

Michelle Daspit Chappuis, reigning as Queen Samaritan LXXIII and Trey Brownfield, reigning as King Samaritan LXXII



SWCC name 2024 king and queen

SLIDELL — The Slidell Women's Civic Club, founder and sponsor of the Krewe of Slidellians and host of the February 3rd Bal Masque honoring community leaders, are proud to announce Michelle Daspit Chappuis and Trey Brownfield as Queen and King of the 2024 court.

Court members are as follows:
Michelle Daspit Chappuis, reigning as Queen Samaritan LXXIII
Trey Brownfield, reigning as King Samaritan LXXII

The Maids and Dukes:

Maids: Amy Thomas, Cecelia Anderson, Nancy Thayer
Dukes: Dan Crowley, Rick Van Arsdale, Ted Morrison

The 73rd Krewe of Slidellians Bal Masque, being held January 28, 2023 at the Slidell Harbor Center, is open to the public. This is a formal attire event. The theme for this event is Blue Hawaii. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the tableau follows at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$85 and can be purchased through Deborah Frombola (985) 774-1337 or via email at dfrombola@yahoo.com.

Essay contest to give \$1,500 to winning student

SLIDELL — The Fleet Reserve Association (FRA), Branch 222, of Slidell, invites all students in grades 7 through 12 to participate in the Association's 2023 Americanism Essay Contest. Participants are invited to submit a 350-word essay centered on this year's theme: "What Memorial Day Means to Me."

This national contest, sponsored by FRA is to promote a spirit of patriotism among America's youth and offers a Grand National Prize of \$1,500, with other recognition in each grade category.

"Each entrant must be sponsored by an FRA Member and Branch," explains Mark Dernovsek, Branch 222 Secretary. "We're proud to sponsor students, including those who are home-schooled, from the Slidell, Lacombe and Pearl River

area." Winners are selected at the branch level in each grade category, which are forwarded to compete with regional winners from Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, and Arkansas. Regional winners are then forwarded to the Association's National Americanism Committee, where first-, second- and third-place winners are selected in each grade category. The Grand National Winner is selected from this elite group of writers and receives a \$1,500 cash award.

To receive a copy of the entry rules and coversheet (pdf format), with return instructions, email Mark Dernovsek at Mark.FRA222@gmail.com. Essay and completed coversheet must be received before the December 1, 2023 deadline.

To learn more about the FRA, go to www.fra.org.

COUNCIL: District 9 election gets heated during runoff campaign

(From Pg. 1A)

Parish Council members have stated they do not have the authority to rein in a Library Board that has voted over-and-over to put sexually explicit books back on the shelves for children to access but others see it differently—including Cogle and the St. Tammany Library Accountability Project (STLAP) that he helped form last year to fight the problem.

That's because the Parish Council is the appointing authority for all but one member of the

Library Board. However, council members continue to say they don't see a way to order the board members to stop allowing the books to be available to kids inside library walls.

The intensity between the two on the library issue got another shot of attention on social media when Smith was seen two weeks ago with a worker in his campaign who supported the books being available to kids.

The campaign between Cogle and Smith was already intense enough, but exploded almost two

weeks ago when Smith sent out another of many direct mail flyers and in the last one had remarks about Cogle that many on social media, and Cogle, said, "insinuated I was a Middle East terrorist."

Smith had a portion of the flyer when he touted his own accomplishments and background, then compared himself to Cogle by stating the following about his challenger:

--Immigration lawyer working for immigrants trying to get into the U.S.

--Lived several years in the Middle East: Iraq,

Jordan, etc.

--Speaks fluent Arabic.

Smith did not include the facts that Cogle is a 20-year military veteran who has served with the U.S. Naval Reserve and achieved the rank of Commander, and that the military specifically requested he learn Arabic so he could communicate with those in the Middle East after he was deployed there several times.

"This implies something nefarious about my service time," Cogle said. "I have had many other veterans call me and say they were insulted. For him to do this, well, it's shocking to see him go so low."

Smith was asked why he included the information, which has literally nothing to do with serving as a Parish Council member, and

he responded by saying, "nothing in the flyer is not accurate."

When asked why he felt a need to make the statement, which many in the public and on social media all concluded was an insinuation that Cogle might be a terrorist, Smith declined to answer.

"I've said all I'm going to say about it," he stated.

Cogle never had any intention to seek public office until watching his own councilman take no action on the library book situation, other than recommending that some of the books not be in the juvenile section. However, Smith has not endorsed any kind of restricted section, only saying some of the books should be in the adult section.

Cogle and others

continue to point out that books in the adult section are still accessible to teens, and even accessible to younger children who have access to walk down those aisles and find the books, even though library policy does state children 10 and under need to be with adults.

Cogle has also attacked Smith for his part in voting for certain guidelines in the new Bonterra subdivision now under construction on Military Road, which is going to add hundreds of new cars coming and going out of that area. While Smith has voted on the Bonterra situation many times, he has stated that he was not in office when the Parish Council originally gave the development the go-ahead.

REPRESENTATIVE: State seat will be decided

(From Pg. 1A)

It began in 2021 when a California company proposed building a casino in the Slidell area and DuBuisson was among the public officials who stood behind the idea from the beginning. In the end, voters in St. Tammany overwhelmingly defeated the casino with 63 percent of voters turning thumbs down to the plan that would have built a \$350 million casino off the Oak Harbor exit in Slidell.

Later, the incumbent found herself the subject of criticism again starting in the summer of 2022 when a controversy began about sexually explicit books available to minors that were accessible in the St. Tammany public libraries.

Since the library book problem surfaced over a year ago there have been various efforts to get the situation under control by creating a restricted section in the libraries for the books—nearly 200 that have been challenged.

But nothing has stopped a far-left Library Board, directed by Library Director Kelly LaRocca, who insists children of all ages have a right to access the materials. To date, almost all the sexually explicit books are still available inside the public libraries for mi-

nors of all ages to find.

Earlier this year during the spring session of the Louisiana Legislature, a bill was proposed by Rep. Paul Hollis that would have given the St. Tammany Parish Council the muscle they needed to rein in the efforts by the Library Board, which is following a national agenda headed by the American Library Association to sexualize children.

DuBuisson sat on the House committee that first heard the bill, but when she didn't get an amendment approved that many said would have watered down the power for the Parish Council, she ended up voting to defer and kill the bill, which brought heavy criticism from many in this area. Since that time, DuBuisson has been heavily criticized by the St. Tammany Library Accountability Project (STLAP), a group of parents who joined together to try and fight the problem since no public official has stepped forward to do anything.

Glorioso, on the other hand, has been among the leaders in the fight to get the books into a restricted area. As chairman for the Republican Party Executive Committee, he played a key role in the RPEC drafting a resolution that called on the Parish Council or others to find a way to restrict the

books from children.

DuBuisson still stated in a Slidell Independent questionnaire that she is in support of a restricted section for the books, while stating that her other goals if elected again will be to find significant reforms for the state insurance problem, and also push for improved funding for infrastructure and flood protection.

Glorioso said he already plans to reintroduce House Bill 25 that was proposed this past year by Hollis, which would give the Parish Council full authority to remove library board members. He will also create legislation that would regulate the library to ensure they are upholding community standards in St. Tammany, something critics believe is far from being done now.

Glorioso said that his other priorities in the Legislature, if elected, would be to address the insurance crisis, something he said he has over 20 years of experience in after already working with state and industry leaders on a plan to lower rates.

He also will build a consensus for a constitutional convention to change the structure of Louisiana government so we can be more competitive with other southern states in attracting new jobs and industry to Louisiana.



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