

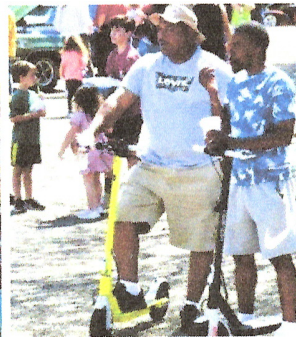
# In and about Washington

April 2023  
FREE—TAKE ONE



## It was a good time in the old town

Rain threatened the day before and the day after, but perfect weather drew a big crowd to the second annual Washington Community Festival March 25. Visitors enjoyed good food, a catfish cookoff, classic car show, and, of course, good music.



## New law aims at loose, barking dogs

Owners of dogs allowed to run loose or harass people can be fined under an ordinance adopted by the Town Council at its March meeting.

The ordinance would, among other things, require that dogs are confined in such a way they cannot get off the owner's premises, and makes it illegal to allow a dog to chase vehicles, harass or attack passers-by, or "continuously bark, howl or otherwise disturb the peace."

Fines range from \$100 to \$500 for a first offense.

The introduction to the law says it is necessary because dogs "not under the control of their owner, caretaker, or similar person pose an undue threat to persons and property and pose inherent safety and sanitation concerns."

The law requires that dog owners in Washington "shall confine the dog to property owned or controlled by him or her," using "a substantial fence or similar structure of sufficient strength and height to prevent the dog from escaping," or by a leash that will hold the dog but "be long enough to permit the dog to have reasonable exercise."

Town law also requires that dogs be on leashes when they are off the owner's property.



## 2-In and about Washington, April 2023

### Of Note

**AMERICAN LEGION** Post 209 will hold a Wild Game Cookoff from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 1 at the Legion home. Contact Don Simoneaux (337-290-1661) or Dale St. Cyr (337-344-0469) for details.

**THE ANTIQUE FAIR** and Yard Sale at the Old Schoolhouse Antique Mall will be held April 14 - 16. The event is usually held on the second weekend in April except when it falls on the Easter weekend.

**THE STEAMBOAT CITY** Association is accepting applications for two \$750 scholarships for graduating high school seniors from Washington and nearby. Contact Jim Bradshaw, P.O. Box 1121, Washington 70589, or jimbradshaw4321@gmail.com

**THE EASTER SERVICE** at Washington Baptist will begin at 9 a.m. David Lewis of the Gideon Bible Society will speak at the regular service April 16.

**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.



### "Mr. Bob" turns 100

Mayor Dwight Landreneau was among friends who helped Frederick Robert (Bob) Bailey celebrate his 100th birthday. The lifelong Washington resident was born March 1, 1923. He graduated from Washington High School, served in the Coast Guard during World War II, and worked most of his life as a highway department surveyor.



### Career Day

Washington Elementary hosted its annual career day February 27. Businesses set up tables where students learned about different career opportunities.



### New business

Leger's Country Market, Washington's newest business, opened March 4, at 470 N. Main, the old Doucet Motors site, offering hamburgers, boudin, and a full-service meat market. The store is open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

### Cajun comic show May 13

Cajun comic Jonathan Perry will bring his humor to the Washington Garden Club's Comedy Night at 6 p.m. on May 13, at the old St. John Episcopal Church. A Mother's Day auction will follow the show.

Tickets are available at Ardoin's Grocery or from club members Ethel Landreneau, Pam Landreneau, Anne Jones, or Ginger Fontenot.

### Older adult event April 26

The Opelousas Elderly Awareness Seminar will host bingo, seminars, and lunch for citizens over 60 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on April 26 at the Community Center on Veterans Memorial Boulevard.



### Council approves police car financing arrangement

The town council approved a resolution allowing the town to participate in a long-term financing program to acquire two new fully equipped police units

Mayor Dwight Landreneau said he anticipates delivery of at least one of the units early this month. He said the old units will be sold as surplus property

“The police department strives to protect and serve our citizens, and to do so the department must have reliable police units. The existing units are beyond repair,” he said.

### Council salutes state champ Hurricanes

The Town Council recognized the North Central High School boys’ basketball team for winning its third state championship in four years. The team won the Division IV state title March 10. The Hurricanes also won the title in 2019 and 2020 and got to the state semifinals last year.



### Old sign back up

Tommy Leleux helped install a historic Washington sign on Veterans Memorial Boulevard. The sign was first put up in 1955 and was probably taken down when the entrance to Washington was four-laned in the 1980s. Town workers found the old sign while cleaning around the town equipment barn.

### From Town Hall

**FACULTY FROM** South Louisiana Community College met with Mayor Dwight Landreneau to discuss the possibility of GED classes for students and adults. Interested persons can contact the mayor at Town Hall, 337 826-3626.

**THE UTILITIES SYSTEM** has issued a reminder that the town has buried natural gas pipelines throughout the area.

These pipelines are “maintained to a high standard,” according to the notice.

Before digging near a gas line call 1 (800) 272-3020 to find out if it is safe. If you suspect a gas leak, immediately call (337) 826-3626.

A full copy of the notice is available at Town Hall.

### THE WEATHER March 1-27



High: 85, March 6, 7  
Average High: 73.2  
Low: 30, March 20  
Average Low: 53.7  
March Rainfall: 3.32  
Avg. for Month: 3.89  
Rain for 2023: 14.68  
Avg. Yearly: 12.59



### Cleaning things up

4-H Junior Leaders helped refurbish the plant boxes on Main Street, and volunteers spruced up Ethel Park in preparation for the annual Washington Community Festival.



#### 4-In and about Washington, April 2023

### 'Wonderful pluck' led to first Washington championship

When the North Central High School boys' basketball won its third state championship in four years, the team was following in the footsteps of the school that it replaced. The Hurricanes, who also won the Division IV state title in 2019 and 2020, had a slow start this year. but displayed the same pluck in the championship tourney that was attributed to Washington High School when it won the parish title in 1919, the first year that it fielded a team.

The *St. Landry Clarion* reported on what must have been a titanic defensive struggle: "Washington High School closed its basket ball [sic] season ... by defeating the strong Opelousas High School team, 14 points to 13."

The Washington High lineup included George Henry, Edgar Muller, John F. Norman, Lawrence Thistlethwaite, and Mordecai Plonsky. Washington High principal J. B. Aycock was also the basketball coach.

The final game "decided the championship of St. Landry parish public schools," the *Clarion* said, "Washington having defeated Opelousas two times out of three and Melville fell a victim to Washingtonians on two straight games. ... Though outweighed in every game played the lads from Washington always displayed wonderful pluck and determination. The team's great success was due to excellent teamwork and speed, but especially in the 'never give-up' spirit shown by the players, the faculty of the school, and the student body.

"In accordance with a remark passed by a Washington rooter, 'When we consider that this is the first year we've organized a basket ball team we can but feel fully satisfied and even surprised at the wonderful result achieved.'"

None of the existing newspaper accounts show who won the parish championship the following year, but they do show that Washington High got off to a fast and convincing start. The lineup for this team included L. Thistlethwaite, forward; M. Plonsky, forward; Ira Muller, guard; D. Whipp, guard; and C. Whipp, center.

Early in the year they worked up an appetite with "a decided victory" over Eunice, 34 to 19, after which supper was served to the teams "from the domestic department of Washington High School under the direction of Miss A. Labbe and her able staff."

That season's victory over Port Barre was even more decided. The *Opelousas Star-Progress* recorded that "The Port Barre squad put up a game fight and showed themselves to be true lovers of the sport, but the faster and more experienced [Washington] team was entirely too much for them. The final score was 54 to 2."

Washington opened the game with its second squad when the two teams met again. That squad played the first half, after which Port Barre led 6 to 1, but "in the last half, the Washington first team was put in and there was no more scoring by Port Barre."



### Looking Back

In and About  
Washington

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