

COMPLIMENTARY

Ascension

M A G A Z I N E

JULY 2026, VOL. 24 ISSUE 7

Cheers TO 55 YEARS!



55th

SNO'S

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EST. 1971

Thank you for 55 years of incredible support.
We're honored to serve our community
and look forward to many more years together.

LISA FAUCHEUX BACALA

“Focused on Our Future”



School Board District 4 Seat B

As a parent, grandparent, former educator, and active community servant, I understand that *education shapes not only the lives of our children, but the future of our entire community.*

My priorities include:



PRIORITIZING STUDENT SAFETY

Creating a safe, respectful, and supportive environment where every child can learn and thrive.



STRENGTHENING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Supporting our students, educators, and support staff with the resources and tools needed for success.



CREATING OPPORTUNITIES

Preparing every child for a successful future—whether he or she chooses college, a trade, or the workforce.



BUILDING STRONGER FUTURE TOGETHER

Working with families, educators, support staff, and community partners to strengthen our schools and programs.

My campaign is an extension of my life's work, and it is about bringing people together for our children, our families, and our future, synergistically building school buildings and programs that continue to reflect **excellence, compassion, discipline, and hope.**



**I HUMBLY ASK FOR
YOUR VOTE FOR
SCHOOL BOARD
DISTRICT 4
SEAT B**

★
I'm Lisa Faucheux Bacala,
and I would be honored to further serve
our community in this new capacity.

Publisher / Editor

Mike Strong

Associate Editor

Thumper

Sales Manager

Dottie Godbery

Staff Photographers

Robin Stevens

George Stevens

Jimmy Dunkley

Distribution Manager

Michael Strong

Contributing Writers

Bill Delaune

Linda Melancon

Bully

Goosie Guice

Kellie Seymour

Jimmy Dunkley

Patti Mouton

Jamie Lavigne

Robin Stevens

Izzy Frank

Murphy Painter

For Advertising

Rate Sheet, email

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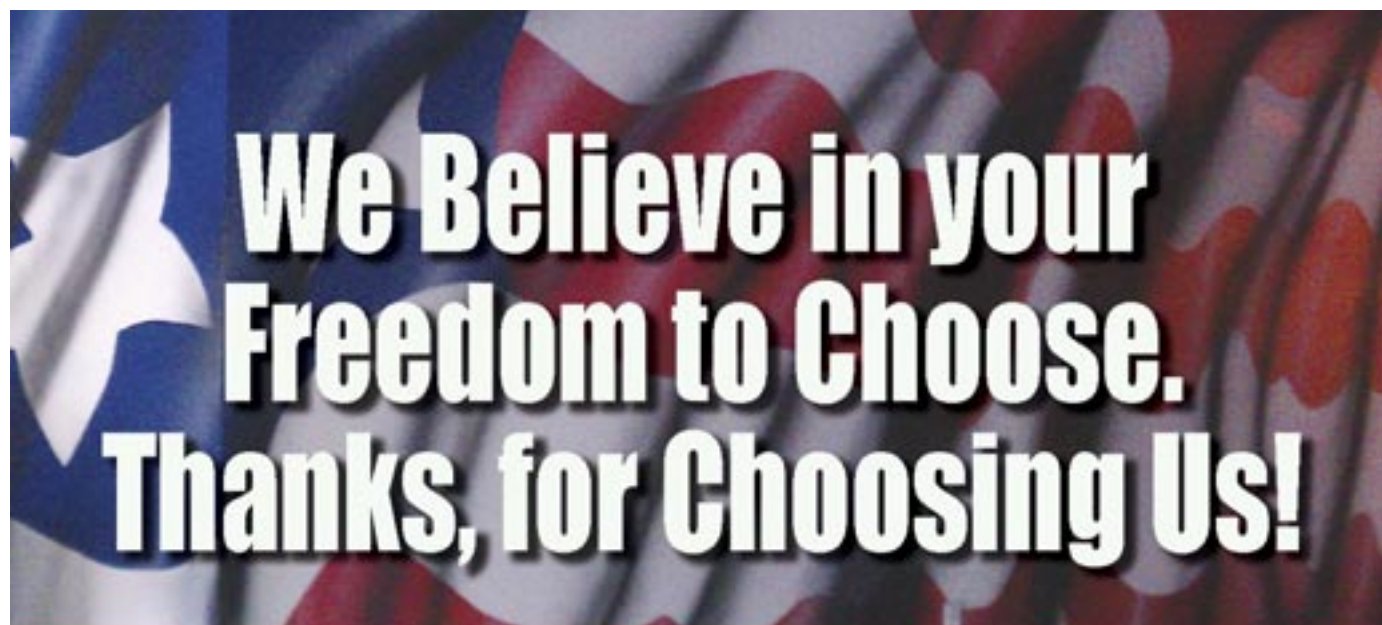
18386 Little Prairie Rd.
Prairieville, LA 70769

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ON THE COVER ... 55 Years of Sno's Restaurant



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Would the Real Richard Nixon Please Stand Up!

When I started writing these stories I had and still have no intention to tell too many law enforcement ones but with the forever flowing grains of sand in the hour glass, I wanted to share a story back from 1978 that would otherwise be lost.

Once upon a time on April 29, 1978, while working late that Saturday night a call came across the radio for all units that the burglar alarm at Drug Fair Pharmacy was going off. I was alone at the time in my unmarked unit and as fate would have it the two marked units were tied up on other calls. I was on airline highway, less than a quarter mile from Drug Fair.

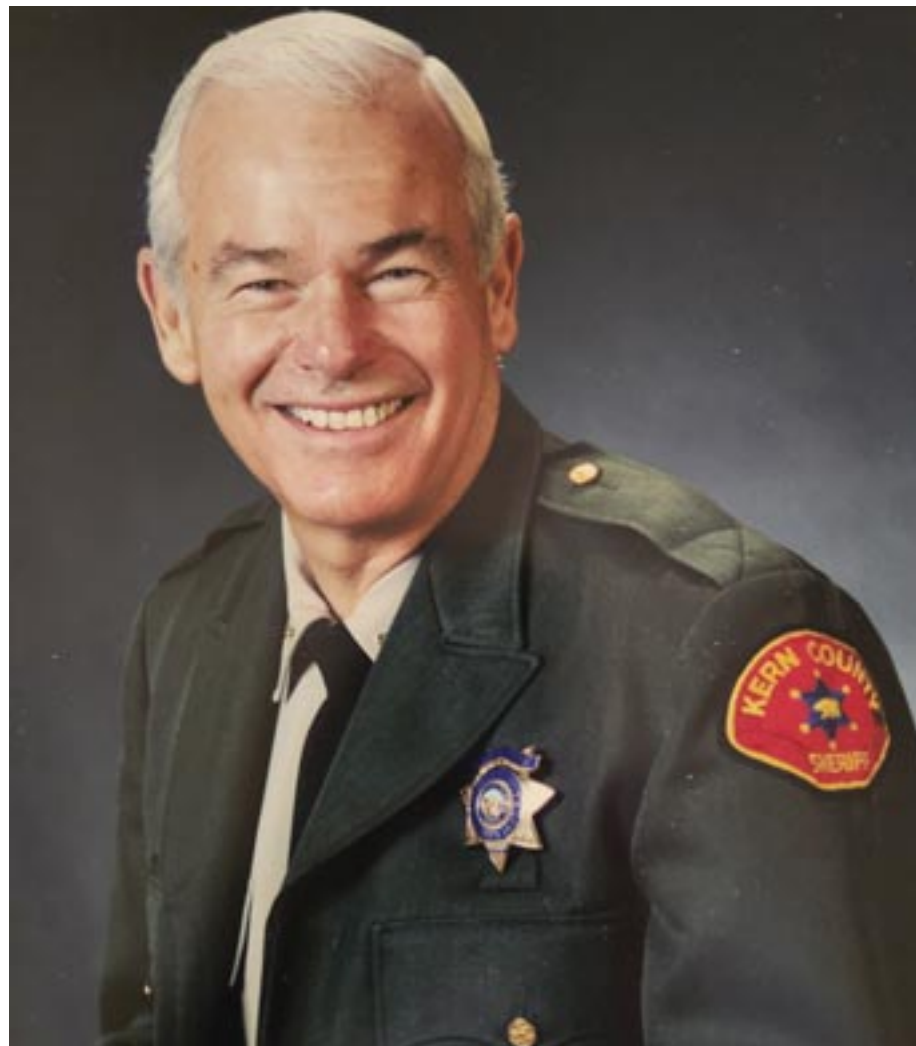
Drug Fair was notorious for burglars after narcotics breaking in due to its being off the highway and pretty much secluded. I notified the dispatcher that I was turning in the driveway alone and to send back up as soon as possible. I pulled around the back of the building and immediately noticed two cinder blocks cut out of the back wall and saw what appeared to be two shadows running through a hedgerow that separated the pharmacy from the church property next door. I backed up and ran back down the 100 yard driveway, turned back on US 61 and then turned onto the also long church driveway next door.

Well, low and behold, out of the hedgerows comes two individuals toward my car, apparently thinking I was the ride that dropped them off. Now this was around 9:00 pm and it was a very dark night with very little lighting. As they got close to the car I jumped out with my brand new Colt 45 automatic Gold Cup National Match Pistol in hand cocked and hollered "Freeze #@%&* Sheriff's Office". (We were issued 38 caliber revolvers but could buy our own weapons to carry)

Well, you would have been very surprised of the lack of respect they had for that expressed authority I proclaimed. They immediately turned and stated running across the open field between the church and Picou Brother's complex next door which was a number of metal buildings. Again, did I mention how dark it was?

I started a foot pursuit about 15 yards behind them when I noticed my 45 in hand and the voices in my head said let's see what they think about a shot over their heads. Now, in 1978, we were very much still Mayberry in lots of

ways. One is that there was no initial training when you started as a deputy like there is today, certainly no night firing training. Well when I let that 45 round go, close to those metal buildings and in the dark, the sound reverberated like an atom bomb and the muzzle blast from that 45 shot a blast of light three feet in



front of the barrel and blinded me for a few seconds. When my eyes finally got back accustomed to the dark, the two guys had virtually disappeared or I thought. I finally noticed that they had hit the ground and was lying face down in the tall grass in front of me. No cell phones, no portable radios, just me and these two and no back up for a while, I entertained them with my best Mel Gibson imitation from the movie Beverly Hills Cop. Eventually back up came and we got them to the jail. Two late 20ish males, full of tattoos, with no identification. The tallest one gave a name of Gary Dykes, 29 years old and said he had no address. The second one said his name was Richard Johnson, age 26 also with no address. Richard Johnson had the most distinctive tattoos on his entire chest. It was an Eagle standing upright at least 15 inches tall and the wings unfurled, covering the whole width of the chest. The Eagle had

arrows clutched in both of its talons, at least 12 inches in height. Now here comes the clincher. Fully spelled out, above the standing Eagle, was Bakersfield, and below the Eagle was California in two inch block letters fully spelled out.

Our jail situation back then was also a lot like Mayberry. We had



By Murphy Painter

that had more room for them to exercise. Oh Oh.

He then explained that he open both cell doors so they could go back and forth across the hallway when they got tired. He showed me the camera of their cell and said look they are both back in their cell taking a nap. I grab the keys and went back into the jail and when I pull back the blankets on their beds, just like every TV show you ever seen, the covers were rolled up to make it look like someone was in bed but both were gone.

After thinking this was impossible, we found the 24 inch a/c vent in the hall ceiling between the two cells had been removed and then replaced back. Upon searching the building we found the ceiling tiles in the Sheriff's personal office knocked out and the front window unlatched and open. There was a two foot crawl space between the first and second floors for plumbing etc. They had crawled the length of the building and then dropped down in that office and out.

We had fingerprints and pictures of the pair and two fake names. This information was sent out on the Law Enforcement network to no avail. Monday the fingerprints were forwarded by Air Mail to the FBI Bureau of Identification (BOI) Headquarters in Washington D.C. Within a fairly short time they responded.

One was identified as a Gary but Dykes was not his last name. He had a four page rape sheet. He was entered into the NCIC data base as a fugitive from Ascension Parish. Eventually he was arrested somewhere in Oklahoma for some other serious crimes and our charges got bundled with theirs where he went to prison.

Now, Richard Johnson, the Eagle man's prints came back as having no criminal record. Needless to say we were flabbergasted. There was no way

holding facilities in the Gonzales Courthouse annex and then the general population prison in Donaldsonville. This was a weekend and the Gonzales cells were empty. The two were booked and placed in the holding cell there that accommodated two males. The dispatcher/jailer was caution that these two were probably two very bad amigos and not to give any privileges until we received verification of their real names and record from the FBI using their fingerprints.

I checked on them through the weekend, while waiting for the FBI Bureau of Identification (BOI) office to open to send their prints. Everything went well for a short while. Then Sunday came and shift change. I went to the office around 4:00 pm and asked the dispatcher how things were going with our two prisoners. He explained that they were complaining about being cramped in the cell and asked if they could go into the cell across from theirs

that this guy had never been arrested as the FBI was now telling us. I followed up with the Bureau and was told they do not make mistakes with fingerprints. As fate would have it, I had been selected to go to Session 114 of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. This is probably the best law enforcement training of its kind in the United States if not the world. I left Gonzales, driving, on July 4th, 1978 heading to Quantico making two stops on the way.

The living arraignment at Quantico was dorm type, two suites, each with two guys, sharing a common bathroom and shower. The first guy from next door companion suite I was introduced to was a former Marine, now deputy sheriff Lieutenant from nowhere else in the world than Bakersfield California named Carl "Sparky" Sparks. I immediately advise him that he was not the first person had ever met from Bakersfield.

After relating my saga his response was "Golly Gee Murph, that is a hell of a story. Get someone to send you a copy of his prints here and I will send them to Bakersfield and we shall see if we can find him. Along with



the Hells Angels we have a lot of bad people in Bakersfield and when they are wanted they always come home".

Long story longer, the prints were sent and exchanged and resent to California. Within a fairly short time Sparky found me and said Murph I got your boy. Come to find out AKA Richard Johnson was presently in the Bakersfield County jail for numerous felony offenses, of which he was wanted for when he burglarized Drug Fair. His trial for those offenses was scheduled in a few months, however there was already another hold placed on him for offenses he was wanted for in Oregon. His rap sheets showed numerous felony arrests.

We quickly placed another hold on him but would have to wait for those other two to be resolved

before any chance of any adjudication in Ascension Parish. More on Richard Johnson later. Remember, we were at the FBI National Academy just outside Washington D C at the Quantico Marine Base.

So, I reach out close by to the FBI Bureau of Identification in D C and talked again to the lady that had told me the FBI BOI doesn't make mistakes with finger print identifications. I gave her the Richard Johnson's FBI ID number and the different FBI ID number Sparky supplied me. I told her I was in Quantico and gave her the number and she replied I will get right back to you.

Well, if I was to have believed her I would still be waiting for that call. After a week I called her back and she was full of every apology for not calling me right back, but that this had caused such an issue at BOI that the heads were still rolling. Her answer was yes that Richard Johnson and my other Kern County prisoner were one and the same guy. Please accept the apology of the FBI for this mistake.

Now, I can't really see where if this mistake had not taken place it would have actually changed anything that happened. Sparky went back to Bakersfield after the three months there and I came home. It would have been a long time before we would ever have a chance to prosecute. So we decided we were more interested in finding out who dropped them off at the Pharmacy and who picked them up when they escaped. Lastly to see if any Sheriff's Deputies helped in the escape.

Sparky interviewed aka Richard Johnson and advised him we would drop our charges as long as he was sentenced to a good number of years for the charges there, as long as he admitted what we wanted and it was the truth. This he did and we picked up and charged a Baton Rouge native for aiding and abetting burglary and escape. No Sheriff's Office personnel were ever



implicated other than the bad judgment of giving them access to the hallway.

AKA Richard Johnson turned out was born in 1952, in Yorba Linda California when a distant cousin of his, also from Yorba Linda was elected Vice President of the United State. His parents were so proud of this they decided to name their first born son after him. Richard Johnson was no other than another Richard Nixon crook. You can't make this up.

Needless to say Lt Carl Sparks and I stayed friends and still are close friends. He and his lovely wife Linda, born in Andalusia Alabama, (my brother John was Principal of Andalusia High School at one time where she went to high school) have visited us here and I have visited them in California as often as possible. Once, in 1983, Ray Kelly and I, in

two single engine planes, flew a group from here to go there and run the Kern River whitewater rafting. The Kern is the number 2 rated Class 5 Whitewater River in the US.

Sparky later ran for office and served three terms as Sheriff of Kern County. He is now 85 years old and last fall, still using his FBI Academy training, decided he was in need of help and entered an assisted living home.

I last visited him in 2024 but I speak to him almost monthly and plan another visit as soon as I can swing it. One of the best results of attending the FBI National Academy is not only the educational component that is not available anywhere else but just as important is the lasting relationships that are gained and used for your lifetime. I love you Sparky.





Ascension Parish Sheriff's Department's ***Junior Deputy Program***

Congratulations to our Junior Deputies who completed this year's program. We had a great time teaching these future leaders skills and providing tools that they can use during any part of their life's journey. Shout out to our volunteers who took time away from their routine schedules to help make the 2026 Junior Deputy Program another success. A BIG thank you to all the organizations and individuals who helped make this possible.







From the Gonzales Garden Club

A Special Garden Tour

The Gonzales Garden Club had the pleasure of visiting fellow-member Conchita Richey's beautiful garden.

A vast collection of pollinator plants and some of the pollinators themselves, bees and butterflies, greeted us.



Conchita's entire backyard garden is a showcase of plants and pathways.



Conchita's granddaughter Maria baked lemon curd shortbread cookies with meringue and chocolate chip cookies with Cadbury eggs for the visitors.



Colorful blooms highlight the walkway from the patio.



Accessories add interest to Conchita's landscape.



The group gathered in front of Conchita's "happy shack".

Her lush vegetable plot impressed us with its structure and nice variety of vegetables. Also, we were drawn to her patio, home to attractive succulents and air plants displayed in unique containers. Conchita graciously answered our questions and offered helpful

hints from her own gardening experience. At the end of our visit, we enjoyed refreshing lemonade and delicious cookies baked by Conchita's granddaughter Maria. It was such a delightful time!



Gonzales Mayor Tim Riley presented a framed proclamation to the garden club.

National Garden Week

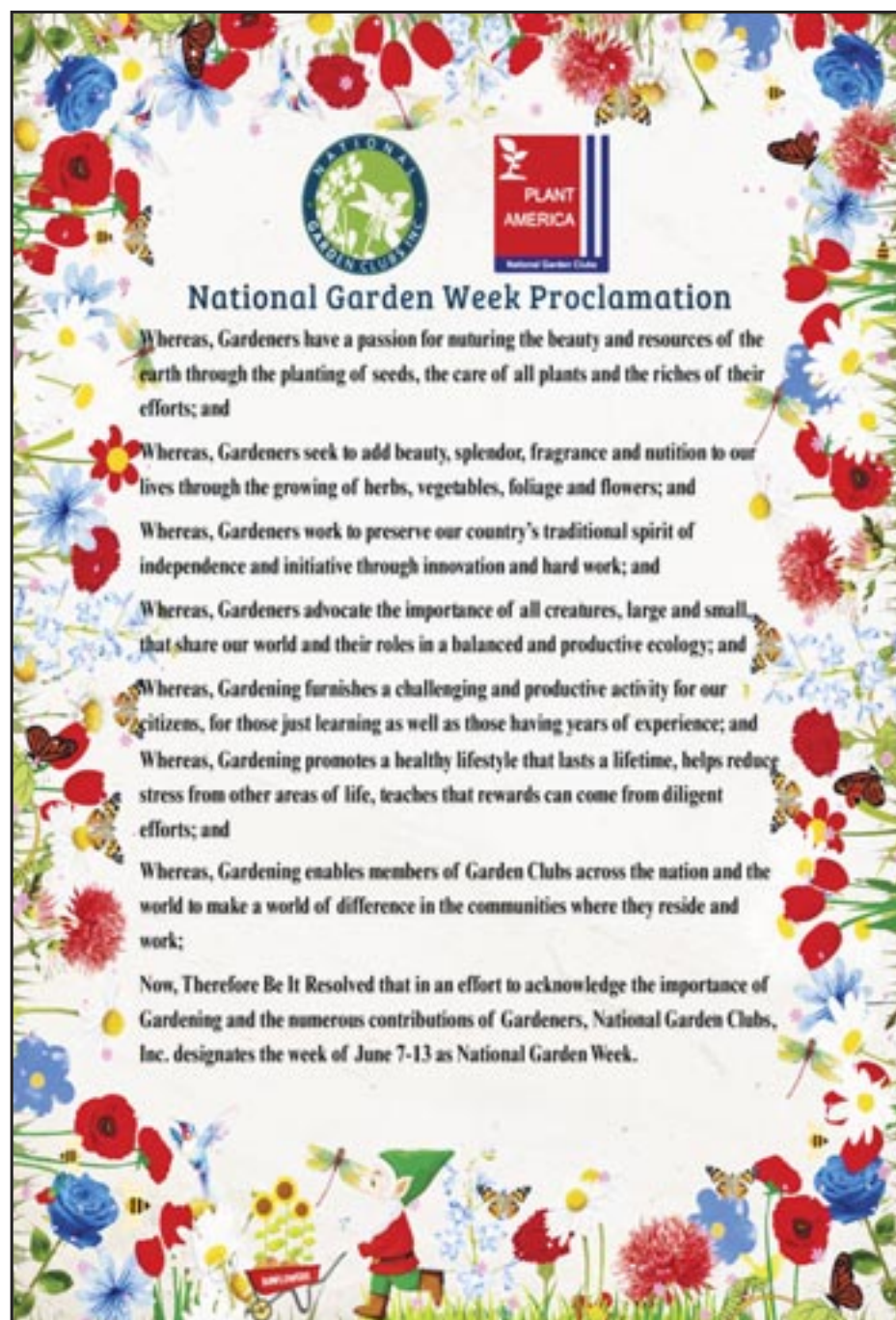
According to the National Garden Clubs, Inc., the purpose of National Garden Week is to celebrate community gardening projects, promote the benefits of gardening, highlight environmental awareness, and encourage civic pride and beautification. Gonzales

receiving arrangements and plants in promotion of National Garden Week were City Hall, Clerk of Court Office, three library branches, Council on Aging, Ascension Health Department, Assessor's Office, Francois Bend, Azalea Lakes, Magnolia Assisted Living and Charlie's Place. The club rejoined for lunch at Sonny's Barbecue on Hwy. 30 and discussed ideas for next year.



These floral arrangements and plants were donated to Ascension establishments to encourage gardening.

Garden Club Member Phyllis Charrier coordinated a local project to mark National Garden Week. Thirteen members met at Gonzales City Hall with Gonzales Mayor Tim Riley on Monday, June 8. They brought plants and floral arrangements to share with public places. Mayor Riley presented a proclamation declaring the city's recognition of the event. City Clerk Anthony Keller kindly took a group picture, then members fanned out to various locations in the parish to deliver the flowers. Establishments



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

Residential Yard of the Month



The home of Sam and Lynn Burgett at 701 West Orice Roth Road in Gonzales is our Residential Yard of the Month for July. The landscape brims with colorful baby zinnias, lantana, society garlic and Lynn's favorites—daylilies. She has over 500 daylilies representing 100 different species.

Get Growing, Ascension!

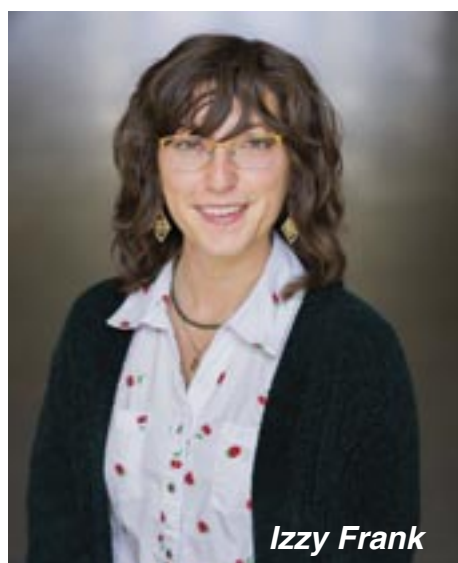
By Izzy Frank
LSU AgCenter
Horticulture Agent,

Hot Weather and Pesticides: Timing Matters

Summer in Louisiana often brings long stretches of temperatures above 90°F. While it may be tempting to spray weeds, insects, or plant diseases during these months, hot weather can sometimes reduce pesticide performance and increase the risk of drift and plant injury.



There are a number of ways heat can affect pesticide performance. Some products become more volatile as temperatures rise, meaning they can evaporate and drift away from the target area. This not only reduces effectiveness but can also increase the risk of injury to nearby desirable plants. Herbicides such as dicamba and 2,4-D are particularly known for having increased volatility concerns



Izzy Frank

during hot weather.

Drought-stressed or heat-stressed weeds may not absorb or translocate herbicides effectively, resulting in poor control. For instance, a gardener may apply a systemic herbicide to weeds during a period of extreme heat and wonder why the results are disappointing. The weeds are heat-stressed, so they have slowed their growth and are not readily moving herbicides throughout their tissues. Likewise, insecticides and fungicides applied during

extreme temperatures may break down more quickly or provide shorter residual activity, reducing the return on your investment.

Another concern is phytotoxicity. Applying pesticides, like fungicides and insecticides, while they are not meant to harm the plant itself, can increase the risk of plant injury during periods of intense heat. Take horticultural oil for example. It can interfere with



the plant's ability to cool itself and may cause leaf burn or scorch. That's why many oil products' labels contain temperature restrictions. Vegetable crops, ornamentals, and young transplants are especially vulnerable when temperatures are high and humidity is low.

This doesn't mean pesticides should never be applied during the summer. In fact, many pests are most active during the hottest months of the year. Rather than focusing on a specific temperature threshold, growers and gardeners should pay attention to overall environmental conditions and choose application timing carefully. Early morning and late evening applications generally provide better results

because temperatures are lower, winds are often calmer, and plants are under less stress. Always read and follow the pesticide label, as some products contain specific temperature restrictions or recommendations.

The goal of any pesticide application is to maximize effectiveness while minimizing risk. By avoiding applications during the hottest parts of the day and paying attention to environmental conditions, growers can improve pest control results, protect desirable plants, and make the most of every spray application.



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YOUR ESTATE MATTERS



By Linda Melancon

Your Estate Plan Is Only as Good as the Attorney Who Creates It

Life is full of plans. We set money aside for dream vacations, help our children save for college, and look forward to the day we can enjoy retirement. We spend years building a life and creating opportunities for the people we love. Yet when people hear the words “estate planning,” many assume it is something they can worry about later. In reality, having a plan in place can provide peace of mind at any stage of life by ensuring that your wishes are known and your loved ones are cared for. And the attorney you choose can have a lasting effect on your estate plan. Knowing what to look for can help you find a professional who understands your goals and can guide you in creating a plan that meets your family’s needs.

In a perfect world, we would choose every professional based on trust alone. We would hire the mechanic with the best judgment and the contractor with the strongest reputation. However, most of us begin with a simpler question: “What will it cost?” There is nothing wrong with that. Cost is often the easiest factor to compare. Yet experience teaches us that the lowest price is not always the best value. The

inexpensive mechanic who misses a serious problem may ultimately cost more than the experienced mechanic who charges a little extra to fix it correctly the first time.

The same principle applies when choosing an estate planning attorney. While cost is certainly an important consideration, focusing on price alone can cause you to overlook factors that may have a much greater impact on the quality of your plan. Your estate plan is designed to protect your wishes, your assets, and the people you care about most. If important issues are missed or documents are not tailored to your family’s specific needs, the consequences may not become apparent until years later when corrections may be difficult, expensive, or even impossible to make. The good news is that there are several practical steps you can take to evaluate an attorney beyond the price tag and make a more informed decision.

One of the best places to begin is by examining an attorney’s qualifications and professional background. While credentials alone do not guarantee quality representation, they can provide valuable insight into an attorney’s experience and commitment to their field. An attorney who has spent years helping families with wills, trusts, powers of attorney, and probate matters has likely encountered a wide range of situations and challenges. That experience can help identify potential issues before they become problems and allow for more personalized planning. Years in practice, however, tell only part of the story. An attorney who has practiced law for twenty-two years may have spent only two of those years handling estate planning matters. Asking how much of an attorney’s practice is devoted to estate planning can be just as important as asking how long they have been licensed.

Experience should also

be considered alongside professional conduct. Louisiana maintains a lawyer disciplinary system overseen by the Louisiana Supreme Court through the Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board, which investigates allegations of attorney misconduct and recommends discipline when warranted. By reviewing an attorney’s status, prospective clients can determine whether the attorney is currently authorized to practice law and whether any current administrative suspensions are in effect. A simple online search with the attorney’s name should reveal any disciplinary actions against the attorney. You can also check an attorney’s eligibility by visiting the Louisiana State Bar Association’s (LSBA) membership directory at www.lsba.org.

Another useful resource is your community. Online reviews on platforms such as Google or Yelp can provide insight into the experiences of former clients. Reviews may reveal patterns regarding communication, responsiveness, professionalism, and overall client satisfaction. At the same time, reviews should be viewed as one piece of a larger puzzle. Even Yellowstone National Park, one of the most visited and beloved destinations in the country, receives negative reviews. Some involve legitimate concerns about traffic congestion and crowds, while others complain that visitors are not allowed to swim in the park’s hot springs and geysers! It is important to look for consistent themes and consider reviews in the broader context of a business’s overall reputation. By independently assessing reviews, can gain a better understanding of the experiences that clients most commonly report.

Finally, it is worthwhile to explore whether an attorney is actively engaged in the estate planning profession. Laws change, regulations evolve, and planning strategies continue to develop over time. Attorneys who regularly participate in

continuing legal education programs, publish articles, teach seminars, serve as adjunct professors, speak at professional conferences, or hold leadership positions in estate planning organizations often demonstrate an ongoing commitment to their area of practice. These activities suggest that the attorney is doing more than meeting minimum licensing requirements; they are investing time in staying informed and contributing to the profession. One can also visit www.lsba.org to see whether the attorney is a specialist certified by the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization.

Ultimately, choosing an estate planning attorney is about more than finding the lowest fee. It is about finding someone you trust to help protect your family, your assets, and your wishes. Cost will always be an important factor, and it should be.

However, when considered alongside experience, professional reputation, ethical standing, and a demonstrated commitment to estate planning, cost becomes only one part of a much more complete picture. By taking the time to look beyond the price tag, you can make a more informed decision and gain confidence that the plan you create today will serve your loved ones well in the years to come, as everyone deserves an estate planning attorney they can trust.

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.

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Lamar-Dixon Rev Center

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VAMP PDRN by Prolenium, combined with Exceed Medical Microneedling, is an innovative skin revitalization treatment that repairs and rejuvenates at the cellular level. Improve fine lines, acne scars, sun damage, uneven texture, and overall skin quality with minimal downtime.



WHAT IS VAMP PDRN?

A next-generation skin rejuvenation treatment formulated to support natural skin repair and regeneration.

This powerful solution contains:

- Polydeoxyribonucleotide (PDRN)
- Hyaluronic Acid
- Amino Acids
- Vitamins
- Essential Minerals

These ingredients nourish the skin, improve hydration, stimulate collagen production, and encourage cellular renewal for healthier-looking skin from within.



WHY COMBINE VAMP PDRN WITH EXCEED MICRONEEDLING?

Microneedling creates thousands of controlled microchannels, stimulating collagen and elastin production while allowing VAMP PDRN to penetrate deeper into the skin.

Benefits of VAMP PDRN + Exceed Microneedling:

- ✓ Enhanced collagen stimulation
- ✓ Improved skin texture and tone
- ✓ Reduced fine lines, wrinkles & acne scars
- ✓ Increased hydration and radiance
- ✓ Faster post-treatment recovery
- ✓ Firmer, healthier-looking skin
- ✓ Enhanced overall skin rejuvenation



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PDRN is a highly purified DNA-derived compound sourced from wild salmon.

Benefits include:

- ✓ Stimulating cellular regeneration
- ✓ Supporting tissue repair
- ✓ Encouraging collagen production
- ✓ Improving skin elasticity
- ✓ Enhancing hydration
- ✓ Reducing signs of aging
- ✓ Improving skin tone and texture

PDRN works harmoniously with the body's natural repair mechanisms.



WHO IS A CANDIDATE?

Ideal for patients concerned with:

- Fine lines and wrinkles
- Acne scars
- Uneven skin texture
- Sun damage
- Dull or dehydrated skin
- Loss of elasticity
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- Early signs of aging

VAMP PDRN complements other treatments and supports healthier skin over time.



WHAT RESULTS CAN YOU EXPECT?

Many patients notice:

- Brighter, healthier-looking skin
- Improved hydration
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- Softening of acne scars
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Jambalaya

TOP 32 *Festival*

2026

This years Jambalaya Festival hosted 94 plus cooks and after careful judging the Top 32 teams positioned themselves to cook in the Semi-Finals. This year when the names were called out they were called in the ranking position on the judging card.

This year the Top 32 was made up of seasoned veterans and many new comers. If you had a chance to see the scoring you'd be amazed

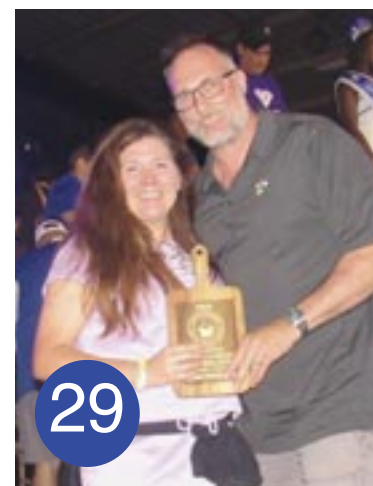
Semi-Final Heat 1

32 - Brandon Olinde

31 - Chad Decoteau

30 - Tunney King

29 - Greg Stone

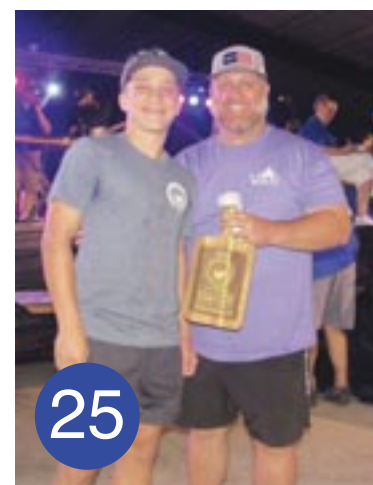
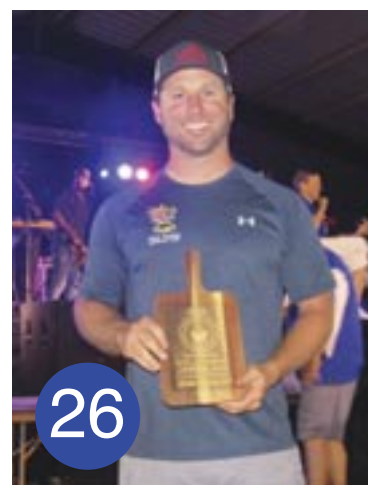
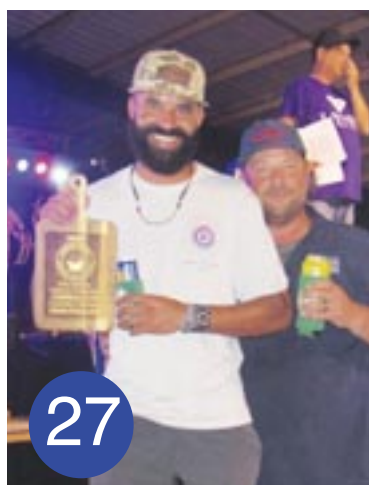
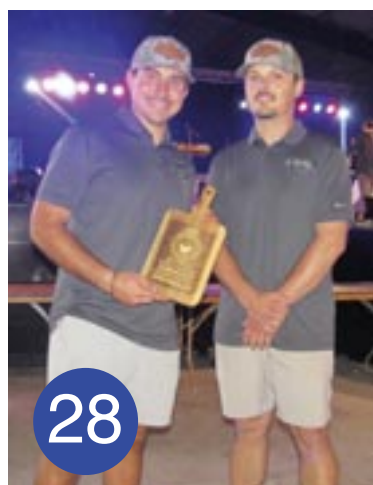


28 - Peyton Roussel

27 - Dustin Gautreau

26 - Brandon Elisar

25 - Heath "Buster"
Melancon

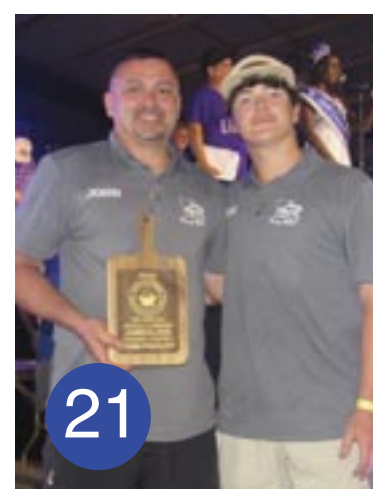


24 - Taner Bourque

23 - Kade Lanoux

22 - Joey Cornett

21 - John Talley

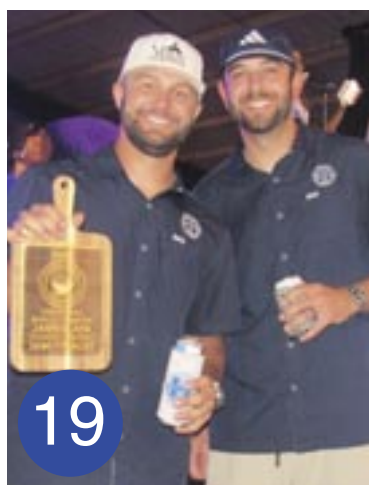


20 - Matt Ducote

19 - Brock Gonzales

18 - Bart Himel

17 - Lyman Abadie



how close the scores were for all of the jambalaya's.

Making the Top 32 is a mile stone of achievement and makes the teams one step closer to the Final 12 and a chance to cook for the Championship.

Ascension Magazine was present when the teams began cooking on Sunday morning. It was hot with no rain in sight

just the hard work of cooking a jambalaya on wood fires and open flames. After hours of preparing the moment of truth happens when the lids are lifted. At that point the hopes are high for the correct color, puffed rice and the chicken flavor. Congratulations to the Top 32 cooking teams that survived the morning.

This years judges were:

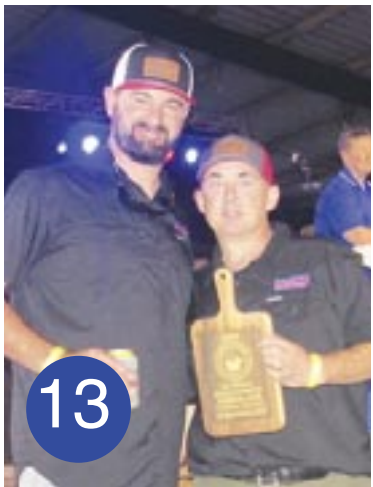
Layne Gautreau
Freddie Hurst
Rodney Gremillion
Michael Gonzales,Jr.
Chad Melancon
Koby Thacker (alternate)
Clint Broussard (alternate)

Contest Chairman -
Mike Gonzales

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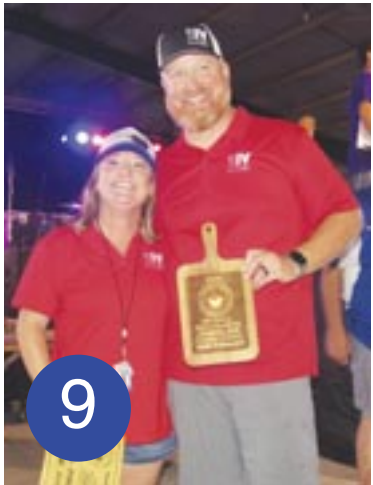
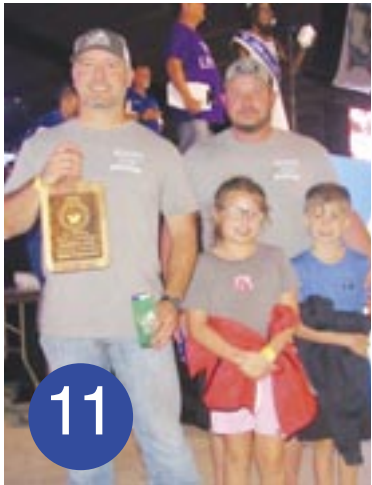
Semi-Final Heat 2

16 - Adam Gautreau

15 - Shelby "Doty" Gautreau

14 - Neal Mire

13 - Brad Dupont



12 - Tyler Bourque

11 - Cody Braud

10 - Lane Blue

9 - Jared White

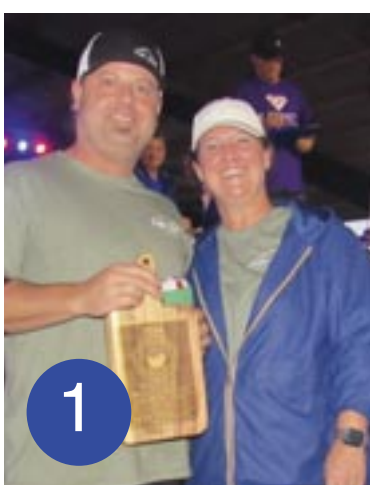
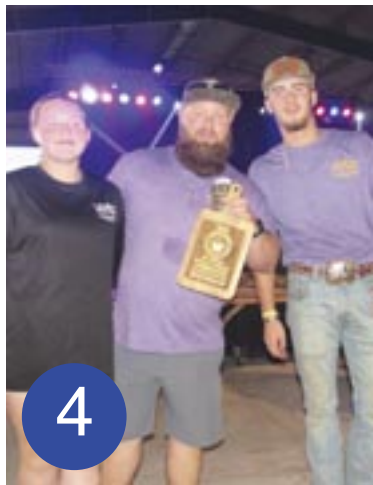


8 - Micah Courville

7 - Jacob Mayer

6 - Daren Braud

5 - Shane Martinez



4 -Chad Murphy

3 - Pam Martinez

2 -Justin "Big Cat" Courville

1 - Shawn Sheets



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- Acknowledgement during opening ceremony
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- Logo prominently featured on sponsor banner
- Opportunity to include marketing collateral in participant swag bag
- Booth space at local race event

** Sponsors must provide logo by August 1 to be featured on race bibs*

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FINANCIAL FOCUS

The Hidden Danger of Investing Too Cautiously

One of the most significant risks investors face isn't losing money in a market dip; it's failing to reach their long-term financial goals.

Many people focus heavily on short-term losses in the stock market and try to protect their savings by investing conservatively or avoiding stocks altogether. But that runs the risk that their savings won't grow enough to keep up with inflation or support future needs.

Understanding what investment risk really means

helps you make smarter financial decisions, considering these three key aspects.

- Risk tolerance describes your emotional comfort with risk. If you'd want to pull your money out of the market during a downturn, that reveals something about your tolerance. Many financial advisors use questionnaires to help clients understand how they might react in different market conditions.

- Risk capacity refers to how much risk you can afford to take. Your timeline matters. A 35-year-old saving for retirement has decades to ride out market swings. A retiree drawing income from their portfolio doesn't have that same cushion.

- Required risk describes how much risk you may need to take to reach your financial goals. Higher returns generally come with higher risk, though higher risk does not guarantee higher returns. If you need strong growth to retire comfortably, you may need to accept more short-term volatility.

Sometimes these elements don't line up. You might be uncomfortable with risk but need strong growth to meet your goals.

Balance and diversification matter: Finding the right balance matters more than you might think. A small difference in your annual rate of return, from 5% to 7% for instance, doesn't just add up a little. It multiplies. That's the power of compounding — returns earning their own returns, year after year, building on an ever-growing base. Over 30 or 35 years, that can become significant.

You needn't choose between playing it so safe your money barely keeps up with inflation and taking on more risk than you're comfortable with. Instead, a balanced mix can fit your comfort level and still help grow your money over time. The age factor: You'll want to adjust your approach to risk as you get older. If retirement is years away, your portfolio

may lean toward growth investments like stocks and stock mutual funds; you have time to absorb short-term losses and benefit from long-term gains. Lower risk investments like bonds still play a role because they can help smooth out changes in your portfolio's value.

As you near retirement, your portfolio may shift toward a more even mix of stocks and bonds to limit exposure to large market swings. The goal is to protect what you've built while still generating enough growth to fund a retirement that could last decades.

Investing well isn't about eliminating risk; it's about taking the right amount of it. Too little risk can be just as damaging as too much. A financial advisor can help you find the balance that matches your comfort level, your financial situation and your long-term goals.

Investors should understand the risks involved with owning investments, including interest rate risk, credit risk and market risk. The value of investments fluctuates and investors can lose some or all of their principal.

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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 at 37313 Hwy. 74, Geismar, LA. 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.

On June 13th we held the 2026 Catfish and Bream Rodeo. The winners were: Big Catfish Neil Moran 5.4 lb., Biggest 3 Catfish



2026 Catfish and Bream Rodeo Big Catfish and Biggest 3 Catfish division winner Neil Moran along with Biggest 3 Bream and Biggest Goggle Eye division winner Ricky Jacob with Door Prizes.

Neil Moran with 8.8 lbs. Biggest Bream Mike Lambert with 6.62 ozs., Biggest 3 Bream Ricky Jacob 15.62 ozs., Biggest Goggle Eye Ricky Jacob 6.3 ozs. There were plenty of laughs to go around. The winners were presented with checks and a shiner bucket from Da Bait Bus and a shirt from Ascension Gutters & More. Thank you to Daralene Bourgeois, Marci Jimmerson, and Herb Finnerty for manning the registration and weigh-in. Thank you to Mike Frederick, owner of Da Bait Bus, for allowing us to setup next to his business. And thank you to Fabian Duco of Ascension Gutters & More for supplying a meal for

us to enjoy.

The winner of the 2026 Big Turkey Contest was James "Goosie" Guice with a turkey that measured 7/8" spurs and a 9-1/2" beard. As some of you may know, Goosie holds an honorary degree of "Doctor of Quackology" from LSU for his teaching of duck calling, apparently he speaks turkey pretty well, also.

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 gdced1@gmail.com.

Time to start preparing for the Big Buck Contest, must be a member by October 1, 2026. Children 15 years and younger are eligible as long as one parent/guardian is a member. Members will be given a grace period of January 2027, (one month), to renew membership. Winners must have renewed membership before the prize can be collected.

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 July 18th and August 22nd. 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, July 25th, 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 gdced1@gmail.com.

EASL's next regular meeting is September 21st at the VFW Hall on Churchpoint Road, starting at 7:00 PM



2026 Catfish and Bream Rodeo Big Bream division winner Mike Lambert with Door Prize.



2026 Big Turkey Contest winner James "Goosie" Guice.

EASL Bass Club News

The EASL Bass Club fished their recent Tournament on June 27th. The location was the Amelia Launch with a 2:00 PM weigh in time. There were 11 boats signed up for this event. The fishing was pretty good for most. There were 6 limits brought to the scales.

The winners were Tony Arceneaux & James Saltzman (coco). Their weight was 12.42 lbs.

Second place was won by Gary Christian & Wilson Mulina with a limit that weighed 11.08 lbs.

Our Father-Son team of Jamie & Andrew took third place with a limit that weighed 9.22 lbs.

Tony Arceneaux was the Big Bass winner with his lunker that weighed 3.84 lbs.

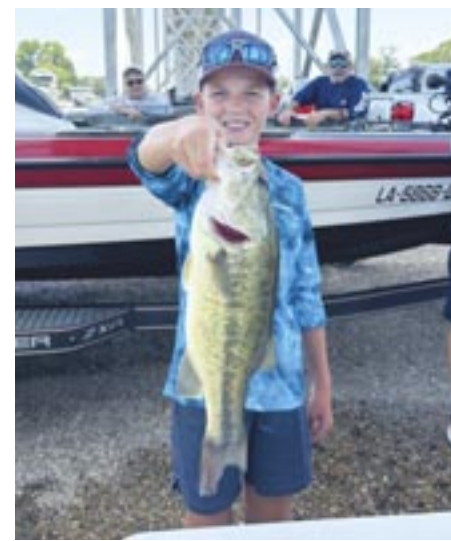
Congratulations to the winners of the June Tournament. The next event is scheduled for July 18th. The meeting to plan the tournament will be held at Dirk Anderson's home on Babin Road on June 9th at 5:30 PM.



James Saltzman & Tony Arceneaux



Wilson Mulina & Gary Christian



Andrew & Jamie Laiche



L to R, Gary Christian & Wilson Mulina, Jamie & Andrew Laiche, Tony Arceneaux & James Saltzman



65th Annual Kid's Fishing Rodeo

July 25, 2026,
at Twin Lakes Mobile Estates



Black Lake Club 16th Annual Garfish Rodeo



August 1-2

Registration - August 1st
Weigh In - August 2nd By Noon



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We owe it all to you.

To our loyal customers, longtime friends, and the incredible surrounding areas — you have supported us through good times and challenging ones. Thank you. Your continued patronage, kind words, and shared memories have sustained this family business for over five decades. You've helped make Sno's what it is today.

As we celebrate this golden milestone, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Thank you for 55 years of support, laughter, and loyalty. We look forward to welcoming you through our doors for many more milestones ahead.

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with our dedicated team



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300 Spartan Athletic Foundation

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Dear Spartan Alumni / Supporter,

We are reaching out with a simple request to consider joining the **300 Spartan Athletic Foundation (SAF)**. Whether you're an alumni, parent, coach, volunteer, or proud supporter; East Ascension High School means something special to all of us. It's where lifelong friendships were formed, lessons were learned, and Spartan pride took root. The strength of EA has always been its people—and that same support is what keeps our tradition strong.

That's why I'm a member of the **300 SAF**. Our mission is to support the **East Ascension High School athletic department** by providing resources our student-athletes need to compete at the highest level and create life-changing experiences they will remember for years to come. Now it's our turn to stand behind the student athletes who proudly wear blue and yellow today.

No matter where life has taken you, **612 East Worthey** remains a place worth rallying around. If East Ascension has ever meant something to you, I'm asking you to invest in the students, programs, and traditions that make our school so special.



Please take a moment to join the 300 Spartan Athletic Foundation using the link below or scanning the QR code—every membership helps us show up for our Spartans.

<https://www.300saf.org/membership>

Once a Spartan always a Spartan!!!

Sincerely,

Troy Gautreau, Sr.

Troy Gautreau, Sr.
President

Randall Aldridge

Randall Aldridge
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Wild Billbored-Silly Summer Songs You Could Sing

by Bill Delaune

"Keep your feet on the ground and keep reaching for the stars..."

Casey Kasem's signature sign-off.

Casey Kasem signed off for the last time on June 15, 2014, leaving us veteran radio listeners mourning the loss of the classic voice of the "American Top 40" and a younger generation missing the voice of "Shaggy" Rogers in the TV cartoon "Scooby-Doo".

On July 4, 1970, Kasem launched his weekly program on which he counted down from #40 on the pop charts to #1. But the show was not just about the countdown. Kasem mixed in flashbacks, biographical information and trivia about the artists and their music, and due to his "always friendly and upbeat" baritone voice, the "Top 40" soon went nationwide.

Casem's shows were required listening for steamy July days of yore, especially when hanging out at the beach listening to good old-time rock and roll on your transistor radio.

But alas, here we are in the modern-day, lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer and all we have to listen to is "Lil Boosie's" hit list-and that's not one you want to be included on.

But don't despair. Welcome to Wild Bill's Billboard of Hits-songs that contain no profanity, no derogatory comments about women and no racial slurs. We're talking about the silly songs of summer here with classic titles like Sam the Sham's **"Wooly Booly"** and Roger Miller's **"Dang Me"**.

And unfortunately, just like a midsummer night's All-Star Baseball Game,

somebody has to get left out. So if you're looking for the nonsensical but non-musical **"They're Coming to Take Me Away"** by Napoleon XIV, look elsewhere. We're talking about big-time lyrics set to more music than just a tambourine here. And if you aren't familiar with the songs of the late 50's and early 60's, then just Google the damn items and be done with it.

For the rest of you faithful readers, I proudly present Wild Bill's 10 Greatest Novelty Hits/Artists of all time. By the way, the number one hit on Casey Kasem's first show was Three Dog Night's **"Mama Told Me Not to Come"**-a song written by the legendary Randy Newman about a warning we'd all heard before. In my best Casem voice..."And at number 10 this week..."

10. "Say Man" by Bo Diddley. A tribute to the late, great Bo Diddley who changed an entire generation of guitar pickers, this upbeat walking-talking number features a lively dialog between two trash-talking friends. The insults range from the clever-"That's all right, my mama didn't have to put a sheet over my head so that sleep could slip up on me"-to the blunt-"You look like you been whooped with an ugly stick". May his cigar-box harp be entertaining the angels now. Bo knows novelty.

9. The Coasters. An amazing novelty group considering that after

their first big R&B hit **"Young Blood"** in 1957, they took some off-beat shots with **"Yakety-Yak"** (**"Don't Talk Back"**) and **"Charlie Brown"** in 1959.

But for Buckskin Bill fans in Baton Rouge, the Coasters' **"Along Came Jones"** was almost as big a hit on the popular kids' show as the **"Monday Morning March"**. When Buckskin combined with Senor Puppet to give the melodramatic effect of the heroic Jones coming to rescue Sweet Lil, all the young TV viewers knew what was coming next.

"And then, he tied her to the railroad track. And then, the train was coming. And then, and then, and then-ack,ack-and then along came Jones..." to save the day.

As far as interior rhyme, who can top the group's description of Little Egypt doing her famous Dance of the Pyramids? "Little Egypt came out struttin' wearing nuttin' but a button and a bow..."

Man, they don't write 'em like that anymore.

8. Long Tall Texan by Murray Kellum. In 1963 most of us weren't interested in Boy Dylan's pleas for ending war and social injustice-not just yet anyway. What we really wanted was a simple, silly 3-chord song that we could play on our Sears Silvertones and sing along with. So when Murray Kellum introduced his cowboy hero with the opening lines, "Well I'm a long tall Texan, I ride a big, white hoss..." then we could answer right along with the back-ground singers, "He rides from



Texas on a big, white hoss...” See how easy that was.

This one-hit wonder would have made the list for the final stanza alone when a lonesome voice asks the musical question, “Oh, Roy, oh Roy is you the law?”

7. *Haunted House* by Gene Simmons. Jumpin’ Gene Simmons was the lead singer for the Bill Black (No, not Buckskin.) Combo in the ‘60’s and is not to be confused with the teacher-turned Kiss member of the same name.

The song “Haunted House” was first offered to another Memphis-based rocker Domingo Samudio- later to be known as “Sam the Sham”, but when negotiations broke down, Simmons volunteered to record it. Now does that sound like some of Casey’s trivia or what?

The infectious “Haunted House” was one of the few novelty songs that teens could not only sing, but could also dance to. Even Van Broussard played it at Moonlight. I was just never sure what a “haint” was in the line, “Ain’t no haint gonna run me off.”

6. (Tie) *My Boomerang Won’t Come Back* and *Tie Me Kangaroo Down*. Americans certainly didn’t have a monopoly on novelty hits back in the ‘60’s. A couple of Aussies took their mythical problems from Down Under and turned them into chart toppers on the U.S. rock scene.

In 1962, Charlie Drake scored with the story of a banished Aborigine teen who couldn’t make his ornery boomerang come back. How could you not shed Crocodile Dundee tears when the lost lad lamented, “I can ride a kangaroo, make kinkajou stew, But I’m a big disgrace to the Aborigine race, My boomerang won’t come back.

Rolf Harris followed suit in 1963 with the last requests of a dying Australian stockman who not only wants his friends to “Tie Me Kangaroo Down” after he’s gone but also leaves some special instructions for the other animals including “Take my koala back, Jack” and “Mind me platypus duck, Bill...” Eat your heart out

Eminem.

5. *The Camp Granada* Song by Allan Sherman. “Hello, Muddah, hello Faddah,” begins the ultimate summer camp song based on letters Sherman received from his own whining son when the boy was sent off to camp.

Among the song’s disasters are a camper named Leonard Skinner “who got ptomaine poisoning last night after dinner”, and another called Jeffrey Hardy for whom “They’re about to organize a searching party”.

But being the rhyme scheme addict that I am, I am obliged to include my favorite lines, “Now I don’t want this should scare ya’, But my bunkmate has malaria...”

Now you try to think up another rhyme for malaria.

4. *Itsy Bitsy Teenie Weenie Yellow Polka Dot Bikini*.

When you consider that this Brian Hyland classic knocked Brenda Lee’s “I’m Sorry” out of Billboard’s top spot in August of 1960, you get some idea of the power of summer silliness.

The shy teen in the song bought the skimpy bathing suit because it seemed a good idea at the time but now she’s having second thoughts about the amount of exposure she’s going to reveal. She cautiously moves from the locker to a blanket to the shore and finally makes it into the water. But now she faces a new dilemma.

“Now she’s afraid to come out of the water, And I wonder what she’s gonna do. Now she’s afraid to come out of the water, And the poor little girl’s turning blue...”

Now what could possibly knock a novelty song of that caliber out of the number one spot on the charts? In 1960 it was some guy named Elvis Presley singing “***It’s Now or Never***”-perhaps as some advice to our bikini wearer.

3. *Purple People Eater* by Sheb Wooley. Did the one-eyed, one-horned flying monster only eat purple people? Or was he the color purple and did not discriminate in his diet? Inquiring minds want to know.

But in the late 50’s no one seemed to care. The catchy

beat reflected the “Happy Days” of the era and the words fueled the public’s fascination with aliens and flying saucers at the time.

And in keeping with the frivolous tone of the song, the flying purple people eater doesn’t eat a single person of any color and goes on to get a job in a rock and roll band. In fact, Wooley tells us he saw the invader on a TV show.

“He was blowing it out, really knocking ‘em dead, playing rock and roll music through the horn on his head...”

As a side note, the vaunted Minnesota Viking defense of the ‘60’s and ‘70’s became known as the “Purple People Eaters”.

2. Ray Stevens. Where do you start? Do you favor “***Ahab the Arab***” (Try singing that one in today’s politically-correct world run amok.)? Or do you like “***Guitarzan***” who’s got “a pet monkey that likes to get drunk and sing boogie woogie and it sounds real funkier...”

I know “***The Streak***” was probably Ray’s best seller (“Don’t look, Ethel!”), but one of his more serious songs “***Everything is Beautiful***” won a Grammy in 1970.

And who cared if he used canned laughter on most of his records. The laughter on this side of the radio was real indeed.

1. David Seville and the Chipmunks. Can you picture a young David Seville in 1958 playing records (You know, kids, those big, black CD’s.) at 78 RPM’s instead of 33 or 45 revolutions per minute? The result was a high-pitched, sped-up version of the song that made everybody laugh.

So when David recorded a song called “***Witch Doctor***” about a guy who was unlucky at love until the witch doctor gave him some magic words, it was only natural that the prescription was recorded in the high-pitched voice.

“***Oo-ee, oo-ah-ah, ting-tang, walla-walla bing-bang...***”

The song was a huge success and Seville decided to follow it up with a complete album in the high-pitched

voices featuring the skills of a chipmunk trio-Simon, Theodore and Alvin.

Dave Clark played one of the “group’s” holiday tunes on American Bandstand’s rate-a-record segment and it received a score of 37 out of 100 because “the kids just couldn’t dance to it”.

The public apparently disagreed. In just six months after its release, “***The Chipmunk Song or Christmas, Don’t Be Late***” sold more than four million records and won three Grammys.

And many years later, Alvin and the Chipmunks were still entertaining young fans with a TV series, movies and a video game. That longevity alone should be enough to make you number one.

Epilog-Two apologies-If this piece was too wordy for your attention span, I was just trying to incorporate some of Casey’s history and trivia into the article. Remember-he did 40 songs-I only did 10.

Secondly, if I left out one of your favorite novelty songs, please dress up in “Chantilly Lace” and form a posse of “Alley Oop”, “Mr. Custer” and “King Henry the Eighth” and meet me at Hot Tails in the Prairieville CBD to file a formal complaint.

Just make sure to bring your turntable, some old 45’s and a tub of cold Miller Lite to toast to Casey Kasem-the greatest DJ that ever lived.

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Jammin' with Goosie

You Don't Know Until You Go

Before we left beautiful Lake Concordia in May of 2025 our group of fishermen had booked the cabin at Lakeview for a mid October fall get together. This group of eight or ten friends and kin make a spring and fall trip every year to the oxbow. Some stay for a full week and others of the bunch may stay for two or three days before returning home.

My partner and I had planned to leave on Tuesday evening



after playing a music gig for the senior day event that takes place on the third Tuesday of each month at St. Marks Church. A couple of nights before our departure I had mentioned to my wife that I wasn't really looking forward to fishing because of the forecasted arrival of a cold front for the beginning of our stay. That kind of weather change typically makes fishing in those types of waters pretty challenging. I was really in the mood for a little more squirrel hunting and also needed to do more work on my deer stands for the upcoming season. The fishing event would definitely stall the happening of those activities. To make matters worse the banks of Lake Concordia are littered with a great squirrel population that constantly weighs on my

mind while fishing there in the fall of the year. After conveying my concerns to my better half she abruptly said, "Listen to me. You are going over there with some very good friends of yours that won't be around forever. You need to go there and enjoy your stay whether you catch fish or not. You will catch up on squirrel hunting and deer stand work later."

The fishermen of our group fish for bass. My partner and I had made the prior spring trip and had never thrown a bass lure during those three days of fishing. We had targeted bream on that venture and although the fishing was tough because of heavy rains a couple of days before we ended up with a nice catch of bluegill, redear sunfish, and catfish. After discussing our post cold front fishing forecast we had decided to fish for bass early in the morning and after sunrise try to catch a few sacalait in the shade under the lakes' many piers.

Before our arrival of crossing the Mississippi River bridge back into Louisiana that evening we stopped at Joe's Bait Shop in Natchez to pick up a few shiners for the sacalait fishing. I must say that if you have a trip out that way be sure to drop by that establishment. He has a very good stock of live, dead, or artificial baits as well as other equipment along with some great down home con-



versation. When we arrived at the lodge our fishing buddies who had already been there for a couple days were returning from their day on the water. The fishing had been good for them with some very nice catches taking place. As we shot the bull with them the forecasted cold front was moving through. My partner and I were out on the lodge pier that night looking at a meteor shower when the final clouds of the front passed by producing northwest winds and clear skies. We both agreed at that moment that the pressure change would definitely shut down the fish bite that our partners had experienced on the days prior to its passage.

We figured that we would maybe catch three or four bass and if we would catch any sacalait that would sure enough be a blessing being that we had never fished for them before on that body of water. The next morning found us all headed out to enjoy a beautiful October day of fishing. We hadn't covered fifty yards of shoreline and I had already boated three bass and that third fish weighed well over four pounds. As we boated a fish here and there I was constantly being

distracted by the excellent squirrel population activity taking place along the cypress, oak, and pecan bankline. To make matters worse I could hear a hunter shooting in the distance from time to time. We had a total of twelve fish when we finally decided to quit fishing for largemouths and go try our luck on the sacalait.

Our plan for the white perch would be to try and locate them in the shade under the piers. I told my buddy that this was going to be very challenging, time consuming, and quite a bit of work to accomplish. We agreed that if we could boat five fish that the effort would be worthwhile. We had fished several structures with a bite and a miss here and there when we finally found what we were looking for. It was a great sense of accomplishment when the fifth sacalait of the day was put in the box. Early that evening when it was all said and done we had a very nice box of fish which consisted of twelve bass and eleven sacalait.

While enjoying a pleasant low speed ride back to the camp for a wonderful sunset view along with plenty of refreshments, music, and conversation we discussed how surprised we were with the level of success we'd had fishing behind the cold front passage. At some point of the conversation, with a big smile on his face my partner looked at me and said, "I guess you don't know until you go". That's a true statement for sure and what a pleasure it was to spend a couple of quality days with my old buddies. Can't wait till next time.

Till next time
Go and find out for yourself.
James "Goosie" Guice



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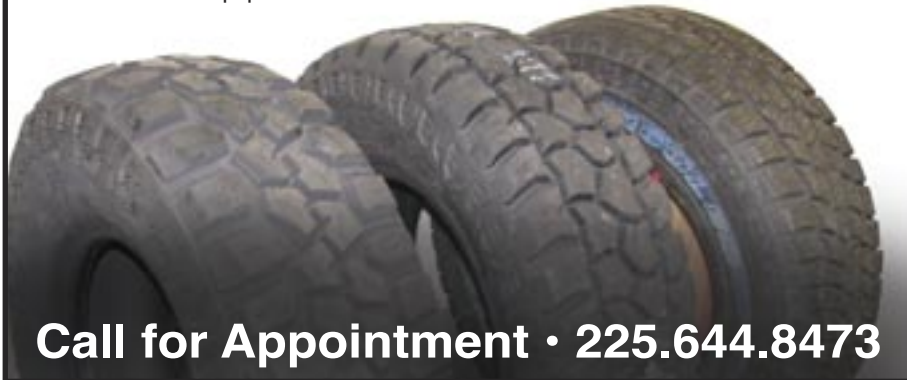


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Useless Random Facts with Kellie

George Washington is the only Founding Father to have a U.S. state named after him. The state of Washington even features a small, incorporated city named "George," boasting a population of 809.

The melody of "The Star-Spangled Banner" was not composed for America; it was directly borrowed from "To Anacreon in Heaven," which was the theme song of a British drinking club.

In 1807, Thomas Jefferson kept two grizzly bear cubs on the White House lawn, which were given to him as a gift by explorer Zebulon Pike.

The U.S. population has increased by an astonishing 8,336% since the very first census in 1790, which counted 3.9 million people.

Despite popular belief, there is no historical proof that Betsy Ross sewed the first American flag. The story only surfaced in 1870, nearly a century later, when her grandson publicly shared the family rumor.

John Adams originally predicted Americans would celebrate their freedom on July 2nd. He strongly believed that was the real day of independence because that's when the Continental Congress actually voted to separate from Britain.

Our nation is filled with patriotically named places! As of July 2024, there were 55 incorporated places with patriotic names. Topping the list: "Liberty" with "Independence" a distant second.

Approximately \$407 million — The value of fireworks imported into the United States in 2025.

There have been 27 versions of the American flag. From the 1777 original that had 13 stars and 13 stripes for the American colonies, there have been many changes and iterations of the flag. Each time a state was added to the union, a star was added. We, of course, now stand with 50 stars and 13 stripes.

The colors on the flag were chosen carefully. The Red, White and Blue did not just happen by accident. The founding fathers wanted the colors to have meaning, not just look visually pleasing. Red symbolizes hardiness and valor, white symbolizes purity and innocence and blue represents vigilance, perseverance and justice.

Thoughts from Bully

“Baseball, Baseball, Who has the Baseball?”

This past week my son needed three references for a research paper entitled ‘The history of baseball’. We started by checking the internet, then a baseball trivia book helped us find critical facts but we needed some current baseball information. We headed to a super sized retail store to find current magazines about today's baseball. I was sure they had what we needed.

We entered the magazine and book department where we began my quest for a magazine that covers baseball.

There were magazines for men. There were magazines for women. There were magazines for your furniture, your sex life and for hunting. After a few moments, I realized the titles were in alphabetical order. I headed for the B's. There was boxing, biking and Buff. Beauty, Brides and B.E.T. Soon I was in the ‘C’ section, Cars, Cooks and Crafts, Coins, and Cinema. Where the Hell is Baseball?

I surveyed magazines about zits, skateboards and cartoons, Hot Air Balloons, Crossword puzzles and muscles. Cosmo, Jumbo, Zydeco, I'm just a Joe Smo. Where the Hell is my baseball?

Panic momentarily set in. I know.... try the ‘S’ section for sports. My confidence grew. Football and Tennis were front and center. I saw wrestling, fishing, running and gunning. Track, SWAC, Cracked, I want my baseball back. Camping



was there then magazines about hair. Dogs and Cats were everywhere. Still baseball was nowhere.

I took a step back, looked around the building making sure I was in Wally World, the store that has everything. Yea, everything but baseball.

Political magazines and Who's Who, Tattoo, I even saw one about VooDoo. Surfing, swimming, tanning and fun. If I don't get some baseball I'm gonna get my gun.

Nowhere, among this vast literary buffet is one sign of America's favorite past time. It's just not here.

My blood pressure is up, my rage was building, when it hit me. There is but one possible answer for the absence of the subject matter for which every red blooded American should desire.

It shocked me that the section of the store that shelves hundreds of magazines didn't have baseball. I figured there must be one reason and one reason only for not being available.

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- Running for District 6 Seat B to continue serving and strengthening Ascension Parish schools.
- Father of a differently abled child who will advocate for families that often feel unheard while supporting all students.
- Proven leadership background through FFA, 4H, volunteer work, and ongoing services to local nonprofits and community events throughout Ascension Parish.



I'd like to introduce the people who inspire and support me every single day – my family.

I met my wife, Selena, while we were in college, and we have now been married for nearly 23 years. Although she was not raised in Ascension Parish, her love for this community has grown deeply over the years. Selena has worked as a pharmacy technician for almost 25 years, dedicating her career to helping others. Outside of work, she gives her time to many local nonprofit organizations and enjoys cooking alongside me as we compete together in jambalaya cook-offs across Ascension Parish.

Selena and I are blessed with two wonderful daughters. Our oldest, Gabby, is a sophomore at St. Amant High School and stays very involved both in and out of the classroom. This year, she joined the Allied Health program, served as manager for the volleyball team, and participated in Beta Club, FCA, and FFA, where she serves as an officer.

Our youngest daughter, Avery, is a seventh grader at Lake Middle School. She enjoys art and has become a leader within FCA. Both girls are active in the youth group at Fellowship Church, volunteer at community events and benefits throughout the area, and are excited to begin showing livestock in the upcoming school year. Selena and I are incredibly proud that our daughters have developed the same heart for service and community that means so much to our family.

My family's love for this community and our schools is one of the biggest reasons I decided to run for the Ascension Parish School Board. I truly believe we can continue moving our schools in the right direction and create even greater opportunities for our children and families.

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130g Celery (about 1 stalk)

75g Green Bell Pepper (1 medium pepper)

75g Red Bell Pepper (1 medium pepper)

250g Yellow onion (1 large onion)

1 Tbsp Minced Garlic

½ lb Butter (1 cup)

1/2 c. Oil

2 c. Flour

10 c. Stock (I use half chicken and half shrimp, but you can use just 1 if preferred)

1 lb Crawfish tails

2 Tbsp Liquid Crab Boil

Salt and Pepper to taste

2 Bay leaf

Directions:

In large pot, add your butter and oil, turn on medium high heat. After butter melts, add your flour. Whisk in very well. Lower burner to medium-low heat, whisk occasionally until your roux is a little darker than peanut butter.

After proper color is achieved, add bell pepper, celery, onion. Let simmer for 30 minutes, with lid on, stirring every 5 minutes. Add garlic and bay leaves. Stir well. Add stock, whisk vigorously. Turn to high heat. Whisk on high heat until thick consistency is reached. Lower back to medium heat. Add liquid boil, green onion, salt, and pepper. Add 1 lb crawfish tails. Let simmer for 10 minutes. Serve over rice, garnish with green onion.





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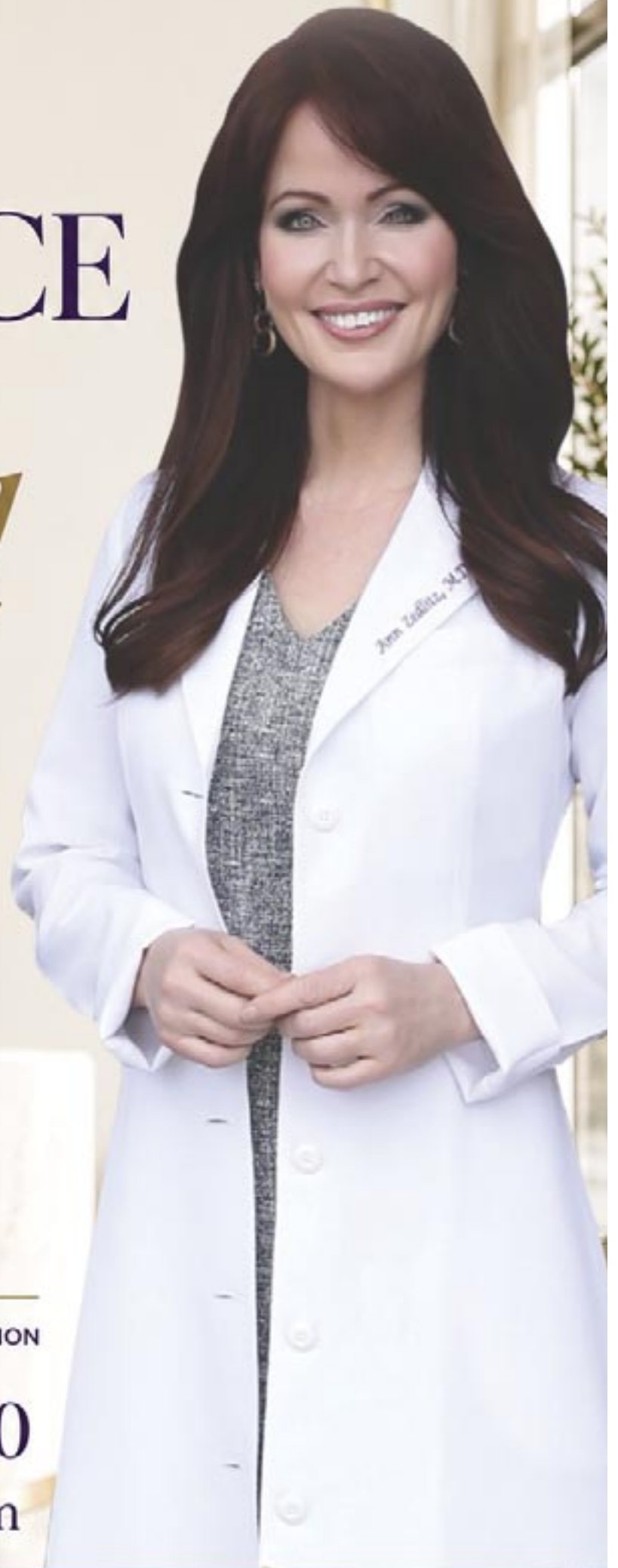
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