



ATCHAFALAYA CHATS

City of Patterson Monthly Newsletter

July, 2017

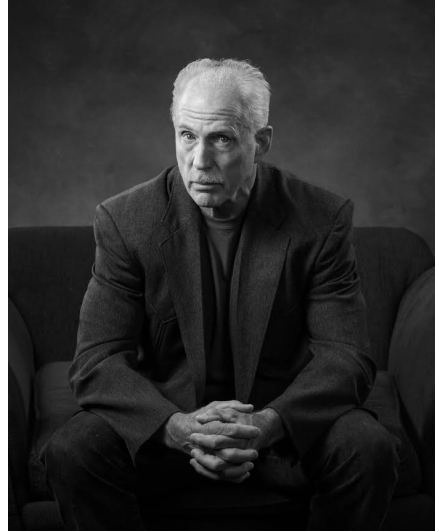
Award-Winning Photographer Donates Photos to PJHS

*Photo provided by
James (Jim) Byron*

As you enter the halls of the new Patterson Jr. High School, one cannot help but be awed by the picturesque scenery and inspirational quotes on selected walls. The large artistic expressions cover walls in the main hall, two walls in the library, and the middle wall in the cafeteria. Approximately 30 portraits were presented to the school.

A team led by decorating consultant, Lisa Parsiola, decided that photos (and not paintings) of scenery and objects that depicted the essence and culture of the local area would fit perfectly in the school.

They instinctively knew that the man who could provide the photos was local award-winning photographer, James (Jim) Byron. He agreed to participate in the project; and graciously donated his work to the school.



James Byron was born in New York on August 10, 1947. He earned a BS degree in Biology and Physical Education in North Dakota, and a Master's Degree in Photography. He married Karla Fuselier Byron in 1989. Jim's work career began in 1972 as a commercial diver for Oceaneering Int'l where he took photographs of cracks. After he stopped diving, his career in photography began. He now owns Portrait Gallery

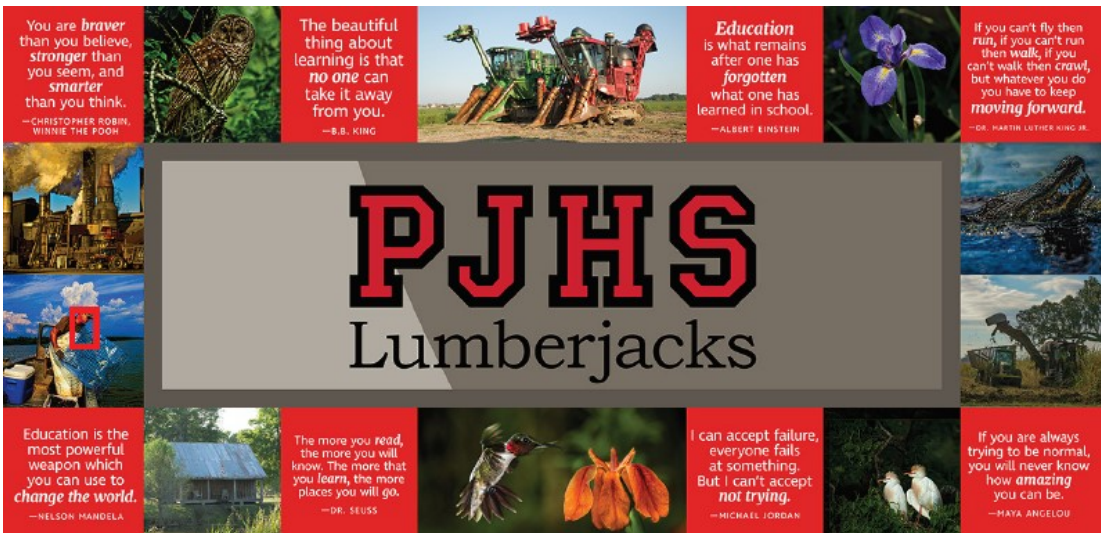
Many accolades, medals and honors have been awarded to Jim thus far in his career such as: Craftsman Speaking Degree, Certified Professional Photography, and he is an Approved Photographer Instructor (API). In addition, his photographs have appeared in the prestigious *International Loan Book* 16 times; which includes a portrait of a Patterson local, the late Milton Washington, Sr.

Because of the various categories of artwork in his repertoire, and that his portraits have earned prestigious awards, he was asked what, in his opinion, are the elements of a good photograph? He replied, "***It's not art unless other people are interested in looking at it.***" He also jokingly stated, "***Beauty is in the eye of the checkbook holder.***"

The artistic portraits and inspirational quotes that will grace the school walls are intended to motivate the students, give them a sense of local pride and to provide a pleasant atmosphere for learning. The portraits are in the process of delivery and aren't currently placed at the school; but are coming soon.

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- CC Summer Session Fed Bodies and Minds
- Local Schools Exceed Federal Graduation Rates



Graphic photo collage will be located on middle panel of wall in cafeteria at PJHS



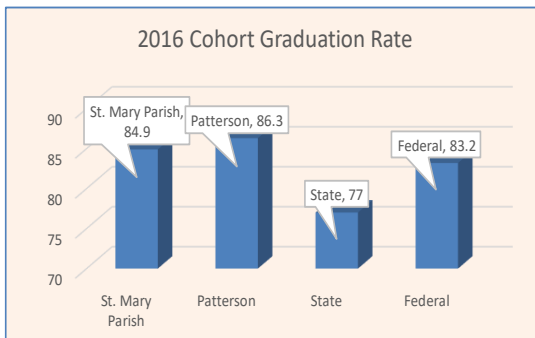
CC Summer Program Fed Bodies and Minds

Patterson’s Community Center concluded another successful annual summer recreation program on July 21. The 2017 program tutored and fed 46 students. That number is almost double of previous years’ summer programs. There were also more younger aged children who attended than in prior years. Children were given breakfast, lunch and a snack everyday.

Academics is one of the benefits of the summer program, and tutoring is based on the needs of the students. **“We found a lot of kids didn’t know the basics,”** Holden Murray, Summer Program Assistant explained. Therefore, the 2017 program focused on Math basics, and the basics in Language Arts and handwriting. Art activities (photo on left) and physical activities conducted at the current Patterson Junior High School (photo on right) were also integral parts of the summer recreation program.

Taking field trips is an aspect of the summer program which helps to make it a success. This year the children toured Wedell-Williams Memorial Aviation Museum in Patterson and visited Pinnochios in Houma. They also visited City Hall and Patterson Police Department. Councilman Travis Darnell read to participants and he also demonstrated the proper way to tie neck ties.

Local Schools Exceed Federal Graduation Rates



St. Mary Parish School Board officials are pleased with the latest district graduation statistics that were recently released. Whereas the State of Louisiana’s graduation rate is 77%, a decline of one half percent from the previous year, St. Mary’s composite graduation rate is 84.9%. That is nearly 8 points over the state’s average, and 1.7 points over the Federal rate of 83.2.

Patterson’s citizens and school district officials have reason to smile because of its high school graduation rate of 86.3. Patterson’s graduation rate is 9.3 points higher than the State’s rate, and more than 3 points higher the federal graduation rate.

Whereas Patterson’s graduation rate of 86.3 is greater than that of both the Federal and State averages, it takes the number three spot in the parish, falling almost 14 points below Centerville High School’s rate of 100%, and a little more than 7 points below Berwick’s graduation rate of 93.6.

Lenny Armato, Superintendent of schools stated, **“The district continues to look at innovative ways to motivate students to graduate and leave our high schools ready for college or the local workforce. St. Mary Parish schools look forward to increasing our graduation rate even further in the future.”**

SAVE THE DATE
STUFF THE BUS
w/ SCHOOL SUPPLIES
July 29, 2017
9:00 A.M.

Contact Us

We are interested in your good news! Contact us at:

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Visit us on the web at www.cityofpattersonla.gov

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