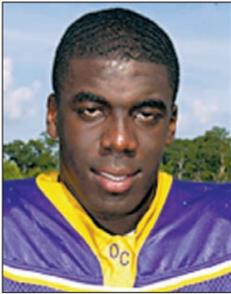
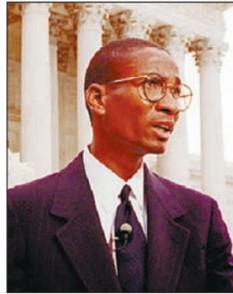


IN HIS HONOR

Tumors bench OC running back for rest of season Page 1B



DAILY World



OUT OF THE RUNNING

Appellate court rules Cleo Fields cannot run for re-election Page 3A

OPELOUSAS, LA.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2007

50 CENTS ★

Good morning

High 92° Low 66°

More weather on Page 8A

ONLINE EXCLUSIVE



Go to dailyworld.com for a look at financial expenditure reports filed by the candidates for the Oct. 20 election



As part of its homecoming week activities, OHS held a powderpuff football game where the girls had the chance to take to the field. See a photo gallery at dailyworld.com.

LOCAL NEWS

Several organizations from the parish are invited to attend a meeting to discuss public transportation in St. Landry Parish today at city hall, Page 2A

Arnaudville community yard sale committee will meet Friday, Page 2A

St. John Berchmans school will hold a gala and family fun day at City Club in Lafayette Sept. 29, Page 2A

Weather experts are keeping an eye on another storm that could develop in the Gulf of Mexico, Page 8A

Index

- Classified.....3B
Crossword.....6A
Editorial.....4A
Horoscope.....6A
Mailbox.....6A
Obituaries.....5A
Sports.....1B
State News.....3A

How to reach us

To report news tips, call 943-7099 or 942-4971
To place a classified ad, call 942-5604
For advertising, call 942-4971
For customer service, call 1-800-259-8852



A Gannett Newspaper Copyright 2007

Jena Six supported locally

By Alexandria Burris aburris@dailyworld.com

Cathy Richard first heard about the circumstances surrounding the "Jena Six" several months ago from a radio station.

Richard, a Family Worship Christian Academy teacher, presented the case to her middle school students, who worked to bring it to the attention of their entire school.

The "Jena Six" is a group of six black Jena High School students who were originally charged with attempted murder after a schoolyard brawl led to a white student being taken to a hospital. The boy was treated and released.

The incident was sparked when three nooses were hung from a tree where white students gathered, after a black student sat under it.

"The Jena Six" has garnered national attention, and students in Richard's school also will gather to express their feelings and concerns.

Thousand will participate in the "Rally and March for Peace and Justice" today including some St. Landry Parish residents.

Opelousas Alderman Brian Thomas, who is running for the District 40 state House of Representative seat, said he will be joining the march in Jena today.

See Jena Page 5A



AP Photo

Charles Steele Jr., president & CEO of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, speaks in front of the La Salle Parish Courthouse Wednesday in Jena.

Get out and vote



Photos by Freddie Herpin

Bethany Thomas, left, is assisted by Lauren Jones as she applies for her first ever voter registration card Wednesday at the St. Landry Parish Registrar of Voters office in the St. Landry Parish Courthouse.

The Oct. 20 election is fast approaching and Wednesday was the last day citizens could register to vote in the upcoming election.

Several St. Landry Parish residents already have exercised their right to choose who they believe should be our governmental leaders. Others are getting out for the first time to practice this patriotic duty.

For those who did not register to vote, do so in order to vote in future elections. Forms are available at the local Registrar of Voters office or perhaps a local bank or post office.

The October election will include candidates for governor, lieutenant governor, as well as state senators and representatives and several parish seats and tax proposals.

For a chance to hear some of the parish candidates, go to the Daily World political forum at 5 p.m. today at the South City Park Teen Center.



Abandoned property laws to get an upgrade

By Henri LeJeune hlejeune@dailyworld.com

St. Landry Parish government presented a draft of the new abandoned/adjudicated property law at the parish council's regular monthly meeting Tuesday.

The law is being rewritten in order to simplify and streamline the process of property owners who want to sell their property as a donation or if they can't pay their taxes and are forced to sell.

This is a problem for the parish because if the case gets caught up in legal limbo, then the property is taken off the tax rolls, which can mean reduced income to the parish government.

The proposed law, which the council took under advisement and will address at its October meeting, would set up shorter timelines for the process, create a board to deal with issues that might arise and flesh out other gray areas.

Parish council legal adviser Andrea West told the board at the meeting she has been working with attorney Larry Sandoz to draft the proposed law.

Section five of the law creates a committee that reviews any issues that would arise with a particular case and then report it to the full board in order to take action on it.

The committee would consist of the parish president,

council president, finance committee chairman, public works committee chairman and parish legal adviser.

West said the parish council only meets once a month and some of the time limits set in the law require action within 30 days of a notice. Having a committee would help keep the process moving forward instead of being dealt with month by month.

"We really wanted to speed things up," West said.

Parish president Don Menard said Wednesday properties brought to sheriff's sales, as they are called, are not large tracts of land. Most are just a lot or two. He said lately the number of proper-

ties being sold for nonpayment of taxes is large, and they want a simpler system to address them.

"We want to be able to sell the property and put it back on the tax rolls," Menard said.

The abandoned/adjudicated property law being proposed differs from an updated version of the nuisance property law, which is still in the works.

The parish has a current law to deal with junk cars, dilapidated houses, overgrown fields and other unkept property, but the law does not have teeth, Menard said. They are working on a new law that would allow the parish to

See Property Page 5A

Coroner: Wife killed husband then self

Police discovered bodies after phone call

By Alexandria Burris aburris@dailyworld.com

BASILE — The Evangeline Parish Coroner's Office has ruled the deaths of a Basile couple as a murder-suicide.

According to the Basile Police Department, Carol Ann Fontenot, 56, and her husband Joseph Chester Fontenot, 66, were found shot to death Monday in a residence on East Second Street.

According to a news release, the coroner's office determined Carol Ann Fontenot shot her husband then turned the gun on herself.

The couple were dead inside the home for more than 36 hours before officers found their bodies, police said.

The Basile Police Department said it received a call around 1:02 p.m. Monday from a caller who suspected the couple were dead.

Police officers entered the residence and discovered the bodies with gunshot wounds, according to the department.

According to the police, neighbors, family and other witnesses, the couple were experiencing marital problems for the past several months.

Opelousas to get some new business

Starbucks, Office Depot on way to city

By Alexandria Burris aburris@dailyworld.com

Change is coming to Opelousas, and it is coming in the form of a big office supply store and high-priced coffee.

Weiner Development Corp., of Houston, announced plans for a new shopping center in the former Kroger building on Creswell Lane Tuesday.



The 45,000-square-foot shopping center, named Opelousas Marketplace, will house a drive-through Starbucks, Office Depot and a Gamestop — stores that have attempted to break into Opelousas's market for several years.

Weiner Development Corporation President Andy Weiner said the shopping center would have space for five other stores and a restaurant.

Developers hope the shopping center will keep St. Landry Parish residents and the money they spend at retail shops and restaurants in Lafayette within the parish.

"I believe that Opelousas is under served both for retail and restaurant users," Wiener said. "There's no need to drive into Lafayette, which is what the current Opelousas residents do now for retail and restaurant services."

See Business Page 5A