

COMPLIMENTARY

Ascension

M A G A Z I N E

AUGUST 2023, VOL. 21 ISSUE 8

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SEE PAGE 24



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On the Cover: Bobby Webre, Sheriff Page 24



Congratulations Seniors and Good Luck to all the students!

WELCOME FUTURE GRADUATES AND ALL THE FUN SENIOR ACTIVITIES THAT WILL MAKE YOUR SENIOR YEAR THE BEST EVER!!! To the remaining students, DON'T RUSH IT, you'll get your day. In the meantime you enjoy each day making those memories of a lifetime.

Tags & Titles knows the start of a new school year brings many changes with school enrollment, residency affidavits, TIP cards for the new driver's, transfers of TIP to permits and full driver's license privileges for others. We are here to help make all those changes as easy as possible. Give us a call for any questions you may have before you come in to be prepared at 225-644-1512.

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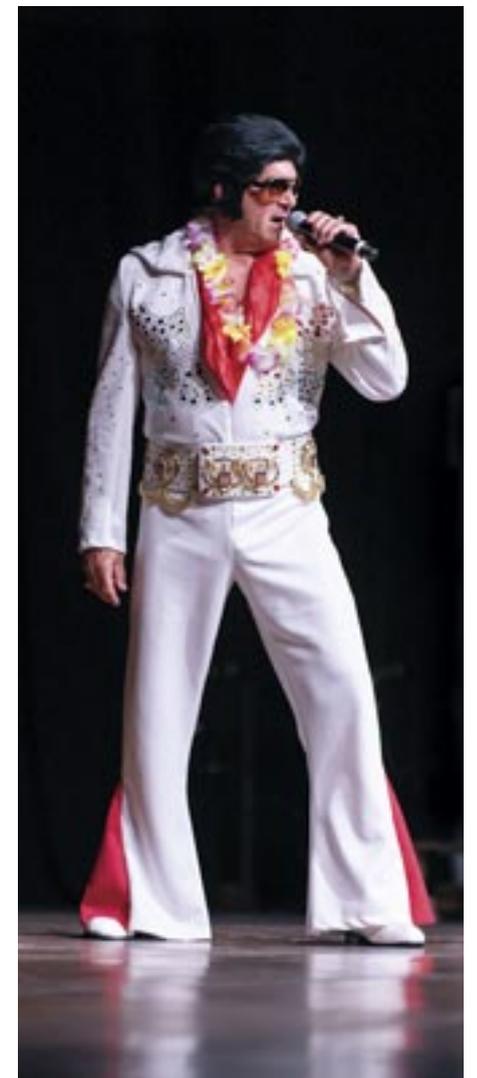


Charity Dance Extravaganza:
Uniting Hearts and
Making a Difference
Dancing for a Cause!!

In a heartwarming display of unity, talent, and philanthropy, the REV Center at Lamar Dixon Expo Center was the stage for a remarkable Charity Dance event on the memorable Saturday of July 8, 2023. The event, organized with the aim of contributing to a noble cause, not only showcased electrifying performances but also brought together individuals from diverse backgrounds to support a common mission.



At the helm of this remarkable event was Robert Burgess, a distinguished figure serving as the President and CEO of Ascension Chamber of Commerce. His presence as the keynote speaker and honorary chair added a touch



of leadership and commitment to the charitable cause that resonated throughout the evening.

The heart and soul of the Charity Dance event were undoubtedly the captivating live performances that graced the stage. The event featured a star-studded lineup of performers and local talents that included Lucy Cason, Alyssa Curet, Kiersten Brignac, Hayden Decoteau, Jackie McCreary, Leigh Alexis, and Scottie Hunter. Their awe-inspiring talents cast a spell on the audience, creating an



atmosphere brimming with magic and joy.



Elvis impersonator Jason Duplessis, Jeffie Dance Studio, and The Arc Dancers showcased their remarkable skills, proving that the love for dance knows no boundaries.

The event's impact extended beyond the stage and dance floor. It was a celebration of unity and compassion within the community. The remarkable achievements of the event were a reflection of the community's



The event was not just about professional performers, but it also celebrated the power of personal connections. A touching father-daughter dance by Wendy and Kent Schexnaydre warmed hearts and emphasized the importance of family bonds. Additionally, the Defrances Dance Company, Center Stage Performing Arts Academy,

However, the true essence of the Charity Dance event was its mission to make a meaningful impact. The winners of the event stood as a testament to the power of generosity and dedication.

Lucy Cason, the HR Director at Ascension Parish Government, emerged as the Biggest Fundraiser and secured victory in the Overall Dance Competition. Her commitment to the cause set an example for all attendees. Kristen Brignac, Manager at Colonial Finance, won the hearts of the fans and secured the Fan's Choice award.



unwavering support for a cause that touched their hearts. The spotlight was on The Arc of East Ascension, the oldest and largest nonprofit agency in Ascension Parish, dedicated to empowering individuals with disabilities. The funds raised during the event will contribute to expanding and improving the agency's services, ensuring a brighter future for those in need.



The Arc of East Ascension envisions a world where individuals with disabilities are not only supported but actively integrated into every facet of society. Through education, employment, family and community involvement, housing, recreation, and access to essential services, The Arc strives to



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create an all-inclusive environment that guarantees a quality life for all.

Thank you to all our DFAC sponsors, dancers, volunteers, donors and to our wonderful community.

As the echoes of the Charity Dance event linger, the community can proudly reflect on their united efforts to make a difference.

The committee for Dancing for a Cause is now taking nominations for Celebrity Star

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The mesmerizing performances, the generous contributions, and the sense of unity all culminated in a spectacular evening that will be cherished for years to come. The event served as a reminder that when hearts come together, they can create a symphony of change that resonates far beyond the dance floor.

Dancers for 2024
Save the Date
Saturday, July 13, 2024

For more information about Dancing for a Cause please call 225-621-2003 or email Sharon.morris@thearca.org

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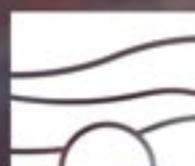
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The Gonzales Ascension 4 Youth Fest Back-2-School Bash

Only the Best for Our Kids!

The Gonzales Ascension 4 Youth Fest Back-2-School Bash was held on July 29, at Jambalaya Park, at 9039 S. St. Landry Ave. This event was held on the Eastside of Ascension for the first time this year after several quite successful years on the Westside.

The 2023 Westside event took place on Saturday, August 5, at the Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office Waguespack Center on 1201 Maginnis St., Donaldsonville.

These free events included food, music, snowballs, rock climbing, bouncers, obstacle courses, uniform and backpack with school supplies give aways, immunizations, haircuts, and more.

This year's major corporate sponsors were Oxychem (Eastside) and CF (Westside).

The Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office, in conjunction with Ascension Parish Government, the City of Gonzales, the Ascension Parish Library, the Ascension





Gatherings at Gauthiers', City Hall and Middendorf's

At times, garden club activities and projects occur outside of the normal monthly meeting format. Three such social events occurred this spring and summer: a tour, a proclamation and a luncheon.

Home and Garden Tour

A favorite club activity is touring private gardens including member gardens, arboretums and botanic gardens in our area for plant study. One such tour arranged by Members Janis



Gathered in front of a childhood playhouse draped with a Peggy Martin are, from left front, Patti Mouton, Rita Bourque, Cynthia Stafford, Razzie Cagnolatti, Jamie Trisler, and Sheree and André Gauthier. In the back row are Dale Bowman, Dana Teepell, Janis D'Benedetto, Gwen Heck. Marilyn Rice and Conchita Richey.

D'Benedetto and Cynthia Stafford took place on March 29. The club toured the home and gardens of Cynthia's daughter and son-in-law, Sheree and André Gauthier. Their stately home is appointed with reclaimed wood beams and curated doors from ancestral homes. The garden spaces provide areas for dining, recreation, exercise and relaxation.

Conchita Richey commented, "What a beautiful home and spectacular gardens. What gracious hosts we had!!!" Jamie Trisler noted, "It was a real treat to see the home and gardens. A lot of thought and work went into making it

a special home."

According to Razzie Cagnolatti, "The tour of the garden was so relaxing; it was like I felt the Zen presence. I could picture myself doing yoga on the turf in front of the pool! Meeting Andre' and Sheree was so awesome! They are a terrific couple. Learning about his love of preserving history with his collection of wood and what he created with it was exceptional!"

Rita Bourque further surmised, "I saw a lot of dedication, hard work, genius, and beauty in every space. So peaceful. I loved everything!"



A pencil cactus and Norfolk pines fill the corner of a porch off the kitchen. The Gauthiers enjoy the peace of the landscape in André's late mother's rockers.



Homeowner and do-it-yourself craftsman André with his son, Landon, restored a tiny cabin with salvaged virgin cypress during the pandemic shutdown.



The pool patio is shaded by a substantial pergola structure covered by a vigorous 17-year-old wisteria vine and climbing rose. A smart triangular sail provides shade over the pool water.



Adding color to the hardscape, the Gauthiers planted bright orange impatiens, pink and white gaura, petunias, orange and yellow portulaca, and purslane, and sweet potato vines in accent containers.

National Garden Week

The club celebrates National Garden Week on the first Monday in June by gathering at City Hall to meet Mayor Barney Gautreaux who recognizes the week with a proclamation. Club members bring flower arrangements and container plants which they then distribute to public entities throughout the parish. The hope is that the flowers and plants will impart an appreciation of horticulture and encourage citizens to grow their gardening habits. This year's event was held on June 5.



At the signing of the National Garden Week Proclamation are (front row from left) Marilyn Rice, Janis D'Benedetto, Mayor Barney Arceneaux, Jamie Trisler, Patti Mouton, (back row from left) Conchita Richey, Dale Bowman, Rita Bourque and Chief Administrative Officer Scot Byrd.



President Jamie Trisler and Kyle Martin, First Vice-President of the Louisiana Garden Club Federation, visit with one another.

Garden Club President's Luncheon

The Gonzales Garden Club operates under the auspices of the Louisiana Garden Club Federation, which is divided into seven state districts. Ascension Parish is in District

VI which encompasses 14 other parishes: West Feliciana, East Feliciana, St. Helena, Tangipahoa, Washington, St. Tammany, Livingston, Iberville, Pointe Coupee, East Baton Rouge and West Baton Rouge.

A luncheon was held at the District VI President's Meeting at Middendorf's Manchac Restaurant on June 16, 2023. Club President Jamie Trisler and Member Katherine Stagg



Jamie Trisler and Katherine Stagg are enjoying their time at the Presidents' Luncheon.

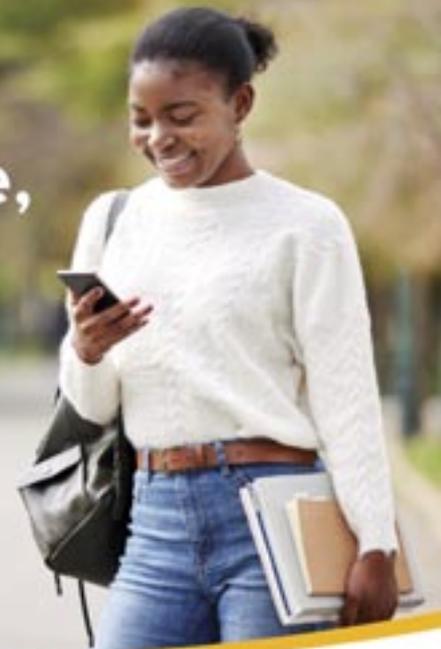
represented Gonzales Garden Club. Attendees were informed of changes for the coming year and given valuable information to bring back to their clubs.

Katherine Stagg explained, "The federation works on various projects locally and state-wide to increase awareness on subjects of plant care, gardening, flower

design, use of native plants, environmental awareness, cleanest city projects, and many subjects related to incorporating natural elements to our daily lives."

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

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structured look.

Jewelry – If you're into fashion jewelry, swap out delicate summer jewelry for slightly chunkier items, with deeper tones and textures. Also once fall approaches, you can get away with larger statement pieces, especially at night.

Belts - Add a belt to cinch in a lightweight dress. A wider belt in a rich color can also add a touch of fall pizzazz.

Sunglasses - Swap out lightweight, summery sunglasses for frames with darker tints or richer hues.

Waiting on Fall Weather

The other day I was scrolling on Instagram and one of my favorite retailers was showing pants and jackets on their story. Every. Single. Time. Of. Year. This. Happens. I understand retailers have to do what they have to do; they have to swap out inventory and this time of year, they are swapping from summer to fall looks. The official first day of fall is September 23, 2023, but in south Louisiana, we all know our fall doesn't actually start until November or December. Who wants to wear velvet, pleather, and boots right now? No way, no how!

So, what's a southern gal to do to be fashionable and still maintain a normal core body temp?

I'll try to mix summer staples with fall inspired accessories that won't smother me while we're still in 90 plus degree weather.

Here are a few things you can do to give your summer staples a more "fall'ish" look:

Clothing - If you add any layers, make sure they are light like an unlined jacket or a vest. If you wear a longer sleeved blouse, make sure the fabric is breathable and lightweight. When deciding what colors to

wear, move from lighter colors to more mid tone colors and earth tones.

Footwear- Swap out espadrilles and summer sandals for something a little chunkier in leather or light suede.

Beauty – Perhaps will soon be time to swap out your bright summer colors with something a little more fall inspired. As pool time becomes less, skin tones lighten and that often warrants deeper hues of blush and lipstick.

Bags- Trade in your straw or canvas summer bags for leather purses that have chunkier hardware or a more

By swapping out key pieces of clothing and accessories, you can give your outfit a fall shift while maintaining. Remember that layering and incorporating warm, autumnal colors and textures are key to achieving a successful look while staying cool.

Praying for peace and safety to all the kiddos starting a new school year. May the Lord bless you and keep you; May he shine His face upon you and be gracious to you. Amen!

Stay cool Ascension.

XOXO,
Sweet Eyes





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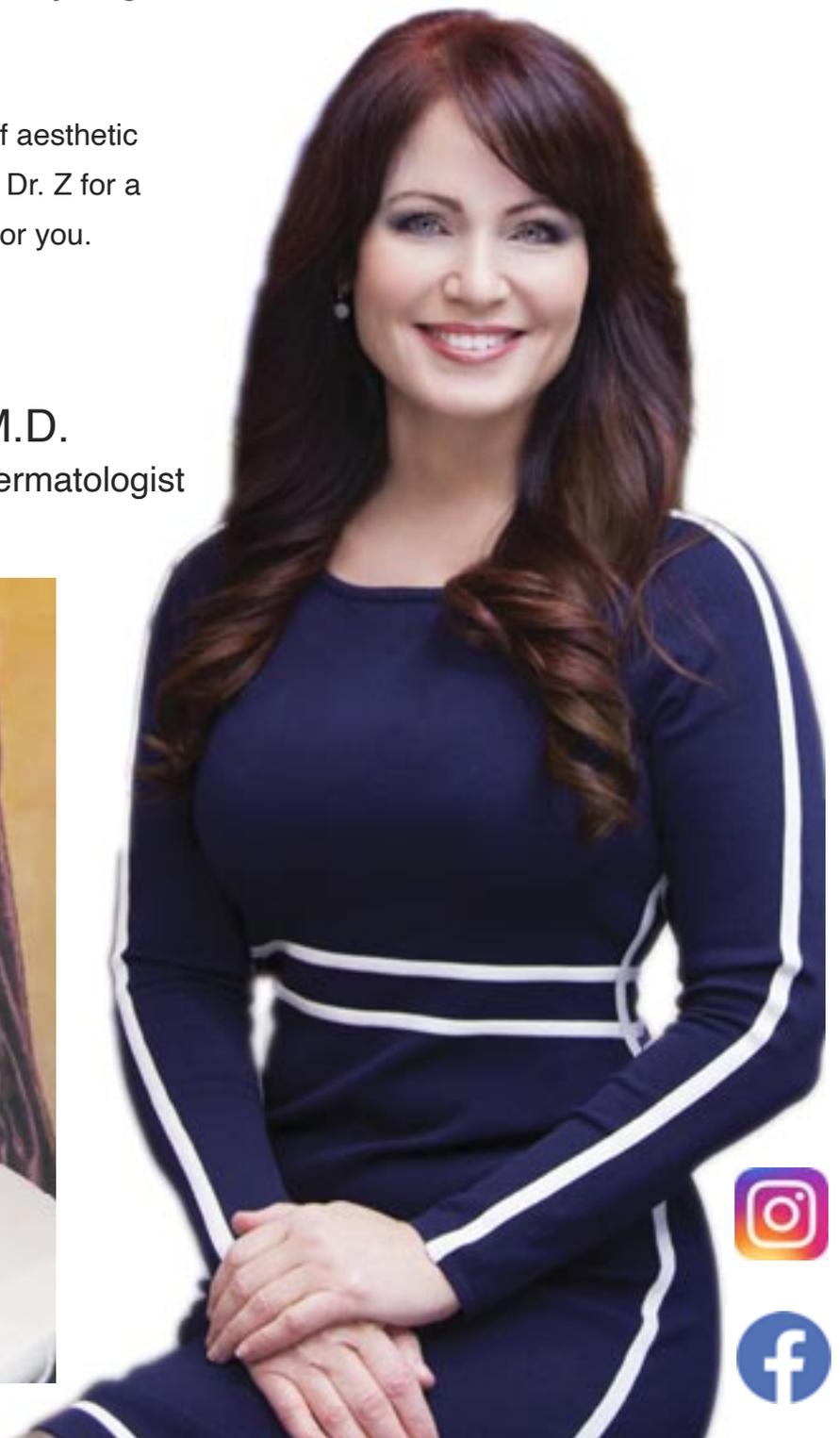
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Get Growing, Ascension!

Trees are Feeling the Heat!

While driving throughout Ascension Parish it is hard not to notice and have concern for the number of dead and dying trees. Trees provide us with numerous benefits and many of us have sentimental attachments to them as well. To see so many trees on the decline can be downright heart breaking.

Many times, there are no signs or symptoms related to a tree's death. However, when we think about the weather events occurring over the last several years, I think much of what we are seeing can be related to stress. In addition to being in the middle of one of the hottest summers on record, much of Louisiana is facing moderate to severe drought conditions. Whitney Wallace, who serves as the LSU AgCenter Southeast Region Area Forestry Agent, stated, "There are several factors that can contribute to tree stress,



Mariah Simoneaux

particularly in the aftermath of events like hurricane damage and drought. In the southeast portion of Louisiana, we are currently witnessing a high prevalence of tree stress due to the combined impact of past hurricanes, such as Hurricane Ida, and ongoing drought conditions. These stress factors make trees more vulnerable to the invasion of insects and diseases, ultimately accelerating their decline."



Wallace added, "We are still experiencing the lingering effects of Hurricane Ida on our trees. The powerful winds and heavy rainfall caused extensive damage to the tree canopy, weakening their overall health, and making them more susceptible to subsequent stressors. As a result, we are observing increased rates of tree mortality and heightened vulnerability to insect infestations and diseases in the affected areas."



While we have little control over weather events there are things you can do as a homeowner to decrease tree stress. For example, selecting the right tree for the right location, practicing proper pruning techniques, fertilizing, mulching, and watering.

trees have coevolved with the local ecosystem, making them more resilient and adapted to the specific climate, soil conditions, and pests of the region. By planting native trees, we not only conserve the natural heritage of our area but also enhance the ecological stability of our forests. Native trees offer superior benefits to wildlife habitats, water quality preservation, and overall ecosystem health, making them an essential component of sustainable forestry and restoration efforts." said Wallace.

Native trees to consider include many oak species, bald cypress, red maple, southern and sweetbay magnolias, silverbell and sycamore. If you have a tree that needs to be removed consult the list of certified arborists on the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry website at <https://www.ldaf.state.la.us/>.

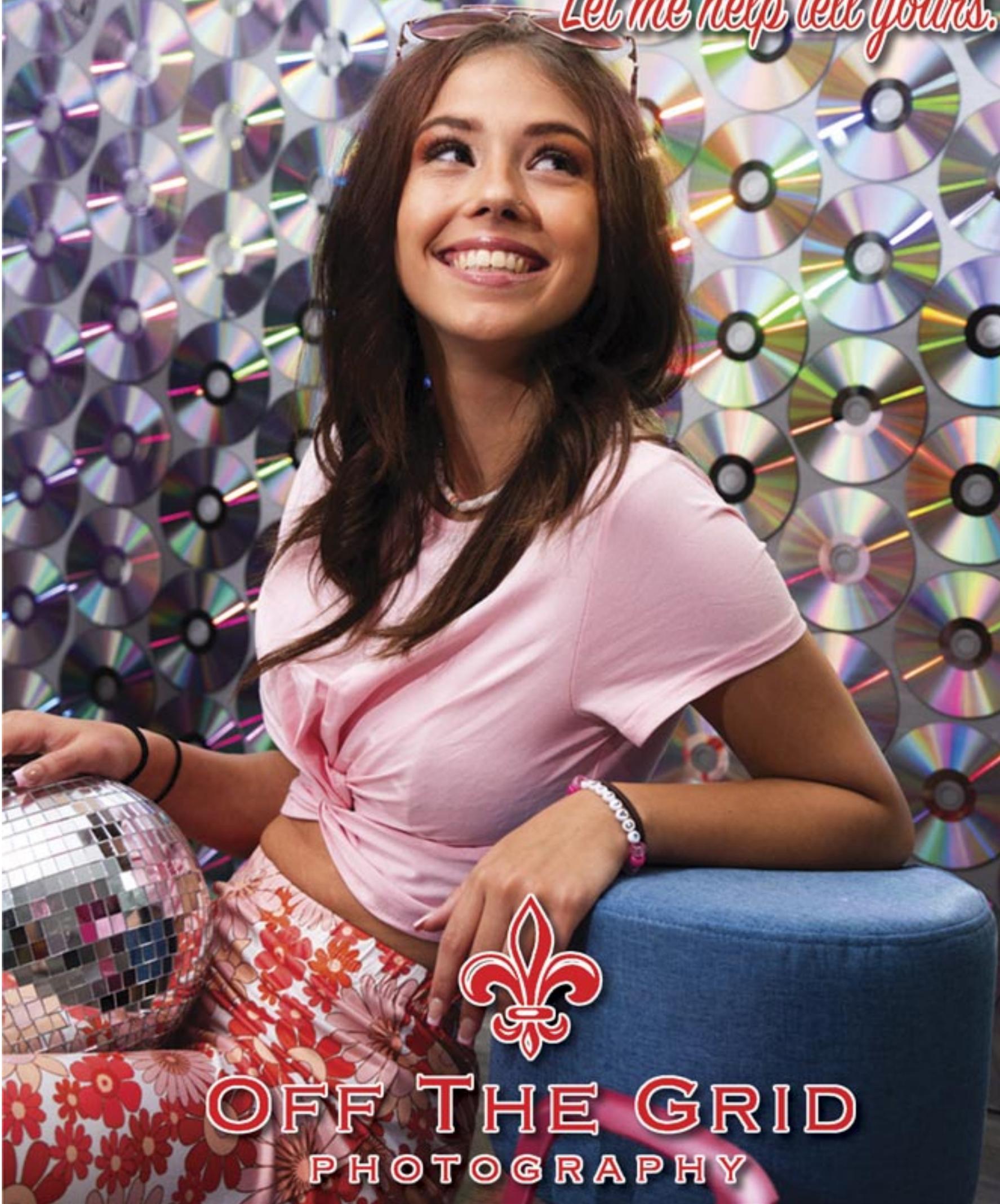
If you have lost trees in your landscape, it is a good time to consider how to replace them. November through February is the best time of year to plant trees in Louisiana. Planting at this time allows a tree's root system to become established prior to hot summer temperatures.

"The importance of planting native trees cannot be overstated, especially in the face of environmental challenges like hurricane damage and drought. Native

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



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YOUR ESTATE MATTERS



By Linda Melancon

Are Wills Public Records?

Wills contain important information about who receives money, possessions, and property upon a person's death. Who can view this information, and is it a public record?

Once your will goes through

probate (called a succession in Louisiana), it becomes a public record. The probate court must maintain the will so that the public can access it.

Anyone can visit the probate court to view the will, regardless of whether they are an heir or beneficiary. For a fee, they can obtain a copy. In some parishes, wills are also available online.

Why Are Wills Public Records?

Numerous individuals could have a right to receive assets from an estate when someone dies. During probate, the deceased's personal representative, also known as an executor, satisfies debts and distributes assets to beneficiaries.

Sometimes, the probate process overlooks creditors or beneficiaries who are entitled to a portion of the estate. When this happens, they can bring claims against the estate.

They must bring claims within the applicable time limit or statute of limitations, which depends on state law and depends on who is looking to bring forth a claim. Public access to wills makes bringing claims easier for those with a right to an estate.

When Do Wills Become Public Records?

Until someone files the will to begin the probate process, wills are not public records. Individuals often create several wills in their lifetimes as they update their plans; only the final will becomes a public record. In many cases, an individual's estate planning attorney retains the will, or they keep it in a secure location. Some choose to share copies with their loved ones.

The law does not require wills to be public records during the lifetime of the testator (the person making the will). Some jurisdictions allow people to file their wills with the court while they're alive, but this practice is uncommon.

When the will becomes public depends on the deceased person's jurisdiction. To validate a will and begin the process of asset distribution, the personal representative petitions the probate court. In some states, the will and other probate records could be public while the court probates the estate. For many other states, however, the will becomes a public record after the court closes probate. In Louisiana, the will becomes a public record when a succession is opened and the will is filed along with the petition to probate it.

Probate courts have the power to make wills private. However, this only happens in rare cases under specific circumstances. If a will underwent probate, it is likely a public record available through the court that probated it.

How to Find Out If Someone Has a Will

Talking to your loved ones about where they keep their wills and other estate planning documents is a good idea. Yet, many people are

unsure whether their loved one made a will before passing away.

You can find out whether someone has a will by:

- Checking with the probate court in the parish where the person died
- Searching your loved one's home for a secure location like a home safe, safety deposit box, or a filing cabinet in a home office
- Consulting with others to determine if an executor is carrying out your loved one's wishes

How to Find a Will in Public Records

If you are an heir, beneficiary, or creditor of an estate, you might be interested in locating the will. Since wills become public records after probate, you could find the will by identifying the court that administered probate. If probate has already occurred, this process may be straightforward.

Locating a will can be more challenging when probate has yet to occur. The attorney who prepared the will might have the will but will not release it to you unless you are the personal representative.

Are Trusts Public Record?

Some people might wish to transfer their assets privately. To do this, they can set up a more complex estate plan using trusts. Trusts are generally not part of the public record.

But as a reminder, a single document like a will or trust is usually not enough to create an effective estate plan. Consult with a qualified estate planning attorney in your area to learn more about making a plan that fits all of your needs.

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.



FINANCIAL FOCUS

What to know about HSAs and FSAs

Paying for health care can be challenging — but are you taking full advantage of all the resources available to you?

You might have access to a Health Savings Account (HSA) or a Flexible Spending Account (FSA), so let's look at both.

An HSA is a personal savings account used to pay health care costs. If you're enrolled in a high-deductible health plan, you also may be eligible to contribute to an HSA. You aren't taxed on the money you put into this account or on the earnings generated from your contributions, as long as withdrawals are used for qualified health care costs such as deductibles, copayments and coinsurance. And there's no "use it or lose it" provision with HSAs — the money stays in your account until you use it. In fact, you can carry your HSA with you all the way until retirement, when you can use the money to pay for qualified expenses that Medicare or Medicare Supplement Insurance (Medigap) doesn't cover. In 2023, you can contribute up to \$3,850 to an HSA, or \$4,850 if you're 55 or older; for family coverage, you can put in up to \$7,750.

It's important to keep in mind that your HSA's tax benefits only apply when your withdrawals are used for qualified health care costs. If you use the money for non-qualified expenses, it is considered taxable income, and you may also face a penalty of 20% on

the amount withdrawn. However, once you turn 65, you can use your HSA funds for any purpose without a penalty, though the withdrawals will still count as taxable income.

Now, let's turn to the Flexible Savings Account. An FSA may be available to you if you get health insurance through your employer. And because you fund your FSA with pretax dollars, your contributions can reduce your taxable income. (In 2023, you can contribute up to \$3,050 to an FSA.) Your employer may also choose to contribute to your FSA. Once your account is funded and active, you submit claims with proof of your medical expenses, along with a statement that these expenses aren't covered by your plan, and you can be reimbursed for your costs.

It's helpful to have a good estimate of your yearly medical expenses for a Flexible Savings Account. That's because an FSA generally needs to be spent before the end of the plan year — if you don't use all the money, you can only carry over some of it and any remaining balance is forfeited. (You can carry over up to \$610 from 2023 into 2024.)

You can't contribute to an HSA and a traditional FSA in the same year. But if you have an HSA, you might be able to use what's known as a Limited Purpose Flexible Spending Account (LPFSA) for dental and vision expenses. You'll need to check with your plan to see if this option is available.

Managing your health care expenses should be a key part of your overall financial strategy — so consider putting an HSA or FSA to work for you.

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

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

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Doug & Sally

Pediatric Therapy Solutions

PTS has been Helping Little People Do BIG Things since 2014



They even bought a golf cart for the team to travel quickly between buildings. Occasionally, they would also use the golf cart for therapy to work on driving re-education, as seen in the documentary movie on suicide prevention, My Ascension.

In 2019, Danielle decided to build their current clinic, a large, 8000 square foot state-of-the-art facility on Market Place Drive in Prairieville. Currently, Pediatric Therapy Solutions consists of over 45 employees, including

Pediatric Therapy Solutions was opened over 9 years ago by a mom and therapist who had success with helping her own child with his challenges and felt called to share this knowledge with other children and their families. What a journey it's been!

short of a miracle, in only one year, she outgrew that space and moved to her second, larger location on Airline Highway in Prairieville.

They were up to a team of 3 at that time and they surely thought that they'd be there forever. Well, after only 2 short years, Pediatric Therapy Solutions had grown so much that they were busting at the seams!

In 2017, a larger location was needed, so they moved to a larger 3rd location on Swamp Rd., Suite 501. This luxurious building was so nice and spacious, and they surely

thought that this would be their permanent landing spot. After one year, they had grown to a staff of around 15 and needed more room!

They leased a second building across the parking lot, Suite 601, to accommodate the overflow of patients. Opening a second clinic presented many challenges, but they all worked so well as a team and made it work.



Danielle S. Mixon, Owner of Pediatric Therapy Solutions

Danielle Saunders Mixon, an occupational therapist and mother of three, opened Pediatric Therapy Solutions in 2014 as a one-man (or woman) operation, treating only a few patients per week. Danielle opened the first location on Hwy. 42 and soon after moving in, the front parking lot was completely torn up due to an upcoming road widening project. By nothing



The PTS Team

occupational therapists and assistants, physical therapists and an assistant, speech therapists, a behaviorist, teachers, an office manager, insurance manager, office assistants, teacher assistants, and therapy techs!

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The PTS Sensory Gym



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One of the many murals on our backyard fence



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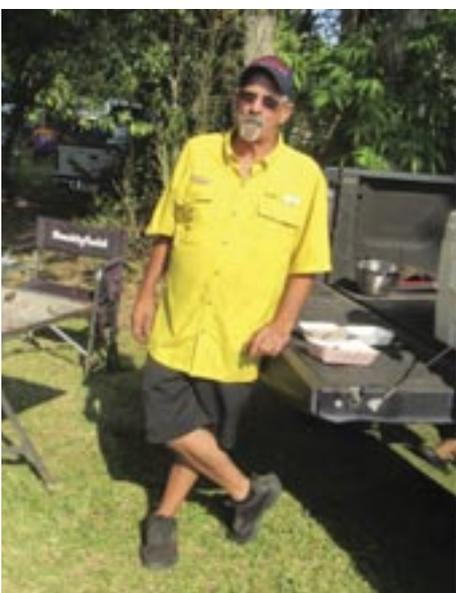
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2023 Mini Pot Contest Photos





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Sheriff Bobby Webre

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Through hard work, dedication to lead, and faith in God, Sheriff Bobby Webre has kept the people of Ascension parish safe for the last 38 years. Ascension Parish enjoys a low crime rate, well below the Southern and Louisiana average. That's because Sheriff Webre leads one of the most proactive law enforcement agencies in Louisiana, focused on training deputies to fight crime and serve our community.

Since assuming the office of sheriff in 2019, Sheriff Webre has kept his promises to the people of Ascension Parish. He established three patrol districts across the parish to improve response times and allow patrol deputies to better know the ins and outs of their neighborhoods and businesses. He achieved national law enforcement accreditation, which meets the gold standard in law enforcement in the United States. He implemented a body-worn camera program, increasing transparency and providing additional tools for officer safety. He entered into an agreement with Ascension Parish Government to take over full management of the jail and went to work fixing chronic





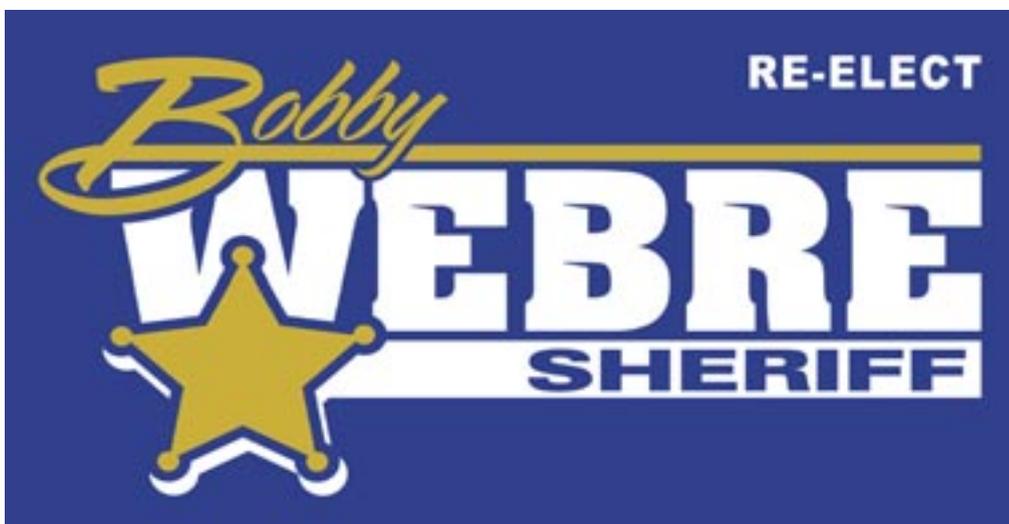
maintenance and infrastructure issues that improve the parish asset and provide corrections officers with a safer work environment. He increased the sheriff's office surplus by \$10 million by making wise financial decisions that included an increase in pay for all deputies. Sheriff Webre is serious about community policing, investing in outstanding programs like Junior Deputy and Seniors And Lawmen Together (SALT). He cares deeply about the future of our children, building up the Hickley M. Waguespack Center and Park as well as partnering with industry to make an early childhood education center in Donaldsonville a reality.



Sheriff Webre knew early on in his career that he was called to serve, which is why during high school he enrolled in the United States Army Delayed Entry Program and served as a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division. He served in Operation Urgent Fury in 1983, landing reinforcements on the shores of Grenada and rescuing captured American medical students. Sheriff Webre and his wife, Karen, have been married for 37 years and reside in Gonzales.



"As a paratrooper and law enforcement officer, I learned to lead from the front," said Sheriff Webre. "It's been the honor of my life to be your sheriff, and I ask for your vote on October 14th to continue to lead the brave men and women of the Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office."





East Ascension Sportsmans League

Letter from president -
Mike Lambert

The 62nd annual kids fishing rodeo was a great success. We had 67 kids who came out to fish and their parents and

grandparents. All had a blast. It was great to see kids learning to fish from their loved ones. It was fun to see people there that fished when they were kids now fishing with their own kids. It reminded me of when my kids were little learning to fish.

I would like to thank all the EASL members who helped put this together. It couldn't be done without them. From the people who registered the kids that morning and added up their scores, all the guys who weighed the fish, set up the tables and passed out the gifts. I thank you all. And for sure a big thank you to the chairperson of the kids fishing rodeo,

Bettye Lambert.

I would also like to thank our sponsors for this year. They are Harry Robert Insurance, Fluker Farms for the crickets, Ascension Credit Union (2 bikes and snacks), Cabela's, United Rentals (portapotty), Jeff Bourque and friends for the jambalaya and hot dogs, Parish President Clint Cointment for the trophies, Mobile Electric Supply, St. John KC's, Diez Signs, Roy's Ice, and of course Twin Lakes for letting us fish there. Thanks to all again and we can't wait till next year.

Don't forget that we are meeting September 18th at 7:00PM upstairs at

Cabela's. We will be nominating officers and board members for next year to be voted on at our December meeting. Please consider serving on the board. Your help is very much needed. Also, at our September meeting the guest speaker will be from the Baton Rouge Audubon Society to talk about the Amite River Wildlife Sanctuary near Port Vincent. See y'all there!

Thank you for your time

Mike Lambert

EASL Bass Club News

The EASL Bass Club held its' July Tournament out of Amelia with a 2:00 PM weigh in time. There was a large turnout as 18 boats were signed up to fish. It was another hot and clear weather day for fishing. The teams spread out from the southern marsh to the Atchafalaya Spillway and the Lake Verret area.

Second place was won by Anthony Bonadona & Lester Rome with 5 fish weighing 10.02 lbs.

Third place went to Dirk Anderson & Corey Guitreau with 5 fish that weighed 9.50 lbs.

Fourth place went to Donald Braud & Terry Molea with 5 fish weighing 8.78 lbs.

ASL Meeting September 18th at 7:00PM upstairs at Cabela's.

Fifth place was Ronald & Rance Gautreau with 5 fish that weighed in at 8.76 lbs.

Dirk Anderson won Big Bass with his lunker that weighed 4.04 lbs. Congratulations to the winners of the July EASL Bass Club

Tournament. Our next event is scheduled for August 26th. The meeting to sign up for the Tourney will be held on August 17th at Dirk Andersons home at ~ 5:30 PM.



Dick Anderson

The first place team was Bubba Rossi & Tim Guillaume with 5 fish that weighed in at 10.56 lbs.



Right to left, Tim Guillaume & Bubba Rossi, Anthony Bonadona & Lester Rome, Terry Molea & Donald Braud, Corey Guitreau & Dirk Anderson, Rance & Ronald Gautreau

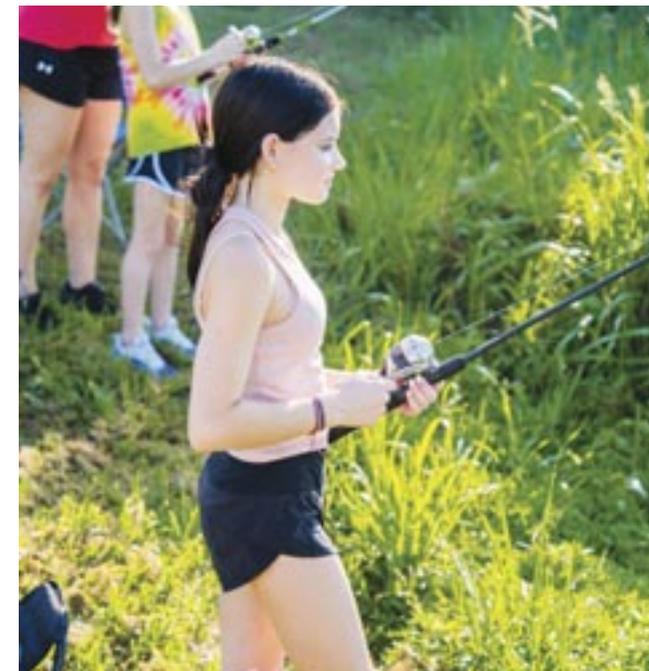


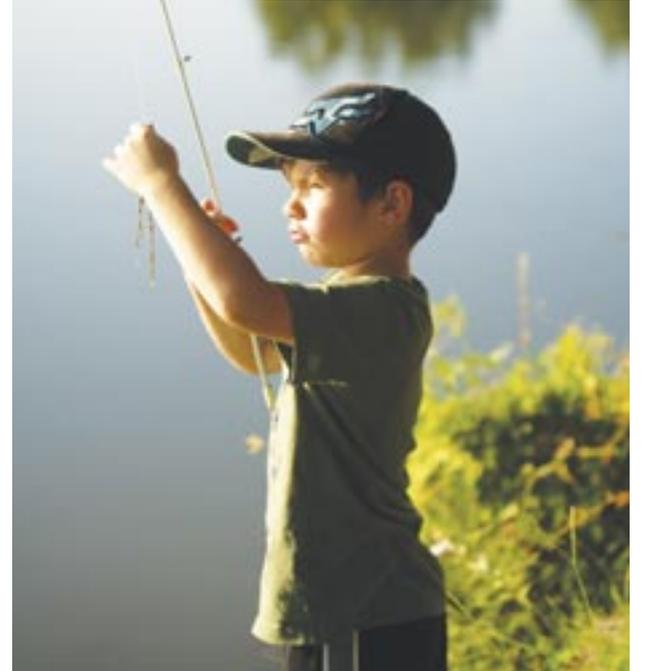
PHOTOS BY ROBIN STEVENS, OFF THE GRID PHOTOGRAPHY

KIDS FISHING RODEO

PHOTOS PART ONE







*"Congratulations Ascension Sportsman League
for another successful Fishing Rodeo!"*



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CHC Closet and Pantry

“Seeking to Glorify God by Helping People”

Exciting things have been happening at CHC Closet and Pantry recently. We are busier than ever and serving more people each month. With the cost of groceries going up we are getting more requests for help. We are helping over 60 individuals or families each month. We were able to fill school supply lists for several children also.

We started August with a fundraiser hosted by Rotolo's Pizza in Prairieville. They were

kind enough to donate 20% of their sales on August 1st. We had volunteers on the sidewalk accepting donations also. With the donation of over \$500 from Rotolo's and the extra donations from people we raised over \$700.

Thanks to the generosity of two family members we were able to go shopping and buy over \$400 worth of groceries for the pantry.

We also received a very generous grant from Wal-Mart

which will be used to buy more groceries as we give things away.

Janell and Donna were able to attend the Leadership Academy hosted by Dudley DeBosier in Baton Rouge. One of the presenters was Dr. Kaia Simmons from Atmos Energy. She was very helpful in getting the shower at the closet for our homeless clients to use so we were excited to see her again.

We want to thank everyone who donates, time, clothing, food and money so that we can help the less fortunate in our community.



We also thank Mike Strong and Ascension Magazine for helping us get the word out about who we are and what we provide.

We are located at 209 E. Railroad St. in Gonzales. We are open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9-12 for shopping and Monday-Friday from 9-12 and 1-3 for donations. The shower, washer and dryer are open by appt. only. Please let us know if you wish to donate or if we can help.

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Tuesday, Wednesday
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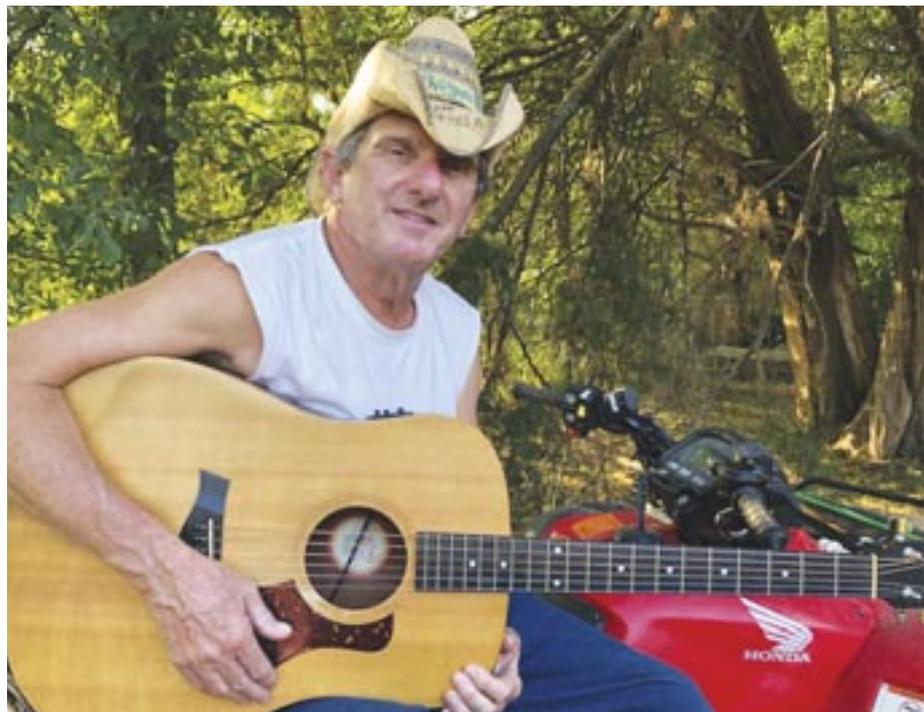
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Jammin' with Goosie



Saltwater Fish in Freshwater Places

Don't touch that thing my uncle from Tennessee shouted. "I've never seen any fish that looked like that in my life", said the hillbilly. My dad, who was standing nearby, walked over and explained to the kinfolk that the funny looking flatfish I had just landed was a flounder. That incident occurred nearly sixty years ago on a stretch of water between Lake Maurepas and Lake Pontchartrain known as Pass Manchac.

Throughout my life, in the years following that incident, I have caught several flounders in the Amite-Blind River basin. I also know many other anglers that have claimed to have done so. Back in the day it was an annual event for some of us fishermen to go croaker fishing at the mouth of Blind River and Lake Maurepas in the late summer. I recall some pretty nice catches of those delicious salt water fish taken from that area back in those eras of

time. It was from that area in which Doc Kennedy (a native from Baton Rouge who eventually became a full time resident and charter boat captain in Grand Isle, La.) had told me a story time and time again of him seeing the biggest school of tarpon that he had ever seen in his life feeding on a school of mullets in that exact spot.

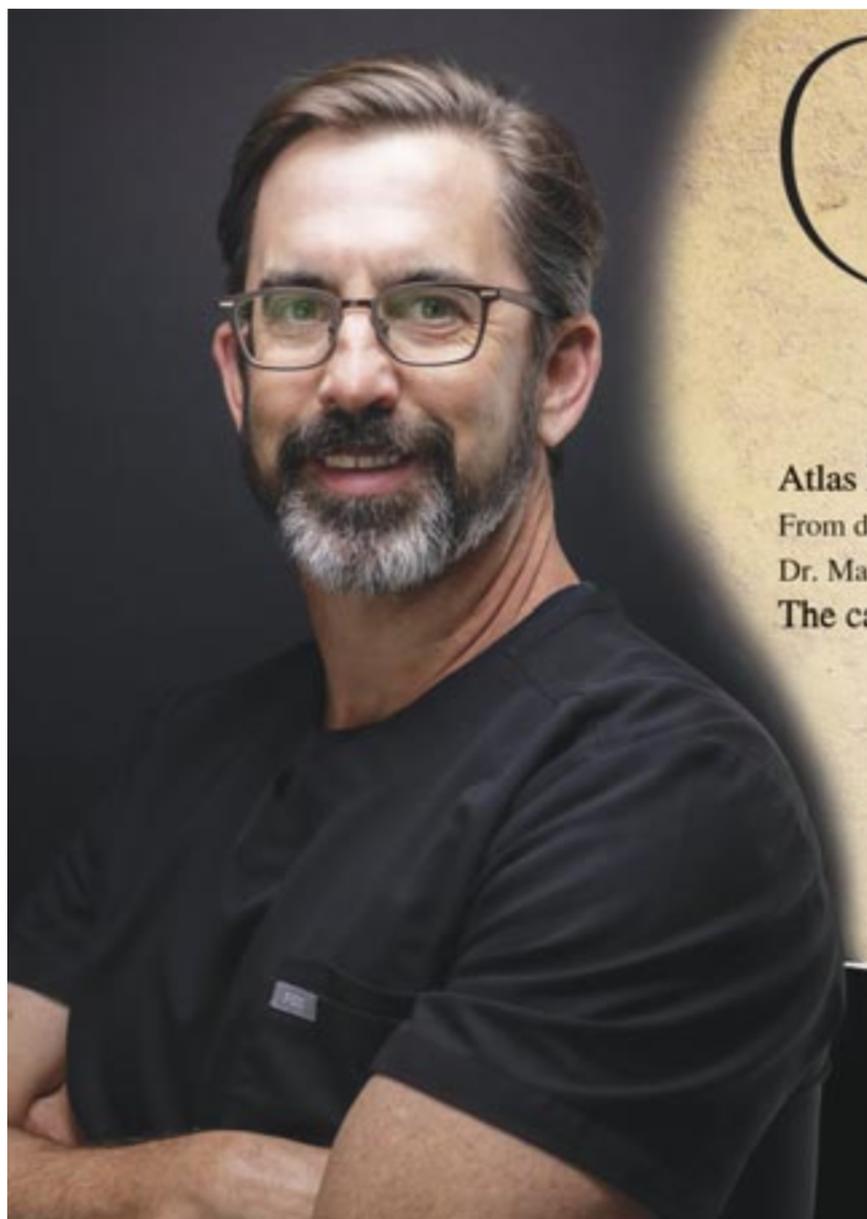
In years gone by there has commonly been reports of salty species of fish being caught in the Des Allemands, Verret, and Atchafalaya Basin areas also. Heck, I can remember back when blue crabs would annually migrate as far north as Ramah. A year or so ago a friend of mine caught a beautiful blacktip shark north of I-10 in Henderson La. After the stunning tale of his fish story I replied with a story of my own telling him that some of my working buddies had been, believe it or not, catching numbers of Gafftopsail catfish in the Mississippi River near Donaldsonville. To my amazement that did not surprise him at all because he then confessed to me that he had been catching those things for years in the area that he fishes above I-10 in Henderson. Now that's alarming to hear that in

both of those previously mentioned locations these fishermen are not just catching an out of place fish now and then. They are catching numbers of them.

The possibility of catching saltwater species of fish in freshwater areas was not an entirely unheard of thing many years ago even though it seems to be more of a common occurrence at this day and time. The reporting of such instances surely gets more attention from magazines, newspapers, T.V., and social media than it did back many years ago. The truth is that there has always been a small amount of saltwater creatures that would migrate into freshwater areas. What seems to be happening now is that through the years gone by

our saltwater line itself has moved farther north than it once was. So if the fish of these times move the same distance north as they once did they will eventually end up farther north than those of the past would have. That's my take on it anyway and for whatever that's worth it does seem odd to see our saltwater friends venturing into some of the areas that they are presently being found, at this day and time.

Till next time
Stay where you belong
James "Goosie" Guice



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A Gathering of Old Coaches or Pre-Cell Communication

by Bill Delaune

“What we have here is failure to communicate.”

Warden from the movie Cool Hand Luke

If I had to write one of those stereotypical “How I Spent My Summer Vacation” essays this year, I’m afraid mine might be a dreadful bore.

No mountains, no cruises, no James Bond-like adventures in some exotic setting, not even a trip to the beach-unless you count the time I spent in the sand and water at various golf courses.

You see, after the LSU baseball team’s wild and woolly roller coaster ride through the College World Series bracket en route to a National Championship, I was so physically, mentally and emotionally exhausted that I went into a self-imposed hibernation/rehab with orders to only awaken me when football season starts. Fortunately, a beautiful princess (my 2-year old great-granddaughter) aroused me in time to watch the two Ascension Parish teams

compete in the Little League World Series on ESPN. And what a show they put on!

Neither one reached the Promised Land but the Under 13’s staged a rally for the ages in the regional semis to get to play Texas for a trip to Williamsport, Pennsylvania-the “Field of Dreams” for all little leaguers.

The momentous occasion merited a “watch party” at Walk-On’s in Prairieville with a crowd just as boisterous as the LSU-Florida final-and at noon on a Tuesday, no less. Our noble AP lads put up a mighty



fight but left the tying runs on base in the final inning to fall just short of their lofty goal.

But come on-how much fun was that-watching young men and parents that you know and are related to on National TV. Even some of our local cooks (We saw you, Brad.) got some air time slaving over grills and jambalaya pots.

So thank you, coaches, sponsors and parents. Thank you AP Little League Baseball. And especially, thanks to those talented guys who represented our parish so well-on and off the field. You sure provided an exclamation mark for my dog

days of summer.

Now during my long, summer nap I did have some nostalgic dreams about my grandfather Nick Delaune’s old store in Prairieville. The store porch was a favorite gathering spot for old timers to assemble and argue about politics, world issues and, of course, sports. Sometimes I wonder if cell phones and social media have deprived us of this kind of open communication. I guess the closest things now are beauty shops for women and barber shops for men where the latest gossip or our favorite teams’ chances in the

upcoming season are freely discussed.

One of my favorite movie scenes takes place in a barber shop in “Coming to America” where the old men argue boxing from Joe Louis to Ali with Rocky Marciano sprinkled in.

So with all that rambling around in my brain-cell depleted mind, I decided to assemble a gathering of old coaches-past and present-and a celebrity or two to help me predict the results of the upcoming LSU football season and even inserted a few comments of my own.

Confused? So am I but let's give it a try...

1. Florida State-Coach

Bobby Bowden- "You know I was offered the LSU job after they fired Charles McClendon in 1979 but then we beat them in Tiger Stadium and I decided to stay at FSU. I had built that program from nothing-taking some chances on some good athletes that had been turned down by other schools. But I told our boosters that if short hair and good manners won football games, Army and Navy would be playing for the National Championship every year. Then I came back in 1982 and LSU routed us with the fans throwing oranges on the field because they wanted to go to the Orange Bowl. I'm just glad they didn't want to go to the Gator Bowl."

LSU gets revenge for last year's 1-point loss by the same score Bowden beat the Tigers in 1979-24-19.

2. Grambling-Coach Bill Delaune on Iconic coach

Eddie Robinson- "I was at St. Amant when Coach Rob came to recruit one of our players. My cohort Larry Favorite had played for him at Grambling and had often spoken of him in glowing terms but I still wasn't prepared for his entrance. Preceded by two young assistants in suits who came in and greeted us in the coaches' office, Coach Robinson arrived stopping to chat with everyone along the way. I immediately felt like I was in the presence of royalty though his style was very down-to-earth.

He knew we'd had a couple of rough years during the first years of the school so he told me, 'Grambling is more than football. We have an outstanding show band. So even if we're getting killed, people aren't going to leave until after the half.' If I had been that young recruit, I

would have signed that day."

Stay for the halftime show and then beat the traffic-LSU 48 Grambling 10.

3. Miss State-Coach Mike

Leach- "Some reporters got upset when I would discuss other things besides football. But I think it's important to expound on other subjects like Halloween candy-I hate candy corn-who would win mascot wars-I mean, how do you kill a Sun Devil? Do you bring in Harry Potter?-and why I can't have a pirate school if A&M has a cadet corps. And when I advised that young lady reporter on the advantages of eloping instead of having a big wedding in the post-game interview, well that was just sound advice."

College football will be a lot less entertaining without Mike Leach but the Tigers show no sympathy in the SEC opener. LSU 31-21.

4. Arkansas-Coach Frank

Broyles- "I always said that defending a team like LSU was like sticking your hand in a bucket of minnows. Every time you think you got one of those slippery suckers they get away from you."

LSU slips by the Hogs in an earlier-than-usual rivalry 28-24. But y'all can have that ugly boot.

5. Ole Miss- Coach Lane

Kiffin - "The first thing I learned when I got to the SEC was not to piss Coach Saban off. Every year Paul Finebaum says Bama's dynasty is over and they start rolling over people. All I said one year was 'Get the popcorn ready' meaning I thought our game was going to be quite a show and they beat us unmercifully. I might do like Coach Kelly did last year and call him to wish a happy birthday to soften him up some." The Tigers win an offensive shoot out in Oxford 42-38.

6. Missouri-Famous alumni

Brad Pitt- "By nature, I keep moving. My theory is to be the shark. You've got to keep moving. You can't stop or else..." Two Tigers keep moving in opposite directions. LSU 35-17.

7. Auburn-Coach Pat Dye-

"When I got the head job at Auburn, the reporters all wanted to know how long it will take to beat Alabama. I told them '60 minutes'. It actually took 120 minutes because it was two years but I had some help from a guy named Bo Jackson." No Bo this year as the real Tigers go to 7-0 and a top 5 ranking.

8. Army-Coach Paul

Dietzel- "Leaving LSU in 1962 was one of the hardest decisions I ever made but at that time the service academies were still prominent in college football. The only problem at West Point was I didn't have a Billy Cannon or Jerry Stovall." Army's ball-controlling wishbone keeps the score down but LSU's talent is too much for the Cadets. 30-7.

9. Alabama-Coach Bear

Bryant- "I once said that winning isn't everything. But it sure beats anything that comes in second." Unfortunately for the Tigers, it's a second-place finish in Tuscaloosa. Revenge-minded Bama wins on a late field goal 31-28.

10. Florida-Coach Steve

Spurrier- "When I got tired taking shots at Tennessee ('You can't spell Citrus Bowl without UT. '), a guy at Auburn asked why I didn't ever insult them. I started to tell him I only jibe teams that are any good. But when part of their library burned, I did say the real tragedy was some of the books had not been colored in yet." LSU proves Kelly was a better hire than Billy Napier 34-20.

11. Georgia State-Novelty singer and GSU alum Ray

Stevens. "We had a good time recording silly songs like "The Streak" and "Guitarzan" but I shudder to think what would happen if some station played "Ahab the Arab" today with the politically correct police run amok." The Tigers streak by the Panthers-"Don't look Ethel, you shameless hussy!"

12. Texas A&M-Coach

Jackie Sherrill- "After I left A&M, I went to Miss State and who shows up on the schedule? Why, Texas, my old nemesis. So for educational and motivational purposes, I showed the team how a bull becomes a steer by castrating one in front of them. Some folks were not amused but after we beat Texas 28-10, all was well in Starkville. In fact, my motto for the game became 'Education plus motivation equals castration-beware Colonel Reb (the Ole Miss mascot)'."

Another great motivation-as mentioned twice already- is revenge. LSU makes up for last year's finale flop with a 42-21 emasculation of the Aggies.

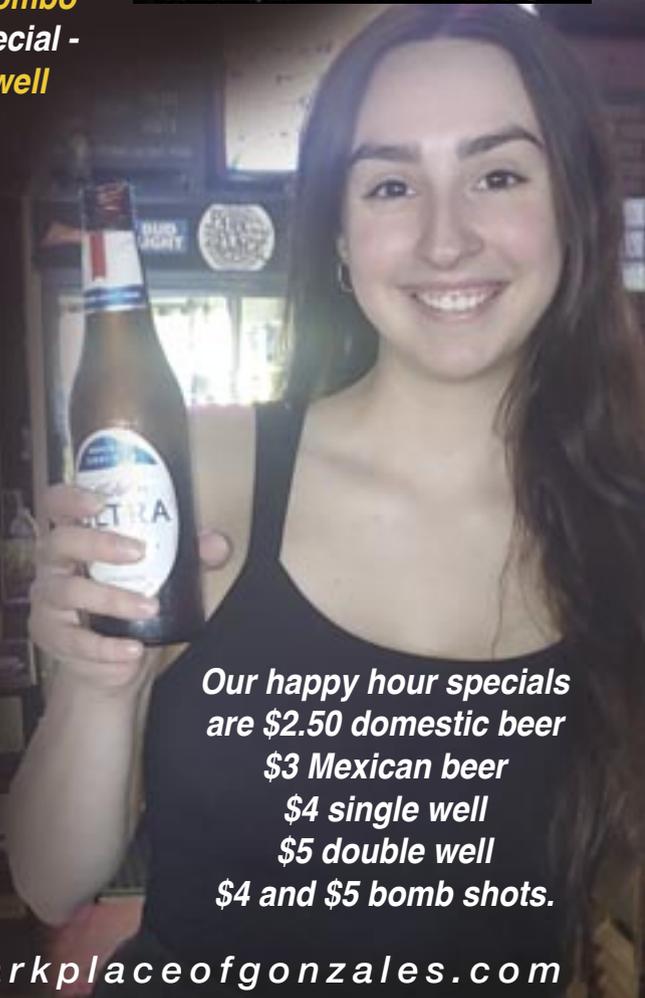
So there you have it, Tigers finish 11-1 in the regular season and go on to...but that's another story for another time. Tune in later for my vision updates. As far right now, I need to get all my guests back in the time machine phone booth from "Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure" and get them back where they belong. In the meantime, remember "Cool Hand Luke" and don't suffer from a "...failure to communicate".



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Useless Random Facts with Kellie

There is a metallic asteroid shaped like a dog bone named "Kleopatra."

The Super Soaker was designed and invented by a NASA engineer.

Furbies are banned from the Pentagon. One of Furby's main features is speech imitation. Since most (if not all) of the communications in the Pentagon are confidential, they can't risk a rogue Furby leaking everything to the public. As of 1999, the National Security Agency has banned Furbies from the Pentagon.

Hydrogen gas is the least dense substance in the world, at 0.08988g/cc.

In every episode of Seinfeld there is a Superman somewhere.

13% of Americans actually believe that some parts of the moon are made of cheese.

The glue on Israeli postage is certified kosher.

It's estimated that at any one time around 0.7% of the world's population is drunk.

\$203,000,000 is spent on barbed wire each year in the U.S.

Every US president has worn glasses (just not always in public).

China has more English speakers than the United States.

The Michelin man is known as Mr. Bib. His name was Bibendum in the company's first ads in 1896.

Thoughts from Bully

I've Got Every Shot in the Book?

As Father Time turns my clock my golf swing is running a little slow these days. Oh I can still tee the ball and address it but that is where the adventure begins. I'm stiff, over weight and just getting old but I have a repertoire incredible shots to pull from to achieve victory points for the Blue team.

1. The old parking lot shot.

One afternoon at the Gonzales Country Club on hole number 18 I hit a ball over the club house and hit a car in the parking lot. When I got to my car I luckily found



my golf ball between 2 trucks. I looked up to see a big dent in the hood of my Volkswagen. I think on the #10 tee box I'll tee up an hit a few STA players trucks and they'll be so pissed they'll lose their swing. Then victory is mine.

2. Simply knock it in the hole with one shot!

While playing a round with Scott Harris I hit my tee shot over the pond and in the hole on the fly. A hole-in-one it wasn't. It hit in the bottom of the cup and bounced out all the way back in the pond. Of course Scott reminded me I was now hitting 3. Against the Gators I plan to recreate the shot except this time it will hit a rake handle and bounce back on the green. The STA players will be laughing so hard they'll never be able to tee off.

3. Ping Pong all the way to the hole shot!

It was a weekend golf game with a group of guys in Texas. There was a par 3 hole that the tee box was on top of a hill. It was only a 50 yard shot but it was 65 yards down to the green. Protocol on the weekend with big crowds was the guys on the green would back off. The guys on the tee box would hit their shots to the green to keep the pace of play moving. It was my turn to

hit so I addressed the ball. I don't know what happen but I duffed the shot. I did duff it 12 ft. giving the ball enough distance go off the cliff. It started rolling and gaining momentum when it hit a rock. It bounced up in the air to the left. Then it hit another boulder and bounced right. It then it hit the cart part and headed toward the green and landed on it. The guys around the green watching the shot as if it was Rocky and Apollo. Go, go, go the shouts came out. The ball was rolling straight toward the hole. It was dead center of the cup when it broke to the right and stopped 1 inch from the hole.

This shot displays I got every shot in the book and I'm pulling them out during the Ryder cup. I'm sure these golf shots got you Gator boys scared. Don't laugh. I'll bet a \$100 I duff a shot. There are big chances I'll hit a rake and there is a great chance one goes out of bounds.

So bring your best Gator guys because I got every shot in the book. I'm coming for you!!!!





The Garfish Rodeo at Manny's Bar to Support St. Jude Children's Hospital.

All up and down the bayous caring cajuns raise money to help all walks of life. This month they got together for St. Jude with a fundraiser by catching garfish. The dinosaur fish of the Amite river.

Hundred's gathered at Manny's to witness the weigh ins and eat fresh gar balls and dancing.

After all the fish were weighed in a winner was crowned.

George Martinez of Springfield brought in the largest garfish ever weighed at 226lbs. He had the biggest trash fish with a 45lb catfish and won the most weight.

The event raised \$7500 for the cause and that amount brings the grand total for the year at over \$160,000.00 for St. Jude.

Thank you too all the volunteers and guest that donated.



Over 7 ft long weighing 226lbs





The Garney Gautreau Summer Senior Soc Hop is Heating Up

PHOTOS BY ROBIN STEVENS, OFF THE GRID PHOTOGRAPHY








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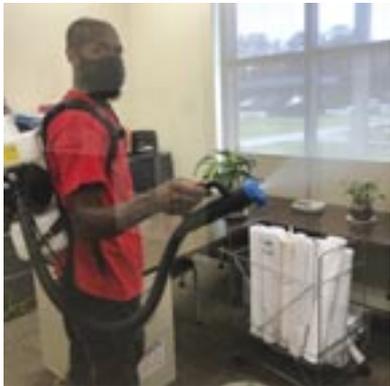
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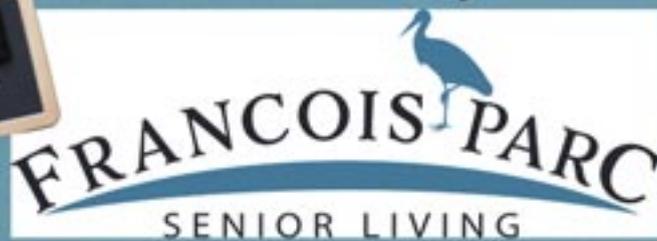


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ASCENSION PARISH HIGH SCHOOLS. COME REUNITE WITH OLD
CLASSMATES, REMINISCE & ENJOY A COMPLIMENTARY LUNCH AT 12PM ON
THE FOLLOWING DATES:

SEPTEMBER 14 CLASS OF 1961	SEPTEMBER 21 CLASS OF 1962	SEPTEMBER 28 CLASS OF 1963
OCTOBER 5 CLASS OF 1964	OCTOBER 12 CLASS OF 1965	OCTOBER 19 CLASS OF 1966

1604 S. BURNSIDE AVE.
GONZALES, LA
11:30AM - 1PM

Please RSVP by calling 225-647-8400.
RSVPs MUST be in by the Wednesday before your reunion date.



SATURDAY - SEPT. 9

**BCA CHAMPIONSHIP BBQ COOK-OFF,
LA FOOD & BEVERAGE VENDORS.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER
FOR THE CAR SHOW OR BBQ CONTEST CALL**

SUNDAY - SEPT. 10

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THE TOWER



Executive Chef, John Donaldson

Prep: 45 minutes

Servings: 2

Ingredients:

Eggplant	1 - cut into six medallions	Butter	1 cup
Heavy cream	4 cups	Basil chopped	2 tbsp.
Small shrimp	1/2 cup	Cornmeal	4 cups
Jumbo lump crabmeat	1 oz	Eggs	6
Whole garlic cloves	10	Salt	1 tbsp.
Parmesan cheese	1 cup	Pepper	1 tbsp.
Flour	1 cup	Creole seasoning	2 tbsp.

Instructions:

Start by making the sauce. In a small heavy bottom saucepot over medium heat start by melting the butter then add the flour and whisk together. While making the sauce roast the garlic in aluminum foil in a preheated 350 degree oven with a small amount of olive oil two tablespoons should be sufficient. Roast the garlic for 15 minutes and remove. Add the heavy cream to the roux mixture and whisk until smooth. Add the roasted garlic and parmesan cheese then puree in a blender. Strain sauce through a fine mesh strainer. Return sauce to the pot and bring to a boil over medium heat and add shrimp cook until shrimp are pink and firm. Add the crabmeat to warm. Now for the eggplant take eggs and whisk in a metal mixing bowl. Take the trimmed eggplant and add to the bowl of whisked eggs. In another mixing bowl combine cornmeal and creole seasoning. Add the egg covered eggplant to the cornmeal batter. Transfer the battered eggplant to a frying pan over medium high heat and cook until golden brown. Strain off grease and plate. Cover with sauce and garnish with basil. Bon Appetit!

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PHOTOGRAPHY

A color photograph of a young woman with red hair, wearing a black graduation gown with a red stole. She is holding a red graduation cap up in her right hand. The background consists of large, light-colored stone columns.

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