

COMPLIMENTARY

Ascension

MAGAZINE

JULY 2024, VOL. 22 ISSUE 7



The Insurance Lady

SEE PAGE 24

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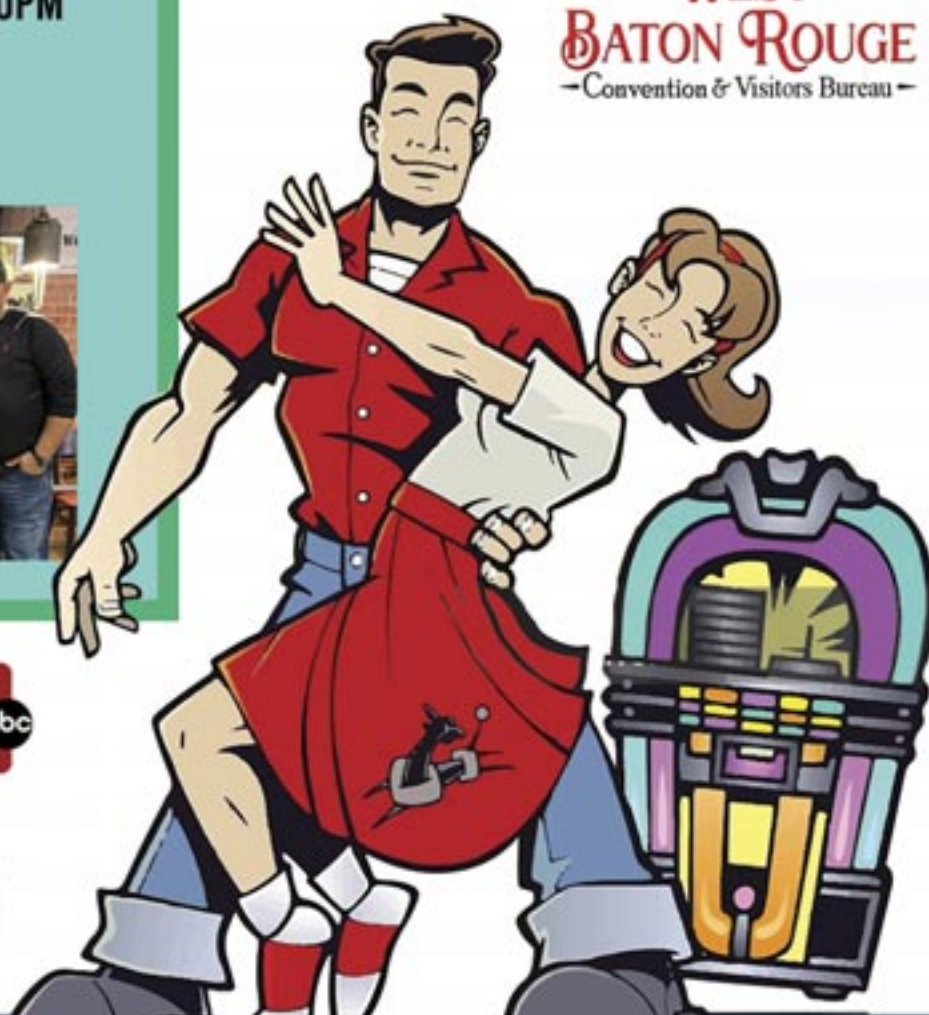
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ON THE COVER ... The Insurance Lady 24

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Saluting Our Customers!

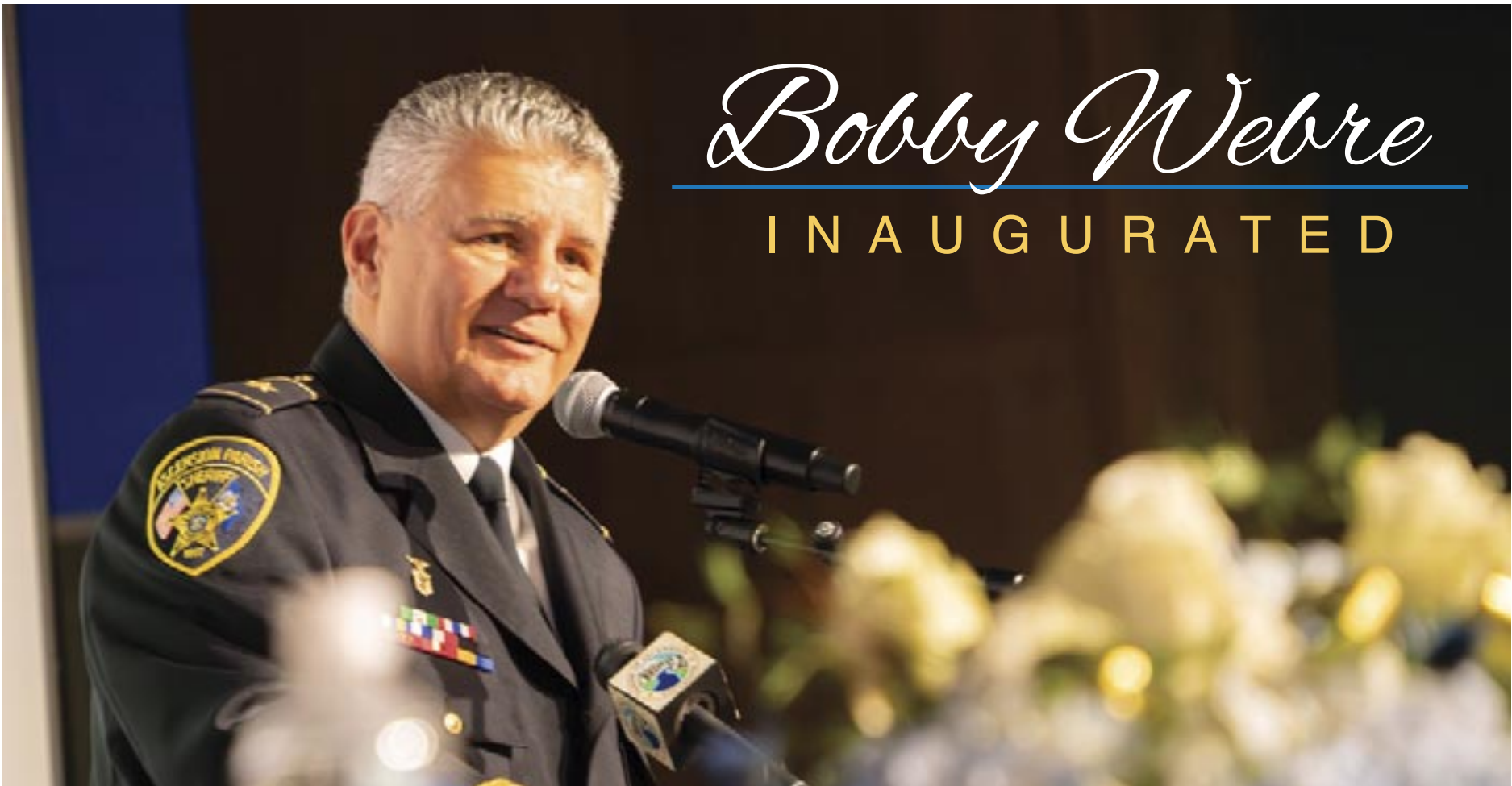
Tags & Titles hopes that the 4th of July treated our family, friends and customers well.

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Bobby Webre

INAUGURATED

PHOTOS BY ROBIN REYNOLDS

The Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office celebrated the inauguration and swearing-in ceremony of Sheriff Bobby Webre and his deputies on Monday, July 1, at the Price LeBlanc Pace Center in Gonzales. The event was attended by approximately 700 guests, including deputies, public officials, and residents of Ascension Parish.

Colonel Laura Gremillion served as the master of

ceremonies, guiding the event with poise and professionalism. The ceremony featured a keynote address by esteemed guest speaker Robert Burgess, who highlighted the importance of community and law enforcement collaboration. The deputies were officially sworn in by Clerk of Court Bridget Hanna, and the oath of office was administered to Sheriff Bobby Webre by Judge Steven Tureau.



Sheriff Bobby Webre, alongside his wife Karen, is sworn in by Judge Steven Tureau, 23rd Judicial District.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY THE ASCENSION SHERIFF DEPARTMENT



PHOTO PROVIDED BY THE ASCENSION SHERIFF DEPARTMENT



In his address, Sheriff Webre shared a heartfelt message with the attendees:

"As I reflect on the journey since my first election in 2019, I am immensely proud of the work accomplished by our dedicated deputies and the

progress we have made together. Over the past years, we faced challenges head-on, worked tirelessly to enhance public safety, and fostered a sense of security within our neighborhoods. The achievements we've realized are a testament to the resilience and commitment



Deputies with the Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office take oath of office as they are sworn in by Clerk of Court, Bridget Hanna.



Gail "Woody" Richardson, a 104-year-old military veteran, is recognized by Sheriff Bobby Webre during ceremony.



of our entire law enforcement team.

I am honored to serve as your Sheriff, and I am grateful for the trust you have placed in me and my team. As we embark on this new chapter, I am confident that with your ongoing support, we will achieve even greater milestones and continue to make a positive impact on the lives of those we are privileged to serve.

Once again, thank you for celebrating this special moment with us. Your support fuels our determination, and we look forward to the challenges and successes that the future holds."

The ceremony was a momentous occasion, marking the beginning of Sheriff Webre's second term.



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From the Gonzales Garden Club

Goodbye to Three of Our Best

Three names will be missing from next year's garden club roster: Barbara Guillot, Lorraine Gautreau and Mary Jo Pohlig.

Barbara Guillot was a tireless member of the Gonzales Garden Club for 34 years. This spring, she moved to Lafayette to be near her daughter. She served the club in so many roles: Civic Involvement Chairman, Arbor Day Chairman, Publicity Chairman, Membership Chairman, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Parliamentarian, President and Circle of Roses Honoree.

Her membership in other community groups included the Friends of the St. Elizabeth Hospital, Council on Aging, St. Theresa Catholic Church, Gonzales Woman's Club and Girl Scout Leadership. She was married for 62 years and has three daughters, seven grandchildren and a growing number of great-grandchildren.

As reflected by Club President Jamie Trisler, "Barbara was always encouraging and supporting in every facet. She



This Mexican hand-painted ceramic wall hanging was won by Sherri Rachal in the plant sale raffle.



In 2021 GGC President Jamie Trisler granted Barbara a commemorative pin to acknowledge her 30 years of service to the club.

had a twinkle in her eye and a pleasant disposition." The garden club, her neighbors, and community members miss seeing Barbara and wish her happiness in her new surroundings.

Sadly, the parish, city and club lost the irreplaceable Lorraine Gautreau. She stopped actively attending club functions in 2020. Miss Lorraine passed away April 13, 2024. She had become an Honorary Gonzales Garden Club Life Member. During her many club officer positions including club president, she filled nine binders with snapshots, news clippings and program brochures of local and statewide garden club events.

Lorraine saw garden clubs evolve from tongue-in-cheek costume/fashion shows and formal floral design classes to

PowerPoint presentations and native plant propagation. She hosted 33 of the September club meetings in her home serving jambalaya out of a black iron pot and giving away cuttings of her patio plants. She was the first to welcome new members and the last to end the cleanup chores.

She was a club member for 44 of her 92 years, nearly half her life. She said she joined for the flowers but stayed for the people. Jamie Trisler remarked, "She always had a smile, a funny story to share and garden wisdom to give." Miss Lorraine was revered as Gonzales Royalty and the Queen of the Gonzales Garden Club.



Lorraine grew several varieties of gingers along the path to her greenhouse.

GGC President 2007-09 Loretta Speligene said, "Lorraine Gautreau and Barbara Guillot have served as backbone members. They were first on the scene whenever and wherever the club needed. These two ladies were some of the best blooms in GGC."

One of the most inspirational club members moved to Florida in June in time to celebrate the birth of her first grandchild, a healthy baby boy. In Mary Jo's 12 years of garden club membership, she was enthusiastic about all things in nature. She cheerfully characterized her avid passion for gardening this way, "It's not an obsession. It's a gift!" Her specialized interests guided her to join the Burden Horticultural Society, Friends of Hilltop Arboretum at LSU, Sundowner's African Violet Society, African



Everyone in the garden club had begonia plants grown from cuttings from Miss Lorraine.



Mary Jo and her best friend Barbara McCormick tended to the Jambalaya Park Butterfly Garden for years. On this day in 2021, they installed a sign built by her husband and painted by the River Region Art Association.



Mary Jo Pohlig is a gifted gardener who grows mostly pollinator and native plants.

Violet Society of America, National Audubon Society, Louisiana Ornithological Society and Ascension Master Gardeners.

Over the years, Mary Jo served as Vice President, Corresponding Secretary, Jambalaya Park Chairman, Kidz Kove Discovery Park Co-Chairman, Hospitality Chairman and Yearbook Committee Member. She hosted club meetings at her home with speaking engagements from Baton Rouge Audubon Society President Jane Patterson, Director of Conservation Science Erik Johnson, Society of Louisiana Irises Regional

Representative Patrick O'Connor and LSU Professor Emeritus of Horticulture Dr. Allen Owings. She projected the speakers' presentations onto her den TV. During the pandemic, she kept the club going by producing the monthly meetings via Zoom.

Barbara McCormick, Mary Jo's sidekick, expressed, "We will miss her leadership and her enthusiasm. Her knowledge of the butterfly garden will be sorely missed."

Razzie Cagnolatti said, "I will always remember Mary Jo as our tech girl and her husband Chris,

also. She was a fantastic speaker and hard worker who went beyond her job description. She was always very eager to help anyone and very passionate about her interests."

Jamie Trisler summed up her sentiments about Mary Jo this way: "Mary Jo has made a positive impact on our club during her membership. She has chaired the Butterfly Garden at Jambalaya Park. Plants that attract butterflies as well as pollinators has been her focus. Recently she focused on adding native plants to the garden. Mary Jo served several terms as Vice

President and was an asset in this position. She took on special projects including Zoom meetings during COVID. As President, I appreciate she always offered a listening ear and was a voice of reason."

Club Vice President Janis Poche commented, "These three ladies all contributed so much to our club in so many different ways, making our club a great civic club for our community and just an awesome club to be a member of. They will be missed."

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

Yards of the Month



RESIDENTIAL

July's Residential Yard of the Month belongs to Clay and Wanda Berthelot on Conway Village Ave. They have done a wonderful job making a haven for hummingbird and butterfly watching while sitting on their inviting front porch. Foundation plantings of azaleas, holly, and

knockout roses are well placed. A mix of perennials and annuals adds year-round color. They include celosia, peppermint vinca, Gerber daisy, dianella and purple salvia. Pots of pink hibiscus greet you at the front steps.



COMMERCIAL

July's Commercial Landscape of the Month went to Casey Granger's State Farm Insurance Agency Office at 1505 S. Burnside Ave. Landscaping is very well maintained and pleasing to the eye. Conifer and privet hedges

are used at different heights, broken up with cone shaped holly trees. Red vinca at the door entrance gives the annual color.



Getting to Know the New Mayor- Ryland Percy.

Ascension Magazine ask the mayor if he would entertain a few questions about his new found position. Thanks Ryland for your time.

Q. You are now interim Mayor of Gonzales. Non-elected, but put in position to fill the vacancy of Barney Arceneaux in his retirement.
Does this diminish your

authority to perform the functions of the mayor?

A. *Yes and no. State law sets out the authority of a mayor and does not distinguish between an elected mayor and a mayor appointed by a city council on an interim basis. However, I'd say that common sense and the short duration of my time to serve as interim mayor would make it important for me to consult with the elected council members and senior city staff on any administrative decision that might have long term effect.*

Q. I understand you have been the attorney representing the City of Gonzales for many years. Does this give you an advantage to know the inner workings of City Hall?

A. *My experience as city attorney certainly helps, but the bigger advantage would be the support I've received from the experienced and knowledgeable senior staff of the city administration. They manage the day to day operation of the various city departments and are the real backbone of city government.*

Q. Are you gonna be able to position Gonzales with all the growth to optimize the community's growth?

A. *Gonzales is already very well positioned to benefit from continued growth in the River Parish Region. It is a multicultural city with extensive public services and top notch medical, educational and recreational facilities. It has a very solid sales tax base which continues to grow as new residential and retail development continues to move in. The future is bright!*

Q. Will you be pursuing a future as Mayor come election day?

A. *No! On January 1st, I'm looking forward to getting back to retirement!*

Q. I know there is a big field of citizens running for the position of mayor. Are you supporting any one candidate?

A. *No. From what I know, we're fortunate to have an outstanding slate of candidates running for this office.*

Q. Can you give us an idea of your agenda for Gonzales to be implemented between now and election day?

- A.** *My top priorities are:*
- 1) *An extensive review of the City's Hurricane Operations Plan. This year is projected to be one of the worst as far as the number of potential hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico. We are going to do everything we can to be ready to help the citizens of Gonzales should we get hit.*
 - 2) *Working to enhance the recreational facilities and opportunities available in Gonzales, including youth sports programs and racquet sports.*
 - 3) *Promoting Gonzales as an outstanding place to live, work, shop and play.*





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Unlocking Health and Vitality: The Role of Exercise and Physical Therapy at Action Therapy & Wellness

In today's fast-paced world, where hectic schedules and sedentary lifestyles often dominate, maintaining physical health can become a challenge. However, at Action Therapy & Wellness, we believe in the transformative power of exercise and physical therapy in enhancing overall well-being.

Exercise forms the cornerstone of a healthy lifestyle. Beyond its role in weight management, regular physical activity offers a myriad of benefits. It boosts cardiovascular health, strengthens muscles and bones, and improves flexibility and balance. Exercise is also crucial for mental health, reducing stress levels and enhancing mood through the release of endorphins. At Action Therapy & Wellness, we emphasize personalized exercise programs



Taylor Terrio, PTA • Hailey Leindecker, DPT

tailored to individual needs, ensuring that each patient achieves their health goals safely and effectively.

In conjunction with exercise, physical therapy plays a vital role in preventing and rehabilitating injuries. Our team of skilled therapists at Action Therapy & Wellness employs a holistic approach, combining hands-on techniques with state-of-the-art equipment to address a range of conditions. Whether recovering from surgery, managing chronic pain, or rehabilitating after an injury, our therapists provide comprehensive care to restore

mobility, alleviate pain, and improve quality of life.

Moreover, physical therapy extends beyond recovery—it fosters long-term health by teaching patients proper body mechanics and techniques for injury prevention. Through education and individualized treatment plans, we empower our clients to take charge of their health and maintain an active lifestyle.

At Action Therapy & Wellness, we are committed to promoting health and vitality through exercise and physical therapy. Our goal is not only to treat symptoms but to empower our

clients to lead healthier, more fulfilling lives. Whether you are recovering from an injury, managing a chronic condition, or simply seeking to enhance your fitness level, we are here to support you every step of the way.



Join us at Action Therapy & Wellness and experience the transformative impact of exercise and physical therapy on your health and well-being. Together, we can unlock your potential and achieve optimal health, one step at a time.



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The logo for Action Therapy & Wellness, featuring the word "Action" in a large, white, sans-serif font with a red swoosh under the "A", and "THERAPY & WELLNESS" in a smaller, white, all-caps sans-serif font below it.

225-644-7044

A photograph of three female therapists smiling. The two younger women on the left are wearing black polo shirts with the Action Therapy & Wellness logo. The older woman on the right is wearing a black polo shirt with the Action logo.



Weathering the Storm

As we approach hurricane season, the need for preparation reminds us of life's unpredictable nature. Just as we prepare for physical storms, it's essential to brace for life's unforeseeable challenges. So, what are the parallels between hurricane preparation and life trials? Here are a few examples!

Preparation

Preparation starts with stocking up on essentials like water, canned goods, flashlights, candles, propane, medications, gassing our vehicles, securing our homes,

and creating a safety plan. Similarly, life presents "storms" like loss, illness or financial challenges. We can cultivate resilience by maintaining a healthy lifestyle, finding healthy hobbies, and connecting with community, family, and friends.

Community

Neighbors help each other board up windows, share supplies, and offer emotional support.

Seeking community support is equally important in personal lives. Engaging with support groups or connecting with others who share similar experiences reduces feelings of isolation.

Landfall

Meteorologists use technology to predict hurricane paths, but exact trajectories often remain uncertain, requiring vigilance and adaptability.

Life's challenges are similarly unpredictable. Despite our best efforts to forecast and prepare, unexpected events can occur. By acknowledging uncertainty and remaining flexible, we can better navigate unforeseen difficulties.

Recovery

After the storm, we assess damage, begin repairs, and reflect on our preparation to improve readiness for future storms.

After overcoming challenges, reflecting on our resilience and learning from experiences helps us prepare for future difficulties, strengthening our emotional fortitude. Think about weight training...when you break down the muscle, it comes back stronger!

Resilience

Enduring a hurricane requires mental strength and calm. Staying informed, avoiding panic, and making rational decisions are key.

Building physical, emotional and spiritual resilience involves staying intentional through prayer, daily physical activity, balanced nutrition, and adequate sleep.

As we embark on this hurricane season, remember to stay prepared, connect with community, be watchful for predicted landfall, and remember that together, we will recover and become more resilient!

XOXO,

Sweet Eyes





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Get Growing, Ascension!

Control Virginia Buttonweed

This time of year many homeowners begin to notice a troublesome weed spreading throughout their lawn. Its narrow, oval-shaped leaves are arranged in an opposite orientation along the stem and its small white flowers have four petals each. Virginia button weed is easy to identify, yet difficult to control. So much so that the weed has earned itself a reputation as one of the worst weeds in the South.

Virginia buttonweed is a warm-season perennial. Plants die back during the winter months only to re-emerge the



following spring. It is extremely prolific and can reproduce multiple ways. Each plant produces button-like seed capsules, containing two seeds. Furthermore, stem fragments have the potential to root. Trying to mow Virginia buttonweed out is not a practical solution and can actually make the situation worse.

Virginia buttonweed prefers moist conditions and is adapted to a wide range of soil



types. By late summer it is commonly observed growing as a dense, spreading mat – especially in established turf grass lawns. It is also at this time that plants begin to produce small, white flowers. Large mats can be removed by hand or using a rake. This will not eliminate the weed entirely, but it will help to reduce next year's seed population.

No pre-emerge herbicides have been found to be very effective when it comes to controlling Virginia buttonweed. The best approach is to begin managing the weed as it emerges in the early spring. Homeowners can spot-spray small seedlings in April and May. Herbicides like Weed Free Zone and Weed B-Gon are good options and are labeled for all Southern turfgrass.

Throughout the summer, or once temperatures reach over 85 degrees, herbicides containing 2,4-D should not be used. Instead, select a herbicide with an active ingredient such as thiencazuron (for example Celsius) or metsulfuron (for example MSM Turf). Multiple applications will be required. Purchase these herbicides at local nurseries, garden

centers, or online. When applying any type of herbicide always read and follow the label directions. For more information on controlling Virginia buttonweed download the Louisiana Home Lawn Series: Virginia buttonweed publication from the LSU AgCenter website.

Homeowners who implement management techniques early in the year and take a programmatic approach to controlling Virginia buttonweed will see the greatest results. Additionally, one of the best ways to manage Virginia buttonweed and other lawn weeds is to maintain a healthy lawn through regular mowing and proper fertilization and soil pH management. A dense and vigorous lawn can compete with weeds and prevents their establishment.

This month's article was written by LSU AgCenter Extension Horticulturist Dr. Heather Kirk-Ballard. Mariah Simoneaux is the Horticulture Extension Agent serving Ascension Parish. For more information visit www.LSUAgCenter.com or contact Mariah at MJSimoneaux@agcenter.LSU.edu.



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YOUR ESTATE MATTERS



By Linda Melancon

Why You Should Clear Up Clouded Title During Blue Skies

What is clear title?

Title is the legal interest a person has in a piece of property. When a person has clear title, it means that there

is no question about whether they own a particular piece of property, because they can prove their ownership through legal documentation. However, many people are unaware that they have clouded title. A person has clouded title when they cannot prove their ownership through legal documentation, or they cannot prove who exactly owns the property.

How does someone get "clouded title?"

While there are many ways clouded title can occur, the most common is when the owner of a piece of property passes away and their heirs do not formally transfer the property through a legal process called a succession. (Successions are commonly referred to as "probate" in other states.) A succession is the formal, legal process of transferring a deceased person's property. If the

person had a Will, people named in the Will (called the "legatees"), will still have to complete a succession in order to formally transfer the property according to the Will.

What does this have to do with hurricanes?

South Louisianans face the threat of property damage every year during hurricane season. If you have clouded title, you may face several roadblocks when trying to access the funds you need to rebuild. Without clear title, you will not be able to sell your home, borrow money against your home, receive government aid through FEMA or the Small Business Administration, or even cash an insurance check.

Here is an example of how clouded title can negatively impact an average Louisianan:

Bill moved in with his mother, Mary, when she got sick in 2014. In addition to being her full-time caretaker, Bill takes over paying the property taxes and all of the general expenses of maintaining the house for the next five years. In 2019, Mary passes away. Bill continues to live in the house; he is now 65, and on a fixed income, so he is grateful to have the opportunity to live in house that is paid off. As an only child, Bill assumed the house automatically transferred into his name when his mom passed away.

Unfortunately, in 2021, Hurricane Ida hit Louisiana and pushed four feet of flood water into Bill's home. Bill did not have flood insurance, and he cannot afford to fix his house on his own. Bill applies for a Small Business Administration (SBA) Loan, and a month after the storm, he receives a denial letter. The denial letter says that the program is only for homeowners, and Bill cannot show that he owns the home.

Bill then contacts a lawyer, who explains that he has to complete a succession for his mother's estate in order to formally transfer title to the house into his name. While waiting on the succession documents, Bill has been staying in a hotel because his home is unlivable, and the home's condition is getting worse as the weeks go on. The courthouse was damaged in the storm, and it takes three months for the succession to move through the court system. Now, four months after the storm, Bill submits an appeal to the SBA to show he now has clear title and to ask them to reconsider his denial. After another two months, the SBA finally approves his loan.

Because Bill did not have clear title, he was not able to even start the rebuilding process until six months after the storm. And unfortunately, six months is fairly quick for issues like this to be resolved. Three years after Hurricane Ida, there are still people who are displaced from their homes due to delay caused by this exact issue.

How can I make sure I have clear title?

The best time to take care of clouded title is during blue skies. If you are living in property you inherited from your family, and you have not talked to an attorney about a succession, now is the time to do it.

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

Make succession plan a priority

When you run your own business, your days are busy and there's always a lot on your mind — but have you also thought about the day when you'll leave the business?

In other words, have you started thinking about your exit strategy? If not, you have company: About one-third of business owners haven't prepared a business succession plan, and of these owners, slightly more than a third don't view succession planning as a priority, according to a recent survey from Morning Consult, NXT360 Partners and Edward Jones.

If you're not close to retirement age and you've only had your business a short time, you might not think that creating a succession plan is a priority — or even a necessity. After all, you've got plenty of other things to do, such as attracting new business, dealing with competition, managing a staff, and so on. So, what benefits can you gain by prioritizing a succession plan?

Here are a few to consider:

- You'll be prepared if your plans change. You might be fully engaged in running your business now, but you can't always foresee where you'll be in the future. If a new opportunity came along, would you decide to take it? Or what if you experienced a health crisis and you could no longer run your business? If either of these situations were to occur, and you did not have a succession plan, you might be forced to act

quickly and take steps — such as suddenly liquidating your business — that might not be in your best interest.

- You can help avoid family squabbles. If you have family members involved in your business or those who feel they should have a financial stake in it, you'll be doing yourself, and everyone else, a favor by developing a business succession plan and communicating it to your family. Your choice of successor may not please everyone, but if family members know far in advance what to expect when you exit your business, there's less likelihood of bitter disputes that can arise when succession plans are ill-defined or poorly communicated.

- You can develop your successor's management skills. If you've decided that you want an internal successor, whether it be a family member or a current employee, your succession plan will give you time to help develop this individual's management skills, as well as their overall knowledge of your business and familiarity with your customers, vendors and other key parties. Of course, it's a different story if you plan to sell the business to an outsider, but even then, you'll want to be sure the new owner has the abilities needed to succeed.

- You may help improve your company's performance. As you prepare your succession plan, you may well find existing vulnerabilities in your business that you can address now. You also may find that you need to innovate in certain areas, define your long-term goals more clearly and identify the resources you'll need — human and otherwise — to sustain the level of growth you desire.

It may seem a long time before you'll leave your business, but *tempus fugit* — time flies. So, put a succession plan on your to-do list.

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



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PEDIATRIC THERAPY SOLUTIONS **Helping little people do BIG things**

Baby Registry Recommendations for Gross Motor Coordination

Congratulations! You have just found out that you are bringing a precious miracle into the world and here at PTS we are so happy for you. The biggest question for parents is "Okay, where do I start?" Starting a registry for your sweet baby can be incredibly challenging with all the overwhelming options for equipment and toys that are now available.

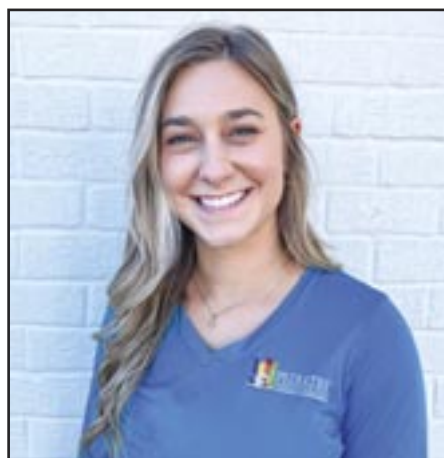
Here are some of our recommendations to promote gross motor skills at the beginning stages of development.

Play Mat

One of the best ways to encourage gross motor development in your baby is putting them on the floor! Floor time is crucial for babies to develop the skills and muscle activation for sitting.

This also allows them to really explore their environment and discover new ways to move.

We usually recommend about 15-20 minutes of play time in positions such as tummy time, side-lying play, and rolling.



*Dr. Stephanie Andry, PT, DPT
Physical Therapist*



Baby Safe Mirror

This is so helpful with keeping your baby engaged with functional play on the floor. Babies love to see themselves

while developing new skills thus promoting longer time for play on their tummies to build their core and neck muscles.

Play gym

This is a perfect option for providing your baby with a stimulating environment to help develop cognitive skills, fine motor skills, gross motor skills, sensory development, and hand eye coordination. It is important to find a safe play gym that fits your needs and space at home perfectly. Things to consider when looking for a play mat are the variety of different toys including different colors, textures, and shapes.

Upright Feeding Chairs

Many chairs on the market promote a more reclined seat for your baby that does not allow them to engage the appropriate muscles to encourage postural control for safe eating. You want to make sure that the seating provides an upright back to encourage good posture for safe feeding.



Cause/Effect Toys

These types of toys can be a great challenge for your baby to help develop their gross motor skills and cognitive abilities. This can include baby rattles, rainmaker toys, open/close activities, crinkly toys, and musical toys. These can be a fantastic way to promote increased mobility in the early stages utilizing specific toy placement!

Activity Table

Your baby will begin to start pulling up into tall kneeling and standing around 8-10 months. An activity table can provide a nice sturdy and interactive surface to promote strengthening in both legs and practice their control and balance with standing to prepare for walking!



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The Everly at Rouzan, a resort-style luxury apartment community, now open in Baton Rouge



Key Real Estate Company announces The Everly at Rouzan, a resort-style luxury apartment community, is now open in Baton Rouge. The modern living community features 277 residential apartments with 14 different open concept floor plans and innovative community amenities. Key Real Estate is a New Orleans based real estate development and

property management company.

The Everly at Rouzan features studio and 1-3 bedroom apartments with stylish interior designs, wide-plank flooring, and large windows, patios, and balconies. The community prioritizes elegant design and modern convenience. Located in the heart of the Rouzan neighborhood, The Everly is



surrounded by walking and biking paths, shops, and restaurants.

a comprehensive suite of amenities that cater to the lifestyle of today's renters."

"The Everly at Rouzan offers an unparalleled living experience in Baton Rouge," said Bill Boasberg, Managing Principal and COO of Key Real Estate Company. "Our apartments are designed with modern elegance and provide

With residential living priorities shifting after Covid, Key Real Estate is creating community amenities that provide vast outdoor and social spaces and complement the luxury of the residential apartments. The Everly at Rouzan's community





amenities include an oasis-style pool with sun ledges and cabanas, brick hearth with TV viewing station and fire pit, dog run, pet spa, fitness center with yoga studio, electric car charging stations by EverCharge, and a Supper Club event space. Additionally, residents can take advantage of shared office spaces and a fully-equipped conference room, perfect for remote work and meetings.

“Our goal is to create a community that combines luxury and convenience seamlessly. With features like a creative Maker’s Studio, a relaxing pool courtyard, a yoga studio, and pet-friendly amenities, we are creating a vibrant community that caters to modern lifestyles,” said Michael Lang, Key Real Estate Company’s Managing Principal & Development.

Additional property amenities include secure, access-controlled garage parking, convenient package lockers, and storage units. For outdoor enthusiasts, there are bicycle racks and a private courtyard with space to store your bike. The pool courtyard also features outdoor dining areas and lounge furniture, perfect for relaxing or entertaining friends. The community is conveniently located minutes from LSU and close to supermarkets, restaurants, and other everyday conveniences. With walking, biking, and running paths nearby, and ample green space, The Everly at Rouzan offers a serene living environment.

Apartment Features:

- 9’ High Ceilings
- Wide-Plank Flooring
- Open-Concept Floor Plans
- Oversized Windows for Natural Light
- Quartz Countertops
- Handmade Custom Gloss Tile Kitchen Backsplashes
- High-End Cabinetry with Black Hardware
- Ample Cabinet Space
- Stainless Steel, Energy Efficient Appliances
- Full-Sized Washers and Dryers
- Undermount Kitchen & Bathroom Sinks
- Designer Plumbing Fixtures and Kitchen Finishes
- Ceiling Fans
- Walk-In Showers (select units)
- Oversized Covered Balconies and Patios



Community Amenities:

- Oasis-Style Pool with Sun Ledges and Cabanas
- Gas Grilling Area
- Brick Hearth with TV Viewing Station and Fire Pit
- Supper Club Event Space
- Dog Run
- Pet Spa
- Fitness Center with Yoga/Fitness Class Studio
- Maker’s Studio for Creative Crafts and Art Projects
- Access-Controlled Garage Parking
- Electric Car Charging Stations by EverCharge
- Package Lockers
- Storage Units
- Bicycle Racks and Storage
- Quiet Courtyard with Outdoor Dining Tables & Lounge Furniture
- Hammock Stations
- Quiet, Serene Surroundings
- Walkable Neighborhood
- Sprouts Grocery Across the Street
- Pizza Artista Across the street

THE EVERLY AT ROUZAN



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If your employee only coverage is considered affordable (9.12% in 2023), then minus the EE premiums from the EF premiums. If that dollar amount is higher than 9.12% of your family's household income, you may qualify for the tax credits! Gather those numbers and give us a call or email us. We'd love to help you save money!

THE END OF MEDICAID FOR 200,000 LOUISIANIANS

When the COVID-19 pandemic started in 2020, more Louisiana families than ever before took advantage of Medicaid due to loss of employment, etc. For a few years now, people were locked into Medicaid regardless of their income. All of that is about to start unwinding. While the public health emergency is technically still in effect, the Louisiana Medicaid program will

slowly start to check everyone's income. If you are over the threshold for Medicaid, you will be notified and given a small timeframe to find other coverage. The timeframe is usually 30-60 days so watch your mail closely.

If you are offered affordable insurance through your employer, the loss of Medicaid qualifies as a Special Enrollment Period, and you can jump on their plan. If the insurance is not affordable through your employer, give us a call and let us shop it out for you.

Quick reminder... our services are **FREE** to you! We are always here to help and will guide you in the right direction.

THE LONG-AWAITED RULE CHANGE WILL ELIMINATE THE 'FAMILY GLITCH' IN 2023

WHAT IS THE FAMILY GLITCH?

Under the Affordable Care Act, employers were required to keep the employee's insurance cost under 9.83% of the household income. However, this affordability protection was only for the employee's coverage, not the dependent coverage. Even if the cost for the dependents were \$5,000 per month, the family was disqualified from getting ANY help from the tax credits.

THE PROPOSED FIX

Under the proposed IRS solution, tax credits will now be available to family members whose premiums through an employer are considered unaffordable (expected to be 9.12% of household income). This is a very big deal. Most employers pay little to nothing for dependent coverage here in Louisiana.

WILL THE NEW RULES HELP MY FAMILY?

VERY possibly. The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 expanded tax credits substantially. If your employer does not contribute towards the premium for your spouse or children, let's do the math! We need to breakdown the costs between the employee and the rest of the family:

Employee Only (EE)
Employee and Spouse (ES)
Employee and Children (EC)
Employee and Family (EF)

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Jambalaya

TOP 32 Festival

2024

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

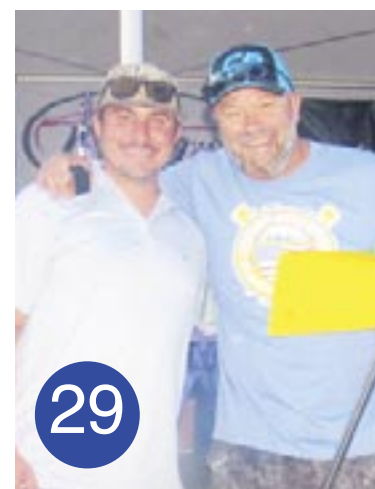
Semi-Final Heat 1

32 - Shane Martinez

31 - Adam Gautreau

30 - Heath "Buster"
Melancon

29 - Nakia White

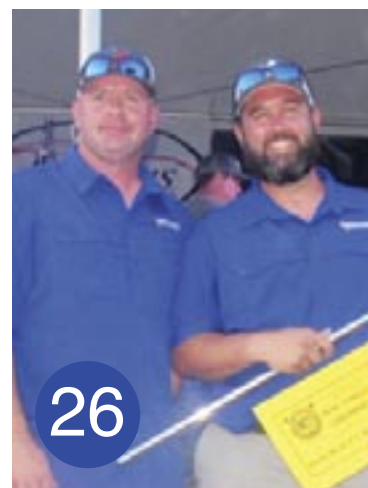
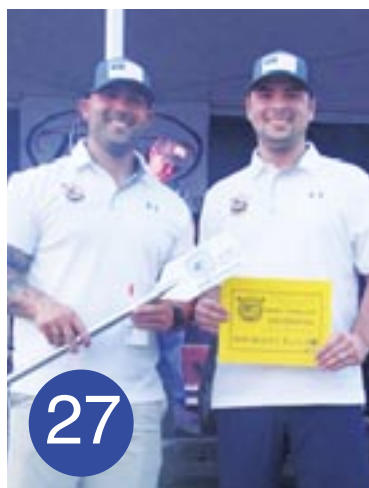
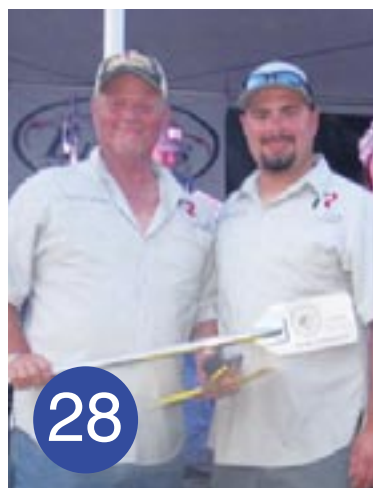


28 -Tunney King

27 - Lee Elisar

26 - Matt Gautreau

25 - Curt Parent

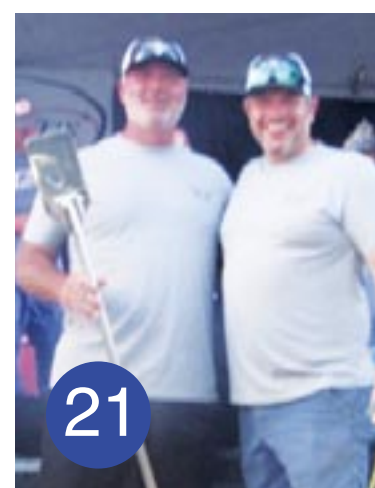
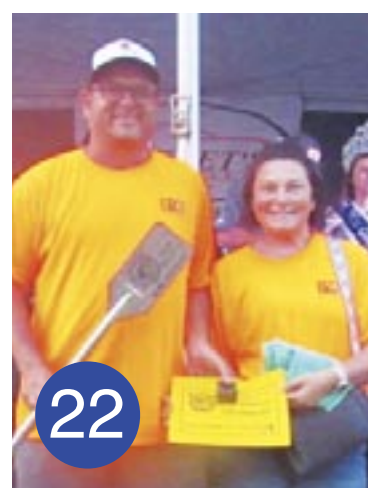


24 - Brandon Elisar

23 - Daren Braud

22 - Jason White

21 - Ken Cornett

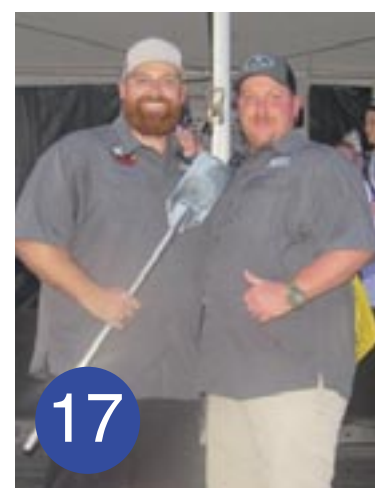


20 - Justin "Big Cat"
Courville

19 - Brett "Hoss Fly"
Reine

18 - Gregory Stone

17 - Eric Guitreau



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:

Layne Gautreau
Freddie Hurst
Marty Haydel
Michael Gonzales, Jr.
Rodney Gremillion

Contest Chairman -
Mike Gonzales

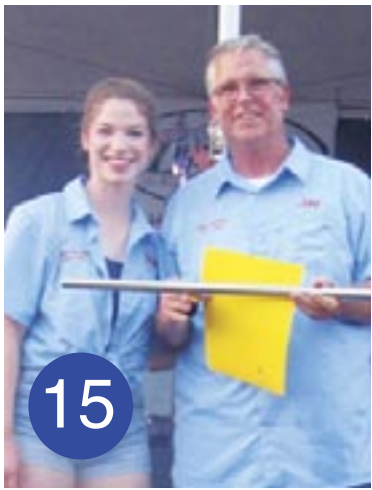
2021-2022 Executive Committee (2024 Festival)

Interim President –
Mike Gonzales

Vice President –
Tammy Guillory

Secretary – Joey Cornett

Treasurer – Bart Himel
Members @ Large:
Koby Thacker
Robert “Hoss” Reine
Brad Robinson
Shelby “Doty” Gautreau



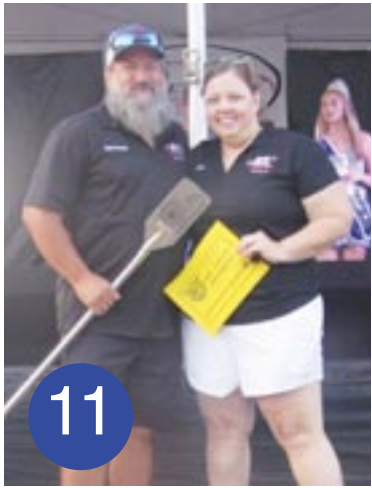
Semi-Final Heat 2

16 - Jarrett Marchand

15 - Jay Alexis

14 -Robert "Hoss"
Reine

13 - Brad LeBourgeois

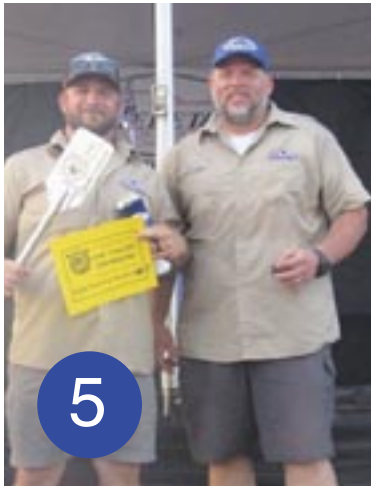
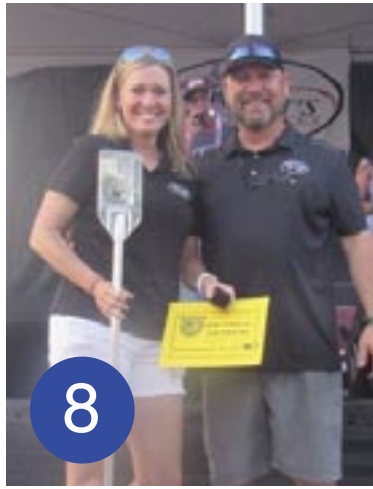


12 - Chad Murphy

11 - Bart Himel

10 - Brock Gonzales

9 - Brian Babin



8 - Koby Thacker

7 - Scott Duplechein

6 - Laci Murphy

5 - Brandon Olinde



4 - Tyler Billingsley

3 - Kade Lanoux

2 - Jared White

1 - Joey Cornett



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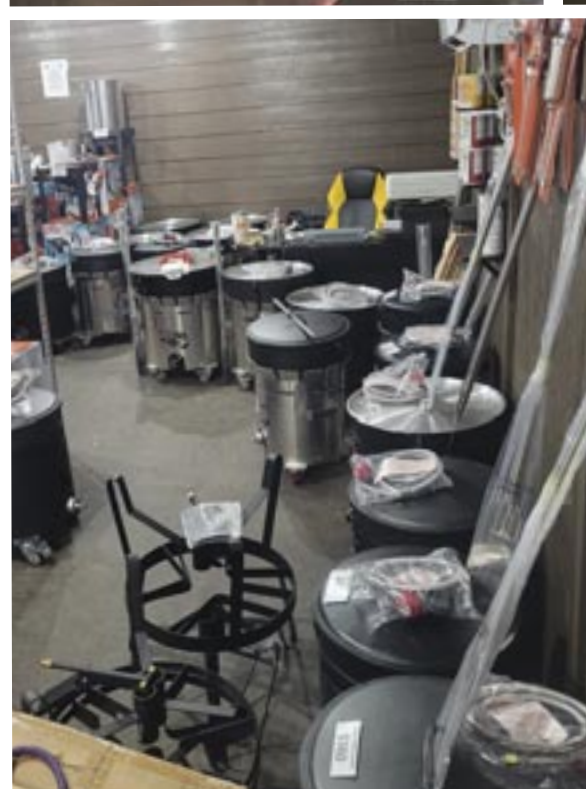
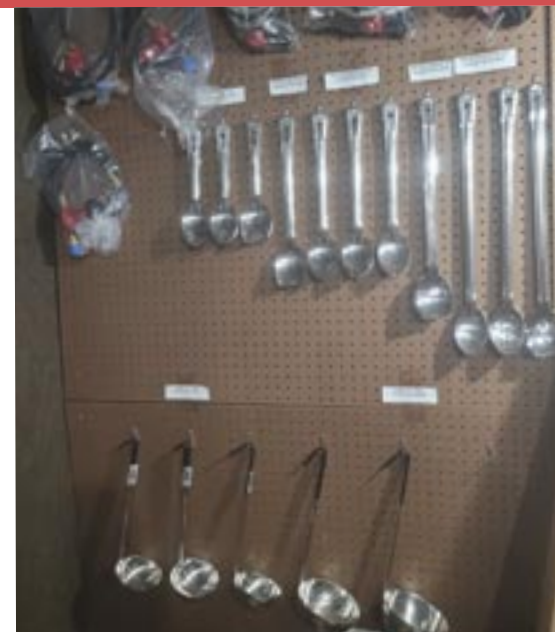
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ALLIGATORS

My first sighting of an alligator came about when I was a very young boy. I was probably ten years old or so. I can still remember the event as if it just happened yesterday. My dad and I were setting a trotline in an old slough off of Blood River. The East Ascension Sportsman League was holding its annual adult fishing rodeo on that weekend. Back then most freshwater fishing rodeos featured divisions for several different species of fish such as largemouth bass, bream, sacalait, goggle-eye, and roughfish. We were trying to catch a choupique, gar, catfish, or any other species of fish that did not have a category to enter in the rough fish division. As we were setting out the line from our old bateau of the time my dad suddenly spoke out with excitement and said, "Look at the alligator. Boy you don't see many of those things." The reptile was a small one, probably only four or five feet in length.

From that day forward I don't recall seeing many if any more of the creatures until we began waterfowl hunting in the Pecan Island, La. area. I was then in my later teens at that time and gators were fairly common in that environment back then but not much so in our locality even in those days. Well that was then, but at this time and day alligators seem to be everywhere that the environment will support them. The comeback of the lizards goes hand and hand with other species that have made great recoveries such as wild turkeys, resident Canada geese, wood ducks, and whitetail deer. Regulations for the protection of struggling species help make these so-called comebacks possible to occur but at some point the protection of some may need to be lifted or some of these creatures

can become a nuisance. That's about at the point we are with the gators nowadays.

The event of which gator farms would take eggs from the wild and then hatch them out to be returned back to the wild along with not allowing the general public to harvest gators has led to an overpopulation of the species. Everything was great as long as the market for hides and flesh was profitable. The margin of profit fluctuates from year to year



and has not been very good lately. That means that fewer gator hunters will put forth the effort to harvest them if they don't make any profit for their effort. Gator season is open for approximately one month and basically only landowners can receive the required tags to harvest them. Several years ago the La. The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries began a lottery drawing in which some Wildlife Management Areas would allow drawn participants to remove gators from those landscapes.

The talk of too many gators is pretty common among outdoorsmen. Most of that group would love to see at some point regulations for the general public to be allowed to harvest some of the reptiles. A lottery draw-



ing among those that would apply would be nice and most of us would not have a problem with paying for the administered cost of the pro-

lowed. After all, you can't treat them like fish by throwing them in an ice chest after capture. There would have to be a way to safely and ethically take its life. This is my take on the situation and I do believe that it does need to be worked out. It would be great to use the rod and reel, hook and line technique on them. This way you could target the size one that you would like to fool with and after reeling it to the boat then dispatch it with the use of a bang stick. Done deal.

The alligator population is way out of control. They are just about everywhere there is water and that includes even small ditches along the highways as well as in some peoples yards. The American Alligator is a native to our area. By no means are they a bad thing to have. They have beautiful hides and are very good table fare. Gators have helped control the nutria population from destroying our wetland vegetation. They have also put a serious dent in our water snake population. I'm not sure if that's good or bad but they do feast on many things that we wish that they would not eat such as baby wood ducks, frogs, turtles, otters, wading birds, pets, etc. Good or bad the alligator belongs here and I wouldn't want to live in a world without them but for now sauce piquant and gator po boy sounds good to me.

Till next time
"I want one"
James "Goosie" Guice

I Like Big Putts and I Can't Lie or Dude, Where's My Par

by Bill Delaune

Every year after the major golf tournaments I get fired up and feel inclined (not to be confused with my boat-the "Miss Inclined") to improve my golf game so that I actually have some remote idea in which direction my ball is headed.

Most of the time I just enlist the help of some of the best golfers at the club who usually offer some astute advice like, "You were a baseball coach and you don't know what you're doing wrong?" or "Aim left, swing right and walk straight" or the ever-popular, "Take two weeks off and then quit."

But this year my game has sunk to such depths that I decided to seek professional help-for my golf game, not the psychological variety which I also so desperately need. I opened up the phone book (Yes, children, those things do still exist.) and threw a dart which- with the accuracy of one my wayward drives-caught a small ad on the bottom corner of the page.

"The Draw/Shank Redemption" read the headline. "Let former professional 'Slammer' Sam N. Dave help lower your handicap."

Now I am a sucker for any kind of pun especially when a Stephen King story is involved. But it was his kicker line that sold me on trying this guy-"Horse handicapping also available."

I checked out his checkered resume and made an appointment to meet him two days later at a local driving range. We shook hands and began the usual golfer's conversation with the traditional, "How about that U.S. Open?"

"I was glad to see Bryson



DeChambeau win that one," Sam said. "I don't like to see anybody-including me-with an LIV or any kind of monkey on his back for that long. You know, I helped the Mad Scientist long ago when he was just a kid. It was at the Chili Parlor Bar in Dallas where some buddies and I were knocking down Mad Dog Margaritas at a John Daly 'Grip it and Sip it' rate."

"DeChambeau(still in the PGA at that time) was playing

in the Byron Nelson that week and he strolled in with a babe on each arm-either one of whom could have put you on the 'Fairway to Heaven'-if you know what I mean."

Sam paused to take a sip from a Styrofoam cup and continued, "He bullied his way by us to the bar so I thought I would teach this young California transplant some Texas etiquette. So I politely said, 'Hey, Science Guy, you're never going to win over any

fans on the U.S. tour until you change your evil ways."

I think he was shocked at my outburst because he turned to look at me for a moment without saying a word. So, bolstered by a fifth of Jose Cuervo courage, I laid it on even thicker.

"That's right, you-Mister Wizard. Nobody likes your holier than thou routine, your feuding with other players and those temper tantrums when your Boolean algebra fails you

on the course. Let me give you some advice-drop the ‘Mad Scientist’ routine-most of us mere mortals failed physics anyway. Lose the beret-there was only one Ben Hogan and Payne Stewart’s style is inimitable. And get on social media and appeal to this tech-driven generation. That’s where the new fans are coming from.” I ran out of gas and tequila at the same time.

“What did Bryson say?” I asked.

“I’m not sure,” Sam replied. “It’s kind of a blur after that. I do know it included profanity started by a verb and a pronoun. Anyway, look what happened when he switched to a baseball cap, stopped the temper tantrums, made up with Brooks Koepka and became a YouTube star with a little help from his beautiful Instagram girlfriend Lilia Schneider - two U.S. Open Championships and a legion of new followers that make him one of the most popular players on tour.

“But I suppose you have a few questions about my personal life before we get started. There have been some traps and bad lies along the way but fire away. My life is an open book and I try to be up close and personal with my clients.”

“Okay,” I ventured. “Did you ever have any copyright trouble with your nickname- I mean, it is fairly close to ‘Slamming Sammy Snead’.”

“I get that a lot but my nickname comes from the numerous nights I spent in jail-or the slammer-when I was on the European ‘Wine and Cheese’ tour. Seems there was too much wine and I wasn’t making enough cheese if you catch my drift. I think I still have the record for having more DWI’s than cuts made. But that can happen when you consistently have weekends off and unwanted distractions. I probably deserved the certificates in Barcelona, Paris and Brussels but Amsterdam-really? Hell, I thought everything was legal in Amsterdam except murder.”

Sam got a little misty for a second and continued, “Since I got back to the States, I’ve only had a couple of incidents so it’s getting under control. In fact, at my junior clinics, I stress to my kids, ‘Don’t drink and drive-you might spill your drink.’ I like to help the next generation avoid some of the mistakes I’ve made.”

“Well,” I said, “that certainly explains the ‘Slammer’ part. But did you ever get any flak for your full name being that close to the ‘Sam and Dave’ R&B duo of the 60’s.”

“Damn,” he exclaimed. “Maybe that’s why they played ‘Hold on, I’m Coming’ every time I was late for my tee time.”

I was having second thoughts but there was something “Tin-Cuppish” about this guy so I continued my interrogation.

“Did you ever win anything at all on the European Tour?” I asked.

Sam N. Dave’s face lost all expression, “Listen, I was leading the rain-shortened Rotterdam Finger in the Dike Classic when the fickle finger of fate ended my playing career. I flushed an 8-iron bound for glory when a little Dutch girl wandered out of the gallery and the ball struck her right in the mouth and went out of bounds. I grabbed her by the throat and screamed loud enough for everyone to hear, ‘I hope it Rotterdam teeth out’. The happy ending is that night in a Holland slammer, I had the epiphany that my true purpose in life was to be a teaching pro-and give back to the game all it’s given to me.”

I was really hooked by now. “Are there any other-uh-character flaws I should know about?”

“Well, there were a few complaints when I started a U.S. Open pool at the Gambler’s Anonymous meeting this month. We all kicked in 100 bucks and picked 10 golfers-winner take all strictly based on prize money.

Sam was grinning now like-well, like he’d stolen

something. “Several of the guys-including me-had Bryson to win and Rory second, but when my dark horse Tony Finau picked up the show money, I killed every cat in the alley on the tiebreaker.”

“Were the others upset?” I had to know.

“Not really. Remember these are guys who are accustomed to losing. Except for the ones who had McIlroy to win when I told them-‘Don’t Rory, Be happy.’”

I tried a different direction. “What does your wife think of your lifestyle?”

“You mean-my fiancée?” he corrected. “Destiny could become wife number 4 if it is indeed our destiny. But our schedules don’t allow us to see that much of each other. I work out here from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. and she dances from 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. at the Crazy Horse. In this line of work, you have to sacrifice to achieve greatness. It’s one trait I share with Tiger. The chipping yips being the other. “

“Speaking of Tiger,” I said, “which Masters stat do you think is more important-the 18-under par or the 12- shot margin of victory, both done when he was only 21 in 1997?”

Sam looked puzzled. “Impressive credentials to say the least,” he replied. “But I think the greatest Masters stat of all time is that 82 per cent of all men have their vasectomies done on Masters weekend so that they can sit in the recliner with the frozen peas on their privates for four days and watch every shot.

“Sorry, honey. Doctor’s orders, you know’.”

“But enough about me-let’s have a look at your swing,” he stated handing me a 7-iron.

“Are there any positive swing thoughts you think I should try?” I asked addressing a range ball.

“I sorta like, ‘Don’t shank it right, you idiot hacker,” he suggested.

Which, of course, is exactly what I did.

“I’ve seen better swings on a playground,” Sam mumbled to

himself. “Well, that’s it for today. Write me a check for \$100 and I’ll see you next week. Same Bat-time, same Bat-channel.”

“But I only hit one ball,” I complained.

“You learned a valuable lesson today, grasshopper,” he philosophized-“Patience. Make that out to cash if you don’t mind.”

Sam could see I was visibly shaken so he resorted to a different ointment to soothe my disappointment.

“Look here, Wild Bill. I’ve done a little research on you also and I think I have a deal that you’ll like. At absolutely no charge, I’m going to give you my two picks for the big race Opening Day at Saratoga before they are released to the public. That’s a \$500 dollar value just for taking a lesson with me today.”

“What the hell,” I figured. I might as well get something out of the deal. “Lay them on me,” I bit.

Sam looked pleased. “The great irony is both names seem to reflect a trait of your lifestyle-Always Dreaming and Practical Joker. Put those two in an exacta and you can thank me at your next lesson.”

I left the course \$100 lighter in the wallet, but thoroughly entertained and with a couple of tips for the Spa. And the more I thought about it- with the possible exception of that night in Juarez after the 1971 Sun Bowl- it might be the best \$100 I ever spent!

Editor’s note-

Some of the material in this story was inspired (and maybe stolen) from a golf blogger called “Ghost of Hogan”. Legal complaints should be referred to our law firm of Duhe, Cheetum and Howe.



PHOTOS BY ROBIN REYNOLDS



East Ascension Sportsmans League

Letter from president -
Greg Cedotal

Join Us for the 63rd Annual Kids Fishing Rodeo

Help a child make some fishing memories of their own by bringing them to the 63rd Annual Kids Fishing Rodeo, see details below.

July 27th, 2024

7:00am-9:00am
(6:30am Registration)

TWIN LAKES

Mobile Estates
37313 Hwy 74,
Geismar, La 70734



Mom's and daughters!

What You Need To Know

- FREE Event for children ages 2-14yrs old
- Registration begins at 6:30am.
- Fishing is from 7:00am to 9:00am.
- Children compete by age groups.
- Trophies and prizes given out after a tally of results.

Rules

- Parents must never leave child unattended!

- Participants need to bring their own rod/reel or cane pole to use.
- Crickets will be available (first come, first serve).
- Bring your own live bait. No artificial baits allowed!
- Keep every fish caught for weigh in.
- Bring your own buckets to hold fish and seating (folding/lawn chairs).
- Parents can help bait the hook, but a child MUST land the fish.
- Parents DO NOT need to be members of the EASL for their child to fish.

For Additional Information, Donations, and/or Sponsorships please contact:
Fishing Rodeo Chairman - Bettye Lambert 225-571-4588 or email bmworks2011@hotmail.com

The "Every Fish Matters Banquet", put on by professional bass fisherman Cliff Crochet to benefit fish restocking, is scheduled for July 25th. The event will be held at the Assumption Parish Community Center located at 4910 LA 308 Napoleonville, LA. Doors open at 5:00 pm. See cliffchrocet.com for ticket



Prize Winners!

information. Let me know if you are interested in trying to help develop a restocking program for our local waterways.

Now for a little bit about EASL events. You must be a member to participate in these events. EASL Bass Club will fish a tournament on July 27th. If you are interested in fishing with the bass club, contact Jim Hebert at 225-717-6037. The June .22 Rifle Silhouette Match will be July 27th at the Sheriff Shooting Range starting at 8:30 AM. Members, don't forget to weigh your bass for the Monthly Big Bass contest and weigh your specs for the Monthly Big Speckled Trout contest.

If you get to enjoy some time with family and or friends catching fish and making memories, consider sharing photos with the members of EASL. We can post them on the website and Facebook page.



Making Memories!

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



EASL's next regular meeting is September 16th at Merle Gautreaux's house at 12400 Fernand Rd., starting at 7:00 PM.



EASL Bass Club News

The EASL Bass Club held its June tournament on the 29th. Tournament was held out of Amelia launch with 13 boats signed up with a 2pm weigh-in. Fishing was tough as 6 boats did not weigh a fish! On the other hand there were 5 boats that had a limit. First place was won by Julien and Chris Day with a limit that weighed 10.46 lbs. Second place was Jessie Argrave and

Dirk Anderson with 10.36 lbs. Congrats to the winners of the June tournament. The next tournament will be July 27th and the August tournament will be on the 24th. The meeting to plan the July tournament is on the 18th. The members fishing the tournament vote on the launch location and weigh-in time at every pre-tournament meeting.

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Useless Random Facts with Kellie

Christianity has more than a billion followers.
Islam is the next in representation
with half this number.

Arnold Schwarzenegger bought
the first hummer manufactured for civilian use,
in 1992. The vehicle weighed in a 6,300 pounds
and was seven feet wide. He also
paid \$772,500 for President John F. Kennedy's
golf clubs at a 1990 auction.

a Saudi Arabian woman can get a
divorce if her husband doesn't give
her coffee.

Kleenex tissues were originally
used as filters in gas masks.

Some Eskimos have been known to use
refrigerators to keep their food from freezing.

A good quality Persian rug, which
contains one million knots in every three-square
inches, can last as long five hundred years.

A typical double mattress contains
as many as two million dust mites.

Less than 3 percent of Nestles
sales are from chocolate.

the sinking of the German vessel
Wilhelm Gustloff is the greatest sea disaster of all time.
Approximately eight thousand people drowned.

it has been calculated that in the
last 3,500 years, there have been
only 230 years of peace throughout
the civilized world.



Thoughts from Bully

I Let Everybody Use My Hoe!!

Recently, I have noticed country music creating lots of songs using a play on words and sending mixed messages with the lyrics in their songs.

George Strait sang, "She let herself go" and Tim McGraw sang lyrics, "back when a Ho was a hoe." I'll tell you a story about my hoe.

Last year I stopped being cheap, for one day, and spent the extra money to get the best hoe in town. I dropped \$25 on this hoe and haven't regretted it one minute, however it has been the subject of some pretty entertaining conversation.

My cell phone rang just after I had purchased the hoe and my buddy on the phone asked. "What are you doing?" Proud of my purchase, I simply told him I had gone to town and picked up a \$25 hoe. He said, "A Ho, Where?" I responded, "At a local western store." I then told him, "They have the best hoes in town and once I had my hands on this hoe I wasn't letting it go so don't try to borrow my hoe and go get your own hoe."

In his confusion he responded, "Hold on Bully. I never, ever, considered sharing a Ho with you, you pervert".

Realizing he was confused I thought I'd play it up a bit. I told him I was bringing my hoe to the hunting camp and passing the hoe around and letting all my buddies use it as much as they wanted. Hell, throw my hoe in the back of your truck and carry it in the woods if you want.

"What a friend! Where's your camp?"

I couldn't hold on any longer I had to tell him the truth. It wasn't a Ho, Ho. It was a hoe, hoe. Not to be confused with a Yoo Hoo.

However, I did go to the camp with my hoe and the play on words continued to flow right off the tongue.

When I arrived at the camp Bubba said, "Damn look at that hoe. I'm takin' that hoe home with me."



Questions and statements were made. "Are you leaving that hoe at the camp?" "We can all use a good hoe like that." "Your hoe is going to help me burn some black iron pots." "I'm taking your hoe to my deer stand." "Somebody get the hoe to do this." "Damn it. I left your hoe in the woods." "OW!! I tripped over your hoe."

I have never been so proud of a hoe and yes, I left it at the camp through the winter.

Well it's spring and I was missing my hoe. So I went to the camp and picked up the hoe. I laid it down and tied it to the flooring of my trailer and gave it a ride.

Once home, I gave my hoe a good cleaning, scrubbed it down, and introduced it to my girl friend. I now have my girl friend using my hoe and she knows how to work a hoe. Her father taught her to use a hoe along time ago. She said she has used some rickety hoes in her day but this was the best hoe she has had her hands on in a long time.

I was working in my garden the other day and my sweetheart called me on my cell and asked, "What Cha Doing?" I simply replied, "Me and my hoe are hoeing around, How about you?"

An Update About My Hoe.

It was 4 years ago when I first laid hands on my hoe. Me and my hoe are closer than ever. I try to put my hands on my hoe a couple of times a week. Even though these days my hoe has a lot of stuff caked on it I still love my hoe but I still have one final rule around my house. My hoe has to stay outside.



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- King crab legs
- Snow crabs
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- Tuna steaks
- Salmon steaks
- Alligator meat
- Garfish filets
- Grilled oyster kits
- Seafood gumbo
- Crab cakes
- Crawfish pies
- Shrimp & crab bisque
- Shrimp and crabmeat 9" pies
- Mussels
- Cocktail crab claw meat
- Lump crabmeat
- Lobster tails
- Crawfish heads
- Crawfish tails
- Soft shell crabs
- Stuffed crabs
- Frog legs



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The Leadership Ascension Program Graduates Its 29th Class

Photo by Randy Crawford.

The Ascension Chamber of Commerce recently completed its 29th year of the Leadership Ascension program. Before a crowd of over 100 community leaders, alumni, supporters, and sponsors, the Chamber honored the Class of 2024 graduates in a ceremony, sponsored by Bonfanti Investment Services, at the Parc 73 Reception & Conference Center.

Leadership Ascension, like similar programs nationwide, is designed to develop responsible and informed community leaders. Recognized and emerging leaders in the community are selected to represent the diverse demographic of the Ascension Parish Community. Since its inception in 1996, Leadership Ascension has graduated over 800 individuals from business owners to community leaders and government officials.

The 33 participants in this year's Leadership Class were divided into four groups. Each group was then tasked with developing and implementing a volunteer-based project that would positively affect the Ascension Community. This year's projects included:

- Bridging Ascension-***
Focused on impacting and improving lives for the Council on Aging
- Fellows of Ascension-***
Assisted the Fellowship Center with improvements to their facilities, outreach and assistance
- Grounded & Growing-***
Highlighted the support and resources in Ascension parish for those in recovery from substance abuse disorder. While spotlighting the sober living home, Each Day A New Beginning, by advocating and improving the quality of living of the residents.
- Work of Arc-***
Increased awareness of the Arc of East Ascension's On and Off-Site Work Services

While we consider each team and our Ascension community all winners, our judges could only choose one proposal to be the 2024 Leadership Ascension Project of the Year, and this year's winners are the Fellows of Ascension. The team members are Jamie McKnight, Samantha Rothschild, Vickie Rogers, Nicolas Schexnayder, Jodi Runfalo & Tamika Westbrook. In addition to benefiting the community, the Leadership Ascension Program has a positive impact on those who participate. This year's graduates included: Christopher Achee, Ascension Parish Library; Megan Babin, Ascension Parish Government; Micha Ballow, EA/EI Catholic School Partnership; Adam Brasseaux, Ascension Parish

Sheriff's Office; Nicole Brown, Ascension Credit Union; Toni Carlton, Shell Chemical; Jason Cheek, TruBlue Water; Ethan Daigle, RJ Daigle & Sons; Katie Decker, American Cancer Society; Travis Drago, BASF; Michelle Garbiras, Hannis T. Bourgeois; Tamiko Garrison, BCBS Medicare Team; Jaycee Gill, City of Gonzales/Price LeBlanc PACE Center; Sheena Hayes, The Arc of East Ascension; Lynelle Johnson, Community Steel Co.; Kolbie LeBlanc, Domain Architecture; Lynette Matherne, Ochsner Health System; Jamie McKnight, CSRS; Jeremy Muse, Ascension Public Schools; Landon Richard, Neighbors Federal Credit Union; Vickie Rogers, REV; Samantha Rothschild, Methanex; Jodi Runfalo, Clayton F. Runfalo M.D.; Justin Schexnayder, HNTB Corporation; Nicolas Schexnayder, McKim & Creed, Inc.; Maegan Schmidt, BASF; Bree St. Germain, CF Industries; Resa Tureau, Ascension Clerk of Court; Ynohtna Tureau, Anointed Hands Center for Hair Loss; Tamika Westbrook, Our Lady of the Lake Ascension; and Ellen Whitehead, River Parishes Community College. Leadership Ascension contributes the program's success to the many sponsors and support committees who volunteer their time and resources. The Chamber would like to recognize Ascension Economic Development Corporation, Ascension Parish Assessor's Office, Ascension Parish Government, Ascension Parish School System, Ascension Parish Sheriff's Department, Baton

Rouge General- Ascension, Bridget Hanna, Ascension Parish Clerk of Court, Bonfanti Investment Services, LLC, CF Industries, City of Donaldsonville, City of Gonzales, Crawford Photography, Domain Architecture, Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center, Our Lady of The Lake Ascension, Ochsner Ascension, Percy, Skias & Schutte Attorneys at Law, River Parishes Community College, Representative Tony Bacala, the Leadership Ascension Committee, and the Leadership Ascension Foundation for their support of the Class of 2024. Leadership Ascension started in 1996 with the mission of preparing emerging community leaders for leadership positions in local government and business. The 10-month program accepts students by application only and offers team-building and educational sessions covering topics such as Economic Development, Healthcare, Project Management Training and Cultural Diversity. The 2025 Cohort will now kick off in January 2025. This strategic change, made for a variety of beneficial reasons, promises to elevate the program to new heights of excellence. The application period for the Class of 2025 will open after Labor Day this fall. To learn more about Leadership Ascension, visit www.ascensionchamber.com.

The Garney Gautreau **Senior Independence Day Dance**



PHOTOS BY ROBIN STEVENS, OFF THE GRID PHOTOGRAPHY










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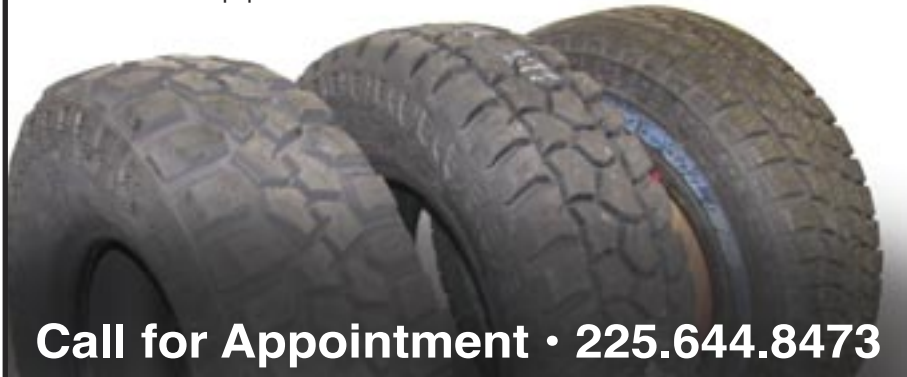
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October

8th- Dis N Dat Band
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29th- Eddie Smith Band

September

10th- Floyd Brown
24th- The Mojoes

November

12th- Backstreet
19th- The Mojoes

December

3rd- Floyd Brown
17th- The Mojoes

Bands play from 2:00-5:00pm

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Étouffée



Executive Chef, John Donaldson

Prep: 25 minutes

Cook: 20 minutes

Servings: 4

Ingredients:

130g Celery (about 1 stalk)

2 c. Flour

75g Green Bell Pepper (1 medium pepper)

10 c. Stock (I use half chicken and half shrimp, but you can you just 1 if preferred)

75g Red Bell Pepper (1 medium pepper)

1 lb Crawfish tails

250g Yellow onion (1 large onion)

2 Tbsp Liquid Crab Boil

1 Tbsp Minced Garlic

Salt and Pepper to taste

½ lb Butter (1 cup)

2 Bay leaf

1/2 c. Oil

Directions:

In large pot, add your butter and oil, turn on medium high heat. After butter melts, add your flour. Whisk in very well. Lower burner to medium-low heat, whisk occasionally until your roux is a little darker than peanut butter.

After proper color is achieved, add bell pepper, celery, onion. Let simmer for 30 minutes, with lid on, stirring every 5 minutes. Add garlic and bay leaves. Stir well. Add stock, whisk vigorously. Turn to high heat. Whisk on high heat until thick consistency is reached. Lower back to medium heat. Add liquid boil, green onion, salt, and pepper. Add 1 lb crawfish tails. Let simmer for 10 minutes. Serve over rice, garnish with green onion.

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