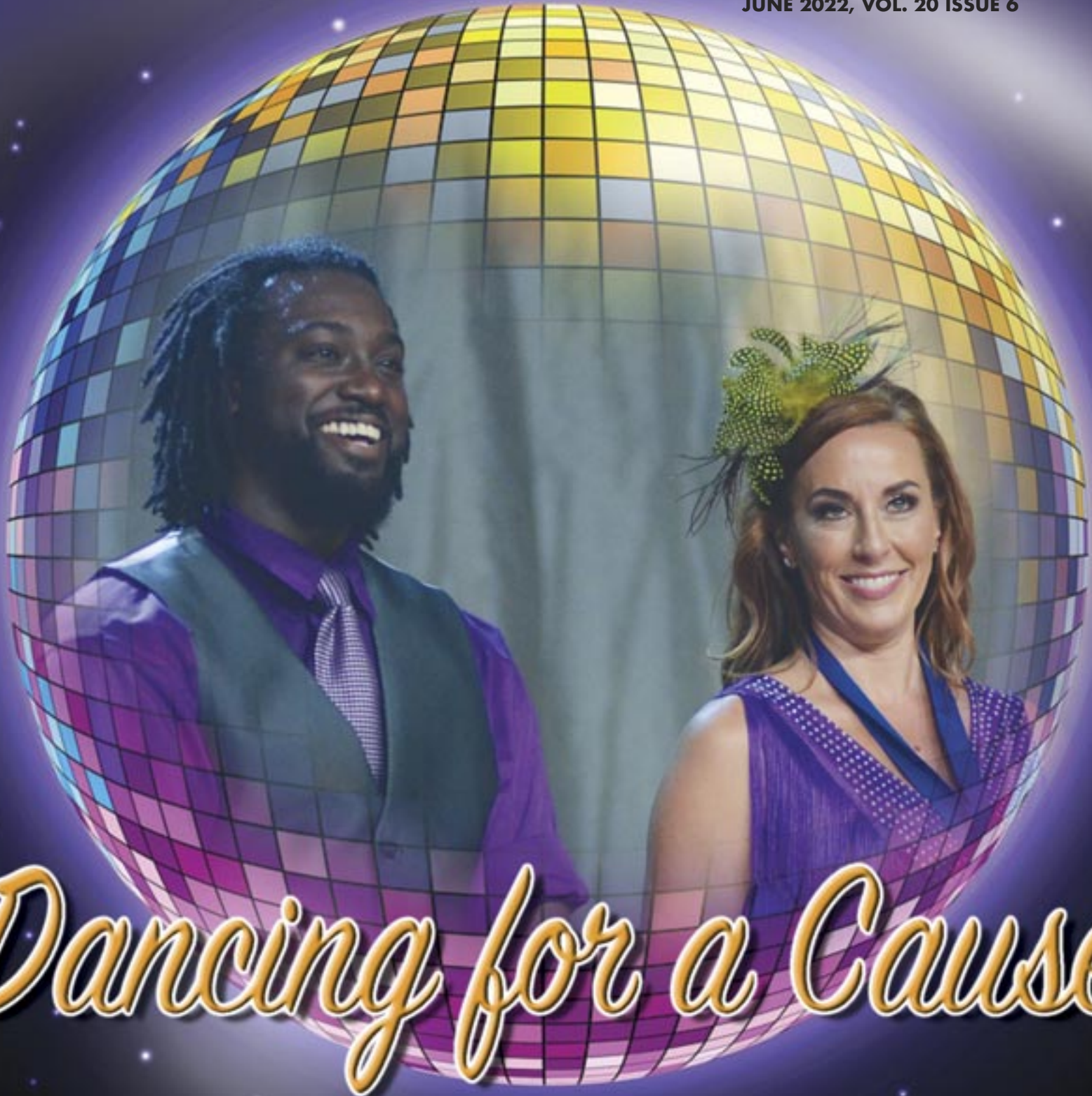


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# Ascension

## MAGAZINE

JUNE 2022, VOL. 20 ISSUE 6



## Dancing for a Cause

  
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East Ascension

2019 Winners

*Dwight Bell & Andrea "Andi" Carroll*

See Page 24





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## On the Cover: Dancing for a Cause. July 9th.



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# Jambalaya Festival

## The 55th Jambalaya Festival was a Great Weekend with Lots of Excitement without Covid.

Congratulations Jambalaya Association, you have done it again. This year's 55th Annual Festival went off without a hitch and was a huge success.

I have been attending the Jambalaya Festival for 40 plus years and this year's festival seemed to have it all. The food, the events, and the entertainment makes this event one of the most diversified festivals in the state.

A wide variety of entertainment from bands like Eddie Smith, Mike Broussard & Nite Train and Chris LeBlanc rocked the stage while hometown favorite bands such as Kenny Fife & Bac Trac and Na Na Sha kept our dancing shoes moving. One of the highlight moments of the festival was the appearance of Kendall Shaffer.

In addition to our local musicians Foret Tradition

partied late in to the night.

It was exciting this year when another first time champion and rookie, Austin King with helper Tanney King, was crowned the World Champion Jambalaya Title.

This year Carlos Braud worked his magic and won the Champ of Champs Cooking Contest for the about the fourth time.

Throughout my time at the festival I ran into to old school Gonzales friends that always make a reference to the Festival that was once downtown Gonzales.

Everybody likes to talk about the days of old. The success was judged by the garbage left in the street. As exciting as those days were the current Jambalaya Festival represents Gonzales 2022 and our community. It's clean, organized, and full of musical entertainment.

Along with the good time the festival represents a commitment to the claim Jambalaya Capital of the World.

The Mini-Pot Jambalaya Cooking Contest at the 55th Annual Jambalaya Festival was held along the Bayou and was sponsored by Gonzales Memorial Post 3693.

This year the Mini Pot Cooking Contest held their Champ of Champs Cook off and Brock Melancon took the trophy. He's now a two time winner.

Youngsters and adults competed in one of the festivals most popular event. Cooking in mini pots started in the 1970s, and is an event everyone enjoys and families can participate in it together.

While at the the festival I saw many friends and enjoyed our visits.

Mike and Steve Broussard played together







as the jitter bugging kept us from thinking of the heat.  
 If you are new to the area and have never attended the festival you are missing a good time. Along with the cooking and dancing there is a 5K Run, car shows, art displays and carnival rides. Next year give the festival a try. You will experience a good time and truly understand why Gonzales is,  
 ‘The Jambalaya Capital of the World’.

***From the Jambalaya Festival Association***  
***Thank you to everyone who celebrated our 55th anniversary festival with us! We could not have done it without our generous sponsors, community leaders, supporters and of course our many hard working volunteers!***

***Publishers Note: In the July issue I will be showcasing the 5K Run, Mini Pot Contest and Champ of Champs.***







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**View a Complete Slide Show of the Festival  
from Opening Morning till the Last Band Played.**

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The screenshot shows the Ascension Magazine website. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links: HOME, NEW ARTICLES, ARTICLE MENU, ARCHIVE, and ADVERTISE HERE. A "Christmas 2021 Articles" button is on the left, and a "Download Latest Print" button is on the right. Below the navigation bar, there's a "Trending Now" section featuring an article titled "Big Blessings Come in Small Packages – by Sweet Eyes". Below that is a large advertisement for Sidney Vega, a website design and IT consulting company, with a phone number 228-800-2242 and a "Contact Us" button. The main content area features a "FEATURED" article titled "MERA SALON AND SPA SUITES". The article text reads: "Are you ready to 'Make it your own way' Mera?" After years of being in commercial and residential real estate. Below the text is a "READ MORE" link and a date "01/04/2022". A blue overlay box with a red border is positioned over the right side of the article, containing the text: "View the Festival Slide Show of over 400 photos at ascensionmagazine.net (Click and Watch)".

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# *From the Gonzales Garden Club*

## ***Thank You, Ascension***



*Members of the GGC working the plant sale (L to R) were Conchita Richey, Janis D'Benedetto, Marilyn Rice, Barbara McCormick, Rita Bourque, Gwen Heck, Cynthia Cagnolatti, Patti Mouton, Janis Poche, Mary Jo Pohlig, Dale Bowman and Jamie Trisler. (Kaye Couvillion and Mabel Savoy not pictured)*

With the exception of the COVID hiatus, the Gonzales Garden Club has held a plant/bake sale each May since 2003. This annual fundraiser covers the club's expenses as well as charitable donations. Ascension's faithful community comes out to support this effort and find garden bargains.

Plant Sale Coordinator Janis Poche encouraged members to propagate plants in early spring. The evening before the sale, she and Husband Harlon installed the plant sale sign on the City Hall lawn. On the morning of the sale, they set up tables for displays and hauled in 80+ plants. By 9:00 am, club members showed up with hundreds of container

plants, bare root perennials, used garden items and fresh sweet treats.

Plant choices included irises, begonia, succulents, coleus, amaryllis, agapanthus, ground orchids, milkweed, vegetables and herbs. Recycled garden tools, flower pots, coffee mugs and various garden-related items comprised a hardware section. The baked goods

counter sold out of homemade treats such as Dale's bread pudding, Barbara's rum pound cake, Curt's lemon squares, Kaye's white chocolate macadamia biscotti and Jamie's banana nut bread and Amish Sugar Cookies.

Helpful civic organizations supported the event by spreading the word as well



*Supporter Deshae Gautreau left with a variety of plants and fresh advice for redoing her flower bed.*



*Supporters browse through the plants for bargains and garden ideas.*



*GGC Members Dale Bowman and Conchita Richey stand ready to greet customers at the annual Gonzales Garden Club Plant and Bake Sale.*





The plants were grouped according to their characteristics, such as this selection of tropicals.



Master Gardener Lynda Williams purchased a wagonload of Janis Poche's native irises to be planted in the new Amite River Wildlife Sanctuary located in Ascension Parish in coordination with the Baton Rouge Audubon Society.



Supporter Brenda Taillon donated this night-blooming cereus cactus to the plant sale before purchasing her selection of new plants.

as attending the sale. In particular, the Ascension Master Gardeners advertised the event in their newsletter and Facebook page, and Mike Strong posted the plant sale flyer in his April edition of *Ascension Magazine*. The plant sale turned into a Q&A plant clinic of sorts with customers asking garden club members and master gardeners alike about growing conditions and propagation factors. The Gonzales Garden Club sends heartfelt gratitude to the Ascension Master Gardeners for their camaraderie, Publisher/Editor Mike Strong for his continual publicity and you citizens who came out to make the sale a great success.

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



Floral coffee mugs and ceramic flower pots sold for \$1 each.



County Agent Mariah Simoneaux (left) came to support the garden club. Treasurer Cynthia Cagnolatti (right) and Plant Sale Chairman Janis Poche (center) manned the checkout table.

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## What Does Dad Look Like?

Celebrating Father's Day doesn't necessarily mean celebrating your biological Dad, sometimes it means celebrating those in your life that take or assist in that role. That could be a Stepdad, Grandparent Boss, Uncle or Close Friend. Father figures take all shapes and sizes but regardless of the role, a father figure is one who guides and instructs, leads and corrects,

provides and protects.

**D — Stands for Discipline**  
The role of Dad is not for the faint of heart, but it is valuable and necessary to preserve the family unit. An often-overlooked responsibility is that of discipline. The Word says, "For whom the LORD loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives." Hebrews 12:6. Read that again...for whom He LOVES... Fathers discipline us because they care about us and have our best interest at heart. They want to protect and direct us

into the right way. Discipline means providing boundaries and clear expectations with consequences.

**A - Stands for Admonish**  
The role of a dad is also to admonish. "And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord," Ephesians 6:4. To admonish means to advise or give counsel. Dads and Father figures, encourage and admonish your family and those around you.

**D — Stands for Dedication**  
To be dedicated to the family is one of the first requirements of being a dad or a father figure. Dedication to family regardless of time or space is a quality of a good role model. Standing by and sticking close to family and loved ones is what a dad looks like!

So, remember to the time to celebrate and thank all the father figures in your life who provide discipline, admonition, dedication and so much more to their families.

I also thank all the important men in my life that have provided encouragement, direction, and correction in and out of the different seasons of my life. You'll never know this side of Heaven how much I love and cherish you! Thank you for supporting me.

To all the dads, Stepdads, Granddads, Uncles and the like, Happy Father's Day!

XOXO,  
Sweet Eyes







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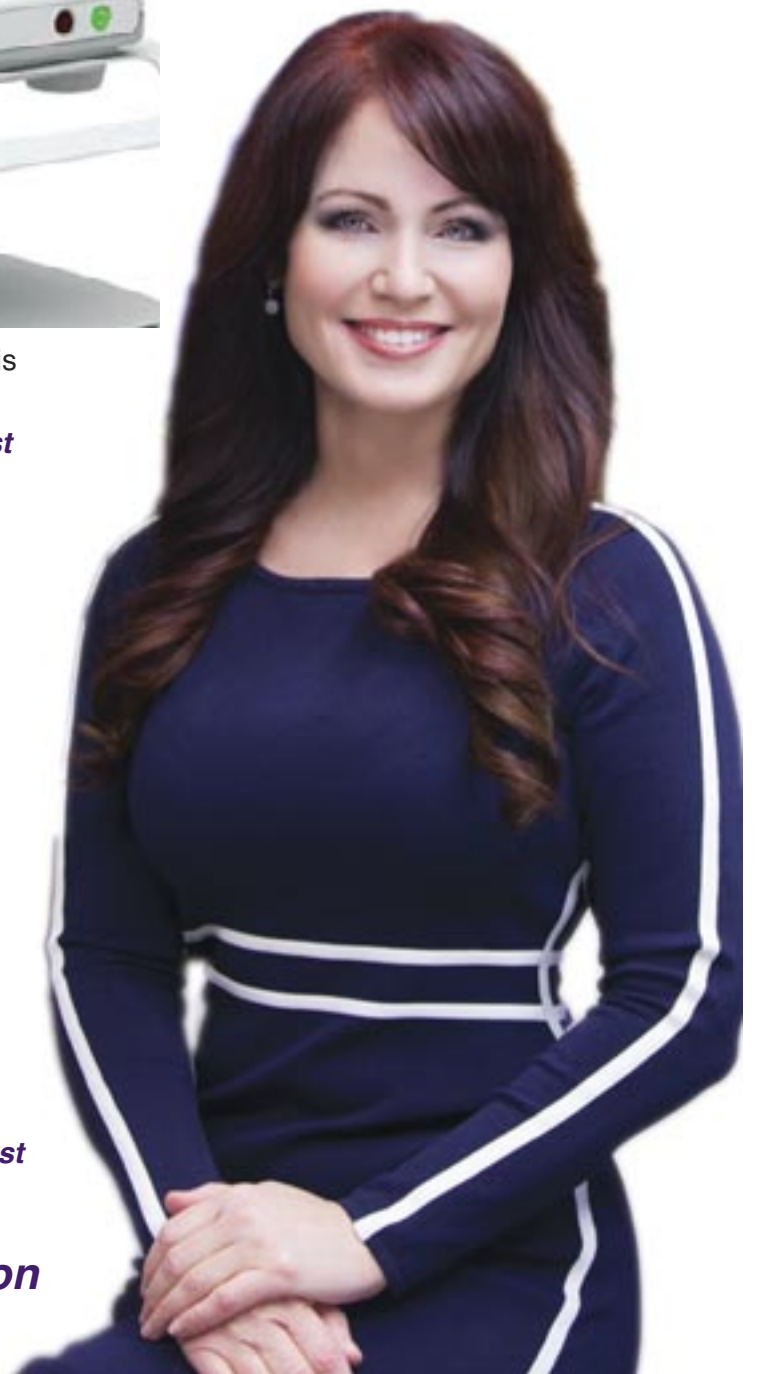
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# Get Growing, Ascension!

## What's that plant? Elderberry

The large white flowers of the common elderberry are unmistakable this time of year. In Louisiana you'll find it growing in mostly sunny locations along ditch banks, canals, and bayous and on the edge of swampy areas. Elderberries prefer moist, well-drained soil. They can tolerate heavy clay and occasional flooding.

Elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*) is known by many common names including American elder, black elder, wild elder and sweet elder. Elderberries are related honeysuckles, falling into the same family, Caprifoliaceae. However, unlike the honeysuckle, a fast growing vine, the elderberry typically grows as a multi-stemmed bush. The native shrub can reach a towering 12-15 feet high. The leaves of the plant are compound, meaning they are composed of smaller leaflets attached to a central stem.

What many consider the flower of the elderberry is actually the inflorescence. It can measure up to eight inches across. A large cluster of small white flowers make up the inflorescence. Elderberry



Mariah Simoneaux

fruit appears dark purple to nearly black, maturing in late summer.

Elderberry flowers attract butterflies, bees, and other pollinators. The fruit and leaves provide food for other wildlife. Songbirds such as the bluebird, indigo bunting, and common house finch all feed on elderberries. The plant also provides cover, perching, and nesting sites for many different animals.

Elderberry is often considered a weed as it grows very quickly and aggressively. However, for homeowners wishing to achieve a natural landscape, elderberry plants can be incorporated as background plants or used to create an informal hedge.

The elderberry plant has many uses and has long been valued for its healing properties. The berries should only be consumed when ripe and prepared properly. Ripened berries are high in vitamin C. They are often gathered and made into wine, jam, syrup, and pies.



Elderberry flowers – Photo by M. Simoneaux | LSU AgCenter



Elderberry leaves – Photo by M. Simoneaux | LSU AgCenter



Elderberry plants – Elderberry plants growing along Bayou Lafourche in Donaldsonville. Photo by M. Simoneaux | LSU AgCenter

Mariah Simoneaux is the Horticulture Agent serving Ascension and Assumption Parishes. For more information visit [www.LSUAgCenter.com](http://www.LSUAgCenter.com) or contact Mariah at [MJSimoneaux@agcenter.LSU.edu](mailto:MJSimoneaux@agcenter.LSU.edu).







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# GOAL SETTING – Part 1: The Importance of Setting Goals

By: Brandi LeBlanc, CPT

I want to know what your goals are. Lose weight? Get fit? Be healthier? Get stronger? I've probably heard these a million times. But what makes the difference between those who succeed and make positive changes and those who fail or drop out?



The secret is goal setting. Just saying you want to get fit doesn't mean much. What does fit look like? Can you measure it? I want to help you succeed and truly make changes, so the first thing we need to do is set the right goals that will inspire and motivate and that can be measured and tracked.

Before beginning the process of setting and trying to achieve fitness and health goals, it helps to have an understanding of why doing so is important. You will see more and better results when you start with an achievable,

specific goal as opposed to just working out without a plan.

## Goals Make Change Seem More Possible

A lot of people hesitate to get involved in training or fitness because making big changes seems scary and intimidating. I realize that it took a lot of courage for that overweight client to come to me for training. She has likely wanted to change for a long time, but doing so felt like climbing an impossible mountain.

So, what do I do? I help her set small, actionable and attainable goals so that she will begin to see that change can happen. It's not climbing a mountain—it's just walking up a series of reasonable hills, one after the other.

## Goals Spur Motivation

One of the most common challenges I face as a trainer is keeping my clients motivated. With goals in place, we have something to return to again and again as a source of motivation. We have to keep the goal in mind, whether it's a specific weight loss, getting on stage, a wedding or event, or even just a photo shoot. If you

need motivation, go buy a new pair of jeans a few sizes too small and hang them up where you can see them every day. Stay consistent, and one day you'll be able to put them things on!! But I highly suggest



making some sort of goal to work towards, whatever that may look like for you.

As for my clients, most of them are regular everyday people who just want to get fit and healthy, and stay that way. I call these "lifestyle clients." So, I try to keep them with a goal of some sort at all times, and if they don't have one, I give them one. Every year, I invite my personal photographer to come into the studio and do a group photo shoot with me and my clients. I give them a heads up that it is coming up, and



then they begin to prepare for it. It helps many of them get in the mindset of looking their best for this photo shoot. I love seeing them confident in themselves, and that is why I do this for them. If you could only see the excitement they have when that camera is directly on them knowing that they are about to receive some amazing "fitness" photos of themselves that many of them never would have though possible they would ever have... that is amazing to me and it is why I treat them to this experience.

## With Goals, You See Progress

This also fits with the idea of motivation. When you have goals to meet, you actually see the progress you're making as a result of input of effort. If you want to lose a certain number of inches from their waist, for instance, you can measure that and see that the work

you're doing and the is really paying off and that acts as further motivation to continue. What is motivating you? What is your "WHY"? Figure it out. Write it down. Post it up somewhere you can see it every day so you are reminded every day of WHY you are doing this. Yes, even if it's on the refrigerator or pantry... stick it there.

## Every Workout is More Efficient with Goals

When you have a specific goal, or goals, every training session will be more focused than it would be otherwise. Without goals, or with very vague goals, like lose some weight or get stronger, you can't focus on your workouts. With the right goals, you'll actually save time by honing in on exactly what you want to achieve and the strategies that will get you there. If you need help with this, I highly recommend hiring a skilled professional so that he/she can create this plan for you to follow and keep you accountable to.

## Without Setting Fitness Goals, Success is Elusive

What all this adds up to is the fact that without firm goals in place, success is more difficult to achieve. You may lose some weight; you'll probably get a little stronger; you will be healthier than before you started training; but will you achieve all you hoped? Probably not. You need goals to succeed!

Look out for next month's article for Part II of this topic, where I'll be giving you more tips on HOW to set these types of goals, and even some mistakes to avoid when setting them. If you can't wait for the next issue to come out, contact me. I'll be happy to help you set some goals for yourself and would love to help you reach them. You can also now get fitness coaching from me just by listening to my podcast at [www.beyondthebarbelle.com](http://www.beyondthebarbelle.com). Each week, I upload a new short podcast that you can listen to in your car on the way to work, the store, or even the gym to help motivate you.

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# FINANCIAL FOCUS

## Crypto: Investment or speculation?

With cryptocurrencies so much in the news, you might be wondering if you should invest in them. But “invest” may not be the right word – because, in many ways, cryptocurrencies, or “crypto” for short, are more speculation than investment.

But what’s really the difference between a speculator and an investor? Probably the main factor is the differing views of time. A true investor is in it for the long term, building a portfolio that, over many years, can eventually provide the financial resources to achieve important goals, such as a comfortable retirement. But speculators want to see results, in the form of big gains, right now – and they’re often willing to take big risks to achieve these outcomes.

There’s also the difference in knowledge. Investors know that they’re buying shares of stock in a company that manufactures products or provides services. But many speculators in cryptocurrency don’t fully comprehend what they’re buying – because crypto just isn’t that easy to understand. Cryptocurrency is a digital asset, and cryptocurrency transactions only exist as digital entries on a blockchain, with the “block” essentially being just a collection of information, or digital ledgers. But even knowing this doesn’t necessarily provide a clear picture to many of those entering the crypto world.

In addition to time and understanding, two other elements help define cryptocurrency’s speculative nature:

• **Volatility** – Cryptocurrencies

are subject to truly astonishing price swings, with big gains followed by enormous losses – sometimes within a matter of hours. What’s behind this type of volatility? Actually, several factors are involved. For one thing, the price of Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies depends heavily on supply and demand – and the demand can skyrocket when media outlets and crypto “celebrities” tout a particular offering. Furthermore, speculators will bet on crypto prices moving up or down, and these bets can trigger a rush on buying and selling, again leading to the rapid price movements. And many purchasers of crypto, especially young people, want to see big profits quickly, so when they lose large amounts, which is common, they often simply quit the market, contributing to the volatility.

• **Lack of regulation** – When you invest in the traditional financial markets, your transactions are regulated by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), and the firms with which you invest are typically overseen by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA). Other agencies are also involved in regulating various investments. These regulating bodies work to ensure the basic fairness of the financial markets and to prevent and investigate fraud. But cryptocurrency exchanges are essentially unregulated, and this lack of oversight has contributed to the growth of “scam” exchanges, crypto market manipulation, excessive trading fees and other predatory practices. This “Wild West” scenario should be of concern to anyone putting money in crypto.

The cryptocurrency market is still relatively new, and it’s certainly possible that, in the future, crypto can become more of an investment and less of a speculation. In fact, Congress is actively considering ways to regulate the cryptocurrency market. But for now, caveat emptor – “let the buyer beware.”

*This article was written  
by Edward Jones  
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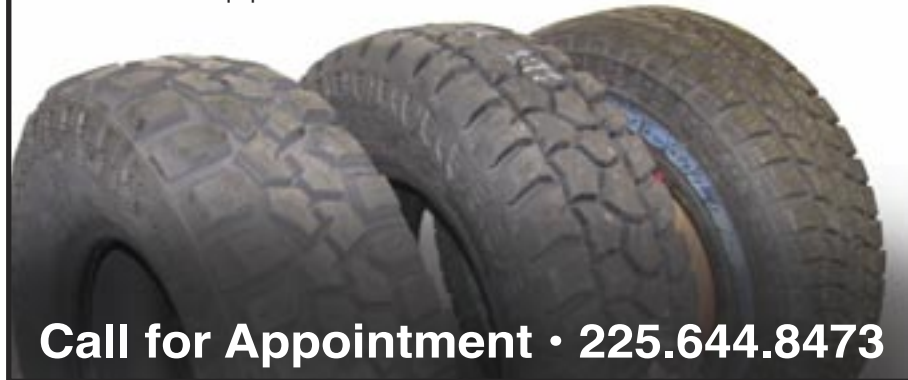


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# YOUR ESTATE MATTERS



*By Linda Melancon*

## Can My Family Inherit My Season Tickets?

A few days before I sat down to write this month's column, I was at dinner with my daughter and son-in-law, when the latter excitedly announced to the table that the first Saints game was less than 100 days away. (For those wondering, the first regular season game is at noon on Sunday, September 11.) As a recent New Orleans transplant, he has taken his new role as a local sports fan very seriously.

Living in a state where sports (and football, in particular) is such a large part of the culture, I know there are sports fans with season tickets who want their families to enjoy the tickets after they are gone. As are many things that fall under the estate planning realm, passing on these tickets may not be simple.

Getting season tickets to your favorite sport is not always an easy task to begin with. Season tickets for some teams can cost a lot of money and require time on a waitlist. It makes sense that you may want family or friends to be able to take advantage of tickets that are still usable after you pass away. However, most teams place limits on how you can transfer the tickets both before and after death.

A season ticket is a contract between the purchaser and the team, so the team can put any restrictions it wishes in the contract. This includes setting limits on when and how the tickets can be transferred to someone else. Teams may explicitly state that the tickets cannot be transferred by will or trust, allow transfers only to a spouse or close family members, or require that ticket holders follow certain procedures in order to transfer the tickets.

For example, some teams have a form that you will need to fill out, designating a beneficiary to inherit your tickets. Other teams state that only a spouse can use a deceased fan's season tickets. Still others allow transfers only to a parent, spouse, child, or sibling. If there is no surviving family member who can take over the tickets, the tickets go back to the team.

For the fans in south Louisiana,

here are the general rules to pass on Tigers or Saints tickets:

For LSU fans, the University's Athletic Department states that when a ticket holder passes away, the surviving spouse will automatically become the new ticket holder. "The surviving spouse must notify the ticket office with a notarized letter and copy of death certificate to have the name changed on the account. If there is no surviving spouse, the Athletics Department will offer the option to renew tickets to a surviving child if provided with a notarized and uncontested request by the child to be the season ticket holder of record. If there is no surviving child, the transfer will be made to a surviving grandchild if provided with a notarized and uncontested request by the grandchild to be the season ticket holder of record." It does not appear that LSU allows transfers to non-family members.

As far as I can tell, the New Orleans Saints don't have a similar procedure in place for when a season ticket holder passes. According to their policy, "a [request form] may be submitted by the Executor or Administrator of the deceased's estate and include official evidence of their capacity as Executor or Administrator as well as a certified copy of the death certificate and a signed Judgment of Possession." The form also states that transfer requests are only accepted through May 31 for an upcoming season, at which point any transfer requests would have to be re-submitted the following off-season.

While this isn't true for the Saints, note that some teams require fans to purchase a seat license or make a contribution to a booster organization before buying season tickets. This means the fan pays a fee to buy a license for particular seats and then has the right to buy season tickets for those seats. A seat license, unlike season tickets, is typically transferable via a will or trust, although the rules vary among teams.

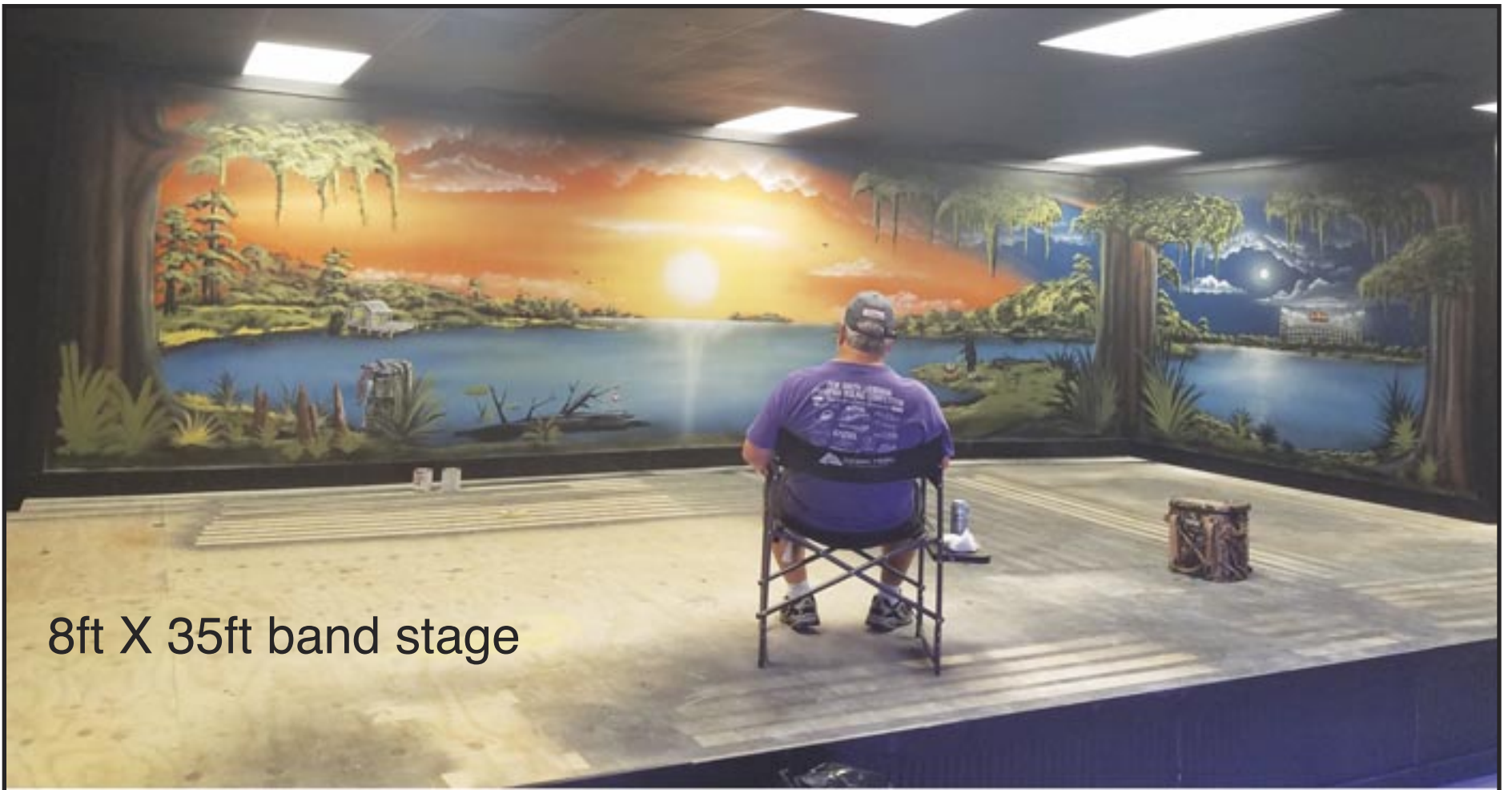
If you own season tickets, be sure to include them in your estate planning. Your attorney can determine the best way to transfer the tickets to ensure your loved ones can remain cheering on your favorite teams for years to come.

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.

*The information provided is not intended to be legal 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, Lake Charles, and New Orleans. The primary focus of her practice is estate planning, probate, special needs planning, and elder law. For more information or to attend an upcoming estate planning seminar, call her office at (225) 744-0027.*



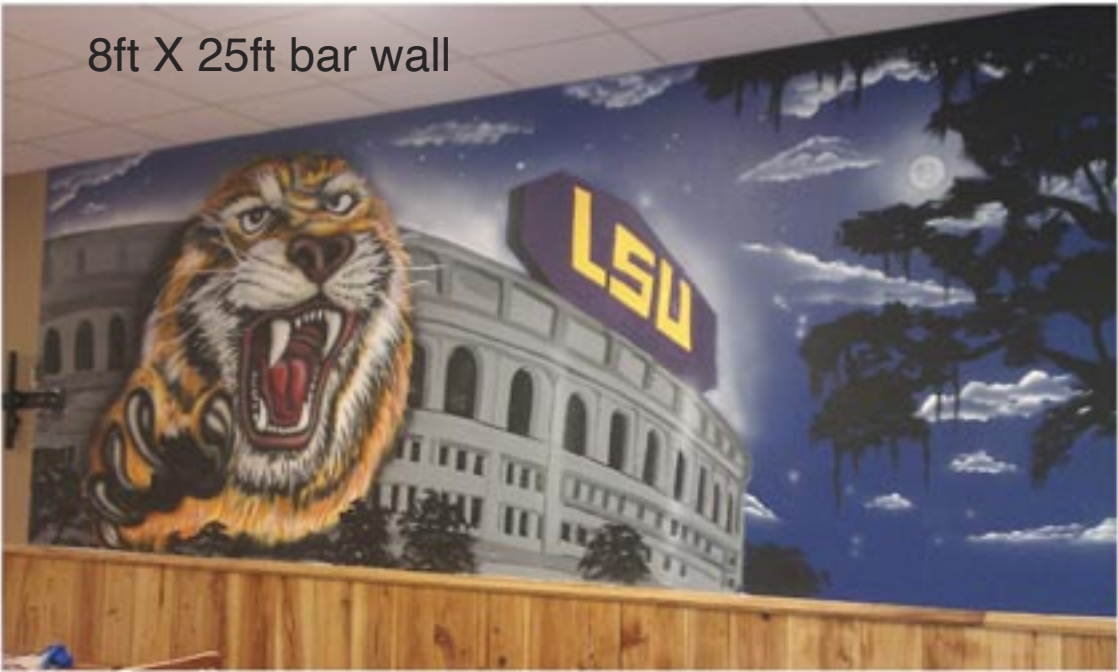


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# Class Reunions Old School Style



**Gonzales High School Class of 1956 holds 66th Reunion on April 29th, 2022 at the Clarion Inn in Gonzales.**

**Seated-** JoAnn Powers Delaune, Maggie Gautreau Hargroder, Betty Lambert Blanchard, Frances Richard Cambre, Dorothy Dencausse Severio, Revo Ott Decoteau, Dottie Gautreau Savoy, Agnes Braud Heintz.

**Standing** - Gerald Braud, Joe Landry, Hudgens Braud, Carol Gautreau Frederic, Burris "Tunny" Gautreau, Deanna Epstein Freneaux, Stanley Dixon, Gordon Crawford, Irah Decoteau, Gwen McCrory DeArmond & Cecilia LeBlanc Wright.



JoAnn Powers DeLaune, Maggie Gautreau Hargroder, Frances Richard Cambre



Carol & Frank Frederic with Hank Heintz



Myra & Burris "Tunny" Gautreau, Shirley & Gerald Braud.



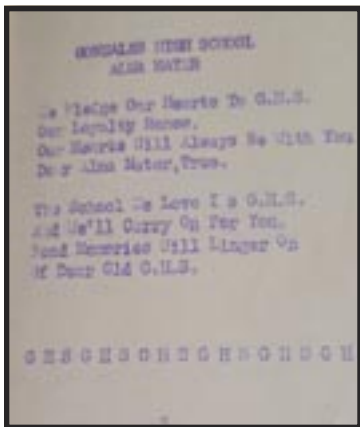
Dance programs for Proms



Joe Landry, Frank Frederic, Gordon Crawford



Irah & Revo Decoteau, Memorye & Grandmom, Dorothy Dencausse Severio



Our Alma Mater.



Carol & Frank Frederic.



Betty Lambert Blanchard, Dottie Gautreau Savoy, Cecilia LeBlanc Wright.



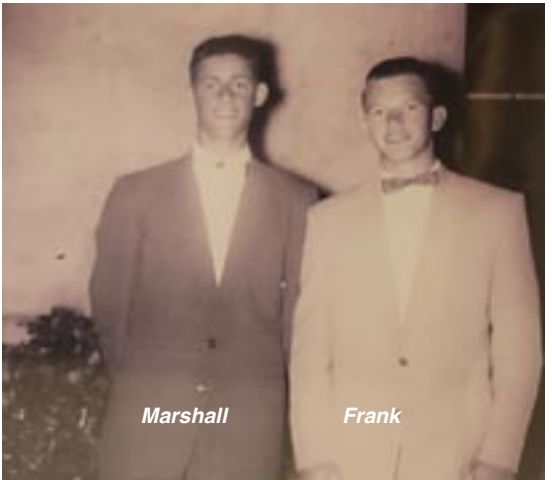


# **St. Amant High School Class of 1955 Hold 67th Reunion**

Members of the graduating class of 1955 from St. Amant High School met on May 4th 2022 at Brew-bachers in Gonzales for lunch to celebrate the 67th Anniversary of their graduation. A lot of stories and reminiscing about the good and bad times was enjoyed by all. A moment of silence was held for all the deceased members of the class.

Frank Frederic brought to the attention of the class members present, that George “Toot” DeArmond (1955 Basketball player) will be inducted into the St. Amant Hall of Fame as the pre 1978 era athlete when St. Amant High School was known as the Wildcats.

(Left - Right) Members present were: George Melancon, Maxine Bourgeois, Peggy Duplessis Parker, Jeanette Ficklin Dixon, George “Toot” DeArmond, Gaynell Batts and Frank Frederic



Marshall                      Frank

Frank Frederic the oldest and Marshall Lambert the youngest.



Peggy & Charlie Parker



Maxine Bourgeois



Hank & Agnes Braud Heintz, Gwen McCrory DeArmond & George "Toot" DeArmond.



Gwen & "Toot" DeArmond



Grandson Rhyley & Gaynell Batts.



Hudgen Braud & Shirley Braud, Stanley Dixon & Gwen Dixon



Carolyn & George Melancon



Jeanette Ficklin & daughter Sondra



Joe Landry, Mike Babin, Deanna Epstein Freneaux.



# SWAMP POP

## & JAMBALAYA COOK-OFF



100.7 The Tiger & Our Lady of the Lake Ascension present the Swamp Pop Music Festival and Jambalaya Cook-off Saturday June 25th from 2-9 pm at Lamar Dixon in the REV Building (Formerly Eatel Building).

Doors open at 12pm. Don't miss some of the best Swamp Pop bands in Louisiana: Tet Dur, Mike Broussard & Night Train, and Jamie Bergeron & The Kickin' Cajuns hosted by Roland Doucet & The Tiger Team.

Cuttin' a rug works up an appetite, so make sure you grab a delicious bowl of jambalaya from the Jambalaya Cook-off sponsored by Mike Ward's Liberty Safes in partnership with the Jambalaya Festival Association. All proceeds from the cook-off will benefit the Alzheimer's Services of the Capital Area, just \$5 a bowl!





# LINE-UP:

- 2:00 PM: TET DUR
- 4:00 PM: MIKE BROUSSARD & NIGHT TRAIN
- 6:00 PM: JAMIE BERGERON AND THE KICKIN' CAJUNS



- DOORS OPEN AT 12:00 PM
- \*KIDS 12 AND UNDER GET IN FREE
- \*TICKETS ARE \$25 IN ADVANCE & \$30 AT THE DOOR
- BUY YOUR TICKETS AT [1007THETIGER.COM](http://1007THETIGER.COM)



# Dancing for a Cause Extravaganza

After two long years, The Arc of East Ascension is proud to announce this year's Annual Dancing For A Cause on Saturday, July 9th, 2022 at The Lamar Dixon Rev Center located at 931 St. Landry Rd. Gonzales, LA.

Nine local "Stars" will be paired with professional dancers to wow you with their performances.

**The 2022 Star Dancers and (Professional Dancers) are:**

**Erin Aucoin**, Iron Tribe Fitness // Mid City Community Manager (Van Vo)

**Chase Melancon**, Oxy-Chemical-Geismar/ District 6 Parish Councilman (Dr. Amiee Russo-Mounger)

**Jason Cheek**, TruBlue Water Manager (Kris Cangelosi)

**Ivy Walding Adams**, Owner of The Med Spa at Ascension Center for Women's Health (Van Vo)

**Steven Smith**, Team Smith The Market Associate Broker (Jerisse Grantham)

**Tisha Powell**, WAFB Channel 9 News Anchor (Leonard Augustus)

**Anthony "Tony" Johnson**, L.A. Prospects Flag Football Association Operating Partner (Brandi Malone)

**Donovan Jackson**, Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office Public Information Officer (P.I.O.) (Shamira Cummings)

**Kalyn Robert**, Executive Wife to Chip Robert, Owner of Mike Anderson's, and Child Development Director of 3 amazing kids (Leonard Augustus Jr)

You are invited to participate in Dancing For A Cause through Table Sponsorship, VIP Single Ticket Sales, or General Admission Ticket Sales. 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 people with

disabilities and their families through services and advocacy that support choice, independence and dignity. The Arc of East Ascension is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and tax-deductible receipts are available for qualifying donations.

All table sponsors are invited to attend a VIP reception at 5:30 p.m. preceding the main event at 7:00 p.m. Table Sponsorships range from \$250-\$30,000. Table Sponsorships include Two Step (\$250), Rumba (\$500), Salsa (\$1,000), Ballroom (\$5,000), Center Stage (\$7,500), Main Stage (\$10,000), and Diamond Stage (\$30,000). 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 Star Dancers. General admission tickets sell for \$30.00 through our Star Dancers and \$40.00 at the door. All sponsorship packets to be delivered by July 1st, 2022. Visit [www.thearca.org](http://www.thearca.org) for more ticketing information and to vote for your favorite dancer.



The 2022 Dancing For A Cause Guest Speaker is Lieutenant Governor, Billy Nungesser. He represents the state of Louisiana by promoting our Seafood Industry, State Parks, and vast tourism opportunities. We look forward to hearing the Lieutenant Governor speak at this event. This year the seafood for our VIP event will be donated by Louisiana Seafood and catered by Mike Anderson's Seafood.

Dancing For A Cause provides judges that will critique and score each performance. The 2022 Dancing For A Cause Judges are:

**Pam Bordelon** – Event Venue Coordinator, podcast host and newsletter editor for the Arts council of Greater Baton Rouge

**Stacey Barnes Stephens**- Attorney

**Blair Cloutre**- Owner of Mera Salon and Spa Suites

The Arc of East Ascension is proud to announce that WAFB Channel 9 continues to be our Presenting Sponsor and our Emcees for 2022 are WAFB News' staff Elizabeth Vowell (Evening Anchor Reporter) and Greg Meriwether (Anchor and Managing Editor).

The Event Chairwoman, PR/Marketing Director for The Arc of East Ascension is 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](mailto:sharon.morris@thearca.org).

Visit the Dancing For A Cause website at [www.thearca.org](http://www.thearca.org) to vote for the dancer(s) of your choice. Make plans today to be a part of the 2022 Dancing For A Cause event. We look forward to seeing you there!

**Contributed by  
The Arc of East Ascension.**



**Greg Meriwether**



**Elizabeth Vowell**







**Pam Bordelon**



**Blair Cloutre**



**Stacey Barnes Stephens**



**STAR DANCER 2022  
ERIN AUCOIN  
&  
PROFESSIONAL DANCER  
VAN VO**



**STAR DANCER 2022  
CHASE MELANCON  
&  
PROFESSIONAL DANCER  
DR. AMIEE RUSSO-MOUNGER**



**STAR DANCER 2022  
JASON CHEEK  
&  
PROFESSIONAL DANCER  
KRIS CANGELOSI**



**STAR DANCER 2022  
IVY WALDING-ADAMS  
&  
PROFESSIONAL DANCER  
VAN VO**



**STAR DANCER 2022  
STEVEN SMITH  
&  
PROFESSIONAL DANCER  
JERISSE GRANTHAM**



**STAR DANCER 2022  
TISHA POWELL  
&  
PROFESSIONAL DANCER  
LEONARD AUGUSTUS JR.**



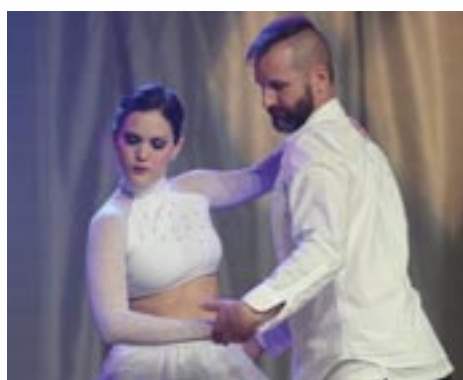
**STAR DANCER 2022  
ANTHONY JOHNSON  
&  
PROFESSIONAL DANCER  
BRANDI MALONE**



**STAR DANCER 2022  
DONOVAN JACKSON  
&  
PROFESSIONAL DANCER  
SHAMIRA CUMMINGS**



**STAR DANCER 2022  
KALYN ROBERT  
&  
PROFESSIONAL DANCER  
LEONARD AUGUSTUS JR.**



**Saturday - July 9, 2022 - 7:00 pm**  
**Lamar-Dixon Rev Center**

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**The Arc**  
East Ascension



# Jambalaya

## TOP 32 Festival

This years Jambalaya Festival hosted 77 plus cooks and after careful judging the Top 32 teams positioned themselves to cook in the Semi-Finals. This year when the names were called out they were called in the ranking position on the judging card.

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

### Semi-Final Heat 1

32 - Taner Bourque

31 - Daren Braud

30 - Shawn Sheets

29 - Jared Bourque



28 - Mike Gonzales

27 - Derek Diez

26 - Jared Cross

25 - Greg Stone

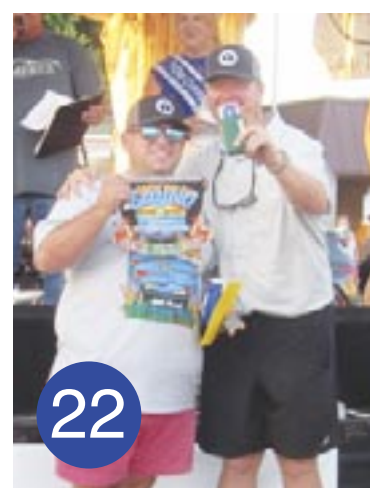


24 - Tunney King

23 - Shane Martinez

22 - Tyler Lambert

21 - Robert "Hoss" Reine

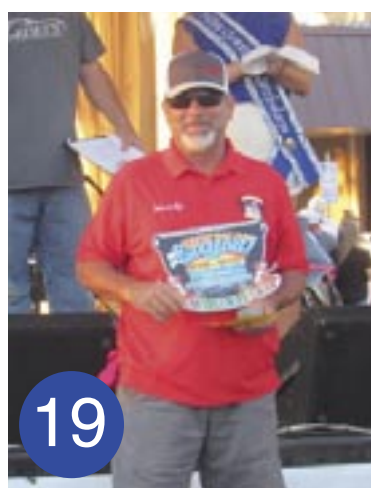
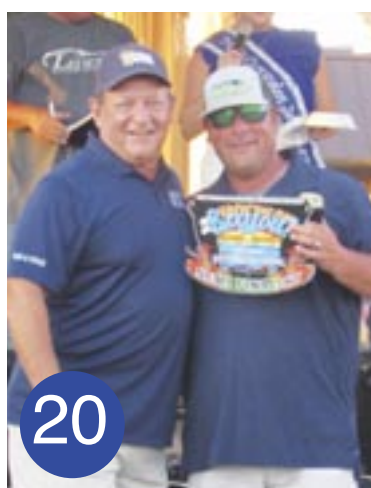


20 - Tyler Bourque

19 - Woody Woodward

18 - Dustin Gautreau

17 - Clay Parent





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

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

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

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

This years judges were:

Rodney Gremillion  
Freddie Hurst  
David Eastridge  
Chad Decoteau  
Marty Haydel

Contest Chairman -  
Mike Gonzales

2021-2022 Executive  
Committee (2022 Festival)

President - Wally Taillon  
Vice Pres. - Tammy Guillory  
Treasurer - Brenda Taillon  
Secretary - Bart Himel  
Corresponding Secretary - Elinda Taillon

Members at Large:  
Mike Gonzales  
Layne Gautreau  
Koby Thacker  
Robert "Hoss" Reine



### Semi-Final Heat 2

16 - Dwight Leblanc

15 - David Vidrine

14 - Shelby "Doty" Gautreau

13 - Heath Melancon

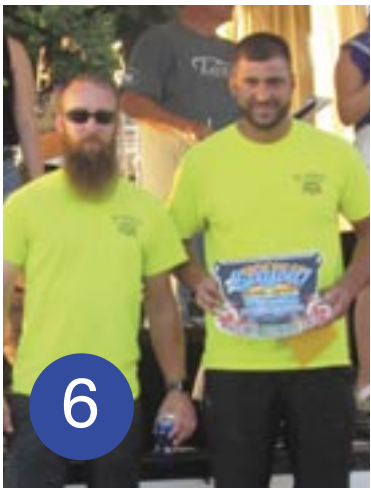


12 - Clint Broussard

11 - Curt Parent

10 - Lee Elisar

9 - Ken Cornett

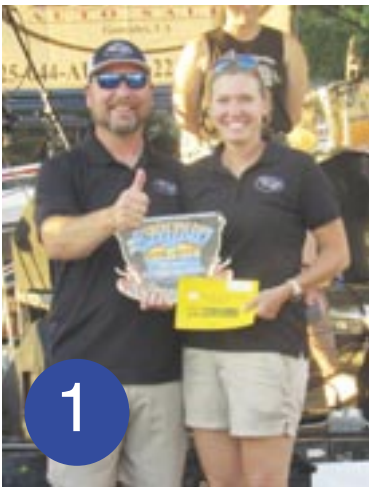


8 - Bart Himel

7 - Tyler Billingsley

6 - Kade Lanoux

5 - Austin King



4 - Adam Gautreau

3 - Brandon Elisar

2 - Justin Courville

1 - Koby Thacker



# Jambalaya

## FINAL 12 Festival

**Congratulations to All the Cooking Teams for a Job Well Done making it to the Top 12 Finals.**



**Austin & Tunney Wins the 2022 Jambalaya Festival**



**1 - Taner Bourque**



**2 - Curt Parent**



**3 - Tyler Bourque**



**4 - Austin King**



**5 - Daren Braud**



**6 - Koby Thacker**



**7 - Lee Elisar**



**8 - Mike Gonzales**



**9 - Brandon Elisar**



**10 - Woody Woodward**



**11 - Justin Courville**



**12 - Adam Gautreau**





**Austin King 2022 World Jambalaya Festival Champion  
with his father Tunney King**

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# THE GODS MUST BE LAUGHING OR WHAT FOOLS THESE MORTALS BE

by Bill Delaune

***“Baseball breaks your heart. It is designed to break your heart...”***

*A. Bartlett Giametti,  
Seventh Commissioner  
of Major League Baseball.*

***Dear baseball gods,***

I thought you'd had enough laughs at my expense during my erratic high school coaching career at St. Amant. But noooo-boy was I wrong.

Oh sure, I bet you guys all got a lot of guffaws when we lost that game on a wild pitch while attempting an intentional walk. And how about the one where Broadmoor's winning run scored on a foul pop-up to third base. Yeah, that was a good one all right.

And I know you particularly enjoyed that trick pickoff play I called with two outs in the last inning of a tied game and two strikes on the batter. The throw sailed into left field and we lost a crucial district game. That was pretty tricky now wasn't it?

The only smile I could muster came after the game when our outfielder Spencer Clouatre's dad (the late, great American philosopher Roger) approached me after the players were on the bus and said, "Bill, I thought you did a great job today."

I looked at him incredulously and recapped the last play, "Roger, I probably just cost these kids a playoff spot with a dumb ass call with a batter at the plate we were probably going to strike out anyway."

"Not that," replied Roger. "I thought you did a great job of not crying in front of the team."

And those are only a few examples where you gods



found amusement in my misfortunes.

But you just couldn't leave well enough alone, could you? Fast forward to the 2022 Final Four in Sulphur where Ascension Parish is well represented by Dutchtown and St. Amant gunning for a state championship. I watched my grandson (and namesake) and his Griffin teammates jump out to a 5-0 lead over West Monroe while keeping up with the Gators via text reports on the adjoining field. When STA mounted a big rally to take the lead over Sulphur and DHS took a 5-3 advantage into the last inning, visions of an all-Ascension final danced in all our mortal heads. But once again, you got the last laugh.

A walk, a bloop single and a 3-run homer later, a group of devastated young men had to vacate the field-many of them for the last time in a Dutchtown uniform.

Sorry, Roger, I didn't control myself so well this time. And yes, Tom Hanks, there is crying in baseball.

And then for good measure, you gods of the artificial sod, allowed my old team-the STA Gators-to get a shot for revenge against West Monroe in the finals just to get my shattered hopes up again for an Ascension champion.

This time it was a 6-0 lead by the Gators-all in the first inning-before you pulled your magic carpet out from underneath us mere

mortals again.

Nine unanswered runs later and there were more broken hearts in Ascension Parish than in a Charlie Sheen datebook. So much for the "merry month of May".

Then along came the NCAA regionals with my beloved LSU Tigers. You threw out the bait again as the Bengals staged two miracle comebacks to secure a spot in what Skip used to call the "catbird seat" for the regional finals.

Just win one more, lads, for dear old LSU and we get to host a super against-of all people-Ole Miss. Get your tickets for Omaha, fans, I hear Barrett's Barleycorn Pub a'callin'.

Okay, so the home team



Southern Miss wins the first game Sunday night. Surely, this Tiger team of destiny will not fall again. Especially when you threw out a little more chum when LSU's Gavin Dugas tied the game at 7-7 with a homer in the 8th. That's it-right? The never-say-die Cardiac Cats will pull out another-right?

But once again, you gods crush my spirits like a kid stomping on an empty paper Coke cup. USM wins 8-7-no home super, no all-day tailgating, and no Omaha trip.

Just level with me, baseball gods-did I kill somebody when I was a baby or some other hideous act that I can't remember for which I'm (along with all my favorite teams) being punished? I'll be glad to sacrifice my old Wilson glove, my Louisville Slugger bat (wooden, of course) and my Topps Mickey Mantle card if it means removing this curse.

But as a hopeless romantic and eternal optimist, I have to believe something good baseball-wise is due to come my way. Just do me a favor and be sure to tip me off when it's about to happen. Until then, I'll just take solace in the words of LSU coach Jay Johnson after the final loss-"As bad as it is for me, it means you live a pretty good life if losing a baseball game hurts that bad."

***And while I'm at it...***

***Dear football gods,***

Could you please insert a little common sense into the SEC powers in charge of scheduling-not you, Nick Saban- before Oklahoma and Texas join the league in a couple of years?

I'm sure you gods watched the fans' reaction on Paul Finebaum's show the other day when asked which one rivalry was most important to keep after expansion. For you mere mortals who missed it, here's basically the consensus...

1. Don't disturb the classic rivalries like Bama-Auburn, OU-Texas, LSU-Ole Miss and Florida-Georgia.

2. Bama-Tennessee fans still believe the world-as we know it-will end if they don't play on the third Saturday in October.

3. Arkansas and A&M both want some of Texas.

4. Georgia and Auburn want to continue as do Vandy-Kentucky-Tennessee in that round robin.

5. LSU still owes A&M for that 2018 7-overtime debacle.

What to do-what to do? How can the SEC possibly keep everybody happy including Little Nicky who's never happy? To my poor, feeble mortal mind it's pretty damn simple but I'll need your help to pull it off.

First keep the two division set-up-East and West. Now add Texas and Oklahoma to the West to be geographically correct and move Alabama and Auburn to the East. Teams play all 7 division opponents so you solve the Red River Shootout, UT vs. A&M, UT vs. Arkansas, LSU vs. Ole Miss, LSU vs. A&M and all the rest in the West.

With Bama and Auburn in the East, the Tide and Vols can keep their holy date in October, the Iron Bowl goes on as does that Cocktail Party in Jacksonville for Florida and Georgia. The Bulldogs keep playing Auburn and Tennessee, Vandy and Kentucky can have at it any old time they want because-sports fans-they're all in the same division!

Now tack on a couple of crossover games so Nick and Jimbo can still get at each other and may be Missouri can get something going with Arkansas and you still have room for a few sacrificial state schools to get on the slate and get a good paycheck.

Now we all know that will never come to pass because you gods of the gridiron enjoy

watching us mortals suffer through chaos and confusion but you have to admit it is a simple solution.

***And last-but certainly not least...***

***Dear horse racing gods,***

Okay-this one's on me. I knew better than to bet Rich Strike in the Belmont after his dazzling win at 80-1 in the Kentucky Derby. But I bought into the "champion of the little guy" and "11/2 mile race sets up perfectly for him" publicity and drank the Kool-Aid like everyone else.

As he struggled across the finish line in 6th place, my mind wandered back to 1993 when the Romero boys (trainer Gerald and jockey Randy) out of Lafayette won the Louisiana Derby with Dixieland Heat at nice odds and headed for the Kentucky Derby.

A few of us were surprised at the 30-1 odds posted on the local hero and headed toward the betting windows with wads

of cash. "Wait a minute," I said, "let's check with Frankie."

Frankie was the local track guru who always seemed to have some inside info. His message on Dixieland Heat was a short one that I should have remembered-"If you didn't go to the wedding, don't go to the funeral."

Our favorite son ran a solid 12th making Frankie look like a prophet. Maybe I should have consulted him before the Rich Strike wager.

As far as you golf gods, I'm just waiting for you to look my way and get me a million dollar deal on that Saudi tour. I can finish last just like Phil did and pick up a nice check. And don't give me that "human rights" stuff. I can be rich and have a conscience as well as poor and have one.

In the meantime, may the sports gods smile on you in all endeavors.



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## Thoughts from Bully

### A Walk through of Memories at East Ascension, 48 Years Ago!!!

A couple of months back we had a final walk through of East Ascension High School before the implement the plans to demolish and re-build.

I walked into the gymnasium. As I looked at the back wall from the stage area I remembered when ran for Student Council Vice President. I don't really know why I don't why I ran but I had to give a speech in front of the entire student body. I walked to the microphone and looked around. I said my name is Mike Strong and if you want a Strong VP I was the guy. "Let me demonstrate," I said. I asked all the teachers to stand that were sitting along the back wall. Soon as they stood I said, "You can sit down. See how strong I am. I have the



teachers standing and sitting right in front of you!!" It was a good trick but I got plenty of dirty looks from the teachers as I walked down the halls.

I walked through the football locker room and looked up over the lockers through the windows. There was a corner window on the second floor where many years ago I remembered sitting in my jock strap and saw girls peeking in the locker room as we got ready for practice. I eased away out of site and told my buddies. About 8 of us lined up and backed our naked butts in view then bent over in the moon position and gave them a happy wave. It was funny and boxes were placed on top of the lockers after that.

It was really fun to walk and remember stored away memories. As I walked in the front of the school I looked at the location that once had a pay phone. It was 1974 and thank God we didn't have cell phones. An image popped in my head of seeing a police car coming through the gate and driving to that spot. He looked over and several students were on that pay phone making a bomb threat to the hospital across the street. After busting the students he said the hospital called and said they could hear students in the back ground on the call and looked across the way and saw the class mates on the phone. I'm gonna save the names but they really spoke way to long to make a threat like that.

I turned the corner and there was the cafeteria. Walking through the doors a wave of memories swished across my face. I see cutling line and hoping the food was edible that day and no English peas and junk like that. The spaghetti was at least red so that was a good day. Hamburgers got something your stomach. It was a pleasant flash back and I remembered a day I hap-

pened to have a small squirt bottle of green food color. There was a day I sat down next to my buddy Tommy Reeves. Scott Harris and Tommy Aldridge sat across from us. While we were listen to Tommy jabber about girls I put about 2 drop of green food color in my milk and shook it. Scott new I wanted to switch my milk with Tommy. Scott looked the other way and said, "Look at that blonde babe!!" Tommy immediately jerked his head around to look. That is when I switched the cartons.

After that we started eating. It took forever before he took a drink of his milk. However he didn't notice anything. I told him my milk taste a little sour. Tommy raised his carton for smell and that when he saw a light shade of scum moss green milk.

He came out of his chair and hollered, "My G\_\_ D\_\_ milk is Green!!!" He started gagging and threw his milk carton at the wall. That green milk ran down the wall. Everybody started checking their milks.

Tommy did get into some teacher trouble and I would have fessed up to the prank except Tommy was so big I didn't want him to punch me?

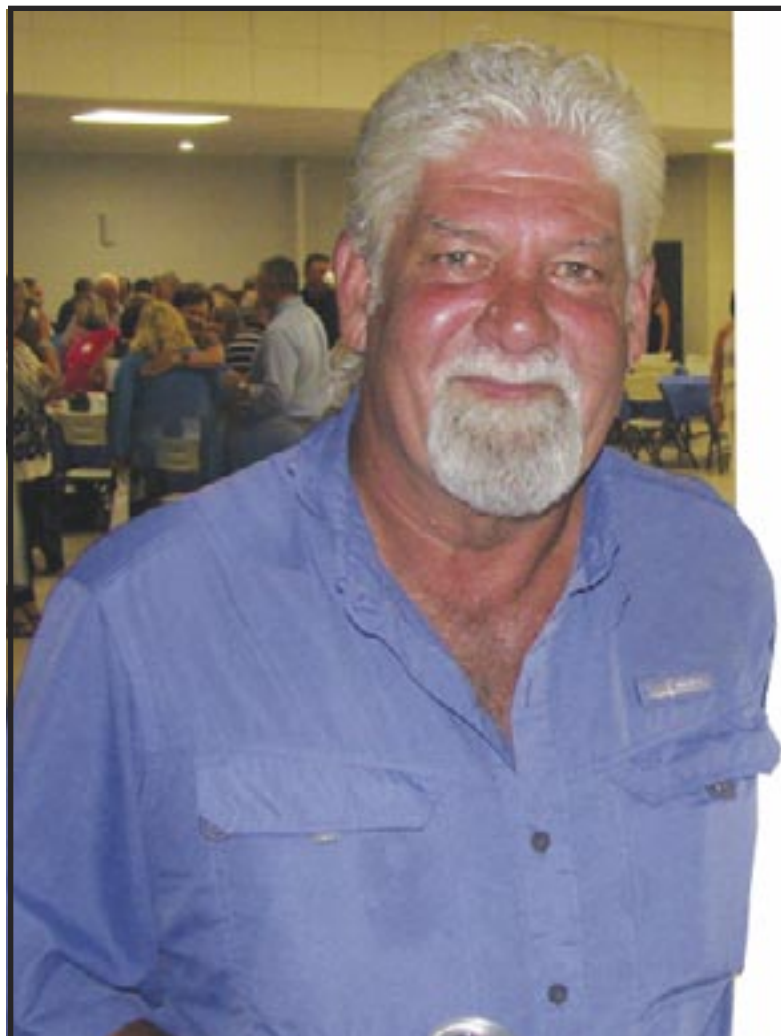
## Mountain Men Play Hard and Get Dirty Doing It!

I recommend Busch Beer Soap. You can scrub anywhere with it. It tingles a bit but in the end you'll smell like you've been on an all night bender!! Only you will know you are clean.



*Hell, sometimes my thoughts get dirty and it cleans them up too!!*

**Mike Rambin**  
Proud Sponsor of Busch Beer Soap







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

Maine is the only state (in USA) whose name is just one syllable.

-Sherlock Holmes NEVER said, "Elementary, my dear Watson."

The first CD pressed in the US was Bruce Springsteen's "Born in the USA."

Trees actually sleep at night, relaxing their branches after dawn and perking them up before sunrise.

In 1961, a yoga teacher named Anne Hamilton-Byrne was able to convince hundreds of people that she was the female reincarnation of Jesus creating a horrific cult in Australia called "The Family", one of the only known cults led by a woman.

Space smells like a combination of diesel fuel and barbecue, according to astronauts. The smell is caused by dying stars.

The chills you get when listening to music are caused by your brain releasing dopamine, a neurotransmitter that causes pleasure.

Researchers from Heidelberg University Hospital have determined it takes 6 minutes for alcohol to impact human brain cells.

Artist Ivan Albright was so meticulous, he often worked with a single-haired brush and would spend whole days working on 1 square inch of canvas.

Bananas are more effective in replenishing electrolytes than Gatorade. They also have serotonin and dopamine—chemicals that help you feel happy.

Green tea contains catechins, which have been shown to stabilize blood sugar levels and curb appetite.

American 18- to 34-year-olds spend 25.7 hours on Facebook, 7 hours on Instagram, 5.9 hours on Snapchat, 5.7 hours on Tumblr and 3.5 hours on Twitter each month.



## **Entertainment Schedule**

June 24th  
**Drag Show**

June 25th  
**Rivul**

July 2nd  
**Todd O'Neal**

July 9  
**Party at Joe's**

July 15th  
**Foret Tradition**



***Foret Tradition***

**July 15th**

[www.parkplaceofgonzales.com](http://www.parkplaceofgonzales.com)



# Jammin' with Goosie

## The River Clean Up

Early morning rain was still falling as I pulled up to the boat launch at Fred's located on the Amite River in Port Vincent, La. This trip wasn't to be a fishing outing for sure. This date had been set aside for the Amite River Cleanup for 2021. By the looks of a steady line of trash floating downstream from the overnight rains, it was evident that finding some garbage would not be a problem at all.

Event chairperson Rachel Deaton called for everyone's attention and several local and state officials made their presentations concerning the littering problem. After hearing those words of interest, our local sheriff's water patrol division encouraged us to reschedule the event to another date because of the fairly high water movement that had been created from the overnight rains. After addressing those concerns, several of the attendees spoke of the fact that they had gotten up early and had set this day aside for the cleanup. The water patrol then commented that they would not stop anyone from going but did ask for the participants to venture into areas of the basin that would have a milder current than that of the main channel.

My boat captain for the workout was an old friend of mine named Ronnie "Trash" Braud and how fitting was it to be accompanied by someone with a name like that to participate in such an event. As we proceeded to

launch our craft, we were approached by an elderly gentleman who garnished the name John Englesman. He asked if he could come along with us because he had set his sights on this outing and did not want to go back home at that time. Captain Trash Braud told him to come aboard and what a blessing that would turn out to be.

So off we went. We probably rode past a landfill of junk before we reached our destination in which some prior scouting had been done beforehand to target some specific items that had been deemed worthy to be removed by our group. Several other boats of participants had ventured up into the same waterways as we. Let me tell you that this was a lot of work. Hours later we motored back to the collection site with our bounty in tow. We had gathered seven or eight ice chests in which we had filled with trash along with one freezer, one refrigerator, one safe, one computer, and one boat that we had filled with every kind of ball, bottle, can, cup, bag, etc. that you can think of. Although we had barely scratched the surface of this mess, it was rewarding in a way to see the difference of scenery that we had made as we viewed the banks of the river on our way back to the event headquarters.

I don't litter. But I've been picking up other people's trash for a long time and I am tired of it. I've picked up trash for road adoption projects within different conservation groups, at work, in my yard, on roads near one of my hunting clubs for public relations, on hunting leases, river cleanup events and about everywhere else that



I have ventured into the great outdoors.

Come on people. We can do better than that. As a population in whole, we really need to get a grip on the subject of littering. A certain degree of visible river trash is from acts of being thrown into the water, but most of it is washed into the system from roadside ditches. It's unbelievable to see the amount of garbage that flows down the beautiful Amite River after a large rainstorm. I can't comprehend what the bottom of our streams must look like. It's a shame to think that we, the people of our society, created this problem and what really sucks is the fact that this situation is so easy to avoid if everyone would just correctly dispose of their trash in a proper manner.

While viewing one of Jeremy Wade's episodes of "River Monsters", I noticed something that really caught my eye involving one of the streams that he was traveling down. The one thing that really got my attention at that particular moment was the fact that there was no litter at all along the shoreline. Wouldn't it be nice if we could say the same for our shores.

I know that events such as the "Amite River Cleanup" barely scratch the surface of what really needs to be done to clean up our environment, but if nothing else, it brings awareness to the issue.

Many people don't really take into consideration how the act of throwing a can or bottle out the window of their auto or boat can affect this situation. If you ever have the opportunity to correct someone for littering, please do so. Chances are that they'll probably think twice before doing it again. I sure would hope so.

This year, our Governor, in partnership with the Lieutenant Governor's Office and Keep Louisiana Beautiful affiliates, declared the fourth Saturday of every month as "Love the Boot Day". Earlier, this past April, a full week had been declared as Love the Boot Week. From all indications, this project was a huge success with another event of such already scheduled for 2023. Check out the Love the Boot Week website for more info on how you and your neighbors can participate in this effort to help clean up your community in the future.

Till next time,

We can do better

James "Goosie" Guice





## East Ascension Sportsman's League

Letter from president -

**Mike Lambert**

## Welcome to summer!

School is over for another year and it is time for vacations or just taking a break at home for all the kids who are looking forward to a few months of no school work, sleeping late, and fishing. Oh, maybe that last one was just me. Anyway, the East Ascension Sportsman's League has its annual kids fishing rodeo coming up. It's for all kids 2-14 years old, and it's a blast! The kids get into it and the parents do too. It is so cool to hear a fishing story from a 2 or 3 year old. They can stretch the truth about the battle between themselves and the giant fish that got away as good as any pro fisherman. I know that when I was young I told stories that I still believe to be true today.

Anyway, to all the parents out there with kids who want to get outside for a little while on an early Saturday morning, we invite you to join us again, July 30th at Twin Lakes Park on Highway 74 in Dutchtown for

the annual kids fishing rodeo. Registration begins at 6:30 AM and fishing starts at 7:00 AM-9:00AM. There will be doughnuts to snack on for breakfast. Doughnuts are the breakfast of champion pro fishermen. Bring some milk to wash it down with. These foods will supply the fuel you need for this intense competition. We will supply some crickets, but they are for the fish to eat. There ain't enough chocolate milk to make them taste good! You can bring your own worms too. Again, for the fish! Bring a bucket for each child, as the number of fish they catch will be counted to find the winners. We only count fish. No turtles, eels, or sticks. There are plenty of chances to win.

Categories are broken up into four age groups. In each group, there will be a bike giveaway, a boy and girl in each group. There will be trophies given to each age group for most fish, with a trophy for biggest fish. Sometimes, a little fish is the biggest fish, so don't throw any fish back in the water no matter how small they are. If you think you had the biggest fish in your age group or most fish, but don't hear your name, we also give a trophy for overall biggest fish and overall most fish.

There will be food served after the 9:00 horn is blown, jambalaya, hot dogs, and coolers of cold sports drinks. Bring your own drinks if you'd rather. After all the fishing awards are given out, it's still not over. Every child will receive a gift. So please make it a point to wake up early and start off with all of the great volunteers that make this happening a wonderful morning of fun. Look for the rules below or somewhere on this page.

I'm giving y'all advance time to plan your fishing trip. Get

your fishing equipment dusted off and maybe even get started on some good fishing stories. You never know, you could be on TV. There is always a few of our area sportsmen TV hosts around with a camera to record any record breaking catches!

Last thing before I go and rest my writing hand. I want to express my thanks, along with everyone on the board, of my appreciation of all those who volunteer for this event and

what it means to EASL. There are too many to count and too many to name. I will name one, though she doesn't like it too much, Bettye Lambert, Chairman of the kid's fishing rodeo. Look for more articles in the local papers or for more information call Bettye at 225-571-4588.

See you there and thanks for your time.

**Mike Lambert**

## East Ascension Sportsman League 61st Annual Kids Fishing Rodeo



**July 30th at Twin Lakes Park  
on Highway 74**

### Rules:

1. Bring a rod & reel or cane pole
2. Bring live bait (crickets or worms)  
no artificial lures allowed
3. Bring a bucket to hold fish
4. Parents can help bait the hook, but the child must land the fish
5. Parents do not need to be an EASL member for the kids to fish
6. Bring folding chairs

**CHILDREN MUST NEVER BE  
LEFT UNATTENDED**

**For more information call Bettye at 225-571-4588.**



# East Ascension Sportsman's League Bass Club May News

The EASL Bass Club held its' May Tournament on the 21st. The Tournament was held at Doiron's landing with a 2:00 Pm weigh in.

There were 13 Boats participating in the Tournament. The fish weren't very cooperative on this day and the results reflected that

for sure.

First Place went to Phillip Valentine with 5 fish weighing 10.85 lbs.

Second Place went to Anthony Bonadonna & Lester Rome with 5 fish that weighed 9.31 lbs.

Third place went to Dirk Anderson & Brandt Fairchild with 4 fish that weighed 9.27 lbs.

Fourth place went to Donald Braud & Terry Molea with 5 fish weighing 7.80 lbs.

Fifth place went to Tim Braud & Steve Babin with 5 fish weighing 7.61 lbs.

Big Bass winner was Dirk Anderson with a lunker that weighed in at 4.01 lbs.

Congratulations to the winners of the May Tournament. Our next event is scheduled for June 18th. The pre-tournament meeting will be on June 9th at Dirk Anderson's home.



## Join Us For Our Next Meeting

East Ascension Sportsman League meeting will be at Cabelas in their upstairs meeting room on Monday JuLY 18th. Meetings are always on the 3rd Monday of the month. Meeting starts at 7pm.





# Outdoor Corner with *Lyle Johnson* “The Pull”

Flooding to the Amite River basin is a fairly regular occurrence and I’ve witnessed everyone that’s come our way since I was a kid. My grandfather, Roy Marchand Sr. had a camp on Chinquapin Canal that eventually became our families camp that afforded me the opportunity to witness them firsthand.

Since the obtaining property on the Diversion Canal, those floods regularly rise to the level of water topping the pier and that means cleanup of river silt. When that occurs the plan is to start cleaning the silt while there is still a few inches of water over the top.

The process starts off with a big warehouse push-broom that easily moves the still-soft silt. Starting from the back the silt moves to the front edge and heads downstream to be

deposited somewhere else.

Unfortunately some of those floods result from hurricanes and other powerful forces of nature. I remember after Hurricane Rita the water had come up about 8” over the pier and six feet up on the grass. It had crested the day before and dropped a few inches, so I could do some cleaning.

The drill was the same as the water was still over the pier but shallow enough for me to take a broom and start removing the ½” of silt that had been deposited from the muddy water.

As I pushed the silt over the edge, I watched it get caught in the current and head downriver towards to Blind River. But this time I thought about where it might end up. The next body of water would be Lake Maurepas. Next comes Lake Ponchartrain, then the Rigolets and then the Gulf of Mexico.

That provoked a bit of a daydream as I remembered back as a kid when I figured you could travel anywhere in the world from Bayou Francois, right in the middle of the town of Gonzales as we pulled bluegills from the water. I never dreamed that one day I would be fishing in that same Gulf of Mexico and “the pull” that fishing and the outdoors would have on my life.

Duck hunting, shrimping, picking oysters from the water bottoms, trolling for blue marlin and catching tuna, wahoo, king mackerel and bull dolphin. Other opportunities as surf fishing, crabbing, catching specs and redfish came along.

Further out in the Gulf we would bottom fishing around the rigs and catch 4lb croakers and white trout, red and mangrove snapper along with many other species.

Back upstream from my pier

“the pull” would be no different in my favorite fishing spot, the Amite River. Bass, bream and sac-a-lait caught with my dad from my youth until he left for a better place. Fishing with trot lines along with rod and reel for catfish, bringing them home for mama to cook.

Isn’t it ironic that the very thing that makes the place we live so appealing to us has the same pull on millions of other sportsmen? This same thing attracts the forces of nature that brings can bring death and destruction to humans and wildlife alike?

Way too often, there’s a storm that comes through and wreaks havoc on our lives in many ways. For a few years the talk and experiences still keeps the memories fresh in our minds. Our last occurred in 2016 with the flood.

This time it will probably last longer than other times but eventually it will begin to fade for some. Some will pass away and new people will take their place and the pull of what makes our state the “Sportsman’s Paradise” will rise again.

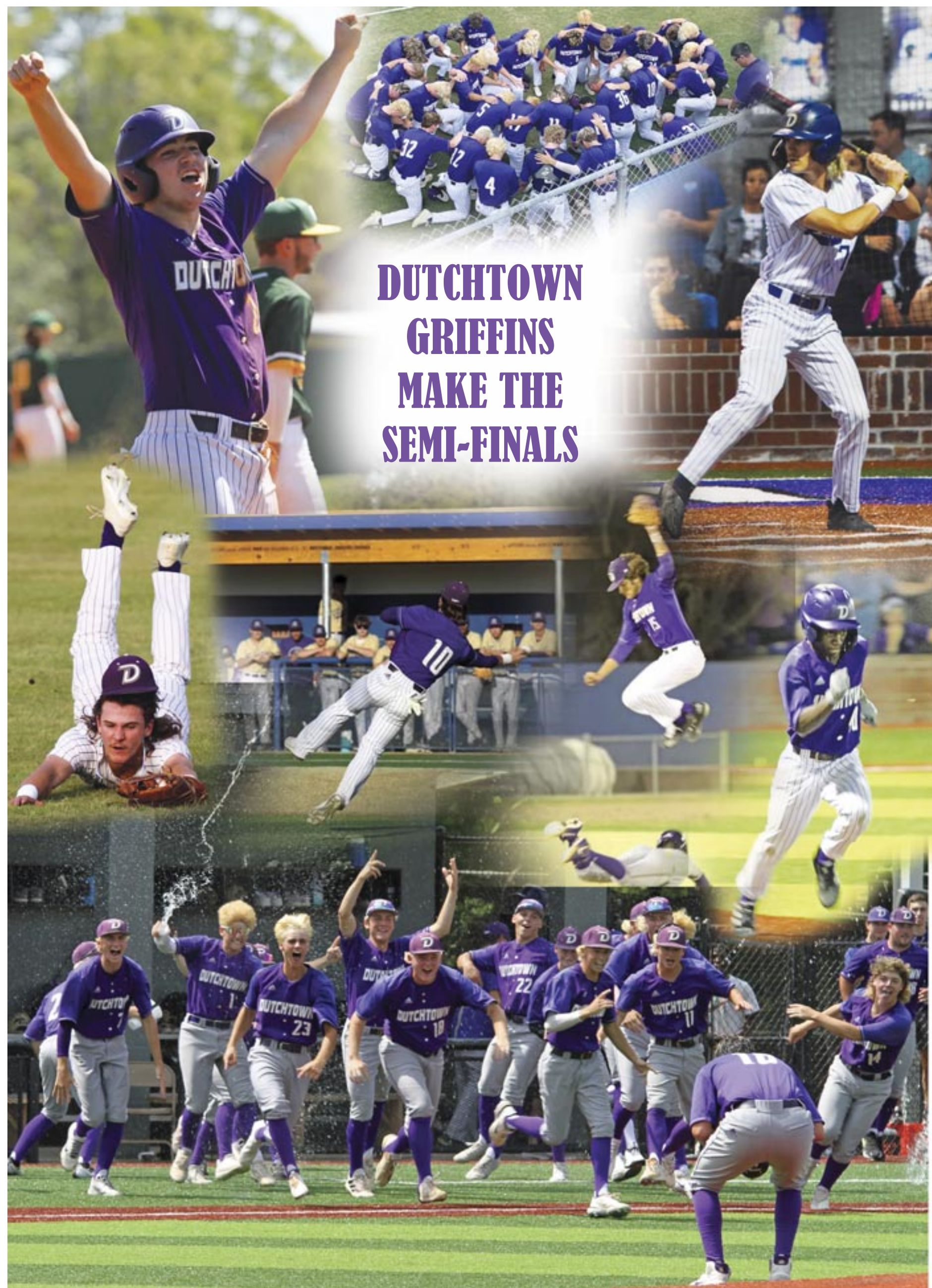
If we live long enough, calamity in nature will happen again. And if it doesn’t happen to us, it will be our turn to be the group that helps those stricken make it through.

Bella; My granddaughter Isabella (Bella) back in the day pulling in a bream at an East Ascension Sportsman’s League Kids Fishing Rodeo as Paw Paw Sonny looks on.



*Photo by Lyle Johnson*









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**World Champion  
Jambalaya Festival 2008**



PROFILE OF A JAMBALAYA FESTIVAL CHAMPION

# Jody Elisar

## *His Culinary Passion is His Family Legacy*

***Publisher's Note:  
Ascension Magazine takes  
photos of all the cooks at the  
Jambalaya Festival every  
year. I can truly say I've  
never seen Jody Elisar  
without a smile on his face  
and cooking in his heart.  
I took time to talk to him  
about his passion for  
cooking and his family  
history.***

Jody's cooking history roots go back to the days when he would spend nearly every

weekend cooking with his family. Jody started cooking Jambalaya at the age of 12. His mentors of cooking Jambalaya were his uncle's, Joe Gautreau & Allen Elisar. Elisar said he has fond memories of getting together with his cousins to cook a "bird jambalaya" as part of their "Cantee Road Crew" weekend tradition. "We were mini-pot cooking before mini-pot cooking was cool" he said.

Elisar, his brother Todd and

some of his cousins would all help the older relatives cook jambalaya at the camp. "It was their job to stack the wood and keep the older relatives hydrated with their favorite fine pilsner". "It was nothing to see five pots of Jambalaya cooking on open flame on a Saturday morning. It was Elisar's "Uncle Joe" who taught him "the art of cooking a good pot of Jambalaya.

After cooking with his uncle for several years, Elisar said he

was 17 years old before he got to cook "one on his own". His uncle turned to him and said "son, this one is all yours" and the rest is history.

One of the black iron pots Jody uses today was once used by his grandfather. The third-generation pot was presented to him by his uncle, Allen Elisar, the day before the uncles' death and still treasures the family heirloom.

Jody grew up cooking



Opening ceremonies at the new Alex box stadium



National Sheriffs convention in Indianapolis





*Ft. McCoy in Wisconsin*

jambalaya with his family and enjoys competing in the Jambalaya Festival every year. He started competing in the Jambalaya Festival in 1986 where he was a helper to his cousin Steve Gautreau

After 23 years of competition cooking in the Jambalaya Festival & 18 times in the finals, Elisar had perfected his Jambalaya recipe. On May 25, 2008 his life changed as his winning number was finally called. He had finally won the

“World Title”. It was especially gratifying to have his son, Brandon, as his helper and by his side.

Since winning the covenant title he’s added titles in 2009’ & 2013’ for the “Champ of Champs” cooking contest.

Before winning the “World Champion” title, Jody & Van Lambert started a “Cajun Cookers” class at St. Amant Middle school which taught kids about the art of cooking



*Brandon, Brad, Jody, Reece, Lee, Kirk & Todd Elisar*

Jambalaya and experience the joy of cooking. Elisar is extremely proud of his heritage and wants to do “what he can to keep the old traditions and customs alive.”

Jody’s Champion position has afforded him an avenue to meet some unique people. The people he’s met throughout the years cooking Jambalaya, just to name a few were are Mr. Stan Tanger w/ TANGER Mall ,Nick Saban, LSU greets - Wendell Davis, Shaq O’Neal, Stanley Roberts and Harvey Williams.

After winning the World Title – he cooked for the LSU Baseball team, opening ceremonies for the new Alex Box Stadium. He cooked in Washington DC under President Bush Administration & for the National Sheriffs Convention in Indianapolis. He was highlighted on the History Channel program “All you can meat”

With the title and his love for cooking, Jody started his own Jambalaya business in 2011

selling a packaged dry jambalaya mix called “Jody’s Jambalaya”. He knew that Gonzales jambalaya had a taste of its own when compared to the New Orleans style jambalaya & he wanted to create a mix that represented the flavors of his hometown Jambalaya. “We are very proud of our product and have had great feedback from people here locally and all over the United States who order online” said Elisar

Jody’s Jambalaya is available at local stores in the Gonzales area. Including; Delaune’s, Harvest, Lamendola’s, Murray’s, Ralph’s, Tureau’s and Rouses. Baton Rouge area Bet R, and Calandro’s.

It is served daily at the Poppingo’s and Delaune’s Deli. Our product is manufactured and packaged at Targil Seasoning in Opelousas, LA. The packages are sold in three sizes, 8oz, 16oz and 3lb. bags. Online orders: [www.jodysjambalaya.com](http://www.jodysjambalaya.com)



*Jody & Brandon*





HOST:  
Class committee 225-715-6415

## East Ascension Class Reunion 1970-1980

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6 FROM 6:00 PM  
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Prep: 15 minutes

Cook: 20 minutes

#### Ingredients:

1 cup grits  
4 cups water (unless you are using quick grits- then follow instructions on package)  
2 tablespoons butter  
1 cup diced smoked sausage  
1 cup diced white onion  
½ cup green onions (sliced)  
Salt, Red Pepper, Black Pepper to Taste

#### Method:

In a cast iron pot, thoroughly brown your smoked sausage then remove from pan. Next, cook your onions in the same pan until they are beautifully caramelized. Return your sausage to the pan and add water and butter. Bring the water to a boil then slowly stir in the grits. Bring mixture back to a boil, then cover and cook over medium heat for approximately 40 minutes or until a smooth texture is reached. Add salt and pepper to taste.

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# 25th Annual Fundraiser Dance



August 20th, 2022

## Help a Child's Dream Come True

For Sponsorship, tickets and volunteer information contact:

**Freddie Smith** 225.933.9339 or  
**Randy Bourgeois** 225.413.8681

Learn More about us at

**Dctofla.com**

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Dream Come True



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### Dream Sponsor - \$5000

This monetary amount will sponsor a child's dream. This will entitle you to an opportunity to participate in the presentation of a child's dream, official recognition, and 15 VIP dance tickets and two reserved tables along with 20 general admission tickets. (Must have VIP ticket at the door to enter the VIP section.)

### Gold Sponsor - \$1500

This monetary amount will entitle you to official recognition, 15 reserved tickets and one reserved table, along with 20 general admission tickets.

### Silver Sponsor - \$1000

This monetary amount will entitle you to official recognition, 10 reserved dance tickets and one reserved table, along with 10 general admission tickets.

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