



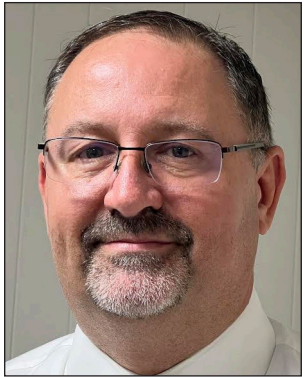
# American Press

Friday, March 18, 2022

No. 46,708

Lake Charles, Louisiana

50 Cents



John Hall

## Hall to lead Jeff Davis school district

By Doris Maricle  
American Press

JENNINGS - Assistant Superintendent John Hall has been selected as the new superintendent for the Jeff Davis Parish School District.

The School Board on Thursday unanimously appointed Hall, 54, to be the next leader of the school district.

He will succeed Kirk Creuder who is retiring June 30 after serving five years as superintendent.

Hall was one of two candidates seeking the position.

Board member Greg Bordelon, who made the motion to select Hall, said both candidates gave great interviews, but he does not believe in promoting outside the district.

"John Hall is good at maintaining an academic school system," Bordelon said.

The other candidate, James T. Stroder, is strong in turning around failing school systems, which Jeff Davis does not have, he said.

See **JEFF DAVIS**, A3

## Grace Gardens bricks



Rick Hickman/American Press

The Grace Gardens Brick Dedication and Blessing ceremony was held Thursday at CHRISTUS Ochsner St. Patrick Hospital. Throughout the year people can purchase an engraved brick in Grace Gardens on the campus of CHRISTUS Ochsner St. Patrick Hospital. The bricks can be in memory of or in honor of a loved one or pet.



## Jim Davidson: COVID-19 and the hurricanes made for probably my toughest career transition ever

By John Guidroz  
American Press

Jim Davidson's career in hospital leadership has taken him many places over the years, such as Massachusetts,

Chicago, Oklahoma and Arkansas.

"I've unpacked a lot of boxes," he said.

Since late 2019, Davidson, 60, has served as president and chief operating officer at Christus Ochsner Southwest Louisiana Lake Area and St. Patrick Hospital. Over the last two-plus years, he has navigated the unexpected challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, along with the landfall of Hurricanes Laura and Delta.

Born in the Philippine Islands, he moved to the United States as a child and grew up in the Abbeville area. He remained around there and

the Lafayette area until his late 40s.

In the early 1980s, Davidson attended the Lafayette General School of Radiology Technology, and he landed a job in the field at what was then known as Hamilton Medical Center Hospital in Lafayette. Over time, his interest in working in leadership grew. He recalled being team captain while playing baseball and football in his youth.

"I felt like I had a calling for it," he said. "I like to work with people and elicit the best out of them. That's really what gets me my spark."

Davidson took classes at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and eventually completed his coursework at the University of St. Francis, based in Joliet, Ill. He took courses while still in Lafayette through an outreach program that partnered with local professors with specific degrees to administer the programs.

Davidson eventually earned bachelor's and mas-



Jim Davidson

ter's degrees in health service administration. He became associate administrator at Hamilton Medical Center after earning his bachelor's degree and eventually left Louisiana in 2007 to work as vice president for St. Vincent Hospital in Worcester, Mass.

He spent nearly five years in Worcester before moving to the Chicago metro area to work as the chief operating officer for what was then Vanguard Health Systems. After the company was sold less

than two years later, Davidson's position was downsized and he rejected offers to move to Phoenix or Detroit. He took a job just outside Tulsa, Okla., as a hospital chief operating officer. In late 2015, he was promoted through the same hospital system to chief executive of a hospital in Russellville, Ark. He remained there until moving to Lake Charles in late 2019. Davidson is also a fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

Davidson said he and his wife, Julia, moved to Lake Charles for a couple of reasons. The city was a midpoint between his daughter Abby Smith, who lives in Katy, Texas, and Megan Richard, who lives in Youngsville. He said he also wanted to work in a faith-based medical facility.

"The fact that it was a two-hospital system here, I knew it was going to be a complex organization," he said. "The joint venture partnership with Ochsner had a

See **DAVIDSON**, A3

## Hearing held to debate LNG air permit

By Rita LeBleu  
American Press

Forty-seven individuals showed up from Cameron, Holly Beach, Hackberry, Lake Charles, Sulphur, Longville, Mandeville, New Orleans and New Jersey to express or hear views regarding an air permit for Commonwealth LNG on Thursday night.

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality public hearing was held in Cameron.

Speakers in opposition noted how the plant would affect air and water quality, produce pollutants that cause extreme weather events, create noise, harm the marsh and wildlife and jeopardize the safe consumption of fish and shellfish.

No Commonwealth LNG representative attended the meeting.

Ann Roth, Bucket Brigade, who spoke in opposition, said she thought it was telling that "Commonwealth couldn't make it here to give a presentation," saying the LNG industry in general, will "kill off Holly Beach."

See **HEARING**, A5

## Cheniere's La., Texas LNG plants OK'd for more exports

By The Associated Press

The U.S. Department of Energy has given a liquefied natural gas exporter operating in Louisiana and Texas permission for additional sales to every country entirely in Europe as they seek to move away from Russian oil and gas because of that country's war on Ukraine.

As Europe works to phase out its reliance on Russian energy, "the world needs every molecule it can get" from other sources, said Dustin Meyer, the American Petroleum Institute's vice president for natural gas markets.

Cheniere Energy Inc. said its Sabine Pass facility in Louisiana and its Corpus Christi plant in Texas have been improved and are making more gas than covered by previous export permits. Wednesday's orders "will allow for additional operational flexibility for us and our customers during this pivotal time and for decades to come," it said in a statement released by a public relations firm.

U.S. companies are already exporting at or near their maximum capacity and Wednesday's orders mean "every operating U.S. LNG export project has approval from DOE to export its full capacity to any country where not prohibited by U.S. law or policy," the energy department said in a news release.

See **EXPORTS**, A5

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