



COMMUNITY RESCUES

COMMUNITY CLEAN UP



The Livingston Parish News

VOLUME 118, NUMBER 105

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LIVINGSTON PARISH PUBLIC SCHOOLS



DAVID NORMAND, KEVIN FAMBROUGH | THE NEWS

At top, Jessica Hebert, of Denham Springs High; Ginger Brinegar, of Live Oak High, in window; and Theresa Bankston, of Live Oak High, inventory losses Tuesday Aug 23, in a classroom. Above, Carol Tate pauses while deciding what will be saved and what goes into the garbage in her family consumer science classroom at Springfield High School on Wednesday, Aug. 24.

Denham Springs High starts post-flood cleaning

By Kevin Fambrough

The Livingston Parish News

DENHAM SPRINGS — Teacher Kevin Dorhauer doesn't realize it but he has a couple of fans at Denham

Springs High School. Dorahuer's acts of kindness before floodwaters covered the school Aug. 13 saved both personal and school items for two fellow

teachers. The teachers discovered this Tuesday, Aug. 23,

DSHS PAGE A9

Springfield High begins rebuilding

By Kevin Fambrough

The Livingston Parish News

SPRINGFIELD — Blue tape was the passport to safety. As Springfield High School teachers went through their flood-ravaged classrooms Wednesday for the first time, if it

could be saved, it got blue tape. No blue tape meant the garbage bin. Getting instructional materials, posters, textbooks, microscopes and computers into storage or the garbage bin was made

easier by teachers from Springfield Elementary and Middle schools and the Albany schools who volunteered to help. "It's awesome. I think

SPRINGFIELD PAGE A8

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT



MCHUGH DAVID, JOHN DUPONT | THE NEWS

Above, the Capital One building, pictured here off of Hummell Street in Denham Springs, will host the Denham Springs government temporarily while repairs are made to their flooded offices. At left, The temporary location of the Albany Town Hall operates in the building which formerly occupied the Livingston Parish Health Unit.

Denham relocates to downtown

By John Dupont

The Livingston Parish News

DENHAM SPRINGS — A phone call Mayor Gerard Landry received earlier this week brought him a huge sense of relief.

Gretna Mayor Belinda Constant

DENHAM PAGE A4

Albany moves to old Health Unit

By John Dupont

The Livingston Parish News

ALBANY — It's back to business for the Town of Albany — or at least as close as things can get after a record flood.

The town of just under 1,100

ALBANY PAGE A5

SPORTS A16

Denham football gets back to work despite hardships, weather.



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Livingston Parish Churches

APOSTOLIC CHURCH
Anchor Apostolic Church
 Dean Walsworth, Pastor,
 30006 Bridge Rd., Livingston
 572-3846/435-0287
Praise Temple Apostolic Pentecostal Church
 12825 Arnold Rd., Walker
First Apostolic Church of Jesus Christ
 Lockhart Rd., Denham Springs
 665-8123
Live Oak Apostolic Church
 36109 Hwy 16
 Denham Springs • 405-4699
Livingwater Apostolic Church
 27952 South Red Oaks,
 Livingston • 686-3700
Magnolia Apostolic Church of Jesus Christ
 8333 Rosewood St.,
 Denham Springs • 791-9512

ASSEMBLY OF GOD
First Assembly of God
 Hwy. 190, Denham Springs
 664-3163
Freedom Worship Center
 26490 Frost Rd., Livingston
 698-9031

BAPTIST
Amite Baptist Church
 7100 Amite Church Rd.,
 Denham Springs • 665-2762.
Bethel Baptist Church
 20149 Circle Dr., Livingston
 686-2368
Bethlehem Baptist Church
 Hwy. 43 South, Albany • 567-3666
Cane Market Rd. Baptist Church
 35652 Cane Market Rd.,
 Denham Springs • 665-6846
Carroll Baptist Church
 Hwy. 1024 East,
 6 miles north of Walker • 665-1061
Christ's Community Church
 26574 Juban Rd.,
 Denham Springs • 791-9333
Coyell Baptist Church
 19524 La. Hwy. 42, Livingston
 698-6243

Community Church
 32234 Walnut St., Springfield
 294-3733
Don Avenue Baptist Church
 1010 Don Ave., Denham Springs
 665-5150

Doyle Baptist Church
 20745 Utah St., Livingston
 686-2341
Emmanuel Baptist Church
 10453 Arnold Rd.,
 Denham Springs • 664-7249
Faith Baptist Church
 17884 Hwy. 42, Livingston
 698-6018

Faith Missionary Baptist Church
 30993 Hwy. 16 N., Denham Springs
Faithway Baptist Mission
 31575 Bankston Rd., Holden
 567-9629

First Baptist Church of Albany
 Hwy. 190, Albany • 664-3163
First Baptist Church of Denham Springs
 308 River Rd., Denham Springs
 664-4102

First Baptist Church of French Settlement
 16735 La. Hwy 16S, French Settlement
 698-9994

First Baptist Church of Head of Island
 19114 Hwy. 22, Head of Island
First Baptist Church of Holden
 30130 Hwy 441 Holden • 567-9368
First Baptist Church of Livingston
 29401 S. Frost Rd., Livingston
 686-2314

First Baptist Church of Springfield
 31665 Hwy. 22 • 294-2156
Fundamental Baptist Church
 24240 S. Frost Rd., 9 mi.
 South of I-12, Livingston
 698-6157 or 698-3802
Genesis Church
 25353 Walker South Rd.,
 Denham Springs • 664-2622
Glory Baptist Church
 28450 Red Oak Rd., Livingston
Grace Baptist Temple
 222 Range Ave., Denham Springs
Grace Bible Baptist Church
 26060 Wax Rd., Denham Springs
 664-3557

Gray's Creek Baptist Church
 21039 Hwy. 16, Denham Springs
 665-2127

Greater Third Zion Baptist Church
 23956 Hwy. 22, Maurepas
Greater St. Mark Baptist Church
 13590 Dunn St., Walker • 664-2742

Hebron Baptist Church
 24063 Hwy. 16 South,
 Denham Springs • 665-6278
Hillside Baptist Church
 31320 Old B.R. Hwy., Albany
 567-3212

Judson Baptist Church
 32470 N. Walker Rd., Walker
 665-5481

Killian First Baptist Church
 27994 Hwy. 22., Killian • 695-6581
Live Oak Baptist Church
 35603 Coxo Ave.,
 Denham Springs • 243-6138

Lockhart Rd. Baptist Church
 8327 Lockhart Rd.,
 Denham Springs • 665-0374
Macedonia Baptist Church
 34685 Hwy 1036, Holden • 777-4602

Magnolia Baptist Church
 21445 La. 442, Holden • 567-9540
Maurepas Baptist Church
 24309 Hwy. 22, Maurepas
 695-3120

Midway Baptist
 1004 Hatchell Lane,
 Denham Springs • 664-3386
Midway Baptist Church
 27284 S. Satsuma Rd.,
 Livingston • 698-9412

Mount Hope Baptist Church
 206 Sullivan St.,
 Denham Springs • 665-1928
Mount Olive Baptist Church
 31384 Dunn Rd., Denham Springs
 664-5074

New Bethlehem Church
 37818 Reinninger Rd.,
 Denham Springs • 664-7532
New Covenant Baptist Church
 215 Florida Ave.,
 Denham Springs • 664-0858

New Zion Baptist Church
 126 E. St., Denham Springs
 664-7269

Northside Baptist Church
 200 Cockerham Rd.,
 Denham Springs • 664-3161
Oak View Baptist Church
 27364 Hwy 63, Livingston
 686-2030

Open Door Baptist Church
 7000 Gloryland Way,
 Denham Springs • 667-4679
Plainview Baptist Church
 S. Walker Rd., Walker • 665-6969

Pine Grove Baptist Church
 21949 Hwy. 444
 near Bayou Barbary,
 Livingston • 698-6137

Red Oak Baptist Church
 28760 S. Red Oak Rd.,
 Livingston • 686-2588

Riverside Baptist Church
 36890 Hwy. 16, Denham Springs
 664-1278

Salem Baptist Church
 36474 Weiss Rd / Hwy 63,
 Walker • 667-2588
Satsuma Baptist Church
 29896 Satsuma Rd., Livingston
 686-2563

Southside Baptist Church
 7572 Vincent Rd.,
 Denham Springs • 665-5868
South Walker Baptist Church
 13719 Hammack Rd., Walker
 369-0109

Springville Baptist Church
 22902 Livingston Aux. 42
 294-2720

St. Paul's Baptist Church
 Head of Island, LA
The New Beginnings Baptist Church
 9768 Florida Blvd., Walker
 281-2470

The Way Church
 9270 Cockerham Rd., Denham Springs
Victory Baptist Church
 31449 North Corbin Road, Walker
Walker Baptist Church
 10696 Florida Blvd., Walker
 665-8368

Watson Baptist Church
 35831 Cane Market Rd., Watson
 667-8818

Woodland Baptist Church
 27929 Hwy 1037 • 225-294-5530

CATHOLIC
Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
 Hatchell Ln., Denham Springs
 665-5359

St. Joseph Catholic Church
 15710 Hwy 16,
 French Settlement • 698-3110
St. Margaret Catholic Church
 30300 Catholic Hall Rd. (Hwy 43-S &
 I-12) Albany • 567-3573

St. Thomas Catholic Church
 32121 Main St. Springfield
 567-3573
Sacred Heart Catholic Church
 29589 S. Poplar, Livingston
 665-5359

CHURCH OF CHRIST
Church of Christ in Walker
 Hwy. 190 East, Walker • 664-0457
Denham Springs Church of Christ
 118 St. Louis St.,
 Denham Springs • 665-5261

CHURCH OF GOD
Chapelwood Church of God
 2119 Tower St., Denham Springs
 772-6371

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS
Denham Springs First Ward
 25367 Riverton Ave.,
 Denham Springs • 664-7671
Denham Springs Second Ward
 25367 Riverton Ave.,
 Denham Springs • 665-1581

EPISCOPAL
St. Francis Episcopal Church
 Corner of Maple
 & The Angelian Way,
 Denham Springs • 665-2707

METHODIST
Faith Crossing United Methodist Church
 34260 Walker North, Walker
 243-6094
First United Methodist Church
 316 Centerville NW,
 Denham Springs • 665-8995
James Chapel United Methodist Church
 28200 James Chapel Rd.,
 Holden • 567-1007

Huff Chapel United Methodist
 Huff Chapel Rd., Killian
 225-695-6846

Live Oak United Methodist Church
 Hwy. 16, Watson • 664-4801
Livingston Methodist Church
 29725 S. Poplar St., Livingston
 686-7808

Robert United Methodist Church
 201 Julia St., Denham Springs
 664-7979

St. James United Methodist Church
 31390 Hwy. 22, Springfield
 294-6717

Walker United Methodist Church
 30167 Stump St., Walker • 664-7770

PENTECOSTAL
First United Pentecostal Church
 S. Range Ave., Denham Springs 665-
 2792

House of God Hebrew Pentecostal
 Joe Bell, Pastor, 13542 Dunn St.,
 Walker

Lighthouse Pentecostal Church
 Arnold Rd., Denham Springs
 665-6909

New Day Christian Centre
 12119 Florida Blvd., Walker
 667-1602

One Hope Ministries
 24603 Walker S., Walker
 241-9929

Shady Bower Pentecostal Church
 N. Walker Rd., Walker • 571-8793
Redeeming Life
 31291 Walker North, Walker
 667-6400

Sonlight Ministries/Community Chapel
 35490 Walker N, Walker
Unity Church of God & Christ
 30291 North Walker Rd., Walker
 243-5744

Hope Center UPCI
 10161 Florida Blvd., Walker
 380-5040

Unity Prayer Center
 28145 Frost Road, Livingston
 686-1518

Victory Temple Pentecostal Church
 28450 S. Red Oak Rd.,
 Livingston • 686-7402
Walker Pentecostal Church
 12750 Florida Blvd., Walker
 667-3138

PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF GOD
Faith Fellowship Pentecostal Church of God
 10779 Yarin St.,
 Denham Springs • 791-5879

PRESBYTERIAN
Albany Hungarian Presbyterian Church
 Hwy. 43, Hungarian Settlement
 567-2098

OTHER CHURCHES
Abundant Life Church
 Edgewood Dr., Denham Springs
 665-7000

Accountability Church
 33719 Hwy.16, Watson • 665-4444
Bible Missionary Church
 Barnett Rd., Denham Springs
 665-1680

Christian Center Church
 8774 Dave Clark Rd.,
 Denham Springs • 667-4331
Christian Fellowship Church
 13701 Vincent Place Ave.,
 Denham Springs • 698-3807
Church of God Intensive Care Ministry
 429 Josephine St.,
 Denham Springs • 664-6293

Crossway Church
 10161 Florida Blvd., Walker
 665-1423

Denham Springs 7th Day Adventist Church
 Hwy. 16 at Cook Rd.,
 Denham Springs • 664-9829
Faith of Christ Fellowship
 25671B Pete's Hwy
 Denham Springs • 308-4110

Glory of God Worship Center
 1114 Rodeo Dr
 (East of Pete's Hwy) • 791-4464
Grace Community Bible Church
 1000 Cockerham Rd.,
 Denham Springs • 664-0971

Grace Full Gospel Christian Fellowship
 7519 Amite Church Rd., • 667-1612
Greater Faith Outreach Ministries
 602 Myrtle St., Denham Springs
Higher Destiny Biker Church
 600 Florida Blvd.,
 Denham Springs • 243-6280

House of Prayer Holiness Church
 38523 Weiss Rd., Walker • 664-5498
Impact Church
 34401 Hwy. 16, Denham Springs
 667-0731

King's Harvest Fellowship Church
 9360 Florida Blvd., Walker
 791-3063

LifePoint Church
 24930 Hwy. 16, Denham Springs
 953-0516

Life World Outreach Church
 9036 Florida Blvd. Walker
 665-7209

Living Word, The
 704 N. Range • 665-2118
Luke 10:27
 536 Centerville St., Denham Springs
 664-1027

Miracle Place Church
 Florida Blvd. at 4-H Club Rd.
 Denham Springs • 775-4321
New Beginning Christian Fellowship
 20874 La Hwy 16 South • 667-4490

New Day Christian Center
 Hwy. 190 Walker • 667-1602
New Testament House Church
 9033 Sarah St., Denham Springs
 665-2943

Restoration Church
 33719 La. Hwy 16, Watson
 665-0076.

Revival Temple
 Walker South Rd., Walker
 664-4027

River of Life Worship Center
 18295 Hwy 16, Port Vincent
 698-9640

The Church of Livingston
 26490 S. Frost Rd. Livingston
 698-9312

Way of the Cross Church
 30565 Corby Dr.,
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Walker
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PUBLIC NOTICES

Public Hearing: Introduce an ordinance: An ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 26 SUB-SECTION B "WATER REGULATIONS," SECTION 26:110 "WORK DONE BY THE VILLAGE IN MAKING CONNECTIONS; FEE" AND SECTION 26:113 "ADMINISTRATIVE FEE FOR NEW ACCOUNTS, PROPERTY OWNER RESPONSIBLE FOR WATER CHARGES" OF THE CODE ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF PORT WICENT, LOUISIANA, SO AS TO CORRECT FEES, AND ADDRESS OTHER MATTERS RELATIVE THERETO.

CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF WALKER, LOUISIANA

The following resolution was offered by Mr. Jonathan Davis and seconded by Mr. Eric Cook.

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL OF THE COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PARISH OF LIVINGSTON AND THE CITY OF WALKER FOR STORM DEBRIS REMOVAL SERVICES AND MONITORING SERVICES DUE TO THE AUGUST 2016 FLOODING EVENT

WHEREAS, the City of Walker requested the Parish of Livingston to help in the Removal of Debris and Monitoring process.

WHEREAS, the debris removal contractor, Ceres Environment Services Inc. and Will O'Brien's LLC, the monitoring contractor for oversight of the debris removal services that the Parish of Livingston selected.

WHEREAS, the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the Parish of Livingston and the City of Walker, states that the contract between Parish of Livingston and debris removal contractor and monitoring services contractor meet the FEMA standards and it is anticipated that 100% of debris removed by the contractor as approved by the monitor will be subject to reimbursement by FEMA at their customary 75% rate.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and the City Council of the City of Walker, Louisiana, that the City of Walker authorizes approval of the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the Parish of Livingston and the City of Walker for Storm Debris Removal services and monitoring services due to the August 2016 Flooding Event.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council for the City of Walker, Louisiana gives the Mayor or his designee, Fred Raiford, authority to execute any and all documents required pertaining to this project including certifying requests for state disbursements.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately. This Resolution having been submitted to a vote thereof was as follows:

Yeas: Cook, Davis and Major
Nays: None
Absent: Griffin and Roberts

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted on the 22nd day of August, 2016 by the City Council of the City of Walker, Louisiana, at a meeting held at the City Hall, Walker, Louisiana, on said date, at which meeting a quorum was present and voted unanimously in favor thereof and this Resolution has not been revoked or rescinded.

Myra Streeter
Myra Streeter, Clerk
MMC, CMA, CAA

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WALKER, LOUISIANA

BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Walker, a municipality located in Livingston Parish, by a motion offered by Mr. Eric Cook and seconded by Mrs. Scarlet Major hereby stating that:

A RESOLUTION, temporarily waiving all permit fees for the repair, renovation, demolition or construction of structures damaged by the recent flooding located within the City limits of Walker.

WHEREAS, the recent flooding within the city limits of Walker has severely damaged or destroyed a large number of dwellings, places of business and other structures and improvements in the City creating an emergency situation; and

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest to assist in the efforts of the affected property owners and tenants to repair, renovate, relocate, demolish or replace the structures and improvements damaged by the flooding that occurred in August of 2016.

WHEREAS, the imposition and collection of permit fees on such activities would add a further impediment to recovery by the affected property owners and tenants; and

WHEREAS, for the public safety and welfare all repairs, renovation, relocation, demolition and construction work should be performed by qualified persons with appropriate licenses and insurance.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the governing authority of the City of Walker, State of Louisiana acting in such capacity:

A. The following fees imposed by the City of Walker for licenses and permits are hereby waived and shall not be collected for activities undertaken to repair, remodel, renovate, relocate, demolish or replace structures and improvements damaged by the flooding that occurred in August 2016.

B. All Emergency permit fees are waived during the duration of this resolution.

C. The waiver of fees provided for by this resolution shall apply only to those areas actually damaged by flooding that has occurred due to the flooding event in August of 2016.

D. Recreational vehicles, i.e. campers will be allowed for temporary housing for up to 6 months from the date of this resolution as long as progress is being made toward rebuilding and refurbishing the affected dwelling.

DURATION OF WAIVER

This waiver of fees shall apply to permits applied for between August 12, 2016 and September 12, 2016, both dates inclusive.

EFFECTIVE DATE

This resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately after its passage and publication as required by law. This resolution and any waiver of fees allowed pursuant to this resolution shall have and be of no further force and effect after September 12, 2016.

This Resolution having been submitted to a vote thereon was as follows:

Yeas: Cook, Davis, Griffin, Major and Roberts
Nays: None
Absent: None

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted on the 23rd day of August 2016 by the City Council of the City of Walker, Louisiana, at a meeting held at the City Hall, Walker, Louisiana, on said date, at which meeting a quorum was present and voted unanimously in favor thereof and this Resolution has not been revoked or rescinded.

Myra Streeter
Myra Streeter, Clerk
MMC, CMA, CAA

FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #4 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS July 18, 2016

Mr. Dugas called the Regular Board Meeting of the Board of Commissioners to order at 6:00 p.m. The invocation was given by Mr. Falks and the assembly recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Dugas called the roll with the following members present: Mr. Joseph Blanchard, Mr. Robert Dugas, Mr. Jeff Easley, and Mr. Leslie Falks. Mr. Dorian Blevins was absent. Chief James Watson, Mr. Trey Sanders (Harris T. Bourgeois, LLP), Deputy Chief Trey Jackson, Mr. Scott Marcie (Glinda), and many LPPFD4 members.

Mr. Falks made the motion, seconded by Mr. Easley, to adopt the minutes of the June 20, 2016 Regular Board Meeting.

Ayes: Mr. Blanchard, Mr. Dugas, Mr. Easley, Mr. Falks
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Mr. Blevins

June 2016 Financial Report was given by Mr. Trey Sanders with Harris T. Bourgeois, LLP.

Mr. Trey Sanders approached the board about increasing the monthly bookkeeping fee. Mr. Dugas request a financial request with fee break down.

There being no old business to discuss, the Board moved on to new business.

Mr. Easley made the motion, seconded by Mr. Blanchard, to adopt the resolution No. 16-000:

Ayes: Mr. Blanchard, Mr. Dugas, Mr. Easley, Mr. Falks
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Mr. Blevins

Mr. Dugas announced the Public Hearing for the 2016 Millage Rate which will be held on Monday, August 15, 2016 at 6:00 pm at 29758 S. Palmisto Street, Walker, LA 70785.

Chief's report was given by Chief Watson.

Commissioner's Report was given by Mr. Robert Dugas.

There being no further business before the board, Mr. Falks made the motion, seconded by Mr. Blanchard to adjourn.

Ayes: Mr. Blanchard, Mr. Dugas, Mr. Easley, Mr. Falks
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Mr. Blevins

Robert Dugas
Robert Dugas, Chairman

RESOLUTION

A resolution authorizing the Livingston Parish Law Enforcement District to incur debt and issue, execute, negotiate, sell and deliver not to exceed Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000) of Revenue Bonds, Series 2016, of the Livingston Parish Law Enforcement District, providing for the employment of Bond Counsel; and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

WHEREAS, the Livingston Parish Law Enforcement District, (the "Law Enforcement District") is a political subdivision of the State of Louisiana, organized and existing pursuant to the provisions of La. R.S. 39:901, et seq; and

WHEREAS, Section 1430 of Title 39 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended (the "Act"), authorizes the Law Enforcement District to issue revenue bonds for any authorized purpose payable from any source whatsoever, including income, revenues and receipts derived or to be derived from the properties and facilities owned, maintained or operated by a public entity or received by a public entity from these properties and facilities, or from contracts or agreements relating to these properties and facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Sheriff and Ex-Officio Chief Executive Officer of the Law Enforcement District, acting as governing authority of the Law Enforcement District, now desires to incur debt and issue not to exceed Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000) of its Revenue Bonds, Series 2016 (the "Bonds"), in the manner authorized and provided by the Act, as hereinafter provided, payable from all available revenues of the Law Enforcement District (the "Pledged Revenues"); (i) to pay current operations of the Law Enforcement District in anticipation of revenues of the Law Enforcement District; and (ii) to pay the costs incurred in connection with the issuance of the Bonds; and

WHEREAS, the Sheriff and Ex-Officio Chief Executive Officer of the Law Enforcement District desires to approve the filing of an application with the Louisiana State Bond Commission (the "Commission"), requesting that the Commission approve the issuance of the Bonds in accordance with the requirements of the Act; and

WHEREAS, it is the intention of the Sheriff and Ex-Officio Chief Executive Officer of the Law Enforcement District that the Bonds authorized herein be secured by and payable solely from a pledge and dedication of the Pledged Revenues, all in accordance with the provisions of the Act and other constitutional and statutory authority; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Sheriff and Ex-Officio Chief Executive Officer of the Law Enforcement District, acting as the governing authority of the Law Enforcement District that:

SECTION 1. As used herein, the following terms shall have the following meanings, unless the context otherwise requires:

"Act" means Section 1430 of Title 39 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended.

"Bond" or "Bonds" means the Revenue Bonds, Series 2016, of the Law Enforcement District, authorized to be issued by this Resolution, in the total aggregate principal amount of not to exceed Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000).

"Law Enforcement District" means the Livingston Parish Law Enforcement District.

"Owner" or "Owners" when used with respect to any Bond means the person in whose name such Bond is registered in the Bond Register.

"Pledged Revenues" means all available revenues of the Law Enforcement District.

"Resolution" means this resolution authorizing the issuance of the Bonds.

SECTION 2. Subject to the approval of the Commission, and in compliance with the terms and provisions of the Act, and other constitutional and statutory authority, there be and there is hereby authorized the incurring of an indebtedness of Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000) for, on behalf of, and in the name of the Law Enforcement District, (i) to pay current operations of the Law Enforcement District in anticipation of revenues of the Law Enforcement District; said bonds to mature on March 1, 2019; and (ii) to pay the costs incurred in connection with the issuance of the Bonds; and to represent said indebtedness, the Sheriff and Ex-Officio Chief Executive Officer of the Law Enforcement District, acting as governing authority of the Law Enforcement District, does hereby authorize the issuance of Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000) of Revenue Bonds, Series 2016, of the Law Enforcement District, at a rate or rates not exceeding five per centum (5.00%) per annum, including over a period not exceeding ten (10) years from the date thereof and sold at a price of not less than the par amount thereof.

SECTION 3. The Bonds shall be secured by and payable solely from a pledge and dedication of the Pledged Revenues. There is hereby irrevocably pledged and dedicated to the payment of the Bonds the Pledged Revenues. The Bonds are payable on a *pari passu*, parity basis with the \$2,800,000 Revenue Bonds, Series 2014, of the Law Enforcement District, in the outstanding principal amount of \$2,240,000.

SECTION 4. The Sheriff and Ex-Officio Chief Executive Officer of the Law Enforcement District is hereby empowered, authorized and directed to do any and all things necessary and incidental to carry out the provisions of this Resolution, to cause the necessary Bonds to be printed or lithographed, to issue, execute, sign and seal the Bonds, and to effect delivery thereof as hereinafter provided. All of the proceeds derived from the sale of the Bonds shall be deposited by the Law Enforcement District with its fiscal agent bank to be expended only for the purpose for which the Bonds are issued.

SECTION 5. The Bonds shall constitute legal, binding and valid obligations of the Law Enforcement District and shall be the only representation of the indebtedness herein authorized and created.

SECTION 6. The law firm of Brazeale, Stacks & Wilson, L.L.P., Bond Counsel, is hereby employed as Bond Counsel to the Law Enforcement District to handle all matters of a legal nature in connection with the negotiation, sale, issuance and delivery of the Bonds. The fee to be paid Brazeale, Stacks & Wilson, L.L.P. in connection with said program of finance shall not exceed the Attorney General's then current Bond Counsel Fee Schedule and other guidelines for comprehensive, legal and coordinate professional work in the issuance of revenue bonds applied to the actual aggregate principal amount issued, sold, delivered and paid for; the time such bonds are delivered, together with reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses incurred and advanced in connection therewith, said fee to be payable out of the proceeds of the Bonds or such other funds provided by the Law Enforcement District subject to the Attorney General's written approval of said employment and fee to be paid with such proceeds as required by the Act. A certified copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the Attorney General of the State of Louisiana for his approval of the employment herein provided for.

SECTION 7. Bond Counsel is hereby directed to forward a certified copy of this Resolution to the State Bond Commission, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, along with a letter requesting prompt approval of this application.

SECTION 8. The Sheriff and Ex-Officio Chief Executive Officer of the Law Enforcement District does hereby designate the Bonds as "qualified tax-exempt obligations" under Section 265(b)(3)(B)(ii) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

SECTION 9. By virtue of the Law Enforcement District's application for acceptance and utilization of the benefits of the Louisiana State Bond Commission's approval received and set forth therein, the Law Enforcement District resolves that it understands and agrees that such approval is expressly conditioned upon, and it further resolves that it understands, agrees and binds itself, its successors and assigns to, full and continuing compliance with the "State Bond Commission Policy on Approval of Proposed Use of Swaps, or other forms of Derivative Products Hedges, Etc.," adopted by the Commission on July 20, 2006, as to the borrowing and other matters subject to the approval, including subsequent application and approval under said Policy of the implementation or use of any swap(s) or other product(s) or enhancement(s) covered hereby.

And the Resolution was adopted on this, the 23rd day of August, 2016.

By: *Jonathan And*
Jonathan And, Sheriff and Ex-Officio Chief Executive Officer of the Livingston Parish Law Enforcement District

SPORTS SHORTS

**Kiwanis Club of Hammond
Tour de Tangipahoa**

The Kiwanis Club of Hammond is inviting cyclists to become a part of the 24th annual Tour de Tangipahoa. The event, set for Saturday, Sept. 17, will feature 30 and 60-mile rides.

This fully catered event will take cyclists through the beautiful countryside of Tangipahoa Parish located on the North Shore in the fabled Florida Parishes.

Cyclists will pedal along protected, hard-surfaced roads through the heart of Tangipahoa Parish. The countryside is interesting and picturesque and the September date should allow for pleasant weather for participants.

Those joining in the fun will be assisting the Hammond Kiwanis Club in its many projects that benefit the community. Throughout the year, the Hammond Kiwanis Club sponsors many activities that have as their purpose assistance to different individuals and groups in the area. During its 75-year history of community service, the Hammond Kiwanis Club has

served countless thousands, especially the young, in the area and region.

Cost of entry is \$35 prior to Sept. 12 and \$40 after that.

Sponsorships are not required. A free T-shirt will be given to all who ride. Refreshments, including sports juice, fruit, candy and water will be provided at numerous rest stops along the route. A free lunch awaits riders at the conclusion of the tour.

Check-in time for the tour will be at 6 a.m. at Cooke Field between the University Center and the Alumni Center on the campus of Southeastern Louisiana. The 60-mile riders depart at 7:30 a.m. and the 30-mile event gets underway at 9 a.m.

For additional information, contact Judy Couvillion at (985) 345.8127 or (985) 507.7312, visit the tour's web site (www.hammondkiwanis.org) or e-mail blaise47@att.net.

Denham Springs High School Hall of Fame ceremony postponed indefinitely

The annual Denham Springs High School Hall of Fame induction ceremony

has been postponed indefinitely in the wake of the rains and flood that damaged Livingston Parish.

The event was scheduled for Sept. 22 at Forest Grove, but the facility will not be available for banquets for at least two months.

Please check back with the Livingston Parish News often for more information on when the banquet and induction will be rescheduled.

Big Easy Golf Academy Fall Classic

Livingston Parish junior golfers ages 11-18 are invited to compete in the AJGT Rob Noel's Big Easy Golf Academy Fall Classic at Lakewood Country Club in New Orleans from Sept. 10-11.

The two-day, 36-hole tournament is ranked by the Junior Golf Scoreboard and hosted by the Arrowhead Junior Golf Tour.

The tournament entry fee is \$185 and includes two days of green fees, tee gifts and trophies in four age divisions.

Recommended accommodations are available at Holiday Inn New Orleans

Westbank in Gretna. Call (504) 366.8535 for reservations and group rate.

The tournament extended registration deadline is noon Wednesday Sept. 7. To enter the event, please call Diane Ford at (985) 630.3066 or enter online at www.arrowheadjgt.com.

Live Oak Wrestling Club registration

Live Oak Wrestling Club is now registering for the 2016-2017 season. Information is available at www.liveoakwrestle.com or on Facebook (Live Oak Wrestling Club). Also, those interested can contact LOWCeagles@yahoo.com or 225-636-1066. Or register at the training facility on Commerce Drive in Watson Monday-Thursday from 6:30-8 p.m.

Sports Shorts regularly publishes items of interest to the Livingston Parish sports community concerning programs and events such as registrations, tryouts, benefits and other activities.

To submit an item for Sports Shorts, call (225) 665.5176, fax to (225) 667.0167 or e-mail to sports@livingstonparishnews.com.

LSU BASEBALL



LSUSPORTS.NET

LSU's 2017 non-conference home schedule features visits from Maryland and Wichita State.

LSU baseball unveils 2017 schedule, roster

Staff report

The Livingston Parish News

LSU baseball released its 2017 roster and schedule earlier this week.

Tigers' coach Paul Mainieri said that members of a 13-man recruiting class should make an immediate impact on the 2017 squad, which has also been bolstered by the return of several veteran players that were selected in the 2016 Major League Baseball Draft.

Four drafted Tigers all elected to return: Senior left-handed pitcher Jared Kramer Robertson, senior second baseman Cole Freeman and junior first baseman Greg Deichmann.

"(LSU recruiting coordinator/hitting coach) Andy Cannizaro and I were just saying that our best class may have come with the veteran players who decided to stay here," said Mainieri, a three-time National Coach of the Year who is entering his 11th season at LSU. "It's pretty remarkable to have four drafted players of that caliber remain in school, and we're very grateful that they made the decision. Their veteran presence combined with our other returning players and a tremendous recruiting class give us a lot of optimism for a very significant 2017 season."

The Tigers began fall semester classes on Monday and will go through a four-week period of conditioning drills and individual workouts beginning next week. LSU starts a six-week, full-squad fall practice regiment session on Sunday, Sept. 25.

LSU returns eight of its nine starting position players from last season's team, including Robertson, Freeman, Deichmann, sophomore third baseman Chris Reid, junior catcher Michael Papierski, junior left fielder Beau Jordan, sophomore right fielder Antoine Duplantis and junior designated hitter Bryce Jordan.

Senior catcher Jordan Romero, sophomore outfielder Brody Wofford, senior infielder Bryce Adams and sophomore outfielder Brennan Breaux are other returning players with starting experience.

Poche' and All-American junior right-hander Alex Lange are back for their third straight seasons as one of the best 1-2 weekend starting combinations in the country. The pitching staff will also feature senior right-handed closer Hunter Newman, who led the Tigers with 8 saves last season.

Other veteran pitchers include senior right-handers Russell Reynolds, Collin Strall and Alden Cartwright; junior right-handers Doug Norman and Austin Bain; and sophomore right-handers Caleb Gilbert and Cole McKay.

Mainieri said he is hopeful that Cartwright and red-shirt freshman left-hander Nick Bush will be healthy this spring after undergoing elbow reconstruction (Tommy John) surgery last year. Neither are scheduled to pitch during LSU's fall intra-squad games.

Mainieri also noted some of the Tigers' most recent roster adjustments.

--- Outfielder Cody Ducote has decided to leave the program but will remain at LSU to earn his degree and will play his final season at UNO.

--- Sophomore infielder O'Neal Lochridge has been declared medically disqualified due to a serious back injury suffered last season.

--- Catcher Trent Forshag has become a member of the team's equipment staff.

The 2017 schedule is a challenging slate that features 11 teams that advanced to NCAA regionals last season. Non-conference highlights include a return to Houston for the Houston College Classic from March 3-5, where LSU will face Baylor, Texas Tech and TCU, as well as home weekend series against Maryland and Wichita State.

"We're going to play 22 games against teams that were in regionals last season, and that's 40% of our schedule," Mainieri said. "Within that number, there are six Super Regional teams from last year and three that played in the College World Series. Of course, every weekend in the 30-game SEC schedule is grueling, and we have some very attractive non-conference match-

ups. I think our fans will enjoy watching us compete against some outstanding clubs throughout the year."

**2017 schedule
(All Times Central
and Subject to Change)**

- FEBRUARY**
- 17 Air Force, 7 p.m.
 - 18 Air Force, 2 p.m.
 - 19 Air Force, 1 p.m.
 - 21 at UNO, 6:30 p.m.
 - 22 Hofstra, 6:30 p.m.
 - 24 Maryland, 7 p.m.
 - 25 Maryland, 2 p.m.
 - 26 Maryland, 1 p.m.
 - 28 Nicholls, 6:30 p.m.

- MARCH**
- 3 TCU#, 7 p.m.
 - 4 Baylor#, 3:30 p.m.
 - 5 Texas Tech#, 11 a.m.
 - 8 at McNeese State, 6 p.m.
 - 10 Wichita State, 7 p.m.
 - 11 Wichita State, 6:30 p.m.
 - 12 Wichita State, 2 p.m.
 - 15 UNO, 6:30 p.m.
 - 17 Georgia, 7 p.m.
 - 18 Georgia, 6:30 p.m.
 - 19 Georgia, 1 p.m.
 - 22 Southeastern Louisiana, 6:30 p.m.
 - 24 at Florida, TBA
 - 25 at Florida, TBA
 - 26 at Florida, TBA
 - 29 Tulane, 6:30 p.m.
 - 31 Texas A&M, 7 p.m.

- APRIL**
- 1 Texas A&M, 6:30 p.m.
 - 2 Texas A&M, 1 p.m.
 - 5 Grambling, 6:30 p.m.
 - 7 at Arkansas, TBA
 - 8 at Arkansas, TBA
 - 9 at Arkansas, TBA
 - 11 Louisiana-Lafayette* (in Metairie), 7 p.m.
 - 13 Ole Miss, 6:30 p.m.
 - 14 Ole Miss, 7 p.m.
 - 15 Ole Miss, 2 p.m.
 - 18 Lamar, 6:30 p.m.
 - 21 at Kentucky, TBA
 - 22 at Kentucky, TBA
 - 23 at Kentucky, TBA
 - 25 at Tulane, TBA
 - 28 at Alabama, TBA
 - 29 at Alabama, TBA
 - 30 at Alabama, TBA

- MAY**
- 5 South Carolina, 7 p.m.
 - 6 South Carolina, 6:30 p.m.
 - 7 South Carolina, 1 p.m.
 - 9 McNeese State, 6:30 p.m.
 - 10 South Alabama, 6:30 p.m.
 - 12 Auburn, 7 p.m.
 - 13 Auburn, 6:30 p.m.
 - 14 Auburn, 1 p.m.
 - 16 Northwestern State, 6:30 p.m.
 - 18 at Mississippi State, TBA
 - 19 at Mississippi State, TBA
 - 20 at Mississippi State, TBA
 - 23-28 SEC tournament, Hoover, Ala.

- JUNE**
- 9-12 NCAA regional/NCAA Super Regionals
 - 17-28 College World Series, Omaha, Neb.
 - # --- Houston College Classic at Minute Maid Park in Houston
 - * --- Wally Pontiff Jr. Foundation Classic

SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA FOOTBALL

Lions' coach Ron Roberts will launch shows this week

LionSports.net

The Livingston Parish News

Southeastern Louisiana football coach Ron Roberts will debut his television and radio shows for the 2016 season on Monday.

"Inside Southeastern Football with Ron Roberts," hosted by Allen Waddell, will be filmed at 11 a.m. on Mondays starting Aug. 29 at Cate Street Seafood Station (308 South Cate St.) in downtown Hammond.

The show will air on Cox Sports Television at 5:30 p.m. on Thursdays once the season begins. For 2016, ROOT SPORTS has been added as an affiliate. ROOT will air the debut show at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 1. Following the initial week, the show will air at 3 p.m. on Fridays starting Sept. 9.

WHNO and the Southeastern Channel will also air "Inside Southeastern Football with Ron Roberts." Fans can check their local listings for broadcast times. The show will also be available online at www.LionSports.net.

Monday will also mark the 2016 debut of Roberts' radio show, "Ron Roberts Coaches Show," which will be hosted by Waddell



RONROBERTS.COM

Southeastern Louisiana football coach Ron Roberts gets his TV and radio shows started this week.

at Buddies Bar and Grill (1236 South Morrison Blvd.) in Hammond weekly at 7 p.m. on Mondays beginning Aug. 29.

The show will air on the flagship station of Southeastern Football, KSLU-FM (90.9), as well as KAJUN 107.1 FM, The Highway 104.7 FM and WFPR-AM (1400). Fans can also listen online at www.LionSports.net/listenlive or via the TuneIn Radio app.

The Livingston Parish News

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BRIANNA PACIORKA | THE NEWS

Above, Walker quarterback Jacobi Scott has seen a change in his teammates and people in the community in the wake of the historic floods.



DAVID NORMAND | THE NEWS

Right, Live Oak linebacker Preston Faulkner, like thousands of others, lost a lot in the flood. But he sees the disaster as a reason for strong motivation this season.

As parish starts down road to recovery, high school football fills a key role

From A16

around and fretting about the hand fate had dealt, Faulkner and his crew started pitching in whenever and wherever they could.

When there was a neighbor or a coach who needed help gutting a house, Faulkner was there.

"As soon as my teammates and friends found around the parish found out we were flooded, I started getting text messages from all over the place, and I did the same thing for guys I was hearing about," Faulkner said. "I learned that we're a very good community and we stay together. If you ask for help, everybody here is willing to help, and most of the time you don't even have to ask."

Added Kilcrease, who lost most everything

except some clothes, "The first thing people always asked me is if I needed something. They may not even know you. They just want to help."

For Kilcrease and Faulkner, enduring the heartache they have – watching their parents and grandparents deal with the emotions of starting from scratch in some ways – has ignited a flame.

Kilcrease is a key cog in the Wildcats' offensive line, either as the starting center or sliding to tackle, depending on how some younger players adapt to the varsity level. Faulkner is a heat-seeking missile at linebacker for the Eagles, as well as one of the parish's best baseball players.

"Something like this motivates me to be a better person and a better athlete," Faulkner said. "We

want to try to win some games for the community. A lot of people are down right now. It's devastation but we also want to turn it into motivation."

That's exactly how Walker's Jacobi Scott is approaching the recovery process as well.

Scott, who called Kilcrease one of his closest friends, will be the Wildcats' quarterback this fall and a key component to a veteran basketball team expected to challenge for a state tournament spot.

Although his family was spared major damage, Scott did evacuate for safety purposes and spent time in a shelter where he got to know people from all over the parish.

When the football team reunited for practice after several of them spent the week helping tear out the

inside of houses all over the parish, Scott detected something new in his teammates.

"I think it brought us together as a team and really gives us a family feeling," Scott said. "Payton is one of my best friends and his house got hit bad. A lot of people from the team helped him out."

Beyond football, Scott has also seen people around him tackle the challenge as a group.

"It just feels like we're all a big family in this parish," he said. "People are realizing that we don't have to hate each other and see how strong we are when we

come together."

No school in the parish was hit as hard as Denham Springs High.

The football team just resumed practice this week and the school isn't likely to open for another month, at least not at full operations.

That could be the kind of the thing that spoils a senior year. For Yellow Jackets' baseball star Brock Batty, though, he hopes to see a galvanizing effect.

"You only get one senior year and we were all pretty excited about the possibilities when we started the

year," said Batty, who was front-and-center in relief efforts all over Denham.

"I don't think this has to change that at all. This is go to make this year even more special. Once we get through this and we're gone, we're going to have something special to look back on. I think this is something that is going to really fire us up in sports to be as good as we can be."

Randy Rosetta is Sports Editor of The Livingston Parish News. You can reach him at (225) 610.5507 or RandyR@LivingstonParishNews.com. Follow on Twitter: @RandyRosetta @LPN_Sports

DSHS gets back to work after flooding brought pre-season work to an abrupt halt

From A16

they need," Nettles said. "It's a work in progress. We've only had a few days so far. We should have some helmets and shoulder pads by Monday and we're in the process of washing all of our game uniforms to see what condition they're in."

"Everything we're doing is jumping over a hurdle right now. We're not going to have a normal routine for a long time, but we have to make the best of whatever we get handed."

Which has included Nettles and his coaches ramping up their roles as psychologists.

While football is still the primary focus when the team gathers, there are also players experiencing the same rollercoaster of emotions that everyone else who went through the storm is grappling with.

With negative news, rumor and innuendo flowing almost as strongly as the flood waters did, Nettles has made sure that there are plenty of open ears and hearts to any players who need it.

On Tuesday, the school hosted players and their parents at the stadium to begin the healing process during an

emotional meeting.

"A lot of people have talked about the worst case in something like this, and that's understandable," Nettles said. "A lot of parents and players were worried that we weren't going to play a season at all. We intended to do whatever we could all along to never let that happen. You can look at it as glass half empty or half full. We're approaching it as half full and we're going to keep filling the glass up to get back where we were before."

As for the other fall sports at DSHS, there is some progress as well. The Lady Jackets' volleyball team was scheduled to play in a jamboree on Thursday and Nettles said tentative plans have been made to use the Live Oak gym for practice and matches. All three gym floors at Gray Hornsby Gym were done in by the flood.

The cross country team's major challenge is to re-file paperwork such as physicals to get back on track. The Jackets will compete this fall, but not a full schedule.

Randy Rosetta is Sports Editor of The Livingston Parish News. You can reach him at (225) 610.5507 or RandyR@LivingstonParishNews.com. Follow on Twitter: @RandyRosetta | @LPN_Sports

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Week 1 shuffle: Live Oak will host Gators; Bulldogs headed to Hammond for opener

Staff report

The Livingston Parish News

The first week of the high school football season around Livingston Parish will be a welcome relief to many when it arrives.

Thanks to a pair of flood-related shuffles, that will happen a little sooner and one school will be at home.

Springfield's season opener against Independence has been shifted to 7 p.m. Thursday night at Strawberry Stadium in Hammond after school officials determined that the Bulldogs' stadium and field won't be ready after it took 4 feet of water during the recent rains and flooding.

Live Oak will still play Friday as scheduled, but now will play host to St. Amant at 7 p.m. in Watson. Like Springfield and Denham Springs High, the Gators' school and athletic facilities were ravaged by water.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Week 1 | Sept. 2

- St. Amant at Live Oak, 7 p.m.
- Walker at Northeast, 7 p.m.
- Cohen at Albany, 7 p.m.
- Independence vs. Springfield, 7 p.m. at Strawberry Stadium | Hammond
- Denham Springs' jamboree and season opener at East Ascension have been cancelled.

The rest of the opening-week schedule includes Walker at Northeast (7 p.m. Friday) and Albany hosting Cohen (7 p.m. Friday). Denham's opener against East Ascension has been cancelled.

DENHAM SPRINGS FOOTBALL



PHOTOS BY DAVID NORMAND | THE NEWS

Top left, Two Denham Springs' defenders work on shedding blocks during a drill on Thursday, the second day that the Yellow Jackets worked out since returning from a delay caused by flooding in the area. Top right, Receiver John-Austin Williams tries to control a pass. Above, Left, Lineman Patrick Mack works with a blocking dummy. Above, Yellow Jackets' quarterback Cameron Feutch and defensive back Wes Ross (22) do weight work. Below, Most of the DSHS coaching staff and principal Kelly Jones listen Monday as Jackets' coach Dru Nettles addresses a crowd of players and parents.



FALL SPORTS SHORTS

The Livingston Parish News is seeking schedules and rosters from area coaches in all fall sports, including sub-varsity and middle school.

We will also need your help throughout the fall with results, stats, schedule changes, etc., to get your results online and in print in as timely a manner as possible.

You can e-mail the schedules and/or rosters to sports@livingstonparishnews.com or drop by the office at 688 Hatchell Lane in Denham Springs.

For more information or if you have any questions, please contact News Sports Editor Randy Rosetta at either (225) 610.5507 or randyr@livingstonparishnews.com.

LOHS season tickets available for pickup

All Live Oak Eagle football fans who have purchased 2016 season tickets may pick them up at the high school between 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Friday from Robert Graves in the Guidance Office.

For more information, contact Graves at (225) 802.5619.

Walker High Huddle Club will meet on Thursdays

The Walker High football team will host Huddle Club meetings at 6:30 p.m. every Thursday at the high school cafeteria to get parents, fans and alumni ready for each week's game this season.

The Huddle Club will meet at the same time every Thursday before games either in the cafeteria or WHS gym. For more information, e-mail info@whsfootball.org.

EMAIL TO: family.livingston@yahoo.com

HOW I SPENT MY SUMMER

Submit a picture and a paragraph describing your summer experience. Include names and school.

WALKER FOOTBALL



PHOTOS BY BRIANNA PACIORKA | THE NEWS

Top, Walker defensive end Jeremy Hills, right, locks horns with teammate Kaden Terrence on Wednesday. Above, second from top, Darius Hampton pulls in a pass. Above second from bottom, Easton Cifreo pauses to listen to coaches. Above, The defensive line runs through a drill during practice. Right top, Running back Tristan Taylor pulls down a reception. Right bottom, Judd Lockhart makes a catch.



RECOVERING FROM THE FLOOD



Back to work

Yellow Jackets return to field, start work toward 2016 opener

By Randy Rosetta

The Livingston Parish News

DENHAM SPRINGS — Players ran around Yellow Jacket Stadium the last several days preparing for a new football season.

Nothing looked much different within the white lines. The familiar purple-and-yellow jerseys. The 'DS' logo on the helmet the same as ever.

Football was back, and for a few hours each morning, the 80-90 players able to be there could put everything else on the backburner.

Same for the coaches, including veteran DSHS coach Dru Nettles, whose house and life were turned topsy-turvy as much as anybody else by the historic

rains and floods that swallowed up the city and much of the parish Aug. 12-14.

"There has been so much unknown for all these kids, so it's been good to get them back out here and practicing because it gives them something to look forward to," Nettles said Thursday. "We knew we wanted to get them back out here because they've spent hundreds of hours to get ready for this season and this is where they need to be. This is part of their process of healing."

As cathartic as it might be — as normal as it seems at first glance — there are some noticeable scars.

Not all of the Yellow Jackets' equipment could be salvaged from the stadium

fieldhouse, which took on 4 feet of water. That left a shortage of shoulder pads, which means Denham will practice on a lighter scale than it would've been this close to the season.

That season has been stalled, of course, as the community and school recover from the historic flood. The Jackets' jamboree and first game have been cancelled, with a targeted delayed season opener on Sept. 9 when DSHS is scheduled to host Tara.

"We're making equipment lists and getting all of our guys' sizes to make sure everybody has everything

DSHS
PAGE A3



PHOTOS BY DAVID NORMAND | THE NEWS

Top, Denham Springs' defensive coordinator Mark Carroll instructs a crew of Yellow Jackets on Thursday during the team's second practice back since rains and historic flooding brought pre-season work to a halt. Above, DSHS coach Dru Nettles address players and parents at a meeting on Monday.

Parish teams look to be rallying point



Walker offensive lineman Payton Kilcrease, left, works on paving a lane for a runner against fellow offensive lineman Kyle Willison during practice on Wednesday.

BRIANNA PACIORKA | THE NEWS

Players from all 5 schools were affected and they are embracing how important the new football season has now become

By Randy Rosetta

The Livingston Parish News

Football is always going to get folks in South Louisiana revved up, just like any place in the U.S. at this time of year.

For the five Livingston Parish schools that play football, the 2016 season has already carved a special place in the hearts of most — particularly the athletes and coaches who carry a more important role into the new season than ever before.

Waters are receding. The remnants of destruction are slowly beginning to disappear as crews roll around the parish and remove the mountains of debris in front of so many homes that were flooded. Life is slowly, but surely, starting to ease back to normal.

The time is right for football to jump in and give fans of the five schools — the entire parish really — something to rally around.

Something like hope. Walker senior Payton Kilcrease knows full well what so many are going through.

Kilcrease's family's home went under, taking on 3 feet of water. He left the home on Saturday, but his elderly grandparents tried to wait it out and had to be rescued.

"It was crazy because all we've ever seen is a little water rise on our roads," Kilcrease said. "It was a weird feeling because all you could do was sit there and hope it wouldn't get to the house."

Those initial hopes went unanswered for Kilcrease, but he and his family did what so many other parish residents have done: Got up, dusted themselves off and went back to living.

"You have to keep fighting," Kilcrease said. "It was really tough to go through what we did, but things can always get better."

Same thing happened over in Watson for Live Oak two-sport star Preston Faulkner.

The Faulkners' house was severely flooded and they also lost two vehicles. Instead of sitting

FOOTBALL
PAGE A3

New couple to Livingston Parish experiences flood tragedy

By Tommy Comeaux
The Livingston Parish News

They had only moved to the Denham Springs area a couple of months ago before becoming part of the history of the biggest flood to ever hit Livingston Parish.

Longtime residents of Baton Rouge Layne and Tim LaBarthe, along with their 2-year-old son Patrick, moved to a mobile home park between Denham Springs and Walker to be closer to Tim's job as the manager of the Poboy Express on Range Avenue.

"We didn't know anything about how bad it flooded in the area when we moved there," Layne said and while the restaurant was almost completely demolished by the rising water, their home was spared. Their vehicles were not.

"I was just watching my car steadily drown which was really disheartening," she said.

The treacherous experience began for the LaBarthe family on Friday, Aug. 12, the second day of a brutal storm that dropped an enormous amount of water on the parish.

"I woke up Friday morning and my car was already trapped by the high water," Layne said. "The water was already over the rims of the wheels and I knew we couldn't get out."

Unknowing of the gravity of the situation, she said her first hope was for the rain to stop because she was holding tickets to a concert in Beaumont for the following night.

"I wasn't prepared or expecting to be stuck in a flood," Layne said. "I had no idea it was going to get as bad as it did."

"By Saturday, the next day, it had gotten really bad," she continued. "That morning, it was just six inches from getting into our home and we knew we had to get out."

"It was really sad leaving our house and leaving everything we owned there, thinking that it was going to just keep getting higher," Tim said.

The family was rescued first by one of the oversized trucks the National Guard was using during the flood, ironically manned in part by their brother-in-law S.Sgt. Jonathan Banai, and taken to a church on Walker South Road.

Around 1 a.m. Sunday, as the water continued to rise, a commotion arose at the church because the driveway could no longer be seen and there were fears that later came true that the building would take on water, Tim said.

"They moved us to the church sanctuary because they said since it was three feet higher, no water would get in there," Layne said, but around 5 a.m., that theory was blown apart. It wasn't until then that the LaBarthes began to get scared.

"That was about the time that we thought we were going to die," Layne said, then continued by saying no one seemed to know "when they'd be able to rescue us."

"By the time the water was up to our knees, we were finally taken from the church to Walker South Road," by a woman Layne and Tim called "our angel."

"We only knew her as Jennifer but she loaded up seven kids and five adults and asked us where we wanted to go," Tim said. Layne began to tear up when they got to this part of the story.

"We told her we didn't have anywhere to go," she said, so Jennifer took them first to a nearby school, "but they were full," then to another church, but they finally ended up at another church. They had long since been worrying but once they had settled in and had time to think, the worry became intense.

"We were basically just waiting, wondering when, even if, we were going to be able to go home, if we even still had a home," Layne said. And still the water kept rising.

Around 5 p.m. Sunday, the LaBarthes finally got phone service back and got bombarded from text messages from Layne's mother, Emmy Martin, and her sister, Meagan Banai, frantic notes wondering how the young family was doing and where they were.

"Meagan and a friend showed up in a big truck and loaded 12 of us up," Layne said. "We were in Walker at the time and it took us 12 hours to get from there to my mother's house in Baton Rouge."

Still hanging over the LaBarthes was the apprehension of what had happened to their home, their possessions.

"One of the scariest things was not knowing what we were going to do after the flooding was over and whether we were going to be able to go home," Layne said, adding they were also worried about their irreplaceable possessions, family photos and the like.

"We weren't really worried about losing our cars or any of our other material things because they can be replaced," she said, although she and Tim were also very worried about the restaurant and not just because of the damage itself but because of what the place meant to them personally.

"The thing that distressed me the most was Poboy Express taking on five feet of water and all of Denham Springs being flooded," Layne said. "And the sentimental toll that came with thinking the restaurant might be ruined, gone forever, was tough on both of us."

"That's where we met, fell in love, where we celebrated Patrick's first birthday and that's where Tim has worked for about 20 years," she continued.

When the flood waters receded and the LaBarthes were finally able to return to Denham Springs, they were devastated by the damage the city had taken during the disaster, but found their personal situation was not nearly as dire as they'd feared it would be.

"They're going to rebuild the restaurant and reopen it but seeing it looking like a tornado had hit it was hard," Layne said. They returned home last Wednesday to find they'd been luckier than they'd have imagined there too.

"We expected everything to be gone," she said. "We thought that we had lost everything."

"By the grace of God, the water only got to the bottom of the door frame we were told, so we didn't lose anything," Layne said, but the damage to the family's new community was heartbreaking.

"The Livingston Parish community has been like a second family to us," she said, adding everyone they've met in their new area "has been so friendly, nothing like in Baton Rouge."

"It's devastating what this flood did," Layne said. "It's devastated our whole community."



Patrick LaBarthe, 2, is handed up to S.Sgt. Jonathan Banai of Louisiana National Guard by his father Tim, one step of many in the LaBarthe family's rescue from the rapidly rising flood waters that recently covered most of Livingston Parish.

Damage comes from the worst flood in parish history

From A1

The Emergency Operations Center at the Livingston Parish Governmental Building seems much quieter a week or so after emergency personnel and military officials occupied the offices during one of the worst floods in Livingston Parish history, but it's a deceptive tone.

The workload remains hectic as ever for Harrell, whose focus has shifted from response and rescue down to recovery. He emphasized, however, that Livingston Parish faces a long road to recovery.

Work now centers on FEMA and housing, including mobile homes the state will provide for displaced residents who qualify for the program.

"We will know in the next day or two how exactly they will go about it," Harrell said. "It's a program handled by the state."

In the meantime, Harrell said the number of phone calls from residents has diminished significantly over the last several days.

"People are trying to get their lives back together," he said.

Much of the move toward normalcy centers around cleanup, along with the ongoing debris removal in areas across the parish.

Eighty loads of debris on 450-yard trucks made their way to landfills Wednesday, Harrell said.

Even as the situation seems to move back to normal, Harrell said he will not let himself get too comfortable.

A low-pressure system in the South Atlantic may soon develop into a tropical storm or hurricane and move into the Gulf of Mexico by Monday.

"If that happens, we'll have to set up evacuation sites and put other emergency plans in place," Harrell said. "I don't even like to discuss it."



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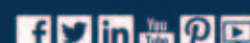


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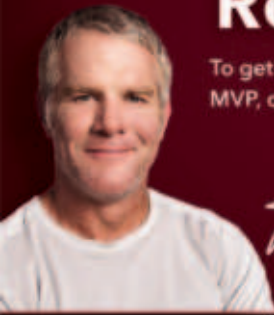
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Pointe Coupee Volunteer, Search and Rescue team assists Livingston

By Tommy Comeaux
The Livingston Parish News

It didn't take much for a bunch of Cajuns from around False River to rush to help the people of Livingston Parish in the area that went under during the great flood and the small but determined team likely saved over 500 lives within 48 hours.

Almost two dozen members of the Pointe Coupee Volunteer, Search and Rescue (VSR) Team of trained water rescue personnel headed to the endangered flood zone as soon as they were called to take part in the massive rescue effort.

Commonly referred to as the Sheriff's Flotilla, the group was organized by Sheriff Bud Torres after his parish nearly got slammed by a historic flood of its own in 2011, when the Mississippi River threatened to top its levee.

"A call from the sheriff Saturday morning saying he had gotten a call from (Livingston Parish) Sheriff Jason Ard that he needed help down there and we got started," said Louis Hebert, a team leader in the flotilla.

"I got a call Saturday from Bud telling me he'd just gotten a call from Jason Ard who had told him he had an urgent need for volunteers and wondering how many could Pointe Coupee put together in two hours," said Jimmy Laurent, who heads up the VSR Team.

Laurent said he called Hebert and Rob Gautreau, another team leader, and the three began calling the hundreds of members of the flotilla to round up a group to help Livingston's endangered residents.

Within an hour – and despite that there was flooding in Pointe Coupee to be dealt with as well – there were about 30 rescue team members and about a dozen boats gathering in New Roads to head to the flood's epicenter.

The effort was apparently appreciated by the hundreds of people who ended up rescued by the team, but it was also deeply appreciated by Ard.

"When other sheriffs showed up to help, I knew we'd be okay," he said. "These professionals left the comfort of their homes to help protect those in my parish. It helped a lot."

"We may wear different uniforms and different shaped badges, but when you're facing this type of devastation, we are one," Ard continued. "Neighbor helping neighbor. That's how we got through to this point. That's how we'll recover."

Getting to Livingston Parish, though, proved to be quite a challenge for the

Pointe Coupee team because of the rapidly rising flood.

By 1:30 p.m. or so, an hour and a half after the call for help had gone out, the team was ready to leave New Roads, traveling with two deputies as escorts to ease the challenge of getting to the crisis zone, Josh Adams and Dillon LaCour.

"The first problem was getting in because of a couple of deep spots along the interstate where we had to ease up real close to the median just to get through," Laurent said.

The VSR team finally hit Livingston Parish around 4 p.m. and connected with the Livingston Parish Sheriff's Office (LSPO). Leaders with the LSPO divided the Pointe Coupee team into two groups, Laurent said, sending one to the Satsuma and Colyell area and the other to the Juban Lane exit and south to La. 16.

Rescues began as soon as they could get boats in the water, first by assignment to a specific location and then by calls they could hear from people needing rescuing. "At times, we had one team in one neighborhood and another in another subdivision and others further away," Hebert said.

Sometimes the rescue missions turned out to be pretty big and involved a lot of people.

The most dramatic rescue mission was saving a group at a nursing home, resulting from a call Laurent said the team got sometime around 2 a.m.

"We couldn't believe there would still be elderly people around there with everything that was going on, but there they were," he said, adding there were four or five boatloads of nursing home residents that had to be evacuated. "By the time we got there, the water was up to the bottom of their chairs."

The evacuees were taken to a staging area where Louisiana National Guard and apparently then taken to one of the parish's shelters.

"We had expected to get out of the water by 9 or 10 p.m. and be home until midnight," Hebert said. "At one point, after we'd done a bunch of rescues, we thought we were going to be able to get out, but the water had come up and we couldn't."

"We all figured this was going to be a day trip – that we'd go down and help as long as we could that day, then come home," Laurent said. "We figured we'd be going down there, sweep a few subdivisions and we'd be home for 11 (p.m.) or so. Well, it didn't work out that way."

A few members of the Pointe Coupee



PHOTO BY JIMMY LAURENT JR.

Members of the Pointe Coupee Parish Sheriff's Office Volunteer Search and Rescue Team head south from I-12 to look for Livingston Parish residents in need of evacuation from flooded areas last weekend.

group did get out that first night, but just barely. "We heard later that those guys just barely made it out," Laurent said, adding that on their way out of the flood zone, they passed through water "up to their headlights."

The others spent an uneasy, restless night in Livingston Parish, almost sleeplessly because of the nearly constant rescues. Around 11 p.m., the guys tried to get some rest but the attempt was useless.

"We knew it was too late, the water was too high, for us to get out, so we decided we'd try to get some rest," Laurent said. "We're here for the night," I told the guys. "There was not a lot of sleeping," Hebert said. "Nobody was comfortable so nobody was sleeping."

Before midnight, team members began hearing a man shouting for help not far from where they were trying to rest. As it turned out, he was only one of many. The quickly rising water had trapped about 200 people in his neighborhood, Laurent said.

By morning, food became a real issue. A lone watermelon one team member randomly brought along was demolished by the members of the unofficial Cajun Navy.

The troops got downright restless just before dawn when a rumor began spreading that a nearby donut shop was going to open soon, Laurent said, a rumor that spread quickly among the hungry crew.

"Sure enough, a donut shop not far from where we were opened up around 6 a.m.,"

he said. "We devoured those donuts. We tore them up. They were so good."

Not long after breakfast, the rescues began again, Laurent said, many because residents who had refused to leave their homes the day before changed their minds.

"They absolutely did not want to leave the day before but the water just continued to rise, so on that second day, the water getting higher and higher, they decided getting out was a good idea," he said.

A few more random rescues throughout the day Sunday and the members of the Pointe Coupee VSR Team figured their work was done and it was time for them to head home. The water, however, had other ideas.

"We were finally able to wind down the operations, but the water was still too deep," Laurent said, but the determined group searched for a way out. "Range Avenue at the interstate was still way too deep," but at Juban Lane, the water had dropped enough "and we were able to just barely get through to the interstate."

The Pointe Coupee team members said they were glad they were able to help and would do it again if need be.

"It was a sad event, a tragedy, but I think we did some good," Hebert said, estimating the VSR Team probably pulled over 500 people from infants to 90-year-olds out of the water. "Everybody would be willing to do it again, even if we got called out again next week."

Sheriff's Office arrests 52-year-old Denham Springs man on rape charge

Staff report

The Livingston Parish News Members of the Livingston Parish Sheriff's Office Juvenile Detectives Division arrested Barry Parrish of Denham Springs and charged him with rape Wednesday.

Parrish, 52, is a retired officer from the Baton Rouge Police Department, according to Livingston Parish Sheriff Jason Ard,

who said the suspect was charged with one count of first degree rape and turned himself in.

"Through our investigation, it was learned that on July 16 of this year, Parrish had engaged in illicit sexual acts with a juvenile," the sheriff said.

After his arrest, Ard said, Parrish was transported to the Tangipahoa

Parish Prison for his imprisonment because the Livingston Parish Detention Center is not currently housing inmates due to the recent flooding in the parish.

Bond for Parrish has been set at \$100,000.



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24/7

DS requires permits for work in buildings which took 18 inches or more

By John Dupont

The Livingston Parish News

DENHAM SPRINGS — Confusion has arisen among homeowners who are unsure about permit requirements and FEMA guidelines following the worst flood in modern history of Denham Springs, Mayor Gerard Landry said.

The uncertainty among residents stems largely from the cleanup and which level of damage requires a permit for rebuilding, along with FEMA guidelines the city may have to enforce.

The city will waive fees on all permits related to reconstruction after the flood. No permit is necessary for cleanup.

"In fact, we ask that residents clean their house as soon as they have it in order," Landry said. "Clean it out, let it dry and take care of the mold remediation."

Homes with less than 18 inches of water will require not permits for rehabilitation.

FEMA requires the permits on homes with 18 inches of water to help in the verification process, Landry said.

Landry estimated that 2,900 of the ap-

proximately 4,200 homes within Denham Springs city limits incurred more than 18 inches of flood water.

"FEMA will have inspectors in the field and they will go to houses to see which have more than eighteen inches and which have less," he said.

The city will examine the structures and discuss options available to the homeowners, City Building Official Rick Foster said.

He warned against making repairs without a permit.

"By making those repairs without obtaining a permit, the owner may suffer steep financial consequences at a later date: the structure's flood insurance premiums may increase by hundreds or even thousands of dollars per year, the owner may become ineligible for future state or federal funding or relief, or the owner may even be required to elevate the structure at their own expense," Foster said.

The city wants to make homeowners aware of their options and understand that each situation is different, he said.

"There isn't a 'cookie cutter' answer for all," Foster said. "If the owner doesn't apply for the permit, then we never get to have those conversations."

Landry recommends residents keep the house open to air out and dry up to four weeks.

"By then, we should have our temporary city hall up and running and able to accommodate citizens as we should," he said.

Homeowners should also remove all wet materials – including drywall, insulation, carpet/padding and damaged cabinets – as part of the drying process, Foster said.

"This is commonly called 'gutting' the building. There is a lot of water retained in wood studs but even more in the building's slab," he said. "This water may take days/weeks to be fully

removed from the concrete floor so the drying process is critical to effective repairs."

The addition of a room as part of the flood recovery will require a permit.

"But the most important thing to remember is that cleaning of houses will not require a permit of any kind," Landry said.

Residents should keep all documentation from the rehabilitation, including the permit, Landry said.

"The kicker is that I couldn't write a permit today if I had to," he said. "The City Hall had 52 inches of floodwater, so for right now people should do what they have to do."

Homeowners can apply for permits at applications are available online at <http://cityofdenhamsprings.com/online.shtml>.

Denham Mayor Landry has quick visit with Gov. Edwards, does not see President Obama

By John Dupont

The Livingston Parish News

DENHAM SPRINGS — Mayor Gerard Landry said he was on the list of officials President Barack Obama wanted to see during an Aug. 22 visit to Baton Rouge, but it never came to fruition.

Obama visited Baton Rouge and Zachary – but not Livingston Parish – during a four-hour visit to the area nine days after record rainfall damaged more than 70 percent of the parish.

The President did not meet with any Livingston Parish officials during the visit.

"I was told I was on the list, but it didn't materialize for whatever reason," Landry said. "Had I had a chance to visit, I would've expressed long-term concern about FEMA and our rebuilding process."

Landry has not ruled out the possibility of at least a phone conversation with Obama on the uphill task his city Den-

ham Springs faces in the recovery process.

"It could very well happen that way and that's fine," he said. "I don't have rank in the political realm of things, but I represent one of the municipalities definitely hit the hardest."

Landry encountered no difficulty, however, in his attempt to secure an impromptu sit-down meeting with Governor John Bel Edwards, whom the mayor visited Monday.

The visit fell into place after Landry contacted Commissioner of Administration Jay Dardenne, his fellow Baton Rouge High School graduate.

"I called Jay, requested the private meeting with the governor and Jay said he'd definitely get it going," Landry said. "The governor's secretary scheduled it and we met the next morning."

Landry used the visit to voice concerns about FEMA and its related guidelines for which the

city must comply in the future.

He came out with a sense of assurance after the visit with Edwards.

"Our governor is a very compassionate man, and he understood the needs we face going forward," Landry said.

The mayor has also met with representatives of U.S. Senator Bill Cassidy and has expressed concerns in a phone conversation with U.S. Senator David Vitter, who was set to visit Denham Springs on Aug. 25.

Landry also met with U.S. Rep. Garret Graves earlier in the week.

The discussions fell into place as the city began its debris cleanup.

The city is responsible for debris pickup on local streets. The state Department of Transportation and Development covers costs of cleanup on Range Avenue, U.S. 190, Centerville and Cockerham streets, and Hatchell Lane.

Denham hoped to have keys Friday

From A1

told Landry her city will bring Denham Springs an array of items to jumpstart municipal operations in temporary governmental facility at the former Capitol One Bank location on Hummel Street.

"She just called me out of the blue and said she knew what we were going through," Landry said. "This is not only people helping people, but municipalities helping municipalities."

Work was set to move

into full gear this week on the move into the temporary location.

The vacant bank branch will house operations for municipal government, the city court and city marshal, Landry said.

The City of Gretna will bring the City of Denham Springs six computers, 25 chairs and an assortment of office supplies for the move into the old Capitol One building on Hummel Street.

The Denham Springs City Hall on Government Street lost all computers and furniture in the flood, Landry said.

"We don't have anything," he said. "We had to buy a laptop or two from Office Depot as well as a few iPads to do the business of the city."

Constant and Gretna Police Chief Arthur Lawson will also send 50 people to help in the setup of the temporary facility.

Mayor Gerard Landry signed an official agreement with Capital One for free use of the facility for at least six months.

"We're supposed to have keys in hand by Friday," Landry said. Wednesday, Aug. 24.

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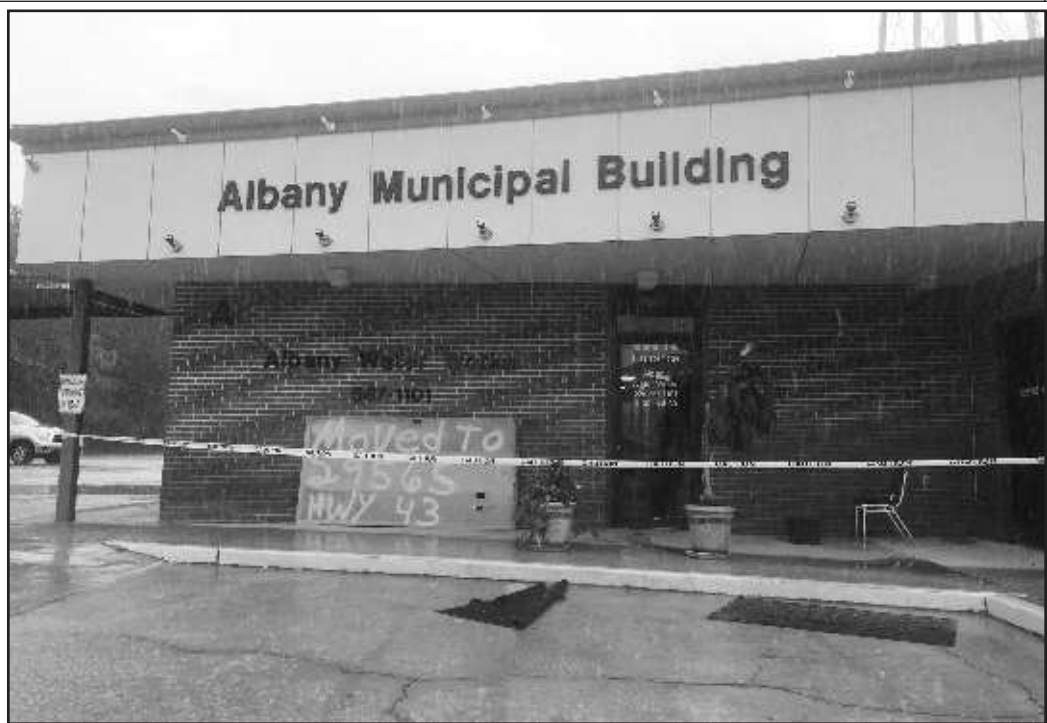
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Albany Mayor says FEMA has been 'good'



JOHN DUPONT | THE NEWS

The Town of Albany may need to demolish its municipal building, which was severely damaged by flood water last week.

From A1

resumed municipal operations last week after flooding forced relocation from its town hall to the old Livingston Parish Health Unit building one mile down the road.

The Health Unit was built in 1995 and closed in 2000 due to state budget cuts. A privately owned health facility occupied the building until 2013.

The town's move to the old Health Unit came after flooding brought considerable damage to the Town Hall, Mayor Gene Glasscock said.

The facility is large enough to house the municipal operations, the police department and utility department.

The Flood of 2016 marks the worst to hit Albany, said Glasscock, who has lived in the area nearly his entire life.

"Never in my life have I seen anything like what

we saw in this flood," he said. "The closest thing I saw was 1953, when I was still in high school, and 1983 was pretty rough, too."

The town tried several years ago to buy the old Health Unit, but Glasscock could not afford it.

Hammond-based proprietor Ed Hoover allowed the town to use the building for a limited time.

The town was set to negotiate a deal on how long and how much money – if any – it would cost for use of the building, said Glasscock, a first-term mayor who served 16 years as an alderman.

"We don't know what we can afford right now," he said.

Glasscock will get an estimate from engineers next week on the cost of work on the actual town hall.

"I have a feeling that whole building will have to be torn down and we'll have to start over," he said. "The problem is

that when we build it will be considered a flood zone."

The vast majority of the town's residents remain busy on the cleanup process.

Glasscock estimated that approximately 90 percent of the structures in the town received flood damage.

The rain itself was not the primary cause of the flooding, he said.

"We got a lot of rain, but we got so much of that flow from the northern parishes and the counties in Mississippi," Glasscock said. "I know we're not alone ... all of Livingston got it, along with Tangipahoa, Ascension and other parishes. We'll just try to deal with it."

Parish, state and federal response has been good thus far, he said.

FEMA groups will come to Albany on Monday, Aug. 29, in the morning and afternoon to survey damages.

"They've really been

good," Glasscock said. "I haven't always been able to say that, but they've been very good to us so far."

Glasscock also considers his town fortunate that the convenience

stores and McDonald's on La. 43 at the Interstate 12 interchange did not close. "They're all high and dry, which is good for us," he said.

Glascock remains hopeful that the flood did not

wash away plans O'Reilly Auto Parts had for a distribution center on the south end of U.S. 190.

"I hope that didn't stop that," he said. "That would be a nice boost for our area."

Comite Diversion Canal could have saved billions in flood damages

By John Dupont

The Livingston Parish News

BATON ROUGE — Residents in Livingston, East Baton Rouge and Ascension parishes have suffered once more because of the lack of work on the Comite River Diversion Canal, according to U.S. Senator Bill Cassidy.

The \$200 million project -- which has been on the drawing board 31 years -- could have saved billions in damages that will continue to mount after record flooding last week, the Republican senator from Baton Rouge said Tuesday.

Residents in Livingston, East Baton Rouge and Ascension parishes have paid a 2.65-mill property tax on the project since 2000. Voters approved a 10-year renewal of the millage in 2010.

Cassidy believes it's time for the federal government to step up to the plate.

"I am urging to federal government to help us finish this project now rather than wait for the next disaster to cost billions more in damages," he said.

The diversion project calls for the Corps of Engineers to build a drainage canal that connects the Comite River to the Mississippi River. The canal would be dug near the Baker area of East Baton Rouge Parish and would divert much of the water that flooded the areas of Central, Baker and Zachary to be emptied into the Mississippi.

The Amite River Basin Commission, which has been collecting a millage for the project, has \$10 million avail-

able. About \$60 million is necessary to begin work on the U.S. Highway 61 and Kansas City Southern Railroad Relocation, which is the next phase of this project. That money would be spent by the Corps of Engineers to build bridges and by the Department of Transportation and Development to pay for the relocation of utilities.

The project could be finished in the next three or four years with the full \$200 million in funding.

"I am doing my utmost to obtain federal funding for this project and I urge the people of Louisiana to reach out to their state and national officials to ask them to prioritize this project as well," he said.

The project is broken up into 13 parts and requires the

coordination of Louisiana's Department of Transportation and Development, the Corps of Engineers and the parishes in which the canal will be located. Currently, 10 portions of the project are waiting to be Designed and Engineered (D&E) by the Corps and two other parts are nearing completion of D&E or are ready to begin building.

The tax funds represent the money ARBC contributes to the project, according to Dietmar Rietschier, executive director of the Amite River Basin Commission.

The millage generates approximately \$2 million a year -- or approximately 10 percent of the total project cost, he said.

The balance on funds generated from the millage totals

around \$9 million, Rietschier said.

The state fiscal crisis marks the latest in many setbacks the project has endured since officials broke ground on it in 2003.

Federal funds fizzled in 2005 during the military action in the Middle East. State budget shortfalls have also stalled the project.

The money will go toward the land acquisition for utility relocation.

The project first went on the drawing board in 1985, when two years of flooding caused \$344 million in damages -- approximately \$820 million today.

Upon completion, the project will divert floodwaters to protect an estimated 3,700 structures.

Louisiana web designers volunteer labor to launch 'LostPetsLouisiana'

By Kevin Fambrough

The Livingston Parish News

Three Louisiana web designers have volunteered to launch LostPetsLouisiana.com, a website to help reunite displaced pet owners with their pets.

The free service will allow individuals and shelters who have found stray pets to search images and descriptions of lost pets posted by owners or submit an online form with a photo and description of a pet.

"It's devastating to lose your home overnight, but losing a pet often

means losing a member of your family, too," says Trey Toups, one of the project's founders.

"When trying to figure out how we could help our families and others affected by the flood, we found there is a need for a statewide gallery of lost and found pets," Toups said.

"A lot of people are searching through random Facebook pages hoping they'll find their missing pets. This puts it all in one place and makes it searchable."

Each pet will be filed by city, neigh-

borhood, type of animal, sex, color, etc. Website moderators will check and post the entries, where owners can search for their lost pets.

Pet owners who have lost a pet can search the database of found pets or create a post about their missing pet that shelters or anyone else caring for stray pets can respond to if they believe they have a match.

"We need everyone's help to get the word out," added web developer Kameron Kilchrist. "The larger that

the database of lost and found pets grows, the greater the chances that these pets will find a way home."

LostPetsLouisiana.com is mobile-friendly, so individuals and families who don't have access to a computer can use smartphones.

Donating design services are Duet-Creative.com. ttahost.com is donating webhosting and database services.

Body in Southpoint identified by Livingston Sheriff's office

By Kevin Fambrough

The Livingston Parish News

LIVINGSTON — The Livingston Parish Coroner's Office has identified a body found Aug. 17 as a Denham Springs man, according to a Sheriff's Office news release.

Sheriff Jason Ard said William Thomas, 52, of South Point Drive, was reported missing last week after he never returned from a morning walk.

"Our partners at the Fire Marshal's Office took a team into South Point subdivision off of Walker South to check all homes for signs of danger," Ard said at the time the body was found.

The Coroner's Office said there were no signs of trauma. With the help of a K-9, Thomas' body was found in a wooded area where water had risen to about 5 feet during flooding.



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July sales tax jump 6.6% over 2015

By Alice Dowty
The Livingston Parish News

LIVINGSTON — The 1,000-year flood that hit Denham Springs in mid-August may cause sales tax revenue to plummet in the months to come, as well as force city officials to raise sewer rates south of the city.

Sales taxes support over 60 percent of the city's governmental activities. Denham Springs has a 1.5-cent tax.

Revenue from August sales will be collected in September and reported in October.

Motor vehicle sales may help offset retail closures, since the tax revenue from a resident's vehicle purchase goes to the city, regardless of where the vehicle is purchased. Collections from motor vehicle taxes parish-wide amounted to \$1,383,299 in July.

Utilities such as gas, water and sewer support their work with customer payments.

Flooded residents to the south who disconnect their city sewer service will make a bad financial situation even worse. Revenues from sewer service outside the city limits (provided by Denham Springs Sewerage District 1) have been a financial disappointment from the beginning. Financial adviser Jim Ryan with Government Consultants of Louisiana explained utility system debt from the perspective of lenders at the Feb. 25, 2013 Council meeting. Ryan said investors want to see \$1.30 collected for every \$1 spent.

If customer payments do not cover expenses, "someone from the bond commission starts making decisions for you," Ryan said.

Although the Denham Springs Sewerage District 1 (DSSD 1) is a separate financial entity, city revenues guarantee its debt. DSSD1 owed \$3,385,633 to the City of Denham Springs Utility Fund as of June 30, 2015, according to the most recent audit.

The Sewer District was billing 2,327 customers outside the city as of June 30, 2015.

The city had long term debt of over \$50 million "se-

cured by utility service charges and lawfully available funds," as of June 30, 2015, according to the audit.

Denham Springs does have flood insurance on its buildings and can expect federal assistance.

The other 10 governmental entities in Livingston Parish collecting sales tax are bound to experience an economic impact from the flood, and may qualify for direct federal assistance.

Juban Crossing will also go through a recovery period, after all its stores flooded.

In July, Juban Crossing recorded a 63 percent increase in collections over the same month in fiscal year 2015-16, according to the School Board Sales Tax Division. Total collections in July amounted to \$8,480,413, a 6.6 percent increase over July 2015-16.

The School Board broke its record for monthly collections in July, bringing in over \$4 million.

The Parish Council collected \$1,449,601 with a one-cent tax, and the Sheriff's Office collected \$783,050 with a half-cent tax. The Parish Council's July collections represented a 5.7 percent increase over the prior year, and the Sheriff's collections showed a 6.5 percent increase.

The City of Walker collected \$360,168 with its 1.5-cent tax, a 5.4 percent increase.

The parish's three gravity drainage districts are facing the problem of mud deposited in streams by flood waters, and further additions of silt as communities wash the mud off developed property.

Drainage District 5, in the Walker area, saw a 5.7 percent increase last month, with collections of \$160,797.

Drainage District 1, in the Denham Springs area, saw a 9 percent increase in July, with collections of \$142,836.

Drainage District 2, in the Watson area, saw a 5 percent increase, with collections of \$80,853.

All three drainage districts have a half-cent tax. The Town of Livingston collected \$44,812 in July, a

July Sales Tax 2016

	2015	2016
School Board	\$3,776,399	\$4,020,448
Parish	\$1,449,601	\$1,531,806
Sheriff	\$735,327	\$783,050
Denham Springs	\$654,166	\$620,988
Walker	\$341,845	\$360,168
Drainage District 1	\$130,693	\$142,836
Drainage District 2	\$77,023	\$80,853
Drainage District 5	\$152,093	\$160,797
Springfield	\$36,461	\$34,634
Livingston	\$33,007	\$44,812
Albany	\$29,150	\$33,288
TOTAL	\$7,954,401	\$8,480,413

A 6.6% increase

36 percent increase.

Albany saw a 14 percent increase, with collections of \$33,288.

Both Albany and Livingston collect 1 cent on the dollar.

Springfield dipped 5 percent with collections of \$34,634 from a two-cent tax.

The School Board Sales Tax Division also collects a 3 percent surcharge on hotel and RV park occupancy for the Livingston Parish Convention and Visitors Bureau. During 2015-16, the Visitors Bureau collected \$353,403, a 2 percent increase over the prior year. In July, collections amounted to \$32,075, a 20 percent decrease, compared with July 2015.

Residents displaced by the flood and living temporarily in local hotels are expected to increase revenues for the Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Livingston Parish schools hosted status meeting Friday, seeking return date

By Kevin Fambrough
The Livingston Parish News

LIVINGSTON — A status meeting was scheduled for Friday by Livingston Parish school executives, which might lead to a target date for schools to reopen.

In an interview Tuesday on National Public Radio, School Superintendent Rick Wentzel said, "maybe two to four weeks," when pressed for a time period.

School system officials have not announced any date for schools to reopen, citing employees having to address family needs and cleaning and assessing schools' condition.

Meanwhile, the school system is urging employees to complete a survey on its Internet site to learn about their status.

"We are very close to announcing a return to work and school date and need to know how to best help you," the survey notice says.

Robert Siegel, host of NPR's "All Things Considered" program, asked "What's a realistic time to assume that the school year will begin in Livingston Parish?"

"Realistic time? Oh man, that's hard to say," Wentzel replied, "because we're still doing evaluations of our sites to see what kind of damage has been done and how

quickly we can get it up and running because we're going to need some of those facilities for us to start back."

When pressed by Siegel, Wentzel said, "I would say in a gauge, maybe two to four weeks."

The school superintendent also recounted how as he was helping set up a shelter he had to rescue his wife from flooding in Pleasant Ridge subdivision.

His wife called him about 8:30 p.m. on Aug. 12 to say "the water's coming up in the back. ... Well, it wasn't 30 minutes later she calls back and says, hey, you need to send somebody to get me."

Wentzel told Siegel that of 46 school sites, "Fifteen - that's one-five - of those sites were affected by water in some way."

Last week, over two days, the school system allowed teachers at the affected schools to go in and clean out their classroom and inventory what was lost or saved.

The Internet survey asks the employee's name, address and phone and email contact information, the survey seeks to find out the employee's housing status (home safe, home flooded but living on onsite, living with family/friends),

transportation status (vehicle, no vehicle, vehicle lost with/without insurance, getting with others)

The survey asks if child care is needed for the employee to return to work, how many children and their ages.

It also asks if the employee needs a place to stay, meals, laundry, clothes, child care, house cleaning, pet sitting, or medication and if the employee could offer someone else a spare bedroom, laundry access, meals, transportation or pet care.

Wentzel did offer a moment of levity in the NPR interview when Siegel asked, "What happens to all the pets? What do people do with the beloved dog in the house? Is he welcome at the shelter?"

"Well, let me tell you. I remember that first little old lady getting off that first bus," Wentzel recalled, "and she had that little animal in her hand. And she came up to me knowing I was ... in charge of that facility and said, 'Honey, will I be able to bring my pet in this facility?'"

"And I said, 'Sweetheart, as long as you hold onto that dog and it's not aggressive, it would not hurt anybody. I'm not turning you away nor that pet.' And so she went into that facility, and that's the way we ran it."

The full transcript of Wentzel's interview can be found online at www.npr.org/2016/08/23/491103699/many-baton-rouge-area-schools-remain-closed-due-to-flood-damage.



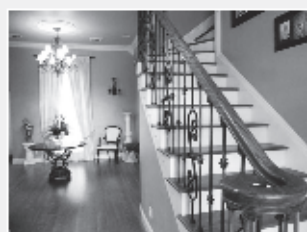
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Recovery will happen, but local landscape is changed forever

Trillions of gallons of water were dropped on the Baton Rouge Metro area. As the water finally found its way out of the view of local citizens, it took much of the foundation upon which lives were built and left vast numbers of people wondering, ‘What now?’

The most interesting part about the flood is not the arrival of water. While the ‘Great Flood of 2016’ saw waters rise very quick - 10 feet in 10 hours - many knew that, eventually, liquid was going to reach them.

During the time that active flooding is in a person’s life, existence is simple - survive. From the time the first waves lap to the front door, to the time where the water rushes out into the Gulf of Mexico - leaving residents with nothing but filth to deal with - many are reduced to a very basic standard of living:

- Find shelter
- Find food
- Find water (that’s drinkable)

No, this time in people’s lives - once safe - is probably the easiest, filled with speculation at the worst. It is when the water recedes - leaving people, families, and communities broken - that the true tests come into play.

Even with the waters gone, giving people a chance to return to homes and businesses to assess damage, the damage left by the flooding leaves many with more questions than ever.

What do you do with a house that flooded, and needs to dry out? What if my family does not have flood insurance? Even though the water has receded, where do I go now to find food, water, gas, shelter, clothes, cleaning materials - basic life essentials?

What of the biggest question of all - What do I do if the flood, in essence, flooded away my life? What if my family cannot afford to weather this tragedy?

A very large portion of Baton Rouge Metro area residents may be faced with that final question.

It took community leaders and the federal government nearly a year to assess the full extent of damage caused by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. So, while early estimates may be a bit more accurate 10 years later - with better technological abilities and more definitive numbers - local and national on-lookers can expect a little fluctuation in the final tally regarding the number of people affected and the monetary amount of their suffering.

Initial figures, from the Baton Rouge Area Chamber of Commerce (BRAC), claim roughly 110,000 homes in the area have been affected in some way.

The combined value of those homes exceeds \$20.7 billion.

However, BRAC does concede that some of those houses were in ‘flood-affected areas’ but may not have taken on water.

Needless to say, the Livingston Parish community was indeed the hardest hit. First reports from locals suggested roughly 86.6% of homes were located in flood affected areas. Only 21.7% of homes in Livingston Parish were covered by flood insurance.

Unfortunately, most of Livingston Parish was considered a ‘flood-affected’ area due to the rise of the Amite and the Tickfaw Rivers - both considered ‘border’ rivers that surround the parish.

That’s an economic gut-check for local individuals who saw



FOLLOW THE MONEY
McHugh David



nothing but growth in this area. From initial numbers, 78.3% of people will have to make a tough choice - eat savings to repair their homes, if they even have enough, or borrow on equity (again, if they have any) to get their houses back up to normal.

Hundreds of families will soon have to sit around the kitchen table and, if the cash doesn’t exist, make the tough decision to leave their homes to the bank and simply... walk away.

The potential repercussions on a local economy are staggering - possibly similar to 2007 numbers. There’s a big problem this time, though - many of those houses are, now, going to require flood insurance.

In fact, the flood insurance requirement could now extend to much of Livingston Parish, making primary homes unaffordable for some, and camps unreliable for others.

Current models predict many people, displaced by Katrina, might finally return home to New Orleans after having lived in the Baton Rouge area for

nearly a decade.

Others figure families will simply move farther east along I-12 into St. Tammany Parish, trying not to get too far away from a new place they called home.

Finally, those simply looking for the best public schools will scramble to find the next-best thing. Rental properties in unaffected areas - even here in Livingston Parish - will receive a huge boost, as people may not be able to afford new mortgages for some time.

These are just expectations for residents. Several thousand businesses in the Capital area were affected, not just by water - many businesses in Baton Rouge found out, the hard way, that the vast majority of their labor force lived in Livingston Parish.

All of this pales in comparison to the fact that many governmental entities have squabbled over drainage projects for years (See: Comite Diversion Canal). Their

inactivity may be the cause of irreparable damage to the Livingston Parish community.

Not to mention the six foot ‘I-12 Dam’.

These are realistic scenarios that companies, families, and individuals will have to weigh when deciding whether or not they want to remain here.

Despite that, entities like the School Board and our local governments have worked hard to try and return to a sense of normalcy as quickly as possible.

That’s as best as can be expected at this point, because the situation here will get worse before it gets better. While the community will band together and hold on as best it can, there are tough times ahead.

While this area may, eventually, bounce back - the landscape is changed forever, from insurance to schools, and it will take a concerted effort by all citizens for Livingston Parish to return to form.

J. MCHUGH DAVID Jr. is the Associate Publisher and Managing Editor of the Livingston Parish News.

EDITORIAL

Fuzzy math stalls Diversion canal

We’ve heard many times over the years about “fuzzy mathematics” on Capitol Hill. The theory seems very befitting of how government – both on the federal and state level – has addressed the construction (or lack thereof) of the Comite River Diversion Canal.

U.S. Senator Bill Cassidy and Governor John Bel Edwards have both gone on record saying that the latest flood proves more than ever it’s time to end the delays and make the project a reality.

Sen. Cassidy nailed it when he said a \$200 million project could have saved government billions of dollars. Early estimates put the damages at around \$22 billion – a figure based only on flood insurance claims.

The project has been on the drawing board since 1985,

but the progress has moved a painfully slow pace, even by government standards.

The diversion project calls for the Corps of Engineers to build a drainage canal that connects the Comite River to the Mississippi River. The canal would be dug near the Baker area of East Baton Rouge Parish and would divert much of the water that flooded the areas of Central, Baker and Zachary to be emptied into the Mississippi.

The project would also bring relief to flood-prone areas in Livingston Parish, the same vicinities that endured one of the worst floods in history.

The lack of work on the diversion canal has drawn more attention lately to what could have been had government not stalled on the project.

Give it another month and add the non-insured to that

equation, and we could see that figure swell at least five-fold.

Our government knew all along that the damages would cost far more than actual project. Instead, heads remained firmly dunked in sand.

Reality has now reared its ugly head, and they will see just how much more money it costs to ignore a problem.

The state and federal government have hesitated to move forward with the project – even with a dedicated tax to fund the construction – all because of a lack of money.

It’s time our elected officials wake up and realize the difference between \$200 million and \$22 billion. Of course, the “fuzzy math” tossed around in government makes us realize we shouldn’t hold our breath.

Good riddance to a turbulent summer

September could not come soon enough.

The last three months have brought one of the most turbulent summers in many years, starting with the mass shooting at an Orlando nightclub and followed by the demonstrations in early July after the shooting of Alton Sterling by a Baton Rouge police officer.

The situation got even uglier with the random shooting in Baton Rouge that killed three police officers and left one critically wounded, all of whom lived in Livingston Parish.

Barely a month passed before we found ourselves in another tragedy, this one which did not discriminate.

The floods that devastated Livingston, East Baton Rouge and several other south Louisiana parishes displaced thousands. In so many ways, it has changed life as we know it in Livingston Parish.

It’s hard to find anything positive to say about the last month, other than it brought a

lot of people together, regardless of race or social status.

In a strange way, however, tragedy brings people together and makes us forget about our differences. I noticed it many times over the last week during rescues, fundraisers and volunteer services. All came from people of all walks of life in something of melting pot – a true glimmer of hope.

I’ll gladly hold on to that memory. Otherwise, I’m ready to put summer behind and look

toward fall.

It has nothing to do with football or hot weather. It’s merely about a move into another season.

By no means should we forget the atrocities of the summer. In fact, it’s important we learn from what we’ve endured over the last several months.

We’ll read plenty in the coming months and years about many of the events that shaped what will go down as one of the most turbulent summers ever.

Perhaps we can gain a greater appreciation for those unsung heroes who come forward to help us. Maybe we can learn the power of prayer and realize that it’s more important than ever.

I hope the shift toward autumn brings a willingness to continue helping those in need at the same time we embark on a move forward. It’s the best thing I can say about what has been one of the ugliest summers ever.

FAREWELL, BROTHER DELMAS

I can’t end this week’s column without mention about the Rev. Delmas Taylor, the long-time pastor of Unity Prayer Center and Livingston Parish Registrar of Voters.

I met him not long after I came to work here in March 2013, when he attended a “welcome home” event for a returning soldier.

He came right up to me, introduced himself and with a warm pat on the shoulders, told me to let him know if I needed anything. It didn’t matter to him that I was a reporter or a total stranger.

I learned in the many times I saw him during the three years that he treated everyone that way, regardless of who they were or the color of their skin.

Many people proclaim themselves Christians on the inside, but display all the opposite values on the exterior.

It wasn’t that way with Taylor. He was genuine, through and through.

The world could use a lot more of his type these days, but the sad truth is that folks like him are rarely duplicated. He will be sorely missed.

John Dupont is a reporter at the Livingston Parish News





At left, Rebecca Falgout, left, and Yvette Schilling, both with Albany Lower Elementary, document damage Wednesday, Aug. 24, in Byron Comish's class at Springfield High School. At right, Chemistry-physic teacher Byron Comish directs teachers from Albany Lower Elementary helping him clean his classroom at Springfield High.

KEVIN FAMBROUGH | THE NEWS

Springfield lost many electronics, books to water damage

From A1

they should do this more often," said librarian Joe Simmons, aware how strange his words sounded, but looking at the positive side.

"This builds rapport. It's uplifting," said Simmons, who has been at Springfield since 1991. "You don't see other schools as rivals. In sports, it's 'Beat the Hornets' or 'Beat the Lions.' "

No one said, "Beat the roach," but one shriek and several laughs echoed out of teacher Carol Tate's family consumer science classroom when the lone insect appeared between two sewing machines.

Despite the interruption, under Tate's eye, most of the sewing machines were put on a long table. Some went on the floor.

"Everything comes off

the walls," she told volunteers from Albany Lower Elementary.

"I came in last week to check because I had so much equipment for Pro-Start," Tate said, referring to the state Department of Education program to prepare students immediately for careers upon graduation.

On that visit, "It was better than I anticipated, but worse than I thought," she said. "I was able to save most of my educational materials but I knew the kitchen equipment was damaged."

She put her losses at about 50 percent of her kitchen equipment.

When she opened the bottom draws of the ranges, Tate said they were filled with water.

Meanwhile, chemistry and physics teacher Byron Comish had to make a

decision.

"Squirrel has ended his usefulness," he said, putting the mounted animal on a pile bound for the garbage bins. Squirrel's role in class dated to 1993.

"It's mixed," Comish said, in describing the effect of the floodwater, finding 12-inch and 18-inch water marks in his classroom.

A set of textbooks was fine and would teach again, but he knew students' items in their lockers outside his classroom could not be saved.

"What didn't get wet got mold," he said.

Comish contemplated saving a small cactus he brought from west Texas. But he did say yes to his Galileo thermometer and the notes and mementos taped to the inside of the door to his large storage closet.

His classroom was "pretty well unscathed from theft," but other locations on campus fell victim to vandals or looters, he said.

A black executive's bag almost made it, but Comish studied gray marks on the outside.

"Did it get mold? Yes, it did."

He reached inside and pulled out CDs on chemistry. Water dripped off them.

Althea Lacey, who teaches world geography, English and special education, also had a mixed appraisal.

"We lost some stuff, not everything," she said as volunteers from Doyle and Maurepas schools moved computer screens.

"It was worse," than she expected, Lacey said, who had just started clearing the lower shelves of two closets in her classroom.

"I didn't think the water would get this bad."

Volunteer Tessie Tournillon, of Springfield Elementary, helping Lacey, said her school fared better.

"My room was exactly as I left it on Thursday," she said.

Her principal, Catherine Martin, sent out emails and school secretary Carol Pigott went to the elementary when the water receded and took pictures for teachers to see.

But Springfield High's library did not fare as well.

"A lot of books lost," was Simmons' assessment.

"Anything one-foot high off the ground or shelves was lost. Boxes sitting on the floor. Hundreds of books. A lot of electronics.

"The restoration company recommended all the books be discarded. The porous and absorbent nature of paper," Simmons

said was why the company said, "A book is a total loss if water touched it."

By Wednesday, the librarian had accepted the fate.

"I got over the depression. I had been there every day for a week or so," Simmons said, seeing the water recede and the damage.

Comish also remained philosophical.

"Between my laptop and my folders, that took years to compile, I can teach. And A/C," the chemistry teacher said.

"We got a good school. We're proud of our school," Comish said.

But the flooding will cost Comish his favorite expression.

A change in air-conditioners means he won't be able to tell the student closest to the controls to "Give me some low cool."

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DSHS received help from 250 outside teachers

From A1

when they finally were able to return to Denham Springs High to see what could be saved from their classrooms.

Karli Wainwright's students in her entrepreneurship classes were taking a proficiency test two weeks ago.

"I thought my proficiency tests were lost, but Kevin put them on my desk. They won't have to retake it," Wainwright said.

History teacher William Bradford, who teaches in a classroom next to Wainwright, said he found his Bible safe, thanks to Dorhauer.

The DSHS teachers were joined by 250 teachers from other schools, who came to help clean out classrooms, inventory what was lost or salvagable and provide moral support, according to Assistant Superintendent Steve Parrill. "There's going to be a lot of tears," he said about DSHS and four other schools that opened to teachers on this day.

"The big thing was the teachers," from Maurepas, Live Oak and Walker High schools and North Corbin Elementary, who came to help, he added.

"We did not request that anyone come out. It was a total volunteer day," Parrill said.

Without the help of the volunteer teachers from other schools, "It would have been a lot more overwhelming," added Bradford.

Using an app to download his inventory outside his classroom,



At left, Denham Springs High School civics teacher Mitch Covington moves a printer from a water-damaged closet. At right, Maurepas teachers prepare to inventory classrooms at Denham Springs High School on Tuesday, Aug. 23.



DAVID NORMAND | THE NEWS

Bradford said he had a test planned for Friday, Aug. 12, for his U.S. history students while his AP American politics and government students were reviewing what they could expect on an AP exam.

School was canceled due to bad weather.

"This was the best start in 17 years of teaching I had and out of nowhere ... bam," Bradford said.

More than 3 feet of water got into his classroom, he added, costing him some paperwork, but everything was backed up on computer.

Bradford credited weekly emails from Principal Kelly Jones updating teachers about the school with preparing him for his return.

"I found what I thought I would find," he said.

Denham Springs High's teachers "handled it better than I did when I saw the classes for the first time," Jones said, estimating 50 percent of his teachers and staff suffered flood damage at home.

"A lot of them were prepared for what they found after helping their neighbors and family with

cleanup efforts," he said.

Jones, sporting a "LP Strong" T-shirt, said the volunteer turn-out Tuesday showed his teachers "were not carrying the burden alone."

Bad weather won't deter his teachers.

"This is not my first rodeo," said Wainwright, having experienced Hurricane Rita while at Sam Houston High School in Lake Charles.

"(I'm) hurting a bit more than I expected," Wainwright said about her initial reaction to seeing the flood damage.

Wainwright teaches four classes of entrepreneurship and two career readiness classes in a computer lab.

"All of the computers made it," Wainwright said, with the chairs, since they were on top of the tables.

The tables themselves and a filing cabinet could not be saved, she said.

"The last time I talked to them, I yelled at them," Wainwright said about her students, for not following the directions on the board.

"I told them they won't make it in real careers if they can't follow directions."

Helping Wainwright check the computers was Maj. Alan LeCompte, director of the U.S. Marine Corps Junior ROTC program at Walker High School.

"I didn't know quite what to expect," LeCompte when he arrived on campus, after TV news reports he saw gave the impression all of Denham Springs was under water.

"I even put a pair of boots in my truck," he said.

Meanwhile, art teacher Virginia Berthelot added a miner's headlight to her attire as she tackled one of three powerless art classrooms.

The good news: A high, long shelf along one wall of the rectangular room saved the materials there. The bad news: Everything in cubicles below 3 feet in height was lost.

"The first two or three days of school, students brought in art materials and portfolios," Berthelot said, spreading the items on the floor and taking photos to

document what was lost.

"That breaks my heart," said Cindy Perrilloux as she took water-logged instruction books off a shelf, then found a \$50 set of watercolors that were ruined.

Perrilloux, the talented art teacher for the four schools in Albany, helped empty the cubicles, finding a visitor -- "Look, a little frog. He looks happy" -- and a student's biology textbook, swollen from floodwater and humidity.

Berthelot told her to save the cover with the barcode so it could be documented.

Berthelot was not worried about her own art supplies, but was sorry all the sketch books and portfolios students brought the first week of school would never be used.

Maurepas brought 17 volunteers, said Principal Kenny Kraft, driving more than an hour to assist Denham Springs High.

"That says a lot," about the bond among teachers, Kraft said.

"Our school did well; we had no water," he added. "This parish is resilient. It will come back stronger than ever."

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"Anyone knowing the whereabouts of someone with the name "William Street", "Michael Pierce", "Robert Temple", "Jonathan Michael Jones" please contact Angelia F. Huszar, Attorney at Law, P.O. Box 1542, Hammond, LA 70404, (985) 902-8755."

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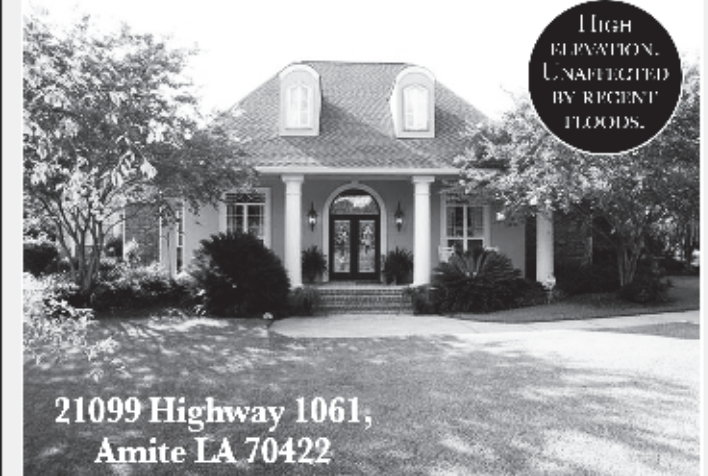
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