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Ascension Magazine

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ON THE COVER 90 Years Lamendola's Anniversary Celebration



Louis J. Lambert, Jr., a man of destiny whose accomplishments are now legacy

By David N. Young



A funny thing happened to Louis J. Lambert, Jr., on the way to the Governor's Office. Only in his narrow defeat did he find the victory that would ultimately serve to define his public career.

Family and friends crowded into a small Catholic church in Sorrento this past week to say goodbye to Lambert, a man whose life had been touched by fate and whose legacy of public service will be remembered for generations to come.

Despite the many political and personal challenges Lambert overcame throughout his eventful life, Ascension's favorite son ultimately lost his life to a battle with cancer on Sept. 27.

"As an expression of respect and to honor Louis Joseph Lambert, Jr., the flags of the United States and the State of Louisiana shall be flown at half-staff over the State Capitol and state buildings from sunrise until sunset until Oct. 3," declared Louisiana Gov. Jeff Landry.

Surrounded by his beloved wife of 59 years, Mary Gayle Smith, his children, and extended family, the decorated public servant passed away peacefully in hospice.

Those who knew and served with Lambert say, despite his illustrious political and business career, he never forgot the lessons he learned growing up in the little general merchandise store in Sorrento operated by his parents (Louis, Sr. and Roberta).

"He grew up in a situation where he didn't have a whole lot," said Eddie J. Lambert, Jr., who currently serves in the 18th Senatorial District seat. His father and the father of Louis, Jr., were brothers, he said, making him and



Louis J. Lambert, Jr. (right) Louis and Mary seated on the front porch of the former Tee Joe Gonzales home with their three adopted children, Jessica, Michael and John.

Louis J. first cousins.

"I think Louis never forgot his roots," he said, and that "he always identified with the plight of the 'average guy."

In addition, Eddie Lambert recounted how their grandfather, Lezant Lambert, had moved from French Settlement to the tiny hamlet (that is now Sorrento) to open a general merchandise store in the early 1900s.

Located next to McElroy Swamp, the tiny store provided rations and dry goods to the men and women working at a nearby sawmill supplying cypress timber to a growing America.

Louis, Jr.'s dad had worked in

the oil industry until his parents moved to Sorrento to manage the tiny store. It was in that little store that Lambert learned a valuable lesson that his wife said Louis never forgot.

If the lumber mill families couldn't pay right away, Louis' parents trusted them to eventually do so. Apparently, this practice taught Lambert that public service meant fairness in every transaction, whether selling goods or passing laws.

In lighter moments, Mary said Louis enjoyed "selling snowballs" at the store.

Former state Sen. Joseph A. Sevario III, who served five terms



The Sorrento store from which Lambert always enjoyed "selling snowballs.



Louis J. Lambert prepares to speak early in his career.



Louis gets his high school diploma handed to him by Vice President Richard M. Nixon in 1958. He later studied at Southeastern before graduating from LSU.



Lambert, with his prematurely grey hair, speaks to students outside the Louisiana State Capitol.

in the Senate, was a lifelong friend.

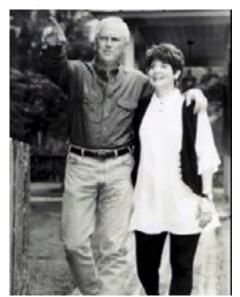
"Back in those days, I was a close friend of the family," explains Sevario, "and we went to the same church. Billy Lambert, Louis' younger brother, and I were best friends, so we all grew up together," said Sevario.

Sevario said he was a few years younger than Louis, about the same age as Billy (who passed away just a few months ago).

"Louis was always ahead of us," said Sevario. "When Billy and I were Boy Scouts, of course, Louis J. was an Eagle Scout. That's just the way he was," said Sevario. "He was always a leader."

In school, Lambert's excellent grades in civics had won him an assignment as a page in the gleaming state capital, so he boarded a Greyhound bus to Baton Rouge for what turned out to be an eye-opening experience.

As a teen, Lambert quickly learned how to wield power. Sevario said that while in their teens, Louis arranged for the three of them to act as ushers at LSU football games in Tiger Stadium. "We really enjoyed that," he said.



Louis and Mary take a walk near New River in Gonzales.

When Louis was 15, urged on by his mother, he wrote a letter to Congressman Jimmy H. Morrison seeking to become a page at the U.S. Capitol. To his family's surprise, he was selected.

By the time the acceptance letter arrived in Sorrento, however, the family had only one day to buy a new suit before sending Lambert on the journey to D.C. and yet another life-changing experience.

Sevario said he and Billy "couldn't wait" for Louis to come home from Washington during those summers to "tell us all about his experiences."

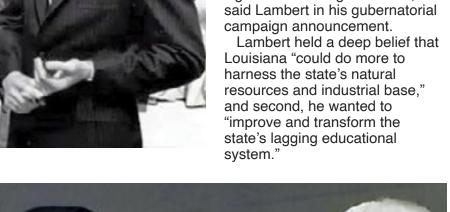
In 1958, Lambert graduated from the U.S. Capitol Page School on Capitol Hill with then-U.S. Senator John F. Kennedy serving as the guest speaker for the ceremony, and Vice President Richard M. Nixon handing him his diploma.

Lambert briefly worked in the Capitol as an elevator operator, once nearly shutting the door on U.S. Senator Allen Ellender, before returning to attend LSU, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree.

Louis had met Mary while working as a lifeguard at the Gonzales pool. They dated the entire time he went to LSU and married soon after he graduated. Although he was accepted by the LSU Law School, Lambert chose to teach and drive an elementary school bus by day to earn a law degree from Loyola Law School by night.

Now equipped with an introduction to government and law, Lambert opened a law firm in Gonzales in 1968 and became the town's attorney. His lingering thirst for politics, however, quickly drew him into the fray.

In rapid succession, he won a State Senate seat and took office in 1972, was selected a delegate



resident, living along New River with his wife, Mary, and their three

Michael, and John. The Lamberts lived in the renovated home of Tee Joe Gonzales, the city's

His gubernatorial candidacy

barnstormed the state, using a fleet of small planes to attract a legion of supporters to

significance facing Louisiana,

There are two problems of great

adopted children, Jessica,

was a long shot as he

founder.

his message.



Louis and Mary were all smiles at their St. Theresa wedding in 1966. They were married for approximately six decades and were together until the end.

to the State's Constitutional Convention a year later, and in 1974 beat long odds to win a seat on the state's Public Service Commission, which was then considered a ticket to the Governor's Office.

As a public servant seeking to represent the little guy, Lambert pledged to "fight utility rate increases, hold utilities accountable, and bring stronger representation to rural and suburban customers" while on the Commission.

Lambert's political ascension seemed unstoppable after he was elected Chairman of the PSC. Often, and quite publicly, he grappled with the state's utility companies, reduced rates, and smiled broadly in repeated photos of mailing rebate checks to utility consumers.

In 1979, at 39, Lambert's political juggernaut rolled into the crowded field running for the Office of Governor. He was armed only with a big dream and an impressive resumé.

Lambert was then a Gonzales

Popular Gov. Edwin Edwards was termed out when Lambert, as PSC Chairman, strode into the race along with the state's most powerful politicians.

In the primary, he faced the state's Lt. Governor, Jimmy Fitzmorris, House Speaker Bubba Henry, longtime Senate leader Edgar Mouton, Jr., and Secretary of State Paul Hardy.

On primary election night, political observers were stunned as Lambert and Fitzmorris were deadlocked as the top Democratic candidates seeking a chance to face Republican David C. Treen. Lambert was behind Fitzmorris in the initial ballots, yet overtook him when last-minute vote tallies came in.

Fitzmorris sued, but a three-judge panel quickly tossed the suit. An embittered Fitzmorris pledged to fight Lambert "every hour that the Lord gives me breath," according to press accounts of the day.

Moreover, after meeting with Treen, each of the other candidates endorsed the



Louis as a child with his mother Roberta, who shared Louis' dreams and urged him to fight for a spot as a U.S. Capitol page, a position he surprisingly won, and which changed the trajectory of his life.

Republican, raising a chorus of voices citing a variety of ethical concerns. Edwards, meanwhile, did give Lambert a tepid endorsement, but the underdog candidate took it all in stride and pointed to his faith and commitment to service. "I cannot perform miracles," said Lambert, "and no one else can except the man upstairs, but I think we should work together. The governor of this state should be a catalyst to bring people together," he said during a debate with Treen.

Although he could not overcome the political layers stacked against him, Lambert still came within one vote in every precinct of becoming governor.

It was when he climbed back in the political saddle in 1994, however, that Lambert finally made his mark.

Later, Lambert further strengthened education as a member of the LSU Board of Supervisors, and he held many other honorary positions. He was admitted to the Louisiana Political Hall of Fame in 2024.

Eddie Lambert believes that the creation of River Parishes Community College was his cousin's finest hour.

"There is no doubt in my mind that the recent announcement by Hyundai to construct a steel plant near Donaldsonville would not have happened without it (RPCC)," he said.

The state senator, whose own political career was "inspired" by his cousin's example, said the River Parishes Community College has repeatedly demonstrated its "dynamic ability to train and educate a specialized industrial workforce."

Sevario said he, too, thinks the community college legislation was a landmark accomplishment for Mr. Lambert, but says the legacy of his run for Governor will also live large in the state's political history.

"To run for Governor as a young guy from Sorrento, who was totally unknown and to work his way up and come so close is a huge accomplishment," said Sevario. "He is the only person from Ascension Parish ever to accomplish that," he said.

After leaving office, Lambert practiced law, developed property, and remained a political force of some measure, even spearheading the Presidential campaign of the late U.S. Senator (and America's first Astronaut in space) John H. Glenn.

From the dusty roads of Sorrento to the pinnacle of power, Louis J. Lambert, Jr lived his life to make a difference for his family and so many others. His life came full circle when he retired, moving back to Sorrento to live out his remaining days.

Ironically, his final tribute at St. Anne's Catholic Church was within walking distance of his parents' general store, where Lambert's big dreams had begun so many years earlier.

Lambert was a man of destiny. His political career did not endear him to all, nor did he win every office he sought. Yet, for sure, he achieved amazing heights, spent more than three decades in elected office, and used political power to leave a world much better off than the one in which he was so modestly born. He was 84.

About the author: David N. Young is a former news editor of the Gonzales Weekly who traveled with Louis Lambert during his gubernatorial campaign and became a lifelong friend of the family. He currently splits his time between Louisiana and Los Angeles, California, where he is Editor at Large for Integrity Newspapers and consults on public affairs. He is an award-winning writer, columnist who currently serves as President of the Orange County, CA Press









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From the Gonzales Garden Club



Hosting the meeting were (seated L to R) Janis Poché, Barbara McCormick, Dale Bowman, (standing L to R) Kathy Guidry, Conchita Richey and Joan Cox.

successful practices for propagation of Louisiana plants. She cited educational literature depicting propagation with labeled plant specimens and named container and landscape plants that can be grown from seeds, cuttings, layering, divisions, grafting and budding. Seeds are the most economical way to propagate. Cuttings benefit from a dip in rooting hormone powder. Layering is a good method for woody plants. Grafting and budding are common practices for pecan and citrus trees. Learning to propagate gives the gardener free plants to fill

Propagation for a Profit

Gonzales Garden Club Member Dale Bowman opens her home to the club at least once a year. On October 1, she hosted the monthly meeting on her brick patio. Sixteen members and a guest speaker attended. The focus of the day was plant propagation to spark initiative for next spring's club plant sale. Some members brought blooms, cuttings and starter plants from their home

gardens to share.

At roll call, attendees identified plants they have successfully propagated. Members have generated ivy, sweet potato vine, coleus, purple heart, ice plant, Christmas cactus, succulents, milkweed, poppies, cat whiskers, salvia, shrimp plant, lantana, angel trumpet, Turk's cap, blue daze, begonias, irises, staghorn fern, rosemary, oakleaf holy, oakleaf



Guest Speaker Mariah Simoneaux gave a presentation about plant propagation on Dale's patio.

Member Zanna Brewer prompted the group to have containers of soil ready to quickly accept cuttings while grooming the garden

hydrangea, azaleas, Shi Shi camellias, rose bushes, bottlebrush trees and sweet olive trees. Dana Teepell and Conchita Richey were specific in their reasons for propagation. Conchita purposely roots cuttings "for whatever I am not sure will come back after winter," and Dana propagates "what I know will be lost in a freeze."

Former Horticulture Agent Mariah Simoneaux, now an active Ascension Master Gardener, explained

garden spaces and empty pots. Producing a new plant fosters a sense of accomplishment and results in homemade gifts for friends.

Garden Inspiration topics were offered by Members Zanna Brewer and Gwen Heck. Zanna brought a stackable tier of planters. She keeps them filled with soil ready to conveniently receive incidental cuttings that occur while she is working in her garden. Gwen brought a cutting of Rangoon



Member Gwen Heck shared the attributes of Rangoon creeper vine with the club.

creeper, an Asian tropical vine that likes full sun. She grows it on latticework for its red flowers that eventually turn pink then white.

Horticulture Hints for October are to dig up and divide caladium bulbs and to collect seeds from warm season plants.



Horticulturist Mariah Simoneaux used a nearby hanging plant to explain layering as a propagation technique.

Conchita's Horticulture in Design tidbit is that bacteria, fungi and plant debris in vase water can block flower stems and prevent water uptake.

This month's hostesses were Dale Bowman, Joan Cox, Kathy Guidry, Barbara McCormick, Janis Poche and Conchita Richey. They served pulled pork on buns with pork 'n beans, coleslaw and candied sweet potato rounds. Dale made a mandarin orange yellow cake with crushed pineapple cool whip frosting alongside her signature bread pudding.

The garden club is set to enjoy two other functions this month: a Destrehan Plantation Tour followed by lunch at Nobile's Restaurant and the Louisiana Garden Club Federation District VI Fall Meeting/Luncheon at the Maritime Museum in Madisonville featuring Dan Gill.

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

Garden Club Yards of the Month

COMMERCIAL



Laquita Harris, manager at McDonald's of 915 N Airline Hwy, gladly accepted the honor of October Commercial Landscape of the Month. The front landscape is planted in mass groupings of day lilies and drift roses with a large clump of purple fountain grass which adds subtle movement to the scenery.

RESIDENTIAL



October winners were thrilled to be chosen. Dale and Anita Spaht on Country Club Drive won Residential Yard of the Month. Their two-acre lot, adorned with moss covered live oaks and crape myrtles, is ready for fall magic with autumn decorations throughout the landscape. The front porch is framed with crape myrtles, asparagus ferns, hibiscuses, yellow chrysanthemums and so much more.



Presley Womack 2025 Miss GonzalesJambalaya Queen

I am your 2025 Miss Gonzales Jambalaya Queen, Presley Womack. Since my reign I have traveled to St. John parish, Lafayette Parish, Tangipahoa Parish and many more. I have learned so many



things from how to crack a whip to how syrup is made. I have also learned how people still work with the "old" tools in such a modernized world. I am so blessed to have such an amazing opportunity to be able to learn new things about my wonderful state. I get the



question a lot of "what's your favorite thing about being a queen," and although getting to travel and learn new things is so fun and life changing, my absolute favorite thing is seeing all the smiles on the little kids faces. Seeing all the smiles makes my heart smile. Although in my mind I am a festival queen and my job is to share the amazing culture of Gonzales, in their mind I am a real life princess. I couldn't say how many times i've heard "MOMMY, MOMMY, LOOK ITS A PRINCESS". Thank you to everyone who has helped me get this far and I can't wait to



make more memories and meet so many new people. My very first event was a pageant and I didn't know anyone there. I walked into the room where all of the other girls were and they all came up to me and introduced themselves to me. I have never felt so welcomed and loved. My first queens day was Washington Watermelon festival and it was so much fun. I learned so

many things and I made even more friends. We rode in the parade and were able to introduce ourselves and share about our festival. We then went to the Washington parish festival building and learned a lot about watermelon farming and what all it entails. Not only do they plant them and water them but they go through each of them and do certain tests to make sure they are safe







to sell. There may be a watermelon "season" but they work all year round. We then made bags to represent our festival. Another event that I recently have gone to was sugar weekend. It was definitely in the top 3 of events that I have been to so far. We arrived to New Iberia around noon, checked in and put our bags into our rooms. We loaded onto a bus and learned how sugar farming worked. We learned about all the cropping seasons and the times of the







day and how the weather affects the cropping during the time. We loaded back onto the bus and went to the hotel, ate and got ready for the pageant to see who the new queen would be. I am so excited to travel with the new queen and make so many new memories. The next day we started off with mass and ended the day with a parade around main street. I have never felt so blessed than to travel this much around the great state of Louisiana and learn all of the new things that make the state so great.

"If you are interested in becoming our next Miss or Teen Gonzales Jambalaya Queen, please visit our website at www.jambalayafestival.org or contact Katie Battaglia at gonzalesjambalayadirector @gmail.com for more information."





YOUR ESTATE MATTERS



By Linda Melancon

Caring Beyond Today: Using a Special Needs Trust to Plan for Your Loved One's Long-Term Needs

The moment a parent first imagines their child's future, they picture possibility: school, work, independence, happiness. But for families of children with developmental disabilities, those dreams often come with an

undercurrent of worry that echoes, "Who will care for my child when I no longer can?"

October is National Special Needs Law Month, designated by the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA), with a goal to raise awareness about the legal needs of people with disabilities and their families. Despite a recent increase in the number of resources available to families, many continue to face the heavy reality of providing lifelong care and the challenge of funding that care without jeopardizing vital government benefits like Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medicaid.

That's exactly where special needs planning comes in.

One of the most effective planning tools available is the Special Needs Trust (SNT). An SNT allows families to set aside funds for a loved one's future care without disqualifying them from SSI or Medicaid. While the rules for how and when trust funds can be used vary by state, the goal is always the same: protecting access to benefits while ensuring long-term security and quality of life.

Consider Laura, a single mom raising her teenage son, Ethan, who has autism. Laura had worked hard to save what she could, but every time she looked at her bank statements, she felt the same knot of anxiety: She knew if she left her money to Ethan directly, he could lose his benefits, but wanted to make sure he got what he needed if anything should happen to her.

Creating a Special Needs Trust brought her the clarity she was searching for. "For the first time," she told me, "I could plan for Ethan's future without feeling like I was putting his support at risk."

Still, as her attorney, I reminded her, establishing the trust was only the first step. The next, and often most overlooked, part of the process is understanding how much care will actually cost over a lifetime.

It's easy to underestimate the true costs of long-term care. What seems like a sufficient amount in the trust today can dwindle quickly once you factor in decades of living expenses and support.

Families should start by listing every anticipated need, including:

- Housing and home modifications
- Ongoing medical care and therapy
- Care assistance and personal support staff
- Transportation and specialized equipment
- Educational or vocational programs
- Replacements and upkeep (from mattresses to vehicles)
- Personal needs such as hobbies, outings, and entertainment

Once you've listed these needs, assign estimated costs to each to identify your long-term funding goal. Working with a local expert ensures that your plan reflects the real costs and available resources in your area.

Funding a Special Needs Trust can be done in several ways. Some families have enough assets to fund the trust immediately. Others may use a combination of retirement accounts (like IRAs, 401(k)s, or 403(b)s), life insurance policies, inheritances, or gifts.

Each of these funding sources can be incredibly useful, but also risky if not properly handled.

Incorrectly structured assets could unintentionally disqualify your loved one from government assistance. That's why partnering with professionals who specialize in special needs planning is key to getting it right.

- For many families, life insurance is a practical and dependable way to fund an SNT. Still, understanding the differences between policy types is crucial:
- Term Life Insurance offers lower premiums for a fixed term (10, 15, or 20 years), but renewal costs increase with age.
- Survivorship Policies, which cover two lives (often both parents), are typically more affordable and pay out after both insured individuals have passed, making them ideal for long-term special needs funding.
- Families with larger estates may also consider an irrevocable life insurance trust (ILIT) to shield the insurance proceeds from estate taxes. No matter the approach, both the trust and the insurance policy must be worded and structured carefully to work as intended.

For Laura, the process wasn't easy, but it was empowering. Families of all income levels can create meaningful, lasting security for their loved ones with special needs. Whether your resources are modest or substantial, thoughtful planning ensures that your loved one's care and quality of life will continue for years to come.

We've made tremendous progress in supporting individuals with developmental disabilities, but awareness of special needs planning is still growing. If you've ever found yourself wondering how to balance care, benefits, and peace of mind, now is the time to start.

A conversation with a qualified special needs planning attorney and financial advisor can transform uncertainty into confidence, and ensure that your loved one's future is every bit as secure and hopeful as you dream it to be.

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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27th Annual Ascension Chamber Golf Classic presented by R.J. Daigle & Sons



The Ascension Chamber of Commerce celebrated its 27th Annual Golf Tournament on Monday, October 6, 2025, at Pelican Point Golf Course, drawing over 200 golfers and featuring 31 tent vendors showcasing hospitality and community spirit.

Despite a bit of rain, participants braved the weather and enjoyed a full day of networking, friendly competition, and fun on the Links and Lakes Courses.

Tent sponsors went above and beyond, serving up food and drinks that kept spirits high throughout the day. Golfers also enjoyed contests, engaging sponsor activities, and opportunities to connect with fellow Chamber members and business leaders. "Our golf tournament is a highlight of the year for the Chamber and our community," said Chamber President/CEO Donnie Miller. "Even a little rain couldn't dampen the energy,

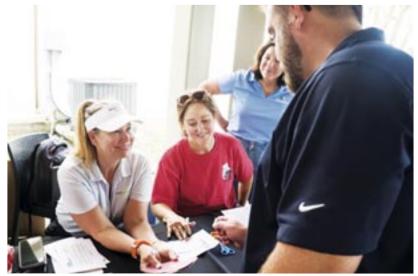
enthusiasm, and hospitality of our members and volunteers who made this event such a success."

The Ascension Chamber thanks all participants, sponsors, volunteers, and Pelican Point Golf Course for helping make this year's tournament a memorable one.

For more information on Chamber events or membership, visit www.ascensionchamber.com or call (225) 647-7487.





























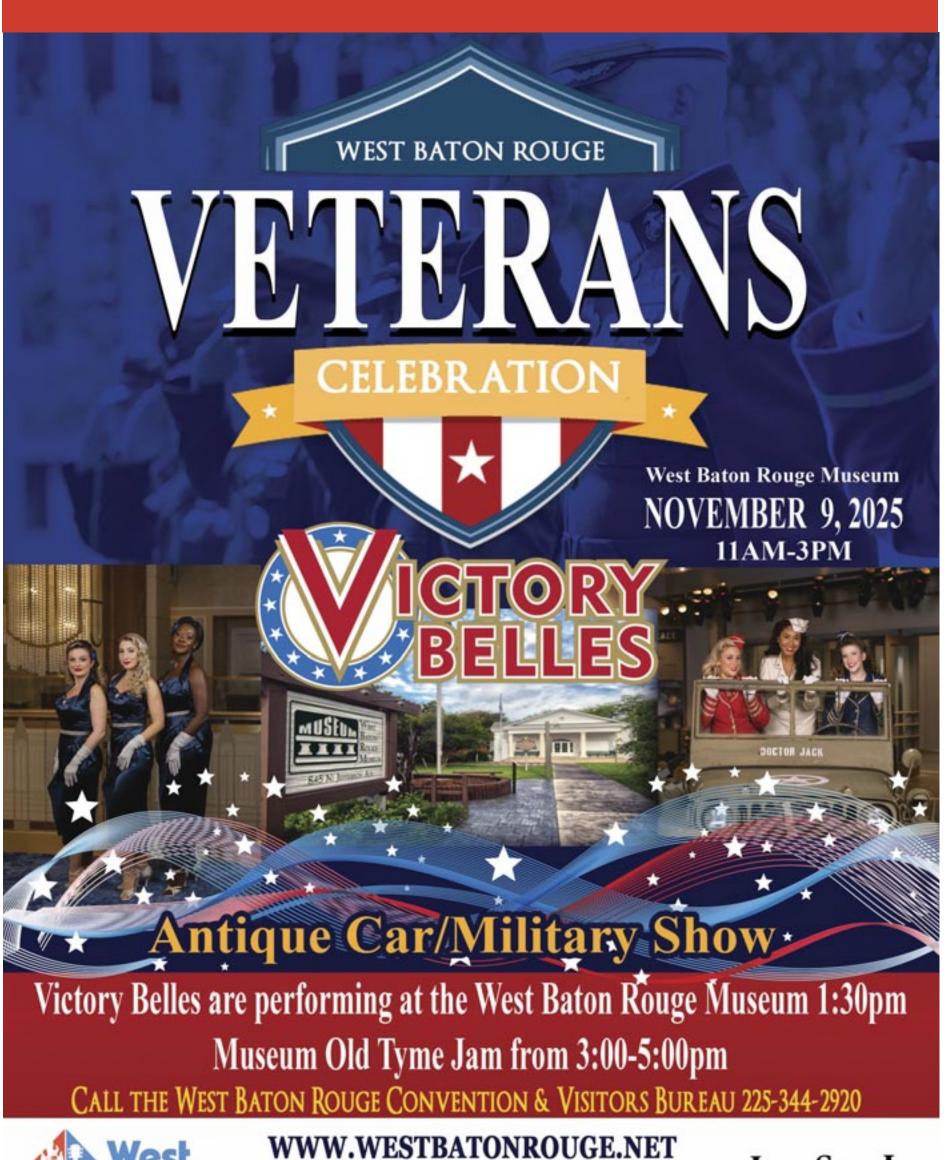














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We have been blessed and busy this month at CHC Closet and Pantry. Finances are always our biggest worry and our biggest blessing when someone donates

We were really blessed this month with a large donation from Atmos. They have helped us on multiple occasions and we really can't thank them enough.

We will also be receiving a grant from the Gonzales Wal-Mart. They have donated in the past also. These corporate donations really take a lot of worry from us.

We know that God will provide but it sure is nice when He does it in a big way.

Ms. Debbie C. gave us a generous donation also. There are a couple of people who send us a regular check each month. We couldn't make it without all of the help.

Rouses Supermarket on Hwy. 42 provided socks, which are always



needed, flip flops and t-shirts. Thanks to Ms. Sharon. We look forward to working with you in the future.

The Gonzales chapter of AARP came to visit and brought new blankets. They will be given out when the weather gets colder.

Clean socks and blankets are always needed for our homeless clients.

We give food and hygiene items

once a month to Ascension Parish families in need. We are only available to clients during these times

Donations can be dropped off during our open hours on Tuesday and Thursday from 9-12.

If you cannot make it during those hours the Cut Rite Tree Service office in the front of our building will accept donations for us Monday-Friday 9-3. They are not able to let people in to shop or receive help.

As we get closer to the holidays our need becomes much greater. Non-perishable food items are

If we don't answer please leave a message and I'll get back with you.

You can also message us on FB @ CHCCloset and Pantry. There are links there to Pay Pal, Cash App and our Amazon wish list.

Message me there also if you would like to be a volunteer.



Manager, CHC Closet and Pantry

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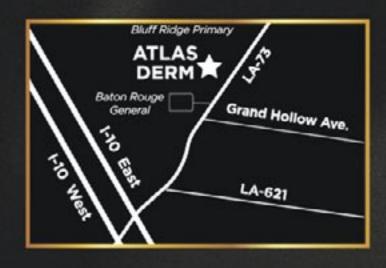






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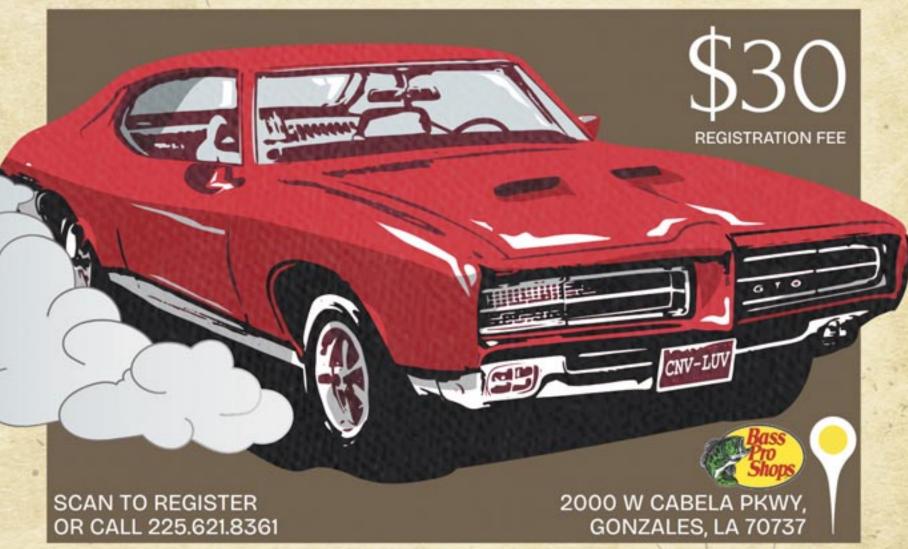


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FINANCIAL FOCUS

Open enrollment: What to know before you enroll

For many people, fall brings an important opportunity: open enrollment. While it may not sound as exciting as planning for the holidays, taking a careful look at your workplace benefits now could save you hundreds or even thousands of dollars next year.

Open enrollment is the period when you will choose your medical and other workplace benefits for the year ahead. Most employers hold it in the fall, with elections taking effect in January. Once the window closes, you usually can't make changes unless you experience a major life

event like marriage, divorce, the birth of a child or when a dependent has become an emancipated

While it may be easy to simply renew last year's choices, that could be a costly mistake. Your employer's plans, providers or costs may have changed. It's also possible your own circumstances are different than they were a year ago — for example, if you had a baby, got married or expect new medical needs. Taking a fresh look helps ensure your benefits match your life today.

Here are a few tips for navigating open enrollment.

Compare health plans carefully. Employers often offer more than one health, dental or vision option.

Look at differences in provider networks, prescription coverage and premiums. If you and your spouse both have coverage options, compare plans across employers. Just be mindful that some companies charge a fee if you enroll a partner who has their own workplace coverage. Many plans offer wellness discounts on monthly premiums based on your personal health condition.

Check your life insurance. Many employers provide a base level of life insurance, with the option to buy more. If your family has grown or your financial responsibilities have increased, now is the time to make sure you have enough coverage to protect your loved ones.

Consider disability coverage. A short-term disability plan can help cover income gaps for up to 12 months during recovery from surgery, illness or childbirth. Long-term disability insurance offers protection if you're unable to work again for an extended period up to age 65. Ideally, coverage should replace up to 60% of your pre-tax income.

Understand supplemental options. Some employers also offer accidental death and dismemberment (AD&D) insurance. While it can provide peace of mind,

remember that it's not a substitute for life or disability insurance, since it only covers specific accidents.

Take advantage of taxfriendly accounts. Flexible spending accounts (FSAs) and health savings accounts (HSAs) let you use pretax dollars for eligible medical expenses. If you have young children or other dependents, ask whether your employer offers a dependent care FSA to help offset care costs. Note that these are use-it-or-lose-it, so contribute only what you expect to spend every year. HSAs, available with highdeductible health plans, are more flexible, since unused funds roll over from year to year and can even serve as long-term savings.

Review your retirement savings. While your retirement plan usually isn't part of open enrollment, this is a good time to revisit it. Make sure you're contributing enough to earn your employer's match. Small increases can make a big difference over time.

Open enrollment may not be the most thrilling item on your fall to-do list, but it could be one of the most important. Taking a little time now to review your employee group benefits could give you greater financial security and extra savings throughout the year.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Edward Jones. Member SIPC.



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Four Generations of Lamendola's Celebrate 90 Years

In 1936, Angelo Lamendola, following in the entrepreneurial footsteps of his father Antonio Lamendola – who emigrated from Alia, Sicily to Louisiana and established a bar room and fruit stand – opened Pleezing Food Superette on the very site of his father's original business; and

Angelo's journey began with humble roots, peddling bananas and selling bread from a horse-drawn carriage, where he met his wife Eva, and together they raised four children: Ruby Ann, Nolan (Sonny), Glenn, and Anthony (Tony).

The Lamendola family expanded their business in 1947 and joined Associated Grocers in 1957, eventually relocating across the street and renaming the store to Lamendola's Supermarket in 1958 under the leadership of Sonny Lamendola. Sonny was a forward thinker ahead of his time and implemented many new ideas that propelled Lamendola's ahead of the competition. Sonny also served on the Board of **Directors at Associated**



Grocers for 30 years.

Sonny and his wife Nona raised five children – Craig, Blair, Jill, Bill, and Jan – continuing the family legacy, with Blair joining the store in 1974 and later earning the title of Jambalaya Champion in 1989 and 1991, and Champion of Champions in 2003, solidifying Lamendola's as a culinary landmark in Ascension Parish.

In 1995, Blair and his wife Linda took ownership of the store, raising two daughters, Eva and Daphne. Throughout Blair's years of ownership, he made large contributions to Lamendola's stand out niche's



including homemade sausage, fried turkeys, hog head cheese, and famous cornbread dressing. Blair also added a large cast iron section unique to Ascension Parish while drawing customers from across the country.



In 2013, Daphne Lamendola acquired ownership from her father Blair. Daphne has one son, Easton Lamendola Brazzel. Daphne oversaw two major renovations to the store. In 2019, the meat department did a complete renovation, along with the back of the house and parking lot. In 2023, the store underwent another major renovation in the deli/bakery area. In 2021, Daphne became the first woman to serve on the Board of Directors for Associated Grocers, following in her grandfather, Sonny's, footsteps.





4 Generations of Lamendola's







2nd - "Sonny"



3rd - Blair



4th - Daphne







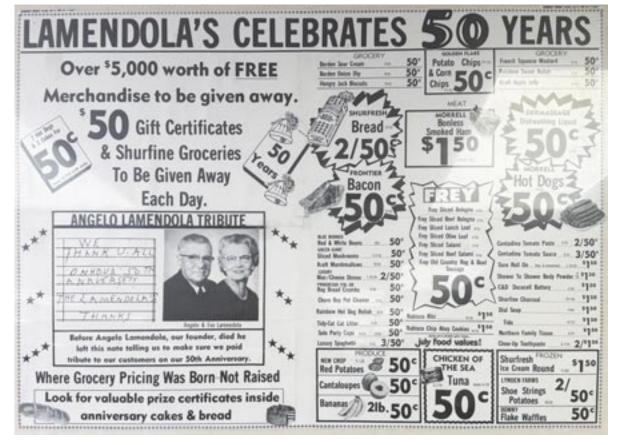
Daphne and her son, Easton, now work alongside each other continuing the family legacy of Lamendola's Supermarket's future 5th generation.

Lamendola's Supermarket has been a cornerstone of the community for 90 years, providing quality goods, exceptional service, and a legacy of family values and hard work that continues to inspire generations.



Angelo Eva

WWW.LAMENDOLASSUPERMARKET.COM













East Ascension Sportsmans League

Letter from president - Greg Cedotal

On October 4th EASL held the Annual Squirrel Rodeo at Merle Gautreaux's place. As contestants faced strong winds with the hope of seeing squirrels and reaching their limit, it was not to be. Chairman Cary Gautreaux welcomed the four hunters who weighed in their take for the first hunt of the season. The first one to weigh-in was Jamie Guedry with four squirrels, second was Lyle Johnson with two squirrels, third was Troy Paxton with five squirrels and fourth was Raymond Fink with five squirrels. There were some good stories about what could have been and the

hunters who did not come to the weigh-in. Thank you to Byron Gautreau for cooking a jambalaya for the participants and tournament officials.

On Sunday we enjoyed a squirrel gravy with white beans and potato salad thanks to the cooks, Todd Breaux and Caled Melancon. Thank you to everyone who brought their private stash of squirrels to help have enough to cook. We had a great time socializing and playing games. At the end of the days events the winners were announced. Third place was Jamie Guidry with 4.97 pounds, second place was Raymond Fink with 5.86 pounds, and the winner of total weight and big squirrel was Troy Paxton with 6.23 pounds total weight and a

1.44-pound big squirrel. Thank you to Merle and Dwain Gautreaux for hosting this event.

The Big Buck Contest is in full swing. See the website for the rules.

EASL's next meeting is December 15th at the VFW Hall on Churchpoint Rd.

Now for a little bit about EASL events. You must be a member to participate in these events. The next EASL Bass Club tournament will be on November 8th. It will be their Classic. If you are interested in fishing with the bass club, contact Jim Hebert at 225-717-6037. The 22 Rifle Silhouette Match will be October 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 get on the board.

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.



Pictures left to right, Jamie Guidry, Chairman Cary Gautreaux, President Greg Cedotal, Raymond Fink and Troy Paxton

EASL Bass Club News

The EASL Bass Club fished their recent Tournament on September 13th. They fished another "trailer tournament" with boats able to launch from Amelia to Pigeon at the launch of their choice. The weigh in was held at the Spillway Public Launch at 3:00 PM. There were 17 boats participating on that day. The weather was another hot one and the

The winner of the Tournament was

fishing was tough.

Jeff Coolman fishing alone, with a limit weighing 12.88 lbs.

Second place was the team of Bubba Rossi & Tim Guillaume with a limit weighing 10.12 lbs.

Third place was the team of Shane & Dez Elisar with a limit of 9.50 lbs.

Big Bass winner was Jeff Coolman with his Bass that weighed 3.56 lbs.

Congratulations to the winners of the September

Tournament. The next event is scheduled for October 11th. The meeting to plan the tournament will be October 2nd at Dirk Anderson's home on Babin Road.

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

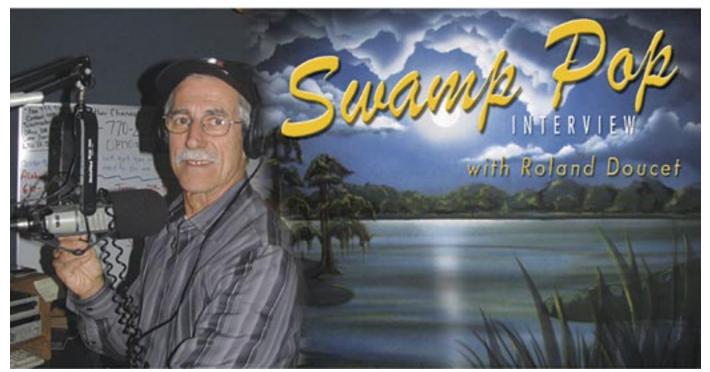


Left to right, Shane & Dez Elisar, Jeff Coolman, Bubba Rossi & Tim Guillaume



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A walk through time with Alon Gautreaux

By Roland Doucet

First off I want to thank Mike
Strong and the powers that be
at Ascension Magazine for
asking me do an article on the
artist that I respect so much for
what they have given and
continue to give to Ascension
Parish and surrounding areas.

I will be interviewing various artists for these articles; however, I am going beyond the leader of the band and giving you a glimpse into the rest of the music men. You probably don't realize that on any given performance by a local band the years of experience standing before you is staggering. I want you to get to know the support group that make the great music we all love so much.



Someone that has been around the proverbial block is Alon Gautreau, "Mr. Sax". I sat with Alon and his lovely wife Cheryl at their home with coffee, pen & pad and this is what I found out...

Alon started his musical journey at age seven listening to WSLG with his mom. He knew he wanted to make music like what came out of the radio. In the 5th grade, along with some like minded friends; Ronnie Melancon & Jerry Breaux, they started practicing at Ronnie's house in Sorrento. (I bet Ronnie's parents Tony & Nora loved that!)

After some practice they started to get some gigs.
Birthday parties, Halloween parties and just some small parties. Alon was playing the slide trombone at this time and they played together for about a year.

In 1961 Johnny Sanchez approached Alon about joining a band that he had organized called "The Bluenotes". For a couple of years Alon played the slide trombone with these guys then Johnny said they needed a baritone sax. Alon, figuring this was a good opportunity went to his band director Clark Giffin at St Amant. The school was a K-12 grade school at that time (Too long ago for some of you to remember). Mr. Giffin loaned Alon a baritone sax for him to learn on. With the money he made from playing music he bought his own baritone sax and played that for three or four years. When they decided they needed a tenor sax Alon once again went to Mr. Giffin.

For the next eleven years Alon played with the "Bluenotes." Wanting to take a different direction, Alon formed his own band. The music on the radio at that time was bands like Earth, Wind and Fire. So at 17 he started the "New Blues" band and arranged all the horn parts. At this point Alon decided that they needed some "eye candy" that could sing. He had just the girl in mind, his choir partner Debbie Benzine. For the next few years they had a good run with the "New Blues."

At 23 years of age Alon had the opportunity to play with the legendary Van Broussard. I was curious about how it was to play with Van at that time. According to Alon, Van was quiet and reserved and mostly let the music do the talking (so some things haven't changed). The hard- est thing about playing with Van was when he started a song you better know what song you were getting ready to play by the key he was play- ing or the first strum of the guitar. Alon was on the first recording of "Lord I Need Somebody Bad Tonight".

After that he played with friends like "little" Bob Henderson and his sister Tariva. He sat in with a lot of different bands and learned different keys and progressions of music. Alon seems to me to be a sponge soaking up all the knowledge he can and converting it into his own style. He went on to play with Henry Broussard's band, Joe Landry and the

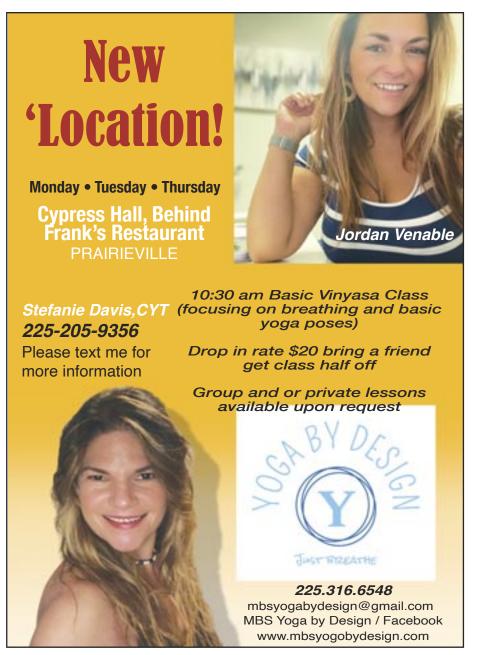
Southland Band and Kenny Cornett and the Killin' Time Band.

At this point he hooked up with Kenny Fife and the Bac Trac Band and has been fixture on the bandstand with Kenny for well over a decade. Alon and Kenny also do a two piece band for smaller venues, mostly because they love play- ing music. Alon is a vocalist but the majority of the time he has his lips wrapped around the sax.

Since his retirement from his "day job" he and Cheryl raise teacup Chihuahuas, Yorkies and Maltese puppies that they send all over the country. He has two daughters Maisie and Judy. I asked Alon, what makes a popular band aside from good music and his answer was spot on. He said he has always made it a point, after setting up the equipment, to go around the room and talk to the people there, thanking them for coming out to see them or just shaking hands and shooting the breeze. From my observations he hit the nail on the head!

So next time you see Alon playing somewhere be sure to shake his hand and thank him for all the years of great music. I want to thank Alon and Cheryl for their dedication to the music and the wonderful memories past and future.

Thank You Roland for letting Ascension Magazine re-run these articles. They truly shine the brightest light on our musical community.





THE HORRORS OF A HALLOWEEN PODCAST OR GRAVEYARD SMASH

by Bill Delaune

"It was Halloween night 1959-but it wasn't the ghosts and goblins that had LSU in trouble. Mostly it was a tough Ole Miss defense that had the Tigers on the short end of a 3-0 score. With 10 minutes left to go in the game, Ole Miss was forced to punt..."

-- Every LSU fan worth his purple and gold Tony Chachere's knows what happened next. Tiger great Billy Cannon-disobeying his coach's orders about fielding punts inside his 15-picked up the ball on one bounce and ran 89 yards through the entire Rebel team for the go-ahead touchdown. Then-after catching his breath-Cannon went out on defense and stopped the Rebs on the one-yard line to preserve the 7-3 victory.

Happy Halloween, boys and ghouls, and welcome to Blackcat Bill's special abominable broadcast from Gonzales's own historic spooky spot-the legendary Light Lane, the site of many strange visions back in the 1950's and 60's.

Today, we will be taking calls from our atrocious audience for some suggestions on new tricks to liven up the anemic LSU offense and some treats to help the Saints in any area whatsoever. Let's get right to our first caller, Frank Stein from All Parts, USA. Welcome, Frankie...

--Thanks, Blackcat. I believe I can provide a monstrous upgrade at the Tigers' tight end position. Coach Brian Kelly always talks about using the tight ends in the passing game like he did at Notre Dame and when LSU had Mason Taylor. But lately it seems to be a forgotten position. Being 6-10, 400 pounds, I believe I make a big enough target that even a sore-armed Garrrett Nussmeier couldn't miss me.

As far as speed, I drag my feet a bit but my hands once belonged to an IRS agent and they are known to be able to squeeze blood from a turnip so



dropped passes won't be a problem.

--Well, you certainly would be useful in bad-weather games because lightning just seems to give you life. But speaking of blood, we have a doctor on the line-Dr. Acula from Transylvania-What's up, Doc?

--Since I always play for blood, I believe I could help both teams with their red zone issues. I am a devoted disciple of Coach Nick Saban who preached a "step on their throat and go for the jugular" style of play. I really don't care how that reflects on me as a person because I have no reflection at all.

Like LSU and its tailgating fans, I prefer night games when the crowd is going absolutely batty. Just make sure those TV games don't last until Sunday morning when all those churchgoers break out their crosses and holy water and hold the garlic in

my gumbo.

--And I suppose you want your steak very rare and not wooden, right Doc? Up next-Lon Chaney from Wolf Breath, Wyoming-you say you're an expert in change...?

--That's correct, Blackcat. I may look like a mild-mannered office worker but on certain nights, I can become a vicious creature. Aren't coaches always looking for the player who is a model student in the classroom and an animal when

he gets on the field? Well, as long as the team doesn't have any grooming rules about hair and beards, I'm your man.

Like the previous caller, I really do my best work at night-especially those with a full moon. And no Coors beer for me, please. There's something about those silver bullets.

--And if the Saints get one of those London games, I believe you may have some relatives over there to howl at the moon with you. Let's take a call from Hadddonfield, Illinois-Michael Myers, welcome back to the show...

--Thanks, Blackcat. As many times as I've been back to my hometown, I don't think I've heard those words-"Welcome back". I believe I can teach both LSU and the Saints a little bit about comebacks.

Don't ever let the fans, the media or even your teammates tell you that you're dead. I've been shot, burned, run over and thrown off cliffs and I survived. And I don't even get so much as a Homecoming parade when I return home to call on relatives. So don't let one loss or a key injury derail your goals. Keep on slashing away at your detractors like an insane person and don't let anyone stand in your way.

--Well, that certainly was an intense gentleman. But you must admit-he's made more comebacks than Richard Nixon and Mike Tyson combined. What's that? We had Jason from Camp Crystal Lake on the phone but all he wanted to discuss was hockey so he was cut off by Freddy from Elm Street. Go ahead, Fred...

--Look, let's get one thing straight-I don't want to be known as just another pretty face around here. You don't have to be a "dreamboat" to get things done. In fact, it's better if you're known as their worst nightmare.

Put me in, coach, and with my special glove, we'll never be accused of being shorthanded.

--Pretty sharp caller if you ask me. But what would Halloween be without a call from New Orleans's legendary late night horror host Morgus the Magnificent, What do you think of the lineup so far, Morgus?

--Hey, Blackcat, if you ever need some sucker to whip that bunch of creeps into shape, give me a call. Look what I've done coaching my assistant Chopsly. He used to dismember everything in sight and last year he only took one guy's arm off in an unfortunate doubloon incident at Mardi Gras.

But I've been campaigning for change in New Orleans for years. First of all, we have to change the Saints' nickname. This holy name ain't working in a city of sin. Now what is the toughest, meanest critter in the city-I mean an animal that can survive in water unfit for human use? Why the New Orleans nutria, of course.

Even Harry Lee's

crackshot deputies couldn't put a dent in that rugged rodent's routine. Plus we're talking about a state where road kill is a staple and still the nutrias thrive.

When that's; done, then we get that flower off the helmets. Replace the fleur de lis with a pair of those scary orange teeth-oh, the colors will be black and orange now for Halloween. Just look what happened in Tampa Bay when they replaced that gay blade with the skull and crossbones-instant contender.

Then we need a new stadium at a different location. They built that Superdome right on

top off the Poydras Street Graveyard and the team has been cursed ever since. Didn't anybody see "Poltergeist?"

--Great ideas, Morgus, but we're out of time. But if we need someone to coach a team with a monstrous tight end, a couple of slashing runners and some neversay-die wackos –well, you're first on the list.

Oh, and can you ask your friend Anne Rice if she has an extra tomb for Dr. Acula at Halloween? He's visiting fiends and needs a crypt to crash.







BAND SCHEDLUES

October

- 17 Chris Prior & the Main Event
- 18- Letters in Red
- 19- Quarter Shots Band
- 24- Clustafunk

25- Halloween party costume contest DJ Bullet & DJ Atomic 26- Pretty in Pink Ryan Foret & the Foret Tradition 31- True Spin

November

- Chris Leblanc Band feat. Zydeco Mike
- 2-TBD
- 7-TBD
- 8- Yeah You Right Band
- 9- The Mojoes
- **14-TBD**
- 15- Whiskey Bent
- 16- TetDur





Jammin'with Coosie

Getting Ready

"Paw Paw. I want to go squirrel hunting with you in the morning. I'll get mom to drop me off this evening and spend the night at your house if that's ok with you". As a proud grandfather would do, I quickly replied yes to that inspiring request. Soon after receiving the call, preparations for the next day soon began, beginning with yet another call from me to an old hunting buddy of mine. He assured me that he would love to participate in the next morning's adventure. At that point I had to get on the internet and print out a permit that is required of each person to possess while hunting on the Cat Island National Wildlife Refuge. With that mission accomplished I then began gathering all the gear needed to make the hunt. I had made a couple of

squirrel hunts prior so in just a short time my old Marlin 22 rifle and all of the necessities needed for hunting with that firearm had been collected. When that was completed I then began looking for all of the gear that my granddaughter would need. This would involve another firearm, steel shot shells which are required on the WMA, another pair of boots, another gun case etc. It took a couple of hours to complete the chore but at last everything that we needed was stored in a nice little pile and ready for the next day's outing.

I'm a firm believer of having everything that I need for the next day hunting or fishing trip found and placed into one particular spot on the day before the event takes place. Nothing good will come from waking up early while you're still half asleep, usually in a rush, and not being able to find much needed equipment that in



most cases make your day more successful, comfortable, enjoyable and safe. Goods that can't be put together on the day before such as ice, drinks, perishable food items etc. need to be written on a list for a quick reminder the next morning. The act of getting ready is a very important and enjoyable part of any outdoor adventure. In many instances getting prepared is as much of a fulfilling experience to me as the actual outing itself can be.

Our squirrel hunt to Cat Island went well on that particular morning. My hunting buddy got three nice fox squirrels. My granddaughter and I saw

several that had seen us first and that don't typically work out too well. We missed one and harvested none, saw a couple of whitetails and all in all had a great time. One thing for sure is that because of my preparation on the day before we had all that was needed for a very enjoyable walk in the fall woods that morning.

Those of us with a little age on our bones can still remember the excitement of getting prepared for the opening day of squirrel season back years ago. Getting ready for that was a thrilling event to say the least and to this day it still is for many including myself. I recall the act of actually counting shells, trying to find my mosquito dope and not being able to sleep that night at all. The same vibes come with the opening of dove, rabbit, turkey, duck, and deer season. Each experience involves some of the same as well as other forms of preparedness. Whatever the occasion may be, getting ready for it sure increases my heartbeat. I must say that the pulse now isn't what it once was in my younger days but the interaction of getting ready still affects me today in a very precious way.



Time to begin

James "Goosie" Guice





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Useless Random Facts with Kellie

Bananas are technically berries, but strawberries aren't, due to how their seeds grow.

Sharks have been around for longer than trees, about 50 million years longer, in fact.

Water can boil and freeze at the same time under specific pressure conditions.

The smell of freshly cut grass is a plant's distress signal.

The Eiffel Tower grows about 6 inches taller in the summer due to heat expansion.

Ancient Egyptian servants were smeared with honey to attract flies away from pharaohs.

Vikings didn't wear horned helmets—this was a myth created by 19th-century artists

Japan has a museum entirely dedicated to rocks that resemble human faces.

Humans emit a small amount of natural bioluminescence, but it's too faint to see.

-Your heart rate syncs up with the rhythm of music you listen to.

-Yawning helps cool down your brain like a natural air conditioner.

Thoughts from Bully

I Remember When!!!

This article isn't for everybody. You have to be a certain age for it to make since. Of course you can Google these things and you may have a good time searching.

I was looking through some old boxes and a bottle of Merthiolate fell out. It triggered a thought of if I had a scratch or cut Mom was reaching for the Merthiolate. I knew it was going to burn and I would hide wounds to avoid the torture.



I then started to think about other things from the past. Here are a few of my favorites that I liked and miss.

I miss Johnny Carson. You could watch late night television and be entertained with out the political bias of liberal late night network shows of today. When Johnny ask Michael Landon (Little Joe) of Bonanza, "How did you guys live with no women in the house? Little Joe answered, "Thank God Hop Sing was gay!" That wouldn't have made it on television these days.

I miss Mighty Mouse singing, "Here I come to save the day." My favorite cartoon.

I watched Ed Sullivan and saw the Beatles and Rolling Stones. I was 7 or 8 but it exposed me to the big world that was out there outside the hills of country Mississippi.

I miss Red Skelton and his



sign-

ing off from the show with, "And May God Bless."

It was in the 60's when I saw the Elvis movie "Viva Las Vegas!" As a young man Ann Margaret walking in those yellow hot pants made a lasting impression on me.

After school in my early years there were afternoon television shows like 'Paul Revere and the Raiders' then a new shows started playing.

Networks invented the Monkees. I learned all their songs and my Uncle Joe took me to a Monkees concert when I visited him in Shreveport. My first concert.

'Hey, hey, we're the Monkees And people say we monkey around

But we're too busy singing To put anybody down '

Back in the day there were lots of simple, funny stupid concept television shows such as, "Green Acres is the place to be. Farm living is the life for me!" How about, Gilligan's Island, 'Just sit right back and you'll hear a tale of a fateful trip, that started from this tropic port, aboard this tiny ship. The mate was a mighty sailin' man, the Skipper brave and sure, five passengers set sail that day, for a three hour tour, a three hour tour.' You probably can sing the rest. This show also left many a young man with the question, "Who would you want to be stranded with Ginger or Mari Anne? I was a Mari Anne guy.

These shows gave all us youngster something to watch and be entertained. There wasn't an internet. There were a bunch of them. Petticoat

Junction was one. I remember the excitement when 'The Flintstones' came on at six on Friday night. Off course there was the classic 'Andy Griffith'. He and Barney lit up the world with pure holsom comedy. An American Classic.

In my very young years
Mom's favorite show was Perry
Mason. I didn't understand it
but after she would put a pillow
in her lap and get me to lay
down. She'd give me some
salty peanuts and then quinch
my thirst with a sip of her
Falstaff. Then she would put
Twilight Zone or Shock Theater
on and scare me to close my
eyes and I'd fall asleep.

As I moved into my teenage years there were night time variety shows. I think 'Laugh In' was the first and then Carol Burnett. Sunday afternoon Hee Haw was a big hit. Mary Tyler Moore introduce the country to great comedy writing and didn't rely on slap stick for laughs. Ted Night evenly became Judge Smails in the classic 'Caddy Shack' and stole the show.

In 1971 the first situation comedy hit the networks. It also was a controversal script that pitted conservative ideas against liberal ideas. Both sides got their points across and it was funny as hell. I remember the first time the tv came on and these words were coming through the speakers.

Boy the way Glen Miller played,

Songs that made the hit parade,

were then.

Guys like us we had it made, Those were the days, And you know who you

Girls were girls and men were men.

Mister we could use a man like Herbert Hoover again, Didn't need no welfare states Everybody pulled his weight, Gee our old Lasalle ran great,

Those were the days

That's right 'All in the Family' came on the air and we couldn't get enough. Things were being said that no one would say in public on both sides. We fell in love with Edith and adjusted our schedules because television shows couldn't be recorded then so you had to be home by 7 or you would miss it.

A long line of shows followed Archie's rants such as 'The Jefferson's', 'Maude' and "Good Times' with the favorite saying, "Dynomiteee".

In 1972 the comedian Redd Foxx suited up as Fred Sanford in the hilarious 'Sanford & Son'. It was the book end to combat the bigoted white protagonist Archie Bunker of 'All in the Family' and it worked. Both blacks and whites loved both shows and had a since of humor. Lamont the voice of reason. LaWanda Page, the black queen of comedy was Aunt Ester and Fred's comments of how ugly she was made me laugh every time.

In 1972 a classic show began and it ran 256 episodes from 1972 and 1983.

MASH was a new wave in comedy. It was smart and creative touching on pure comedy and serious political divides but it always was American. Friends in a war zone that had a critical job to do. Each show could have you grabbing your side laughing or have tears running down your face. It was my favorite during the week and I still watch reruns today.

When I started college in 1975 Saturday Night Live was the go to show that you just couldn't miss on the weekend.

I miss skits such as 'Cheese burger, cheese burger' or 'Land shark'. How about 'Roseanne Roseannadanna'. George Carlan was the first host. We learned the 7 words you can't say on television. When John Belushi created Samurai Futaba some of the greatest skits were born. He set the bar high when he performed 'Samurai Night Fever'. There are too many actors and characters to mention but I have to mention Eddie Murphy as Buh-Weet Sings. When he busted out wit, 'Wook fa Nub' you had to get me off the floor.

I remember when SNL was funny and not a political pile of dung.

I miss the Beverly Hill Billies. When I heard the song I came running to the tv.

'Come and listen to my story 'Bout a man named Jed

A poor mountaineer, Barely kept his family fed.'

I miss being a kid and yelling 'Scobeeeee!' and running out of the room.

"Sonny" Turns 97

























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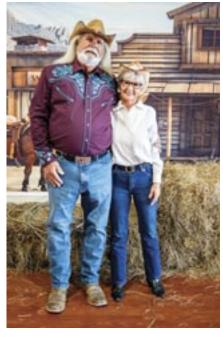
































































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SHRIMP & MIRLITON STUFFING (Chayote)



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Prep: 40 minutes

Cook Time: 25 minutes

Servings: 8

Ingredients:

6 mirlitons

1 ½ lbs baby shrimp

2 cups finely chopped onion

1 cup finely chopped celery

1 cup finely chopped bell pepper

2 tbls minced garlic

½ cup thinly sliced green onions

1/4 cup creole mustard

1 ½ cups bread crumbs

(more or less depending on your preference)

Salt, black pepper and red pepper to taste.

(2 tsp salt, 1 tsp black pepper, ½ tsp red pepper)

Method:

Place the miriltons in a large pot and cover with water. Bring the water to a boil and cook for about 20 minutes or until tender. Drain in a colander and cool. When cool enough to handle, half the mirlitons, peel, then remove the seeds and cut into cubes.

While the militons are cooking, cook your onions, celery, bell pepper and garlic in a little olive oil until tender. Add the mirlitons and shrimp and cook until shrimp are done (about 15 minutes). Remove from heat, then add the creole mustard, green onions, bread crumbs and seasoning. Mix well.

Preheat oven to 450 degrees. In a greased baking dish, evenly spread your stuffing and bake for 20-25 minutes or until brown. Sprinkle the top with parmesan cheese and serve.

** Great stuffing for chicken, turkey, or pork**



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Specialty Meats & More



Bacon Wrapped Stuffed Tenderloins

stuffing choices: Brisket & Pepper Jack Cheese Brisket, Jalapeno & Cheese Mac n' Cheese

Jalapeno & Cream Cheese Boudin & Pepper Jack Cheese Pulled Pork & Pepper Jack Cheese Glazed w/ Pepper Jelly & Brown Sugar w/ Jalapeno & Cream Cheese

Bacon Wrapped Boneless Chicken Thighs

stuffing choices: Boudin & Pepper Jack Cheese Boudin & Jalapeno Jalapeno & Cream Cheese

Fresh Sausage

Pepper Jack Cheese
Jalapeno & Cheese
Green Onion
Cajun Green Onion
Regular
Italian
Alligator
Jalapeno & Cane Syrup
Green Onion Chicken
Crawfish
Alligator Green Onion

Alligator Jalapeno

Bacon Wrapped Stuffed Duck Breast

stuffing choices: Mac n' Cheese Jalapeno & Cream Cheese Brisket & Pepper Jack Cheese Boudin & Pepper Jack Cheese

Boneless Pork chops Stuffed with Boudin

Partial De-boned Stuffed Chicken

stuffing choices:
Brisket & Pepper Jack Cheese
Rice Dressing
Red Beans & Rice
Mac n' Cheese
Pulled Pork & Pepper Jack Cheese
Loaded Mashed Potatoes

Smoked Sausage

Pepper Jack Cheese
Jalapeno & Cheese
Green Onion
Cajun Green Onion
Regular
Andouille
Pineapple & Brown Sugar
Alligator
Crawfish
Duck

Lagniappe

Regular Boudin
Pepper Jack Cheese Boudin
Hoghead Cheese
Smoked Andouille
Shrimp Burger Patties
Jalapeno Chicken Patties
Green Onion Chicken Patties
Boneless Chicken Tenders
Boneless Skinless Chicken Thighs
80/20 Ground Beef
Pre Cut Jambalaya Pork
Meatloaf
Hamburger Patties
Pepper Jack Hamburger Patties

Crawfish Cornbread Gumbos & Stews

Seafood Gumbo
(gallon or quart)
Chicken & Sausage Gumbo
(gallon or quart)
Shrimp Stew
(quart)
Shrimp Etouffee
(quart)
Chicken Sauce Picante
(quart)
Pork Sauce Picante
(quart)
Crawfish Stew
(quart/seasonal)

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Cooking Instructions

Bacon Wrapped Chicken Thighs

Completely thaw and place on a sheet pan. Do not cover. Preheat oven to 350. Cook for approximately 60-90 min or until internal temperature is at 155.

Boneless Stuffed Pork Chops

Completely thaw and place on a sheet pan. Do not cover. Preheat oven to 350. Cook for approximately 45 min or until internal temperature is at 155.

Crawfish Cornbread

Completely thaw and place in oven. Do not cover. Preheat oven to 350. Cook for approximately 30-45 min or until golden brown.

Bacon Wrapped Tenderloins Bacon Wrapped Duck Breast

Completely thaw and place on a sheet pan. Do not cover. Preheat oven to 350. Cook for approximately 60-90 min or until internal temperature is at 155.

Partial De-boned Stuffed Chicken

Completely thaw and place on a sheet pan. Do not cover. Preheat oven to 350. Cook for approximately 60-90 min or until internal temperature is at 155.

Bacon Wrapped Chicken Thighs

Completely thaw and place on a sheet pan. Do not cover. Preheat oven to 350. Cook for approximately 60-90 min or until internal temperature is at 155.



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