



VILLE PLATTE Gazette

LA VOIX DE LA PAROISSE D'EVANGELINE DEPUIS 1914

PAGE 8: VPHS SEES GROWTH IN SPRING FOOTBALL ACTION.



111th Year - Number 38

Sunday, May 12, 2024

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Myers

Myers plans ground-up approach for PPHS football

By: RHETT MANUEL
Sports Editor

PINE PRAIRIE – It's a place that hasn't tasted much success on the gridiron throughout its program history.

But, one thing remains true. The town of Pine Prairie craves a winning football program, and recently hired head coach Lance Myers hopes to bring that success to the town.

Coming from Gueydan, Myers hopes that communication and a process-driven regimen are the recipe that brings a winning season to a football landscape whose best ever season is a 5-5 mark a few years back.

"The community has really gone out of their way to make me feel welcome," Myers said. "I have been fortunate to have met a lot of nice people and the most common thing I've taken from all the conversations is the want for change."

"This community so badly wants their football program to be a success. As a head coach that's exactly what you want in return."

Pine Prairie is not the type of place where you

See MYERS, Page 12

Budget issues in Mamou are addressed

By: HEATHER BOGARD
Associate Editor

Council member Ricardo "Rico" Goodley, during the May 8, meeting of the Mamou Town Council, addressed budget issues. He said, "I have been wanting to address what is on my heart. I am for everybody and have been visiting with everyone regarding safety here in Mamou. We are blessed that the stuff going on around us is

not here yet." He said the council, police department and residents need to come together as one. "There is a lot of division and we need to come to an understanding today."

Goodley continued, saying he spoke with several business owners concerned about speeding and loud music and the need for more police involvement. He did admit it all boils down to money, but "we need to make sure the people have what they need."

Goodley further said he didn't understand why there has always been division between city hall and the police department. He said it is not fair to anyone and needs to stop today. "We need to make a commitment and make adjustments now. We have to build trust among each other and be straight forward with each other and stop bringing all the drama." He

See BUDGET, Page 12

Boggy Bayou Festival opens



The 39th annual Boggy Bayou Festival kicked off on Thursday, May 9, with its opening ceremonies. In the top photo, Miss Boggy Festival Kale Cloud (right) is pictured as she places the crown on this year's king, Bryon Scott Johnson (center). Also pictured is outgoing king, Kerry Paul Fontenot. Later, Cameron LaFleur was recognized for placing third in District 2 at the Louisiana Fairs and Festivals art contest. In the bottom photo, TJ Campbell (left) and Andy Carson (right) present LaFleur with a blanket depicting her artwork. A similar blanket was available for auction during the festival. (Gazette photos by Tony Marks)

Bid for new parish jail is accepted

(Editor's Note: The following was submitted by Evangeline Parish Sheriff Charles Guillory.)

The coming of the new Evangeline Parish Detention Center Jail Complex has been a very long process. With the passing of a perpetual sales tax, securing a multi-million dollar bond from the bond commission, acquiring an architect to draw plans, having many discussions and drawing contracts with the police jury, and finally going into the bidding process takes a long time. As previously stated, bids were rejected twice, once in September 2023 and once in February 2024.

Now with a great sense of gratitude, I am pleased to announce that the Evangeline Parish Sheriff's Office along with the recommendation of Grace Hebert Curtis Architects, LLC, accepted a bid offer on May 7 in the amount of \$21,670,000 as a base bid from Trahan Construction LLC, in Lake Arthur. An additive alternate bid for \$315,000 was also given for a Sheriff's Office Maintenance Shop which we are looking closely to decide whether to accept this offer or bid it separately.

What happens next?

A written contract is being prepared between the Evangeline Parish Sheriff's Office, Grace Hebert Curtis, LLC, and

See JAIL, Page 2

BUSINESS HOURS

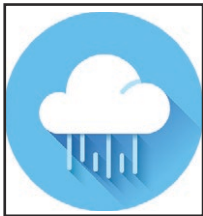
The Gazette opens its office doors at 8 a.m. and closes them at 5 p.m. Monday - Thursday and at noon on Friday.

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Have a news tip?
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Blooming where planted: Bourgeois is named 2024 Woman with Heart

Staff Report

OPELOUSAS - The Women United of St. Landry-Evangeline United Way hosted its 12th Annual Women With Heart Luncheon and Awards event on Wednesday, May 8, at the Opelousas Civic Center. This popular event awarded two outstanding women from six nominees from St. Landry and Evangeline Parish respectively.

According to Ginger LeCompte, executive director of St. Landry-Evangeline United Way, "Almost 200 attendees were inspired by the stories of our six nominees, with any one of them deserving of the Woman With Heart award."

Kimberly Bourgeois, the Evangeline Parish recipient of the award, is a lifelong Mamou resident, business owner, and active member of the Evangeline Parish



Pictured are Wanda Verrette (left) and Kimberly Bourgeois (right). Bourgeois is this year's Woman with Heart award from Evangeline Parish. Verrette is a previous winner. (Gazette photo by Tony Marks)

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Ville Platte Gazette

News Briefs

Food for Families/ Food for Seniors

The Evangeline Community Action Agency Inc. and Food for Families/ Food for Seniors will be distributing the food boxes Thursday, June 6, at the

See BRIEFS, Page 10

Ville Platte Gazette

Correction

In the May 9, edition of the *Ville Platte Gazette*, Victory Millennium Ministries was incorrectly identified as Millennium Church. The *Ville Platte Gazette* apologizes for its mistake and for any confusion this may have caused.

Happy Mother's Day

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Ville Platte Gazette

At the Library

The Library Board of Control and staff from around the parish extend warm wishes to all of the mothers in Evangeline Parish and abroad for a happy and memorable Mother's Day!

Here's another thank you for making our 2024 Spring Library Fest a huge success! We are so blessed to be able to promote our local authors, cooks, vendors, crafters, and community organizations!

The Evangeline Parish Library Board of Control will meet on May 13, at 4 p.m. at the main library. An agenda will be posted. The public is invited to

Ville Platte Gazette

EPSO Arrests

The Evangeline Parish Sheriff's Office reported the following recent bookings into the parish jail. All persons are presumed innocent until proven guilty. Arrested were the following persons:

- Geraldo Orlandez Nelson, 35, Ville Platte, was arrested May 9, 2024, by the Evangeline Parish Sheriff's Office for failure to appear for court. Nelson was released on a \$2,500.00 bond.
- Curtis Alexander White, 30, Mamou, was arrested May 8, 2024, by the Evangeline Parish Sheriff's Office for simple assault and second degree battery/ domestic/ child endangerment. White remains incarcerated on a \$1,000.00 bond.
- Vorance Matthew Deville, 32, Mamou, was arrested May 8, 2024, by the Evangeline Parish Sheriff's Office for possession of CDS schedule I and three counts of failure to appear for court. Deville remains incarcerated on a \$2,500.00 bond.
- Deandre Devante Roberts, 31, Ville Platte, was arrested May 8, 2024, by the Evangeline Parish Sheriff's Office for aggravated assault with a firearm and hate crimes. Roberts remains incarcerated on a \$20,000.00 bond.
- Cameron Glenndale Guilbeaux, 22, Ville Platte, was arrested May 8, 2024, by the Evangeline Parish Sheriff's Office for domestic abuse battery. Guilbeaux remains incarcerated on no bond.
- Logan Seth Morrison, 29, Ville Platte, was arrested May 8, 2024, by the Turkey Creek Police Department for simple battery and disturbing the peace by intoxication. Morrison was released on a \$3,000.00 bond.

Convictions continue

As per Evangeline Parish District Attorney Trent Brignac numerous convictions were had in the months of March and April as part of the regularly scheduled criminal dockets.

In separate criminal dockets before Judge Chuck West and Judge Marcus Fontenot, there were a total of 36 felony convictions and 35 misdemeanor convictions.

Brignac commended the efforts of Assistant District Attorneys, Jacob B. Fusilier, Justin Bo West, C.J. Hesnor, as well as Special Assistant Sydia Robin for their efforts in the prosecution of these cases.

JAIL

Continued From Page 1

Trahan Construction Co. to begin the project. This process should take approximately two weeks. In the meantime, a construction road will be built off of Industrial Road next to the Ward 1 yard and 911 property. This is a joint effort between the Evangeline Parish Sheriff's Office and the Evangeline Parish Police Jury. Once the construction begins, the time line for completion should be 12-18 months. Let's grow towards a better Evangeline Parish together.

I wish to thank the Evangeline Parish Police Jury President Mr. Bryan Vidrine and the entire police jury for working hard towards this project. Also, I wish to thank the bonding attorneys; Judge Greg Vidrine and Mr. Eric Lafleur for securing the bond and making this process less complicated.

attend.

Our main library garden is growing! Please drop by soon to see it and use your library card to check out some seed packets for your home garden!

Visit the Facebook page of your favorite library branch to see information about programs unique to them. Also, visit our website www.evangelinelibrary.org for updates. You can always call the main library at 337-363-1369 or send an email to evangeline_parch@yahoo.com for more information and never forget that libraries do change lives.... even in the cloud! Suzy Lemoine.

Felon is in jail for firearms

Detectives with the Evangeline Parish Sheriff's Office, on May 1, assisted Probation and Parole with a compliance check on Von Dale Ashford (DOB: February 22, 1982), who is a convicted felon under Probation and Parole supervision.

During the compliance check, detectives along with Probation and Parole, located multiple firearms inside the residence. Two firearms, one containing a conversion trigger switch which modifies the firearms to be fully automatic, were found Ashford's possession. Two other firearms were located inside the living room of the residence. The firearms were later confiscated by the Evangeline Parish Sheriff's Office.

Ashford was charged with two counts of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and one count of possession or dealing in unregistered or illegally transferred weapons. He is currently being held in the Evangeline Parish Jail with a \$200,000.00 bond.

Evangeline Council on Aging

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Wishing my Mother and all Mothers a Happy Mother's Day!

Ryan LeDay Williams

Ville Platte Mayor

Happy Mother's Day

Brittany G. Fontenot

Missing YOU dearly since you passed away, nothing or no one could ever take your place.

Missing YOU sadly, you meant the world to us, you are irreplaceable and always will be.

Missing YOU always, you are in our hearts & on our minds daily, YOU are loved, and you were truly one of a kind.

Missing YOU wholeheartedly, it's a loss that's so hard to bear, you are ever so precious to us.

Missing YOU forever with love and fondest thoughts

Missing YOU so much Brittany

Love, Kayden, Bailey, Gavin, Mom & Dad

01/12/1992 - 04/13/23

EVANGELINE

Ville Platte Rotary: Prudhomme gives update on Heritage Manor

By: **HEATHER BOGARD**
Associate Editor

Rotarian Patricia Duplechin welcomed Trey Prudhomme, administrator of Heritage Manor Nursing Home in Ville Platte, as the guest speaker for the May 7, meeting of the Ville Platte Rotary Club. Prudhomme began by saying a volunteer of the year award is presented, however, this year, the award was changed to be the Hillery Hill Volunteer of the Year Award. This was done to honor of all his years of service and dedication to the facility. Prudhomme shared the first recipient of the revamped award was Mable Foreman and the honor was well deserved.

Prudhomme then discussed state changes to emergency preparedness at the facility. He said following the last run of hurricanes to hit the area, the state found a significant lack of preparation for hurricanes and other disasters that may occur. The state revamped the minimum standards and Prudhomme admit-



HERITAGE MANOR UPDATE GIVEN - Shown, from left, are Rotarian Patricia Duplechin, Rotarian and Heritage Manor Nursing Home Administrator Trey Prudhomme and Rotary President Brian Ardoin. (Gazette photo by Heather Bogard)

ted it has taken a lot to get the facilities up to those new standards. He said there are back up plans to the back up plans in place in the event of any disasters or emergencies. It can be very cumbersome, especially for facilities south of I-10 who are the first to evacuate in

an emergency situation. Prudhomme noted they now have to submit their emergency preparedness plans to the state and go through LDH (Louisiana Department of Health), OEP (Office of Emergency Preparedness), OPH (Office of Public Health) and the state fire mar-

shal, which is a very time consuming process.

On the national level, Prudhomme noted new minimum standards on the number of nursing hours per resident per day in each facility have been set by the current president's administration. Prudhomme stated

the current standard is for 2.35 hours per resident per day per facility. Heritage Manor has 100 residents so that means 235 nursing hours each day for the facility. The new minimum standards would increase the hours from 2.35 to 3.25 hours per resident per day per

facility, for a total of 325 nursing hours per day. Prudhomme shared we are lucky in our area, as there are not a lot of nursing shortages. He also stated Heritage Manor's budget allows for 373 nursing hours per day, well above the minimum standard.

Prudhomme then stated he was proud to partner with the Evangeline Parish School Board on Ville Platte High School's CNA program. He also said there is a three-week nurse's aid program available each month to provide certification as a nurse's aid. Under this program, the participant attend two weeks of classes and one week of clinicals. They must pass the facility's test and then take the state test, which includes written exam and clinical experience.

Prudhomme closed by thanking Duplechin and the rest of the staff for their hard work and making him look good.

The next Rotary meeting will be held Tuesday, May 14, with a program presented by Rotarian Kristi Enicke.

Proposed constitutional convention clears state House

By: **ELIZABETH WHITE**
LSU Manship School News Service

BATON ROUGE – A bill calling for a constitutional convention, a key part of Gov. Jeff Landry's agenda, passed the House floor in a 75-27 Tuesday after a lengthy debate and various amendments.

Supporters said the aim would be to move provisions of the current constitution into statute, making it easier to change some of them in future legislative sessions.

Under the bill, some articles and provisions in the current constitution, including the homestead property tax exemption and public-school funding, would be protected from being moved out of the constitution.

"We are not rewriting the constitution," Rep. Beau Beaulieu, R-New Iberia, said. "This is a refresh of the constitution. We respect the previous authors' work so much that we're going to retain that language and simply move it into

statute."

Much of the state's operating budget is dictated by provisions of the constitution, and changing them to statutes could give the Legislature more flexibility in dealing with the expected loss of several hundred million dollars in revenue next year when a fraction of the state sales tax expires.

But some lawmakers are concerned about the lack of transparency in the process and whether Landry and his allies also plan to use the convention to enhance the governor's power in other ways.

Beaulieu started the debate Tuesday with an amendment changing the timeline for the convention, which has been a point of contention for many lawmakers.

Under the new timeline, the convention would start no earlier than May 30, which is 10 days after the originally proposed start date of May 20. Legislators and delegates would then meet throughout June and July in joint committees focused on

different articles of the constitution.

After these meetings, the full convention of the Senate, House and Landry's delegates would take place August 1 through August 15, with the ability to extend the convention no later than August 23 to ensure it is on the November ballot.

"Why do we need this convention? Why do we need it now? Well, as you know, we do have an election this fall," Beaulieu said. "It also allows us to address the over half-a-billion-dollar shortfall that's projected to have next year."

Beaulieu's amendment passed with no objections. But despite the new timeline, members of the House still had concerns about transparency, whether the protections outlined

in the enabling legislation would be followed and the public's ability to have input in the convention.

Landry, who was present on the House floor for the entire debate, has been pushing for a convention for the past two months, but has provided no

details about what changes to the constitution he is seeking.

Some members expressed their frustration over the lack of transparency about what changes Landry wants to make, even going as far as to ask numerous times if a constitution has already

been drafted.

"You know, I like a delicious meal, but at least I want to know

See **HOUSE**, Page 5

I wish to express my gratitude to all Law Enforcement Officers especially my son, Tib, for a job well done and continued dedicated servie.

Thank You.



Charles R. Guillory

Evangeline Parish Sheriff and Staff

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Chief of Police Pat Hall, Officers and Staff for your dedication in keeping our town and family safe.

Town of Mamou

Mayor Leisa Deshotel and Councilmembers

OPINIONS

STEVE GARDES

Certified Public Acctt.

Certified Valuation Analyst



School choice fake news

All across America conservative states have moved to Universal School Choice to give Parents the money to educate their children as they see best--whether it be Public, Charter, or Private Schools. Other words, the money follows the child, not the school. If all of those Parents want to keep their children in Public Schools, then public education does not lose a dollar. Regardless, in every instance those conservative states received fierce push-back from the Teacher Unions and State Education Boards (aka "the bureaucracy") who want to protect their power and money.

Louisiana is on the precipice of becoming the 11th state to give Parents the power to choose what is the best school to educate their children with HB 745 LA Gator ("ESA" Program) which was passed overwhelmingly in the House--and right on cue, our Senate Legislators began receiving fierce push back from the bureaucracy allegedly because of uncertainty as to the cost of the ESA program. The Senate Finance Committee voted 4-3 to approve Senate Bill 313 which calls for a year delay for a study to be conducted by the Louisiana Department of Education and BESE to determine the need for an ESA program--then for BESE to develop the rules and regulations for ESAs--then, if BESE approves an ESA program, it will be subject to appropriations of funds from the Legislature each year.

In support of SB 313 the state's largest newspaper ran this week lead "Readers Views" articles with the following comments: "ESAs are existential threat to public education--ESA monies going primarily to parochial schools is alarming for those of us who value separation of church and state--they aim to reduce public school funds while subsidizing private schools--both charter and privatization movements grew from a dark place of school segregation and racial inequality."

Wow!! To put things in proper context, it is undisputed that Louisiana's Public School system in general is failing to educate our children as Louisiana consistently (over 30 plus years) ranks at the bottom of U.S. educational rankings. Louisiana ESAs as proposed are phased in over 3 years and will first give money to poor parents to send their children to the school they choose.

This is not complicated. If the senate's concern is truly budgetary, then simple fixes to the House ESA program could be 1) extend the tran-

See GARDES, Page 5

LETTER POLICY

The *Ville Platte Gazette* welcomes letters on topics relative to public debate and issues of importance for the local area. Letters must be typed, double spaced or neatly written and signed by the writer. Unsigned letters will not be considered for publication. Obscene, libelous or letters dealing solely with political candidates will not be published. Letters must also carry a telephone number and address for verification of authenticity. Letters must consist of 300 words or less, and *The Gazette* reserves the right to edit letters.

Letters to be considered for Thursday's publication must be submitted by Tuesday, and letters to be considered for Sunday's publication must be submitted to the paper by Thursday.

Letters for publication should be addressed to: Letters to the Editor Department, The Ville Platte Gazette, 145 Court St, Ville Platte, La. 70586.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Naomi said to her daughters-in-law, 'Go back, each of you to your mother's house. May the LORD show you the same kindness as you have shown to the deceased and to me. May the LORD guide each of you to find a husband and a home in which you will be at rest' ... But Ruth said, 'Do not press me to go back and abandon you! Wherever you go I will go, wherever you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people and your God, my God.'" - Ruth 1:8-9;16



C'est Vrai: Derby winner joins impressive club

When Lafayette native Brian Hernandez Jr. rode longshot Mystik Dan to a photo-finish Kentucky Derby win he joined a list of south Louisiana jockeys who have made racing history.

He said his race was inspired by one of them, Calvin Borel, a native of the St. Martin Parish community of Catahoula, who won the Derby three times in four years by keeping his horses as close to the rail as he could, saving ground and equine energy.

After his Derby win, Hernandez said he'd decided to do the same. "I said, 'You know what? We're going to roll the dice,'" he told writers after the race. His bold move to the rail in the final turn saved just enough ground for one of the closest wins in Derby history. Mystik Dan finished barely a nose ahead of the favorite Sierra Leone, who was barely a nose ahead of third-place Forever Young.

Mystik Dan's trainer, Kenny McPeck, credited his rider with the win. "He's the difference between winning and losing," McPeck said. "We saved ground, saved ground, saved ground. I think we needed all of it."

The historic win puts Hernandez on a list of south Louisiana Derby winners that includes Borel, Maurice native Kent Desormeaux, and New Iberian Eddie Delahoussaye.

Borel was inducted into the National Museum of Horse Racing Hall of Fame in 2013. His three

JIM BRADSHAW

Columnist

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Derby wins were just a part of his 1,189 triumphs at Churchill Downs over more than two decades. Overall, Borel won 5,146 races aboard mounts that earned more than \$127 million in purses.

Desormeaux was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2004. He rode Derby winners in 1998, 2000 and 2008. In 1989, he broke the record for the most victories in a season with 599 wins. In 2019 he reached a milestone only 18 others in North America have met when he won his 6,000th race.

Eddie Delahoussaye was one of those 18 others. He retired in 2003 with 6,383 wins. He won the Derby in 1982 and 1983, after finishing second in 1981. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1993.

Hernandez, the latest Derby winner, is the son of Brian Hernandez Sr., who had a long career as a jockey in Louisiana. Brian Jr. began racing while he was still in high school and celebrated his first win in November 2003 at Delta Downs in Vinton. Over the next two decades he earned a reputation as a hard-working, savvy

rider who could be counted on to give a good, steady, mistake-free ride whether it was in a high-stakes race or a lesser event.

That work ethic also puts him on another list of south Louisiana riders who did not win the Derby, but who came from little Louisiana tracks to earn big reputations.

They include Lafayette native Robby Albarado who retired in 2021 with more than 5,000 wins under his belt. Carencro's Ron Ardoin, who won 5,226 times, mostly on Louisiana tracks; Erath's Randy Romero, who, despite health problems that would have felled lesser men, came in first 4,294 times and was the leading rider at 10 tracks on 21 separate occasions; Shane Sellers, another Erath native who has 4,393 career wins; and Sunset's Ray Sibille, who rode 4,263 winning mounts.

In 2007, when some of the greats gathered at Evangeline Downs for a race billed as the Cajun Jockey Challenge, somebody figured out that all of the wins by just the jockeys reared within 30 miles of Lafayette added together would come to "67,000 and counting." That's pretty impressive.

I don't think anybody added up the number of wins by jockeys from across all of south Louisiana, but I would wager it's close to 100,000 — and growing.

See BRADSHAW, Page 5

For Mother's Day — teaching the art of laughter

My mother would have been considered eccentric had she been financially wealthy.

She would do almost anything — and wear almost any silly costume — to bring joy into the lives of others, much to the embarrassment of her six children.

But she is wealthy in the ways that really matter, and her greatest wealth is teaching the art of laughter.

She knew the benefits of laughter long before scientific studies confirmed them. When she wasn't laughing herself, she was teaching us how to.

Most nights after dinner we sat around the table relating stories about what one of us had done and laughing aloud.

While many parents in the neighborhood went to social events Saturday nights, my mother preferred to stay home.

We'd make banana splits and watch the Carol Burnett show, and as Tim Conway's old-man routine caused me to laugh so hard I'd fall off the couch, she'd sit there watching me, delighted to see me learn her

TOM PURCELL

Columnist

Tom@TomPurcell.com



craft so well.

She collected friends who were even livelier than she. One lady, Marty, had five children of her own. Both had been housewives their entire adult lives — both wanted to try their hand at writing.

In the 1970s, my mother began getting published in newspapers and magazines — Erma Bombeck humor, mocking the life of the housewife.

She and Marty wrote a play, "Betty's Attic," and it was performed by a local theater company.

They sold jokes to comedian Phyllis Diller. They were thrilled to see Diller perform their jokes at a live show — delighted to see the laughter their jokes provoked.

The writing gigs never produced much money, though, so my mother concocted a plan to generate extra cash. Did she get a part-time job at a

bank or a department store, as normal moms in our neighborhood did?

No, she had another idea that embarrassed her children considerably: dress up like Miss Piggy, Big Bird, Raggedy Ann and Clown Clara and stage children's parties for parents eager to pay her.

It was easy for her to bring instant order to a room of 40 kids or more. She still has an amazing way with children.

She was soon staging three parties every Saturday and, to avoid costume changes, staged all of them as Clown Clara.

As fate would have it, though — I'm not making this up — a thief in the area had been robbing banks dressed as a clown.

Well, while pulling into the driveway at the home of one of her gigs, a police car came roaring in behind her. A cop jumped out and began barking orders at her. He thought she was the bank robber!

It took some time to clear up the confusion — at one point the cop thought my mother was in cahoots

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HOUSE

Continued From Page 3

what’s on the menu,” Rep. Edmond Jordan, D-Baton Rouge, said. “And right now, I don’t know if any of us actually know what’s on the menu. We don’t know what we’re really ordering.”

Multiple members of the House, some of whom are lawyers, said it is unclear whether delegates would be legally bound to the enabling legislation and could open the convention to more than just reorganization.

“I’ve talked to a lot of lawyers that specialize in constitutional law,” Rep. Jason Hughes, D-New Orleans, said. “I’ve also spoken to some folks that were actually a part of the 1973 convention, and they have told me that the enabling legislation could be ignored. In fact, they said that enabling legislation was ignored in the 1973 convention.”

Beaullieu assured members that he and Landry, House Speaker Rep. Phillip DeVillier, R-Eunice, and Senate President Cameron Henry, R-Metairie, will stay within the confines of HB 800. DeVillier also rebutted these concerns.

“There was a Supreme Court decision regarding the 1913 convention,” DeVillier said. “It said once the legislation is passed to call a convention that piece of legislation covers the items to debate.”

Public input was also debated as Beaullieu explained citizens would be able to come to the joint committee meetings and give testimony like in regular sessions. Some members said they would like to see a “road show” happen where they travel the state hearing testimony.

There were almost a dozen other amendments on the floor Tuesday attempting to add to the list of provisions protected from removal. Among those passed were retirement benefits for public employees and teachers and pay for district attorneys and sheriffs.

The bill will move to the Senate, where the proposal is said to be less popular and must be passed before the end of session on June 3 for a constitutional convention to occur.

BRADSHAW

Continued From Page 4

The legendary rider Pat Day, who was Borel’s chief rival at Churchill Downs for many years, was impressed by that success. He told an interviewer, “I don’t know of any other sport, in any country in the world, where you would see this level of success from such a relatively small area.”

I don’t know of one, either.

You can contact Jim Bradshaw at jimbradshaw4321@gmail.com or P.O. Box 1121, Washington LA 70589.

GARDES

Continued From Page 4

sition period from 3 years to 5 years, 2) make sure the existing education money is given to the poor and middle class parents in years 1-4, and 3) then in year 5 when new ESA funds become available to the remaining parents, those new funds would be subject to appropriation of funds from the Legislature each year as the budget permits.

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

PURCELL

Continued From Page 4

with the guy who hired her to stage his kid’s party — but when everyone finally figured out what was going on, she had but one response: a giant burst of laughter.

All of those incidents happened 40 years ago or more. My mom kept doing parties throughout her 60s.

In her 70s, she penned a half dozen lively children’s books, which are still available on Amazon.com.

Now in her 80s, she is sharing incredible treasures with her grandchildren and great grandchildren to ensure that they, too, master the art of laughter.

Happy Mother’s Day, mom!

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See Tom Purcell’s syndicated column, humor books and funny videos featuring his dog, Thurber, at TomPurcell.com. Email him at Tom@TomPurcell.com.



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Turkey Creek Chief Brittney Hebert and your outstanding team of Police Officers for an excellent job of keeping our village safe and secure, while demonstrating honor and respect toward our citizens.

WELL DONE!

Village of Turkey Creek
Mayor Campbell and Councilmembers

McNeese Names Spring 2024 Outstanding Graduates

McNeese State University students Sam Gil, of Ville Platte, and Chrisnina Sutopo-Putri, of Lake Charles, were named the Outstanding Graduates for spring of 2024.

The McNeese Student Government Association (SGA) and the McNeese Alumni Association worked together to create the Outstanding Graduate Awards. Students are nominated on the basis of scholarship, leadership, service and excellence with a personal touch and the nominee’s impact on the college or on campus.

Each of the six colleges at McNeese may nominate an undergraduate and a graduate student in their final semester. A committee from the McNeese Alumni Association then selected one undergraduate and one graduate student for the award.

Gil, an undergraduate nominated by the College of Liberal Arts, will graduate with a bachelor’s degree in mass communication with a concentration in public relations. Gil is a member of the McNeese Honors College, president of the Student Government Association and a student board member of the Louisiana Board of Regents. He was a governor’s fellow at the office of Gov. John Bel Edwards and a Rhodes Scholar finalist.

Sutopo-Putri, a graduate student nominated by the College of Business, is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and will earn a master’s degree in business administration. Sutopo-Putri has a recent solo paper, “Validity of Okun’s Law: Evidence from Indonesia” under review of the International Review of Business Economics. She plans to continue to be a CPA and pursue a doctorate degree in accounting.

The College of Agriculture nominated Jude Braquet and Cutter Tonn.

Braquet, an undergraduate student from Carencro, will graduate with a bachelor’s degree in agriculture sciences with a concentration in animal science. Braquet competed nationally as a member of McNeese FFA and the American Meats Science Association.

Tonn, a graduate student from Lacassine, will earn a Master of Science degree in environmental and chemical sciences with a concentration on environmental sciences. Tonn presented his thesis research, “Turtle Species Richness and Abundances with Crawfish/Rice Ponds in Southwestern Louisiana,” at the Louisiana Association of Professional Biologist Fall Conference.



Sam Gil

The Burton College of Education nominated Kennedy Mallett and Ciara Gilroy.

Mallett, an undergraduate from Welsh, will graduate with two bachelor’s degrees, one in sports medicine and another in chemistry.

Mallett is a member of the McNeese Honors College, Pre-Med Society, American Chemical Society and the Physical Medicine Society.

Gilroy, a graduate student from Lake Charles, has maintained a 4.0 grade point average while earning her master’s degree in exercise science. She is a McNeese Cross Country athlete and has been listed on numerous academic honor rolls. Gilroy is a member of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee and Fellowship of Christian Athletes and received the Women’s Community Impact Student Athlete of the Year.

Undergraduate Adepoju “PJ” Adetunji, of Nigeria, was nominated by the College of Business. He will graduate with a bachelor’s degree in finance. He is a member of the McNeese Black

See GIL, Page 11

EVANGELINE PARISH SCHOOLS

LIMITED FREEDOM OF CHOICE 2024-25 STUDENT TRANSFER OPTIONS

APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE ONLY AT: www.epsb.com

All in-parish students, who were granted transfers in previous year, are NOT required to renew/reapply. **ONLY** students living outside of Evangeline Parish are required to renew/reapply. Out-of parish applicants must receive and submit a release statement from his/her home parish before any transfer request can be considered. Applications must be completed and submitted online at www.epsb.com.

K-12 GENERAL TRANSFERS OPTIONS:

The following transfer options are available to elementary, middle, and high school students:

- Administrative** - allows students to attend another school outside his/her regular attendance zone
- Employee’s Child** - allows child/children of a school employee to attend the school where his/her parent/legal guardian is employed or a school in the feeder pattern.
- Graduating Senior** - allows a 12th grade student to remain enrolled at the school where he/she attended 11th grade, even if he/she has moved to a new attendance zone.
- Matriculation** - allows Junior and Senior students to take advantage of courses offered at another school while remaining enrolled at their home schools. Students must provide their own transportation to and from the other school.
- Evangeline Virtual Academy (EVA)** - is a free public school where teachers primarily educate from a remote location using the internet and other computer - based methods. EVA is open to all students who reside in Evangeline Parish. Teachers monitor attendance and issue grades to participating students. Students remain zoned for their assigned home school.
- Job for America’s Graduate (JAG) Program at Ville Platte High, Pine Prairie High and Mamou High:** Jobs for America’s Graduates (JAG) is a state-based national non-profit organization dedicated to supporting young people of great promise. JAG is delivering the best results in its 40-year history, while serving youth who face significant challenges, to help them reach economic and academic success.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TRANSFER OPTIONS:

The following transfer options are available to students in grades K-1 & 6-8:

The French Immersion Program at Ville Platte Elem., Mamou Elem. & Mamou Jr. High provides great French instruction, and lots of practice opportunities to put new French skills to use while you experience this rich and vibrant culture. (First-time Kindergarten & 1st grade students are eligible for transfers if seats are available. If classes are full, students may be placed on a waiting list.) (Mamou Junior High is for students who were previously enrolled in French Immersion.)

HIGH SCHOOL TRANSFER OPTIONS:

The following transfer options are available to students in grades 9-12:

The Health Careers Programs at Ville Platte High can prepare students for a career in the medical field. Students are required to meet GPA minimums to be accepted into the Accademy of Health Careers. Course offerings include: - Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) - Health Occupations - First Responder	The Junior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (JROTC) Program at Ville Platte High School prepares students for a possible future career in the military; JROTC helps cadets develop good citizenship, self-reliance, leadership, and team building skills. Participants in this program become better students and productive citizens. There are no special standards for admission to JROTC.
Performing Arts at Pine Prairie High include music, dance, and drama which are preformed for an audience. Performing arts teaches students perserverance, creative problem-solving, and the ability to focus.	HiSet (High School Equivalency Test) at Evangeline Central is a program that allows students to work towards a State of Louisiana High School Equivalency Diploma. All classwork is specifically designed to address the student’s area(s) of individual weakness and to increase student performance.

For transfer inquiries, please contact our office at (337) 363-6654 or email shamika.papillion@epsb.com.

APPLICATIONS: Applications are only available online at www.epsb.com. Completed applications must be submitted online.

DEADLINE for APPLICATIONS: Thursday, June 15, 2024 at 3:00 PM

REVIEW PROCESS: Each application will be reviewed for approval or disapproval. You will be notified by U.S. Mail regarding the status of your application after **Friday, July 12, 2024.**

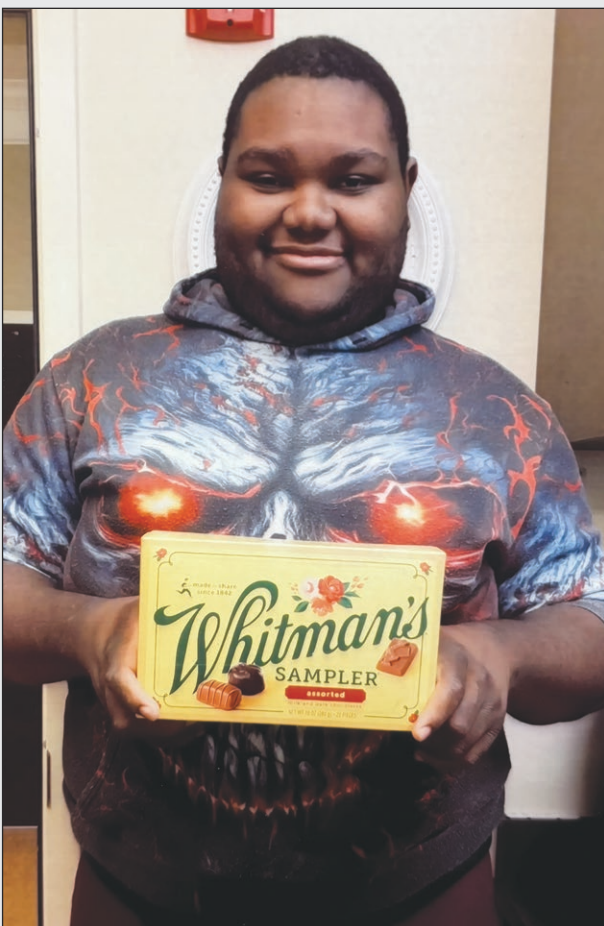
The Evangeline Parish School Board does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, handicapping condition, or veteran status.

LIFESTYLES



Chapman earns Master’s Degree

Gabrielle Corinne Chapman, daughter of Donald and Wilda Chapman of Ville Platte, graduated from LSU-Shreveport Friday, May 10. She received her Master’s Degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Human Resource Management. She is currently employed as a human resource specialist with the U.S. Department of Veterans’ Affairs. “We are so proud of you! God Bless!” **(Photo submitted)**



Heritage Manor announces Employee and Resident of the Month

Allen Arvie (left photo) was chosen as Employee of the Month for May at Heritage Manor, and Margaret Jagneaux (right photo) was chosen as Resident of the Month. Arvie has been employed as a CNA with Heritage Manor for three years. He was nominated by family members for his dedication to and compassion for the residents. Jagneaux has three children and seven grandchildren. She is a retired school teacher and enjoys socializing with the staff and other residents. **(Photos courtesy of Heritage Manor)**



Heritage Manor News: Happy Mother’s Day

(Editor’s Note: The following article was submitted by Patricia Duplechin, resident activity director at Heritage Manor Nursing Home in Ville Platte. This column runs every Sunday in The Gazette.)

What is the origin of Mother’s Day? The official Mother’s Day holiday arose in the early 1900s as a result of the efforts of Anna Jarvis, daughter of Ann Reeves. Following her mother’s death in 1905, Jarvis conceived Mother’s Day as a way of honoring the sacrifices mothers make for their children. Carnations are the official flower of Mother’s Day and represent motherhood and the celebration of mothers world-wide. They also symbolize love and gratitude.

We will be honoring our mothers on Monday, May 13, with a celebration of the most active mother. We thank Med Express for the donation of the cake for the party. There are currently 65 mothers residing at our

facility and we plan to recognize each one during the party. Remember your mother, living or deceased, on this special day by showing her the honor and respect that she deserves.

The staff of Heritage Manor wishes a Happy Birthday this week to Clanis Freeman and Bernadine Jack.

The staff of Heritage Manor welcomes Mary Veillon to the facility.

The staff of Heritage Manor sends get well wishes to all of our loved ones in the hospital.

Activities this week include bible study, in room visits, manicures, pokeno, beauty shop, mass, coin toss, bingo, rosary, group exercise, washer toss, Olympic games, social reading, jingo and dress out days for all staff and residents. The dress out days include, western day, Mexican day, hat day and t-shirt and jeans day. Music by Whitney Houston and Lionel Richie will be enjoyed during the celebrations.

Minister’s Corner: Mother’s Day Tribute

By: DR. BRIAN DORE’
Member of the Ville Platte Ministerial Alliance

Today is Mother’s Day, a day when we remember not only our biological mothers, but the other women in our lives who have helped to nurture us and helped us grow. It is unfortunate that many people only honor their mothers on this special day. God said, as is recorded in Exodus 20:12 (KJV), “Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God has giveth thee.”

Many of us have lost our mothers, but we remember the tender loving arms that held us close when we were hurt or scared. We remember how our mothers were there to wipe away our tears and hold us close and love us. Hopefully, this is the way you remember your mother, but regardless of how caring your mother was,

you owe your mother respect. If she is alive and well, make sure she knows how much you appreciate what she has done for you. If she has passed on the be with the Lord, respect her memory and think of her often.

As a child I remember singing this song by Howard Johnson:

M - is for the million things she gave to me.

O - means only that she’s growing old.

T - is for the tears she shed to save me.

H - is for her heart of purest gold

E - is for her eyes, with love-light shining.

R - means right, and right she will always be.

Put them all together, they spell “MOTHER.”

A word that means the world to me.

Happy Mother’s Day to all of our mothers!



Who’s getting married:

Twenty-eight couples receive marriage licenses in March and April

(Editor’s Note: The following information was obtained from the Evangeline Parish Clerk of Court’s Office in Ville Platte. This information is printed once a month in The Gazette.)

Twenty-eight couples obtained marriage licenses during the months of March and April from the Evangeline Parish Clerk of Court’s Office. They are listed below:

March 2 - Ashton Paul Vidrine and Madison Bailee Naquin; and Alex James Vanlangendonck and Mackenzie Mae Ortego.

March 16 - Nicholas Seth Cole and Sydia Elizabeth King.

March 22 - Charles Scott Monier and Courtney Annette Cloud; and Lance Clayton Chapman and Shelby Camille Manuel.

March 23 - Trey Michael Meche and Morgan Shelby Ward; Sylis Cage Manuel and Brittany Michelle Brown; and Andrew Dale Lofton and Madison Danielle Chapman.

April 1 - Casey Roy Allen and Christy Lynn Anderson.

April 2 - Jeremy Hilton Klumpp and Katheryn Leighallyson Bacon; and Casey Daniel Tucker and Gabrielle Ann Sawtelle.

April 3 - Matthew Grant Santoro and Lauren Faith Shipp; and Alex John McDaniel and Chloe

Elise Jagneaux.

April 8 - Brian Garrett Duplechain and Christy Lynn Henderson; and Eric John Soileau and Marie Estelle Guillory.

April 9 - Shawn Milak Malveaux and Tyra Simone Lavigne.

April 10 - Jeffrey Bruce Morein and Kinzey Elyse Franks; and Kameron Lake Kidd and Michelle Lashay Livingston.

April 11 - Travis Allen Harrod and Lesa Rena Atwell.

April 13 - Lance Clayton Chapman and Shelby Camille Manuel; and Malaki Alexander Velazquez and Madison Grace Byrd.

April 15 - Chance Marcus Deville and Emily Marie Gordon.

April 17 - Danny Ortego Jr. and Sierra Renee Laborde.

April 18 - John Dale McDaniel and Brandi Lane Lafleur.

April 19 - John Peter May III and Brittney Nicole Ardoin.

April 22 - Riley Bernard Marcantel and Sydney Renee Reed.

April 26 - Silas Kane Duplechain and Sarah Elizabeth Ortego.

April 29 - Wyatt Paul Guillory and Morgan McKenzie Beough.

Gazette Guidelines

The Ville Platte Gazette publishes your engagement and wedding announcements in the Lifestyles section at no cost.

The Gazette has prepared a wedding packet that includes forms, instructions, and a timetable for the announcement. To ensure publication, wedding announcements must be submitted no later than three months following the date of the wedding. For more information, call Heather at 363-3939.

What kind of photo is needed?

Engagement and wedding photos may be color or black and white prints, no smaller than a 3 x 4, preferably glossy finish. We do not guarantee photographs will be published in color. Photos may be picked up the day after publication. The Gazette is not responsible for photos after 30 days.



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News
Sports
Society
Special Events

SPORTS



VPHS is shows as work in-progress

By: RHETT MANUEL
Sports Editor

LAKE CHARLES – New Ville Platte football coach Chris Bland comes from a different situation than what’s in front of him as the coach of the Bulldogs. After being the defensive coordinator at Baton Rouge’s Istrouma, he’s seen kids blossom from tough situations to help build a defense and team that was consistently competitive. It’s a model he hopes to repeat at Ville Platte. Accountability is a big part of Bland’s

plan. It starts with the words out of his players’ mouths. If he hears inappropriate language, there are 10 push-ups to be done immediately. Even after Thursday night’s spring scrimmage against Washington-Marion and Westminster Christian, when he got reports back about his team’s on-field actions, they ran after the game. It’s a complete rebuild of culture for the Bulldogs and one that’s reflected clearly in the way they played against both teams on Thursday night. In the early portions

of the scrimmage, the Bulldogs were lively on both sides of the ball. Offensively, the offensive line looked ready to make a leap in demanding dominance at the line of scrimmage and opening holes for the running game. Defensively, Ville Platte was ready to match physicality with both opponents and go to battle in the early going. “I thought we had great effort early on,” he said. “The first couple of drives we came out strong, but you saw as the course of the game went on, fatigue set in.

With fatigue, you also tend to lose your mental state.” It was a fact of the game. As the temperatures set in and the game went on, the Bulldogs tended to miss more assignments and give up more plays. However, Bland was able to see how his team responded to adversity in those moments. “I’m impressed that I was able to see a lot of kids that haven’t really strapped it up look pretty good,” he said. “Today, we found a couple of weapons and

See VPHS, Page 11

SHS, PPHS lead All-District listings in baseball

By: RHETT MANUEL
Sports Editor

With high school baseball wrapped up, the area’s All-District teams were recently announced. The Sacred Heart Trojans and Pine Prairie Panthers led the charge, with the Trojans placing eight players on the first- and second-teams of District 6-1A while the Panthers putting seven on the first- and second-teams of District 4-3A. Mamou placed three players on the 4-3A team, with Sacred Heart adding another four to the 6-1A honorable mentions. Honorable mentions were not made available in District 4-3A, so no information was collected on the Ville Platte Bulldogs’ All-District status.

Sacred Heart capped another strong year where it made the Division IV Select quarterfinals with four players on 6-1A’s first-team. Those first-team players are pitcher Jackson Bruney, infielder Hayden Deshotel, outfielder Ike Perry and catcher Preston Sloane. District 4-3A saw Pine Prairie place three players on its first team and Mamou place two players. For Pine Prairie, junior ace Riley Fontenot was put on the first-team after posting a 2.06 ERA in district play. He’s joined by teammates Cayden McCollough and Caden Askey. McCollough, a senior, hit .412 with 10 RBI in district play while

See SHS, Page 10

LaFleur is SBC champion in javelin

By: TOM PERPETUA
Associate Director of Athletics Communications

MONROE - The Louisiana track and field team is off to a terrific start at the Sun Belt Conference Championships at the Groseclose Track at Brown Stadium in Monroe, Louisiana. The women lead with 38.5 points, a 14.5-point lead over Texas State. The day was shortened due to weather. The women built that lead thanks to a dominating performance in the javelin, taking the top four spots and five of

the eight scorers. Blair LaFleur, of Ville Platte, was the champion with a throw of 147.5/44.93, becoming the third Cajun in four years and the sixth Cajun overall to win the event. Louisiana wasn’t done in the event. Marin Barras was second at 143-7/43.77, Sarah Dupuy third at 141-6/43.14, and Ellie Manuel fourth at 139-9/42.61 to sweep the top four spots. Emma Bacilla also scored in the event, placing eighth at 135-0/41.15. Lily Murray started Louisiana’s day with a fourth-place finish in the hammer with a throw

of 183-3/55.86. Jordan Brown also picked up points in the pole vault at 12-2.5/3.72 to place fifth. Tyren Hannah was the only Cajun on the men’s side to score, placing seventh in the hammer at 181-7/55.34, a personal best. Taylor Walls is second in the heptathlon with 3,084 points, trailing the leader by 231. The senior was fourth in the high jump (5-4.5/1.64) and third in the 200 (25.41). She also placed sixth in the 100H (14.65) and the shot put (34-5.75/10.51). In the decathlon, Federico Bovo is fifth after five events with

a score of 3,663. The freshman finished second in both the 100 (10.89) and 400 (49.84). He took fourth in the long jump (22-6.25/6.86), fifth in the high jump (6-3.5/1.92), and seventh in the shot

See SBC, Page 11

To the Ville Platte Police Department,

We would like to sincerely "Thank You" for your dedication to step out every day into the unknown to keep our city safe. Your courage and unselfishness of putting your life on the line does not go unnoticed. Words cannot express how grateful we are to you.

City of Ville Platte

*Mayor Ryan LeDay Williams
Councilmembers and Staff*

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Torch is carried

Pictured in the center is Greg Manuel, of Pine Prairie, as he proudly carries the Special Olympics torch at the State Qualifying Event held on April 6, at Teurlings Catholic School in Lafayette. Manuel qualified at these games to participate in the 25-meter race and the field event, softball throw at the state level. The State Summer Games will be held May 17-19 at Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond. Manuel will be one of 20 adult athletes competing from Evangeline and St. Landry Parishes and is sponsored by Acadiana Special Volunteers, formerly ODC Volunteers. Supporters from Evangeline Parish are Cameron, a Schlumberger Company, and Cabot Corporation. Supporters from St. Landry Parish are DelekUS Refinery of Krotz Springs, KC#3409 Our Lady of Mercy Church, Elks Auxiliary 1048, and Woodmen of the World #47. **(Photo submitted)**

The Village of Pine Prairie

would like to sincerely thank the Pine Prairie Police Department. Their courage and dedication in keeping our village safe does not go unnoticed.



L to R: Chief L.C. Deshotel, Officers Kevin Tate, Josh Uhlman and Brandon Watz; Not pictured: Shane Guillory

Mayor Quint West

Council members: Tammy Hammond, Gilbert Bordelon and Kevin Rodriguez

The Ville Platte Gazette Devotional Page

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FEATURES FROM THE BIBLE
TRUTH IN SCRIPTURE
Isaiah tells of Suffering of Jesus
Isaiah 53

Long before Jesus was born, Isaiah wrote about Him suffering for us. Isaiah writes of Jesus saying that he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, and still we consider Him stricken by God. He continues by saying that He was smitten by God and afflicted. Isaiah goes on to say that Jesus was pierced for our transgressions and was crushed for our iniquities. The punishment that brought us peace was given to Him and by Jesus' wounds we are healed. Like sheep, we all have gone astray, each of us turning to our own way. The LORD has laid on Jesus the iniquity of us all. Jesus was oppressed and afflicted and still He did not open his mouth. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter. Like a sheep before her shearers is silent, so Jesus did not open His mouth. Jesus poured out his life to death. He was numbered with the transgressors. He bore the sin of many. He interceded for the transgressors.

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GREATER MT. PLEASANT BAPTIST CHURCH Rev. Herman Arvie 602 Ardoin St., Ville Platte 337-363-2034	ST. LANDRY BAPTIST CHURCH Joshua Adams, Pastor 2035 St. Landry Hwy. St. Landry Hm: (318) 776-9233 wk: (318) 639-9833	BELAIRE COVE Fr. Thomas Voorhies and Fr. Alex Lancon 2003 Belaire Cove Rd., Ville Platte 337-363-2989	SANCTUARY OF PRAISE Minister: David Plunkett 1517 7th St., Mamou 337-468-3883
ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH Rev. E. Ben Sr. East Lincoln, Ville Platte 337-363-3805	ST. MATTHEW BAPTIST CHURCH 507 Shuff Rd., Ville Platte	HOLY SPIRIT CHAPEL VIDRINE Father Billy Massie Vidrine Road 337-468-3159	Freedom Family Church Steven Sawtelle, Pastor Chicot Park Rd., Ville Platte 337-363-2971
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FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH Brent Romero, Pastor 1071 Friendship Loop, Pine Prairie 337-599-2647	ZION BAPTIST CHURCH Pastor Elton Jones 216 W. Live Oak, Ville Platte 337-363-3665	CHURCH OF CHRIST Ervin Wilson, Minister 312 N. Chataignier, Ville Platte 337-363-0613	Bethel Divine Intervention Ministry 1909 Hwy. 71 N., Bunkie 318-359-7892 Saturday Prayer - 12 Noon Sunday - 10 am - Bible 11 am - Church Service
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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH PINE PRAIRIE Pastor Lee Walton Corner of Clark & Sanders Pine Prairie 337-599-2927	ST. PAUL BAPTIST CHURCH MAMOU Rev. Albert Ray Johnson Sunday School - 8:30 Sunday Church Service - 9:30 1500 5th St., Mamou 337-468-5024	PENTECOSTAL NEW LIFE UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF VILLE PLATTE 1210 W. Main, Ville Platte	NEW LIFE OUTREACH MINISTRY Pastor Wilfred Ardoin 1180 Hwy. 95, Mamou 337-468-2899
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH VILLE PLATTE Pastor, Kevin West 815 Chicot Park Rd. Ville Platte 337-363-4240	CATHOLIC ST. PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH Fr. Casey Dugas Pine Prairie 337-599-2224	FIRST UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH Rev. Jeff Wainwright Pine Street, Turkey Creek 337-515-9602	

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Todd A. Veillon, ChFC - Marcus Veillon, IAR

A new commandment
I give you, That ye love one another;
as I have loved you.
John 13:34

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Hatred stirreth up strifes:
but love covereth all sins.
Proverbs 10:12

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BRIEFS

Ville Platte Civic Center from 6 a.m. until 8:30 a.m. If you need/want to register for the program, call 800-522-3333 to sign up for Food for Families/Seniors in Evangeline Parish.

Grant Award Announcement Ceremony
Evangeline Community Action is a recipient of the HUD Older Adult Home Modification Grant and is requesting your presence for this great event. The community is invited to the Grant Award Announcement Ceremony presented by the National HUD Office. This event will take place on Wednesday, May 22, at 2 p.m. at the St. John Family Life Center (822 West Hickory Street, Ville Platte). There will be an opportunity to ask questions and voice concerns you may have concerning the requirements of the program. This program will benefit the elderly, to include disabled and veterans. Please make every effort to attend. Your presence is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call at 337-363-1306 or 337-363-6800.

Candidate Announcement Policy
The *Ville Platte Gazette* will publish announcements for candidates in the November 5, primary election at no charge when accompanied by pay-

ment for advertising. A candidate's commitment to run \$250 of advertising must be paid in advance before an announcement is published; however, the advertising can run at any time during the campaign. There is no refund. The announcements are biographical only and limited to 400 words. They will contain no campaign promises, pledges, or references to other candidates. That material should be included in paid political advertising. The announcements are used on a first-come basis and publication date depends on space available. A photo of the candidate is used if provided. Email delivery of the statement and photo is preferred. Include a phone number. Statements and jpg photos should be e-mailed to editor@evangelinetoday.com.

Mobile Pantry
The "Makin Groceries" Mobile Market of Second Harvest will be at the Ninth Baptist Food Bank (409 East Long Street, Ville Platte) on Wednesday, May 15, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. If the weather changes they will be at the Civic Center Pavilion.

SHS

Continued From Page 8

Askey hit .357 in district play. Both were selected as utility players. Mamou, despite its struggles, produced first-teamers Christian Hebert and Acetyn Martel. Both seniors, Hebert and Martel were chosen as utility players. Hebert hit .429 with eight stolen bases in 4-3A play while Martel went 2-1 with a 1.91 ERA in district play. On second teams, Sacred Heart produced four second-team players in 6-1A. Those players included utility player Boyce Schexnider, outfielder Parker Feucht and utility players Wade Pitre and John Arron Soileau. Sacred Heart honorable mentions were John Michael Duplechin, Landon Leblanc, Elliot Fontenot and Ashton Duos. In 4-3A, Pine Prairie produced four second-team players while Mamou produced one. Second-team Panthers were Grant Welch, who hit .276 in 4-3A play, sophomore Braylon Fontenot (.343), sophomore Tanner McCollough (.409, HR) and junior Preston Bass (.310). For Mamou, senior pitcher Brady Fontenot was a second-team selection.

Ville Platte Gazette

Legal Notices

Sheriff's Sale

NEW RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2014-2
VS.
THE OPEN SUCCESSION OF LEVIE TEZENO, JR., (A/K/A LEVIE TEZENO, LEVI BOBBY TEZENO) AND TERRIKA RICHARD AND MARIA RICHARD AND YVONNE TEZENO CIVIL DOCKET NO. 80956
EVANGELINE PARISH, LOUISIANA

NOTICE is hereby given that by virtue of a **WRIT OF SEIZURE AND SALE** issued out of the Honorable Thirteenth Judicial District Court in and for the Parish of Evangeline, in the above entitled and numbered cause, under date of **OCTOBER 17, 2023**, I have seized and taken into my possession and will offer for sale and will sell for cash, at public auction to the last and highest bidder, with benefit of appraisal at the principal front door of the Courthouse of the Parish of Evangeline at Ville Platte, Louisiana, on: **MAY 15, 2024** at Ten O'clock (10:00) a.m. the following described property to wit:

ONE CERTAIN LOT OR PARCEL OF GROUND, TOGETHER WITH ALL BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON AND ALL OF RIGHTS, WAYS, MEANS, PRIVILEGES, SERVITUDES, APPURTENANCES, ADVANTAGES AND COMPONENT PARTS THEREUNTO BELONGING OR IN ANYWISE APPERTAINING, CONTAINING 1.8 ACRES, DESIGNATED AS LOT NUMBER TWENTY EIGHT (28) OF THE PLAT OF SURVEY SHOWING BLOCK NUMBER ONE (1) OF THE CHICOT PARK ESTATES, SITUATED IN SECTION 26, T32, R1E, EVANGELINE PARISH LOUISIANA BEING PART OF SAME PROPERTY ACQUIRED BY ALBERT SPEYRER FROM DR. ISACC FORMAN HAWKINS ETAL, BY SALE DATED SEPTEMBER 23,1972, RECORDED SEPTEMBER 27, 1972 BEARING ORIGINAL ACT NO. 298373, RECORDED IN CONVEYANCE BOOK C-25 AT PAGE 162, RECORDS OF THE CLERK OF COURT'S OFFICE OF EVANGELINE PARISH, AND BY ACT OF PARTITION, DATED SEPTEMBER 17, 1975, RECORDED IN CONVEYANCE BOOK C-42. AT PAGE 94, BEARING ORIGINAL ACT NO. 324348, RECORDS OF THE CLERK OF COURT'S OFFICE OF EVANGELINE PARISH, LOUISIANA.

LESS AND EXCEPT: A 20' X 20' PARCEL OF LAND BEARING IN THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF LOT 28 OF BLOCKS 1 OF THE CHICOT PARK ESTATES SUBDIVISION, SITUATED IN SECTION 26, TOWNSHIP 3 SOUTH, RANGE 1 EAST, EVANGELINE PARISH, LOUISIANA. HAVING THE FURTHER METES AND BOUNDS AND DIMENSIONS AS IS SHOWN ON PLAT OF SURVEY BY J. RONALD LANDRENEAU, DATED DECEMBER 17,1999, A COPY OF WHICH IS BEING ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE HEREOF.

WHICH HAS THE ADDRESS OF 6385 SAINT LANDRY HIGHWAY, VILLE PLATTE, LA 70586

To pay and satisfy a **WRIT OF SEIZURE AND SALE** in the full sum of

\$96,631.79, WITH INTEREST THEREON AT THE RATE OF 7.75% PER ANNUM FROM DECEMBER 1, 2019, TOGETHER WITH ACCRUED LATE CHARGES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,538.53 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NOTE AND MORTGAGE, TOGETHER WITH LATE CHARGES ON ADDITIONAL DELINQUENT INSTALLMENTS AND ANY ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS WITH PETITIONER HER ADVANCE OR HEREAFTER ADVANCES, AS PERMITTED BY THE NOTE AND MORTGAGE, FOR TAXES, ASSESSMENTS, REPAIRS TO AND MAINTENANCE AND PRESERVATION OF THE MORTGAGED PROPERTY, TOGETHER WITH ATTORNEYS' FEES IN THE AMOUNT OF 5% OF ALL SUMS DUE, OWING AND UNPAID, AND ALL COSTS OF THESE PROCEEDINGS, AND PETITIONER PRAYS TO BE PAID THE ABOVE AMOUNTS IN SATISFACTION OF IT CLAIM, ACCORDING TO LAW, AND FOR ALL OTHER GENERAL AND EQUITABLE RELIEF. AND ALL COST INCLUDING SHERIFF'S COST, COMMISSIONS, AND CHARGES ETC.

TERMS OF SALE: CASH WITH APPRAISEMENT
CHARLES R. GUILLORY, SHERIFF

BY: /S/ KATIE THIBODEAUX
KATIE THIBODEAUX, CIVIL DEPUTY

041424
051224

Sheriff's Sale

FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION VS.
WARREN L. FISCHER JR CIVIL DOCKET NO. 81069
EVANGELINE PARISH, LOUISIANA

NOTICE is hereby given that by virtue of a **WRIT OF SEIZURE AND SALE** issued out of the Honorable Thirteenth Judicial District Court in and for the Parish of Evangeline, in the above entitled and numbered cause, under date of **DECEMBER 11, 2023**, I have seized and taken into my possession and will offer for sale and will sell for cash, at public auction to the last and highest bidder, without appraisal at the principal front door of the Courthouse of the Parish of Evangeline at Ville Platte, Louisiana, on: **MAY 15, 2024** at Ten O'clock (10:00) a.m. the following described property to wit:

A CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND CONTAINING 3.55 ACRES, TOGETHER WITH ALL BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS SITUATED THEREON, SITUATED IN THE SW 1/4 OF SECTION 11, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 1 EAST, EVANGELINE PARISH, LOUISIANA, BEING DESCRIBED AS LOT NO. 9 OF A MAP OF SURVEY SHOWING FAQUETAIGUE PRAIRIE HEIGHTS SUBDIVISION MADE BY JOSEPH G MILLER, REGISTERED LAND SURVEYOR, RECORDS OF EVANGELINE PARISH, LOUISIANA.

To pay and satisfy a **WRIT OF SEIZURE AND SALE** in the full sum of

1. PRINCIPAL OF \$63,659.55, PLUS INTEREST AT THE RATE OF 3.250 PERCENT PER ANNUM FROM JULY 1, 2022, UNTIL PAID AND REASONABLE ATTORNEY'S FEES;

2. ALL COSTS AND EXPENSE IN ENFORCING THE NOTE AND MORTGAGE, AND ALL ADVANCES FOR TAXES, INSURANCE PERMIUMS AND ALL OTHER CHARGES AND EXPENSES PERMITTED BY THE NOTE OR MORTGAGE INCLUDING PRE-PAYMENT PENALTY, IF ANY, LATE CHARGES; AND

3. ALL COURT COSTS, AND ALL COST INCLUDING SHERIFF'S COST, COMMISSIONS, AND CHARGES ETC.

TERMS OF SALE: CASH WITHOUT APPRAISEMENT
CHARLES R. GUILLORY, SHERIFF

BY: /S/ KATIE THIBODEAUX
KATIE THIBODEAUX, CIVIL DEPUTY

041424
051224

Legal Notice
WHEREABOUTS

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of Ronella G Fontenot, please call Attorney Pamela Hall at 337-459-5089.

050924
051224

Legal Notice
WHEREABOUTS

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of Marvin J Johnson or Burt E Johnson or the heirs of Rocky L Johnson please call Attorney Pamela Hall at 337-459-5089.

050924
051224

Sheriff's Sale

WELLS FARGO BANK N.A. VS.
RONELLA G. FONTENOT A/K/A RONELLA GUILLORY FONTENOT AND LEON C. FONTENOT CIVIL DOCKET NO. 81211
EVANGELINE PARISH, LOUISIANA

NOTICE is hereby given that by virtue of a **WRIT OF SEIZURE AND SALE** issued out of the Honorable Thirteenth

Judicial District Court in and for the Parish of Evangeline, in the above entitled and numbered cause, under date of **MARCH 12, 2024**, I have seized and taken into my possession and will offer for sale and will sell for cash, at public auction to the last and highest bidder, without appraisal at the principal front door of the Courthouse of the Parish of Evangeline at Ville Platte, Louisiana, on: **JUNE 12, 2024** at Ten O'clock (10:00) a.m. the following described property to wit:

A CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND, TOGETHER WITH ALL BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON AND THERETO APPERTAINING LOCATED IN THE FRACTIONAL SECTIONS 21 AND 22, T-4-S, R-2-E, TOWN OF VILLE PLATTE, EVANGELINE PARISH, LOUISIANA, WHICH PROPERTY IS FURTHER DESCRIBED AS HAVING A FRONT OF 99 FEET ON LA. HIGHWAY 29 BY DEPTH BETWEEN PARALLEL LINES OF 200 FEET. SAID PROPERTY BEING BOUNDED, NOW OR FORMERLY, ON THE NORTH BY H.E. LAVERGNE; ON THE EAST BY JASPER FONTENOT; ON THE SOUTH BY R.E. BERGERON; AND ON THE WEST BY LA. HIGHWAY 29.

To pay and satisfy a **WRIT OF SEIZURE AND SALE** in the full sum of

(A) PRINCIPAL OF \$50,173.65 WITH INTEREST THEREON AT 5.5% PER ANNUM FROM MAY 01, 2023, UNTIL PAID;

(B) ALL EXPENSES INCURRED IN ENFORCING THE NOTE AND MORTGAGE INCLUDING REASONABLE ATTORNEY'S FEES;

(C) IF/AS APPLICABLE, SUCH OTHER OR ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS INCURRED OR ADVANCED FOR TAXES, INSURANCE PREMIUMS, SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS, REPAIRS AND/OR MAINTENANCE OF THE PROPERTY, FOR THE PROTECTION, PRESERVATION, REPAIR AND RECOVERY OF THE PROPERTY, FOR THE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF THE LIEN OF THE MORTGAGE, FOR THE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF THE MORTGAGEE'S INTEREST THEREUNDER, AND OTHER AMOUNTS PROVIDED BY THE MORTGAGE AND APPLICABLE LAW, SUCH AS LATE CHARGES, ESCROW ADVANCES FOR THE PAYMENT OF TAXES AND INSURANCE, CORPORATE ADVANCES, PROPERTY APPRAISALS, INSPECTION FEES, PRIOR ATTORNEY FEES AND EXPENSES, ABSTRACT AND TITLE CHARGES, NSF CHARGES, ATTORNEY FEES AND EXPENSES, AND OTHER CHARGES WHICH PLAINTIFF IS PERMITTED TO PROVE BY VERIFIED PETITION, VERIFIED SUPPLEMENTAL PETITION, OR AFFIDAVIT FILED OR SUBMITTED BEFORE DISTRIBUTION BY THE SHERIFF OF THE PROCEEDS OF THE JUDICIAL SALE HEREIN; AND

(D) ALL LAW CHARGES, FEES AND EXPENSES INCURRED IN CONNECTION OR RELATING TO THIS PROCEEDING INCLUDING; WITHOUT LIMITATION SHERIFF'S COMMISSION, SHERIFF'S COSTS, COURT COSTS ALL AS PERMITTED BY THE NOTE OR MORTGAGE BEING ENFORCED BY THIS PROCEEDING; AND ALL COST INCLUDING SHERIFF'S COST, COMMISSIONS, AND CHARGES ETC.

TERMS OF SALE: CASH WITHOUT APPRAISEMENT
CHARLES R. GUILLORY, SHERIFF

BY: /S/ KATIE THIBODEAUX
KATIE THIBODEAUX, CIVIL DEPUTY

051224
060924

Legal Notices

Deadlines

for legal notices are:

• Mondays at 5 p.m.

for Thursday's issue and

• Wednesdays at 5 p.m.

for Sunday's issue

HEART

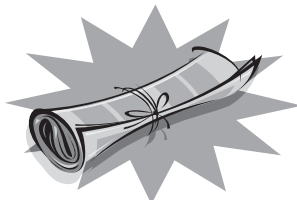
Chamber of Commerce. Her coffee shop, Mou Latte' is a hub for yoga classes, coffee gatherings, weddings, and other special occasions. She organizes the local Christmas market, "Boo in the Mou" for youth, often absorbing costs herself. Bourgeois established a non-profit, "The Mou-vement" to assist in improving her

community. Probably the most inspiring is how her personal loss of a child led her to establish Pathways of Hope, a place to memorialize and honor the lives of children who have passed too soon. Bourgeois expressed, "It's so inspiring to be here, and I'm humbled." Past winners from

Evangeline Parish are Mable Foreman, Suzy Lemoine, Linda Lebsack, Paula LaFleur, Dianne Johnson, Wanda Verrette, Connie Lamke, Camille Fontenot, Carleen Bellard, Dr. Gwen Fontenot, and Phyllis Green. Sarahi Sawtelle, of Hundredfold Coffee, served on a panel along

with Courtney Pitre Dugas and Tracey Colson-Antee. Serving as moderator was Lana Fontenot, of South Louisiana Community College. LeCompte stated, "Featured on the program were women entrepreneurs sharing their journeys; and ironically, both of our recipients of the "Woman

With Heart" award are business owners who have found a way to merge businesses with their passion for community service." Proceeds from this event will support the Dolly Parton Imagination Library (DPIL) and other programs and projects related to women and children's issues.



Senior Nutrition Program



All Meals served with 1/2 Pint of 2% Milk

Ville Platte: Village de Memoire' Chateau de Amis
Mamou: Savoy Heights
Basile: Pat Killen Center
Pine Prairie: Church of Christ

MAY 13-17

MONDAY

Baked Meatballs, Brown Gravy, Garlic Potatoes, Whole Kernel Corn, Wheat Bread, Apple Juice

TUESDAY

Ham & Black-eyed Peas, Rice, Turnip Greens, Tossed Salad/Dressing, Cornbread, Cherry Craisins

WEDNESDAY

Chicken/Sausage, Gumbo/Rice, Potato Salad, Okra & Tomatoes, Wheat Bread, Tangerine

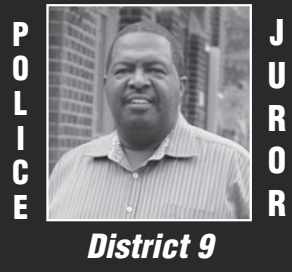
THURSDAY

BBQ Pork Riblet, Ranch Beans, Coleslaw, Hamburger Bun, Peach Cobbler

FRIDAY

Baked Chicken (Bone-In), Poultry Gravy, Whipped Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables, Wheat Bread, Fig Bar

Compliments of
Daniel Arvie



POLICE

JUROR

District 9

GIL

Male Initiative, Honors College and NAACP. He will work full-time as an analyst in the Global Banking and Markets division at Goldman Sachs.

The College Nursing and Health Professions nominated Bailey Bujard and Henrietta Chambers.

Bujard, an undergraduate student from Vinton, will graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in nurs-

ing. She is a member of the McNeese Student Nurses Association and is a frequent volunteer for the organization and for events in her hometown. Bujard will start her career at Lake Charles Memorial Hospital.

Chambers, a graduate student from Jeanerette, is the nominee from the College of Nursing and Health Professions. Chambers will earn a psychiat-

ric mental health nurse practitioner post-master's certificate. She is a nurse practitioner and wanted to provide mental healthcare to patients, in addition to primary care.

The College of Science, Engineering, and Mathematics nominated Darcy Lavergne and Kailee Johnston.

Lavergne, an undergraduate from Roanoke, will graduate with a bachelor's degree in

chemical engineering. Lavergne is a member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, where she competed in Chem-E-Car international competition, is the president of the chapter and was the chair for the 2024 Southwest Regional Conference held at McNeese. She is also a member of the Society of Women Engineers.

Kailee Johnston, of Sulphur, is the Outstanding Graduate

Continued From Page 5

nominee from the College of Science, Engineering and Mathematics at the graduate level. Johnston will earn a master's degree in biology. She will present her thesis findings, two new tar-digrade species and an update to the description of another at the Louisiana Academy of Sciences meeting. She plans to work in a clinical laboratory and eventually pursue a doctorate degree in molecular or cell biology.

VPHS

we're starting to define ourselves at the quarterback position."

Still, that early adversity was something Bland needed to see within his team.

"It's important," he

said. "It teaches you to overcome. All great teams know how to overcome adversity and we need to learn how to carry ourselves in big games. This wasn't a big game but it was big

for us."

The biggest issue they had to overcome was the conditioning through the temperatures.

"Conditioning is

going to help the culture. You saw the momentum switch towards Washington-Marion and we kind of went in the tank.

"I think this is a team

that's used to losing. Teams design plays to score. So when a team scores, the game's not over. Those are lessons we'll have to teach as time goes on."

Continued From Page 8

SBC

put (30-6.5/9.31).

Before the rain came the Cajuns were strong in qualifying. They dominated the women's 400H, with Moseiha Bridgen qualifying first and setting a facility record at 58.46. Ta'La

Spates was second at 59.66. The duo were the only runners in qualifying to break the minute mark.

Louisiana had three women qualify in the 1500. Ella Segura crossed the finish line

seventh at 4:39.60, Skylar Delgado was ninth at 4:40.13, and Haley Salsbury 12th at 4:42.20. Three men also qualified in the 1500. Reece Shelby led the Cajuns in fifth at 3:55.48 while Andrew Leck was

11th at 3:58.58 and Peyton Chiasson 12th at 3:58.65.

The weather forced the postponement of the men's and women's 10,000 finals, the men's javelin finals, and the

qualifying round of the men's 400H as well as the men's and women's 200. Those events were made up Friday morning beginning with the women's 10,000 at 8 a.m.



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BUDGET

Continued From Page 1

added, “We need to put money in the right place to get what we need and the chief needs to do his part.” Goodley concluded, “I am a man of God and I am tired of the division. We need to do what we have to do to prevent what is going on around us coming here. We need to stand on business and put God first.”

Council member Brook Chapman discussed the proposed 2 a.m. closure ordinance. He said whether it is passed or if the closing hour stays at 1 a.m., all stipulations would remain the same. Chief Patrick Hall said the main issue would be man power. Deshotel stated no action needed to be taken, this was just to discuss the issue. Attorney Nicole Gil said she had been doing research and gave the council some things to think about. She said certain questions would need to be clarified and more detailed regarding, for example, who can remain on premises after hours for clean up. Goodley said even if they stick with the 1 a.m. curfew, it would be good to still amend the ordinance to be more clear and protect everyone.

Council member Derrell “Sheaky” Thomas addressed the issue of placing a crossing guard at Sixth Street to help with school traffic. Thomas shared he had received many phone calls and noted many people are scared to drive a bus. Chief Pat Hall said it takes money to make money and there is no money right now. Mayor Leisa Deshotel said she had called the school board in the past but they weren’t able to help. She said they could try contacting the school board again. They agreed this was a safety issue and something had to be done. Assistant Chief Caleb Semien stated if the budget was amended they could hire crossing guards. He said by July more police cuts would be made before the budget is out of money by October in order to make it to December. Deshotel said cuts and layoffs were made but she is happy to

sit down together and look at ways to get it done. Deshotel stated sometimes volunteers are used for school safety. Deshotel and the council agreed to meet with Hall to discuss options.

Thomas asked to discuss the use of both Mamou school gyms for summer practice and basketball camps/programs. He said his children go to other towns for practice and wondered why they could not use the Mamou gyms. Thomas noted other parish public schools like Ville Platte High and Vidrine Elementary, as well as Sacred Heart, allow summer use of the school gyms for camps and practice. Thomas said he reached out to Principal Doug Fontenot but go no response yet. The council agreed to allow Gil to draft a letter to the school board and Thomas could either bring the letter or try to get on the agenda of an upcoming meeting to talk about use of the gyms.

Food trucks in Mamou town limits were discussed. Gil pointed out a few highlights of the long ordinance and Thomas said he was good with it the way it was. Deshotel stated if they go with it as is, the ordinance would be proposed and a public hearing would be held. She added applicants can go to city hall to apply for the license with proof of insurance. There is a \$25 application fee and the year-long license (from January to December) would cost \$750. However, the license does not cover Mardi Gras or other special events and a separated license would need to be purchased for those events. Food truck vendors can apply at city hall with proof of insurance and health code procedures must be followed. The trucks would only be allowed on commercial property for nine days and would have to relocate to a new spot at least 200 feet away from the previous location. Fines would be enforced to include possible misdemeanor charges for violations. Hall suggested keeping a list of who is operating where in order

to make sure owners are following the ordinance and shutting down by 10 p.m.

Attorney Allison Vidrine gave an update on the demolition of the late Rucey Fontenot’s property. Vidrine stated she was hired at the end of February 2024 to find heirs of the late Fontenot in order to move forward. Vidrine said she tried to contact Fontenot’s daughter on March 7, but never received a return call. In addition, an advertisement was placed in the Ville Platte Gazette and on social media with no response. The council, noting they had done their due diligence, voted to move forward with the demolition of the property.

During her report, Deshotel congratulated Richard Nacquín on his recent retirement after 40 years of dedicated service to the utility department and Town of Mamou. Deshotel also congratulated Superintendent Robert McGee, who was one of five nominated for the Louisiana Rural Water Association (LRWA) 2023 Wastewater Systems Operations Specialist of the Year South Award. The winner will be announced during the 39th Annual LRWA Awards Luncheon to be held Wednesday, July 17, 2024, in Lake Charles. Deshotel also congratulated all of the recently announced Mamou teachers of the year and stated the water and gas projects were now both complete.

- In other business, the council:
- Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held March 13, and the special meeting held March 21.
 - Adopted a resolution accepting the completed Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire for the annual audit.
 - Adopted the budget to actual fiscal report.
 - Heard the Police Activity Report from Chief Hall. He noted there were 19 citations, two arrests, and four accidents for the month of April.

MYERS

Continued From Page 1

can’t win. The school draws from a large base of kids, including Bayou Chicot and all areas in between Mamou and Pine Prairie.

But, it seemingly hasn’t translated into wins and losses yet. But, the appeal for Myers is the untapped potential the program possesses.

“Having coached in this district at other schools you hear things,” he said. “I’ve always heard that Pine Prairie has good kids and administrators. I’m hoping that aspect can lead to good character people with one-hundred percent buy-in to a standard.”

It’s a standard linked to Nick Saban’s famous idea of “The Process.” The idea that doing things the right way on a daily basis will lead to results taking care of themselves.

It’s a concept Myers strongly believes in. But more than that, much of the issue that Myers believes he needs to overcome is that of effectively

linking feeder programs into Pine Prairie’s program, including attempting to rebuild a recreational football program from the ground level.

“I believe the disconnect with the younger kids has led to low numbers of kids playing football when they get to high school,” he said. “You can not compete in 3A football, especially in this district, with less than 50 players. Most 3A teams have one-way players and Pine Prairie has had mainly two- and three-way players.

“My plan to change this is to create a link with our middle school and elementary school kids,” he added. “I have to create an excitement with those kids for football and wanting to eventually be a part of our program.

“I plan on doing this by personally going to those schools and talking to the kids and let them know about what we have going on throughout the year. I also plan on getting the rec program going again

so there is football available to them at all levels.”

But it doesn’t stop there. Myers plans to hit the halls of the school itself hard in hopes of getting the program’s numbers up immediately.

But, at the end of the day, the goals he plans to make happen are simple ones. But, to make them happen, the stability he plans to install begins with him.

“I want every player to reach their full potential as a football player, play together as a team, know how important it is to be a part of a team and fulfilling their role to that team,” he said. “This is the best way to create the culture we need to be successful.

“For the community, I want to develop the kind of football team they can enjoy supporting. Guys who are going to play hard from start to finish and guys that will show good character on and off the field.”

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