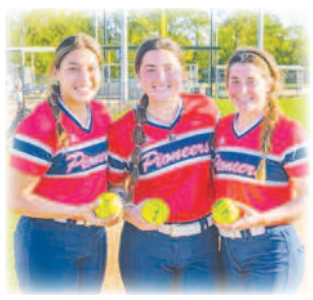
CAMPUS

- RHS Easter Fun
- Livestock Winners
- RCE Cheer Camp



SPORTS

- ND Softball Breaks National Record
- Diamond Action



LIFESTYLE

- Wedding Celebrated
- Garden of the Month
- Frog Fest Pageants

126TH YEAR, NO. 26 RAYNE, LA

The Rayne
Acadian-Tribune

THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2021 1 SECTION, 12 PAGES $1.00 COPY

Acadia's State of the Parish Luncheon held

BY STEVE BANDY
La. State Newspapers

CROWLEY - Overall, Acadia Parish is in pretty good shape after surviving a year-long pandemic, a pair of hurricanes and an Arctic freeze. But it took teamwork — from various teams — to get to this point.

That was the running theme when Sheriff K.P. Gibson, Public School Superintendent Scott Richard and Police Jury President Chance Henry addressed a socially-distanced crowd in the fourth-floor Grand Ballroom of the Grand Opera House for Wednesday's State of the Parish luncheon.

The luncheon was the first since 2019 for the Acadia Parish Chamber of Commerce. Last year's event was canceled by the coronavirus pandemic.

"It's been a challenging year," Gibson said in kicking off the program. "Our team worked really hard since this pandemic started and I'm pleased to say that we had only three positive (COVID-19) tests in our jail to date."



Sheriff K.P. Gibson
"I appreciate all the work my deputies do. You have to have a good team to make this work."



Superintendent Scott Richard
"Our school system for the past year has been one of patience, cooperation and flexibility for our staff and students."



Police Jury President Chance Henry
"Throughout the pandemic we just kept chugging along to make sure we brought services to the citizens."

In the wake of last year's hurricanes, deputies worked not only across the parish but, when off duty, volunteered to cover for deputies in some of the harder-hit areas so that those comrades could "take care of their business."

Teaming up with the police jury, the sheriff's office was able to upgrade medical services at the jail during the past year.

"We went from having an on-call medic to a full-time medical team at the jail," Gibson said.

But everything was not rosy during the past year, according to the sheriff.

"We've had a rash of juvenile crime, here in Crowley, in Rayne ... all across the parish," he said. "The problem we have with that is the lack of juvenile detention facilities."

The nearest such facility is in Nat-

See PARISH, Page 5A

Louisiana ranked 38th in total vaccination percentage

Local locations to receive vaccine

Even though Louisiana has opened the coronavirus vaccine to all residents 16 years iof age and older, data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevantion still shows the state is falling behind in the number of people it is vaccinating.

Currently, Louisiana ranks 38th in the country in percentage of its total population that is fully vaccinated, based on data from the CDC, a small step up from 40th in the last two weeks.

Around 16 percent of the state's population is fully vaccinated and approximately 26 percent of the population has had at least one does of the vaccine.

Both Pfizer and Moderna's coronavirus vaccines require two shots, while the Johnson & Johnson vaccine only requires one.

Leading the country in vaccination rates is New Mexico, with 23.5 percent of its population fully vaccinated. Ranked last in percentage of its population vaccinated is Utah, with around 11 percent fully vaccinated.

Overall, Louisiana's vaccination rates may be lower but its vaccination rates for people 65 and above paint a more optimistic picture.

Louisiana ranks 15th in percentage of its 65+ population that is fully vaccinated. Around 57 percent of residents 65 and older have been fully vaccinated and around 70 percent have received at least one dose.

Louisiana has administered roughly 72 percent of the 2.7 million vaccine doses it has received from the federal government, falling behind other areas in the country, but still ahead of other southern states including Mississippi and Alabama.

Louisiana expects to receive another 300,000 does this week, nearly doubling the usual amount of weekly doses it sees.

The one-shot vaccine, a good candidate for mass vaccination events, is now being given at 17 Acadia Parish locations, including two Rayne stops:

• **Rayne** Medicine Shoppe, 913 The Boulevard, Rayne: rayne.medicineshoppe.com/contact or (337) 334-3399

• Acadiana Pediatrics in **Rayne** (337) 334-7554

• Acadia Parish Health Unit, 1029 Capitol Ave., Crowley; (337) 788-7507

• Acadia-St. Landry Hospital, 810 S. Broadway St., Church Point; (337) 684-5435

• Bier's Pharmacy in Crowley; (337) 783-3023

• Carmichael's Cashway Pharmacy, 1002 N. Parkerson Ave., Crowley: (337) 783-7200

• Church Point Community Planning, 731 S. Main St., Church Point: (337) 684-1911

• Crowley Primary Care; (337) 783-4043

• Iota Family Healthcare; (www.facebook.com/Iota-Family-Healthcare-25310861807785/); (337) 779-6000

• Miller's Family Pharmacy, 119 S. Fifth St., Iota: (337) 779-2214

• Super 1 Pharmacy, Crowley (www.brookshires.com/covid19vac)

• SWLA/CHS in Crowley; (wwwswlahealth.org/crowley-la); (337) 783-5519

• The Family Clinic in Crowley (337) 783-7004

• Thrifty Way LLC (337) 684-5401

• Thrifty Way Pharmacy of Church Point; (337) 852-4545

• Walgreens Pharmacy - Crowley, 806 Odd Fellows Road, Crowley: www.walgreens.com/covid19vac

• Walmart Pharmacy, 729 Odd Fellows Road, Crowley: www.walmart.com/store/310-crowely-la or (337) 783-2150

American Legion Home receives new roof



NEW ROOF GOING ON FOR LEGION HOME - Following months of a "waiting game" after Hurricane Delta hit this area, Arceneaux Post 77, American Legion home is finally receiving it's new roof as workers were busy last week removing old shingles and blue tarps and replacing with new roofing material. Commander David Simon noted that locating materials, receiving bids and insurance payment, it has taken a while to begin work, but it's happening. Simon also stated that inside work should begin next week once the roof is completed. The Legion also announced the bar will reopen soon for Legion patrons and the hall will be available for rental once again. (Acadian-Tribune Photo by Lisa Soileaux)

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56018 70578

Possible Louisiana earthquake

SHREVEPORT - A minor earthquake -- 3.0 magnitude -- was recorded in northwest Louisiana on Thursday, April 1, 2021.

The earthquake occurred near the Blanchard area, or just northwest of Shreveport in Caddo Parish.

According to reports, no damage has been reported and there was very little to no ground shaking.

The earthquake took place agt 2:26 a.m. at a depth of 5km or about 3.1 miles beneath the epicenter.

Earthquakes east of the Rocky Mountains are very rare and are most likely to occur in the east Texas region.



TELEVISION INTERVIEW - Cameraman Larry Burns and television host Tanji Patton of Goodtaste TV, left, were busy last week interviewing Shane Spallino, Shannon Spallino and Debbie Spallino for an upcoming episode of Goodtaste With Tanji, a popular Facebook site composed in Texas area. The crew interviewed the Spallinos, filmed the Cajun Claws staff during working hours and highlighted their specialties. (Acadian-Tribune Photo by Josie Henry)

Obituaries



Mary Grace Gautreaux Breaux

RAYNE - Funeral services were held Saturday, April 3, 2021, at 1 p.m. at Gossen Funeral Home Chapel in Rayne, for Mary Grace Gautreaux Breaux, 84, who died Tuesday, March 30, at The Carpenter House of St. Joseph Hospice in Lafayette.

Interment was in St. Joseph Cemetery #2 in Rayne.

Deacon Denis LaCroix with St. Joseph Catholic Church in Rayne, conducted the funeral services.

Survivors include her three daughters, Sheila Breaux Mouton and spouse Nathan Mouton, Pauline Breaux Gilbert and spouse Daniel Gilbert, Ruth Breaux, and one son, Dwayne Breaux and spouse Becky Breaux, all of Rayne.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Roland Anthony Breaux; father, Ulysse Gautreaux; mother, Edith Leger Gautreaux; four sisters, Gertie G. Baudoin, Hazel G. Abshire, Mabel G. Dupuis and Masil G. Guidry; and seven brothers, Howard Gautreaux, George Gautreaux, Julien Gautreaux, Eddie Gautreaux, Lloyd Gautreaux, Curtis Gautreaux and Jesse Gautreaux.

Pallbearers were Michael Breaux, Eric Breaux, Andrew Mouton, Jacob Mouton, Elliot Gilbert and T. J. Poirrier.

A Rosary was prayed Saturday, April 3, at 11 a.m. in Gossen Funeral Home in Rayne.

The family requested visitation in Gossen Funeral Home in Rayne, on Saturday, April 3, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

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



Thomas J. Sonnier II

RAYNE - Funeral service will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 10, 2021, at Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church in Rayne, for Thomas J. Sonnier II, 74, who entered eternal rest on Sunday, March 28, at Ochsner Lafayette General Hospital. Interment will be in the church cemetery.

Father Joe Champion and Father Emmanuel Awe will officiate the funeral mass.

Mr. Sonnier was a member of Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church in Rayne. He also belonged to a numerous clubs and organizations.

Mr. Sonnier leaves to cherish his memories his wife, Gloria Joseph Sonnier of Rayne; one son, Thomas J. Sonnier III (Colencia Davidson) of Humble, Texas; three daughters, Kimesha E. Sonnier of Houston, Texas, Gwendolyn Callier (Bobby) of Lafayette, and Venita Rollins of New Orleans; one step-brother, Lloyd Antoine of Eunice; 13 grandchildren, Thomas J. Sonnier IV, Robert Callier, Ellis Callier, Leland Callier, Tahariah Sonnier, Tamia Sonnier, Toren Sonnier, Trevien Sonnier, Taylen Sonnier, Taliyah Sonnier, Tori Sonnier, Talaya Sonnier and Corey D. Saunders; one great-granddaughter on the way, Summer Callier; and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Classie LeBlanc and Ethel Sonnier; one brother, Dewayne LeBlanc; and one sister, Wanda LeBlanc.

Visitation will be held Saturday, April 10, from 10 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. at Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church.

Please be advised that safety measures and precautions provided by the state of Louisiana due to COVID-19 will be followed. Masks are required for those who will be in attendance.

The family wishes to express their sincere thanks to Ochsner Lafayette General Hospital and to all of the family and friends that called, checked in and shared words of comfort. You all are appreciated.

Words of condolences may be expressed at fordandjosephfh.com.

Ford and Joseph Funeral Home, 577 N. Avenue C, Crowley, LA, (337) 514-5217, is in charge of arrangements.



Donald "Rod" Terry Mier

BAKER - Donald "Rod" Terry Mier, 82, was called to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on March 31, 2021.

He entered this world on May 1, 1938, born to Frank and Naomi Mier, in Rayne.

Rod honorably served his country in the United States Navy. He worked for Petroleum Helicopters in Lafayette, Pennington Biomedical Research Center and Earl K. Long Hospital in Baton Rouge. He was a member of St. Isidore Catholic Church.

Rod is survived by his loving wife of 55 years, Barbara Ann LeBlanc Mier; sons, Matthew James Mier (Connie) and Michael Lawrence Mier; grandchildren, Trilby Erwin (Carlton), Anthony Mier, Jakob Mier and Kristen Risinger-Mills (Jacob); great-grandchildren; Kelton, Dillon, Ryan, Madison, Katie and Benji; and a host of nieces and nephews.

Rod is preceded in death by his father, Frank Mier; mother, Naomi Navarre Mier; brother, James Dale Mier; and sisters, Esther Sarver, Ruby Conque, Lula Perrodin, Annie Grundy and Margie Murray.

Relatives and friends were invited to join the family for visitation at St. Isidore Catholic Church, 5657 Thomas Road, on Tuesday, April 6, from 9 a.m. until military honors at 10:50 a.m. The Funeral Mass followed at 11 a.m., officiated by Father Frank Bass.

Family and friends may sign the online guestbook or leave a personal note for the family at www.bakerfuneralhomeonline.com.



Robert Lee Coleman

Alpha May 28, 1991
Omega April 2, 2021

RAYNE - A memorial service will be held at a later date for Robert Lee Coleman, 29, who died on Friday, April 2, 2021.

Robert was born to Joanette Latrice Coleman and Robert Lee Hamilton Jr. on May 28, 1992. He was then Baptized as an infant at Cunningham Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in Rayne.

He graduated from Louisiana Technical College with Class #60, where he received his Practical Nurse License.

Robert leaves to cherish his memories his grandparents, Patrick Gail Coleman and Joseph Victor Jr.; paternal grandmother, Dorothy Rochester; uncle, Brandon (Shelly) Coleman; great-grandmother, Vernita Coleman; godmother, Yolanda K. Harris; godfather, Damian Coleman Sr.; several aunts, uncles and cousins; special friends, Tony Johnson, Thera Guidry and Kolbi Senegal Payne; a special cousin and caretaker, Kimberly Augustus; a special aunt, Mary Jane (Albert) Frank; and all his nursing friends and colleagues.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Joanette Latrice Coleman; father, Robert Lee Hamilton Jr.; paternal grandfather, Robert Lee Hamilton Sr.; maternal great-grandmother, Mable L. Evans; and an infant brother, Milton Francis III.

Kinchen Funeral Home Inc., 1011 North Saint Antoine Street, Lafayette, LA 70501 is in charge of arrangements.

Drugs, weapons seized; 10-year-old found with loaded AK-47 in vehicle

CROWLEY - An Oberlin man is facing federal charges after police found narcotics and weapons inside his vehicle.

Jeremy Leblanc is facing multiple charges stemming from a search of his vehicle late Saturday night in the parking lot of a local restaurant.

Crowley Police Chief Jimmy Broussard said police had initially responded to a male who had overdosed inside the vehicle. Also in the vehicle were Leblanc's wife and four children, ages 12, 10, 2 and one month.

As police began searching the vehicle, Leblanc's wife reportedly told officers that there were narcotics and loaded firearms in the vehicle. Police reportedly found cocaine and fentanyl in the cupholder of the front of the can.

In the backseat, officers found two handguns on the floor and the 10-year-old boy holding a loaded and live (safety off) AK-47 seated next to his siblings.

Broussard said officers attempted to safely remove the weapon from the child's possession but the boy refused to willingly hand it over and a struggle ensued.

Broussard said officers spoke "calmly" with the child and "tried to gain his trust"and were eventually able to coax the rifle away from him.

Leblanc, who was administered Narcan during his overdose and is now in stable condition, was charged with four counts of illegal use of a controlled dangerous substance in the presence of a juvenile, three counts of possession of a firearm in the presence of controlled dangerous substances and two counts of possession of Schedule II narcotics.





APSB committee OKs construction contract

BY DESIRAY SEAUX
La. State Newspapers

CROWLEY - Bids for the construction of new classrooms at Egan Elementary School will be presented to the Acadia Parish School Board when it meets on April 19.

The board's Budget and Finance Committee reviewed bids Monday, March 22, recommending acceptance of the low bid submitted by L.K. Breaux Construction of Crowley.

The growing school will add four classrooms and both a boys' and girls' restroom.

Board member Milton Simar noted that the project cost "a lot more money than expected" but he has worked closely with fellow member Doug Lacombe to get this project started.

The committee also heard an informational report regarding two Industrial Tax Exemption Program proposals from Supreme Rice, LLC, for their Crowley and Mermentau locations.

Supreme Rice is in the process of a massive expansion including plans for the old building to be completely torn down and rebuilt; installation of automated systems; redoing the rail system; and replacing the wooden bins with metal bins.

The committee also questioned representatives of DS Bus South concerning bus routes that have not been run in a week and routes being canceled and combined.

Board members also expressed concerns about the number of children being returned to the schools in the afternoons because parents were not present at the bus stops.

The board voiced concerns over staff having to return to school until the parents are located.

The bus service representatives explained that the company has been suffering from a shortage of drivers since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Troy LeBouef, transportation manager, sad the company is experiencing about 20 percent daily absences — or about 16 call-ins — and has seen those numbers climb to above 20 some days.

Also, according to LeBouef, new driver trainees are either quitting the CDL course or receiving the CDL and leaving for a different job.

The Budget and Finance Committee also:

• heard a review on budget-to-actual comparisons on the General Fund and all special revenue funds. Board CFO Justin Carrier reported that "everything seems to be on target."

• approved the purchase of five buses to be used as activity buses dependent upon allowability of ESSERF II funding.

According to Superintendent Scott Richard, the district is hoping to use stimulus funds for the purchase of the new buses to help mitigate athletic travels and social distancing requirements. He also noted that the buses would be equipped with air conditioning as required by COVID-19 pandemic guidelines.

• approved the consideration of summer remediation pay schedules.

Richard explained that a summer remediation program is needed and warranted in the district and he asked to bump up the pay of the personnel using funds from the government for COVID-19 relief.

The Personnel, Insurance and Curriculum Committee received the monthly report from the Head Start program.

The program is maintaining normal operations with all COVID-19 mitigations in place and is currently recruiting students for next year.

The committee also approved the 2021-2022 school calendars.

Committee members also discussed the system's Health Insurance Vesting Schedule.

Milton Simar said he does not think the system is fair.

Currently, a system employee must participate for 20 years to be fully vested in the insurance program to have 65 percent of health insurance premiums payed at retirement.

However, there are different levels of vesting for those that retire prior to 20 years of participation in the health insurance program.

Simar asked that the board consider changing the vesting schedule for special circumstance or unexpected situations.

The full board is expected to vote on these matters at the full board meeting on April 19. The meeting was moved back from its original meeting date due to the Easter holidays.



COLLECTED MOST EGGS - Collecting the most eggs in their age group and awarded large Easter baskets during the 2021 City of Rayne Easter Eggstravaganza held Saturday, March 27, at Mauboulas Park were, front row, from left, Paul Gagliano (0-4 years), Hunter Hains (5-8 years), Easter Bunny, Karsyn Stutes (egg decorating winner); Lyla Woodard (9-12 years); back row, Mayor Chuck Robichaux and Chairman Suzette Leonards. (Acadian-Tribune Photo by Josie Henry)



GOLDEN EGG WINNERS - Golden egg winners of the 2021 City of Rayne Easter Eggstravaganza held Saturday, March 27, at Mauboulas Park by the City of Rayne were Abigail Vercher, left, and Alaiha Rougeau, right, joined by Mayor Chuck Robichaux and Chairman Suzette Leonards. (Acadian-Tribune Photo by Josie Henry)

Parish-wide thefts of utility vehicles causing concerns

ACADIA PARISH - Detectives with the Acadia Parish Sheriff's Office are receiving complaints of thefts parish-wide of 4-wheeler, dirt bike and utility trailers.

One stolen 4-wheeler is described as a Honda 420 Rancher, red in color with a custom light bar, ITP mud tires and a manual shift.

Two dirt bikes stolen recently are described as a CRF50F and CRF80F. Both bikes are Hondas, red and white in color, one with orange fenders.

Everyone is reminded to secure items and take the necessary steps to protect their property. There is a market for these items with criminals on the lookout for them.

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

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

SOLD PROPERTIES

538 MIMS, CROWLEY
141 LABELLE DR
6358 MIRE HWY
201 S 1ST STREET
LOT 1 BOUDREAUX RD
LOT 2 BOUDREAUX RD
LOT 6 MECHE RD
800 E BRANCHE ST

PENDING PROPERTIES

335 TOBY MOUTON, DUSON
6309 WINBECK RD, GUEYDAN
LOT 3 L BOUDREAUX RD
331 TOBY MOUTON RD
108 LOUISA
916 BUTLER
1322 BAJAT RD

FEATURED HOMES



200 LODGE DR #505 - Rare find! 2 bed 2.5 bath, 1077 sq. ft., all appliances included with upgrades! Galley kitchen, fresh paint, granite and more! **$92,500**



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

RESIDENTIAL HOMES

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

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

210 S PARKERSON ST - Turn of the century home that is ready for your loving care! 4,502 sq. ft. 2 story home features 4 beds and 3 baths on over 4 city lots. Make this your forever home and own a piece of history! NEW PRICE **$185,000**

600 S CUNNINGHAM - Generous spaces with 1,862 sq. ft. of quality construction, new roof and carpets and beautiful wood floors! In addition to the beautiful corner lot for outside recreation, the interior offers amazing storage space, eat in snack bar, breakfast area and more! Additional finished 520 sq. ft. area with bath for in-law suite or recreation. **$198,000**

258 SHADY LANE - 12 acres & horse farm ready and the home of your dreams! Finally get that country property you've been dreaming of! 4 bedrooms and baths, over 4000 sq. ft. and horse amenities abound! **$1,250,000**

LOTS/ACREAGE/HOMESITES FOR SALE

HOMESITES lots available minimum 1500 sq. ft. living, country north of Rayne, SLEMCO and Mire Water. call us for details!

22 ACRES of divisible city land with 2 generous frontages! Can be subdivided! Call Rayne Realty!

SOUTHEASTERN AND SOUTH BRADFORD – 1.15 acres fronting on both streets, 170.13' frontage by 292' deep from street to street. **$70,000**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

804 S ADAMS – Main St lot 63 x 128 - slab, city utilities, corner lot. **$23,000**

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

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

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

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

2510 CHURCH POINT HWY – LOCATION! I-10 exchange 2 miles from this 25,000 sq. ft. office/warehouse/professional business space ready for your business! Warehouse offers 16 ft overhead doors for splitting it up if it's too much space and the 2 story office space offers lease space as well! Or use it all! Endless possibilities! REDUCED **$380,000**

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Editorial

Biden should overturn this decision and protect American jobs



Rick Manning

President Joe Biden has the power to overturn the recent U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) decision in a trade dispute involving the importation and sale of certain lithium-ion batteries, battery cells, battery modules, and battery packs, which would do significant damage to United States interests in growing a domestic battery manufacturing capacity — and he should exercise it in order to protect American jobs that are now at stake.

SK Innovation, a South Korean company, is building a vehicle battery manufacturing plant in the state of Georgia which would employ 2,600 Georgians by the beginning of 2024 as they manufacture specially designed electric batteries for the new Ford EV F-150 truck and the Volkswagen's Chattanooga, Tennessee electric vehicle manufacturing plant.

SK Innovation will also manufacture a large percentage of batteries available on the open market, manufacturing capacity that is sorely needed today. When fully complete, SK Innovation's Georgia battery plant is expected to produce as many as 330,000 batteries each year that can be used for electric vehicles and residential stationary storage (ESS).

Unfortunately, the USITC's decision effectively destroys this promise, creating inevitable delays in the ability to meet President Biden's stated goals for domestic EV production.

While the decision purports to allow for a limited transition period for SK Innovation to meet the needs of its clients, the ITC has otherwise banned SK from importing critical components for its batteries for 10 years. It is absurd on its face to assume that any company would continue building and staffing for a massive U.S. manufacturing facility when it will be so drastically limited in its operations, and will effectively be closed before it can even be brought to full capacity.

What's more, given the unique nature of the SK Innovation batteries, which are designed specifically for each automaker, it is not feasible to transfer production to another domestic or foreign battery manufacturer and still meet the automakers' production schedule.

On both the national security and international trade levels, it is critical that domestic auto manufacturers have the ability to source their batteries in the U.S. In the case of foreign based manufacturers like Volkswagen, the U.S.-Mexico-Canada (USMCA) trade agreement requires a Regional Value Content of 75 percent, which becomes extremely difficult if not impossible to meet should Biden allow this mistaken decision to stand.

I don't agree with the Biden administration's underlying rationale behind the push for electric vehicles. However, the business decision made by Ford and Volkswagen to continue their aggressive expansion into this market should not be delayed for years due to what effectively amounts to a trade dispute between two South Korean competitors. Additionally, experts have pointed out that limiting production of these batteries here in the US will create an even greater opportunity for the Chinese to continue dominating electric battery production and leave the US behind.

Another concern is that LG, the complainant in the USITC suit, through one of its units in South Korea (LG Uplus) uses Huawei as a vendor for its 5G network technology. This has raised major concerns as the US has worked to encourage nations across the world to join the clean network initiative and not use Huawei technology in 5G infrastructure. South Korea has not joined that effort and as a result LG is the only mobile carrier in South Korea to use Huawei.

Given the recent experience in Anchorage, where the Chinese government demonstrated public contempt for America and our representatives, it would be significant for the administration to put new weight into the Clean Network Initiative as a whole. Striking down the USITC decision in this case would send a powerful, proportional message in that regard.

President Biden has a unique opportunity to stand up for American manufacturing and the jobs it will create, while demonstrating strong leadership in our nation's relationship to China. To make the most of it, Biden should reject this USITC decision.

Rick Manning is the President of Americans for Limited Government.

Vaccine passports to hell



Jeff Crouere

Columnist

The latest CDC report shows that approximately 162 million COVID-19 vaccine doses have been administered. This number is increasing steadily every day. These results show that millions of Americans are not reluctant to take the vaccine.

Despite the impressive distribution statistics, there is not universal support for the vaccine. On almost every major issue in the country there is diversity of opinion and this is certainly true for a topic as controversial as the COVID-19 vaccine.

A recent poll discovered that 41%% of Republicans will not get the coronavirus vaccine. These results mimic other polls that have been taken in recent weeks. Unfortunately, these Republicans, along with millions of other Americans who refuse the vaccine, might face a severe infringement of their freedoms.

It seems that vaccine passports are being encouraged by the Biden administration and are being developed by their ideological partners in academia and corporate America.

On Friday, Cornell University President Martha Pollack and Provost Michael Kotlikoff issued a statement that all students returning to the "Ithaca, Geneva, and Cornell Tech campuses for the fall semester" will be required to have a COVID-19 "vaccination."

This announcement follows a similar statement issued by Rutgers University last week. In the days ahead, many other universities will surely issue similar vaccine requirements for the fall semester.

The vaccine requirements will not be limited to colleges and universities. Soon, the leading corporations in the country may require a vaccine for their employees to work in office settings. Such vaccine passports may also be required to fly or to attend special events such as concerts and athletic contests.

The concept of vaccine passports should horrify Americans, regardless of their personal stance on the issue. As Americans, we should have the freedom to either take the vaccine or not.

While older Americans may feel more vulnerable and want to take the vaccine, others should be able to refuse it for whatever reason. Some Americans might not trust the government or the pharmaceutical companies, others may have read online reports about serious side effects, including deaths, that have occurred after taking the vaccine.

In America, we should have the right to say "no," especially on issues regarding our personal health. Fortunately, a few political leaders, such as South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem, have shown courage by publicly condemning vaccine passports. However, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis has not only condemned vaccine passports, but he has also acted.

On Friday, he issued an executive order banning vaccine passports in his state. In the declaration, he stated that "requiring so-called COVID-19 vaccine

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Cajun Anthem? Oh meo myo!

C'est Vrai



Jim Bradshaw

Columnist

After the epic poem "Evangeline," the best-known rhyme about the Cajun country might be Hank Williams's "Jambalaya," even if nobody who's ever lived on any Louisiana bayou ever called anyone else "ma cher amio."

Some people claim "Jambalaya" may be even better-known than "Evangeline," and attribute that to the fact that Longfellow never thought about rhyming "good-bye Joe" with "me gotta go," and that he just never could find a really good rhythm guitar player.

Since Williams released his famous version in 1952, a long list of performers from the Grand Ole Opry to the Liberty Theater have tried their hands at it, making "Jambalaya" one of the best recognized, if least authentic, songs about the Cajun country. The list of copycat artists runs from A to Z (Paul Anka to the Zydeco Flames), and includes such likely and unlikely names as Rex Allen, Brenda Lee, Little Jimmy Dickens, Jerry Lee Lewis, Jimmy Newman, George Jones, Kitty Wells, Fats Domino, Connie Stevens, Conway Twitty, Roy Orbison, Waylon Jennings, Pat Boone and Gerry and the Pacemakers.

Hank's version topped the country music charts for 14 weeks, and Louisiana music historian John Broven claims that the Williams recording made "Jambalaya" "the best known Cajun-based country song ever."

I don't think any of the other versions reached the top of the pile. Probably the next most noteworthy version was by fellow Grand Ole Opry performer Moon Mullican, who many people believe wrote or, at least, co-wrote the song.

Moon, who was baptized Aubrey Wilson Mullican, in Polk County, Texas, had about as much Cajun blood as the Alabama-born Williams, but that apparently has nothing to do with anything. (Remember that the Louisiana legislature once tried to make a poem about Mississippi our "official" state verse.)

Whatever its authorship, somewhere along the line "Jambalaya" acquired a reputation as a genuine Cajun folk song, which it isn't. But it does have a tiny bit of authenticity in its Cajun pedigree. The melody is based on "Grand Texas," made popular by The Hackberry Ramblers, Papa Cairo and Aldus Roger, among others, although the lyrics to the two songs have little in common.

"Grand Texas" is a song about a woman who left the singer to run off with another man to Texas, while in "Jambalaya" the singer and his girl Yvonne plan to stay at home and "have big fun on the bayou." (Have you ever noticed how many Cajun songs talk about running off to Texas? Why would a good Cajun want to do that?)

Lots of folks assumed that Williams came to write the song because of his association with the "Louisiana Hayride" radio show that began beaming music across the South via the 50,000-watt radio station KWKH in the spring of 1948. But the "Hayride" was produced in Shreveport and was much more oriented to country music than to Cajun.

A member of Moon Mullican's family thinks the song's origins come from a small south Louisiana bar owned by a woman named Yvonne on a bayou where Hank, as was his wont, had more than one wonderful time, some of which he could actually remember the next day.

That story has a ring of truth to it, particularly since Moon Mullican's nickname supposedly was given to him for his predilection for whiskey of all flavors, but especially for moonshine.

Government Information

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http://gov.louisiana.gov

U.S. Senator John Kennedy, B11 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; Phone: (202) 224.4623 or (504) 589.2753
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Email - stefanskij@legis.la.gov

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The Oldest Weekly in Acadia Parish
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WALKING WAY OF THE CROSS HELD - The annual Walking Way of the Cross was held on Good Friday, April 2, hosted by St. Joseph Catholic Church and Shrine of Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church. A large crowd gathered at 9 a.m. at St. Joseph Church, walked to Our Mother of Mercy Church, and returned to St. Joseph, all while praying the Stations of the Cross. The beautiful community devotion honored the Lord's passion as all prepared for Easter Sunday. (Acadian-Tribune Photo by Josie Henry)

PARISH

Continued From Page 1A

chez, Mississippi, according to Gibson. And it costs the parish $250 a day to hold a juvenile there.

He said area sheriffs are considering a regional approach to the problem.

"The Florida Parishes banned together and they have one for just them. They won't take in anyone from outside," Gibson said. "We're looking closely at a similar type operation in Acadiana."

The sheriff went on to highlight some of the advances and upgrades in his department and cited a number of crime statistics, all of which will be featured in detail when his Annual Report is released some time next week.

"But this is not a 'me' thing, it's a 'team' thing. I appreciate the work my deputies do. You have to have a good team to make this work."

Richard also acknowledged the many challenges faced by the school system in the last year.

"This past school year has been one of patience, cooperation and flexibility for our staff and students," he said, recalling the March 13, 2020, announcement that schools would be closing.

"On that 'Friday the 13th' our team started planning for contingencies," he said.

He outlined many of the steps the school system administrators took in the wake of the announcement, everything from putting together food programs for students to figuring out rural teaching plans to holding graduation ceremonies.

"And we kept getting mixed signals from the state and from the CDC all the while," Richard said. "We took some pretty aggressive steps, but learned that we were not in control."

Then, when the new school year started, so did the hurricanes.

"We're still dealing with damage from those," he said, noting that the board will be accepting bids on the complete re-roofing of Crowley High, Church Point Elementary and Estherwood Elementary.

"We knew it was more important to bring the younger students — pre-K through fifth — back as soon as possible," he said.

By mid-November the sixth, seventh and eighth graders had returned and on Dec. 7, 2020, "all of our students were back in the classrooms," he said.

When schools opened on Sept. 8, 2020, approximately 3,000 students in Acadia Parish were enrolled in all-virtual classes. "That number is down to 640 today— less than 10 percent of our enrollment," Richard said.

The superintendent had special thanks for "Crowley's own Dr. Tina Stefanski," medical director for Region 4, Louisiana Department of Health.

"I had her number on speed dial and I used it nearly every day for a while there," he said.

Looking forward, Richard said he hopes to establish a closer working relationship with South Louisiana Community College "and offer more opportunities for our students to utilize the Crowley campus."

Henry was two and a half months into his first term as a member and president of the Acadia Parish Police Jury when the "shut down" occurred. Secretary-Treasurer Bryan Borill was two weeks into his new job and Office of Homeland Security Director Ashley LeBlanc had practically just walked into her office for the first time the day the governor shut down the state.

"But we did alright," Henry said. "Throughout the pandemic we just kept chugging along to make sure we brought services to the citizens."

While sales tax revenues never bottomed out the way most thought they would, state revenue sharing funds did decrease dramatically, he added.

"And now we're going to get $12 million from the federal government, but we really don't know how we can use it yet," Henry said. "We've got legal working on it to determine how we can use it."

Henry said the two hurricanes that rolled through Acadia Parish "were rough."

"We had some damage to some of our buildings, too, but our biggest problem was the mosquitoes," he said.

"We got together and saw that we had some surplus money in the Mosquito Fund and we put planes in the air twice," he said. "We sprayed every square mile of the parish after Laura and nearly every square mile after Delta."

Currently, the police jury is working with the various drainage districts across the parish in an effort to consolidate efforts.

"They'll still have their individual districts, but we're trying to get them all to work together as a parish," Henry explained.

Comparing upgrades at the Acadia Rice Arena to the turfing of the fields at the Crowley Recreation Complex, Henry said the Arena is a "major revenue generator" for the parish.

"We're planning to add an air-conditioned press box and do some other things out there," he said. "The goal is to get bigger rodeos and bigger attractions."

Henry noted that the Arena is booked "practically 365 days a year."

He thanked the administrative office and "all the parish employees" for their dedication during the past year.



HOSTED STATE OF THE PARISH LUNCHEON - The Acadia Parish Chamber of Commerce hosted the 2021 Annual State of the Parish Luncheon on Wednesday, March 31, at the Grand Opera House of the South. Among those on hand for the event were, from left, Amy Thibodeaux, Chamber president and CEO; Dr. Eddie Palmer and Blane Faulk, Chamber board members; Acadia Parish School Superintendent Scott Richard, speaker; Jackie Loewer, Dan Nugier and Lee Lawrence, Chamber board members; and Acadia Parish Sheriff K.P. Gibson and Acadia Parish Police Jury President Chance Henry, speakers. (Photo Submitted)

CROUERE

Continued From Page 4A

passports for taking part in everyday life – such as attending a sporting event, patronizing a restaurant, or going to a movie theater – would create two classes of citizens based on vaccinations."

DeSantis banned government entities and businesses from requiring vaccine passports since "It is necessary to protect the fundamental rights and privacies of Floridians and free flow of commerce in the state." DeSantis is also working with the Florida legislature to make these protections "permanent" for the citizens of his state.

While DeSantis is taking the lead at the state level, U.S. Representative Marjorie Taylor-Greene (R-GA) is the first to act in Congress. She introduced legislation entitled the "We Will Not Comply Act." The purpose of this bill is to "ban vaccine 'passports,' prevent discrimination against the unvaccinated, and much more to protect the freedom of the American people." Once again, this newly elected congresswoman, Representative Taylor-Greene, is showing more courage than the vast majority of her Republican Party colleagues in the House or Senate.

Vaccine passports are the definition of medical tyranny. The entire idea is both Orwellian and dangerous. It is what would be expected in a country ruled by a tyrannical government, not in a constitutional republic.

Even liberal author Naomi Wolf understands the dangers that vaccine passports represent. She says that if these plans are implemented, it will mean "the end of human liberty in the West." Wolf believes the real threat is the government's access to the personal data of millions of Americans. According to Wolf, a vaccine passport will lead to the "the end of civil society….it has the power to turn off your life, or to turn on your life, to let you engage in society or be marginalized."

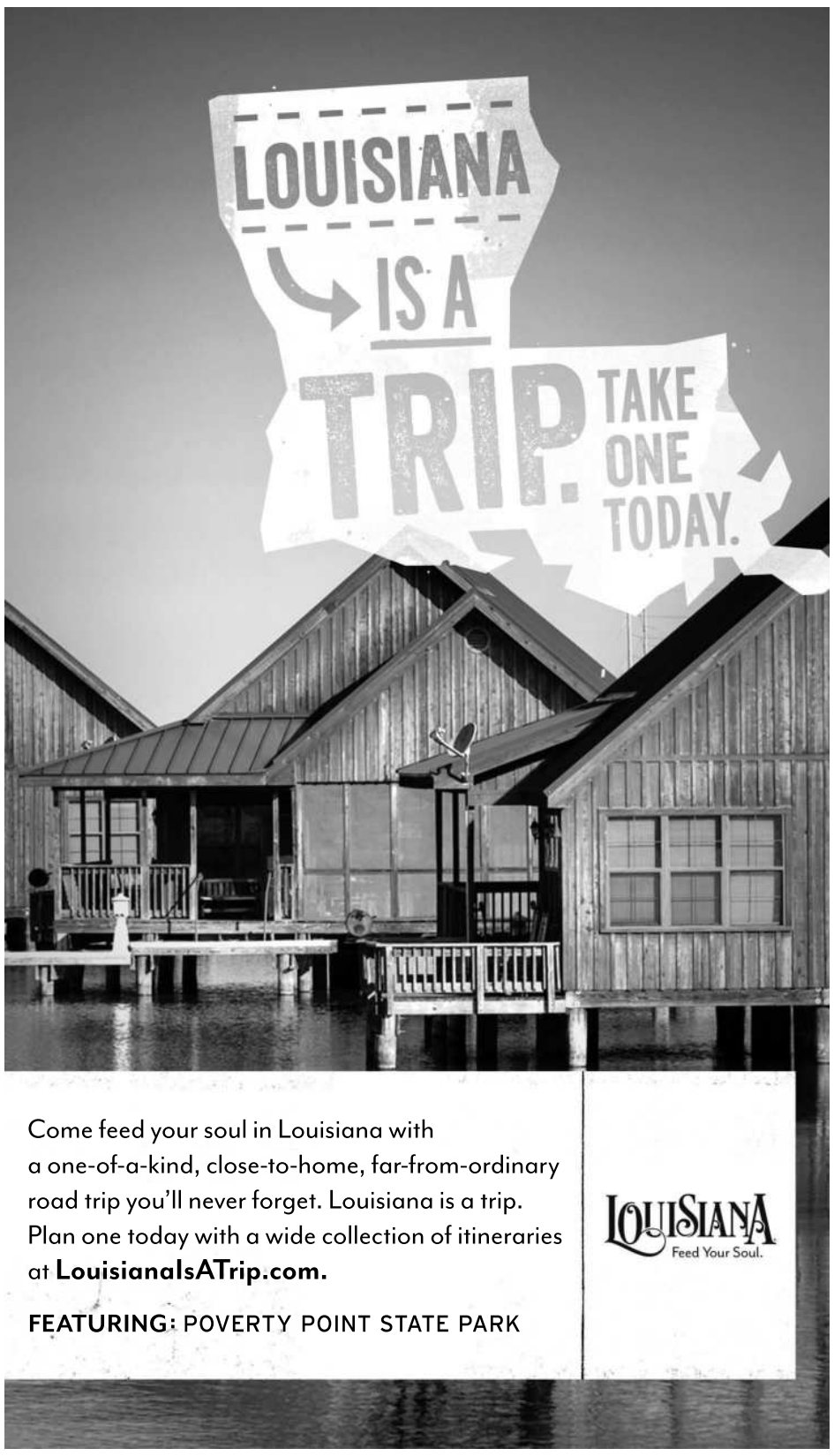
Wolf noted that communist China has such a system in place in their country which keeps "a billion people under the thumb of a totalitarian regime." This allows the communist rulers to "find any dissident in five minutes, and that can happen here literally within months."

Whether the concerns are health or privacy, millions of Americans do not want to take the vaccine. This will be unacceptable to the Biden administration and their allies. These Americans will start to face incredible pressure to comply.

One tactic was revealed by Dr. Leana Wen, public health professor at George Washington University. In a CNN interview, she admitted that Americans need to be given a "carrot" to "incentivize" them to take the vaccine. According to Wen, "we need to make it clear to them that the vaccine is the ticket back to pre-pandemic life." Her fear is that "otherwise, people are going to go out and enjoy these freedoms anyway."

In the view of Wen and many others demanding that Americans take the vaccines, freedoms should not be allowed for those people who refuse. This is the antithesis of what it means to be an American, living in the "land of the free."

Even if we take the vaccine, we must fight for the rights of those Americans who do not want to take it. These are not passports to health; they are passports straight to hell.



Rain, sleet and snow can't stop the azalea show

By Heather Kirk-Ballard
LSU AgCenter Horticulturist

The azaleas are showing off right now, putting on their annual spring spectacular despite the recent sleet, snow and extended freezing temperatures across the state. I got a few frantic phone calls about whether delicate azalea buds would be damaged. Luckily, these flowers are cold hardy.

Azaleas are one of the most beloved flowering shrubs for Southern gardens. When I recently got a call from a tourist from Vermont concerned about what happened to the azaleas during the recent freezes, I realized just how special it was. This person travels each spring to see the spectacular display.

By far, the South's most popular flowering shrub is the azalea — namely, the Southern Indica azaleas (Rhododendron indicum) from Japan. One of the oldest collections was started in the early 1800s at Magnolia Gardens near Charleston, South Carolina.

In addition to Asia, azaleas are native to North America and Europe. In general, azaleas prefer an acidic soil with a pH of 5.0 to 6.0 that is rich in organic matter and well drained. Azaleas have a broad, mounding growth habit and grow to an average size of 6 feet high by 6 feet wide. Some varieties are more compact at 2 feet by 2 feet, and others grow up to 10 feet by 10 feet.

They can be grown in full sun but prefer partial shade and naturally grow as an understory plant to pine trees. Most types bloom in the spring, but some varieties have become popular for later-season blooms. And there are many colors to choose from.

Today, there are thousands of different cultivars of azaleas. Azalea breeders have been selecting and breeding these plants for hundreds of years. Louisiana boasts its own famous breeder: Buddy Lee from Folsom, Louisiana. He developed the Encore azalea, one of the most popular repeat-blooming varieties in America.

The Encore series has 33 varieties to offer. They bloom, spring, summer and fall. LSU AgCenter research determined an average of 21 to 32 weeks of bloom. Some varieties are Autumn Embers, Autumn Royalty, Autumn Fire, Autumn Twist and Autumn



Princess.

Spring is a great time to plant azaleas. Be sure to check soil pH and amend the soil with elemental sulfur, aluminum sulfate or ammonium sulfate to help bring the pH down if needed. Fertilize in late winter and early spring for the best blooms and greener foliage.

Be sure to mulch your beds to conserve soil moisture, suppress weeds and provide a source of organic matter. Prune very soon after flowers have bloomed, removing a small amount of wood annually to keep plants compact and thin out tall, spindly stems. Buds are set on old wood, so do not prune in summer, fall or winter, or you will miss next year's show.

Azaleas do have some issues, but they are easily controlled if caught early and preventative measures are taken. Some common pests include lacebugs, bark scale and spider mites. Petal blight, leaf gall and root rot are common diseases.

Look for bronzing on older leaves as a sign of spider mites and mottling or tiny brown spots on the leaf when lacebugs are present. Lacebugs are found on the underside of leaves, making them more difficult to control. They often cause problems in late winter and early spring.

Use a systemic insecticide with the active ingredient imidacloprid to control mites, scale and lacebugs. Remember, you must re-treat in seven to 10 days to kill newly hatched pests.

Many common diseases of azaleas are caused by fungal pathogens that can be reduced with proper soil drainage.

Indian azalea flowers can grow anywhere from 2 to 3 1/2 inches across for the most grandiose display. Formosa, Dixie Beauty, George L. Tabor and Mrs. G.G. Gerbing are by far the stars of this category. There are several other varieties of Indian Azaleas, including Daphne Salmon, Fielder's White, Judge Solomon, President Clay, Pride of Mobile and Southern Charm to name a few.

The Kurume azaleas are dwarf azaleas growing to 4 to 6 feet in height by 3 feet in width at a slower, denser rate. Flowers are only 1 to 2 inches across. Popular varieties are Christmas Cheer, Coral Bells, Hershey's Red, H.H. Hume, Hinodegiri and Snow.

The Satsuki azaleas bloom later in the spring around April and May. Popular varieties are Gyokushin, Pink Gumpo, Pink Macrantha, Red Gumpo, White Gumpo and Hardy Gardenia. For a complete list, description and details of each variety listed, search for "azaleas publication 1295" at www.lsuagcenter.com.

Native azaleas are deciduous, and they attract hummingbirds, butterflies and other pollinators with their colorful, nectar-rich flowers. Flame of Florida azalea (Rhododendron austrinum) and honeysuckle azalea (Rhododendron canescens) are two found readily at local nurseries.

Also look for the Louisiana Super Plant pick Conversation Piece azalea, which is noted for its large pink flowers that are nearly 4 inches across. They are repeat bloomers and cold hardy.



MARCH GARDEN OF MONTH AWARD - The home of Roland and Ronni Guidry, 701 South Arenas, was awarded the Garden of the Month Award for the month of March. The Guidry home includes a very well-kept yard, flowing flower beds filled with manicured shrubs of different colors, in addition to annual blooms, along with magnolia and river birch trees also surrounded by shrubs, perennials and annuals. (Acadian-Tribune Photo by Lisa Soileaux)

Faith House King Cake 5K returns May 8

Come on down to Sugar Mill Pond in Lafayette on Saturday, May 8, and "Run for Ya Momma" at the 11th Annual King Cake 5K charity run for Faith House.

Dress in your most festive Mardi Gras gear and get ready to "Mardi Gras MOM-BO" with everyone as everyone will celebrate with their favorite folks – moms.

This event will be a great run and lots of fun while helping to raise funds for domestic violence services to victims of the community.

Early bird registration ends April 9th so don't delay.

Runners can go to: https://runsignup.com/Race/LA/Youngsville/KingCake5K to register.

Registration includes a King Cake 5K raglan shirt, swag bag and finishing medal.

Schedule of Events on May 8 is:

– Packet Pickup/ Registration will begin at 7:30 a.m.

– 5K will begin at 8:30 a.m. Awards for best dressed Mardi Gras gear will be given.

Anyonee interested in being a sponsor or volunteering for the King Cake 5K, please contact Nicole Cockerham at 337-232-8954 or email nicole@faithhouseacadiana.com. Thoseinterested can also find the registration link located on the Faith House Facebook page.

Faith House is a domestic violence crisis center whose mission is to provide safety, shelter, empowerment and advocacy to survivors of domestic violence and their children.

The center has seven components: an emergency shelter, a non-residential program, a transitional housing program, a permanent housing program, a 24-hour crisis line, a public education program and the Family Justice Center of Acadiana.

Faith House provides services in seven parishes throughout south and central Louisiana, including Acadia parish. To learn more about domestic violence and Faith House services visit www.FaithHouseAcadiana.com.

If anyone knows someone who is experiencing abuse, please make a difference and call Faith House at 1-888-411-1333. All calls are confidential and services are free of charge.

Frog Festival Pageants planned

RAYNE - Mark your calendars now for May 8, as everyone needs to save that date for the crowning of a new 2021 Frog Festival royalty.

New Frog Festival queens will be named during a day-long program, including the new Mr. and Miss Tadpole, Deb Frog Festival Queen, Jr. Frog Festival Queen, Jr. Teen Frog Festival Queen, Teen Frog Festival Queen, Miss Frog Festival Queen and Ms. Frog Festival Queen.

Additional information, along with times and schedules, will be given as soon as details are completed by the committee.

RAYNE 24/7

Anytime of the day or night, Rayne news is at your fingertips. For the latest information in Acadia Parish turn to the local website with local news.

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Easter fun while assisting with city event



RAYNE HIGH STUDENT COUNCIL ASSISTING WITH EASTER EGG HUNT - Members of the Rayne High School Student Council assisted with the 2021 City of Rayne Easter Eggstravaganza held Saturday, March 27, at Mauboulas Park. They volunteered at different events held throughout the afternoon of fun activities enjoyed by all in attendance. (Acadian-Tribune Photo by Josie Henry)

Time running out to apply for 2021 Slemco scholarship

Apply now for SLEMCO's scholarship drawing to win one of 20 scholarships of $2,000 usually awarded during the annual meeting.

Applications for the 2021 SLEMCO scholarship were mailed with every SLEMCO bill in February. Applications will be accepted from February 1st through the first Thursday of May each year.

Applications are also available at all area high school guidance counselor offices, the scholarship offices at UL, LSUE or SLCC. During application time, they're also available to fill out or download from the company's website.

Due to Internal Revenue Service rules, applicants who are dependent children must not turn 24 during 2020. The IRS prohibits parents from claiming children as dependents during the year they turn 24, even if they are full-time students. Any applicants turning 24 during 2020 must have their own SLEMCO account. They can't be sponsored by a parent or guardian, but they may be sponsored by a spouse because all SLEMCO accounts are community property under state law.

If customers need more than one application, photocopy both sides of the one already received in February bills or download one from www.slemco.com. All area high school guidance counselors have a supply of applications, as do the scholarship offices at UL Lafayette, LSU-Eunice and SLCC.

Only one application per student will be accepted so everyone has the same chance to win. Duplicate entries will be voided. Make sure to fill out the application completely and sign the form where indicated.

Eligibility requirements are listed on each form, so please read them carefully. Here's a quick overview:

• Only SLEMCO customers, their spouses, children or legal wards are eligible to win a scholarship. A member cannot sponsor grandchildren, nephews, nieces or friends except as their legal guardian. Children cannot be considered a dependent if they will turn 24 years of age anytime during 2020.

• The scholarship monies can be used by undergraduate students to attend, on a full-time basis, any public or private Louisiana University or trade school as accredited by the University of Louisiana System; Louisiana State University System; Southern University System; Louisiana Community and Technical College System; Louisiana Board of Regents Proprietary School System; Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities or the US Department of Education.

• All applicants must have graduated from high school with at least a "C" average. Continuing college or trade school students must have at least a 2.0 cumulative grade point average (on a 4.0 scale). Graduate or doctoral students do not qualify.

• The sponsoring SLEMCO member must have been a member for the past 12 consecutive months, as of May 7, 2020.

• The applicant is not required to attend the annual meeting on June 6, but the sponsoring member or member's spouse must attend to claim a scholarship. If a member or spouse is applying, either spouse may attend the meeting to claim the scholarship.

Questions about SLEMCO scholarships should be directed to Mrs. Mary Laurent at 896-5384. Completed applications should be mailed to the SLEMCO Scholarship Program, P.O. Box 90866, Lafayette, LA 70509-0866.

Livestock Show winners announced

BATON ROUGE - After a stressful year of dealing with the pandemic, some Louisiana youth still showed off their showmanship skills at the 86th annual LSU AgCenter Livestock Show at the Lamar-Dixon Expo Center.

Junior, intermediate and senior champion showmanship awards were presented to exhibitors in each of the following animal categories: dairy cattle, beef cattle, miniature beef cattle, market swine, breeding swine, exhibition poultry, broiler poultry, sheep, dairy breeding goats, meat breeding goat and market goats. Awards also were given to exhibitors in the State Rabbit Show, which was held at the State Evacuation Shelter in Alexandria.

Supported by an endowment from Nutrien, awards were presented in the junior (9- to 11-year-olds), intermediate (12- to 14-year-olds) and senior (15-year-olds and up) divisions.

Senior champions received $250 awards, while intermediate and junior champions received $125 awards.

Acadia Parish award winners in each category are as follows:

Sheep — Senior: Mackenzie Castro, Assumption Parish; Intermediate: Cougar Racca, Calcasieu Parish; Junior: Dylan Blanchard, Lafayette Parish.

Market goats — Senior: Ellie LeBlanc, Jefferson Davis Parish; Intermediate: Everette Hulin, Vermilion Parish; Junior: Abby Fontenot, Evangeline Parish.

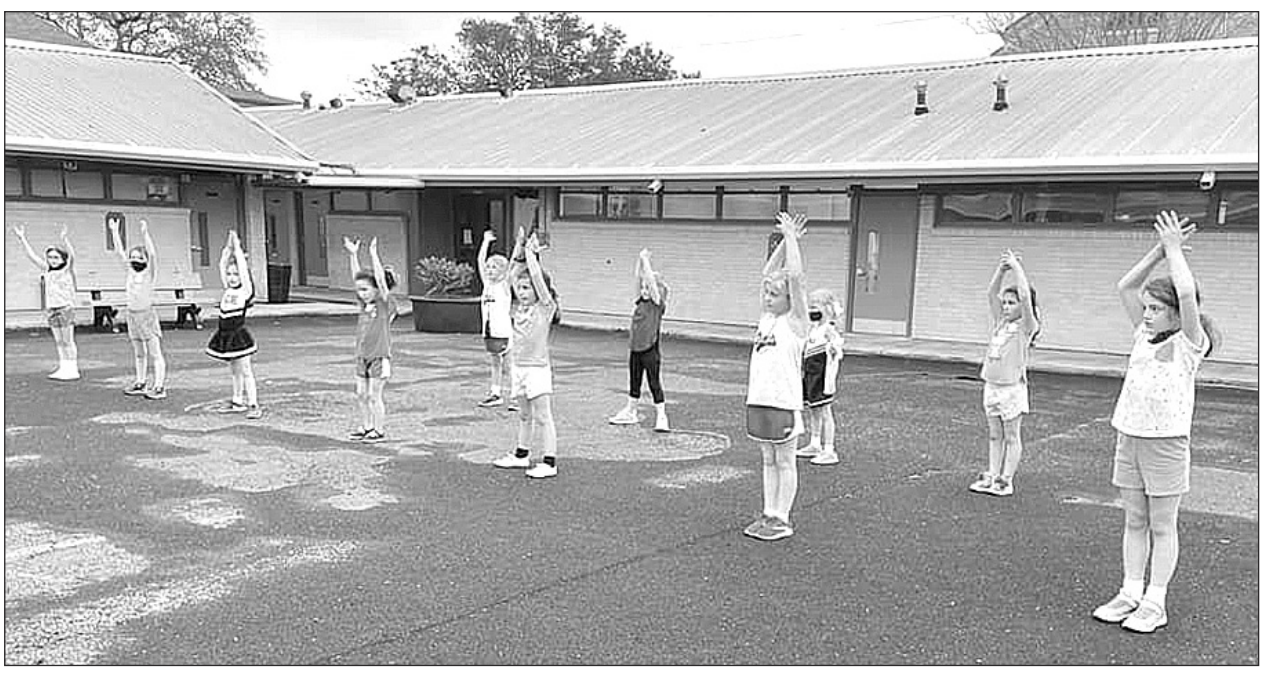
Dairy — Senior: Madalyn Landry, Assumption Parish; Intermediate: Marie Thibodeaux, Jefferson Davis Parish; Junior: Ayden Null, Tangipahoa Parish.

Market swine — Senior: Isaac Manuel, Acadia Parish; Intermediate: Baylee DesJardine, Calcasieu Parish; Junior: Charles Jernigan, Tangipahoa Parish.

Exhibition poultry — Senior: Jason Freeman, Vermilion Parish; Intermediate: Shelby Slaven, Tangipahoa Parish; Junior: Ezra Bergeron, St. Landry Parish.

Beef — Senior: Keagan Kahl, St. Tammany Parish; Intermediate: Isaac Duhon, Vermilion Parish; Junior: Laura Armentor, Calcasieu Parish.

Rabbits — Senior: Isabella Mathews, Rapides Parish; Intermediate: Alyssa Touchet, Jefferson Davis Parish; Junior: Sheila McCrory, Ascension Parish.



ENJOY RAYNE CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY CHEER CAMP - A number of young ladies enjoyed the 1st Annual Rayne Catholic Elementary One-Day Cheer Camp held Friday, March 5, on the school campus. Campers learned routines, chants and cheers. Here, first graders learn a cheer routine they were slated to perform at the final home football game where they were welcomed as special guests. (Acadian-Tribune Photo by Lisa Soileaux)

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Early Childhood and Pre-Kindergarten Registration 2021-2022

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

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

Let Us Know

For coverage of any elementary, high school or college sporting events, call Lisa at 334-3186 or email at editor@raynetoday.com

Sports

Please submit your sports story or pictures to our office at 108 North Adams Avenue or by emailing to editor@raynetoday.com

Page 8A ■ The Rayne Acadian-Tribune www.acadiaparishtoday.com Thursday, April 8, 2021

North Vermilion slips by Wolves; Ladies collect win

BY LISA SOILEAUX
Managing Editor

RAYNE - In a baseball game that came down to the last available inning of play, North Vermilion held onto a one-point lead, handing Rayne High their first district loss of the 2021 season (3-1).

Down 4-0 going into the seventh and final inning of a district contest on Thursday, April 1, the Wolves were able to collect enough hits to muster up three runs, falling one run short when the last out was recorded during the 3-4 loss to the Patriots.

Tallying hits for the Wolves were Wil Arceneaux, Ethan Theriot, Baylon Leon and Kaleb Olivier. Arceneaux and Leon knocked in RBI, while Arceneaux, Deuce Comeaux and Dylan Judice scoring runs.

Despite filling the bases during a couple of early innings, Rayne just couldn't touch hoe for a score.

Colin LaCombe was on the mound for the Wolves for four and one-third innings throwing two strikeouts, but gave up seven hits and five walks.

Derek Istre completed the game on the mound for Rayne recording two strikeouts and allowing no hits.

The Wolves were slated to host LaGrange Tuesday afternoon in another district contest.

Rayne has another meeting against the Gators today (Thursday) at Gossen Memorial Park in Rayne. The first pitch is slated for 6 p.m.



LACOMBE INKS WITH GENERALS - Rayne High's Colin LaCombe inked with LSU-Alexandria this week to continue his baseball career. Joining LaCombe during the special event were, seated, Colin with his parents, Alicia and Wade LaCombe; standing, LSUA Assistant Coach Kody Gautreaux, RHS Assistant Coach Charles Ancelet, RHS Head Coach Jason Bonin and RHS Athletic Director Kaine Guidry. (Acadian-Tribune Photo by Lisa Soileaux)

Lady Wolves

In the home stretch of district play, the Rayne High Lady Wolves Softball Team picked up a 13-2 non-district win on Wednesday, March 31, when they hosted Westgate High School.

The young Lady Wolves softball squad stands at 6-12 overall and 1-4 in district play.

They are slated to host Washington-Marion today (Thursday) at Gossen Memorial Park when they will try to improve their district slate before post-season begins.

Rayne High track season heats up

Prior to Easter break, the Rayne High School track team participated in the North Vermilion Track Meet on Friday, March 26, in Maurice.

Placing for Rayne High were:

Noah Peter - 2nd place javelin;

Hali Senegal - 4th place 400-meter dash;

Jenyth Allen - 6th place javelin;

Kennedy Castile - 5th place 300-meter hurdles;

4 x 800 meter relay team - 6th place (Kennedy Castile, Braylin Butler, Jaden Coleman, Tyrin Mouton); and

Jarmi Eaglin - 6th place shot put.

Rayne High tracksters will return to action on Wednesday, April 14, during the Acadia Parish Track Meet slated to be held at Iota High School for all parish teams.

The Wolves and Ladies will host this year's District Track Meet on Tuesday, April 20, at Wolf Stadium as announced by RHS head track coach Bryan Parker. Fans are urged to come out and support Rayne High during the local meet.

Regionals are slated on April 27 at Cecilia High School, followed by the 4-A State Track Meet on May 6-8 on the LSU campus in Baton Rouge.

Lady Pios break home run record during rout of Erath

CROWLEY - After blasting seven home runs on Wednesday, March 31, in a 27-5 thrashing of Lake Arthur, the Notre Dame Lady Pios needed just three more to break the national high school team record for round-trippers hit in a single season.

They accomplished that feat on Thursday, April 1, in a 17-0 victory over Erath at Bronco Park.

Maci Bergeron got the Lady Pios one home run shy of the record with a solo blast to left field in the first inning and Corine Poncho put the Lady Pios in a tie for the record one inning later with a three-run bomb to left field.

Abigail Savoy then provided the record breaker in the fourth inning with a three-run shot over the center field wall.

The Lady Pios' three bombs gave them 83 on the season and broke the previous national record of 82 set by Canyon High School in Texas just four years ago.

"This is an amazing accomplishment four our young Ladies," said ND coach Dale Serie following the game. "They set a goal at the beginning of the season and to witness them accomplish their goal is amazing.

"We are blessed and excited, but we understand the journey isn't over yet. Our ultimate goal is to win the last game we play."

Winning that last game, which Serie is hoping will be in Sulphur at the beginning of May, is a very good possibility, especially seeing how the Lady Pios have played not only all season but in their last two games after surviving a scare from Port Barre on Tuesday.

In that game, the Lady Pios had just six hits from three players and they had to come from behind to beat the Lady Red Devils, 4-3, in seven innings.

In the last two games since then, the Lady Pios have belted out 36 hits, including 10 home runs, eight doubles and one triple. In addition, they scored 44 runs in victories over Lake Arthur and Erath.

And they did all that in just six innings as both of those games were halted early due to the mercy rule.

"You have to tip your hat to Port Barre, they played clean defensively, but we were chasing early in the count and we kind of got ourselves out," said Serie. "So what we did: we kind of got back to what we know and talked to the hitters about their strengths. We want them to hunt their pitches and I think that has kind of shown in the last two games.

"If we hunt our pitches, we'll be pretty good."

The Lady Pios not only hunted their pitches the last two outings, they bagged their limit.

Thursday, against Erath, the Lady Pios logged 17 hits.

Bergeron led the charge with three hits, including a double and a home run; Poncho added a double, a home run and Savoy had two hits, including a home run.

Caylyn Henry, Keleigh Spell and Maddie Murrell each had two hits and one RBI and Macey Freed, Morgan Alleman and Annabelle Pitts each had one hit. Alleman added two RBI and Pitts drove in one run.

Against Lake Arthur on Tuesday, the Lady Pios erupted for 20 hits in a 27-5 victory.

Callie Maitre led the way with a 4-for-4 performance at the plate that included a pair of home runs and six RBI.

Jillian Bourgeois added three singles and drove in four runs and Henry was 3-for-3 with a double and two RBI. Savoy also had three hits, all doubles, and drove in three runs.

Bergeron added two bombs and five RBI, Poncho was 2-for-2 with a double, a home run and two RBI, Freed had an RBI and three RBI and Alleman singled in a run.



NOTRE DAME SOFTBALL TRIO - Notre Dame's Corine Poncho, Abigain Savoy and Maci Bergeron each hit a home run in the Lady Pios' 17-0 victory over Ert=ath last week. The three long balls gave the Lady Pios 83 total home runs on the seaons thus far, setting a new national team record for most home runs in a single season. (Photo Submitted)

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ALL-ACADEMIC SCHOLAR STUDENT-ATHLETES - Recognized by the Louisiana High School Athletic Association as All -Academic Scholar Athletes for maintaining a 3.5 - 3.9 GPA were the following student-athletes of Notre Dame High School of Acadia Parish: seated from left, Receiving All-Academic Scholar Athlete honors for maintaining a 3.5-3.9 GPA are (below): Boyd Gray-football, Jude Hebert-cross country, Jack Himel-cross country, Hunter Hoffpauir-football; standing, Parker Link-football, Melise Maloz-volleyball, Wesley Maze-football, Hailey Pauley-volleyball, John Rivette-cross country, Blake Smith-football and Hayden Thomas-swimming/cross country. (Photo Submitted)

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Plan of Rayne

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



Les Cuisses de Grenoilles

Frog Legs

An Over-View of the Frog Industry in Rayne

Pucheu Weil Baer Babineaux Chatelain

"Les ouaouarons sont un cadeau de la Bon Dieu"

Anonymous Cajun Frog Catcher

By SIDNEY STUTES
Special to the Tribune

Historians date the start of WW II at September 1, 1939, the day the Nazi war machine marched into Poland.

Though not immediately or directly involved, the United States had long monitored Adolf Hitler's rise to power in the 1930's and his disregard for the Treaty of Versailles which had ended WW I in 1918, with specific restrictions on Germany. Indeed, the world had only watched as Hitler re-armed and annexed neighbor after neighbor, all in violation of accepted international treaty law.

But Hitler's invasion of Poland brought America's allies England and France into the war, which heightened American concern enough to receive 71% approval of the Congressional Selective Training and Service Act of 1940 which established *". . . compulsory military training for all young men."* This preparatory act set a cap of 900,000 men in training at any given time and limited military service **to 12 months.**

President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the service act on September 18, 1940, after Paris fell to the Nazis on June 15, within five weeks of the German invasion of France and the Low Countries.

Locally, in Rayne – an appointed Acadia Parish Draft Board began a "call up" to maintain the minimal number of young men for training.

The Tribune dutifully reported the Board meetings and recorded the names of those "called to service."

George Weil – son of Edmond and nephew of Jacques – entered the United States Army on June 3, 1941, **to fulfill his 12 month obligation.** As a youngster he had attended local schools and had worked at his uncle's "frog pen" and farm produce business. Upon graduation from Rayne High School, young George was employed in Lafayette where he resided with an older sister Marguerite and her husband Cleone Lalanne.

To be exact – George Weil had been in the army for only six months and four days when the Japanese (ally of Germany) attacked the United States at Pearl Harbor on **December 7, 1941.** There would be no **"12 month service"** after that.

Beginning in 1942 – in the western theater of the war – the United States conducted the North African campaign before advancing slowly across Italy where the main adversary became the German army, after the withdrawal of Benito Mussoilin's Italian forces. (Hostilities in Italy continued into May, 1945).

In the interval – the United States and its allies quietly amassed the world's largest invasion force ever in England in preparation for an offensive against Nazi-held Europe.

On June 3, 1944 – U. S. Infantryman, **Sergeant George Weil** "celebrated" the **third anniversary** of his induction into the U. S. military.

On the evening of **June 5, 1944** – President Roosevelt spoke to the nation from Washington to announce that allied forces had entered Rome.

On the very next evening – **June 6, 1944** – the President would again address the nation:

"My Fellow Americans – Last night when I spoke to you about the fall of Rome, I knew at that moment that troops of the United States and our Allies were crossing the Channel in another and greater operation. It has come to pass with success thus far.

"And, in this poignant hour, I ask you to join me in prayer.

"Almighty God: Our sons, pride of the nation, this day have set upon a mighty endeavor, a struggle to preserve our republic, our religion, and our civilization, and to set free a suffering humanity.

"Lead them straight and true; give strength to their arms, stoutness to their hearts, steadfastness in their faith.

"They will need Thy blessings. Their road will be long and hard, for thee enemy is strong . . . . They will be sore tired, by night and by day, without rest, until the victory is won. The darkness will be rent by noise and flame. Men's souls will be shaken by the violence of war.

"For these men are lately drawn from the ways of peace. They fight not for the lust of conquest. They fight to end conquest. They fight to liberate . . . . They yearn but for the end of battle, for their return to the haven of home.

"Some will never return. Embrace these, Father, and receive them, Thy heroic servants, into Thy kingdom."

One assumes that the Weils heard both of the President's speeches, and not having heard from George for some time, began a prayerful vigil for his safety. And the concern must have been borne heavily.

And then – a letter from George arrived at Edmond's house, But, it was dated **June 3, 1944,** and only received in Rayne on **June 27. 1944.**

And no more news of George would come until **Wednesday, August 2, 1944**. It was in the form of a telegram delivered by the teletype operator at People's Drug Store.

The telegram was from the War Department:

"The Secretary of War desires me to express his deep regret that your son, Sergeant George E. Weil, has been reported missing in action since June 9 in France. If further details or other information are received, you will be promptly notified. J. A. Ulic, Adjutant General, U. S. Army."

The Tribune printed the entire telegram in its August 4 edition, and added, *"George has been in the service three years, having observed his third anniversary of service on June 3. . . . three days before D- Day. George took part in the invasion of France on June 6, and apparently has been missing since June 9, three days after D-Day.* ***His 26th birthday fell on June 12.***

"He has a little God-child and nephew named for him, George Richard, son of Clarence and Jacqueline Weil Richard of Lafayette, who was born on June 9, this year, ***the day George has been reported missing."***

On Friday, August 11, the Tribune followed with this statement, *"No further news has been received to date other than an official letter which followed the first telegram sent to Mr. Edmond."*

The brief announcement in the paper was accompanied by a picture of Sgt. George Weil in uniform.

Nearly a month passed before a second telegram arrived, with the most terrible of news.

"The Secretary of War regrets to inform you that your son, Sgt. George Weil has been killed in action in France."

There followed a letter from the U. S. Army Adjutant General on September 6, 1944.

"Dear Mr. Weil: It is with prolong regret that I confirm the recent telegram informing you of the death of your son,



Sergeant George Weil, son of Edmond and Marguerite Weil of Rayne, and graduate of Rayne High School, entered the military in June,1941 and was killed at Normandy in the D-Day invasion in 1944.

Sgt. George Weil, Infantry, who was previously reported missing in action.

"An official message has now been received which states that he was killed in action in France.

"I realize the burden of anxiety that has been yours since he was first reported missing . . . and deeply regret the sorrow this letter report brings you. May the knowledge that he made the supreme sacrifice for his home and country be a course of sustained comfort.

"My sympathy is with you in this time of great sorrow.

"Sincerely yours, J. A. Ulic, Adjutant General"

Msgr. Hubert Lerschen, himself with family in Nazi-controlled Holland, presided at a Memorial Mass (one of many in those days) on Tuesday morning, September 12, 1944 – at 9:00 a. m. The Legionnaires of Arceneaux Post formed a special "Guard of Honor" during the service, which was attended by *"an overflow crowd at St. Joseph's."*

Edmond and Marguerite Weil – and Mr. Jacques – would decide to have George's remains interred in the U.

See PLAN, Page 10A

Edmond and Marguerite Weil

- Children -

Jacques
Born in France, moved to California in 1930's, visited regularly

Jacqueline
Married Clarence Richard, worked for railroad office in Lafayette

Germaine
Moved to California, lived near Jacques

Marguerite
Married Cleone Lalanne, lived in Lafayette,
George resided briefly with them

Georgette
Married Joseph Gauthier, also worked for railroad

George
Inducted U.S. Army 1941, killed at Normandy in 1944

Aline
Married Fernand Privat, couple had nine children



Winston Barousse, long-time teacher and principal, also coached and is pictured here with some promising young fighters in 1935. Front row, George Weil, who lost his life during the invasion of Normandy in WWII and Willie Arceneaux; back row, Leo Melancon, Leon Hoffman Jr., Woodrow LeBlanc, Chevis Doucet, and "Red" Alleman.

PLAN

From Page 9A

S. Military Cemetery at Colleville Sur Mer in France, overlooking the English Channel and the beaches of Normandy.

Incidentally, interred at the same cemetery are the remains of Theodore (Ted) Roosevelt, Jr., son of the 26th President of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt (1901-1909).

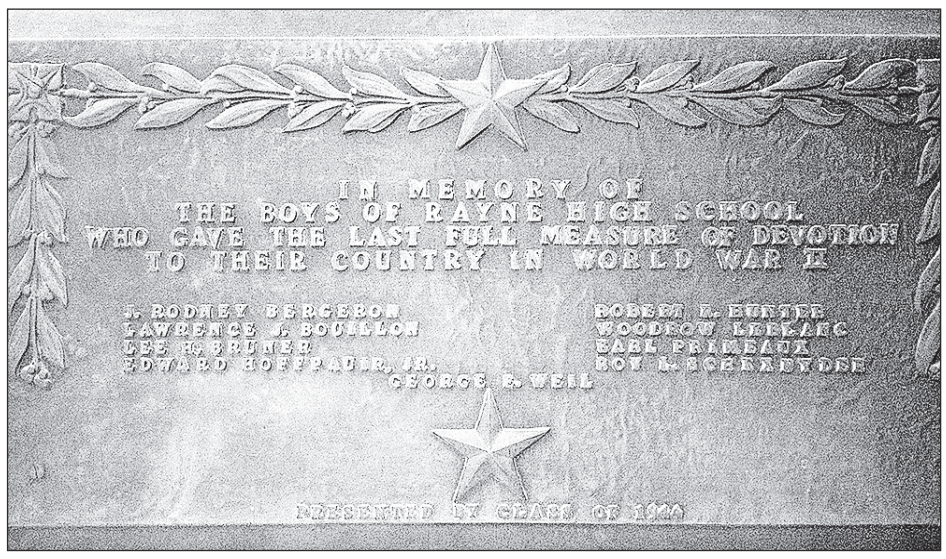
Brigadier General "Ted" Roosevelt, at age 56, was the only American general at D-Day to land by sea with the first wave of troops, the oldest man in the invasion. In failing health and walking with a cane, General Roosevelt had had to petition the military high command to lead his unit that morning, and having accomplished the feat of landing at Utah Beach, died of a heart attack in the battle.

On the same morning of June 6, 1944, his son, Captain Quentin Roosevelt II, led his unit onto Omaha Beach, and survived that ordeal and the war.

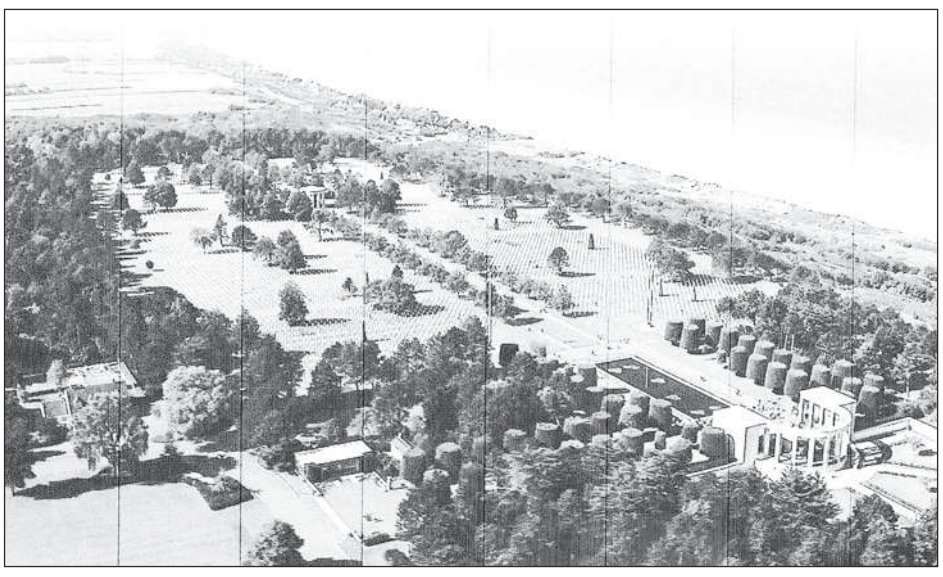
Interestingly – in 1955, the remains of 1st Lt.. Quentin Roosevelt, younger brother of General Ted Roosevelt, who had been killed as a pilot in air combat in WW I in France in 1918, were re-interred from a different cemetery and placed next to his brother Ted's grave at Colleville sur Mer.

In Rayne, in 1944 – their son, George Weil, age 26, having been inducted to serve only 12 months, Edmond and Marguerite Weil consoled themselves with the thought that their "Sergeant" would rest in peace in their beloved homeland France, to which he, ironically, had returned to help liberate from tyranny.

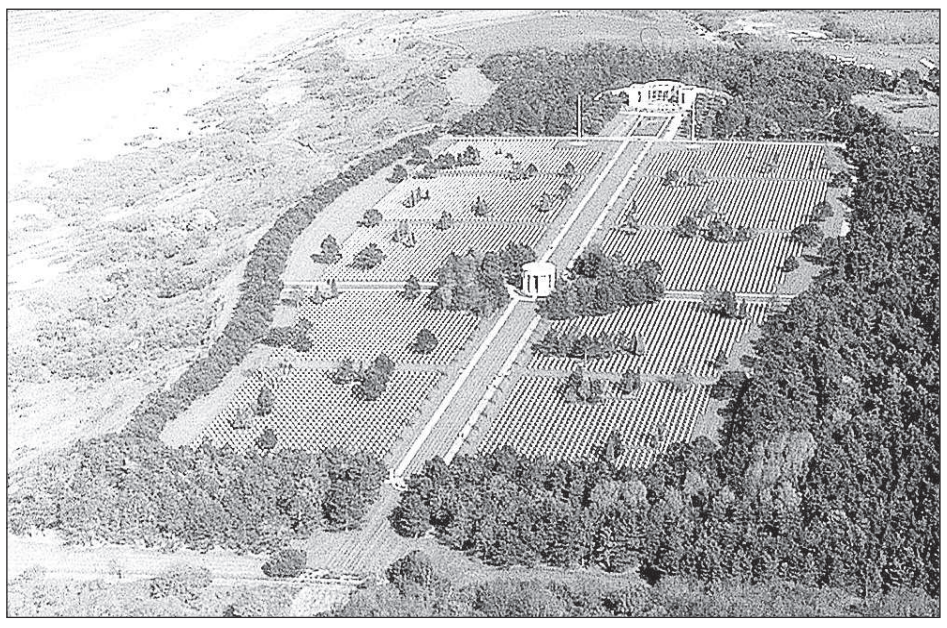
Today – among the 9,388 American dead at this hallowed ground, Sergeant George E. Weil, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, U. S. Army, Louisiana, is interred in "Plot J, Row 21, Grave 12, Bronze Star, Purple Heart."



At the end of WW II, the RHS Class of 1944 presented a plaque to the school "In memory of the Boys of Rayne High School who gave their least full measure of devotion to the country." The list included Rodney Bergeron, Lawrence Bouillon, Lee Bruner, Edward Hoffpauir, Robert Hunter, Woodrow LeBlanc, Earl Primeaux, Roy Schexnyder and George Weil.



The Normandy American Cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer, France, officially dedicated on July 18, 1956, houses the remains of Sergeant George Weil of Rayne, Louisiana in "Plot J, Row 21, Grave 12, Bronze Star, Purple Heart."



The Normandy American Cemetery in France is located in Colleville-sur-Mer, France on the site of the temporary St. Laurent Cemetery established by the U. S. First Army in June, 1944, as the first American cemetery on European soil in WW II. It covers 172.5 acres with 9,388 graves of American military dead, many of whom lost their lives in the D-Day invasion and ensuing actions.

The Rayne Acadian-Tribune
Devotional/Directory

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

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Walter Richards, Min.
W.S. 10 a.m. & 7 p.m.
Wed. 7 p.m.

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ABUNDANT LIFE
ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Gossen Park Drive,
Rayne
Melvin Finley, Min.,
334-2781
W.S. 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.

BAPTIST

DUSON BAPTIST MISSION
812 Cameron St., Duson
Felix Seller, Min., 873-4702
S.S. 9 a.m.; W.S. 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.
Wed. 6:30 p.m.

ELIZABETH MEMORIAL BAPTIST
Hwy. 365, Branch
Kevin Colson, Min.,
334-4004
S.S. 9 a.m.; W.S. 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.
Wed. 6:30 p.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF RAYNE
1715 E. Jefferson Davis
Gene Lee, Min., 334-4154
S.S. 9 a.m.; W.S. 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.
Wed. 6:30 p.m.

STARLIGHT BAPTIST
206 Webb St., Rayne
Nathan T. Stevens, Min.,
334-2242
S.S. 8 a.m.; W.S. 9 a.m.
Tues. 6 p.m.

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Rev. Emmanuel Awe, 334-3516
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Rev. A Rex Broussard,
Sat. Mass 4 p.m.
Sun. Mass 8 & 10 a.m.

ST. BENEDICT DE MOOR
Hwy. 90, Duson
Rev. Aaron Melancon,
Sat. Mass 5:30 p.m.
Sun. Mass 8:30 a.m.

ST. EDMUNDS CHAPEL
Hwy. 385, Branch
Rev. Paul Broussard,
Sat. Mass 4 p.m.
Sun. Mass 7:30 a.m.

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC
401 S. Adams Ave., Rayne
Rev. Brent Smith,
334-2193
Sat. Mass 4 p.m.
Sun. Mass 7 & 10 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.

ST. LEO'S IV CATHOLIC
7166 Roberts Cove Rd., Rayne
Rev. Paul Broussard,
334-5056
Sat. Mass 5:30 p.m.
Sun. Mass 9 a.m.

ST. TERESA CATHOLIC
200 C St., Duson
Rev. Aaron Melancon, 873-4962
Sat. Mass 4 p.m.
Sun. Mass 7 & 10 a.m.

CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

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311 Holt St., Rayne
Ben Wells, Min., 334-7418
S.S. 9:30 a.m.; W.S. 11 am.
Thurs. 4:30 p.m.

METHODIST

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UNITED METHODIST
Branch; Charles Floyd, Min.
W.S. 8 p.m.

CUNNINGHAM C.M.E.
300 W. Harrop St., Rayne
Louis P. Curriere, Min.,
334-3303
S.S. 9:30 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m.

EBENEZER
UNITED METHODIST
Ebenezer;
Chris Blanchard, Min.
S.S. 9 a.m.; W.S. 10 a.m.

INDIAN BAYOU
UNITED METHODIST
Hwy. 700, Indian Bayou
Robert Johnson, Min.,
334-7166
S.S. 10 a.m.;
W.S. 11 a.m.

MARYLAND CHAPEL C.M.E.
Branch, Rev. Banks, Min.
S.S. 9:45 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m.

NAZARENE

EBENEZER CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
1020 Ebenezer Rd., Crowley
Joe Talhelm, Min., 783-7586
S.S. 9:45 a.m.;
W.S. 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.
Wed. 7 p.m.

PENTECOSTAL

THE PENTECOSTALS OF RAYNE
Wayne Blanchard, Min.
W.S. Sun. 2 p.m.
Wed. 7:30 p.m.

PRESBYTERIAN

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
321 E. 4th St., Crowley
Jimmy Broussard, Min., 783-2249
S.S. 9:45 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m.

OTHER

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Charland Jordan, Min., 334-7122
W.S. 10 a.m.
Wed. 6 p.m.

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Mary Ann Cole, Min.
S.S. 10 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m.

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"In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"
Acts 20:35 NIV



Happiness is one of those things which we are more likely to have if we focus on helping others find theirs. Consider this story which was recently sent to me by a family member:
A professor gave a balloon to every student, who had to inflate it, write their name on it, and throw it in the hallway. The professor then mixed all the balloons. The students were given 5 minutes to find their own balloon. Despite a hectic search, no one found their balloon. At that point, the professor told the students to take the first balloon that they found and hand it to the person whose name was written on it. Within 5 minutes everyone had their own balloon. The professor then said to the students: "These balloons are like happiness. We will never find it if everyone is looking for their own. But if we care about other people's we'll find ours too." This inspiring story, whether it happened or not, contains a profound truth and is supported by research which shows that people increase their happiness more when they are given money and told to give it away or otherwise do something with the money which will help others than if they spend it on themselves. We are social creatures, built for sharing our lives and our possessions with others.
–Christopher Simon

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Cleco donates $20,000 to establish endowed scholarship for Power Lineman and Electrical programs at SLCC

CROWLEY - A $20,000 donation by Cleco will help to establish an endowed scholarship for South Louisiana Community College's power lineman and electrical training programs.

The new Cleco endowed scholarship will be used to recruit, retain and train students enrolled in these training programs. In 2018, Cleco contributed $50,000 to SLCC to help establish the Power Lineman training program, the only such program in the region, which recently celebrated the graduation of its fourth class.

"This additional funding is part of our commitment to not only invest in the communities we serve but to help sustain workforce training programs for future generations," said Bill Fontenot, president and CEO of Cleco Corporate Holdings. "Endowed scholarships differ from traditional scholarships because the money donated is never actually spent. Rather, the money is invested, and the investment income is used to fund scholarships which is a more sustainable form of support."



SLCC DONATION MADE - Dr. Jermaine Ford, left, vice president of Economic and Workforce Development at SLCC, accepts a check for $20,000 from Katie Chiasson, senior business developer at Cleco. (Photo Submitted)

"Our generosity of partners like Cleco help us train the workforce and meet workforce needs across Acadiana and Louisiana," said Dr. Jermaine Ford, SLCC's vice president of Economic and Workforce Development. "Our Power Lineman program puts technicians right to work after graduation, and we are grateful for our partners like Cleco who make this possible."

"The Louisiana Board of Regents provides a competitive 100 percent match on private scholarship donations, so the total endowed scholarship will be $40,000 which means SLCC will be able to award scholarships for years to come thanks to this donation from Cleco," said Lana Fontenot, SLCC's vice chancellor of Institutional Advancement.

When awarding scholarships, priority will be given to females and minorities due to their low enrollment in energy education programs.

For more information about Cleco in the community, visit cleco.com and follow the company on Facebook at @ClecoPower.

Cleco Corporate Holdings LLC is a regional energy holding company that conducts its business operations through its subsidiaries, Cleco Power LLC and Cleco Cajun LLC. Cleco Power is a regulated electric public utility company that owns 10 generating units with a rated capacity of 3,360 MWs and serves approximately 290,000 customers in Louisiana through its retail business and supplies wholesale power in Louisiana and Mississippi.

Cleco Cajun is an unregulated utility company that owns 14 generating units with a rated capacity of 3,379 MWs, and wholesale contracts serving nine Louisiana cooperatives, three wholesale municipal customers and one electric utility. For more information about Cleco, visit us at www.cleco.com.

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Rosalind Mary Robertson weds Michael Benjamin Alexander

(This article is modeled and written in the style of the wedding announcement of the bride's grandparents published in the Rayne Acadian-Tribune in 1947.)

CROWLEY - One of the most beautiful of recent November weddings was that of Saturday afternoon, November 21, 2020, when Miss Rosalind Mary Robertson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Adams Robertson, became the bride of Michael Benjamin Alexander, son of Mrs. Yvonne Ortego and Mr. Michael Alexander. The ceremony was celebrated at St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church in Crowley during a one o'clock wedding nuptials.

The Very Rev. Andrew Schumacher, associate pastor of the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, assisted by the Very Rev. Msgr Richard Greene, retired, and the Very Rev. Patrick Broussard, pastor of Sacred Heart in Church Point, read the solemn marriage vows which united the lives of these two loved people before a gathering of relatives and close friends, joining to share in the happy occasion on that Saturday afternoon.

In preparation for the ceremony, the altar of St. Michael the Archangel Church in Crowley was beautifully arranged with handsome candelabra of brightly burning white tapers. Large floor standards on pedestals displayed Playa Blanca roses, Mother of Pearl roses, white hydrangea, snapdragons, ruscus and silver dollar eucalyptus, flanking the altar on either side. White satin ties were placed on the pews to simply mark the path of the bridal party.

Strains of "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" accompanied the seating of the bride and groom's mothers with Linda Kidd playing the organ, Lauren Baker, Violin I, Stefka Ileva, Violin 2, Molly Goforth, Cello, along with vocalists Jodi Bollich, Soprano and Paul Baker, Tenor.

"Trumpet Voluntary" signaled the entry of the bridal group, first to enter the church being Mrs. Anne Elise Robertson Doise, sister of the bride and matron of the honor. She was followed by Dr. Elizabeth Bertucci Robertson, sister-in-law of the bride and matron of honor.

The maid of honor, Miss Elisabeth Kathryn Teresa Robertson, sister of the bride, immediately preceded the bride, along with the junior bridesmaid, Miss Caroline Cecile Alexander, daughter of the groom. They were attired in long blush pink gowns of various shades of silk and each with her chosen design. Each carried satin ribbon tied bouquets of white peonies, Playa Blanca roses and silver dollar eucalyptus.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, chose time honored bridal white for her custom designed wedding gown of rich matte satin in its full beauty and softness used in the fitted waist and deep, full skirt falling into a graceful cathedral length train from a belted waistline. A simple, long sleeved bolero etched in lace appliques elegantly finished the strapless bodice. Her full-length veil of illusion was edged with lace appliques and featured a blusher for the bride's entrance into the church.

As her only jewelry, the bride wore earrings that once belonged to her grandmother, the late Thelma Hebert Moody. She also wore her grandmother's ring as her something blue, along with a beautifully monogrammed piece with wedding date appliqued at the hem, a gift of a longtime family friend. She carried an exquisite bouquet, a nosegay arrangement planned around white peonies and hydrangeas tied by satin ribbon.

All the men of the wedding party, who wore traditional black tuxedos with boutonnieres of white stephanotis, included the groom being attended by his son, Jackson Ben Alexander, as best man, Samuel Andrew Moody Robertson, brother of the bride, and Michael Joseph Doise, brother-in- law of the bride.

Ringbearers included Samuel Everett Robertson, Charles Dennis Doise, Britton Marshall Robertson and James Barret Robertson, all nephews of the bride. They were attired in white collared shirts, khaki pants and Louisiana-themed bow ties.

Throughout the Nuptial Mass, the vocalists and musicians assisted with renditions of beautiful music of the Mass of Christ Savior by D. Schutte. Readings were offered by the bride's godmother, Valerie Moody Hensgens, and the groom's godfather, John Edward Ortego. Samuel Andrew Moody Robertson offered the responsorial psalm.

Lifelong friends of the bride Olivia Bordelon Michel, Natalie Domino Person, Catherine Russo Hales, and cousin of the bride, Valerie Hensgens Lyons, presented the gifts, accompanied by "O God Beyond All Praising" by M. Perry.

The Communion hymn was "Panis Angelicus" by C. Franck and the presentation to the Blessed Virgin Mary was accompanied by "J'irai la Voir un Jour " by Fr. P Janin in memory of the bride's maternal grandmother.

The bridal party recessed to strains of Handel's "La Rejouissance". As they exited through the church doors, they were surprised by cousins and other family members with showers of rose petals.

The bride's parents then greeted guests at the Opera House in Crowley for the wedding reception and celebration. Mrs. Robertson was attired in a simple, ankle length sage green silk suit accented by a simple strand of pearls. The groom's mother selected a lovely shade of autumn burgundy ankle length suit with delicate jewel accents. Each carried tussy mussy silver nosegay holders of the wedding flowers.

Throughout the Opera House, the bridal theme of white was followed in the decorative plan with graceful arrangements of peonies, hydrangeas and roses placed on each white damask covered table. The bridal party's table was centered with a family etagere filled with the wedding flowers. Noted above was one of the architectural Opera House lanterns also adorned with wedding flowers. White linen monogrammed napkins completed the table where a five-course seated luncheon was served.



Mrs. Michael Benjamin Alexander

The bride and groom entered the reception amidst the sounds of "All Your'n" by Tyler Childers for their first dance. The bride and her father then shared a dance to "Rocky Top", the University of Tennessee Fight Song, that they share as Tennessee alums.

Throughout the Opera House, the bridal theme of white was followed in the decorative plan, with graceful arrangements of white peonies, hydrangeas and roses noted. After a period of congratulations and best wishes to the happy young couple, the guests were invited into the dining area for seating. Overlaid with a rich damask linen table covering, the bride's wedding cake table featured a large, tiered cake as the central decorative point. Placed at the center of the table, the cake was iced in tiered confection with olive leaf garland ornamentation for each layer and topped with a silver bowl filled with white wedding flowers.

In addition, the wedding party shared a toast with the newly weds who used silver goblets that have been in the bride's family for five generations.

Following the bridal custom through the years, the bride and groom cut the first piece of cake after which Mrs. Valerie Moody Hensgens of Crowley and Mrs. Victoria Moody Valicevic of Lafayette, godmothers of the bride, oversaw the cake service.

A second table featured the groom's traditional chocolate cake iced with chocolate ganache, which was likewise shared first with the newly-weds then served for guests.

Another point of interest was the display of bride dolls commissioned by the bride's maternal grandmother, the late Thelma Hebert Moody, of her six daughters in likeness of their wedding gowns and veils. The display included one of Mrs. Moody in her wedding gown from 1947. Wedding flowers completed the display.

The bride is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Braxton Isham Moody III, her grandmother the former Thelma Theresa Hebert Moody, now deceased. She is also the granddaughter of Mrs. Joe Lyle Jr., the former Margaret Elizabeth Adams, and the late Charles Wallace Robertson Sr. of Chattanooga, Tennessee.

The groom is the grandson of the late Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Ortego.

The bride's eight aunts and uncles, along with their spouses, joined in the Nuptial Mass, as did the groom's six aunts and his uncle with their spouses.

After dancing and celebrating, the newly wedded Mr. and Mrs. Alexander led a Second Line out to the front of the Opera House. They left amid showers of rose petals and best wishes from their family and friends for a wedding trip to the Grand Hotel in Point Clear, Alabama.

Mrs. Alexander is a graduate of St. Thomas More High School in Lafayette, received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Baylor University in Texas and a Master of Science degree from the University of Tennessee.

Mr. Alexander is a graduate of Sacred Heart High School in Ville Platte, attained a Bachelor of Science and a Bachelor of Civil Law from Louisiana State University, as well as Juris Doctor from the Paul M. Hebert Law Center at LSU.

They are at home in Lafayette.

Upcoming events

April 8

The Acadia Parish Tourist Commission will meet at the Tourist Information Office, 401 Tower Road in Crowley.

April 9

The Acadia Parish Chamber of Commerce will host the 2021 Legislative Breakfast at the Crowley Town Club where guests can be informed of the progress at the state level for the upcoming Legislative session. Tickets are $10 each.

April 10

The 2021 Rice City Classic Car and Antique Tractor Show will be held in downtown Crowley on historic Parkerson Avenue. New to the event this year will be a Jambalaya Cooking Contest. For more information, contact Mike Libby at (337) 458-0682; Corey Faulk at (337) 458-0775; or Hoffpauir at (337) 783-0824 ext. 301.

The 1st Annual Two-Man Easter Golf Scramble will be held at Cajun Pine Golf Club in Branch between the hours of 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.

April 12

The Rayne City Council will hold its monthly City Council meeting at 6 p.m. at the Council chambers at City Hall. COVID safety precautions will be observed including face masks and social distancing.

April 18

Notre Dame High School of Acadia Parish will host "Project Graduation" at the ND Ag Building on the school campus between 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Jambalaya dinner tickets are $10 each and will include a delicious plate of jambalaya, green beans and bread.

April 19

The program for seniors, "Food For Seniors," will continue at the Southside Community Center between the hours of 7-10 a.m. For info, call 334-4848.

April 24

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

May 16

The Hearts and Heels 3rd Annual Fashion Show will be held at the Opera House in Crowley by Hearts and Heels. Tickets are available at givebutter.com.

June 13

The 5th Annual Red, White and Blue Cuties Pageant will be held at the Duson Community Center in Duson hosted by Zo-Zo's Pageants.

June 26

Mark your calendars for the 3rd Annual Rayne High Booster Club "Football 3-Man" Golf Scramble to be held at Bayou Bend Country Club in Crowley. The shotgun start is 8 a.m. with lunch to be provided after the round. Door prizes and drinks will also be provided.

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