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# The Plaquemines GAZETTE

SERVING PLAQUEMINES PARISH SINCE JULY 28, 1928

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## Council Honors Two Plaquemines Residents for their Parish Contributions



Proclamation recipient, Doris Lebouef, and her family pose with Plaquemines Parish officials on Thursday, June 9.

By Justin Walton reporter@plaqueminesgazette.com

Spirits were high at the start of the June 9 Plaquemines Parish Government (PPG) council meeting as the council unanimously approved two proclamations honoring a pair of citizens who have each positively impacted the parish in their own unique way.

The first proclamation taken up by the council was one that declared June 9,

2022 as "Doris Barrios Lebouef Day" in Plaquemines.

This proclamation was introduced by District 4 Council Member Stuart Guey who, being a lifelong friend of Lebouef's son Kenneth, has known—and been close with—Lebouef for the vast majority of his life.

According to the proclamation itself and Guey's comments during the meeting, Lebouef was born in Golden Meadow, Louisiana but would move to Plaque-

mines after marrying her husband Paul Lebouef in 1948. She ended up working in the Buras High School cafeteria. At one point during her time there, she was asked to bake a cake for a "football banquet" 1962.

Her cake (which was shaped like a football stadium) was so popular amongst the banquet attendants she was asked to continue making her cakes for future events.

While Lebouef may not

have known it at the time, this would be the beginning of a long journey that would see her become something of a local legend in Plaquemines—even well known throughout the state of Louisiana and country.

For those who don't know, Lebouef is responsible for making several different types of cakes (red velvet, orange velvet, among

PROCLAMATIONS - PAGE 2

## Council Requests Governor Veto "Snake" Senate Bill that Could Cost the Parish Millions

By Justin Walton reporter@plaqueminesgazette.com

The Plaquemines Parish Council unanimously approved a "suspension" of its procedural rules in order to vote on a resolution "requesting" Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards veto Senate Bill 241 at their June 9 meeting.

This request was brought before the council by Parish Assessor Belinda Hazel. She explained that, if Edwards allowed this piece of legislation to become law, it could immediately cost the parish \$3 million.

The reason for Hazel's concern is that SB 241 would allow companies that have made a "clerical error" in their annual tax reporting to "make a claim to the Louisiana Tax Commission" and receive "a credit against future ad valorem taxes."

In other words, companies that have supposedly overpaid taxes due to their own error can avoid paying future taxes based on the amount they "erroneously" paid in the past.

This is a problem for Plaquemines Parish Government (PPG) as Pecten Midstream LLC—a subsidiary of Shell Midstream Partners that operates a pipeline in the parish—is currently claiming that they made such a "clerical error" and paid \$3 million more in taxes than they should have.

Hazel stated that they are currently in an appeal process on that claim and SB 241 would directly benefit them.

"They've been asking for their money back. The tax commission has heard their appeal and rejected it," Hazel stated, adding that this bill was "pushed through" in the waning hours of the 2022 legislative session and that many, if not all, legislators did not understand the effect this bill would have. "It was voted on the last day, the last time of the last day. It is going to make changes that will affect Pecten retroactively."

"I was hoping I would get the support of the parish government to try to get it vetoed before it goes any further," she stated.

More than the immediate impact the parish could be facing as a result of SB 241, Hazel emphasized that other companies could use this as an excuse to get "tax credits" due to supposed clerical errors they had made in the past.

Council Attorney Dannie Garret explained the "original form" of SB 241 was rather benign, dealing with procedural issues around tax assessments. But, it was suddenly—and quickly—amended by a six member conference committee authorized to rectify differences which the house and the senate might have on a particular piece of legislation. The conference committee report was adopted by the legislature with very little discussion. He specifically stated

BILL - PAGE 2

## Rousselle, Sanders Clash Over Rousselle's Appearance on Local Radio Show

By Justin Walton reporter@plaqueminesgazette.com

The June 9 Plaquemines Parish Port Harbor & Terminal District (PPHTD) meeting was, once again, dominated by discussions of the container terminal and the railway extension project—something that has become typical ever since commissioners first approved the railway extension by a split 5-4 vote.

This time commissioners

and executive director Sandy Sanders clashed over district 5 commissioner and PPHTD chairman Benny Rousselle's appearance on the Newell Norman show—a radio/podcast show that discusses political, economic, and cultural issues centered on the general New Orleans area. During this interview, Rousselle gave his perspective on many topics currently affecting PPHTD. The focus was economic development cre-

ated by the Venture Global facility in Plaquemines, but morphed in state political policies, and the proposed container terminal.

In comments made by Sanders during his "executive director's report" at the June 9 meeting, he noted that some comments made by Rousselle were inaccurate while others "shouldn't have been said."

He specifically pointed out that Rousselle inaccurately stated that around 2

ships per week would move through the Venture Global Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) export facility when it was "fully built out." Sanders, correcting the error (which Rousselle admitted he made), stated that 4 to 6 ships per week will move through the LNG export facility when completed.

But this was a minor

RADIO - PAGE 12

## Apache Corp. Contributes to Forest Restoration

Woodlands Conservancy partnered with volunteers and the Apache Corporation to plant 3643 seedlings and trees over the first 3 months of this year. The trees were planted at Delacroix Preserve and Woodlands Preserve by over 500 volunteers, a planting labor group and Peyton Mull, Woodlands Conservancy's Field Biologist and Kristen Donat, Volunteer Coordinator. The plantings made possible by Apache Corporation served as a partial match for a grant from EPA to restore forested areas with native trees. "Our few remaining coastal forests provide a vital refueling and resting area for migratory birds, said Woodlands Conservancy's Executive Director,



Students from NOCCA (New Orleans Center for Creative Arts) help to plant almost 100 trees and saplings along the Woodlands Preserve trails.

Katie Brasted. Apache Corporation has been a major partner in helping us increase native trees for birds including Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) that are regular visitors here."

Winter is the ideal time to plant trees because they

are dormant. This makes it easier for them to take root and establish themselves before the spring growing season. Thanks to local community members, students from Ursuline Academy, New Orleans Center for Creative Arts, Malvern Preparatory School and

Hutchison School Woodlands Conservancy reached the goal of getting the trees in the ground before the beginning of spring.

Woodlands Conservancy actively works to preserve and restore 840-acres of forested wetlands. There is no better time than now

to help stop the loss of coastal wetland forests. These forests serve as a natural sponge to absorb storm water run-off, provide a wind buffer to protect our homes and businesses, and serve as a habitat corridor for resident wildlife and migratory birds.

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