



THE WEST SIDE Journal

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF WEST BATON ROUGE PARISH



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

www.thewestsidejournal.com

\$1.00

VOLUME 82 | NUMBER 30

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2019

PORT ALLEN, LOUISIANA

Fabre and LaCombe to runoff

BREANNA SMITH
editor@thewestsidejournal.com

The race for the 18th District State Representative seat garnered the highest voter turnout of all seven districts up for grabs in the Saturday, Feb. 23 special election. It is also one of two districts headed to a runoff on March 30.

Jeremy LaCombe, a New Roads attorney and businessman, nearly swept the election with 43 percent of the votes, according to the Secretary of State website. Tammi Fabre, a Pointe Coupee real estate broker, made it to the runoff with 23 percent of the votes.

NaTashia Carter Benoit lost the race to the runoff to Fabre by one percent or 109 votes.

The remaining candidates, Gary "Sprout" Spillman, Jason Lee Fowler, Jr. and Bill Spencer each earned single-digit percentages of votes in the district comprised of the entirety of Pointe Coupee Parish and parts of Iberville, West Baton Rouge, and West Feliciana parishes. The district's voter turnout of 28.2 percent was the highest of all seven regions in the election.

While LaCombe main-



Tammi Fabre

Jeremy LaCombe

tained a 20 percent lead over Fabre in the district, the race was much closer in each parish. LaCombe earned the most votes only in Pointe Coupee Parish, a majority of the district, claiming second in most other parishes, but it proved enough to propel him ahead.

In West Baton Rouge, Fabre led with 26 percent, and Benoit trailed her by just two percent. Lacombe tied with Spillman for 22 percent of the votes from West Baton Rouge.

Benoit cinched 68 percent of the votes in Iberville

Parish, while Lacombe trailed her with 19 percent and the remaining candidates earned single-digit percentages. The landslide win in Iberville Parish was not enough to push Benoit to the run-off election.

Fabre claimed the most votes in West Feliciana with 31 percent, and LaCombe trailed her by six percent.

LaCombe was the clear winner in Pointe Coupee, earning 52 percent of the votes, more than double the number of votes Fabre collected, the candidate with the next highest number of votes in the parish.

LaCombe, a Democrat, has focused his campaign on improving the economy, fixing infrastructure and traffic woes, and improving educational opportunities.

Fabre, a Republican, is focused on "real reform," with less regulation, less taxes, and less government.

District 62, which encompasses parts of East Baton Rouge and East and West Feliciana, will also go to a run-off, which will be between Roy Daryl Adams and Dennis Aucoin.

The runoff election will be held Saturday, March 30.

Fire destroys home in Brusly Saturday



Photo by The West Side Journal

STAFF REPORT
editor@thewestsidejournal.com

A fire destroyed a home on Ory Drive in Brusly around noon on Saturday, Feb. 23. The owners of the house moved in earlier this week, West Baton Rouge Fire Chief Kenny Hunts said.

Everyone made it out of the home safe and a few belongings were salvaged. Due to high winds, the fire quickly spread from the side of the house to the roof and attic, Hunts said.

The West Baton Rouge Fire District controlled the blaze within 30 minutes, Hunts said.

18-wheeler crash on notorious stretch of I-10 injures one



Photo courtesy of the WBRSO

William Myers, the driver of the 18-wheeler to the right, was cited with careless operation of a motor vehicle after failing to stop and smashing into three trucks and two other 18-wheelers on the infamous I-10 East stretch just before the Mississippi River Bridge on Tuesday, Feb. 19.

STAFF REPORT
editor@thewestsidejournal.com

A domino effect of colliding 18-wheelers and pickup trucks shut down the infamous portion of I-10 East-bound just before the 415/Lobdell exit in West Baton Rouge for five hours Tuesday afternoon. The big rig wreck resulted in one injury and a lot of headaches for commuters.

A truck owned by Prime Trucking and driven by William Myers, 25, failed to stop around 3:30 p.m. as traffic began to back up before the bridge.

Myers slammed into six vehicles before coming to a stop, tossing his passenger around, resulting in a broken leg, according to the West Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office. Myers' big rig bounced off of three pickup trucks then hit two 18-wheelers before coming to a stop, Lt. Ken Albarez with the WBRSO Traffic Division said.

The interstate shut down for approximately 20 minutes then funneled to one lane for five hours as crews worked to clear the road of debris. The first 18-wheeler, a flatbed carrying scaffolding equipment, lost its en-

tire load, Albarez said. The second big rig was disabled upon impact, blocking portions of the interstate, but did not lose any of the avocados it was carrying.

Myers was transporting a commercial air conditioner on the flatbed of the 18-wheeler, which did not come off of the truck.

The Sheriff's Office cited Myers for careless operation of a motor vehicle.

In the five-hours of clean-up, the Interstate backed up approximately 10 miles to Grosse Tete. Drivers told Lt. Albarez it took them two hours to get those 10 miles down I-10 East. The backup led to two other minor wrecks and several stalled vehicles, which ran out of gas waiting in traffic, Lt. Albarez said.

While this is not the first wreck of 2019 on the stretch, it is the first caused by the notorious Mississippi River bridge back-up. There is catastrophic damage and injury due to bridge backup every year because I-10 reduces down to one lane, Lt. Albarez said. He called the particular stretch before the bridge "the Devil's Triangle" in previous interviews.

Good times roll at Addis Mardi Gras parade



Photos by Breanna Smith

BREANNA SMITH
editor@thewestsidejournal.com

Once again the Addis Mardi Gras Parade, hosted by the Town of Addis and the Ladies Auxiliary of the Addis Volunteer Fire Department, rolled down First Street.

The parade had approximately 15 floats and several fire trucks of all ages and styles participated. Residents and people from surrounding areas gathered to catch beads, stuffed animals, batons and candy. Some even set up lawn chairs and filled up buckets.

To see a full gallery of photos visit us online at www.thewestsidejournal.com.



INSIDE

News.....1-3
Events4

Lifestyles.....4-6
Opinion.....7

Obits.....8
Arrests.....8

Bids.....9 & 10
Notices.....9 & 10

Classifieds.....11 & 12
Sports.....15 & 16