

COMPLIMENTARY

Ascension

M A G A Z I N E

JUNE 2026, VOL. 24 ISSUE 6



Dancing for a Cause

Dancing Through the Decades

SEE PAGE 24

PERSPECTIVE

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YOU CAN TRUST

Every story has **different** perspectives, and great leadership requires taking the time to see the **full picture**.

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ON THE COVER ... 2026 DANCING FOR A CAUSE

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The Beginning of Senior Citizens Day

By Murphy Painter

Genesis, in the Bible starts with the line "In the beginning". Once upon a time in 1982, in the beginning of Senior Citizen's Day on the River", Ginger Guitrau, at 38 years old and husband Vernon, who was 42 at the time, had what they thought was a grand idea. Vernon's parents, A. D. and Esta Guitrau fondly known as Maw and Paw Pete, were both in their early 70's and they wanted to do something special for them and their friends, the "old people". Ginger planned, with the help of her good friend Ina Rae Carpenter what she named a Septuagenarian party for the parents and any friends they

knew in their 70's and was held at their home on the Amite River.

It was a big hit and they again repeated it in 1983 with more people wanting to come. It was decided that they would expand it, lower the age to 65 and moved it to Hilltop Inn on the diversion which Stephan Guitrau owned at that time. Musician Cliff Nickens committed to play for free for one hour but actually played for four. Friends brought their party barges for excursions on the diversion. It was a gigantic success. One other addition was a paddle wheel houseboat owned by Bill Hebert for other rides.

Starting in 1984 and then again in 1985, because of the



overwhelming demand, the Restaurants and Bars in the area, along with other business people loosely formed a committee to split up the responsibilities and expand the activities. Sammy Prejean was the chairman with Ronnie Braud as his sidekick and Jean Harold as Secretary. The event was moved to Canal Bank Club, a short piece down river, which Sammy owned. The Jambalaya Association started donated the meal around this time.

The response from the Senior Citizens was priceless only to compare to the response of the businesses and people's financial and manpower support to make it work. Around this time the

Ascension Sheriff's Office and the Livingston Parish Sheriff's Office had formed a river patrol due to thefts at camps and the increasing accidents on the river. Thomas Marine's Carol and Nap Gautreau donated a 24 ft boat and motor for each Sheriff's Office to use for this purpose. The Sheriff's Offices took control of security, boat tours and river travel for Senior's Day.

Fielden Wheat, another of the river crew had recently built Blind River Bar which is about 10 miles from Canal Bank downriver, only accessible by boat. Fielden along with Buddy and wife Nancy Smiley, Larry and Mary Ann Smiley in 1986, wanted to host the event at Blind River Bar and the





logistics was put into motion. Thanks to again Bill Hebert, Ronald and Shirley Delatte, Richard and Myrtle Waguespack and Gayle and Jeanie Robert, all who had large houseboats, hundreds of Senior Citizens were taken to Blind River Bar in style for the day's activities. Ronnie Braud conducted extended tours up Blind River for ladies that wanted to see Blind River Chapel.

Now, you may think that this was a fairly routine riverboat excursion for our seniors. Jambalaya, green salad, potato salad, BBQ sausage, crackling, desert sweets, soft drinks, alcoholic beverages, live music and to top all of that off, Larry Smiley would get in

the river and wrestle a 10 ft, 300 lb live alligator that was on loan for this occasion from Setton's Alligator Farm in Ponchatoula. Top that. Life was good on these days for sure.

These events continued to be bigger and better every year. Some years there had to be contingency plans due mainly to flooding of the rivers. One year it was moved to Bayview thanks to owner Kenny Delatte. Another year it was held at the Gonzales Boat Club on the Diversion. Then one year it was forced to leave the river behind and it was held at Moonlight Inn. It really didn't matter where it was held or the circumstances of any change, the seniors showed up in force



and the volunteers continued to happily give their time to see that each and every one of them was a success.

Sometime around 1999 Fred Boyd and his wife Elaine insisted they wanted to host at Fred's in Port Vincent and that is where it has been since then. Jimmy Babin was the cook of choice for many of these years until Sheriff Bobby Weber stepped up and took over using his cooking team of professionals to handle the food.

Sadly many of the original volunteers have passed. It may be arguable whether some are in heaven or other places. Regardless, there are 1000's of senior citizens, who met them on Senior Citizens Day and they would swear that they have to be in heaven because of their service to the community. I know there is no way for me to list them all and I will miss a few but the ones I am going to name deserve to be recognized. The ones I miss I ask for their forgiveness due to me now being a senior citizen.

Vernon and Ginger Guitrau. Stefan Guitrau, Sammy Prejean, Philden Wheat, Buddy & Nancy Smiley, Larry & Mary Ann Smiley, Ronnie Braud, Elmer & Jean Harold, Roland and Virginia Lebeau, Jambalaya Festival

Association James Rawls, Calvin Braud, Donnie & Eve Mire, Norbert Loupe, Norman Knight, Jimmy Babin, Ascension & Livingston Sheriff's Office, Cliff Nickens, Joe Landry, Jody Smith, Willie Graves and his Band, Benny Stanley, Grace Broussard, Henry Broussard, Tootsie Broussard, Arthur Broussard, Kenny Fife, Alon' Gautreau, Johnny "Dog" Sanchez, Pat Sanchez, Kenny Delatte, Gwen Mincy Vicknair, Fred & Elaine Boyd, David Rosto, Bill Hebert, Richard & Myrtle Waguespack, Ronald & Shirley Delatte, Gayle & Jeanie Robert. A special expression of gratitude is owed to the many sponsors and all the hundreds of servers that participated in these events for over 34 years.

Again please forgive me if I left you out. It was again only because I am too old to remember. Also if you are helping out for the events since 1999 you may not be listed here, but a special thanks for you also.

There were over 500 senior citizens greeted and served this year at Fred's. All this happened because a wonderful couple, over 40 years ago, wanted to honor their parents and friends that made it to 70 years old. Thank you Ginger and Vernon.





Fred's on the River Summer Fun!

Band Schedule

JUNE

	4
	Jody Vicknair 2-6pm
18	True spin 930-130am
Vic & Sylas	(4th July Bash Firework show)
19	5
After 8 Band	3rd street
20	10
Justin Cornett Band	TBD
Full throttle for Dino Benefit	11
21	Chase Tyler Band
Junior lacross	(River Trash Bash)
25	12
Jade sanders	Ryan Foret & Foret Tradition
26	17
Party at Joes	Sylas Faust Trio
27	18
Rick Price 2- 6pm	Ricky Patterson band 2-6pm
Spank the Monkey 9-1am	Louisiana Landfall 8-12
28	19
Junior Dugas Back on	T-Boy just us Band
Da bayou band	24

JULY

2	
Peyton Falgoust & Todd O'Neill	
3	
TBD	
	Ory Micheal's Band
	25
	Clayton shillings 2-6pm
	Whiskey Bent band 9-1am
	26
	Keke Bourque Zydeco Band



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The background of the entire advertisement is a collage of patriotic decorations. At the top left, a wreath features a central banner with the letters 'USA' in white on a blue background, surrounded by red, white, and blue ribbons and stars. Below this, a circular medallion depicts an eagle's head with the words 'LAND OF THE FREE' in a stylized font. To the right, a large American flag is partially visible, with a prominent red ribbon bow. The overall theme is American patriotism, with various stars, stripes, and ribbons scattered throughout the composition.

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From the Gonzales Garden Club



Members select plants for hanging baskets.



Janis transported newly planted hanging baskets to a sunny holding area until the sale.



Members potted up 65 amaryllis bulbs donated by Dale Bowman.

Annual Plant / Bake Sale

Member Janis Poche plans a plant sale every spring to raise money for the club's projects. To generate sale items, she gathers members at her home

in Dutchtown to transplant the seedlings into all sizes of pots. Members met for the plant sale workshop on March 18 and brought cuttings they had rooted, bulbs they had dug up and perennials they had divided. Janis babied the 115 new plantings and the 45 hanging baskets for the next five weeks.

The plant/bake sale was held April 24 with its usual setup at City Hall from 9am until noon. Hundreds of annuals, irises, roses, ferns, succulents, herbs and vegetables, house plants and more were up for grabs. A cypress swing, a bird house and a bird feeder highlighted

the gently used garden items donated for sale. Baked goods for sale were cookies, lemon squares, brownies, bread pudding, party mix and

cake. The club appreciated the faithful turnout of supporters and the sunny weather that made the day successful.



By 9:04 a.m., this faithful supporter had filled her wagon with bargain plants.



Plants were grouped by their species categories.



Promoting the sale were Cynthia Stafford, Barbara McCormick, Kathy Guidry, Dale Bowman, Phyllis Charrier, Flo Hernandez, Gwen Heck, Pat Mouton, Janis D'Benedetto, Angelle Croman, Razzie Cagnolatti, Jamie Trisler, Conchita Richey, Mayor Tim Riley, Marilyn Rice and Joan Cox (Janis Poche, not pictured).



Harlan Poche

Harlan Poche, husband of Gonzales Garden Club member Janis Poche, passed away April 24, 2026.

Harlan was a supporter of the garden club. He was always willing to lend a helping hand for the benefit of the club. His patience, kindness and cheerfulness stood out in all he did.

Harlan was a gardener himself. He and Janis loved working side by side in their yard and vegetable garden. Their work inspired other gardeners to do their best.

Our sympathy is extended to Janis, son Rodney, daughter Kristy, family, and friends. He will be missed by many but leaves many good memories.

This picture of Harlan Poche was taken two weeks before his passing in front of his new planting of blackberries. His daughter Kristy said he was so proud of it.

The Gonzales Garden Club is federated by National Garden Clubs, Inc.



Marilyn Rice's husband Curt and Janis Poche's husband Harlan often found themselves together helping at garden club activities. Here they are in his backyard during the plant workshop.

June Yards of the Month



RESIDENTIAL

The June Residential Yard of the Month is located at 14570 Brenda Dr., Gonzales. Owners are Brenda and Jim Bridges. The landscaping offers multiple flower beds that were carefully designed to add exceptional beauty. The landscape is accented by the vibrant colors of roses, lantana, day lilies and agapanthus.



COMMERCIAL

Country Kitchen Restaurant is located at 615 E. Ascension and is owned by Skipper and Ginger McInnis. It is the June Commercial Landscape of the Month. It offers a unique landscape that consists of a circle of wildflowers in the middle of its parking lot. Within the circle is a whimsical display of a large colorful metal chicken. It is a great alternative to a commonplace landscape.

Get Growing, Ascension!

By Schyler Thibodeaux
LSU AgCenter
Horticulture Agent,

Tiny Bugs, Big Headaches: How to Tell Aphids from Spider Mites

If your plants look unhealthy but you can't see the culprit, you're not alone. Many plant problems are caused by pests that are so small they're difficult to see with the naked



Schyler Thibodeaux

from plants, especially on tender new growth such as young leaves, stems, and flower buds. As aphids feed, they excrete a sticky substance called honeydew, which often coats leaves and stems. This honeydew can lead to the growth of a black fungus known as sooty mold, making plants unsightly and



*Spider mite feeding sites and leaf speckling.
Photo courtesy of H. Kirk-Ballard, LSU AgCenter*

eye. Two of the most commonly confused offenders are aphids and spider mites. Though similar in size, these pests differ greatly in appearance, behavior, and the damage they cause. Knowing how to tell aphids from spider mites can help homeowners and gardeners avoid unnecessary treatments and choose the most effective control methods.

Aphids are softbodied insects with a distinctive pearshaped body and six legs. They can be winged or wingless and occur in a wide range of colors. Aphids feed by sucking sap

reducing their ability to photosynthesize. Plants infested with aphids may show stunted growth, yellowing, wilting, or curled leaves, and in some cases, aphids can also transmit plant diseases.

Spider mites, on the other hand, are not insects at all. They are arachnids, related to spiders and ticks, and can be identified by their eight legs and ovalshaped bodies. Spider mites are typically redbrown, and unlike aphids, spider mites never have wings. One of the most noticeable signs of a spider mite infestation is the presence of fine webbing on



leaves and stems. This webbing usually starts on the underside of leaves and, in severe infestations, can spread over the entire plant. Spider mites feed by piercing individual plant cells and sucking out their contents. Feeding holes are tiny yellow or white spots, which will cause a stippled appearance on leaves. Spider mite damage may lead to browning, leaf drop, or a scorched, bronzed look.

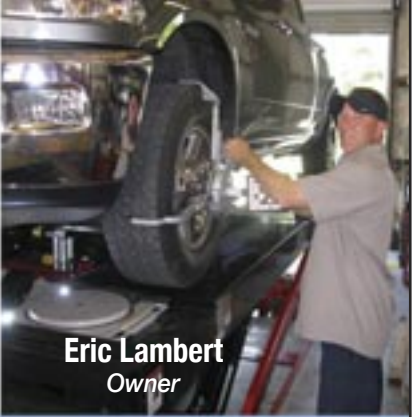
Both aphids and spider mites can be found in home gardens, row crops, greenhouses, and houseplants. They often occur in large numbers and are most commonly located on the undersides of leaves, where they are protected from wind, rain, and casual observation. Correctly identifying these troublesome pests is the first step toward effective control.

Because aphids and spider mites respond differently to treatments, misidentification can lead to wasted time and unnecessary inputs. When managing plant pests, consider using multiple tactics together. Integrated pest management emphasizes prevention, regular monitoring, and the use of the least disruptive control methods needed to keep pest populations below damaging levels.

Schyler Thibodeaux is the Horticulture Extension Agent serving Ascension Parish. For more information visit www.LSUAgCenter.com or contact Schyler at SThibodeaux@agcenter.lsu.edu.







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YOUR ESTATE MATTERS



By Linda Melancon

Does My Special Needs Child Need a Supported Decision-Making Agreement?

Bobby Boucher lives with his mother in a small rural Louisiana community outside Baton Rouge. He has a mild developmental disability and significant social anxiety. Bobby works part-time maintaining equipment and cleaning at the local college football stadium. He is kind, hardworking, and extremely knowledgeable about sports and athletic equipment, but he has little experience making major independent decisions. After a fateful practice, Bobby's football prowess is discovered and he is offered a spot on the school's football team.

Suddenly, Bobby is confronted with a series of important and unfamiliar decisions. Local businesses ask whether he wants to sign something called a "name, image, and likeness agreement." After an injury on the field, team doctors explain Bobby must undergo an "arthroscopic meniscus repair." University staff encourage Bobby to sign housing contracts, meal plans, insurance forms, and academic eligibility paperwork. Bobby knows what he wants: he wants to stay close to his mother and play football. But he struggles to understand the legal, financial, and medical consequences of many of these decisions without guidance.

Bobby's situation illustrates

a question many families face when a child with a disability approaches adulthood: when does a person simply need help understanding and communicating decisions, and when is a more formal legal arrangement necessary? As children grow older, parents naturally want them to become more independent. But for families of children with disabilities or special needs, turning 18 can bring new questions and concerns because at 18, the state of Louisiana recognizes a person as an adult. Parents often wonder: Will my child be able to make important decisions on their own? If not, what kind of help or legal protection may be needed?

Since its enactment in 2020, many Louisiana families are beginning to explore the option of supported decision-making. Supported decision-making allows a person with disabilities to get help understanding and making decisions while still keeping all their legal rights. Instead of having a court fully remove a person's ability to make choices through a continuing tutorship or interdiction, the individual chooses trusted people to help them gather information, understand options, and communicate decisions.

For many young adults, this can provide a good balance between independence and protection. A person using supported decision-making may ask parents, siblings, friends, or professionals to help with decisions involving healthcare, finances, education, housing, or employment. The supporters do not make decisions for the person. Instead, they help the person understand choices and make informed decisions on their own. Unlike other legal options in Louisiana, such as a power of attorney, a supported decision-making agreement does not give the supporter the legal authority to make decisions for the person. The supporter can only offer advice and support, allowing the adult child the autonomy to make all final decisions.

Supported decision-making may work well for individuals who can communicate their wishes and understand basic decisions, even if they need extra guidance or explanation. For example, Bobby may

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have no issue determining that he does not want to sign a housing contract since it would mean moving out of his mom's house. Bobby may, however, wish to have guidance after a local business asks him to sign a "name, image, and likeness agreement." The contract promises free gear and extra money, but it also requires Bobby to travel often and miss time with his family and classes. Bobby likes the idea of earning money, but he does not fully understand the contract or how it could affect his school and football schedule. With supported decision-making, someone Bobby trusts could help explain the agreement in simple terms and think about whether the deal aligns with his goals. Bobby would still make the final decision, but he would have support to better understand his choices.

While a supported decision-making agreement may work well for a young adult like Bobby, it may not be the best option for other young adults and their families. Under Louisiana law, third parties are not required to include the supporter before decisions are made, which can limit how helpful

the agreement actually is.

In more serious situations, supported decision-making may not provide enough protection for a person who cannot fully understand important medical or financial decisions, is vulnerable to manipulation, or cannot safely communicate their needs. In those cases, families may need to consider stronger legal tools in Louisiana, such as interdiction, continuing tutorship, powers of attorney, or other protective arrangements depending on the person's needs.

The information provided is not intended to be legal or tax advice and does not constitute any attorney/client relationship. You should consult with an attorney for individual advice regarding your own situation.

Ms. Melancon is an attorney with Legacy Estate & Elder Law of Louisiana, LLC with offices in Baton Rouge, New Orleans and Lake Charles, LA. The primary focus of her practice is estate planning, probate, special needs planning, and elder law. For more information or to attend an upcoming estate planning seminar, call her office at (225) 744-0027.



Sorrento Easter Egg Hunt • March 21, 2026

The Miss Boucherie & Balloon Queen Continues Her Travels Across the State

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Jambalaya
Festival

Tyler Bourque with father T.B. Bourque Win the 59th Annual Jambalaya Festival World Championship

It was truly a long time coming. Tyler Bourque has been known as one of the best cooks in the field. This year he and T.B. broke through and now wears the Championship crown.

Congratulations to the Bourque family for a job well done.

Tags & Titles is Tyler's Sponsor.



Christ Healing Community Closet and Pantry

Free food & clothing to those in need!

Follow us on FB @ CHC Closet and Pantry. Thank you and God bless.

Thank You for Seeing and Helping with Our Mission in 2026 at CHC Closet and Pantry.

Shenanigans were afoot at CHC Closet and Pantry this month. In addition to the pictures with the Chef's hat, goofy glasses and silver boots, we also had someone walking around in a shark suit but my life is threatened if I publish those photos. We work hard but we have a lot of fun also. If you would like to join in the fun, we can always use a new volunteer. We need people who can take direction, be kind and patient, stand and move for four hours straight (this position can be exhausting), be dependable and have their own

transportation. Bonus points if you can endure and participate in the sometime goofiness. MEGA bonus points if you can speak Spanish. If you would like to give us a try, please message me on our FB page, CHC Closet and Pantry. We will arrange a time for training and a trial period.

As most of you already know, we are always in need of food for our people or the money to buy it. In one shopping trip I spent almost \$600. I shop several times a month.



We have been gifted a gorgeous, handmade quilt to raffle as a fundraiser. It fits a full size bed and is maroon, ivory and brown with beautiful piecing and quilting. We also have a lap quilt, also handmade, to be given as a second chance prize. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6/\$5.00. Tickets can be purchased at the pantry during our open hours, Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00-12:00, or by sending money through Pal Pal (link on

our FB page), or my Venmo @Janell-Brent. You will know it's the right one by my picture, grey haired lady with a smile, grey shirt and tinted glasses. You can also mail a check to us at 209 E. Railroad St. Gonzales, LA 70737. The drawing will be held on July 7th



so be sure if you mail to have it to us a few days before. When you send a donation, we will fill out your tickets and put them in the bin. Please be sure to give us your name, phone # and e-mail so we can contact you if you win.

Thank you to each and every one of you who has brought food and clothing, sent things from Amazon or Wal Mart, made cash donations or just kept us in your prayers. We are doing good things but only because of the help of the Ascension Parish Community.

God Bless

Janell Brent
Manager,
CHC Closet and Pantry

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FINANCIAL FOCUS

Five questions that could change how you see retirement

Saving for retirement is important, but it's only part of the picture. If you're within five to 10 years of your target retirement date, it's time to start thinking about what you actually want your retirement to look like. After all, getting to retirement isn't the end goal — it's what you want to do once you're there that matters.

Start by asking yourself these five questions.

When do you want to retire?

The age at which you retire matters more than you may realize. Retiring early sounds appealing, but it means saving more and having less time to do it. It can also create gaps in health care coverage and income before key benefits kick in. For example, Social Security benefits can begin at 62, but at a reduced amount. Full benefits are available between ages 66 and 67, depending on birth year, and waiting until 70 means the maximum benefit. Medicare doesn't start until age 65, and penalty-free withdrawals from retirement accounts generally aren't allowed until age 59½.

For couples, timing gets

even more complicated. Staggering retirement dates can sometimes maximize benefits; in other cases, retiring at the same time works better.

A financial advisor can help you sort through these decisions and find the approach that makes the most sense for your situation.

How do you want to spend your time in retirement?

Many new retirees are surprised to find that having unlimited free time feels disorienting rather than freeing. Thinking ahead about how to fill the days with meaningful activity — whether that's travel, volunteering, pursuing hobbies or spending more time with family — can make the transition smoother.

It helps to sketch out what a typical week, month or even first year might look like. If there are big gaps, it's worth thinking now about what might fill them in rewarding ways.

Where do you want to live as a retiree?

Some retirees stay put, while others downsize or relocate entirely. Either way, it's wise to consider whether a chosen location will work well as you get older, taking into account factors like proximity

to family, access to health care, cost of living and climate.

What will your retirement lifestyle cost?

It's not uncommon for retirees to discover that their travel, entertainment or leisure expenses were higher than expected. The more active and involved you plan to be, the more you will likely need to budget.

Does your retirement involve giving back?

Retirement often brings both the time and motivation to be more generous. Whether the goal is helping family members donating to charity or volunteering in the community, it's worth defining those goals and building them into an overall plan.

Now that your vision is taking shape, turn it into a plan. Work with your financial advisor to align your savings with the life you want — and revisit that plan as your priorities evolve so your retirement keeps pace with you.

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East Ascension Sportsmans League

Letter from president -
Greg Cedotal

EASL will hold the 65th Annual Kid's Fishing Rodeo on July 25, 2026, at Twin Lakes Mobile Estates. Registration starts at 6:30 AM, fishing is from 7:00 to 9:00. Trophies and prizes will be presented after the weigh-in is complete. Tell your neighbors and friends, mark your calendar, and bring the

young ones out for some fun.

The 2026 Louisiana Legislative session has ended, the Louisiana Wildlife Federation and EASL have been tracking bills of interest throughout this session, supporting the interest of the sportsmen. If you are interested in the process of writing resolutions to be presented to LWF for support in the Louisiana Legislature, or going on to the National Wildlife Federation for support in the United States Congress, come and get involved.

I am looking for men and women in the 20 to 60 years old range who would be willing to meet as a committee and discuss ways to increase public interest in the East Ascension Sportsman's League and bring the organization into the 21st Century. If you and your children enjoy hunting, fishing and or nature activities, help support an organization that

supports your interest. Every year there are bills introduced in the legislature that attack our rights to enjoy the outdoors, join the fight for our rights. Our rights to hunt, fish and enjoy the outdoors are easier to defend than they will be to regain after we lose them. Talk to your children, relatives, and friends to see who may be interested in joining this coalition and have them email me at gdc1@gmail.com.

Now for a little bit about EASL events. You must be a member to participate in these events. The EASL Bass Club will fish a tournament on June 27th and July 18th. If you are interested in fishing with the bass club in 2026 contact Jim Hebert at 225-717-6037. The 22 Rifle Silhouette Match will be held on the fourth Saturday of the month, June 27th, at the Sheriff Shooting Range starting at 8:30 AM. Don't forget to weigh your bass for the Monthly Big Bass contest

and weigh your specs for the Monthly Big Speckled Trout contest.

If you decide you would like to serve on the board of directors and help move the organization forward, let us know. You do not have to wait until December to become a board member.

Time to go outdoors with family and or friends and enjoy nature. Remember to be safe and conserve our resources for future use. Questions or comments you can email me at gdc1@gmail.com.

EASL's next regular meeting is June 15th at the VFW Hall on Churchpoint Road, starting at 7:00 PM

EASL Bass Club News

The EASL Bass Club fished their recent Tournament on May 23rd. It was held at the Belle River Public Launch in the Atchafalaya Spillway. The weigh in was set for 3:00 PM. There were 15 boats signed up for this one.

This Tournament was held during the thunderous rain that just would not let up. The rain suits were put on immediately at the morning Launch and never came off until we arrived for the weigh in. Despite the rain and thunder, the fishing was actually good for most of the boats participating. Ten of the boats caught their limit but overall, the fish were small.

The winners were Carlos Gray & Bobby Allen with a limit that weighed 10.82 lbs.

Second place was Murray & Ryan Alexander with their limit weighing 9.94 lbs.

Third place was Luke Conerly & Brooks Soileau with a limit that weighed 9.56 lbs.

Big Bass winners were Chris Delatt and Blaize Villenurve with a lunker weighing in at 3.14 lbs.

Congratulations to the winners of the May Tournament. The Club's next event will be on June 27th. The meeting to plan this tournament will be held at Dirk Anderson's home on Babin Road on June 18th at ~5:30 PM.



Murray & Ryan Alexander



Chris Delatte & Blaize Villenurve



Bobby Allen & Carlos Gray



Left to right, Bobby Allen & Carlos Gray, Chris Delatte & Blaize Villenurve, Luke Conerly & Brooks Soileau, Murray & Ryan Alexander

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Dancing for a Cause

Dancing Through the Decades

Dancing Photos by Adrienne Laiche

Dancing for a Cause is in its 17th season, and The Arc of East Ascension is proud to announce their Premiere annual event Dancing for a Cause on Saturday, July 11th, 2026, at The REV Center at Lamar-Dixon Expo Center located at 931 St. Landry Rd. Gonzales, La.

The Arc of East Ascension is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization; tax-deductible receipts are available for qualifying donations.

Twelve local "Celebrity Stars" will be paired with professional dancers to entertain and charm you with their performances. This year's theme is Dancing Through the Decades.

The 2026 Celebrity Star Dancers:

Hailey Entremont, NP

CEO Owner of Rejuvenate Health

Makesha Judson

Managing Director of Government Relations and Public Affairs, Vale USA

Jared Schexnayder

Educator, Ascension Parish Schools

Kaylin Percy,

Pharmacist, Women's Hospital

Dara Lancaster

EHS Administrator, NOVA Chemicals

Larry Williams

Office of Homeland Security/

Emergency Preparedness

And KAM Mardi Gras King 2026

Morgan Lentes

New Anchor

WAFB Channel 9

Andrew "Andy" Gutacker

Senior Vice President,

Geisner BASF

Tiera Riley Hillman

Speech-Language Pathologist

OLOL and Ascension Parish Schools

Jordan Brignac, NP

Nurse Practitioner and Owner

Revolution Wellness

Constance "Connie" Claiborne

First Lady, True Light Worship Center

Tami Diez

Consultant, Wechem

The 2026 Professional Dancers

Leonard Augustus, Jr.

Dr. Aimee Mounger-Russo

Brandi Malone

Avery Tate

Jodi Simmons

Colbi Landry

Daniel Theirren

Caleb Owens

Your sponsorship for Dancing for a Cause helps to raise funds and awareness for The Arc of East Ascension, a non-profit organization, whose mission is to

enhance the quality of life for individuals with disabilities and their families through services and advocacy that support choice, independence, and dignity.

You are invited to participate in Dancing for a Cause through Table Sponsorship, VIP Single Ticket Sales, and Online Voting.

All table sponsors are invited to attend a VIP reception at 6:00 p.m. on July 11th, with the main event starting at 7:00 p.m.

Table Sponsorships range from Main Stage Sponsor—2 tables (\$10,000)
Ballroom Sponsor—1 table (\$5,000)
Salsa Sponsor—1 table (\$2,500)
Rumba Sponsor—1 table (\$1,500)
Two Step Sponsor—2 VIP seats (\$300)
Swing Sponsor—1 VIP seat (\$150)
The different levels of sponsorship also include tickets to the event and advertising for your business or organization.

Sponsorships are available today by calling the Arc of East Ascension at 225-621-2000 or by reaching out to one of our Celebrity Star Dancers. All sponsorship packets must be delivered or picked up by June 26th, 2026. Visit our website for more information and to vote for your favorite dancer(s) at: www.thearca.org.

"Tony King Is Funny", will provide his comedic stylings to add a true flair of entertainment for the night. Darryl Hambrick returns as our floor emcee after his performance as Celebrity Star Dancer in 2025. Guest can look forward to breathtaking performances from our stars and special surprise guest throughout the night.

Our Ballroom bar sponsored by Lamendola's will feature drinks for purchase. All guest are invited to partake in our specialty drink the Rumba Punch with a the purchase of a souvenir cup at the event. Louisiana Seafood donates some of the seafood and the VIP reception is catered compliments of Mike Anderson Seafood owner, Chip Robert, and his team.

Dancing for a Cause provides judges, that will critique and score each performance.



Greg Meriwether



Elizabeth Vowell Blades

The 2026 Dancing for a Cause Judges are:

Donnie Miller, President and CEO of Ascension Chamber of Commerce

Pamela Matassa,

Communications Director

Ascension Parish Government

Justin Garner, Community Relations

Coordinator, CF Industries

Jerisse Grantham, Owner

Jeffie Jean Dance Studio

Dr. Christina Patterson, DO

FMOL

The Arc of East Ascension is proud to announce that WAFB Channel 9 News continues to be our Diamond Presenting Sponsor.

Emcees for 2026 are WAFB News' staff Elizabeth Vowell Blades (Evening Anchor Reporter) and Greg Meriwether (Anchor and Managing Editor). The event is hosted and chaired by the staff, employees, Board of Directors and participants of The Arc of East Ascension. This year our event Chairperson is member of the Board Directors and Co-chair is Tammy Williams, President of the Board of Directors of the Arc of East Ascension. Mrs. Cann has been involved with The Arc of East Ascension as a board member, state Arc representative and staunch advocate for services. Ms. Williams, the current President of the Arc of East Ascension Board of Directors have been involved in with the agency for many years and was also a previous Celebrity Start dancer. Both, along with the Board of Directors members: Dawn Goately, Vanessa Williams, Erica Ramos, Chabry Marks and Monty Buckles.

For more information, please contact The Arc of East Ascension by calling 225-621-2000 email info@thearca.org Visit the Dancing for a Cause



Raven LaBiche

The Executive Director of,
The Arc of East Ascension





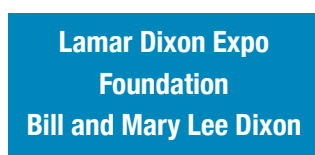
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Saturday - July 12th, 2025 - 7:00 pm (Main Event)
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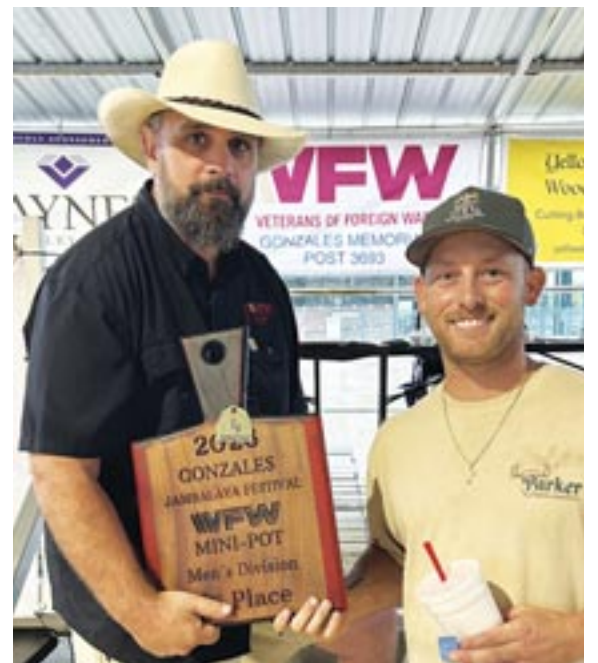


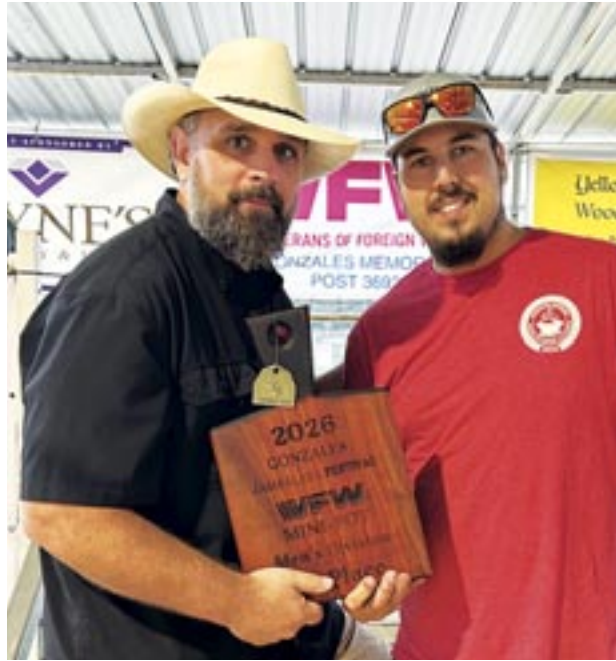
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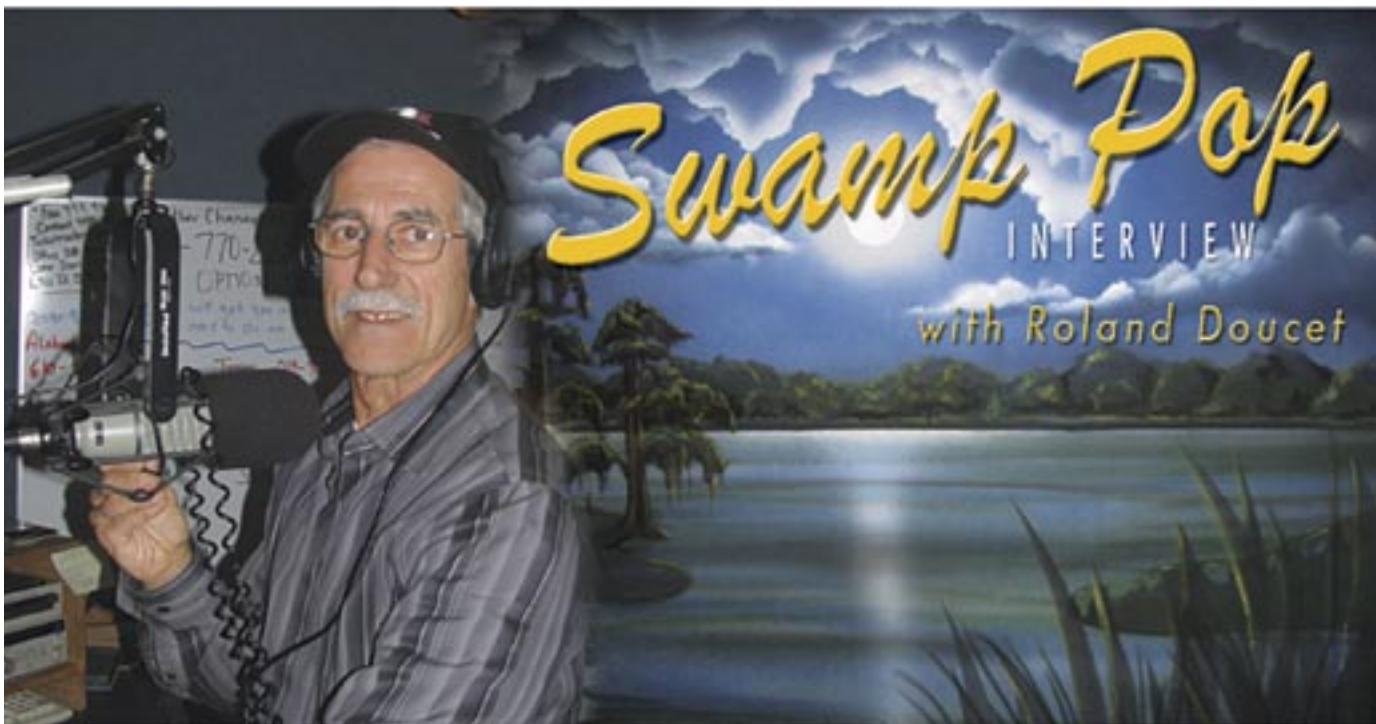


Jambalaya Festival

Mini Pots 2026 Winners







NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA HEY HEY HEY NA NA SHA

From the most humble of begin-nings Na Na Sha has become one of the hottest show and dance bands in the South. In 1983, as members of the choir, they were asked to put together a 50's skit for the fair at St Mark's Church. What the guys put together, almost three decades ago, has become bigger than they ever imagined.

Successful bands are never about just one person so I decided to interview the whole band for this article. Some of the members have changed over the years but the core of the band has remained the same and all new members quickly become family.

The band consists of:

Patrick Sanchez -vocals, guitar, bass guitar. An original member of Na Na Sha, Pat first started playing guitar at the age of 12.

Over the years he has honed his skills on the bass guitar also. You won't soon forget his powerful voice after seeing Na Na Sha perform. Pat also has performed with the Alley Cats and Blue Notes over the years. He is married to the bands keyboard player Patricia. With his time off Pat likes to travel and read.

Randy "Poose" Gautreau-guitar, vocals, MC. Randy has also been with the band from the beginning. He started playing guitar at the age of 15 and played with the Loners in the 60's & 70's. One of the three lead singers, you won't be disap- pointed hearing him at the microphone. Poose also does the MC and announcing for the band. Poose has never lost the excitement generated from see- ing people enjoy the great old music from the 50's and 60's and playing in the same venues as some of the greatest

entertain- ers. Poose is married to Carla Braud and loves arranging music, yard work, cooking and golf.

Ralph Daigle- guitar, vocals. Married to Becky Mire. Ralph is another original member of the band. Ralph has been playing guitar and singing in church since he was 12 years old. The exception to the rest of the band, Ralph didn't play regularly with other bands before Na Na Sha. He worked shift work at one of the plants which created scheduling problems for playing music. Ralph still enjoys playing for a crowd, large or small, and it still gives him a charge to play where so many legends have played. Patricia Sanchez-piano, key- board, clarinet. Patricia started playing piano at the age of nine. At the age of 10 she started play- ing the organ in church and con- tinues playing for choir groups, both youth and adult. She

was among the original members and proud of that along with the fact that she is the only female in the band. The band has been a highlight in her life. She is married to the lead singer Pat Sanchez.

Randy "BeeBop" Bourgeois-drums & percussion. An original member Randy started his musical career at the age of five when he picked up his first guitar. By the time he was eight Randy, finding his niche, started playing the drums. Early on he played with The Loners in the 60's & 70's. Watching the band grow from a small choir group to a regional show band has been a highlight for Randy. He is married to Paula Waguespack.

Audron "Poochie" Bourgeois, Sr.-trumpet, vocals, brass instruments. Poochie has also been with the band from the beginning with the exception of three years due to work obligations. Inspired by his father Poochie started playing the coronet at the age of 10. He has learned to play most of the brass in the band and does harmonizing as well as some solo singing. Having been playing music for the past 45+ years he played with The Ascensions, The Saints (not the football team), The Blue Notes, The New Blues, Last Chance, The Alley Cats, Bits & Pieces, Choices, Machine and Greg Brignac's "All Stars". One of the highlights of his music career was being able to play in the same band as his oldest son, who is a former Na Na Sha member. He also loves the fact that he can share his love of music with so many cousins and close friends. Poochie is married to Mary Jane "BG" Diez.

Keith Guidroz-guitar, keyboards. Keith, like the rest of the band, started his career early in life at the age of 15 when he played guitar for the first time. He





loves music and uses his off time to perfect his guitar techniques. Keith has also learned to play keyboard. Some of his former bands were; BR&T, Safari, Squeeze, the Alley Cats and Bits and Pieces. The interaction of the band members is one of the things Keith loves about playing with Na Na Sha. When asked about his marital status Keith answered, "Searching". (Some of you beautiful ladies should check him out!)

Mike "Boo Boo" Lambert-tenor and alto saxes, vocals. Mike has been with the band since 2003. He started his musical career at St Amant Elementary School playing saxophone. He has been a member of Southern Boogie, The Rhythm Kings, The Soul Crackers and the Johnny Allen Band to name a few. Mike joined the Air Force shortly after graduating from East Ascension High School in 1975 but continued his love of music playing tuba in the Air Force Drum & Bugle Corp at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas. Mike loves the saxophone and continually thanks his wife Bettye Osborne and family for his success.

Darryl Gautreau-bass guitar. Another early starter Darryl was playing professionally at the age of 14. His first instrument was trumpet. From there he moved to playing rhythm and lead guitar and for the last several years he has been strumming the bass guitar. Darryl has played with The Saints (not the football team), The Ascensions, The Shockers, The Other Side, The New Blues, Kollison, and Kenny Cornett and Killin' Time. The newest member of the group he started playing bass for Na Na Sha in 2011. Darryl considers being part of the Na Na Sha family a continued "joy and blessing". He is

married to Janice Guitreau. As mentioned at the beginning of the article the first time the public was introduced to Na Na Sha was at the St Mark's Church Fair in 1983. In 1984 the band was asked to represent Gonzales at the World's Fair in New Orleans. The gig didn't pay any money but the exposure was priceless. By 1985 they managed to get a paying gig at the Holiday Inn in Gonzales and actually got the money from the door. If you have ever been to a Cajun Classic Car Club Annual function the band you heard was Na Na Sha. On August 18th the band will be performing at the Dreams Come True Fundraiser at Lamar Dixon. They started this marriage in 1987 and I can tell you they are some of the best ambassadors for Dreams Come True around. In 1989 they debuted at "Crusin' the Coast" the annual car show in Biloxi that draws car enthusiasts from all over the country.

I have seen this band perform on numerous occasions and every time I am struck with the level of professionalism they display. Having the pleasure of emceeing events where Na Na Sha was playing I was taken into the bands circle praying with them before they started a performance. All members of the band are adamant about the thanks and praise they give to God for their talent and

success and make sure to thank him before every performance. As part of their "giving back" six members of the band are regular members of the St Mark's Na Na Sha Ensemble playing at Mass on the weekends. The Ensemble also incorporates three former members of the band.

In addition to playing locally the band has been across the south opening for or in the same venue as some impressive performers such as; Fats Domino, The Drifters, The Coasters, The Four Tops, Glenn Leonard's Temptations, The Impressions, Percy Sledge, Allen Toussaint, Chicago, Kool & the Gang, Doug Kershaw, The Guess Who, Louisiana's LaRoux, Ambrosia, Shenandoah, John Anderson, Billy Joe Royal, Jefferson Starship, The Bellamy Brothers, Jo Dee Messina, Los Lonely Boys and Blake Shelton. Quite an impressive list I'd say. In 2002 Na Na Sha was inducted into the Louisiana Hall of Fame along with many other

legendary Louisiana music groups. I know many of you know the band or at least some of them but did you know that they several of the band are related and they all live in the Gonzales area (within a four or five mile radius). Besides the cousins there is also the duo of Pat and Patricia Sanchez. The members range in age from fifty-three to sixty-six. The Band would like to recognize all the talent that have played with them over the years. I'm sure you will recognize some of these guys: Glenn Gautreau (Nub), Hoyt Cuti, Gary Templet (Snake), Scott Sanchez, Chip Weil, Louis LeBlanc, Marshall Bourgeois, Sidney Babin, Donald Lambert (Duck), Lionel Lambert (Beno), Ruckle Gautreau (Blonde Bomber), Johnny "Dog" Sanchez, Treg Keller and Joe Landry (PaPa Joe). They would also like to recognize K.P. Babin (The Great Persuader) and Ralph Daigle Sr. for all the wonderful and dedicated Public Relations throughout the years. As ambassadors for Louisiana and the Gonzales area we couldn't ask for better. No matter where they perform everyone knows where Na Na Sha hails from GONZALES, LOUISIANA. Don't miss a chance to take in this class act! To check out their schedule go to: nanashaband.com

My thanks to Randy and Paula Bourgeois for hosting our interview. Shirley and I greatly enjoyed being part of the Na Na Sha family for the evening.

Thank You Roland for allowing Ascension Magazine to re-run these articles about our musical heritage.



On the Horns of a Dilemma or Please Don't Blow This Game

by Horatio Hornblower

by Bill Delaune

"Sometimes you blow-sometimes you suck..."

Blues Traveler harmonica player John Popper.

Before I begin this "gripping piece"-not to be confused with a "gripping story" which actually grabs your attention and holds it-there are some acts of disclosure that I must reveal.

First of all, as I continue my irreversible descent into geezerhood, I realize that I am indeed becoming a "grumpy old man" in the mode of Walter Matthau and Jack Lemmon-but not nearly as humorous.

Secondly, some of the following rant may be interpreted as "sour grapes" due to a loss by my beloved Dutchtown Griffins' baseball team in the state finals. The truth be known, I have never been a "good loser" either as a player, a coach or a spectator since my first loss in the 50's to a Baton Rouge team called Sports World in the old Prairieville ball park.

As fiery Dodger manager Leo Durocher once so eloquently put it, "Show me a good loser and I'll show you an idiot who loses most of the time."

Next, this tirade is not a reflection of the fine people of Sulphur who put on the state tournament or the LHSA of which I am a lifetime member (Although my card may be revoked after this column.)

These are just the inane ramblings of a disillusioned 70-something ex-coach-turned-spectator on how to improve your product. And if this qualifies me for "Curmudgeon



of the Month", then I accept it on behalf of Sexy Senior Citizens everywhere.

Let's start with noise pollution at ball games...

1. Ban all artificial noisemakers-especially horns-at baseball games.

This one will get me in trouble with the younger fans and some of the moms but hear me out-because I heard yours loud and clear.

I didn't even realize that people blew those annoying horns they ordered from Amazon until the Dutchtown playoff series with Sulphur this year. The visiting fans tooted their horns constantly during the two games-some time directed at the hometown stands-and not with any regard to the score or what was happening on the field. And it couldn't have been a

celebration because the Griffins swept both games!

Apparently, these horns are all the rage in Southwest Louisiana because there were more waiting in Lake Charles for the showdown with nationally-ranked Barbe.

Now Barbe fans-following the lead of their lovable head coach-are already nationally ranked in the "most obnoxious" category but they take this noise thing to a different level. I guess carefully-placed speakers to amplify the crowd noise were not enough because they broke out a horn that sounded like a runaway freight train that I could hear even in my deaf ear.

And even with all that racket, the Bucs-who had lost only one game all year-dropped two of three to the eighth-seeded Griffins.

But the state tournament-strictly from an artificial noise

standpoint- was the absolute worst. By now, some of our loyal, lovable, faithful fans in Dutchtown had picked up on this fanfare fad and obtained horns of their own.

So when Sam Houston fans blew their horns, the Griffin fans blew back. For instance, when a DHS player hit a foul ball, our fans blew for the contact; their fans blew for the strike. If the Crusades were a "Holy War", this was a "Horny War" that had no truce.

Now being a writer, I often claim poetic license to embellish my stories. In Journalism 101 we were taught "Never let the truth get in the way of a good story", but it is no exaggeration to say that at no time during any of the 3-game series that there was not some kind of horn being blown.

At times it almost seemed that the well-played games on the field had become secondary to who could outblow the other side in the stands. I actually saw spectators leaving the highly-competitive contests because of the endless cacophony.

And if you need a religious or patriotic reason for a horn ban, I got you covered. With all the horns blowing on the adjacent field where a game had already started, I could literally not hear one word of the pre-game prayer or the National Anthem.

That could be worth a few votes, Governor Landry.

Now don't get me wrong-I am not advocating a marshall holding up a "Quiet Please" sign like you see at golf

tournaments. Cheer, clap your hands, stomp your feet, raise the roof-especially when your team scores or makes a great play. And believe me, there were plenty of those during Dutchtown's magical season.

In the spirit of compromise-a seemingly lost art in this country- I'll even give you moms your cowbells if you promise to ring them at the proper times and not incessantly.

I the need to blow a horn, go join Sheily Bell's excellent Dutchtown Sound band. Or go help Little Boy Blue blow his sheep horn. Or sign up for the cavalry to lead the next charge. Just stay away from my ball games.

2. Times of the Games-While Dutchtown and Sam Houston were slugging it out on Field 40 in the Non-Select division, Catholic High and Brother Martin were locked up in an equally-exciting battle right next door on Field 41 for the Select title.

Thanks to a classic base running blunder, the game went 14 innings before the Bears prevailed 3-2. Sounds like a game you'd like to see? Me too. Even though my little public school heart may not care for some private schools' recruiting practices, there were some young men on Catholic's team that I have known-through playing with-and against-my grandson- since they were seven years old. I would have been over there pulling for them like they were my own. Except we were playing at the same time.

I realize scheduling so many games from all divisions must be difficult, but couldn't we get a staggered time for teams from the same proximity. For instance in 2022, Dutchtown and St. Amant played on the same adjacent fields at the same time forcing Ascension fans to choose one game or the other.

With all the brainpower at LHSA and a little help from AI, I'm sure-as the Beatles

might say-we could work it out.

And while you're at it, make all Saturday games TBA so that if a best-of-three series ends in two straight on Friday, you can move Saturday's night games up to afternoon. This would help teams and fans who have to travel-and have already been there three days-get home at a reasonable hour.

3. Prices and Television-Say there was a family of four who wanted to see their son/brother play a complete 3-game series. With tax, that's going to run them about \$228 to see high school baseball-before any hot dogs, peanuts or Crackerjacks.

Come on, guys-this ain't the World Cup. Give a working family a break. Despite what the President says, the prices of gas and groceries are high enough. Surely, some family plan or group rate could be instituted for championship events.

And for those folks who want to see the kids play but couldn't make the trip, let the local networks do the games instead of that awful Federation folly that charged people for that inferior product.

Chuck Sheets and his Duck Roost Sports Network at St. Amant and A.J. Pickett and his group of merry men on the Griffin Baseball Network may not be ESPN but their knowledge of the players, coaches and even the parents sure made their broadcasts far more entertaining.

Okay, I'm done. Just a few things I had to get off my chest before football sneaks up on us. And I apologize to you readers who were looking for some silly, summer, sophomoric humor that usually resides here.

May I recommend my cohort Chris Watts and his Facebook adventures to fill that need until I get down off this soap box. And don't worry, as the Governor once said, "I'll be back!"

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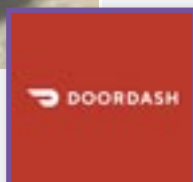
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Jammin' with Goosie

June 21st

I heard him mention that date quite often as the time for his retirement neared. My curiosity finally got to me and one day I asked "Why did you choose the date June 21st for your departure"? He sharply answered back "Because that's when the wind quits blowing". My dad and mom fished for speckled trout religiously back in those days before their passings and he knew very well that those speckled beauties don't like wind and dirty water.

Mother nature can produce many obstacles that can

still in areas with a lot of good signs can lead to success. Whitetails in general don't like to move about on those noisy windy days when every branch in the woods is shaking violently and knowing how to use the wind correctly in the deer woods is a must. Turkeys have to be turkeys every day of their life and a strong wind can make their vocals hard to hear but that doesn't mean that you can't harvest one on that type of day. A spring or two ago two adult gobblers and a jake walked into my setup during a twenty to thirty mile an hour blow. One of the adults didn't walk off. Rabbit or deer hunting with the use of dogs on windy days can be a very



difficult situation to properly deal with. At times it can be hard or even impossible to hear the chase and tell if your quarry is headed your way or not.

I still remember the days of fishing when the use of a paddle to move about from one location to another was the only way to do it. The electric trolling motor no doubt was one of the greatest angling inventions of all times for recreational fishing, but even with its fantastic capability, strong air movement can be very challenging or even impossible to deal with at times. On a week-long trip to Lake Concordia last May the wind blew so hard that a vast majority of the lake was unfishable for several days. Oxbow lakes are the shape of big U's and it seems that the wind will follow that shape from one end to the other.

My last two family event stays at Grand Isle were in the early part of the summer. The wind blew hard all the while we were there on both of those trips. It would blow the hat off your head as well as chairs off of the patio along with many other things that were not tied down. When I was once again chosen to make plans

for the next family gathering there I picked a date later in the summer. I had to argue my point of going there then with others of the group for the fact that it may be hotter then but for me I will take the heat over the wind anytime when it comes to coastal fishing. Oh don't get me wrong, a strong sea breeze can be really great for your coastal stay when it comes to cooking, social drinking, and keeping you cooled down but other than that it's a pain in the you know what. With that being said windy conditions can also be very dangerous on large bodies of water.

Although I don't particularly care for a stiff wind I do appreciate it's ability to do what it does for sure and a cool breath of air on a hot summer day can be very pleasing. On the other hand it doesn't take much of a breeze to make for a very uncomfortable day while sitting on a deer stand. It has been a nuisance to me during my entire life of employment while welding and rigging as well as hunting and fishing. I have used more curse words on the wind than I probably will ever be forgiven for and because of it I unfortunately will continue to do so into the future.

Every late winter and spring I hear people complain about how hard the wind is blowing. Many often say that it's the hardest that they have ever witnessed in their lifetime. The wind has blown at that time of the year for as long as I can remember. It will do the same next year and the years that will follow. If you want to make plans in our area of the world for hopefully calm wind days then I would say wait until June 21st because at that time of the year the wind usually calms down and our first day of summer begins.

Till next time
Batten down the hatches
James "Goosie" Guice



influence the success of hunting and fishing trips. The biggest challenge of her offense in my opinion is the wind. Waterfowl hunting success can be boosted by the aid of air movement but it seems that on the majority of my duck hunts of late the water has been slick as glass. Some types of angling such as bass or catfishing can be aided by the wind but you will have to fight it to be successful. Although a strong gale can negatively affect you in many ways it is very important for outdoorsmen to learn how to use it in a positive manner whenever possible. Squirrel hunting can be tough on windy days and may require the hunter to slow down while viewing the ground and lower tree canopy ahead more. The act of stopping and sitting



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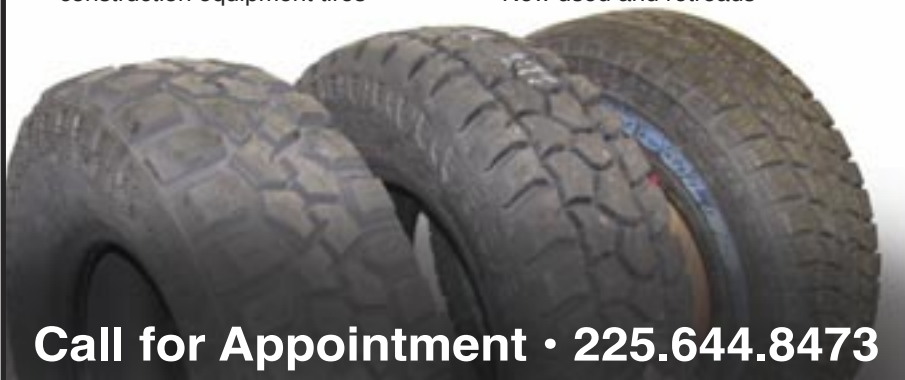


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Useless Random Facts with Kellie

•
Venus is the only planet that rotates clockwise.

•
It would take seven billion particles of fog to fill a teaspoon.

•
Six years was how long it took to write War and Peace.

•
A Hershey's kiss contains 26 calories, which takes five minutes of kissing to burn off.

•
Eagle eyes are at least four times sharper than human eyes.

•
There is no area in Japan that is more than one hundred miles from the sea.

•
When we are born our eyes are almost full size, but our nose and ears never stop growing.

•
The hair dryer was the offspring of two unrelated inventions, the vacuum cleaner and the blender.

•
It is estimated that the whole surface of the Earth could be covered with all of the salt in the ocean.

•
A raisin dropped in a glass of fresh champagne will bounce up and down continuously from the bottom of the glass to the top.

•
The loudest natural sound on Earth is of a volcano eruption.

Thoughts from Bully

Eye Opening Moments

Bridal Portriat

Life is a complete mystery. You may think you can plan and set your path but I can assure you things are going to go haywire.

Many years ago I was enjoying a round of golf with friends and received a call from my wife. She pointed out that her mother was remodeling her living room and wanted to give her the big bridal photo in the oak wood frame from her livingroom.

My beloved sweetheart asked me if she could place her framed bridal photograph over the headboard of our bed. Without thinking twice, I assured her it would be alright with me. When I returned home from my relaxing round of golf, I entered the bedroom. There it was, in full view, for all to see, she's in her wedding dress posed and smiling. The photo captured her happiness of the moment and the bliss of her day was written all over her face. The perfect photo in a giant wood frame. My wife of five years had centered this photo directly over our bed. Dangling just above our love nest.

I should have been proud to see her on our most glorious day. However the photo was from her previous marriage. I wonder if she realizes why we are divorced today.

Hard Lessons

This eye opening moment was stupidity at its best or vanity at its worst.

Some years back I thought I would have a pig roast for some friends and called a stock yard in Baton Rouge to order a pig for roasting in a Cajun Microwave. I asked the cost of the 65 lb. delicacy and agreed to what I thought was a great price.

After agreeing to the price I asked if a standard size ice chest I had was sufficient to



hold the pig. His reply was simply, "Knew, He'll jump right out of there." "What!" I didn't realize I'd purchased a live pig on the hof and not a fully dressed, butter flied pig ready to roast.

Now as the stupid look dripped from my face I knew this was an eye opening moment.

What's this in the glove box, Dad?

Now for the biggest eye opening moment of all.

My 14 year old son and I were traveling to the hunting camp. He decided to look through the glove box of my truck. He pulled out an opened box of a three pack of condoms. He grinned and gave me a fist pump. One was missing and he started to read out loud the instructions written in the box. "Roll the rubber over the ..." "Stop I get it," I said. The instructions were pretty precise and under the circumstances quite funny. Perform the simple actions described and you'll be sexually protected. We giggled and laughed at the simplest instructions.

I started concentrating on driving. He then said, "Uh oh Dad?" "What?" These things expire in two years. You better hurry up!"

Now that is a gigantic eye opening moment with a little humility.

Kids... you can't eat them and you can't kill them.

I'm gonna take his advice and persue the usage of the final two in the next two years.

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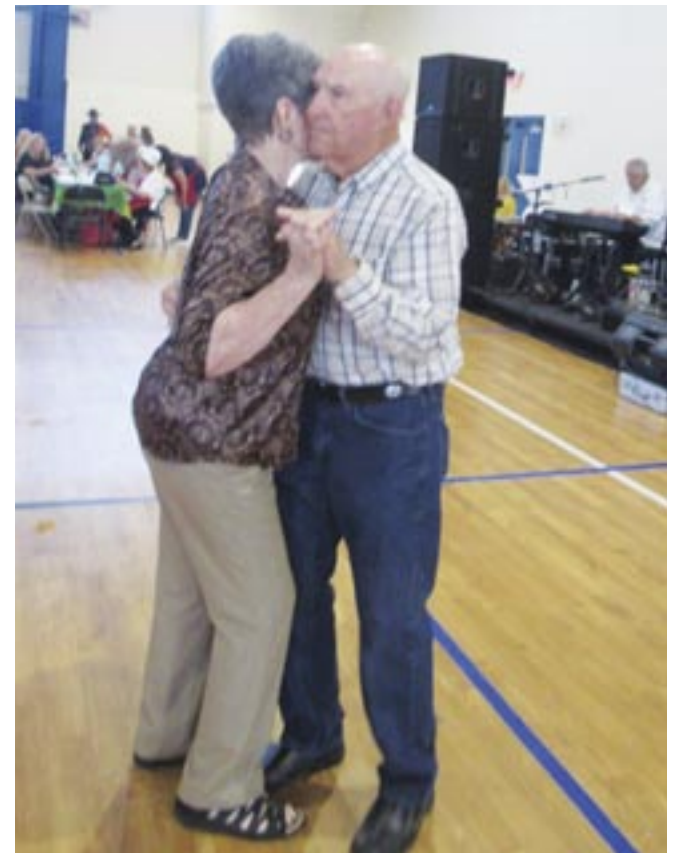
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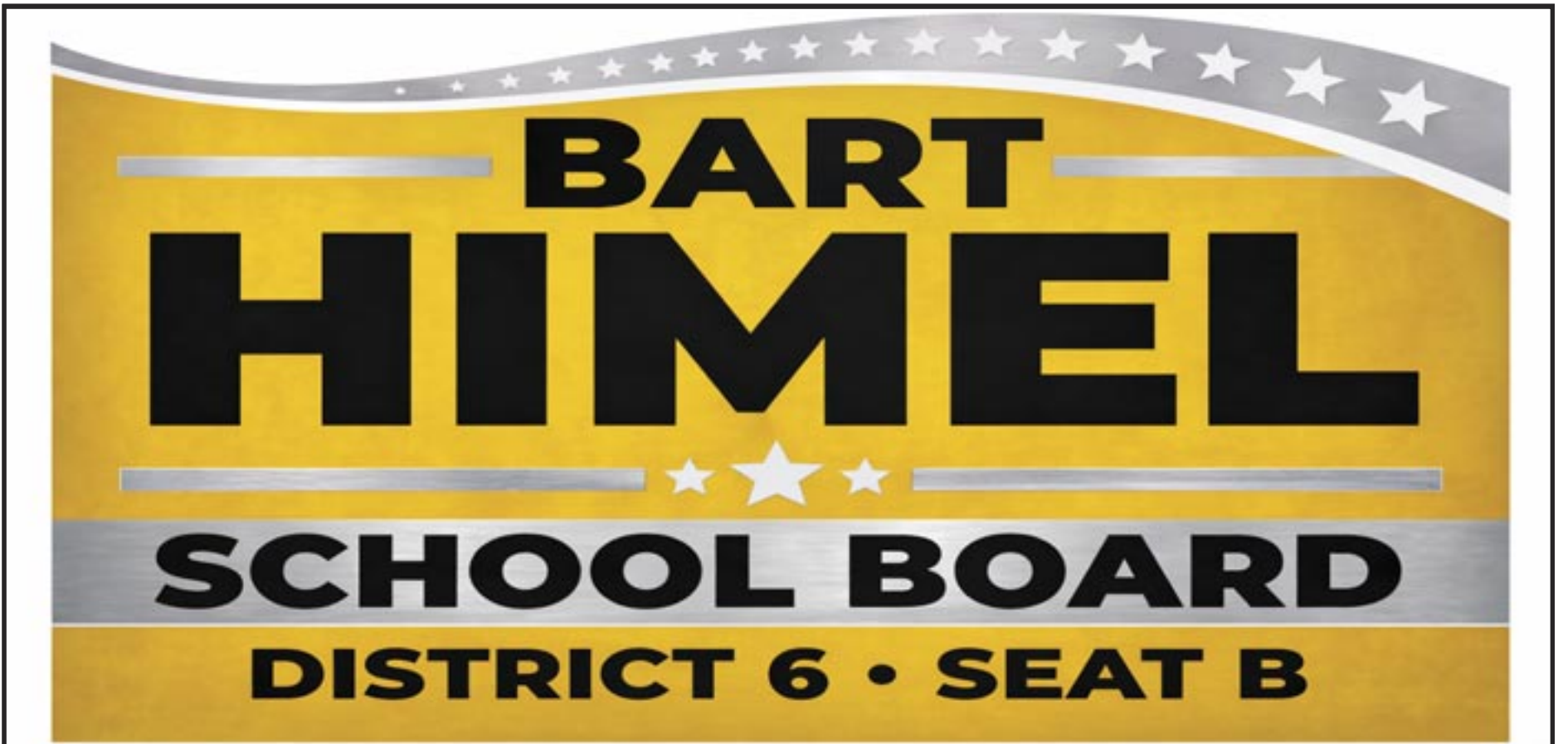
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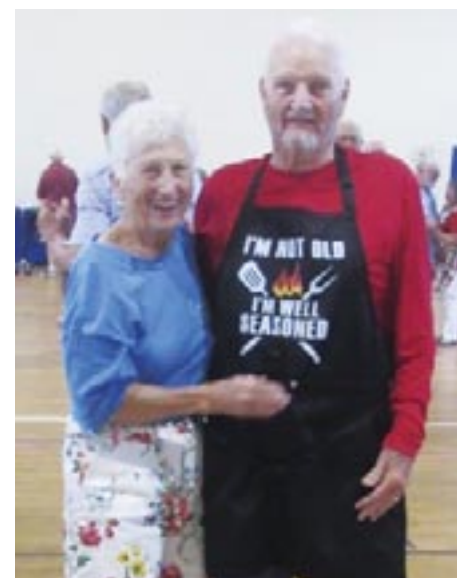

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Jambalaya Grits



Prep: 15 minutes

Cook: 20 minutes

Executive Chef, John Donaldson

Ingredients:

1 cup grits
4 cups water (unless you are using quick grits- then follow instructions on package)
2 tablespoons butter
1 cup diced smoked sausage
1 cup diced white onion
½ cup green onions (sliced)
Salt, Red Pepper, Black Pepper to Taste

Method:

In a cast iron pot, thoroughly brown your smoked sausage then remove from pan. Next, cook your onions in the same pan until they are beautifully caramelized. Return your sausage to the pan and add your water and butter. Bring the water to a boil then slowly stir in the grits. Bring mixture back to a boil, then cover and cook over medium heat for approximately 40 minutes or until a smooth texture is reached. Add salt and pepper to taste.

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