

COMPLIMENTARY

# Ascension

## M A G A Z I N E

NOVEMBER 2025, VOL. 23 ISSUE 11



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## ON THE COVER ..... Layne's Jewelry Christmas Specials



## Fall is in the Air

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# Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation and the City of Gonzales Team of Dreams Baseball Clinic



The Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation (CRSF) in partnership with the City of Gonzales joined the Team of Dreams league for a spirited evening of baseball, mentorship, and community. The event, held at the Team of Dreams Field, brought together families, local leaders, and young athletes to celebrate the power of sport in building brighter futures.

"This field and league are about more than just baseball," said Courtney Stephens, Director of Programs and Grants at the Cal

Ripken, Sr. Foundation. "They're a symbol of what's possible when a community comes together to invest in its youth. Our partnership with the City of Gonzales has been instrumental in creating inclusive spaces and meaningful opportunities for children of all abilities."

The evening featured baseball games as well as opportunities for kids to connect with mentors and peers. It also highlighted the ongoing commitment of CRSF and local partners to foster resilience,

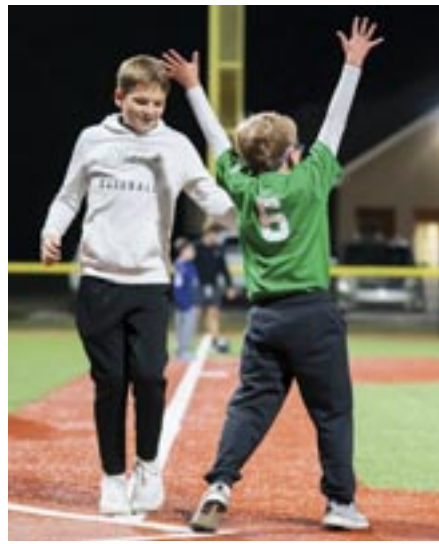
teamwork, and leadership among Gonzales youth.

"I want to echo all of Courtney's sentiments. Team of Dreams has been great for the city, Ascension Parish, and all of those families who have made it such a special success," said Mayor Tim Riley. "We treasure our partnership with the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation that made it possible and we look forward to more joint projects in the future."

Since 2020, CRSF and the City of Gonzales have partnered to support youth development through the Team of Dreams Field and a range of inclusive programs. This collaboration has created safe, welcoming spaces where children of all abilities can learn, grow, and thrive, both on and off the field.







**About the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation**

The Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation helps to strengthen America's most underserved and distressed communities by supporting and advocating for children, building Youth Development Parks and STEM Centers, partnering with law enforcement and youth-service agencies, and addressing community needs through its national program initiatives. CRSF has opened nearly 800 STEM Centers nationwide, gifting children in communities across the country a new access to state-of-the-art

technology, hands-on learning experiences, and skill sets essential to the future of STEM.

The Ripken Foundation's Youth Development Park Initiative creates clean, safe places for kids to play on multipurpose, synthetic surface fields that promote healthy living in an outdoor recreational facility. Since 2009, the Ripken Foundation has 126 completed parks across the country in 27 states and

Washington, D.C. In 2024, the

Ripken Foundation impacted over 1.4 million kids nationwide through its Youth Development Park and mentor programs. For more information, visit [www.Ripken-Foundation.org](http://www.Ripken-Foundation.org). Follow @CalRipkenSrFdn on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.


**About Team of Dreams Gonzales**

Team of Dreams Gonzales is an all-abilities baseball league in Gonzales, Louisiana, for youth and adults with physical or intellectual disabilities, including those who use wheelchairs. The program operates through a partnership between the City of

Gonzales, the Ascension Parish Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Ascension, and the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation, which helped fund and build a specialized adaptive field for the league. For more information, visit [www.Gonzalesla.com](http://www.Gonzalesla.com). Follow @Teamof-DreamsGonzales on Facebook.


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301-651-8300  
[Bshane@ripkenfoundation.org](mailto:Bshane@ripkenfoundation.org)





This is our 20th year. Thanks to our many loyal sponsors and donors, we have been able to help local food banks, many needy families and children to have a Christmas.

Thomas "BAMA" Aldridge



# Bama's

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## of Ascension

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will be served for  
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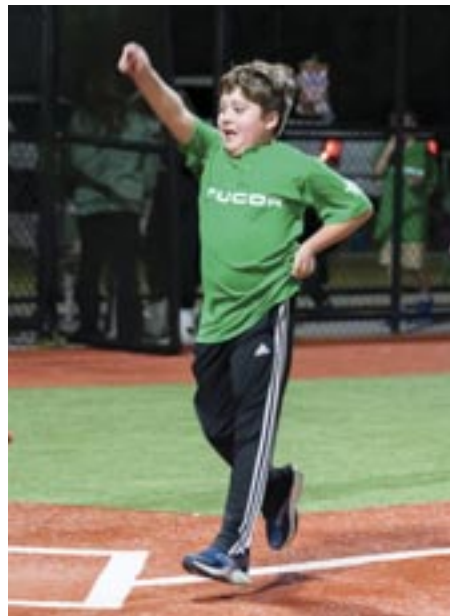
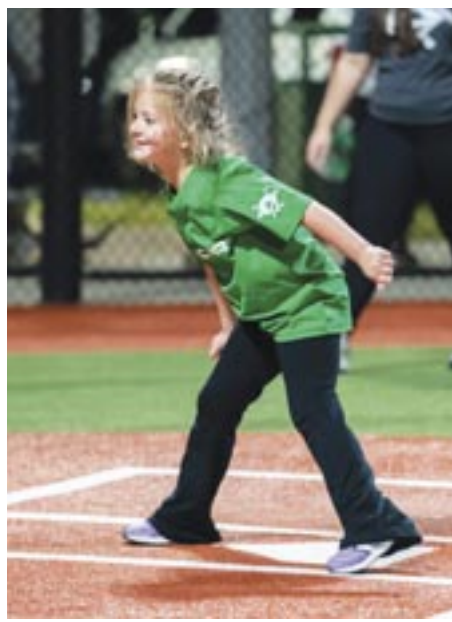
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# From the Gonzales Garden Club

## Dining Al Fresco

This month's gathering was a peaceful scene of outdoor living for the Gonzales Garden Club. The autumn air was fresh and crisp with birds singing in trees, bees foraging

Richey gave an informal talk about herbs. Janis focused on the differences among herbs, their growing seasons and particular characteristics. She distributed copies of the LSU



Members Janis Poche and Conchita Richey double as guest speakers at the GGC meeting.

among flowers and leaves floating on a pond. The ladies leisurely enjoyed horticultural discussions and a southern homecooked meal at Phyllis Charrier's Prairieville retreat.

Phyllis opened her home to the club November 5th. Members Janis Poche and Conchita

AgCenter Herb Planting Chart. Conchita honed in on advice for growing herbs in containers. Among her many recommendations, she emphasized two important points. Regardless of the container material (terra cotta, plastic, concrete...), it must have drain holes. Secondly, it



Hosting the meeting are Pat Mouton, Dana Teepell, Phyllis Charrier, Raakhee Malani and Paola DiNatale.

is a "rule" to use one gallon of potting mix per herb (e.g. four gallons of mix for four herbs). Members named the many herbs they routinely use in recipes: parsley, rosemary, cilantro, mint, Greek and Mexican oregano, turmeric, bay leaves, marjoram, chives, tarragon, dill, basil, sage, thyme and lemon grass. Janis mentioned adding herbs like lavender to potpourri.

Four members spawned discussion of garden inspirations. Flo Hernandez explained how she collected basil seeds. Cynthia Stafford relayed her husband's timely appreciation for rye grass.

Jamie Trisler recounted how she revived a neglected "half-price" house plant, and Gwen Heck testified to the perennial hardiness of her sprawling cassia shrub. Jamie also shared an overview of *Passalong Plants* by Bender, Rushing and Lacy. Gardeners have been handing propagations to each other for decades, especially plants no longer available at local nurseries.

A menu of seasonal luncheon cuisine was catered by Phyllis Charrier, Raakhee Malani, Paola DiNatale, Dana Teepell and Pat Mouton. Shrimp and sausage gumbo, tomato



Janis speaks to the group seated throughout the outdoor living area.



Conchita gestures as she advises the group to move container herbs close to the house for easy access to the kitchen.





*Flo shares her prepared packs of basil seeds.*

vegetable soup, eggy potato salad, tossed green salad and Hawaiian dinner rolls were punctuated by pumpkin pie, vanilla and chocolate cupcakes, blueberry muffins and a pan of spice cake with cream cheese frosting. Next month, the ladies will celebrate the holidays with

baked ham and pot luck sides.

November is the time to rake leaves for mulch and compost. Sow poppy seeds and plant cool season annuals. When cutting flower stems, a sharp knife may be preferable



*Jamie displays her vibrant anthurium house plant.*



*Gwen, seated beside Dana, touts the attributes of cassia plants.*

to scissors so as not to crush the water-conducting vessels of the xylem. Think toward next month for winter protection.

*The Gonzales Garden Club  
is federated by  
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# YOUR ESTATE MATTERS



By Linda Melancon

## Giving Thanks and Care

Every November, I find myself thinking about the families who sit across from me in my office, families trying to make sense of change they didn't expect. Maybe that's why this story from one of my clients, whom I'll call Laura, stayed with me. She told it not long

after a particularly difficult Thanksgiving some years ago, and I think about it every year around this time.

Laura's Thanksgiving had all the usual pieces: the smell of roasted turkey, cousins laughing in the living room, her mom humming in the kitchen. But this year felt different. Her mom, once the center of every holiday meal, was quieter. She moved a little slower. Earlier in the day, she'd forgotten where the serving spoons were kept – something she'd known for decades.

Laura said she had been noticing changes for a while. Missed appointments, unpaid bills, stories repeated word for word. Her brothers said she was overreacting, but when her

mom burned her hand on the oven door that afternoon, no one could ignore it anymore. It was a small accident, but it changed everything.

After dinner, when the house had finally settled, Laura gathered her family around the table. They talked honestly for the first time about what might come next—who would help with bills, who could take their mom to appointments, what she'd want if her health declined. Laura mentioned that she'd spoken with an attorney about powers of attorney, advance directives, and long-term care options. She thought maybe it was time to get those things in order. Her brothers resisted at first. They told her Not today and But it's Thanksgiving! But Laura reminded them that it was exactly the right time. They were all together, and they could talk before a crisis forced them to. By the end of the evening, they'd agreed to meet with an attorney after the holidays to put a plan in place.

When Laura shared this story with me, I could hear the mix of relief and sadness in her voice. Her mom's memory wasn't what it used to be, but at least now, her family was working as a team. They were going make a plan.

That's the part I wish more families understood is that planning doesn't make these situations disappear, but it does make them gentler. A power of attorney makes sure someone can step in to handle finances or make health decisions if needed. Advance care documents, like a living will, give loved ones clear guidance about what kind of medical care is wanted.

And having a plan for long-term care and how to pay for it, whether at home or in a facility, helps families make choices based on love, not panic.

Holidays often bring these things into focus. When we gather, we notice small changes we might miss during the rest of the year, like a forgotten name, an unsteady walk, a repeated question. Those moments can feel scary, but they can also be invitations to start a conversation.

It's never easy to bring up topics like aging or illness around the dinner table, but planning ahead means fewer surprises, fewer disagreements, and more peace of mind for everyone involved. If you see signs that someone you love may need more support, talk about it. Not as a legal task, but as a family act of care. These conversations protect the very thing we value most: the time we have together.

Our firm's mission has always been to help families plan for life's unexpected turns so they can spend less time worrying and more time living fully. This Thanksgiving, as you sit around your own table, I hope Laura's story reminds you that love and preparation go hand in hand.

*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.*

# Joie de Vie

## SALON

*Angie Decoteau*

The owner of Joie De Vie Salon who has been a stylist for 39 years and started on her adventure as a business owner 19 years ago. Angie is from a small town near Lake Charles and eventually moved to Ascension Parish where her career flourished.

Angie is very passionate about her work, clients and employee's. She specializes in coloring and unique cuts.

When Angie is not at work you can find her hanging out with family and friends, laughing and living her best life!

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It's been a busy month again at CHC Closet and Pantry. We haven't had a lot of excitement but we have had some wonderful blessings.

Atmos Energy made a great financial donation. They have supported us since we opened, with installing our shower and making several financial donations. They do a lot for others in our community also.

We had another very nice donation

from Ricky and Hope AKA "The Shrimp Man". They sell beautiful shrimp at the local farmers markets on the weekend and they donate a portion of their sales to us. Please go out and support them, and us, when you need shrimp.

People also drop clothing and food at the pantry and it is always welcome.

Many people are donating from the

Amazon list on our FB page "CHC Closet and Pantry". Boxes are arriving almost daily. We are always in need of food and hygiene items. The week I am writing this we served over 60 families in two days. That's a lot of PB & J.

If you would like to donate for the holidays, you can find our Amazon list and the QR codes for PayPal and Cash AP on our FB page. You can

also drop donations off at the pantry or mail them to us at 209 E. Railroad St. Gonzales, LA 70737.

Thank you for all of your help. We couldn't make this happen without the support of the Ascension parish community.

*Janell Brent*

Manager,  
CHC Closet and Pantry

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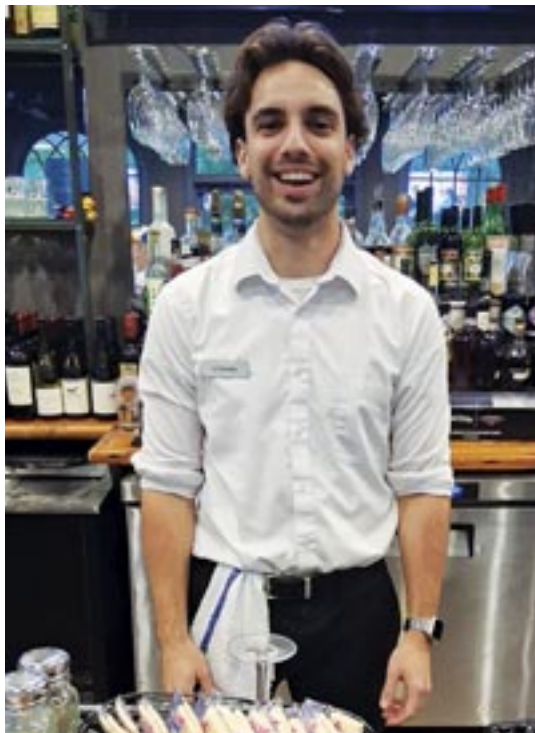
Bring the kids Sat. Nov 22  
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*Clyde Gautreau in his Halloween costume to see his Uncle Cody Melancon at work and to meet Sheriff Webre. Donaldsonville Mayor Rev. Leroy J. Sullivan, Sr. and Gonzales Mayor Tim Riley happened to be there.*



*Ava Savoy 2018 Teen Boucherie, Addie Heintz 2024 Teen Boucherie, Kenley Lemoine 2024 Miss Boucherie, Gracie Guillot 2022 Miss Boucherie.*

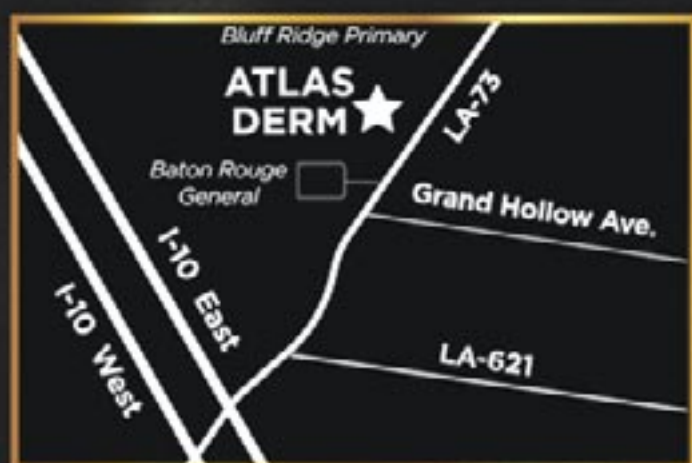






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# FINANCIAL FOCUS

## Three Social Security myths: What you need to know

Social Security is a cornerstone of retirement planning for millions of Americans. But with so much information floating around, it's easy to get confused about how the program really works. Here are three common myths that could affect your retirement planning.

### **Myth 1: Social Security is going bankrupt**

Based on current projections, Social Security isn't going bankrupt. According to the 2025 Social Security Trustees Report, if no changes are made to the program, it will

need to reduce benefits in 2033, paying about 77 cents per dollar of the projected benefit.

This might sound concerning, but Congress has options to fix the shortfall. They could remove the earnings cap on payroll taxes, increase the tax rate or adjust retirement ages. With 79% of Americans opposed to cutting Social Security benefits (Pew Research Center 2024), lawmakers may feel pressure to act before 2033.

- *What you can do:* Focus on what you control. Social Security typically replaces about 40% of pre-retirement income for median earners who claim at full retirement, per the Social Security Administration in

2025. The rest must come from savings. Consider working with a financial advisor to make sure you're saving enough. And don't claim benefits early just because you're worried about the program's future – early claiming can permanently reduce your monthly payments up to 30%.

### **Myth 2: Budget cuts will delay or reduce your benefits.**

Budget cuts and staff reductions at the Social Security Administration won't change your benefit amount. Only Congress can alter how benefits are calculated. According to the Social Security Administration, payments to those currently receiving benefits and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) won't be delayed. You may, however, face longer wait times when calling or visiting Social Security offices.

- *What you can do:* When you're ready to apply for benefits, start the process up to four months early. Use online tools when possible and have all your documents ready. If you need to visit an office, schedule an appointment in advance.

### **Myth 3: Social Security benefits are no longer taxed.**

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act didn't eliminate taxes on Social Security benefits. If your combined income exceeds certain thresholds, you'll still owe taxes on part of your benefits.

The good news: The new law created a temporary deduction – available through 2028 – for people 65 and older. Whether you're an itemizer or non-itemizer, you can deduct \$6,000 per person if your modified adjusted gross income is \$75,000 or less for singles (\$150,000 for couples). It phases down for income above these thresholds and fully phases out at \$175,000 for single filers (\$250,000 for joint filers).

- *What you can do:* Understand whether you qualify for the new deduction. Consider selectively using tax-advantaged accounts like Roth IRAs to help keep your taxable income lower, and make sure you have the right amount withheld from Social Security payments.

Don't let Social Security myths derail your retirement planning. Focus on saving adequately and making informed decisions. When in doubt, consult with a financial professional for help navigating these complex decisions.

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



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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

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# **EAST ASCENSION VS ST. AMANT RYDER CUP, A COMMUNITY OF FRIENDS BATTLE.**

## ***Congratulations St. Amant***

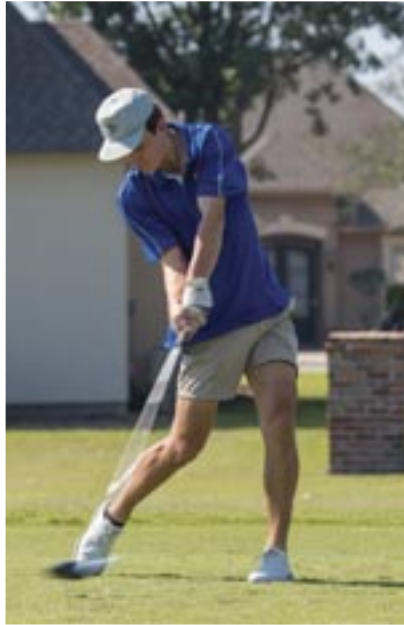
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***Publisher's Note:***  
Next month we will  
showcase the tent  
vendors that  
supported the  
EA vs STA Ryder Cup.







## East Ascension Sportsmans League

Letter from president -  
**Greg Cedotal**

EASL is looking for people who are interested in helping preserve the way of life we enjoy, hunting, fishing and conservation of our resources. If you are interested, get active, become a board member.

Do not sit back and let others decide your future outdoor activities. We will hold elections at the December meeting.

I am going to keep the article short this month. There are some things going on that may be of interest to you. LDWF is working on a Black Bass Management Plan, if you are interested in learning more or getting involved, let me know. The Louisiana Wildlife Federation is calling for resolutions for the 2026 convention. If you have something you feel needs the attention of the legislature or other parts of our government, tell EASL about it, we can work together to see what we can

do.

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

Now for a little bit about EASL events. You must be a member to participate in these events. The EASL Bass Club has finished their tournaments for the year. 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 November 22nd at the Sheriff Shooting Range starting at 8:30 AM. Don't forget to weigh your bass for the Monthly Big Bass contest and weigh your specs for the Monthly Big Speckled Trout contest.

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

Time to go outdoors with family and or friends and enjoy nature. Remember to be safe and conserve our resources for future use. Questions or comments you can email me at [gdced1@gmail.com](mailto:gdced1@gmail.com).

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

# EASL Bass Club News

The East Ascension Sportsman's League Bass Club held the October Tournament on the 11th of the month. There were 10 Boats signed up to fish this one. They fished the Atchafalaya Basin out of the Belle River public boat launch with a 3:00 PM weigh in.

Fish weren't that hard to find but size was definitely an issue. Seven boats out of 10 caught their limit of Bass.

The winners of the Tourney were Bubba Rossi and Tim Guillaume with a limit weighing 9.84 lbs.

Second place was won by Terry Molea & Mark Kramer with a limit weighing 8.78 lbs.

Third place was awarded to Tim Braud & Tony Arceneaux with a limit weighing 8.36 lbs.

Big Bass winner was Murray Alexander with his lunker that weighed 3.38 lbs.

Congratulations to the winners of the October Tournament. The next Tournament will be held in the Atchafalaya Basin out of the Belle River Public Landing on November 8th.

The meeting to sign up for this tournament will be held on October 30th at Dirk Anderson's home on Babin Road at ~ 5:30 PM. This meeting is also the meeting to elect Officers

for 2026 and to offer changes to the rules that will be voted on by the members present.



left to right. Murray Alexander, Terry Molea, Mark Kramer, Bubba Rossi, Tim Guillaume, Tim Braud and Tony Arceneaux





# Annual Witches Ride Flying Down the River



The rain couldn't dampen our spirits!

Despite the weather, the Annual Witches Ride rolled on, and what a magical day it was! Laughter, costumes, and community came together for a fantastic cause: raising funds in the fight against cancer. \$2,000 was raised for "BUST breast cancer" through Woman's Hospital.

Huge thanks to Canal Bank Club, Fred's on the River and Boondocks Bar and Grill for your warm hospitality. And an extra special shoutout to Kari Millet Kaigler (a 16 year breast cancer SURVIVOR) for once again organizing such an incredible event. Your dedication to this cause is truly inspiring.









# A Thanksgiving Tale or How Did We Get Into This Yam?

by Bill Delaune

**Editor's note-Pity poor November-the middle child of the calendar year.**

Stuck between Halloween and Christmas, the 11th month can lay claim to three memorable dates-Elections Day on the first Tuesday, Thanksgiving on the last Thursday and The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald when the winds of November came early.

But with all due respect to the 29 men who lost their lives and were immortalized in Gordon Lightfoot's classic ballad, this story will focus on the two Turkey Days-the one where we cook them and the one where we elect them.

This year we were spared the divisive process of choosing a President but there were some others across the nation that sparked almost as much interest.

So in the spirit of holiday unity, I humbly serve you an offering- begun with a quote by a man who was probably responsible for saving this country and ending with ideas from four everyday guys that may never be heard...

## **Sam Stone Deals with Uncle Sam**

"...But the rebellion continues and now that the election is over, may not all have a common interest to reunite in a common effort to save our common country? May I ask those who have not differed with me to join with me in the same spirit toward those who have..." Abraham Lincoln

**Narrator-** You see boys and girls, about 160 years ago, the blue states of the Union were fighting the gray states of the Confederacy in a brutal Civil War and Lincoln had to win a hotly-contested election right in the middle of it. Sound familiar? But with his "absence of malice "philosophy, he



steered this country through the most divisive period in American history.

Honest Abe even requested the band play "Dixie" at a victory party after the Rebels surrendered to honor the conquered Southern states. These days you can't even play "Dixie" at an Ole Miss game.

And how was he rewarded for this noble speech and gesture? Less than a week later he was shot to death.

We sure could use a little of Lincoln's diplomacy to guide us through the rest of this disastrous decade and beyond. But alas, the characters in the following story had little of his dignity and grace and none of his honesty. Nevertheless, let's drop in on this fearsome foursome and get some opinions from our friends in low

places instead of so-called political experts on 24-hour news networks...

...

I was still sleeping off the effects of an election night gathering when the knock on the door awakened me. Through blurry eyes I made out "Sam Stone-Private Investigator" on the door or else I would have had trouble remembering where, or for that matter, who I was.

Using my Sherlock-like logic, I quickly determined a couple of facts. First, I must have passed out on the couch in my office the night before and second, that could not be a beautiful blond client at the door because I had not had a client of any kind since LSU, Southern and the Saints all won games on the same day...

I stumbled over some tequila bottles on the floor and, unfortunately, found my elementary deductions to be correct.

At the door stood the lanky frame of "Three-Finger" Freddie, generally recognized as the best stand-up bass player in the South despite missing the second and third fingers on his right hand.

The loss of the index finger was a reminder of his former pool hustling days when some good ole boys from Bay St. Louis took exception to his sharking methods and removed Mr. Pointer with a machete.

The middle digit's removal came some years later when Freddie made an obscene gesture at a heckler during a gig at Utopia on Bourbon Street.

"How was I to know that loud mouth was one of Marcello's 'Dixie Mafia'?" he would ask after relating the story for the umpteenth time.

"Hey, we've got to get this place cleaned up for the card game tonight," he said. "It is Wednesday, you know."

Oh, yeah-the Wednesday night poker game. I had completely forgotten with all the election hoopla the night before.

Arthel "Doc" Watson came in shortly after. Doc was nicknamed-not for the legendary blind bluegrass picker, but for his uncanny ability to forge prescriptions for Schedule 2 narcotics. He then used his profits to support his own compulsive gambling habit. He often justified his shady dealings with comments like, "It's good for the economy" or "I'm my own personal economic stimulus."

The last to arrive was our transplant from the Frozen Nawth, Boston Blackie who had actually helped me out on a few cases in the past. But being from the Northeast,



he retained a more-than-aggravating elitist view that everything from that area was inherently better than other parts of the country.

He was notorious for running scams and cons on those “dumb-ass Midwesterners” and “dumber-than-dirt rednecks” which was why he now found himself wanted in all states that begin with “I” and banned from those that start with “A”.

It was Blackie who first brought up the previous evening’s election. “Well, we got a Muslim mayor of New York, two women governors of Jersey and Virginia and legalized gerrymandering in California. Is this a great country or what? But it wasn’t nothing like that 2020 Presidential election. What a cluster that was. There was enough fraud and corruption going on in that one to make me look like a choir boy. Hey, maybe I can get a Presidential pardon of some of my more outstanding counts.”

“I was watching the Vegas odds jumping around that night like a fixed horse race at the old Evangeline Downs,” chimed in Doc laying down a straight to beat my three jacks. “Biden opened the day as a 2-1 favorite so I put some money down on Trump. By the time Trump took Texas and Florida, he moved to a 4-1 chalk so I turned around and be on Biden. So I managed to make a few bucks regardless of the outcome.”

“Let me ask the group something,” a suddenly pensive Freddie said. “If good old 50th in education, road kill-eating, alligators-in-our-drive Louisiana- as we’re perceived in Blackie’s part of the country-can figure out to count early votes before the actual Election Day, shouldn’t our smarter neighbors be able to figure that out also?”

Now before I flunked out of USL, I was a political science major before fast women and slow horses ran me out of town so there was one pressing question that had to be asked.

“Do any of you actually vote?” I’m not sure if the frustration came from the loss of pocket kings or the direction

of the conversation.

“Can’t,” replied Blackie. “Convicted felon.”

“Same here,” said Doc. “Wrong dose for the wrong person at the wrong time.”

“I wasn’t around,” admitted Freddie. “I had to go to Billy Joe Shaver’s funeral in Texas. There’s not many of us three-fingered guitar players left in the world, you know.”

“How about you, Magnum Columbo?” Blackie sneered. “Who’d you vote for in that 2020 debacle? I figure you went Trump like the rest of this God-forsaken state.”

Before I could answer, Doc’s pills kicked in. “Are you kidding? This bleeding-heart liberal voted for our former Democratic governor twice. He had to go Biden.”

“Sorry to disappoint, boys, but yes I did vote and no I didn’t vote for either major party,” I replied. “You see, as a child of the 60’s, I’m always looking for a way to stick it to both parties who -as far as I can see- haven’t done a whole hell of a lot for common folks like us.”

“Louisiana’s eight electoral votes are going to the Republican candidate in this reddest of red states so why not rebel a little and vote third party. My candidate didn’t win but I can look myself in the mirror in the morning.”

“Damn, Sam, you’re not as dumb as you look,” said Freddie.

“Nobody is,” I answered. “But the way I see it, what we all do individually every day is a lot more important than who you voted for. For instance, what would each of you guys do to ease the tensions of someone who had opposite views? than you?”

“I’d play them some music,” Freddie jumped in. “Maybe some mellow jazz that I listen to in the traffic to calm my road rage.”

“I’d give everybody a perfectly legal ‘chill pill’,” said Doc. “As a man wiser than I once said, ‘Life’s too short to worry, Life’s too long to wait, Life’s too short not to love everybody, and it’s much too long to hate...’ The pill would help get rid of all that anger.”

By now, even Blackie was into the spirit of things. “I would take all my nemeses to Fenway Park to see the Red Sox play. I’d even buy them a beer and a hot dog-even if they were Yankee fans.”

“What about you, Uncle Sam?” They all looked at me like I’d started a movement or something.

“I’d take them out in the fresh air and wide open spaces of the closest golf course and let them take out their frustrations on that little white ball.” I laughed. “They could even find some comic relief in watching my variety of slices, hooks and shanks and then we’d all have a drink afterwards whether we made a hole-in-one or not.”

There was a moment of reflection before things returned to normal.

“Dammit, Doc, are you cheating?”

“I’ll show you who’s cheating, you Yankee carpetbagger...”

Narrator: And so, my faithful readers, if these four degenerates can figure out ways to help heal our country’s wounds, can’t we all do

the same.

We could all start off by being a bit more tolerant of people who have a different opinion than we do. And being a little more generous to those less fortunate than we are. And being a lot more forgiving to people who may have offended us in some way. Then it wouldn’t matter who was in the White House.

It’s not a novel idea. I stole it from a riddle-speaking prophet who roamed this earth about 2000 years ago. And like Abe Lincoln, they killed him too.

Happy Thanksgiving-and remember, who’s at the table is far more important than what’s on it.

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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**  
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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

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

**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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# Jammin' with Goosie

## "No. They're Just Like Us"

"Well I think I'll go and check out my partners in the woods again in the morning" was the message that I whispered to my wife as I was preparing for my bedtime. I had been hunting this one particular spot for several days in a row and had become part of the group of creatures that visited that area of the forest quite often. Each morning I was entertained by a couple of songbirds, several wading birds that stalked in the shallow water, a couple of resident racoons and squirrels, along with five whitetails. All of the creatures mentioned had gotten used to my presence and had kinda accepted me as part of the group being that I had not advanced to harm them in any way on my prior visits.

The group of whitetails that came every day to the feeding zone consisted of two grown does, two yearlings and a loner four

point buck. One of the yearlings belonged to the largest doe and the other female did not have a youngin with her. Those three would arrive together and the other yearling, a button buck, would show up shortly after their arrival. It didn't seem to me that he belonged to either of the does. The deer herd knew very well that I was there and put up with my company. The older deer had a very serious demeanor while the youngsters of the group chose to take a bite now and then between making noise, jumping, bucking, and chasing each other around the forest. At times the older doe would show her displeasure for the interference as if to say "that's enough of that racket for now and ya'll need to calm down". I have witnessed this scene play out time and time again through my many years of outdoor experiences. As I watch these kinds of things occur I realize that there is not much difference in the way their lives are in comparison to our own way of doing things.

In conversation with one of my friends I once



mentioned the fact that while observing wildlife I had come to the conclusion that in many ways they behave a lot like us. He immediately came back with, "No, we are a lot like them". There's probably a lot of truth in that statement. What's interesting is the fact that the same species of animals may act a little differently in other environments of which they inhabit. A buddy of mine once told me a story of how a group of fox squirrels that he had hunted in one locality acted differently than others of the same species in another location not far from where the others resided. I replied to him that I had noticed that scenario play out time and time again throughout my life. Squirrel hunting from one neck of the woods to another can be a totally different thing to experience although the animals of each area are from the same species. The bass bite from one body of water to the other can be drastically different in many ways. I've hunted turkeys in several states and for whatever reason, although they're all turkeys they surely can have different personalities from one zip code to the other. Whitetails can act much differently from one environment to the other. West Texas deer will do things that would really surprise me to see one of our homeland deer do. Waterfowl definitely can change the nature of their

activities from one region to the next. When was the last time that you've seen mallards or other puddle ducks grazing in dry grain fields?

To put it all in perspective of the way animals and humans differ from one area to another I must look at our own sense of being. Folks from my locality talk and act, to some degree, much different than those from our neighboring parish of Livingston. People there differ in many ways from those of New Orleans, Alexandria, Belle River, Canada, etc. The list is world wide. We are all human beings and although we are the same in many ways we all are much different people in many other ways. Culture can change drastically with changes of the environmental landscape. These differences not only affect mankind and our way of doing things, they can affect all the creatures of our earth.

Whether we are like them or they are like us I don't know. One thing is for sure. Although us and them are just alike in many ways, us and them are much different in many ways within other parts of the world. So I guess that means that we're all alike. Figure that one out.

Till next time

Love Gods creatures

James "Goosie" Guice





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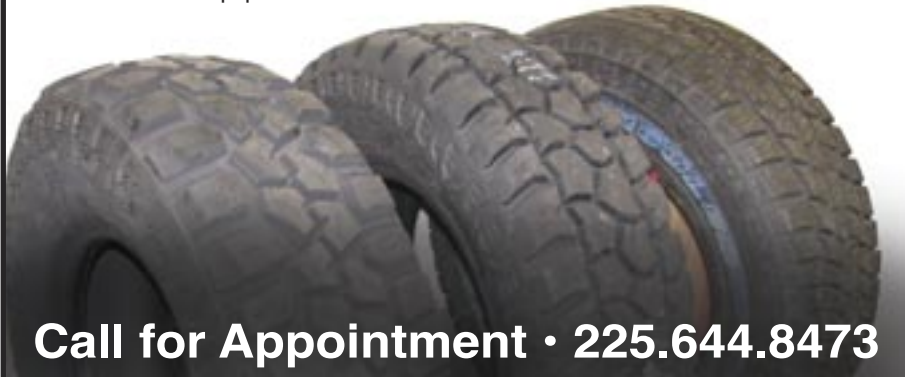


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## ***Useless Random Facts with Kellie***

•  
In 2001, a cat named Skittles walked 350 miles from Wisconsin to her home in Minnesota after being lost on a family vacation.

•  
Lasagna originated in Greece.

•  
Some Malaysians protect their babies from Disease by bathing them in beer.

•  
A sneeze travels out of your mouth at more than 100 mph.

•  
Pigs are members of the Suidae family, which includes eight genera and 16 species. Among those species are wild boars, warthogs, pygmy hogs, and domestic pigs.

•  
The world's largest pyramid is not in Egypt. It's in Cholula de Rivadabia near Mexico City.

•  
In The early 20th century, windmills were optimized to more easily take advantage of wind power. They could reach an output of around 100 horsepower.

•  
The longest running tv drama was Guiding Light, which was canceled in 2009 after 57 years and had nearly 16,000 episodes.

•  
If you were able to put Saturn in water, it would float.

•  
The popsicle was invented by an eleven-year-old who kept it secret for eighteen years.

•  
Spoons are a millennia older than forks.



# Thoughts from Bully

## Mr. Twong Does Mr. Wong, Wong

In my early days of the publishing industry I sold ads for a local publication, Ascension Parish Magazine.

I sold many ads for the premier issue. After the issue hit the streets I made appointments with all the my clients. Client after client raved about the magazine and I was 10 for 10 with happy customers.

My next appointment was with Henry Wong a Chinese Restaurant owner. In the sales presentaion to Mr. Wong for the ad he requested specifically ask that his ad was to run in upper white hand corner. We signed the contract and his ad was put in the magazine.

When I arrived at his office I expected him to be satisfied like all the customers before him.

Hey Henry, "How are you doing? What did you think about the magazine?" Before I tell you what he said I need to point out my last name is Strong. Henry looked at me and said "Mr. Twong you did Mr. Wong ... wong." You can imagine my surprise and I was supressing a laugh but he was serious. You came here selling ads and I signed contwact to run ad and I requested upper white hand corner.

Part of my duties with the magazine along with sales was as Art Director and I put the pages together. At 4am I



was finishing the magazine and realized I had one ad space left and available. To fill the space I put an ad for myself and my portable DJ service in the space.

Henry said, "Mr. Twong you really did Mr. Wong wong." I purchased ad mainly because I am friends with the publisher. Mr. Twong I wanted ad in upper white hand corner. Where's Mr. Wongs ad? Is it in upper white hand corner? No, it's in bottom white hand corner. Who's in upper white hand corner? Mr. Twong DJ Service. Mr. Twong is over Mr. Wong. You did Mr. Wong, wong.


He then led me over to the door and he open it. He pointed at his sign on Airline Highway that was a light up, flashing and lighting up the night. Mr. Twong I like the magazine but I don't need to abertise. I have sign on Airwine highway. It looks like Las Begas out there.

We laughed about it a bit and then he insisted I eat some of his egg woles.

In these days of cancel culture I figured I'd re-run this politically incorrect true story before my first amendments rights are taken away.




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1st Annual  
**Alzheimer's Ball**  
"Dancing For A Great Cause"  
January 24, 2026 at The City Club Baton Rouge  
Dining, Dancing, Entertainment & Silent Auction  
\*Attire: Cocktail\* or \*Black-Tie Optional\*

Scan for Tickets



Anton's FINE JEWELRY \$5000 SHOPPING SPREE - Tickets \$50 each -





# 3rd Annual Pretty in Pink Sunday Funday Breast Cancer Awareness at Fred's on the River







# Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Catholic Church LaFete the Bayous Festival

## ***Publishers Note:***

This pass month  
Ascension Magazine  
wasn't able to  
attend and cover this  
great event. We were able  
to scrap a few photos  
together to showcase  
some of the cooks and list  
the winners.

## ***Congratulations!***

## ***Winners of the Cooking Contest.***

**1st Place**  
**Justin 'Big Cat' Courville**  
**2nd Place**  
**Lane Blue**  
**3rd Place**  
**Adam Gautreau**







# *The Garney Gautreau* **Monster Mash Senior Soc Hop**







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## Cooking Gourmet at Home

with SNO'S SEAFOOD & STEAKS



### Creole Tomato Sauce



Executive Chef, John Donaldson

**Prep time: 45 minutes**

**Cook time: 1 hour**

**Servings 4**

### Ingredients:

- 1 tbl olive oil
- 1 medium onion small dice
- 1 bell pepper small dice
- 2 stalk celery small dice
- ½ tsp thyme
- 1 tbl garlic
- 1 14.5oz can diced tomato
- 1 14.5 oz can tomato sauce
- 2 tbl tomato paste
- 16oz chicken broth
- ½ tsp hot sauce
- 1 tsp worcestershire
- 1 tsp creole seasoning
- 1 tsp sugar

### Instructions:

Cook onion, pepper, celery in olive oil until translucent, add garlic and cook for 2 min. add dice tomato, tomato sauce, chicken broth and tomato paste. Add remaining ingredients and bring to boil stirring constantly. Reduce to simmer and let cook 30-45 min

# LET IT SNO...

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## A Brunch of Holiday Fun and Cheer

***Get ready for a magical start to the holiday season!***

We are thrilled to announce the return of our annual Brunch with Santa event at Pelican Point. Bring the whole family to enjoy a delicious meal, holiday activities, and a special visit with Santa Claus himself.

***Join us on Sunday, December 7th,*** from 8:00 am – 2:00 pm at the clubhouse for a morning of Christmas cheer.

Reserve your spot before December 1st and receive \$10 off per child.

***This is a day packed with holiday activities for the kids and a relaxing, delicious meal for the adults.***

***Activities include:*** Write a Letter to Santa • Create a Holiday Craft • Selfie Station with Santa and Mrs. Claus

Adults & children are \$40 each (children under 2 are free)

Sign up before December 1st and receive \$10 off per child.

This popular event fills up fast, so don't wait!

Call (225) 746-9900 to secure your spot! • We can't wait to celebrate the holidays with you!







**Ann Zedlitz, MD**  
*"Skin Boss"*

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