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NEWSMAKERS

Cindy Wale accepts position with Investar Bank

Cindy Wale, formerly of Capital One, announced July 7 that she has accepted an offer from Investar Bank to serve as their Vice President/Retail Sales Manager. Investar will occupy temporary offices while they build a permanent new office just south of the former Blockbuster store on Range Ave.

Wale said, "This new job affords me the opportunity of developing a dream I have always had, and that is building a bank from the ground up in Livingston Parish that is customer service driven, with local people taking care of their community and their banking needs. I will also be responsible for growing the greater Baton Rouge market of Investar. I'm looking forward to this new and exciting challenge."

Investar Bank is a full service community bank headquartered in Baton Rouge. The locally owned and controlled bank offers a full array of banking products and services for individuals, professionals and small and medium-sized businesses, including mortgage loans and construction loans, as well as services such as bill paying service, cash management, real time balances and electronic transactions.

Wale can be contacted at 225.938.3074 or cindywale@cox.net.



Cindy Wale

AAA Southern Traveler rates DS third best for antiques

A readers' survey for AAA Southern Traveler magazine named the Denham Springs Antiques Village the third best place to shop in the South for antiques. What makes this honor so special is the fact that Denham Springs was beat out only by the much larger cities of New Orleans and Natchez.

In choosing top cities, readers considered the availability and abundance of antiques, friendliness and the ambiance surrounding the district. For more information on the Antiques Village, see www.denhamspringsantiquedistrict.com.

Antiques Village to see major enhancements

Visitors to the Denham Springs Antiques Village in coming months will enjoy major enhancements to popular shopping district. A DOTD sidewalk project is underway, and the concrete sidewalks will be replaced by bricks and curbs will be cut to provide handicap access. Work is being done in small sections in order to prevent major disruption of commerce in the district, and, if the weather cooperates, the entire project should be completed in time for Fall Fest on Oct. 2.

Within the next several weeks, work will begin on Sanctuary Park, a small park that will be developed on Old City Hall property on the west side of the building. The park will include a wrought iron fence, benches, pathways, a birdbath, an irrigation system and plantings of numerous flowers and shrubs. The project was begun by the Denham Springs Main Street Association, and the Denham Springs Garden Club and Keep Livingston Beautiful have joined in to make it a community-wide effort. Construction should take two to three months.



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NEWSMAKERS

World War II exhibit at OCH to be featured on TV

The City of Denham Springs invites the public to view the World War II display at Old City Hall, 115 Mattie Street, Denham Springs. Museum hours are Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call 225-667-7512.

The exhibit will be featured on an upcoming edition of the Around Town TV show, Louisiana's longest running community weekend TV show which airs across South Louisiana.

Candidates qualify for fall elections

Qualifying for fall elections closed July 9 with several local candidates unopposed.

Those who qualified for School Board with opposition are: District 1, Clint Mitchell (incumbent) and Malcolm Sibley; District 3, Milton Hughes (incumbent) and Bobby Satcher; District 4 Karen Wax Schmitt and Jan H. Fairchild. Unopposed candidates include newcomer Kellee Hennessy Dickerson, District 2, and incumbents, "Buddy" Mincey Jr., District 5; Jeff Cox, District 6; Jimmy Watson, District 7; Keith Martin, District 8 and Sid Kinchen, District 9, and are automatically elected.

Denham Springs Mayor Jimmy Durbin was reelected without opposition. All current Denham Springs council members, Rene Delahoussaye, Annie Fugler, Lori Lamm-Williams, Arthur Perkins Sr., and John Wascom, will run for re-election against challengers Chris Davis and Robert Poole. Wayne Kreko and Democrat Thomas "Dillard" Stewart will face each other for mayor of Albany. Returned to office without opposition are Albany Chief of Police Russell Hutchinson and aldermen Gene Glascock, Edmond Harris and Lloyd "Bee" Martin.

Jimmy Nesom was unopposed for the seat on the Town of Livingston's Board of Aldermen that was vacated when David Bencaz resigned.

In Congressional races, incumbents U.S. Rep. William "Bill" Cassidy, Republican, and Merritt E. McDonald Sr., Democrat, have no competition within their respective parties for the primary election but will meet in the general election. U.S. Senator David Vitter will face 16 challengers, including two fellow Republicans, U.S. Rep. Charles Melancon, a Democrat who is considered by many to be Vitter's main competition, and Caroline Fayard, an attorney who was born and grew up in Denham Springs.

Scott Jones named permanent police chief in DS

Interim/probational Denham Springs Police Chief Scott Jones was named the city's permanent chief of police June 28. Jones was unanimously approved by the City Council to succeed previous chief Jeff Wesley who retired in September 2009. Jones previously served as police chief from 1981-1989.

Ben McDonald inducted into Louisiana Hall of Fame

Two years ago, Denham Springs native Ben McDonald was inducted into the College Baseball Hall of Fame; in June, he was named to the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame. Ben grew up playing PARDS recreation baseball in Denham Springs, was the ace for the Denham Springs High School Yellow Jackets, and went on to become a star pitcher for LSU where he set many pitching records. He played on the USA Olympic team and was the #1 draft pick for the Baltimore Orioles. He also played professionally for the Milwaukee Brewers. His professional record was 78-70 with an earned run average of 3.91, 24 shutouts and 894 strikeouts.

Pelican State Credit Union helping save pelicans

The Denham Springs branch of Pelican State Credit Union sold jambalaya lunches July 2 to raise money for pelicans and other wildlife harmed by oil. Pelican members, employees and local residents purchased 125 plates in 30 minutes. Ken Willis, a Pelican member, donated his time to prepare the meal.

To date, Pelican has raised more than \$1,200 through the sale of jambalaya, candy, stuffed pelican toys and other various activities which will be donated to Tri-State Bird Rescue and Research.

To make a contribution, stop by any of the 11 Pelican State Credit Union Branches or visit www.tristatebird.org to donate directly to the organization. Tri-State Bird Rescue and Research has been responding to wildlife involved in oil spills since 1976 and is one of only two organizations in the country that can professionally manage a response to a major spill. Since the oil spill began on April 20th, Tri-State reports that it has rescued and released 446 pelicans and other birds into the wild. For more information, visit www.tristatebird.org.

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