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MAGAZINE

MAY 2023, VOL. 21 ISSUE 5

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**It's Festival Time
and It's Heating Up!**

Good Luck Cooks

T. B. **Tyler** **Jamie** **Possum** **Jared**

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American Pump & Machine Works, Inc. hosted its 9th Annual Customer Appreciation Crawfish Boil

On May 19th, American Pump & Machine Works, Inc. hosted its 9th Annual Customer Appreciation Crawfish Boil at its Geismar facility. With over 400 customers, vendors, and employees in attendance it was a memorable afternoon. Tee Wayne's Cajun Catering boiled 1,500 pounds of crawfish, including potatoes and corn. The guests enjoyed

and hourly door prize raffles. American Pump & Machine Works was established in 1979 to support the pump repair and machine work needs of the local chemical industry. Stephen Bateman, owner, is grateful to the local community for the continued success of the business and is looking forward to next year's Boil.





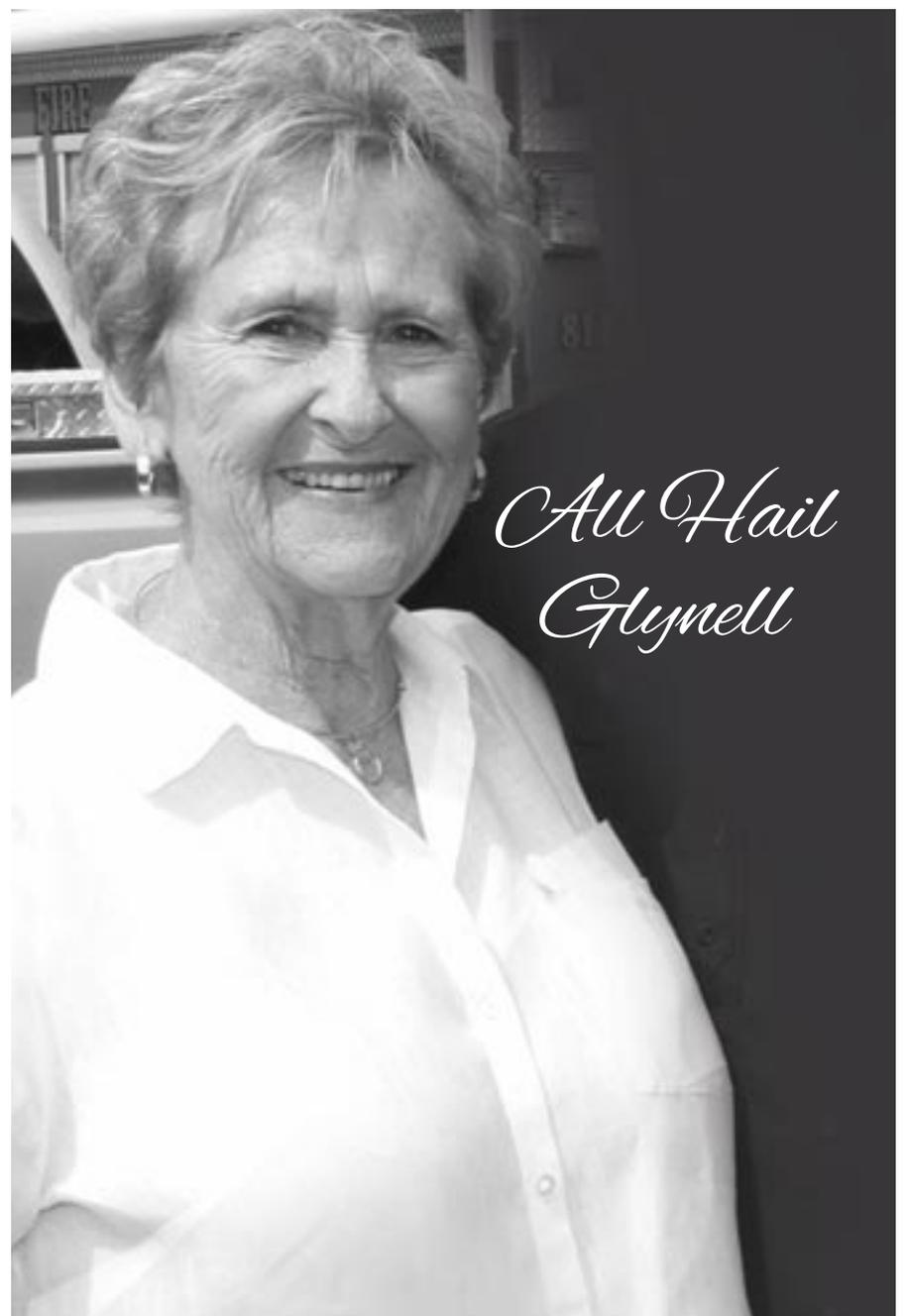


Senior Day on the River at Fred's



Fred Boyd's sister Shirley makes a smiling appearance





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May 19 – Taylor Nauta Band 9-12am

May – 20 – Black Box 9-1am

May 21 – **Benefit for Sal Molea.**

Band lineup:

12:30 - 1:30 Mike Broussard Jr. & Sr.,

2:00 - 5:00 Acoustic acts Kirk Holder, Damon King,,
Rhett Glindmeyer

5:30 - 7:00 T-Boy & Just Us Band

May 26 – Chris Leblanc Band & Zydeco Mike 9-1am

May 27 – Trey Gallman Band 9-12am

May 28 – Lauren Lee Band 7-10pm

May 29 – Memorial Bash with Eddie Smith,
Ryan Foret, and Chase Tyler 2-7pm

June 2 - Capital city soul band 9-1

June 3 - Petty Betty band 9-12

June 4 - Peacemakers band 3-7

June 8 - Chris Allen duo 7-10

June 9 - Highwater Band 9-12

June 10 - Cresnet Kings band 9-1

June 11 - Enuf Band 3-7

Pat Michel

GM





FUNDRAISER FOR SAL MOLEA

SUNDAY
MAY 21, 2023 12PM - 7PM
FRED'S ON THE RIVER



Join us at Fred's on the River to help raise money to assist in current and future medical costs needed for Salvatore Molea who survived a major stroke but is alive to tell about it.

ENTERTAINMENT

- 12:30-1:30 Mike Broussard Jr & Sr
- 2:00-5:00 Acoustic acts including Kirk Holder, Damon King, Rhett Glindmeyer
- 5:30-7:00 T-Boy & Just Us Band





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- Two agile beer legs
- One week summer camp art academy
- Shellie Brown Tanager Tony Print
- Chef gift card
- Southern Fleur door decoration hanger
- Toni Guerin basket of hair products
- Quilt by Tricia Hopkins
- Savaro car speaker set

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The Flower Show Plus Mini-Presentations

This year's Gonzales Garden Club's annual flower show was displayed at the main library branch from April 12th through the 14th. The Floral Design and Horticulture Exhibit theme was "Garden Inspiration" conceived by GGC President Jamie Trisler. The display included floral designs in niches, container plants and horticulture specimens in vases. Plant material was labeled, and the public was encouraged to vote for the favorite choices in each category. The winning floral design was created by Marilyn Rice; she called it "Swamp Pop". Conchita Richey's yellow Columbine bloom was their favorite horticulture specimen, and Jamie Trisler's Crown of Thorns succulent won for best container plant.

In conjunction with the flower show, the club presented a workshop in the library's meeting room on three garden topics on April 12th. The presentation topics were the care and mounting of tillandsias, the care and propagation of Christmas cacti and the design of miniature floral arrangements. Members Conchita Richey, Janis D'Benedetto and Marilyn Rice were



Janis D'Benedetto demonstrated the propagation of a Christmas cactus cutting and recommended the best ways to ensure healthy growth and blooms.

the speakers.

Conchita Richey spoke about tillandsias. She explained that they are epiphytes, or "air plants" because they get their nutrients from the air. They prefer filtered light and dampness, such as fog and humidity. They especially like to be spritzed with rain water. They do not like to sit in water, however; the roots will rot. They can be misted with water-soluble fertilizer

at one-fourth normal strength. A baby of a parent plant can be separated when it is one-third the size of the parent plant. They can be mounted onto wood (driftwood,



Marilyn Rice won the top prize for her "Swamp Pop" floral design of Louisiana native irises and wild orchids accented by dried crape myrtle twigs, pittosporum sprigs and Spanish moss in a resemblance of a hollowed out section of stump. The turtle guard set the scene.

a tree, a board) using string ties, wire or glue. If using a glue gun, set it at a low temperature. "Liquid Nail" glue can also be used. It is important not to apply glue to the roots or the plant will die. Apply glue to the side of a leaf to adhere the plant to the wood.

Janis D'Benedetto demonstrated



Marilyn Rice explained how she continually creates miniature floral designs to decorate small spaces in her home.



The club's annual donation to the library was four copies of *The Rose Without a Name* about a flowering climber that survived Katrina floods. It was accepted by Library Director John Stelly (left) with Assistant Director Carrie Goodall (right). He thanked the club and commented, "We appreciate the relationship we've had with the garden club though the years."



Conchita Richey discussed the unique care of tillandsias and how she mounts them onto wood.



Jamie Trisler's crown of thorns won the People's Choice Award for container plants.



Conchita Richey's yellow Columbine Super Plant was the favorite horticulture specimen.

how to propagate Christmas cacti. She said, "They provide a profusion of color - white, yellow, peach, pink, red - and can be easily propagated and gifted to friends." She broke off a bottom stem of 5 leaves, or "chads", and set the base in three inches of loose Miracle Gro soil, added another inch of soil then watered the pot allowing all excess water to drain out. She cautioned not to pack the soil down. Janis recommended that the plant be kept in the shade and protected when temperatures drop below 45 degrees. Only water the plant when the top soil becomes dry, once every week or

two. Janis cautioned that it is better to neglect a Christmas cactus than to overwater it. It is best to propagate in late spring when the plants produce new leaves.

Marilyn Rice gets great joy from miniature floral arrangements describing them as "tiny little plants for tiny little spaces". She explained her process for creating a miniature arrangement. She uses small-scale vases, bottles and tea cups for the tiny stems of flowers. She inserts a tiny piece of soaked oasis foam into containers and uses a small squirt bottle to add the water. The color of the container

she chooses complements the colors of the blooms. She noted, "Adding a little white makes your other colors pop." She also likes to add small pieces of dried branches as accents to the designs. She places them on window sills, on her desk and in groups on her dining table. Marilyn finds that "they don't take up lots of space, are easy to carry, and provide a little pick-me-up during the day." Marilyn's presentation display of petite designs contained phlox, dianthus, bougainvillea, salvia, devil's backbone, seven sisters' rose, miniature petunias, yarrow and Peggy Martin roses.

When the talks ended, audience members enjoyed coffee and sweets provided by Member Janis D'Benedetto and browsed the speakers' presentation tables. Patrons then headed to the flower show display of Garden Inspirations in the exhibit area of the library to cast their People's Choice ballots.

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



Mike Anderson's Restaurant on Hwy 30 won. The main flowerbed had dusty miller, white pansies, orange and yellow marigolds and purple dianthus. The walkway to the restaurant was lined with several concrete planters filled with pink guara, purple homestead verbena, and yellow verbena.



JoAnn Benoit on S. Sandra Ave. won. She had so many blooms: red drift roses, purple gladiolas, pink and red salvia, orange and yellow lantana, pink and cream lantana, yellow coreopsis plus pink, orange and yellow daylilies.



As the Pendulum Swings

Celebrating Mother's Day this weekend had me thinking about my mom, my grandmother and their own moms and grandmothers. How would they feel about what it means to be a woman today? Do women really have it better these days?

Women have many roles: single moms, wives, breadwinner, moms, daughters, business leaders, side hustlers, and in a lot of cases...Dads. Often, women have to be everything to everyone. But how did we get here? Let's look at the past several decades and see how history shaped women's roles and responsibilities into what they are today.

1920's – Considered the first wave of feminism activity. Post WWI, women entered the workforce for the first time. Women's rights were being fought for and in urban areas; African American women were fighting for equal and women's rights in unison.

1930's – In the 30's we had the Great Depression. Jobs were

scarce, and the higher paying positions were given to men. It was a very interesting time, because while women were prized for having very traditional roles in the home, they also worked pink collar jobs like nursing, education, administration, and service industry.

1940's – In the (early) 1940's we were in WWII. For the first time, most American women held more technical roles outside the home that were once occupied by men. Unfortunately, when the war was over, most women were displaced and even fired from these types of positions and had to go back to pink collar jobs or career homemaking.

1950's – Career homemaking was promoted in schools with. Marriages were happening at a higher rate at younger ages, mostly due to veterans coming back to those higher paying, more technical jobs. Consumerism was really cranking up, and women needed money, so most women began working for companies that didn't take them too far from the home. Companies like Mary Kay and Tupperware were decent opportunities for women who needed to make money.

1960's – Women rebelled against the stereo typical expectations of being a stay-at-home maker and mom, and with the emergence of oral contraception, this made not filling the typical role even more possible. Women were able to take jobs because they didn't have to stay home and take care of children. More women had a sense that they could live the lives they wanted; they could fulfill their dreams for their lives. And in 64 women could lean on the Civil Rights act for equal opportunity and pay (although the discrepancy in pay is still an issue in most cases). Nearly 70 percent of all households still had one stay at home person, and typically this was the woman.

1970's – This decade is the second wave of true feminism, as it roared even more ferociously in the 70's as women were expected to be "feminine" and "aggressive" to be considered for more prominent positions in the workforce, all while making 50 to 60 cents to the dollar of every man. 50 percent of single women worked, and 40 percent of married women worked during this decade. Side note: until 1974, women could not apply for a loan without a male co-signer!

1980's – Women fighting for their rights continued and made some headway, but now minorities were fighting even harder to equal ground on all fronts. We did however have lots of firsts", the first female supreme court judge and the first VP candidate.

1990's – The third wave of feminism hit strong due to the Gen X'ers who were raised with video and media as a compelling channel of influence. Women's employment hit a peak of 60% in 1999, and women made greater strides in working in more men dominated fields.

Speed forward the 21st Century – Though strides have been made for women's equality and opened doors of opportunity, some of those doors have stayed closed, but why? Most women are inherently caretakers, caretakers of children if they have them and even caretakers of parents. High caliber jobs often require extra hours and extra effort that just don't allow a woman with a family to be more outward facing. I'm not saying all women feel this way, but some do. They simply enjoy caring for and loving their families from the home.

So, would our grandmothers and their grandmothers be happy about our roles as women in 2023? I'd say yes, because we have the freedom to choose anything as a career, including simply being a stay-at-home mom.

So whatever generation you're from, whatever your maternal status, I honor and celebrate you this Mother's Day and every day! Blessings to all reading.

XOXO,

Sweet Eyes



What is a Liquid Facelift?

We asked Local
Board-Certified Dermatologist,
Ann Zedlitz, M.D. "Dr. Z"

It's only natural to want to look and feel our very best but taking weeks off for cosmetic surgery isn't always possible. The liquid facelift offers patients rejuvenation with minimal downtime.

Dr. Z is here to break down the ins and outs of the trending liquid face lift, which involves injecting dermal fillers into the skin versus surgically lifting it.

What does a Liquid Lift involve at your office?

A liquid facelift involves injecting dermal fillers into the skin to plump up or re-volumize the skin. It differs from a surgical facelift in that it does not involve cutting into the skin. My go-to filler for re-volumization and structure is Radiesse. Sometimes I will finesse the area after structure is laid with a hyaluronic acid filler such as Restylane or Revanesse.

Who is a good candidate, generally speaking?

The ideal candidate for a liquid facelift is someone with mild to moderate wrinkles and experiencing sagging of the skin. If you have a lot of loose skin a surgical facelift might be a better option for you. Around age 35 is when most patients begin to see the first signs of volume loss. It is very important to not overfill. I always tell my patients, "If you can tell you have had something done, then I haven't done my job." A natural result is always my end goal for every patient.

Is there any downtime involved?

Swelling from a liquid lift usually goes down within the first 48 hours and possible bruising may take 3 to 5 days to subside. For my patients, I have them stop any NSAIDS, aspirin, and certain vitamins one week prior to the filler treatment to reduce the risk of bruising. Patients should avoid heavy exercise for 24 hours post filler treatment and try to sleep elevated to help reduce swelling.

What is the typical upkeep?

I recommend that all my patients come in for a two-week filler follow up appointment. At that time, after pictures are taken, I decide if the patient may need a little more. Less is more in my book.

Typically, a liquid facelift will last about a year, and touch up filler treatments are recommended at that time. Most patients will need 25% of what I used initially to fill the face as maintenance each year, depending on the patient's age and volume correction.

Only an Expert Injector™ should perform your liquid facelift. More than 1 million American doctors are qualified to administer injectables but fewer than 3% of them qualify as Expert Injectors™.

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Get Growing, Ascension!

Master Gardeners Complete Veterans Park Project

On Saturday, April 22 Ascension Master Gardeners assisted with cleanup efforts at Veterans Memorial Park in Gonzales as part of Keep Ascension Beautiful. Nearly 75 volunteers were on site that morning! Cubs scouts, boy scouts, JROTC cadets and others teamed up to give the park the attention it deserves. Shrubs were planted, trees



were trimmed, mulch was spread, and plaques, signs, and statues were scrubbed until they shined. Many hands made light work and in no time the park was looking great.

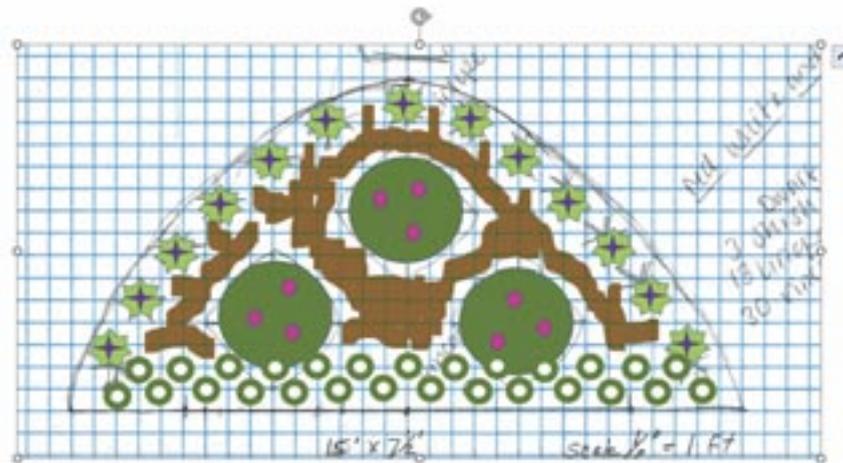
Mr. Shelby Ballard, retired veteran and park committee chair, had contacted the LSU AgCenter and Ascension Master Gardeners in January looking for guidance and

assistance with the flower bed located at the front of the park next to the Veterans Memorial Park sign. Of course, we were happy to oblige. After I made an initial site visit the group created a landscape plan in February. Throughout March Mr. Shelby worked to gather supplies for the planting. All the plants for the front bed were generously donated by Louisiana Nursery and additional plants for the park were donated by Wal-Mart.

To give the landscaping a patriotic appearance the group decided on pink Shishi camellias, purple liriopse, and white vincas. They even incorporated a star of vincas at the center of the bed. The park is a beautiful place, located in the heart of Gonzales on South Irma Blvd between the Gonzales Library and Gonzales Senior Center. The park is well shaded and has a short walking trail.

This project was especially close to my heart. In October of 2006 my older brother, 1st Lieutenant Amos Camden Riley Bock, was killed in Iraq. He had graduated from West Point in 2004 and was only 24 years old. At the time I was 21 and a senior in college. Since then, I have always searched for ways to give back to those who are serving or have served our country as a tribute to my brother. This was a perfect opportunity to do just that and an event I was proud to be a small part of. Many thanks to Mr. Shelby Ballard for reaching out to our association and the Ascension Master Gardeners who made this project a success - Dale Bowman, Zanna Brewer, Richard Babin, Debbie Smith, and Telia Zeringue.

Mariah Simoneaux is the Horticulture Agent serving Ascension and Assumption Parishes. For more information visit www.LSUAgCenter.com or contact Mariah at MJSimoneaux@agcenter.LSU.edu.



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YOUR ESTATE MATTERS



By Linda Melancon

Understanding Elder Law

Since 1963, the United States has recognized May as Elder Law Month. Now, before you pull out your party hats and streamers, let's talk about what elder law is. A common misconception is that elder law refers to any legal issue involving an elderly person. While it's true that elder law

does cover a range of issues and the clientele is seniors, elder law refers specifically to planning for seniors so that they may protect their rights and their assets, preserve their autonomy, and ensure that they receive the highest quality of care possible as they age.

Attorneys who practice elder law handle estate planning issues and counsel clients about planning for incapacity. They may also assist the client in planning for possible long-term care needs, such as nursing home or assisted living care. Some attorneys even assist in locating the appropriate type of care, coordinating private and public resources to finance the cost of care, and working to ensure the client's right to quality care.

As laws and regulations become more complex, legal woes that

affect the elderly are growing in number. And because the systems in place to aid seniors - like Medicaid and other government programs - are often so complex, navigating them alone or without keeping the big picture in mind can cause unintended legal consequences. Elder law encompasses many different fields of law, making it one of the more difficult practice areas. Therefore, it is very important for attorneys dealing with the elderly to have a broad understanding of the laws that may have an impact on any given situation, to avoid future problems.

Most elder law attorneys do not specialize in every area that affects seniors as it would be almost impossible for the attorney to have expertise in all of these areas of law. So when an attorney says he or she practices elder law, find out which specific matters he or she handles. You will want to hire the attorney who regularly handles matters in the area of concern for your particular case and who will know enough about the other fields to question whether the action being taken might be affected by laws in any of the other areas of law. For example, if you are going to prepare a new will and your spouse is ill, the estate planner needs to know enough about Medicaid to know whether it is an issue with regard to your spouse's medical care planning.

But a good attorney knows more than just the law. They should also bring a knowledge of the elderly that allows them and their staff to see through myths about aging, while taking into account the true physical and mental difficulties that often accompany the aging process. This understanding of the afflictions of aging should allow them to direct their client to a system of social workers, psychologists and other elder care professionals who may be of assistance.

Before you start looking for an elder law attorney, make sure

you actually have a legal problem in which an elder law attorney needs to be involved. For example, if a senior wanted to sue his neighbor over a property line dispute, it wouldn't be considered elder law, even though one of the parties in this case is elderly. If you're not sure, you can always contact your local bar association to get a referral for an attorney who handles to types of cases that match your problem.

Once you determine that an elder law attorney is needed, there are many places to find one. The National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, Inc. (NAELA) is a professional organization of attorneys dedicated to improving the quality of legal services provided to the elderly. NAELA sponsors continuing legal education programs on elder law for attorneys throughout the year, and provides publications and educational materials to its members on a wide range of elder law topics. The NAELA website (www.naela.org) includes a searchable directory of attorneys who belong to NAELA. You may also want to check with local agencies such as the Alzheimer's Association; support groups for specific diseases or hospital or nursing home social service departments. If you know any attorneys personally, you may also want to ask them for a referral to an elder law Attorney. Attorneys who practice in other areas of the law may be in a good position to know who handles such issues in your area and whether that person is reputable.

So, in honor of Elder Law Month, if you or a loved one is at the age where you are thinking about long-term care, take a moment to answer this questions: Do I have a plan for my housing, medical care, and finances if I am no longer able to live independently? If the answer is no, consider finding a qualified elder law attorney to help you navigate the way.



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FINANCIAL FOCUS

What should you expect from your investments?

To help achieve your financial goals, you may need to invest in the financial markets throughout your life. However, at times your investment expectations may differ from actual returns, triggering a variety of emotions. So, what are reasonable expectations to have about your investments?

Ideally, you hope that your investment portfolio will eventually help you meet your goals, both your short-term ones, such as a cross-country vacation, and the long-term ones, such as a comfortable retirement. But your expectations may be affected by several factors, including the following:

- **Misunderstanding** – Various factors in the economy and the financial markets trigger different reactions in different types of investments — so you should expect different results. When you own stocks, you can generally expect greater price volatility in the short term. Over time, though, the “up” and “down” years tend to average out. When you own bonds, you can expect less volatility than individual stocks, but that’s not to say that bond prices never change. Generally, when interest rates rise, you can anticipate that the value of your existing, lower-paying bonds may decrease, and when rates fall, the value of your bonds may increase.

- **Recency bias** – Investors exhibit “recency bias” when they

place too much emphasis on recent events in the financial markets, expecting that those same events will happen again. But these expectations can lead to negative behavior. For example, in 2018, the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell almost 6% – so investors subject to recency bias might have concluded it was best to stay out of the markets for a while. But the Dow jumped more than 22% the very next year. Of course, the reverse can also be true: In 2021, the Dow rose almost 19%, so investors who might have been susceptible to recency bias may have thought they were in for more big gains right away — but in 2022, the Dow fell almost 9%. Here’s the bottom line: Recency bias may cloud your expectations about your investments’ performance — and it’s essentially impossible to predict accurately what will happen to the financial markets in any given year.

- **Anchoring** – Another type of investment behavior is known as “anchoring” — an excessive reliance on your original conviction in an investment. So, for instance, if you bought stock in a company you thought had great prospects, you might want to keep your shares year after year, even after evidence emerges that the company has real risks — for example, poor management, or its products could become outdated, or it could be part of an industry that’s in decline. But if you stick with your initial belief that the company will inevitably do well, and you’re not open to new sources of information about this investment, your expectations may never be met.

In many areas of life, reality may differ from our expectations — and that can certainly be true for our investments. Being familiar with the factors that can shape your expectations can help you maintain a realistic outlook about your investments.

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

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Jamie Lavigne,



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CHC Closet and Pantry

“Seeking to glorify God by helping people”



Pastor Clayton Hartline and members from Christ Healing Community, David Ridenour (Cut Rite Tree Service) Ricky Gautreau and Mayor Barney Arceneaux. WAFB channel nine was there and filmed for the news. The clip can be seen on our FB page, CHC Closet and Pantry.

The dream for the pantry is that if someone is homeless we can bring them in, let them get a shower, pick out clothing and wash their own clothing, while we fix them a meal. The shower and washer/dryer are available by appt. only.

We operate strictly by donations. All of our workers are volunteers and our building and utilities are donated to us, so we can give away everything at no cost.

On Friday 4/21/23 an open house was held at CHC Closet and Pantry. We were excited to show off our new shower and washer/dryer. Refreshments were provided by Atmos Energy and Doreen Weir (Cookies for Christ).

After she saw an article in Ascension Magazine, we were contacted by Susan Kee from Atmos Energy. Atmos wanted to help us and funded the addition of a shower. Other donations bought new towels and supplies.

CHC Closet and Pantry is a ministry of Christ Healing Community Church in Gonzales. Our motto is “Seeking to glorify God by helping people”. We provide food and clothing to needy and homeless people at no cost to them. We have no income or residency requirements. We are located at 209 E. Railroad St. Suite B in Gonzales.

Hexion Chemical gave us funds for a washer/dryer as well as 1200 hygiene kits.

The open house was well attended by Kaia Simmons, Susan Kee and others from Atmos. Also attending were volunteers from the closet/pantry, members of the community,





If you would like to volunteer or make a donation please let us know. You can message us on FB or stop by any day we are open. We love to have visitors.

We are always in need of food for the pantry, children's and men's clothing. We are also happy to receive cash or gift card donations so that we can buy meat for the freezer. We also have an Amazon wish list on our FB page.

Our mailing address is 209 E. Railroad St. Gonzales, LA. We are open Tues., Wed., and Thurs. from 9-12. Donations can be

accepted any weekday from 9-2. Just ring the bell if we are closed. Please do not leave donations if we are closed. The neighborhood cats will ruin them.

Our next big wish list items are a small shed for storage and a ramp. If you can help with these items please let us know.

We really want to thank again Atmos Energy, Hexion Specialty Chemicals and Mike Strong at Ascension Magazine as well as anyone who donates time, cash or items to help the needy in the parish. May God bless you all.





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A huge thank you to all the sponsors, volunteers, vendors, attendees, bands, cooks, for making this years DCT Crawfish Festival such a success. Also thank you to our Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser, Commission of Ag – Mike Strain for volunteering their time to judge the crawfish. We had several other elected officials and thank you for your time.

A special thanks to the Title Sponsors to include:

- Briggs Equipment
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- Louisiana Seafood Board Certified Louisiana
- Laynes Jewelry
- Firequest
- Church Funeral Services and Crematory

Inkind:

- MMR Cooking Team
- Galvez Fire Department
- Ascension Magazine

- Bearcom Wireless
- Vacherie Fuel
- Blue Runner
- Boucherie Festival
- Chris Speciality Foods
- Volunteer Ascension
- Junior League of Baton Rouge
- Mike Tony
- Charlene Ziegler – Milo Teas
- Reily Foods
- Uncle Larry’s Stew in a Few
- Reed Ingram – Big Events

CRACKIIN Winners

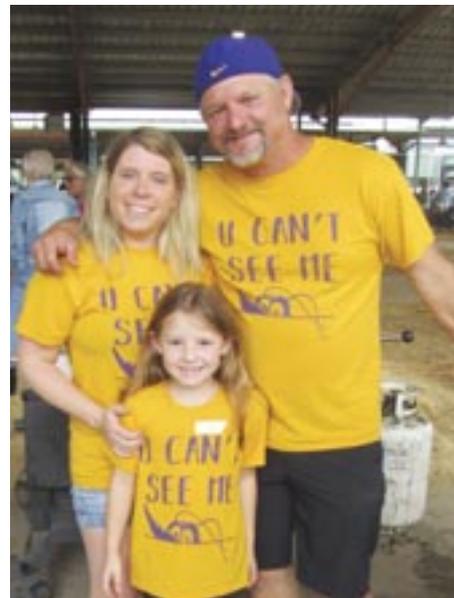
- 1st – Jacob Rome
- 2nd – Stump Marchand
- 3rd – Jimmy Bercegeay

Jambalaya Winners

- 1st – Hose Reine
- 2nd – Jared White
- 3rd – Clint Broussard

Crawfish Winners

- 1st. Devin Nola
- 2nd – Luke & Hacky
- 3rd - Slinky’s Oyster Shack









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Dancing for a Cause

Premiere Extravaganza

Dancing for a Cause is in its 14th season and The Arc of East Ascension is proud to announce their Premiere annual event Dancing for a Cause on Saturday, July 8th, 2023, at The REV Center at Lamar-Dixon Expo Center located at 931 St. Landry Rd. Gonzales, La. The Arc of East Ascension is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization; tax-deductible receipts are available for qualifying donations.

Seven local "Celebrity Stars" will be paired with professional dancers to entertain and charm you with their performances.

The 2023 Celebrity Star Dancers and (Professional Dancers) are:

Alyssa Curet, Certified Physician at Williamson Cosmetic Center & Perenack Aesthetic Surgery (Van Vo)

Scottie Hunter, WAFB Channel 9 News Anchor / Reporter (Dr. Aimee Russo-Mounger)

Jackie McCreary, Community Relations Manager at CF Industries', Donaldsonville (Leonard Augustus)

Hayden Decoteau, Project Coordinator at The Baton Rouge Clinic, AMC & Owner of HD Notary, LLC. (Brandi Malone)

Lucy Cason, Director of Human Resources at Ascension Parish Government (Leonard Augustus Jr.)

Kiersten Brignac, Finance Manager at Colonial Financial (Walker Fleming)

Leigh Alexie, Co-Owner and Manager of Be you Boutique & Co. (Ric Seeling)

Your sponsorship for Dancing for a Cause helps to raise funds and awareness for The Arc of East Ascension, a non-profit organization, whose mission is to enhance the quality of life for individuals with disabilities and their families through services and advocacy that support choice, independence, and dignity.

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

All table sponsors are invited to attend a VIP reception at 6:00 p.m. on July 8th, with the main event starting at 7:00 p.m. Table Sponsorships range from \$300-\$35,000. Table Sponsorships include Two Step (\$300), Rumba (\$550), Salsa (\$1,500), VIP Salsa (2,500.00), Ballroom (\$5,000), Center Stage (\$7,500), Main Stage (\$10,000), and Diamond Stage (\$35,000). The different levels of sponsorship also include tickets to the event and advertising for your business or organization. Sponsorships are available today by calling Sharon Morris at: 225-621-2005 or by reaching out to one of our Celebrity Star Dancers. All sponsorship packets must be delivered or picked up by June 30th, 2023. Visit our website for more information and to vote for your favorite dancer(S) at: www.thearca.com.



Robert Burgess

The 2023 Dancing for a Cause Guest Speaker will be Robert Burgess from The Ascension Chamber of Commerce. We look forward to hearing from The Ascension Chamber of Commerce CEO/President speak at the event.

Louisiana Seafood donates some of the seafood and the VIP reception is catered compliments of Mike Anderson Seafood owner, Chip Robert, and his team.

Additional performances will be provided by Center Stage Performing Arts Academy, a father daughter dance by Wendy Schexnaydre and her father Kent. We will also have an Elvis Presley - impersonator.

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

The 2023 Dancing for a Cause Judges are:

Sheriff, Bobby Webre – Sheriff of Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office

Dustin Cloutre – Insurance agent for Hughes Insurance and the President / Owner of TR Waste Solutions

Wanda August – Deputy / Community Outreach at Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office, Parent Facilitator at the Ascension Parish School Board and "Angel of Faith" on KKAY AM 1590 & 106.9 FM

The King of Fundraising was Chase Melancon, raising over 35,000.00.

The Queen of Fundraising was Ivy Walding Adams, raising over 38,000.00.

The Arc of East Ascension is proud to announce that WAFB Channel 9 News continues to be our Diamond Presenting Sponsor and our Emcees for 2023 are WAFB News' staff Elizabeth Vowell Blades (Evening Anchor Reporter) and Greg Meriwether (Anchor and Managing Editor). The Event Chairperson/Organizer, and PR-Marketing Director for The Arc of East Ascension, Sharon Morris. For more information, please contact The Arc of East Ascension by calling 225-621-2005 or 225-621-2003 or email sharon.morris@thearca.org. Visit the Dancing for a Cause website at: www.thearca.com to vote for the dancer(s) of your choice. Make plans today to be a part of the biggest fundraiser in Ascension Parish, Dancing for a Cause 2023. We look forward to seeing you there!



Greg Meriwether



Elizabeth Vowell Blades



Chase Melancon & Ivy Walding Adams





Raven Labiche
The New Executive Director of,
The Arc of East Ascension



Sharon Morris,
Chairperson/Organizer, and
PR-Marketing Director for
The Arc of East Ascension



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THE BATON ROUGE CLINIC, AMC
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ALYSSA CURET**
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Wanda August, Judge



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Dustin Cloutre, Judge



Bobby Webre, Judge



ARC STAR DANCER - 2022
TISHA POWELL & PRO. DANCER -
LEONARD AUGUSTUS JR.



**STAR DANCER 2023
LUCY CASON**
ASCENSION PARISH GOVERNMENT
DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES



**STAR DANCER 2023
SCOTTIE HUNTER**
WAFB CHANNEL 9 NEWS
ANCHOR/REPORTER

MAJOR SPONSORS 2022



Saturday - July 8, 2023 - 7:00 pm
Lamar-Dixon Rev Center

The Ballroom Bar opens at 6:00pm and is sponsored
by Lamendola's Supermarket.
Our Specialty Drink "Da Rumba" with our trademark souvenir glass
will also be available for purchase.
Saturday - July 8, 2023 - 7:00 pm (Main Event)
The REV Center at Lamar-Dixon Expo Center
931 St. Landry Rd. Gonzales, La. 70737
VIP Tickets: \$150 per person

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Website: www.thearcea.com

Jambalaya Festival

Cruising with Queen Ava!



To start my last month's travels, I celebrated one of my favorite festival seasons. Besides Jambalaya Festival season, of course! As a college student at Southeastern Louisiana University, my love for strawberries is almost as big as my love for all things jambalaya. With that being said, on April 15 I headed to none other than the city of Ponchatoula, Louisiana to attend the Strawberry Festival. I rode on the fair and festival queen's float in the parade that runs through the town and later enjoyed all that the festival had to offer. The following weekend on April 22, I attended the Sicilian Heritage Pageant in Independence, Louisiana. We welcomed Julianna Perricone as the new queen and said our goodbyes to my dear friend, inside and outside the fair and festival world, Mackynzie Mannino. The next day, April 23, I spent some time with a few members of the Jambalaya Festival Association as well as some folks from Meylan, France. We all took a boat ride and returned to the



Gonzales Boat Club to eat jambalaya. I am so honored to have learned more about Meylan and the city's sister relationship with Gonzales. On May 6, I stayed home in Gonzales to attend the annual VFW Jambalaya Cooking Contest. I was able to catch up with some of my favorite Gonzales locals and called out the winning tickets for the cookoff. One of my favorite things to do as Miss Gonzales Jambalaya is to travel locally so I was fortunate to have two local travels this month. Traveling locally as queen is going to be one of the things I will miss the most when I give up my title in less than a month. To end this past month's travels, on May 13 I attended the first annual LA Crawfish Festival Ball in Chalmette, Louisiana. I had a great time eating and dancing with my rhinestone sisters and it was a night that I'll never forget!

If you are interested in becoming the next Miss or Teen Gonzales Jambalaya, please reach out to Katie Battaglia, the Jambalaya Festival Pageant Director at gonzalesjambalayadirector@gmail.com

Ava Savoy



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East Ascension Sportsmans League

Letter from president -
Mike Lambert

Well the kids will soon be finished with school for the year and they will be complaining that there is nothing to do and that they're bored. I had a thought that came into my head. I knew

it was a real thought 'cuz it hurt a little. I think it would be a real good activity to get outside and do some bird watching. I know that sounds like a lot of fun. But wait, you can use your mobile smart phone to do it.

This is what you do kids. First, find a bird and if you know what kind it is, write it down on a note pad. Oh that's right! You can put it in your phone. Second, if you don't know the name of the bird, look it up in a book, or your phone, right?! Third, see how many different kinds of birds you see. That's it. Challenge each other and make it a family thing. You don't have to go out when it's hot at midday either. Most birds sing in the morning and evening anyway and the best way to see is usually to hear them first. You may learn how to tell what bird it is just by its call.

You will be surprised to learn how many different birds are around your house. They are everywhere, from fields, swamps, woods, and waterways. Check them out and have fun outdoors.

You can do the same thing with fish too. See how many kinds of fish you can catch, 'cuz fish don't like to be caught. It's fun though! Speaking of fishing, don't forget about the Kid's Fishing Rodeo at Twin Lakes in Geismar July 29th. The fishing

starts at 7 AM, so practice getting up early. I guess I mean don't get out of practice since you get up early for school already.

Well, that's all for now. I got to go. I think I hear a bird or maybe a fish. I'll let ya know!

Thanks for your time,

Mike Lambert

To renew your 2023 EASL dues please send a check for \$20 (made out to EASL) to: EASL, 36156 Sycamore Circle. Geismar 70734 .

EASL Bass Club News

The EASL Bass Club fished their monthly Tournament on Saturday, April 29th. This was a "Trailer Tournament" with the weigh-in at Doiron's, Verret Side @ 3:00PM. Members could launch from Amelia to Pigeon or anywhere in between.

There were 17 boats fishing this Tournament. The results

indicate that this was a tough day of fishing. There were only 7 Boats that managed to catch their limit of 5 Bass. There were 6 boats that did not weigh a fish in. Other boats had 1, 2 or 3 fish to weigh in.

- The winners were Wilson Mulina & Gary Christian with 5 fish weighing 11.30 lbs.
- Second Place went to Reed

- Babin & Ben Parker with their 5 fish that weighed 9.62 lbs.
- Third Place went to Ronald & Rance Gautreau with 5 fish that weighed in at 9.32 lbs.
- Fourth Place went to Donald Braud & Terry Molea with their 5 fish weighing 8.64 lbs.
- Fifth Place went to Mark Cloutre & Blake Burstall with 5 fish that weighed in at 8.60 lbs.

- Big Bass winner was Tim Braud with his lunker that weighed 3.66 lbs.

Congratulations to the April winners of the EASL Tournament. Our next Tournament will be held on Saturday, May 27th. The meeting to plan the tournament will be held at Dirk Anderson's home on May 18th at 5:30 PM.



Tim Braud, Big Bass Winner with 3.66 lb Lunker.tif



Left to right, Ronald Gautreau, Rance Gautreau, Reed Babin, Ben Parker, Wilson Mulina, Gary Christian, Donald Braud, Blake Burstall, Terry Molea, Mark Cloutre



56TH ANNUAL GONZALES JAMBALAYA FESTIVAL

EVENT SCHEDULE

FESTIVAL GROUNDS: 219 South Irma Boulevard, Gonzales, LA 70737
FREE ENTRY AND FREE PARKING



BANDS FRIDAY, MAY 26

MAIN FESTIVAL STAGE

Damon Troy	5:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Ryan Foret & Foret Tradition	9:00 pm - 12:00 am

INDOOR STAGE

Back Street Band ft. Ruckle Gautreau	5:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Dustin Sonnier	9:30 pm - 12:00 am

COOKING AREA STAGE

Joey Ray	12:30 pm - 3:30 pm
Lauren Lee Band	4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

SATURDAY, MAY 27

MAIN FESTIVAL STAGE

Crazy Blue	11:00 am - 1:30 pm
Justin Cornett	2:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Eddie Smith Band ft. Floyd Brown	5:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Gregg Martinez w/ TK Hulin & Johnny Allen	9:00 pm - 12:00 am

INDOOR STAGE

Kenny Cornett	11:30 am - 1:30 pm
Swampland Revival	2:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Mike Broussard & Nite Train	5:30 pm - 8:30 pm
South 70 Band	9:00 pm - 12:00 am

COOKING AREA STAGE

T-Boy Moore & Just Us	12:30 pm - 3:30 pm
Jovin Webb	4:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Announcement of Champ of Champ & Top 32 Semi-finalists	7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

SUNDAY, MAY 28

MAIN FESTIVAL STAGE

Dustin Guedry	12:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Chris LeBlanc & Jonathon Boogie Long	3:30 pm - 6:30 pm
2023 World Champion Announcement	6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
The Mojoes	8:00 pm - 11:00 pm

INDOOR STAGE

Rhett Glindmeyer	10:30 am - 12:30 pm
Na Na Sha	1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Don Rich	4:30 pm - 7:30 pm
After 8	8:00 pm - 11:00 pm

COOKING AREA STAGE

Announcement of Top 12 Finalists	12:00 pm - 12:30 pm
Ghost Riders Band	12:30 pm - 3:30 pm
Taylor Nauta	4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

PAGEANT SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 2023

Gonzales Civic Center

COOKING CONTEST FRIDAY, MAY 26

Heats 1-4: 10:00 am | 11:30 am | 2:00 pm | 3:30 pm
Mini-Pot Champ of Champs: 6:00 pm

SATURDAY, MAY 27

Heats 5 - 8: 6:30 am | 8:00 am | 10:30 am | 12:00 pm
Semi-finalists announced at 7:00 pm

Champ of Champs 2:30 pm - 5:30 pm
Champ of Champs Winner announced at 7:00 pm

Mini-Pot Cooking Contest 7:00 am - 11:00 am
Along New River - Across from Gonzales City Hall

SUNDAY, MAY 28

Semi-finals 6:00 am - 10:00 am
Finalists announced at 12:00 pm

Finals 1:30 pm - 5:00 pm
World Champion announced 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

5K & 1 MILE RUN SATURDAY, MAY 27

Registration	7:00 am
1 Mile Fun Run	8:00 am
5K Run Start	8:30 am

CARNIVAL

FRIDAY, MAY 26 - SUNDAY, MAY 28

5:00 pm - 10:00 pm (Friday)
Pay one price of \$30
11:00 am - 10:00 pm (Saturday)
Pay one price of \$30
11:00 am - 10:00 pm (Sunday)
Pay one price of \$30
Weekend Passes for Friday - Sunday \$60
Single Ride Tickets range from \$3 - \$7 each

CAR SHOW SUNDAY, MAY 28

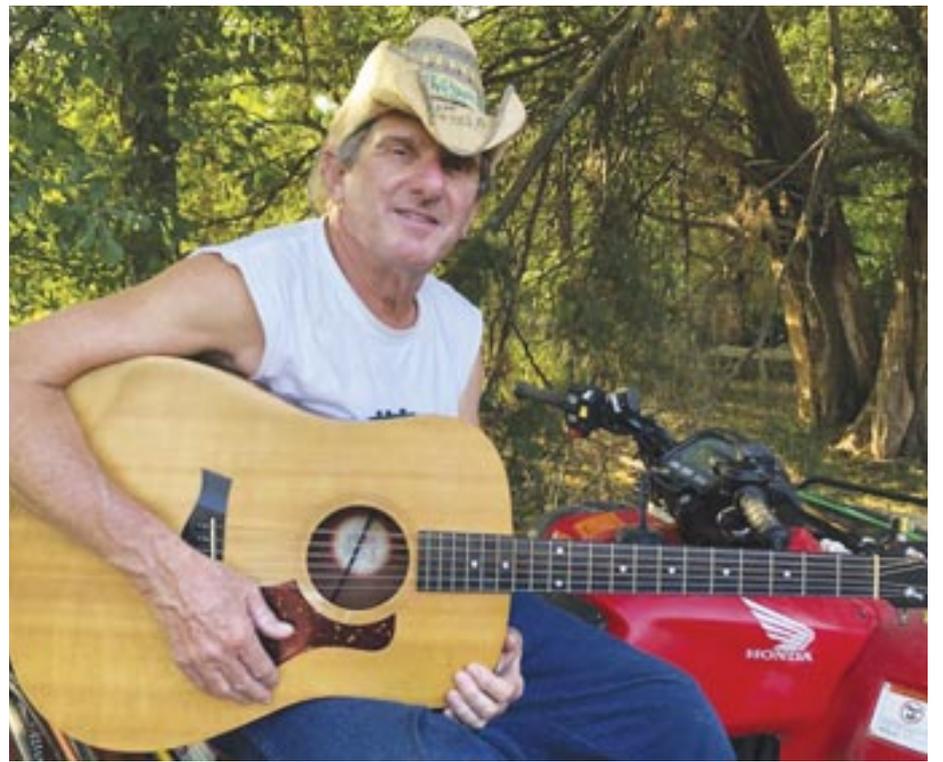
Registration	9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Awards	3:00 pm

Council On Aging Parking Lot

VENDOR BOOTHS FRIDAY, MAY 26 - SUNDAY, MAY 28

Irma Boulevard
Friday 2:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Saturday & Sunday 10:00 am - 7:00 pm

Jammin' with Goosie



Kids, Dip Nets and Ditches

It was a classic spring day and as I was driving home from running a few errands that evening I noticed three young boys standing out in a pasture that was visible from the highway. As I pulled up to the upcoming four way stop I noticed another youngster approaching the group who were now pointing and focusing their eyes on a drainage ditch that ran through the old cattle pasture. There's no telling what had gotten their attention but at this day and time it was nice to see a group of young boys looking at something other than some sort of electronic device.

As I drove away from the scene I felt the urge to stop, turnaround and go see what they were looking at. The moment brought me back to my childhood many years ago when a large majority of our time as country boys was spent around old ditches and farm ponds. The amount of creatures that live in these shallow highly vegetated environments is incredible. Most of our adventures in those areas centered around things such as turtle fishing, frogging, crawfishing, dip netting for fish baits, along with the catching and killing of snakes. How any of our group avoided being bit by a cottonmouth or copperhead during those times is actually amazing in its own right since I can remember so many

close calls of that nature.

These old drains, some are natural and some are man made, help keep surrounding lands from flooding by emptying their volume of water into larger bodies of H2O. They also provide a source of food and water during dry times to hundreds of animals, reptiles, amphibians, insects, and birds. The list of users may include racoons, possums, coyotes, mink, otter, fox, bobcats, rabbits, whitetails, squirrels, frogs, snakes, turtles, salamanders, birds of many species, etc.

It's sad to say, but at one time or another many of these drains, some more than others, carried a substantial amount of sewage. Back in the day, so to say, the area that I lived in was not as populated as it is today. In many cases the larger ditches that we spent time wading in were not inundated with raw sewage as much as you might think. At this day and time, although more populated, waste is now being treated in a more efficient manner to prevent these drainages from carrying a large degree of raw sewage to our larger rivers and lakes.

I don't know what that group of young boys were pointing to on the day that I saw them. But whatever it was, I'm sure it was something that was of interest to me even at my older age. While traveling our highways, particularly in the spring, it's not uncommon at all to see someone "dragging" a dip net along a roadside ditch to catch fish bait such as crawfish, minnows, or grass shrimp.

This is a very inexpensive method of gathering fish bait that you can't really purchase from your local bait shops and in many instances it's the perfect bait of choice for fish in the spring and early summer.

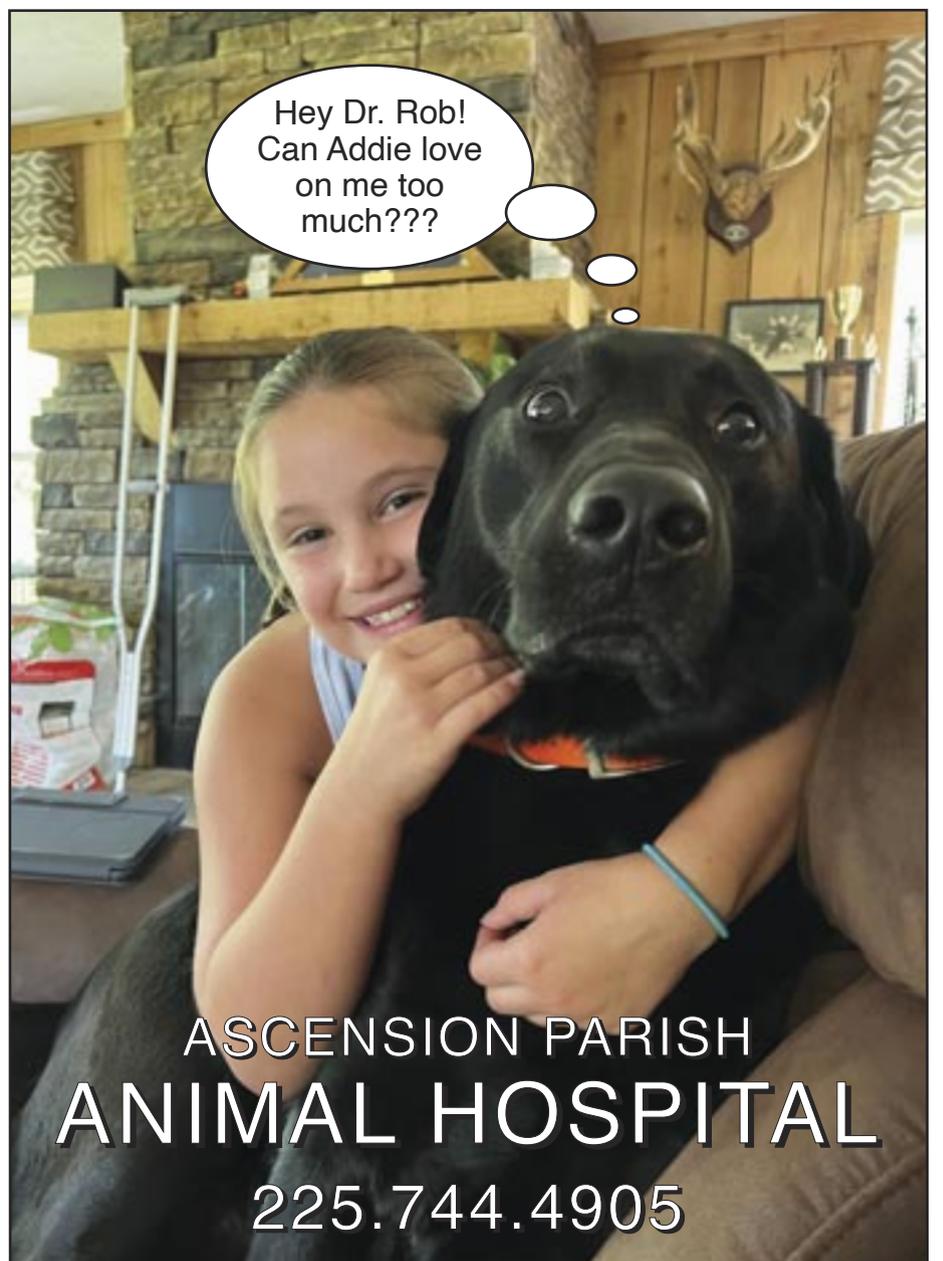
If the opportunity ever presents itself, grab a dip net and make a couple of swipes in your local drainage ditch.

You'll probably be pleasantly surprised by how much life this small stream environment can provide to our surroundings.

Till next time

Check it out

James "Goosie" Guice



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Funny How Time Slips Away or Escape to Yesteryear

by Bill Delaune



Lately I've been suffering some recurring problems with this thing known as time. Especially since we Baby Boomers actually believe that we are allowed to knock 20 years off our chronological age for simply surviving the 60's. I think you can see how this can easily complicate matters especially for the brain cell-depleted.

So can one of you brilliant quantum physics majors who are versed in the String Theory or one of those others that I picked up from Sheldon on "The Big Bang" explain how this can possibly be the 56th anniversary of the Jambalaya Festival when it seems like just yesterday I was dancing around on Burnside at the inaugural event.

And while you're at it, Stephens Hawkins, maybe you can explain to me how I keep running into former students and players that tell me they are celebrating their 60th birthday when I only admit to being 54 years old (see above).

So to keep my psychotic nerve-the one that controls my bad golfer's back and my

feeble brain-from acting up, let's get Mr. Peabody to fuel up the Way-Back Time Machine and bounce around from present day into a decade I more readily identify with.

For someone who attended the first "real" Jambalaya Festival in 1968 (The original organization was chartered in 1967.) and celebrated almost every year since, I have recently experienced some flashbacks concerning current events of this year and those of that historical year of 1968.

First, there's all this hype about the Festival. In '68 the event was held right in the middle of Gonzales with Burnside Street blocked off from Cornerview all the way past Gonzales Primary. The rides and midway were on the south side of Spartan Stadium where soccer moms now cheer their future Peles and Pelettes.

Our base of operations was Noody Diez's Fish-N-Pic bar-where Dalton's, Burnside Café and numerous Mexican restaurants have stood since then-and we would walk to the Festival to avoid the parking cluster and a possible

DWI citation.

When the bands quit Saturday night, we'd continue our odyssey down to Bobby's Lounge-Robert's Insurance now-for a 1-5 a.m. post Festival party because no one was going home anyway.

With Sunday morning coming down, we had our own "baptism" rites in the so-called interstate ponds on the still-being-constructed Highway 30. Some of our entourage rode to the swim-along in the back of a pickup truck wearing nothing but an illegal smile and no doubt startling some of the early morning risers headed for six o'clock mass at St. Theresa's.

Now remember, my children, this was the tumultuous summer of '68 that included the growingly unpopular war in Viet Nam, the assassinations of Martin Luther King and Bobby Kennedy and a growing anti-establishment feeling among young people. So when the Festival ended with a rock band blaring out "Born To Be Wild", the raucous crowd was in no mood to leave.

As the police tried to

disperse the unruly throng, chants of "Hell no-we won't go!" broke out just like the anti-war demonstrators.

Then someone announced there was a band at Kab-a-ra (corner of Highways 621 and 44) and all the would-be protestors migrated peacefully in that direction.

The Festival's a lot tamer now and at a different location on Irma Boulevard but the good food and the good times continue on. But I suggest that anyone who actually waded through those mountains of beer cans on Burnside at that first Festival certainly deserves an honorary medal or at least a guest role on "Survivor".

Another of my flashbacks happened earlier this year when the great guitarist Jeff Beck got his tickets to Rock-n-Roll Heaven. I was lucky enough to see Beck and Robert Plant in 2011 at Jazz Fest and both remain in my "top five" of all time but that memorable performance is not the flashback I had in mind.

Back in 1968 Beck played with an English group called the Yardbirds ("For Your Love") that featured two other guitar



players you might recognize- Eric Clapton and Jimmy Paige. In a band loaded with that much talent, Beck often played lead which tells you a little about just how good he was.

When the band began to break up, Clapton formed his own group Cream and Paige tried to convince Beck to join him and Plant in an experimental troupe that would play something Paige referred to as "heavy metal".

Beck declined but out of curiosity checked in on his old friends after they did a couple of shows. Apparently, the audience had failed to appreciate the pioneering genre of the group and response had been mediocre at best.

"This tour's going down like a lead balloon," Paige reported. "No worse than that-a lead zeppelin."

A dropped foul and a "Whole Lotta Love" later and Led Zeppelin was the number one band in the world and Plant's voice was one of the most recognizable in rock music. Of course Beck went his own way playing with Jimi Hendrix, Rod Stewart and many more winning multiple Grammys and two inductions into the Rock-n-Roll Hall of Fame. And yes-another reason I did so poorly at USL was trying to learn "Beck's Bolero" instead of studying that other stuff. Priorities, you know.

If you still haven't grasped my rambling time travel theory, consider my favorite horse race in May-the Kentucky

Derby. This year our handicapping cartel came up with a sure-fire trifecta that would line our pockets with untold riches.

We took Two Phils who figured to be close to the lead and boxed him with a closer Angel of Empire who would be flying late. Our third horse was Disarm whose sire Gun Runner is one of my all-time favorites and was bred to get the grueling mile and a quarter distance.

When the field turned for home, Two Phils took the lead and began pulling away. In the middle of the track, Angel and Disarm were both making big moves after getting into more trouble early than I did at the first Jambalaya Festival.

It looked like a perfect setup until a lightly-raced colt named Mage spoiled our party, exploding to the front and relegating our threesome to second, third and fourth place finishes. Three out of the top four and nothing to show for it. Take that ticket and three dollars to the Cottage Inn and you might be able to get a beer.

Now back to 1968 where I had my college meal money on a horse named Forward Pass. In a scenario eerily similar to this year's race, Forward Pass took the lead with a furlong to go and looked all over the winner. Then from last to first came Dancer's Image-flying down the stretch and sending me back to 15 cent hamburgers at Burger Chef for the next two weeks.

A few days after the race-and after all the payouts-the stewards at Churchill Downs decided that Dancer's Image was flying a little too high down the stretch and disqualified the colt for an illegal substance in his blood. It was the first such disqualification in Derby history.

Forward Pass was declared the winner and the purse was

awarded to his wealthy Calumet Farms blue-blooded owners. But what about us poor folks who bet on the eventual winner? Rough, tough, cream puff said the stewards-our money was gone forever. What's that old saying about "the rich get richer...?"

I can play this nostalgia game for a while-for example, while trying to beat the money wheel at this year's St. John's fair, I had a flashback to the 1968 fire that destroyed the old church. "Holy smoke!" my father called it.

But instead, I'll just live in the present and wander out to the 2023 Jambalaya Festival to gather some new material and memories to write about. Don't worry-if you do something embarrassing you'll fit right in with my crowd and we'll rule it "off the record".

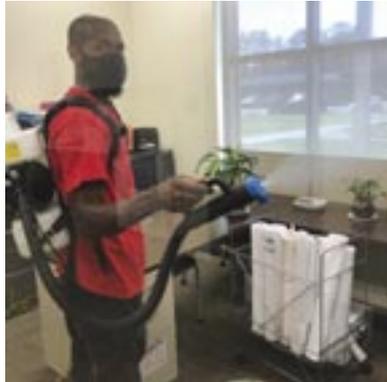
I'll be the old dude in the John Lennon tie-dye shirt. You know, 1968 style.

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Party at Joe's

May 27

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Useless Random Facts with Kellie

The Pilgrim's thanksgiving feast in 1621 occurred sometime between September 21 and November 1.

It lasted three days and included 50 surviving pilgrims and approximately 90 Wampanoag Indians, including Chief Massasoit. Their menu differed from modern Thanksgiving dinners and included berries, shellfish, boiled pumpkin, and deer.

The 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake lasted nearly 10 minutes—the longest on record.

With their "echo-location," dolphins can distinguish between types of fish the same size, between aluminum and brass, and between a steel ball that is 2-1/2" in diameter and one that is 2-1/4" in diameter.

Cigarette butts and filters take 12 years to biodegrade. An aluminum can takes between 200 to 500 years to biodegrade. Plastic diapers and sanitary pads take between 500-800 years. Styrofoam takes more than 5,000 years. And it would take a glass bottle 1 million years to biodegrade.

Popcorn kernels can pop up to 3 feet in the air.

Egg-laying hens live on sloped cage floors so that the eggs will roll aside. However, the sloped floor damages their feet. In some cases, toenails become permanently tangled in the wire, so the flesh grows around it. The birds are essentially soldered to their cages.

When McDonald's opened an outlet in Kuwait shortly after the end of the Gulf War, the line of cars waiting to eat there was seven miles long.

According to the U.S. census, there are 95.9 million unmarried people in the U.S. of which 47% are men and 53% are women.

India is the birthplace of chess.

While general vocabulary and knowledge about the world often stays sharp through one's 70s, memory for names begins to decline as early as age 35. The ability to recognize faces and find one's car has already begun to wane by the 20s. However, research shows that brain stimulation not only stops cells from shrinking, but it can also increase brain cell and dendrite branching.

Thoughts from Bully

Life's Lessons. Who Pranked the Prankster



I have always been a pretty good prankster. I have pulled some dozzies and have been pranked myself. It's always been in fun and received that way.

Once in High School while sitting at the lunchroom table Tommy Reeve's sat with me and Scott Harris and Bama. Tommy was rattling on as usual and checking out the chicks. I took my freshly opened carton of milk and dropped green food coloring in it and shook it up. Scott and Bama distracted him while I exchanged milks. He proceeded to eat lunch and drink his milk. After about three swallows he noticed a drip of milk was green. He then looked in his carton and started to gag. Immediately he threw his milk against the wall and started shouting profanities exclaiming that his milk was green.

Tommy has since passed on I never got to tell him I was responsible. He was way bigger than me and I felt safer not telling him. However I am sorry Tommy you got suspended. I also hope he ain't waiting with St. Peter at the golden gates. I hope even more there is not a sign directing pranksters another direction.

Through the years I have pulled many pranks from child hood till now. I have put rubber bands on the sinks water sprayer handle and ask my little sister Donna to get me a drink of water. Water would spray and she got wet. Trust me she got me back.

I've placed a dead alligator at the feet of a grown man

showering with his eyes closed from soap in his hair. When the soap cleared, the look in his eyes and antics getting away from the gator was priceless.

At the hunting camp I have pulled many pranks. Once I had a disco mirror ball on a fishing line string hanging in a tree. While sittin around the camp fire we had several youngsters aged from 4 to 7. I started talking about the sightings we have had of lights flying through the night skies at the camp. When the time was right I had guys shinning spot lights on the mirror ball twisting as it lowered. White dots were everywhere sparkling through the woods like a Saturday Night Fever dance scene. Then as the kids were getting

excited and hiding behind parents, the string broke. It bounced and sparkled rolling down the dirt road. The kids started screaming and following it shouting, "The aliens crashed. The aliens crashed." Sometimes in a prank it doesn't have to work out perfect to be perfect.

I started thinking about the pranks I've performed when I heard the passing of my brother George Jr.

George was my oldest step brother and I haven't seen him in years. When something like this happens you can't help but reminisce. As I was pondering my memories one popped up that had long been forgotten. When I was 6 years old I was standing on our front porch with my little sister Donna. She was 5. George was laying in the front yard not moving. Laying still. We asked several times, "What are you doing?" He then shushed use and said quietly, "There is a buzzard circling thinking I'm dead and when he comes down I'm gonna catch and put him in the big tissue box by the bush." He then ran over to us. He convinced us to go lay down and play dead. Two bodies are better than one.

Sure enough we did it. He

told us not to lay like you are suntanning. Wrinkle up like you were killed. Look like a chalk line at a murder investigation crime scene. All twisted on the ground we lay there for 10 minutes. Getting bored we were wanting to get up and he spoke up, Your eyes have been open." Close your eyes to be realistic.

All of a sudden there were some sounds of wings flapping. "Keep you Eyes Closed." he whispered. WE squeezed or eyes. Things started to smell like an icky bird. George shout- ed, "WE Got'm!" We opened oureyes and sat up to a big tissue box that has flopping sounds and live motion rocking it. George tipped the box over toward us and a buzzard ran straight out at us.

He hopped and flopped right by us. WE freaked and ran off. Then the sound of laughter rang clear. George Jr. had found a wing injured buzzard on the side of the road and put him in that box. Got it back to the house and then pranked us.

Amazing what we remember when someones gone. Thank you George for the memories. Maybe the Prankster learned from the Prankster?



Wild Life and Fisheries issues *Bud Light Warning*. Do not let cases or cans enter the water ways. It may cause a tranformation of our bayous.



Volunteer Fire Department recognizing members - Fire Prevention in the Community

Recently the members of the St. Amant Volunteer Fire Department and 5th Ward Vol. Fire Dept. - Ascension, La recognized two volunteers for their strong commitment to the community for fire prevention.

Both departments are no strangers to local schools, churches, day care centers, boy scout and girl scout troops. We are committed to making sure the children of our Parish are well aware of Fire Prevention Methods.

Congratulations - Officers Sean Gilbert and Shawn Frederic for receiving these special awards.

"Our Family Helping Your Family"
Chief James E. LeBlanc
St. Amant & Darrow Communities



Volunteer Firefighters of the Month - St. Amant & Darrow Communities

So proud of Braylan Jenkins and Ricky Chauvin for being named the April 2023 - St. Amant Volunteer Fire Department and 5th Ward Vol. Fire Dept. - Ascension, La. - "Firefighters of the Month" - we are very proud of our dedicated members that never stop working for the St. Amant and Darrow communities.

Volunteer Firefighters really don't have the time, they make the time.

"Our Family Helping Your Family"
Chief James E. LeBlanc
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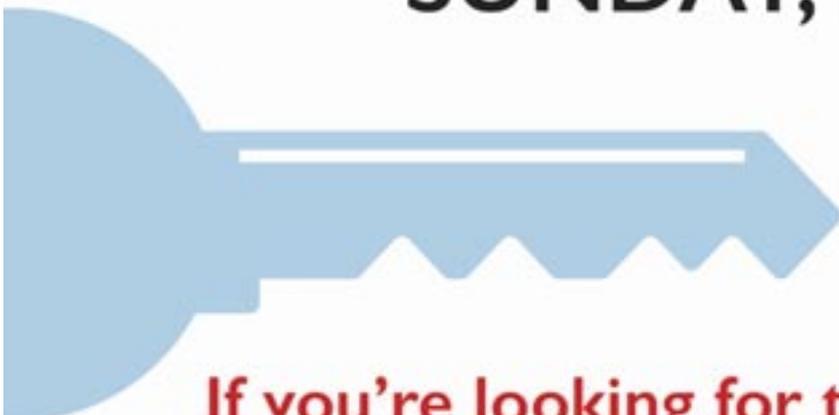
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Pentecost Sunday

Celebrating The Experience!

SUNDAY, MAY 28 • 11AM



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With those keys, Peter unlocked the kingdom for us all when he said, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." - Acts 2:38

Then he left the door wide open for everyone to receive the promise themselves! *For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.* - Acts 2:39

**Please join us as we celebrate Pentecost Sunday
on Sunday, May 28 at 11AM!**



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Crab & Apple Bruschetta



Executive Chef, John Donaldson

Yield: 10-15 servings

Prep: 15 minutes

Cook: 10 minutes

Serving: 4

Ingredients:

8 ounces fresh Jumbo Lump crabmeat
1 small loaf French bread
1 Granny Smith apple
4 ounces Smoked Gouda (whatever cheese you like)
8 cherry tomatoes
1 ounce fresh basil
2 ounces extra virgin olive oil
2 lemons
Kosher salt & fresh ground black pepper to taste

Method:

First thing you want to do is get those toast points cooked. Set your oven on 375 and allow it to preheat. Take your French bread and cut it into ½ inch slices then lay them out on a sheet pan/cookie sheet. Drizzle them with olive oil and bake for 5 minutes or until lightly browned. Remove them from the oven and allow them to cool and get nice and crispy.

Next, grab your crabmeat and put it into a small mixing bowl. Drizzle the crabmeat with a little olive oil, the juice of the lemon (no seeds), and salt & pepper to taste.

Now get your cheese. Here we are using Smoked Gouda, but you can use any of your favorite cheeses. Shred the cheese and set aside until it's time to use. Take out your cherry tomatoes and cut them in ½ and add them to the bowl of crabmeat

Thinly slice the basil leaves

The last ingredient to prepare is the apple. Remove the core of the apple either with an apple corer or simply by cutting off each side of the apple. Cut the apple into small cubes and put them into the small mixing bowl with the crabmeat and tomatoes, then drizzle with the juice of the last lemon (no seeds). This will keep the apple from turning brown.

LET'S PUT IT ALL TOGETHER!!!

Eat, Drink, & Enjoy!

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