



INSIDE!

2019 Orange Festival Guide

PLAQUEMINES PARISH 2019 FAIR & ORANGE FESTIVAL
DEC. 6, 7 & 8
HISTORIC FORT JACKSON IN BURAS, LOUISIANA



The Plaquemines GAZETTE

91 YEARS, NO. 19

DECEMBER 3, 2019

BELLE CHASSE, LA

50 CENTS

Juneau pleads to reckless operation

By Jason Browne
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Cody Juneau pled guilty to misdemeanor charges Nov. 14 in a year-old case alleging he threatened to run down a political rival with his truck.

Juneau, 40, son of former District 4 Parish Council member Irvin Juneau, was ordered to pay a \$150 fine and attend a driver improvement program after pleading guilty to criminal reckless operation.

The charges stemmed from an incident on election day, Dec. 8, 2018, when Juneau was working for then-Parish President Amos Cormier III's re-election campaign. Logan Lott, son of former Parish Director of Operations Scott Lott, told sheriff's investigators that he was standing on the neutral ground on Highway 23 near Avenue G in Belle Chasse waving a campaign sign for current Parish President Kirk Lepine when Juneau pulled up across the street. The two began yelling at each other and Lott alleges Juneau drove his truck directly at him, forcing Lott to dodge the vehicle. Lott turned over cell phone video screenshots showing a dark-colored pickup truck driving on the median, leaving a long track in the grass.

Assistant District Attorney Jerry Lobrano said Lott agreed with the DA's Office's decision to accept a plea from Juneau. 25th Judicial District Court Judge Kevin Conner also issued a sentencing order that prevents contact between Juneau and Lott.

MAILING INFO HERE

Is it time for parents to log on?

By Jason Browne
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As Christmas break approaches (Dec. 23-Jan. 2 for Plaquemines schools) hundreds of students around the parish will soon be glued to their phones and tablets for a solid two weeks, logging thousands of man hours on social media. District 3 Plaquemines School Board member Niko Tesvich believes parents may want to log on, too, if only to learn about their kids' online world.

After being sworn in for his inaugural year on the school board back in January, Tesvich attended the National School Boards Association's Annual Conference in March in Philadelphia, where he picked up some insight into the widening world of social media. Tesvich attended a lecture in Philadelphia led by Alexandra Tursi, a Vermont-based social media and digital content specialist who holds posts

at Champlain College and the University of Vermont Medical Center. Tesvich took what he learned from Tursi, updated it with some of his own research and focused that into his own presentations at Phoenix High School, South Plaquemines High School and Belle Chasse High School in September and October.

After each presentation Tesvich would hang around to talk to parents and students about their own experiences with social media. Tesvich's advice for curious parents is to start an account on newer platforms and expand beyond Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Each of those sites remain pillars of the industry, but children born in the new millennium have already moved on to platforms like Snapchat and Tik Tok. And even Snapchat has passed its prime, losing millions of users each year.

"I'm on almost all of



them. But I don't use them all," said Tesvich of his travels across the internet.

His goal is to get his own sense of the miniature culture that springs up around each platform. Tik Tok has an estimated 1 billion users sharing short videos of themselves doing banal dances. Like any other platform, it can be used for bullying or more

nefarious ends, but Tik Tok has enjoyed a recent run of positive press as teens began posting thousands of absurd or intentionally low budget world history lessons shot in short, ridiculous-but-historically-accurate videos.

"Tik Tok is surging in popularity right now. It's growth is exponential," said Tesvich. "There's a lot

of questionable stuff, but a lot of funny stuff. A lot of young people being creative."

Tesvich said that the connection Tik Tok offers, the ability for teens to immediately add their own voices to any wave or trend, is the essence of social me-

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Inmate who escaped Main St. courthouse sentenced to 15 years

By Jason Browne
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The Plaquemines District Attorney's Office reported last week that Herman Turlich Jr., the inmate who escaped the courthouse on Main Street in Belle Chasse in May and fled in a stolen race car, was sentenced to 10 years in jail after pleading to simple burglary and theft of a motor vehicle in October.

Turlich, 42, was also sentenced to a five-year sentence for simple escape which will be served following the 10-year sentence.

On May 21 Turlich managed to walk out of the courthouse on Main Street and hunker down in a nearby warehouse where he found a dirt track race car. Once Turlich figured out the right series of switches to start the car, he drove through the building's roll-up door and a chain link gate before speeding down Main Street and Hebert Boulevard toward the General DeGaulle Bridge.

Turlich crashed into a ditch at the intersection of Hebert and Woodland Highway while attempting to operate the car's two shift levers with handcuffed hands.



Herman Turlich

He hid in nearby woods but was quickly located by Plaquemines Sheriff's deputies with the assistance of police dogs from the Gretna Police Department.

Sheriff Jerry Turlich, no relation, said procedures were changed at the Main Street courthouse following Herman Turlich's escape and that a newly-hired deputy was disciplined for the incident. All court proceedings have since moved to the Pointe a la Hache courthouse where Sheriff Turlich said the facilities are designed to prevent such security lapses. He added that new deputies assigned to courthouse security will now be matched with a field training officer to demonstrate policies and procedures.

Tree lighting ceremonies set for December 2, 3 & 4

'Tis The Season, Plaquemines Parish. Come join in for a Plaquemines Parish holiday tradition! Tree lighting ceremonies will start at 6 p.m. There will be caroling and hot chocolate. Be a part of the magic as we light our Parish for Papa Noel this Christmas:

- Monday, Dec. 2, at the Port Sulphur Government Bldg.
- Tuesday, Dec. 3, at the Plaquemines Parish Courthouse
- Wednesday, Dec. 4, at the Belle Chasse Library



Chevron Oronite announces funding for Wetlands Education



Pictured, from left: Peggy Ramey (Chevron Oronite Corporate Affairs Advisor), Katie Brasted (Woodlands Conservancy Executive Director), and Gina Checchio (Community Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator) hold a check from Chevron Oronite that represents funding provided to Woodlands Conservancy to implement the Seeds to Saplings program with fourth graders in Plaquemines Parish.

Chevron Oronite recently announced funding for Woodlands Conservancy to implement the environmental service learning program, Seeds to Saplings, in fourth grade classrooms in Plaquemines Parish at Belle Chasse Elementary and Phoenix. "Chevron Oronite has supported the work of Woodlands

Conservancy for the past 14 years," said Katie Brasted, Executive Director, "and we wouldn't have been able to offer the program to students in Plaquemines Parish this year without their support."

The Seeds to Saplings program designed for fourth graders is a series of formal lessons spread

throughout the year. "Since the beginning," says Mrs. Newchurch, Fourth Grade Teacher, Belle Chasse Elementary, "this program has provided my students with the opportunity to experience real life learning at its finest. The Service Learning project does a

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