

## Flood control OK'd for district

People residing in the Rochelle Street/Glenmar Avenue area of in the Garden District of Monroe will see less flooding when a \$1.6 million detention pond project is completed next year.

Mayor Jamie Mayo announced at a news conference Monday that the project had been approved.

See Page 2A

## Biedenharn signs with ULL

River Oaks running back Alex Biedenharn will be joining the UL-Lafayette football team as a preferred walk-on this upcoming season.

The announcement comes after an MCL sprain forced the senior to miss several games last season, but the recuperated Biedenharn still posted over 1,000 rushing yards and 10 touchdowns.

See Page 3A

## Cause of WM fire unknown

State Fire Marshal investigators do not know what caused a house fire last week that claimed the lives of two West Monroe High School Students but their investigation continues.

Two West Monroe High School students died in the early morning blaze.

See Page 3A

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# Defense motions fall on deaf ears

By Johnny Gunter  
The Citizen

Defense attorneys for former Monroe city councilmen Arthur Gilmore Jr. and Robert "Red" Stevens have filed a host of motions leading up to their April 22 trial on bribery and racketeering charges and U.S. District Court Judge Donald Walter has denied them at every turn.

## FORMER MONROE COUNCILMEN

Gilmore and Stevens will be tried in U.S. District Court in Shreveport. Walter will preside. The pair was tried and convicted of bribery and racketeering in U.S. District Court in Monroe in 2011 but were later granted a new trial in light of questionable behavior on behalf of the prosecution. Gilmore and Stevens

were members of the Monroe City Council when they were convicted. They resigned from their positions shortly thereafter.

Defense attorney Charles Kincade argued in one motion filed with Walter that his client, Gilmore, could not get a fair trial if he is tried along with Stevens. Walter denied the motion for

**Judge: 'Intimate relationship' in case 'not relevant'**  
See Page 8A

Gilmore to be tried separately. In a joint motion, Kincade and defense attorney Carey Under-

Please see DEFENSE / 12A



MELISSA HALL reveals the CASA Online Viewer's Choice Award photo, "Anywhere But Home," by Ashley Johnson — which was selected for the award based on the highest number of Facebook votes. Below, Mayor Dave Norris proclaims April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. (Citizen Photos)

## 'More than a number'

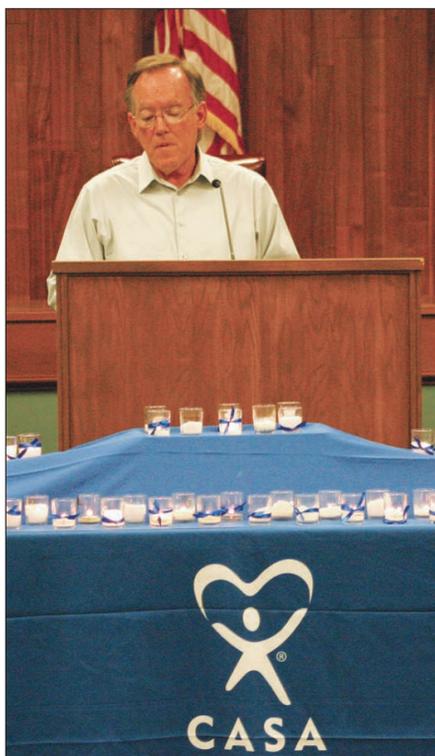
CASA working to bring spotlight to problem of child abuse

West Monroe Mayor Dave Norris declared April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in the city to spotlight the work of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA).

CASA representatives act as the voice of abused or neglected children in courtrooms throughout northeast Louisiana.

Norris delivered his proclamation Tuesday during CASA's ceremony to recognize winners of its annual photo contest. Norris

Please see MORE / 12A



# Police Jury president dismisses Sterlington

By Zach Parker  
The Citizen

All revenues generated by a 1-cent sales tax levied by the Ouachita Parish Police Jury belong to the people of the parish, said Police Jury President Shane Smiley.

That would include all revenues the 1-cent sales tax generates within the corporate limits of Sterlington, Smiley said.

Smiley dismissed any suggestion the town of Sterlington was entitled to any monies the Police Jury collects off the 1-cent sales tax in Sterlington.

Smiley's remarks came in response to a lawsuit filed against the Police Jury last week by the town of Sterlington. The suit claims the Police Jury stands to gain all monies and profit as well from the town of Sterlington's investment along U.S. Highway 165. That would be the case, according to the lawsuit, because the Police Jury prematurely terminated an agreement between the two parties that called for the Police Jury to share proceeds from the parish-wide sales tax with the town. The proceeds in question are revenues the 1-cent sale tax generates within the corporate limits of Sterlington.

The 1-cent sales tax is not levied within the corporate limits of Monroe and West Monroe.

Parish voters first approved the 1-cent

Please see DISMISSES / 12A

# West Monroe facilities get new signage

The West Monroe Board of Aldermen signed off on contracts Tuesday night to have new signage installed at three city-owned facilities.

Acting at their regular meeting, aldermen also agreed to some upgrades at the pavilion located behind the city's farmer's market off North 7th Street.

Ouachita Builders Inc. was the low bidder on the projects,

which called for the Board of Aldermen to approve four separate contracts.

New signage will be installed at West Monroe Community Center, Ike Hamilton Expo Center and West Monroe Convention Center.

The new signage at the Ike will be electronic. It will cost some \$77,000.

New signage for the conven-

tion center will be erected along North 7th Street. Directional signage will be installed as well to direct the public to the convention center's location. Cost for the signage for the convention center is \$59,000.

West Monroe City Clerk Benny Chelette said people walk into city hall often asking if city hall was the convention center. "It happens all the time,"

Chelette said.

For \$31,000, new signage will be installed at the community center in southern West Monroe.

At the pavilion, new floors will be installed and other work will be done to coincide with the remodeling of the farmer's market.

Please see SIGNAGE / 11A

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**BRIAN WHITEHEAD** rides the bull (left) that his son, Mitchell Whitehead, was supposed to ride in last Saturday's rodeo in Bastrop. Mitchell Whitehead and Kyle Phillips died in a house fire in West Ouachita last week. 9-year-old Harley Cobb (right), cousin to both Mitchell Whitehead and Kyle Phillips, rode a sheep in their memory.

Citizen Photos by Monica Huff

# Avoiding the season's caterpillars

I enjoy going barefoot at home whenever I can even though I am a diabetic, but a lesson learned was stepping on a stinging worm at the chicken yard. This was very painful and I wanted you to be aware

too of the worms that can cause you harm.

This worm was a Buck-moth. This purple-black caterpillar has a reddish head and small round white spots over its body. Several spiny structures

are located on each segment of the body. When touched, these spiny structures cause a burning, itching and reddening of the areas stung. Buck moth larvae tend to cluster on branches and move about in a follow-the-leader fashion.

Primary hosts include oak, willow, wild cherry, rose and several other deciduous plant species. The larval state of this species is prominent in April and May,

The LSU Ag Center has reported that two nuisance caterpillars are out in greater numbers than usual this year in Louisiana.

One is a dangerous stinging caterpillar, and the other can wreak havoc in small fruit and ornamental trees.

The inch-long saddleback caterpillar looks like it has two heads with spiky features at both

ends. Its primary color is reddish brown. However, it has a chartreuse and white "blanket" over its midsection with a reddish brown oval "saddle" straddling the top.

"It is reputed by many experts to be the most dangerous caterpillar in North America," said Tim Schowalter, LSU Ag-Center entomologist and head of the Department of Entomology.

"People must use extreme caution if they see one," he added.

Schowalter said stings can be treated by putting adhesive tape over the stung area repeatedly to remove any spine tips. Use a fresh strip of tape each

time.

Then thoroughly wash the area with soap and water to help remove irritating venom.

"Prompt application of an ice pack and a baking

soda poultice can help reduce pain and swelling," Schowalter said. "Oral or topical antihistamines may help relieve itching and burning."

These caterpillars can be encountered on a variety of

host plants, including oak, maple, willow, apple, aster, blueberry, button-bush, citrus and corn.

"They appear to be more common than usual in the South this year," Schowalter said. "Even so, their numbers probably do not warrant insecticide application."

Schowalter advised people to be on the lookout for the saddleback cater-

pillar. Avoid it. If you see one, try to carefully remove and destroy.

The second is the fall webworm, a pale tan-yellow caterpillar that can be anywhere from a half inch to 1.5 inches in length.

"Despite its name, it is common now in Louisiana," Schowalter said.

The caterpillars' silk tents are conspicuous on a variety of forest, fruit and ornamental trees. Damage is usually restricted to a few branches, but this can be serious for small fruit or ornamental trees.

Schowalter said these caterpillars can be controlled by clipping and removing the affected branch or spraying with Confirm 2F, Dylox 80% SP, Spintor 2 (spinosad), Malathion 57% EC and Methoxychlor 50WP at labeled rates.

Dale Poller, a retired extension entomologist, said the spinosad formulation will work on these caterpillars and is safer for homeowners.



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**THEME: Earth Day**

**ACROSS**

- It's a wrap
- \*A call to being green, acr.
- Fog effect
- Solo
- Mother, sister or daughter
- "... truly"
- Teacher's pet, e.g.
- Radio knob
- Consume
- Bungle
- \*Biology branch
- Long time
- Niels Bohr's study object
- Cleopatra's killer?
- Christening acquisition
- On which Romney and Obama were found
- It must go on?
- \*Like animal near extinction
- Marilyn Munster to Herman Munster, e.g.
- Delhi dress
- Sends by posts
- Imitator
- Are not
- Mosquito net fabric
- End of the line
- Noontime
- Give certain impression
- DNA transmitter
- Boll weevil, e.g.
- Car display
- \*Garden helper
- Iron Man's robotic nemesis
- French farewell
- Galley tool
- Vociferously praises
- Choral composition with sacred lyrics
- Fix a game
- He lives on Sesame Street
- "You do it to your garden's soil before planting"
- "... he drove out of sight"
- Homes are often tested for this

**DOWN**

- Maple syrup precursor
- Reunion attendee
- Lariat, e.g.
- Used in some liquors
- \*Earth Day founder
- Please get back to me
- 17th letter of Greek alphabet
- Rent again
- Delivered by a mare
- \*Its emissions are regulated
- Pharma product
- Grammy of sports
- Tower of London guard
- Render harmless
- \*Corn holder, often left behind to protect soil quality
- Most aerial
- Indian state
- Harry Belafonte's daughter
- Focused or riveted
- "Yes, \_\_\_"
- One who fabricates
- \_\_\_ colony, middle ages
- \*An earthly body
- \*Earth to ancient Romans
- \*Prop pusher
- Do it "or \_\_\_!"
- Beach souvenir
- To give up or bow out
- Up and down nod
- \* \_\_\_ earth
- Mercantile establishment
- Kate Middleton's head gear
- Barack's David
- One wafting
- Possible indoor allergy cause
- Voyeur's glance
- Impulse
- " \_\_\_ your manners"
- Assortment
- \*Clean \_\_\_ Act
- Congressional title



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## ULM fishing team ranked No. 1 in U.S.

The University of Louisiana at Monroe Fishing Team is now ranked first nationally, after competing in fishing tournaments sanctioned by the Association of Collegiate Anglers.

The ACA School of the Year standings currently

includes hundreds of collegiate fishing teams from across the country, ranked on a point system.

The current season began July 1, 2012 and will end on June 30 of this year. The ULM team currently leads second place Arkansas Tech by 33 points in the overall standings.

"This ranking is great," said team adviser Ralph Swillie. "The main thing is that the guys work hard. They have jobs, they go to school, and they fish."

According to their website, the Association of Collegiate Anglers has designed a multifaceted School of the Year program designed to both rank and reward collegiate fishing teams throughout the country. The program is built to reward teams that compete with the ACA in the BoatUS Collegiate Bass Fishing Championship Series, as well as Carhartt College B.A.S.S. Super Regionals, and National Guard FLW College Divisional/Regional Championships.

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