

The Ouachita CITIZEN

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INSIDE...

Thursday, December 27, 2012

75 CENTS

Alderman: Elg out by Jan. 1

West Monroe Chief of Police Chris Elg has until Jan. 1 to find a new job or step down, according to comment Alderman Sonny Bennett made to a South Bend, Indiana newspaper.

Bennett attributed the deadline to swelling budgets in the West Monroe Police Department under Elg's tenure as chief of police. Last week, Elg turned down the top police post in Bismarck, ND.

See Page 3A

ULM readies for IBowl

The ULM Warhawks received an extra bit of Christmas cheer when the team was awarded All-Louisiana honors ahead of the team's first ever appearance in a bowl game.

The Warhawks square off against the Ohio Bobcats Friday night in Shreveport.

See Page 1B

City gets A+ bond rate

Credit rating agency Standard & Poor's has raised the credit rating for the City of Monroe, Mayor Jamie Mayo announced Wednesday.

Mayo said the improved credit rating will make it cheaper and easier for the city to borrow money to complete major capital projects such as the Kansas Lane connector and much needed sewer repairs.

See Page 2A

INDEX

Volume 89 • Number 52

Editorial	4A
Crossword.....	4B
Sports.....	1B
Tempo.....	9A
Public Notices.....	8B
Classifieds.....	7B



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Year in Review 2012

Crime, education, elections dominate headlines

By Michael DeVault
The Citizen

With elections at every level of government, 2012 was a busy year for voters, and in true Louisiana fashion, elections delivered controversy and attention-grabbing headlines.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Department of Justice came down hard on several local officials amid charges of corruption, fraud, bribery and extortion.

News of an electoral crisis first broke in The Ouachita Citizen in late 2011 when it was revealed that the City of Monroe missed a critical deadline following the 2010 Census.

The Monroe City Charter requires redistricting of the City Council districts to take place at least six months prior to the next round of municipal elections. Those elections were scheduled for March 2012.

However, the City Council was unable to approve the new districts until late November 2011, well past the six-month deadline.

"Immediately I called Nancy Summersgill and we started looking at it and talking about it," said City Council Chairman Jay Marx. "Where at first it looked like there was an easy solution, there is not."

City Attorney Nanci Summersgill pointed to a state law that allows terms of public office to be extended in the instance of a delay. That is what happened, too, after U.S. District Court Judge Robbie James tossed out a law suit aimed at forcing the elections to be held in March, as originally scheduled.

Please see REVIEW / 12A



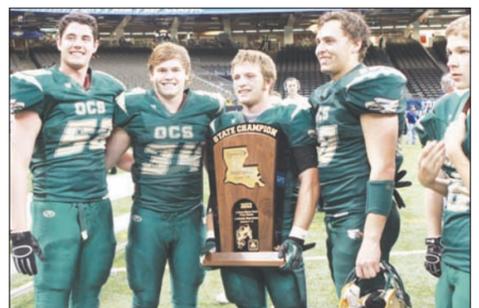
DIGNITARIES GATHERED in eastern Ouachita Parish in January 2012 for the unveiling of a 725-acre business park. Pictured, from left: State Rep. Katrina Jackson, Monroe Mayor Jamie Mayo, Fred and Jean Huenefeld and Mary Ann Moon.



ABOVE: Parish officials discuss the finer points of the Ouachita Parish Police Jury's 9.2-mill property tax for operations at OCC ahead of the April 21 election. District Attorney Jerry Jones (right), Sheriff-Elect Jay Russell, and Police Jury president Shane Smiley were among the leaders instrumental in the push for the jail tax. Voters approved the measure. **LEFT:** ULM students participate in convocation — the traditional start of the new academic calendar, held annually in August.



U.S. REP. Rodney Alexander watches national election returns in November at Republican Headquarters in Monroe. Alexander was re-elected to his sixth term in Congress.



THE OUACHITA Christian School Eagles won their second state championship in a row earlier this month at the Superdome in New Orleans.

After four decades, Hood ready for next chapter

By Sunny Meriwether
The Citizen

A longtime West Monroe banker will retire at the end of the month.

But Ouachita Independent Bank President Whitty Hood said his plans will keep him involved in the community for many years.

Hood said it was "totally an accident" that he got into banking. He was born into a family with a tradition of newspaper careers. In fact, his grandfather Lee Hawkins founded *The Ouachita Citizen* in 1923 as *The West Monroe Churchman*. The name was changed the following year.



Whitty Hood

His family owned the paper until it was sold to Bert Hatten in 1968.

Hood worked at the paper as a high school student when his

family owned it.

"It was printed on a flatbed press, and on Wednesday afternoons, I printed the first section of the newspaper," Hood said. "Circulation was about 4,000, and it took two or three hours to print 4,000 copies of the paper because it went through the press one page at a time."

When Hood was a junior at LSU, his father Amos Hood died and it "didn't seem romantic" to leave college and run the family business. He'd been working for Louisiana Power and Light in West Monroe during the summers. After he graduated with a degree in business and after a stint in the military,

LP&L (now Entergy) offered him a job. The job was in south Louisiana, though, and Hood wanted to remain in his hometown.

On a suggestion from his mother, Hood approached Jim Burnett, the family's banker at Ouachita National Bank, in 1971. Burnett referred Hood to ONB President R. L. Vanderpool Jr., who offered him a job as a note teller. That's not like a paying-and-receiving teller, but someone who works in the loan department.

"I thought with a business

Please see HOOD / 8A

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Photo by Kelley Photography

OUACHITA LIONS Chris Sumbler tries to block a shot by one of Carroll's Bulldogs. The Bulldogs won the contest 58-54 and play Neville on Dec. 27 and Jan. 1.

Carroll battles Neville in back-to-back games

The Carroll Bulldogs basketball team meets the Tigers in regular season play on Tuesday, Jan. 1, with a 7 p.m. tipoff at Neville High School.

As one of the local basketball powerhouses, the Bulldogs hold a 9-2 record on the season after defeating the rival Wossman Wildcats basketball team last week with a 80-55 score.

The Tigers are making it through the season, holding a 4-5 record, after being bumped out by the Ruston Bearcats basket-

ball team last week, 57-35, during the Ruston Basketball Tournament.

Neville began the tournament with a 67-61 win over Lakeview, nudging their way to the next tournament bracket where they faced North DeSoto. The Tigers crushed DeSoto, nearly doubling their opponents' total score as they game closed with the final 80-43.

Carroll plays Neville in back-to-back games beginning Dec. 27 with a 7 p.m. tipoff for the West Monroe Tournament after

recently scuffing the court in two games against the Ouachita Parish Lions.

In the first Lion-Bulldog contest, Ouachita pulled away with a close 60-57 score.

Carroll hosted their next contest where the Bulldogs sent the Lions home, winning 58-54.

With both games decided by less than five points, Carroll remains a threat on the court and aims to continue their lead in the West Monroe Tournament and against Neville.

Wildlife and Fisheries releases iPhone app for outdoorsmen



Citizen photo by Rene Hatten

RENE HATTEN captures photo of a button buck and doe in West Monroe. Besides using her iPhone for photos, Hatten recently downloaded the first iPhone app from the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

I love my iPhone and I am so excited that The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) launched its first iPhone application on December 19.

The application is free and available on the App Store.

LDWF's iPhone app offers the most vital information needed for the outdoor enthusiasts.

It is simple, quick and to the point, providing relevant information while participating in outdoor activities.

"This is great news for anglers, hunters and anyone who enjoys the outdoors," said LDWF Secretary Robert Barham. "We're giving our citizens a tool that can improve

their outdoor experience, no matter what skill level they may hold."

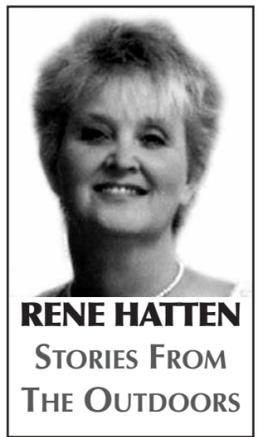
The iPhone app took some of the best parts of department's web site, and recreated them into a version more adaptable to today's lifestyle.

The app offers the following:

- current hunting and fishing regulations,
- freshwater and saltwater fish identifications,
- size restrictions and bag limits for specific water bodies,
- waterfowl identification
- as well as regulations, schedules for the wildlife management areas and much more.

A snake identification page is also included, which is a useful resource no matter what outdoor activity is underway.

ognizes that fostering such a program for donation and economic processing of surplus game meat advances objectives of the North American model of Conservation by helping maintain a strong base of hunters for game harvesting management and facilitating effective hunter compliance with existing regulation that



RENE HATTEN
STORIES FROM
THE OUTDOORS

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13								14		15		
16								17		18		
	19				20			21	22			
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69						70				71		
72						73				74		

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THEME: WORLD LEADERS

ACROSS

1. Like children's book character Nancy
6. Grade A item on grocery list
9. Spill the beans
13. Greeting from Don Ho
14. ___ chi
15. "Location of Mohammed Morsi's presidential palace"
16. It lacks appropriate punctuation
17. Wood-shaping tool
18. It often fell in old cartoons
19. "One of EU leaders"
21. "Anti-apartheid leader"
23. Moray ___
24. I, to a Greek
25. Where massages are given
28. Letter opener
30. Pincered insect
35. Animal mitts
37. Doofus
39. Narcotics lawman
40. Please do not delay
41. Ringworm
43. Shore extension
44. Quiet gesture
46. Enameled metalware
47. Seat locator
48. Type of lightweight cotton
50. Reduced Instruction Set Computer
52. Austin Powers, e.g.
53. Not naughty
55. Bur or white ___
57. Scope
61. Ligament injury
64. "George W's is in Crawford, TX"
65. Back of a boat
67. "He's president again"
69. Lemur from Madagascar
70. Public health promoting org.
71. NBA venue
72. ___ en scene
73. Be mistaken
74. Smallest detectable sensation

DOWN

1. ___ cry
2. Reunion attendee
3. "___ the wiser"
4. House duty
5. Pulled with a jerk
6. And others, for short
7. Cowboy's boot prod
8. Its name is not known
9. Paul McCartney's "___ on the Run"
10. In real-time
11. Seed cover
12. Western cord necktie
15. Promised Land
20. "Obama, President-___, e.g."
22. Chowd down
24. Pig iron predecessor
25. Accompanies seizure
26. Turkish bigwig
27. Nobel Prize, e.g.
29. Came or climbed down
31. What Eminem does
32. Court orders, e.g.
33. Freeze over
34. "Perestroika leader, nickname"
36. Tim Duncan, e.g.
38. Where things are made to order
42. Famous fabulist
45. "Mohandas or Indira"
49. Canine command
51. ___ tunnel
54. Irritate by rubbing
56. Resin-producing tree
57. Hat part
58. Feminine of raja
59. "___ of the earth"
60. Used for measuring land
61. "Eisenhower was a five-general"
62. Big-ticket ___
63. Supreme Court count
66. "Famous for New Deal"
68. Old-fashioned form of Anna

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prohibits the wasting of edible portions of game," said Jimmy Anthony, LDWF's assistant secretary for the Office of Wildlife.

HFH has enlisted the support of game processors around the state who will accept and process your game at no cost to you or the families who will benefit.

You as a donor only need to bring in your harvested deer or hog to a participating processor, field-dressed in advance, and they handle the rest.

You can elect to keep the backstrap and tenderloin, and donate the rest of the edible meat. There is no cost to you even if you select this option.

"We are excited and proud of the generous support LDWF is providing this very worthy program," said Richard Campbell, head of the statewide HFH network.

"With their cooperation, we hope to cover the entire state, thereby sharing the bounty of our natural resources with those less fortunate."

For a complete list of participating processors, go to www.hunters4hungrylouisiana.org.

Rene Hatten writes about outdoor life for The Ouachita Citizen. She can be reached online at Hatten-Home.com