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Field events continue in district track action
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DAILY World



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What's on the minds of the area's teens?
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OPELOUSAS, LA.

FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2008

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Good morning

High 78°
Low 50°
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Panel eyes Caswell contract

Nassif: Attorney integral to desegregation efforts

By Alexandria Burris
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Removing Gerard Caswell as the St. Landry Parish School Board's legal counsel would be "disastrous" to the parish's desegregation efforts, Superintendent Michael Nassif said.

The school board's executive committee will discuss a time-

Want to go?
The St. Landry Parish School Board's executive committee will meet at 2 p.m. Monday in the school board's central office.

line to look at Caswell's contract before it comes up for renewal this summer during a meeting Monday. The commit-

tee will also discuss the timeline for Nassif's upcoming yearly evaluation.

Board President John Miller said no decision has been made to terminate or renew the attorney's contract with the school district.

"What I'm doing as president, I'm just putting it on the table," Miller said. "It's a pub-



Caswell

lic body and they should know about the contracts. I feel that all contracts should be open to the public."

Miller said one of the items he wants to look at is the total cost the school board is paying for legal services. "At one time, we had legal counsel from the (St. Landry Parish School Board) See Caswell Page 6A

Fire damages old Abdalla's



Photo by Freddie Herpin

Firefighters prepare to leave the roof of the Abdalla Building after extinguishing a small fire at the rear of the building Thursday. With the firefighters is Louis Viviano, owner of the building. See a photo gallery of the fire at dailyworld.com.

Chief: Building's condition toughened fire fight

By William Johnson
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An alert firefighter is credited with keeping a minor blaze at the long-empty Abdalla Building in downtown Opelousas from

becoming a major disaster for the city Thursday.

"If this had happened at 2 a.m. we might have lost the majority of this block," said Fire Chief Lee Cahanin.

Fortunately, the city is main-

taining a fire watch at the former Hargroder Building across the street from the Abdalla Building while improvements are under way to bring that

See Fire Page 7A

Morris asks city attorney to resign

By Alexandria Burris
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EUNICE — Mayor Robert "Bob" Morris wants Eunice city attorney Jacque Pucheu to resign.

In a letter dated April 15, Morris wrote that he believed Pucheu cannot be trusted and alleged the city attorney violated numerous laws and rules of professional conduct.

In the letter, Morris made allegations of bribery and malfeasance against Pucheu.

"I am again asking for you to turn in your resignation. You can cite personal reasons or personal conflict with the Mayor or whatever you wish," Morris wrote.

See Morris Page 6A



Morris

Only online

Read Morris' letter to Pucheu at dailyworld.com

Council to discuss rules for trail rides

By William Johnson
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A recent trail ride that got out of hand is causing the St. Landry Parish Council to review its existing trail ride ordinance.

The ride in question was the Easy Rider Trail Ride in March. Organizers had expected about 250 people but more than 700 showed up.

As a result, the number of St. Landry Parish Sheriff's deputies on hand proved insufficient to control the crowd.

"There were fist fights. They had to shut it down at 5 p.m. It was a

Inside today
Find more from the parish council on pages 3A & 7A today.

really bad, bad time. The sheriff's department has asked that we do something," said Council Chairman Kenneth Vidrine. "We need to find a way to keep the numbers down."

Council legal adviser Andrea West, who was asked to review the law, said there is no way to control crowds under the current ordinance. "Your mass meeting ordinance specifically excludes trail rides," West said.

The current ordinance was passed a few

See Rides Page 6A



Vidrine

Helping hands create artwork



Photo by Freddie Herpin

Joseph Sias, Home Depot kitchen designer, gives art tips to Christopher Jefferson, left, and Crystal Manuel during a special art class Thursday at North Elementary. The children have spent three weeks creating art projects depicting the New Orleans Saints and memory boxes to keep keepsake items. Home Depot donated their supplies and sent employees to assist the students. The students also were helped by artist Grace Hamilton-Mayfield. A grant from the Louisiana Department of Education Special Arts Program helped fund the work, which will remain on display at North Elementary through the month of April. See more photos at dailyworld.com.

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