

### Lions Club Mardi Gras

King Donald J. Cazayoux, Jr. and Queen Lauren Riché David  
—Photo by Amber Johnson

The 2017 New Roads Lions Club Queen is a 2014 duchess and high honor graduate of Catholic of Pointe Coupee where she was actively involved in athletics and school clubs. She was a multi-year All State softball player and a member of Catholic's first State Championship Softball Team.

She is a junior at Our Lady of the Lake College where she is in nursing school, with plans to enter a pediatric nurse practitioner program. Our queen has maintained a 4.0 GPA throughout her college

career, beginning at LSU where she pledged Kappa Delta Sorority. Her academic accomplishments were rewarded by selection to the President's List and to the Student Ambassador team at Our Lady of the Lake College.

She has volunteered as a community softball coach and is currently the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade coach for Catholic of Pointe Coupee. Queen 74 is an active and life-long member of St. Mary of False River Catholic Church.

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### Livonia Mardi Gras

King Tim Marionneaux and Queen Emily Katherine Benedict

Emily Katherine Benedict is the daughter of James and Melanie Benedict of Oscar. She is the older sister of Caroline and Garrett. She is the granddaughter of Herbert and Yvonne Prejean of Oscar, RoseLee Soulier and the late Don "Sou" Soulier of Livonia, and the great-granddaughter of Mary Benedict and the late Charlie Benedict of Fordoche.

Emily graduated in 2015 from Catholic High of Pointe Coupee, where she served as Captain of the cheerleading team, a member

of multiple clubs and organizations including Beta, 4-H, Campus Ministry, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, President of her Junior Class and the 2014 Homecoming Queen. She was a member of The Dance Pointe's Competition Team for six years winning numerous titles, scholarships and awards.

Emily is a sophomore at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette where she majors in Nursing. She is a member of Phi Mu Sorority. She has remained on the Presi-

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### Community Center Mardi Gras

King Steven Juge and Queen Sarah Benijah Leatherwood

—Photo by David Jarreau

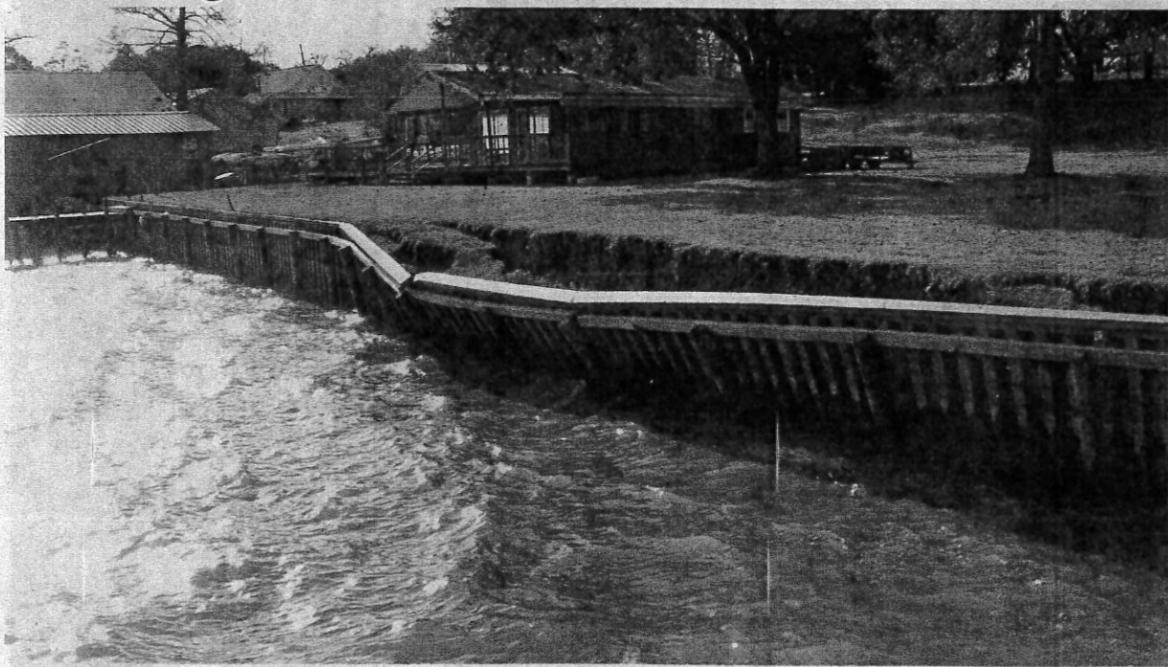
2017 Queen: Sarah Benijah Leatherwood is the daughter of Lynelle Leatherwood and Benito Leatherwood-Garrett, Sr. Her siblings are Trinity, Emmanuel, Benito, Jr., Lance, Ariel, and Dorian. Sarah began her education in Wisconsin and then relocated to New Roads, Louisiana and attended school at Livonia High School until her graduation in 2016. She is currently a full time student at Baton Rouge Community College (BRCC) studying Cosmetology. After receiving her

diploma from BRCC, Sarah plans to attend Southern University and pursue her degree in music.

2017 King: Steven Juge is married to Mrs. Hope Sonnier Juge and the couple has two children, Jada, who is in the food service industry and Jacob, who is a senior at Southern University majoring in education and a member of the Jaguar baseball team. Steven is a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church where he serves on the church board. He is also a Third

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## Meeting of False River Watershed Council



Approximately 100 feet of Dianne Deville's seawall gave way. It's easy to see this is a new bulkhead.

By Stafford Chenevert

Sharafkhani, Thomas Van Biersel, Arthur Ewing, Jimmy Lyles, Randy Myers, Ron Pourciau, Kyle Olinde, Rick Ward and Cy D'Aquila. Absent were: Brad Spicer and Jimmy Chustz.

Mr. Gerald Babin presented the Council with a packet prepared by Professional Engineering Consul-

tants concerning the island on the south end of False River. Mr. Babin reported the island is stable and the pictures he distributed during the meeting show the trees and other vegetation on the island is thriving.

With respect to dredging the north end of False River, PEC

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The False River Watershed Council met in a regular meeting on Wednesday, January 11, 2017 at the Court House Annex. Members of the Council present for this meeting were: Major Thibaut, Jerry Hix, L. J. Grezaffi, Stephen Tassin, Bijan

## Warm-weather Mardi Gras lures record crowds to New Roads; Estimated 100,000-plus jam city for hallowed parades

By Carnivalus Mysterious

By any measure, New Roads' Mardi Gras 2017 festivities were among the hottest ever: from the fever-pitch excitement of souvenir "throws" being hurled from float riders into masses of humanity jamming the streets, to some of the wildest marching band music and dance moves ever experienced in the festival's history and, not least of all, to the mercury peaking just below the record high of 82 degrees Fahrenheit recorded on Fat Tuesday 1982.

In keeping with the remarkably warm winter season of 2016-2017, would-be revelers seemed to an-

icipate an especially "hot time in the old town" for New Roads' parades, sprucing up lawns and residences weeks in advance, and parking vehicles and improvised reviewing stands along the route as early as the Wednesday before the big day. Even the Baton Rouge media's perennial "wish" for rain on New Roads' Mardi Gras apparently had little effect, as the day was marked by an exponentially heavy stream of auto traffic pouring into the city from all point of the compass, before 7 a.m. and well into the Lions Carnival parade's mid-afternoon cruise.

More than 200 law enforcement officers from myriad agencies were

on hand to help funnel the contra-flow of traffic into town until mid-afternoon, and out of town in early evening, as well as manning parade route intersections and forming roaming patrols throughout the festival area throughout the day.

### COMMUNITY CENTER PARADE

Celebrating its 95th anniversary as Louisiana's oldest Carnival parade after Rex, Proteus and Zulu, the 2017 edition of the Community Center of Pointe Coupee parade seized the city's historic streets by musical storm at 11 a.m. and warmed the hearts of untold thousands, with the excitement never

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## Community Center parade makes history

The 95th New Roads Mardi Gras Parade and the reveal of the King and Queen also made history as the first time an incident of this nature occurred.

As the King and Queen's float was slowly being pulled near the

judges' stand for the unveiling, the float got too close and became stuck. It took several minutes worth of finagling back and forth as the Mayor and others worked to free the judges'

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# Meeting of False River Watershed... (Continued From Front Page)



This picture was taken at Lake Side Village. Notice how far back the lawn gave way when the seawall failed.



This picture taken at Kyle Olinde's property on the Island shows how a natural shore line can be enhanced.

submitted two options, which included estimated construction costs. Option one studied by the group would involve pumping the sediment to L. J. Grezaffi's property located north of New Roads between Martin Drive and the old Curet pecan grove. This project would necessitate the construction of a containment dyke. The cost for this plan is approximately \$1.7 million dollars. The second proposal recommends pumping the sediment to the Mississippi

River via a pipeline installed in the Ventress bayou. The price tag for the second proposal is estimated at \$1.9 million dollars. The next step in the process is securing the necessary permits.

It is estimated some 200,000 cubic yards of sediment will have to be pumped from False River.

During the public hearing portion of the meeting, approximately twelve individuals voiced their concerns about the drawdown and damage to their bulkheads. Angel

Bain, co-owner of Sun Perch Villa on the Island side of False River, didn't speak about her bulkhead, but the negative impact the drawdown had on her business. During the many meetings dealing with the two drawdowns, only Mr. Arthur Ewing raised the "negative impact" issue.

Miss Dianne Deville of Oscar, Louisiana, one of the individuals to speak at the meeting, consented to an interview with this writer. Miss Deville stated it cost her \$20,000

to repair her bulkhead following the first drawdown. Following the second drawdown, an additional 100 feet of her sea wall gave way. When questioned about other damage to her property and home she responded negatively, but added she was bringing in an engineer to assess the site. Miss Deville strongly believes the second drawdown caused her seawall to fail. She also stated she will continue attending the False River Watershed meetings.

The bulkhead that appears to have suffered the most damage is located at Lake Side Village at 2215 False River Drive. Not only did 200 feet of the wall give way, but also the ground appears to have

caved in toward the townhouses. In some places the lawn shows large cracks reaching back to about 24 feet from the buildings. In a telephone interview with Mr. Jimmy Gremillion, president of the homeowners association, he frankly admitted part of the bulkhead was more than 25 years old and in need of updating. Mr. Gremillion stated they had some minor issues with the wall two years ago and he attributed the failure to both "age and water."

During the meeting one Council member suggested property owners should consider a returning to "a natural shore line." One individual responding to this idea said, "That ship has already sailed."

Returning to a natural shoreline in some places appears to be a sound alternative as shown in a photograph taken at Kyle Olinde's property in Jarreau, Louisiana.

Repeatedly throughout the meeting both Representative Major Thibaut and Senator Rick Ward said they would be willing to inspect each failed bulkhead. Several times during the meeting members of the Council explained to the audience that addressing the bulkhead failures is not the responsibility of the False River Watershed Council.

The False River Watershed Council will hold its next meeting in the Police Jury meeting room on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 3:00 p.m.

## Local Financial Advisor receives Industry Honor

Stacy Russo-Nichols, a Financial Advisor with Northwestern Mutual, has qualified for membership in the Million Dollar Roundtable (MDRT), an international, independent association of nearly 19,000 leading life insurance pro-

