaleb George was hit by a pitch, Landry reached on an error and both scored on another Hornet miscue.

The Blue Jays added three runs in the third inning, begun when Driggs reached on an error and scored on a sacrifice bunt by Henry Brown.

Vidrine singled and scored on a hit by George.

Landry reached on an error that scored courtesy runner Fruge.

CHPC closed the gap to 6-3 in the fifth inning, but the Jays exploded for four runs in the sixth inning to seal the win.

Henry Brown earned the win as he struck out two, walked one and allowed three earned runs on eight hits.

George went 2-for-3 with three RBIs and a run scored.

Vidrine went 2-for-3 with a walk, a RBI and a run scored.

St. Edmund (9-16, 3-0) will celebrate Senior Night at 5:30 p.m. today as the Blue Jays face Westminster Christian Academy (14-13, 1-1) in the district finale.

The Blue Jays conclude the regular season Friday against Hanson Memorial.

Iota advances with 10-2 win

IOTA – The Lady Bulldogs jumped out to an early lead and Iota exploded for six runs in the third inning as they rolled to a 10-2 win over Jennings in the first round of the Class 3-A softball playoffs.

After Jennings scored a run in the top of the third, Iota put the game away with six runs in the bottom of the frame.

Iota added a run in the fourth and Jennings' second run came in the top of the seventh inning.

Greta Fontenot earned the victory as she allowed seven hits and two runs over seven innings, striking out six and walking one.

Iota totaled with 13 hits in the win as five Lady Dogs had two hits apiece.

Fontenot went 2-for-4 with two RBIs.

Dixie Guidry finished 2-for-3 with a walk and two runs scored.

Kylie Welch went 2-for-4 with two RBIs and a run scored.

Caitlyn Klump finished 2-for-3 with a run scored.

Peyton Dubose went 2-for-4 with a run scored.

No. 12 Iota was to visit No. 5 Buckeye Wednesday for a regional round contest.

Lady Cats grab playoff win



Eunice High's Alexis Ortego blasts a three-run home run against Eleanor McCain.

By Tom Dodge
Sports Editor

The Lady Bobcats advanced to the second round of the Class 4-A softball playoffs as Eunice cruised to a 18-0 win over No. 26 Eleanor McCain.

The last playoff win for the Lady Cats was in 2009 when EHS grabbed a 4-0 victory over Pearl River before falling in a 1-0 heartbreaker to Sam Houston.

No. 7 Eunice (22-5) was scheduled to face No. 10 Belle Chasse on Wednesday in the regional round.

Belle Chasse (11-12) rolled to a 16-1 victory over No. 23 Morgan City to open the playoffs.

With a win over Belle Chasse, the Lady Cats would face No. 2 Beau Chene in the quarterfinals.

The Lady Gators opened the playoffs with wins over Landry-Walker (22-0) and Pearl River (4-2).

Eunice exploded for 13 runs in the first inning as the Lady Cats sent 16 batters to the plate in the frame.

Alexis Ortego led off with a double, Sophie Vidrine was hit by a pitch and Gabby Mitchell walked to load the bases.

Ortego scored on a passed ball before Olivia

Thibodeaux doubled in Vidrine and Mitchell as EHS led, 3-0.

Mckenzie Guillory followed with a double to score Thibodeaux.

Jailyn Pavich walked to keep the rally going.

Alissa Pate singled in courtesy runner Mallory O'Brien for a 5-0 margin.

Reagan Fontenot doubled to left to push in courtesy runner Harli Turner.

Sydni Lemelle was hit by a pitch and Ortego's single allowed Fontenot to cross home plate.

Vidrine walked to load the bases and another walk by Mitchell pushed in Lemelle as the Lady Cats moved ahead, 9-0.

Thibodeaux followed with a line drive double to left field that plated Ortego and Vidrine for a 11-0 lead.

Guillory hit a double to left that pushed in Mitchell and Thibodeaux as the Lady Cats forged ahead, 13-0.

McMain's Katrina Rampassard walked to open the second inning for the Lady Mustangs only baserunner of the game.

Pavich then struck the next three batters to end the inning.

Eunice added five more
See Eunice on Page 8

Lady Jays fall to Cedar Creek

By Tom Dodge
Sports Editor

RUSTON – The No. 11 Lady Jays saw their season end at No. 6 Cedar Creek as the Lady Cougars earned a 9-2 regional round win over St. Edmund.

Cedar Creek won Division IV titles in 2018 and 2019 as well as 1995 and 1992.

The Lady Jays (15-8) threatened in the first inning when Mary Beth Lafleur was hit by a pitch and Kennedy Ardoin singled but neither could score.

The Lady Cougars (16-10) jumped out to an early lead in the bottom of the inning as Allie Furr walked and Sarah Adams homered over the left field fence.

Cedar Creek pushed ahead 3-0 when Lizzie McAdams doubled and scored on a passed ball.

The Lady Jays closed the gap to 3-2 in the top of the second inning when Harlie Guillory singled and Anna Chapman followed with a home run.

St. Ed's had a chance to tie the game in the top of the third when Jenna Smith doubled to center

but a double play ended the inning.

The Lady Cougars moved ahead, 4-2 in the bottom of the frame on a solo home run by Adams.

St. Edmund had another chance to push runs across in the fourth when Guillory and Chapman reached on consecutive errors and Rylie Johnson singled to load the bases.

Cedar Creek added a run in the fourth to push ahead, 5-2.

Ardoin singled for the Lady Jays in the top of the fifth but could not advance.

A solo home run by Peyton Muse increased the Lady Cougars' lead to 6-2.

St. Ed's put baserunner son in the top of the sixth inning when Chapman singled and Karleigh Soileau reached on an error but the Lady Jays couldn't push a run across.

Cedar Creek sealed the win in the bottom of the inning when Furr reached on an error and Riley Spradlin homered to right field.

Adams followed with her third home run of the game to push Cedar

See SEH on Page 8



St. Edmund's Anna Chapman hit a two-run home run against Cedar Creek.

North Vermilion sweeps Bobcats



Eunice High's Dru Phillips puts down a bunt against North Vermilion. (Photo by Tom Dodge)

By Tom Dodge
Sports Editor

In a key District 4-4A showdown, North Vermilion grabbed a two-game sweep over the Bobcats.

On Sunday, the Bobcats battled, but North Vermilion rallied for an 11-4 victory.

The Patriots scored in the first inning when Patin singled and crossed home plate on a double by Leblanc.

North Vermilion added two runs in the top of the fourth inning, but the Bobcats put up four runs in the fourth inning to grab a slim lead.

Jahiem Mitchell reached on an error and scored on a hit by Hudson Manuel.

Zac Suire and Dylan Darbonne both singled to load the bases.

Suire scored when Price Myers was hit by a pitch, while Darbonne scored when Dru Phillips walked to tie the game.

Hayden Darbonne walked to plate Myers as the Bobcats moved ahead, 4-3.

North Vermilion then outscored Eunice, 8-0 to seal the win including a six-run surge in the sixth inning.

On Tuesday, the game was scoreless until North
See Sweep on Page 8

SEH

From Page 7

Creek ahead, 9-2. The Lady Jays' final inning of the season began when Ardoin reached on an error but could not advance. McAdams earned the

complete game win as she struck out five and allowed two runs on 10 hits. Ardoin went 2-for-4, while Chapman and Johnson finished 2-for-3. Smith, Brown, Guillory and Soileau each added a hit for the Lady Jays. Cedar Creek recorded five home runs on nine hits over six innings.

Sweep

From Page 7

Vermilion exploded for 11 runs in the fourth inning to grab the 11-0 win. The Bobcats were limited to a double from Suire

and a hit Dylan Darbonne in the shut out loss. Eunice (12-16, 2-4) will entertain LaGrange in a district doubleheader at 4 p.m. today, before closing the regular season on Saturday against Lafayette Christian Academy.



Eunice High pitcher Jailyn Pavich threw a no-hit shutout win over Eleanor McMMain. (Photo by Tom Dodge)

Eunice

From Page 7

runs in the bottom of the inning, begun when Fontenot singled, Lemelle walked and Ortego blasted a home run off the centerfield scoreboard. Vidrine walked and scored when Thibodeaux reached on an error. Mitchell doubled and scored on a double by Guillory as EHS led, 18-0. Pavich struck out the final three batters in the top of the third to seal the mercy-rule win. Jailyn Pavich earned the win as she struck out eight and walked one in

the no-hit shutout. Ortego went 3-for-3 with four RBIs and three runs scored. Thibodeaux finished 2-for-3 with five RBIs and two runs scored. Pate went 2-for-2 with a RBI and a run scored. In the Class 3-A playoffs, No. 12 Iota cruised to a 10-2 win over No. 21 Jennings. No. 15 Mamou grabbed a 2-0 win over No. 18 West Feliciana. No. 16 Caldwell Parish beat No. 17 Church Point, 2-0. No. 11 Pine Prairie rolled to a 10-0 win over No. 22 Erath. No. 4 Iowa downed No. 29 Ville Platte, 15-0.

Bobcats retire Burson's jersey



The Eunice High baseball program held a ceremony Sunday to retire long-time assistant coach John Burson's jersey. From left, are Willie Burson, John Burson, Sandifer Burson and Brian Snorgrass. (Photos by Tom Dodge)



John Burson, center, is presented with a shadow box during his jersey retirement presentation. Joining Burson is head coach Scott Phillips and assistant coach Danny Soileau.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT



Sarah Duplechain – St. Edmund softball

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT



Mckenzie Guillory – Eunice High softball

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"Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes."
James 4:14 NIV

What would you do if you knew that you only had a year to live? What if it was only a month to live, or a week, or even just a few hours? Thinking about the prospect of death, especially if it is done with some seriousness, has the power to focus the mind on the things which one really values. Most of us, I suppose, would call loved ones if we only had a few hours or a day left to live. And while people often say that they would travel the world or otherwise try to squeeze as much pleasure out of life if they had only a year to live, most of us would still be thinking about spending that time with our families and close friends. And while this thought experiment may seem abstract and perhaps even far-fetched, it is really the situation all of us find ourselves in every single day. We all know that today could be our last day, and when we take that seriously it tends to keep us focused on the more important aspects of life.

—Christopher Simon



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1 Corinthians 6:14

And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power.

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There is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all
1 Timothy 2:5

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Rep. Matthew Willard, standing with a policeman in New Orleans, is one of the progressives in the Legislature. (Photo courtesy of Rep. Matthew Willard)



Rep. Mandie Landry, left, was on the campaign trail with Democratic State Sen. Karen Carter Peterson. (Photo courtesy of Rep. Mandie Landry)



Rep. Royce Duplessis, D-New Orleans, met with Vice President Kamala Harris. (Photo courtesy of Rep. Royce Duplessis)

Louisiana progressives are a minority even among Democrats

By Ryan Nelsen
LSU Manship School News Service

BATON ROUGE — Of the 144 seats in the Louisiana Legislature, Democrats hold 47, and even fewer of those members espouse progressive ideas.

At the federal level, progressives like Sen. Bernie Sanders advocate for higher minimum wages, universal health care and criminal justice reform and expect to make some headway toward their goals under the Biden administration. But in red Louisiana, the few progressives often find themselves having to moderate their stances as their ideas rarely make it through the Republican-run Legislature.

Most of the dozen or so most progressive members belong to the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus and represent lower-to-middle income parts of the state's biggest cities.

"There's a lot of lobbyists representing special interests, but the people of Louisiana don't have anyone representing them at the table," said Rep. Matthew Willard, D-New Orleans. "There's no high-paid lobbyists representing the people."

Willard was elected in 2019, as was Rep. Mandie Landry, D-New Orleans, another progressive.

"A lot of members in Ba-

ton Rouge — I think they just don't understand me," she said. "I'm like an alien to them."

In the legislative session that started April 12, Willard is pushing for easier access to midwives to help bring down the state's high maternal and infant mortality rates. He also wants to establish a state income tax credit for parents with children under 18.

The progressives also support other proposals, like increasing the minimum wage, that would benefit the white working class, even though many of its members vote Republican. They also are seeking changes in the criminal justice system and hoping to bring more voters over to their side.

MINIMUM WAGE

The division between moderate Democrats and progressives recently appeared on the federal level when eight Senate Democrats voted against a proposal in Washington to raise the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour. Louisiana is one of five states that does not have a minimum wage set at the state level, and the federal one has not risen since 2009.

"About half of Louisiana's workforce would have seen a pay increase if the federal minimum wage would have increased to \$15 an hour,"

Willard said. Louisiana defaults to the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour, a fact that Willard said is "totally unacceptable."

Rep. Royce Duplessis, D-New Orleans, said a low minimum wage creates negative societal impacts.

"To me it seems to make more sense that we would want to ensure that people have a living wage, so they can work one good job to take care of family, be at home in the evening and help with homework or help with Little League, so that kids aren't out breaking into cars," he said.

Gov. John Bel Edwards has tried several times to establish a state minimum wage as high as \$10 an hour but has failed to get the votes given GOP opposition. He plans to try again this year, but Landry does not think he will succeed.

"I think it's more likely going to happen on a federal level, especially with the Democrat majorities. I just don't see it happening in our state," she said.

Jan Moller, executive director of the nonprofit Louisiana Budget Project, said that polls since 2012 have shown broad support across party lines, age and race in Louisiana for raising the minimum wage. But the bill usually dies in the House Labor

Committee, where lobbyists from the restaurant and other low-wage industries oppose it.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

Another focal point for progressives is to push for more changes in the state's criminal justice system.

Stung that Louisiana had become the incarceration capital of the world and by the cost of housing for so many inmates, Democrats and Republicans agreed in 2017 to let thousands of non-violent offenders out of jail.

But, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, Louisiana in 2019 still had the highest incarceration rate of any state, with 683 incarcerated per 100,000 residents. The following states are Oklahoma with a rate of 639 and Mississippi with 636.

"We warehouse more people in prison than anywhere else, and I think it's one reason we stay impoverished here," Landry said. "It's a waste of resources, in the sense of we're wasting money on jails, but we're also wasting our actual people."

"It's not like people from Louisiana are any more dangerous than people anywhere else," she added. "There is nothing in the water that makes people in Louisiana commit more crimes."

Duplessis wants to

change that Louisiana is one of six states that sentences criminals to life without parole. According to the Sentencing Project, a research and advocacy group in Washington, D.C., Louisiana held 4,377 prisoners on life sentences without parole in 2020. That equates to 14% of the prison population, tied for the highest in the country with Massachusetts.

"I don't believe everybody should be released, but I do believe everybody should have the opportunity to come up for review, to assess whether or not they have rehabilitated themselves," said Duplessis.

"We are a state that promotes Christian values in our faith," he added. "And part of Christian values, the last time I checked, is believing in redemption. I want us to have a conversation around the issue of redemption."

SELLING THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY

"The Democratic Party in Louisiana can do a better job at our messaging in letting the people of Louisiana know that we are working on their behalf," Willard said.

In a conservative state, Democrats are often hurt by cultural and religious issues, like their party's pro-choice stance on abortion. Willard sees Louisiana Democrats as more

diverse.

Sen. Katrina Jackson, D-Monroe, introduced a bill in 2019, for instance, that outlawed abortion after a heartbeat was detected. Edwards, the only Democratic governor in the U.S. who is pro-life, signed the bill into law.

"We have always been a big tent party," Willard said. "We're not the type of party where if you disagree or dissent, which is at the heart of American democracy, that you're going to be censored or called out. I think that's anti-democratic."

Landry, one of the few white progressive Democrats in the Legislature, is fervently pro-choice. Landry also has authored a bill for the 2021 session that would decriminalize prostitution. Her bill would help individuals who are being trafficked or encounter violence during consensual sex go to the police without the threat of being arrested.

Landry thinks she seems alien to other lawmakers not just because of her ideas but because she is one of only 26 women in the Legislature.

"As much support as I get from my district, I get stuff thrown at me elsewhere," she said. "It's mostly from men, mostly from white men, but not entirely. I get a little bit from white women around the state. But it's a lot."

LSU, University of Louisiana System won't require COVID-19 vaccine

By Adrian Dubose
LSU Manship School News Service

BATON ROUGE — Louisiana's higher education officials are encouraging tens of thousands of students to get COVID-19 vaccines before returning for in-person instruction next fall, but they do not plan to require it.

LSU Interim President Tom Galligan released a statement

late Monday saying that the school could not require vaccinations given that federal regulators approved the vaccines for emergency use without completing full safety investigations.

Dr. Jim Henderson, president of the University of Louisiana System, cited the same reason in saying that he did not plan to require vaccinations before students return in the fall.

The universities in Louisiana

are making their decisions amid a growing national debate about whether colleges can or should force students, faculty members and staff to be vaccinated.

Forty-six universities around the country have announced plans to require all students to be vaccinated before they return in the fall, according to the Chronicle of Higher Education. They include some of the biggest-name private schools

like Yale, Columbia, Cornell, Brown, Notre Dame and Johns Hopkins as well as Xavier University in New Orleans.

Rutgers, New Jersey's flagship state university, and two smaller schools are the only public universities on the list so far.

Henderson said that trying to require COVID vaccines given how quickly federal regulators approved them to try to bring the pandemic under control.

"Mandating fully authorized vaccines is difficult," Henderson said in an interview. And with the COVID vaccines, "We are still learning about the long-term efficacy."

"We will work diligently to influence as many as possible to be vaccinated, then work with public health partners on additional safeguards," he said, noting that a state mask mandate remains in place.

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THE ST. LANDRY PARISH SCHOOL BOARD, PATRICK JENKINS, SUPERINTENDENT, 1013 E. CRESWELL LANE, P O BOX 310, OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA 70571-0310, WILL RECEIVE SEALED BIDS FOR "GASOLINE AND DIESEL OFF SITE MOTOR FUEL" UNTIL TWO O'CLOCK (2:00) P.M., THURSDAY, MAY 20, 2021, AT WHICH TIME THEY WILL BE PUBLICLY OPENED AND READ ALOUD.
BIDS SHALL BE SEALED AND PLAINLY MARKED ON THE OUTSIDE: "GASOLINE AND DIESEL OFF SITE MOTOR FUEL, 05/20/2021."
IN ACCORDANCE WITH LOUISIANA RS 38:2212, VENDORS MAY SUBMIT THEIR BID ELECTRONICALLY AT www.centralbidding.com. SPECIFICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE BY ELECTRONIC MEANS. VENDORS SUBMITTING BIDS ELECTRONICALLY ARE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE THE SAME DOCUMENTS AS VENDORS SUBMITTING THROUGH THE MAIL OR BY HAND DELIVERY.
BIDS SHALL BE AWARDED ON QUALITY AND PRICE AND THE BOARD WILL NOT NECESSARILY AWARD ON THE LOWEST PRICE ON ANY ITEM. THE BOARD RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND TO WAIVE ANY INFORMALTY.
SPECIFICATIONS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE.
PATRICK JENKINS, SUPERINTENDENT
ST. LANDRY PARISH SCHOOL BOARD
(PUBLISH: APRIL 22 & 29, 2021) 2T

PUBLIC NOTICE
LEGAL NOTICE OF BID
THE ST. LANDRY PARISH SCHOOL BOARD, PATRICK JENKINS, SUPERINTENDENT, 1013 E. CRESWELL LANE, P O BOX 310, OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA 70571-0310, WILL RECEIVE SEALED BIDS FOR "8 AMANA HEAT/COOL UNITS - HEAD START CENTERS" UNTIL TWO O'CLOCK (2:00) P.M., WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 2021, AT WHICH TIME THEY WILL BE PUBLICLY OPENED AND READ ALOUD.
BIDS SHALL BE SEALED AND PLAINLY MARKED ON THE OUTSIDE: "BID FOR 8 AMANA HEAT/COOL UNITS - HEAD START CENTERS, 05/12/2021."
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ALL ITEMS ARE TO BE DELIVERED F.O.B., ST. LANDRY PARISH SCHOOL BOARD, 1013 CRESWELL LANE, OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA 70570, WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THE PURCHASE ORDER. ALL PRICES SHALL BE FIXED AND HELD FIRM THROUGH DELIVERY. ONLY COMPLETE SHIPMENTS MUST BE DELIVERED. NO PARTIAL SHIPMENTS ARE TO BE SENT.
ALL PRICES SHALL BE FIXED AND HELD FIRM FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR (MAY 13, 2021 - MAY 13, 2022).
BIDS SHALL BE AWARDED ON QUALITY AND PRICE AND THE BOARD WILL NOT NECESSARILY AWARD ON THE LOWEST PRICE ON ANY ITEM. THE BOARD RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND TO WAIVE ANY INFORMALTY.
SPECIFICATIONS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE.
PATRICK JENKINS, SUPERINTENDENT
ST. LANDRY PARISH SCHOOL BOARD
(PUBLISH: APRIL 22 & 29, 2021) 2T

PUBLIC NOTICE
LEGAL NOTICE OF BID
THE ST. LANDRY PARISH SCHOOL BOARD, PATRICK JENKINS, SUPERINTENDENT, 1013 E. CRESWELL LANE, P O BOX 310, OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA 70571-0310, WILL RECEIVE SEALED BIDS FOR "75 AMANA HEAT/COOL UNITS" UNTIL TWO O'CLOCK (2:00) P.M., WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 2021, AT WHICH TIME THEY WILL BE PUBLICLY OPENED AND READ ALOUD.
BIDS SHALL BE SEALED AND PLAINLY MARKED ON THE OUTSIDE: "BID FOR 75 AMANA HEAT/COOL UNITS, 05/12/2021."
IN ACCORDANCE WITH LOUISIANA RS 38:2212, VENDORS MAY SUBMIT THEIR BID ELECTRONICALLY AT www.centralbidding.com. SPECIFICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE BY ELECTRONIC MEANS. VENDORS SUBMITTING BIDS ELECTRONICALLY ARE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE THE SAME DOCUMENTS AS VENDORS SUBMITTING THROUGH THE MAIL OR BY HAND DELIVERY.
ALL ITEMS ARE TO BE DELIVERED F.O.B., ST. LANDRY PARISH SCHOOL BOARD, 1013 CRESWELL LANE, OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA 70570, WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THE PURCHASE ORDER. ALL PRICES SHALL BE FIXED AND HELD FIRM THROUGH DELIVERY. ONLY COMPLETE SHIPMENTS MUST BE DELIVERED. NO PARTIAL SHIPMENTS ARE TO BE SENT.
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SPECIFICATIONS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE.
PATRICK JENKINS, SUPERINTENDENT
ST. LANDRY PARISH SCHOOL BOARD
(PUBLISH: APRIL 22 & 29, 2021) 2T

PUBLIC NOTICE
LEGAL NOTICE OF BID
THE ST. LANDRY PARISH SCHOOL BOARD, PATRICK JENKINS, SUPERINTENDENT, 1013 E. CRESWELL LANE, P O BOX 310, OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA 70571-0310, WILL RECEIVE SEALED BIDS FOR "PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT, SURFACING AND INSTALLATION @ GRAND COTEAU HEAD START AND OTHER SITES ON AN AS NEEDED BASIS IN ST. LANDRY PARISH SCHOOL SYSTEM" UNTIL 1:30 P.M. ON MAY 25, 2021. RFPs WILL BE PUBLICLY OPENED AND READ ALOUD ON TUESDAY, MAY 25, 2021 AT 2:00 P.M.
RFPs SHALL BE SEALED AND PLAINLY MARKED ON THE OUTSIDE: "RFP FOR PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT, SURFACING AND INSTALLATION @ GRAND COTEAU HEAD START AND OTHER SITES ON AN AS NEEDED BASIS IN ST. LANDRY PARISH SCHOOL SYSTEM, 05/25/2021."
IN ACCORDANCE WITH LOUISIANA RS 38:2212, VENDORS MAY SUBMIT THEIR BID ELECTRONICALLY AT www.centralbidding.com. SPECIFICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE BY ELECTRONIC MEANS. VENDORS SUBMITTING BIDS ELECTRONICALLY ARE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE THE SAME DOCUMENTS AS VENDORS SUBMITTING THROUGH THE MAIL OR BY HAND DELIVERY.
BIDS WILL BE AWARDED ON QUALITY AND PRICE AND THE BOARD WILL NOT NECESSARILY AWARD ON THE LOWEST PRICE. THE BOARD RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY INFORMALTY.
MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MAY 13, 2021, at 11:00 A.M. AT THE ST. LANDRY PARISH SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE LOCATED AT 1013 CRESWELL LANE, OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA 70570.
SPECIFICATIONS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM JUNE INHERN, DIRECTOR OF EARLY LEARNING @ THE HEAD START TRAINING CENTER, 8736 HWY 182 NORTH, OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA 70570.
PATRICK JENKINS, SUPERINTENDENT
ST. LANDRY PARISH SCHOOL BOARD
(PUBLISH: APRIL 22, 29 & MAY 6, 2021) 3T

PUBLIC NOTICE
LEGAL NOTICE OF BID
THE ST. LANDRY PARISH SCHOOL BOARD, PATRICK JENKINS, SUPERINTENDENT, 1013 E. CRESWELL LANE, P O BOX 310, OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA 70571-0310, WILL RECEIVE SEALED BIDS FOR "75 AMANA HEAT/COOL UNITS" UNTIL TWO O'CLOCK (2:00) P.M., WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 2021, AT WHICH TIME THEY WILL BE PUBLICLY OPENED AND READ ALOUD.
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PATRICK JENKINS, SUPERINTENDENT
ST. LANDRY PARISH SCHOOL BOARD
(PUBLISH: APRIL 22 & 29, 2021) 2T



Wetlands Sake cans stand on the 31-acre field planted with short-grain rice that will be used to make the beverage. (Photo by Bruce Schultz/LSU AgCenter)

LSU AgCenter rice is main ingredient in Louisiana-brewed Wetlands Sake

By Bruce Schultz
bschultz@agcenter.lsu.edu

CROWLEY — Short-grain rice developed by the LSU AgCenter has been planted for a New Orleans company to make sake, a traditional Japanese beverage that is becoming more popular in the U.S.

The Pirogue variety was planted on 31 acres at the H. Rouse Caffey Rice Research Station on April 6 by Rick Zaunbrecher, the station's foundation seed manager.

After harvest in August, the rice will be sold to Wetlands Sake, and the field of remaining stubble will be used for crawfish.

The company's co-founders, Nan Wallis and Lindsey Beard, were determined their sake would be made with rice grown in Louisiana.

"Living in the land of rice, we definitely wanted to use Louisiana rice," said Beard, who is part of the Brennan restaurant family.

Dustin Harrell, resident coordinator of the Rice Research Station and former LSU AgCenter rice specialist, said Beard and Wallis contacted him two and a half years ago about growing rice for sake, but he wasn't sure the station had any offerings that would meet their needs. Then he remembered Pirogue, which was developed in 2003 by Steve Linscombe, a now-retired LSU AgCenter rice breeder.

Linscombe said a south Louisiana rice company approached him for a short-grain rice that could be grown in Louisiana.

"That company was bringing in paddy short grain from California (S102) and milling it in Abbeville for the Puerto Rico market," Linscombe recalled. "They asked if I could develop a short grain adapted to be grown in southwest Louisiana."

The founders of Wetlands Sake knew little about rice when they started.

"It's only because of Dustin and his patience that we've been able to come this far," Wallis said.

A small crop of Pirogue foundation seed was planted at the Rice Research Station and used for testing.

"The short grain that Steve developed worked perfectly," Harrell said.

Zaunbrecher said he grew 14 acres of rice for Wetlands Sake last year, and it yielded 49 barrels an acre. He said the approach to growing Pirogue is the same as a long-grain or medium-grain rice.

Wetlands Sake is challenging the traditional way sake is sold and consumed. Usually, the beverage is available in bottles and is considered a drink to complement Asian food, but Wallis and Beard wanted their product to be considered a stand-alone beverage like beer or wine.

"We want sake to become an everyday drink, so we decided that the best way to make that happen is to put it in single-serve cans," Wallis said.

Buying an 8-ounce can of sake is an easier way for consumers who shied away from buying a large bottle of what they considered an exotic drink.

"You have the opportunity to try something you may not have tried otherwise," Beard said. "I think we've opened up a whole new world."

Their sake is intended to be served chilled and with or without food. It is available in filtered and unfiltered varieties and in a sparkling version flavored



Nan Wallis of Wetlands Sake holds a handful of rice. The short-grain rice variety, Pirogue, was developed in 2003 at the H. Rouse Caffey Rice Research Station by now-retired rice breeder (Steve Linscombe). Photo by Bruce Schultz/LSU AgCenter

with blood orange or passion fruit.

Currently, Wetlands Sake is sold in the New Orleans area at grocery stores, bars and restaurants, but Beard and Wallis plan to have their products available nationwide. That would mean additional acres of Pirogue would be needed from Louisiana farmers, they said.

Unlike wine, sake has no preservatives or sulfites. Rice, water, yeast and koji spores are the only ingredients used in the five-week fermentation process. Wetlands Sake is handcrafted using traditional methods, Beard said.

Later this year, Wallis and Beard plan to open a tasting room at the brewery, located in the Warehouse District at 634 Orange St. in New Orleans.

The partnership began almost three years ago when Beard dined with Wallis, who had returned from a trip to New York, where she and her husband noticed sake on many restaurant menus. Days later, Beard found a package of rice on her doorstep with a "Let's talk" note, and they met to sketch out a business plan.

The Wetlands Sake website, wetlandssake.com, explains the process of making the beverage. The company also has Facebook and Instagram pages.

The heron on the company's logo symbolizes the concern Wallis and Beard have for wetlands in Louisiana and the rest of the U.S. The company is pledging to donate 2% of its profits to Save America's Wetlands through the Greater New Orleans Foundation.

"Giving back to the wetlands is a big part of our mission," Beard said. "We are passionate about wetlands conservation."

Rice mills in Louisiana lack the capability of milling sake rice, so a sake mill in Minnesota is currently milling the pearl-shaped grain. However, Harrell said a new mill at the Rice Research Station will eventually have the capability of processing short-grain rice.

Wallis and Beard also plan to work with the LSU AgCenter Food Incubator to get help with marketing.

"It really is going full circle, working with LSU. It all started at the Rice Research Station," Wallis said.

Harrell said he's enjoyed working on the project.

"It's been great to see their product in the market," he said.

Harrell said the sake is a good promotional tool for Louisiana rice.

"It's good from the standpoint that they're using a rice developed in Louisiana, grown in Louisiana and brewed in Louisiana," he said.



Rick Zaunbrecher, far left, explains how rice is being planted to Nan Wallis, second from left, and Lindsey Beard, second from right, both of Wetlands Sake, and Dustin Harrell, resident coordinator of the Rice Research Station and former LSU AgCenter rice

specialist. Zaunbrecher, manager of the Foundation Seed Program at the H. Rouse Caffey Rice Research Station, planted the rice to be sold to Wetlands Sake to make its products at the New Orleans brewery. (Photo by Bruce Schultz/LSU AgCenter)



Jennifer Weishaupt

Ruby Slipper CEO

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