

COMPLIMENTARY

# *Ascension* MAGAZINE

JUNE 2023, VOL. 21 ISSUE 6

## **Clay Schexnayder Fighting for Secure and Accurate Elections**



SEE PAGE 24



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**Table of Contents**

TODD B WOO WOO WOO..... 4

GONZALES GARDEN CLUB .. 10

SWEET EYES W/ TANYA.....12

CLAY SCHEXNAYDER .....24

SPORTSMAN LEAGUE..... 28

JAMMIN' WITH GOOSIE..... 30

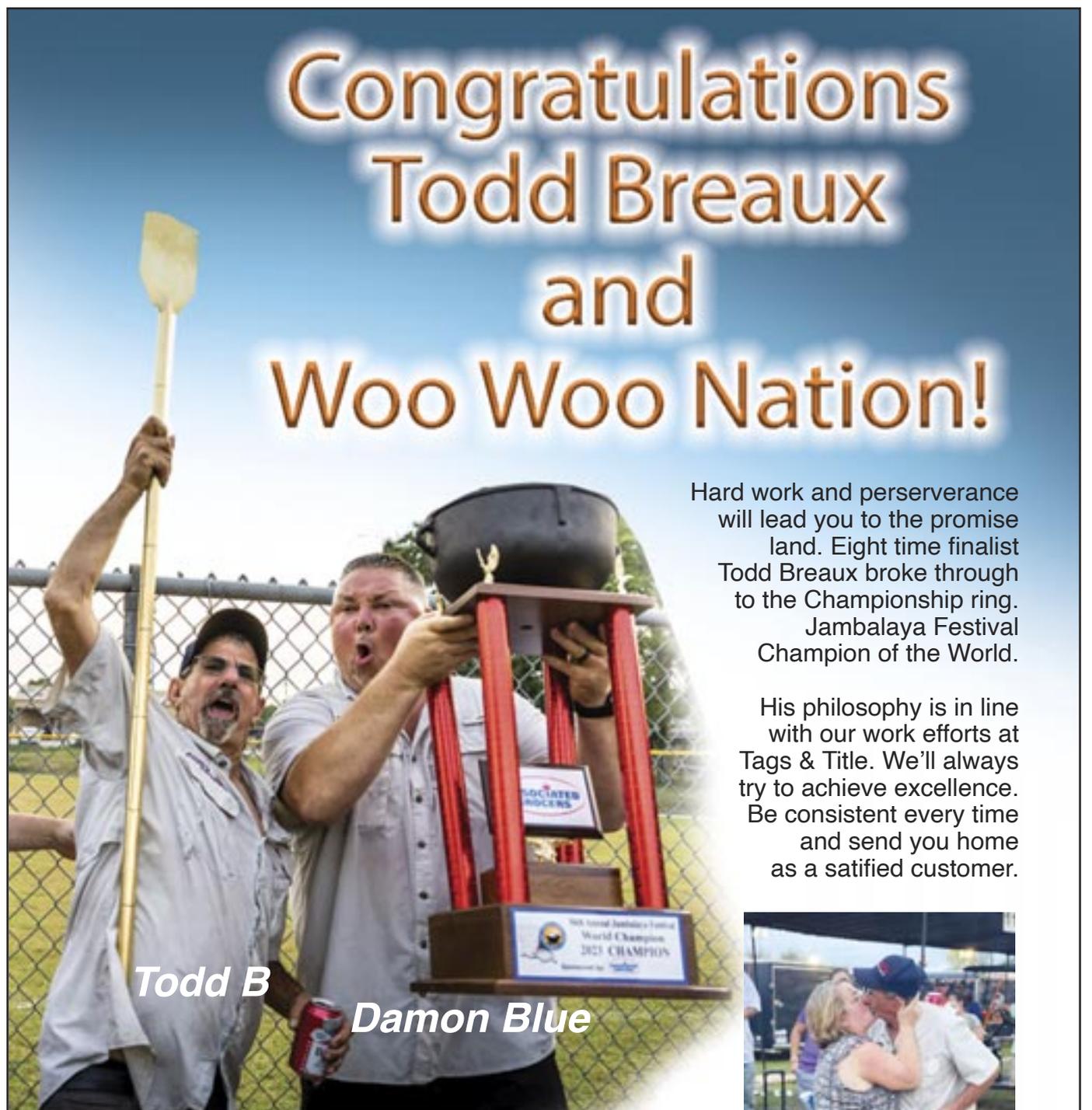
BILL DELAUNE..... 32

THOUGHTS FROM BULLY.....35

SNO'S RECIPE..... 45



**On the Cover: Clay Schexnayder ..... Page 24**



**Todd B  
Damon Blue**

Hard work and perseverance will lead you to the promise land. Eight time finalist Todd Breaux broke through to the Championship ring. Jambalaya Festival Champion of the World.

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# Jambalaya Festival

## The 56th Jambalaya Festival was a Woo Woo of a Year!

By Mike Strong

Jambalaya Festival 2023 was one for the books. The weather couldn't have been better for a Memorial Day in May. Everything ran smooth and the music and jambalaya was great.

Over the 56 years of crowning champions this years winner announcement to the festival crowd erupted in a fanfair never seen before.

When the winning ticket numbers were read, 8 time finalist Todd Breaux was the winner and then an epic celebration ensued. I've never seen so many cajuns empty their beer cans as if it were champagne. It rivaled a dog pile at an LSU World Series victory

and Todd now holds the longest walk up to receive his prize as Jambalaya Festival World Champion.

Once he arrived to the stage phase two of the celebration began. Woo Woo Nation rang out across the festival. Most of the time as a photographer I have to ask the winners to raise the trophy for a photo opt. Not with Todd and his helper Damon. They danced, they lifted, they hugged. Todd animated digging about 50 lbs of jambalaya with the Champions paddle.

I was in the end zone taking photos when Tommy Hodson threw the winning pass to Eddie



**Todd had more  
moves than  
Jackie Chan.**



Fuller in the earthquake game. My double wide went to rocking like never before when the Saints won the Super Bowl. I have to admit Todd's victory is so personal it still makes me smile and his crowning celebration will never be matched. Who knew Todd B has more moves than Jackie Chan.

The entire weekend was riddled with hints going Todd's way. First his was on the cover

of the program. Not as Todd but as a background photo representing all the cooks on a hot steamy day. Second his son-in-law, Adam Gautreau, mimiced a photo of Todd from back in the day. Third, Todd B asked Todd Long what is it going to take to win this thing. Todd L. told Todd B. he remembered a country song titled, Sober on Sunday, that would be a good start. Damon Blue a BBQ master and Todd's





helper this year heard the suggestion and took control of the sobriety while cooking. At each level Todd B. advanced Todd L. reminded him from the stage, Sober on Sunday. Now as the World Champion it's become his rallying cry. Sober on Sunday, heard that and got the t-shirt.

Historically The Breaux family is famous when it comes to cooking jambalaya. Charles

'Black' Breaux Sr. is the Godfather of jambalaya contest. He's won all the JFA has to offer. Ricky Breaux is a 4 time Champion and Champ of Champs winner. Joey Breaux is a former Jambalaya Champion and Champ of Champs winner. Now Todd Breaux has followed in the family footsteps and is the current champ. Roby Breaux is a 3 time Boucherie Champion



and a Champ of Champs winner at the Boucherie. The Breaux family is to jambalaya as what the Manning family is to quarterbacks. A long line of winners. I was touched by Leslie's Facebook post. I've included it here.

## A message from Leslie

EPIC! The best word to describe this years Jambalaya Festival. For nearly 40 years my dad has competed and this year I finally got to watch him win! For about the last 10 years he would say "I'm done, I'm not cooking this year" but there is a strong love for it that runs in his blood and I'm so proud that he never gave up. The phone call he got to make to my grandmaw to give her the news will forever be one of my favorite memories.

A big thanks to Damon Blue

for being his helper. It is not a job for the faint of heart and he did amazing taming the beast all weekend. He wanted to knock him out a few times but he stayed positive and focused and got it done!

I woke up this morning still smiling. I'm beyond proud and excited for them. It's been a long time coming and very well deserved. It's gonna be a fun year for the JFA.

Ascension Magazine had a chance to have an open discussion with Todd and I hope I got all the facts right. This was a very gratifying article to write and even better memory to experience. I did discuss the fact that he was wearing an Ascension Magazine hat on the entire festival but unfortunately there will be no royalty check. He looked at me with his sly grin and said, "Woo Woo! Woo Woo Woo Woo! Woo Woo Woo Woo!"

## WOO WOO NATION



PHOTO FROM FACEBOOK



Ricky, Roby, Todd and Joey Breaux

PHOTO FROM FACEBOOK



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PHOTO FROM FACEBOOK

A C O M M U N I T Y T H A T C A R E S

# Lindsey Broussard Benefit Fundraiser

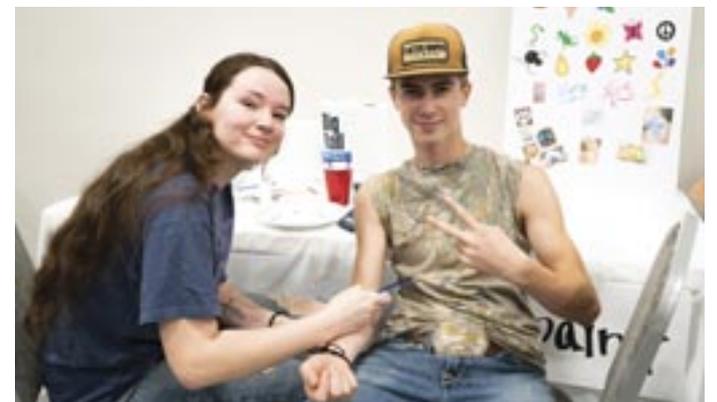
**Publisher Note:** *This fundraiser was held April 29th by a community that cares. This article is showing their support and wants to let anyone who didn't have the ability to make the event the opportunity to donate now. Utilize the Venmo bar code below to help this family. Thank You*

Lindsey is married to Ryan Broussard, and they have 5 children.

Lindsey was involved in a motorcycle accident in October of 2022. She spent months in the hospital where she underwent several surgeries. Lindsey will need more surgeries this year, and still has a long road of recovery left. We are creating this benefit with the hopes of lessening the burden of the amount of her medical bills and continuous therapy she needs to recover. Her medical bills will continuously increase due to her therapy and surgeries still needed. The accident has been life altering for Lindsey and her family.



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## A Program of Recognition

The final meeting of the 2022-23 garden club year was held in a Clarion Hotel banquet room on May 3rd. Looking back at favorite events, many members mentioned the guest speakers and the Christmas party gift exchange, but the March meeting at Janis Poche's house when members potted hanging baskets for the plant sale was the year's highlight.

President Jamie Trisler's agenda included recognition of perfect attendance, installation of officers and years of membership service. Seven members attended every meeting this year. Eight members comprised the slate of club officers installed for the 2023-2025 terms, and four



Past President Conchita Richey, Parliamentarian Barbara McCormick, Corresponding Secretary Janis D'Benedetto, Treasurer Cynthia Cagnolatti, Vice President Janis Poche, Historian Patti Mouton, Recording Secretary Dana Teepell and President Jamie Trisler received roses as club officers.

members were singled out for 10, 25 or 45 years of membership.

Recognized for membership/service for 10 years were Barbara McCormick and Patti Mouton. Each summer, both ladies actively participate in planning the projects, meetings and activities for the entire year as

part of the Yearbook Committee. Barbara is the club's Parliamentarian and has helped maintain the Jambalaya Park Butterfly Garden for years. She never turns down a request for help. Patti Mouton is the club's Historian and publicizes the club's community involvement in local monthly publications. She's always ready to snap a photo.

Member Ellen Posey joined the garden club 25 years ago. She was the club's president twice and served many terms as Historian and Publicity Chairman in her tenure. Ellen also initially took on the club's sponsorship of a flower bed at Jambalaya Park at the behest of Then-Mayor Johnny Berthelot. She recalled, "I took



Seated from left are Loretta Ramirez, Cynthia Stafford, Loretta Speligene, Razzie Cagnolatti and Rita Bourque. Standing from left are Janis Poche, Dana Teepell, Ellen Posey, Barbara McCormick, Marilyn Rice, Mary jo Pohlig, Jamie Trisler, Dale Bowman, Katherine Stagg, Conchita Richey, Janis D'Benedetto, Gwen Heck and Patti Mouton.

care of that bed for several years pretty much myself and filled it with stuff from my yard.” As a gifted artist, she frequently facilitated workshops on creative garden crafts, and, without fanfare, continues to bestow each new member with a beautifully embroidered, personalized club tote bag. When a club member thanked Ellen for her creativity and dedication over the past 25 years, she replied with a smile, “I’ve had fun, and that’s what it’s all about.”

With 45 years in the club, Member Conchita Richey is the longest ranking member. She has served on the board as Parliamentarian, Vice

President, President and Past President. Her history of Committee Chairs includes Awards, Yearbook, Horticulture, Membership and National Gardener Newsletter Liaison. Conchita felt it has been “an honor and a privilege to have served two terms as President of the Gonzales Garden Club and 20 years as the Club Yearbook Chairman.”

In a special tribute to Conchita, President Jamie Trisler began, “It is the club’s honor to recognize your commitment, loyalty, and contribution to the club.” By a decision of the club’s executive board and on behalf of the club’s membership, Conchita was granted



For her 45 years of Gonzales Garden Club membership, Conchita Richey was surprised with two award pins, lifetime membership status and a bouquet of pink roses (the club's official flower) presented by Club President Jamie Trisler and Membership Chairman and best friend Razzie Cagnolatti.



Barbara McCormick (10), Patti Mouton (10), Ellen Posey (25) and Conchita Richey (45) were recognized for milestone years of service to the club.

status as a Gonzales Garden Club Honorary Life Member. Additionally, Conchita became a life member of the Louisiana Garden Club Federation with the club’s honorarium to the federation’s scholarship fund. Conchita received a pin for this honor. Presenting this new life member with a bouquet of pink roses, Jamie praised

her with “Congratulations Conchita! You have set a wonderful example for past members, present members, and future members.” Conchita was beaming.

The horticultural hint for this month is to water early in the day during this hot month.

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



Katherine Stagg, Marilyn Rice, Barbara McCormick, Rita Bourque, Dale Bowman, Janis D'Benedetto and Conchita Richey received Perfect Attendance Awards.



## This Summer's Newest Protective Hair Care Products

Summer can be a challenging time for your hair with the combination of sunlight, humidity, saltwater from the beach, and chlorine from the pool. Finding the right hair care products is crucial to maintain your hair's health and beauty. Here are the top three best new summer hair care products that can help you keep your hair healthy and gorgeous throughout the summer.

### 1. Olaplex No. 8 Bond Intense Moisture Mask

Winner of the 2023 Allure Readers' choice, the Olaplex No. 8 Bond Intense Moisture Mask is one of the latest hair care products from the Olaplex line. This hair mask is specifically designed to provide intense hydration to your hair during summer and mitigate the damage of color, heat, and UV rays. After using this product you'll notice a smoother, softer hair appearance and even a bit more volume.

Apply the mask to your towel dried hair after shampooing, leave the mask on for 10 minutes, then rinse off with warm water. This mask can be used once a week to keep your hair healthy, moisturized, and shiny.

### 2. L'Oreal Paris Elvive Dream Lengths Super Detangler Conditioner

L'Oreal Paris Elvive Dream Lengths Super Detangler Conditioner is another excellent product to add to your summer hair care routine. This conditioner is specifically designed for long, damaged, and color-treated hair. The product works by providing instant detangling and smoothing to your hair, which can be especially helpful when your hair gets tangled from spending time at the beach and pool.

To use the L'Oreal Paris Elvive Dream Lengths Super Detangler Conditioner, apply it to your hair after shampooing, and leave it on for a few minutes before rinsing it off. This

product can be used every time you wash your hair throughout the summer. I even apply it on damp hair, BEFORE going to the pool or beach.

### 3. IGK Good Behavior Spirulina Protein Smoothing Spray

If you're looking for a product that can help reduce frizz and protect your hair from humidity, the IGK Good Behavior Spirulina Protein Smoothing Spray is an excellent choice. This smoothing spray contains spirulina protein, which helps to strengthen and protect your hair against the heat and humidity. It also works to reduce frizz and fly aways, leaving your hair smooth and shiny.

To use the IGK Good Behavior Spirulina Protein Smoothing Spray, apply it to damp hair before styling. You can also use it on dry hair to tame any fly aways and frizz. This product is suitable for all hair types and can be used daily.

So, don't let the sun's rays, chlorine and salt water wreak havoc on your locks. Incorporating any of the above three hair products will provide protection, hydration, and revitalization to your strands, which is so essential during the hot months. Whether you're looking to protect your colored hair, detangle long hair, or reduce frizz, these products can help make your hair more manageable and stunning this summer.

XOXO,  
Sweet Eyes





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# Get Growing, Ascension!

## Louisiana County Agricultural Agents Association conference held in Gonzales

This month's article comes from *LSU AgCenter Communications Specialist: V. Todd Miller.*

The Louisiana County Agricultural Agents Association met in Gonzales, June 4 to 7 for its annual meeting and professional improvement conference. The meeting culminated with an awards banquet highlighting the achievements of LCAAA members throughout the year.

Conference highlights included:

- A welcome supper at Westfield Sugar Mill in Assumption Parish.



Mariah Simoneaux

- Agriculture-related tour stops in Ascension and St. James Parishes and lunch at the St. James Fast Food Farm. Tour stops, included Poche Perique Tobacco in Convent and a field tour from sugarcane and tobacco farmer Brandon Gravois, Houmas House and Gardens, Amite River Wildlife Sanctuary and Zen-Noh Grain Corporation.

- Welcoming remarks by Gonzales Mayor Barney Arceneaux and LSU AgCenter Southeast Regional Director Dr. Chiquita Briley.

- Conference speakers included Galen Iverstine of Iverstine Farms Butcher, wildlife specialist Ashley Long from the LSU AgCenter School of



- Renewable Natural Resources, AgCenter vegetable specialist Kiki Fontenot, Lillie Adams Wiley from Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, and Brooks Lamb of American Farmland Trust.

- Kirk Ballard and the Distinguished Service Award — Jeremy Hebert.

Communications Awards were presented to the following:  
 Computer Generated Presentation with Script — Bradley Pousson, Newsletter — Joe Willis, Audio Recording — Ashley Edwards, Feature Story — Heather Kirk-Ballard, Personal Column — Mary Helen Ferguson, Publication — David Moseley, Website/Online Content — Ashley Edwards.

The awards banquet was held at the Clarion Inn Conference Center in Gonzales, and included opening remarks from outgoing LCAAA President Mariah Simoneaux, who was awarded a plaque for her tireless service over the previous year.

“One of my goals as president was to encourage participation on the state and national level of our organization,” she said. “I’m proud to say we’ve met that goal.”

Simoneaux went on to say that recognizing the hard work of peers with the awards banquet is a large part of the annual meeting.

“Agriculture and Natural Resource agents and specialists across the state are doing great work and it’s nice to take minute to recognize those accomplishments,” she said. “We have a great group that will be representing Louisiana at our National Association of County Agricultural Agents in Des Moines, Iowa in August.”

LSU AgCenter award recipients of the night included: Achievement Award — Heather

The poster contest highlights research and extension program efforts of LSU AgCenter specialists and agents. Three posters entered in the Applied Research category and placed as follows:  
 1st place — Trey Price, et al.,  
 2nd place — Leticia Santos and Stacia Conger,  
 3rd place — David Moseley.

Two posters entered in the Extension Education category and placed as follows:  
 1st place — April Divine and Stacia Conger,  
 2nd place — Valerie West.

*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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# YOUR ESTATE MATTERS



By Linda Melancon

## Is It Possible to Put a Retirement Plan in a Special Needs Trust?

Retirement plans often make up a significant portion of the assets of parents of children with special needs, or of individuals who have become disabled as adults. In

such cases, the question arises as to whether the retirement plan can be put into a special needs trust. The answer, as with many legal questions, is "it depends." Also, the answer has changed significantly since passage of the SECURE Act at the end of 2019, making it more difficult for most beneficiaries to save on taxes by "stretching" distributions over many years.

### **Can You Transfer Your Own IRA or 401(k) into a Special Needs Trust?**

This question normally comes up for people who become disabled, whether due to injury or illness, after they have worked and accumulated retirement savings. The answer is a clear no. A disabled person cannot transfer a retirement plan into a special needs trust without first liquidating it and paying taxes on the realized income. If paying the taxes owed is necessary in order to shield the

funds in a special needs trust and receive important public benefits, it may well be worth the cost. In fact, the tax cost may not be as high as it seems at first depending on the size of the retirement plan, the individual's other income, and whether medical expense or other deductions are available.

### **Should You Name a Special Needs Trust as Beneficiary of Your Retirement Plan?**

More often, parents would like to leave all or part of a retirement plan to a trust for the benefit of their child with special needs. This can be done, but it's a bit complicated. Before passage of the SECURE Act, special needs planners would advise clients to avoid doing so, if possible, to keep the trust simpler. In order to be the beneficiary of a retirement plan and spread the plan withdrawals out over the beneficiary's lifetime, the trust must qualify as a so-called "accumulation" trust, which presents certain challenges. To avoid this, clients might name their non-disabled children as beneficiaries of their retirement plans and name the special needs trust as beneficiary of other assets.

However, the SECURE Act made it more difficult to stretch out retirement plan withdrawals for the lifetime of most beneficiaries, limiting the withdrawal period to the 10 years following the death of the primary owner. One of the exceptions is beneficiaries who qualify as disabled. So now, in many cases, planners give the opposite advice. If possible, the retirement plan should be payable to the special needs trust so withdrawals and the payment of taxes can be spread out over the disabled beneficiary's lifetime. In each case, the special needs planner and the client must balance the potential tax savings with the added complication of creating and managing an accumulation trust.

### **Can You Transfer an Inherited IRA to a Special Needs Trust?**

Perhaps you have a special needs trust and have inherited an IRA. Can the IRA be transferred to your trust without having to be liquidated first? Here the answer is less definite. There's no regulation that directly answers this, but there are IRS rulings that have permitted such a transfer without having to liquidate the IRA first in individual cases. Absent a regulation that directly addresses this, the challenge may be less the law and more the willingness of the bank or investment firm where the account is located to permit such a transfer to the trust. They may well first require that the account owner obtain a ruling from the IRS that is specific to the account in question. The cost of obtaining such a private "revenue ruling" in most cases would outweigh the potential benefit of making the transfer to the trust.

### **Review Your Existing SNT**

Finally, if you have an existing special needs trust that was designed to accept retirement plan benefits, it needs to be updated to conform with the SECURE Act. As you can see, the subject of retirement plans and special needs trusts is a complicated one. If you want to know how a retirement plan can fit with your or a loved one's special needs trust, talk to your special needs planner.

The information provided is not intended to be legal or tax advice and does not constitute any attorney/client relationship. You should consult with an attorney for individual advice regarding your own situation.

*Ms. Melancon is an attorney with Legacy Estate & Elder Law of Louisiana, LLC with offices in Baton Rouge, New Orleans and Lake Charles, LA. The primary focus of her practice is estate planning, probate, special needs planning, and elder law. For more information or to attend an upcoming estate planning seminar, call her office at (225) 744-0027.*

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# FINANCIAL FOCUS

## Biggest threats to a comfortable retirement?

If you save and invest for decades, you'd like to know you can retire without financial worries. Nonetheless, you still have to be aware of some threats to a comfortable retirement — and how to respond to them.

These threats include:

- **Inflation** — Inflation has been high recently, but even a mild inflation rate can seriously erode your purchasing power. In fact, with just a 3% inflation rate, your expenses could double in about 25 years — and your retirement could easily last that long. So, if you're going to rely on your investment portfolio for a sizable part of your retirement income, you will need to own a reasonable number of growth-oriented investments, such as stocks or stock-based funds, whose potential returns can equal or exceed the inflation rate.

- **Excessive withdrawals** — Once you retire, you should establish a withdrawal rate for your portfolio — an amount you can take out each year and still feel secure that you won't run out of money. Some people make the mistake of withdrawing too much, too soon, once they're retired. Your withdrawal rate should be based on several factors, including your age at retirement, the size of your portfolio and the amount of income you receive from other sources, such as Social Security. A financial professional can help you determine a withdrawal rate that's appropriate for your needs.

- **Market volatility** — The financial markets will always fluctuate. When you're still working, this volatility may not be

such a problem, as you have years or decades to recover from short-term downturns. But when you retire, you don't want to have to sell investments when their price is down. To help prevent this, you can tap into the cash in your portfolio, assuming you have enough to cover several months' worth of living expenses. You could also draw on a CD "ladder" — a group of CDs that mature at different times — to provide you with resources for the next few years and allow your equity investments time to recover their value.

- **Unexpected costs** — You had them when you were working, and you'll probably have them when you're retired: the furnace that breaks down, the car that needs a major repair, and so on. But if you've established an emergency fund containing a year's worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid account, you may be able to "ride out" these costs without jeopardizing your investment portfolio. Be sure to keep these reserves separate from your typical day-to-day accounts to avoid the temptation of spending your emergency money.

- **Health** — Retirees may face more health concerns than younger people, and those concerns often come with larger medical bills. That's why it's important to maximize the benefits from Medicare or your Medicare Advantage plan. Also, if you contributed to a Health Savings Account (HSA) while you were working, and you haven't depleted it, you can use the money in retirement. As long as the HSA funds are used for qualified medical expenses, withdrawals are tax- and penalty-free, and won't be included in your income. This could help keep your income below certain levels, lower your Medicare premiums or avoid the 3.8% surtax on net investment income that can be assessed on high-net-worth taxpayers.

Retirement can be a pleasant time in your life — and you'll enjoy it more if you're prepared for the challenges that face all retirees.



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# Off the beaten path with Off the Grid Photography

By: Robin Stevens

Looking for a change of scenery and have a couple hours to spare? Chauvin Sculpture Garden is located on Bayou Petit Caillou in Chauvin, LA. (about 19 miles below Houma) This incredibly unique sculpture garden is the work of Kenneth Hill, a Vietnam veteran, a trained bricklayer and self-taught artist who spent 10 years creating over 100 sculptures, including a 45-foot-tall lighthouse composed of 7,000 bricks.

The sculptures show a mix of biblical references and seem to intertwine with the personal struggles of his own life. You can see Hill represented in different areas of the exhibit.



Hill reportedly declared it a story of salvation for the local residents. When asked what his vision was, he replied "It's about living and life and everything I've learned".

In 2000, after a decade of working on the site, Hill walked away from the site he built, he left on foot, never to return. Leaving behind an amazing garden with cryptic swirls and symbols and over 100 colored





sculptures that included at least 7 versions of himself. He was never seeking fame; his art was how he told his story. Where he is now and what he is doing remains a mystery.

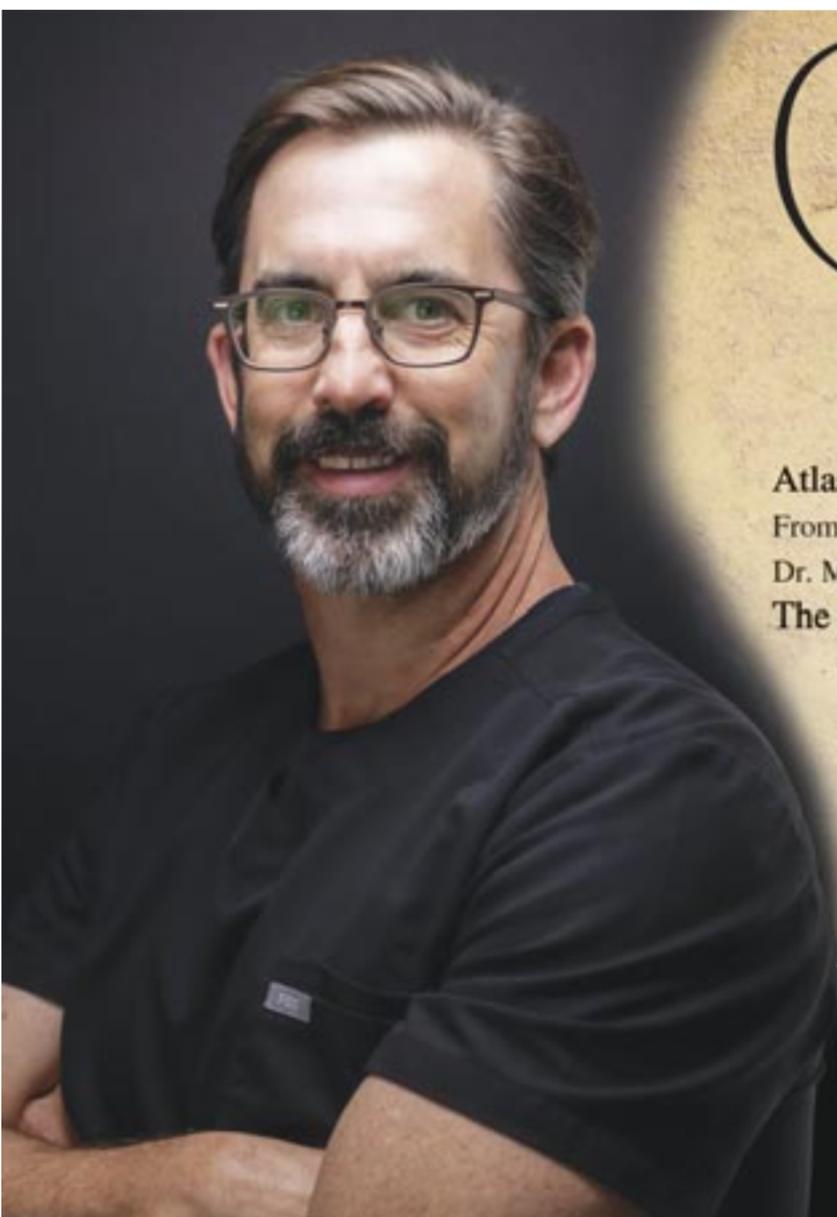
2 years after his disappearance, the site was gifted to nearby Nichols State University in Thibodaux, LA and was officially opened in 2002 to the public.

This garden is quiet and

strange and has an almost magical feel to it. It's easy to see why it was recently named one of the "25 Most amazing sculpture gardens in the world."

Chauvin Sculpture Garden is located at 5337 Bayou Drive, Chauvin LA.

Hours are sunrise to sunset daily and is free to the public.



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# Jambalaya Festival

## TOP 32

This years Jambalaya Festival hosted 87 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

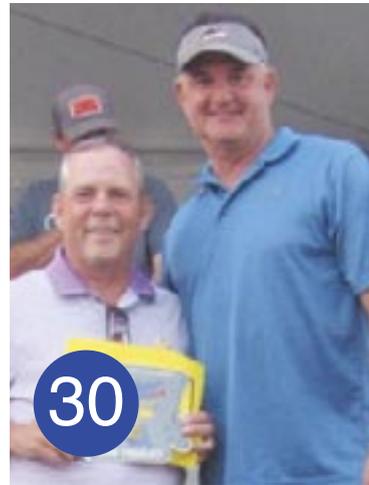
### Semi-Final Heat 1

32 - Jarrett Marchand

31 - Greg "Woody" Woodward

30 - Lyman Abadie

29 - Jay Alexis

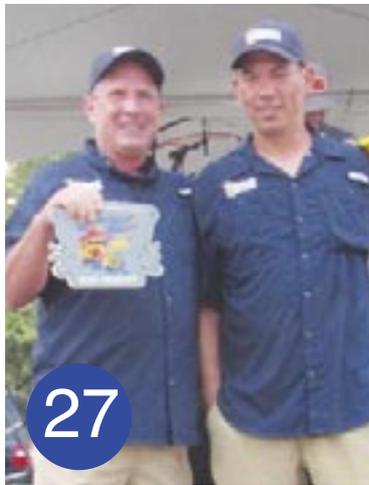
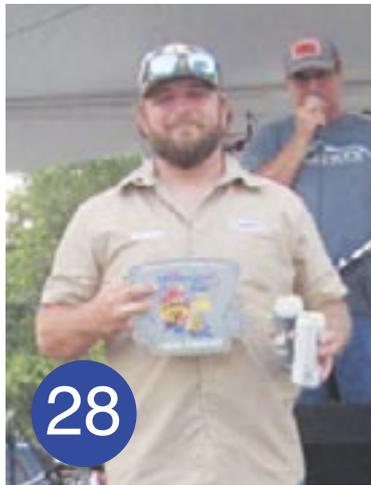


28 - Brandon Olinde

27 - Jamie Rye

26 - Tyler Billingsley

25 - Austin Abadie



24 - Brandon LeBourgeois

23 - Brandon Henry

22 - Cody Braud

21 - Tyler Lambert

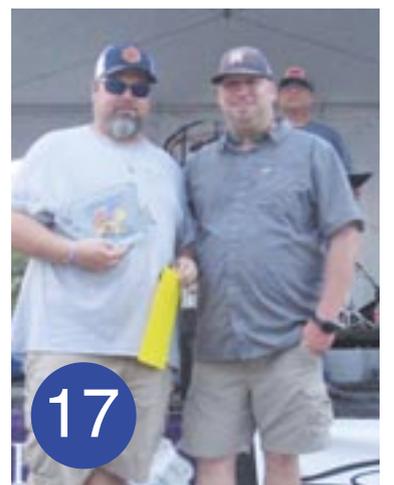
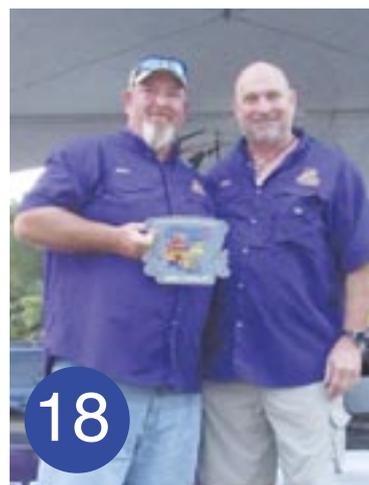
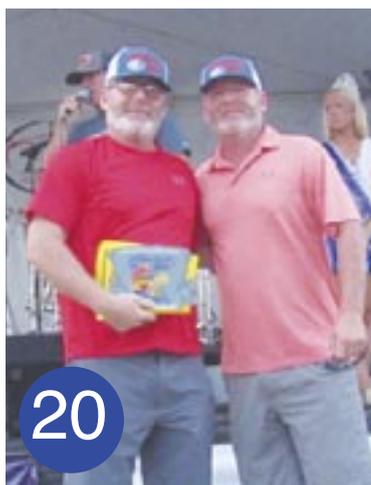


20 - Neal Mire

19 - Tyler Bourque

18 - Curt Parent

17 - Aaron Guedry



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

Making the Top 32 is a milestone 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 - Brigitte Reulet

Exec. Comm. Members  
@ Large:  
Robert "Hoss" Reine  
Shelby "Doty" Gautreau  
Brad Robinson  
Koby Thacker



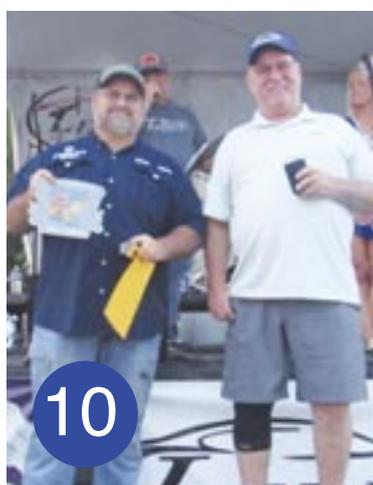
**Semi-Final Heat 2**

16 - Clint Broussard

15 - Adam Gautreau

14 - Shane Martinez

13 - Todd Breaux

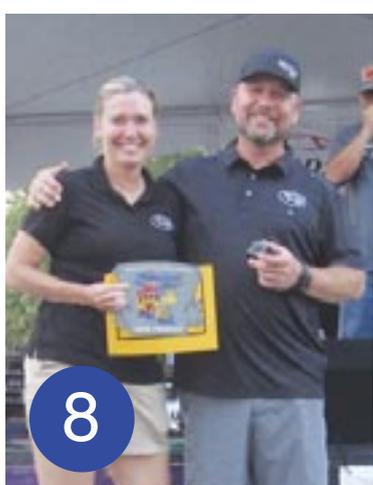


12 - Jacob Meyer

11 - Justin "Big Cat" Courville

10 - Robert "Hoss" Reine

9 - Lee Elisar

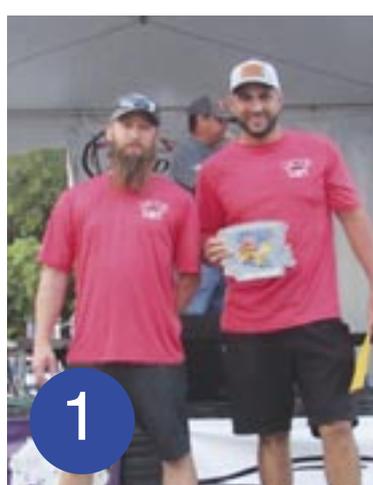


8 - Koby Thacker

7 - Heath "Buster" Melancon

6 - Daren Braud

5 - Jason White



4 - Matt Gautreau

3 - Chad Murphy

2 - Taner Bourque

1 - Kade Lanoux

# Jambalaya Festival

## FINAL 12

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



Todd Breaux Wins the 2023 Jambalaya Festival



1 - Daren Braud



2 - Kade Lanoux



3 - Tyler Billingsley



4 - Taner Bourque



5 - Justin "Big Cat" Courville



6 - Robert "Hoss" Reine



7 - Shane Martinez



8 - Todd Breaux



9 - Curt Parent



10 - Adam Gautreau



11 - Heath "Buster" Melancon



12 - Brandon Olinde



## **Todd Breaux 2023 World Jambalaya Festival Champion with his helper (spice master) Damon Blue**

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- ✓ **ENHANCE CYBER SECURITY TO PROTECT LOUISIANA CITIZENS**
- ✓ **ENSURE SECURE ELECTIONS**
- ✓ **MAINTAIN ACCURATE VOTER ROLLS**
- ✓ **REDUCE REGULATION ON SMALL BUSINESSES**
- ✓ **STAND AGAINST GROUPS TRYING TO INTERFERE IN LOUISIANA'S ELECTIONS**
- ✓ **SUPPORT YEARLY ELECTION AUDITS**





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PAID FOR BY CLAY SCHEXNAYDER CAMPAIGN

# When a Hobby Becomes a Passion

## Meet Lisa Thi Nguyen



**Hey Lisa.  
Tell Ascension  
Magazine Who You are:**

It started as just a hobby capturing photos of food and social events and it evolved into something much greater.

I have a deep passion for food. The presence of anything spicy makes me really happy. One of my greatest passions lies in crafting unique sauces and spices. I strive to infuse creativity

into every aspect of my life and thoroughly enjoy sharing it with others.

**Lisa Thi Nguyen**, Sauce Creator and Photographer. Contact me at 225-348-4179 for Social Events, Food Photography, Product Photography or follow Social Snaps on Facebook and Instagram

To purchase Black Market Spice Products, text 225-348-4179 Alternatively, you can follow me on social media:



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**Lunch Box Comedy Show**



**Soul Shine Comedy/Food Event**



*Sweet Garlicky Salsa with a kick*



*Texana Creations Food Truck*



*Spicy Pickled Quail Eggs- medium heat, perfect snack*



*Strawberry Pepper Jam- Perfect on charcuterie boards, Ice cream, cheeses and etc*



*Garlic Hot Honey- Goes great on pizzas, fried chicken, biscuits and more*



*Ever Glow Permanent Jewelry Pop-Up*



Follow us on Facebook and Instagram Black Market Spice Company Social Snaps 225



## East Ascension Sportsmans League

Letter from president -  
**Mike Lambert**

A lot of stuff is going on now in the outdoors. The weather is warming up and people are getting out on the waterways and enjoying our areas beautiful natural resources. I want to ask

that all y'all be extra careful in your boats. We've already had a few mishaps out there and don't need anymore. Be patient and be aware of others around you even though they may not do the same. Watch out for each other. I don't like to ride in a boat myself. I love the water and all it has to offer, but I don't really boat ride. I will fish at the landing if the fish are there, rather than ride miles to catch them.

I love frogging, even though I don't do it much anymore. I got spoiled when I was in the Air Force, stationed in Arkansas. The people there don't eat frogs and these frogs were the size of squirrels. No kidding! Some nights we were knocking big frogs out of our way to get to the really big ones.

The other thing is I just love to

be on the water at night. It is a different world at night. I had a small shrimp boat years ago and we would mostly shrimp at night because for one it was a lot cooler and plus the shrimp were more plentiful at night. But, at night on the water is so peaceful. You are away from all the lights and you can see a million stars. We would go in Lake Pontchartrain on the night of the 4th of July and we could see about five or six big firework shows all at once. The kids

loved that!

Anyway, talking about these things, frog season and shrimp season are open now. So for the people like me, who like that stuff it's time to get out there. Again don't forget about the kids fishing rodeo coming up July 29th. We will have more information coming out about that next month so be looking.

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 its May Tournament on the 27th. The Location was Doiron's Landing either side with a 1:00 PM weigh in time.

There were 12 Boats signed up to fish this Tournament. Looking at the results, it appeared to be a tough day of fishing. There were only two boats that weighed in a limit of 5 Bass. There were two boats that didn't weigh in a fish and the rest of the field all had a few fish to weigh in.

The winners of the Tournament were Tony Arceneaux & Jason Beck with 5 bass weighing 10.66 lbs.

Second place went to Wilson Mulina & Gary Christian with 5 fish weighing 9.38 lbs. Third place was won by Carlos Grey with 4 fish weighing in at 8.40 lbs.

Fourth place went to Tim

Fatheree with only one fish that weighed 5.80 lbs.

If you are only going to catch one fish, then it pays to catch the right one. Tim won Big Bass with his 5.80 lber and a 4th place finish. He also

collected the check for big bass, the side pot, and another check for busting the Jackpot with a fish over 5.5 lbs, and last but not least another side pot for busting the Jackpot.

Congratulations Tim and all

of the winners of the May tournament. Our next event is right around the corner on June the 17th. The meeting to sign up is on Thursday the 8th at Dirk Anderson's house on Babin Road.



Left to right, ASL Tim Fatheree, Tony Arceneaux & Jason Beck, Carlos Grey, Gary Christian & Wilson Mulina

# CHC Closet and Pantry

“Seeking to glorify God by helping people”

## Our Wish List for the Summer

We are very busy at CHC Closet and Pantry serving the needy members of our community. When school is out, the need for food is greater since the kids aren't getting school meals.

We provide food and clothing to needy and homeless people at no cost. We will also be providing school supplies and uniforms as much as we are able. We are volunteer run and totally donation dependent for the things we provide.

Items we need at this time include peanut butter, jelly, mayonnaise, mustard, tuna, canned meats and frozen

meats and vegetables. We can also accept game meat from hunters as long as it is properly wrapped and frozen.

We have an Amazon wish list on the CHC Closet and Pantry Facebook page. You can message us on that page if you need our help.

Money and or gift cards are always welcome so we can purchase items that we need.

Ascension Parish has been very helpful in supporting our ministry. We are very thankful and blessed.

Our address is 209 E. Railroad St. Gonzales, LA

We are open for shopping Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9 – 12 and for donations Monday through Friday from 9-12 and 1-3.



## FIRST RESPONDERS RECOGNIZED

Congratulations to Mytrail Whitehead - St. Amant Volunteer Fire Department and Tarrell M Milan of the 5th Ward Vol. Fire Dept. - Ascension, La. receiving the 2023 VFW Firefighters of this Year Awards. We are very proud of your dedication to the Parish of Ascension.



# Jammin' with Goosie

## Cycles

"You know that I have never jumped a rabbit while squirrel hunting on the Buckhorn WMA". This statement was made by a friend of mine who has a camp on Lake Bruin near the mentioned management area. He then says, "You would think that I'd see one every now and then". I replied to the statement and told him that I wasn't surprised to hear those words because I typically don't see rabbits on my visits to the Tensas National Wildlife Refuge which is located just a few miles to the north of the Buckhorn property. What is strange is the fact that I can recall a time back in the day that my dad and others would load up and go to that same area of the state to rabbit hunt because of the number of bunnies present in that area.

If you are a hunter and a fisherman and have been around for thirty, forty, fifty or more years you have probably witnessed several population cycles that fish and game have gone through in the past. I remember the days when you could fish a small white beetle spin and catch numerous amounts of bass in the Blind River basin on any given day. That lasted for several years and slowly went away. I can recall offshore charter trips of the past when it was common ground to fill six or seven large trash cans to the top with croaker and white trout on nearly every venture out into the Gulf of Mexico. That doesn't happen any more. At this day and time other species such as red and gray (mangrove) snapper have filled that void. In those days there weren't as many of those fish around as there are at this moment. Not many years ago, after stocking efforts had taken effect, the wild turkey had

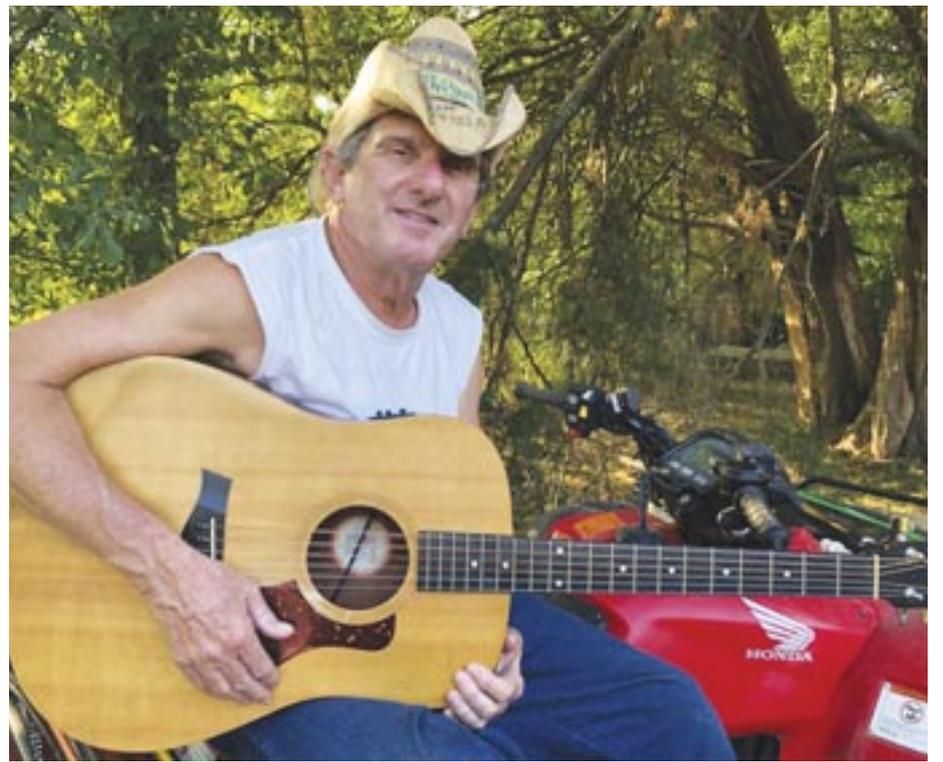
become a common sighting in our area of the state. Since those times the sightings have significantly decreased. These population cycles don't only occur with wildlife species. For example, I haven't seen large explosions of love bug numbers for several years now. I am not complaining about that for sure but I do remember some years in which the amount of those damn messy things were just horrible.



*In the spirit of cycles. These horns have been passed through a family for 107 years. Killed in the year 1916 by a 16 year old boy left by the truck so he wouldn't get lost. Registered as a 15 pt in the year 1916 by a 16 year old with a 20 gauge. Life lives in cycles.*

To refresh some old memories of my younger life I recently made a fishing trip out to False River located in New Roads, La. My plan was to catch a few bream and whatever else that would like to consume my offering of grass shrimp, crickets or worms. I ended up with two bream and eighteen catfish. Not a bad catch for sure. But years ago the number of bream versus catfish ratio would have been reversed with the amount of bream leading the numbers count. For the past few years the catfish have surely become the stable, so to say, when it comes to fishing in those waters.

A similar situation with catfish being very plentiful in the past few years has taken effect in the Lake Verret Basin. Believe me. There was a day and time when



catching a full ice chest of bream in those waters was basically a common occurrence. That accomplishment is not as easily done at this day and time. Many fishermen may catch forty or fifty catfish on a trip to those waters and never land a scale fish on the same outing. At the present, although some solid catches are still being made, the catfish bite hasn't been as prominent in that region as it once was a year or two ago. Are we seeing the end or the beginning of a new cycle? Who knows. We'll wait and see.

In our immediate area of the state the rabbit is a native animal that is making a comeback from what was seemingly a local population down cycle. The subject of the bunnies' upswing comes up quite often between those of us who pursue them as well as other outdoorsmen who keep a watchful eye out for their existence. It's pretty much agreed upon among those mentioned that rabbit numbers are on the rise. It's a pleasant feeling to once again see them in rural neighborhoods and woodlots of our locality.

As people will do, we all try to figure out and lay blame on who or what is at fault for these up and down population swings of nature's balance. You could argue the point that although laws and limits were followed, that the act of catching a box of bream or a couple of trash cans of croaker and white trout on most outings in

those days could be the problem at hand. It's been argued that shrimp trawling was the root cause for the decline of these offshore species. But you could counter argue those beliefs with the fact that there is less pressure from the shrimp industry now than compared to those days of the past. Some feel that the sale of small croakers for live bait is the cause for the downturn but those fish schools were long gone before the live croaker bait thing ever got started. So what's the answer?

Population cycles in nature occur because of numerous circumstances that come about at different times in a particular time span. There's typically more than one root cause for the situation to develop. Human consumption, weather, disease, air quality, available habitat, predation, food and water availability along with many more reasons than my old head can think of are all part of the equation. You and I along with all of God's living creatures are part of life's vicious cycle. Enjoy the ride, it's ups and downs.

Till next time

It's been a good one

James "Goosie" Guice

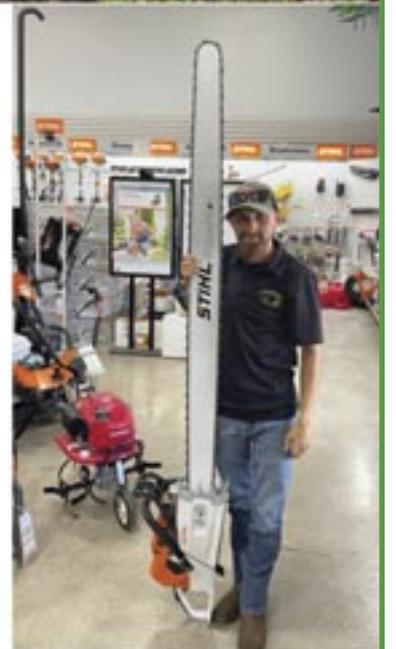


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# “Ten Years After- An Omaha Odyssey”

by Bill Delaune

## Editor's note-

LSU fans can be called fiercely loyal and vocal, highly opinionated and other things by rival SEC partisans. Yeah, well we might eat and drink too much, talk and laugh too loud, celebrate big wins like national holidays and mourn tough losses like a death in the family. Say what you want, but dammit, we do show up-home games, road games, 7-hour rain delays with no rain, we're there. And that is why the merchants of Omaha were dancing in the streets when the Bayou Bengals punched their ticket to the College World Series as the economic boom in the city-especially in the food and beverage industry-usually spikes about 2000 per cent when Tiger fans invade their town. I won't be going this year because 10 years ago I went with mixed results and -well-just relive that trip with me and you'll see what I mean...

At 5:10 p.m. on Tuesday, June 18, at Ameritrade Park in Omaha, Nebraska, LSU's last gasp of breath in the College World Series-already on life support-went flatlined.

And to paraphrase the shortest verse in the King James Bible (John, chapter 11, verse 35 for ye of little faith)-Omaha wept.

The texts started to pour in around 5:15-the first from my lovely daughter-in-law Macy who only two days earlier had sent me a sweet Father's Day message...

"Dear Mr. Bill, When the Tigers go back to Omaha, I respectfully ask you to stay home..."

The next from my former player and White Road neighbor Kurt...

"U can NOT go back!!"

Then from my ex-catcher and tailgating buddy Mike...

"U are officially banned from Omaha!"

And even an anonymous...

"Black Cat Bill-you've outdone yourself. Well, aside from the unfortunate incident, Mrs. Lincoln, how did you enjoy the play?"

Boy, my first time to Omaha and I get the blame for dead bats, bad bunts and a park bigger than Yellowstone. Why not blame Skip Bertman for sticking his name on that field with war hero Alex Box? Aren't you supposed to die first?

That question was once posed to the inimitable Yogi Berra after a St. Louis park was named after him.

"Yeah, but my arm died in 1962," deadpanned Yogi.

But this story is not about the games. This is about the Omaha Odyssey and the adventures. As Homer (the Greek, not what you



can't hit in the CWS) once said, "It is not the destination that is important, but the journey."

And mine began on...

## Friday, June 14

My desperate situation was almost like the atheist's epitaph-"All dressed up and nowhere to go". With some help from my brother-in-law Jack and a military connection in Omaha, I had- as that great philosopher Al Kling used to say-fallen into two CWS ticket backwards.

The only problem was I didn't have a ride. With the Beatles' classic "Ticket to Ride" pounding in my brain, I tried to trade-well-one ticket for a ride to Omaha. One by one, my possibilities slipped away leaving me with the song's first line-"I think I'm gonna be sad, I think it's today..."

Enter my brother Nick who had regaled us with stories of his 2009 CWS experience and the brother of one of his friends who had generously opened up his home to Nick and company.

"Call this number in Nebraska," instructed my now favorite brother. "Tell him you know me."

I did as coached and then listened-a bit speechless for once in my life-as a total stranger Tom Stringenz offered me everything but a key to the city.

**Tom:** "So you're coming for the first two games?" (Nick was holding off for the championship series.)

**Me:** "Uh, yeah..."

**Tom:** "So you're staying with us (a statement, not a question)."

**Me:** "I-I guess..."

**Tom:** "And we'll pick you up at the airport Saturday-just call when you get in."

**Me:** "Okay, I just..."

**Tom:** "Then it's all set. See you tomorrow."

Great-now with the money I'd

saved on gas and hotel rooms, I had enough money to fly-if there was an available flight at this late date.

Not to worry. My make-things-happen wife Priceline Pam was already booking me on the last seat of a Delta flight leaving New Orleans the next day. I never ate the "Last Mango in Paris" or took "the last plane out of Saigon" like Jimmy Buffet's old rounder in the song. But I got the last seat on the last plane for Omaha on...

## Saturday, June 15

And who to my wandering eyes should appear across the aisle from me but some veteran Tiger tailgaters dating back to the 80's including Baton Rouge judge Brick Wall.

"Hey, Bill, you got tickets? Where are you staying? Who's picking you up?" came the usual questions from the bench.

"Not in hand. I don't know. I'm not sure." I stuttered unsurely.

"Gee, Bill, you haven't changed a bit," was the verdict.

There was also a nice lady from N.C. State on the flight from Atlanta who showed us a Wolfpack cheer and guaranteed a win over rival North Carolina in LSU's side of the bracket.

"It took those (expletives deleted) 18 innings to beat us in the ACC Tournament and we owe those (expletives deleted) a good ass-whipping," she declared not so demurely.

I called Tom when we landed and he picked me up in a black Escalade and whisked me away to a raucous party scene in downtown Omaha. LSU didn't play until the following night but the Tiger colors were everywhere.

In a battle of two basketball powers, Indiana had just beaten Louisville ("We hit our free throws

down the stretch," joked one happy Hoosier.) and the Big Ten joined the party.

Speaking of the Big Ten, Tom and his lovely wife Mandy pointed out the incredible number of Nebraska (and Creighton) supporters who had been in and around the ballpark despite not having a local rooting interest.

With that beautiful park and the Mardi Gras atmosphere added to the rabid local support, it's no wonder Omaha has the CWS locked up for the next 25 years.

## Sunday, June 16

I woke up in Papillion (rhymes with Ma-million-not like the Steve McQueen movie), about 20 miles south of Omaha, and looked out my window to see-a beach?

It was not a mirage but there was sure enough sand in the backyard to create a desert effect. And at the edge of the sandy expanse was a boat, some jet skis and a party barge-or a pontoon as it's called everywhere except Diversion Canal-complete with scattered inner tubes, life jackets and everything you'd need for a day on the river-unless you happened to live on a beautiful Nebraska lake.

And I thought Omaha Beach was a code name during the Normandy Invasion.

"We're going to do some Father's Day things and then coming back here to ski and you're welcomed to come along," said Tom flanked by Mandy and their three high-schoolers Matt, Scott and Heidi. If it had been six months later, it would have made the perfect Christmas card.

I thanked him but said I needed to get to town where I was sure the LSU party had already begun.

"Okay," he said, "here are the keys to your car. And I typed you some directions."

Now these people had known me a total of approximately four waking hours and they were turning over the keys to family auto to me.

"They gave you a car!" my wife shrieked incredulously when I called her to inform her of my situation.

"You're not even allowed to drive on Highway 73, Highway 42 and most roads in Ascension Parish after dark. How are you going to find your way to Omaha and back?"

"They gave me a map," I replied rather sheepishly. And a rather good one, I might add, as I navigated my way to Barrett's Barleycorn Pub and Grill-the official LSU bar of the CWS-without much trouble at all. It's not easy to miss. The LSU flags fly outside and inside the building and some variation of a Tiger cheer or song goes off every 15 minutes.

"Big Ragu (a legendary Tiger tailgater) used to make them play 'Hold that Tiger' every so often in the old days-now they have it programmed. Ain't technology wonderful?" marveled my former grammar student Hilton LeBeau to his son Gunner, the first people I had met when I stepped out of my loaner in the parking lot.

I still remember the first words they spoke when they saw me-"Who gave you a car?"

We moved to another Omaha watering hole-McFly's-where you can play Keno-a numbers game that looks like you can't lose and that you really can't win-and then on to the corporate circus of tents out by the ballpark.

Robert King-still another voice from the past-secured some VIP passes to the Tito Vodka area where we watched State dismantle North Carolina (just as the Wolfette had predicted) while quaffing free beer and Moscow Mules.

Needless to say, we were in high spirits by game time and the vast majority of the 26,000 fans pulling for LSU were ready to explode. I had met Jack's friend Larry who had hooked me up with tickets 20 rows behind the Tigers' third base dugout and all was right with the world.

Then, the unthinkable happened. We lost. Not only did we lose, we lost to the smallest of the small ballers UCLA. Bunt, bunt and bunt again. Somewhere Earl Weaver was spinning in his grave.

As we headed back to Barrett's, wallowing in self-pity and disbelief, another disturbing thought occurred to me. Nine sobering innings had not been enough to sober me up sufficiently to drive a strange car 20-something miles down a strange route back to my benevolent hosts' abode.

Even if Tom was the popular Public Defender of Sarpy County and Mandy a successful plaintiff attorney, I doubted that those two, Perry Mason and the entire case of L.A. Law could get me off if I got behind that wheel.

I had texted Tom in the seventh

inning but my phone had gone deader than LSU's bats about that time so I had no idea if he'd received my s.o.s.

But the cavalry-consisting of Tom and his neighbor-had already arrived to save the day and were waiting for us when we got back to Barrett's.

"Tommy, I'm really sorry to inconvenience you..." I began.

"It's okay," he said cheerfully.

"Nick had told us some stories about you so we were sort of expecting to be on call."

My reputation had preceded me to Omaha.

### Monday, June 17

If the Strigenz clan is the Great American Midwestern Family-I like to think of them as "Leave It to Beaver" on jet skis-then the Lesoles are Omaha's Great Italian Family.

The owners of the best Italian restaurant in the city-named "Lesole Mio" of course-are huge Nebraska fans and Husker coach Bo Pelini is a frequent customer. But when LSU comes to the CWS, the Big Red colors give way to Purple and Gold.

Which is why we found ourselves on a party-oops-a pontoon out on Hansen Lake at a Monday afternoon soiree hosted by Don and Dino Lesole and family for Tiger supporters.

The mood was surprisingly upbeat at the gathering with the popular sentiment being we'd still come back through the losers' bracket and win the whole thing.

"The team would rather play than practice any way," philosophized Judge Wall through a large link of Italian sausage he could have used for a gavel.

Of course, it's hard not be in a good mood when you're out on a lake on a Monday afternoon stuffed with Italian goodies, beer and red wine. I guess the question that begged to be asked was, "Besides the obvious economic impact-why all the love for LSU?"

Don answered that over the years, LSU's numerous trips to the CWS had created friendships that had endured even when the Tigers hit a dry spell. He also pointed out a common ground that I should have realized earlier-a fierce passion for one's college team-especially football.

Don and Dino had even attended a night game in Tiger Stadium as guests of New Orleans restaurant owner Mike Serio who of course was on the cruise.

"We went out until 3 a.m. on Bourbon Street and then Mike said he'd pick us up at 6:30 for the game which started at eight that night. I figured that would give me time to recover until I realized he meant 6:30 the next morning," he laughed.

Another common thread was the mutual dislike for Texas.

"We loved it in '09 when LSU beat Texas for the title," said Dino.

"We'd had some trouble with some of their fans in Austin after a Big 12 football game when they jumped me and my friends. The cops let the Longhorns go but we'll get 'em back one day."

Then he said something in Italian that one of the cousins translated for me-"Revenge is a dish best served cold."

When asked about the vacant lot on the side of the camp, Don explained that his nephew's July 4th fireworks display had blown up a cabin that was there.

"It took us a year to get the felony charges reduced to a misdemeanor and a 200 dollar fine, but we did it," smiled Don.

There were more stories of the old Nebraska-Oklahoma rivalries during the Tom Osborne-Barry Switzer years and too soon it was time to go. I was assigned to ride back with Dino but he had one important duty left to do.

"I have to kiss my mother before we go," he said.

I started to ask him if there was anyone's ring I needed to kiss.

### Tuesday, June 18

Robert tried in vain to get us back in the Tito's tent before the game with UNC but was informed that Yahoo had bought that spot for the day.

"Damn technology," said Hilton who had bragged on Barrett's set-up the day before.

Instead we headed for a tailgating party hosted by Serio and John Marie which even had former LSU lineman Robert Dugas helping out with the cooking. Some N.C. State fans stopped by to wish us good luck and one was fairly adamant.

"It's time to send those (expletives deleted) home!" he implored. I get the feeling they really don't like one another. I met Larry, got my great seats again and...

We lost. LSU-LSU-Two and through and barbecue. Just like that my fantasy land adventure of beaches, beer and baseball was over. Beaten, busted, disgusted we did what every Tiger fan does when he's down on his luck. We headed for the casinos across the river.

I started to plop down at a blackjack table at the Horseshoe when I noticed a tunnel leading outside.

"Where's that go?" I asked the dealer.

"To the live dog racing and simulcast horse racing," he answered.

Casinos, dogs and horses all under the same roof? Maybe I'd found Nirvana after all. I got a beer and lost a trifecta with the dogs by a cold nose and a trifecta with the horses by a long neck and went back to the bar for a refill. That's when I discovered the only glitch in the place.

"I'm sorry," said the barmaid.

"You have to wait six more minutes before your next drink. Iowa casino laws dictate 20 minutes between

drinks."

Twenty minutes? I've seen my golfing buddies consume a six-pack in less time than that after a hot, summer round. I limped back to my table like a scolded dog and scolded some dogs of my own when I missed another tri. Maybe it is time to get back to Louisiana.

### Wednesday-Thursday, June 19-20

The Omaha World sports columnist had a message in Wednesday's paper for LSU fans.

"Even though the flags at Barrett's are flying at half-staff, we would invite the legions of LSU fans to adopt a team and spend the rest of the week here. The drinks, and aspirin, are on us."

I spent the day packing and getting reacquainted with the teenagers as they went in and out to their various activities. Matt, a senior at prestigious Creighton Prep, told me he played the euphonium for which I've tried to think of a euphemism without much luck.

Heidi, a freshman, had a full scholarship offer from the Prep school, and decided to go to the local public school where she will lead cheers and play soccer. Made my old public school heart beat a little prouder.

In the middle was Scott who plays guitar and ukulele. He showed me a few chords on the uke and in a little while, I could play a passable version of "Blue Hawaii".

"Play that one out on your beach and you'll get all the girls you want," I told him.

"You sure about that?" he asked.

"It always worked for Elvis," I answered.

I didn't hit any trifectas at the track but I've got one for you that can't lose. When you're travelling through the Midwest in the next couple of decades and you run into the grown-up version of this threesome, I'll bet there's a doctor or lawyer and even senator in front of their respective names. That's as close to a sure thing as I will ever give you.

We went out for Omaha steaks Wednesday night and Tom took me to the airport early Thursday morning to go back to reality.

If you've never been to the CWS, do yourself a favor. Go to Omaha. I've been to a Notre Dame football game, the Kentucky Derby, the first Jambalaya Festival and the last Dutchtown Eagle graduation and the Omaha experience ranks right up there with all of them.

Go to Omaha-and try and win some games.



## Entertainment Schedule

June 23

**4 Mag Nitrous**

June 30

**That 70's Band**

July 7

**Foret Tradition**

July 8

**After Party**

July 14

**Bad Habit**



**Foret Tradition**

**July 8th**

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## **Useless Random Facts** with Kellie

•  
Montpelier, Vermont is the only state capital without a McDonald's.

•  
A cow gives nearly 200,000 glasses of milk in her life time.

•  
Earthworms have 5 hearts.

•  
The average Japanese watches more than 10 hours of television a day.

•  
In average a human losses 200 head hairs a day.

•  
In the U.S., frisbees out sell football's, basketball's, and baseball's combined.

•  
It is believed that Leonardo do Vinci invented scissors.

•  
Despite a population of over a billion, China only has about 200 family names.

•  
Buckingham Palace has 602 rooms.

•  
Children grow faster in the springtime.

•  
During an oysters life it changes its sex from male to female several times

Thoughts from Bully

## The Good Samaritans



As I have said many times before, I don't know how so many unique situations come my way. It's been like that my entire life.

I've offend wondered why my mother would say, "Boy, I should have knocked you in the head when you were born." I don't wonder any more. It's just a part of being me and my crazy life.

Imagine one of the Snowflake generation being told

they should have been knocked in the head when they were born? Even if it is true that a snowflake should have been knocked in the head, they would turn their mother over to the law and claim she invaded their space and they felt uncomfortable. I always knew Mom meant it as a compliment because I made her laugh. However I sometimes wonder if she tried but my head was too hard.

This past month my son and I were working in the yard using a piece of equipment and while digging we broke a water line. This some times is a common occurrence while doing construction work but for me it turned in to another memorable moment.

Since Michael was on the equipment he said, "Well old man you have to go to the road and turn the water off. Frustrated I reluctantly grabbed the channel locks and went to the road.

There was a time bending over and doing this task would be no big deal. However with my old out of shape body laying down was the only solution. The only worry I had was getting back up.

As I was stretched out like a beached whale and reaching in the hole. I was turning the cut-off value by moving my arm

with the wrench about a 1/4 inch at a time. I looked like I was doing a one armed chicken dance. Suddenly I heard the screeching of tires on the road. A door open and I heard a woman yell, "Go help that man!" A man jumped from the passenger side of his car and was running my way to jump my ditch. I looked up and the man stopped. "Are you alright?" he said. "I sure am" I replied. We thought you were having a heart attack with your arm flopping like that. Then he apologized for bothering me. "No sir. I said, No need to apologize to me. Thank You for stopping." "If you ever see me flopping around like a catfish in my yard please stop. Chances are I need help because I never lay in the grass unless I break my water line."





PHOTOS BY OFF THE GRID PHOTOGRAPHY

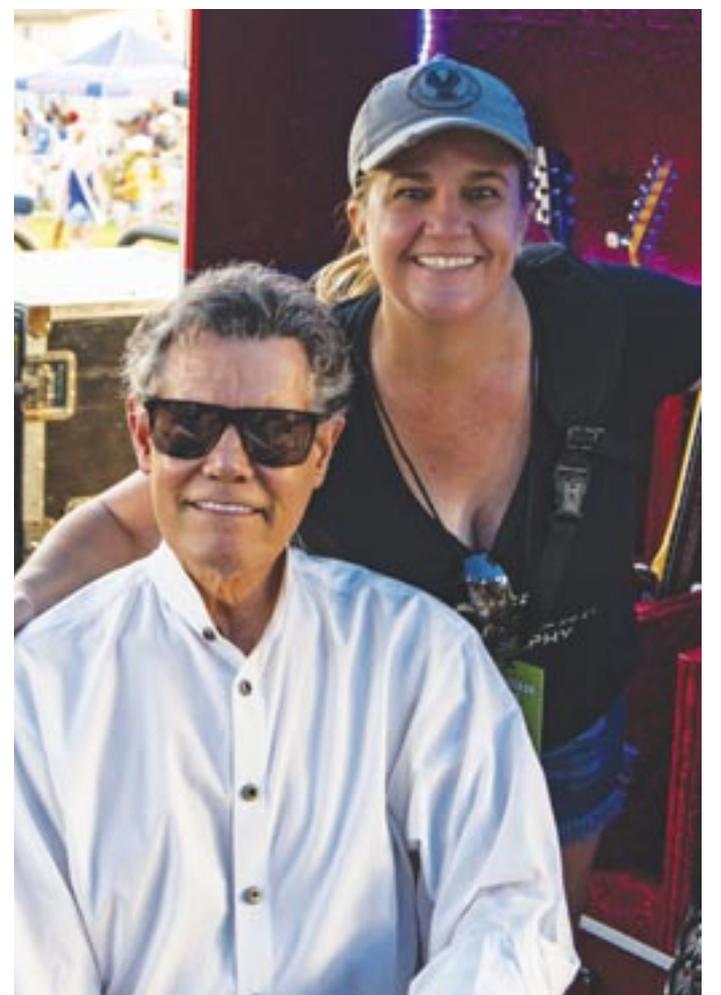
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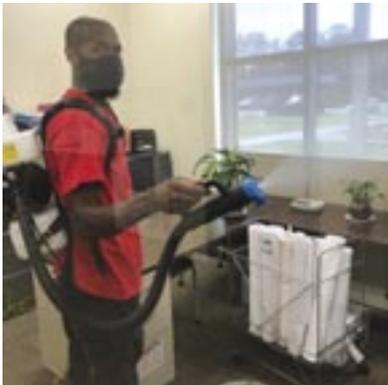
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## Cooking Gourmet at Home with SNO'S SEAFOOD & STEAKS



### Jambalaya Grits



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 you 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.

You can serve these grits with almost anything. Pork, seafood, breakfast, brunch, lunch, dinner

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