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## Travis Elected Sheriff, Couhig Reelected Voters Give Havard a Second Term as Representative

The voters determined one of the most hotly contested election seasons in the Felicianas in recent memory Saturday night. While there will be a runoff for some smaller seats on the November 21 ballot, the vast majority of the leadership in the Felicianas was determined after the election.

In East Felicianas, the citizens have elected a new Sheriff. Challenger Jeff Travis won the race, beating out four-term incumbent Talmadge Bunch and winning enough ballots to avoid a runoff in the five-way race 51 percent to 38 percent. Clinton Police Chief Fred Dunn placed third with 9 percent, while Troy Abshire and Richard Sobers each garnered 1 percent. All five were registered Democrats.

In the East Felicianas Clerk of Court race, Incumbent David Dart received another term from the voters by out-gaining challenger Gwen Collins-Greenup 64 percent to 36 percent.

The East Felicianas Police Jury will look similar, with a few new faces with Chris Hall winning district 1B, Keith Mills winning district 4A, Michael Cheatham winning district 5, and Louis Kent winning District 7.

Each of the East Felicianas School Board taxes were renewed, and the 911 District tax was approved as well.

In West Felicianas, and extraordinarily high turnout compared to the rest of the state reelected Kevin Couhig as Parish President over Ricky Lambert 55 percent to 45 percent.

Couhig said on Saturday night, "Thank you to the people of West Felicianas for the opportunity to continue working toward a more prosperous future for our community. To the folks who worked in the campaign I am very grateful for all of your hard work. I know that we are joined together by a desire to see our Parish grow and prosper. Ricky Lambert is a good man and ran an excellent campaign. I think everyone will join me in agreeing that he ran because he loves West Felicianas and wants the best for our community. I hope my friend stays involved. He has a lot to offer our community. We have an opportunity to move forward together,



Jeff Travis

and I'm going to do my very best to make sure that everyone is as informed and involved as they choose to be. Public service is gratifying but sometimes difficult. It's hard on the individuals but tougher on their families. I applaud everyone who ran for office no matter what the result of his or her election. Let's Move Forward Together."

The newly elected West Felicianas Parish Council will have an entirely new look. With all precincts reporting, two incumbents — John Kean and Heather Howle — lost re-election bids. Otis Wilson qualified for a run-off. Mel Percy and Melvin Young were voted back into office. In District A, Young defeated Cheryl Franklin with 59 percent of the vote. The only local runoff on the Nov. 21 ballot will be in District B between John Thompson and Wilson, each received 45 and 39 percent of the vote, respectively. In District C, Percy won the seat with 53 percent of the vote to Mary Daniel-Godke's 47 percent. In District D, Bill May III claimed 57 percent of the vote beating Howle.

In the State House of Representative Race District 62, which covers much of the Felicianas and Zachary, Incumbent Kenny Havard beat challenger Ronnie Jett 63 percent to 37 percent. In House District 72, which includes a sliver of East Felicianas East of Clinton, there will be a runoff between Robby Carter, who finished with 43 percent and Hunter Carter, who finished with 20 percent of the vote.

## East Felicianas Subdivision Issues Remain

BY PATRICIA STALLMAN

At the October 20 meeting of the East Felicianas Parish Police Jury, Planning and Zoning Commission Chair Richard Howell said of Parish Manager John Rouchon's signing off on subdivision maps: "Somehow my maps got away from me and got to J.R. and somehow they got signed." Howell later clarified that the maps were "signed, but not approved" by the Police Jury.

Still later, Howell told Rouchon, "Every time you get into this, it goes sideways like a slip n' slide."

**East Felicianas's subdivision ordinance reads in part:**

From and after the date of adoption, these regulations shall govern all subdivision, sale and transfer of land within the Parish of East Felicianas, except within the corporate limits of any incorporated municipality. After receiving recommendations of the Planning and Zoning Commission, Parish Sanitarian, Parish Engineer and other interested parties, final authority for approval of subdivision plats and improvements thereto, and transfer or sale of land within the Parish of East Felicianas shall rest solely with the Police Jury.

Some contend, however, that in practice the Parish Manager has been allowed to sign off on maps, not only presently but also in the past.

A former Parish Manager, Glen Kent, explained, in a telephone conversation with the *Felicianas Explorer* October 22, that because he is both an attorney and a land surveyor, Dennis Aucoin had suggested that he be allowed, as Parish Manager, to sign off on surveyors' maps when necessary and the Police Jury had agreed. That allowance, however, carried over to the next Parish Manager, who is neither an attorney nor a land surveyor.

Kent says that the Police Jury made the work of the Planning and Zoning Commission autonomous, which means that the Police Jury itself may only approve or disapprove but not bypass the work of the



When Planning and Zoning Commission Chair Richard Howell asked Tommy Dudley's lawyer, Carroll Devillier, Jr., above, "What do you want?" he replied, "I want a ruling tonight." Dudley has hoped to develop land he owns in East Felicianas as a subdivision. Photograph by Patricia Stallman

Commission.

With regard to the Tommy Dudley subdivision map, Kent says, the Planning and Zoning Commission did not approve the map that Rouchon accepted and signed. It approved a map that contained four lots, not 11.

The Planning and Zoning Commission, Kent says, oversees two distinct areas: the zoning ordinance and the subdivision ordinance. The subdivision ordinance includes exceptions. Though the subdivision ordinance falls under the authority of the Planning and Zoning Commission, it does not stipulate who can determine whether an exception exists. Kent's opinion is that Planning and Zoning should determine exceptions.

Rouchon and several surveyors, however, decided that they had the authority to determine whether an exception existed, Kent said. If the current Parish Manager is correct, Planning and Zoning must still rule on the zoning.

**The Dudley subdivision map**

See *EF POLICE JURY* on page 4

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## Letter to the Editor

Letters to the Editor are unedited submissions to the Felician Explorer. Letters to the Editor may be submitted for publication at info@felicianexplorer.com. Submissions will be printed in the next issue of the Explorer, space allowing. Deadline for submission is by 5:00 p.m. the Wednesday before Tuesday publication.

Dear Editor,

I am appalled, aggrieved, ashamed, disappointed, embarrassed and most of all downright angry at the five East Felician police jurors who voted themselves a 38% increase in pay. This is a slap in the face and disrespect for the citizens of East Felician Parish especially since several of these five all are always poor mouthing, saying 'we are a poor parish' and making excuses about no money in the jury treasury. This increase amounts to more than \$32,000 and just a few years ago, this jury refused the Council-on-Aging their \$30,000 request that would have fed more than 50 needy senior citizens a daily balanced meal. In my opinion, the need of those 50 by far outweighs the selfish need of five jurors. This salary increase is downright self-centered and morally wrong. Just recently, a news article lamented that there was no money to pay the District Attorney's office for an intervention program yet these five jurors voted themselves a pay raise. Why should the taxpayer of this parish pay jurors \$600 per meeting for conducting parish business; sometimes these meetings don't last 30 minutes. Serving on the jury is a civic responsibility not a means of making a living although I dare say that some jurors have that mind set. Most on the jury have good paying jobs while the retired ones have good pensions and it just makes no sense or is it morally right for them to increase their pay while many citizens in the parish have more pressing needs. At the very least, we, the taxpayer, should decide whether or not elected jurors get more money!!!

James Devillier

Dear Editor,

I would like to take this opportunity to give my heartfelt thanks to all my family, friends, and supporters who recently re-elected me as Sheriff of West Felician Parish. I am proud of our accomplishments over the last 15 years and look forward to further progressing our department in the future.

We are fortunate to live in such a great parish. It's important that the West Felician Parish Sheriff's Office stays focused and continues to serve and protect the citizens of our community. I am very grateful for

our employees who represent me in a professional and satisfactory manner on a daily basis.

My promise is to continue my open door policy, communicate with other officials, be financially responsible, and most of all to stay abreast of the challenging times we are in. Thanks again, West Felician, for re-electing me as your Sheriff! I will not let you down.

Sincerely,

J. Austin Daniel



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# Primary Care Providers for a Healthy Feliciano: A Brief History

By GINGER HUNT, CEO

Sixteen years ago, during the summer of 1997, my husband and I formed the non-profit Primary Care Providers for a Healthy Feliciano. The formation of PCPFHF and the then six-member board began the process of fulfilling a 49-year dream to insure that quality affordable health care was accessible to every individual in East Feliciano Parish.

In the spring of 1999, after 50 years of service, our beloved "Dr. Dick" (Richard K. Munson) retired, creating a large void in the community's ability to access affordable care. It was at this time that Darie Gilliam, my colleague and friend, joined the ranks. RKM, the initials of Dr. Dick's name, became the name of the first PCPFHF clinic and rightly so: It was housed in the



Cutting the ribbon in front of the very first RKM clinic are Dr. Richard K. Munson, Clinton Mayor Toler Hatcher, Darie Gilliam, Zelma Randall and Ginger Hunt.

800 square-foot 50 year old building where Dr. Dick had practiced for so many years.

Six months later RKM was a licensed Rural Health Clinic, and the second clinic, Clinton Middle Health Center, a clinic at the Parish middle school, opened. Until February of 2000, when CMHC received a very small Office of Public Health Adolescent and Child Health Grant, it operated on personal loans and visit-generated revenues. In September 1999, CMHC became a licensed Rural Health Clinic, the first and only school-based RHC in the State and the first and only RHC to offer services to the school children, their family members and school employees. By this time the PCPFHF board had developed a ten-year stra-

See RKM on page 6

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# EF POLICE JURY

*continued from page 1*

The controversy over subdivision maps began over six months back, when the Parish Manager and two others, Russell Hicks and Bart Blackledge, signed off on the Tommy Dudley map to approve a subdivision of 11 lots, well over the four that, according to jurors, the pertinent rules allow. When the Planning and Zoning Commission initially approved the map, it showed only four lots.

In one account, Hicks, a Police Jury employee, now resigned from that position, as well as a member of the Planning and Zoning Commission, and Rouchon, the Parish Manager, called in Blackledge, also a member of the Commission, to sign (approve) the Dudley map.

Rouchon states that Planning and Zoning "tabled the Dudley map at the March 24 meeting for two missing items (zoning and flood)."

The surveyor at that point, it appears, corrected the map and brought it to the Police Jury offices.

Rouchon says that "the missing items were added, verified, and processed. Mr. Hicks verified the info and called in a second P & Z member to sign the map, then brought it to me. I also verified the info and then signed the map. The map was signed and recorded on 2 April. On 4 August P & Z called a special meeting to discuss recalling the map, and the saga just keeps going on. Everyone keeps harping on the four-lot rule for servitudes, but when the servitude to Highway 409 was established in 2007, Mr. Dudley owned seven lots. By court order he could access his home lot only from Barrett Lane; that put six lots on the



*During the October 20 East Feliciana Police Jury meeting in Clinton, Parish Manager J.R. Rouchon tells the Jurors that they had previously directed him "to sign and process maps as soon as Planning and Zoning approved them." Photograph by Patricia Stallman*

409 servitude from its inception, thereby negating the four-lot rule. The map in question (2015) took three of those tracts and created eight tracts ranging from 4.5 acres to 7.8 acres."

When the *Felician Explorer* contacted property owner Deborah Chandler, who was present for the October 20 Police Jury meeting, she explained that when Dudley contacted her and her husband about the servitude, "He said that he wanted the property so his children could have homes behind him. We were obligated to grant Mr. Dudley a gratuitous servitude/right of passage because of a previous court ruling.... Mr. Dudley does not own the property the servitude is on and only has a right of passage. It is Mr. Dudley's intent to put a subdivision of sorts on the property. I believe the map that was rescinded by the Police Jury was eleven lots total. He had already sold one lot, and a house is in the stages of being built on it. My husband and I are strongly op-

posed to having a subdivision in the back of our property. We bought rural property for a reason and would like to maintain the rural way of life as much as possible. We have eight children and want as little as possible traffic to go up and down the servitude, which is adjacent to our yard."

When Howell asked Dudley's lawyer, who was also present at the meeting, "What do you want?" he replied, "I want a ruling tonight."

When he complained that "there was no appeal process," Howell noted that the appeal "got to them (the Police Jury) when it should have gotten to us (the Planning and Zoning Commission). Do you see the circle we're in?... At some point, the Police Jury decided they had the authority to rescind the signatures" (referring to Rouchon's, Hicks', and Blackledge's signatures).

After a lengthy discussion among the Jurors, however, Juror Sean

**Felicia Ann Daniel**  
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Smith made a motion "to stand with rescinding the signatures and ask Dudley to come up with a new map that meets our rules." Juror Dwight Hill seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The Jury will send the map back to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Howell informed the Jury that a public hearing on the Tommy Dudley appeal will take place November 24, 2015.

**The Jimmie Underwood plat**

The October 20 Police Jury agenda lists: Planning and Zoning Commission Recommendation to approve survey plats: 1) Danny Levert, 2) Tammy Childress, 3) Robert Brian heirs, 4) Jimmie Underwood, 5) Aslee Vessel, Lamon Moody, Surveyor, Sec. 47, T2S, RIE. After discussion, the Jury voted to approve all but the Underwood plat, and to return that plat to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Rouchon explained in an October 21 email, "On 5 October, after hearing numerous parties complain about delays with their maps and the time and money it was costing them, the Jury directed P & Z to process these maps at the special meeting they were to have to discuss the Dudley situation and provide the Jury with recommendations. The Jury also directed me to sign and process the maps as soon as P & Z approved them, stating that the people had waited long enough. I went so far as to confirm that their intention was for me to sign the maps before they came to them for approval. They confirmed their direction to me and then last night failed to support that direction."

Howell said during a telephone

interview October 22 that at some time two or three months ago, the Jury took away Rouchon's authority to sign maps and that since then the maps were to be brought to the Jury for approval and the jurors would instruct him what to sign.

Several jurors have reported that the Jury directed Rouchon not to sign the maps.

Underwood, the Jury noted, has bought four lots and three mobile home permits for three of those lots. As a corporation and not an individual, Underwood can apply only once for an exception to the rule limiting the number of lots in a subdivision. The Parish Subdivision Ordinance: Subdivision Regulations for East Feliciana Parish, September 6, 2011 (Revision 1) reads in part:

A firm, partnership, corporation or individual may be authorized by the Commission and the Jury to subdivide one contiguous tract of land into four (4) lots or less which lots may be served by a private servitude of passage. The subdivision may be done at one time or at several times, but in no case shall the division of the original tract result in more than four lots that are served by the private servitude of passage. No segment of the private servitude of passage, established under this Exemption, shall serve more than four lots.

This exception may be utilized only once for any firm... (an) entity which shall have previously obtained authority for sales permitted hereunder shall be prohibited from applying for an additional authorization under this exception. Any corporation, firm or partnership which is owned, in whole or in part,

by an individual, firm, partnership, or corporation which previously obtained authority for sale of lots, shall not be entitled to claim or obtain approval for sale of lots under this exception. In the event that the Jury or Commission determines that title of a tract of land has been vested in a party of convenience in order to avoid the limiting provisions hereof, approval shall be denied.

Planning and Zoning approved four lots on Highway 955, then came back and approved four more in violation of the exceptions rule, Jurors said. Howell, who investigated the matter at the Courthouse, says he discovered "multiple violations" in past Commission actions.

One audience member suggested appointing an ad hoc committee to change the "once in a lifetime exception," whether for a corporation or an individual.

Another person asked from the audience, "Now he (Underwood) can go in and put in 10 trailers instead of four?" Howell responded, "The Commission didn't approve it; J.R. did."

From the audience: "Mr. Underwood is going into Parish areas and throwing in trailer parks. I hope you all like it, because you're going to have one too."

Juror Hill, saying that the Parish Manager may have overstepped his

authority, suggested "tabling Jimmy's map and sending it back to the Commission." All but Juror Louis Kent voted to send the Underwood map back to Planning and Zoning. Jurors also directed "putting a hold" on the mobile home permits.

When Juror Jason McCray asked, "Are we going to have J.R. sign maps or not?" District Attorney Sam D'Aquila reminded the Jurors they had discussed appointing an ad hoc committee to address that entire matter.


Howell, in his comments October 22, said that the Jury, as far as he knows, has not given back the right for Rouchon to sign without their approval—"all of them, at a Police Jury meeting."

**Open meetings law**

D'Aquila also strongly advised Jurors to arrange for an authority on open meetings law to train the Jurors, as twice that very night, he said, the Jurors had appeared to tread again very closely to violations of the act. D'Aquila has, in fact, recently filed a lawsuit against the Jury's Finance Committee for violating the Open Meetings Law at a June 11 gathering that addressed Parish funding for the 20th District Judicial Court and for his own office.

**Overlay problems**

Mark Kessler, engineer with



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Forte and Tablada, was present to discuss options regarding a 2014 overlay. He informed the Jury that his firm will inspect the roads and look into correcting any problems. Juror McCray said he had counted "11 cutouts and they're still coming up." On one end of Miller, he said, the road is fine; on the other, "something's wrong with the asphalt."

Rouchon said, however, that the problems were "due to undulations in the road, not to workmanship." Mike Salmon, former Planning and Zoning Commission chair who was present in the audience, identified himself as an engineer who lives on Miller Road and said, "The reason the road is failing is that you put it (the asphalt) on top of a load of crap." Because the road lacks "a good subsoil under it," Salmon said, "I wouldn't blame (the problems) on the contractor."

**Big bucks for burning**

Bud Weigand, Homeland Security director, and Jim Parker, deputy director, reminded all present of the statewide burn ban in effect until further notice. The State penalty for burning is a fine of \$250 or 30 days in jail; the Parish penalty is \$500 or 90 days in jail.

Those who burn tires will pay a \$10,000 fine.

Parker reported nine Parish fires in the last nine days and "seven people caught burning tires."

He continued: "No burning of trash anywhere! End of discussion!"

**Fighting litter**

Barbara Vail, Keep East Feliciana Beautiful director, informed the Jury of the group's fundraiser on the following Thursday, October 22, at Landmark Bank in Clinton. The goal was to raise money for the



*Dr. Frederick Michael Cramer, East Feliciana's new coroner, chats with Alice Young of Norwood after the October 20 East Feliciana Police Jury meeting in Clinton. Parish President Dennis Aucoin welcomed Dr. Cramer to East Feliciana and introduced him to the Jurors. Photograph by Patricia Stallman*

"Welcome to East Feliciana Parish" signs that Committee Member Nannette Egros presented to the Jury. Vail thanked Parish President Dennis Aucoin, who donated money to purchase the first sign, which the group will display at the fundraiser.

Vail also informed the Jury that she and two other committee mem-

bers—Egros and Michaela Wells—attended the recent State Keep Louisiana Beautiful conference in Lafayette. That group is planning an event for 2016, Leaders Against Litter.

The Keep East Feliciana Beautiful mission is to encourage individuals to take responsibility for and pride in their community and environment.

**Welcome to coroner**

Aucoin introduced and welcomed East Feliciana's new coroner, Dr. Michael Cramer.

**Announcements**

Police Jury officials announced that as the result of a regional grant, S.E.T. (Stronger Economics Together), East Feliciana will work with St. Helena, Tangipahoa and Washington Parishes to plan regional improvements. The kick-off summit is 8 a.m. to noon, October 28, at the Amite Arena. The target group will consist of elected officials, businessmen and women, and education and industry leaders.

The Capital Resource Conservation and Development Council will hold its bi-annual council meeting from 9:30 a.m. to noon November 10 at the Slaughter Town Hall.

**RKM**

*continued from page 3*

tegic plan and the race began.

PCPFHF met the first goal of that plan at the end of 2002 when it secured a United States Department of Agriculture low-interest loan to purchase land and build a new facility to house RKM.

In March of 2003 RKM moved into a new 3,600-foot facility on 5.7 acres and then received Bureau of Primary Care and Rural Health funding to purchase housing for mental health and dental services. Though the year 2005 brought the winds and devastation of hurricanes, for PCPFHF there was a silver lining: RKM and CMHC were awarded Federally Qualified Health Center—FQHC—status, and PCPFHF received a Baton Rouge Area Foundation grant and several other small private grants that provided the funds to open a second school-based center, Jackson Complex Health Center. CMHC achieved another milestone as the first school-based health center in the State to acquire FQHC status and financial independence.

A 13-member board operates PCPFHF, which is now a nonprofit organization owned not by investors but by the communities it serves.

Next, in 2007, PCPFHF received United States Health and Human Resource funding for its fourth FQHC, WBR Primary care in Port Allen, Louisiana. Clinton High Health Center, Clinton Lower Health Center and Slaughter Health Center were funded as school-based FQHCs in 2008.

In April 2010 PCPFHF celebrated the completion of the RKM's new 22,000 square-foot state of the art Medical Complex, thus reaching goal nine of the Ten Year Strategic Plan. A new Education/Wellness and Administration Center, completed in February of 2011, signaled the fulfillment of goal ten in that first ten-year plan. PCPFHF completed its second 10 year strategic plan April 2010 and is currently working on the third 10 year strategic plan.

PCPFHF clinics saw more than 1,400 unique patients last year and provided over 884,000 visits. The organization has enjoyed a minimum of a 15 percent growth rate annually and currently employs 176 individuals who live in the parishes where they provide health care services.

**A Brief History of Primary Care Providers for a Healthy Feliciana**

Primary Care Providers for a Healthy Feliciana is a 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit Federally Qualified Health Center that has served the residents



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of East Feliciana Parish since 1999 and West Baton Rouge Parish since 2008, East Baton Rouge Parish since 2011, and Livingston Parish since 2013, providing quality, affordable health care to the residents without regard to their ability to pay. PCP-FHF operates five clinical delivery sites in East Feliciana, one clinical delivery site in West Baton Rouge Parish, two clinical delivery sites in Livingston Parish, one behavioral health delivery site in East Baton Rouge Parish and in addition provides portable mental health services to the students of 36 schools in Livingston Parish, 14 schools in Tangipahoa Parish and four schools in West Baton Rouge Parish. Four full-service school-based health centers serve East Feliciana Parish.

**A Brief Description of the Population Served by the SBHCs**

According to the East Feliciana School District, 2,395 students are enrolled in Parish schools; the School District reports that 85 percent of those students were eligible for the Free and Reduced Lunch Program in 2008 (the last year data is available). An amazing 25 percent of children in East Feliciana Parish live below 100 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (compared to 28 percent in Louisiana and 18 percent in the United States). Research indicates that children from low-income families are more likely than other children to have serious health problems. Income-related disparities in childhood health are evident at birth or even before, and the disparities grow more pronounced as children grow older.

**A Brief Description of Other Relevant Information**

East Feliciana is a rural parish located in Southeast Louisiana. The PCPFHF school-based sites provide the full complement of primary preventive health services (across the lifecycle) with a strong focus on pediatric and adolescent health. Behavioral health services and dental health services are provided, on site, at all the PCPFHF school-based clinics. During the 10 year period of 2000–2015, PCPFHF dental clinics provided 3,000 students ages 4 through 21 with a total of 11,000 dental encounters. Two of the PCPFHF school-based clinics, Slaughter Health Center and Jackson Complex Health Center, operate year round. The remaining two centers, Clinton Middle Health Center and Clinton Lower Health Center, operate during the school year.

Each SBHC is staffed with a nurse practitioner, a registered nurse, a social worker, a receptionist–biller and a medical assistant. Dental services are provided by a dentist, a dental hygienist and support staff on a scheduled rotation. The goal is for every child to have access to two preventive visits a year and restorative visits according to need. Since the inception of the dental program, the staff has grown from one dentist to four and one hygienist to two, with a full complement of support staff. Hospitals report that the number one reason for emergency room visits in Louisiana is a toothache.

In addition, one of the top reasons for school absence is a toothache. PCPFHF data has shown positive correlation between a student’s ability to receive the recommended preventative care and a steady decline in the need for restorative care.

# A Visit to the Dentist at the Slaughter Health Center

By PATRICIA STALLMAN

Dr. Phillip Griffin says of his young dental patients at Slaughter Elementary, “We are their voice while they’re here. I’m going to do everything I can to be sure their dental needs are met.” A 2010 graduate of the dental school in New Orleans, Griffin says he has found his calling as a school-clinic dentist. While he enjoyed his work with several dental offices in Baton Rouge, Hammond and Dutchtown, he says he “didn’t know I’d enjoy the schools as much as I have. Now that I’m here, I feel that I’ve landed where I’m supposed to be. It’s a different dynamic,” he explains. “It’s a challenge to win over these students, to win their trust so that they will allow me to conduct their exam.”

Griffin has choreographed and scripted his approach when dealing with his youngest patients, those who are 4 and 5 years old. The receptionist leads the child into the dental office, where the dental chair faces the doorway to Dr. Griffin’s office. Griffin remains seated in the doorway between the two rooms. From that distance, he greets the child, finds something to compliment (“Cool shoes!”), explains he’s going to check for sugar bugs—and before the child realizes it, the dentist, still seated in his office chair, has rolled over next to the dental chair. He then moves to the edge of the dental chair and is now seated next to the child. He checks the lower teeth, saying, “This is a mirror. Can you see yourself?” and then, “We’re halfway through!”

He moves around the back of the dental chair to the other side, remaining seated, while he asks the child if it’s all right for him to don his mask and magnifying glasses, reassuring his patient, “It’s still me behind here!” The pick he uses to check for soft spots is, he says, his “tooth counter.” He explains and reassures every step of the way.

The first goal is to demonstrate for the student that “coming to the dentist is a good thing.”

For older students he communicates “in a more adult way,” while still “letting them know I’m genuinely concerned about what’s going on in their mouth.” He speaks firmly to the high schoolers, reminding them they’ll need to take care of



*If you were 4 years old and visiting the dentist for the first time, would this man scare you? Of course he would! That’s why RKM school clinic Dentist Phillip Griffin deliberately choreographs his moves and creates a script to welcome each child “as if that child were one of my own.” Photograph by Patricia Stallman*

their dental health when they’re “out in the real world.”

Working with Dr. Griffin is Dental Hygienist Wynette Kain, who completed six years in private practice before joining the school clinic group. Shelbi Law is the dental assistant, and Tanessa Thomas runs the reception desk and schedules the students.

The dental team spends one week

See DENTAL on page 8

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District 62  
Kenny HAVARD  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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# DENTAL

*continued from page 7*

at a time at each of the four East Feliciana school clinics: East Feliciana High School in Jackson and East Feliciana Middle School in Clinton, Clinton Elementary School and Slaughter Elementary School. Jackson Elementary School students see the dentist during the high school students' weeks. The team plans its moves, school clinic to school clinic, two weeks in advance. With each rotation, the group moves its x-ray and computer equipment.

During a good week, Thomas says, the group sees 120 students, and during a down week, 80. Services include teeth examinations and cleanings, fillings, extractions, sealant applications, and referrals for braces. Her challenge is to schedule the children, and it is a challenge. She can pull students only from non-core classes, and she must check ahead carefully to avoid State testing periods and off-campus activities.

A stationary medical team staffs each school clinic. At Slaughter Elementary, the nurse practitioner is Cynthia Hall; the registered nurse is



Dr. Phillip Griffin, East Feliciana Parish school-clinic dentist, presents his "A Team" at the Slaughter Elementary health center. Hygienist Wynette Kain and Front Desk Receptionist and Patient Coordinator Tanessa Thomas, from left, and Dental Assistant Shelbi Law, right, work closely together to make the most efficient use of their time...that is, to meet the needs of as many children as possible. **Photograph by Patricia Stallman**

Melanie Stowers, the licensed practical nurse is Laura Spears, and the medical assistant is Shirley Shephard. The medical and dental teams often work together, referring students for the other team's services.

The dental team members say that their work reflects both their wish to help people and, as parents themselves, their love of young people, both the little ones and those about to move on into that "real world."



Luke, a Slaughter Elementary student, quickly adjusts and assumes his role as the patient while Dr. Phillip Griffin explains the next step in the dental examination.



The medical team at the Slaughter Elementary clinic are, from left: Registered Nurse Melanie Stowers, Nurse Practitioner Cynthia Hall, Licensed Practical Nurse Laura Spears and Medical Assistant Shirley Shephard. **Photograph by Patricia Stallman**

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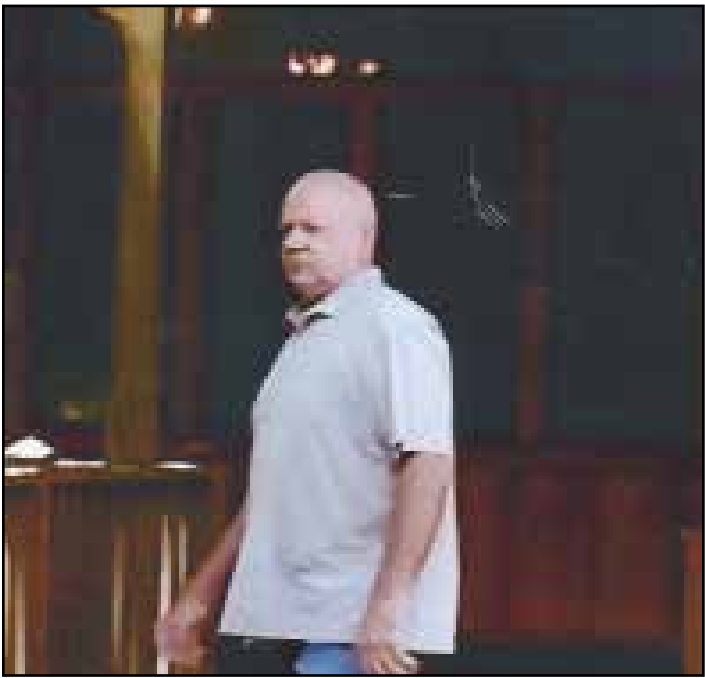
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# In Our Community



**Mike Anding, Rural Mail Carrier in and around the Clinton area retires.** "Over the years it has been an honor and a privilege to be a mail carrier to the best group of people in the State of Louisiana," Anding said.



Sharon Lea, left, OLLI Feliciana's Advisory Board member and October 21 Coffee Chairperson, thanks presenter Jim Engster, radio journalist, who spoke about Louisiana politics...in particular, the current race for governor. Photograph by Darlene Reaves

## Retired Teachers Group Hosts Baton Rouge District in Jackson



West Feliciana High School Student Mika Cooper, who plans a career as a pediatrician, addresses the Retired Teachers Association at the United Methodist Church in Jackson, Louisiana. Photograph by Patricia Stallman

BY BETH DAWSON

The East Feliciana Retired Teachers Association hosted the Baton Rouge District Annual Fall Meeting on Monday, October 5, at Jackson United Methodist Church, first welcoming members with a hearty breakfast served in the Social Hall.

Sonja Terrell, East Feliciana RTA President, opened the meeting as members gathered in the sanctuary and the Reverend Joy Comeaux of Jackson UMC offered the invocation. Town Councilman and Veteran Jim Parker led the Pledge of Allegiance, with greetings given by Carlos Sam, Superintendent of East Feliciana Parish Schools.

Beth Dawson of EFRTA had the honor of introducing the outstanding student speaker from West Feliciana High School, Mika Cooper. Ms. Cooper opened her presentation with these words:

"Alphabet building blocks are tools for learning. As parents, grandparents, and teachers, you provide the foundations for what we build our lives upon. Alphabets and numbers are vital tools in our society. Consider yourselves one of these building blocks. A teacher can build a student's self-esteem, aca-

ademic ability, and persona.

"Each of you has been fundamental to the development of someone's life. I say this because there have been numerous times that I have experienced the effects of a virtuous teacher.

"A virtuous teacher can simply be an encourager: someone who strengthens a student's confidence level; a virtuous teacher can be a confidant: someone a student turns to for guidance; a virtuous teacher can be the one person to put a smile on someone's face. Whether it was something said or done for one of your students, a teacher's impact can be vital to a child's future. So what is there left for a teacher to do? It's time you sit back, relax and watch your students thrive as they build upon the foundation you have set."

At a very young age, Ms. Cooper already has an inspiring resume. Now 16, Mika was born in Little Rock, Arkansas, of parents Mico and Karen Cooper. Outstanding student and athletic participant in cross-country, volleyball, track, and cheerleading, she is the coordinator of events for SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions). Mika is also member of The Baton Rouge Youth Coalition, Nation-

al Society of High School Scholars, Beta Club, Interact Club, Mock Trial team, Pro-Start Management team, Mu Alpha Theta and Magnolia Full Gospel Baptist Church Youth Choir. Mika's career aspiration is to be a pediatrician.

EFRTA members then honored their oldest member, Mrs. Effie Sharkey Dawson, 94, with a certificate and a bouquet of yellow roses. Educators of Yesteryear RTA of Baton Rouge recognized their oldest member, who was in attendance, Mrs. Willie Honeywood Smith, 95.

Janis Hernandez, President of Louisiana RTA District IV, opened the business session, introducing visitors, district officers and unit presidents. District Secretary Jevella Williamson commenced the roll call and unit attendance. After the president's update of LRTA business, District Treasurer Wayne Berry presented his report. Bylaws and Executive and Nominat-

ing Committee reports followed. Door prizes were drawn during breaks between business items.

LRTA President James Stewart read a delightful poem entitled, "I Am Fine, Thank you." Rodney Watson, Executive Director of LRTA, entertained with "Praise the Lord and pass the ammunition, please," an American patriotic song by Frank Loesser published in 1942. The song, a response to the attack on Pearl Harbor, which led to the United States' involvement in World War II, is said to memorialize a chaplain who joined the fighting men in defense of the USS New Orleans.

All adjourned to the Social Hall where a moving memorial service with lighted candles honored those retired teachers who had passed away during the previous year.

The meeting closed after each and every educator and guest enjoyed a delicious luncheon, fellowship and more door prizes.

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# In Our Community

## The Felicianas Honor Veterans at Vets Fest 2015



The Lost Bayou Ramblers out of Lafayette, Louisiana—and Pilette, near Broussard, and Arnaudville—performed Saturday, September 26, as part of the West Feliciana Vets Fest. The band continually incorporates “new sonic rhythms and sounds” into its traditional Cajun tunes and lyrics. Performing “almost entirely in Cajun French, in a two-step and waltz rhythm, the band draws also on Western swing, rockabilly, and punk rock. Louis Michot, center, plays fiddle and performs vocals; his brother, Andre Michot, plays Cajun accordion and lap steel guitar; Johnny Campos is on electric guitar, and Eric Heigle is on drums. Contact the band at 337-962-6674 or at [lostbayouramblers@bandcamp.com](mailto:lostbayouramblers@bandcamp.com).



Serving up the best-ever West Feliciana jambalaya to benefit veterans groups are, from left, Felicia Langlois, Catherine Lemoine and Jon Michael Lemoine. The three volunteers took part in West Feliciana’s Vets Fest September 26. **Photograph by Patricia Stallman**



During this busy election season, East Feliciana Clerk of Court David Dart last week took the time out to talk to area children about fire prevention and safety and the rewards of volunteering with at Fire Prevention District.

### BSA Troop 61 Recognizes Two Eagle Scouts



Eagle Scouts Adam Broussard, left, and Collin Loyacono of BSA Troop 61.

BSA Troop 61, sponsored by the United Methodist Men of St. Francisville United Methodist Church, awarded the rank of Eagle Scout to Adam Broussard and Collin Loyacono on July 12.

The rank of Eagle Scout is the highest rank in Scouting, with only five out of 100 youth ever earning this rank. “It represents years of hard work and dedication of both the Scout and his parents to the Scouting program through leadership positions, outdoor activities and service projects. Scouts who earn the Eagle rank have

consistently demonstrated in their daily lives the three main parts of the Scout Oath—duty to God and country, duty to others and duty to self,” said a troop organizer.

Adam is the son of Mark and Dawn Broussard, and Collin is the son of Thomas and Stacey Loyacono. Both Scouts are students at West Feliciana High School. Adam is a member of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church and Collin is a member of Grace Episcopal Church in St. Francisville.

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Local CPA is looking to provide some part-time bookkeeping for small businesses located in Zachary & the Feliciano's. Reasonable rates. Contact 225-304-5355 or jim.moss60@yahoo.com

FOR SALE. Large capacity Kenmore Washer and Dryer. Clean, works well. \$200 for set. Call (225) 654-7484.

FOR SALE. 16x80 Mobile home in Ethel. 3BR/2BA on 3.5 Acres. Call Tammy at (225) 954-2889 or River City Realty at (225) 261-5500.

Drivers: Home Daily- Local Haul Driver \$1000 Sign On & Up To \$1000/wk - Night Shift Multiple Locations near Hammond, LA. Must be 23 years old; Valid CDL-A; Excellent MVR Must pass pre employment drug screen & physical. One year tractor-trailer exp. in past 3 yrs Please Call 877-656-2695 www.hinestrucking.com - HTI is an equal opportunity employer

LOST. October 17, 2015. Small white dog with long hair, big black ears, black around eyes. Lost on Hwy 68 at Karr's Creek and Asphodel Church. Reward of \$1,000. Please call (225) 658-4898 or (225) 324-3535.

FOR RENT. Near Zachary Elementary. \$800/ deposit, \$1,200/month. Utilities and yard not included. 3BR/1.5BA. Call (225) 266-7343.

Pats Home Center - St. Francisville -Yard worker /CDL Driver must have a clean record . Apply within store.

Seeking a compassionate in-home personal care worker to service a client in Pride, LA. Please call Angels on Assignment (225) 929-5726 b/n 9am-4pm.

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Zachary Adventist Church would like to invite you to attend seminars for : Jesus Christ Revelation of Hope Finding Hope in Uncertain Times. Dates: Friday, October 9, 16, 23, and 30. Time: 7:00pm, Saturday, October 10, 17, 24, and 31. Times:10:30am, 6:00pm, & 7:30pm, Sunday, October 11, 18, and 25. Time: 7:00pm, Monday,

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October 12, 19, and 26. Time: 7:00pm. Meetings end on October 31, Time 10:30am. Location: Zachary Adventist Church 20025 Old Scenic Hwy, Zachary, La. Speaker: Tommy Blount. Free: Admission, Study Materials, Bible after 10 nights of attendance, Child care (ages 2-9).

Prime multi acre residential home site in the heart of Zachary. Country living in the City! Pull your kayak and paddleboard to your own private sandy beach on Redwood Creek. Ready to build your dream home. Brokered by Monte Real Estate 225-658-1515. Listed at \$69,000 with 100% lot financing available through Brandy Westmoreland at Guaranty Bank.

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ATTENTION ALL NURSES! Eastern Louisiana Mental Health System is an integrated system of mental health care designed to provide a wide array of services within a multi-faceted system. We have RN1, RN2, and RN3 positions available in Jackson, LA. There is a Special Entrance Rate, or SER, for these positions. The RN1 has a Special Entrance Rate of \$1,614.40 bi-weekly, or \$20.18 hourly. The RN2 has a Special Entrance Rate of \$1,768.80 bi-weekly, or \$22.11 hourly. The RN3 has a Special Entrance Rate of \$1,874.40 bi-weekly, or \$23.43 hourly. We also have premium pay options, shift differentials, and other benefits! If interested, please apply at www.jobs.la.gov. For more information, please contact our Human Capital Management Team at 225-634-0559.

FOR SALE: 3 bed/3 Bath home in Clinton. 11.5 Acres. Great for Hunting. Beautiful Cypress Cabin. Great for Four-Wheelers. \$236K. Call or text 225-324-9515 for pictures or showing.

FOR RENT. 3BR/2BA Trailer. Bluff Creek Area. All Electric. Appliances inc. \$300 Dep./\$600 per month. No Pets Allowed. Call (225) 683-5265.

FOR RENT. 3BR/1BA brick home in Clinton. \$875/month plus deposit. Central air and heat, fireplace, 1 acre of land. Call (504) 782-7940.

GREAT DEAL! Year-End Special. House for Sale. Pre-construction. Pick your colors. 100% loan avail WAC. Seller to pay up to \$5,000 closing costs. If you qualify in October, you will also receive \$1,500 cash move in/house warming gift at closing. Call (225) 773-3855 for more info.

For Rent. 2 and 3 Bedroom Mobile Homes in West Feliciano. Call (225) 635-6061.

The Myrtles Plantation is hiring Tour Guides \$8. - \$10/hr. + Tips. Flexible schedules Full or part-time. Tours conducted daily from 9-5 p.m. and Friday and Saturday evenings 6 - 9 p.m. 7747 US Highway 61, St. Francisville. Call 225.635.6277 to apply.

CECIL GRAVES CHEVROLET Technicians Needed GM Dealership looking for Techs with GM knowledge. Serious inquiries only. Send resume to: cecilgraves@cecilgraves.com

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Cross Creek Cowboy Church. 21160 Plank Rd, Zachary. Sundays 10:30. Come as you are, 225-721-0333. Facebook.com/CrossCreekCowboyChurch.

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<p>PORK <b>BABY BACK RIBS</b> <b>\$2<sup>79</sup></b> LB.</p> 	<p>10LB LONG GRAIN <b>SHURFINE RICE</b> <b>\$4<sup>29</sup></b></p> 	<p>3 LB BAG <b>YELLOW ONIONS</b> <b>99¢</b></p> 	

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<p>14 OZ. BRYAN <b>COCKTAIL SMOKIES</b> <b>2/\$5</b></p> 	<p>12 OZ. BRYAN <b>BACON</b> <b>\$1<sup>49</sup></b> LB.</p> 	<p>12 OZ. BAR-S <b>FRANKS</b> <b>89¢</b></p> 	<p>1 LB BAG JOHN'S <b>GUMBO CRABS</b> <b>\$3<sup>99</sup></b></p> 	<p>120/150 CT <b>LOUISIANA SATSUMAS</b> <b>3/\$1</b></p> 
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