

## Folsom set to vote on ordinance giving village clerk comp time, not overtime

by Terri Landry

An ordinance covering flex time for Folsom's village clerk was introduced at the municipality's Board of Aldermen meeting on Feb. 8, following a discussion on the classification of the position as exempt for payment of overtime.

In January, the employment status of Municipal Clerk Andree Core was at the center of a prolonged and heated debate among Mayor Bettye Boggs, Village Attorney Delbert Talley and the aldermen after board members attempted to add consideration of the clerk's position to the meeting agenda, including an appearance by labor consultant Don Strobel, who had earlier sent Talley a letter stating his opinion that the clerk is nonexempt and entitled to overtime pay.

Strobel left the meeting during the lengthy exchange, and the mayor told the board that she would issue flex time to the clerk based on precedent set by the previous board, while Talley sought opinions from the state Attorney General's Office and Department of Labor to determine whether the clerk is entitled to overtime pay under the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).

At the Feb. 8 meeting, Talley reported that a Department of Labor representative advised him that appointees of elected officials who are not covered by civil service are exempt from the FLSA. In addition, he said, the Law-

son Act, which establishes state mandates for municipalities like Folsom, also provides that the municipal clerk is an officer and not an employee.

"Under the Louisiana constitution our clerk is not covered under civil service," Talley explained. "Our town clerk is the village auditor. She is the custodian of records. She has statutory duties. As a matter of law, municipal clerks are not covered by the FLSA."

Talley advised that a policy for granting the clerk compensatory or flex time should be established "because the Attorney General says that if it has to do with wages and salaries, we have to have a policy and procedure."

Responding to questions from Alderwoman Paulette Lee, Talley said the board must give at least one hour of compensatory time for every hour of overtime or it can match the FLSA and give an hour and a half.

"What the ordinance does is spell out when the person is to be entitled to flex time, how much they get, when it needs to be given and how it's to be given," he said.

A public hearing on the proposed ordinance will be held on Monday, March 14, in connection with the board's regular monthly meeting.

In other business, Talley asked the board to take action to remove him as magistrate for mayor's court, amending a resolution that was approved in December at his request.

At the Dec. 14 meeting, Talley explained that people facing job loss or insurance problems sometimes approach the village about having their fines changed from a moving violation to a non-moving violation. "What most municipalities do is pick another charge (that) has the same fine and they change it," he said. "There's nothing illegal about that as long as you have a prosecutor to do it."

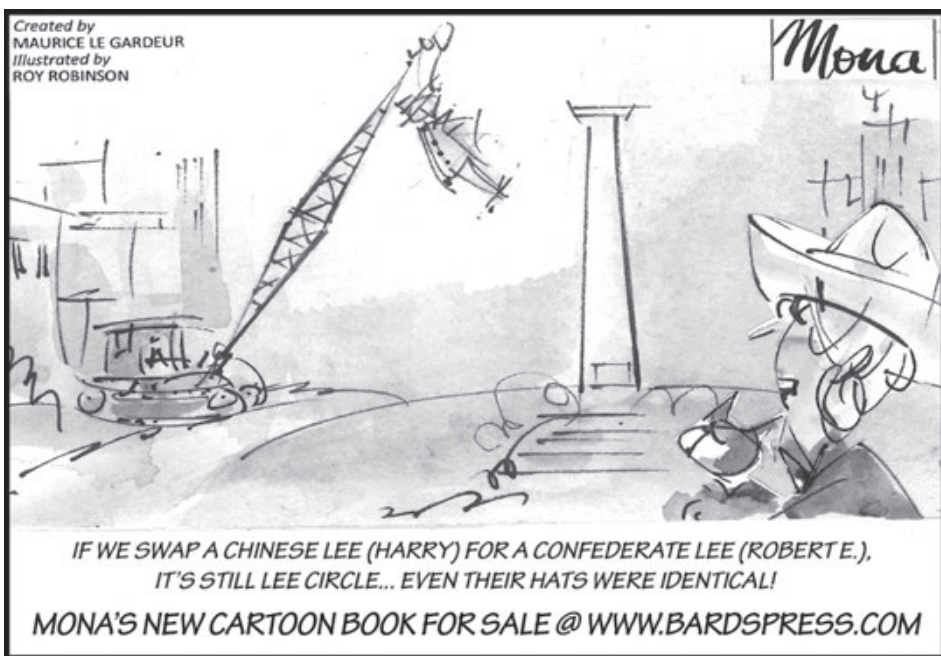
Talley also noted that under state law the mayor has the right to appoint a prosecutor, who must be approved by the board. A resolution was then approved appointing Talley as prosecutor and authorizing him to serve as magistrate if either the mayor or the mayor pro tem is not available.

However, following approval of the resolution at the December meeting, aldermen Lance Willie and Jill Mathies raised questions about Talley's appointment, prompting Talley to review rulings by the Attorney General pertaining to mayor's court. What he found out, he told the board at the Feb. 8 meeting, is that he cannot serve as prosecutor and have the title of magistrate.

The opinion of the AG's office states, Talley said, that the magistrate of the mayor's court may not reduce a moving violation to a non-moving violation, instead that authority rests with the town attorney who serves as prosecutor in the mayor's court.

"I had myself appointed as a magistrate simply in case the mayor or mayor pro tem couldn't make it," he said. "I now need to not be the magistrate, because as long as I have the title I can't prosecute, which is what the law intended."

The board approved the removal of Talley as magistrate with Mathies, who said she still had questions in reference to the prosecutor's position, casting the single "no" vote.



The St. Tammany Farmer, February 18, 2016

## Standardized test tutorials available at public libraries

The Covington Branch Library will host an informational meeting on how to use Learning Express, a standardized test preparation tool, on Saturday, Feb. 20, from 10-11 a.m.

Learning Express is a comprehensive interactive learning platform of tests,

courses, software tutorials and career preparation for students and adults.

The event is free and open to the public. Seating space is limited, and registration is recommended. To register, visit register.stpl.us/evanced/lib/event-calendar.asp.



Archbishop of New Orleans Gregory Aymond (right) celebrated Mass at St. Paul's School on Jan. 25 to mark the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul. Archbishop Aymond addressed forgiveness and second chances, and congratulated the school on its recent designation as a national Blue Ribbon school. Also pictured are SPS seniors Harrison Prieto (left) and John Cresson, who presented Archbishop Aymond with the traditional wooden cross given to seniors during their senior retreat.

## From the Files of The Farmer 1874 - 2016

**125 YEARS OBSERVATION:** We had enough thunder this week to wake the snakes.

**CORRECTION:** The net profits of the recent entertainment at Madisonville, for the benefit of St. Francis Xavier's Church were \$135, instead of \$350, as erroneously published last week. But even this is a very good showing, and will doubtless prove of great benefit to the church.

**100 YEARS MASKED BALL:** One of the most elaborate entertainments of the winter season was the masked ball given last Saturday night at the New Southern Hotel by the matrons of honor of the younger set. Promptly a nine o'clock the grand march took place with Miss Redda Moses as Little Red Riding Hood and Mr. Lawrence Smith as Little Boy Blue in the lead. The ball room was converted into a veritable fairylike scene, gypsies, Pierrots, Pierrettes, Monks, Nuns, cow girls, Indians, babies, sailors, and other charming costumes being worn by the maskers, among the most noticeable and becoming were Miss Joyce White, as Pirette, Miss Hazel Dossat, as an Indian princess and Mrs. C. E.

Schonberg as a tiny school girl.

**75 YEARS WEDDING PARTY:** Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Core charmingly entertained at a party in honor of her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. George Core (nee Marvinne Pullem) who were recently married. The rooms were tastefully decorated with cut flowers and fern. Delicious cake, chocolate and coffee were served. Assisting Mrs. Core with the serving were Misses Sallie Core and Ruth Reed.

**NEW CLUB:** The "Beaux and Belles" held an initiation at a meeting of the club in the American Legion Home on Saturday evening. Eight boys dressed as girls and two girls dressed as babies were required to march through the business district of town. Dressed as babies were Tinkey Deano and Kathleen Paysee. The following boys were dressed as girls: R. N. Salter, Jr., Harold Caserta, J. V. Connaughton, Jr., Ed- die Deano, Ralph Rousseau, E. J. Fielding, Jr., Blanding Drinkard, and Sooky Gautreaux.

**50 YEARS ATLANTEAN-QUEEN:** Miss Kathleen

Maginnis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald A. Maginnis, Jr., of Covington, reigned as queen of the Krewe of Atlantean's 76th Anniversary Carnival Ball in the Municipal Auditorium in New Orleans Tuesday night.

**4-H OFFICERS:** Sharon Core of Covington high school was elected president of the St. Tammany Parish 4-H Club Executive Committee, with Susan Moore of Mandeville high, vice-president, Denise Morgan of Mandeville junior high, secretary, Greg Myers of Covington junior high, treasurer, and Beverly Wales of Covington high, reporter.

**25 YEARS MADISONVILLE BIRTHDAY:** Little Jessica Lockhart celebrated her 4th birthday on Sunday, February 17, 1991 at the home of her parents Mr. and Mrs. James Lockhart of Madisonville. The theme of her party was Mickey and Minnie Mouse

**RALLY FOR MILITARY:** A "Desert Storm Troop Support Rally" will be held at 2 p.m. this Sunday, February 24, at the National Guard Armory on parish fair-grounds off Columbia Street in Covington.



Lee Road School cafeteria staff members Sharon Hynes, Kristen Hoover, Donna Malbrough, Connie Talley, Paulette Sharp and Eva Johnson helped get students in the Carnival spirit with costumes and Mardi Gras music during lunch the week prior to the holiday break.

## St. Joseph Abbey hosting free organ concert

St. Joseph Abbey will host a Pierre Queval organ recital this Sunday, Feb. 21, at 2 p.m. in the church, which is located at 75376 River Rd., north of Covington.

Free and open to the public, the recital will feature Queval, a Frenchman who is a graduate of the Conservatories of Nantes and Saint-Maur-des-Fossés, and the Conservatoire de Paris, where he received a master's degree and was an organ student of Michel Bouvard and Olivier Latry. Queval performs recitals all across France, including regularly in Paris at churches including Notre-Dame, Saint-Eustache, La Trinité, Saint-Sulpice, and Saint-Séverin. He is currently serving as Young Artist in Residence at the

Cathedral-Basilica of St. Louis, King of France in New Orleans.

The featured work at the recital will be Marcel Dupré's *La Chemin de la Croix*. Written in 1931-1932, it is a series of musical commentaries upon Paul Claudel's famed poem *La Chemin de la Croix*. The free verse of Claudel's

poem is a personal meditation on the Stations of the Cross and reflects his innovative verse form with bold imagery and lyric fervor. Claudel's poem will be read at the recital by members of the St. Joseph Abbey and Seminary College community, with English translation by John Marson Dunaway.

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