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More than 100 first responders participated in the event. Photo courtesy Christopher LaVoie.

First responders celebrated in Luling parade

Ryan Arena Editor
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The flashing lights of police cars and fire engines were unmistakable at St. Charles Parish Hospital Monday night. In this instance it didn't signify emergency, but a show of support, solidarity and gratitude.

A parade for St. Charles Parish's first responders, coordinated by the non-profit group One Team, One Fight, flowed down Paul Maillard Road and through hospital grounds Monday night, as more than 100 first responders participated in the event. That number included police, EMS and firefighter personnel, as first responder efforts to battle the threat of COVID-19 were applauded and appreciated.

Included in the parade were more than 15 fire trucks to go with several police vehicles and ambulances. St. Charles Parish Sheriff Greg Champagne led the parade, which even had a flyover aircraft to add punctuation to the festivities.

One Team, One Fight was formed to support first responders in St. Charles Parish, and would traditionally be holding its annual fundraising crawfish cook-off event in the

PARADE on 6A

Teacher makes special deliveries to students



TURN to 2A

Father witnesses son's NFL dream come true



TURN to 5A

Local grocers say shelves staying stocked, but supply chain issues looming

Monique Roth Editor
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While toilet paper, cleaning products and paper towels flew off the shelves last month, the staples are becoming easier to obtain around St. Charles Parish. Local grocery store owners are now shifting their attention to their next likely concern – supply chain issues.

Barry Majoria, of Majoria's Supermarket, said food supply chain complications include many meat processing factories shutting down because of the pandemic and an oversupply of some items because of closed restaurants.

While some of his store's meat deliveries have

GROCERIES on 7A



Milk is still selling out fast, but most staples such as toilet paper and paper towels are easier to attain now.

Ama native and pastor mourned, leaves legacy of love

Ryan Arena Editor
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Countless members of the St. Charles Parish community have been mourning the loss of Pastor Kendall Pierre Sr., as the memories, kind words and condolences they've shared online highlighted the large and lasting legacy he leaves behind.

Pierre, who served as pastor at Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church in his native Ama for over a decade, passed away May 2 after a more than one month battle with COVID-19. He leaves behind his wife Sabrina and three children, Tayler, Kendall

PASTOR on 6A



Pastor Kendall Pierre Sr.

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Even in pandemic, lending help to students is second nature for teacher

Ryan Arena Editor
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After Lakewood Elementary teacher Margaux Robin got the news in April that the state’s schools would be closed for the foreseeable future, her mind jumped to her students, both past and present.

Some of them might need help – and she was willing to grant that help, however she could, without a second thought.

TEACHER on 8A



Lakewood Elementary teacher Margaux Robin (center) and team delivering meals to the homes of students.

Nearly 5,500 apply for unemployment in parish in 7 weeks

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With unemployment claims rising to unprecedented heights in the face of COVID-19, its more important than ever for residents to know what assistance is available to them and the avenues to get them.

Thus, the local offices of the Louisiana Workforce Commission have not only been busy assisting so many residents going through hard times, but also getting the word out to others that they’re extending a

helping hand.

“We’re definitely all in this together,” said Workforce Commission Executive Director Tommy Scott. “The Workforce Commission is gonna be here and continue to be a resource to help our residents.”

Many are going through the process of filing for unemployment for the first time thanks to the pandemic.

WORKFORCE on 10A



Tommy Scott

Shell uniforms transformed into masks by local seamstresses

Monique Roth Editor
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When members of Shell Norco’s Emergency Operations Center had the idea to repurpose flame-retardant uniforms into masks, they knew just where to turn.

Nate Matherne, a Shell project engineer, submitted a photo of himself and his mother Wilma to the company’s internal newsletter after seeing a post asking people to submit the names of residents who were doing things to help their community during the pandemic.

“My mom was making masks and I was helping her distribute them to medical personnel,” Nate said. “Later I got a call asking if I thought she could make them out of FRC, and the next day I had two boxes of uniforms dropped off at her house.”

The Shell Norco site partnered with Wilma, a well-known community seamstress, to sew 300 customized Shell face masks.



One of the masks created from flame-retardant uniforms.

SHELL on 8A



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DHS wrestlers pitch in to help teammates family

Monique Roth Editor
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Twelve members of the Destrehan High School wrestling team, led by their coach, recently banded together for a common goal – and it had absolutely nothing to do with wrestling.

Jodi Scott, the mother of twin wrestling team members Dylan and Devin Inguagiato, reached out to wrestling head coach Joshua Varnado one Monday in March to let him know that if her sons looked tired at practice it was because they were exhausted from helping her that weekend.

Scott, whose biological parents are deceased, was raised by Jerry and Linda Gauthreaux. Scott said she and her boys, along with other family members, spent time cleaning and purging the Gauthreaux’s home. Linda, Scott said, was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease, and it has become an overwhelming task for Jerry to care both for her and their home.

“Coach Varnado is great and said if we need anything to let him know,” Scott said. “I told him we needed help with the backyard, attics, and



Members of the DHS wrestling team cleaned out a carport, three attics, the backyard and closets for a teammates family.

the piles and piles of junk.”

Varnado planned for himself and the team, including two of the seniors who were done with the season, to go to the Gauthreaux’s home.

“It’s not all about wrestling and winning,” Scott said. “He (Varnado) really cares about his team.”

Varnado and 10 members of the team - Marvin Oliphant, Hunter Badeaux, Luke Berg, Cyric Barnes, Donovan Kimble, Andrew Schafer,

DHS on 8A

20,000 free masks distributed in St. Charles Parish

Monique Roth Editor
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Last week 20,000 washable face masks were distributed in St. Charles Parish – a feat made possible by a generous donation from Hanes American Clothing Co.

“We are extremely grateful to the Hanes American Clothing Co. for its donation to the state that enabled us to pass out 20,000 masks to St. Charles Parish residents,” Parish

their annoyance of the traffic the distribution created and the fact driver’s licenses weren’t checked in order to prove parish residency.

“With only 20,000 masks and 50,000 plus residents, we did our best,” de Castro said. “We had a tremendous response to this event.”

Cars started lining up at 11:30 a.m. for the distribution, which



A line waiting for free masks distributed by St. Charles Parish last Tuesday.

President Matthew Jewell said. “There are certain situations that merit individuals to wear a mask, and when those occasions arise, I encourage everyone to wear them properly by having the mask cover both your nose and mouth and continue to follow all CDC guidelines.”

Samantha de Castro, parish director of communications, said the one-time donation was part of a total of 2 million masks Hanes has donated to the state of Louisiana during the coronavirus pandemic. She said at this time there are no plans for a future distribution.

While many residents praised the local government’s efforts to distribute the masks in an organized and timely fashion, others were vocal in

was advertised to begin at 1 p.m. Masks were handed out at Destrehan High School and Luling’s Edward A. Dufresne Community Center:

“We had a tremendous reponse to to this event,”

— Samantha de Castro

“Significant traffic congestion at both locations forced us to start handing the masks out sooner than we initially planned,” de Castro said. “To

MASKS on 10A

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NFL draftee’s father witnesses son’s dream come true

Ryan Arena Editor
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John Jefferson beamed with pride as he saw the dreams of his son become reality.

On April 23, Justin Jefferson was selected with the 22nd selection in the first round of the NFL Draft by the Minnesota Vikings, a little less than three years after departing Destrehan High School for LSU while graded as a two-star recruit by college scouting analysts. Now, he’ll make millions of dollars and be a recognized name nationally among sports fans – at least, the few remaining unaware of his dominant season as part of LSU’s reigning national champion.

The third among a trio of siblings in the Jefferson family to establish themselves as a star at LSU, behind older brothers Jordan and Rickey, Justin became the highest drafted St. Charles Parish product since Hahnville’s Laron Landry was picked sixth overall in 2007. For further context, the 22 spot is two slots higher than former Destrehan great Ed Reed was drafted in 2002 – Reed was most recently in the national spotlight upon his induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame last year.

For John, it was a truly special moment to share with his son, who watched the draft alongside his family at their St. Rose home.

“It was surreal in a lot of ways,” John said. “When he got that phone call, it was before it was televised. We thought it was going to be Philadelphia, but they went with someone else. So then it’s Minnesota and we were all so excited for him. That was a great experience for all of us.”

He said he knew the process leading up to draft night was a stressful one on

you never know, especially with the situation with coronavirus this year. You expected it to be a little bit different. When the time came, I think he was kind of relieved. And I know he’s excited to be part of the Vikings organization.”

One would expect any father to be proud of his son reaching such a peak. It no doubt made the moment even sweeter knowing how hard Justin worked to get there.

Justin was not a ballyhooed prospect when he arrived at Destrehan as a 5-foot-7, 155-pound freshman. At the time he was being groomed to play quarterback, like brother Jordan did once upon a time for the Wildcats in the school’s unbeaten 2007 state championship season. But Justin grew up fast. He’d round into a 6-foot-3, 185-pound collegiate prospect, and he was moved to wide receiver, where he emerged as a go-to guy as an upperclassman.

He didn’t have the pomp and circumstance of a National Signing Day to soak in. Jefferson still had work to do in order to qualify academically to play at the next level. LSU head coach Ed Orgeron conveyed a message, however: if Justin’s hard work continued, and he reached his marks, a scholarship would be waiting for him at the school he watched each of his brothers excel for, where he wanted to be all along.

Justin indeed nailed down the marks he needed and joined the LSU roster in 2017. After a season to accumulate himself, Justin quickly established himself as one of the team’s top receivers – and one of Joe Burrow’s favorite targets – hauling in 54 catches for 875 yards and six touchdowns.

speaking of Jefferson’s emergence. John saw that was the case on a regular basis when it came to his son. And a former college athlete himself playing basketball at the University of Nebraska, John knew what it took to continue advancing levels.

“Even though he was rated as a two-star, we all knew he had a lot of potential if he worked at it,” John said. “He had a natural gift and a natural competitiveness in him. When LSU gave him the opportunity, he took advantage of it. He worked very hard and LSU put him in the best position to be successful. They gave him the opportunity to work on his game to be where he is today, and I give them kudos for it.

“Justin’s always been underrated. He’s worked very hard to get to this level, and that’s now among the top receivers in the country.”

Of course, John knows some local NFL fans might be a bit conflicted on certain Sundays that pit the Vikings against their beloved New Orleans Saints. The



Justin Jefferson was selected with the 22nd pick of the NFL Draft.

two teams have a complicated history, some might say: Minnesota has knocked New Orleans out of the post-season in two of the past three years and on four total occasions, more than any other team. But the one time the Saints got the better of Minnesota in the playoffs, it was en route to the franchise’s lone Super Bowl win in 2010.

“Yeah, absolutely,” John said with a laugh. “I have a lot of family members who are Saints fans and they were saying, ‘Anywhere but Minnesota!’ I know they’ll still cheer for him. Just if they play the Saints, it might be a bit of either-or for them. I know I’m looking forward to that.”



Justin, particularly with the way the coronavirus pandemic altered draft preparation plans – team visits had to be cancelled among other concessions this year, and the draft itself was in fact a virtually done process – Justin no doubt would have been among those invited to participate at the live draft setting, as a nearly universal 1st round projected pick.

“He’d talked to the Eagles, the Raiders, all of the teams that picked wide receivers (prior to the Vikings pick),” John said. “It’s a stressful process, because

A year later, Justin, Burrow and the entire LSU offense exploded to record arguably the finest offensive season in collegiate history en route to an unbeaten season and national crown. Jefferson played his role for sure: 111 catches, 1,540 yards, 18 touchdowns, and a massive coming out party in LSU’s national semifinal victory over Oklahoma that saw him record 14 catches, 227 yards and four touchdowns.

Draft analyst Mike Detillier said prior to the draft that star ratings can’t measure the size of a player’s heart, when

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PARADE from 1A

spring. But with that on hold for the time being, the group shifted gears for now, with an eye on rescheduling the cook-off for later this year.

“It’s a way to show our thanks and gratitude for each other, and to show our appreciation of being on the front lines and doing this every day, with no questions asked,” said Natalie Wright, a committee chair with One Team, One Fight and an ER nurse herself. “This was a way to do that while still social distancing and have nobody gathering.”

Each first responder, which also included hospital staff amongst a total of nine departments involved, received a meal donated by The River Room and a goodie bag donated by G. Smith Motorsports.

Balancing the desire to show support and complying with Louisiana’s distancing measures was the challenge, but one Wright said was solved in short order.

“We wanted to figure out how to do something without going against government orders. And looking at all the birthday parades going on, and not wanting to put anyone at risk, this was the result,” said Wright. “Everyone was on board. We put it all together in a week. We called to a lot of contacts who were supporting our crawfish boil events, and they’ve all been donating throughout this whole pandemic. They want to continue to show their support and that they love our community and love our first responders.”

“We wanted to figure out how to do something without going against government orders,”

— Natalie Wright

Wright said the decision was made to not make the event widely publicized beforehand



First responders also received a meal donated by The River Room and a goodie bag donated by G. Smith Motorsports. Photo courtesy Christopher LaVoie.

as to not draw too many supporters and thus make the environment potentially crowded.

“We didn’t want to expand it out too much further,” Wright said. “We would love the entire community to be out in support, but we didn’t want it to get out of hand with so many people on the grounds to where it’s not able to happen. We told a few people who asked they were more than welcome to join.”

When One Team, One Fight is ultimately able to hold its fundraising crawfish boil again, one might expect it to do very well – even beyond the public showing appreciation for the responders’ recent contributions, as the event has grown in attendance in each of its first three years.

The event raises money to benefit a group including the parish’s Sheriff’s Office, fire departments, Fraternal Order of Police, hospital emergency services and EMS personnel.

PASTOR from 1A

and Kaden.

He described himself as a husband, father, barber, coach, mentor and a servant of God, and he indeed had many talents and callings. Pierre grew up in a single parent household, and credited sports as something that helped him to “stay on the straight and narrow” in a 2019 interview with the Herald-Guide. That inspired his involvement as a longtime basketball coach and mentor for youth, using the sport as a point of interest to teach valuable life skills like work ethic, teamwork, commitment and accountability.

That included work with the Southeast Louisiana Education program. He noted many young athletes involved with the program came from difficult circumstances, and that his involvement with SELA allowed him to offer support, leadership and a positive message to guide them.

The St. Charles Parish Council made a statement following Pierre’s passing that he was “a role model for many and a shining light in the St. Charles Parish community” who would truly be missed.

Many took to social media to share their memories of what made Pierre a special individual.

“Kendall Pierre had the uncanny ability to make you feel like you was his best friend, like you was special to him,” said Lance Markey of Ama. “No matter what was going on, he would always make you feel like you mattered. We all had a best friend in him and we all have broken hearts. Crazy thing is when I close my eyes and think about him, I can hear him saying ‘it’s ok, my brother.’”

Monica Swint, a longtime friend of Sabrina Pierre, said in her post that she was at a loss for words and her heart broken upon hearing the news.

“The way he looked at (Sabrina) was priceless. I’ve never met a man that loved his wife and family so much. He became my brother ... Kendall Pierre always had the biggest smile and best greeting ... My brother truly loved God and it showed in his everyday life,” Swint said.

Derek Raymond of Hahnville said Pierre’s loss “shook up the entire community” because of the numerous lives he’s impacted. Darlene King of Hahnville said “there aren’t enough words to describe how truly kind and unique” Pierre was, and called his loss “hard to understand.”

Former LSU basketball coach and former Hahnville High star Pokey Chatman was Pierre’s cousin, and shared her thoughts on his loss through video.

“We lost a tremendous human being. You’ve heard me talk about him, my pastor, my cousin, my friend, my colleague ... he loved the round ball as well. (He) gained his wings yesterday as he transitioned. He battled, he fought for almost 40 days. A lot of tough days, but I can tell you the last four or five he was making tremendous progress,” she said.

Chatman said Pierre’s family was preparing for the next phase of his recovery last Friday night, but that less than 12 hours later, he was gone.

Those were just a few thoughts shared among many others. A fundraiser posted last week to support Pierre’s family raised more than \$22,000 in just three days to help cover medical and funeral expenses (A GoFundMe page titled “Pastor Kendall Pierre’s Fight Against COVID-19).

According to the page, Pierre was admitted to the main campus of Ochsner on March 26, and was sent to the ICU and placed on a ventilator.

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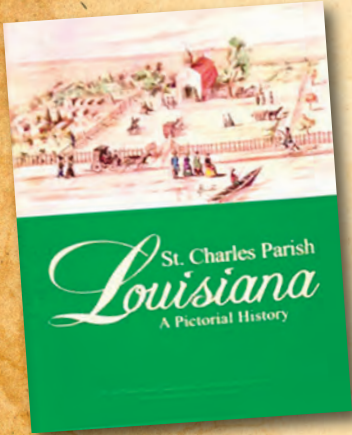
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GROCERIES from 1A

been delayed, Majoria said other shelf staples, such as toilet paper and paper towels, are gradually becoming easier to obtain from suppliers.

“I think we’ll have some shortages and then naturally some price increases with meat,” he said. “There’s nothing we can do about that ... it’ll take it a while to get back to how it was.”

Majoria said a lack of meat products available for stores to buy means there will be no special prices for retailers to pass on to their customers.

“We pass on the savings when we can,” he said, adding there will likely be price increases on meat products, especially pork, going forward.

David Matherne, owner of River Road Market in Destrehan, said the demand at his store for some popular items is still higher than usual.

Milk, for instance, is still selling out fast, he said, as are cleaning supplies. The store’s ability to obtain all their



The pandemic has meant an increase in the amount of work local grocers have had to put in to make sure all customers and employees remain safe.

normal brands of offerings is still limited, but Matherne said he is trying his hardest to offer everything residents need and expect.

“We’ve already experienced some cost increases on beef just from the huge demand,” Matherne said. “There’s only so much production.”

Customers should expect some price increases on pork, Matherne noted,

adding it is his goal to keep prices as low as possible.

“It’s all out of our control,” he said of price increases on popular items. “It’s all supply and demand ... we’re trying our hardest.”

The pandemic has meant not only an increase in demand for groceries, but an increase in the amount of work local grocers have had to put in to make sure all customers and employees remain safe.

“We stayed open as best we could, as well as looking out for the safety and health of our customers,” Majoria said. “We just try to show up every day and do the best we can and hope that people appreciate it.”

Frank’s Supermarket owner Tara Guidry echoed Majoria’s sentiments, adding business at her Des Allemands store has remained steady.

“We did everything we possibly could,” she said of her store during the pandemic.

Obituaries

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Plaisance

Martha Jane Chiasson Plaisance, a native of Lockport and resident of Larose, passed away peacefully on April 20, 2020, days shy of her 84th birthday.

She is survived by her three children, Mark D. Plaisance (wife, DesLey), Tina Montz (husband, Gerald), and James Plaisance (wife, Sheila); five adoring grandchildren, Marcus J. Plaisance (wife, Katie), Mathew Montz, Shawn Plaisance, Robyn Montz, and Claire Plaisance; and two great-granddaughters, Avery Plaisance and Ellis Plaisance.

She is preceded in death by her husband of over 50 years, Ecton Joseph Plaisance, Jr. “E.J.”; her parents, Whitney Chiasson and Enith Robichaux Chiasson; sisters, Mary Ann Chiasson, Agnes Chiasson (infant), and Mary Chiasson (infant); brothers, George Chiasson, Eddie Chiasson and Roy Chiasson (infant).

She was a member of Holy Rosary Catholic Church of Larose. She contributed her time and talent to Holy Rosary’s St. Joseph Altar for several years. She also previously worked as a secretary for the Lafourche Ambulance District.

The family would like to extend special acknowledgement and gratitude to the staff of Ormond Nursing & Care Center



of Destrehan as well as Dr. Michael Marcello and the Family Doctor Clinic staff of Raceland for the special care and kindness shown to her.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, a graveside burial will be held. A funeral mass will be offered in her memory at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Martha Plaisance’s name to Holy Rosary Catholic School. Falgout Funeral Home in Raceland is in charge of arrangements.

Higginbotham

Jolane Beatrice Dawson Higginbotham was born August 25, 1943 and passed away May 2, 2020 at 76 years old. She is survived by her children, Michael Burton, Paula Burton Hymel, Jason Burton, Heather Loupe (Justin), Valerie Higginbotham, and Debra Burton, she is also survived by 16 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren.

Jolane is preceded in death by her daughter, Dana Jo Higginbotham; brothers Michael and Ernie Dawson, and her parents, Joseph and June Dawson.

A memorial service will be held at a later date, to share a memory with the family please visit www.HCAlexander.com.





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The St. Charles Herald-Guide (USPS 475-680) is published weekly on Thursday for \$22.99 for six months, \$34.99 annually, by Herald-Guide Publishing, L. L. C., 14236 Hwy. 90, Boutte, LA 70039-1199. Periodicals postage paid in Boutte LA, and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER:

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TEACHER from 2A

“Actions speak louder than words, and we wanted to show students we’re not just your teachers, we really care about you,” said Robin, a speech-language pathologist.

Robin is one of several educators in St. Charles Parish who have made it a point to devote their time and resources to helping students and their families overcome the hardships that accompany a lasting, unexpected school closure. In Robin’s case, a call to Lakewood Principal Kelli Oertling to ask if there was anything she could do to help deliver food to the families of students in the district who might be in need proved fateful.

“It started from talking to one of my friends and another teacher on Facebook. We were worried about one of our previous students ... whether their family would have food, have transportation while all of this was going on,” Robin said.

“A lot of parents were being laid off and are they going to be able to feed their children? It was a big concern of mine and many other teachers.”

She asked Oertling for permission to secure food and deliver meals to families in need. Soon after, Oertling asked if Robin would take on a lead role in that project, and now, each Tuesday, she brings meals to families of students in need.

“We go every Tuesday. I take my husband’s truck,” Robin said. “I asked on Facebook who would be interested in volunteering for it ... I have my route and we go from there. It’s been growing larger and larger.”

She takes the necessary precautions, wearing a mask and keeping appropriate distance from each family as she makes her deliveries.

“I’d go and drop them on the porch for deliveries. I’d knock and then back away ... I don’t think they even knew I was at the door sometimes,” Robin said.

But even with precautions, there is risk involved for her and the other educators like her who are out and about lending a helping hand – certainly more than simply staying indoors. The knowledge of COVID-19 and the ways it could spread was even more uncertain when the project began weeks ago.

Even so, she said she never gave

inaction a second thought in this case.

“Not at all,” she said. “I do have twins at home and I knew I wanted to be safe. I wear my mask and do everything possible with that ... but no, I wanted to help. We’re with our students for eight, nine hours a day. They become part of your family. You establish that trust and bond and let them know you care.”

A number of those positively impacted have expressed their gratitude.



A student gets Easter treats delivered.

“They’ve helped the kids and I to the max,” said Lynn Mullins, grandmother of two district students. “They’ve gone above and beyond the call of humanity and duty to reach out and help us. They’re angels from heaven with love in their hearts and true dedication to their students.”

In fact, her twins come along on the route with her, though they stay in the car. She hopes to be setting a positive example for them on the importance of helping others.

The team is feeding up to 47 students a week now and the volunteers have looked for more ways to help, for example helping students have a happy Easter by delivering treatbags to the children.

“I remember as a child, Easter and Christmas were always big, fun holidays for me,” Robin said. “I wanted to make sure these babies were taken care of and could enjoy it, too.”

SHELL from 2A

Muna Esmail, Shell Norco’s health and safety manager, said the idea to repurpose FRC into masks came up during an EOC meeting. She said for some Shell employees, such as electricians and maintenance personnel, following social distancing suggestions of staying six feet apart is difficult, and in some cases even impossible.

“Workers were giving feedback that the mandate was not practical in the field all the time,” Esmail said.

She said the EOC team brainstormed on how to provide non-flammable surgical masks, which is when Nate and Wilma’s newsletter submission was brought up.

“Someone said that one of our employee’s mothers was starting the process of making masks,” Esmail said. “That’s really how it started.”

Wilma said she has had some close friends - Judy Ebling, Joy Robert and Flo Zeringue – who have helped her to construct the masks.

“These masks are a little more complicated to make,” Wilma said of Shell’s design. “They fit better and are more protective ... it meant a lot to be asked to make them.”

Esmail said supporting the local economy and local businesses is important to Shell.

“These masks are being homemade,” she said. “There’s love put into it.”

Patrick Beard, a tech safety specialist at Shell Norco, said utilizing the abundance of FRC uniforms already on site presented Shell with the opportunity to incur no additional costs for materials and the opportunity to use the uniforms for a greater purpose.



“If employees are unable to exercise social distancing, they are encouraged to wear these masks to protect themselves because of the work,” Beard said. “We’re supporting a local seamstress and helping her help us ... we want to support our community and their efforts.”

Nate said he was proud of Shell’s decision to use a local seamstress for the job.

“It just highlights their dedication to the local community,” he said. “It meant a lot to me as employee.”

With the work of his mother now protecting himself and others while they work, Nate said he realizes how blessed he is.

“I couldn’t be prouder of my mom for stepping up,” he said. “She’s so talented and just flies under the radar with that big heart of hers ... I’m glad she’s getting some recognition ... I am extremely lucky because they don’t make them like her anymore.”

DHS from 4A

Paul Rozas, Kurt Sharon, Trey Nixon, Austin Moran - met in Destrehan and carpooled to Marrero to help Dylan, Devin and others who were already working at the Gauthreaux’s home.

“You could tell that Dylan and Devin were really appreciative that their coach and friends were there,” Scott said. “We cleaned out a carport, three attics, the backyard, closets and made three trips to a dump with trucks and trailers full ... my dad was ecstatic ... he couldn’t believe all the guys showed up and all the work they did.”

The hard work the team put in that day greatly improved her mom and dad’s living conditions and quality of life, Scott said.

“My guys are a special bunch and value being a family as much as they value being a team,” Varnado said. “Family is one of the core values I hold as a leader and coach of this team ... it’s more than just winning on the mat but winning in life.”

Varnado said he and Coach John Fogarty work to build the young people into successful young men and women on the mat, in the classroom, and in their community.

“I hoped they gained a sense of pride and accomplishment as they banded together to help this family,” Varnado said. “We were given an amazing opportunity to help an amazing family ... I’m so proud of these young men and all they’ve accomplished.”



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WORKFORCE from 2A

On top of that, some traditional, in person methods of applying aren't available due to distancing measures. Simple guidance through that process is necessary for many.

Scott noted that in March, unemployment claims in St. Charles Parish saw 2,131 residents file in total. Through the first 18 days of April, an additional 3,310 filed for unemployment.

"You're talking about 5,441 claims in a seven week span. That's the highest unemployment numbers that have ever existed in St. Charles Parish's history in such a window of time," Scott said.

He said it's important that residents understand that there are some special provisions in place that cover residents beyond traditional unemployment measures.

"There's also pandemic unemployment and the CARES Act that can help those who qualify," Scott said. "Normally, unemployment amount is determined based on what you earned and reasoning for a layoff or furlough, but under a special stipulation now, anyone not eligible conventionally might be eligible under the pandemic employment provision. And then with the CARES Act, there's an additional \$600 per week potentially available for those qualifying for one of the first two options."

For example, self-employed workers or independent contractors would usually not be eligible for benefits, but there are potential provisions for them during these unforeseen circumstances.

For those who have been through this process before, or who have received guidance from the Workforce Commission previously, anyone who has ever had an account with the organization is still registered in the system.

"The biggest thing there, sometimes, is helping them

reset their passwords to access their account," Scott said. "We're also explaining how the UI (unemployment insurance) benefits work and their options during COVID-19."

Employers can also receive guidance. Scott said in anticipation of Phase I of the state's reopening plan beginning soon, the commission is offering employers use of their services to highlight vacancies that need to be filled. Some of that will be done through employers creating hiring accounts on laworks.net and job postings on the commission's website. The Louisiana state database for job postings will also be available on the website.

"We understand businesses are eager to get back on track and open back up, and we want to make sure they have a sufficient and competent workforce," Scott said.

For the growing number of job-seekers, Scott says that now is the time to prepare.

"Take the time to update those resumes and have those certifications intact, so that you'll be the best version of yourself possible to take advantage of some of the opportunities we have available," Scott said.

Like many worksites, the Workforce Commission's local branch in Luling is not open to the public at the moment. But Scott stresses the staff is eager to help and that the public can reach them by calling (985) 783-5030 or by emailing riverparisheswioa@gmail.com.

In order to streamline the process of claims, the Louisiana Workforce Commission recently began staggering weekly certifications based on the last digits of a person's social security number. Those with social security numbers ending in 0-3 file on Sunday; 4-6 file on Monday; 7-9 file on Tuesday, and all numbers are accepted Wednesday through Saturday.

MASKS from 4A

protect those handing out the masks and to keep the line moving, we did not check I.D.s for residency ... a number of neighboring parishes were handing out their allotment of masks on the same day and did not check for I.D.s either."

Luling resident Steven LeBlanc said he didn't understand some people's need to complain.

"Bashing our parish president and whoever was involved in making this happen is silly," LeBlanc said. "I mean given the circumstances of everything going on, I think they did a fantastic job distributing the masks ... please cut our parish officials some slack ... they're doing the best they can through all of this."

Luling resident Fran Zeringue said she anticipated traffic and a long line to get the masks, and the experience wasn't more of a hassle than it was worth.

"I find it hard to criticize an organization that is giving us such an essential thing for free," Destrehan resident April Ball said. "I'm sure the traffic was an inconvenience for some, but from my experience it was flowing pretty well ... a small inconvenience for a few people for a short time for such a generous and needed thing."

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As COVID-19 spreads, parish adapting to changes



News Health Louisiana's Nurse Case Manager Prissy Baines and Physician Assistant Christine McDaniel test patients with COVID-19 symptoms.

Ryan Arnes Editor
ryanar@heraldguide.com

"The spread of COVID-19 has brought on a whirlwind of change nationwide, and that is no different in St. Charles Parish as local institutions continue to implement methods to protect the public.

"There have been three positive cases of COVID-19 (coronavirus) reported by St. Charles Parish. The high number of cases just outside the parish have been the primary reason for area-wide concern, the vast majority of those cases in Orleans Parish and the New Orleans metro area as a whole.

On Monday, Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards announced measures to prevent further spread of the virus by limiting the size of gatherings to fewer than 50 people (down from an initial limit of 250), closing casinos, bars and movie theatre and limiting restaurants to delivery, take-out and drive-through orders only. These measures followed his announcement last week that all K-12 public schools statewide would be closed through April 15.

April 15 is also the tentative date for each of other measures to increase as well, but Edwards warned Monday that the situation would be reevaluated as that date approaches.

COVID-19 on 6A

Over 100 pounds lost, but more gained



TURN to 2A

Decorator accused of stealing \$36,000



TURN to 2A

Local grocers try to keep up with non-stop demand



Monique Roth Editor
moniquer@heraldguide.com

"It's worse than Katrina ... ten times worse!"

Barry Majoria, of Majoria's Supermarket in Boutte, didn't mince words this week when he described the scene at his grocery store.

"There's been a crazy amount of business," he said. "We can't keep up and the shelves are bare."

Because of the coronavirus pandemic, Majoria said shipments of

As a lot of customers check out at Majoria's Supermarket Monday morning.

It's normal hours for now for Frank's

Small business owners feeling pandemic's effects



Monique Roth Editor
moniquer@heraldguide.com

As COVID-19 concerns plague the country into the unforeseeable future, small business owners in St. Charles Parish are already feeling the pandemic's effects.

"We have lost a lot of New Orleans convention orders since the start," Kresh

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Baseball season may be over, but Tigers show pride for senior players

More than 30 cars paraded past each player's home

Ryan Arena Editor
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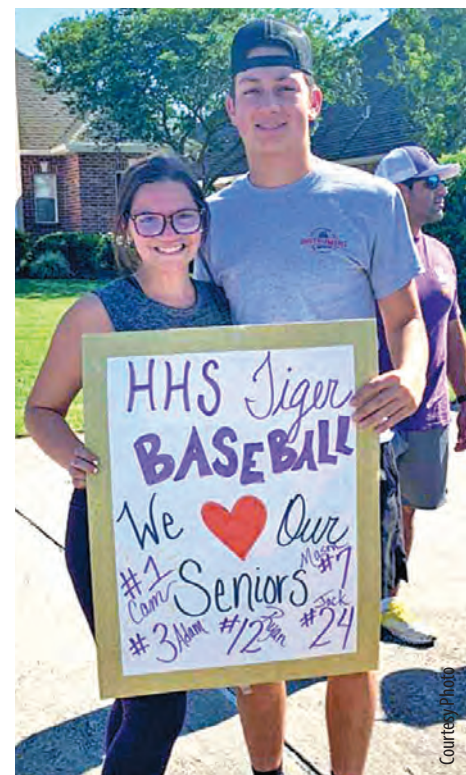


Jackson Stumbo sat on his front porch, never expecting what was coming just around the corner.

"It was special," Stumbo said.

More than 30 vehicles passed by the homes of Stumbo and four other Hahnville senior baseball players Saturday for a surprise parade, with classmates, teammates, coaches and others in the Tigers baseball community showing their appreciation for a group that saw their final season suddenly cut short last month.

Stumbo, Mason Lucky, Ryan Barbier, Adam Lorio and Cameron Schmill each



saw the parade surprise them by their homes, with special throws to commemorate the day.

"I didn't see it coming," said Stumbo, who was a starting pitcher for the Tigers. "They totally surprised us with a parade. It's really cool. When you're in quarantine, you're kind of in your own little bubble. But it shows you the same people you saw and you talked to before the quarantine still care about you. You see the community around you, and it felt really good to see."

Hahnville head baseball coach David Baudry was part of the festivities and credited the day to a group of underclassmen parents who planned the event.

"We started at IHOP on Highway 90 and went to each house ... we probably had about 35 cars," Baudry said. "It was a way to let guys know how we feel about them and that we're thinking of them, and how it was for them to not be able to finish out their time playing high school baseball."

Baudry called the five "strong in their resolve and work ethic," and noted each was very dedicated to the Tigers program.

"They were part of a class that kept whittling down," Baudry. "They put so much effort into it, and it was tough to not be able to see them finish it out."

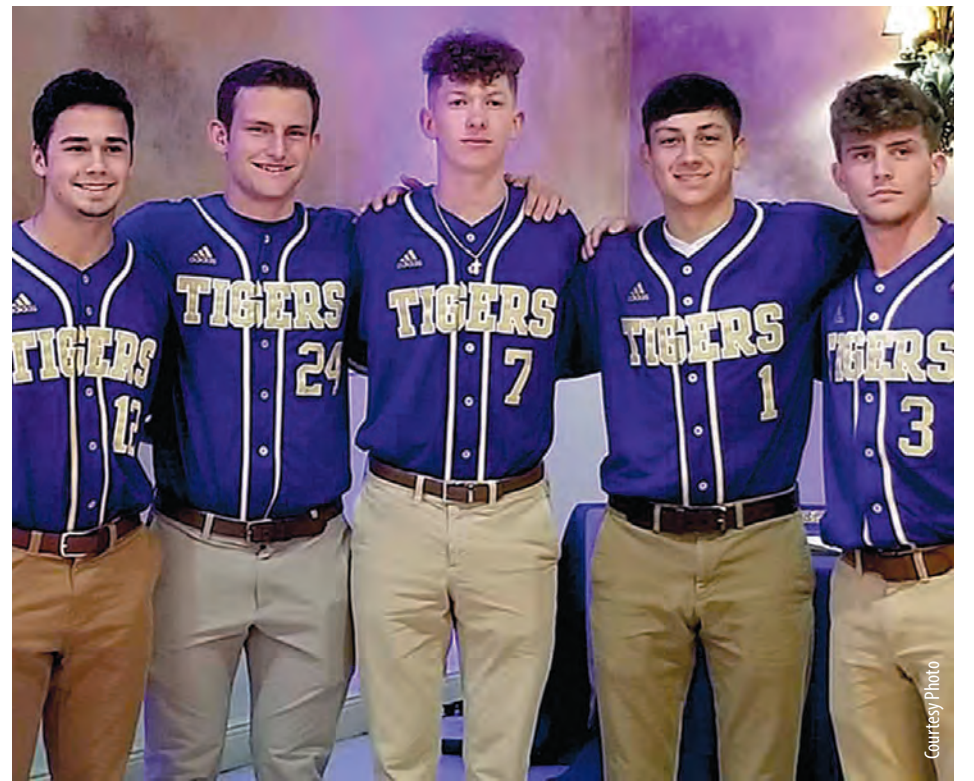
Baudry said fingers have been crossed that the team will be able to get on a baseball field sometime in the next few months, and has told the seniors there will be a ceremony for them when that happens.

"But so much is up in the air right now, and you just don't know when that can happen," Baudry said. "So, what else can we do? In my neighborhood, they're doing birthday parades ... people started putting their ideas together."

Baudry said the season cancellation hit each of the five players in different

"They totally surprised us with a parade. It's really cool. When you're in quarantine, you're kind of in your own little bubble. But it shows you the same people you saw and you talked to before the quarantine still care about you. You see the community around you, and it felt really good to see."

— Jackson Stumbo



HHS seniors Ryan Barbier, Jack Stumbo, Mason Lucky, Cameron Schmill and Adam Lorio.

ways, but said he knew each felt like there was unfinished business.

"I know it was disappointing to them to not be able to finish what they started," Baudry said. "A whole lot of work goes into getting ready for a season. When you don't get to complete it, you al-

ways thought of what could have been."

In their junior year, this group helped fuel a late season run that saw Hahnville pull itself out of a 1-12 start to finish the regular season with 12 wins in its last 17 games, including one victory away from a district championship, and qualify for the playoffs.

Stumbo said his mother brought him outside just before the parade was to arrive.

"She had my brother videotape it, actually," Stumbo said. "So I'm in the front yard, and they pulled up around River Road. They're throwing baseballs, all kinds of stuff. It was really thoughtful

and I know I appreciated it."

In fact, he joined in as the parade embarked to its next stop.

"At first, you know, I don't really like



all that attention. If you had told me beforehand, this is what we're doing, I don't know if it makes the same impact on me," Stumbo said. "But in the moment, it was awesome. Surprises are always better."

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Family creates unique art during pandemic

Monique Roth Lifestyles Editor
moniquer@heraldguide.com

What started out as a quarantine boredom buster for a local mother and daughter duo has turned into beautiful and unique forms of art and self-expression.

Karen Boudreaux is a Bayou Gauche resident and mother to Addison, 7, and Hailey, 2. With much more time at home lately due to coronavirus closures of school and extra-curricular activities, Karen had the idea to watch acrylic paint pouring videos with Addison during Hailey’s nap time as a way for the two to spend time together and try something new.

Their first attempt at the painting technique had them hooked, Karen said, and they continue to research and learn new ways to create the paintings.

“They have tons of different techniques that we are trying to master,” Karen said. “It’s been awesome to see her creativity ignite.”

The duo has impressed their friends and families with the creations, and Addison has been busy creating pieces to give as birthday, teacher appreciation and Mother’s Day gifts.

“As a mom, you want to see your child have wins,” Karen said. “Without swim team and educational wins, I wanted her to have something she could be proud of ... it feels great to see her do so well and gain such a sense of accomplishment after each one.”

Addison said she didn’t expect to love creating the paintings as much as she does, but that she hopes to continue to do paint once regular activities resume.

“I like how it turns into such a pretty design and you can see different things in it depending on how you look at it,” Addison said. “We saw a horse in the one we made for my Aunt Heather and a swipe looked like real octopus tentacles.”

Addison, who enjoys working as an extra in movies and television shows, had just made talented theater at Allemands Elementary School when the pandemic’s spread halted in-school learning. Karen said once they had mastered some pour techniques, Addison wanted to create her own YouTube videos demonstrating how to create the art pieces.

“We started her a YouTube channel teaching other kids how to do it, and most recently we made take and make kits for people who wanted to try it out,” Karen said. “We just made 20 kits for local friends to try it at home ... it has been such a cool adventure.”

Karen said she would encourage all parents to embrace the extra time, and even the mess, that quarantine and art can make.

“I hope that she remembers the joy and excitement of creativity and learning something new,” Karen said of their family time in quarantine. “Sometimes the most beautiful things can come from our biggest messes.”



Bayou Gauche resident Karen Boudreaux and her 7-year-old daughter, Addison, have created YouTube videos showing how to create their unique art pieces. They have also made kits for their local friends to try at home.



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Kyler Tastet.



Conner Trosclair fishing at Shell Beach.



Naps outside are the best, according to Atlee Cortez.



Hayden Petit with a trout from Cocodrie.



Beekeeper Bass helping dad collect a swarm of bees from a tree in his yard.



Shelby and Eve fishing with their dad.



Katherine Prevost enjoys social distancing at City Park.



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Public Notice

ST. CHARLES PARISH ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

The St. Charles Parish, Zoning Board of Adjustment will meet* on May 21, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. to hear:

2020 23 ZBA Troy Barrios to reduce spatial requirements at **562 West B Street, Norco**. Zoning District R-1A. Council District 6.

2020 24 ZBA Vernon & Regenia Fortenberry for a flood elevation of 1 ft. above the centerline of the street where a Preliminary DFIRM AE +7 ft. NAVD also applies at **221 Old Farm Lane, Des Allemands**. Zoning District OL. Council District 4.

2020 25 ZBA Tien Nguyen for a flood elevation of 18 in. above the centerline of the street where a Preliminary DFIRM AE +6 ft. NAVD also applies at **153 Pleasant Valley Drive, Des Allemands**. Zoning District R-1A. Council District 4.

2020 26 ZBA Danielle & Luis Suarez for a flood elevation of 1 ft. above the centerline of the street where a Preliminary DFIRM AE +6 ft. NAVD also applies at **208 Beau Place Boulevard, Des Allemands**. Zoning District R-1A. Council District 4.

PUBLISH: 5/7, 5/14/, 5/21

*Because of the ongoing COVID-19 situation, the meeting will be held virtually. Instructions for participation in this meeting will be released prior to the meeting and will be available at www.stcharlesparish-la.gov.

Publish May 7, 2020

Public Notice

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

T. Baker Smith, LLC, on behalf of Entergy Louisiana, LLC, is requesting authorization to install a 230-kilovolt (KV) transmission line, located off Highway 3127, beginning near St. James, Louisiana, and ending near Killona, Louisiana, within St. James, St. John the Baptist, and St. Charles Parishes. The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) will be accepting public comments on the project until **May 17, 2020**. To further review or provide comments, additional information and plans on the proposal may be obtained at the following website:

www.mvn.usace.army.mil/missions/regulatory/public-notice (see Ref#: MVN-2019-00376-CM). If you have any questions, please contact Neil T. Gauthier with the USACE, Regulatory Branch at (504) 862-1301 and/or Elizabeth Hill with LDEQ, at (225) 219-3225.

Publish April 30, May 7 & 14, 2020

Public Notice



MATTHEW JEWELL
PARISH PRESIDENT

ST. CHARLES PARISH

OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT

P.O. BOX 302 • HAHNVILLE, LOUISIANA 70057

(985) 783-5000 • FAX: (985) 308-1933

Website: www.stcharlesparishla.gov

SEALED BIDS WILL BE RECEIVED BY ST. CHARLES PARISH UP TO:

11:00 A.M., THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2020

AT THE ST. CHARLES PARISH PROCUREMENT OFFICE, ROOM 3400, P. O. BOX 302, 15045 RIVER ROAD, PARISH COURTHOUSE, 3rd FLOOR PARISH PRESIDENT'S OFFICE, HAHNVILLE, LOUISIANA, 70057, EITHER BY MAIL, HAND DELIVERED OR ON-LINE AT: <https://www.centralbidding.com> FOR: **2020 YEARLY CONTRACTS:**

X-20-455 UV SYSTEM

EMG-20-1002 A/C & REFRIGERATION SERVICE

EMG-20-1003 ROLL OFF CONTAINERS

EMG-20-1005 -EVAC FEEDING IN HAMMOND

EMG-20-1006 -IN PARISH FEEDING EAST BANK

EMG-20-1007 -IN PARISH FEEDING WEST BANK

EMG-20-1008 EMG REPAIR AND /OR MAINTENANCE OF BLDGS & GROUNDS

DETAILED SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED UP, MAILED, OR EMAILED BY CONTACTING SHARON ROCHELLE AT THE PARISH COURTHOUSE (PHONE 985-783-5196) OR AN EMAIL REQUESTED TO srochelle@stcharlesgov.net BID RELATED DOCUMENTS MAY BE VIEWED ON-LINE AT <https://www.centralbidding.com>.

BID SHOULD BE PLAINLY MARKED ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE ENVELOPE:
"DENOTING APPROPRIATE BID ITEM"

ST. CHARLES PARISH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS. THESE BID SPECIFICATIONS HAVE BEEN PREPARED BY OUR OFFICE. SETTING FORTH THOSE ITEMS DEEMED NECESSARY BY OUR PERSONNEL. THEY ARE NOT INTENDED TO BE RESTRICTIVE OR DISCRIMINATORY IN ANY MANNER WHATSOEVER. PLEASE NOTIFY THE PROCUREMENT OFFICE IN WRITING PRIOR TO OPENING BIDS OF ANY DEVIATION FROM THIS POLICY.

ST. CHARLES PARISH PROCUREMENT OFFICE
P. O. BOX 302
HAHNVILLE, LA 70057

BID ADVERTISED:
ST. CHARLES HERALD GUIDE
MAY 07, 2020
MAY 14, 2020

Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

REMOVAL OF WEEDS, GRASS & OTHER NOXIOUS MATTER

If the following violations are not rectified within (5) days of this published notice, the parish will proceed in bringing the properties listed in compliance with Chapter 16, Article III Sec. 16-24 through Sec. 16-28. (As amended). The fee for performing these services shall be at a rate of 0.037 per square foot of the lot cleaned. The contractor's fee for performing these services shall be at the rate of 0.029 per square foot of the lot cleaned. In the event a mini-clean up is required prior to performing the above services, a fee of \$58.61 per mini clean up plus actual disposal fees will be assessed, not to exceed then (10) mini-cleanups per property in violation. On property where trash and/or debris accumulation is such that it requires heavy equipment, bulldozer, front-end loaders, etc. a fee of forty-three dollars and ninety six cents (\$43.96) per cubic yard will be assessed. An administration fee of \$36.63 may be assessed on each invoice. The fees in this section shall be increased or decreased on February first of each year by a change in CIP applicable to the US cities average group, all urban consumers, all items published by the US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, for the preceding twelve-month period ending each November. The change shall become effective beginning with the period ending November 30, 2000. The department of finance shall notify the department of planning and zoning in writing annually of the revised fees.

The following lots are in violation of parish ordinance Chapter 16, Article III Sec. 16-24 through Sec. 16-33:

Mark Homes Alan (Ashton Pltn. 1-A & 1-B)
Lot 44 (113 Monarch Cove Ln.)
Nature of violation: Grass cutting & removal of debris

Roy J. Bernard (Guidry Subd.)
Lot 85318 (118 Sunshine Drive)
Nature of violation: Grass cutting & removal of debris

Ashton Plantation Est LLC (Ashton Pltn. 1-A & 1-B)
Lot 42 (112 Monarch Cove Ln.)
Nature of violation: Grass cutting & removal of debris

Shirley Taylor Cones, 1/2 Elizabeth Ann Meredith, 1/8 Kathryn Mount
(CDF- Numbered Farm Lots)
Lot C (380 Up the Bayou Road)
Nature of violation: Grass cutting & removal of debris

Joseph Pelotto (Magnolia Park)
Lot 17 (451 Acorn Street)
Nature of violation: Grass cutting & removal of debris

PUBLISH: May 7, 2020

Public Notice

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING BY THE ST. CHARLES PARISH COUNCIL, ON MONDAY, MAY 18, 2020, 6:00 P.M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS, PARISH COURTHOUSE, 15045 RIVER ROAD, HAHNVILLE:

2020-0120 (5/4/20, Jewell, M. Bingham)

An ordinance to approve and authorize the Parish President to acquire a 10 foot perpetual servitude and a 15 foot temporary construction servitude for use in the construction of the St. Rose Sewer Network Upgrade over property identified as Lots 5 and 6, located across of the John Lambert Tract of Almedia Plantation, Sections 41 and 43, Township 12 South, Range 9 East, which properties are more particularly described in the attached "Servitude Agreement" document.

2020-0121 (5/4/20, Jewell, M. Bingham)

An ordinance to approve and authorize the Parish President to acquire a 10 foot perpetual servitude and a 15 foot temporary construction servitude for use in the construction of the St. Rose Sewer Network Upgrade over property identified as Lots G-1-A and G-1-B at Almedia Plantation, Section 40, Township 12 South, Range 9 East, which properties are more particularly described in the attached "Servitude Agreement" document.

2020-0122 (5/4/20, Darensbourg Gordon)

An ordinance of the Parish of St. Charles providing that the Code of Ordinances, Parish of St. Charles, be amended by revising Section 15-5, Motor Vehicles and Traffic, of said Code, to provide for the installation of **"NO OVERNIGHT PARKING"** signs at the St. Charles Parish Killona Community Center, 201 Highway 3141, Killona.

2020-0123 (5/4/20, Jewell, D. Foret)

An ordinance to approve and authorize the execution of an Engineering Services Contract between Linfield, Hunter & Junius, Inc. and St. Charles Parish for the design and construction management of a Memorial Park to be located at 274 Judge Edward Dufresne Parkway, Luling, LA.

2020-0124 (5/4/20, Jewell, D. Foret)

An ordinance to approve and authorize the execution of a Professional Services Agreement with Calvin, Giordano & Associates, Inc. (CGA), to update the Parish's 2012 Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

PUBLISH: May 7, 14, 2020

Public Notice

"Anyone knowing the whereabouts of a certain Promissory Note payable to **GMAC MORTGAGE CORPORATION**, executed by **GERALD T. WIEGAND**, and dated May 20, 2004, from dated until paid, and providing reasonable attorney fees, and all charges associated with the collection of same. Please contact Herschel C. Adcock, Jr., Attorney at Law, at P.O. Box 87379, Baton Rouge, LA 70879-8379, (225)756-0373."

Publish: April 30 & May 7, 2020

Public Notice

"Anyone knowing the whereabouts of a certain Promissory Note payable to **AMERIQUEST MORTGAGE COMPANY**, executed by **CONSUELO OLMEDO CARMONA AND RICARDO CARMONA**, and dated November 20, 2003, from dated until paid, and providing reasonable attorney fees, and all charges associated with the collection of same. Please contact Herschel C. Adcock, Jr., Attorney at Law, at P.O. Box 87379, Baton Rouge, LA 70879-8379, (225)756-0373."

Publish: April 30 & May 7, 2020

Public Notice

We are applying to the Commissioner of Alcohol and Tobacco Control of the State of Louisiana for a permit to sell beverages of **Low and High** alcoholic content at retail in the Parish of St. Charles at the following address:

Stamp Dat Soul & Seafood Lounge
: 109 Saint Rose Ave. Saint Rose, La. 70087

Members: Rashad Emery & Erica Johnson, Owners

PUBLISH: May 7 & 14, 2020

Legal notice deadline
is every Thursday
at 3pm for the following week
legals@heraldguide.com

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