

Ourso, Stassi act quickly when bridge damaged

Parish President J. Mitchell Ourso, Jr. and Sheriff Brett Stassi teamed up to help Iberville residents who rely on the La. 77 bridge between Grosse Tete and Plaquemine after a barge slammed into and damaged the bridge.

Acting very quickly, they secured property about a quarter of a mile from the Indian River Bridge along with parish resources and state assistance to have a pontoon boat carry

pedestrians across the Intracoastal Waterway daily during the hours of 5 until 9 a.m. and 3 until 7:30 p.m. The pedestrian crossing service began just a week after the accident and will be operable until the bridge re-opens. It has been popular, with more than 200 people using it daily on week days.

The barge accident on March 1 severely damaged pilings supporting the bridge, forcing the La. Department of Transportation and Development (LDOTD) to close it. LDOTD has contracted with C.E.C. Contractors of Lafayette to repair the bridge, and it is expected to re-open to vehicular traffic within 90 days. The only route around the bridge is a 45-mile journey to the interstate and then to La. Hwy. 1, which has caused a hardship for hundreds of Iberville residents.

"This has truly been a community effort to help local residents," said Ourso. He praised the property owners who have allowed the use of their property for boat landings, and the local fabricators who have donated the use of barges for landing sites.

On the east side, A. Wilbert's Sons owns the land, and Jeff Wille, who has the surface lease, have allowed the use of their property for the boat landing and walkway to the road. On the west side, Michael Vitale has allowed the use of his property for the landing.

Bayou Fabricators and Verret Shipyard donated the use of barges on each side of the waterway as the landing area for the boat and towed them to the location. "Without these local businesses and residents step-

| Continued on page 3 |



Students disembark from the pontoon boat transporting them across the Intracoastal Waterway. Shown in the background are La. Department of Wildlife and Fisheries agents who operate the pedestrian crossing service while the bridge is being repaired.



Parish President J. Mitchell Ourso, Jr. and Sheriff Brett Stassi inspect work at the site of the temporary pedestrian crossing service they initiated to help local residents get across the waterway for the approximately three months of bridge repairs.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FRIDAY, APRIL 4 – 15th Annual Relay for Life at COPAC in Plaquemine

SATURDAY, APRIL 5 – Plaquemine Garden Club Annual Plant Sale at Plaquemine Depot Market

SUNDAY, APRIL 6 – Spring Festival at Bayou Plaquemine Waterfront Park

FRIDAY-SUNDAY – APRIL 4-6
64th Annual Boy Scout Soap Box Derby Races on Main St.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11 - Annual Children's Gray Monkey Parade on Railroad Avenue, Plaquemine

SATURDAY, APRIL 12 – 3rd Annual Elks Crawfish ShootOut at Bayou Plaquemine Waterfront Park

SATURDAY, APRIL 19
Farmers Market at Tractor Supply in Plaquemine

SATURDAY, APRIL 26
15th Annual St Jude Open Car, Truck, Motorcycle Show at Bayou Waterfront Park

SATURDAY, MAY 17
Farmers Market at Tractor Supply in Plaquemine

SATURDAY, MAY 24
Water Spray Park Opening Day at Plaquemine City Park

SATURDAY, MAY 24
Art on the Bayou at Bayou Waterfront Park

Pedestrian crossing hours

5 – 9 a.m. daily
3-7:30 p.m. Daily

The U.S. Coast Guard has closed marine traffic in the area during these hours to maintain safety.

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Bridge

| Continued from page 1 |

ping up to the plate, this pedestrian crossing service would not have happened, so we owe them our thanks," Ourso said.

The parish provided crews to secure the barges and lay limestone walkways on both sides of the waterway. The parish also had Entergy provide lighting in the area. The Iberville Parish Sheriff's Office is providing security in both landing areas for those leaving vehicles on either side of the waterway.

LDOTD partnered with the La. Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to provide the pontoon boat to transport pedestrians across the waterway. Ourso noted that it will cost the parish \$50,000 for the liability insurance required for the two landings. He said the parish will try to recoup that cost from the La. Department of Transportation and Development (LDOTD).

LDOTD said operating a vehicular ferry service was not possible because the waterway is not deep or wide enough, and a vehicular ferry would impede marine traffic. Ourso said people using the pedestrian crossing service to get across the waterway are using carpools, getting rides, or leaving vehicles on one side of the landing in order to have transportation to their ultimate destinations.

"There are no gas stations or grocery stores on the west side of the waterway and we understand the problems of our residents without that bridge," Ourso said. "The Sheriff and I acted to address the issue when we felt it was not being addressed quickly enough by the state."

SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION PROVISIONS...

"The Iberville School System met immediately after the incident with the Sheriff and the Parish President, and after conferring with our Transportation supervisor and others, we decided that for the safety of the children the bus would travel via the Interstate and LA 1, taking children the longer route. Students leave home and arrive home at the same time but with the extra travel time, we are having to make up the instructional time during the day periods. Everyone is working together to make the best of an unfortunate situation," said Superintendent P. Edward Cancienne, Jr.



Improvements to Bayou Sorrel boat launch almost complete

The Bayou Sorrel boat launch has been a construction zone for the past year, with numerous improvements made to the public facility. They include demolition of the existing north ramp, construction of one new five-lane concrete ramp with piers, a concrete apron adjacent to the new ramp, concrete parking and associated walks for ADA accessibility, electrical service to light the parking area and boat ramp, and relocation of

an existing floating pier with gangway and abutment. The \$700,000 project is almost complete, said Parish President J. Mitchell Ourso, Jr., with only work left to be done by parish work crews. The launch gets extensive use by parish boaters. The top photo shows the new concrete boat ramps and piers; and electrical poles are installed in the photo above.



Carl Grant Civic Center A/C work underway

Installation of the new \$225,000 air conditioning and heating system in the Carl F. Grant Civic Center is underway. The Iberville Parish Council is funding the project, which will take about three months to complete. All of the duct work in the facility will be cleaned out, and the new system will be attached to it. The facility was built in 1976, and the air conditioning system is now 37 years old. The new system and improvements

will provide more even cooling throughout the building and will be more energy efficient. Parish President J. Mitchell Ourso, Jr. said the parish will continue improvements on the aging facility in the coming years, with improvements to the bathrooms being the next project. The civic center is operated by the Iberville Parks & Recreation Commission.

IBERVILLE PARISH COUNCIL

Following are members of the Iberville Parish Council, parish leaders who serve you and provide for the many services in Iberville.

Matthew H. Jewell, District 12, Council Chairman – 324-6951
Warren "T-Nochie" Taylor, District 1, Vice Chairman – 776-1750
Mitchel J. Ourso, District 2 – 806-5856
Henry J. Scott, Jr., District 3 - 776-1759
Leonard "Buck" Jackson, District 4 - 776-1753
Edwin M. Reeves, Jr., District 5 – 776-3361
Salaris G. Butler, District 6 – 776-1811

Howard Oubre, Jr., District 7 – 776-5500
Hunter S. Markins, District 8 – 975-1515
Terry J. Bradford, 810-1626
Louis "Pete" Kelley, District 10 - 776-7191
Timothy J. Vallet, District 11 - 324-8245
Bart B. Morgan, District 13 = 323-7111
Kirsha Barker, Iberville Parish Council Clerk

COUNCIL OFFICE PHONE - 687-5190

APRIL EVENTS

April 4 – Relay for Life of Iberville

City of Plaquemine Activity Center (COPAC), 24130 Fedrinand St.
5 p.m. until 5 a.m. on Saturday.

Opening and other ceremonies, survivor recognition and walk, luminaria ceremony, entertainment, activities, food vendors, kid and family activities
All proceeds benefit The American Cancer Society.

For more information go to www.relayforlife.org/iberville

April 4–6 – Cub Scout Soap Box Derby Races

In front of Iberville Museum, 57735 Main Street

Sponsored by Cub Scouts Packs 21 and 23.

Parade of Soap Box Derby Cars - Friday at 5 p.m.

Races are throughout the day on Saturday and Sunday.

Free admission. Bring lawn chairs.

For more information contact www.cubscout21.com/home or Plaquemine Main Street Program office - [225-687-3116](tel:225-687-3116)

Sunday, April 6 – Spring Festival – see right

Friday, April 11 – Gray Monkey Parade

Railroad Avenue in downtown Plaquemine, 12:30 p.m.

Children's walking parade - no motorized vehicles or pedal-power riding toys allowed.

Sponsored by the Iberville Library.

For more information call [225-287-2520](tel:225-287-2520) or go to www.iberville.lib.la.us.

April 26 – St. Jude Antique Car, Truck and Motorcycle Show

Bayou Plaquemine Waterfront Park, 57845 Foundry Street

8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sponsored by the Baton Rouge Corvette Club and Plaquemine Main Street Program.

All proceeds benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Dozens of vintage vehicles on display, food, sweets and silent auction.

For more information go to

www.brcorvetteclub.com or www.plaquemine.org/events

Spring Festival

SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 2014

8:00 am • 2:00 pm

Bayou Plaquemine Waterfront Park
57845 Foundry St, Plaquemine, LA

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC • FREE ADMISSION

Breakfast with Easter Bunny

- Breakfast with the Easter Bunny 8AM-10:30AM
- Children's Walking Easter Parade Stroll with the Easter Bunny through the Waterfront Park 10:30AM
- Arts and Crafts 9AM-1PM
- Easter Bonnet Contest Adult and Children 11AM
- Photos with the Easter Bunny \$5 fee

Chili Cook-Off
11AM-2PM
Judging at 1PM

Children's Games and Activities

Easter Egg hunt
Sponsored by Elks Lodge 1398

Plant sale and demonstration
by Tri-Parish Master Gardeners

SPONSORS:
We Are the Difference, Inc. *Plaquemine Main Street Program*

Contact Event Chairman Rhonda Harrell at 225-687-2029 or go to www.wearethedifference.org or www.plaquemine.org

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

District Attorney's Office prosecutes heavy load of crime

Do you wonder how felony crimes, and many misdemeanor crimes get prosecuted in court? That responsibility falls on the District Attorney's Office, and Iberville is part of the 18th Judicial District that includes Iberville, Pointe Coupee and West Baton Rouge Parishes.



District Attorney Ricky Ward

The 18th Judicial District Attorney's Office is led by District Attorney Ricky Ward. His office prosecutes thousands of cases investigated by the three parishes' Sheriff's Offices, State Police, and local law enforcement agencies, including some traffic citations. The criminal cases in Iberville Parish go before 18th Judicial District Judges Alvin Batiste or William Dupont.

"The highest priority of my office is to protect the citizens of the 18th Judicial District by prosecuting those who commit crimes and persuading convictions," noted DA Ward. "We also place a priority on assisting victims through the criminal process."

The District Attorney's Office also handles the following:

- **Juvenile Division**, which handles all cases in

which juveniles are either the victims of crime or have been accused of crimes.

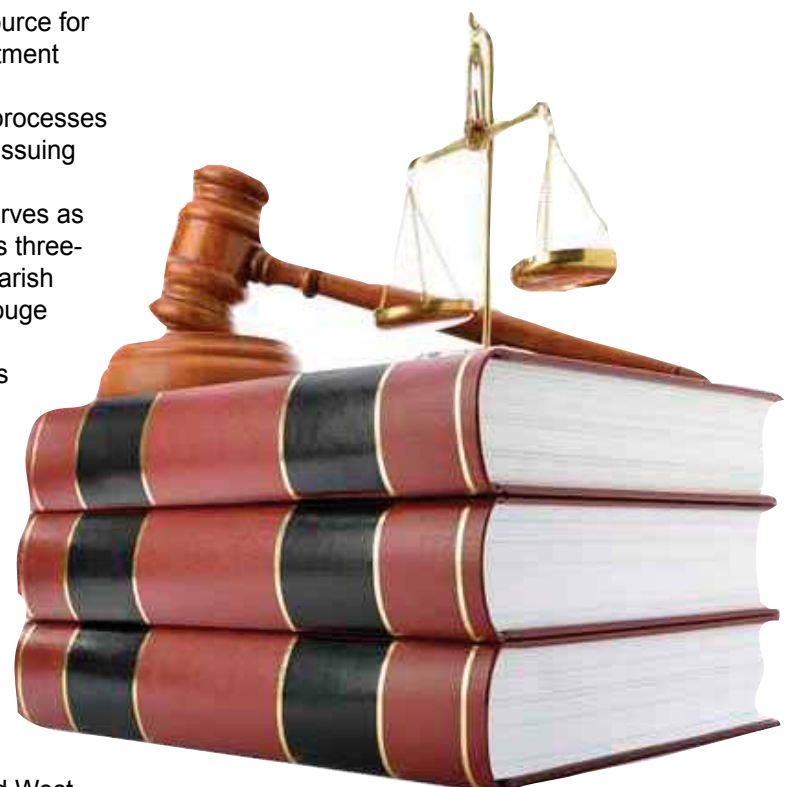
- **Child Support Enforcement Division**, which prosecutes parents criminally for failure to meet their child support obligations.
- **Victim/Witness Assistance Program**, which helps victims and witnesses understand the criminal justice process and is a resource for public and private counseling or treatment programs.
- **Worthless Check Program**, which processes and prosecutes offenders under the Issuing Worthless Checks Law.

In addition, the District Attorney also serves as legal advisor to many public agencies in its three-parish jurisdiction, including the Iberville Parish Council and School Board, West Baton Rouge Council and School Board, and others.

Key employees of the District Attorney's Office in Iberville under DA Ward include First Assistant District Attorney Scott Stassi; Assistant District Attorney (ADA) "Tony" Clayton, who is the chief felony prosecutor; ADA Elizabeth Engolio, who assists with all major felony cases and criminal appeals; ADA Mike Maronge, who handles misdemeanors and juvenile cases; ADA Timmy Collins, who handles all drug cases in Iberville Parish; ADAs Dana Larpenteur and Marty Maley, who handle the felony docket; and ADA Louis Delahaye, who represents the Iberville and West

Baton Rouge School Boards. The child support enforcement program coordinator is Deborah Carriere, and Victims Assistance Coordinator is Keely Marionneaux.

For more information about the DA's office call 225-687-5210 or go to www.rickywardda.com.



Electrical system upgrades, competitive rates proving system an asset

The City of Plaquemine is one of a limited number of cities in Louisiana that provides electrical service to its residents, and numerous improvements to the system are making it a real asset to city residents.

Line improvements over the last few years totalled \$1.8 million, and the city is presently working on another \$1.6 million line improvement project and the installation of a new \$4 million electrical transformer. These improvements are making the system much more reliable and effective.

Also importantly, the city's

electric rates have beat Entergy's rates for numerous months in the last two years.

"We have proven that we are competitive with Entergy," said Mayor Mark "Tony" Gulotta. "But the biggest asset of the electrical system is having local control. We respond much quicker to customer needs and to outages than a large corporation, such as Entergy; and we try to work with residents who need a little more time when weather extremes cause very high bills. A company like Entergy doesn't do that."

Once the complicated process of installing and connecting the new

transformer is complete, the city's existing 55-year old transformer will then become a back-up. The new transformer will have the capacity for 115KV (kilovolts) coming into the city, providing more capacity and reliability for the system.

The current project to upgrade power lines in a five-mile area of the city includes installing 180 new

metal poles and heavier power lines that hold more voltage and also will hold up better in heavy winds and turbulent weather conditions, such as hurricanes.

"We have worked hard to make the electrical system an asset to the city and its residents, and we are seeing the results of that work," Mayor Gulotta said.



The city's new transformer, scheduled to be running by this summer, will make the electrical system more reliable. Shown above are new transmission lines for the transformer.

Comparison of Plaquemine residential electric bills to other companies

1000 KWH - Information from the La. Public Service Commission

Electrical Co.	July	August	September	October
Plaquemine	97.08	94.31	94.31	92.13
Entergy Gulf States (south of Plaq.)	98.23	97.83	93.91	93.75
Entergy Louisiana (north of Plaq.)	105.66	107.06	104.27	103.54
Pointe Coupee Electric	104.13	98.55	97.79	97.83
DEMCO	95.20	95.65	95.57	95.26
CLECO	120.31	118.67	119.97	119.87

Phase I of City Hall improvement project completed, more coming

The City of St. Gabriel has announced completion of Phase 1 of its renovation to City Hall, located at 5035 Iberville Street. "It's actually a renovation and remodel," announced Mayor Lionel Johnson, Jr.

"The new renovations are in line with the growth in the community," stated Mayor Johnson. "With several ongoing and upcoming capital outlay projects in the City, this is one that has a direct impact on the staff and our service to the citizens of St. Gabriel."

Improvements of the building began in early July of last year, and were completed in February 2014. Renovations of the facility included the main lobby and unoccupied administrative areas, with repairs ranging from replacement of tiled floors to fresh paint on the walls of the building.

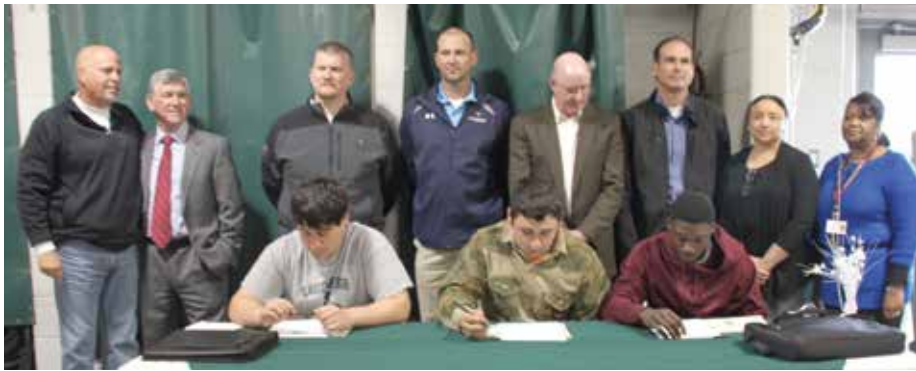
The completed renovations also feature ADA compliant restrooms and a central reception area where visitors are directed to service points. "What I'm most proud of is that we've totally changed the feel of the building but did not disturb the integrity of

the 'old school,'" said Mayor Johnson. St. Gabriel City Hall is the site of the former Sunshine High School and as Mayor Johnson noted, "holds great historic and nostalgic value to the residents and many former residents of St. Gabriel."

The renovation of the facility provides a better workplace for employees as well as more business-like and comfortable environment for visitors to City Hall. The initiative was funded by some budgeted capital outlay dollars as well as two state funded grants. "I have to acknowledge Public Services Director Lloyd Snowten and his crew for an exceptional job," said Mayor Johnson. "By doing the project in-house, we did a projected \$400,000 renovation for about \$150,000."

Director Snowten noted, "Renovations were prominent for City Hall because it is the functioning facility of the City. I am very pleased as to how the project turned out, and I know it will continue to meet the needs of St. Gabriel in the future." Johnson said plans and monies are in place to renovate the current Senior Center, Public Works, and Utility Departments, as well as a constructing a new facade on the front the building."





STUDENTS GET WELDING CERTIFICATIONS...

Senior high school welding students review their commitment letters at a "Signing" event celebrating their welding certification achievement and their commitment to work for local industries. Shown seated from left are PHS seniors **Brennan Bueche** and **Hunter Michelli**, and WCHS senior **Joshua Mitchell**. Not shown are seven other PHS students who attained the credentials: **Colby Landry, Bobby Cooke, Warren Myers, Joseph Nugent, Joseph Weatherford, Andrea Prevost, and Trey Collier**, according to **Gwen Adkins, IPSS Workforce Coordinator** and **Craig Granier, Welding Instructor**. Shown behind them are members of the school board, Iberville Parish School System, PHS, WCHS, and members of business and industry who attended the signing celebration. Representatives from **Turner Industries, Performance Contractors, Jacobs Field Services and MEI, and Dow Chemical Co.** attended the event. Local leaders supporting the program include School Board members, Superintendent **P. Ed Cancienne**, Iberville Parish President **J. Mitchell Ourso**, Sheriff **Brett Stassi**, Chamber of Commerce Director **Hank Grace**, and the Pelican Chapter of Associated Builders and Contractors.

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College Credits • Credit Recovery
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Participating students have access to a laptop for all of their coursework at home or at Virtual School sites.



MSA-WEST IS APPLE DISTINGUISHED SCHOOL...

Members of Iberville Schools celebrate at the Math, Science and Arts Academy-West as Apple Representative **Maureen Brim** announced the Magnet Program has been named a **national Apple Corporation Distinguished School** for the third year in a row. The school was also named in March as **Magnet School of Excellence by Magnet Schools of America**, an honor it has received for three years. Shown at the event are: front, MSA West **Loren McIntyre**-Tech Faculty Representative, **Sondia Funchess**, K-5th Grade Director; **Candice Breaux**, 6th-12th Grade Director; **Elvis J. Cavalier**, Iberville Parish Public School Chief Academic Officer; **Polly Higdon**, School Board Member; **Maureen Brim**- Apple Corporation; and **Dr. P. Edward Cancienne**, Superintendent; and back row, Iberville Parish Schools' technology team's **Robert Lockett, Sam Bell, Doug Durand, Eon Simon, and Technology Director Richard Ellis**.

Teachers of Year announced

The 2014 Teacher of the Year Program for Iberville Parish recognized three outstanding teachers chosen as District Winners for exceptional teaching and leadership abilities at an event held recently in Plaquemine.

Honored were **Iberville Parish Elementary School Teacher of Year Jessica Dominique**, **North Iberville**; **Middle School Teacher of Year Matthew Zito**, **Plaquemine High School**; and **High School Teacher of Year Jessica Millien**, **Math, Science and Arts Academy-West**. All three will compete in the upcoming regional competition. Also recognized were teachers recognized by their schools:

Elementary School Level Winners

North Iberville Elementary	Jessica Dominique*
Crescent Elementary School	Brandy Hall
Dorseyville Elementary School	Elia Anthony
East Iberville Elementary	Edris Lodge
Iberville Elementary School	Todd Kelly
Math, Science, & Arts Academy--East	Leafreedy Smith
Math, Science, & Arts Academy-West	Maria Davis

Middle School Level Winners

Plaquemine High School	Matthew Zito*
East Iberville Elementary & High School	Susan Burch
Math, Science & Arts Academy East	Terri Hasten
Math, Science & Arts Academy West	Claudia Smith
White Castle High School	Miyoshi Jones-Joseph

High School Level Winners

Math, Science & Arts Academy-West	Jessica Millien*
East Iberville Elementary & High School	Douglas Schultz
Math, Science & Arts Academy-East	Joanne Griffin
Plaquemine High School	Brian Rowan
White Castle High School	Mervin Allen



SPELLING BEE WINNERS...

Capturing top honors at the 18th annual Iberville Parish School System's Spelling Bee were: front row from left, **Bryson James** of Iberville Elementary School, 2nd grade, first place; **Jaelyah Bunch**, MSA-West Academy, second place; **Madeline Bonton**, MSA-East, 3rd Grade, first place; and **Andre Miller**, also of MSA-East, second place; (back row, l to r) **Tommy McQuiston**, Crescent Elementary 4th grade, first place; and **Nicole Warner**, MSA-West, second place. More than 60 students chosen from each of the schools in the district participated in the competition.

Iberville Schools TALENT MACHINE

presents **"CHILDHOOD"**

An original production by **Elvis J. Cavalier**

7 p.m., April 15 and 16

MSA-West Performing Arts Center, Plaquemine

Tickets are \$5 per person and can be purchased at all Iberville schools, the School Board office, or the ticket office at MSA-West Performing Arts Center.

Maringouin saves with new “green” technology at sewer pond

Maringouin is one of the first municipalities in the state to incorporate new environmentally friendly technology in its sewer pond that will also lower operating costs and help the city meet stringent environmental regulations.

BioHaven® Floating Treatment Wetlands (BFTW) have been installed in the sewer treatment pond by Martin Ecosystems to optimize the habitat for growing microbial and plant species. The plants and microbes improve water quality and support vastly larger populations of those organisms. Research has shown that the BFTWs reduce ammonia, biological oxygen demand, chemical oxygen demand, fecal coliform, heavy metals and total suspended solids.

The town received a \$50,000 grant from the Delta Regional Authority to install the floating treatment wetlands. Mayor John Overton said the conventional options to improve

the town’s compliance with federal and state treatment regulations would have cost over \$1 million. In addition, he said this solution will provide savings for the city with less chemicals and electricity needed for aeration of the pond.

The floating treatment wetlands are simply specific plant vegetation grown in plastic floating foam. The plants grow roots into the pond, which becomes a natural filter and also provide nutrients for the bugs that eat contaminants in the pond. A total of 13 BFTW’s were installed in strategic locations in the Maringouin treatment pond in February, and will take up to a year to grow and really provide benefits.

Maringouin and Harrisonberg are the first two municipalities in Louisiana to use the technology. The

plants require minimal maintenance. The company received the La. Department of Environmental Quality Environmental Leadership Award and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Gulf Guardian Award in 2013 for its project to use this technology at the Elayn Hunt Correctional

Facility in St. Gabriel.

“We have been working to get the grant and this technology for about a year,” said Mayor Overton. “It offers many benefits and cost savings for us, and I am excited that Maringouin is among the first cities in the state to get it.”



The brown grasses of the BioHaven Floating Treatment Wetlands in the Maringouin sewer pond are shown in the photos above.

New generators offer emergency energy

Hurricane season is fast approaching, and if severe weather threatens, Grosse Tete residents can rest assured that five new generators are on hand to operate the town’s sewer lift stations.

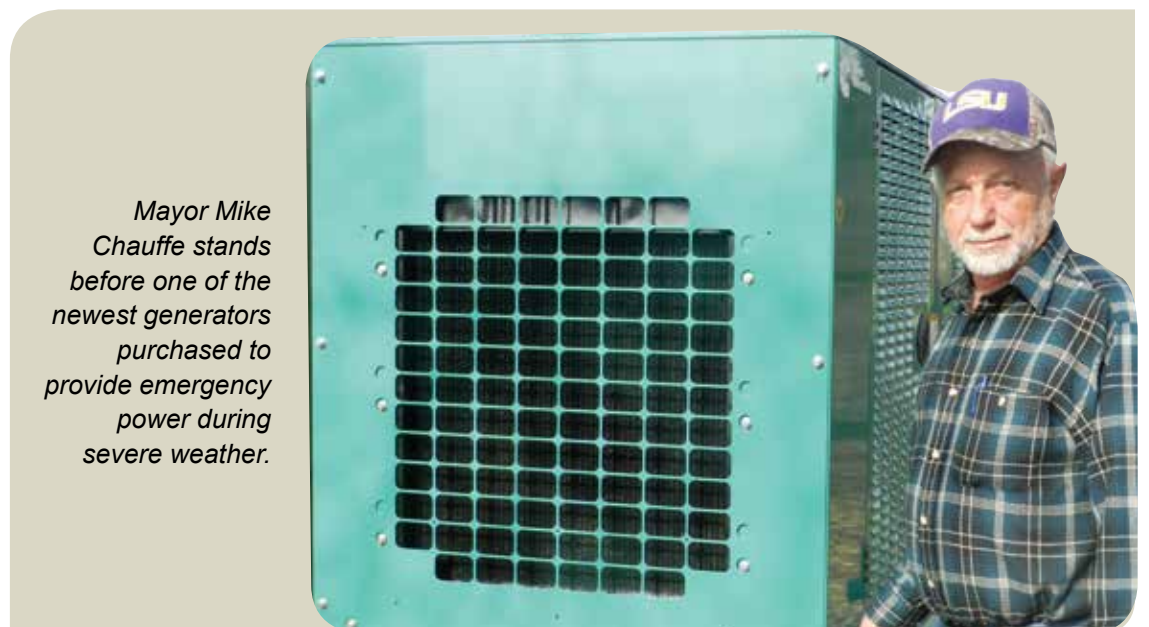
“It was a big issue during Hurricane Gustav. We had to jockey around a generator to provide power to the lift stations and it got to be kind of hectic,” says Mayor Mike Chauffe. The new generators, costing about \$150,000, are 30-kW natural gas machines with automatic on/off capabilities. Funding came from a Louisiana Recovery Authority grant.

The generators are enclosed in fenced areas at the Grosse Tete Lions Club, the Garner Lane Main Lift, the Solari Lift Station, Grosse Tete Unity Hall and Grosse Tete Baptist Church.

Two remaining lift stations will operate on portable generators, if needed. However, Chauffe is currently seeking funding to purchase a generator at the Angelo Subdivision lift station. He hopes to have that secured within four to five months.

Last year, a \$100,000 grant from the Louisiana Recovery Authority was used for the purchase of a Generac commercial 60-kW generator to power a sewer lift station and maintenance buildings, as well as Village Hall.

During the 32 hours that Grosse Tete was without power in the midst of Hurricane Isaac and four days during Hurricane Gustav, the village’s lift stations were powered by two portable generators. One is 15-kW and the other is 8-kW. The old generators will now be used as back-ups and for field work.



Mayor Mike Chauffe stands before one of the newest generators purchased to provide emergency power during severe weather.

Clerk Pam George elected LMCA president

Town Clerk Pam George was elected as president of the Louisiana Municipal Clerks Association. Mayor Mike Chauffe had the privilege of swearing her into office at the group’s meeting in Baton Rouge on March 9. “It really is quite an honor and we’re proud to have Pam receive such important recognition and responsibility,” he says.

225 people attend PTEC course offered by town, industry

Mayor Gerald Jermarr Williams took heed to the call for a need of chemical operators in our area and has partnered with local industry to hold a course of training for chemical operators called CLASS-PTECH.

Classes, which have drawn a whopping 225 students, began in late January and will end in early June. Moreover, other classes have been added such as: social skills, 1st time homebuying, financial planning, etc.

Chad Bourgeois & Shirley Crawford, the instructors for the class, along with chemistry instructor Tuesday Joseph, have set high standards for the class, which is held three nights a week.

White Castle High School Principal Charles Handy is providing class space to house the packed class. Mayor Williams said industry is funding the course, and he worked to get WCHS to provide the space and to get students into the course through the use of flyers, social media, and word of mouth.

"This class means a lot for our community," said Mayor Williams.

"With the rapid growth of industry and the need for chemical operators, this class came right on time." He added that the class has motivated many within the community.

ANOTHER BILL PAY OPTION

White Castle has installed a credit card machine in town hall so that utility customers can make debit/credit card payments with their card inside town hall.

"This will help the younger generation very much," said Alderwoman Dionne Lewis-Williams. "Most of us live in a fast-paced society and this is very beneficial to citizens."

Lastly, please don't forget that town information is available on the town's website. The website's address is www.towcla.com. For those with questions or comments for Mayor Williams, he can be reached at 225-678-0788.



Students pack the WCHS lunchroom where the PTEC course is being offered.

Village Park renamed for late Coach Basco

Archie Wayne "Paw" Basco loved sports and gave endless hours to coaching Rosedale's children. So naming Rosedale's public park after him hit a home run among the village's officials.

"He was a humble man, a good man and a hard worker," explains Mayor Lawrence "Football" Badeaux. "He never sought recognition and was always working with children."

For years, Badeaux thought naming the 14-acre park on Laurel Street after Basco was a natural. So, when Basco passed away Oct. 1, 2013 at the age of 86, Badeaux put his plan into action. He presented a resolution designating the park "Coach A.W. Basco Park" to the town council. The resolution passed unanimously at the Dec. 10, 2013 meeting.

It was a memorable event, with Basco's widow, Leona Guin Basco, and many of his family members that include four children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren, on hand to accept a copy of the resolution.

"I'll always cherish Coach Basco's

memory as someone who devoted thousands of hours of his spare time contributing to the physical and recreational needs of the people of Rosedale and his contributions to the progression of the village," Badeaux said.

Basco moved to Rosedale as a young railroad worker and retired 40 years later as track foreman for Missouri-Pacific Railroad. He was a Golden Glove boxer, and had played minor league baseball with the Alexandria Aces and semi-pro baseball with the Baton Rouge Redsticks.

Basco had been a volunteer coach for baseball, softball and basketball, working with both children and adults. He was appointed Park Commissioner by Mayor Kenneth Amedee on Aug. 7, 1969 and also served under the administrations of Mayors Albin Andre, Andrew Major



Members of A.W. "Coach" Basco's family gather to recognize the naming of the Laurel Street park after the long-time park commissioner. Mayor Lawrence "Football" Badeaux presents Basco's widow, Leona, with a copy of the resolution.

and Badeaux.

The park was established on Nov. 6, 1958 and leased for \$125 per year from the Gottlieb and Moise families. It was purchased by the Village of Rosedale on Dec. 8, 1978 for

\$64,800, or about \$4,515 per acre.

Badeaux adds that a commemorative sign will be placed at the park site in the near future.



Blanchard ramps up Iberville Sheriff's Office community programs

Sheriff Brett Stassi has made community involvement one of his priorities since the day he took office on July 1, 2012, and one employee, Deputy Loretta Blanchard, has taken that to heart.

Blanchard has spent countless hours, including many hours of her own time, organizing, coordinating, shopping, wrapping gifts and handling paperwork for the Sheriff's Office Thanksgiving turkey giveaway to needy families and its Christmas gift giveaway, which provided toys and gifts to 186 local children in need, including 62 bikes, last Christmas.

In addition she organized the department's Christmas caroling at local nursing homes and gifts of scarves and blankets to residents. Blanchard not only organized the programs, but also handled sending solicitation letters from Sheriff Stassi seeking donations from local businesses to increase the impact that the program could make on local families' lives.

"Our employees have the option of giving to these programs from their checks, and most of them support the programs, but Loretta has really gone above and beyond to enhance and grow these programs and help our community," Sheriff Stassi said. "I have supported her efforts, but she has taken over and really improved the programs."

In fact, in 2012 the Sheriff's Office provided gifts for 69 children at Christmas, and in 2013, it provided four to six gifts each for 186 kids, with everything coordinated by Blanchard.

"I just love it," she said. "I got to do all the shopping for the kids and see the appreciation by the families. It's very rewarding." In praising Blanchard for her efforts Stassi added, "This is the kind of community participation and caring that I want to foster in the Iberville Sheriff's Office. Helping others is what it's all about."



Shown above with part of the gifts given this Christmas are, from left, Sheriff Brett Stassi, Deputy Loretta Blanchard, Chief Administrator Russell Jackson, and Deputies Susan Simpson and Darrayl Thompson.



Shown with the Thanksgiving giveaway items in 2012 are, from left, Deputy Loretta Blanchard, Sheriff Stassi, and Deputies Marla Medlen and McKenzie Wille.

Jailers have thankless job of maintaining safety at parish jail

Maintaining safety and order at a jail is a difficult and often thankless job, but the Iberville Parish Jail has operated with minimal disruption due to the experience and expertise of the jail leadership team of Warden Joseph "Pete" Edwards, Assistant Warden Daniel Falcon and Sargent of Security Calvin Green.

The jail houses approximately 111 inmates and stays full. It is operated by 18 employees, including jailers, commissary and kitchen staff, inmate records and transport officers. Edwards said their job is to maintain safety and security, make sure inmates show up for court dates, maintain accurate

inmate personal and criminal records, provide necessary medical care, and feed and clothe inmates.

"Most of the time the inmates do not cause problems," Edwards said. "We maintain tight security and jailers make rounds and watch inmates very closely to keep order. And we have an isolation cell for those who do cause problems."

He said Sheriff Brett Stassi made some security changes when he came into office and also has been very supportive in providing the equipment needed to keep the jail safe. "We have an older jail with modern technology including cameras throughout the jail," he said.

Warden Edwards began his law enforcement career in 1982 as a military police officer with the US Navy, and in 1986 he completed the La. State Correctional Officer Training Academy and was employed at the La. State Penitentiary at Angola.

He later transferred to the Elayn Hunt Correctional Center in 1989 and worked as a drill instructor with

the IMPACT program for youthful first offenders. He was promoted to lieutenant over the program. In 1994 he joined the Iberville Sheriff's Office as a patrol deputy, and was promoted to shift lieutenant then promoted to warden of the jail by the late Sheriff Freddie Pitre.

Assistant Warden Falcon started his law enforcement career in 1995 with the Plaquemine Police Department and was promoted to detective and sergeant. He joined the Iberville Sheriff's Office in 2000, worked in patrol and was promoted to sergeant, then narcotics detective, and then assistant warden by then Sheriff Brent Allain. Falcon has been an instructor in corrections for Iberville jailers for the last six years.

Sergeant Green began his career in corrections at the Elayn Hunt Correctional Center as a cadet, quickly was promoted to sergeant, and joined the Iberville Sheriff's Office in 2005. He has held the position of jailer and transport officer before being promoted to sergeant of security at the jail.



Shown are, from left, Sargent Calvin Green, Assistant Warden Daniel Falcon and Warden Joseph "Pete" Edwards.