

HAVE You HEARD

Spring Festival accepting sponsorships

The Denham Springs Antiques District kicks off their annual Spring Festival April 2.. This festival consistently attracts over 5000 visitors. This year, the attractions will include the Livingston Parish Jazz Festival, 150+ street vendors, family entertainment and a unique arts avenue. The fire department will promote fire safety and a pet show will benefit animal protection agencies. Sponsorships of the festival are available for this premier celebrations of art, music and family fun and are an excellent vehicle for getting maximum positive exposure for your business. Call Tish Pierce, 225-284-8231 or email info@piercecms.com for more information.

Project Graduation holding fundraisers, asking for donations

Plans are now underway for an alcohol/drug free, seniors-only graduation party. It will be an all night event with food, music, dancing, games, prizes, movies and more on Friday, May 14 following the graduation ceremony 11:00 pm to 6:00 am at the North Park Recreation Center in Denham Springs. Sponsorship are being solicited. All donations are tax-deductible (and donors are given a poster to display which recognizes them as a sponsor.

Visit www.dsprojectgraduation.com to submit your donation online via PayPal, sign up for email updates or to serve on one of the many committees.

Walker looks at changing liquor laws

A group of Walker residents are circulating petitions that they hope will result in the liquor laws of their community being changed to allow alcohol

in restaurants. The petition originated with John Wilder, a retired Exxon-Mobil employee.

Wilder said, "Walker has grown quite a bit in the last 16 years. Why not try to attract some nice restaurants - but the restaurants won't come without the liquor. The town would get more revenue and more jobs. Right now, the people in Walker can go about a mile in any direction outside the city limits and get liquor. That's money that we're losing that should be staying in Walker. Whether you drink or not, you go to nice restaurants all over the place and people are having drinks and they're not creating a problem. Those who don't want to drink don't have to. We are against barrooms but, unfortunately, the standard liquor referendum includes a barroom option. We are asking people to vote 'no' on option 3 and yes on the others."

Walker's mayor supports the movement and has signed the petition.

"I guess I'm for it for a little different reason than most folks," said Mayor Bobby Font. "Yes, it could mean we would get more restaurants and, yes, we would get more revenue, but that's not my driving force. I try to think past tomorrow, and think where we'll be two or three or more years down the road. Our city limits are fairly small, and what I see happening just the other side of the interstate, or just east or west, if we don't allow liquor in restaurants in the city, is restaurants or bars will locate just outside the city and do anything they want. Walker is going to spread it wings and eventually incorporate more areas, but if there are bars already there, there is no such thing as grandfathering them in and making them change what they're doing. I'm fearful of having an establishment that can have loud music, late hours and allow go-cups for drinks. We should take steps to put us in control. I love our small town atmosphere, but once Our Lady of the Lady clinic breaks ground, things are going to take off. I would rather be in a position to regulate the growth and control the new businesses, so that's why I'm favoring the change in the law."

Anyone interested in signing the petition can sign it at LeBlanc's Food Store, Sid's Seafood or Planet Beach Tanning Salon. See www.helpwalker-grow.com for more information.



**Fresh Fruit Smoothies • Coffees
Panini • Chicken Salad • Shrimp Salad**

**BUY ONE
GET ONE
1/2 OFF**



FREE Wi-Fi

31575 La Highway 16
Denham Springs, LA 70726

225.243.4438

School Days Uniforms

Largest Selection of School Uniforms

**School and
Medical Uniforms**

**Scrubs
by Dickies &
BARCO**

**SPRING IS ON THE WAY!
MAKE SURE TO PICK UP YOUR
SHORTS AND SHORT SLEEVE SHIRTS.**

"Livingston Parish School Board Approved Vendor"

**Latest Styles
Sizes starting at 2T
Slim • Husky • Half Size**

225.665.7989



**13475 Vera McGowan - Walker
1 block north of the I-12 Walker Exit**

HAVE You HEARD

Sam's Club property closing date changed

Sam's Club has pushed back the date to close the sale on property in the Denham Springs Bass Pro complex to March 15. The good news is the city is still in the running. Out of 30 new Sam's/Walmart projects nationwide, Denham Springs is, at this time, still on the drawing board.

"We've heard that fifteen other planned new stores, some already under construction, have been canceled," reports DS city councilwoman Annie Fugler. "The news that we're still in the running speaks volumes about the positive reputation and bankable marketability of Denham Springs, in particular, and Livingston Parish as a whole. Apparently, we're still the place to be on the I-12 Corridor."

Cocodrie's Restaurant closes, sports bar & grill will take its place

Cocodrie's Restaurant in Denham Springs has closed. The restaurant will reopen in March as Big Mike's Sports Bar & Grill, owned by Mike O'Neal.

Good news and bad news on I-12 project

DOTD announced Feb. 11 that an additional \$6 million in stimulus funds will be added to the I-12 widening project, ensuring the widening of both eastbound and westbound lanes will extend to Juban Road.

The bad news is structural problems have been discovered on the O'Neal Lane overpass and it will have to be replaced. This will add \$10 million to the cost of the project and four months to the length. The original deadline for submission of proposals was Feb. 9 but it has been extended to March 9. Bids will be opened in April.

Keep up with I-12 and I-10 projects on GeauxWider.com

DOTD has launched another unique initiative that is meant to help the traveling public maneuver through our current and future major widening projects on I-10 and I-12 in Baton Rouge. The public can now find information about the projects at GeauxWider.com and can access GeauxWider updates on Facebook (Facebook.com/GeauxWider1) and Twitter (Twitter.com/GeauxWider). Accounts aren't required to view online information but it is easy and free to sign up, which will allow you to receive direct notices to your cell phone.

Southeastern community counseling center open

Community members may now seek low-cost counseling services at Southeastern Louisiana University's Community Counseling Center (CCC). Developed through the Department of Counseling and Human Development, the

CCC serves as a clinical-learning environment for graduate students working to become licensed professional counselors or licensed marriage and family therapists.

Interim CCC Director Terry Pertuit said that while a professional counseling session can cost over \$100, charges for sessions at the CCC are based on a sliding scale. Special financial circumstances may be accommodated. Counseling services include marriage and family, individual, child and adolescent, parent and career counseling. The center also hosts a Narcotics Anonymous meeting every Tuesday and Thursday at noon.

The CCC is located at 912 Oak Street in Hammond; hours of operation vary, and community members should call in advance to schedule an appointment. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 985-549-3457.

West Florida Republic exhibit opens at state archives



Present for the opening reception of the West Florida Republic exhibit and the Civil War and Reconstruction collection dedication Feb. 10 at the Louisiana State Archives were, l-r, Patti Peairs, director of Denham Springs' Old City Hall, Secretary of State Jay Dardenne, Sam Hyde Prof. of History at the SLU Center for Southeast La. Studies, Donna Jennings, and Denise Martin with the Livingston Parish Convention & Visitors Bureau. The exhibit commemorates the 200th anniversary of the West Florida Rebellion and will run through March 31.

25550 Juban Road,
Suite B,
DENHAM SPRINGS
WWW.LINXPT.COM
LINX PHYSICAL THERAPY
& WELLNESS CENTER
AT JUBAN POINTE
225.665.8600
MARCY LINXWILER, MPT
*Now offering gift certificates
and Pre-natal massage*

"All Insurance Companies Welcome"
Chief Frames System • ASE Certified
CCC Estimating System
I-CAR Certified
33340 Hwy 16. - Watson
Denham Springs
Auto Paint & Body Repair
Foreign or Domestic Cars & Trucks
Insurance Work Welcome • Satisfaction Guaranteed
Heated Down Draft Booth
USI Dustfree Booth • Frame Straightening
Towing Available
CONTACT DONNA ALLEN at 243-5566 for FREE ESTIMATES
PPG Paint • Genuine Replacement Parts
Monday - Friday • 8:00 - 5:00
243-5566