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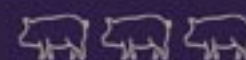
MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER 2026, VOL. 24 ISSUE 9

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ON THE COVER ... Lynelle Johnson, Justice of the Peace

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Article provided by LSU Sports Information

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There is no greater authority on building a championship program than Stanley "Skip" Bertman, the head coach at Louisiana State University. Bertman has established at LSU an unparalleled legacy of excellence, leading the Fighting Tigers to five NCAA College World Series championships (1991, '93, '96, '97, '00) in the last 10 years. Not since Southern California won five straight national titles in the early 1970s has one program achieved the level of supremacy LSU has attained in the last decade.

In a Baseball America poll released in January, 1999, Bertman was voted the second greatest college baseball coach of the 20th century, trailing only Rod Dedeaux of Southern California. LSU was voted No. 3 in a poll of the greatest college baseball programs of the century.

The 2001 season marks the 18th and final year for Bertman as LSU's head baseball coach. However, he will continue to serve the university in a more comprehensive capacity, as he was named LSU's athletic director on January 19, 2001. Bertman will serve both as athletic director and head coach during the 2001 baseball season before assuming the full-time role as A.D. this July. Bertman succeeds Joe Dean, who completed his 14-year term as athletic director on Dec. 31, 2000.

An unyielding desire to succeed has driven Bertman to the pinnacle of his profession. His astute knowledge of the game,

obtained from over 40 years of coaching, combined with his steadfast determination and irrepressible enthusiasm have transformed LSU baseball into the nation's premier program. Those same attributes helped Bertman as the head coach of the 1996 U.S. Olympic team, as he led Team USA to a bronze medal in Atlanta.

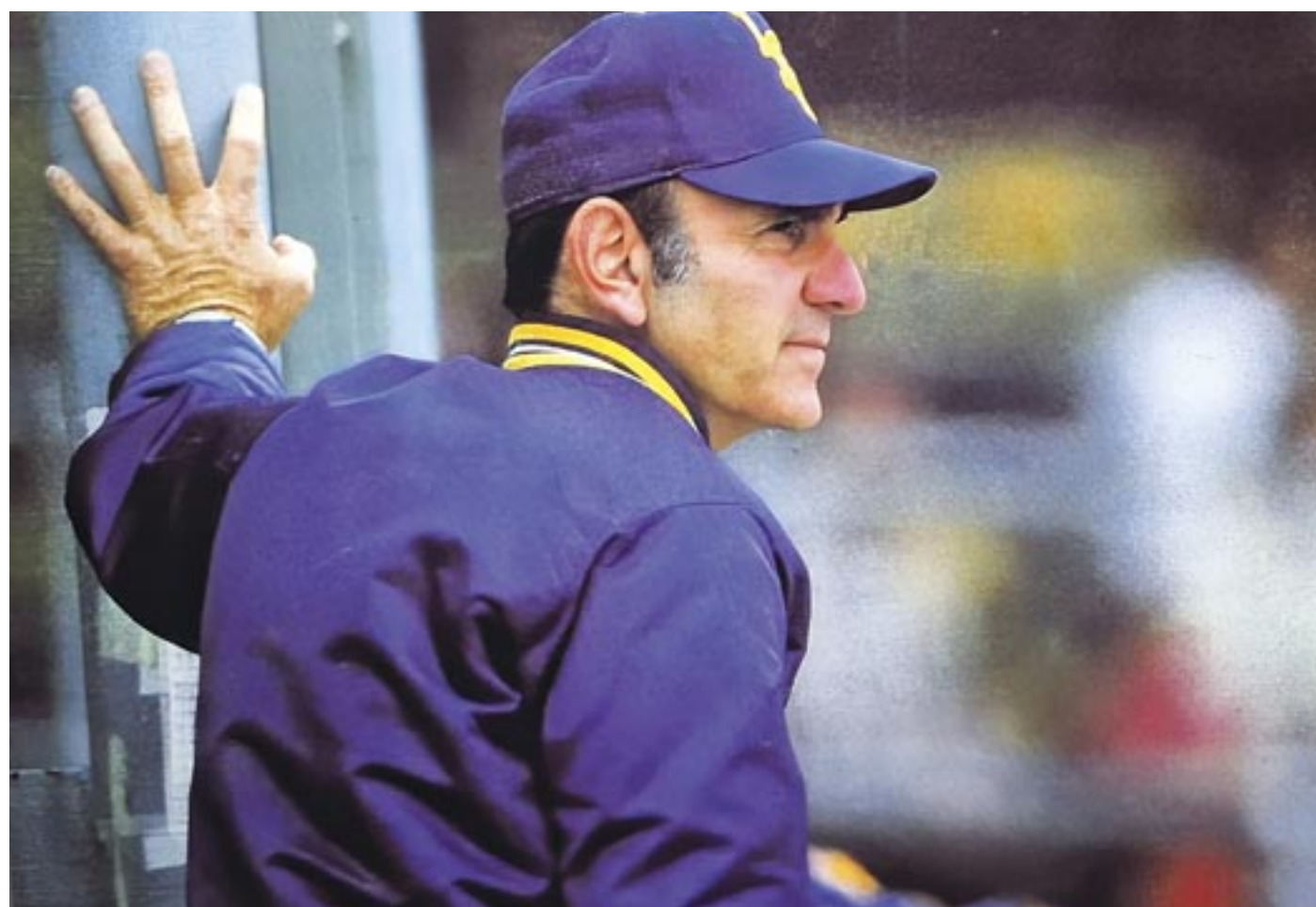
Bertman, 62, LSU's all-time winningest coach, has guided the Tigers to a 826-308-2 (.727) record in his 17-year tenure, including the 1991, 1993, 1996,

1997 and 2000 NCAA titles, 11 College World Series appearances in the last 15 years and Southeastern Conference championships in 1986, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1996 and 1997. He has the third-highest all-time winning percentage among active NCAA Division I coaches, and he has been named National Coach of the Year on six occasions: 2000, 1997, 1996, 1993, 1991 and 1986.

LSU is one of only three schools to win five NCAA championships, and the Tigers are one of only

nine teams to have made 11 College World Series appearances. Bertman and Southern California's Rod Dedeaux are the only coaches to win five CWS titles, and LSU (1990s) and Southern California (1970s) are the only schools to win four championships in one decade.

The LSU coach has mastered the art of winning big games. Witness the fact that Bertman has guided the Tigers to a 20-1 record in championship games in NCAA post-season play. That mark





includes all NCAA Regional, NCAA Super Regional and College World Series championship contests. Bertman has also directed LSU to the highest all-time NCAA Tournament winning percentage with a 86-28 (.754) record.

Bertman directed LSU to its fifth national title in 2000, as the Tigers recorded a 52-17 mark, including a perfect 13-0 post-season record. LSU won the SEC Tournament with four straight wins, and the Tigers raced to a 9-0 mark in the NCAA Tournament. The Tigers captured the national title with a thrilling 6-5 win over Stanford in the CWS championship game, as LSU scored four runs in the last two innings to overcome a 5-2 deficit. Catcher Brad Cresse's RBI single in the bottom of the ninth inning drove home shortstop Ryan Theriot with the winning run. LSU became only the third school in NCAA baseball history to win five national championships, joining Southern California and Arizona State.

LSU's road to the NCAA crown was arguably the most difficult in CWS history, as the Tigers had to defeat perennial powers Texas (28 CWS appearances), Southern California (20), Florida State (18) and Stanford (12) in order to claim the national championship.

The 2000 squad was Bertman's most productive offensive team, setting a school record for team batting average with a .340 mark. The Tigers also established Southeastern Conference records for hits (864) and doubles (194). For the fifth time, Bertman was voted National Coach of the Year by Collegiate Baseball magazine.

The 1999 Tigers advanced to the NCAA Super Regional, where LSU was eliminated from

post-season competition by Alabama. The loss prevented the Tigers from reaching the College World Series for the first time since 1995. LSU finished with a 41-24-1 overall mark, and the Tigers placed third in the Southeastern Conference with an 18-11-1 league record. LSU was ranked No. 14 in the final Collegiate Baseball magazine poll.

The 1998 Tigers placed third at the College World Series, completing the season with a 48-19 record. LSU captured its sixth SEC Western Division title in seven seasons; however, the Tigers finished one-half game behind Florida in the overall league race. After sweeping through the NCAA South II Regional with four straight wins, the Tigers defeated Southern California and Mississippi State in their first two CWS games. LSU needed just one more win to reach the national championship game for the third straight year, but USC posted back-to-back victories over the Tigers, and the Trojans went on to capture the CWS title.

The '98 Tigers led the nation in home runs with 157, and they recorded the SEC's best ERA (4.39). The season was also highlighted by the exploits of all-America first baseman Eddy Furniss, who was presented the Dick Howser Award as the nation's most outstanding college baseball player.

In 1997, Bertman guided LSU to its fourth NCAA title of the 1990s, as the Tigers defeated Alabama, 13-6, in the College World Series final. LSU became the first school to win back-to-back national championships since Stanford accomplished the feat in 1987-88. The Tigers launched an NCAA-record 188 home runs during the

season en route to the CWS crown.

Bertman was named the 1997 National Coach of the Year by Collegiate Baseball magazine, becoming the first coach to win the magazine's award four times. The '97 Tigers finished with a 57-13 record, establishing the Southeastern Conference mark for most single-season victories. The Tigers also claimed LSU's sixth SEC championship of the '90s and the school's sixth 50-win season of the decade.

In 1996, Bertman directed the Tigers to their third national championship in six seasons, as LSU defeated Miami (Fla.), 9-8, in the College World Series title game on a two-out, two-run homer by second baseman Warren Morris in the bottom of the ninth inning. It marked the first time in the 50-year history of the CWS that the national championship was decided on a homer in the bottom of the ninth.

With the dramatic CWS victory, LSU became just the seventh school to win three or more NCAA baseball titles, and Bertman became only the sixth coach to win three or more national championships. Bertman was named the 1996 National Coach of the Year by Baseball America, Collegiate Baseball and the American Baseball Coaches Association.

The '96 Tigers finished with a 52-15 mark, including eight straight victories in the NCAA Tournament (regional and CWS combined) to end the season. LSU also won its fifth Southeastern Conference title in seven years, as the Tigers shared the league crown with Florida and Alabama. LSU posted a 50-win season for the sixth time in eight years and for the seventh time in

Bertman's tenure.

As the head coach of Team USA in the summers of 1995 and 1996, Bertman directed the Americans to an incredible 71-11 record, culminating his tenure with a victory over Nicaragua for the 1996 Olympic bronze medal.

Bertman led the 1995 LSU squad to a 47-18 overall mark (17-12 in the SEC) and a third place finish in the NCAA South Regional tournament at LSU's Alex Box Stadium. The Tigers also finished as runners-up in the SEC Western Division Tournament at Starkville, Miss. LSU played host to an NCAA regional for the sixth straight season and for the seventh time in 10 years.

In 1994, LSU became the first defending national champion to return to the CWS since Stanford accomplished the feat in 1988. The '94 Tigers posted a 46-20 overall mark and captured the SEC Western Division championship for the third consecutive year. LSU also won its third straight SEC tournament title and, with four straight wins in the NCAA South Regional, advanced to the College World Series. For the first time in the Tigers' seven CWS appearances, LSU — with losses to Florida State and Cal State-Fullerton — was eliminated in two games.

The '94 squad featured second baseman Todd Walker, who became the SEC's all-time leader in hits, runs, RBI and total bases, and shortstop Russ Johnson, named the SEC Player of the Year after batting .410 with 17 homers and 74 RBI.

Bertman directed LSU to its second national title in three years in 1993 as the Tigers defeated Wichita State, 8-0, in the College World Series final. LSU also became the first team in Southeastern Conference history to win four straight league titles — with an 18-8-1 SEC mark — and with a final overall record of 53-17-1, the Tigers became the only squad in the country to post a 50-win season each year since 1989. The 1993 Tigers claimed the SEC Western Division Tournament title, and Bertman earned SEC Coach of the Year honors for the fifth time (1986, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993) in 10 seasons.

Bertman guided LSU to its third consecutive regular-season SEC crown in 1992 as the Tigers became the first league team in 50 years to capture three straight titles. LSU registered a 50-16 record, reaching the 50-win mark for the fourth straight year. The Tigers also captured the 1992



SEC Tournament championship. LSU played host to the 1992 NCAA South I Regional where the Tigers were eliminated in the semi-final round by Cal State-Fullerton.

Bertman steered the 1991 Tigers — LSU's first national championship team — to the College World Series for the third consecutive season and for the fifth time in six years. Along the way, LSU captured its second straight SEC regular-season title and the NCAA South Regional crown. The Tigers posted a 55-18 overall mark — 19-7 in the SEC — and earned their CWS berth by sweeping four straight games in the South Regional at Baton Rouge.

The '91 Tigers also recorded four straight wins at the College World Series, including a 6-3 victory over Wichita State in the CWS final. The Tigers outscored their four CWS opponents, 48-15, and set or tied CWS team records for home runs (9), runs per game (12), slugging percentage (.603) and fielding percentage (.993).

LSU's 1991 squad became the first team since 1982 to win the national title without a loss in the NCAA Tournament. The Tigers assaulted the CWS field in Omaha, Neb., with a .329 (48 for-146) team batting average.

In 1990, Bertman earned SEC Coach of the Year honors as he led the Tigers to the College World Series for the second consecutive season and for the fourth time in five years. En route to the CWS, LSU captured the SEC regular-season title, the SEC Tournament co-championship and the NCAA South I Regional crown. The Tigers posted a 54-19 regular-season mark — 20-7 in the SEC — and earned their

CWS berth by winning two of three thrilling one-run games against Southern California in the South I Regional at Baton Rouge. LSU went 2-2 in the CWS at Omaha, Neb., and finished in a tie for third.

In 1989, Bertman directed the Tigers to their third College World Series appearance in four years as LSU tied a school record for wins with a 55-17 mark. The Tigers, who placed second in the SEC with an 18-9 league record, advanced to the CWS by sweeping two games from top ranked Texas A&M in the NCAA Central Regional at College Station, Texas.

The 1989 season was highlighted by the performance of Golden Spikes Award-winning pitcher Ben McDonald, the consensus College Player of the Year and the No. 1 choice in the major league's free-agent amateur draft.

Though the Tigers failed to reach the NCAA playoffs for the first time in four years in 1988, Bertman directed LSU to a 39-21 record in a campaign highlighted by the naming of McDonald as a first-team All-America, the first time an LSU player had been so honored since 1974.

The 1987 season was highlighted by the Tigers' trip to the College World Series, marking the first time a SEC team made back-to-back appearances in the CWS. LSU's 2-2 record in the summer classic earned the Tigers a fourth-place national finish — their highest at the time.

Bertman fielded one of LSU's most talented teams in 1986. The Tigers ended the season with a 55-14 mark and were rated the nation's No. 1 team for much of the regular season, a first for LSU baseball. After winning the SEC

regular-season title with a league-record 22 wins, LSU breezed through the conference tournament — held in Baton Rouge — and claimed its first overall SEC championship in 11 years.

The '86 Tigers proceeded to go undefeated in the NCAA South I Regional, also held in Alex Box Stadium, to advance to the College World Series for the first time in school history. LSU's 1985 squad recorded a 41-18 finish, the best in school history at the time. LSU's SEC West crown and its berth in the NCAA Tournament were the school's first in 10 years.

LSU began to win immediately in Bertman's first season of 1984, as the Tigers posted a 32-23 record — the school's best in four years — and a surprising third-place showing in the tough SEC Western Division.

LSU took the first crucial step toward college baseball prominence, when in the spring of 1983 it hired Bertman to pump new lifeblood into the program. He had previously earned stellar recognition as one of the nation's brightest assistant coaches while at the University of Miami (Fla.) for eight seasons (1976-83).

Bertman was known as the "best assistant coach in college baseball" while a member of Ron Fraser's staff at Miami. Bertman brought to LSU the same brand of exciting, winning baseball that he helped install at UM.

Even before he worked at Miami, Bertman was renowned for his coaching excellence. In 11 seasons at Miami Beach High School, he directed the Hi-Tides to a state championship and two runners-up finishes. He was named Florida's Coach of the Year on three occasions.

Bertman left Miami Beach High School in 1974 to author the book, Coaching Youth League Baseball, funding the project out of his own resources. The book has become required reading for youth league coaches around the nation and in many foreign countries.

In 1975, Bertman went back to coaching at Miami-Dade Downtown, leaving after one season to join Fraser at Miami. The move was a homecoming of sorts, as Bertman spent his collegiate playing days with the Hurricanes as an outfielder and catcher from 1958-60. He earned his B.A. in health and physical education from Miami in 1961 and received his master's degree from UM in 1964.

Bertman and his wife Sandy are

the parents of four daughters — Jan, Jodi, Lisa and Lori. The Bertmans have two grandchildren — Sophie Faith and Issac Stanley, the children of Emile and Lori Bertman Guirard.

The Bertman Legacy
Bertman's unyielding desire to succeed drove him to the pinnacle of his profession, and his astute knowledge of the game — obtained from over 40 years of coaching — combined with his steadfast determination and irrepressible enthusiasm transformed LSU Baseball into the nation's premier program. Bertman has been inducted into the College Baseball Hall of Fame, the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and the American Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

National Championships
2000, 1997, 1996, 1993, 1991

SEC Championships
1997, 1996, 1993, 1992, 1991, 1990, 1986

Career Record (1984-2001)
870-330-3 (.724)

NCAA Tournament Record
89-29 (.754), highest winning percentage in NCAA history

National Coach of the Year
2000, 1997, 1996, 1993, 1991, 1986

College World Series Appearances
2000, 1998, 1997, 1996, 1994, 1993, 1991, 1990, 1989, 1987, 1986

Thank You Skip

Get Growing, Ascension!

By Izzi Frank
LSU AgCenter
Horticulture Agent,

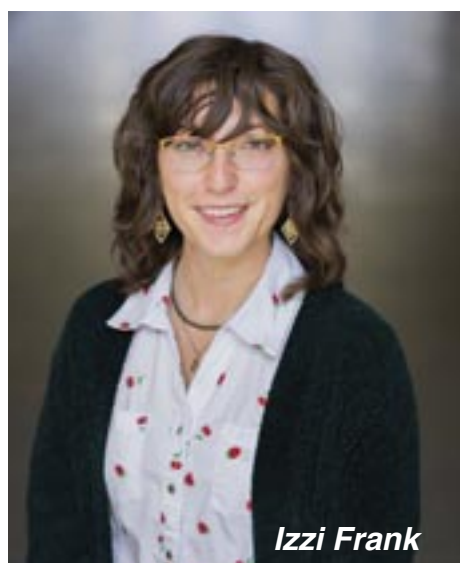
Ants Driving You Crazy?

Have you walked outside your house and it seemed like the ground itself was moving?? And when you looked closer, you realized it was a small sea of ants... Folks, I have gotten numerous calls recently about the tawny crazy ant, and, yes, that is its common name!

Originally from South America, the tawny crazy ant (*Nylanderia fulva*) is spreading across the Gulf Coast. Crazy ants are a subgroup of ants that get their name from the erratic way they run, zipping from one place to the next. The tawny crazy ant is small, reddish-brown, and might be hard to distinguish between that of a fire ant.

What makes tawny crazy ants different is the size of their colonies. Unlike fire ants, tawny crazy ants do not build obvious mounds. Instead, they nest under mulch, leaf litter, landscape timbers, rocks, and other protected locations. Colonies often contain multiple queens and can grow to enormous populations, allowing ants to spread across yards, patios, and even into homes. To put this into perspective, most ant colonies contain thousands of ants, whereas tawny crazy ant colonies can reach the millions.

While they rarely sting, tawny crazy ants create quite the nuisance with their tendencies. They are known to infest electrical equipment and may protect aphids, scales, and other plant-feeding insects in exchange for sugary honeydew, which can



Izzi Frank

contribute to pest problems in landscapes.

Something else to note about tawny crazy ants is their relationship with red imported fire ants. Tawny crazy ants can outcompete fire ants just by their sheer size of colonies. In some areas, they have even displaced fire ant populations, replacing one invasive ant with another.

Managing tawny crazy ants



is challenging because of their enormous colonies and many nesting sites. LSU AgCenter specialists generally recommend hiring a licensed pest management professional, as homeowner treatments are often ineffective against large infestations. Homeowners can make their properties less attractive by reducing excess moisture, removing yard debris, and controlling honeydew-producing insects like the aforementioned aphids and such. Once again, severe infestations may require repeated treatments or

assistance from a licensed pest management professional. While professional treatment may seem expensive, it can help prevent even costlier damage to electrical boxes, air conditioning units, and other equipment.

Tawny crazy ants may be known for their erratic behavior but managing them doesn't have to be complicated. If populations begin to get out of hand, seek professional help and don't let these ants drive you crazy! (ha-ha)





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Open Registration is September 1 - September 28
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From the Gonzales Garden Club

Fall Gardening and a New Member of the Live Oak Society

The garden club opened its 2026-27 season at a familiar reception hall in town. President Flo Hernandez opened the meeting by revisiting the club's purpose and objectives. At roll call, members expressed what they enjoy most about the club. Friendship and fellowship plus

learning new things were the most favored aspects. President Flo touched on specific member practices that lead to enhanced participation and memorable experiences in club activities and projects.

Member Janis Poche gave a 15-minute presentation on local fall garden practices. She said fall plants grow faster than spring plants and have fewer pests. Fall plants need six to eight hours of full sun. She recommended greens, root vegetables, peas, potatoes and herbs. The number one rule is to read the seed packet. When using transplants, Janis incorporates 8-8-8 fertilizer into each hole and sprinkles some around the surface soil. Janis uses BT, Spinosad and Seven spray for pest control. She distributed copies of the *Louisiana Vegetable Planting Guide*.



Marilyn Rice created a floral arrangement of yellow and orange mums, red firespike, cleyera greenery and decorative pumpkin spikes.



Gwen Heck presented Janis Poche with a Live Oak Society Registration Certificate for her 50-year-old live oak tree.



Hosting the meeting were Phyllis Charrier, Jamie Trisler, Dale Bowman, Angelle Croman, Barbara McCormick and Dana Teepell (not pictured).

Each month three or four members share how they've been inspired to grow something. Raakhee Malani presented a butterfly pea plant that she grew from a seed. She explained how she

makes tea from the blue flowers and gave each member a seed pod and dried flower petals. Marilyn Rice displayed an autumn flower arrangement made in a thrift store basket with mums,



Kathy Guidry creates art inspired by her garden interests.



Raakhee Malani draws attention to a seed pod growing on her butterfly pea vine.

firespike plant and cleyera accented by a petrified oyster mushroom. Kathy Guidry is an artist who gardens. Nature inspires her to paint. She brought her painting of orchids, another of a tree created by using broccoli to dab the paint, and a table runner of painted leaf shapes.

Member Gwen Heck representing the Louisiana Garden Club Federation Live Oak Society made a presentation about a sentimental tree. Having just



Janis Poche exhibited seed packets, transplants, pesticides and resource literature with her presentation on Fall Vegetable Gardening.

moved into a new house in Dutchtown Acres in 1976, Janis Poche wanted to plant a tree in her front yard. Husband Harlan knew of a live oak that had sprung up in a ditch at his father's house on Hwy 74 so he dug a hole in his front yard, drove his tractor to his father's house and dug up that little oak. He wrapped the root ball and rolled it onto a sheet of plywood attached to the back of the tractor. Harlan pulled it home and planted it in the spot where it is today. The tree's girth is now 12 feet, 7 inches. Gwen gave Janis a framed certificate of registration for her live oak named the H. Poche Live Oak.



Kathy Guidry shows her burlap runner with hand painted leaves.

Conchita Richey's horticulture hint is to look for Louisiana Super Plants in nurseries when selecting fall and winter bedding plants. Janis Poche suggested when planting tiny carrot seeds, mix them with sand in a spice jar that has

holes in the lid. Sprinkle the seed/sand mixture on the surface of a prepared bed then cover with a thin layer of fine soil. Thin the carrot seedlings when they are three or four inches tall.



Hostesses set out centerpieces of succulent cuttings, cutlery and napkins on a placemat.

Hostesses Jamie Trisler, Dale Bowman, Phyllis Charrier, Angelle Croman, Barbara McCormick and Dana Teepell served a light lunch of finger sandwiches, salads and cookies. In the center of each lunch table, hostesses had placed a cluster of blue, calloused, bare-root echeveria rosette succulents, enough for each member to take one home as a party favor.

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

Residential Yard of the Month



The September Residential Yard of the Month went to Jason and Kyle Barker of 7298 Highway 44. They had beautiful plants in their landscape including sweet olives, "silver dollar" sasanqua, "Cherise Charms" loropetalum, leopard ligularia, juniper, azaleas, gardenias and clumping bamboo. The Bakers also had gorgeous trees like falling water cypress and "Aphrodite" Althea with white blooms.

Commercial Yard of the Month



This month's Commercial Landscape of the Month is McKim & Creed Engineering Consultants at 1022 South Purpera Ave. There were beautiful crepe myrtles, azaleas, boxwoods, vincas, Angelonias, periwinkles, dwarf azaleas, agapanthus, yews, ornamental grass, marigolds, sunpatiens, and tropical roses.



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By Linda Melancon

Pouring a Cup of Ambition: A Guide to Charitable Giving During Your Life and After

Since Dolly Parton's passing, one quote has circulated across the internet: "You can be rich in spirit, kindness, love and all those things that you can't put a dollar sign on." While her extraordinary career produced more than 3,000 songs, 49 solo studio albums, and 11 Grammy Awards, it is not simply the music or the accolades that people are holding close or reminiscing over with Dolly Parton's lengthy career.

Instead, the world is remembering Dolly Parton for the warmth she so freely gave: the families she helped rebuild after natural disasters, the hope she offered through medical research, and the love of reading she placed in the hands of countless children. Her legacy lives not only in the songs she left behind, but in the comfort, opportunity, and kindness she brought to so many lives. While there is no replacing the beacon of joy Dolly Parton was to so many, there is the possibility of carrying on her torch and enriching your spirit, kindness, and love by donating to charity.

The most direct way to support your charity of choice is with a gift of money or property. In addition to aiding a cause you care about, these charitable gifts are tax deduction that may lower your tax bill. To qualify, however, there are several rules that must be followed. First, to qualify for a deduction in a given year, the donation must be given during that tax year—meaning, pledges to give will not count. Second,

your charity of choice must be a tax-exempt organization, such as an organization with a 501(c)(3) designation or a church. Next, you must be able to itemize your deductions to receive a charitable deduction. Finally, you must meet certain record keeping requirements. You must keep written records of all cash donations over \$250 and must be able to substantiate the value of non-cash gifts with a written acknowledgment from the charity.

While meeting these requirements can help ensure that your charitable gift receives favorable tax treatment, the true value of giving often extends far beyond a deduction on a tax return. A thoughtfully chosen charitable gift can reflect the values that have guided your life and continue supporting the people and causes you care about. For those looking

to make an impact that endures beyond your lifetime, charitable giving can become part of the legacy you leave behind.

One available option is to establish a charitable gift in your will or trust, such that upon your passing, a specific amount or percentage of your estate will be distributed to charitable causes. The charitable gift could be a variety of different types of property, such as cash, stocks, or real estate. Additionally, life insurance policies can be left to a charity of your choice with the proper beneficiary designation.

Albeit a slightly more complex strategy for charitable giving, one could also set up a Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT) or a Charitable Lead Trust (CLT). Under a CRT, assets are transferred to a trust for the benefit of a charity. In turn, you receive annual payments from the trust for a term of years and the charity keeps the remaining trust assets at

the end of that term. In contrast, a CLT allows a charity to receive the income stream, while any remaining assets flow to listed beneficiaries at the end of the term.

Whether through a simple gift in a will, a beneficiary designation, or a more structured charitable trust, charitable giving allows individuals to use what they have built during their lives to support the people and causes they care about most. These gifts can provide books to children still learning to read, relief to families facing unthinkable loss, resources to communities in need, support for the research that may one day save a life, and so much more.

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.

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Pizza



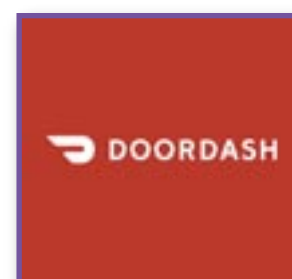
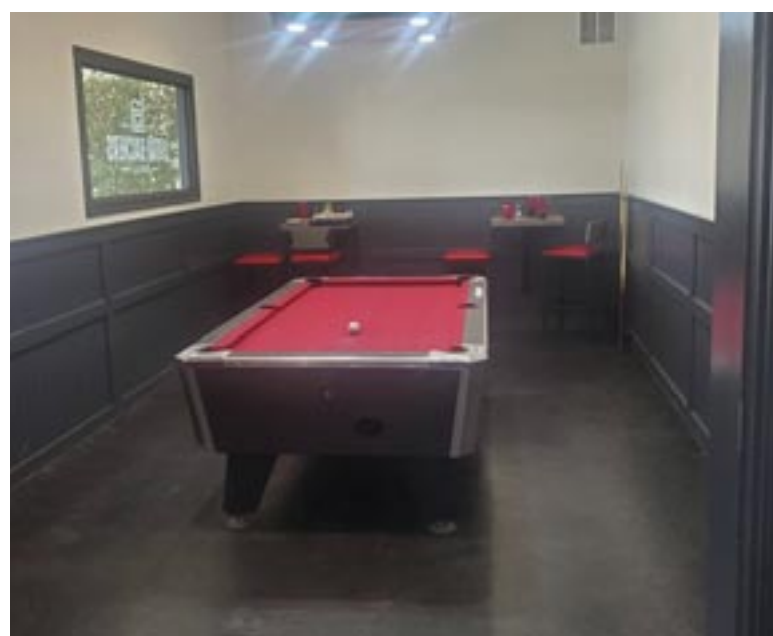
Chicken Fingers



Chicken Wings



Burgers



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SCAN TO RSVP

A Place Worth Saving

Alligator Bayou



By Murphy Painter

Once upon a time, beginning thousands of years ago, all the Native American tribes in the Southeast Gulf Region, the Bayougoula, the Mougoulascha and the Houma, from Texas to Florida, with some traveling hundreds of miles, would gather on Alligator Bayou, in Ascension Parish and marvel at the thousands of fish flowing into Bayou Manchac from Alligator Bayou while planning the future of their tribes. They named this spot Anatamaha or “fish place”.

One of the first known written descriptions of this property comes from Frenchman Pierre LeMoyne d’Iberville’s own hand written journal. Now Iberville was no stranger to travel or different landscapes having served in Eastern Canada and Europe. In 1699, Iberville was sent by the King of France to check out their newly acquired property in the Americas. Short take from the long story, Iberville landed on Ship Island in the Gulf of Mexico. He, his brother Bienville and crew entered through the mouth of the Mississippi River in their long boats and traveled up the river to around the Arkansas line today. On the return journey the Bayougoula



tribesman that was his guide told him about a short cut to the Gulf of Mexico.

Bienville stayed the course down the Mississippi while Iberville entered into the Bayou Manchac heading due east with two bark canoes and four men on March 24, 1699 around 3pm in the afternoon. That first day, due to the late start and the debris and trees growing in the bayou, they may have travel a few miles and camped. Then the journal explains that they had to portage the canoes more than fifty times the second day and stopped, yes, at no other place than the Alligator Bar.

Obviously, the Alligator Bar was not there yet, but the description written only describes that spot without a doubt. Iberville writes “ On the 25th, I ran mostly east, like yesterday afternoon; I must have made 50 portages over

trees and log rafts; and we came on and spent the night at a landing, where we found six piroques. Here two small streams unite with this one, one from the north northwest and the other from the southwest, making it half again bigger and twice as wide.” Iberville then remarked “the place where I am is one of the prettiest spots I have seen”. The woods are full of turkeys and the streams are abundant with crocodiles and fish. Iberville continued on his journey and found his way to Ship Island before his brother Bienville. The Native American was right.

Since 1699, the Amite River and Bayou Manchac, has been used as international boundaries for Spain, France and England. Now they are boundaries for the Parish Governments for a number of Parishes. Just as much as the

18th and 19th century battles over this land, the same has become battles from these local governments and the state, arguing as to what is correct to solve the recent local flooding issues.

During the most part of the 18th century, south of these bayous was either Spanish or French while the north was English. New Orleans was always French or Spanish and was the main economic center for goods for everything coming up the Mississippi or going down to be shipped overseas, but England had an idea to overcome this.

The English tried to clear and widen Manchac more than once hoping to have the goods coming down the river pass through their Fort Bute, located at the confluence with the Mississippi and Manchac. When they were not successful in making Manchac navigable from the Mississippi to the Amite River they established a road on the northern bank that first stopped where Bayou Fountain joined Bayou Alligator Bar.

There were warehouses on the English side as well as across Manchac. Businessman set up shop where the Alligator Bar is located today. It was hundreds of miles closer to use this route to get to Biloxi, Mobil, Pensacola, the other British Forts, to send furs and goods to Europe. During this period, this area was always marveled as “the fish place”.

Davy Crockett and Daniel Boone, with Jim Bowie, on their way to the Alamo, came down the Mississippi and followed Iberville’s trek down Manchac, the Amite, into Lake Maurapas then Ponchatrain, to visit New Orleans before meeting their date with destiny. Folklore says they stopped on the way and fished at Alligator Bayou. We now jump to the 20th



century and find a gravel road (eventually blacktopped) that follows Bayou Manchac from Bluff Road to Bayou Paul Road in Iberville Parish. Mostly deserted, except a bait house

where else but across the Alligator Bayou and the "Fish Place". Sometime in the 1980, a lady known as Ms Earline Morgan opened a bar whose name quickly began being

called the Alligator Hilton on the Ascension side. During the week it was a way station for the few that used the road or came to fish. On Sunday nights, when most other places was closed, it became the haven for our LSU college youths and locals to hide out in the wild with many experiencing their first legal and some illegal taste of the spirits.

On a recent Facebook post about the Alligator Bar, hundreds of youths, now in their and 40's and fifties, relinquished story after story of the times shared there. In these comments was again the thought mentioned at the time, the forever sign you were at the right place, was the fish flowing from Alligator Bayou into Manchac by the thousands.

In 1992 two very successful businessmen, looking for property, found parcels of this magical swampland, basically still preserved as the Native Americans and Iberville had found it, for sale. There was a deal in process to make part of it a dumping site and another deal to clear cut another portion for the timber. Frank Bonifay and Jim Ragland

purchase the Bar site and multiple acres soon to total over one thousand (1000) around Spanish Lake and Bluff Swamp saving it's natural habitat for the world to experience.

For the next 16 years, their goal was to maintain this virtual ecological paradise, with fifteen hundred plus (1500) year old virgin cypress trees, one thirty six feet in circumference, close to 300 identified bird species, deer, duck, turkeys and oh yes most important, the fish. The Bar continued into another legendary run, but Frank and Jim saw a chance to share their paradise with anyone wanting to see it. Their vision included as the most important part, it as a hands on Education Center for Youths.

They built a five acre alligator pond that housed gators with one 16 feet long weighting sixteen hundred (1600) lbs and trained it to allow children to pet it. One of their favorite groups to take part was when a Deaf and Blind Children's School group lined up and was able to touch an alligator.

It was spectacular. Locals employed at times that Frank gives special credit to are Brett



Alligator Bayou before drained.



Tingle, Blaine Petite, Jamie Brassett and David Sausburg and others unnamed during this run.

The Kermit Braud family, born and raised on the bluff swamp gave Frank & Jim their treasured, well over a 150 year old, Braud Family Acadian Home which was moved on the Bar property as an exhibit. The field next to the bar became an open amphitheater, hosting local groups and from all over the United States. The Louisiana Organ Procurement Agency, Exxon/Mobil, Tyson Chicken, the Chicago Stock Exchange are just a few that held events there. One memorable event was when none other than Willie Nelson performed there with as many as twelve hundred (1200) people attending. Local musicians that cut their music career teeth there were Jim Bullion, Kirt Holder and Todd Westbrook among many others.

In 1999 Francofette had their annual event there with no other than Governor Kathleen

Blanco heading the agenda. Literally thousands of school kids and adults classes came for field trips. It was the best swamp tour around. One of the main attractions was the swamp boat tour which brought everyone down Alligator Bayou to pass a prehistoric place they called the Cypress Flats to Spanish Lake and back. Alligators, Bald Eagles, deer and hundreds of egrets, herons and cranes abounded every trip. When leaving they all marveled at the, yes fish, flowing out alligator bayou into Manchac just as Iberville did.

Then in 2008, at the very height of this Disneyland success story, the governmental issues that had been brewing about opening the flood gates or closing the flood gates came to a paramount conclusion. There is not enough space in this article or ten books to say what happened or who we can blame for this tragic result. For Alligator Bar and the thriving

business of catering social events and educating our kids disappeared with the water and fish out the open gates.

The Governments and eventually courts ruled that the gates had to be left open. This seemingly benign event started the brutal end. First, Alligator Bayou needed to stay at 4 foot water level for Alligator Bar to operate its swamp tours. It was soon bone dry. That was the business end caused by this action.

For the swamp and other ecological events Alligator Bayou and Spanish Lake were both drained and remain

Bayou since the gates were opened to be cut back. Frank has been told that this also includes dredging the Bayou in the next two years. Will this be enough?

A few weeks ago WAFB did a news story about a 320 acre portion of the historic landmark Alligator Bayou Bar property being placed on the real estate market. The listing included 53 commercial acres and 267 acres of swampland. It goes on and states "the owners hope a local municipality or state entity, or conservation charity acquires the land to protect the natural habitat and maintain the area used for past



drained. In the 18 years since this has caused the most beautiful Cypress Flats to disappear into now a dry bed of tangled willow trees. The cypress is gone. The bald Eagles, herons, egrets, and the majority of the 300 bird species have all disappeared.

Alligator Bayou is no longer navigable for humans, but also not for the fish either. From thousands of years of existence, the fish have been wiped out at this most historic piece of real estate. Since the closing there are Native Americans crying, Iberville is crying, Frank and Jim are crying along with thousands of school kids that don't even know or completely understand why they will be missing an opportunity of a life time that has been taken from them. Is there hope?

Recently the Ascension Parish Government issued a contract for all the willow tree encroachment in Alligator

educational outreach".

This opportunity for someone with that intent is priceless. When you pass the open flood gates on Alligator Bayou Road stop and roll your window down. If you listen closely you will hear the spirit of the Native Americans and Iberville whispering in the wind asking "where are the fish". We can only hope.

**Information taken from Iberville's Gulf Journals, 1699, published by the University of Alabama Press 1981*

*** Some pictures from LPB*



FINANCIAL FOCUS

Stay one step ahead of cybercriminals

Your financial security is only as strong as your digital security. A single stolen password, convincing scam or fraudulent investment offer can lead to lost savings, damaged credit or hours spent recovering compromised accounts. As our financial lives move increasingly online, protecting your personal information is part of protecting your financial future.

Cybercriminals are getting smarter, and technology like AI is making their job easier. But fortunately, some consistent

habits can help protect you from many of today's common threats.

Watch out for phishing. Phishing is a common way criminals break into accounts and steal money. These attacks often arrive as emails, texts or phone calls that appear to come from your bank, employer or another trusted organization. Fake websites can trick you into typing in your password or financial details.

To protect yourself, verify unexpected requests through a separate channel, such as calling a company directly using a number from its official website rather than one provided in a suspicious mes-

sage. Avoid clicking unexpected links and consider using a password manager which auto-fills your login information only on legitimate websites.

Strengthen your accounts. Stolen passwords give criminals easy access to your email, banking and social media accounts. Try using a unique password for every account and enable multifactor authentication whenever it's offered. When possible, choose phishing-resistant options like passkeys or security keys; they're harder for scammers to bypass than basic text message codes.

Be skeptical of urgency. Scammers increasingly use deepfakes, which leverage AI-generated voices, videos and images to convincingly impersonate trusted people, including company executives, advisors and even family members. These messages often create pressure to send money or share sensitive information immediately.

If you receive an urgent request that feels off, slow down. Hang up and try calling back to the person or organization using a known phone number. Many successful scams rely on emotional pressure rather than technical tricks, so a moment of skepticism can go a long way.

Protect your money and identity. Fraudulent investment platforms and cryptocurrency schemes continue to cost Americans billions of dollars each year. Be cautious of investment opportunities promoted through unsolicited messages or social media contacts, and always verify a platform independently before sending money. If you're unsure whether an opportunity is legitimate, a financial advisor can help evaluate it before you invest.

Data breaches can also put your information at risk, even when you've done everything right. It's smart to check your bank and credit card statements regularly for unfamiliar charges, and to freeze your credit if you suspect your information has been compromised. You may also choose to freeze your credit preemptively.

Keep your devices updated. Software updates often fix security weaknesses that criminals could otherwise exploit. Backing up important files, whether to the cloud or an external drive, also protects you if ransomware ever locks you out of your own data.

Small habits matter. Unique passwords, multifactor authentication and skepticism help stop many scams before they start. Take steps to help safeguard your money, identity and long-term financial goals.



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Jamie Lavigne,
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Parish Tractor Celebrates One Year in Gonzales with Anniversary Ribbon Cutting

Parish Tractor Company celebrated its one-year anniversary in Gonzales with a special ribbon cutting ceremony on Tuesday, September 15, marking one year since the company expanded into Louisiana through the acquisition of Ascension Equipment & Rental.

The event brought together Parish Tractor employees, customers, community members and local leaders to celebrate the Gonzales location's first year as part of the Parish Tractor family and its continued investment in Ascension Parish.

Parish Tractor President and

CEO Lee Parish spoke during the ceremony alongside local city and community officials. The event also highlighted Parish Tractor's partnership with Barnside Brotherhood, including the presentation of equipment to support the organization's work and mission.

When Parish Tractor announced its acquisition of Ascension Equipment & Rental, the company emphasized its commitment to building upon the strong foundation established by the Robert family and becoming an active part of the Gonzales and Ascension Parish



communities. One year later, the anniversary celebration served as an opportunity to reflect on that commitment and celebrate the relationships built throughout the community.

"From the beginning, our goal wasn't simply to put the Parish Tractor name on a

building. We wanted to become part of this community," said Lee Parish, CEO of Parish Tractor. "We've been incredibly grateful for the way Gonzales and Ascension Parish have welcomed our team over the past year. We're proud of what we've built to-

gether so far, and we're excited about what's ahead." Founded in 2012, Parish Tractor has grown with a focus on four core values: Character, Commitment, Community and Change. The company provides comprehensive equipment sales, parts, service and rental solutions, continuing the same commitment to service outlined when the Gonzales acquisition was first announced.

The Gonzales location marked Parish Tractor's first



expansion into Louisiana. Over its first year, the dealership continued serving customers throughout Ascension Parish and surrounding areas while building relationships with local organizations, businesses and residents.

"Our vision has always been bigger than selling equipment," Parish said. "We want to build a business that honors the Lord, helps our people prosper and strengthens the communities we're fortunate enough to serve. Gonzales has given us the opportunity to live that out in Louisiana."

The ribbon cutting marked both a celebration of Parish Tractor's first year in Gonzales

and the beginning of its next chapter serving Ascension Parish and the surrounding communities.

About Parish Tractor Founded in 2012, Parish Tractor is a full-service equipment dealership providing sales, parts, service and rental solutions to customers throughout the Southeast. Guided by its core values of Community, Commitment, Change and Character, Parish Tractor is committed to providing outstanding service, supporting its employees and investing in the communities it serves.

Parish Tractor — More Than a Tractor Store.



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The Season for Giving is Approaching!

We are excited to announce that CHC Closet and Pantry has received a \$2000 Spark Good local grant from our local Walmart #532 in Gonzales. This grant will help with the purchase of food for our clients. We have actually spent it already. We are proud to spark good in our community. #SparkGood

It's been busy business as usual at the closet/pantry. We attended a community networking event at 1st Methodist church in Gonzales. We met lots of nice people and picked up some good info. Their food pantry has been especially generous with sharing food with us and we want to express our gratitude to them.

We have a lot of help from our clients, and my grandkids when we need to unload from a major shopping trip. The sisters and elder missionaries from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints also come twice a week and help wherever we need, always with a smile.

We will participate in Trunk or Treat, Cans and Chapters to benefit CHC Closet and Pantry and Books for Boots. Come see us, get treats and support two worthy organizations at once.

Bring a non-perishable food item for the pantry or a new or gently used book for Books for Boots. The books will be given to our active duty military members. It will be held Oct.

Cans & Chapters

— A Trunk-or-Treat Giving Drive —

NON-EXPIRED, NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS

Help stock the CHC Closet & Pantry to support families in our community before the holiday season.

GENTLY USED OR LIKE-NEW BOOKS FOR ALL AGES

Help provide great books to active-duty military members, veterans, and military families through Books for Boots.

Let's make this Halloween about more than just treats—

— ONE CAN & ONE CHAPTER —

together we can give back to our community!

Saturday, Oct. 10th **4:00-7:00 PM**

3005 W Cabelas Pkwy
Gonzales, LA 70737

Books for Boots
booksforboots.org





10th from 4:00-7:00 PM at 3005 W. Cabelas Parkway in Gonzales.

Our quilt raffle was very successful earning over \$2000 for the purchase of food and hygiene items. The quilts were won by Ms. Cat and Ms. Terry. Thanks to everyone who purchased tickets. Be on the lookout, another raffle coming

soon.

We have been blessed to be able to support Threads of Opportunity in a small way with clothing donations. They are a group helping high school kids dress for job interviews and helping them learn the best way to handle an interview. Check them out on FB. With the holidays approaching

the need for food is always greater. If anyone knows an individual, club, business church or organization that could sponsor a food drive please have them get in touch with me at 225/647-8612 or by sending a message on our FB page.

I would like to personally thank everyone who helps us

in any way, by donations, volunteering or keeping us in prayer. We couldn't do this without all of you.

God bless,

Janell Brent

2026 Seniors And Lawmen Together FALL Health Expo

DOORS OPEN 8:30 AM TUESDAY

NOVEMBER 17th

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For more information contact Sgt. Misty Turner at
mturner@ascensionsheriff.com or 225-621-8827

SHERIFF BOBBY WEBRE Christmas CRUSADE
 and Community Outreach Initiatives

NEED HELP WITH CHRISTMAS?

The **2026 Christmas Crusade program** begins accepting applications Thursday, October 1st. Ascension Parish residents needing assistance with **toys for Christmas** for boys and girls age 0-12 years old can pick up and return an application at the following **Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office locations**

Gonzales Business Office – 828 S. Irma Blvd., Gonzales
Donaldsonville Business Office – 300 Houmas St., Suite. E, Donaldsonville
Hickley M. Waguespack Center – 1201 Maginnis St., Donaldsonville
District 1 Substation – 300 Houmas St., Donaldsonville
District 2 Substation – 13200 Airline Highway, Gonzales
District 3 Substation – 38022 Henry Road, Prairieville

Hours of Operation:
 Monday – Thursday 8am-5pm
 Friday 8am-4:30pm

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT APPLICATIONS:
FRIDAY, November 20, 2026

Approved applicants will be notified by letter.
 For more information, contact Sgt. Misty Turner @225-621-8827 or
mturner@ascensionsheriff.com

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JOHNSON

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE



Most people think a Justice of the Peace mainly performs weddings and don't know we are an actual Judge.

court, a small claims court with matters not to exceed \$5000.00 That means handling evictions, civil

That's usually the first thing people mention when they find out what I do. And while weddings are certainly part of the job, they are actually a very small piece of what the position really involves.

A Justice of the Peace is responsible for operating a



cases, hearing testimony, reviewing evidence, applying the law fairly, and issuing judgments. Many of the cases involve disputes, small money claims, or movable property matters where people are looking for a fair resolution.

There is also a significant amount of administrative responsibility that comes with the position. Courts must maintain proper records, follow strict ethical standards,

complete continuing training, and file required reports with state agencies. Staying current on laws and procedures is an ongoing part of the job to ensure the court operates properly and fairly.

What many people don't see is the work that happens outside of scheduled court dates. There are calls regarding arrest warrants, restraining orders, coordinating with





constables, responding to questions and concerns from the public, and managing court filings of over 4000 cases that have come through this office in my current term as your Justice of the Peace.

Over the years I have tried to go beyond just performing the basic duties of this office. In my

office I have found my constituents are in need of resources for self help and just don't know where to start. My office helps with that. I have a vast library of information and websites available so they can become better informed of their current situation, and hopefully the parties can resolve the matter



amongst themselves.

As your Justice of the Peace I have a responsibility that requires knowledge of civil law, time, dedication, and a commitment to serving the community. It is a responsibility I take seriously, one I enjoy and



a responsibility I look forward to for another term with your continued support as the 3rd Justice Court Justice of the Peace.





East Ascension Sportsmans League

Letter from president -
Greg Cedotal

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

Join us for some good stories and a meal. The guest speaker will be Thad Bellow and Greg Cole speaking about the 4-H Shooting Team. If you have a child or grandchild who may be interested in shooting sports, this will be a good chance to hear what they have to say and ask questions.

Wow, either I am getting older or it is getting hotter. Oh, my wife says it's both. Well, either way, I am hoping for a cool snap soon so the fall sac-a-lait spawn will start and squirrel hunting might be bearable. I do not want to hunt with lead in my pockets to keep the mosquitoes from carrying me off.

It is hard to believe that hunting season is here, with the start of squirrel season comes the Annual

Squirrel Rodeo. The rodeo will be held on Saturday October 3rd, starting at one half hour before sunrise. The location is Merle Gautreaux's shed, located at 12400 Fernand Road off Hwy. 74, the second to last house on the left. To compete, a hunter must be licensed with the LDWF and a member of EASL prior to weighing in. The weigh-in will be from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. on Saturday. Prizes for the Heaviest Bag will be 1st place, \$25.00; 2nd place, \$15.00; 3rd place, \$10.00. The prize for Heaviest Individual Squirrel will be \$10.00. There will be a youth category for hunters under sixteen years of age. Prizes will be awarded for this category. Young hunters must be accompanied by an adult member in good standing to compete. On Sunday afternoon, October the 4th, we will have our annual squirrel gravy.

Time to start preparing for the Big Buck Contest, you must have your membership up to date 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 that expire at the end of 2026. Winners must have renewed membership before the prize can be collected.

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 September 26th and October 17th. 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, September 26th, 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.

Photos are from last month fishing rodeo by Off the Grid Photography





FISHING TOURNAMENT RAFFLE

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9★11 HEROES RUN





The 2026 Boucherie Pageant will be held on Saturday, October 24th

Pageant Date: Saturday October 24, 2026
Location: Sorrento Primary School Cafeteria
Divisions for all ages. DEADLINE for all divisions: Saturday October 17, 2026 - **NO DOOR ENTRIES**
 For information and registration please visit:
<https://www.boucheriefestival.com/pageant/>
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RE-ELECT *Christie* #88 **MAYEUX** JUSTICE OF THE PEACE 2nd JUSTICE COURT OVER 26 YEARS LEGAL EXPERIENCE!!

- Born and Raised in Ascension Parish.
- Attended and graduated from Ascension public schools.
- Attended and graduated from business college in Baton Rouge.
- Married to Thomas Mayeaux for 43 years
- Three boys
- Nine grandchildren
- Acquired 26 years legal experience from various legal systems across the state of Louisiana, 10 of those years as your Justice of the Peace.
- Active member of Household of Faith in Gonzales



ELECTION DATES:

Absentee: October 20-27, 2026
Poll Voting: Tuesday, November 3, 2026

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO RE-ELECT CHRISTIE MAYEUX

Re-Elect #91

THOMAS MAYEUX CONSTABLE HERE'S THE FACTS

F A C T S

- Family Man married to Christie Mayeux for over 43 years, 3 sons & 9 grandchildren
- Ascension Parish has embraced the change
- Committed to Serve the Community
- Trustworthy & Professional
- Strives for Excellence in the 2nd District Court Constable Office



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 STAY STRONG.
 I BELIEVE IN ASCENSION PARISH.**

ELECTION DATES:

Absentee: October 20-27, 2026
Poll Voting: Tuesday, November 3, 2026
mayeux001@eatel.net

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Fanatics in Fantasy Land or Surviving on Fantasy Island

by Bill Delaune

Fanatics in Fantasy Land or Surviving on Fantasy Island
“The gift of fantasy has meant more to me than my talent for absorbing positive knowledge.”
Albert Einstein

You see-even the great scholar Einstein realized that energy and the speed of light weren't all that mattered. Dancing around in that head with the Three Stooges' haircut were some fantasies of nuclear proportion.

Of course, we men-with our feeble and easily distracted brains-are probably more prone to fantasies than our superior gender. And although many have to do with members of our superior gender, we also fantasize about other things like the SEC Nazis deciding to leave LSU and Lane Kiffin alone.

We perfected this skill at a young age when we dreamed about being stars in the Major Leagues or the NFL or becoming rock stars so we could score with the pinups on our bedroom walls.

But as we grew older-although some of us continue to do our damndest to emulate Peter Pan and never grow up-there is another fantasy that creeps into our dreams. That, of course, is the heavenly vision of winning our Fantasy Football league and seeing our team's unique nickname etched on the championship trophy.

Fox TV estimates that a staggering 83 per cent or all red-blooded males are involved in some sort of fantasy league and that the average worker spends about 45 minutes of each work day checking stats for his fantasy team.



And you wonder what's wrong with the economy.

Now factor in the number of women, children and others who have also become addicted to Fantasy Football and you can see why the country is spiraling out of control like a Ken Stabler mullet toss at Flora-Bama.

But where else can you learn such great American values like lying, poor taste and manipulating others to win at all costs?

Take the drafting of your team's players for example. The most important night of the year-you can't win the Kentucky Derby with a jackass-is based strictly on deception. Fantasy participants learn at a very young age to lie, lie and lie some more in an effort to secure the best team possible at the expense of your opponents.

Lie like O.J. talking to a jury. Lie like Charley Sheen talking to his drug counselor. Remember the words of that

great American philosopher George Carlin-"Honesty may be the best policy, but apparently, by the process of elimination, dishonesty is the second best policy."

Right before the beginning of the first round, throw out a few tidbits under your breath like, "I hope that cut on Dak Prescott's throwing hand from that broken Hurricane glass doesn't affect his passing." Or maybe, "I hear Patrick Mahomes pulled a hamstring auditioning for 'Dancing with the Stars'."

Comments like these will plant seeds of doubt in your fellow league members and could disrupt the draft in your favor. If you need further guidance, go watch Kevin Costner as a Cleveland Browns' general manager in the movie "Draft Day" for manipulation lessons.

Once you've mastered the art of deception, it's time to choose a clever-and somewhat tasteless-name for your team.

Sure "Bob's Fantasticks" may sound great to you-a man of wealth and taste-but because most men who play fantasy football are not big Broadway fans, the allusion will probably be lost on the entire league.

On the other hand, combining players' names with your team moniker will earn you the respect of fellow fantasy members and force them to get more creative.

For example, if you have a penchant for drafting former LSU players, name your team accordingly. "Don't You Fournette about Me" (Leonard Fournette) and "That's Helairious" (Clyde Edwards-Helaire) are two that immediately come to mind.

However, if you're building your team around the Saints' starting running back, "Lights, Kamara, Action" or "The Sun Will Come Out, Kamara" (Alvin Kamara) may serve the purpose.

Quarterbacks are always good for a team name-especially high profile signal callers-like "Dak to the Future" (Dak Prescott) or "Country Roads, Take Mahomes" (Patrick Mahomes) will combine your knowledge of music and a big-name player.

If you're not really interested in incorporating a player's name into your team name, then choose something that can embarrass the big-mouth, trash-talking opponent whom you meet in the first week of the season. Personally, I like the crude but creative "With Another Man's Privates" so when Mr. Obnoxious is asked about his fantasy schedule on all his social networks, he'll be forced to announce, "This week I'm playing 'With Another

Man's Privates'."

I'm sure you can come up with more names just as sordid and tasteless.

Okay, now look around the draft room. Any good bouree player will tell you how important it is to know the people you're playing against. Do they play loose or close to the vest? Will they pass jack dry or hold the line if forced?

The same is true in Fantasy Football. As Sun Tzu stated in "The Art of War", "Know your enemy and know yourself and you can fight a thousand battles without disaster."

Or in the words of Les Miles, "Against the underlying backdrop of our situation, we got that communicated to the field, but the difference was they didn't understand what we were saying."

So with the help of a crazy guy named Mike Gogel, I've listed the following cast of characters you might see during your league's draft day. Any resemblance to any person, either living or dead, is intentional and meant to be libelous so see if you can find an attorney who's not busy with the LSU pro scandal and sue me.

Let's start with...

1. The Professor- This guy's done his research and it shows. Manned with a laptop, spread sheets and enough material to write a doctorate in comparative embryology, Prof will be up-to-date on every detail.

Watch out if he stifles a snicker when you take the Raiders' Brock Bowers because he knows Bowers just hurt a knee in practice 10 minutes ago and that Michael Mayer is now the starter.

If he asks for a clarification of league rules, follow his next trend carefully i.e. if he goes tight end, you go tight end. He's headed for the playoffs. Probable first round pick-Jahmyr Gibbs, Detroit Lions (consensus number one in all fantasy rating services).

2. The Homer- He's a likeable sort but boy does he love his Saints. Decked out in black and gold and a huge fleur de lis bling he sometimes has trouble distinguishing between his fantasy team and his real team.

He still raves about the Super Bowl year of 2010 and confidently predicts a return to the title game this year. The only problem with his fantasy team is that if Chris Olave is gone by the time he drafts, he'll still take a Saint even if he's on the injured list. Probable first round pick-Jordyn Tyson.

3. The Gambler- Don't worry about this guy winning the league. He's got a few outdated fantasy magazines hidden somewhere under his line sheets and racing forms, but he'll probably miss his turn betting on some mid-week MAC game or a longshot at Saratoga.

He's sure to pick some obscure player-possibly even one from another sport-that his gut feeling tells him will emerge as an NFL star. Don't be surprised if he drafts someone whose lifestyle mirrors his own. Probable selection-Art Schlister, quarterback Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction or Pete Rose, Cincinnati.

4. The Idiot- Either it's his first year in the league or he just has no clue. He'll take players who have already been drafted or who are out for the season with an injury and use up all his allotted time doing it. Just make sure you don't belittle his picks so if he happens to take a decent player, you can rob him in a trade later in the season. Probable selection- Josh Jacobs, Green Bay, Commissioner's Exempt List.

5. The Trash-Talker- Remember this guy from the team naming segment? He'll make fun of everyone else's picks and boast that he's clinched the league championship by the fourth round. The only way to shut

him up is to beat him-either during the season or physically during the draft and kick him when he's down. Just demand a jury of your peers-the other coaches in the league that are fed up with him also-and you'll walk. Probable selection-Odell Beckham, New York Giants.

6. The Mathematician- Similar strategy as the Professor, and his knowledge of the league's scoring system and past performances make him a dangerous adversary. His biggest downfall is a total reliance on his numbers over natural instincts and one bad draft pick by the Gambler or the Idiot can throw his highly-organized system out of whack for five or six rounds.

Try to throw him out of his rhythm by manipulating numbers and making up stats like I did in the first part of the lesson. Probable selection-Matthew Stafford, reigning MVP, L.A. Rams.

So there you have it plain and simple. Do anything it takes to win-lie, cheat,

manipulate your opponents and make up false statistics to support your side.

If you can master these basic rules, you might not only win your Fantasy Football League, but you might find yourself elected to a public office next election. And if you need a campaign slogan, try "Make America Gronk Again!"

Editor's note- This was supposed to be a column about the No-Good, Alabama-loving, cheating bastards at the SEC office in Birmingham. But on the advice of our attorneys at Duhe, Cheetum and Howe, I decided to do a mildly amusing piece on fantasy football. Not that anyone at that office has asense of humor anyway.



Jammin' with Goosie

Burnt Out

Truefully speaking, by the end of every deer season I have the feeling that I have really had enough of that stuff. After all, it's been three months of getting up in the early hours before daylight, hunting in the evenings until dark, being very cold at times, carrying sacks of feed, sloshing through unpleasant mud holes on my four wheeler etc. As a matter of fact I don't really have much desire for next year's season to come about at that moment. Don't get me wrong, as I begin to remove fabrics from my deer

enthusiasm for the upcoming deer season is beginning to come back to me. It won't be long before we will have club work days. I'm already starting to think about purchasing materials for making needed repairs to my stand locations before the opening of the season rolls around. It won't be long before I will be purchasing soybeans, sighting in my rifles and getting yearly ATV maintenance taken care of etc. Before the deer opener I will have already made several dove, teal, squirrel and duck hunts. I find that the November deer gun season is a very nice time to be in the woods. Migrating flocks of



stand locations my excitement begins to mount for a few late season rabbit hunts that will soon be on the horizon. A month or so after that's over I begin looking forward to the upcoming turkey season. With that being said, I'm not tired of hunting, I'm just fed up with deer hunting at that time.

A couple of years ago I was telling one of my fellow hunting buddies about my feelings along those lines of me losing interest and he replied back to me with his suggestion of "You probably need to try and not go so much to where you get burnt out too early." As I write this it is mid August and my

geese can be heard from above. The leaves are beginning to fall. The temperature is usually comfortable and in most years it is still fairly dry. Hopefully an animal can be taken in that first few weeks of the season while they tend to be less cautious. It seems that once the pressure begins to mount things then seem to calm down a little. It is in that period of two or three weeks where I begin to get a little too much of a good thing. The fault of continuing to hunt whitetails every day of the week at that time period is totally on me because there's many other things to do such as excellent



fall fishing, duck hunting, football games to watch, family outings etc.

A friend of mine harvested a young doe early in the season last fall to put some venison in his freezer. He then put down his rifle and for the next month enjoyed some fantastic fall fishing. He later returned to the deer woods in late December with a newborn fire to hunt during the rut which is by far the most exciting time to hunt whitetails. You never know when your time will come to harvest a buck, but for whatever it's worth, he did not miss much during his absence.

Hopefully I can score a buck early on this season but I do plan to do some other things besides whitetail hunting for a stretch of this year's deer season. As of now I plan on playing a few more music jobs, duck hunting and fishing a little as well as maybe spending more of my time helping out with our ministry. I had planned something similar to that last season and it kinda backfired on me because of my timing. I had made plans for other activities at the same time that our rut was beginning to take place. There was one of my stand locations of which I could witness bucks chasing does every time I would go there. I actually had the opportunity to see one up close early one foggy morning but failed to get his points counted in time to get a shot at him. It was really smoking hot in that area at that point of time. You could easily tell by the actions of the deer in that vicinity then that "it was on". Activities such as that sometimes don't last very long before it begins to mellow out. I had to leave the woods for a couple days to do other stuff and by the time I returned to

that spot the fire was out, if you know what I mean.

Being a retired person sure does render a different degree of challenges for a hunter than it once did during my working career. Now I can go just about every day if I want too. While being employed I basically had weekends only to spend my time in the woods or on the water and there were many of those weekends that I spent on the job. When I did plan a vacation during the deer season I mainly tried to schedule those days off during the rut. That scenario kinda helped prevent me from getting tired of doing the same thing over and over.

Last season I lucked up and took a nice buck on the second day of the primitive season. I was very grateful for that and it sure took the pressure off to some degree. That's not to say that I did not have very many exciting hunts for the remainder of the season, but I did not shoot another one and by the time it was over I'd sure had a belly full of the deer hunting experience. As I said before, you'll never know when you may or may not harvest a deer and any day in the woods is a great day to be alive, deer or no deer, but I do believe that too much of anything can become too much at some point. For this season I will give it my best to take my friend's advice of trying not to get burnt out before the best part of the season comes around. Let's see how that unfolds.

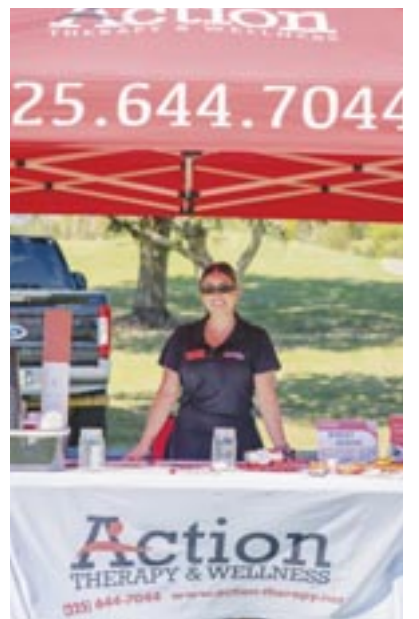
Until next time

Light the fuse

James "Goosie" Guice

EA vs STA RYDER CUP

Photos are from last year.



EA vs STA
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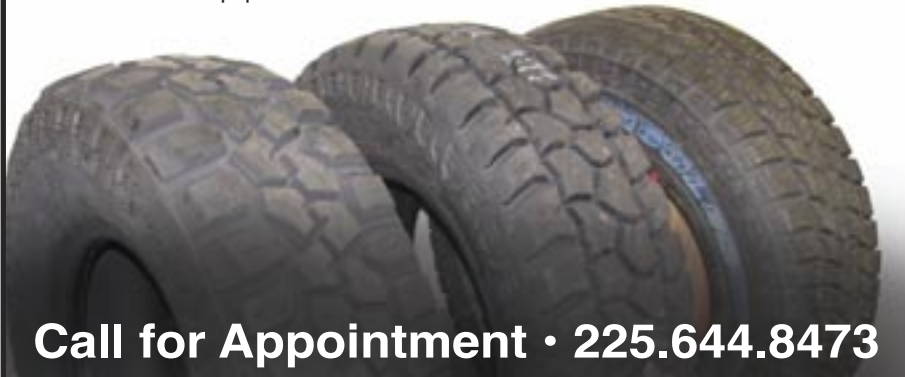


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Useless Random Facts with Kellie

•
The principal use for nicotine other than for cigarettes is in insecticide.

•
The largest fungi in the world is called Honey Fungus and is found in eastern Oregon. It measures a massive 3.5 miles wide. The first spores are thought to have spread some 2400 years ago.

•
For every extra kilogram carried on a space flight, 530 kilograms of extra fuel are needed at liftoff.

•
Our Moon is the largest satellite in the solar system, relative to the size of the planet it orbits.

•
In the nineteenth century, it was illegal for British Army officers to shave their mustaches.

•
King Richard II once had to pawn his crown because he was such a spendthrift.

•
If every star in the Milky way was a grain of salt, they would fill an Olympic-sized swimming pool.

•
In 1968, the first interracial kiss on television took place on Star Trek.

•
The longest human beard ever recorded is over seventeen feet long.

•
An Astronaut can be up to two inches taller returning from space. The cartilage disks in the spine expand in the absence of gravity.

•
Sixty-five percent of test subjects had the urge to yawn after merely reading about yaw

Thoughts from Bully

Butt Officer I Had to Gooooo!!

Back around 1975 I was traveling down Interstate 10 toward New Orleans in my trusty Volkswagon Beetle. The Interstate was not complete past Hwy 30. It did have the over pass complete and about 500 yards of road on the other side.

There were about 500 cars backed up trying to exit and get on Hwy 30. I looked ahead and saw baracades with signs reading 'Do Not Enter' blocking the over pass. I couldn't resist and I took off driving around the baracades. In 1975, everyone had a CB radio. I heard several radio comments about breaking the law, then one guy pointed out that a Smokey with the bubble gum lights flashing was coming my way. I had just cleared the top of the over pass. I wasn't going to try to out run them so I had to think fast. I pulled down the road about 400 yards. I pulled over and got out of the car. I could see the Smokey coming. I had to time myself perfect for my plan to work. I worked my way to the front of the Volkswagon as I heard the tires of the troopers car arrive I pulled my pants down urgently and squatted. I looked back with surprise to see the troopers laughing their butts off. They rolled down the window and I began to sing. I told them I was in the long line of cars and I was about to have a butt moment. They did have mercy and didn't ticket me. As they left I squatted again to continue the fake emergency. This particular day I put my butt to good use and saved me some cash.



Don't Spend too much time in the toilet

It was 1975, my freshman year at LSU. Every Friday night we hit the White Horse Lounge and made fools out of ourselves. After the many shots of tequila we'd buy boxes of Church's Fried Chicken to bring back to the dorm. After eating we'd pass out sleeping.

This one particular night I needed to go sit on the toilet before passing out. I made it to the community bathroom with open stalls. I sat to do my business. My roommate Tommy came in and said, "Bully, Are you coming to bed?"

I told him to leave me alone and let me finish my business. "Can't a man get a little peace and quit." He then pointed out, "It's 4:30 in the morning. You've been in here 2 hours." With that revelation I tried to get up. I couldn't. My butt had sunk into the ring. It had spread out on the under side of the ring. I was wedged in like a mushroom. I eventually pried a cheek loose. It took weeks for the impression of that ring to go away. I learned to take a pillow with me to the John after this night and a shoe horn.

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BART HIMEL

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

- Lifelong Ascension Parish resident and St. Amant High graduate with deep roots in the community.
- 18 years of service with Baton Rouge Water Company and active involvement in local small business and community events.
- 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 though out Ascension Parish.

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.

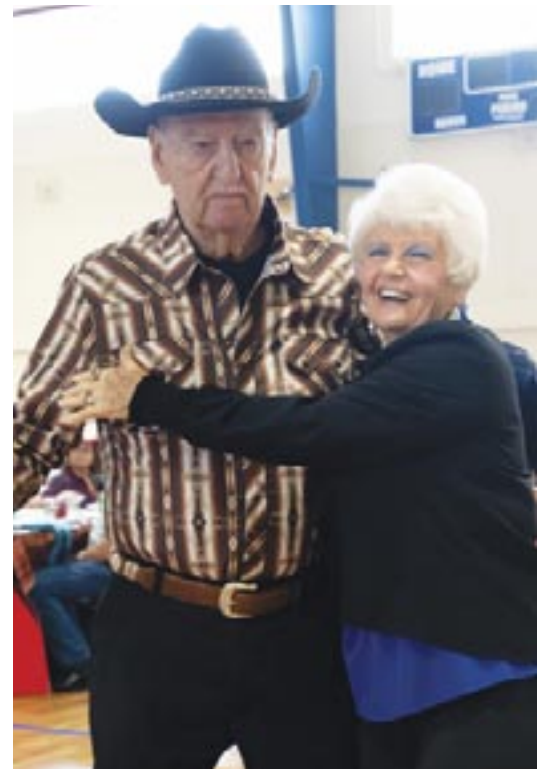
Our youngest daughter, Avery, is a seventh grader at Lake Middle School. She enjoys art and has become a leader within FCA. Both girls are active in the youth group at Fellowship Church, volunteer at community events and benefits throughout the area, and are excited to begin showing livestock in the 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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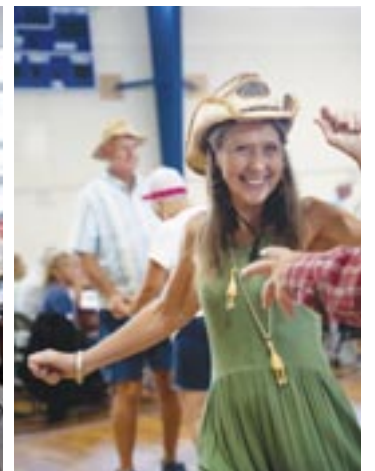
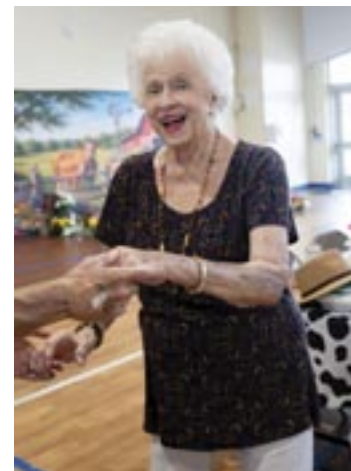
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4 plates

Ingredients:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 2 tbsp butter | 4 green onions, thinly sliced |
| 8 ounces andouille sausage,
cut into ¼ inch slices | 1 tsp salt |
| 2 tbsp ground paprika | 1 bay leaf |
| 1 tbsp ground cumin | 1 cup uncooked brown rice |
| ½ tsp cayenne pepper | 3 cups chicken stock |
| ½ cup diced tomatoes | 1 pound large shrimp,
peeled & deveined |
| 1 large green bell pepper,
diced | Salt & ground black pepper
to taste |
| 2 stalks celery, sliced
¼ inch thick | |

Instructions:

1. Place butter and sausage in a large stockpot over medium heat; cook and stir for 5 minutes until sausage begins to brown.
2. Stir in paprika, cumin, and cayenne; cook for 1 minute
3. Stir tomatoes, onions, celery, green pepper, green onions, salt and bay leaf into sausage mixture.
4. Add brown rice and stir to combine. Stir in chicken stock and turn heat to low. Cover and cook for until rice is just tender, about 45 minutes.
5. Stir in shrimp, replace lid and cook for 5 minutes.
6. Season with salt and black pepper.





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