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# DOWNTOWN AND PEDESTRIAN RENAISSANCE



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# **DENHAM SPRINGS HIGH GRADUATE NAMED FORT CAMPBELL MALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

– LIFESTYLE

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## CITY OF DENHAM SPRINGS BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLAN

DECEMBER 2019

SUBMITTED • CITY OF DENHAM SPRINGS

The above cover for a Master Plan was created by Gresham Young for the City of Denham Springs' bicycle and pedestrian Master Plan. Combined with grants from the Louisiana Watershed Initiative, the city is looking to transform their downtown area.

# GRANTING A NEW DOWNTOWN

THROUGH FEDERAL FUNDING, CITY OF DENHAM SPRINGS LOOKS TO BRING NEW LOOK TO CITY HALL, ANTIQUE VILLAGE AREA

BY MCHUGH DAVID

The Livingston Parish News

There have been several attempts to find a direction for downtown Denham Springs - chances to enhance, adjust, or fix up the variety of issues that are brought up by citizens, shop owners, and government officials alike brought about through public hearings, master plans, and direct complaints to local shop owners.

Most of those attempts are usually met with one issue, and it's a big one - funding.

Recently, however, city recovery coordinator Jeanette Clark presented two plans to the city council on Tuesday, Feb. 11 that would create a starting point for a downtown rehabilitation, funded almost entirely through grants and disaster recovery revenues, that would add aesthetically pleasing drainage improvements, while also offering a chance to plan for bicycle and pedestrian friendly infrastructure.

The projects have been in development or planning stages for some time, but now they've come to a reality alongside the renovations to city hall. Those come on FEMA dollars, after the city agreed to trade 'wet' city hall and other buildings on government street for funds to purchase the Capital One building, as well as affect renovations.

These new projects are going to work in

tandem with those renovations to extend the reach of city hall's effect on downtown, to make it more of a cultural and commercial center.

"We want to be a good public partner," said Denham Springs Mayor Gerard Landry when the renovations were announced during the summer of 2019. "We want to improve the area around us."

The city took that notion to heart, as the green infrastructure proposed for grant funding will also function to enhance drainage in the area.

There's also some funds tucked into the application to widen drainage pipes in the downtown area, to help manage the water.

Currently, downtown sits on a multi-foot slope and is almost all concrete, causing large amounts of water to move quickly northbound toward Centerville and, in some cases, overwhelming the drainage there.

Should the city be approved, widened drain pipes will be paired with a large amount of green space and raised planters in and around city hall, to help absorb and hold water to keep flows regulated.

Eventually, green spaces will be expanded throughout the downtown area to help hold water.

The idea came from a presentation by LSU engineering and architecture stu-

dents, proposing expanded green space in the downtown area. At the time, Landry expressed interest in the ideas but remained reserved due to funding concerns.

The Louisiana Watershed Initiative (LWI) provided the funding vehicle to make some of the ideas a reality, and the city has applied through round 1 funding to try and make those green spaces real.

Rounds 2 and 3 will be in 2022, and 2024, respectively.

For the bicycle and pedestrian angle, the idea was born of community meetings post-flood as an idea that was requested of the city to expand. Through the Capital Region Planning Commission (CRPC), the city acquired funds to develop a master plan. Clark said that without a plan, nothing can become a reality, but with a plan entities such as the Department of Transportation and Development are more aware of the city's needs, and can attach a bike lane or boulevard to a road overlay or drainage project.

Both the city's downtown enhancement plan, as well as the bike plan, have upward of 10 years worth of projects baked into their respective paperwork, with the downtown area being the 'epicenter' and projects revolving outward from there.

"You have to start somewhere," Clark said.

## JOHN SCHNEIDER REMEMBERS 'MENTOR AND FRIEND' KIRK DOUGLAS



## HOLDEN COMMUNITY MOURNS LOSS OF STUDENT-ATHLETE NATHAN RAYMOND



# SEEKING APPOINTMENTS

TWO COUNCILMEN HAVE EYES ON LEGISLATIVE ACTION TO EXPAND CVB BOARD, ADD MEMBERS

BY MCHUGH DAVID  
The Livingston Parish News

The Convention and Visitor's Bureau is responsible for promoting tourism in Livingston Parish, as well as running the 'Welcome to Livingston Parish' office located between Albany and Springfield on I-12.

A board of seven parish council appointees come together with the director and his staff to determine the activities for the CVB during the year, including establishing a budget and approving grant funding to specifically promote certain events.

The CVB's budget currently shows revenues - both tax and federal - of just over \$600,000, with a budget spillover of \$125,000 in the green, leaving \$1,025,000 in the bank. The CVB has four employees, including Director Eric Edwards, as well as Assistant Director Jonathan 'JT' Taylor as well as two part time office employees.

Tourism dollars are mostly gathered through a hotel-motel tax, that tallies three cents on the dollar.

However, that figure of 'seven' board members falls shy of the total number of parish councilmen, 'nine.'

And two of those councilmen believe they should have appointees, considering the tourist destinations they have in the district.

Garry 'Frog' Talbert of District 2 (Watson) and Maurice 'Scooter' Keen of District 3 (parts of south Watson and northern Denham Springs) believe that they, too, should have appointments to the board that are not currently available.

At the most recent council meeting, Talbert expressed that desire and listed reasons for the two men to have appointees. Talbert began with Keen, whose district contains PARDS' North Park facility, as well as the recently purchased golf course 'Pines at North Park.'

Talbert said that Watson's recreation district had their own large park, 'perfectly capable' of hosting a variety of tournaments for both soccer and baseball & softball, as well as Tiki Tubing.

Outside of Bass Pro Shops in Denham Springs, Tiki Tubing is one of the largest, consistent tourist attractions in Livingston Parish according to the CVB - bringing in Amite tubers from as far away as Lafayette, New Orleans, and southern Mississippi.

However, expanding the board would require legislative action, which also requires a local legislator to use one of their allotment of five bills per session. Talbert said he would reach out to the local delegation to see if anyone would be interested in sponsoring a bill to expand the board either this year or next.

Director Edwards visited the council meeting and said that he was not opposed to expanding the board to nine members, although he was not sure how close the board would represent the parish council as it was based on population he believed.

Edwards also added that he was not opposed to expanding the board as long as the councilmen appointed members who were active and willing to participate.

"Based on our records, we've never had to skip a meeting due to lack of a quorum," Edwards explained, "I want people that are proud of this parish and want to



FILE PHOTO • THE NEWS

Councilmen Maurice 'Scooter' Keen (left, District 3) and Garry 'Frog' Talbert (right, District 2) are looking for appointments on the Convention and Visitor's Bureau board. The current CVB board is seven appointments, and neither councilman owns an appointment, despite having North Park and Tiki Tubing in their districts, respectively.

**Based on our records, we've never had to skip a meeting due to lack of a quorum. I want people that are proud of this parish and want to participate.**

participate."

Edwards recently visited the Master Plan Committee to push a civic center for Livingston Parish, which he figures would cost \$50 million and take \$500,000 a year to maintain. Edwards said the CVB is unable to collect enough money for such a venture on its own, but grant funding is available.

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# TALBERT TESTIFIES

## COUNCILMAN APPROACHES EBR BOARD TO ASK THEY HONOR LOCAL OPPOSITION TO TAX EXEMPTION

BY MCHUGH DAVID  
The Livingston Parish News

Over the past month, several Livingston Parish boards have spoken out against a specific development receiving a tax exemption. The boards were not against the development itself, but the proposed property tax exemption.

That tax exemption would be granted through the Capital Area Finance Authority (CAFA) via state legislation.

Morningside at Juban Lakes was an apartment development purposed for the elderly displaced from the Great Flood of 2016. Developer Tom Delahaye stated that the development, which had applied for a property tax waiver through the PILOT program through CAFA, 'had to have' the property tax exemption to lower rental rates to an affordable level for the elderly.

The Memorandum of Understanding for the development does not specify elderly, however, but 'low to moderate' income.

Both the parish council and school board tackled the issue, understanding that it was not their decision as to whether or not the development would receive the exemption. Instead, both penned resolutions to the East Baton Rouge Parish



SUBMITTED • EBR COUNCIL LIVE FEED

Councilman Garry 'Frog' Talbert testifies to the East Baton Rouge Parish Council on Wednesday, Feb. 12 regarding the tax exemption for Morningside at Juban Lakes.

Council, asking them not to approve the tax exemption.

The parish council voted 8-1, with councilman R.C. 'Bubba' Harris being the only 'no' vote. The school board was unanimous in voting to send the resolution, and Sheriff Jason Ard penned his

own letter.

The parish stood to lose over \$100,000 in property tax revenue, per year, and the initial sales taxes collected on building materials.

Councilman Garry 'Frog' Talbert (District 2) delivered the letters to the

EBR council, and testified on the parish's behalf, stating that neither the parish council, the school board, or the sheriff were against the development itself - just the tax exemption.

Initially, the EBR council was informed by their counsel that they could not just vote 'no' because they felt like it or disagreed with the premise of the development. However, after Talbert's testimony their counsel did suggest they could vote 'no' if they agreed with the reasoning behind local boards being opposed to the development and its exemption.

The EBR council elected to table the matter for 30 days while they look into reasons to vote 'yes' or vote 'no.'

Talbert said the issue was not just about revenue, but about a 'red' parish versus a 'blue' parish, and that board members in his parish believed people should help themselves - and most already had. He told the EBR council that it had been three and a half years since the flood, and that most residents were already displaced.

"If you're not back in your original structured, aren't you already displaced?" Talbert asked rhetorically on the phone with the News. "What is a new building supposed to do?"

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# Opinion

## LOCAL OPINION SHOULD MEAN SOMETHING, EVEN IF CONTROL IS ELSEWHERE

**T**he voice of a people should mean something.

In America, most representative board seats are filled by election. This works at the federal level, state level, all the way down to the local level.

So it came as something of a shock that state elected officials passed a law that allowed one local board, the East Baton Rouge Parish Council, financial control through CAFA over the tax exemption of capital area projects.

It was a surprise to members of the East Baton Rouge Parish Council as well, apparently, as one reached out to a local parish councilman to ask 'How he felt' about the proposal.

How he felt was echoed by seven other councilmen, the Livingston Parish Sheriff, and the Livingston Parish School board – the answer was 'no.'

Now, the picture was painted as a 'fight against the elderly,' 'a money grab,' and even some light 'racism' but the fact of the matter it was none of those things. Initial estimates showed that the parish would lose upwards of \$120,000 per year in property taxes, spread between various taxing entities.

No entities would collect sales tax on the construction materials because of the tax-exempt status, either.

In a parish with a population who hates taxes, and elected officials must count and pinch every penny – while focusing on grant funding to advance most infrastructure, which means the base revenue isn't there for general upgrades – it would have been fiscally irresponsible for the parish council to approve a residential development as tax exempt.

It appears the school board and sheriff agree.

So what's the difference between that and a tax exemption for a store – say, Hobby Lobby?

Hobby Lobby generates jobs, which produce wages, which people spend to generate sales taxes. Hobby Lobby sells items, usually purchased by people earning wages, which produce sales taxes. The estimate of what the parish and other taxing entities were giving up by forgoing property tax with Hobby Lobby were far outweighed by the projected sales tax generation.

The same goes for an Industrial Tax Exemption Program (ITEP) designation – the taxing entity must weigh the property



taxes forgone by the exemption, versus the benefit of another taxing method. In the case of Hobby Lobby, it was property taxes versus sales taxes, and the decision was easy.

But in the case of this housing development, there is no benefit. It's a harsh take for the potential residents, although it didn't help that the developers Memorandum of Understanding did not specify elderly but 'low-to-medium income,' but if no property taxes and no sales taxes are being drawn from the property, it provides no benefit for local government.

And for a parish that had to forgo a year's worth of road work to earn a grant to fully-fund the next two years' road work, because the parish doesn't even collect enough regular taxes to match the necessary funding for a year's maintenance, any project which provides no taxable benefit to a parish still recovering from a disaster is an automatic 'no.'

And that's just dollars and cents.

But some elderly have been displaced, people might say. This is true, but if you

build them some place new, wouldn't they remain displaced from their pre-flood home? How does a new development for the elderly change that situation? Shouldn't they have used that money to return to their original home, or find something new that's already affordable?

Yes, the tax exemption is supposed to allow the rents to be held lower. But do those lower rents equate to more spending dollars by the elderly, to generate sales taxes? Or does it simply give them the ability to live there, period?

Yet, the EBR council had to table the matter for 30 days to determine the best course of action, as their counsel informed them they couldn't just vote 'no,' – however the resolutions from the three Livingston Parish entities could give them enough berth to vote against the exemption.

But it's also important to remember that the EBR is the governing body for CAFA, and the finance authority stands to gain well over six-figures in administrative fees for the exemption. CAFA provides a wide variety of financial services in the capital

region.

And there are members on the EBR council who would enjoy having that money come into the CAFA coffers.

It will be interesting to see what will come in the next 30 days at the EBR council, but almost unanimous agreement from the three largest – and most represented – entities in Livingston Parish should speak enough, especially considering how rare their agreements are.

They are, after all, representatives of their people.



**FOLLOW THE MONEY**  
McHugh David

**J. McHugh David Jr. is publisher and editor of the News.**

## THE ARGUMENT FOR A PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE

**D**id you know that Livingston Parish is a coastal community?

Did you know that Lake Maurepas was in danger of becoming a saltwater lake, destroying many of the ecosystems it services, due to coastal land loss – much the same thing that occurred to Lake Ponchartrain?

How about the last point, that \$130 million is coming down the pipe to help curb the salinization of the lake and try to help

### EDITORIAL

keep those eco systems in place.

Who's going to spend the money? The Coastal Authority, most likely? Who are they? Well, it's a group that, supposedly, has the state's best interest in mind with regard to the ever-growing fight against coastal land loss.

And, to the layman, they appear to be doing a good job.

But the \$130 million is just a drop in the bucket compared to the billions that are coming into the state of Louisiana, and hundreds of millions of those dollars are finding their way into Livingston Parish – via grant funding, both disaster and non-disaster, as well as federal infrastructure projects.

After Katrina, federal money acquisition became an arduous process that was very difficult and hard on local, working folks. It takes a lot of hoop jumping and paper-

work to get that money down here, from Congress and Senate, through the parish, and into the project.

Why should that process be done completely behind closed doors? Why should the public, and in some cases elected officials, find out about the money just before it arrives, or at best just after it's appropriated?

If local officials are going to decline projects because they do not provide fiscal benefit, they need every opportunity to

**OBITUARIES****Karen Street****Woolsey**

Karen Street Woolsey, 63, was born on Nov. 25, 1956, and passed on Feb. 16, 2020. Memorial services will be held at Emmanuel Baptist Church at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 22, 2020. She is survived by her son, Josh Terrell; grandson, Ethan Terrell; parents, Cline and Bobbie Street; sisters, Elizabeth "Doodle" Griffin and husband Mark, Brenda Gomez and husband Wendell; brother, Alvin Street and wife Amelia; and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her maternal grandparents, E.L. and Martha Martin; paternal grandparents, Jim and Addie Street; and husband, Kenny Woolsey. Please sign the online guestbook at [www.sealefuneral.com](http://www.sealefuneral.com).

**Mary Cecile****Kling**

Mary Cecile Kling, a resident of Denham Springs passed away on Feb. 14, 2020, at the age of 64. Cecile was born on May 29, 1955, and retired from the State of Louisiana Department of Revenue. Visitation will be held at Seale Funeral Home. Denham Springs on Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2020, from 5-9 p.m. A private Mass of Christian burial will be held at a later date. She is survived by her brothers, Lawrence "Butch" Kling and wife Lynn, David Kling and wife Mary; sisters, Linda Ware and husband Leo and Janet Kling. Also survived by numerous nieces and nephews. Preceded in death by parents Joachin and Eldora Kling. In lieu of flowers the family asks for donations to the charity of your choice. The family also requests that you consider becoming an organ donor. Please sign the online guestbook at [www.sealefuneral.com](http://www.sealefuneral.com).

**Thomas "T.W."****Terral**

On Friday, Feb. 14, 2020, after 87 years, Thomas "T.W." Terral went home to meet his heavenly Father. He was born in 1932 to a family of loggers in Jena, LA, and he lived a long and fruitful life. He never forgot his humble roots and he never lost his bond with the working man. He was known as "Dad" to his children, "Pop" to his grandchildren and great grandchildren, "Uncle T" to many nieces and nephews, and "Brother Terral" to the community. T.W. was called to vocational ministry at a young age and dedicated the remainder of his life to preaching the gospel and sharing the love of Jesus to everyone he came in contact with. T.W. Terral exemplified God's love through his humble servanthood, his steadfast faithfulness, and his relentless dedication to sharing the gospel with everyone he met. His ministry spanned numerous churches and his service to the Lord brought him to multiple continents. T.W. began his ministry pastoring several small churches in central and north Louisiana before moving to Baton Rouge and leading Lanier Baptist Church for 27 years. He was then Director of Missions for the Baptist Association of Greater Baton Rouge for 15 years. After he "retired," he continued to pastor multiple local churches in an interim capacity. T.W.'s evangelism was not limited only to his church family, but also includ-

ed prison ministries, international missions, the radio and television commission, Louisiana College, and many acts of daily servanthood that were performed without fanfare. His life was a living example of God's love and he modeled grace, compassion, a hunger and thirst for righteousness, and true authenticity. His heart was with the needy and downtrodden, and his kindness showed no bounds. Although his words from the pulpit were impactful and transforming, the way he lived his life was his greatest witness. T.W. is survived by his wife of 66 years, Iris O'Quin Terral; his brother, Joe Bob; his sister, Freddie Seab; his children, Tommy Terral (Felicia), Debe Terral Burnham (Jeff); his grandchildren, Allison Terral Horton (Keith), Amy Terral Williams (Brad), Jeremy Burnham (Amie), Jordan Burnham (Jenna); 15 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, J.B. "Buddy" and Ethel Terral; and four brothers, Virgil, Frank, Marion, and Odest. There will be a public visitation on Monday, Feb. 17, from 5-9 p.m. at Jefferson Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, LA, followed by a private burial service on Tuesday. There will be a memorial service and celebration of his life on Saturday, Feb. 29, from 4-6 p.m. at Jefferson Baptist Church, followed by a dinner and reception.

**Alice Faye****Glaviano**

Alice Faye Glaviano, a resident of Denham Springs, passed away on Friday, Feb. 14, 2020, at the age of 80. She was the secretary to the Investigative Division with the Louisiana Worker's Comp. Visitation will be held on Saturday, Feb. 22, 2020, at Seale Funeral Home, Denham Springs beginning at 3 p.m. Memorial services will be held at 4 p.m. She is survived by her four children, Kim Talbot and husband Pete, James Glaviano and wife Brenda, Tanya Vincent and husband Chuck, and Jerry Glaviano; seven grandchildren, Jacos, Jonathan and wife Tasha, Rhonda and husband Louis, Areil and husband Derrek, Michele, Allison and husband Tyler, and Emily; great-granddaughter, Autumn; brother, Richard McBrier and wife Amanda; and sister, Betty Cutforth and husband Billy; as well as numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband John Glaviano, parents, Noah and Elizabeth McBrier. She was an avid quilter and a member of a quilting club for many years. She loved gardening and her flowers. Please sign the online guestbook at [www.sealefuneral.com](http://www.sealefuneral.com).

**Van Joseph****Sanchez**

Van Joseph Sanchez, a native of Maurepas and resident of Albany, passed away at his residence on Thursday, Feb. 13, 2020. He was a retired machinist for American Can Company in New Orleans for 28 years. He loved watching sports on TV, gardening, cooking, telling stories of his past, and he loved his family. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Jeanette Howze Sanchez; sons, Joel Sanchez and John Sanchez; daughters, Jodi Gunter, Colette Sanchez, and Andrea Sanchez; grandchildren, Joseph Paul Sanchez, Michael Caleb Sanchez, Maria Elana

Sanchez, Taylor Lynn Ferguson, Chanel Ann Ferguson, and Nicole Lenora Gunter; great-granddaughter, Destanie Hope Harrell. Preceded in death by parents, Felix Sanchez and Alice Marie Brown Sanchez; siblings, sister Alberta Poche, brothers Alvin P. Sanchez, Renny "Fritz" Sanchez, Alphage Chloe Sanchez, Edwin "Putt" Sanchez; son, Tommy Van Sanchez; and grandson, Nicholas Paul Harrell. Special thanks to Nurse Janet Becnel and New Century Hospice for their phenomenal caregiving and support. Also to Mrs. Brenda Baham and staff at Albertsons Savon Pharmacy for their gracious love and help over the years. He had requested that he wanted no services to be held and to be buried in Stafford Cemetery No. 1 in Holden.

**Tommy F.****Hollingsworth**

Tommy F. Hollingsworth passed away at home on Feb. 13, 2020. He was born in Laurel, MS, on Nov. 13, 1946, and graduated from Denham Springs High School in 1964. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War from 1964 to 1968. Tommy was a Millwright by trade. He is survived by the love of his life and wife of 50 years, Joan Biggs Hollingsworth; sons, Stephen F Hollingsworth and Kevin T. Hollingsworth, and daughter-in-law, Nicole Southern. He was preceded in death by his twin granddaughters, Rachel and Sara Hollingsworth. The family would like to extend a special thank you to Century Hospice for their care and support. Arrangements were handled under the direction of Seale

Funeral Home. [www.sealefuneral.com](http://www.sealefuneral.com).

**Lee N.****McLin**

Mr. Lee Nelson McLin, 92, of Cartersville, GA, passed away peacefully on Feb. 12, 2020. Lee was born on March 12, 1927 in Livingston, LA, to the late Mr. John McLin and Mrs. Ellen Martin McLin. Lee was born in a small farming community in Louisiana. He served his country in the U.S. Navy during World War II which sparked his interest in mechanical engineering. Afterwards, Lee pursued a career in engineering resulting in him traveling the world for work including North America, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East for Morrison Knudsen Engineering Company. He met the love of his life, Armida Modenessi in San Francisco, CA, in the late 1960s and soon after wed. Lee was an avid gardener and continued his love of travel well into retirement, visiting family and friends in California. He was also very active in the Morrison Knudsen Retirement Group. Lee's sense of humor and generous personality will be truly missed by all those who knew and loved him. Lee is preceded in death by his wife, Armida McLin; his parents; brothers, Charles McLin and Louis McLin; sisters, Eva McLin, Lula McLin, Katy McLin, Olive McLin Underwood, Lela McLin and Geraldine McLin Clark. He is survived by his children, daughter, Monica McLin, and son, John (Katrina) McLin. A Graveside Service for Mr. McLin will be conducted on Monday, Feb. 17, 2020,

**OBITUARIES**  
PAGE 8**FAMILY OWNED FOR 63 YEARS. 4 GENERATIONS.****Affordable Prices Quality Service****Cremation – \$995 Burials from \$2995**

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## OBITUARIES

at Sunset Memorial Gardens at twelve o'clock in the afternoon. The family will receive friends at Owen Funeral Home on Monday, Feb. 17, 2020, from ten o'clock in the morning until eleven thirty. Owen Funeral Home, 12 Collins Drive, Cartersville, GA is honored to serve the family in this difficult time.

### Mary Susan

#### Szranyi Thompson

On Friday, Feb. 13, 2020, our family lost a beautiful smiling face. Mary Susan Szranyi Thompson rarely shared her inner pain, choosing instead to carry on as though nothing was wrong. She was born Oct. 8, 1972, in Baton Rouge to John

and Sharon (Sibley) Szranyi. Her brother, Steve, and sister, Tammy, will be the first to tell you she immediately became Daddy's girl, then confess that they were mostly okay with that. Recently, Mary began her longtime dream job at Southwest Funding. The family will forever be grateful for the opportunities given her as she learned from the best, Jackie Thibodaux. Mary loved to watch cooking channels, prepare new recipes and visit new restaurants. Her favorite times were spent with Norbert Melan, her sons, her grandchildren, and closest friends, Robin Hebert, Suzanne Hood, Brandon Harper and Reba Easterly. She never attended a parade or concert that she didn't like. Like her aunt, Peggy Brown, she was crafty and creative, decorating her home for

all traditional holidays. She is survived by her long-time love, Norbert Melan; sons, Zachary and Lucas Thompson, stepson Tyler Melan; grandson, Westyn Thompson; granddaughter, Samantha Thompson; mother, Sharon Sibley Szranyi; brother, John Stephen, Jr. (Sheila); sister, Tammy Szranyi; nieces, Kelsey Szranyi Valentine (Jerry), Madeline Szranyi, and Victoria Sheets; and nephew, William Sheets. She adored her great-niece, Micah Valentine and great-nephews, Liam Sheets and Lane Valentine. Additionally, she is survived by numerous cousins, aunts and uncles, and bonus daughter Heather Manning. She was preceded in death by her father, John (Johnny) Stephen Szranyi, Sr.; paternal grandparents, Joe and Helen Novak Szranyi; maternal grandparents,

William Pinkney (Pink) and Merlee Chapman Sibley; and mother-in-law, Betty Thompson Hunt, who she regarded as a second mother. The service to celebrate Mary's life will be held on Friday, Feb. 28, 2020, at Red Oak Baptist Church in Livingston, with visitation starting at 5:30 p.m. and continuing until the service at 6:30 p.m. The family would like to thank the medical staff and team of LSU doctors at OLOL Hospital ICU for the exceptional care and compassion Mary received in their care. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Foster Village of Livingston Parish, 32470 Walker Road N, Walker, LA, 70785, or The Hungarian Settlement Museum, PO Box 1909, Albany, LA, 70711. Arrangements under the direction of Seale Funeral Home.

## BUDDY ELLIS ROADWORK GETS NEW TIMELINE

### STAFF REPORT

The Livingston Parish News

It's been a wild ride for those who are focused on the Buddy Ellis Road work, which includes widening, overlay, and subsurface drainage.

At first, it appeared that the state-funded work (with a local match) would begin at the same time as Dunn Road and Forrest Delatte. However, discussions among local and state officials pushed Delatte work to begin after Buddy Ellis was complete.

But, much like Dunn Road, Buddy Ellis has faced a fair amount of trouble getting started - mostly due to utility relocation.

Chad Bacas, an engineer with Forte and Tablada, shared an update with District 6 Councilman Gerald McMorris recently by e-mail. The communication with McMorris

shows the aforementioned widening, overlay, and subsurface drainage, but also discusses a replacement bridge for an existing timber bridge.

The bridgework will kick off the project itself, but not until AT&T is finished with their utility relocation. The initial project was given the 'green light' on Oct. 1 of 2019, and AT&T has six months to relocate their lines, at which point the actual construction will commence with crews having four months to replace the bridge, and 155 days to complete the widening, overlay, and subsurface drainage.

You can read the full correspondence below.

**Buddy Ellis Road Improvements, State Project H.011825, is currently underway. The purpose of the project is to repair**

**and improve Buddy Ellis Road from its junction with LA 1026 (Juban Road) to its junction with LA 447 (Walker South). This project addresses roadway deficiencies and provides a shoulder along the roadway for areas where there is not one. This project includes pavement reconstruction and widening of the two-lane road, which will result in lane widths of approximately 10-feet with a minimum 1-foot shoulder for each lane. Planned work also includes asphalt overlay of the road and closed drainage systems, where necessary, to support higher traffic volumes and lateral support of the pavement. The existing timber bridge will also be replaced with a concrete slab span bridge.**

**The Notice to Proceed, which be-**

**gan the assembly period, was issued to the contractor by the Parish, effective 10/1/2019. Currently, the utilities in conflict along Buddy Ellis Road are being relocated by AT&T, and there are 180-calendar-days allocated for this relocation. There are 275-working-days for the Buddy Ellis Road Improvements project (which will start after the 180 days for AT&T), of which 120-working-days are allocated for the bridge work. The contractor will complete the bridge replacement first and is currently in the submittal stage for this work. Construction on the bridge will begin in the next few weeks. Once the utility relocations are complete, the contractor will be able to move forward with the roadwork and drainage portion of the project.**

# \* SUMA CROSSING \*

## SUMA LAKE

2 Bedrooms & 3 Bedrooms



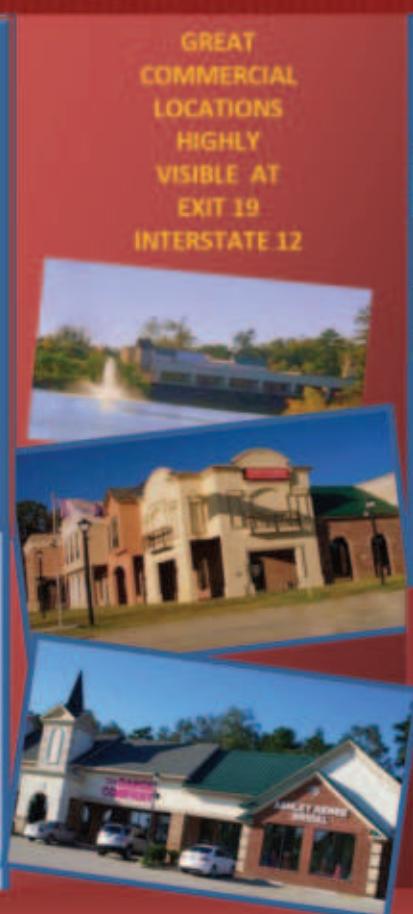
\$125 OFF with this AD

(225)686-1111

leasingsumalake@bellsouth.net

ENERGY EFFICIENT, ALL APPLIANCES INCLUDING MICROWAVES AND ICEMAKERS, PRIVATE PATIOS OR PRIVATE DECKS, DECKS OVERLOOKING LAKE AVAILABLE, GRANITE COUNTERTOPS / ABUNDANT CABINETS, STORAGE AND WALK IN CLOSETS, LOCATED ON INTERSTATE 12 – 11 MILES EAST OF BATON ROUGE, GARAGES AVAILABLE

GREAT COMMERCIAL LOCATIONS HIGHLY VISIBLE AT EXIT 19 INTERSTATE 12



SUMA HALL COMMUNITY CENTER

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT – 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday  
Contact: Grand Country Junction  
CELEBRATION CHURCH SERVICES  
Every Wednesday/Sunday  
Contact: Pastor Carl Kelly  
225-278-5894

SOUTHSHIRE  
SUBDIVISION LOTS AVAILABLE SOON  
(BETWEEN HOSPITAL AND PROPOSED NEW SCHOOL)

ALSO ASK ABOUT: TIMBER CREEK  
NEW SINGLE FAMILY ATTACHED HOMES  
COMING SOON!  
UNDER CONSTRUCTION 116 UNITS FOR LEASE

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK AT: [www.facebook.com/sumalakeliving](http://www.facebook.com/sumalakeliving)

\*\*Bring this AD: LPNEWS and get \$125 off first month's rent on approved NEW residents





We're Here For You!

# MARDI GRAS

PRICES VALID: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2020 - TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2020

**DIGITAL COUPONS**  
Now Available!



Create an account on  
[CartersSupermarket.com](http://CartersSupermarket.com), browse  
our Featured E-Coupons &  
add them to your E-Wallet.



Redeem your E-Coupons  
when you present  
your Phone Number  
at checkout.



Your digital coupons  
will automatically be  
deducted from your  
sub-total!

Lean & Meaty!  
**St. Louis Style  
Pork Ribs**  
**\$1.99**  
lb.



Family Pack! 80% Lean  
**Ground Beef**  
**\$2.49**  
lb.



(Sold In 10 lb. Bag)  
**Small Leg Quarters**  
**37¢**  
lb.



24 pk. .5 ltr. Bottles  
**Shurfine  
Drinking Water**  
**2/\$4**



5 lb. Bag Buttery Gold, Butter Russet, Red or Idaho  
**MountainKing  
Potatoes**

**2/\$5**



Family Pack! USDA Select  
**Boneless  
Ribeye Steaks**

**\$8.99**  
lb.



12 oz. Bags or 12 ct. Single Serve Selected  
**Community  
Coffee**

**\$4.99**  
ea.



15 oz. Can  
**Van Camp's  
Pork & Beans**

**2/\$1**



5-8 oz. Selected Kraft  
**Shredded, Crumbles  
or Chunk Cheese**

**2/\$4**



20-32 oz. Selected  
**Ore-Ida Potatoes  
or Onion Ringers**

**2/\$5**



Carter's Fresh Baked  
**KING  
CAKES!**  
AVAILABLE AT  
ALL LOCATIONS



## Lifestyle

# DOYLE STUDENTS PLAY 'AMERICAN THE BEAUTIFUL' PRIOR TO SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

BY DAVID GRAY

The Livingston Parish News

**LIVINGSTON** — Two Doyle High students used their musical talents to set the mood for School Board members during a recent meeting.

Hayes White and Mariah Johnston, two eighth-graders at Doyle High, performed their own rendition of "America the Beautiful" prior to the Livingston Parish School Board's meeting in late November.

Under private instructor Angie Bergeron, the students sat at two pianos and performed the same piece they did during Doyle Elementary's Veterans Day program.

"I think they did a beautiful job," Bergeron said, "and I think you'll enjoy

this and be encouraged by what we're out here working for everyday with our children in Livingston Parish."

Johnston and White received a rousing ovation from the School Board and those in attendance once they finished playing. Before they left, Superintendent Joe Murphy offered his own praise and commended them for their skilled piano playing.

"I don't know how anybody can sit and listen to that and not have chills run up and down," Murphy said. "I guess what I have to say about that is look at our kids and how beautiful they are and how talented they are."

"It makes us proud to be who we are and what we are. It makes us proud to know that these traditions are carried out in our children."



DAVID GRAY • THE NEWS

From left, Mariah Johnston and Hayes White, two eighth-graders at Doyle High, performed their own rendition of "America the Beautiful" prior to the Livingston Parish School Board's meeting in late November. Under private instructor Angie Bergeron, the students sat at two pianos and performed the same piece they did during Doyle Elementary's Veterans Day program.

## LIVINGSTON PARISH PUBLIC SCHOOLS SYSTEM NAMES STUDENT OF THE YEAR WINNERS

BY DAVID GRAY

The Livingston Parish News

The Livingston Parish Public Schools system recently announced its Student of the Year winners for elementary, middle school, and high school.

This year's Student of the Year recipients are Evelyn Artieta, fifth grade, Levi Milton Elementary (elementary); Reese Kennedy, eighth grade, Denham Springs Junior High (middle school); and Bryce Felps, 12th grade, Maurepas High (high school).

The winning students will be officially honored during a ceremony in the spring, as well as all the Student of the Year winners parish-wide.



PHOTOS SUBMITTED  
Pictured, clockwise from top, are this year's Livingston Parish Public Schools Student of the Year winners: Bryce Felps, Maurepas High, high school; Reese Kennedy, Denham Springs Junior High, middle school; and Evelyn Artieta, Levi Milton Elementary, elementary.



Stay in this weekend and explore our history at some of Louisiana's world-class museums. Visit [LouisianaStaycation.com](http://LouisianaStaycation.com) to rediscover your state.

FEATURING: WEDELL-WILLIAMS AVIATION AND CYPRESS SAWMILL MUSEUM

**LOUISIANA**  
Feed Your Soul.

## Sports

## COLLEGE TRACK & FIELD• LSU'S ABBY O'DONOOGHUE O'DONOOGHUE BREAKS OWN SCHOOL RECORD FOR SECOND TIME IN THREE WEEKS

STAFF REPORT  
The Livingston Parish News

**FAYETTEVILLE, Ark.** — Former Denham Springs High standout Abby O'Donoghue of LSU continued to push the bar even higher.

After coming into the season without a jump over six feet to her credit, O'Donoghue has certainly made up for lost time, breaking her own school record in the process.

For the fourth time this indoor season, O'Donoghue, a junior, surpassed the aforementioned barrier and once again it was in school-record fashion with a 6-2 3/4 clearance to win the Tyson Invitational at the University of Arkansas Randal Tyson Track Center.

O'Donoghue had broken the school record and established her own personal best of 6-2 in the same building on Jan. 31. Her latest clearance is currently the nation's second-best jump.

O'Donoghue's progression has been steady beginning with LSU's Purple Tiger event with a 6-foot, 1/2 clearance followed by a 6-foot 3/4 jump at the MLK Jr. Invitational in Albuquerque, N.M.

LSU returns home for its own Twilight Meet on Friday at 11:30 a.m. with the SEC indoor championships scheduled Feb. 28-29 at Texas A&M and the National indoor championships set for March 13-14 in Albuquerque.

## STATE WRESTLING• LIVE OAK EAGLES FINISH NINTH AT DIVISION I STATE MEET

STAFF REPORT  
The Livingston Parish News

**BOSSIER CITY** — Live Oak's wrestling team came away with a pair of third place finishes to highlight the individual portion of the Division I state wrestling championships in CenturyLink Center.

Senior Clayton Hill and junior Nawab Sing were both third place in the 126 and 182-pound weight classes, respectively, while senior Austin Cook was fifth at 220 pounds.

Live Oak placed ninth overall with 114 points. Brother Martin successfully defended its championship with 242 points to outdistance St. Paul's with 236.5 and Catholic High's 206.

Hill opened his quest for a second state championship with a pair of pins before dropping his quarterfinal match to second-seeded Ethan Castex of Brother Martin.

Hill, who led 5-0 in the match, was

pinned at the 4:55 mark in the match. He followed with a pair of pins, including Luke Lafleur of Acadiana (2:32) in the third-place match.

Singh recorded consecutive pins in his first two matches in the 182-pound bracket when he was defeated in the semifinals by Baton Rouge High's Jarin Meyer by pin in 1:37. He rebounded to defeat Hayden Broadnax of Holy Cross with a pin (1:06), Macullen Mire of Catholic High by pin (4:15) and Joshua Vitto of Barbe by pin (2:01).

Cook enjoyed a first-round bye in the 220-pound bracket and won his second-round match by pin in 36 seconds but was stopped in the quarterfinals by Zachary's Ashton Freeman, 10-6.

He worked his way to the fifth-place match, taking an 8-5 decision over Kyle West of Brother Martin and pinned Lafayette's Marshall Cagle before stopping Christian Mannino of Catholic High by pin (1:31).

## SPORTS SHORTS

### NOMINATIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR DSHS ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

The Denham Springs High School Athletic Hall of Fame is accepting nominations for the 10th class of inductees until March 31.

Hall of Fame nomination guidelines for the Class of 2020 are available to the public on the DSHS website at [www.denhamspringshs.org](http://www.denhamspringshs.org) or by picking up a copy at the school office. For more information, contact Jim Spring at (225) 588-0366 or [jimspring53@hotmail.com](mailto:jimspring53@hotmail.com).

### SPRING SPORTS SCHEDULES NEEDED

Head coaches of any spring sport should email a copy of your 2020 schedule to either William Weathers ([wiliam@lpn1898.com](mailto:wiliam@lpn1898.com)) or Rob DeArmond ([rob@lpn1898.com](mailto:rob@lpn1898.com)).

## Industrial Park Acreage for Sale in Livingston, LA

**WE'RE OFFERING A 2%  
BUYER'S COMMISSION FOR  
THE BUYER'S AGENT**



### LIVINGSTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

can do wonders for your company coming to Livingston Parish. In addition to recruiting new jobs to our communities, we assist businesses and industries in growth and expansion through tax exemptions and other incentives. We're also building relationships for the future by bringing the business community together to forge opportunities and improve our quality of life. Livingston Parish is one of the fastest growing regions in the United States and we would love to show you around!

**AVAILABLE ACREAGE: 69**

**SALE PRICE: \$60,000 PER ACRE**

**SUBDIVIDABLE: YES**

**PROPERTY TYPE: INDUSTRIAL**

**INTERSTATES: I-12 & I-55**

**HIGHWAYS: US-190 & LA-449**

**AIRPORTS: BATON ROUGE & NEW ORLEANS**

**RAILROADS: CANADIAN NATIONAL**

**PORT: GREATER BATON ROUGE & PORT MANCHAC**

**LEDC**  
LIVINGSTON ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL



300 Industrial Pk. Dr.  
Walker, LA 70785

*For more information contact David Bennett, President,  
or Abigail Depino, Vice President at 225.686.3982*

**WWW.LEDC.NET**

The following is a list of 207 Jurors drawn to serve and who shall report for duty at the Livingston Parish Courthouse located at 20300 Government Boulevard, Livingston, LA at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 3, 2020.

AGUILAR, LUCY E  
AINSWORTH, KRISTYL M  
ALLISON, KIMBERLY SANCHEZ  
APARICIO, LARA C  
AVALOS, MARCO ANTONIO  
AVRIETT, STEVEN L  
BAKER, JOE ANN M  
BALLARD, HELEN M  
BARLOW, GLENDA  
BATES, WILLIAM BRADLEY  
BAUDOUIN, TOSCHA HYMEL  
BEJAULT, BETTY W  
BENHAM, KAYE MCGRAW  
BERGERON, ROBERT PAUL  
BERGERON, IRVIN JOSEPH JR  
BESSIX, TYLER JAYAWN  
BETTS, JUSTIN MONTREUIL  
BIHM, NICHOLAS RAY  
BIRKLA, LORIS J  
BLOOM-ROEMER, KIMBERLY ANN  
BLOOD, BILL R  
BONNETT, MARTHA ALBERT  
BOOS, MELISSA LAMANETTE  
BORDEN, LINDA LANDRY  
BOYD, ALICIA  
BREWER, JAMES BRANDON  
BREWIN, KERRY  
BROOKS, RICKY ALLEN  
BROUSSARD, CASSIDY CELINE  
BROWN, CYNTHIA MARIE  
BROWN, LUCAS EVAN  
BRUMLEY, SAGE DWAYNE  
BUICK, JILLIAN MACNAUGHTON  
BYARS, LAURIN E  
CAHILL, CATHOPHER JOSEPH  
CARLIN, BROOKLIN DESHEE  
CARLIN, RONALD M  
CARRIGAN, FLORENCE C  
CARTER, DOUGLAS KEITH  
CASTON, TELA ADCOX  
CISSELL, HOWARD LYNN JR  
CLERK, JOHN STEPHEN  
COCHRAN, ANTHONY LYNN  
CRAFT, DAVID ALAN  
HOLLIS, BUREN A JR  
HOLSE, MIRANDA  
HUNT, ROBERT ROBERTS  
JACKSON, TAKARA LASHA  
JEFFREY, ALEXIA LOREN  
JENKINS, JAMES KEITH  
JENKINS, VALERIE DESIREE  
JOHNSON, AARON  
JOHNSON, KELLY MICHELLE  
JOHNSON, CORIN  
JOHNSON, DEBBIE W  
JUNEAU, KEVIN PAUL  
KEEL, DEBBIE FRANCES  
KELLEY, BRIANNA VASHTI  
KELLY, DAVID R  
KELLY, KATHRYN  
KING, JODI K  
KIRKLAND, BETTY JEAN  
KRON, GLEN ARTHUR  
LANDREAU, SYLVIAN  
LAPORTE, COEDIE JOELAINT  
LAUREN, JESSICA N  
LAW, ANGELA COOKERHAM  
LEBLANC, JOHN D  
LEBLANC, MARY YVETTE  
LEJEUNE, ASHLEY GUDRY  
LOFLIN, MRS A JR  
LOQUE, CHRISTOPHER  
MAGNUS, MICHAEL JOSEPH  
MALIKOWSKI, DENNIS  
MARTIN, ASHLEY ELIZABETH  
MATTHEWS, JESSICA RUTH  
MAY, ADDIEAN G  
MAYO, ROBERT DWANE JR  
MCLELLAN, MELVIN JEAN JR  
MCORMECK, DIANA DAGER  
MCINNIS, LARRY K  
MCMORRIS, WALTER EUGENE  
MCMURRAY, LATHAM JR  
MCWILLIAMS, JONI ALCORN  
MEADES, JEFFREY  
MILLER, EDWARD R JR  
MONTALBANO, JESSICA M  
MORGAN, ANTHONY GENE  
MORRISON, BARBARA ANN  
MURPHY, ALICE A  
NAVARRO, CARL MARGARET  
NEARY, JONATHAN CHANEY  
NETHERY, JONATHAN WOODIE  
NEWMAN, EVA LOCHART  
VILLOT, DAVID MICHAEL  
VINCENT, MONICA L  
WARE, KIMBERLY G  
WATSON, JACKIE RONALD  
WATTS, JULIE HALL  
WILLIAMS, MICHELLE ANN  
WILLIAMS, THOMAS DALE JR  
WILLINGHAM, JEAN A  
WOOD, TRICIA D  
WOODBURN, ASHLEY BARBER  
WOODS, JOSHUA KIMBREW  
WRIGHT, PATTY SUZANNE THIBODEAU

Given under my hand and seal of this office this 12<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2020.

JASON B. HARRIS  
Livingston Parish Clerk of Court

#### ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Deliver sealed bids to Livingston Parish Courthouse, Conference Room, 20300 Government Blvd., Livingston, La. 70754, before 2:00 PM, Thursday March 26, 2020 for the project entitled:

Livingston Parish Sheriff's Office Training Center  
Woodside Dr.  
Livingston, LA 70754  
GHC Project No. 561952

Complete Bidding Documents for this project are available in electronic form. They may be obtained without charge and without deposit from <http://louisianaprojectrek.com/biddinglogin.aspx>. Printed copies are not available from the Designer but arrangements can be made to obtain them through most reprographic firms. Plan holders are responsible for their own reproduction costs.

Electronic Bidding: Bidders may use ProjectTrek to submit their bids electronically. Please find bid related information and post your electronic bids online at <http://louisianaprojectrek.com/biddinglogin.aspx>

All bids must be accompanied by bid security equal to 5% of the low bid, and must be in the form of a certified check, or cashier's check. The Bid Bond shall be in favor of the Livingston Parish Sheriff's Office and shall be accompanied by the appropriate power of attorney. No bid indicating an obligation of less than five percent (5%) by any method is acceptable.

The successful bidder shall be required to furnish a Performance and Payment Bond written by a company licensed to do business in Louisiana, in amount equal to 100% of the Contract amount. The Surety Company must be listed currently on the U.S. Department of Treasury Financial Management Service List (Treasury List) as approved for an amount equal to greater than 100% of the bid. If the Surety Company is not listed on the Treasury list, the contract amount may not exceed fifteen percent of policyholders' surplus as shown by the Surety's Company most recent financial statements filed with the Louisiana Department of Insurance and may not exceed the amount of \$500,000. However, a Louisiana domiciled insurance company with at least an A-rating in the latest printing of the A. M. Best's Key Rating guide shall not be subject to the \$500,000 limitation, provided that the contract amount does not exceed ten percent of the policyholders' surplus filed with the Louisiana Department of Insurance. The Bond shall be signed by the Surety's Company agent or attorney-in-fact and countersigned by a person who is under contract with The Surety's Company as a licensed agent in this State, and who is residing in this State.

A MANDATORY PRE-BID CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD  
At 10:00 AM on Tuesday, March 10, 2020, at Livingston Parish Courthouse, Conference Room, located at 20300 Government Blvd., Livingston, LA 70754

BIDS SHALL BE ACCEPTED ONLY FROM CONTRACTORS THAT ATTEND THE PRE-BID CONFERENCE.

Bids shall be accepted from Contractors who are licensed under LA. R. S. 37:250-2163 for the classification of Building Construction. Bidder is required to comply with provisions and requirements of LA. R. S. 38:2212 (A)(1)(c). No bid may be withdrawn for a period of thirty (30) days after receipt of bids, except under the provisions of LA. R. S. 38:224.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids for just cause. In accordance with LA. R. S. 38:2212 (A)(1)(b), the provisions and requirements of this Section, those stated in the advertisement bids, and those required on the bid form shall not be considered as informalities and shall not be waived by any public entity.

#### DOCUMENT 00005 - ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed Bids will be received by the **Parish of Livingston**, at 20355 Government Blvd., Suite D, Livingston, Louisiana 70754 until **Thursday, March 12, 2020 at 3:00 pm** for the

Livingston Parish FEMA PW 1083  
Roadway and Related Drainage Repairs  
FEMA Disaster #4277

At which time bids will be opened and publicly read aloud. Electronic bids will also be accepted. Please find bid related materials and place your electronic bids at [www.centralbidding.com](http://www.centralbidding.com). Bids received after the above time will be returned unopened. Complete bidding documents can be obtained from:

ALVIN FAIRBURN & ASSOCIATES, LLC  
1289 Del Este Avenue, Denham Springs, LA 70726  
PHONE (225)665-1515 FAX (225)665-1523

upon payment of \$75.00 per set. Deposits on the first set of documents furnished to property licensed bona fide prime bidders will be fully refunded upon return of the documents in good condition no later than ten days after receipt of receipt of bids. On sets of documents issued to sub-contractors and others, one-half (1/2) the deposit will be refunded upon return of the documents in good condition no later than ten (10) days after receipt of bids. Plans may be mailed by regular mail upon receipt of \$75.00 plus an additional non-refundable charge of \$25.00 per set of documents.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference shall be held at: **20355 FPG Blvd., Suite D, Livingston, LA 70754 on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 @ 10:00 A.M.** All bids must be accompanied by a bid security equal to 5% of the base bid and any alternatives and subject to the conditions provided in the Instructions to Bidders. The successful contractor will be required to furnish a performance and payment bond in the amount of 100% of the contract value of the work, supervised, coordinate, administrate and be responsible for the work of the entire project. No bids may be withdrawn after the closing time for receipt of bids for at least forty-five (45) days. The bond of the low bidder will be held for forty-five (45) days, or until the contract is signed, whichever is shorter.

**PERFORMANCE AND PAYMENT BOND:** A performance and payment bond will be required upon execution of the contract, equal to one hundred percent (100%) of said contract written by a company licensed to do business in Louisiana, and who is currently on the U.S. Department of the Treasury Financial Management Service List. The bond shall be countersigned by a person who is under contract and who is licensed as an insurance agent in the State of Louisiana, and who is residing in this state.

**Parish of Livingston** reserves the right to reject any and all bids for just cause. In accordance with La. R.S. 38:2212 (A)(1) (b), the provisions and requirements of this section, those stated in the advertisement for bids, and those required on the bid form shall not be considered as informalities and shall not be waived by any public entity.

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

(NOTICE OF INTENTION TO INTRODUCE LOCAL BILL – HLS 20RS-519)

Public notice is hereby given, as provided by Section 13, Article III of the Constitution of Louisiana, that there will be introduced at the forthcoming session of the Legislature of Louisiana, to be convened on March 9, 2020, a bill relative to the purchasing authority of the clerk of court of Livingston Parish with respect to automobiles for office use; and to provide for related matters.

#### SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

JENNIFER LYNN DeFATTA

PETITIONER

VS.

CAUSE NO.: 19-CV-00600-G

BEVERLY PEAVY and

ANDREW KABOT PEAVY

RESPONDENTS

#### SUMMONS AND NOTICE OF HEARING

(Rule 81)

THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

TO: BEVERLY PEAVY, last known residence 12677 Buddy Ellis Road, Lot #16, Denham Springs, Louisiana, 70726, or any place where the Respondent may be found.

You have been made a Respondent in the suit filed in this court by Jennifer Lynn Peavy, Petitioner, seeking termination of parental rights concerning the minor child, M.L.P. The Defendant other than you in this action are: Andrew Kabot Peavy.

You are summoned to appear and defend against said *Petition for Termination of Parental Rights* filed against you in this action at 9:00 a.m. on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020, in the Lamar County Chancery Courtroom at Purvis, Mississippi, and in case of your failure to appear and defend a Temporary Order or Judgment will be entered against you for the money or other things demanded in the Complaint or Petition.

You are not required to file an answer or other pleading but you may do so if you desire.

Filed under my hand and the seal of said Court, this 28 day of January, 2020.

LANCE REID/CHANCERY CLERK

BY: *Jennifer Lynn DeFatta*

D.C.

#### SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF FORREST COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

JENNIFER LYNN DeFATTA

PETITIONER

VS.

CAUSE NO.: 19-CV-00599-G

BEVERLY PEAVY and

ANDREW KABOT PEAVY

RESPONDENTS

#### SUMMONS AND NOTICE OF HEARING

(Rule 81)

THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

TO: BEVERLY PEAVY, last known residence 12677 Buddy Ellis Road, Lot #16, Denham Springs, Louisiana, 70726, or any place where the Respondent may be found.

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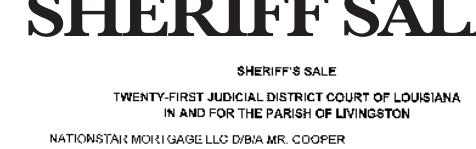
You are not required to file an answer or other pleading but you may do so if you desire.

Issued under my hand and the seal of said Court, this 28 day of January, 2020.

LANCE REID, CHANCERY CLERK

BY: *Jennifer Lynn DeFatta*

D.C.



ELIZABETH L. PORTER  
Attorney for JENNIFER LYNN DeFATTA  
P.O. Box 1841  
Hattiesburg, MS 39403-1841  
Phone: (601) 545-2000  
Fax: (601) 545-2100  
Bar No. 102401  
PUBLISHED February 6, 2020, and February 13, 2020 & February 20, 2020

ELIZABETH L. PORTER

Attorney for BEVERLY PEAVY and  
ANDREW KABOT PEAVY

P.O. Box 1841

Hattiesburg, MS 39403-1841

Phone: (601) 545-2000

Fax: (601) 545-2100

Bar No. 102401

PUBLISHED February 6, 2020, and February 13, 2020 & February 20, 2020

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Hattiesburg, MS 39403-1841

Phone: (601) 545-2000

Fax: (601) 545-2100

Bar No. 102

# ‘I LOVE SPORTS’

## DENHAM SPRINGS HIGH GRADUATE NAMED FORT CAMPBELL MALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR, NOMINATED FOR ARMY ATHLETE OF THE YEAR.

By David Gray  
The Livingston Parish News

### A THREE-SPORT ATHLETE

while attending Denham Springs High School, Sgt. Sean Hebert's playing days weren't over when he graduated.

Really, they were just getting started — and the accolades have followed.

Hebert, a 2009 DSHS graduate, was named Fort Campbell's "Male Soldier Athlete of the Year" following the Commander's Cup intramural sports program during the fiscal year 2019.

On top of that, the 28-year-old son of Brian Hebert and Melissa Eikey has also been nominated for Male Soldier Athlete of the Year for the entire U.S. Army.

The Commander's Cup intramural sports program offers active military the opportunity to enhance individual morale and "unit esprit de corps" through individual and team competition, according to its website. Intramural sports include softball, bowling, soccer, flag football, volleyball, cornhole, and basketball, and points are tallied throughout the year.

101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) Command Sgt. Maj. Bryan Barker recognized all the Screaming Eagle soldiers in a ceremony on Tuesday, Feb. 4, and presented them with trophies signifying their accomplishments.

Hebert, of the 39th Brigade Engineer Battalion and the 2nd Brigade Combat

Team "STRIKE," was presented with a trophy that featured a bald eagle in flight atop an American flag.

Denham Springs High School joined in the celebration of one of its former students, posting a photo of Hebert holding his trophy on its Facebook page and adding the caption, "DSHS is proud of you!"

But in a phone interview with The News, Hebert said the honor belongs as much to his fellow soldiers as it does to him.

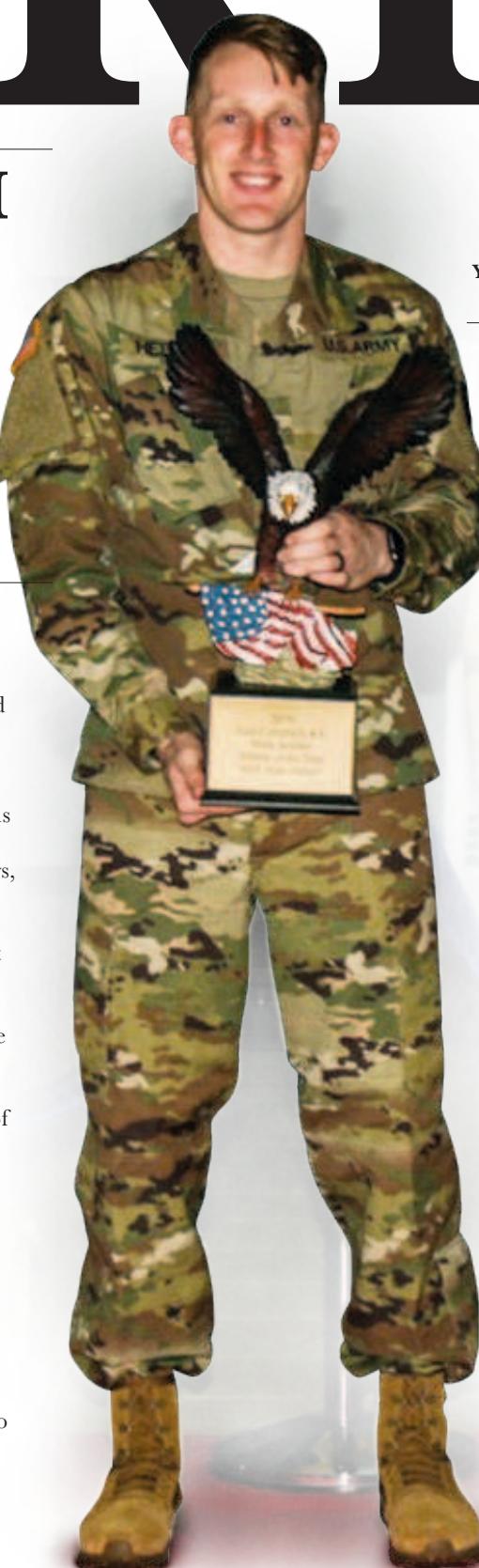
"I have a huge love for sports, but at the end of the day, those awards were not won by themselves," he said from his home in Kentucky. "I couldn't have done that without my other soldiers here. They helped me get here."

Sports have always been a big part of Hebert's life, from his early childhood days in Minnesota to his teen years in Louisiana all the way to his life as a career soldier.

Hebert grew up in Minnesota while his father served in the Coast Guard. To pass the time, Hebert learned how to ice skate, something he continued to do when his family was relocated to Kansas.

Hebert said his family moved back to Louisiana when he was in junior high, and with few ice rinks around, he took up other sports.

In high school, Hebert played defensive back and slot receiver for the Yellow Jackets football team. Once



U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY SPC. BEVERLY ROCHE; 40TH PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

Left, Denham Springs High School 2009 graduate Sgt. Sean Hebert was named the Fort Campbell Male Soldier Athlete of the Year during the Fort Campbell Commander's Cup intramural sports program.

football season was over, he'd lace up his bowling shoes and hit the lanes for the DSHS bowling team. He'd end the year running track.

Hebert enlisted in the U.S. Marines right out of high school and served there for eight years before switching to the U.S. Army in 2017. Barely two years after making the switch, he's already put his name in the Army records books as a multi-sport athlete.

Hebert has participated in numerous athletic events within the Fort Campbell Intramural Program and the community over the last two years. He played football, baseball, basketball, soccer, volleyball, and cornhole and also participated in a week-long event known as "The Week of the Eagle," which consisted of flag football, tug-of-war, a shooting competition, and a CrossFit competition.

He excelled in them all.

On the hardwood, he scored 13 points a game for his unit, which finished in second place out of 20 teams. As a pitcher, he averaged five strikeouts per game while his unit netted a third-place finish among a field of 32.

As a quarterback, Hebert's football team averaged a league-high 37 points per game and finished in third place out of 24 teams — which doesn't include a first-place finish in the 2019 Tennessee Titans Military Bowl held in the pro football team's practice facility.

In the battalion soccer tournament, he scored two goals in the championship game, which his team won. He's also been selected to participate in the annual Army (Fort Campbell) vs Navy (Camp Millington) flag football game over the last two years.

# 'MENTOR AND FRIEND'

**JOHN SCHNEIDER REMEMBERS 'ONE OF THE BIGGEST STARS THE WORLD WILL EVER KNOW,' THE LATE KIRK DOUGLAS.**

BY DAVID GRAY  
The Livingston Parish News

John Schneider was at his studio, getting ready to be interviewed for a documentary, when he got the news.

*Kirk Douglas. Dead. Age 103.*

The news shook Schneider, a lifelong fan of Douglas, to his core.

"When the world lost movie icon, Kirk Douglas... I lost a mentor and a friend," Schneider said.

Schneider, the television and movie star who currently lives in Holden, joined the millions of celebrities and fans across the globe who have recently shared their memories and thoughts of Douglas, one of Hollywood's most recognizable leading men who passed away in his home in Beverly Hills, California, on Wednesday, Feb. 5.

In a touching Facebook post, Schneider recalled the man whom he grew up idolizing as a child before working alongside as an adult.

"Working with Kirk Douglas was an unimaginable honor," Schneider said. "A true professional and a man of great humility while, at the same time, one of the biggest movie stars the world will ever know."

Schneider and Douglas starred in the 1980s film "Eddie Macon's Run," in which Eddie Macon (Schneider) stages a daring jailbreak and heads south to reunite with his wife and son, only to be hounded at every turn by cop Carl "Buster" Marzack (Douglas) in an extended chase through Texas and Mexico.

In his Facebook post, Schneider included a 2018 interview in which he discussed his relationship with Douglas, who became Hollywood's biggest star in the post-World War II era, and what it was like working alongside one of his childhood heroes.

Like millions of other cinema fans over the last 70-plus years, Schneider said he became infatuated with Douglas at an early age, rattling off movies such as "Champion," "Spartacus," 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea," and "The War Wagon" as some of his favorites.

When Schneider first learned he was going to work with Douglas in "Eddie Macon's Run," he couldn't speak.

"I was flabbergasted," Schneider said in the 2018 interview. "It was more than

a dream come true because I had been a fan of Kirk Douglas' for all of my life. This was a man who was best friends with [some] of the greatest actors... and he was going to be in a movie with me."

Though Schneider and Douglas didn't share many scenes together, the former "Dukes of Hazzard" star said they spent much time together when the cameras weren't rolling.

"It was such a thrill to be talking about the movies he had done and the life he had had," Schneider said in the interview.

Schneider recalled Douglas, who was in his late 60s when they filmed "Eddie Macon's Run," doing push-ups for a scene in the movie. According to Schneider, it was in keeping with a promise that Douglas told him he had made early in his career — to do "something physical" in every movie he ever did.

Speaking more than three decades after the film's release, Schneider could still remember Douglas doing countless push-ups for that one scene in "take after take after take" — all the while holding a conversation with his dog.

"Not an easy thing to do for a 30-year-old," Schneider said. "Let alone a near 70-year-old."

In the same interview, Schneider also discussed the "masculinity, humanity, strength, perseverance" Douglas displayed throughout his life, most notably after a helicopter crash in 1991 and Douglas' stroke in 1996, which left him almost entirely unable to speak.

A lot of people would've hidden from the public spotlight after two such incidents, Schneider said, "but not Kirk Douglas," who "wasn't going to let anything slow him down... [or] let anything stop him."

"Kirk Douglas came out in public as often as he could," Schneider said, "I think, to give other people who had also had strokes or different physical challenges the strength and realization that they could work through it or with it, but it was not going to define them."

"Kirk Douglas' stroke did not define Kirk Douglas — Kirk Douglas' life defined Kirk Douglas. I'm so honored to have had the opportunity to work with this great legend of the silver screen, of the written word, and ultimately, humanity."



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY JOHN SCHNEIDER  
John Schneider, left, and Kirk Douglas starred in the 1980s film "Eddie Macon's Run."



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# DSHS graduate says **SPORTS** helps build unity in U.S. Army

FROM PAGE 11

"We won the first year but lost last year," he said before jokingly adding, "that was annoying."

Hebert's athletic exploits helped his battalion, 39th Brigade Engineer Battalion, win first place among other battalions. His company, 39th ECHO Company, finished as runner-up.

But Hebert also made an impact when he wasn't playing, which was pointed out in his Army Athlete of the Year nomination.

He volunteered more than 100 hours in assisting the Fort Campbell B.O.S.S. Program and the MWR Warrior Zone in establishing a monthly Esports program featuring Smash Bros Tournament. This tournament has led to one soldier being selected to compete on the

national level.

Additionally, Hebert was instrumental in volunteering with the Fort Campbell Spartan Race, which drew more than 1,000 competitors. He also solicited the help of other volunteers and raised \$1,800 for the Battalion FRG for 2019, surpassing the previous amount raised by more than \$500.

"Sergeant Hebert is the example of today's Warrior taking full advantage of utilizing sports to ease the tension of Fort Campbell's high OPTEMPO and the stress of rapid deployments," his nomination said.

"He consistently [displays] his excellence in athletic abilities, sportsmanship, integrity, and professional character. No matter the circumstance, he represents the Army in a professional manner, on and off the field."

For Hebert, sports has opened up

many doors to him, which is why he's tried to include as many of his fellow soldiers as possible.

"I wanted to get them involved," Hebert said. "I've been doing the military for 10 years now, so I know how much sports can help because I love sports. It was more about getting others involved, getting them out of the barracks, and showing them there are opportunities to have fun."

"We do all this training, so something like this is fun, but it also brings us closer together in a different way."

This June, Hebert will be relocated to Fort Wainwright, Alaska, where he will be stationed for three years. He's already seeing what sports will be available to him there.

"Very limited," he said with a laugh. "But they have a hockey league, and I already know how to skate."

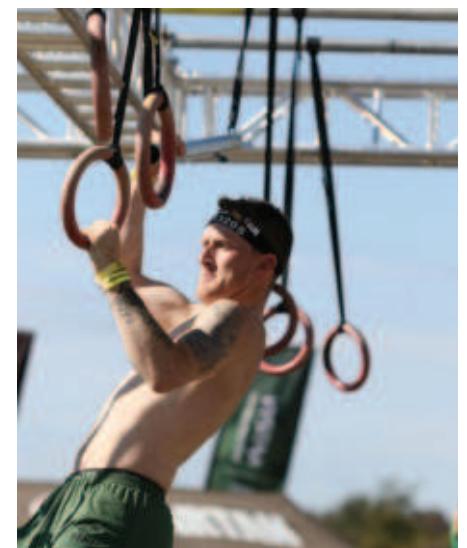


PHOTO SUBMITTED  
Sgt. Sean Hebert of the U.S. Army is a 2009 graduate of Denham Springs High, where he competed in football, bowling, and track.

## BRICE HARRIS MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT SLATED FOR MARCH 21 AT GREYSTONE COUNTRY CLUB

BY DAVID GRAY

The Livingston Parish News

**DENHAM SPRINGS** — An upcoming golf tournament is aiming to raise money in memory of a young man who once called Denham Springs "home."

The 7th Annual Brice Harris Memorial Golf Tournament will be held Saturday, March 21, at Greystone Country Club in Denham Springs.

The yearly tournament is the main fundraiser for the Brice Harris Memorial Endowment Fund, which began in 2013 in memory of Brice Harris, who died in a one-car accident on his way to school the morning of Dec. 10, 2012.

The son of Justin and Michelle Harris, Brice enjoyed playing baseball, football, and basketball and was also an avid outdoorsman. He spent most of his life going to schools in his native Denham Springs before transferring to Central Private School for his junior and senior years.

Brice was 18 years old when his F-250 fatally struck a tree just over seven years ago, leaving behind his parents, a sister, and countless other

friends and family members.

But since that time, those same people have kept the memory of Brice alive.

Stephen Taylor, a close family friend, helped the Harris family start the endowment and runs the golf tournament, which is held on the same course Brice and his father spent hours playing golf.

Each year, the endowment gives a scholarship to a student from both Denham Springs High School and Central Private, usually around \$1,500-2,000 each. Over the years, the endowment has raised roughly \$40,000 in scholarships, Taylor said.

To receive the scholarship, students are required to submit an essay that describes themselves, why they should get the scholarship, and what they know about Brice.

In some years, Justin and Michelle have sent funds from the endowment outside the state to help others in need, such as one time when they sent \$500 to a family in Jackson, Mississippi, whose son had died during football practice.

Check-in for this year's tournament starts at 11 a.m., with tee-off at 1 p.m. The cost is \$390 per three-man team, which includes entry into "Red Blast" and one mulligan per player. The first 36 team entries will be accepted, and there will be prizes for the top five teams as well as numerous door prizes.

Justin Harris and Johnny Stockton will be cooking jambalaya, and food and drinks will be provided, as well. Lunch will be served before the tournament starts.

To register, contact Stephen Taylor at (225) 931-7523 or Shelly Taylor at (225) 369-1940.

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## Lifestyle

# 'HE GOES THAT EXTRA MILE'

LIVE OAK HIGH CUSTODIAN RECOGNIZED FOR RETURNING WALLET WITH \$1,000 IN CASH.

BY DAVID GRAY  
The Livingston Parish News

**WATSON** — For the last 30 years, Randy Whitley has done anything and everything at Live Oak High.

He takes out the trash, sweeps and mops the floors, greets people with a friendly “hello” and handshake in the halls, and has even bought presents for students.

And on days like last Friday, Feb. 7, he returns what isn’t his — even a wallet filled with \$1,000 in cash.

Live Oak High Principal Beth Jones recognized Whitley, a custodian at the school for the last three decades, for his act of kindness during an assembly in the gym on Tuesday, Feb. 11.

With a couple hundred students seated in the gym, Jones relayed the story she felt needed to be shared school-wide.

Whitley was cleaning the stands following a basketball game when he found a wallet that someone had misplaced.

Inside the wallet was \$1,000 in cash.

With no one there to claim it, Whitley found the address on the driver’s



DAVID GRAY • THE NEWS  
Live Oak High Principal Beth Jones recognized Randy Whitley, a custodian at the school for the last three decades, during an assembly in the gym on Tuesday, Feb. 11. The Friday before, Whitley returned a wallet filled with \$1,000 in cash to a man who lost it during a basketball game.

license and drove to the person’s home to return the wallet — along with every dollar bill that was in there, Jones told the students.

Others told Jones and the administration about Whitley’s act of kindness over the ensuing weekend, prompting her to recognize him for what he did in

## ARTS COUNCIL INVITES STUDENTS TO SUBMIT WORK FOR NEXT EXHIBIT

BY DAVID GRAY  
The Livingston Parish News

**DENHAM SPRINGS** — If you’re a student artist, you’ll soon have the chance to show off your work.

The Arts Council of Livingston Parish is inviting students in grades 1-12 to display their artwork during a two-month exhibit that’ll take place through March and April.

Artwork must be the original work completed by the student only, and the subject matter must be suitable for family viewing, according to the exhibit’s guidelines. Students will also be allowed to sell their artwork in the gallery, which will run from Saturday, March 7, through Saturday, April 25.

The drop-off dates for the artwork will be Feb. 26-29 during regular gallery hours, and the pick-up dates will be April 29-May 2.

This will be the second straight year the Arts Council has opened its doors to student-made artwork. Last March, young artists from Lewis Vincent Elementary displayed their own acrylic interpretations of Vincent Van Gogh’s “The Starry Night.”

In addition to the students, the ACLP gallery will also display work from Kathleen “Kitty” Kuhnert, a local photographer who was named the Arts Council of Livingston Parish 2019 Artist of the Year. Kuhnert, a nature photographer, has displayed her work at the Arts Council many times in the past.

During the exhibit, Kuhnert’s work will be displayed in the main lobby, with the rest of the gallery featuring the artwork belonging to students.

A second Saturday reception will take place on March 14 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the gallery, where artists will gather and light refreshments will be served. This is a free event that is open to the public.

The Arts Council of Livingston Parish is open from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday and from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Saturday. The gallery is located at 133 Hummell Street in the Denham Springs Antique Village.

For more information on the exhibit or to submit artwork, email the Arts Council at [arts council of liv@bellsouth.net](mailto:arts council of liv@bellsouth.net), visit [www.artslivingston.org](http://www.artslivingston.org), or call (225) 664-1168.

front of the student body.

Even if Whitley wasn’t going to talk about what he did, Jones wanted to make sure others knew what he did.

“He doesn’t ever like to toot his own horn, but he’s great,” Jones said. “He’s always doing for the kids. He’s an example of what Live Oak High is all about. I hope everyone looks up to him, and he does everything to the best of his ability.”

Jones told the students that Whitley personifies “the high expectations we have for the students teachers and staff here” at Live Oak High.

“He is one of those people who gives 100 percent,” she said. “He’ll give the shirt off his back. You can ask him to do anything, and he always has a smile on his face. He goes that extra mile. He is a true blessing to have at our school.”

Whitley’s act of kindness exploded on social media after The News shared his story, with the post reaching more than 12,000 people on Facebook alone.

All told, it was liked more than 250 times and shared by more than 450 people, with many adding captions such as “well deserved” or “Mr. Randy is the best!”

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## Lifestyle Coming Up

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20

#### The Little Mermaid

The Livingston Parish Talented Arts program will perform "The Little Mermaid" during a two-night run Feb. 20-21. The production will take place at the Suma Crossing Theatre, located at 28975 S. Satsuma Road. Admission for the show is \$10 for adults and students, and the show will start at 7 p.m. both days. Tickets will be sold at the door. Students will be under the direction of Connie Courtney and Cassandra Fulmer.

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21

#### Springfield COA Mardi Gras dance

The Springfield Council on Aging will host a Mardi Gras-themed dance for senior citizens 60 years of age or older at the Springfield meal site, located at 27265 Hwy. 42 in Springfield, on Friday, Feb. 21, from 6-9 p.m. Dinner will be served, and there will be live music provided by the band Poo-Yai. Admission is \$6 or \$10 per couple. Wear your Mardi Gras attire and join us for a fun-filled evening.

### MONDAY, MARCH 2

#### SLU Black History Month lectures

The Department of History and Political Science at Southeastern Louisiana University will host its annual lecture series in honor of Black History Month. This series will feature lectures that are free and open to the public. The last lecture of the series, is scheduled Monday, March 2, at 12:30 p.m. in the Student Union Theatre. It will be given by Peter Gratton. For additional information about Southeastern's Black History Month lecture series, contact Robison at 985-549-2109 or [wrobison@southeastern.edu](mailto:wrobison@southeastern.edu).

### TUESDAY, MARCH 3

#### The Magic of Hummingbirds

Even people who are not otherwise enamored with birds adore hummingbirds. And how can you not? They are tiny flying jewels that grace our gardens with their presence and always make us smile. But they are also incredibly resilient and travel hundreds of miles each year on their migratory journeys. Jane Patterson, President of the Baton Rouge Audubon Society, will teach us about the life history of these fascinating birds and what you can do to attract them to your yard year round. The program is part of the "Explore Nature Family Program" and will be held at the Southeastern Livingston Center on Tuesday, March 3, from 6-7 p.m.

### TUESDAY, MARCH 10

#### The Louisiana Iris

The Greater New Orleans Iris Society (GNOIS) is a group comprised of everyday gardeners whose purpose is to learn about, promote and encourage interest in the Louisiana iris and to raise awareness among the public of the five Louisiana iris species that grow in the wild, including the Louisiana state wildflower; the native Giant Blue iris. The presenter, Gary Salathe, will give

an overview of the multi-colored hybrid cultivars that are grown in gardens and the current efforts of the group to restore the species irises in Louisiana's freshwater swamps and marshes. The program is part of the "Explore Nature Family Program" and will be held at the Southeastern Livingston Center on Tuesday, March 10, from 6-7 p.m.

### TUESDAY, MARCH 17

#### Louisiana Bats

Nikki Anderson, of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, will lead a discussion on Louisiana bats as part of the "Explore Nature Family Program." The program will be held at the Southeastern Livingston Center on Tuesday, March 17, from 6-7 p.m. The course will discuss an introduction to bats around the world. A special emphasis will be placed on the 12 bat species found in Louisiana. Information provided will include identification methods. Current research conducted by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries will be covered briefly.

### SATURDAY, MARCH 21

#### Project River Cleanup

An all-day cleanup of the Amite River is scheduled to start at 8 a.m. on Saturday, March 21, at Fred's on the River. Volunteers and donations are needed to clean our local waterways! The Amite River is one of our greatest resources in Livingston, Ascension and St. James parishes, so we as a community want to keep it clean and beautiful as ever and most of all safe. Many don't realize that all of this debris is in the water sometimes just below the surface where you can't see it. It creates a safety hazard, because if you're cruising down the water at 40/50 miles and hour and pulling someone behind you and hit a log or an old refrigerator it can cause a lot of damage. Our goal is to make this annual event and would love for everyone to be involved. For more information or to register, visit [www.projectrivercleanup.com](http://www.projectrivercleanup.com).

#### Louisiana Lions Children's Camp benefit

The Fifth Annual Benefit for the Louisiana Lions Children's Camp (for disabled children) will be held Saturday, March 21. Jeep Flex and Show Shine Completion, Pastalaya Cook Off and Poker Run. Music by DJ Danie, Confidential, Bad Habit and Rachael Hallack Band (no cover charge). Boiled crawfish and pastalaya plates will be available. Live auction and 50/50. To be held at the Drew and Willie's Sports Bar parking lot. For more information, contact Nancey (225) 268-5037.

### THURSDAY, MARCH 26

#### Denham Springs Fair

The 5th annual Denham Springs Fair will be held March 26-29 at South Park in Denham Springs, presented by Crescent City Amusement & Jarreau Entertainment. The fair is located at 7510 Vincent Road, about two miles south of I-12. It will feature new rides, new carnival games, food, and live entertainment by The Chase Tyler Band and Jam Cracker as well as a performance by Bayou Cirque. There will also be a free Easter egg hunt and free photo opportunities with the Easter Bunny. For vendor and sponsorship opportunities, contact Tony Jarreau on Facebook

or visit [www.jarreauentertainment.com](http://www.jarreauentertainment.com).

### TUESDAY, MARCH 31

#### Native Plants

Native plants: They are the foundations of our local ecosystems, providing food for birds, pollinators, fungi and much more. People everywhere are now looking to bring native plants into their home or workplace. But where do we start? Join Matthew Herron, of the Coastal Plains Outdoor School, as we explore what native plants are, where you can find them and why they are so important and useful. Come get inspired and learn how to bring biodiversity to where we live, work and go to school. Program includes a presentation, discussion and hands-on activities for the family. The program is part of the "Explore Nature Family Program" and will be held at the Southeastern Livingston Center on Tuesday, March 31, from 6-7 p.m.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Hungarian Settlement cookbook

The Hungarian Settlement Historical Society, which is dedicated to the historical preservation of the Hungarian community in Albany, Louisiana, recently released its first-ever cookbook, which is on sale for \$20 apiece. Books can be purchased at the Hungarian Museum, located at 27455 La. Hwy. 43, during regular hours of operation. They can also be ordered online by visiting [www.hungarianmuseum.com](http://www.hungarianmuseum.com). Featuring Hungarian dishes as well as a wide variety of American recipes from local chefs, the "Hungarian Settlement Historical Society Cookbook" is comprised of approximately 283 pages, 675 recipes and 135 contributors as well as many helpful cooking tips throughout.

#### Livingston Parish Farmer's Market

The Livingston Parish Farmers' Market is open on Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. with fresh, seasonal produce and fruit, grain-fed beef without added hormones, unprocessed honey, fresh yard eggs, homemade hot sauce, pastries, jellies, craft vendors with soy candles, goat milk and honey lotions, soaps, quilts, jewelry, clothes, plants, more. New Covenant Baptist Church parking lot on Florida Blvd. (Hwy. 190) across from McDonald's in Denham Springs. For more information, visit the Livingston Parish Farmer's Market on Facebook.

#### Old South Jamboree

Visit the Old South Jamboree in Walker on the first Saturday of every month for a show that includes many local singers. The show starts at 7 p.m., and the doors open at 5:30 p.m. Admission for adults is \$10, \$5 for kids 6 - 12, and free for kids under 6. Refreshments available including hot dogs, cold drinks, and more. For more information, call 225-936-0349 or visit [oldsouthjamboree.webs.com](http://oldsouthjamboree.webs.com).

#### LIGO Science Saturday

At the LIGO - Livingston Science Education Center Free Science Saturday, visitors can tour the control room, explore the exhibit hall, try hands-on demos of scientific principles, ask questions, watch videos and more. The center is located north of the town of Livingston on LIGO Lane. Free Science Saturday is every third Saturday of the month from 1-5 p.m. For more information, visit [www.ligo.caltech.edu](http://www.ligo.caltech.edu).

edu/LA/.

#### Mighty Moms Food Pantry

Visit the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church Pavilion on the second Saturday of every month from 9-11 a.m. for the Mighty Moms Food Pantry.

#### Grand Country Junction

Garry Lewis Properties in conjunction with Treads and Care Tire, Team Toyota and the Livingston Parish Convention and Visitors Bureau proudly present Grand Country Junction every third Saturday of the month. Come out for a night of great entertainment as Danny Harrell and the Nashville Edition Band back up the Junction cast as they present some of your favorite country songs. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for children ages 4-12, and children 3 and under are free. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., and the show starts at 7 p.m. Grand Country Junction, your "Hometown Branson Show," is located just off of Interstate 12 at Exit 19 in Satsuma at the Suma Crossing Theatre. For more information, call Director Greg Sullivan at (985) 507-9432 or visit [www.grandcountryjunction.com](http://www.grandcountryjunction.com).

#### Pilot Club of Denham Springs

The Pilot Club of Denham Springs, which has existed since 1965, meets at 6:45 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month at the Denham Springs-Walker Library, located at 8101 Hwy. 190 in Denham Springs. The club's service focus involves promoting awareness of brain-related disorders and helping those affected through volunteer activities, education, and financial support. Those interested in more information about the club or joining are encouraged to visit the Pilot Club's website, [www.pilotclubds.org](http://www.pilotclubds.org), or attend one of the monthly meetings.

#### V. Watts Trade Day

Visit V. Watts Trade Mart, 13060 Florida Blvd., Livingston, on the second Saturday of every month for Trade Day, with vendors inside and outside selling antiques, collectibles and more. For more information, call 225-686-2791 or visit V. Watts Trade Mart on Facebook.

#### Walker Farmers Market

The Walker Farmers Market is held on the first and third Saturday of every month from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. at 9360 Florida Blvd., in front of Hebert's Cajun Meats. Items include handmade jewelry and crafts, homegrown vegetables and fruits, local honey and bee products, fresh eggs, soap, lotions, bath bombs, homemade desserts and breads, quilts, purses, pot holders, jellies, pickles, sauces, candles, woodwork, signs and more! If you would like to be a vendor, email [walkerfm@yahoo.com](mailto:walkerfm@yahoo.com).

#### Denham Springs Fine Art Association

The Denham Springs Fine Art Association, better known as DSFAA, meets on the first Monday of every month at the Denham Springs-Walker Library at 7 p.m., unless Monday is a holiday or there is a specially planned location change. DSFAA is an independent organization of artists and of anyone who loves art and seeing new art forms or learning techniques from local and guest speakers. Visitors and new members are welcome.

*(Editor's Note: The News' weekly crossword puzzle will return soon. We apologize for the inconvenience.)*

To place an announcement, email [david@lpn1898.com](mailto:david@lpn1898.com).

# 'HOLDEN'S MOST ELIGIBLE BACHELOR'

HOLDEN HIGH SENIOR GIVES FLOWERS TO FEMALE CLASSMATES FOR VALENTINE'S DAY.

BY DAVID GRAY  
The Livingston Parish News

**HOLDEN** — Senior Lane Courtney may be going by another name soon — Romeo.

The soon-to-be Holden High graduate, keeping with a tradition he started six years ago, handed out flowers to all of his female classmates in celebration of Valentine's Day on Friday, Feb. 14.

According to Assistant Principal Rusty Hutchinson, Courtney started the tradition in sixth grade.

This year, he brought each Holden High female senior a red rose for their last Valentine's Day together as classmates.

But he didn't stop there.

Courtney also handed out purple carnations to female students in grades 9-11, as well as one to Holden High Principal Kris Roundtree.

The school posted photos of Courtney's Valentine's Day project to its Facebook page Friday afternoon and playfully referred to him as "Holden's Most Eligible Bachelor."



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Holden High senior Lane Courtney, keeping with a tradition he started six years ago, handed out flowers to all of his female classmates in celebration of Valentine's Day on Friday, Feb. 14.

## VETERANS MEMORIAL POST DONATES FLAG TO SPRINGFIELD ELEMENTARY



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Thanks to a local chapter of American Legion Veterans Memorial Post, a new flag waves at Springfield Elementary. Byron and Cindy Newton, both of American Legion Veterans Memorial Post 5 in Hammond, recently presented a new American flag to Springfield Elementary Principal Catherine Martin just in time for the school's Veteran's Day program. After the presentation, the Newtons hoisted the new flag atop a flagpole in a nearby parking lot. The post also donated patriotic and presidential bookmarks to the school for its students. "We appreciate the flag and their efforts in helping our veterans," Martin said. "Springfield Elementary thanks all veterans for their service, courage, and sacrifice. We thank them for their generosity." Pictured, from left, are Byron Newton, Catherine Martin, and Cindy Newton.

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## Lifestyle

# TWO DENHAM SPRINGS HIGH STUDENTS NAMED NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP FINALISTS

BY DAVID GRAY  
The Livingston Parish News

**DENHAM SPRINGS** — Having one National Merit Scholarship Finalist is enough to make any school proud.

But having two? That's cause for a celebration — and exactly where Denham Springs High School finds itself.

Sophie Faircloth and Katie Howard, both seniors at Denham Springs High, were recently named 2020 National Merit Scholarship finalists, two of 15,000 finalists nationwide to receive the honor.

The winning students will be announced starting in March, when representatives from the National Merit Scholarship Program (NMSP) will notify approximately 7,500 finalists at their home addresses that they were selected to receive a Merit Scholarship award.

On Monday, Denham Springs High School shared Faircloth and Howard's accomplishment on social media, congratulating the two for their "prestigious recognition."

"Denham High would like to extend the highest of congratulations to Sophie Faircloth and Katie Howard for their prestigious recognition as National Merit Scholar Finalists," the school said in the post.

Like the thousands of other NMSP finalists, Faircloth and Howard have kept plenty busy during high school.

Katie Howard is the daughter of Wes and Robin Howard, both administrators in Denham Springs public schools. She has two siblings, Elizabeth and Laura, and has been a resident of Denham Springs for 16 years after her family moved from Baton Rouge.

Katie has a cumulative 4.75 GPA and scored a 35 on the ACT, with a perfect score of 36 in English. After high school, Katie hopes to attend the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) or Harvard to major in biological engineering. Her dream is to go to medical school to do stem cell research.

Outside of the classroom, Katie is a member of the Denham Springs High School Wind Ensemble, where she is a marching band captain, a principal player, and a section leader. She is also a member of United Sound, a



PHOTO SUBMITTED  
Sophie Faircloth and Katie Howard, both seniors at Denham Springs High, were recently named 2020 National Merit Scholarship finalists, two of 15,000 finalists nationwide to receive the honor.

non-profit that teaches special needs students how to play music, as well as Louisiana Stars Drum and Bugle Corp, which performs in international competitions.

Additionally, Katie is involved with the National Honor Society, plays the piano, and is an artist outside of school.

Sophie Faircloth, the daughter of Annette Faircloth, has been a Denham Springs resident for seven years, after her family moved from Florida. She has two older brothers, Chad and Toby.

Like Katie, Sophie also scored a 35 on the ACT, with perfect scores of 36 in the English and reading sections. She also scored in the 99th percentile nationwide on the SAT.

Sophie's extracurricular activities at school include

being a member of the volleyball team, the DSHS Wind Ensemble, the Senior National Honor Society, DSTV Media, and Jackets Against Destructive Decisions (JADD). In her spare time, she volunteers at North Oaks Hospital and Rehabilitation Center.

Outside of school, Sophie is also involved with United Sound and the Louisiana Legislative Youth Advisory Council.

A 2019 AP Scholar with Distinction, Sophie has already accumulated 18 hours of college credit and could have another 18 after this school year.

After high school, Sophie plans to attend the University of Pennsylvania (UPenn), a private Ivy League research university where she'll major in cognitive science and economics. She hopes to be a college professor.

"I want to focus my life on making a positive change on the world," Sophie said.

Sophie was named Denham Springs High School's 2019-20 Student of the Year. Katie was a finalist for the award.

The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition that recognizes and honors academically talented students across the U.S. Only 1 percent of high school seniors nationwide get selected as National Merit Scholarship semifinalists — and even less are named finalists.

To enter the competition, a student must take the PSAT test during his or her junior year of high school. From the 1.6 million students who met entry requirements, approximately 16,000 were selected as semifinalists. Merit Scholar semifinalists are selected on the basis of their skills, accomplishments and potential for success in rigorous college studies.

Since 1955, the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) has recognized more than 3 million students and provided more than 423,000 scholarships worth in excess of \$1.7 billion.

## LSU AGCENTER, GREATER BATON ROUGE FOOD BANK TEAMING UP FOR FREE SIX-PART COOKING SERIES

BY DAVID GRAY  
The Livingston Parish News

**LIVINGSTON** — Cooking matters, and two local entities are trying to show people just how much.

The LSU AgCenter and the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank are teaming up for a free six-part cooking series for adults over the months of March and April.

The "Cooking Matters" series will take place at the LSU AgCenter's office in Livingston, located at 20140 Iowa Street, with classes slated to be held from 1-3 p.m. on Wednesdays from March 4 through April 22.

Each course is team-taught by a volunteer chef and nutrition educator who will cover meal preparation, grocery shopping, food budgeting, and nutrition. This program is provided at no cost to the public, and sessions will be held March 4, March 18, March 25,

April 1, April 15, and April 22.

According to a press release, the "Cooking Matters" series can help participants spend less time grocery shopping, make the best choices for the family, and plan easy meals while saving money.

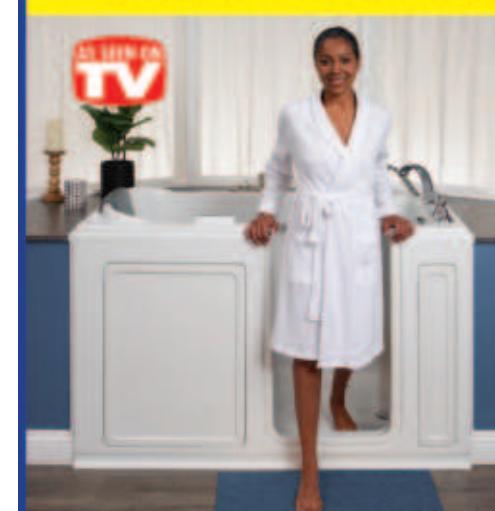
For more information or to register, contact LSU AgCenter agent Layne Langley via email at [lalangley@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:lalangley@agcenter.lsu.edu) or by calling (225) 686-3020 by Friday, Feb. 21. Space is limited.

The community-based program is supported in part by Walmart.

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# 'WRITE SOMETHING'

## DENHAM SPRINGS NATIVE RETURNS TO ALMA MATER TO SHARE UPCOMING YOUNG ADULT FANTASY SERIES, EXPLAIN PUBLISHING PROCESS WITH STUDENTS.

BY DAVID GRAY

The Livingston Parish News

**DENHAM SPRINGS** — Swearingen Durham walked in the familiar building, through the familiar halls, and stood in the familiar library.

He saw many familiar faces during his visit, the faces of former classmates and former teachers, and they exchanged familiar stories with one another.

But Durham was here at Denham Springs Junior High for another purpose, one he shared constantly over the next eight hours as he relayed to hundreds of students his not-so-familiar tale of mystery, coming-of-age, and magic.

Familiar names line the shelves in book stores across the globe, and yours, too, can be among them.

"Walking into Barnes and Noble, every book has a different author," he said. "Why can't yours fit on that shelf somewhere?"

Durham, a Denham Springs native, returned to his roots to share the story of his upcoming young adult fantasy series during a visit to Denham Springs Junior High on Wednesday, Feb. 5.

A 2011 graduate of Denham Springs High School, Durham also attended Denham Springs Junior High when his family moved from Baton Rouge when he was 11. He considers Denham Springs his hometown, which is why he happily returned to read excerpts from his "Tales of the Bardenwood" series, which hits shelves this summer.

"I want to give back as much as I possibly can," he said in between sessions.

"That's why I'm here today. Plus, maybe there's another writer out there today."

Durham, who celebrated his 27th birthday Feb. 15, has been a fan of fantasy for as long as he can remember, adoring stories such as "Jurassic Park," "X-men," and "The Lord of The Rings." (In fact, he and his wife named two of their pets Merry and Pippin, after two popular characters from "The Lord of the Rings.")

On his website, Durham said he began writing as early as grade school, "though those works were handwritten and bound with yarn." However, he always believed he'd grow up to tell stories through another medium — music.

"I was always writing music as a kid," he said. "I still have a deep love of music. I went to school for music, but that doesn't reap very many rewards. Couldn't find many good jobs with music, and then I got married, so I needed something else."

Durham said he started writing "Bardenwood" in 2016, when rising floodwaters thrashed his hometown. Unable to leave his house, the flood forced Durham to sit down in front of his laptop and start writing.

With nothing to distract him, Durham said it took him only three days to complete the concept and plot of what he hoped would be a four-book series. The tale includes his favorite elements from the

world of fantasy: magic, forbidden forests, superheroes, video games, movie characters, witches, and more.

More than three years after he first sat down in front of his laptop, the first of those books is almost ready for print.

"Tales of the Bardenwood" centers around a teenaged boy named Ard who lives in a medieval town. Though most boys his age are swinging axes and doing "manly" work, Ard works at grandma's inn, "where he basically scoops poop," Durham said as students howled with laughter.

Things change for Ard on his 17th birthday: Suddenly, he can see in the dark, he can hear things far away, and he is very strong. Ard eventually passes out from sensory overload and has a vision with a girl named Emagora, who's standing on the edge of the forbidden Bardenwood and tells him to find her.

Reluctantly, though curious, Ard enters the forest.

Durham presented a brief excerpt from the first book of the series, "The Blackstone Ritual." While one student read, DSJH librarian Laura Foy had other students act out the scene, which drew even more laughs from their fellow students as well as Durham.

After reading the passage, Durham explained the publishing process to students, which for him was the most difficult part.

Durham said he was rejected around 50 times over a two-year period, with one agent after another rejecting his proposal of a multi-part young adult series that he pitched as "Spider-Man meets Eragon."

No, they all said.

The trying process made Durham question whether his book — and to another extent, the author himself — was good enough.

"If you ask my wife, it was a terrible time for me," he said. "I was in the worst mental state because I had spent all this time on this book and it kept getting rejected. But my wife kept telling me, 'There's a million books on these shelves, yours can be one of them.'"

Eventually, Durham got some good news while he was on his honeymoon, when the



DAVID GRAY • THE NEWS  
Swearingen Durham, a Denham Springs native, explains the writing process behind his upcoming young adult fantasy series, "Tales of the Bardenwood," during his visit to Denham Springs Junior High on Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2020.

Denver-based Literary Wanderlust Publishing House took an interest in the story of Ard and offered Durham a contract on the spot.

After mulling it over for a week, Durham agreed, and quickly got to editing his now 78,000-word first installment.

"I cried big tears," he said with a laugh.

The first book is finished except for the cover design, which should be completed sometime in February, Durham said. If all goes to plan, the book will be released at

the beginning of June, and Durham hopes to have a local launch party to celebrate the moment.

Durham, who now resides in Baton Rouge, said he hoped his school visit would inspire kids to pick up writing, especially if they have any aspirations of being a published author.

"I want there to be transparency when it comes to publishing because it's so daunting," Durham said. "I just want kids to not be afraid to write something."

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# 'MY DAD'S A HERO'

**WHEN WALKER HIGH'S DELANEY ANDERSON WENT THROUGH THE RITUAL OF SENIOR NIGHT, THOUGHTS OF HER SLAIN FATHER WEREN'T FAR AWAY**

By William Weathers  
The Livingston Parish News

**WALKER** – During last Friday's ceremony to honor Walker High's senior girls basketball players, Delaney Anderson did her best to hold it all together, much like she does on a basketball court.

For the past four years, that's been among her greatest traits, the ability to step into a starter's role as a freshman, stand in the face of adversity with an unflappable calm and lead her team with a steady hand.

When Anderson was escorted by her mother Becky and younger brother Breland before the start of the game with Central, a game Walker went on to win 44-16, they undoubtedly looked skyward and reflect on the obvious void in their lives since March 18, 2017 – the day the family's patriarch - Sgt. Shawn Anderson - was killed in the line of duty.

"My dad's a hero," Delaney Anderson said of her father, an 18-year veteran of the East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Department. "He was going to investigate a man and had my dad not died, there was a 14-year-old girl that may have been raped or something. I was 14 at the time and can't imagine having to go through something like that."

"(During his career) My dad saved a lady trying to jump off a bridge, delivered a baby on the side of a highway and saved that girl that night. He did a lot in his life. I'm forever thankful that God let me be his daughter. If you knew him, I'm like the spitting image of him."

Right down from the striking resemblance, complete with a hearty smile, to their love of family, love of sports and compassion for others. There's little doubt about Delaney Anderson's makeup, although she gives as assist to her mother for her introduction to basketball.

On the surface, the final regular-season home game for Delaney Anderson will be

a lot like those of the past two years. She hasn't been able to enjoy having both parents in attendance at games where Shawn Anderson filled the role of proud dad to perfection.

Always one to shun the spotlight himself, Shawn Anderson couldn't wait to share the exploits of both his children and once even found his way to social media, a rarity for those who knew him best, to post video of Delaney winning both the 800 and 1600-meter races at the parish meet her freshman season.

"He never posted on Facebook, but after I won the two events at parish, he put it on his Instagram account," Delaney said. "He wanted to brag, which he never did. He liked seeing me and Breland succeed. When we did something, he made it known."

Walker High coach Korey Arnold recalled the circumstances that led him to putting Delaney Anderson into a starting role, admittedly before she was actually ready.

The team's starting point – a senior – suffered an injury two weeks into the season, and Arnold, who coached a middle school-aged AAU team that Anderson played on, remembered her ability to provide a spark and moved her into the starting lineup.

The Lady Cats wound up with a 18-16 record, the result of 10 losses by three points or less, but the one thing that season produced was Walker's point guard of the future.

Anderson has been entrenched ever since.

"She was a little baby at the time," Arnold said in reference to her age. "She did her job and kept us in games. I could



MCHUGH DAVID • THE NEWS

Walker point guard Delaney Anderson (3) keeps the memory of her father Shawn Anderson alive with a Velcro band that's become a part of her uniform.

see the makings of a kid that was going to give you everything she had. She was always a burst of energy, a positive voice in the huddle to her teammates."

Anderson always understood



SUBMITTED BY THE ANDERSON FAMILY. Delaney Anderson on her father Shawn Anderson: "I'm forever thankful that God let me be his daughter. If you knew him, I'm like the spitting image of him."

her role and played to her strengths. Her innate ability to lead a team and command the respect of her teammates served her well.

She's always been regarded for her pass-first mentality and ability to provide a menacing presence on Walker's full-court, trapping pressure defense.

Scoring was always a bonus, not a prerequisite, and if opponents leave her open, Anderson is capable of making them pay, especially from 3-point range.

"I'm the grandmother, I'm the one with the most experience," Anderson said with a smile. "They all come to me a lot when they need help. I have a lot of basketball knowledge because I've been around the game my whole life. I've never had the urge to score. I've wanted to be that person that played the hardest and have found more joy in my teammates scoring than myself. I care more about assists."

Not long upon the completion of her sophomore season came the news that completely flipped Anderson's world upside down, along with that of her family, when after an innocent night at a friend's house watching movies turned so tragic.

According to police reports, Shawn Anderson and his partner Eric Strickland were summoned to a Baton Rouge-area barber shop to investigate a reported rape. Gunfire ensued and Shawn Anderson was shot and killed.

## Sports

**HERO:** WALKER'S ANDERSON CARRIES MEMORIES OF HER LATE FATHER ON SENIOR NIGHT

FROM 21

Delaney Anderson, who bravely, but poignantly, delivered the eulogy at her father's funeral. She also received his Medal of Valor – an honor bestowed to courageous men and women.

"My dad was the type of person who didn't give up on me, even when I wanted to give up on myself with my sports career," Delaney said in a previous interview.

She tried picking up the pieces of her shattered life. That meant trying to continue playing the game she loved so dearly, although things felt so different.

In an effort to have a piece of her father with her during games, Anderson said her AAU coach made a black band inscribed in blue cursive lettering that read: Lt. Anderson.

Delaney Anderson attached the Velcro band to one of her shoes that summer but has since made it a part of her uniform at Walker High the past two seasons, where it adorns the top left of her uniform.

"I know he's always there watching me," she said. "When I'm on the court I kind of feel it (pressing her right hand against her left shoulder). He's still here with me."

Anderson rode a roller-coaster of emotions during her junior season, her first since her father's death, in which Arnold was suspended from coaching for a year by the LHSAA. She was later sidelined before the start of district because of a concussion that forced her to miss a week of school.

She recalled having to leave a game at Live Oak after the first quarter. Unable to handle the gym's lights and sound system, she cried during the ride home with her mother.

"It was so bad," she said. "I cried because I felt like I had disappointed my team because I couldn't be there."

With her mother's wishes, Anderson attended Walker's senior night, where she remained the entire game. When the Lady Cats later traveled to Denham Springs with the District 4-5A title on the line, she was on the bench in uniform and actually got into the game for 10 seconds, replacing an injured teammate and celebrated afterward with her victorious teammates.

"That game was so much fun," she said. "We had won district against our parish rivals. That was pretty cool. I got to play a couple of minutes against Natchitoches Central (state quarterfinal win), just to bring some energy off the bench."

"Then it was sad that we lost," she said of a 48-33 setback to Denham Springs in the state semifinals. "We had an amazing season and I was so grateful to be able to play with those girls. The bond that we had, it will always keep us together and most of us were back. We're a very close team."

The team's dynamic changed considerably for Anderson's final season, one that had Arnold back in charge on the sideline.

Anderson was one of four seniors counted on to blend in with a roster with 10 underclassmen – including three freshmen – into another winning unit.

For Anderson, the responsibility went deeper. That meant mentoring talented freshman Caitlin Travis, a player who began the season as the starting point guard.

"I asked Delaney to take Caitlin under her wing and show her all the non-basketball stuff that she did well like showing up on time, being respectful and working hard," Arnold said. "That was a tough pill



MORGAN WERTHER • THE NEWS  
Walker High's Delaney Anderson (3) defends Denham Springs High's Violett Jackson (14) in the District 4-5A opener for both teams.

for her to swallow when Caitlin started over her. She never blinked an eye. That says a lot about her character because she wanted to do what was best for the team."

Somewhere during those competitive practice sessions, where she was paired opposite Travis, Anderson rediscovered something that had been missing since her father's death.

Anderson simply called it a "slump" during the time since she's tried to emotionally navigate life without her father. She felt she was still dedicated to the game and cared deeply about her teammates, but Arnold still felt something was missing until the midway point of this season.

"I still had the heart, that I wanted to play. But sometimes I didn't show it a lot," she said. "Caitlin is phenomenal and is going to be an amazing player. When she started over me, I thought I've got to get over this. Then one day in practice coach Arnold put me on her on defense, later looked at me in the huddle and said I was back to my old self. I felt content and happy."

Anderson has remained a fixture in the starting lineup for 18 games with Walker adding some momentum for this week's Class 5A state playoffs with the 28-point win over Central in the regular-season finale.

Anderson's statistical contributions – 4.0 points, 3.5 rebounds and 3.5 assists – don't begin to illustrate her true impact on this year's team.

"She's a role model for every kid you want in your program," Arnold said. "She's a high character kid with a high GPA (3.2-3.5). If I had a daughter, she would be a perfect example of what I would want in a daughter. She plays hard, she's respectful, does everything she's capable of and more."

Anderson realizes the finality of her athletic career (she no longer runs track) is nearing and the next phase of life is drawing close. She plans to attend LSU and major in Elementary Education, following in the footsteps of her mother, a longtime educator now serving as an instructional coach at Levi Milton Elementary.

that," she said. "It wasn't their jobs."

During the past three years in which Anderson was selected to Walker High's homecoming court, there's been a member of the EBR sheriff's office in full uniform to walk the daughter of their fallen comrade.

Each of the following officers had ties to Shawn Anderson:

Strickland escorted Anderson in 2017, Lt. Michael Crawford in '18 and retired Maj. Les Reine, whom Delaney called her dad's best friend, handled the honors this past fall.

"It's the hardest thing I'll have to go through in my life living without my dad," she said. "I'm glad that I have all these people with me. I didn't really know most of these people before he died. These people mean everything to me and I'm so grateful to have every single one of them in my life. They each have something special about them that remind me of my dad."

This time, though, for senior night, which Anderson shared with Trinity Harold, Kaitlyn Hayes and Shaylan Cummings, she plans to keep things in the immediate family and walk with her mother and brother.

She realizes they won't be the only Andersons smiling.

"He'll be beaming, he loved stuff like that when he was able to be there," she said of her father. "When I walk out, I want to see everybody in the stands. I want to see everybody who comes to show me their love and support. I try to make sure and get everyone involved."

"My dad would be proud of me and for how far I've come," she said. "He would have enjoyed seeing me with my teammates. They loved him. He would be so proud of everybody and the journey that we've had this year."

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# BOYS BASKETBALL • HOLDEN HIGH SCHOOL

## HOLDEN COMMUNITY MOURNS LOSS OF STUDENT-ATHLETE NATHAN RAYMOND

**ROB DeARMOND**  
The Livingston Parish News

By all accounts, Nathan Raymond never met a person who didn't like him, and vice-versa, and his loss is going to leave a void in the Holden community.

Raymond, a junior on the Holden High School basketball team, was killed in a single-vehicle accident Sunday morning.

"Nathan was just one of those blue collar-type guys," Holden basketball coach Landon DuBois said. "He was going to work really hard. He was going to do what you said, and it didn't matter. Nathan was a guy who never complained. He really never complained. If we were going to go out and do something, he was going to get it done. He was real personable. He had no problem walking up and meeting a new person and turning strangers into friends, just one of those real great personalities. It's just hard."

Holden assistant principal Rusty Hutchinson and principal Kris Rountree echoed DuBois' sentiments.

"It's just sadness, a lot of sadness," Rusty Hutchinson said. "Nathan was such a breath of life. He was just one of those kids that had a smile on his face – always had energy, whether he was playing or just on campus as a student. He just has a positive vibe about him."

"Nathan Raymond in a nutshell -- gritty, determined, caring, loving, energetic guy," Hutchinson said.

"Everybody has a memory, and I think when tragedy happens, you rely upon those memories, and you use those memories to memorialize that person," Rountree said. "He had a face and he had a name. It's not like he was at a big school. Everybody knew Nathan. Everybody loved Nathan. He had a very glowing personality, very respectful."

Rountree recalled Raymond, who has a twin sister and worked at L&W One Stop, helping his mother organize a fundraiser for a fellow Holden student.

"If you needed something, Nathan was always there to help you, so he understood what it meant to be a student-athlete, but he also understood what it took for him to be able to do that, too," Rountree said. "I think that's the memory that everybody would have of him, just selfless, willing to help others and always had a good attitude, when he always didn't have to."

DuBois, who's in his first season as the Rockets' head coach, said he's still trying to come to terms with the loss of Raymond.

"We've had some players lose family members, but I've never lost a player," DuBois said. "I'm kind of like the players right now. My emotions are all over



RENEE GLASCOCK • THE NEWS  
Holden's Nathan Raymond (33) gets a piece of the ball as Springfield's Owen Hodges (11) takes the shot earlier this season.

the place. I'm kind of in my own little world myself, so I can only imagine what those guys are going through and what those families are going through at this time."

According to a state police report, a 2002 GMC Sierra was traveling eastbound on U.S. Hwy. 190, and for unknown reasons, ran off the roadway, striking a tree.

Raymond was unrestrained and ejected from the vehicle, suffering fatal injuries. Four additional passengers were transported to local hospitals with serious injuries, and the crash is under investigation.

DuBois said some students visited the hospital Sunday morning, and Hutchinson said administrators will meet with the basketball team later Sunday to offer grief support. The Holden faculty and staff will take part in a prayer meeting and get support to help students through the grieving process. Rountree said administrators from other schools in the parish have reached out to offer help.

"I think that's the hardest thing is what can you tell them?" DuBois said. "They lost a buddy. They lost one of their brothers today. I think the biggest thing is trying to tell them that it's OK. It's going to be OK to grieve and it's going to be OK to be upset and shed some tears – that's not unmanly or unmacho. That's part of how we grieve. Nathan loved them. Nathan loved being a part of this team and being a part of this family. We just need to come together and take care of one another – not really much different than what we've been telling them. Trust in each other, and let's get through this thing together, because that's what it's going to take."

Holden's scheduled game at French Settlement on Tuesday was cancelled.

"Basketball is secondary in this," DuBois said. "I couldn't imagine trying to get those kids to turn around and sit in that locker room and having his locker open. That's just going to take some time before they're going to be really prepared to step out there again. I'm sure once that happens and once they're ready, they're going to step out there and they're going to play harder than ever because they're going to want to do it for their friend who loved them and loved the game of basketball and just wanted to be a Holden Rocket. They're going to really want to get out there and work hard and do those things for them, but it's going to take some time before we get to that point, I think."

Raymond was a role player on the Rockets' basketball team, and DuBois praised his work ethic there as well.

"Nathan was a guy who just worked really hard," DuBois said. "I just actually got off the phone with (former Holden) Coach (Kenny) Almond, who coached him last year, and he made mention of it while we were talking that if we had a team that had a motor and a heart like Nathan did across the board, we would be unbelievable. Nathan just worked hard, and he strived to do what was right. It didn't matter what it was."

DuBois up summed that work ethic up in this way:

"I could have told you, 'hey, I want you to hit that brick wall, and I want you to hit it head-first, and I want you to do it as hard as you can until I tell you to stop,'" DuBois said.

"Nathan would have hit it once. He'd have probably looked at me crazy, and if I would have said 'Hit it again', he would have gone at it again. He wouldn't have second-guessed it. He wouldn't have questioned it. He'd have just done it, and I think that's kind of who he was."

But maybe it's Raymond's ability to get along with everyone that his coach will remember most.

"Nathan meant a lot to us," DuBois said. "I don't know that there were many people on our campus that ever had an issue with him. He was just kind of one of those guys, he worked hard, he had a great attitude and a great personality. He's one of those guys that could bring people together. I don't know that he had an enemy. He was just one of those kind of kids, he got along with everybody around him. It didn't matter where you were or what kind of person you were, Nathan just found a way to get along with you, and I think that speaks wonders for the type of guy he was."

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## Sports

## GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYOFFS • CLASS 5A LOOKAHEAD

## DSHS, WALKER DRAW DIFFICULT FIRST-ROUND HOME GAMES; LOHS FACES STERN ROAD TEST

**WILLIAM WEATHERS**  
The Livingston Parish News

First the good news. Denham Springs and Walker High secured home games in the opening round of the Class 5A state playoffs, which begin Thursday.

Now, the not-so-favorable news.

Both the No. 10 Lady Jackets and No. 13 Lady Cats have their work cut out against a pair of challenging opponents in order to advance.

Denham Springs (17-9) entertains No. 23 East St. John (23-7) at 7 p.m., while Walker (23-10) hosts No. Southwood (15-10) of Shreveport at 6 p.m.

No. 28 Live Oak (15-10) will also represent the Livingston Parish trio from District 4-5A with a road trip Thursday to No. 5 Ponchatoula (24-6) at 6:30 p.m.

"There were a lot of teams in that (seeding) area that we were around that was going to be really good games," Denham Springs coach Blake Zito said. "It's not a shock that we've got to play a really good team. They definitely have size, kids that can score the ball and present a lot of different matchup problems for us."

Walker's coach Korey Arnold knows he's getting a proven team in the first round with Southwood having finished fifth in a district (1-5) which produced four teams among the top 11 seeded teams in the field.

"They came out of why I think is by far the toughest 5A district in the state," he said. "It's definitely not a good matchup. They're a lot better than a 20 seed. They remind me a lot of Zachary. Really athletic and have some guards that can score and defend well. We've definitely got our hands full matchup wise."

Live Oak finds itself in postseason



Walker's Korey Arnold, top photo, Denham Springs' Blake Zito, bottom left, and Live Oak's Michele Yawn, bottom right, lead their teams into first-round playoff games Thursday.

FILE PHOTOS • THE NEWS

play for the fifth straight season under coach Michele Yawn. The Lady Eagles finished the year with eight wins in their last 11 games, including a 54-53 setback at home last Friday against Denham Springs.

"It hurt losing to Denham, but I was pleased with the girls," Yawn said. "I think we have a chance. Ponchatoula's good and they're really solid. I think if we take what we did last Friday and replicate it, I think we're going to give them

a run for their money."

Yawn likes the fact she's able to take a senior-laden team – led by senior Lamar signee Dijone' Flowers - on the road to face Ponchatoula, handed the Lady Eagles a 50-41 loss last during the regular season last year.

"You can see their growth," Yawn said of her five-member senior class. "I think they're ready to do something. It depends on how we go out and play. They're not scared. The girls are ready to go out there and compete."

Denham Springs was riding a six-game win streak into the final week of the season where they dropped a 59-36 decision at Zachary in a game that decided the district championship and repelled Live Oak's determined effort.

The Lady Jackets face an East St. John team that began the season 13-2 and has since finished the regular season with eight wins in their last nine games.

"Now the (regular) season's wiped away," Zito said. "It's about the next game and that's all we're trying to focus on. We're trying to get some little tweaks to what we do and get ready for this team. It's one game at a time."

Walker closed with 10 wins in its last 12 games, falling only to Denham Springs (64-59) and Zachary (56-46) in during that stretch.

The Lady Cats are facing a Cowgirls team which opened with an 11-1 record but has fallen off that pace with nine losses in their last 13 games.

"We're definitely playing good basketball right now and we want to keep that going," Arnold said. "We proved to ourselves that we can play with those (DSHS, Zachary) people. We just have to be more consistent with the small things come playoff time."

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# GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYOFFS • CLASSES 3A-B LOOKAHEAD

## DOYLE GETS TOP SEED IN CLASS 2A AS SIX SCHOOLS IN CLASSES 3A-B EARN PLAYOFF SPOTS

BY ROB DeARMOND  
The Livingston Parish News

Some teams ended up where they figured they'd be, and some didn't, but in the grand scheme of things, they're all looking for the same thing – a trip to the Ladies Top 28 in Lake Charles in the first week of March.

All six teams from Livingston Parish in Classes 3A-B are in the postseason party.

The list starts in Class 2A, where Doyle enters the postseason as the No. 1 seed for the second straight season and will host No. 32 North Caddo at 6 p.m. Thursday.

"We've been No. 1 for the whole time," Doyle coach Sam White said. "That wasn't a shock. We were just waiting around to see who we got."

Also in the Class 2A bracket, No. 6 French Settlement hosts No. 27 Beekman Charter at 6:30 p.m. Thursday. Admission is \$8.

"We dropped a spot," FSHS coach Daniel Martin said. "Amite was No. 5. They won their district, and so they get the bonus point for winning their district. That was enough to bump them up above us, I guess."

"Five or six, as far as where you're falling out, you get the two home games if you're winning and there's no upsets obviously ... and then either way, third game you're on the road. I like having the two home games. I don't think there's necessarily an easy road in 2A. I think that there's a lot of teams that can play throughout. We've just got to make sure we're ready for the first one, take care of business there, and then we start looking at the second one."

Elsewhere, Springfield got the home playoff game it was hoping for, settling in as the No. 13 seed to host No. 20 South Plaquemines at 6 p.m. Thursday.

In Class 3A, No. 5 Albany hosts No. 28 Glen Oaks at 6 p.m. Thursday.

"We were hoping to pull out a four-seed, but we're going to go where they tell us, and five is where they told us, and so that's where we're going to go, and we're going to start getting ready for Glen Oaks in about 10 minutes," Albany coach Stacy Darouse said just her team began practice Monday.

In Class B, the first round will feature an All-Livingston Parish matchup out of District 7-B with No. 7 Holden hosting No. 26 Maurepas.

### GLEN OAKS AT ALBANY

Albany picked up a 64-30 win over the Lady Panthers in December in the Denham Springs Tournament, but Darouse said things are different now.

"There's some familiarity there, but it's a different animal when it's playoff time, so we're not taking anybody lightly, and we're going to prep for them like they're the best team in the state because if you don't beat them,



PATRICK DENNIS • THE NEWS  
Doyle coach Sam White instructs Madison Duhon (34) during the Livingston Parish Tournament earlier this season.

they are. It's one-and-done at this point, so we can't afford to overlook anybody."

Darouse has an idea what to expect heading into the game.

"We had trouble keeping them off the boards, so that will obviously be an issue," she said. "We were able to put some pressure on their guards, so I'm sure they will be much more prepared for that, so we will have to make sure we have our best game defensively and rebounding for sure."

Albany enters the playoffs on a 10-game winning streak, including going 8-0 to win the District 8-3A title.

"I feel like the girls are playing some good basketball right now, but we need to be," Darouse said. "We have to be. We have to put three really good games together if they want to get to their goal of going back to the Top 28 ..."

### NORTH CADDO AT DOYLE

North Caddo defeated Doyle 80-46 in the Class 2A championship game in 2014, but White said that shouldn't have any bearing on this year's team. She's more focused on her team getting better at what it does as the playoffs begin.

"I am trying not to make it not pressure-packed," White said. "If we go out there and we do our job and perform the way that we should perform, then you hope you put yourself in a good enough position to be able to go win at the level that you want to win at. We're trying to take one game at a time and stay super focused and not let any of the outside stuff effect our game."

"You want to make sure that you are doing what it is that you need to do, staying focused on yourself and what you do well. It's worked wonderful so far, so you want to stay true to who you are."

### BEEKMAN CHARTER AT FRENCH SETTLEMENT

Martin admittedly doesn't know much about Beekman Charter, but like White, he's more concerned about what his team is doing than the opponent, which he said was the focal point of the team's practice Monday.

things that we haven't done in a while in case we need that in the playoffs and just kind of reiterated what are strengths are and tried to reiterate some of the fundamental things that we haven't necessarily done well at times – just those little things that we say are little things but really you've got to do to win big games."

Martin is hoping his team can carry some momentum from its win over Northlake Christian to end the regular season into Thursday's game.

"I think the biggest thing is, going into that, it was a physical game, and standing up to the physical style of play – because that's something we haven't always done well this year – I thought we handled that well in that game, and really executing the game plan," he said. "I think both of the wins we had against Northlake this year came down to being able to execute the game plan, and that's going to be big for us in the playoffs. We're not going to be the most athletic team on the floor. We've got to be smart and execute what we're trying to do, understand our roles and play those roles, and that's going to be the key to us being successful."

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## Sports

## GIRLS BASKETBALL • FRENCH SETTLEMENT HIGH SCHOOL

# SENIOR CLASS SETS TONE FOR LADY LIONS' SUCCESS THIS SEASON

**ROB DEARMOND**  
The Livingston Parish News

**FRENCH SETTLEMENT** – When asked what's given this season's French Settlement girls basketball team an extra spark, it didn't take senior Dannah Martin long to answer.

And it's not just about the Lady Lions having five senior starters.

"Coming into this season we were going to have a strong starting five and six, seven, eight off the bench," Dannah Martin said. "We knew that we were going to have a little more depth than we usually have, and I think that the changes that we made as far as positivity throughout our (team) and starting that with us five seniors, I think our season has been as successful as it has because of how much of a team environment we've tried to make it and how inclusive everything has been."

"If varsity fails, JV fails," she said.

Martin said the Lady Lions, who enter the playoffs as the No. 5 team in the Class 2A power rankings, work on bonding each day after practice with what the team calls 'put-ups'.

"If there's someone who really stood out in practice, every single person goes through and points out one person," Dannah Martin said. "We go through those every day. Coaches give one. I also think that we've really made it a point to communicate in practice – giving high-fives, talking to one another, and I think that that's really come a long way."

"(We're) making a point to notice each other and be friends with each other, not just teammates," she said. "It's the little things."

Those 'little things' have helped French Settlement compile a 27-5 overall record and 5-3 mark in District 10-2A play. While Martin leads the team averaging 24.1 points per game, the atmosphere the team has built has enabled her to focus on other parts of her game.

"I feel like the way us five really work together, I think that says a lot about who we are," Dannah Martin said. "The scoring thing, that's something I've worried about in the past, but stepping on the floor this year, that's something I never even think about. I know that everybody has my back, and I know that I'm going to have their back."

While Martin is the team's primary scorer, each of the team's seniors have settled into their roles this season. For Serenity Smith, that meant moving to point guard for the first time in her playing career.

"I was kind of worried because



PHOTO COURTESY OF JAMIE LEBOURGEOIS • THE NEWS  
French Settlement senior basketball players, from left, Shay Parker, Serenity Smith, Mae Babin, Dannah Martin and Baylee Balfantz have led the Lady Lions to a 27-5 record and No. 5 seed in the Class 2A state playoffs.

team is a very big part (of what FSHS does), so I felt like, 'Oh gosh, I'm point guard. I'm going to let my team down,'" Smith said. "So at first they told me, and I was like, 'Uh uh, nope, nope,' and so then I started practicing a lot, working really hard and focusing in on that during AAU. I felt like that helped me tremendously, and then I got here (high school ball), and with everyone just being team first and them second, I felt that helped me a lot because that just rallied my confidence."

"I felt like if I made a mistake, it was OK," Smith said. "They had my back. If I made a mistake, they were right there telling me, 'Shake it off. You've got the next one.' That helped me grow as a player and an individual."

Fellow senior Baylee Balfantz said it's a mentality the senior class has easily embraced.

"There's not one negative personality on this team senior-wise," Balfantz said. "They just make everyone feel like it's not your fault, it's our fault. One person makes a mistake, it's a team mistake. They really help in positive ways."

Smith has responded averaging 10.8 points and 3.4 rebounds per game.

"I was talking to Baylee (Balfantz) the other day," Smith said. "I forgot that I wasn't a point guard before. I just felt like I've always played that position just because I'm so used to it now. It's like normal now, so it's good."

For her part, Balfantz made the move from a 'five' last season to a 'four', where she's averaging 3.0 points and 3.9 rebounds per game. She's not worried about those numbers because she knows how she fits in on the team.

"My role is just to play scrappy – 100 percent on defense and help our scorers score on offense – pound it in (center) Mae (Babin), screen for

roots of her playing style may have begun. "They've always been like that. They'll go play football in the yard, and I always wanted to do that with them. I'm just used to them punching me – not in a bad way. Maybe it's a football side to me. I don't know."

"I kind of like it though," Parker continued. "Not getting hit, but I just like the intensity of it and just playing like that."

Parker is averaging 3.1 points and 3.4 rebounds per game, and while most of her points come from playing under the basket, she's hit seven 3-pointers this season, which she said is a product of the confidence she's built this season with her fellow seniors.

"With this team environment, it's so easy to be confident and just know it's OK to take that shot even if last year I didn't feel confident," Parker said.

"This year, I feel like a whole new person. I feel like it's OK to take that shot, and it's OK to miss them and to shoot them, but if you don't shoot them, you're just going to miss it anyway."

**SENIORS**  
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BOYS BASKETBALL • DOYLE 65, POPE JOHN PAUL II 53

# LATE SURGE LIFTS DOYLE OVER PJP II, TO SHARE OF DISTRICT 10-2A TITLE

**ROB DeARMOND**  
The Livingston Parish News

**LIVINGSTON** — The Doyle boys basketball team wrapped up a share of the District 10-2A championship last Friday night, but Tigers coach Daniel Kennedy said the celebration in the locker room afterward was a bit different.

The reason? The Tigers closed the game with a 13-1 run after Pope John Paul II took its only lead of the game, sealing a 65-53 win at Doyle on Senior Night.

"If you'd have walked into that locker room after the game, you wouldn't have thought we'd won the game," Doyle coach Daniel Kennedy said after his team moved to 23-5 overall and finished 9-1 in district along with Northlake Christian, which defeated French Settlement 72-58. "I told them before winning's fun, but it's really playing well is what's fun. You can win games and know that you didn't play well. They were a frustrated group of guys afterwards, and I was frustrated, too,

obviously. But we are at least co-district champs. We are still where we want to be. It just doesn't feel like it because we did not perform like we were capable of performing."

The Tigers led going into the fourth quarter but struggled from the field. The Jaguars took advantage on the defensive boards, sparking an 11-0 run, with Michael August's 3-pointer giving PJP a 52-51 lead.

John Barrios, who finished with 22 points for the Tigers, hit an inside basket, and the PJP bench was hit with a technical foul, setting up a pair of free throws from Logan Turner to make the score 55-52 with 3:14 to play.

Doyle turned up the defensive pressure, and PJP's turnovers helped spark a 10-1 run to close out the game. Barrios and Braden Keen each scored three points and Thomas Hodges and Turner had baskets during the burst, which was capped when Turner got a steal and fed Barrios for a dunk to cap the scoring.

"Our defense was kind of weak the whole game, so coach really told us to step up, pressure," Barrios said. "We did it towards the end, and it kind of got them to fold under it, so we got a lot of turnovers off of that and easy buckets."

"It's kind of crazy how the game can change," Barrios continued. "We go from sluggish, to running a half-court, doing all right in it and then going to a press and doing amazing."

Turner finished with 15 points, while Keen had nine and Hodges seven.

Doyle led 35-19 at halftime, but PJP hit three 3-pointers during a run that cut the lead to 43-36. Barrios, however, had another dunk during a burst that pushed the lead to 51-38.

The Jaguars went 3-for-4 at the free-throw line to close out the third quarter, making the score 51-41 going into the fourth.

"Wow. Just the frustration in the second half the we just didn't defend, we didn't rebound," Kennedy said. "We did not

rise to any kind of challenge. Very, very disappointing. Thankful to win obviously, always thankful to win, but, man, that's a hard one to watch for sure."

The Tigers worked out of their half-court offense during the third quarter.

"In the third quarter, we tried to play a little full court, but we had no intensity defensively, so we kind of had to get out of it, and we tried to do that in the third quarter to try to get us going," Kennedy said. "Normally, we are a full court kind of team, and we just didn't seem like we had that kind of fight or energy tonight, which is very disappointing this time of year."

Both teams struggled early in the game with the Tigers scoring the game's first point on Barrios' free throw with 4:58 to go in the first quarter. PJP tied the game on Prince Woods' free throw 34 seconds later.

Turner's 3-pointer keyed a run which was capped by a dunk from Barrios, putting the Tigers ahead 17-3 at the end of the first quarter.

## SENIORS: SET TONE FOR FRENCH SETTLEMENT'S SUCCES THIS SEASON

FROM 26

While Smith, Martin, Balfantz and Parker have been mainstays for FSHS over the past few years, Babin is a newcomer to the group, joining the team as a transfer from Dutchtown after not playing as a junior.

"Coming in as a newbie, they showed me what to do," Babin said. "They walked there right with me. They had all been through it before, so they just helped me through it step by step and here we are, doing great."

Babin said it helped that she and the team's other seniors knew each other through playing AAU ball.

"Being that I'd know some of these girls for a few years before, I knew the way they played, their mindset, their team mentality," Babin said. "I was excited -- nervous excitement."

Babin's arrival also gave the Lady Lions something they haven't had in recent seasons -- a true post player.

"Now we've got Mae," Balfantz said. "That makes it a whole lot easier. She's like a wall."

Babin is averaging eight points and 8.9 rebounds per game, an aspect she's more than pleased to bring to the table.

"All of them can knock down threes," Babin said of her senior teammates. "You've seen it in games. It just really brought in a whole new dynamic that we could work with, and I feel like it worked really well with us because we're always ready to learn, ready to keep going, and it just allowed us to

expand as a whole. It just gave us more options. It gave us more ways to work together, and I feel like that's just made us even closer, just having more spots -- more threats."

Dannah Martin gave credit to her father, FSHS coach Daniel Martin, with putting the team on the right path this season.

"He's done a really good job of teaching us how to be leaders, and I think that because of that, we've been able to have a really good, successful season," Dannah Martin said.

In turn, Daniel Martin praised his senior class.

"You couldn't ask for a better group of leaders, let me put it that way," Daniel Martin said. "They take care of a lot of the things that a lot of times with a team as a coach you have to take care of. You couldn't ask for a better group of leaders -- great young ladies. They've all got a great future ahead of them. They just do all the little things -- so fun to coach. They've all got different personalities ... It's just been fun. Sometimes coaching, you forget that part of it. They remind you of how much fun it can be."

Before the season began, Daniel Martin said he was worried about 'messing up' what could be a special season for his seniors, and so far, his seniors have helped him a bit at times.

"There's been a couple of losses to where I said that sometimes they play bad and maybe I can bail them out," Daniel Martin said. "Sometimes I coach bad and they can bail me out."

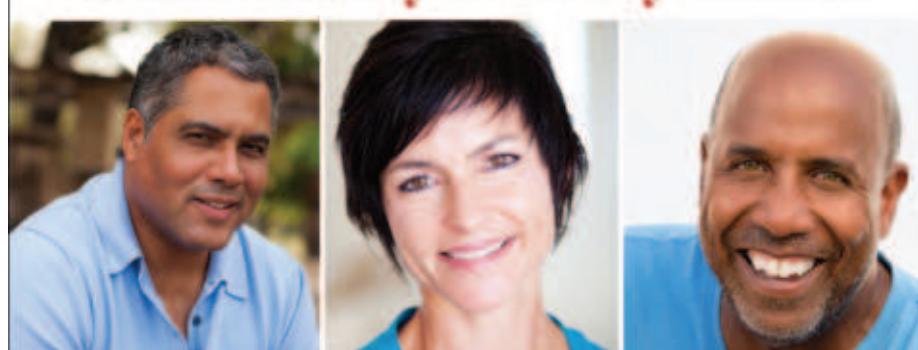
Sometimes we both do bad, and then there's no bailing out. I think we complement each other, but they do more bailing out than I do, I can assure you."

Because of that, the Lady Lions have their sights set on making a deep playoff run they're hoping will end in a

state championship.

"Me as a competitor, I say 'win, win, win, win, win'" Smith said. "Honestly, I feel like we're going to make it as far as we want to make it and as far as we have the drive to make it, so I feel like how far we go is up to us -- up to our team. I believe in us. Why not us?"

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## Sports

# BOYS BASKETBALL • LIVE OAK 59, DENHAM SPRINGS 57, DOUBLE OVERTIME LIVE OAK ABLE TO WITHSTAND DENHAM SPRINGS FOR SECOND DISTRICT WIN OF WEEK

WILLIAM WEATHERS  
The Livingston Parish News

**DENHAM SPRINGS** – For a split second, it appeared Denham Springs would extend an already memorable District 4-5A game with arch-rival Live Oak.

Denham Springs' JaBarry Fortenberry came up with a steal near midcourt with 4.3 seconds left and drove to the goal where he was unable to convert a layup in traffic, enabling Live Oak to survive a 59-57 double overtime thriller last Friday at Grady Hornsby Gymnasium.

"Credit to them, I thought they outplayed us," Live Oak coach John Capps said of Denham Springs. "I got on my guys. I told them we're not going to take it back. We're happy we won, but I didn't know if we necessarily deserved it."

Live Oak (12-15, 2-1) concluded a memorable week of play which began with last Tuesday's 64-61 home win over Walker. The Eagles also took their second win over the Yellow Jackets this season after a 59-34 nondistrict victory Jan. 28.

"We beat Denham twice this year and that doesn't happen often," Capps said. "I told the guys you have the opportunity to be 3-2 versus Denham and Walker this year. It's a winning record and something to be proud of. You're also 2-1 in district. Going into this week I feel like we're in a little better position playoff wise. I feel we can breathe a bit and we can see what we can do."

The feeling of disappointment was obvious for Denham Springs (11-20, 0-3) which had its losing streak extended to seven games with road games ahead at Walker (next Tuesday) and Scotlandville (Friday).

It was the 15th game this season the Yellow Jackets had a game decided by 10 points or less in which they're 9-6 in those games.

"It's a shame because the kids played hard enough to win," Denham Springs coach Kevin Caballero said. "They work hard in practice. We're just young. We had the game if we make free throws. You've also got to finish those plays at the end of the second overtime."

Live Oak, which trailed by four points in the first overtime, took the lead in the second extra session when Byron Smith found Ahmad Pink inside for a basket. Smith, who scored seven of his 10 points in the fourth quarter and overtimes, scored on a put back with 2:16 to go when T.J. Magee answered for Denham Springs on a drive with 1:32 remaining.

The Eagles, leading 58-57, opted to run the clock, held the ball on the perimeter and played keep away until Darian Ricard was fouled, making the front end of the 1-and-1 to make it 59-57 with 26 seconds to play.

Denham Spring set up a play for Magee, who led his team with 22 points, but found himself with a tough 10-footer in the lane that was short against Live Oak's Ahmad Pink, giving Live Oak the ball with 4.3 seconds showing.

The Yellow Jackets' full-court pressure



FILE PHOTO • THE NEWS  
Live Oak's Byron Smith (4) scored seven of his 10 points in the fourth quarter or overtime sessions to help the Eagles to a 59-57 win over Denham Springs.

paid off when a pass from the baseline to midcourt was picked off by Fortenberry, who scored eight of his 10 points in the second half, but was unable to convert his layup attempt.

"Byron had a huge impact in the second half," Capps said. "C.J. (Davis) gave us some good minutes. Sometimes you've got to get close ones and tough ones on the road and that's what this was."

LOHS' senior guard Lawrence Pierre led 16 of his 25 points in the second half, while Ricard and Smith both added 10 points. The Eagles, who turned the ball over 14 times, shot 38% (21 of 56) from the field.

Denham Springs, which trailed for all but three minutes of the first half and shot 35% (22 of 63), overcame a seven-point deficit (37-30) late in the third quarter and took a 44-42 lead with 4:42 left when Magee scored and was fouled on a drive to the goal, only to miss the subsequent free throw.

"We had the game if we make free throws," Caballero said. "You've got to finish those plays at the end of the second overtime. He (Fortenberry) did exactly what I would have wanted him to do, he stole the ball and down two, he drove to the rim. The play before T.J. did exactly what I asked him to do. He just didn't finish. They're young kids, that hurts."

Denham Springs overcame a 7-0 deficit and took its first lead (18-17) on Elijah Gilmore's free throw midway through the second quarter.

There were three lead changes over the last 1:23 when Amar Pink gave the Eagles a 23-22 halftime edge, something the Eagles stretched to 37-30 with 2:41 left in the third quarter on Pink's two free throws.

Magee became more assertive, scoring 16 points in the second half, knocking down a 15-footer with 6:06 left, drawing Denham Springs with 42-40.

Fortenberry's steal and layup tied the game at 42-all and he triggered a fast-break with a blocked shot which led to Magee's drive and 44-42 lead.

There were two lead changes and two ties in the fourth quarter, including a free throw from Pierre that made it 46-46 and Live Oak took the lead with 27 seconds left on Smith's tip-in.

Kyle Williams, the lone senior for Denham Springs, who was recognized beforehand for Senior Night, tied the game

for DSHS at 48-48 on a put back with 6.8 seconds left but with an opportunity to win the game, Fortenberry came up short on his driving layup against defensive pressure.

"You've got to do those little things," Caballero said. "At the end of the day the team that makes the plays is going to win, especially when it's tight like that. They made one more than we did."

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## BOYS SOCCER • DENHAM SPRINGS 4, GRACE KING 0



MICHAEL BACIGALUPI • SPECIAL TO THE NEWS  
Denham Springs Will Chevalier (9) works around Grace King's Sergio Diaz (22).

## DSHS OFFENSE ERUPTS AFTER PENALTY KICK FOR 4-0 REGIONAL PLAYOFF WIN

BY WILLIAM WEATHERS  
The Livingston Parish News

**DENHAM SPRINGS** — At first thought, Denham Springs' Brennan Amato wasn't certain he could even get to the airborne ball.

With a corner kick from Will Chevalier fluttering through the chilly evening, Amato was positioned on the left side of the goal in the six-yard box. Not only was he able to settle the ball, but quickly fired a shot with an upward trajectory that sailed straight into the raised hands of a Grace King defender.

The sequence resulted in a handling call against No. 18 Grace King and because it occurred in the penalty box, Denham Springs was awarded a penalty kick which Chevalier kept on the ground into the right side of the goal, snapping a scoreless tie in the 60th minute to send the No. 2 Yellow Jackets on their way to a 4-0 victory in last Thursday's Division I state regional playoff.

"At first I didn't think I could get to it, but I knew I was going to have to take a quick touch," Amato said. "I thought I was going to miss and shot it right to the guys' hands. It was a good momentum shift for us. It was tied most of the game and we needed that spark."

Denham Springs (19-7-1) went on to score a total of four goals over the final 20 minutes of play, including one each from Amato and a second from Chevalier, to earn the program's third straight trip to the state quarterfinals.

The Yellow Jackets traveled Tuesday to No. 23 Captain Shreve which upset No. 7 St. Amant, 2-1 in double overtime.

"This team amazes me," Denham Springs coach Chris Thorne said. "The maturity of the sophomores coming in and the senior class stepping up and leading in their roles. It's amazing how much this team has jelled and had success. It's not the coaching. It's the players."

Denham Springs held a 1-0 lead until pushing its lead to 3-0 within a span of a minute in the 71st minute.

Not long after replacing an injured Noah Hood, sophomore Aristides Chavez helped provide his team with some breathing room with a nifty pass across the field to Amato, who won his one-on-one battle around the goalkeeper.

"There's a little bit of pressure on us because we're supposed to beat this team," Amato said. "We knew our style of play and we could beat this team if we played the right way. We kept our attack on the ground. We know we can beat any team if we play the right way."

Chevalier picked up a brace when he ran onto a through ball inside the 15-yard line, went to his right to get around a defender and made it 3-0.

"The first goal opened the game up for sure and then the floodgates opened," Chevalier said. "Once we were up 1-0, we knew they had to chase the game and that left them free in the back, so we took advantage of it and we put three more in."

Sophomore Jon Baio capped his team's scoring by driving down the right side, cutting inside a defender and scoring from 25 yards out.

It was quite a contrast to the first half where Denham Springs, which was playing for the first time since wrapping up the District 3-I title Feb. 4 with a 4-0 win at St. Thomas More, encountered

some difficulty going into a stiff wind.

DSHS put seven of nine shots on target in the opening half and wound up with 12 of 17 shots on goal.

The Jackets, led by center backs Luke Restivo and Connelly Herrin along with goalkeeper Tyler Burkett (5 saves), lim-

ited the Irish (16-4) to four of six shots on goal.

"We knew we had to fight to win this game," Chevalier said. "Grace King was coming in fired up. We knew we had to fight the whole 80 minutes to get the win."

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