

In and about Washington

April 2024
FREE—TAKE ONE



Cookoff, tea party, antique sale mean fun, busy April

More and more people are finding out what a fun and pretty town Washington is, and April will be another month filled with activity for townsfolk to enjoy and to attract more visitors .

The American Legion Post 209 Wild Game Cookoff will be from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on April 6 at the legion home. There will be music throughout the day and a live auction at 2 p.m. For information contact Dane St. Cyr (337) 344-0469 or Brandon Breaux (337) 945-4649. Proceeds will help maintain the Legion home.

“Under the Big Top” is the theme for the Washington Garden Club High Tea at the Wolff Banquet and Reception Hall on April 7. Tickets are \$40 each and are available at Sebastien Dupre Fine Jewelry in Opelousas or from garden club members.

The Antique Fair and Yard Sale will be April 12-14 at the Old Schoolhouse Antique Mall. Twice a year, dozens of vendors at the old Washington High School on Church Street attract shoppers for everything from knickknacks to vintage furniture.



Great day, good fun

The Easter Bunny picked a beautiful day to host the annual Community Festival March 23. The nice weather, good food, band music and vintage auto show made for a fun day for everyone.



Of Note

THE STEAMBOAT CITY

Association is accepting applications for scholarships for graduating high school seniors from Washington and nearby. For applications, contact Jim Bradshaw, P.O. Box 1121, Washington 70589, or jimbradshaw4321@gmail.com.

THE ST. LANDRY Community Action Agency offers public transportation for qualified people weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. throughout St. Landry and Lafayette parishes. Call (337) 948-3651 for details.

THE WASHINGTON Cemetery Foundation is accepting donations via the Venmo payment app. Donations may also be made by check to Washington Cemetery Foundation, P.O. Box 42, Washington 70589.

THE HEALTH BUGGY offers free screening for blood pressure, blood sugar, and cholesterol from 8 to 11 a.m. each third Friday on the Immaculate Conception parking lot.

BINGO IS BACK, at 2 p.m. each second and fourth Tuesday at the Martin Luther King Recreational Center.



Ardoin's closed

Ardoin's Grocery and Market has closed after nearly 70 years of operation. Russell and Bee Ardoin opened the business on May 26, 1955. Paul and Brenda Ardoin Bacque took over ownership in 1990 and ran it until Wes and Ashley Walker bought the store in April 2022. Stacha Weber took over the business in September 2023. March 23 was its last day of operation.



Turns 101

Joy Pitre, Jeanette Bailey, Jon Bailey, and others joined "Mr. Bob" Bailey to celebrate his 101st birthday. The lifelong Washington resident was born March 1, 1923.

Program host

St. Landry tourism director Herman Fuselier is the new host of the Louisiana Crossroads series, a program of Acadiana Center for the Arts.



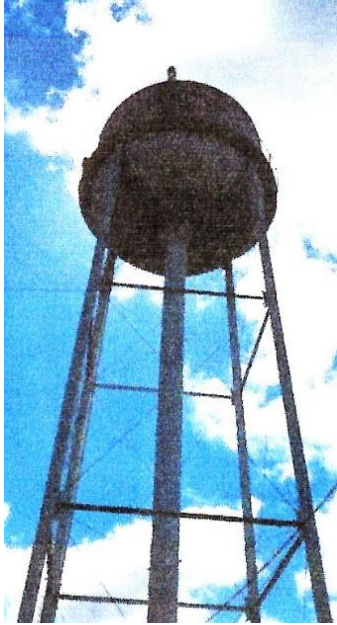
Rainy Spring

Forecasters see a continued wet spring with above average rainfall in April, but generally moderate temperatures.

Above normal heat is expected in May and June.

THE WEATHER March 1-27

High: 85, March 14
Avg. High: 72.4
Low: 35, March 19
Avg. Low: 44.3
Avg. Temp: 58.3
5-year Avg. 63.3
March Rainfall: 6.51
Avg. for March.: 3.85
Rain for 2024: 18.60
20-year Avg.: 12.35



Towering work

A workman silhouetted atop Washington’s 140-foot water tower replaced a faulty screen after a drone flown over the tower by health department inspectors showed debris on top of it. The department issued a boil water advisory until the work was done.

Police will share in grant

The Washington police department will share in a \$1.8 million federal grant to upgrade technology in St. Landry Parish law enforcement agencies.

Parish President Jessie Bellard said Senator Bill Cassidy secured the funding through the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services.

Bellard said the parish will get a list this summer of equipment that can be purchased with the grant money.

The funding was included in the federal budget appropriations approved late last month



From Town Hall

THE TOWN COUNCIL

made minor amendments to the town’s alcohol permit ordinance to bring it into compliance with state regulations in an otherwise routine March meeting

UTILITY CUSTOMERS

are reminded that bill payments are due on the 17th of each month and that payments received after 3 p.m. are posted on the next business day. A \$10 late fee is charged if the bill is not paid on time.

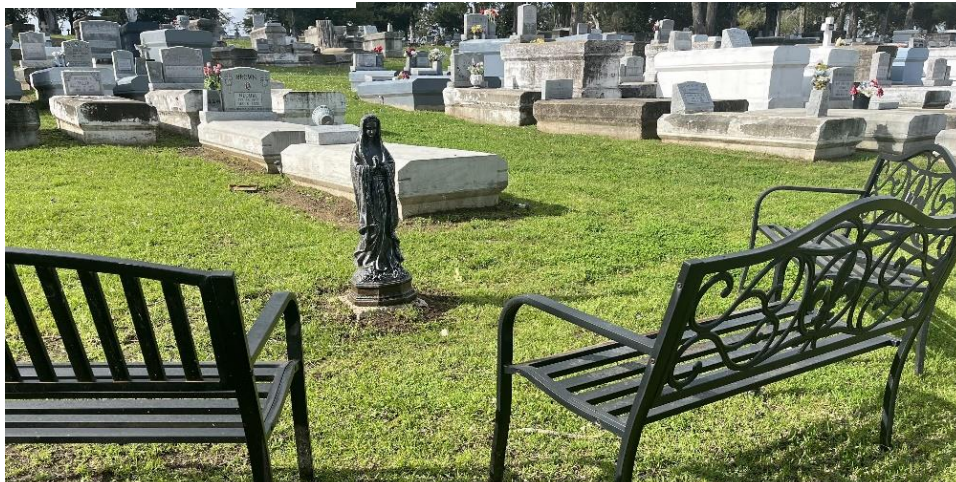
REGULAR MEETINGS

of the Town Council are at 6 p.m. on each third Monday at Town Hall. This month’s meeting will be on April 15.

Primaries draw miniscule interest

There were no surprises as President Bident and Donald Trump easily won presidential primaries March 23 that drew little interest here.

Biden won the Democratic with 86% of the statewide vote. Only 27 voters turned out here, with 23 of them voting for Biden. Trump won the Republican primary statewide with 90 percent of the vote. He received 17 of the 18 votes cast here.



Cedar Hill meditation area

A second medication area has been created on the east side of Cedar Hill Cemetery. The statue of Mary was donated in memory of Curry Landreneau, father of Mayor Dwight Landreneau, who died in 1971.



**Take pride in your town.
Stash your trash.**

Send items for In and About

*Washington to
jimbradshaw4321@gmail.com.*

4-In and about Washington, April 2024

Fine goods and fancy schools showed wealth

Washington suffered badly from regular outbreaks of yellow fever in the 1850s, particularly during 1853, when the Yellow Fever Cemetery got its name because one-third of the town's population was buried there. But despite the regular setbacks, Washington continued grow as an affluent commercial center because of its steamboat trade.

Signs of that affluence can be found in the fine goods advertised by local merchants and by instruction offered not only in private – and expensive – schools, but in dancing, music, and other refinements.

For example, an 1852 ad by the Washington firm of Myers & Alexander offered “a large supply of jewelry of the latest fashion, embracing *Diamonds, fine Gold and Silver Watches, from the best makers in England, Ladies and Gent's fine Gold Chains, Gold Spectacles, &c.*”

In November 1853, Anderson, Bassett & Wilkins announced it had received “a large and complete” assortment of fall and winter goods from New Orleans, including “Ladies Fancy Dress Goods, Clothing, Boots, [and] Shoes,” as well as hardware, cutlery, paints, oils, bagging, rope, lime” and “articles usually kept for the country trade.”

In the spring of 1854, just before Easter, J. Remy Viou advertised that he had received from New Orleans a “complete assortment of summer goods for ladies and gentlemen, to be offered at prices guaranteed to meet the “satisfaction of those who will honor him of [*sic*] their confidence.” He also advertised that he was buying beef hides, wool, tallow and wax “at the highest prices.”

Some of that finery might have been worn to Monsieur M. Cazalot's dancing academy at Alexandre Guidry's Hotel in Washington. He promised to teach polkas, waltzes, quadrilles, “and all other fashionable dances now in vogue.” Unfortunately, he made his announcement at a most inauspicious time - just as the epidemic was taking hold.

Things had returned more or less to normal when, on Christmas Eve 1853, George Luther announced that his boarding and day school in Washington would prepare pupils “for any College or mercantile employment.” Boarding and tuition for the year was \$150, more than \$5,000 in today's money. “Day scholars” were charged \$50 for the year.

When St. Mary's Hall opened in October 1856 under the tutelage of Mrs. Whitney, principal, it promised a full curriculum, including “Dictation, Elocution, Arithmetic, Grammar, Modern and Ancient Geography, Outline Maps, History, Botany, Astronomy, the higher Mathematics, Geology, Mineralogy, Conchology, Ancient Mythology, Organic Chemistry, Physiology, Intellectual Powers, Logic, Ethics, English Poetry and Polite Literature,” as well as” Language and Fine Arts.”

By early 1856 a correspondent to the *Opelousas Patriot* was able to report that “in a business point of view, Washington seems to be looking up, and rapidly recovering from the blows received by the appearance of yellow fever in 1853 and the season following.”



Looking Back

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Washington

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