

# THE JENA TIMES



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## OLLA-TULLOS-URANIA SIGNAL



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JENA (LaSALLE PARISH), LOUISIANA

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# New Campus for Rod Brady

## Delegation announces \$10-million investment

BY CRAIG FRANKLIN  
Editor

The Rod Brady Campus of the Central Louisiana Technical Community College (CLTCC) will soon have a brand-new facility.

The \$10-million announcement was made Monday, June 26, on the campus of Louisiana Christian University in Pineville at the North Rapides Business & Industry Alliance meeting by Louisiana District 32 Senator Glen Womack.

Womack was joined by District 22 Representative Gabe Firment and District 20 Representative Neil Riser, all who represent LaSalle Parish, along with District 27 Representative Mike Johnson.

Dr. Jimmy Sawtelle, CLTCC Chancellor, was the featured speaker at the alliance meeting where he gave an overview of the college's programs and events. At the conclusion of his presentation, he invited Senator Womack to the podium for "one more thing"

Womack wasted no time in sharing the good news to all in attendance, proclaiming that during the recent legislative session, the Central Louisiana Delegation was able to secure \$10-million into HB2 (the State's comprehensive Capital Outlay Budget Bill) for the purpose of constructing a new Rod Brady Campus in Jena.

"We have a great announcement today," Womack said. "We were able to get funding for a new facility at Rod Brady in Jena. This is good

See ROD BRADY on page 2A



The Central Louisiana Legislative Delegation was instrumental in acquiring \$10-million for the construction of a new CLTCC Rod Brady Campus in Jena. Shown above at the announcement last week are, from left: District 22 Representative Gabe Firment, District 27 Representative Mike Johnson, CLTCC Chancellor Dr. Jimmy Sawtelle, District 32 Senator Glen Womack, Rod Brady Interim Dean Michelle Morea, LEDD Treasurer Blake Phillips and District 20 Representative Neil Riser.

## LHS Vice Principal Approved by Board

BY CRAIG FRANKLIN  
Editor

LaSalle High School's (LHS) two new administrators had their contracts approved during the special meeting of the LaSalle Parish School Board last Thursday night, June 29.

Heath Denison, new LHS Principal, had a two-year contract of employment and performance objectives unanimously approved by the Board, as recommended by LaSalle Superintendent Jon Garret.

Denison is a 1996 graduate of LHS and brings 16 years of experience in the education field. He holds Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from the University of Louisiana at Monroe.

Joining Denison to lead the school is long-



Sarah Peppers

See VICE PRINCIPAL on page 7A

## Jena Residents "Hamming" It Up!

BY CRAIG FRANKLIN  
Editor

Perry Nelson of Jena has had a lifelong fascination with radios. Growing up, his interest was sparked when CB's were a huge part of communication in America.

"I loved CB's and when I was growing up, Woody Wagoner (of Olla - CB handle "Woody Woodpecker") was a major influence in my life," Nelson said. "When I got older, I would

See RADIO on page 3A



Perry and Suzan Nelson are shown operating a ham radio during an emergency field day training event in Alexandria June 24. The Jena couple is actively involved in the emergency radio operations that has been proven valuable during major emergencies. (See story.)

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# Rod Brady Receiving New Campus Facility

Continued from page 1A news. There is one caveat - we are waiting on the Governor to sign it."

Lead by Womack on the Senate side of the Legislature, the Central Louisiana Delegation worked together to make sure the appropriated \$10-million for the new Rod Brady campus was in and stayed in HB 2, which was passed by the Legislature during the final moments of the recent session in Baton Rouge.

Governor John Bel Edwards signed HB 2 into law late last week ensuring the money for the new campus was secure.

"You know, when I think of teamwork, I know that coming together is the beginning, staying together is progress and working together is success," Womack said while making the announcement. "That's what I have to describe these people here today. This group worked hard during this last legislative session and we were able to bring some great things home to our districts."

LaSalle Economic Development District (LEDD) Treasurer Blake Phillips, who represented LEDD during the meeting, said a new Rod Brady facility has been in the works for over two years.

"Back in 2021, A Greater LaSalle luncheon held in Jena recognizing our Rod Brady campus started conversations with our legislators and Dr. Jimmy Sawtelle about building a new, more modern facility," Phillips said. "Those conversations led to more in-depth conversations with Senator Womack and Dr. Sawtelle about ways to have the project funded."

During the next two years, Womack used his positions on the powerful Senate committees of Finance, Joint Committee on the Budget and Agriculture, Forestry,

**EDITOR'S NOTE:**  
As of our press deadline last Friday at noon, HB2 was still waiting for Gov. John Bel Edwards to sign making it law. HB2 contains capital outlay funding of which the \$10-million for Rod Brady is included. Check our website for more information when the Governor signs the bill into law or, if for some unusual circumstance, he elects to veto the bill or line-item veto the Rod Brady portion.

Aquaculture and Rural Development to work funding for Rod Brady into the state's budget.

"All of our legislative delegation were a huge part in seeing this happen," Phillips said. "Senator Womack was able to get the funding request put into HB 2 and kept pushing hard for the funds this year. But the House legislators knew all about it and made sure it stayed in HB 2 when it was being ratified by the House. This really was a joint effort by our entire delegation of which we are extremely proud."

Phillips explained how the \$10-million would be used.

"It provides for \$1-million in cash that will be for planning and development and then the remaining \$9-million will be used to secure bonds for the actual construction to build the new facility," he said.

"Once the planning and architectural portion is complete, we'll have an idea of exactly how much money it is going to cost to build the new complex," Phillips continued. "It will likely cost more than \$9-million but the great thing about the State is once they begin a project such as this, they will provide additional funds to see its completion."

Setting a timeline is hard to do but many estimate it will take

two to three years before the new Rod Brady Campus is completed and ready to use.

"Typically, we're talking a year for planning and design with all of the approvals that must be received and then another 18 months or so of actual construction," Phillips said. "But if all goes well, we could have the facility opened and being used in 2025."

It was noted that this is not a renovation project but rather a completely new build, which means Rod Brady will move from its site on East Bradford Street in Jena to another location.

"That location has yet to be finalized but we're hoping to build it somewhere along a major highway in or near Jena," Phillips said. "Negotiations are occurring on proposed sites but that information is not available at this time."

For Rod Brady Campus Interim Campus Dean Michelle Morea, the news is beyond exciting.

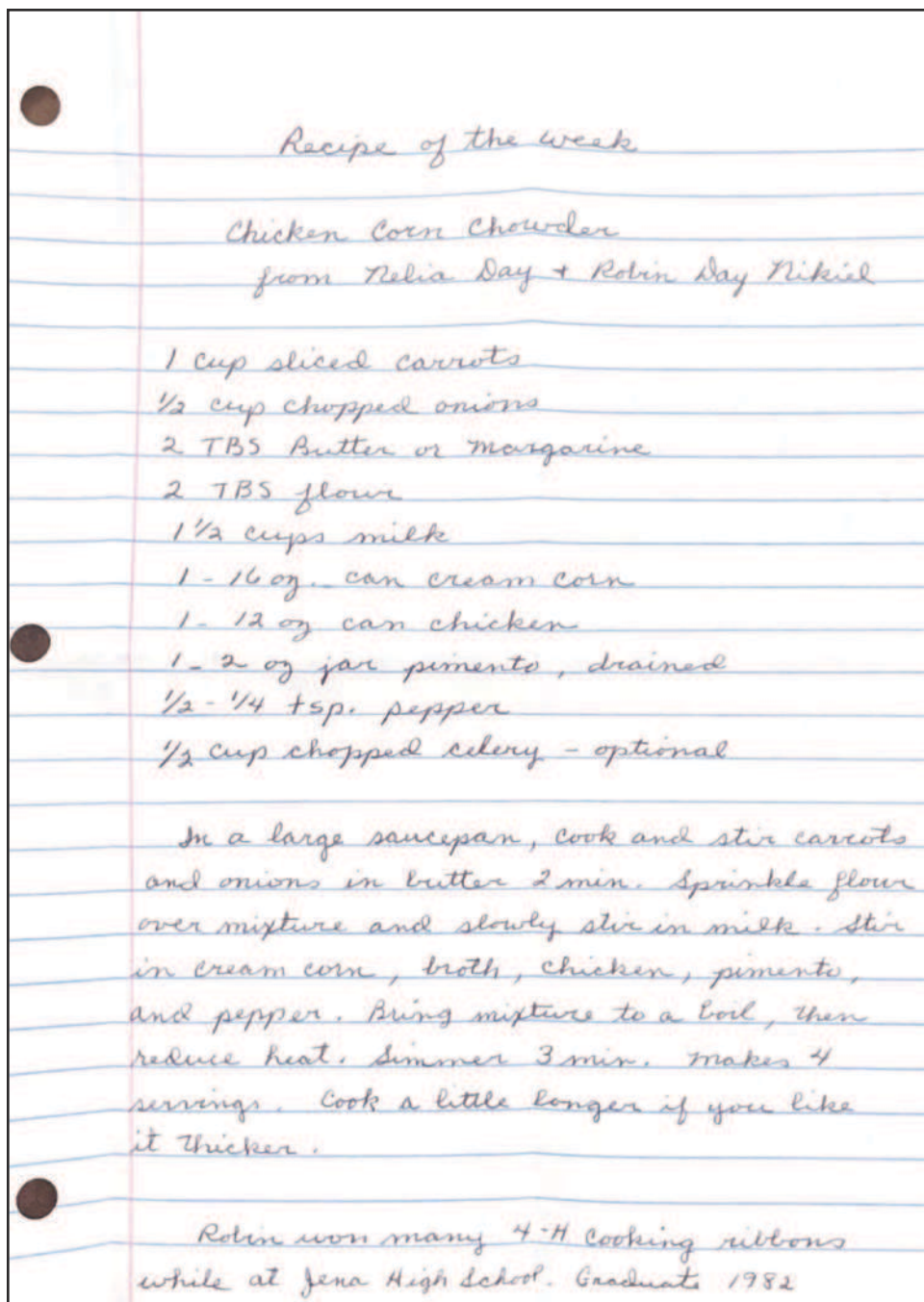
"We are so excited about the possibility of a new facility," Morea said. "It will allow us to continue in a pattern of growth both in numbers of students and in programs offered."

"Our hope is that a new facility will provide a hub within the community for education, collaboration and expansion in and around LaSalle Parish," she concluded.

Both of LaSalle's State Representatives were pleased with the outcome and the opportunity to help advance the budget request through the House.

"This is big news and just to put things into perspective, when I first took office one of the first people I talked to was Laurel Comeaux," Representative Firment said. "She was very concerned four years ago about Rod Brady even staying open and now we're getting ready to build a new campus."

"What a testament



District 32 Senator Glen Womack



District 20 Representative Neil Riser



District 22 Representative Gabe Firment



Dr. Jimmy Sawtelle, CLTCC Chancellor, expressed his gratitude to area legislators for their work in acquiring \$10-million for the construction of a new Rod Brady Campus in Jena.

to this team's work and also to LEDD, Blake Phillips, Cynthia Cockerham and Michelle Morea," he continued. "I'm going to give most of the credit to Senator Womack and Representative Riser for this because this is Senate Finance (Womack) and Ways And Means (Riser) and I'm like those middle fire ants just stinging them on the ankles to help move them in the right direction."

"We can't underestimate the importance of Rod Brady, not just to LaSalle Parish but to Grant, Rapides, Winn and Caldwell," he concluded. "They are in the business of educating people and putting them out into the workforce and improve their lives and this will enable them to do an even better job."

Representative Riser was honored to help move the request through the House for final passage and noted that in today's changing world, Rod Brady, with a new campus, will be better prepared to train people to meet the changing technology needs.

"We're entering into a new world of AI (artificial intelligence) and that will be a big part of our community colleges because jobs are going to keep recreating themselves outside of the traditional four-year universities," he said. "I'm proud of our delegation and the way we worked together to get this new campus for Rod Brady funded."



## Rod Brady - Did you know?

### STAFF REPORT

The Rod Brady Campus of the Central Louisiana Technical Community College was established in 1984 under the leadership of former State Representative Thomas "Bud" Brady of Urania.

Brady served LaSalle Parish as its representative from 1976-1988 and was instrumental in securing funding for the vo-tech school located in Jena through the state legislature.

In 1980, Brady's 17-year-old son, Roderick

Edward Brady, was tragically killed in a car accident.

When the facility in Jena was completed in 1986, it was named "Rod Brady Memorial Vocational Technical School" in memory of the representative's deceased son.

Other Information:

What began in 1986 with just three courses in business, welding and nursing, has expanded over the years to offer a wide variety of courses in the vocational, technology and business fields.

Today, the campus offers courses in Busi-

ness Office Administration, Practical Nursing, Welding Technology, Heavy Equipment Operator and Commercial Vehicle Operator (CDL).

Through a collaboration with LSUA and LCU, courses are now transferrable, meaning students who wish to continue their education at four-year universities may do so without losing their college credits achieved at Rod Brady.

For more information, visit [www.clctcc.edu](http://www.clctcc.edu). Click on Rod Brady Campus.

You may also call Rod Brady at (318) 992-8150.

## Radio...

Continued from page 1A

actually drive him around while he talked with everyone on his CB."

CB radios were popular in the 1970's but over the course of time, Nelson said the vulgar language that became more and more common on the radio turned him away from his childhood fascination.

Fast forward to the year 2002 when Perry had gotten a dog and became involved in K-9 search and rescue.

"What I found was that ham radio was the means of communication during training and actual deployments," he said. "The problem for me was that learning morse code was a requirement for becoming a licensed ham radio operator and learning morse code just never interested me and was one of the reasons I never became licensed."

But soon after the requirement was removed from the licens-

ing process and Perry quickly took the tests and got certified.

"So, in 2003, 20 years ago, I got my license and my call sign which was KD-5VZE, which was later changed to N5PRN," Nelson said.

Call signs are what is used to identify operators when using ham radios, much like CB handles, only call signs are issued by the FCC.

Seven years later, in 2010, Suzan took the test and was licensed as well. Her call sign is N5CLZ.

Perry and Suzan are cofounders of Crossroads K-9 Search and Rescue, a non-profit organization established in 2010.

The Nelsons are one of about three couples in LaSalle Parish that are ham radio operators and two of around 20 people that are listed as license holders for LaSalle. There are operators from Jena to Olla but the Nelsons are the two most active members of the Central Louisiana Amateur Radio Club (CLARC).

"There are not as many women doing it as men but I enjoy being a part of it," Suzan said. "But anyone can become a ham radio operator. Believe it or not, kids love it and we have members as young as 10."

Perry said he enjoys the camaraderie among the other operators and the fulfillment of helping people in emergencies.

Both Perry and Suzan work at the Jena Police Department - Suzan in the office and Perry as a patrol officer. Suzan also drives a school bus for the LaSalle Parish School System so being involved with the public on a daily basis reinforces their desire to help during emergency situations.

Ham radios are recognized by the United States government as a vital resource. With today's emergency radios mostly digital and internet driven, ham radios can operate when all other systems go down. "Because they require little power, we can

operate when all the other agencies are down," Perry said. "We are very active during major disasters, such as hurricanes, flooding and other situations that knock out all communications. Ham operators are located all across the world and when something major happens, we all are at our radios ready to help."

There have been times when operators have been able to get in touch with family and friends when they had no other means to get word that they were either okay or needed help.

"The most recent example was when the flooding took place in Denham Springs," Perry said. "We were able to communicate with other ham operators down there to get messages out when all cell phones and other means of communication were down."

For Suzan, who is a self-professed "weather-aholic", any time there is severe weather she is monitoring the

radio.

"You never know who might come on and need something," she said. "It's just a great way to help and give back."

Perry noted that anytime bad weather is approaching and events are taking place, ham operators are in constant contact with the National Weather Service who also communicate through ham radios as part of their service. The National Hurricane Center in Florida also uses ham radio during hurricanes.

"They know that when all the systems go down, we are still able to operate," he said. "This is a vital service that hardly anyone knows about but when it's needed, we are prepared and ready."

The Nelsons noted that ham radio is an excellent way to involve young people in so many facets.

"At the Boy Scouts National Jamboree, they set up ham radios and allow the scouts to talk to different loca-

tions," Perry said. "Ham radio is a great tool that has so many ways to get young people involved and interested in everything from operation, to emergency response, to the more detailed, scientific stuff."

In the Boy Scouts, there is a Radio Merit Badge that can be earned by participating in ham radio. Just about all of the requirements to earn the badge can be achieved by participating in ham radio or obtaining a license.

"And we really need more young people to participate," Suzan said. "It really is fun and exciting."

If anyone, young or old, would like more information about ham radio, the Nelsons would be more than willing to guide them.

"Or, if someone would just like to come by the house and see what it's all about, we're open to that too," Perry said.

He can be reached at (318) 715-4727. (See related story about ham radio on page 7B.)

## LaSalle Arrests

### SUBMITTED ARTICLE

The following people were booked into the LaSalle Parish Jail last week:

Henry Bynog, 23, of Jena, was arrested June 22 by the LaSalle Parish Sheriff's Office for distribution of CDS II.

Olivia Ford, 30, of Jena, was arrested June 23 by the LaSalle Parish Sheriff's Office for contempt of court.

Ashley James, 36, of Jena, was arrested June 23 by the LaSalle Parish Sheriff's Office for criminal conspiracy to commit simple burglary, criminal conspiracy to commit sim-

ple criminal damage to property and criminal conspiracy to commit trespass.

Steven Cox, 31, of Jena, was arrested June 23 by the LaSalle Parish Sheriff's Office for simple burglary, criminal conspiracy to commit simple burglary, criminal damage to property and criminal trespass.

Lori Brewer, 42, of Olla, was arrested June 24 by the LaSalle Parish Sheriff's Office for turn signals required and possession of CDS II.

Cody Beard, 38, of Jonesville, was arrested June 25 by the LaSalle Parish Sheriff's

Office for contempt of court.

Shasta Kirkham, 38, of Jena, was arrested June 28 by the LaSalle Parish Sheriff's Office for possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of CDS II.

Justin Evans, 30, of Jena, was arrested June 29 by the LaSalle Parish Sheriff's Office for turn signals, safety helmet, aggravated flight from an officer, obstruction of justice, possession of legend drug without prescription, possession of drug paraphernalia, distribution/possession with intent to distribute, simple criminal damage to property and no insurance.

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Craig Franklin:

## New Rod Brady Campus is Great News



The announcement last week that the Central Louisiana Technical Community College Rod Brady Campus will be getting a new facility is not just good news for LaSalle Parish - it's great news for LaSalle Parish.

I was in high school when Rod Brady was opened back in 1986. It was a big deal at the time as this new, modern facility was built in Jena during a time when the state was still feeling the effects of a major oil recession.

State Representative Thomas "Bud" Brady was the key figure in securing funds to build the vo-tech school but he had help from many other national, state and local officials, much like the effort to secure funds this year for the new complex.

The current Rod Brady Campus, located on East Bradford Street next to the Town of Jena's Maintenance Barn and Wastewater Treatment Facility, was built on land that was donated by the Town of Jena. The land was cleared and dirt

work was performed by the LaSalle Parish Police Jury as the parish demonstrated a unified effort in getting the school built.

During the 1984 state budget approval (1984 is recognized as the year the school was established), the state allocated \$800,000 to construct the Rod Brady school with an additional \$300,000 to equip the classrooms. Today, it is going to take over \$10-million to build the new college and I'm not sure they have even started calculating what it's going to cost to equip it.

It wasn't until May of 1986 that the official grand opening ceremonies were held and classes began. It was a big deal. Dignitaries from across the nation and state arrived in Jena and mayors from Olla to Jena attended and toured the new facility.

The vo-tech school only offered three courses when it opened: office occupations, welding and nursing. Those three have been the staple courses during the school's lifetime but now there is so much more offered at the site in Jena.

When it was opened in 1986, it was administered by the Louisiana State Board of Elementa-

ry and Secondary Education as a post-secondary vocational school.

The Assistant Director of the new school was Frank Martin and instructors included Cedric B. Windham - office occupations, Kenneth A. Kirkland, Jr. - welding, and Judy Baker and Jeannette Clark - nursing.

In 1999, the Louisiana Technical College was established taking control from BESE and Rod Brady was included with 39 other campuses as part of this new organization.

Then in 2005, the Central Louisiana Technical College was organized which restricted technical colleges in the central part of the state to have one main campus with six branches, one extension site and seven instructional service centers.

Finally, in 2012, the Central Louisiana Technical Community College was created through Legislative Act 760. CLTCC serves 8 parishes through five campuses. This is the reason the official name of Jena's campus is the Central Louisiana Technical Community College Rod Brady Campus.

What many people may not know though, is that when Rod Brady was built and opened in 1986 it was not the first vo-tech school in LaSal-

See FRANKLIN on page 5A



## You Can't Go to Heaven in a Cadillac

No one truly warned me that as I aged, I would acquire more aches, pains and afflictions than Carter has liver pills. (For those unfamiliar with the cliché, that means a lot.) Sure, older people hinted at it and tossed it around in idle conversations, but at the time I thought they were just being, well, old.

Now that I have a few gray hairs in my glory (aka: very long and lovely hair) I am rethinking those conversations and gaining a greater level of respect for those wise yesteryear orators.

Who knew the human body would betray itself to such a degree long before I am finished inhabiting it? Where did these oddities come from? What could I have done differently to prevent them, if I could have prevented them at all?

It all started when I was a young whipper snapper principal skipping up and down the double decker staircase in my assigned school. I noticed a little 'pop' in my left knee that sounded like an old Barbie doll click from my childhood. Nothing to worry about, said the doc. It was pure genetics and I had the knees of an 80-year-old in my barely forty-year-old voyage. Bummer.

Then there was the back injury that I received from the over exuberant Kindergarten student who decided to use tough love during an office visit. Six-weeks of chiropractic care didn't alleviate the residual effects of it and it shows up now and again for a visit. It's like we're old friends or something.

A few revolutions around the sun came and went before I being to experience other 'little' oddities. Like the severe pain that ran through my heel and hung around for almost a year. Plantar Fasciitis. Eeekkk! The name alone gave me shudders. Sure, it went away but reinvented itself in the other foot a few years later. Might I add, the steroid shots didn't impress it at all. They really could have termed this one better as it sounds more like a wart than an ache. The

See MY PERSPECTIVE on page 5A



## The Glorious Declaration of Independence

BY ROYAL ALEXANDER  
Attorney / Contributing Writer

We recall our Declaration of Independence as we honor our enormous debt of gratitude to our Founders and the 1.1 million brave Americans who have sacrificed for our freedom throughout our nation's history—and who gave that "last full measure of devotion" so that we may be free.

There has simply never been a founding document like our Declaration of Independence.

Why do I say that? Because, far from being merely an eloquent listing by Thomas Jefferson of the abuses that early Americans suffered at the hands of the British King, it also arguably enshrines the most profound principle in history:

"We hold these Truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness..."

Jefferson was a brilliant man and there can be no doubt that, as he sat there in the candlelight, dipped his quill pen in ink, and began his beauti-

ful cursive, he fully understood that this principle of God-given equality he was laying down certainly did not exist in the colonies at the time he authored the document, or likely would during the period of his lifetime. We know that this principle of equality would, in fact, not be fully realized for another 150 years in this country. But, to me, that is what makes so astounding his inclusion of such a principle in one of the two founding documents of our fledgling nation.

It's really impossible to overstate the magnitude of what Jefferson wrote, and what he did.

That Jefferson would have the wisdom, foresight, courage, and moral foundation to boldly include the principle that—no matter when it may be fully achieved—equality was the fundamental and surpassing ideal. No nation in world history had ever included as part of the very blueprint of its government the belief that all of its citizens were created by God and all of them



See ALEXANDER on page 5A

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*"A Line Of Truth"*

By  
Rev. Randy Ray  
Sponsored By: CLEDA'S FLOWER SHOP  
Steven and Raven Sandifer

**Our Second-Chance God**

Several years ago, I had one of those nights when I couldn't sleep. Sometime after midnight I got out of bed and made my way to the den, got in my recliner and turned the television on. Let me say I pay good money every month to a satellite company for absolutely nothing but infomercials at that time of the night.

I channel surfed for a while and then dozed off in my recliner. Sometime around four in the morning I woke up and the television was still on. Not knowing what time it was I thought it might be late enough to catch one of those early morning news shows.

As I flipped to the first news channel I was horrified. There, in a breaking news format, they were covering the killing of nine people, nine Christians as they met in their church for Wednesday night prayer meeting and Bible Study.

I know my mind was in a fog because I had just woken up and being sleep deprived, but I knew this was bad and to be honest it frightened me. I sat there and thought that just hours before I sat in our small church teaching a Bible Study. That could have very easily been me.

Now let's fast forward several hours. It's the middle of the afternoon and I am doing some hospice work. I have already gone to Farmerville then down to Monroe and back to West Monroe ready to head back toward Ruston when I realized I was within about four miles of a couple of old friends who I had not seen in years.

For about the last year I have had patients in the Monroe/West Monroe area and every other week I say "I ought to stop and see Bill and Doris." But then the thought "I really am busy today I will do it later."

Well, that day, when I had that argument with myself, I thought about that minister that was murdered the previous night and thought, you know if that was me I would never get to see my old friends. So, when I came to the Highway that went by their house, I made the turn and spent about two hours with these two friends.

Bill Nolan is the first carpenter I ever worked for. He taught me much about the building industry. He also taught me that if you enjoy what you do then you would enjoy life. But the big influence on my life is that Bill Nolan is one of the main reasons I am in the ministry today.

It was during my college years and I had had a pretty disastrous year grade wise. Remember, this was before the age of computer where you just look your grades up on the computer. This was the age of when they mailed your grades to your home address, and guess who the local postal clerk that put the mail up every morning at the Calhoun Post Office was? You guessed it - my mom.

After spending a couple of days with a friend I made it home and the judgment of William (my father) was upon me. We came to the decision that I was not going back to school and waste his money and that if I lived in his house and ate his food, I would get a job, which was fine with me.

So, I called my old friend Bill and said, "I need a job". He told me to be at his house Monday morning ready to work. I arrived thinking we would be traveling to some house he was building. Man was I disappointed.

When I arrived I discovered (due to the terrible housing market of that year) he had built a groundhog sawmill and was cutting cross-ties and building pallets. That summer I saw-milled in the morning and then every afternoon building pallets. It did not take me long to realize I did not want to do that for the rest of my life.

Sometime about the first of August of that summer I ask my dad if I could have one more chance at school and I promised him I would do better. As they say, the rest is history. So, here I am fifty years later not only with Bachelor's degree, but a Masters of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degree.

And all due to Bill Nolan and his sawmill and my dad giving me a second chance. Maybe you need to look an old friend up to be reminded of those good times and how God has blessed you.

Remember God is a God of the second chance!!!

**Franklin...**

Continued from last page

le Parish.

In the 1950's, the parish operated a vo-tech school at Good Pine Elementary School with history recording that Fred Shiel and T.R. Crump were instrumental for bringing the school to existence.

When the proposal was first introduced to build a vo-tech school in Jena, it began during the early 1980's and was going to be called the Jena Branch of Huey P. Long Vo-Tech School as part of the Winnfield vo-tech system. When the project was finally approved and due to Brady's son

tragically dying in an automobile wreck, the name was changed to Rod Brady in memory of his 17-year-old son.

That building, that was once the object of such pride back in 1986, has seen its better days. Although its only 37 years old, it hasn't aged well. The staff has done their best to keep its shine, but the truth is it's old and outdated.

Truth is, because of it being tucked away on a back street in Jena, it isn't noticed that much by the public. There was a time recently when student enrollment was down and some questioned if it would even re-

main open.

But former Campus Dean Laurel Co-meaux rose to the challenge. Her energetic and positive promotion of the college put it back into the public eye. One of her most momentous achievements was getting local funding to provide a second co-hort of nursing classes. This allowed the college to double their graduation rate and this past Spring Rod Brady had their largest nursing class ever to graduate. Today, student enrollment is up and the future looks very bright for Rod Brady and many other courses are offered than just nursing, welding or

business.

A couple of years ago, I had to travel to Winnfield to the Huey P. Long Campus of CLTCC to take a picture for a heavy equipment course they were offering there. It was the first time I'd been inside the new facility at Winnfield.

I remember thinking to myself it would be wonderful if Jena could have such a building. New, modern, appealing to the eyes and basically sitting there beside the highway inviting people to come inside and enroll.

Thanks to the efforts of so many people, that will soon be a reality.

**My Perspective**

Continued from last page

name is almost as bad as the ailment!

Then there was the time my jaw popped out and wouldn't pop back in for a month. Chewing was like running an obstacle course through the Rocky Mountains in high heel shoes. Somehow, being the tenacious individual that I am, I outlasted it and my jaw gave into

my determination and self-corrected.

I will not belabor the point with the boring details of arthritis that decided to take up residence in my delicate joints or the fact that my memory sometimes goes on retreat. Besides being a boor, these date me far beyond my years.

On the positive side, I have a host of blessings and actually enjoy the benefits of

good health for the majority of my days and nights. I think in my simple state of youth I had always assumed that life would be bliss and these discombobulations would never visit my super hero health status. I was wrong. W.R.O.N.G.

A few years, one knee replacement and 57 ailments later, I find that am grizzled and toughened to the unexpected 'challeng-

es' that sail in and out of the good life. Despite my ramblings and carrying on, I am a fully functioning human who is thankful for each and every day called life.

Besides, while there's truly joy in the journey it is an irrefutable fact that we can't go to heaven in a 'Cadillac'! (Phraseology that only people with ailments will understand.)

**Alexander...**

Continued from last page

were created equal.

Something else I have considered over the years: Jefferson wrote that "we hold these truths to be self evident..."

That's very important, I believe.

Jefferson had a masterful command of the language and for him to invoke the words "self evident" in this context means he intended to place the truths forming the foundation of this principle of equality beyond debate. They were settled; Were so clear that anyone could understand and recognize them.

As such, only after Jefferson had achieved the sublime with this principle of equality did he turn to listing the various grievances and abuses perpetrated by the British King and British presence in the colonies.

He called out the "usurpations" of the British government as including: preventing the colonies from beginning to govern themselves, obstructing the administration of justice, the keeping of standing armies in colonial homes, the

cutting off of trade by the colonies with other nations and one we know well—"imposing taxes on us without our consent"—as well as the conscription (kidnapping) of men from the colonies on the "high seas" and then forcing them to take up arms against the new colonies.

How did Jefferson conclude his work?

With a powerful simplicity, invoking (again) the help and blessing of God:

"And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm Reliance on the Protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor."

I close by noting that when the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence inscribed their signatures on that document, each knew they were committing treason against the British Crown.

Historians have determined that some of the signers were imprisoned and treated as "high value prisoners," while others, who enjoyed great wealth in their prime, died penniless. Five signers were captured

by the British and brutally tortured as traitors. Nine fought in the War for Independence and died from wounds or from hardships they suffered. Two lost their sons in the Continental Army. Another two had sons captured. At least a dozen of the fifty-six had their homes pillaged and burned. (PBS New-

shour, July 4, 2012); (Michael W. Smith, July 4, 2015)

It is in remembrance of this great courage and sacrifice that we celebrate the 4th of July.

Long may we live lives worthy of the blood, sweat, tears and lives that were willingly placed on our behalf on the Altar of Liberty. Happy 4th of July!



For thirty-five years a man had faithfully served as a "Keeper of the Light-house." In addition to the bright light swirling through the darkness, a warning gun was fired automatically every five minutes. He had heard its "shot" so often for so long that it did not disturb him.

One night while he was asleep, the gun did not fire as it normally did. He awakened with a shout and said to his wife, "What happened?"

Our psalmist prayed for many years. God had always answered his prayers. One day, however, his prayer was answered with silence. So, he cried out, "O God, do not keep silent; be not quiet, O God, be not still."

Sometimes God is si-

lent because He is testing us. One night a storm arose and high water started to flood their little boat. Jesus was sound asleep. In fear, the disciples awakened Him shouting, "Doesn't it bother You that we are about to perish?" Calmly He rebuked the wind and the waves and things settled down. They had faith in His power but it was a limited faith. After they tested Him and saw what He could do, their faith became firm and their trust in

Him complete. He was silent up to a certain point because He wanted to strengthen their belief in Him.

Sometimes God is still because He has something to teach us. When He is, it is a signal from Him that we are to search our lives to see what has separated us from Him.

Isaiah said, "Your sins have hid His face from you, so that He will not hear you." But with our confession comes His cleansing and the restoration of our communication.

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# Obituary

**THE JENA TIMES**  
OLLA-TULLOS-URANIA SIGNAL

Deadline: Monday at 12 Noon • photos@thejenatimes.net • Phone: 318.992.4121 • Fax: 318.992.2287

## Grace Barron

Grace Isonhood Barron, 86, passed from this life on Tuesday, June 27, 2023, in Jena.

She was born May 10, 1937 in Benton, MS.

Services were held at 11 a.m., Friday, June 30, 2023, at Hixson Brothers Funeral Home in Jena with John Barker officiating.

Interment followed in the Woodland Cemetery in Jena.

She was preceded in death by her husband, George Barron, Sr.; son, William Thomas; parents, Willie D. Isonhood and Jewel Judy Isonhood; and brothers, Willie Ray Isonhood, Francis LeRoy Isonhood and Robbie Lee Isonhood.

Those left to cherish her memory include her son, George "Bubba" Barron Jr. (Cherry); daughter, Karen Gray (Chris); one brother, Earl Douglas Isonhood; grandchildren, Jeffrey Barron, Lauren Conger and Emily Gray; great grandchild, Kasey Conger; and lifelong family friend, Sharla King.

Pallbearers were Mike Tubre, Dave Allen Hudspeth, John Austin Barker, Mason King, Chris Conger and Jeffrey Barron.

Honorary pallbearers were Emily Gray and Lauren Conger.



## Peggy Blake

Peggy Louella Wilson Blake, 87, walked into the presence of her Savior on Friday, June 23, 2023, at Autumn Leaves Nursing Home in Winnfield, LA.

She was born December 16, 1935 in Urania, LA to the union of Lonnie Whitfield and Jessie Louise Boyett Wilson.

Services were held at 3 p.m., Sunday, June 25, 2023, in the sanctuary of Olla First Baptist Church, with the Bro. Jack Miller and Bro. Joseph White officiating.

Interment followed in the Beech Creek Cemetery.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brother, Lonnie Malcolm (Buddy) Wilson; son-in-law, Jeff Sadler; granddaughter-in-law, Frances White; as well as many precious friends and relatives.

Those left to cherish her memory include her daughters, Karen White (Jimmy) of Winnfield and Paula Sadler of Shreveport; grandchildren and great grandchildren, Jennifer Watts (Brad) and son Tyler of Carrollton, MS, Jodie Busha (Paul) and daughters Olivia and Blakelyn of Winnfield, Joseph White (Melissa) and children Jonah, Brian, Brianna and Clay of Winnfield, Shannon Saksa (Tim) and children Andrew, Alexander, Alaina and Alyssa of Shreveport, Ryan Allen (Michelle) and son Ashton of Shreveport and Justin (Felisha) and children Tori-Lyn and JJ of Los Lunas, NM; sister-in-laws, Frances Spence (Alvin) and Sallie Lowery (Donny); as well as numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Honoring the family as pallbearers were Glen Henderson, Gary Wilson, Keith Reichardt, Jay King and Tim Spence.

Honorary pallbearers were Wendell Wilson, K.P. Wilson, Alvin Spence and Donny Lowery.



## Russell "Jr" Flowers

Russell "Jr" Flowers, 58, passed away on Sunday, June 25, 2023, at Rapides Regional Medical Center.

He was born December 24, 1964.

Services were held at 2 p.m., Wednesday, June 28, 2023, at Whitehall United Pentecostal Church in Jena, with the Rev. Joey Paul officiating.

Interment followed in the Pine Grove Cemetery in Rhinehart, LA under the direction of Magnolia Funeral Home.

He was preceded in death by his father, Russell Aldon Flowers Sr. and uncle, C. L. "Happy" Whittington.

Those left to cherish his memory include his daughter, Dixie Annamae Flowers and her mother, Jowanna Flowers; his girlfriend of several years, Betty Winsby; mother, Melvia Flowers; sisters, Sheila Randall (Darrel) and Carolyn Coates; nephews, Paul Kimball (Tamika), Daniel Roark (Seday), James Kimball, Joseph Kimball (Megan), Zack Kimball and Matthew Roark; nieces, Sierra Withrow (Dontrae) and Keisha Smith; a host of great nieces and nephews; his cousin who was like a sister, Peggy Whittington Vaughan; several of his best friends, who he considered to be his brothers, Lonnie "Bobo" Lacroix (Elizabeth "Beth" Thompson), Troy "Drifter" Mott (Bertie), Ricky Hall (Lisa), Kenneth "Festus" Smart and Donald Lee Chavilier.

Pallbearers were Paul Kimball, Daniel Roark, Joseph Kimball, Zack Kimball, Matthew Roark and Lonnie "Bobo" Lacroix.

Honorary pallbearers were James Kimball, Troy "Drifter" Mott, Ricky Hall, Kenneth "Festus" Smart and Donald Lee Chavilier.



## John Gough

John V. Gough, 86, passed from this life on Tuesday, June 27, 2023, at Autumn Leaves Nursing Home.

He was born September 19, 1936 in Olla, LA to the union of his parents, Edward Gough and Mary "Lil Maw" Edna Mayes Gough.

John served as a sharp shooter in the United State Marine Corps from 1956 to 1959.

Graveside services were held at 10 a.m., Wednesday, June 28, 2023, at Shady Grove Cemetery, Sikes, LA, with the Rev. Lathan Hubbard officiating.

Interment followed under the direction of Riser Funeral Home.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his son, Darrel Gough; and his siblings, J.E. Gough, Faye Gough, Benton Gough, Lavearol Gough, Arzelia "TeeWee" Gough and Laverne Adams.

Those left to cherish his memory include his wife of sixty-four years, Nita Polk Gough; son, Lloyd Gough; grandchildren, Mandy Gough Williams (Jason) and Nikki Gough Lawson (Scotty); great-grandchildren, Brina, Baylee, Jaylin, Drew, Jay, Braden, Dyllan, Bug and Riley.

Pallbearers were Craig Jacobs, Jason Williams, Scotty Lawson, Dyllan Lawson, Bug Lawson, Danny Bacon, "Super T" and Chris Thompson.

Honorary pallbearer was Braden Lawson.



## Charlie Smith

TaKurious DuVell "Charlie" Smith, 26, passed from this life on Sunday, June 18, 2023.

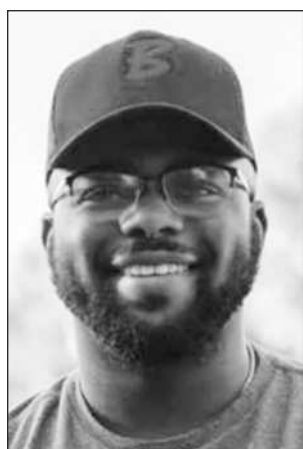
He was born January 14, 1997 to LaTosha Duncan Simmons and Charles Smith. He was loved and raised by his father, Benjamin D. Simmons as well.

Services were held at 2 p.m., Saturday, July 1, 2023, at Greater Saint Mary Baptist Church.

Interment followed in the Moss Grove Plantation Cemetery, Jonesville, LA.

He was preceded in death by his grandfather, Pierce Jenkins, Jr.; great-grandmothers, Amanda Duncan and Princesa Jenkins; great-grandfathers, Clarence Duncan, Sr. and Pierce Jenkins, Sr.; and cousins, Shaquavia Jones and Lakerielle "Lak" Kittlin.

Those left to cherish his memory include his loving and devoted parents, Benjamin and LaTosha Simmons; sisters, Tacharsika Smith, Derineshia Simmons, Reality O'Steen, Zature O'Steen and Chartae Bowie; brothers, Carnell Simmons, Xzavaion O'Steen, Marquelle Wallace and CJ Purvis; god sister, Caylee Farris; nephew that he loved dearly, Damir "Uncle Baby" Wilson; grandparents, Virginia Nell Duncan, Earl Mackey, Sr., Charles Thompson and Christine Smith; loving fiancé, LaShell "Lele" Brown; three special cousins who were like brothers, Jalan Duncan, Vyn'Quez O'Steen and O'Tis Bowman; two special cousins, Erlexia Hatten and Sheniqua "Black" Robinson; special aunt, Monique "Mo" Duncan; special uncle, Demetrius "Red" Duncan; and a host of aunts, uncles, great-aunties/uncles, cousins and devoted friends.



### CARD OF THANKS

We, the family of Mac Stapleton, would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation.

Your many acts of kindness and sympathy continue to be a great comfort to us in our time of sorrow. We would particularly like to thank the members of Searcy Baptist Church for allowing us to use your church for the visitation and funeral service and for providing food for the family on Friday.

Thank you to the members of Ebenezer Baptist Church for providing the family a meal Thursday night and a meal following the service on Saturday.

Thank you, Bro. Todd Norris for officiating and Paul Daily for sharing the gospel at the service.

To all of our family and friends who prayed, called, texted, visited, sent flowers, gave donations, prepared food and served us in innumerable ways, please know we have felt your love.

Thank you,  
The Mac Stapleton family

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## Scott Kennedy

Scott Drew Kennedy, 46, of Pineville, LA, passed away on Saturday, June 10, 2023, at Rapides Regional Medical Center, Alexandria, LA.

He was born July 2, 1976.

He was a graduate of Jena High School and he was a Mason. Scott was also in the U.S. Navy.

Arrangements were placed in the care of Magnolia Funeral Home, Alexandria, LA.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Opal Kennedy and father, Omer Drew Kennedy.

Those left to cherish his memory include his sisters, Susan Broussard, Tina Broussard and Beverly Broussard, as well as a host of nieces and nephews.



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# School Board Holds Special Meeting

BY CRAIG FRANKLIN  
Editor

The LaSalle Parish School Board held a special meeting Thursday night, June 29, to take care of end-of-fiscal year business as required by law.

The purpose of the meeting was to make adjustments to the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year Budget, which runs July 1–June 30, to ensure the Board meets the required percentage of what is actually budgeted.

A positive change was required as Business Manager Sara Andrews noted that for the fiscal year, revenues increased higher than projected due to higher interest rates on Board CD's and more money was collected from ad valorem and sales taxes.

The Board approved the budget revisions unanimously which saw the overall budget increase to account for the higher revenue.

Also concerning Board finances, Margie Williamson with Allen, Green and Williamson, LLP was present and presented the annual comprehensive financial report and the single audit report for fiscal year 2021-2022.

"The report received an unmodified opinion - the best opinion you can get," Williamson said. "This means that financial statements are fairly stated without any modifications."

She noted that the Board's finances and accountability practices are in outstanding condition, the General Fund increased and most importantly, there was only one finding (a note indicating an action is required to correct a deficiency in a process or its related controls) in the entire report.

"There was an emergency declared by the Board and it was noted that the Board did not advertise in the official journal for bids within the required 10 days of declaring the emergency," she said.

She continued to note that steps have been put in place as a result of this error to make sure it doesn't happen again and that having only one finding in the report was excellent.

While the Board was enthusiastic concerning their annual audit, the mood hit a different tone when they learned their property insurance premium was increasing substantially.

"Before we go over numbers, I'll just go ahead and summarize for you that property insurance premiums have doubled from last year," Andrews said. "Our property values have increased and property insurance has increased as well due to hurricanes in the past couple years."

Lauren Young of Risk Services of Louisiana, the Board's property insurance company, noted that property insurance has seen a significant

increase this year throughout Louisiana.

She presented the Board with several options, which the Board decided to focus on just two of those options for consideration.

The first option, that had the lowest premium, had a \$10-million limit with a 5% deductible. That price was noted as \$574,135.53 for one year of coverage.

The second option was to fully insure all of the Board's property and it had a \$100-million limit with a 5% deductible. That price was noted as \$904,978.78, just shy of \$1-million, for one year of coverage.

Young noted that currently all of the Board's property, all schools and all buildings, has an appraised value of \$133-million.

"Jena High School's main building is appraised at a value of \$10-million and Jena Elementary is appraised at a value of \$11-million," she said. "If you go with the \$10-million limit, just one of those buildings would use all of that money should something devastating occur."

It was also noted that the Board hasn't had a claim since 2021 and that the possibility of having a catastrophic event causing millions of dollars in damage was not likely; however, Board members were not in a gambling mood.

"I've seen what happens when you're underinsured and it's a total loss," Finance Committee Chairman Dolan Pendarvis said. "It isn't pleasant."

Other Board members agreed and were not willing to take a chance on going with the lower price with references to the tornado that struck LaSalle High School years ago when the Board was underinsured.

"We do have the means to cover this year being fully insured," LaSalle Superintendent Jon Garrett said. "My suggestion is to go with the option to be fully insured (the \$100-million limit option) this year and hope the rates go down next year. If they don't, then we might have to go with another plan."

Andrews added, "It is the safest thing to do."

The Board unanimously approved the \$100-million property insurance option for a total cost of \$904,978.78 for one year of coverage.

All insurance proposals accepted during the special meeting included: General Liability, Errors & Omissions, Auto Liability, Auto Physical Damage from Property Casualty Alliance of Louisiana (PCAL) - \$228,419.00; Property from CrossCover, Paragon, and Intact - \$901,791.78; Equipment Breakdown from Liberty Mutual - \$3,187.00; Workers' Compensation from LUBA - \$11,237.00; Bond Renewal from Safety National - \$2,500.00; and Field Trip and Catastrophic Student Accident Insurance from Ameritas/Great American - \$2,254.95.

The grand total for all insurance for FY23-24 is \$1,249,389.73.

In other financial matters, the Board took advantage of the special meeting to award bids for a few projects so work could begin immediately.

The largest was summer work that was previously approved by the Board but later rescinded due to concerns about the high project cost and bid law requirements.

Deason Construction was previously awarded the project and after participating in the bid process, the company was again awarded the project for summer pressure washing and painting projects at schools across the parish.

His bid price of \$455,055.00 was unanimously approved by the Board and work should begin soon.

The Board also accepted a bid from James Robbins Commercial Construction in the amount of \$63,000.00 for the renovation of the Jena Junior High School gym bathrooms and accepted the low bid from Parker for all janitorial supplies for the 2023-2024 school year.

Also at the meeting, the Board voted to appoint Southern Heritage Bank as their 2023-204 Fiscal Agent and gave approval to Andrews to open an account with Louisiana Asset Management Pool to invest excess funds when interest rates are favorable.

## If Only I Had It My Way

DR. JAMES L. SNYDER  
Contributing Writer

Every once in a while, I have a little thought giggling in my brain to the effect that if only I had it my way. I don't have it often, but I try to take it seriously when I do.

My personal history is that it turns out to be a disaster whenever I have everything my way. And, boy, have I had disasters in my life.

I often think of Frank Sinatra's song, "I Did It My Way." For the life of me, I do not know what that is all about. Maybe it worked for him, but it hasn't worked for me, at least not yet. If I did everything my way, I'm sure I would be locked up in jail or an insane asylum by now. I'm not sure which is worse.

Regarding this, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage has several PhDs in "Doing It My Way." If I were smart and not saying I am, I would let her always have it her way.

There is only one place I can have anything my way: my Personal Interior Castle, my office. I sit at my desk; look at my computer, surrounded by thousands of books. In this "safe place," I can have it my way every day.

Occasionally, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage will come into my Interior Castle and say something to the effect, "Would you like me to do any organizing in here?"

I smile as best I can and respond, "You can organize in here if you permit me to go to your craft room and organize there." I then chuckle, knowing she would never permit me to enter her craft room, let alone organize anything.

Don't let this get out, but a couple of times when she's away, I sneak into her craft room and move things around so she can't find them when she needs them. When she returns, she will go into her craft room, and I will stand outside to listen and hear her say something to the effect, "Now, where is that? I know it was right here when I left."

I have to be careful that, you know who, does not hear me chuckling.

She has her space to do her thing her way, and I have my space to do my thing my way, and the twain shall never entangle themselves.

One of my great pleasures is that when she does something her way, and it turns out to be wrong. I have to keep my laughter under control in those circumstances.

We often go across town for appointments, and when we do that, I allow her to take her Sis-ty Van, and I ride along strap in on the passenger

side. Driving across town, she always decides which way to go.

Just recently, we had an appointment across town at some new location. We'd never been there before, so we had to be careful driving to that location.

When we got to a certain traffic light, I told her, "You need to turn right here on this street."

Looking at me, she said, "I'm driving, and so I know where I'm going. I don't need any information from you. Sit back and let me do it my way."

With that, she turned left, and I could hardly hold my laughter because I knew where that street would end up.

Looking at me, she said, "Why are you laughing?"

"I was just thinking of a joke."

"Oh, yeah. What was that joke?"

I looked at her, and in a moment, I said, "Why was six afraid of seven?"

"I don't know, why was six afraid of seven?"

"Because," I said, "seven, eight, nine."

"So," she graveled, "that was the joke you were thinking of?"

It wasn't, but I had to use something to cover up my laughter.

All I had to do was wait, and when we came to the end of this street, we would find out that we were at the wrong end of town. Oh, I love it when a plan comes together.

When she finally realized we were at the wrong end of town, she looked at me, "Don't you dare say what you're thinking."

Then she turned around and headed in the right direction.

My problem is that I caught her doing it her way, and it was the wrong way, and I can't exploit it. I have to pretend that it didn't happen. Oh, how I wish I could remind her of this mistake every time we are in the car.

Of course, I know if I do that, there will be heavy consequences on my side to deal with. Sometimes it's best to keep some things under lock and key. But I do confess there are times while she is driving that I think of that mistake, and I can only smile.

Later that day, I was reminded of what the apostle Paul said. "Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness" (1 Corinthians 3:18-19).

My craftiness has never done well for me. I choose to trust God in every situation that is before me. After all, He knows best.

## Vice Principal

Continued from page 1A

time LHS educator Sarah Peppers.

Peppers, the new LHS Vice Principal, also had a two-year contract of employment and performance objectives unanimously approved by the Board, as recommended by LaSalle Superintendent Jon Garrett.

Like Denison, Peppers is a 1996 graduate of LHS and comes from a family of educators that have taught at LaSalle High School.

After graduating from LHS, she continued her education at Louisiana State University at Alexandria where she received a B.A. in General Studies with a concentration in Psychology. She later received her teaching certificate in Biology.

Later, she received her Master's in Educational Leadership from the University of Louisiana at Monroe.

She has been teaching at LHS for 11 years, was voted

as LHS Teacher of the Year twice and LaSalle Parish Teacher of the Year once. During her career at LHS, she has served as the BETA sponsor and coach of the Top Kats dance line, of which she herself was a member during her high school years.

Peppers has twin daughters that will be seniors at LHS this year and she is excited to serve in this new administrative capacity.

"I am excited to follow in the footsteps of my grandparents, Ray and Carriee Duke," she said. "I love everything about LaSalle, from our students and faculty to the members of the community. I am looking forward to working with Mr. Denison to give our students every opportunity that we can."

Also at the special meeting, the Board approved the 2023-2024 salary schedule for all LaSalle Parish School System employees, noting that the salary schedule is the same as it was last year.

# Cajun Critters Come to Life at the LaSalle Libraries

BY REAGAN FRANKLIN WATKINS  
Assistant Editor

Last week, the Summer Reading Program came to a close with a visit from Ariane Trammell, author and illustrator from Southern Louisiana.

Trammell brings to life some of Louisiana's most well known wildlife with hilarious stories and beautiful illustrations in her books about crazy crawfish and pet alligators, just to name a few.

During the program, Trammell read three of her own books to the kids, complete with a Cajun accent. She then showed the kids how to draw some of the illustrations from her books, including a huge bullfrog.

For the month of June, all Friday programs and special entertainers were provided in collaboration with the McKinney Vento's Federal Grant through the LaSalle Parish School Board.

The Summer Reading Program was a huge success, as each library location saw hundreds of families engage in reading, listening, illustrating, creating and lots of laughs.




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# A Special Camp at the CCC

BY REAGAN FRANKLIN WATKINS  
Assistant Editor

Last week, June 27-29, the Centennial Cultural Center in Olla hosted their annual camp for kids with special needs.

Each year, this special camp has a different theme with this year's camp encouraging the children to get their "Game On" at a sports camp.

During the first two days of camp, kids moved from station to station with each station offering various activities and sports-re-

lated crafts.

On the third and final day of the camp, kids and volunteers went outside to play a game of "Buddy Ball." Volunteers included teachers and staff of the LaSalle Parish School System, teens from LaSalle High School and even younger students from Olla Elementary.

Leading the camp was LaSalle Parish Special Education Supervisor Jenene Bignar, Jennifer Smith and Heather Whatley with the parish's Special Education Program and Donna Lindsey with the Centennial Cultural Center.

During the month of July, the Centennial Cultural Center will host a science camp and a literacy camp.

For more information about the CCC and upcoming events and/or to volunteer, call 495-7988 or visit [www.cultural-center.com](http://www.cultural-center.com).



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# First Half of Year Busy for Troop 14

BY BILL ROSS  
Troop 14

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to lay the groundwork for character and leadership development, citizenship participation and personal fitness by challenging youngsters to be “physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.”

As evidenced by the activities during the first half of 2023, the Scouts of Jena’s Troop 14 are working hard to live up to the ideals of Scouting. During the past six months, Troop 14 has amassed 210 hours of service hours, and survived storms, cold, heat, hogs, unstable canoes and our own cooking. The Troop could not function without the generosity of our sponsor, Nolley Methodist Church.

Boy Scout (Scouts BSA) Troop 14 had a very eventful first half of 2023. In mid-January, the Troop hosted the Webelos of Cub Scout Pack 14 in an overnighter at Nolley Methodist Church. The Webelos were introduced to Troop methods,

ropes, knots, basic first aid, and challenged with various physical and mental competitions.

All Scouts then participated in a Court of Honor to recognize Eagle Scout Paige Spears, the first female Eagle Scout in Troop 14 and only the second in the entire Louisiana Purchase Council.

After celebrating Scouting’s 113th anniversary at Nolley Church in February, the Troop put their scout skills to work at Cub-O-Ree, an event where older Scouts run stations for younger Scouts.

Some Troop 14 Scouts constructed a monkey bridge and catapult using only timbers and ropes while others helped run the shooting sports ranges. This provided an opportunity to hone scout skills and earn service hours necessary for advancement.

During the closing campfire, five Webelos from Pack 14 were invited to join the Troop. Later in March, the Pack and Troop combined to present the colors and help at the LaSalle Special Olympics.

April saw the Troop head to

Whitehall for camping, fishing, biking, and canoeing. During a very busy day and night, the Troop completed a 10-mile bike ride that included the use of maps and compasses. Scouts then had to catch, clean, and cook enough fish for a meal. Luckily, the perch were cooperative. The next morning, Scouts new to the Troop were introduced to canoes by the more experienced Scouts. Unfortunately, storms and lightning cut the trip short.

May was filled with camping, swimming and several opportunities to provide service to others. Troop 14 traveled to Poverty Point where Scouts spent half a day piling limbs, branches, and small trees to clear some of the ridges and mounds for bush hogging and mowing. Scouts then practiced throwing projectiles with atlatls and toured the site.

After camping at Poverty Point Reservoir, the Scouts took a short geocaching trek and ended the trip with swimming tests and water rescue techniques.

For Memorial Day, to honor

those who have given their lives in defense of our country, several Scouts placed small American flags by the headstones at Alexandria Nation Cemetery in Pineville while others participated in Memorial Day ceremonies in Olla.

In June, Nolley Methodist Church was the site of another overnighter. Troop 14 spent a Friday night working on advancement requirements and beginning work on the Geocaching merit badge. Up early on Saturday, Scouts spent the morning removing unwanted plants and dangerous tree limbs from the Nature Trail at Nolley Methodist Church. This project is being supervised by a local group of Master Gardeners.

Scouting is open to boys and girls. Troop 14, while based in Jena, has members from Pineville, Olla, and Georgetown.

Thank you to Scoutmaster Meshell Squyres and Assistant Scoutmaster Dewitt Lurry for your time and effort. Troop 14 is sponsored by Nolley Methodist Church.



Troop 14 members are shown raising new flag at their sponsor church, Nolley Methodist in Jena.



Taking part in the Nolley Trail Clean-up event were (from left) Bobby Wilson (Master Gardener), Meshell Squyres, Laurel Pugh, Matthew Spears, EmmaRie Lurry, Dewitt Lurry and Zeke Lurry.



Oliver Joy, Laurel Pugh and EmmaRie Lurry practice canoe handling.



Participants in the Poverty Point trip were (from left) Meshell Squyres, Nathan Richard, Laurel Pugh, Caden Brown, Oliver Joy, Matthew Spears, EmmaRie Lurry, Nathan Lincecum, Valcom Paten, Seth Richard, Zeke Lurry, Bill Ross, Joel Simoneaux and Dewitt Lurry.



Pack and Troop 14 presented Colors at the LaSalle Special Olympics. Shown above (left to right) front row, Lachlan Pugh, Tatum Maxwell, Nathan Richard, Tucker Jones, EmmaRie Lurry, Abby Richard, Ian Johnson; Back row, Zeke Lurry, Laurel Pugh, Seth Richard, Matthew Spears, Trace Kirkham and Dewitt Lurry.



Ready to begin the 10-mile Bike Ride are (from left) Caden Brown, Trace Kirkham, Nathan Lincecum, Matthew Spears, Oliver Joy, Nathan Richard, Laurel Pugh, EmmaRie Lurry, Bill Ross, Seth Richard and Zeke Lurry.

# Reflections

**THE JENA TIMES**  
OLLA-TULLOS-URANIA SIGNAL

## Highlights from The Jena Times Archives

### 70 Years Ago July 2, 1953

The largest boys encampment in the world will be the Third National Jamboree of the Boy Scouts of America to be held at Irvine Ranch, near Los Angeles, Calif., July 17-23 and nine Scouts from LaSalle Parish will be among the 50,000 expected to enjoy it.

Donald T. Forsythe a prominent editor and publisher of the Carthage Journal in Carthage, Ill., was elected to head the Kiwanis International organization in the year ahead. He succeeds Walter J. L. Ray of Detroit, as president of the international organization.

Eight young men from LaSalle Parish will be inducted in to the Army July 13, Mrs. Dorothy Akin, local Selective Service clerk, announced today. Twelve others will take physical examinations July 15.

America's Bantam Ben Hogan, won his fourth National Open golf title in five attempts, is now in Scotland for a try at the British Open Crown.

### 60 Years Ago July 4, 1963

LaSalle Parish Representative Chester Floyd today announced that the Department of Public Works will build a boat launching ramp on Old River north of the bridge near Whitehall. The ramp will be on the southeast side of the river.

Carlee Manchester, 1959 graduate of Jena High School, has recently signed a one year contract with the San Diego football Chargers. Manchester was signed to play defensive halfback. He played college football at Tyler Junior College, North Texas State and Stephen F. Austin College.

Pvt. Elbert Wayne McNeely left June 17 for Korea on a 13-month tour of duty. McNeely, 18, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. McNeely of Tullos. After graduating from LaSalle High School in 1962 he enlisted in Jan. 19, 1963 in the U. S. Army.

### 50 Years Ago July 5, 1973

Chief Deputy Doyle Windham of the LaSalle Parish Sheriff's Department pitches out the first softball to officially begin the girls softball pro-

gram in Jena.

Some of The Fighting Giants, David Charles, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Charles was a 140 lb. Jr. split end, Scott Maxwell, son of Mr. and Mrs. Don Maxwell was a 160 lb. Tight end, and Derick Lee, son of Mrs. Ellen Jenkins is a 196 lb. Jr. running back.

Sonya Lee, a native of Jena, appeared in concert at the Midway Baptist Church at the 11 a.m. worship services Sunday, July 8th. Sonya is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J.C. Calk of Jena and had recently recorded an album entitled "Sonya Sings."

Beginning July 7th through the 21st at the parish library in Jena, the LaSalle Art and Historical Association is proud to announce another in their series of exhibitions, the presentation of the first exhibit and one man showing of Mrs. Leonard Williams of Tullos. Her work (Dottie) will include paintings in acrylic, pastel and water color plus a fascinating collection of clever "rock animals" also unusual articles collected through the years.

### 40 Years Ago July 6, 1983

Pattie Bradford, Jena High 4-H club member, was a blue ribbon winner in the Club Reporter Contest at the 69th Annual 4-H Short Course. Kim Evans, Assistant Home Economist, and Jim Summers, Assistant County Agent, with the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service.

LaSalle High School has selected two delegates to attend the 1983 Boy's State Conference in the Baton Rouge. David Green and Steve Tam, juniors, were selected by the faculty at LaSalle High School.

Megan Rebekah Owens, 4 1/2 year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James R. (Jim Bob) Owens of Ruston captured the title of Princess Peach at the 33rd Annual Peach Festival Pageant at the Thomas Assembly Center.

David Morgan, a student at Jena High School, won honorable mention in the Fifth Congressional Art Caucus held in conjunction with a nationwide art contest initiated by the United States House of Representatives. Morgan was one of

Jena High School students who placed in the prestigious contest.

### 25 Years Ago July 1, 1998

Blanchard C. Smith, 83-year-old Jena resident, was the last person to pick up mail at the old Jena Post Office before the officials locked the facility for the last time at 4:30 p.m. that Wednesday afternoon.

Dr. Dudley Chewning, Air Space and Range Manager for the U.S. Air Force Reserves from Barksdale AFB, Bossier City, met with local officials to explain plans for an Electronic Scoring Site to be located in LaSalle Parish.

Joan Rene Lurry of Olla, was sworn in as the new Tullos Postmistress. Sherral Bozeman, Post Office Operations Manager of Alexandria was with the new Postmistress. The women stood holding the Lurry's commission as new postmistress, one of the last to be signed by retiring Postmaster General Marvin T. Runyon.

Among the first postal patrons at the new post office service window in Jena that Thursday morning were Pete and Dinky Bradford.

### 10 Years Ago July 3, 2013

LaSalle Parish Library Children's Librarian Donna Estis presents Cheyenne Higginbotham with the Summer Reading Program Grand Prize, a Kindle Fire HD. Higginbotham read over 6,000 minutes over the past few weeks to win the Kindle, which was provided by CenturyLink.

Mildred Coleman Kirl, the oldest member of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, was honored for her 85th birthday with a surprise party at her home.

John and Kim Scott, directors of trinity Missions of Olla, expressed their thanks to everyone that donated to Trinity Missions during the past year. On June 23, 2013, the couple went to Anacoco to the Lions Club Camp to deliver a loads of stuffed animals to be used at the carnival that held to benefit the children each year.

When archery season for deer ends, Brad Doughty trades his deer hunting bow for his bow fishing bow and heads to the river. He tagged a 200 pound monster alligator gar on Texas Lake.

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# Community Events

**THE JENA TIMES**  
OLLA-TULLOS-URANIA SIGNAL

Deadline: Monday at 12 Noon • photos@thejenatimes.net • Phone: 318.992.4121 • Fax: 318.992.2287

## VBS at Pleasant Hill BC

Everyone, having completed Pre-K through 7th grade, is invited to join us for Vacation Bible School, Monday, July 17 - Friday, July 21, from 5:30 - 8:10 p.m. each night.

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church is located at 297 Pleasant Hill Road in Jena.

Our lessons will be on "Keepers of the Kingdom" - the Armor of God!

Commencement will be on Friday, July 21 at 7:00 p.m., after each class has had their final Bible lesson. We look forward to seeing each child during this week of Bible learning!

## VBS at Crossroads BC

Crossroads Baptist Church will host Vacation Bible School, on Saturday, July 15 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for grades K-5th.

Crossroads is located at 150 Sharptown Loop in Jena. For more information, please call 318-758-1198.

## New Church Near Summerville

Antioch Community Church, located in the former Antioch Free Methodist Church building at 165 Antioch Lane, Olla, near Summerville, is a new church recently established.

This non-denominational church meets for Sunday School at 10 a.m., Worship at 11 a.m. and Evening Services at 6 p.m.

Sunday Services are being led by Pastor Willie Beaubouef. All are invited to come and visit.

Directions: Turn on LA 503 in Summerville toward Aimwell. Turn left on LA 771 and follow until you see the church.

## V.F.W. Meeting/Supper

If you are a spouse of or have had a family member that served in a foreign war the V.F.W. Auxiliary Post 5002 members invite you to join them at their monthly meeting and supper.

The meetings are held every second Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. at the V.F.W. Post in Jena. Standing members are encouraged to attend as well. If interested in joining, call Donna Grimm at 992-0030 or Kim Randall at 992-4946.

## Elderly Care Relief

If you are caring for an elderly resident and need someone to relieve you of the care a few hours a week, call the LaSalle Council on Aging at 992-4708 between 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. LaSalle Council on Aging is an equal opportunity provider.

## Jena Giant Booster Club

The Jena Giants Booster Club will hold their meetings at 6:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at the LaSalle Golf & Country Club, located at 260 Country Club Rd, in Trout.

## Whitehall Water Meeting

The Whitehall Water System's annual meeting will be held Tuesday, July 11 at 6 p.m. in the fellowship hall at Pritchard Baptist Church.

The public is invited to attend.

## Concordia Electric Meeting

Concordia Electric will hold it's next board meeting on Thursday, July 13, 2023 at 5 p.m.

## 4-H Explore Workshop

Youth ages 9-12 are invited to come explore the gardening themed activities, pollinators and create a "stained glass" art piece.

This free workshop will be held on Thursday, July 20 from 9 a.m. until noon in the Extension Meeting Room (23) at the back entrance of the LaSalle Courthouse.

Contact the 4-H Office at 992-2205 to pre-register by July 10, 2023.

## JHS 1963 Class Reunion

The 1963 Jena High School graduates will be celebrating 60 years, October 6, 2023.

Many of us are looking forward to it and would like to get the word out to as many of our classmates as possible. If you know of someone that graduated in 1963 or even began school with us in 1951, please pass the word on to them.

Feel free to contact the following for more information: Elaine Enterkin Ward: (318) 355-8591; Laverne Moseley Paul: (318) 316-9045; Bonnie Floyd Hernandez: (318) 794-3415.

There will be a meeting to make plans in the near future.

## Victim Advocate Program

Victims of crime can receive help with safety planning, guidance through the criminal justice system and access to certain resources to gain strength after victimization.

Services include emotional support, lethality assessment, prevention of abuse, and referrals to services. Assistance in filing Civil Temporary Restraining Orders or Crime Victim's Reparations notification of court dates and accompanying the victim to interviews and court proceedings are also available.

For help or more information, call 318-992-2067 or come by 2009 Courthouse Street, Ste. A, in Jena.

## Honor Guard Needs Members

The LaSalle Parish Honor Guard is seeking new members. The Honor Guard provides military honor funerals and burials for all veterans, along with presenting programs in schools, churches and other venues as well as programs during Memorial Day and Veterans Day. The only requirements to join the Honor Guard is that one must be a veteran and received an honorable discharge. For more information, contact Daniel Hulsey at (318) 312-1049.

## VBS at Fellowship BC

Fellowship Baptist Church will have VBS from Sunday, July 9 to Thursday, July 13, for Pre-K to Adult with a Family Night on Friday, July 14, from 6-8:30 p.m.

The theme this year is "Twists & Turns."

Van transportation will be provided for kids 5 and up and must register by July 5 (no exceptions). Come by the church from 8 a.m. to noon, Monday through Friday to register. If after 12:00 p.m., call Bro. Shad Tibbs at 318-374-0235.

## 115th Anniversary at L&A

Pastor Chauncey M. Hardy and the L&A Church family will celebrate their 115th Church Anniversary July 16, 2023 at 3 p.m.

Our special guests are Pastor Joseph Franklin, and the Mount Triumph Baptist Church of Boyce, LA.

Please come and share with us in praising our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

## LaSalle Celebrate Recovery

LaSalle Celebrate Recovery is a free 52-week Christ-centered 12-step program for any life controlling issue. The meetings will be held on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. at the old Jena Elementary School cafeteria. For more information, visit lasallecr.org and/or contact the Ministerial Alliance at lasalle.alliance@gmail.com

## Little Free Food Pantry in Jena

The Little Free Food Pantry in Jena is located beside The Jena Times on Third Street in front of the town pavilion. The pantry is open to anyone in need and also for citizens to add items to keep the pantry stocked.

## Wild Horse Ministries

While observing these lessons, you can watch during the first steps of training a horse that has never been saddled while he relates the horse training with God based on trust, faith, obedience and love.

### July

July 20: Waterin Hole Cowboy Church in Garvin, Oklahoma @ 6 p.m.

July 22: White Horse Arena in Paden, Oklahoma @ 7 p.m.

July 23: Nuyaka Baptist Church in Okmulgee, Oklahoma for "Saddle Up Sunday" @ 10 a.m.

July 23: Crossroads Ranch Ministry in Depew, Oklahoma @ 6 p.m.

July 24: Cowboy Town in Anadarko, Oklahoma @ 7 p.m.

July 26: Grant County Fairgrounds in Ulysses, Kansas @ 7 p.m.

July 28: Middle Fork Resort in Stonewall, Colorado @ 6 p.m.

July 30: Stillwater Cowboy Church in Fruita, Colorado @ 10 a.m.

For more information, call 318-992-4667 or see [www.wildhorseministries.com](http://www.wildhorseministries.com).

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# Court News

**THE JENA TIMES**  
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## 28th Judicial District Court Conducts Busy May Dockets

The month of May was a busy time in 28th Judicial District Court, in and for the Parish of LaSalle, with prison terms being meted out, others fined, and numerous pleas taken, and other proceedings taking place.

The Honorable J. Christopher Peters, District Judge, presided at the sessions. Also at their regular duties were District Attorney J. Reed Walters and assistants, Deputy Sheriff Joe Phillips, Deputy Clerk of Court Reba McClure, and Court Reporter/Administrator Amy Stapleton.

### May 11

The following run-throughs were filed:

Sidney J. Book – no seat belt, \$27.00; improper child restraint, \$52.00.

Aubrey Deville – speeding 78/55, \$220.00.

Brandi Eubanks – obstructed view, \$205.00.

Sharlie Flowers – expired MVI, \$250.00.

Michael Goodrich – expired MVI, \$210.00.

Jeddy L. Hamilton – obstructed view, \$205.00.

Kaylee Hebert – speeding 65/55, \$210.00.

Deonsae' M. Hood – speeding 85/55, \$250.00.

William Johnson – no insurance, \$433.00.

Logan Littleton – speeding 65/55, \$200.00.

Mallorie Marceaux – expired MVI, \$205.00.

Nancy McCool – expired license plate, \$195.00.

Sommar McKoin – expired MVI, \$220.00.

Catherine Moore – speeding 65/55, \$200.00.

Triston Murray – careless operation, \$250.00; expired MVI, \$245.00.

Shelly Nugent – speeding 80/55, \$220.00; no seat belt, \$27.00.

Leo Ocanas – speeding 79/55, \$220.00.

Ziy'Quezhia Osteen – speeding 76/55, \$220.00.

Linda Palmer – speeding 76/55, \$220.00.

Kim D. Poole – expired MVI, \$205.00.

Marquise Poole – expired MVI, \$210.00.

Jordan Pritchard – obstructed view, \$205.00; modified exhaust, \$205.00.

Delexis Reynolds – speeding 80/55, \$220.00.

Anthony Ryan – expired MVI, \$250.00.

Walter A. Sarah – expired MVI, \$210.00.

John B. Smith – speeding 70/55, \$210.00.

Kelly O. Tealer – speeding 70/55, \$200.00; expired license plate, \$195.00.

Jonathan Trahan – speeding 65/55, \$200.00.

Javier Triano-Arcos – speeding 75/55, \$220.00.

Dena Lynn Wiggins – speeding 68/55, \$210.00; expired MVI, \$205.00.

Gigi R. Williams – speeding 80/55, \$220.00.

Orlando Williams – speeding 86/55, \$220.00.

John E. Wilson – speeding 89/65, \$250.00.

Antonio Aleja Fuenzalida-Barrera appeared in court for a waiver of extradition hearing as he was being held for the State of Arizona. A written Waiver of Extradition Proceedings was read, signed and filed.

Jose Baudilio Garcia-Rivera appeared in court for a waiver of extradition hearing as he was being held for the State of Arizona. A written Waiver of Extradition Proceedings was read, signed and filed.

Mario Alberto Mendoza-Garibay appeared in court for a waiver of extradition hearing as he was being held for the State of Kansas. A written Waiver of Extradition Proceedings was read, signed and filed.

Shameka L. Mosley appeared in court for a waiver of extradition hearing as he was being held for the State of Texas. A written Waiver of Extradition Proceedings was read, signed and filed.

### May 19

Seth A. Wiggins was present in court for a final pre-trial hearing on a felony charge of theft greater than \$1,000 and less than \$5,000. On a motion of the State, a final pre-trial hearing was set for September 22, 2023 and a preliminary examination hearing was set for September 22, 2023.

Crystal M. Baugh was present in court for a final pre-trial hearing on charges of aggravated assault with a firearm and unauthorized entry of dwelling. She withdrew her former plea of not guilty and entered a plea of guilty to an amended charge of criminal trespassing instead of unauthorized entry of a dwelling. The Court sentenced her to pay a fine of \$500.00 plus all costs of court, in default to serve 50 days in the parish jail. She was also ordered to forfeit any items seized in this case. The charge of aggravated assault with a firearm was dismissed.

George Jules Beard, Jr. was present in court for a final pre-trial hearing on a charge of possession of CDS II methamphetamine. He withdrew his former plea of not guilty and entered a plea of guilty to an amended charge of possession of drug paraphernalia. The Court ordered him to pay a fine of \$500.00, plus all costs of court, in default to serve 50 days in the parish jail.

Stacy D. Bird was present in court for a final pre-trial hearing on a charge of possession of CDS II methamphetamine. On a motion of the State, a final pre-trial hearing was set for July 21, 2023 with trial set for July 24, 2023.

Lauren L. Falletti was present in court for a final pre-trial hearing on charges of attempted manslaughter and domestic abuse battery with force or violence. On a motion of the State, a final pre-trial hearing was set for July 21, 2023 and trial was set for July 24, 2023.

Shannon B. Hailey was present in court for a final pre-trial hearing on a charge of violation of CDS law in drug free zone. She withdrew her former plea of not guilty and pled guilty to an amended charge of possession of drug paraphernalia. The Court ordered her to pay a fine of \$500.00, plus all costs of court, in default to serve 50 days in the parish jail. She was given credit for any time served on this charge.

Derek L. Hord was present in court for a final pre-trial hearing on a felony charge of second degree battery. He withdrew his former plea of not guilty and entered a plea of guilty to an amended charge of attempted second degree battery. A pre-sentence investigation was ordered to be performed and the report due June 15, 2023. Sentencing was set for July 12, 2023 and a post conviction bond was set in the amount of \$40,000.00.

Misty Green was present in

court for a final pre-trial hearing on a charge of possession of CDS II methamphetamine. She withdrew her former plea of not guilty and entered a plea of guilty to the charge. The Court sentenced her to serve two years at hard labor in the custody of the Department of Corrections, of which one year was suspended. Upon release from incarceration, she was placed on three years of active supervised probation. She was also ordered to pay a fine of \$2,000.00, plus all costs of court. As a special condition of probation, she may pay her fines and costs in equal monthly installments over the first year of her probation. Further, she shall be evaluated by an Addictive Disorders Clinic within 14 days of her release from incarceration and whatever recommendations are made by the clinic will become a part of her probation. Regardless of the recommendations made, she was ordered to attend a minimum of one NA meeting per week during the pendency of her probation. Two charges of possession of drug paraphernalia and another charge of contempt of court and were dismissed.

Ronald P. King was present in court for a final pre-trial hearing on a charge of simple burglary. He withdrew his former plea of not guilty and entered a plea of guilty to an amended charge of unauthorized entry of an inhabited dwelling. The Court sentenced him to serve five years at hard labor in the custody of the Department of Corrections, of which two years were suspended. Upon release from incarceration, he was placed on three years of active supervised probation. He was also ordered to pay all costs of court. As a special condition of probation, he may pay his costs in equal monthly installments over the first year of his probation. Further, he shall be evaluated by an Addictive Disorders Clinic within 14 days of his release from incarceration and whatever recommendations are made by the clinic will become a part of his probation. Regardless of the recommendations made, he was ordered to attend a minimum of one NA Meeting per week during the pendency of his probation.

Dustin Thibodeaux was present in court for a final pre-trial hearing on a charge of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. He withdrew his former plea of not guilty and entered a plea of guilty to the charge. The Court sentenced him to serve 7 ½ years at hard labor in the custody of the Department of Corrections. He was also ordered to pay a fine of \$500.00 plus all costs of court.

Carrindeous B. Jackson failed to appear for a final pre-trial hearing on a charge of simple burglary. The Court ordered a bench warrant be

issued and bond on the warrant was set at \$140,000.00.

Shawn R. Johnston was present in court for a final pre-trial hearing on a charge of possession of CDS II methamphetamine. Trial was set for May 22, 2023.

Courtney N. Laborde was present in court for a final pre-trial hearing on a charge of distribution of CDS II fentanyl. On a motion of the State, a final pre-trial hearing was set for July 21, 2023 and trial was set for July 24, 2023.

Mark Oneil LaChapelle was present in court for a final pre-trial hearing on a charge of illegal carry weapon while in possession of CDS. He entered a plea of guilty to an amended charge of possession of drug paraphernalia. The Court sentenced him to pay a fine of \$500.00, plus all costs of court, in default to serve 50 days in the parish jail. He was given credit for time served on this charge.

Nathan J. McBroom was present for a final pre-trial hearing on a charges of domestic abuse battery second offense and contempt of court. He pled guilty to the charge of contempt of court. The Court sentenced him to pay a fine of \$150.00, plus all costs of court, in default to serve 15 days in the parish jail. He was given credit for any time served on this charge.

Jesse Cole Nugent was present in court for a final pre-trial hearing on charges of illegal carry of weapon while in possession of CDS and possession of firearm by convicted felon. On a motion of the State, a final pre-trial hearing was set for August 25, 2023 and trial was set for August 28, 2023.

Sonney Ray Smith failed to appear in court for a final pre-trial hearing on a charge of possession of CDS II methamphetamine. The Court ordered a bench warrant be issued and bond on the warrant was set at \$100,000,000.00.

Marlon O. Tingle was present in court for a final pre-trial hearing on a charge of possession of CDS II methamphetamine. On a motion of the State, trial was continued without date.

Heather L. Williams was present in court for a final pre-trial hearing on a charges of possession of CDS II methamphetamine and possession of CDS IV clonazepam. On a motion of the State, this matter was continued without date.

### May 22

Shawn R. Johnston withdrew his former plea of not guilty and entered a plea of guilty to a charge of possession of CDS II methamphetamine. A pre-sentence investigation was ordered to be performed and the report was due June 16, 2023. Sentencing was set for July 10, 2023.

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# Classifieds

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Members of the Central Louisiana Amateur Radio Club participated in a national amateur radio exercise Saturday and Sunday, June 24 and 25, at the Rapides Parish Sheriff's Range. Events like this are held at least once a year to hone skills and demonstrate ham radio's ability to work reliably under any conditions from almost any location. Two LaSalle Parish residents, Perry and Suzan Nelson, shown third and second from right, are members of the club. (See story.)

# Ham Radio Operators at Field Day

BY CRAIG FRANKLIN  
Editor

In a world that is dominated by digital and internet communications, it would surprise many to learn that there is an alternative means of communication that exists should the unthinkable ever occur.

Ham radio, also known as amateur radio, has been around since the late 1800's and today that simple technology of transmitting radio waves using radio frequency systems to communicate locally and around the world has evolved to include more than just Morse Code or voice transmissions but also email and so much more.

The uninformed will liken ham radios to CB radios but in truth, CB's are no match for the powerful network that ham radios offer.

They can operate on very little power but provide communications across states and nations. They are especially useful in catastrophic events that leave other electrical communications obsolete.

On Saturday and Sunday, June 24 and 25, ham radio operators from the Central Louisiana Amateur Radio Club (CLARC) participated in a national amateur radio exercise at the Rapides Parish Sheriff's Range located near Air Base Road off I49.

The ARRL Field Day is an annual amateur radio activity organized since 1933 by the American Radio Relay League, the National Association of Amateur Radio in the United States.

Hams from across North America ordinarily participate in Field Day by establishing temporary ham radio stations in public locations to demonstrate their skill and service. Their use of radio signals, which reach beyond borders, brings people together while providing essential communication in the service of communities.

Field Day highlights ham radio's ability to work reliably under any conditions from almost any location and create an independent, wireless communications network.

"Hams have a long history of serving our communities when storms or other disasters damage critical communication infrastructure, including cell towers," said Kirk Garber, President of CLARC. "Ham radio functions completely independently of the internet and phone systems and a station can be set up almost anywhere in minutes. Hams can quickly raise a wire antenna in a tree or on a mast, connect it to a radio and power source, and communicate effectively with others."

During the Field Day, Perry and

Suzan Nelson of Jena joined some 40,000 other ham operators participating from thousands of locations across North America for the exercises.

"This is a time where we all get together and train to get better at what we do," Perry said. "Any time there is a major disaster we go ahead and start listening and transmitting, seeing where we can help."

Allen Fontenot from Eunice, has been a ham operator for 22 years and remembers vividly how ham operators were crucial during Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

"Everything was down, police/fire/ambulance radios, internet and cell phones, but ham operators were transmitting," he said. "Our club went to the (Rapides) coliseum and set up like we're doing today to relay information from New Orleans. There were ham operators in New Orleans and they were the only ones able to get information out because all other forms of communication were down."

One of CLARC's oldest members, Jack Brossette of Pineville, has been a ham operator since 1962. When Hurricane Betsy struck Louisiana in 1965, he was part of the team that helped during the devastation.

"In 1965 I had my first experience in real life in doing what we're training to do today," he said. "We actually had guys put mobile ham radios in police cars and that is what they used to communicate back to police headquarters because everything else was down."

Most of the 40 members of CLARC are men, however, there are some female members, mostly wives of the men. They all have a desire to help people and many have military backgrounds and have or still are serving in emergency response jobs.

"Hams are completely off the grid," Garber stated. "Having the electricity out or internet down doesn't affect us. We can run off battery power or generators and you can actually run these radios on a 12 volt battery for eight hours."

Although the thrill of talking with someone great distances away is exciting, the main reason ham operators do what they do is for the assistance it provides to so many.

"When a hurricane hit Panama City Beach a few years ago, I was listening after the eye made landfall and heard a man call out to see if anyone was listening," he said. "I told him I was and he asked me to get a message to his daughter who lived in Colorado to tell her he was okay. He gave me her number and I called her up and relayed the message. She was so grateful for that call because she hadn't heard from

her dad since the hurricane hit."

"It's during those times that being a ham operator is most fulfilling," Garber said.

There is no age limit for someone to become a ham operator. Several members of the club have children who are operators and CLARC is hoping that more will join.

"We are really hoping that more youth will get involved with ham radio," Garber continued. "There is so much they learn being involved with it, from building electronics, to learning frequencies and communication technology, to service to others."

CLARC has members in over seven Central Louisiana parishes and all of the its members say that being a ham operator is a passion

that also serves a great service.

"And it's fun," Garber said. "We have a great time not only visiting with one another at our meetings but we have friends all over the world thanks to ham radio."

By their continued commitment to training during events such as Field Day, they keep their skills sharp and ready to answer the call for the next disaster. When all else fails, ham radio will be available to help when its needed the most.

For more information about ham radio, visit [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org).

To find out more about CLARC, visit [www.clark.us](http://www.clark.us).

For anyone interested in ham radio in LaSalle Parish, they may contact Perry Nelson at (318) 715-4727.

## ATTENTION CANDIDATES

The Jena Times Olla-Tullos-Urania Signal will charge the following fees for political announcement for the fall 2023 election:

State Senator, Representative,  
Sheriff, Clerk of Court,  
Assessor and Coroner . . . . . \$150

Police Jury . . . . . \$100

The fee includes candidates picture (either furnished or we will take) and statement by candidate. Candidates for the offices of Senator, Representative, Sheriff, Clerk of Court, Assessor, and Coroner will be printed on page 1A with picture in full color. All other candidates will be printed on either page 2A or 3A with black/white photo..

Candidate's name will also appear in the political column published each week on the classified page, beginning August 1, 2023 until the election, and/or run-off if it applies.

Additional pictures and/or statements from the candidate to the voters must be in display advertising space at regular local advertising rates.

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# Features

THE JENA TIMES  
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## Mark Leland Cockerham: Singer, Songwriter, Musician

BY DEBORAH MAYO  
Contributing Writer

From the time he was a young boy until the present, Mark Leland Cockerham's interest has centered on music, singing and songwriting.

It seems his hands were made to pick a guitar or play a keyboard and his voice to entertain and express, but his greatest passion has always centered on writing songs about life and matters of the heart. His talents have taken him down many life adventures and promise to continue to lead him in the days and years ahead.

Cockerham was born in LaSalle Parish into a Baptist minister's home with a dad who pastored and a mom who had a natural talent for singing and an ear for playing the piano.

By the time he was seven years of age, he had sung his first special in church and had already mastered singing harmony – thanks to his mom's tutelage. She played records on the home stereo that her young son would sit and listen to, and every Sunday the black and white TV was tuned into The Gospel Singing Jubilee – the theme song from the show still rings in his memory.

His family and Christian upbringing cultivated an early interest in him for all things musical and that passion has never ebbed or faded. Growing up in a preacher's home provided young Leland with a musical venue most people can only wish for; that venue has steered him throughout his pursuit and career as a singer, songwriter and musician.

His dad, Troy, while preaching and pastoring, worked a multiplicity of jobs including service stations, furniture stores, and even tree farms in order to take care of his young family and make ends meet. His mom, Tommie, did her share, working at various garment factories as their current locations would allow.

The struggle of everyday life took the family to many places from Jena to Ruston and even to Orange, Texas. While providing for the family always seemed a challenge, Leland's parents never wavered in their faith-



Mark Leland Cockerham has been singing, playing, and writing music since he was a young boy. Mark inherited his natural talent from his mom, Tommie, who had him routinely singing in church and taking music lessons by the time he was seven years old.

fulness in doing God's work.

Mom even made sure her young son had the opportunity to take piano lessons, despite the fact he would rather play by ear (as mom did) and had him on the schedule to sing a special at the church at least once a month. His piano lessons ceased after about six weeks with his first and only piano recital, and his natural musical talent began to emerge.

Cockerham grew up with his sister, Kristi who currently resides in Olla, whom he describes as 'a beautiful person'. She was born with the umbilical cord wrapped around her neck. Doctors told his parents that she would never lead a normal life and her mind would fail to develop beyond that of a teenager.

She suffered multiple seizures throughout their childhood, passing out frequently due to the existing brain damage suffered in childbirth; Leland remembers that anyone would be 'hard pressed to ever find anyone as sweet and kind as she was'. His family roots run deep, and his memories are solid, ever an influence

on his music and songwriting.

Writing songs started early for this singer, song writer and musician and at a young 15 years, he wrote his first song entitled "Someday You'll Find the Answer", which he recorded on an eight-track tape recorder he'd bought at a pawn shop. It was at that point that he discovered that he loved song writing.

Inspired by musical heroes such as Dan Fogelberg, Styx, Boston, Steve Wonder and John Denver, Cockerham set his aspirations high venturing into learning to play as many instruments as possible and to eventually record and mix his own music.

Cockerham labeled himself a young rebel who sometimes struggled with being a pastor's kid and who often worked his way into trouble. As a result, he found himself living with an aunt and uncle in Vidor, TX in the summer of 1977.

There he bonded with a cousin, Steve Leal, who shared his love for playing the acoustic guitar. They played and learned to pick the guitar together, even forming a rock and roll band and play-

ing a few gigs.

Once he returned to Louisiana, his dad was pastoring another church which meant another school and making a new set of friends. Cockerham decided to go another route - to finish night school and get his diploma. That was followed by a stint in the military at seventeen years old where a friend, Tim Cripps, gave him a Fender 12-string acoustic guitar.

He took that guitar to Korea with him during his military service there. He played it religiously honing his skills, giving lessons to fellow servicemen, and eventually leaving the guitar with one of the soldiers when he left. While he left his guitar, he took his improved picking and playing skills home with him.

Today, Cockerham is an accomplished guitar player and keyboard player with fifty years of playing under his belt. He has written hundreds of songs, enjoyed a career as a solo country artist, recorded his own songs, and cannot imagine his life without music. His three children and four grandchildren continue to inspire him in his



One of the highlights of Cockerham's (pictured far right) musical career was in 2007 when he performed in Atlanta, GA, at the Salute to America Parade to a crowd of over 250,000 people. He has also performed with renowned artists such as Earl Thomas Conley, Deana Carter and Jefferson Starship and has recorded four full length albums.

musical career and the songs he writes.

"I truly don't know what my life would be like without music," he reflected. "God knew that I needed an escape to write down my feelings. That's what song writing does for me. Songwriting has always been my favorite passion. It has been my therapy throughout the years."

A self-professed romantic, Cockerham prefers to write ballads that capture matters of the heart. His first album was entitled, "Through the Heart" and consisted of songs he'd written out of his own experiences. The project included eleven songs, all from the country genre except the last one, 'Mary's Song'.

"I wrote that song in about thirty minutes for an Easter drama my friend, Nathan Roberts, was directing," he said. "It is probably my favorite song I've written to this day, and simply because I know that God was in it."

"Another song that I was very honored to be a part of was "Missing Pieces", written to bring attention to an ever-growing concern regarding children diagnosed with autism," Cockerham said.

During his career, Cockerham has recorded and released four full length albums, all produced in Nashville, TN. He now has his own recording studio in his home in Kelly, where he enjoys writing and recording his own songs as well as classics from the past. He's had the pleasure of meeting, playing, and performing with a multiplicity of talented artists including Earl Thomas Conley, Deana Carter, Sammy Kershaw, Jefferson Starship and Tracy Lawrence, among others.

One of the highlights from his music career occurred on

July 4th, 2007, when he was invited to sing his newly released single, "Red, White and Blue Americans" in the 47th Salute to America Parade in downtown Atlanta. He penned the song when his oldest son, Joshua, was serving his second tour of duty in Iraq. He performed it on stage with 2007 Miss America, Lauren Nelson, and other celebrities in Centennial Olympic Park in front of an impressive crowd of over 250,000 people.

"Music is universal, and it was meant to be heard and shared," Cockerham said inspiring potential young artists and others who aspire to achieve in life. "It touches everyone's life in some unique way. I encourage you to let your creativity be unbridled and free. There is only one you, so be the best that you can be in whatever you choose to do. Let God and your heart's true passion direct your path in life."

Cockerham's ultimate goal as a singer, songwriter, and musician is to give back to others. He writes and records songs that have meaning and purpose while being the best father and person he can be and leaving behind the lessons he's learned. He encourages young musicians to be themselves and play and sing with their hearts not their heads.

"You never know whose life you will touch or even how much it might affect someone," he concluded.

Meanwhile, his fingers strum the chords of his life experiences and his words, and his music set the tone of how good life has been. Singer, songwriter and musician Mark Leland Cockerham lives his life in appreciation of the gifts he's been given, and music and all it entails has served him well.

# Sports

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The Northwest LaSalle 10U All-Stars are shown above, left to right: Kneeling, Austin Richmond, Andrew Powell, Harper Coleman; Standing, Jace Sumrall, JT Sauce, Beau Doughty, Jackson Steen, Casten Stowe, Kayse Martin, Haddon Roark, Ayden Walters and Jackson Maxwell.

The Jena 5U All-Stars are shown above, left to right: Front row, Tucker McDowell, Cullen Brunet, Cohen Barber, Dawson Pendarvis, Hayes Williams, Carter Evans; Back row, Jensen Norris, Jesup Hanner, Cooper Morphis, Elijah Eubanks, Dex Poole, Reese Allen; Coaches Drew Pendarvis, Jakob Norris, Lauren Mayo and Cade Williams.


# Outdoors

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Red wasps are often unwelcomed visitors to deer stands. (Glynn Harris photo)



OUTDOORS

with  
**Glynn Harris**  
*An Award Winning Outdoor Writer*

## Love Your Deer Stand? Other Critters Do Too!

Few activities are as satisfying to me, a deer hunter, as to have driven the last nail and sawed the last plank on a deer stand I built myself. I honestly think I get as much satisfaction and enjoyment out of practicing my crude brand of carpentry on a deer stand I built myself as the hunting experience itself.

Over the years, I have come up with some doozies. The first box stand I ever constructed by myself had to have help to keep from toppling over. I nailed a two-by-four from one shaky leg of the stand to a nearby sturdy tree to give support. It lasted a couple of years before giving up the ghost.

My favorite homemade stand was built on the ground. Perhaps the elevated stand that toppled over taught me a lesson. Using a post hole digger, I placed four corner posts in the ground and built the stand from plywood around it, complete with floor and roof. If this stand were to fall over, I wouldn't be hurt because I'd only have about six inches to fall.

One of the things that I dread is heading out to my deer stands during the off season to prepare them for fall and winter hunting. One thing I have learned is that during the off season, my stands enter the time-share program as other creatures take over in my absence.

On one occasion, I cautiously eased up to peer into my stand and found a hawk nest. Another time, I climbed into the stand and was preparing to take a seat on the cushion I'd left there at the end of last season. As I adjusted the cushion before sitting down, something moved inside the cushion. Puzzled, I poked a stick in a small hole in the material and jumped back astonished as eight flying squirrels vacated the warm and cozy cushion that had been their home for months.

On another occasion, I checked my stand to find that a family of buzzards had taken the window I'd left open as an invitation to come on in

and make themselves at home. Have you ever had to clean up behind a family of buzzards? Believe me, it's not for the person with a weak stomach. I debated about possibly dowsing on some gasoline, lighting a match and burning the stinking stand to the ground. Starting over may have been a better option.

A friend of mine made a pre-season check of his box stand to find that bats had worked their way beneath the camouflage material covering his stand, causing him to swat at fleeing bats for a few moments.

I eventually got to the point of making my stands critter-proof to keep flying squirrels, bats and buzzards away.

However, there is one pest I can count on, in fact almost guarantee that will be there once I make my first inspection of my stand before hunting season kicks off.

Wasps. No matter how tightly you think you have your stand closed, they'll find a way to get in and frankly, wasps do not take kindly to being disturbed. Thus, before climbing the first rung of the ladder to my stand, I'll have one hand on the rung and the other wrapped around a can of wasp spray.

There is a measure of satisfaction in sitting back with an air of smugness in admiring the deer stand that you have constructed by your own hands. However, time-share critters like flying squirrels, bats, buzzards and wasps apparently pay little attention to the contract that says they have to share.

### FISHING REPORT

**BLACK BAYOU** – Fishing in general has been good for bream, crappie and bass especially fishing around the trees and brush. Contact Honey Hole Tackle Shop 323-8707 for latest information.

**BUSSEY BRAKE** – Big bass up to 10 pounds and better are being caught flipping the brush with creature baits, fishing spinners and crank baits. The crappie are scattered around the brush. Bream have slowed. For latest information, contact the Honey Hole at 323-8707.

**OUACHITA RIVER** – Bass are best fishing shad imitations in the cuts while crappie are best fishing shiners or jigs in the river lakes. Bream are

fair to good. For latest information, contact the Honey Hole Tackle Shop at 323-8707.


**LAKE D'ARBONNE** – Crappie are on the edges of the flats and channel edges with some nice fish caught on shiners or jigs. Bass fishing has been good early mornings fishing topwater lures around the grass. Later in the day, look for them in deeper water where Carolina-rigs, crank baits and spinners are working best. Bream are on starting to slow down off the beds on hitting worms and crickets. Catfish continue to be caught fishing cold worms and night crawlers off the banks. For latest information, call Anderson Sport Center at 368-9669 or Honey Hole Tackle Shop at 323-8707.

**LAKE CLAIBORNE** – Night fishing has been best for crappie fishing shiners under the lights around the piers and boat houses. Bass fishing has been fair to good fishing soft plastics or spinners around the piers. Some stripers are beginning to show up in the coves and hitting shad imitation lures. Bream are fair to good around spawning areas. Some nice catfish have been caught on noodles baited with live bream. For latest information, call Kel's Cove at 927-2264 or Terzia Tackle at 278-4498.

**CANEY LAKE** – Bass fishing has been best at night with Carolina rigs and deep diving crank baits along with soft plastics picking up some fish with an occasional double digit fish reported. Crappie are fair around the deep brush on shiners or jigs. The bream bite is slowing as the spawn is about over and they've moving from the shallow spawning areas. No report on catfish. For information contact Caney Lake Landing at 259-6649, Hooks Marina at 249-2347, Terzia Tackle at 278-4498 or the Honey Hole Tackle Shop at 323-8707.

**LAKE POVERTY POINT** – Catfish and bream are biting. Bass are slow but a 9 ½ pounder was caught. Crappie are best on the south end on shiners or jigs. For latest reports, call Poverty Point Marina at 318/878-0101. For information, call Surplus City Landing at 318/467-2259.

**LAKE YUCATAN** – The water is at pool stage and fishing is good for barfish, bass, catfish and crappie. For information, call Surplus City Landing at 318/467-2259.



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# Features

**THE JENA TIMES**  
OLLA-TULLOS-URANIA SIGNAL

Deadline: Thursday by 4 p.m. • editor@thejenatimes.net • Phone: 318.992.4121 • Fax: 318.992.2287

## The Doctor Is In LaSalle's Local Veterinarians

BY DEBORAH MAYO  
Contributing Writer

Dr. Kelly Trichel Hudspeth, DVM, and Dr. Macy Tullos, DVM, are both veterinarians who practice in LaSalle Parish addressing and caring for the needs of local pets and farm animals.

Although the two are separated by a difference in age, one thing they share in common is their love for animals.

Tullos began her journey in animal medicine three years ago and Hudspeth is in her 31st year of practice. Local animal health care is in good hands with these dedicated vets and their commitment to animal well-being.

Tullos became interested in being a veterinarian when she was just a child. True, her mom was a teacher, her grandmother was a teacher, and her grandpa was a teacher, but she had another dream. She confided that she knew the answer to the question "What do you want to be when you grow up?" from the time she was four years old. It wasn't to be a teacher, and her answer never veered or changed through the years.

"I want to be a vet," she would reply straightforwardly and unwaveringly.

She loved all animals as a child and owned a wide variety. She remembers helping her grandpa, Lee McDowell, doctor sick cows and other farm animals, administering the first injection to an animal in need at just six years old under his watchful eyes. Those early interactions with

God's creations cultivated a love in her and a desire to work with domesticated animals, taking care of them beyond just owning a household pet or farm animals. She desired to make it her lifetime mission.

Tullos studied hard and committed to her dream. She received her undergraduate degree at Louisiana Tech University in Animal Science in 2016 then was accepted into veterinary school at LSU School of Veterinary Medicine. Graduating with honors, she had a monumental decision to make: where would she settle and build her career? Fortunately, her passion and love for animal medicine and care led her right back to her hometown, Jena, where she practices.

June marked three years she has been practicing as a full-time veterinarian. She is giving back to the people and places that initially cultivated a desire in her those many decades ago to become a veterinarian; not to mention the animals and pets who look to her for good health and medical attention.

This doctor, however, has not run out of inspiration or anticipation for her future in veterinary medicine. She eventually plans to expand her practice providing room to extend the existing medical services into larger animals and breeds.

When asked if she had any advice for future vets, she contends that there is much more to being a veterinarian than what

the public usually perceives. She advised that those interested should seek out experience in the field as early as possible. Those early experiences would lend understanding to the level of commitment required and the sacrifices involved in treating four-legged patients.

"It's definitely rewarding and fulfilling work that I truly love, so if you find that you love it too, my main advice is to stick with it," she offered. "It won't be easy, and the road is long but if you truly love animals then the work is more than worth it."

Childhood dreams can become reality and Macy Tullos is an excellent example of that. Her dream didn't come without hard work and sacrifice, but she was committed and persevered even when times were challenging. Caring for animals is her mission in life and that mission has led to fulfillment.

Dr. Kelly Hudspeth began her practice in



Dr. Macy Tullos knew from the time she was a young four-year-old that veterinary medicine was her calling. She has been practicing veterinary medicine for three years at the LaSalle Veterinary Clinic.

May of 1992 in Catahoula Parish after completing an externship with Dr. Bobby Fields at the Jena clinic. She sees a variety of animals including dogs, cats, cows, farm animals and a few exotics. She chose veterinary medicine because of her love for animals.

"When applying to vet school, you are

told not to put that you want to be a veterinarian because you love animals, but that is exactly why I wanted to be a vet," she shared. "I really love animals. The old saying by an unknown author says, 'Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life', that describes my life of Veterinary

Medicine!" As per Hudspeth, there is no "normal day" in the life of a vet. While human doctors see one species and usually concentrate on one aspect of health such as cardiology, vets flip from one species to another as well as one organ system

See THE DOCTOR on page 3C



Jena Veterinarian Macy Tullos administers a shot to one of her puppy patients. Her love for animals has existed for as long as she can remember.

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*Hadlie Jo*  
a 15-Year-Old native of Jena, and Rising Country Music Sensation, will make her hometown debut as the Featured Guest!

**THE STRAND OLE OPPIY**  
**Saturday, July 8th**  
at the historic Strand Theater in Jena

Tickets on sale at 3 p.m. the day of the show at the Strand Theater ticket office.

DOORS OPEN AT 5:30 • SHOWTIME 6:30

**\$20**  
(Over 10 Years Old)  
**\$15**  
(5 - 10 Years Old)  
- Under 5 FREE -

*Avery Michaels & Exit 209*



*Sophia & Taylor Belgard*

**A Family Night of Fun and Entertainment**



Dr. Kelly Hudspeth, presented Taylor Bignar her white coat this past spring at the ceremony that marked the beginning of Bignar's last year of Veterinary School. Taylor observed Hudspeth when she was a student in junior high school and later worked with her at her clinic.

**The Doctor**

Continued from page 2A

to another with every pet patient she sees. Animal doctors never know what one day or one pet will bring into the spectrum.

"There are always surprises," Hudspeth said. "A few weekends ago, a twelve-week-old doodle that only weighed around 15

pounds ate her owner's sock. We gave medicine to induce vomiting...the puppy responded...and ate it (the sock) again!"

Just another day in the life of a veterinarian.

One of her favorite stories from her practice involved Christmas and sheep. A mother ewe who was ready to deliver was

brought in because she was having complications. Despite Hudspeth's efforts, the mother-to-be died. Fortunately, she and her co-workers were able to save the newborn lamb. The baby lamb was a beautiful reminder of the true Lamb of God who was also being celebrated during that Christmas season. Hudspeth gained a clearer understanding why Jesus, the Lamb of God, was compared to a lamb as she held and cared for the bundle of new life.

Hudspeth's advice for aspiring vets includes spending time at veterinary clinics in order to become familiar with the profession. Veterinary medicine, in her words, is 'not all petting puppies'. She shares that vets lack the resources of human medical professionals and lack of funding vet medical is huge.

Both veterinarians are committed to the



Dr. Kelly Hudspeth has been practicing veterinary medicine for over thirty-one years. She is pictured with one of her pet patients, Big Red.

well-being of animals both great and small. It is obvious each loves her work and values her patients.

"The doctor is in" takes on a whole new connotation in the an-

imal world - one that assures their owners that capable, dedicated people are filling the shoes and providing excellent care for their beloved pets.

**DOC Introduces Interactive Data Webpage**

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

The Louisiana Department of Public Safety & Corrections' Data Research & Statistical Analysis Team has recently released a series of interactive data dashboards as part of the agency's vision for improved data transparency, visualization, and utilization for data-informed decision making. The new interactive dashboards can be found on the Department's website at [www.doc.la.gov](http://www.doc.la.gov).

"We're excited about deploying simple interactive tools that puts highly-requested data at the fingertips of taxpayers, researchers, and academia," said Secretary Jimmy Le Blanc, Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections. "It's simple, yet comprehensive, and serves a great purpose in accomplishing our mission of serving the public."

This first deployment of dashboards were published late last year to provide users with information on the agency's incarcerated population and population of individuals on community supervision by the Division of Probation and Parole. These dashboards provide basic population demographic information such as gender, race, and sex, while also providing users the opportunity to look at information related to sentence length, time served, crime categories, age, and parish of conviction. The team continues to build upon the initial

model and recently deployed new dashboards which provide users access to information about prison admissions and releases. The new dashboards provide the opportunity for users to see annual admission and release data by year beginning in 2018. These dashboards provide users both basic demographic information such as age, race, and sex, but also information related to admission and release type, length of sentence by admission type, admissions by crime types, age at admission and age of release, and time served by crime type category.

Secretary Le Blanc noted, "Louisiana has long been a national leader among Correctional organizations related to the amount and type of data we collect. Unfortunately, we have historically been somewhat limited, often by our information system designs, in our ability to evaluate information in real time to support data informed decision-making. I am excited about the work of our Data team to develop these visual dashboards, both for our own interagency use, but also to offer to the public a new level of transparency in data about their criminal justice system."

The Department is exploring other data applications to provide information about Louisiana's criminal justice system. As those come on line, the public will be made aware of the availability.

**Photo of the Week...**



Are you looking for an unusual accent tree for your front yard?

Please allow me to suggest a little known tree called the SWAMP DOGWOOD. I have had one in my yard for 15 years and it is a "show stopper" when it blooms in late April (see photo). Everyone knows about the Southern Magnolia because it's our State Flower and lots of people have one or more of those trees in their yard. However, the Swamp Dogwood doesn't have such a reputation and is little known as an accent plant.

After the flowers fade they make small purple seeds galore. I have seen as many as 12 birds at the same time in my tree eating those seeds. Even birds that are usually ground feeders find themselves eating from this tree. It's because the seeds have a high sugar content.

Here are some facts about the Swamp Dogwood:

The tree usually grows to be about twenty feet high or more.

They bloom in late April.

The blossoms are solid white.

The flowers are in clusters.

This tree grows to be about 2 to 3 inches in diameter.

The leaves are a light green on both sides.

The root system is that of a SPREADING nature.

The bark is a light gray/green color.

This tree likes moist to wet sites.

This is a tree that likes to be LEFT ALONE.....(My kind of tree). It needs no fertilizer, extra water, or soil amendments.

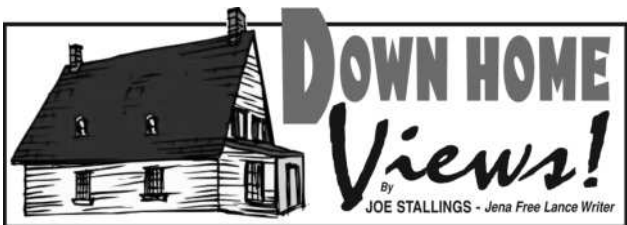
The tree has no insect or disease enemies.

CAUTION: The trees roots send up suckers that will form other trees in places where you do not want the same tree.

This tree is sometimes hard to find. They grow best in plant zone 8 but will also do well in zone 9. Your best bet of finding one is in a nursery that advertises these trees on the NET. Just type in:

"Description of a Swamp Dogwood" in your search engine such as Google. There you will find more information about tree and where you, might order one or more if you want to.

(Narrative and photo provided by Jena native Gale Trussell)



**Twenty Things I Trust More Than Joe Biden**

1. Buying a submarine tour of the Titanic.
2. Getting a hit against Nolan Ryan.
3. Keeping a secret in a small town.
4. Break dancing with Diane Feinstein.
5. Hunter Biden handling your money.
6. Donald Trump admitting defeat.
7. Casey Anthony babysitting your grandkids.
8. The Saints winning the Super Bowl.
9. My auto insurance going down.
10. A blind date with Ted Bundy.
11. Buying a good watermelon in April.
12. The sun coming up in the west.
13. Britney Griner vacationing in Russia.
14. John Fetterman being a Jeopardy grand champion.
15. Kamala Harris wearing a dress.
16. Congress spending what they take in.
17. Vladimir Putin's face on a Happy Meal box.
18. Taking a shower with Jodi Arias.
19. Taylor Swift having a free concert.
20. The NBA outlawing dunking.



Our day is filled with heat at this time of year. It commands our attention and makes our work harder. As we toil, we daydream not about love or success, but things as mundane as shade and a cool drink.

But though the oppressive heat weighs on our brains and taxes our bodies, it is the price we pay for being allowed to spend time outdoors ... and it has its one singular consolation: our summer evenings. When the sun goes down in summer, it's romantic enough to hug a cactus.

The recipe is simple; keep the earth warm, but just bring out the stars and a soft breeze that cools the skin. Mix this with a fulmination of little night varmint sounds of peeping and chirping and croaking. And guitars. Whether we play them ourselves or just turn on the radio, it is a perfect setting for guitars. Villalobos, Fernando Sor, Tarrega, Randy Travis, Doc Watson, Steve Cormier.

We sit in brick-paved patios with something cool and someone sweet and relax and talk about dreams, because on evenings like this, anything is possible. On nights like this, it's difficult to decide whether remembering evenings like this in the past is better than anticipating those to come. All we really know is that it sure is nice to be here right now.

Tonight I'm going to see if I can remember all the words to "Little Joe the Wrangler" and find out if my guitar is still in tune.

# “Bits and Pieces of LaSalle Parish”

(In and around Jena, Louisiana)



By Larry Chapman  
 LaSalle Parish Historian  
 Phone 318-316-1759  
 Box 478, Trout, LA 71371


Hope you enjoy. More next week!



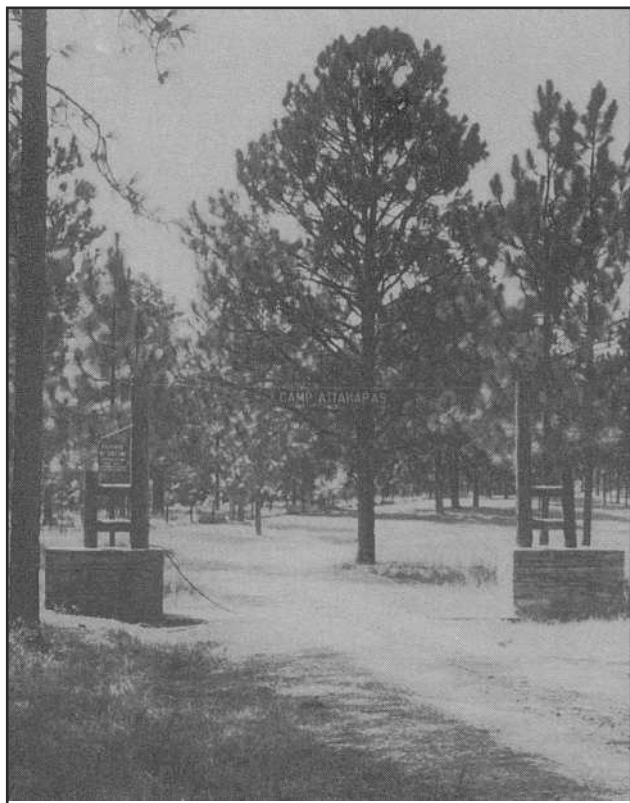
Brown Dry Goods

**Dr. Erastus Miller, 1873-1974**



(Dr. Steve Campbell Collection)



Boy Scouts of America Camp  
 Attakapas – Trout, ca. 1960



Hazel Hendricks,  
 Goodpine school  
 (Alice Whatley's Collection)



Henry Poole and wife Janie Masters and Son  
 Willard, before 1920



Jena Parade

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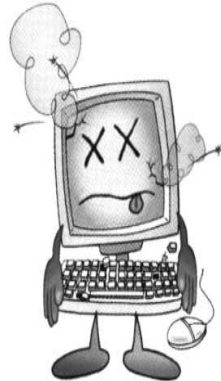
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# Roots, Shoots, Fruits & Flowers: Tomato Fruitworm, Green Sweat Bee, Carpenter Bee, & Assassin Bug

**KEITH HAWKINS,  
LSU AgCenter Area  
Horticulture Agent**

Fred, a tomato enthusiast, and gardener, asked, "Hello, can you tell me what you recommend for this damage? Thanks"



**Figure 1. A tomato fruitworm feeding on a tomato. Photo: Fred Carter.**

The caterpillar in the image above is a tomato fruitworm. If it looks like the corn earworm, it is because they are the same pest. Chemical control could include Sevin®, Malathion®, Bifenthrin® or Permethrin®. Organic control could include Spinosad, Dipel® or Thuricide®. As always, read the label of each insecticide for safe and effective

use.

Trevor observed a green bee and correctly identified it as a female, brown-striped sweat bee. He asked for confirmation of its identity.



**Figure 2 A brown-winged striped sweat bee. Photo: Trevor Roussele, Reserve, LA.**

AHA consulted with Ms. Victoria Bayless, Curator of the Louisiana State Arthropod Museum in Baton Rouge about this green. Bayless confirmed Trevor's ID, but with a slightly different common name, brown-winged striped sweat bee. During Trevor's research, he observed that, "[It] seems like the males have bright yellow stripes whereas the females are almost entirely green with black

and slightly greyish, if not white, stripes."

This bee is a native, solitary, ground-nesting insect. It will visit the following flowering plants: sunflowers, asters, morning-glories, pumpkins and their relatives, legumes, fringe tree, evening-primroses, irises, roses, and other plants.

Long Leggedy Beasties blog shares this caution, "Sweat bees can sting, but generally are not particularly aggressive unless handled roughly. Stings, if they do occur, are relatively minor."

Pam of DeRidder asked, "This is a new one on me. What is it? It is about the size of a bumblebee, but [it is] way off color. [It] Looks like it would sting."



**Figure 3. A carpenter bee. Photo: Pam Archer, DeRidder, LA**

Pam has a carpenter bee. To tell the difference between a bumblebee and a carpenter bee, remember that a bumblebee has a "fuzzy butt," and a carpenter bee has a "shiny hiney."

Robert Souvestre, retired AgCenter horticulture agent, addressed Pam's concerns about stings, "Carpenter bees tend not to be aggressive and the insect you see hovering around wood and sometimes getting in your face is the male protecting the nesting site. Males do not have stingers so they cannot hurt you. The females do have stingers but seldom bother people since they are only interested in boring the wood and laying eggs."

Souvestre also addresses the damage to wood by these insects, "Prevent damage from carpenter bees by painting exposed wood. Though not a guaranteed remedy, it works most of the time. A preventative treatment may be made by applying two applications of

a borate formulation (Timbor®) on existing structures and using pressure treated wood when rebuilding or replacing damaged wood."

Chaery of DeRidder asked this question, "How can I control this bug?"



**Figure 4 A juvenile assassin bug feeding on a beetle. Photo: Chaery Knight, DeRidder, LA.**

Chaery has a beneficial assassin bug in the juvenile form, so no control is needed. In this image, the young assassin bug is already feeding on a beetle. Blake Wilson and Rodrigo Diaz, both entomologists with the AgCenter, wrote a fact-sheet, The Assassin in the Garden, about assassin bugs and why they are beneficial, "Assassin bugs are true bugs (Hemiptera) in the family Reduviidae. They feed on a diverse variety of insects including flies, mosquitoes, roaches, beetles, aphids, and caterpillars. While these insects will not attack

humans or pets, their bright colors should serve as a warning. Painful bites can occur in self-defense if the insect is handled or if accidental contact is made during gardening activities. Bites are rare despite the common occurrence of these insects and the benefits of having them in a garden far outweigh the risks."

If you want to contact Roots, Shoots, Fruits, and Flowers, please send your questions and pictures to Keith Hawkins, Area Horticulture Agent (AHA), 337.284.5188 or khawkins@agcenter.lsu.edu.

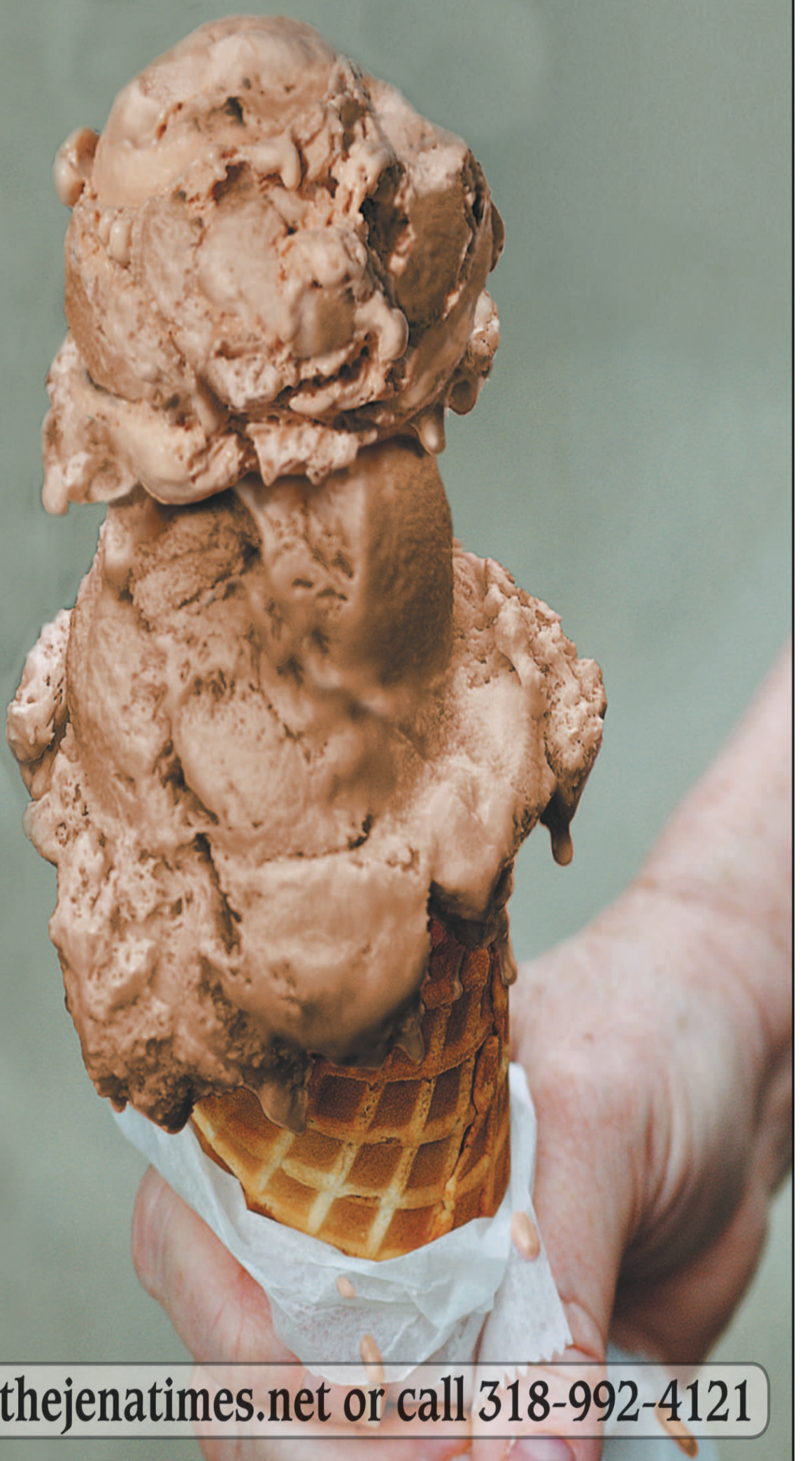
"Before you buy or use an insecticide product, first read the label, and strictly follow label recommendations. Mention of trade names or commercial products in this article is for informational purposes only and does not constitute endorsement by Louisiana State University AgCenter."

"This work has been supported, in part, by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Renewable Resources Extension Act Award, Accession Number 1011417."

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## CERTIFICATION—PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

This is to certify that the Town of Olla, 2628 Central Avenue, Olla, LA 71465, has complied with Louisiana Revised Statute 39:1307 relative to public participation in the budget process for the Year Ended June 30, 2024. Notice of availability for public inspection and public hearing was held in compliance with applicable statute.  
June 13, 2023

Rhonda Elliott  
Mayor

Published:  
6-21-23  
6-28-23  
7-5-23

## ATTENTION TOWN OF OLLA RESIDENTS

All dogs in the Town of Olla must be licensed annually. Please bring proof of current rabies vaccination to the Olla Police Department Monday through Friday 8 am to 4 pm. The license fee is \$5.00 per dog. The deadline to register your dog is July 15th. You may call 495-5153 for more information.

Rhonda G. Elliott  
Mayor

Jody O'Bier  
Chief of Police  
Published:  
6-28-23  
7-5-23  
7-12-23

## WHITEHALL FIRE DISTRICT Board Meeting Minutes February 9, 2023

Those present: Terry Bradford, Charlie Bird, Wendell Wilson, Dan Enterkin, Jim Justiss, John Joy, and Marty Joy.

Jim offered prayer and meeting was called to order.

Charlie made motion to accept minutes as read, Wendell second, all in favor motion carried.

Financial report was circulated and signed by board members.

Motion made to reimburse Jim Justiss and Alisha Smith, by Terry Bradford, second by Dan Enterkin, all in favor motion carried.

Forestry grant paperwork due by March 1, 2023.

PIAL rating is this year. Jim has filled out extensive paperwork and ready to mail.

Certificate of Deposit purchased on 1-9-23 with Homeland Bank for \$100,000.00 at rate of 3.40% for

13 months with one bump up during the 13 months.

New Business: Jim has found a 50 foot ladder truck in Pennsylvania. The board approved him to bid up to \$40,000.

Charlie made motion, Terry second, to adopt the second Thursday of every month to hold meeting, all in favor, motion carried.

Dan made motion, Wendell second, to adopt the Jena Times for our publication of minutes, all in favor motion carried.

Terry made motion, Charlie seconded, to adopt Vercher firm to prepare compilation, all in favor motion carried.

General discussion before Charlie made motion, Dan seconded, to adjourn, all in favor motion carried.

Marty Joy  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Published:  
7-5-23

## BID ADVERTISEMENT

The Board of Directors of the Summer-ville-Rosefield Fire Department will receive sealed bids through Thursday, July 20, 2023, for the sale of the following:

1985 International  
S1900  
VIN# 1HTLDTVN0FHA52218

There is a \$3,500 minimum bid.

The truck can be viewed at Fire Station # 2 – 419 Hwy 503, Olla, LA. Please contact Fire Chief, Charlie Savell at (318) 715-0634 to make an appointment to view the truck.

Sealed bids may be mailed to: Summer-ville-Rosefield Fire Dept, P O Box 1482, Jena, LA 71342 or presented in person at the Board of Directors meeting on July 20, 2023 at 7pm at Station #2 – 419 Hwy 503, Olla, LA.

Published:  
7-5-23  
7-12-23  
7-19-23

## SUMMERVILLE-ROSEFIELD FIRE DISTRICT May 25, 2023

The regular meeting of the Summerville-Rosefield Fire District was held on Thursday, May 25, 2023, at seven o'clock P.M. at the Aimoch Station.

Present: David Smith, Leon Keel, Shelby Montpelier, and Shonda Price.

Absent: Glen Peppers

The meeting was called to order on motion by Shonda Price seconded by Leon Keel with David Smith leading with prayer.

The minutes of the April 2023 meeting were accepted on motion by Leon Keel, seconded by Shonda Price and passed by the Board.

The Finance Report for April 2023 was accepted on motion by Leon Keel seconded by Shelby Montpelier and passed by the Board.

Shonda Price made a motion, seconded by Leon Keel and passed by the Board to adopt the 2023 millage rate at 20.05 mills.

Shonda Price made a motion, seconded by Leon Keel and passed by the Board to open the sealed bids for the 1985 International S1900.

Shonda Price made a motion, seconded by Leon Keel and passed by the Board to reject the one bid received from JJ Merchant. The bid did not meet the minimum amount of \$5,000.

Leon Keel made a motion, seconded by Shelby Montpelier and passed by the Board to re-advertise for bids on the 1985 International S1900. Sealed bids will be opened at the June 2023 board meeting.

Shonda Price made a motion, seconded by Leon Keel and passed by the Board to recognize Ronnie Brabham with VFIS Insurance to discuss the Workers' Comp insurance and also discuss the

current Accident & Sickness policy.

Leon Keel made a motion, seconded by Shelby Montpelier and passed by the Board to move the June board meeting to June 22, 2023.

Leon Keel made a motion, seconded by Shelby Montpelier and passed by the Board to approve hose and pump testing to be performed by Brothers Fire Equipment at a rate of 27 cents per foot of hose and \$295 per pump (3 pumps).

Leon Keel made a motion, seconded by Shelby Montpelier and passed by the Board to pay the bills for May 2023.

As there was no other business to be brought before the Board, the meeting was adjourned on motion by Shelby Montpelier, seconded by Shonda Price.

David Smith  
Leon Keel  
Shelby Montpelier  
Shonda Price  
absent: Glen Peppers

Published:  
7-5-23

## TOWN OF JENA Regular Meeting Minutes June 5, 2023

The Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Jena, Louisiana, met in regular session on Monday, June 5, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. at their regular meeting place, the Town Hall.

Mayor LaDawn C. Edwards called the meeting to order; Councilman Tommy Sandifer opened the meeting with prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Council members, Donny Richardson, Lester Francis, David Paul Jones, Wayne Chapman, Tommy Sandifer, and Attorney Evans Dorroh.

The reading of the minutes of the previous meeting was dispensed on a motion by Mr. Chapman and seconded by Mr. Francis. Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Richardson made a motion seconded by Mr. Francis to approve the financial reports for April 2023. Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Jones made a motion seconded by Mr. Chapman to open a public hearing to hear comments on the proposed amendments to ordinances 131 and 157. Motion unanimously approved. No comments were made on either amendment. Mr. Sandifer made a motion seconded by Mr. Francis to close the public hearing. Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Chapman made a motion seconded by Mr. Francis to adopt an amendment to Ordinance 131-Personnel Policies. Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Francis made a motion seconded by Mr. Sandifer to adopt an amendment to Ordinance 157-Utility Rates. Motion unanimously approved.

Firefighter Charlie Savell presented the Fire Report.

Police Chief Scott McLendon presented the police report.

Superintendent Ronny Steele presented the utility report.

Mayor Edwards and the Town Council presented Danny Ainsworth with a plaque recognizing his retirement effective June 1st after serving the town for 33 years.

Mayor Edwards thanked the town crew for hanging the banners and flower baskets downtown. Sales tax collections for April 2022 were \$120,606.68 compared to April 2023 collections of \$162,961.53. We were pleased with the results of the Bonnette Auction held Saturday, May 20, 2023. The selling price for the 2005 Crown Victoria was \$800 and the 2013 Ford Taurus sold for \$2600. The Mayor attended two ribbon cuttings Friday, June 2nd, Olde Town Market and Holy Rollers. She is very proud of our local shopkeepers. The Gibson Venue will hold a ribbon cutting Friday, June 9th at 11:00 a.m. We are in the process of sending out nuisance letters in an effort to bring dilapidated properties into compliance with town regulations. The Mayor will attend the LMA District E meeting which will be held in Pineville on Thursday, June 8th. The bids will be opened Thursday, June 15th at 10:30 a.m. for the East Jena Street project. Avery Michaels will perform at the Strand on June 10th at 6:00 p.m.

As there was no other business to be brought before the Mayor and Town Council, Mr. Richardson made a motion seconded by Mr. Chapman to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 a.m.

LaDawn C. Edwards  
MAYOR

Cory Floyd  
TOWN CLERK  
Published:  
7-5-23

## AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE NO. 157

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Jena, in regular session held on the 5th day of June, 2023, acting in accordance as its authority of the governing body of said Town, that Ordinance No. 157 is hereby amended and supplemented to read as follows:

WHEREAS, it is necessary to amend the uniform rate for providing of water to residence and commercial establishments in the Town of Jena, along with deposits, rates, and fees charged by said Town,

THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED that the water rates be and are hereby established as follows:

W01	RESIDENTIAL	17.50 for 1st 2000 gal plus 6.00 per 1000 gal
W07	RESIDENTIAL INSIDE 2 MIN	35.00 for 1st 2000 gal plus 6.00 per 1000 gal
W08	RESIDENTIAL INSIDE 3 MIN	52.50 for 1st 2000 gal plus 6.00 per 1000 gal
W03	RESIDENTIAL OUTSIDE	24.00 for 1st 2000 gal plus 6.00 per 1000 gal
E02	COMMERCIAL	30.50 for 1st 2000 gal plus 6.00 per 1000 gal
W06	INSTITUTION-AL INSIDE	17.50 for 1st 2000 gal plus 7.50 per 1000 gal

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this Ordinance, as amended is necessary for the public good and convenience and shall take effect from and after the adoption thereof.

The above and foregoing Ordinance having been read and considered, section by section, it was adopted by the following Yea and Nay vote:

Yeas: 5  
Nays: 0  
Absent: 0

The Ordinance was declared adopted on this the 5th day of June, 2023, at the regular meeting of the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Jena, LaSalle Parish, Louisiana.

LADAWN COOPER EDWARDS,  
Mayor, Town of Jena

CORY FLOYD  
Clerk  
Published:  
7-5-23

## TOWN OF JENA PERSONNEL POLICIES AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE 131

An ordinance amending original ordinance 131 and all amendments thereto, setting forth personnel policies for the Town of Jena.

At a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Jena, held on the day of June, 2023, the following Amendment to Ordinance No. 131 of the Town of Jena was considered:

### BEREAVEMENT LEAVE

Effective July 1, 2023, bereavement leave of 3 days is granted for the death of an employee's immediate family. If more than 3 days leave is needed sick leave may be used.

### SEXUAL HARASSMENT

This represents the organizational policy of the Town of Jena concerning sexual harassment. Any questions concerning the context or content of this policy should be discussed with your department head or the Mayor.

It is the belief of the Town of Jena that its employees are the primary means by which the goals and objectives of the municipality will be met. All employees of the Town of Jena must understand its position on harassment. Sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, physical, or inappropriate conduct of a sexual nature when the conduct explicitly or implicitly affects an individual's employment or the holding of office, unreasonably interferes with an individual's work performance, or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment.

Sexual harassment and discrimination in the workplace are prohibited by federal law through the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and by state law through La. R.S. 23:301 et seq. These laws prohibit both quid pro quo harassment, which arises when consent to sexual demands is made an express or implied condition of employment, and hostile work environment harassment, which arises when the workplace is permeated with discriminatory intimidation, ridicule or insult that is sufficiently severe or pervasive to alter the conditions of the victim's employment and created an abusive working environment.

Sexual harassment may be defined as unsolicited, offensive behavior that inappropriately asserts sexuality over employees including but not limited to the following:

- Verbal: Sexual innuendos, suggestive comments, threats, sexual humor;
- Non-Verbal: Leering, whistling, obscene gestures, showing inappropriate images; and
- Physical: Touching, brushing the body, coerced sexual activity, assault, impeding egress or passage.

Sexual harassment and discrimination in the workplace shall not be tolerated and the Town of Jena will take appropriate action to end any such harassment and/or prevent the recurrence of any such misconduct.

If a person's behavior makes an employee uncomfortable, the employee should feel free to immediately advise the person that, in the employee's opinion, the behavior is inappropriate, and that the employee would like it stopped.

Any employee of the Town of Jena may file a complaint of sexual harassment. Any employee who believes he or she has been subjected to unlawful sexual harassment, or has been retaliated against for reporting such activities or assisting in a related investigation of such activities, must report the alleged act immediately or as soon as possible to Cory Floyd, Town Clerk, 2908 E Oak St, Jena, LA 71342, 318-992-2148 or Tori Burlew, Payroll Clerk, 2908 E Oak St, Jena, LA 71342, 318-992-2148. It is not necessary for an employee to complain to an offending supervisor in order to report sexual harassment. If, for whatever reason, the employee does not feel that the persons named in this paragraph are suitable persons to whom to report the incident, the employee should contact the mayor at Town Hall 2908 E Oak St, Jena, LA 318-992-2148.

Whether or not a particular incident is sexual harassment requires a complete factual investigation, and the Town of Jena will conduct such investigations on all complaints in a manner so as not to cause any serious effect on innocent employees who either file a complaint and/or may be the subject of a filed complaint. In all instances, a prompt and thorough investigation will take place, giving careful consideration to protect the rights and dignity of all persons involved.

It is mandatory that all parties to an allegation of sexual harassment participate in the investigation of the incident, and cooperation in the investigation of claims of harassment is an express element of each employee's employment with the Town of Jena. The Town of Jena will take those steps it feels necessary to resolve the problem, which may include verbal or written reprimand, suspension or termination.

The Town of Jena will investigate by gathering information, in as confidential a manner as possible, given the need to investigate the complaint, from all concerned parties, and it will not retaliate against any employee as a result of reports of alleged harassment or cooperation with any investigation. The Town of Jena may consult its legal representative for assistance in determining whether conduct that has occurred does in fact constitute sexual harassment. The Town of Jena may also make subsequent inquiries from time to time to ensure offensive conduct does not resume and/or that the subject of such harassment has not suffered any retaliation.

No retaliation of any kind will be tolerated because an employee in good faith reports an incident of suspected harassment. The supervisor, or other person to whom the complaint was made, will work to establish mutually agreed upon safeguards against retaliation while attempting to mediate any sexual harassment complaint.

Any employee, manager, or supervisor found by the Town of Jena to have unlawfully sexually harassed, or unlawfully retaliated against, another employee will be subject to appropriate discipline,

up to and including termination. If any employee, manager, or supervisor is found by the Town of Jena to have intentionally made a false allegation of sexual harassment, that individual will be subject to appropriate discipline, up to and including termination.

Regardless of the outcome of the investigation by the Town of Jena, a complainant may pursue a claim under state and/or federal law.

Sexual Harassment Training R.S. 42:343 Annual Hour of Sexual Harassment Training Required R.S. 42:343(A)(1)

Each public servant shall receive a minimum of one (1) hour of education and training on preventing sexual harassment during each full calendar year of their public employment or term of office. This means that the one hour of mandated sexual harassment training, as with annual ethics training, must be completed by December 31st of each year.

Additional Annual Training Required for Supervisors R.S. 42:343(A)(2)

Supervisors and any persons designated by the agency to accept or investigate complaints of sexual harassment in their agency are required to receive additional education and training.

Training May be Completed In-Person or Virtually Online R.S. 42:343(B)

Sexual Harassment training may be completed through in-person training or virtually through the internet. Online training is available at Town Hall, 2908 E Oak St, Jena, LA. Employees should contact the Payroll Clerk to schedule training.

Training Records to be Maintained R.S. 42:343(C)

The agency head of each agency shall ensure that each public servant is notified of the agency's policy against sexual harassment and the mandatory training requirement on preventing sexual harassment. The Payroll Clerk, shall be responsible for maintaining records of the compliance of each public servant in the agency with the mandatory training requirement. Each public servant's record of compliance shall be a public record and available to the public in accordance with the Public Records Law.

Posting of Sexual Harassment Policy and Complaint Procedure R.S. 42:343(D)

Each agency head shall ensure that its agency's policy against sexual harassment and its complaint procedure is prominently posted on its website. If the agency does not have a website, a notice on how to obtain the information shall be posted in a conspicuous location in each of the agency's offices.

Mandatory Annual Reports R.S. 42:344(A)

The Mayor shall compile an annual report by February 1st of each year detailing the town's compliance for the previous year with the requirements of the Prevention of Sexual Harassment Law. The report shall contain the following information regarding the town's previous year compliance with the Prevention of Sexual Harassment Law:

- Number and Percentage of Public Servants Completing Sexual Harassment Training Requirements. The Report shall indicate the number of public servants (Public employees and Elected Officials, if any) of the agency that complied with the mandatory annual sexual harassment training. The Report shall also indicate what percentage of the agency this number constitutes.

- Number of Sexual Harassment Complaints Received by the Town. The report shall indicate the number of complaints that the agency received in the prior year, regardless of the ultimate determination.

- Number of Complaints Resulting in a Finding of Sexual Harassment. The Report shall indicate the number of complaints that the agency determined that sexual harassment occurred.

- Number of Complaints Resulting in Discipline or Corrective Action. The Report shall indicate the number of complaints that ultimately resulted in disciplinary or corrective action being taken.

- The Amount of Time Taken to Resolve Complaints. The Report shall indicate the amount of time taken to resolve each complaint. A template, satisfying these reporting requirements, is included at the end of this document.

Reports are Public Record

The annual report shall be a public record and available to the public in the manner provided by the Public Records Law. Public entities, with websites, may want to consider placing a link to their latest report on their website; however, the Law does not mandate such posting. Local government entities are not mandated to submit their reports to anyone else and need only provide inspection or copies of their reports as mandated under the Public Records Law.

Annual Report Template

Town of Jena

Annual Report on Compliance with

Prevention of Sexual Harassment Law, R.S. 42:341, et seq.

[Date of Report]

This report, as required by R.S. 42:344(A), contains information concerning Town of Jena's compliance with the provisions of the Prevention of Sexual Harassment Law, R.S. 42:341, et seq, for the calendar year [year].

- Town of Jena had [Number] public servants complete the mandatory education and training on the prevention of sexual harassment as required by R.S. 42:343(A). This constitutes [Percentage]% participation of the public servants of Town of Jena.

- Town of Jena received [Number] complaints of alleged sexual harassment for the calendar year [Year].

- Of these complaints and upon completion of an investigation, [Number] resulted in a finding that sexual harassment actually occurred.

- Of these complaints which resulted in a finding that sexual harassment occurred, [Number] resulted in disciplinary or corrective action being taken.

- The amount of time required to resolve these complaints were as follows:

Complaint 1: [hours/days]

Complaint 2: [hours/days]

The average time required to resolve all complaints totaled [hours/days].

This report is a public record and is available for public review in accordance with the Public Records Law, R.S. 44:1, et seq.

Sincerely,

LaDawn Edwards

Mayor

If any provision of this ordinance be held invalid, the remainder of this ordinance shall not be affected hereby. The Town reserves the right to amend or repeal this ordinance at any time; and all rights and privileges conferred by this chapter.

After due discussion of the above proposed Amendment of Ordinance No. 131 of the Town of

Continued on next page

# Public Notices

**THE JENA TIMES**  
OLLA-TULLOS-URANIA SIGNAL

**Deadline: Thursday by 4 p.m. • editor@thejenatimes.net • Phone: 318.992.4121 • Fax: 318.992.2287**

**Continued from last page**

Jena, the same was adopted by a roll call vote of the Town Council as follows:

For	5
Against	0
Abstain	0
Absent	0

THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Jena, Louisiana, that the above Amendment of Ordinance No. 131 be and is hereby enacted.

THUS DONE AND PASSED on the 5th day of June, 2023, in Jena, LaSalle Parish, Louisiana.

LaDawn C. Edwards  
Mayor

Cory Floyd  
Clerk  
Published:  
7-5-23

**LASALLE WATERWORKS DISTRICT #1  
P.O. BOX 1  
TROUT, LA. 71371  
June 26, 2023**

The LaSalle Waterworks District #1, Parish of LaSalle, Board of Directors, met on Monday, June 26, 2023 at 11:00 A.M., for their regular monthly meeting.

Present: Josh Corley, John Jenkins, Johnny Beard, Derick Lee, Danny Brown, Jr., and John Smith, Superintendent

The meeting was called to order by Josh Corley, Chairman of the Water Board.

The minutes for the previous meeting was dispensed on a motion made by Danny Brown, Jr., seconded by John Jenkins, and passed by the Board.

The Finance report for the month of May was accepted as given on a motion made by Derick Lee, seconded by Johnny Beard, and passed by the Board.

John Jenkins made a motion, seconded by Johnny Beard, and passed by the Board to approve the payment of bills for the month of May.

As there was no other business to be brought before the Board, the meeting was adjourned on motion by Johnny Beard, and seconded by Danny Brown, Jr.

The next Board Meeting will be on Monday, July 17th at 11:00 a.m.

Published:  
7-5-23

**LASALLE SEWER DISTRICT NO. 1  
PO BOX 1  
TROUT, LOUISIANA 71371  
June 26, 2023**

The LaSalle Sewer District No.1, Parish of LaSalle, Board of Directors, met on Monday, June 26, 2023, at Eleven O'Clock A.M. regular session.

Present: Johnny Beard, John Jenkins, Cliff Smith, Derick Lee, Danny Brown Jr., and John Smith, Superintendent

Absent: None  
The meeting was called to order on a motion by Derick Lee, seconded by Johnny Beard.

The minutes from the previous meeting were dispensed on motion by Cliff Smith, seconded by Johnny Beard and passed by the Board.

The Finance Report was accepted on motion by Cliff Smith, seconded by Johnny Beard and passed by the Board for the month of May.

Johnny Beard made a motion, seconded by Danny Brown Jr., and passed by the Board to approve payment of bills for the month of May.

On a motion made by Derick Lee, seconded by Johnny Beard and passed by the Board to approve the billing adjustment of 6 pool fills for the month of May.

As there was no other business to be brought before the Board, the meeting was adjourned on motion by Derick Lee and seconded by Cliff Smith.

The next Board meeting will be July 17, 2023 at 11 A. M.

Published:  
7-5-23

**EDEN FELLOWSHIP VFD BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
June 20, 2023**

Allen Jones called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Samuel Gulde said the opening prayer.  
Present were: Allen Jones, Etage Manuel, Samuel Gulde, Donald Simmons, Mark Manuel and Jeffery Boneau.

Minutes from the May meeting were read by Etage Manuel. Samuel Gulde made a motion to accept the minutes, second by Donald Simmons.

Treasury Report was given by Donald Simmons. Motion made by Samuel Gulde, second by Etage Manuel to accept the report.

Old Business: Discussed taking the training camper in for insurance claim to Illinois for repairs by mid-July. Fire rating is a 6 but will be re-evaluated by the Fire Marshall Office. Bay door at station 2 will be changed to a manual door instead of an electric. Trickle chargers for the trucks need to be placed in station #2.

Chief Report: 3 grass fire calls this past month. Jim Smith Gas grant for an AED come in.

New Business: Board voted to use the Jena Times as the journal for the next year. Motion by Donald Simmons, second by Samuel Gulde. Board members officers will be Allen Jones, president; Donald Simmons, treasurer; Etage Manuel, secretary. Motion by Samuel Gulde, second by Etage Manuel.

Motion to pay the bills was made by Samuel Gulde, second by Etage Manuel.

Motion to adjourn meeting was made by Donald Simmons, second by Samuel Gulde. 6:17 PM Etage Manuel

Secretary  
Published  
7-5-23

**HARDTNER MEDICAL CENTER BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
May 23, 2023**

The regular board meeting was called to order. Those present are as follows:

- Members Present**  
Mr. Lee Richardel, Chairman  
Mr. Mike Duke, Vice-chairman  
Mr. Rick Smotherman  
Mr. Steve Richardson  
Mr. Steve Tannehill

Mr. Paul G. Mathews, CEO  
**Absent**  
NONE

**Others Present**  
Anna White, CFO  
The minutes from the last board meeting was approved.

**Old Business**  
The board was updated on construction projects as being 70% completed.

**New Business**  
The board adopted the tax millage for the coming year. Motion Rick Smotherman; 2nd Steve Tannehill. Motion passed.

The motion was made and passed to the recommendation to adjust LPN starting pay due to market conditions. Motion Steve Richardson; 2nd Mike Duke. Motion passed.

The board discussed the merits of adding oncology/hematology services after a presentation from a local oncologist. After much discussion the motions passed to offer physician specialty services only. Motion Mike Duke; 2nd Steve Richardson. Motion passed.

The board discussed and passed a motion to reimburse for services related to Chief of Staff duties. Motion Mike Duke; 2nd Steve Richardson. Motion passed.

The board conducted a tour of the new KEN-NETH P. MAUTERER Outpatient Center.

The report of continuous quality improvement was given. The motion was made and passed to accept the report as read.

The CEO gave the Monthly Report of Operations, which included statistical reports, financial statements, trends, market comparison, and strategic opportunities.

The motion was made and passed to accept the Report of Operations. (See attachment)  
There being no further business to discuss, the motion was made and carried to adjourn.

Paul G. Mathews  
CEO/Secretary

Lee Richardel  
Chairman  
Published:  
7-5-23

**BID ADVERTISEMENT**

The LaSalle Parish Sheriff's Office will receive sealed bids through Thursday, July 20, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. for the following:

2013 Silver Ford F150 4WD 4/D 3.5 with 199,225 miles

VIN # 1FTFW1ETXDK71858

Vehicle is available for inspection at the rear parking lot of the LaSalle Parish Courthouse.

The LPSO reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

The LaSalle Parish Sheriff's Office will accept sealed bids at:

LPSO  
F150 Bid  
1050 Courthouse Street  
Jena, LA 71342

Or via mail at

F150 Bid  
LPSO  
P.O. Box 70  
Jena, LA 71342

Published:  
7-5-23  
7-12-23  
7-19-23

**PETIT JURY**

LIST OF RANDOMLY SELECTED JURORS BY NAME FOR PETIT JURY, COURT DATE, 07/24/23, FILED BY STEVE D. ANDREWS, LASALLE PARISH CLERK OF COURT

Adams, Terry Lynn, P.O. Box 163, Trout. Allen, Christopher, P.O. Box 1173, Jena. Allen, Robin Dale, P.O. Box 194, Trout. Anding, Aubrey L., 768 Pleasant Ridge Rd., Olla.

Atwell, Brenton K., 880 Eubanks Rd., Olla. Ayers, Kim M., 183 James Rd., Tullos. Bacle, Joseph Kevin, P.O. Box 728, Jena. Bailey, John Mark, P.O. Box 1359, Olla. Barkdull, Courtney Noel, 1971 W Hebert St., Tullos.

Barrett, Farrah Jolene, 170 Firetower Rd., Trout. Blackwell, Bobby Lynn, P.O. Box 407, Urania. Bonneau, Samuel Bruce, Jr., P.O. Box 111, Tullos.

Borland, June C., Jr., P.O. Box 36, Tullos. Boyd, Lauren Ashley, P.O. Box 908, Jena. Boyett, James Ronald, P.O. Box 884, Olla. Bradford, Richard "Jody", P.O. Box 301, Trout. Bratton, Christina Cox, 5544 Rosefield Rd., Olla.

Breland, Shelly, 210 Breland Rd., Jena. Bynog, Jesse James, 1137 Butercup Lane, Jena.

Calk, Derek Wayne, 641 Panshi Ahata Rd., Trout. Campbell, Larry Wayne, 109 Cardinal Lane, Jena.

Cater, Angela Dean, 121 Quilt Lane, Trout. Chapman, Lawrence L., Sr., 2434 East Jena Dr., Jena. Chevallier, Amber Nicole, 290 Rawlins Rd., Jena.

Clark, Billie Hugh, 1580 Nugent St., Jena. Coker, Lonnie Dustin, P.O. Box 1251, Jena. Coleman, Christopher W., P.O. Box 1793, Jena.

Corley, Robert Carl, P.O. Box 244, Olla. Crump, Lisa Annette, 649 Forest Dr., Jena. Cunningham, Karen Kay, 1072 O'Conner St., Olla.

Davidson, Lisa Wilson, P.O. Box 1041, Jena. Davis, Dave M., P.O. Box 333, Jena. Deville, Chad Owen, P.O. Box 1838, Jena. Deville, Shaun A., 1004 Hwy. 3071, Olla. Dorsey, Darryon Quantre, P.O. Box 2192, Jena.

Dorton, Wesley Ray, 728 Wilbanks Cemetery Rd., Olla. Doughty, Michael E., P.O. Box 35, Tullos. Dunn, Jennifer A., 145 Andy Lane, Olla. Eaves, James Keith, P.O. Box 1797, Jena. Esters, Cathey A., P.O. Box 1301, Jena. Evans, Abby Nicole, 4094 Herring Lane, Jena. Feeheley, Brittny F., 2660 Evelyn Blvd., Jena. Ferrington, Linda T., P.O. Box 2891, Jena. Flower, David Scott, 112 Rock Lane, Jena. Forrest, Jake Wayne, P.O. Box 641, Urania. Francis, Stephanie C., 125 Newt Rd., Jena. Franks, Katelyn Dawn, 1312 Francis St., Jena. Freeman, Christopher B., 1823 N First St., Jena.

Ganey, Anna Marie, 292 Emmanuel Loop, Trout. Garza, Henry Jr., 1032 Tarver Ave #20, Jena. George, Cheyenne Malah, 155 E High School

St., Jena. Goudelock, Lewis W., 254 Pritchard Lane, Jena.

Grantham, Megan Faulkner, 822 Emma Rd., Trout.

Guillet, Carla Shirley, 174 Tidwell Landing, Jena.

Gullette, Donald Ray Jr., 1032 Tarver Ave. Apt. 31, Jena.

Hailey, Jesse W., 190 Teetors Lane, Trout. Hailey, Kimberly B., 14623 Hwy. 8 East, Jonesville.

Hamilton, Bridget G., P.O. Box 456, Olla. Henry, Steven Mac, 1290 Hwy. 459, Olla. Hester, Brandy S., P.O. Box 1292, Olla. Hogan, Chaniel Michael, P.O. Box 606, Jena. Horsfall, George Joseph, 1550 East Jena Dr., Jena.

Howard, Sheila A., P.O. Box 1172, Jena. James, Mo'nita, 642 Yearby Hills Loop, Jena. Jenkins, Alyson Grace, 120 Hance Rd., Jena. Jenkins, Joe Ray, 418 Hatcher Rd., Jena. Johnson, Cesley Nicole, 5715 Tannehill Dr., Urania.

Johnson, Katherine S., P.O. Box 493, Urania. Johnson, Kathy Michelle, P.O. Box 304, Urania.

Johnson, Nicholas Cole, 721 Aline St., Jena. Jones, Paul Brent, 470 McCartney Rd., Olla. Joy, Debra Ann, 126 Landon Lane, Trout. Joy, Jessica G., 737 Hwy. 460, Jena. Ketchens, Annie W., 375 Magnolia Loop, Jena. Ketten, Kenny, P.O. Box 273, Tullos.

Kirkland, Lucas Kyle, P.O. Box 1170, Olla. Ledbetter, Ronald Lucas, P.O. Box 681, Urania.

Linke, Taylor Madison, 1079 Lamb St., Trout. Lloid, Dee Wayne, 115 Elizabeth Dr., Jonesville.

Lollar, Sandra G., P.O. Box 1575, Jena. Loper, Martha W., 150 Triple W Loop, Jena. Malone, Cameron P., P.O. Box 58, Trout. Massey, Shannon W., 5293 Rosefield Rd., Olla. McCann, Benjamin Lamar, 1456 Louisiana St., Jena.

McCartney, Charles Bradley, 597 Gabby Lane, Trout. McDougald, Craig Edward, P.O. Box 352, Jena.

McNaughton, Teresa B., 3147 Church St., Olla. Metcalfe, Daniel Lewis, 2232 Taylor Loop, Jena.

Miles, Danielle Allyso, 1868 Greene St., Olla. Miller, Gayle Smith, 200 Belah Cemetery Rd., Trout.

Mitchell, Ashley Michelle, 13021 Hwy. 84 West, Trout. Morphis, Amber L., 148 Cheyenne Lane, Trout.

Mott, Katelyn Rose, 1480 Quail Dr., Olla. Mullins, Dustin W., 315 Foley Rd., Trout. Mulvihill, Ronnie A., 233 Clyde Rd., Trout. Murphrey, Marvin Douglas, Jr., P.O. Box 313, Tullos.

Musa, Asheed Nagi, 1370 E Hebert St., Tullos. Nugent, Charles Dillon, 781 Hwy. 770, Olla. Nunnery, Floria Dell, 272 Clyde Rd., Trout. Oliveaux, Sonya Lynn, 21224 Hwy. 84 West, Tullos.

Payne, Heath Alan, 2079 Cherrybark Lane, Jena. Poole, Jordan Scott, P.O. Box 1277, Olla.

Poole, Lauren E., 245 Hwy. 773, Trout. Price, Danny Lavon, 1554 Hwy. 773, Trout. Randall, Chad Jeffrey, P.O. Box 424, Olla. Randall, Lindi L., P.O. Box 1922, Jena. Randall, Tina T., P.O. Box 531, Jena. Ranton, Hannah H., 166 Melindy Lane, Jena. Reeves, Brayton Cayde, 702 Hanger Rd., Trout.

Roark, Jenny Claire, 188 A & P Loop, Olla. Robbins, April D., P.O. Box 1095, Jena. Rogers, Cheyenne Autumn, 137 Standard Church Rd., Olla.

Rogers, Melissa Lynay, P.O. Box 504, Urania. Rowton, David James Jr., 1099 Jasmine Lane, Jena.

Rutledge, Kathy L., P.O. Box 84, Rhinehart. Salter, Cherry B., 8462 Beechwood Loop, Olla.

Sanders, Khristi L., P.O. Box 2, Jena. Sanders, Rhonda P., P.O. Box 77, Jena. Shelton, Wanda, P.O. Box 1186, Jena. Sibley, Janet, P.O. Box 592, Urania. Smith, Devon Delaine, 325 Sanders Loop, Trout.

Smith, Peggy Pepper, P.O. Box 144, Olla. Smith, Ralph Edward Jr., 325 Sanders Loop, Trout.

Smoot, Tyler Cole, 373 Sterns Rd., Olla. Starks, Sherita Shynett, P.O. Box 461, Jena. Stevens, Rachel Jackson, 322 Hwy. 773, Trout. Stovall, David Logan, P.O. Box 3020, Jena. Street, Derrick Garland, 299 Cockerham Rd., Olla.

Tassin, Seth C., 141 Deville Hill, Jena. Townsley, Jennifer, P.O. Box 182, Jena. Trahan, Jonathan Paul, 190 Duck Slough Dr., Jena.

Turnage, Tate Nathan, 101 Lake Rd., Jena. Voight, Tamerice R., 1450 W Tennessee St., Jena.

Walker, Amanda Gayle, 150 Masters Dr., Jena. Webb, Amber Lynn, 9850 Hwy. 84 E, Jena. Webb, Richard Todd, P.O. Box 2418, Jena. Webb, Samuel Trace, P.O. Box 1343, Jena. Whatley, Kaley Grace, 160 Georgie Lane, Jena.

Wiley, Amanda, P.O. Box 134, Tullos. Williams, Angela M., 255 McCann Rd., Trout. Williams, Gerald J. Jr., 1032. Tarver St. #35, Jena.

Wilson, James David, P.O. Box 286, Jena. Wilson, Kayla Laine, 1176 Azalea St., Jena. Wilson, Laken J., P.O. Box 1252, Jena. Wilson, Lilly Anna, 177 Randall Loop, Olla. Windham, Jacob Wayne, 752 Benelbie Rd., Trout.

Windham, Najla K., P.O. Box 699, Jena. Winegert, Mariah Lynn, P.O. Box 554, Olla. Wood, Bennie Joe, 1006 Tousley Dr., Olla. Woddard, James Leroy, P.O. Box 303, Tullos. Zeagler, Mason Kade, 410 Zeagler Cutoff, Olla.

Zeagler, Terry L., 410 Zeagler Cutoff, Olla. STATE OF LOUISIANA PARISH OF LASALLE

I hereby certify the above and foregoing is a true and correct list of names drawn by the Jury Commission of LaSalle Parish, Louisiana, to serve as PETIT Jurors, commencing Monday, July 24, 2023

STEVE D. ANDREWS  
Clerk of Court

In and For LaSalle Parish, Louisiana

Published:  
7-5-23

# Need a Baby Shower Idea?



How about a gift certificate for a Birth Announcement so everyone will know the bundle of joy has arrived?

## It is now an option to run in color!

**THE JENA TIMES**  
OLLA-TULLOS-URANIA SIGNAL

This Certificate Entitles You To A **BABY ANNOUNCEMENT**  
(Includes Announcement And 2 Column Black & White Photo)  
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# LaSalle Parish Devotional Page

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## Mirror Neurons & Why Love Engenders Love

Mirror neurons are nerve cells in the brain which fire both when the individual acts and when the individual observes someone else doing the action in question. They were discovered by Italian neurophysiologists in the 1990s who were studying hand and mouth movements in macaque monkeys. What they discovered, almost by accident, is that the neurons controlling these movements became active when the monkeys saw people picking up food and eating. Since then, mirror neurons have been found in many areas of the brain and it has been proposed that large areas of the human brain may act in a similar way, explaining why we suddenly feel happy when we see someone laughing and smiling, or why we might flinch when we see someone trip and fall. Perhaps this is the explanation for why emotions tend to engender similar emotions in others and has been proposed as the neural basis for empathy. Of course it doesn't take a brain surgeon or a rocket scientist to know that happy people make others happy, while angry or anxious folks make others angry or anxious. So, we should try to be happy, be lovable, and make the world a better place by smiling at everyone you meet.

- Christopher Simon



**"A happy heart makes the face cheerful, but heartache crushes the spirit."**  
 Proverbs 15: 13

## CHURCH DIRECTORY

- |   |   |  |
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