

The Plaquemines GAZETTE

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President Election is a Difference Over Local Government's Role

By Justin Walton
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In the December 10 election, Plaquemines Parish residents will be voting in multiple "run-off" elections to determine the make-up of the council and parish presidency for the next four years. While each council district race is certainly important to those within each district, perhaps the most closely watched is the race for parish president, a race that features two well-known Plaquemines figures, Keith Hinkley and Benny Roussele.

Until now, the election has been relatively calm by Plaquemines standards, and the candidates have had few opportunities to emphasize why they're the best person

for the job and what distinguishes each from the other. *The Plaquemines Gazette* interviewed both Hinkley and Roussele attempting to get beyond their surface level stances on specific issues, identify their "political philosophy," and hopefully determine some key distinctions between the two candidates.

The parish president's race began with four candidates: Roussele, Hinkley, Burghart Turner, and incumbent Kirk Lepine. While the results from the November 8 primary election were close, only Hinkley and Roussele collected enough votes to enter the December 10 run-off election, with three out of four voters choosing someone other than incumbent

Lepine.

As a whole, parish residents are looking for new leadership in the president's office, and the results of this upcoming election will determine who will lead that change and what form will it take.

The interviews conducted with Roussele and Hinkley covered a wide range of issues within the parish. This included economic and port development, Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion, new FEMA flood regulations, the Belle Chasse toll bridge, many difficulties facing the commercial fishing industry, and the conflicts that developed within the parish government over the past four years.

"I think Lepine is a great

guy who had good intentions, but he was placed in a bad position with the pandemic hitting. He was faced with a crisis, and I think he struggled to overcome that," Roussele stated on the people's decision to vote out Lepine. "I had been in a similar situation [when I was parish president] with Hurricane Katrina. And that experience really gives me an advantage when faced with a crisis."

Hinkley noted that when Plaquemines residents "talk leadership, they talk about wanting results."

"The previous administration was hit with a difficult situation and had to make tough decisions. But when

ELECTION — PAGE 2

Camp SoulGrow Invites Families to the Holiday Spectacular on Dec. 17

On Saturday, December 17, Camp SoulGrow will host its second annual Holiday Spectacular at the Venice Marina located at 237 Sports Marina Road, Venice. The party will take place from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Children can play games, enjoy cookie decorating, drink hot chocolate, make crafts and ornaments, sing

HOLIDAY — PAGE 5

2022 Orange Queen "Plants Trees" in Small Businesses of Plaquemines

2022 Orange Queen Isabela Rivera has planted artwork around Plaquemines Parish for a second year to promote the Orange Festival and our community's small businesses. When you spot one of the 76 trees at your favorite local business, post a picture with the hashtag #OrangeYouGladToShopLocal to show your support and tag #plaqueminesgazette so we can see your photos!



VOTING — PAGE 3

Parish School System Achieves High Marks in LDOE Evaluation

By Justin Walton
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Recently, the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) released its evaluation of each parish school system and school throughout the state of Louisiana, and, as should be expected, the Plaquemines Parish school system did very well when compared to other districts.

In the general rating—when compared to other school systems in Louisiana—the parish school system performed relatively well, receiving an overall letter grade of B (a District Performance Score of 89.8). This letter grade was lower than the district's 2019 A rating, and it was slightly lower than the 2019 District Performance Score (DPS) of 90.5 as well. According to a November 16 LDOE press release on these evaluations, this the first official district rating LDOE has published since the COVID-19 pandemic occurred in 2020.

Despite the fact that these scores were, technically, lower than what Plaquemines may usually expect, the district was still the highest scoring district in the New Orleans metro region and was the eighth highest ranking district in the state of Louisiana. The best ranking school overall was the Zachary Community School District with a DPS of 96.6; in second was West Feliciana Parish with 95.4; and in third was Cameron Parish with 94.7.

While LDOE technically released "simulated" scores for the 2020-2021 school years—which showed what the district scores would have been if they were officially keeping track—the unique nature of education during the pandemic led LDOE from providing official scores.

Now that schools have returned to a more "normal setting," with students being learning in person more than they do virtually, these official district evaluations have returned as well.

With all the difficulties the school system has had to endure—an international pandemic forcing online teach-

SCHOOLS — PAGE 3

Chevron Oronite Volunteers Re-deck Bridge at Woodlands Preserve

In October, volunteers from Chevron Oronite Oak Point partnered with Woodlands Conservancy to help rebuild a bridge at Woodlands Preserve in Belle Chasse. The first bridge along Woodlands Preserve's Bottomland Trail needed maintenance and Oak Point contributed to the restoration of the 60-foot span. Volunteers spent three days helping to replace bridge decking boards and cleanup the surrounding grounds.

"Oak Point volunteers worked so hard and efficiently that they finished the bridge re-decking ear-



Pictured, from left: Josh Patnoad, Josh Byram, Jonathan Olson, Garrett Manhal and Thomas Klotz.

VOLUTEERS — PAGE 5

MAILING INFO HERE

FOR THE RECORD

As a service to its readers, The Plaquemines Gazette reports arrests and suits filed in Plaquemines Parish. Information listed here is obtained from sources believed to be reliable, but due to the possibility of human or mechanical errors in filing, entering, and transcribing documents, this information is not guaranteed. Before acting on this information, please consult the official records.

Plaquemines Parish Arrests Made

November 15, 2022

Quentin B. Pridgen, Jr., 30, Terrytown, Violation of a Protective Order (14), Unauthorized Entry of an Inhabited Entry, Resisting an Officer, Simple Criminal Damage, Operating a Vehicle with Suspended License.

Tiffany S. Washington, 40, Belle Chasse, Bench Warrant, Bond Cancellation, Contraband in a Penal Institution, Possession of Schedule I Controlled Dangerous Substance, Possession of Schedule II (2).
Roland Davis, 41, Gretna, Bench Warrant (2).

Frederick R. Barrios, 39, Belle Chasse, Bench Warrant (2), Disturbing the Peace by Drunkenness, Simple Burglary, Possession of Schedule I Controlled Dangerous Substance.

Gerardo Martinez, 31, Gretna, Bench Warrant (7), Fugitive Warrant (2).

Michelle E. Aguirre, 29, Battery of a Dating Partner First Offense.

Jerry L. Manuel, Jr., 48, Amite, Bench Warrant, Fugitive Warrant.

Plaquemines Parish Suits Filed

November 16, 2022

Suit 67754, Robert Baudot vs. United Property & Casualty Insurance Company, Damages.

Suit 67755, Matthew Dudevoir vs. Imperial Fire & Casualty Insurance Company, USAA Casualty Insurance Company, Andrew Williams, Damages.

November 17, 2022

Suit 67756, Don A. Norwood, Carl W. Norwood, John Norwood, Vida R. Teague, Haylee R. Norwood, Lois S.

Snead, Eloise S. Johnson, Tammy Snead, Eloise Snead Johnson, Eloise Snead, Steve Snead Jr., Bobby Snead vs. Don A. Norwood, Carl W. Norwood, John Norwood, Vida R. Teague, Haylee R. Norwood, Lois S. Snead, Eloise S. Johnson, Tammy Snead, Eloise Snead Johnson, Eloise Snead, Steve Snead Jr., Bobby Snead, Partition.

Suit 67757, Victor Dennis II vs. Michelle Aguirre, Domestic Relief.

Suit 67758, Scott R. Reeves vs. Ruby M. Reeves, Divorce.

November 21, 2022

Suit 67759, New Orleans Firemens Federal Credit Union vs. Kacy Lee Hayes, Kacy Lee, Kacy Hayes, Monies Due.

Suit 67760, Instep Credit Union vs. Alonga Lashay Barthelemy, Alonga Lashay, Promissory Note.

Suit 67761, Succession of Maxine Encalade Duplessis, Maxine Encalade, Succession.

Suit 67762, Krista Lafrance vs. Jason Thomas, Custody.

November 22, 2022

Suit 67763, Crown Asset Management LLC, Comenity Capital Bank Zales, Zales vs. Walter P. Held Jr., Open Account.

Suit 67764, Triana Manuel vs. Dale Demolle, Divorce.

Two Men Cited for Hunting Violations in Plaquemines

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries enforcement agents cited two men for alleged migratory game bird violations on Nov. 19 in Plaquemines Parish.

Agents cited Justin Roser, 29, of Buras, and Zachary Falgout, 30, of Luling, for operating a guided duck hunt without hunting guide licenses and violating migratory game bird tagging requirements. Roser was also cited for possessing over the limit of migratory game birds and transporting fully dressed

migratory game birds.

Agents made contact with Roser in Buras and found him in possession of 32 cleaned migratory game birds with no identifying wings or heads attached. Roser admitted to agents that the migratory game birds came from a guided hunt that he and Falgout conducted. Agents then made contact with Falgout and he admitted to giving the game birds to Roser.

Guiding without a hunting guide license, over the limit field possession of migratory game birds,

transporting fully dressed migratory game birds and violating migratory game bird tagging requirements carries up to a \$950 fine and 120 days in jail for each offense.

Roser will also be assessed civil restitution totaling \$683 for the illegal possession of the birds.

Agents participating in the case are Lt. Adam Young, Sgt. Villere Reggio and Corporal Austin Landry. The case will be forwarded to District Attorney Charles Ballay for prosecution.

Agents Cite Two Men for Migratory Game Bird Hunting Violations in Pointe a La Hache

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries enforcement agents cited two men for alleged migratory game bird violations on Nov. 12 in Plaquemines Parish.

Agents cited Richard Cotton, 63, of Belle Chasse, and Jeremy Cotton, 28, of Ponchatoula, for hunting migratory game birds over a baited area.

Agents set up surveillance on an area near

Pointe a La Hache that was baited with red milo and corn. On Nov. 12, agents heard gunshots coming from the baited area. Agents also observed both subjects leaving the baited area in possession of shotguns and freshly killed migratory game birds.

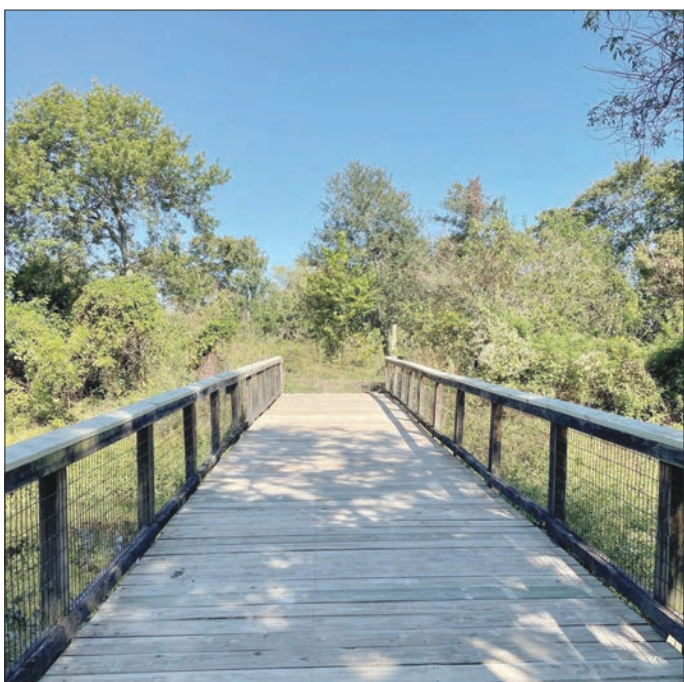
Agents made contact with the men and informed them about the area they were hunting was baited. Agents retrieved an addi-

tional sample of corn and milo from the pond after they exited the area. Agents seized 11 migratory game birds and donated them to a local charity.

All federal migratory game bird baiting cases are filed with the U.S. Attorney's Office for prosecution in Federal Court. Agents participating in the case are Lt. Adam Young and Senior Agent Shea Schexnaydre.



Before the bridge re-decking.



After the bridge re-decking.



Pictured, from left: Brian Delatte, Erik Ricks, Jonathan Guthrie and Eric Christian.



Pictured, from left: Clayton Harding, Peggy Ramey and David Tullis.

HOLIDAY

CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Christmas karaoke, and have a Holiday Spectacular dance party in true SoulGrow spirit. And Santa will be there! This event is free for all kids and families.

"Bringing the community together in a fun and creative way to better the lives and expand the horizons of all kids is what Camp SoulGrow is all about," says London Rosiere, founder of Camp SoulGrow. "Let's make this party spectacular for all kids as we help the children's souls soar with holiday fun and cheer!"

For more information about the Holiday Spectacular, email emailinfo@camp soulgrow.org or call London Rosiere at 504.460.5780.

For more information on Camp SoulGrow, visit www.CampSoulGrow.org.

VOLUNTEERS

CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT PAGE

ly and spent the remainder of their time helping clear vines and weeds in Woodlands Preserve's Restoration Area" said Katie Brasted, Executive Director. "It is extremely rewarding to so quickly see such a major physical improvement accomplished." The 10-acre restoration area, includes over 1600 native trees and saplings that are part of an ongoing restoration effort to replace trees destroyed in Hurricanes and replenish areas where invasive Chinese Tallow trees were removed. Volunteers cleared weeds and debris from in and around the newly-planted, giving them space to grow more freely. Their work created space for seedlings to grow into saplings and made it possible for more saplings to fill the Restoration Area.

"Oak Point encourages our employees to become personally involved in the communities where they live and work," said Naomi Woodard, general manager of Chevron Oronite Americas Manufacturing & Supply. "Our plant is united by a shared set of values called The Chevron Way, and we will continue seeking opportunities to work with our community partners to improve the quality of life in Plaquemines Parish."

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