

COMPLIMENTARY

Ascension

MAGAZINE

DECEMBER 2022, VOL. 20 ISSUE 12

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SEE PAGE 24

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On the Cover: Ghere Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery ... Page 24

Merry Christmas to All

Tags & Titles wishes our friends, families and customers a happy holiday season and hope that the new year brings you many blessings. We thank you for your business & look forward to serving you in 2023 with the same Fast, Efficient, Friendly, Service that we have in the past. We continue to strive to be YOUR '1' STOP SHOP for all your DMV, DL, Wildlife & Fisheries & Notary needs.

Jamie Frederic-Braud

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Thank You!!



Bama's Feed the Needy

Seventeen years ago I heard about a few families that needed food for Christmas. I cooked a black iron pot full of food and sold it at the old Gonzales Country Club. We raised

over \$800 and gave it to the families for food, clothes and toys for the holidays. Last year we raised \$32,395 and distributed it across our parish. This year we have donations still

coming in but have raised in excess of \$30,000. Thank you to our many loyal sponsors and donors. We will be able to help local food banks, schools, many needy families and children

have a Merry Christmas. If you care to donate, you can mail to: Bama's Feed The Needy, 7245 Highway 44, Gonzales, LA 70737.
Thomas "BAMA" Aldridge



Feed the Needy funds disbursed from 2021.

Total donations for the year: \$32,395

Disbursed to:	
7,200.00	9 local Ascension Parish schools
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1,000.00	OTOW (Ode To Our Warriors)
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Community Leaders are Truly Meant to Serve!

The Rotary Club of Gonzales roared into the 1920's with its "The Great Gatsby" themed Ladies High Heels for High Hopes Gsta. Proceeds from the gala support Louisiana's March of Dimes chapter and Ascension Parish's medical students from St. Elizabeth's and it's Franciscan missionary affiliates. The highlight of the gala is having local dignitaries and celebrities serve as waiters to the ladies in attendance. Among the

evening's activities was a 50/50 raffle, a fashion show, and silent and live auctions.

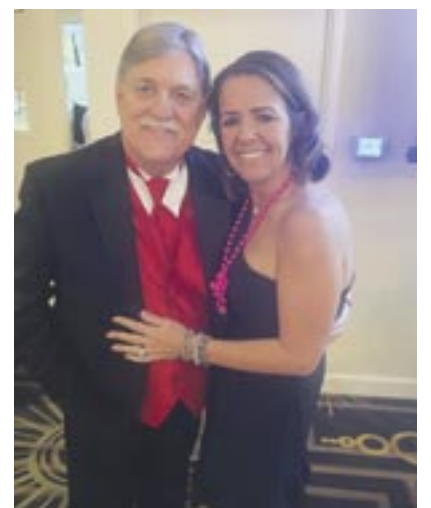
Thank you to Speaker Clay Schexnayder State Representative for purchasing a table and serving as a waiter for two tables. Fellow Rotarians Representative Tony Bacala and Sheriff Bobby Webre also purchased tables while serving as waiters.

Rotarian and Gonzales city councilman Johnny Berthelot served as one of two masters

of ceremonies- the other being Olin Berthelot, the committee's chairman.

The night simply would not have been possible without our sponsors- including Joelle Hebert- the oil in the gears of this machine and owner of Ascension Specialty Advertising. Additional sponsors include, IMSCO, Francois Bend Senior Living, Ochsner of Ascension, Our Lady of the Lake Ascension, OxyChem, REV, The ARC of

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Cynthia Cagnolatti and the Circle of Roses



As club treasurer, Razzie is always ready with the paperwork when she gives the financial report at each monthly meeting.

The Louisiana Garden Club Federation honors outstanding members who have given their time and talents to their local garden clubs. This select group of ladies is referred to as The Circle of Roses. Members are nominated for their

exemplary character and longevity in serving their associations. This year the Gonzales Garden Club nominated Cynthia "Razzie" Cagnolatti; she received the Circle of Roses Award on October 27 at an LGCF reception at Juban's



President Jamie Trisler presented Razzie with her 25-year membership service pin in 2020.



Members attended the LGCF District VI meeting when Razzie was honored. From left in front are Marilyn Rice, Janis D'Benedetto, Cynthia "Razzie" Cagnolatti, Cynthia Stafford, Mary Jo Pohlig, Janis Poche and Jamie Trisler; back row are Barbara McCormick, Patti Mouton and Conchita Richey.

Restaurant in Baton Rouge. Razzie has been a GGC member for 26 years and has served as club treasurer for 21 consecutive years. She has been Chairman of the Membership Committee and Chairman of the Ways & Means Committee for most of that time and recently joined the committees manning the Live Oak Society and Yard of the Month Awards. As the club accountant, Razzie deposits membership dues and the plant sale money, orders merchandise, reimburses expenses, balances the books and reports the financial status to the penny each month.

The most important thing to Razzie is her family. She has been married to Frank for 55 years and has two grown children, Chad and Edie, and one granddog named Pierre. Razzie enjoys trying new restaurants and loves to travel, especially with her sisters.



GGC Member Cynthia Cagnolatti received the Circle of Roses Award presented by LGCF President Roxanne Champagne at the district garden club meeting in October at Juban's Restaurant.



Razzie mans the money bag of donations for plants, snacks and raffle tickets at the annual plant/bake sale each May. Here she is with Conchita Richey when it was held at the Jambalaya Park Playground in 2019.



Razzie received a certificate and a beautiful rose-rimmed cloisonné LGCF pin to commemorate her induction into the Circle of Roses.

Razzie is an avid gardener who supports a natural habitat for butterflies, bees, and birds. A large live oak shades Razzie's backyard patio deck. Mature crape myrtles and azaleas mixed with artful black iron pieces and stone features border a tall wooden fence which provides quiet privacy in her older part of town. Gingers, cannas, elephant ears and a split leaf philodendron round out the peaceful perimeter.

President Jamie Trisler remarked, "Razzie is an exceptional member who has contributed significantly to the club over the years. The club appreciates her willingness to help and enjoys her delightful disposition." Razzie admitted, "The garden club means so much to me because of the many friends I have made and the opportunities I have had to learn more about gardening. I enjoy participating in the community events that benefit Gonzales as well as the chances to socialize and eat great food [at the meetings]!"

Cynthia Cagnolatti shares Circle of Roses status with current GGC Members Lorraine Gautreau (2012), Barbara Guillot (2015), Conchita Richey (2015), Ellen Posey (2018), and Marilyn Rice (2019) as well as beloved deceased Members Rogerie Laurant (1998), Willie Mae Montgomery (2004), Justine Brunson (2006), Ruby Hebert (2009), Ruby Nell Smith (2009) and Myra Mire (2012).

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

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O Come, O Come Emmanuel

With one miraculous event, God made Himself known to all mankind. Prior to this planet altering event, man had strived on his own before to reach God, to manipulate God and to make their own form of God. It was through our own striving and sinning that God knew He had to do something.

“Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.” Matthew 1:23, KJV. “Therefore, the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.” Isaiah 7:14 KJV.

Then, Jesus is born. Also known as ‘Emmanuel’, which means ‘With us is God, or God with us’. This name of our Lord speaks of God’s enduring

love for us, because God could not bear being separated from us.

But this miracle birth through a virgin, and the manifested prophesy of this new kingdom wasn’t all Jesus did. He showed us how to live through his sinless example and offered a way to be with him for eternity through the cross. He is still with us now through the power of His Holy Spirit. “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may

abide with you forever;” Matthew 14:16.

So you see, because of Emmanuel, we never have to be alone and we never have to fear. For He was and is and is to come through the Godhead three in one; Our Lord, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

So this Christmas, take peace knowing that God IS with us, right now, as you read this. He is with you, He is with Us. Ask Him to give you eyes to see Him working in and around you this season. Ask Him to remind you that He will never leave you nor forsake you, and thank Him for coming to this fallen world, forgiving you and saving you.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year Ascension.

XOXO,
Sweet Eyes



“Emmanuel” - God is with Us



What is a Liquid Facelift?

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

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

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

What does a Liquid Lift involve at your office?

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

Who is a good candidate, generally speaking?

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

Is there any downtime involved?

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

What is the typical upkeep?

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

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

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

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Sweet Potato Seed Potatoes Available through the LSU AgCenter

As a service to the residents of Louisiana, the LSU AgCenter's Sweet Potato Research Station produces foundation sweet potato seed annually. The Sweet Potato Research Station is located in Northeast Louisiana near Chase. It is the only facility of its kind devoted solely to sweet potato research. These seed potatoes are to be bedded in the row to produce "slips" or cuttings, which are then transplanted to the field to produce the crop. All varieties are certified to be free of viruses. The varieties available for purchase this year are Beauregard B-63, Beauregard B-14, Evangeline, Orleans, Bayou Belle, Bellevue, Bonita, Muraski,



Mariah Simoneaux

Porto Rico, Sakura, and Burgundy. The top two varieties recommended for our area are Beauregard B-63 and Evangeline. Additional variety information can be found on the Sweet Potato Research Station website - www.lsuagcenter.com/portals/our_offices/research_stations/sweet-potato/.

The cost of a 40 pound box of seed potatoes is \$18.50 for Beauregard (B-63 and B-14) and Evangeline; and \$25.00 for all other varieties. Please contact LSU AgCenter Agent Mariah Simoneaux at MJSimoneaux@agcenter.LSU.edu or (225) 621-5799 for more information or to place an order. All orders should be placed by



January 6, 2023. Potatoes will be ready for pick up in

February/March.

Sweet potatoes have a long history in Louisiana and have been grown commercially since the early 1900's. As home gardens have increased in popularity over the last several years, interest in growing sweet potatoes on a small scale has also increased. The LSU AgCenter has an excellent publication, "Growing Sweet Potatoes in the Home Garden" that gardeners can follow to produce their own sweet potato crop. Last year a

group of Ascension Master Gardeners grew sweet potatoes following the publication step by step. From two small, raised beds the group harvested over 150 pounds of potatoes. The project was a great success! To find a copy of the publication search the LSU AgCenter website for the title or contact the Ascension Parish LSU AgCenter Office.

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

THE TOP 7 THINGS TO DO WHEN YOUR SPECIAL NEEDS CHILD TURNS 18 IN LOUISIANA

In Louisiana, when a person turns 18 years old, he or she is legally considered an adult and is presumed to have the capacity to marry, vote, enter into contracts and do all the things that adults can do. Some individuals with disabilities will be able to do these

things without any assistance, while others may need support in navigating the “adult” world. And then, there are others who may never be able to do these things on their own.

When a disabled child is in school and qualifies for special education services, that child is “entitled” to those services. There are no waiting lists. Local school systems are the single agency that coordinates special education services. This single point of service coordination does not exist in adult services and services in the adult system are usually not entitlement based.

Since there is no single source to tell you what you need to do when your special needs child turns 18, we have created a list of the most common things you should consider. While this list isn’t exhaustive and not everything on the list may apply to you and your child, we hope it will be a good place to start.

1. Decide if your child should apply for Supplemental Security Income (SSI). SSI is a federally-funded, needs-based disability program for adults and children which provides monthly cash

benefits. The applicant must meet disability and income requirements to qualify. You can apply as soon as the month after the child turns 18. If your child turns 18 on the 1st of the month, file that month. An article from the Aging and Disability Resource Center for Dane County, Wisconsin provides an excellent guide to when and how to apply for SSI for your child. The article can be found on their website.

2. Get a valid state ID and register to vote. Once your child turns 18 years old, he or she will need proof of identification for many things, including setting up a bank account or getting a job. If your child will not be getting a driver's license, you will need to obtain a Louisiana ID card. You can visit your local Office of Motor Vehicles to obtain an ID card. You can find the information you will need to obtain an ID card and register to vote on the OMV website.

3. Decide if you should apply for Medicaid. If your child receives even \$1 per month of SSI, he or she will be automatically eligible for Medicaid, a program funded by the federal and state governments. Medicaid pays for health coverage for people with disabilities. However, even if he or she does not receive SSI, he or she may qualify for Disability Medicaid in Louisiana. You can access information about Disability Medicaid at the Louisiana Department of Health's website.

If your child isn't already receiving services through a Medicaid Waiver and/or is not currently on a waiting list for a Waiver, decide if your child should be screened for one. Medicaid Waivers can provide services and supports to assist individuals with disabilities with their needs at home and in the community.

4. If your child is a male, he must register with the Selective Service. Men with disabilities still need to register with the Selective Service System. Almost all male U.S. citizens and male immigrants who are 18 through 25 are required to register with Selective Service. The easiest and fastest way to register is to register online.

5. Consider having your child sign powers of attorney naming you as the Agent for financial and health care decisions. If your disabled child has legal capacity, when he or she turns 18 consider whether you should consult with an attorney about health care directives and a

financial power of attorney so you can assist your child with financial and/or health care decisions.

6. Discuss whether or not guardianship is appropriate. If your child does not have the ability to understand or execute legal documents, it might be necessary to become your child's guardian (what we call a “curator” in Louisiana). You should contact an attorney who practices “interdiction” law in Louisiana to discuss whether a guardianship (curatorship) should be started. If your child is under 18, in Louisiana you can apply to a court to become his or her “continuing tutor.” While similar to an interdiction, the continuing tutorship might be a less difficult and cheaper process. Make sure you start this process well before your child turns 18 as it may take months to complete, and if your child turns 18 before it is complete, you will then have to use the interdiction process.

7. Meet with an estate planning attorney to discuss whether you should have a Special Needs Trust to hold your child's inheritance at your death. If you believe that your child will require Medicaid, SSI, or other governmental subsidies, discuss a Special Needs Trust (SNT) and/or an ABLE account. These tools can prevent Medicaid and SSI inancial disqualification. Further information about SNT and ABLE can be found online. Don't forget to ask other family members if they intend to leave anything to your child at their death. Often, well-meaning grandparents leave a gift at their death to their grandchild that causes SSI and/or Medicaid disqualification. An estate planning attorney with knowledge of special needs planning can assist in making sure everyone's plan for your child protects their vital benefits.

With the above information, you've got a great start on what to be aware of and what steps to take to ensure your special needs child is ready for adulthood. And when in doubt, know that you can get help from qualified professionals, like estate planning attorneys, who can help guide you through the process.



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Are you ready to 'unretire'?

Have you recently retired but are now thinking of going back to work? If so, you aren't alone, as many people are choosing to "unretire." But if you do reenter the workforce in some capacity, what opportunities might be available to you? And how will your renewed employment affect your financial outlook?

For starters, though, what reasons might motivate you to go back to work? For many people, the primary cause has been inflation, which has presented a huge challenge to retirees living on a fixed income. In addition, the volatile financial market of 2022 caused many people's investment portfolios to decline in value — a real problem for retirees who needed to start selling investments to supplement their income.

But non-financial factors could also be driving you to unretire. Like other retirees, you may miss the chance to use your work experience to engage with the world, and you may miss the social interactions as well.

In any case, if you do decide to rejoin the working world in some fashion, you may have several options. For example, if you enjoyed the work you did for your former employer, you might want to see if you could go back on a part-time basis. Or you could use your skills to join the "gig" economy by doing some consulting or freelance work in your former industry. You might also consider going to work for a nonprofit organization, as many of these groups lost employees

during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic and are now facing labor shortages.

Going back to work, even part time, can improve your cash flow, which helps cover the cost of regular expenses. Furthermore, the added income can possibly help you delay or reduce withdrawals from your investment accounts. And it's important to increase the longevity of these accounts considering you may spend two, or even three, decades in retirement. (Once you turn 72, however, you will have to start withdrawing certain amounts from your 401(k) and traditional IRA.) But your earnings can affect another source of your retirement income — your Social Security benefits.

If you return to work before your "full" retirement age, which is likely between 66 and 67, the Social Security earnings limit in 2023 is \$21,240. For each \$2 earned over that amount, Social Security will deduct \$1 from benefits. If you reach your full retirement age in 2023, the earnings limit is \$56,520; Social Security will deduct \$1 from your benefits for each \$3 earned over this amount until the month you turn your full retirement age. But in all future years after you've reached your full retirement age, you can earn as much as you want without losing any benefits. Social Security will then recalculate your payments to give you credit for the months your benefits were reduced or withheld due to your excess earnings. Be aware, though, that your earned income can potentially result in higher taxes on your Social Security benefits at any age.

Returning to work can be rewarding, both financially and emotionally. And you may get more out of the experience when you're aware of the issues involved.

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

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Local Clubs Partner To Make A Difference

The Greater Ascension Rotary Club and Gonzales Lion's Club answered the call to the September/October challenge from its collective Districts to collaboratively join forces and bring something unique and special to its local Ascension Parish community. In doing so, both clubs were able to pull its monetary resources together and bring \$400 of supplies to a local primary school in need of basic, everyday essential attire for its youth. Through this partnership much needed resources were provided to Bluff Ridge Primary School in the form of socks, underwear, t-shirts, and backpacks. The clubs are thrilled to get to know one another and see how each brings value and aid to Ascension Parish residents. Each club understands the importance and necessity to equip its community's children with these items so they can focus on garnering the best



From Left to Right: Maria Cottrell, Rhonda Lamendola, Rotary President Justin Champlin, Mary Bourgeois, Shirley Graham, Lions Secretary Pam Hughes

possible education. Our youth is essential to the future of our parish and community, and we are honored to work together, helping those in need, to solely focus on their scholastic achievements. We look

forward to working together as community stewards on projects in the future. Dr. Albert Schweitzer stated it best: "The only ones among us who will be truly happy are those who have sought and found

how to serve." These Rotary and Lions clubs are an example for exemplifying community service while putting others above self.



“Where There's A Need, There's A Lion”

Wishing everyone a Happy Holiday
and a joyful New Year.

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Happy New Year

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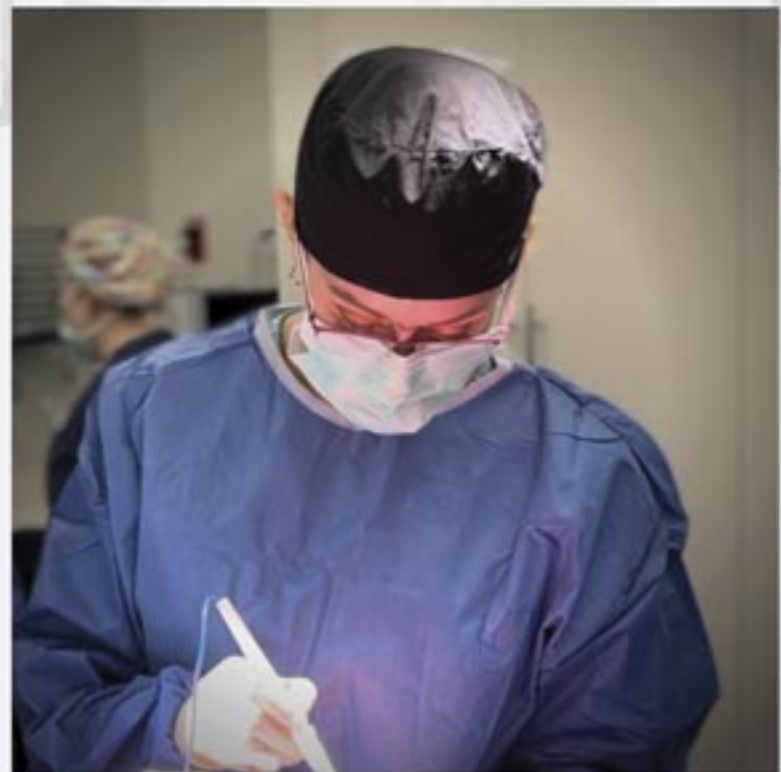
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Boucherie & Balloons Festival

The 2022 Boucherie and Balloon Festival was a success in its return to Sorrento. There was a phenomenal turnout despite the rain on Saturday. The cookoffs were also a huge success and we were able to crown our Jambalaya Champ, Hoss Reine and our Cracklin Champ, Joey Cornett. The addition of the balloons added extra flare to the already great festival and the balloon rides were a crowd favorite! We are looking forward to next year and hope to see everyone there!

Above 2022 Boucherie Cracklin Champion, Joey Cornett and helper Eric Babin. (L-R), Lions Club President Rey Prado, Joey Cornett, 2022 Teen Miss Boucherie Kyleigh Alexie, Eric Babin and our 2022 Miss Boucherie, Gracie Guillot.

2022 Boucherie Jambalaya Champion, Hoss Reine and helper Brett Reine. The father and son team are pictured (L-R), Hoss Reine, our 2022 Miss Boucherie, Gracie Guillot and Brett Reine.

2022 Champ of Champ Jambalaya winner was Justin Courville and the 2022 Champ of Champ Cracklin winner was Koby Thacker.

The Sorrento Lions Club would like to thank everyone who helped make this festival a success, from the generous sponsors to the numerous volunteers who gave of their time to support us. Also, a huge thank you to the Jambalaya Festival Association for everything they do and give to help our festival.

Thank you again!

The Sorrento Lions Club





"She's a little old, but still has alot of life in her"
Est. 1936

BAND SCHEDULE

Thurs - 12/15 **Bryan Mannino** 7:30-10:30
 Fri - 12/16 **Chris Pryor & the main event** 9 to 1
 Sat - 12/17 **Thomas Cain** 9 to 12:30
 Thurs - 12/22 **Kyle Wilson** 7:30 to 10:30
 Fri - 12/23 **Loose Change** 9 to 1
 Thurs - 12/29 **Mitch & George** 7:30 to 10:30
 Fri - 12/30 **Box Wine** 9 to 1
 Sat - 12/31 **Bryan Mannino** 7:30 to 10:30
 Fri - 1/6 **Kenny Fife & Friends** 9 to 12
 Sat - 1/7 **JT McCaffery Band** 9 to 1
 Thur - 1/12 **Darryl Lewis** 7:30 to 10:30
 Fri - 1/3 **Dis N Dat Band** 9 to 1
 Sat - 1/14 **Trey Gallman & Last Call** 9 to 1




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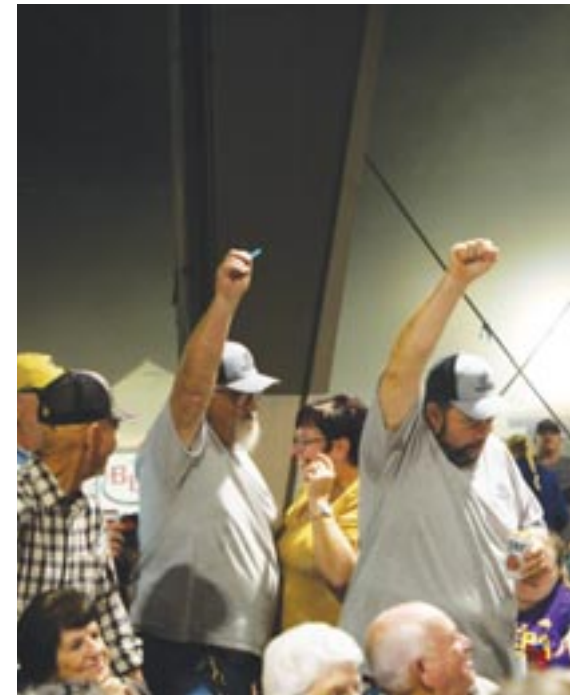
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of the year! Let us
celebrate by spreading goodwill
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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

Clay Schexnayder





Merry Christmas to All
"May the Peace of Christ Be with You"

LA State Representative Tony Bacala and Family



A Christmas Bowl Full of Candy and Nuts

"If ifs and buts were candy and nuts, we'd all have a Merry Christmas."

Great American football announcer and philosopher Don Meredith.

Scene: A South Louisiana living room on Christmas Eve.

Characters- The kids-all ages from 1-92 in all shapes and sizes

Uncle Bill- A 70-something disillusioned dreamer who is so lost in the '60's, he's still looking for that "bathroom on the right" in the Credence song "Bad Moon on the Rise".

Kids (excitedly)- Uncle Bill's here! Uncle Bill's here! Come tell us one of your famous Christmas stories, Uncle Bill.

Bill- Well just let me introduce my friend Captain Morgan to some of that Pennsylvania Dutch egg nog and I'll see what I can come up with.

Kid 1- You're running late, Uncle Bill. I was starting to see visions of sugar plums dancing in my head.

Bill- Well, I had a few visions of my own back in the 60's but I had some transportation problems tonight.

Kid 2- Did your '68 Dodge with the 383 and 4-barrel carburetor finally give up the ghost?

Bill- I'm afraid so. The ghost of Christmas past came by last night and took her to that great junkyard in the sky. But I hitched a ride with a Saintly man named Dennis Allen who was driving a dog team. But

the lead dog entered the transfer portal and the backup got the whole team lost in the last quarter of the trip.

We ended up across Bayou Manchac in some joint called Just Winging It and some attractive young ladies detained us a bit longer.

Kid 3- With your brain cell-depleted mind, how do you remember the names of all those girls? You even forget ours sometimes.

Bill- Well, kid, it's a little like Santa does with his reindeer-you just give it a little rhythm and call out their names-"On Christy, on Shelly and Bailey and Sage, On Riley and Bree and Michelle and Jade..."

Kid 1- That's cute but did you bring any presents?

Bill- Why, isn't my presence enough? Just kidding. I've brought the gift that just keeps on giving-Blackcat Bill's Bowl Bonanza Bonus.

Kid 2- Oh, Uncle Bill-you're not trying to sell us on one of your "can't lose" systems again?

Bill- Would I do that to you kids? Besides, what did I teach you about gambling?

Kid 3- The race doesn't always go to the strongest nor the battle to the strongest-but that's the way to bet.

Bill- Well, that's true but...

Kid 1- Never bet against a horse who's never lost or on one who's never won.

Bill- Well, yeah...

Kid 2- Don't gamble with your eating money but sometimes you have to eat with your gambling money.



Bill- Okay, okay-that's all good advice. But with 41 bowl games and players, coaches and betting lines moving around faster than a Japanese Bullet Train, it's almost impossible to predict the outcome without a little karma game to help us along.

Kid 2- We're going to play a game to help you win money?

Bill- That's correct and you all get a cut.

Kid 3- (Singing) "Nothing

from nothing leaves nothing..."

Bill- Come on now-positive vibes. Here's how it works. Choose from one of the plethora of bowls and pick team based on mascot, fight song, alumni-anything you like about them and forget who's favorite or the underdog. This year is going to be crazy unpredictable any way.

For instance, in the LSU-Purdue Citrus Bowl, I've known some pretty tough

Boilermakers in my life-but none would be a match for a Bengal Tiger. So my pick would be LSU.

Kid 1- But my pick would be Purdue because my favorite quarterback Drew Brees played there in college.

Bill- Now you got the hang of it. I'll start off. In the Lending Tree Bowl I'll take Southern Miss over Rice because former St. Amant kicker Briggs Bourgeois is still booting field goals and extra points for the Golden Eagles.

Kid 1- Okay, I'll take Tulane over USC in the Cotton Bowl and hope the Green Tidal Wave will wash away the Trojans when they try to march across the Red River.

Kid 2- But I'll pick the original USC-South Carolina in the Gator Bowl because the fighting Gamecocks will spur that Notre Dame leprechaun no matter how many Lucky Charms he has.

Kid 3- Give me Arkansas by 2 in the Liberty Bowl because they have exactly two more letters in the state's name than Kansas.

Bill- That's the spirit. In the Boca Raton Bowl, I'll take Holy Toledo-so nicknamed because it was a sanctuary for gangsters in the 20's and 30's-over not-so-holy Liberty, a private Baptist school who hired Hugh Freeze despite his escort service record at Ole Miss. Sticking with the gangsters over hypocrites in this one.

Kid 1- Interesting information-if it's all true-but a bit of a reach. I'll go back to basics with one of your earlier rules about undefeated horses and take Georgia and Michigan to win their semifinal games and meet for the National Championship. Neither one's been beaten yet.

Kid 2- If you take two, then I get two-UConn over Marshall in the Myrtle Beach Bowl and Washington over Texas in the Alamo Bowl, because they're

both teams of Huskies and that's how Uncle Bill got here tonight.

Kid 3- I'm going with my UL buddies over at Lafayette-even if Uncle Bill still calls them USL-because Cajuns are known to be able to hunt and kill and eat anything that moves. Anybody for Cougar Cochon de Lait?

Uncle Bill- Good job, gang! But if you thought my last pick was a reach, stick with me on this selection. I'll take the Utah Utes over Penn State in the Rose Bowl and here's why. In one of my favorite movies "My Cousin Vinny", Joe Pesci plays a New York lawyer summoned to a backwater Alabama town to defend his teenage cousin and his friend on murder charges.

Several times during the trial, he attempts to say, "These youths have done no wrong," but his Brooklyn dialect sounds like, "Dese Utes have done no wrong," much to the dismay of the country judge (played by Fred Gwynne or Herman Munster, as you may know him) who keeps asking "What's a Ute?". The Utes will do no wrong in Pasadena and will bring home the roses.

Kid 1- Uncle Bill, you'd better have another shot of that sugar cane whiskey as you affectionately call it. You're getting further and further out there. So I'll bring us back to earth with Oregon's Ducks over North Carolina in the Holiday Bowl as the Ducks' "Quack Attack" flies high over Carolina's Tar Heels stuck firmly on the ground.

Kid 2- I'll go with Pitt's Panthers over UCLA's Bruins-not because I think a Panther could handle a Bruin in a normal fight-it's just that Bears are hibernating this time of the year and I believe Pitt catches them sleeping.

Kid 3- In the Military Bowl I'll take the Knights of Central Florida over the Blue Devils of Duke. Come on-do you want

gallant Knights in your Military or a bunch of Blue Devils?

Uncle Bill- Wow! You kids really got into the spirit of that game. Now the fun part-what are you going to do with all that money we're going to win?

Kid 1- I'm getting a Black Bird 4K drone so I can spy on my cheerleader neighbor and her friends when they sunbathe next summer.

Bill- Now, now-I'm sure you can find some other fun things to do with a drone like locating targets inside Russia for the Ukrainians.

Kid 2- I'm going to get a new Play Station and the latest Madden College Football update so I can project the winners of all the bowl games.

Bill- Now that's smart. It never hurts to double check our system.

Kid 3- I'm buying a bunch of cappuccino and latte machines and sell overpriced coffee to people who don't drink Community black.

Bill- Very enterprising. There are lots of suckers-I mean, prospective customers- out there.

Kids- What about you, Uncle Bill? What are you going to do with your winnings?

Bill- I'm going to hire my old crop duster buddy to pull a banner with his plane with a message to all my faithful readers.

Kids- What will be on the banner, Uncle Bill?

Bill- On one side-"Peace, Love and Rock-and-Roll to Everyone!". On the other side- "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!"



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Thoughts from Bully

I Have Proof
Santa Claus
IS REAL!!!!

Oh wow! Santa Claus is coming to town. Those words used to excite me to no end and manipulate me to make all the right decisions and not to do anything wrong. Even a young 9 year old has the brain capacity to realize no one wants switches and ashes on Christmas morning and I believe that still today.

As exciting as Christmas was for me as a kid it got even better as a father and an adult.

As much fun as it was to have my son to enjoy Christmas in his very young years I couldn't wait till he was old enough to mess with and seal the deal that Santa was truly real.

We had many fun episodes and excitement and I'd like to share a few of those.

When Michael was old enough to realize and understand that we could play a trick on Santa and trick him into falling for our trap, I was really setting the trap for my son.

At a young age he and I were living in a house without a chimney. The natural question from him was, "How is Santa going to get in the house?" I simply responded he must be using the front door. "What about it being locked?" he exclaimed. Simple, Santa is magic!

After pondering the entrance of the front door I suggested that we put a big pile of Baby Powder at the base of the front door. "What would that do Dad?" When he enters he will step in it and we will see his foot prints every where he walked. Immediately, he looked at me with a smile that would light up a room. I think he ran so fast to the bathroom to get the powder he fell down shouting back at me, "I'm alright!" Then he returned and we set the trap. A giant pile of white powder covered the entrance of the front door. He then ran to the back door of the house. I asked, "What are you doing?" He replied, "Headed to the back door. He's not getting past me!"

The trap was set for both



Santa and Michael and what a trap it was. The next morning after a tiny nudge while he slept like a baby. He opened his eyes and before I could tell him Merry Christmas he jumped up and ran to the living room. Unlike most kids he didn't even look at the tree to see what gifts he had. He ran straight to the front door and then the back door.



With a giant grin on his face he said, "Santa is a front door man not a back door man." There were white powder foot prints that all over the living room going back and forth from the front door with a pile of presents all around the tree. He was so thrilled to know we caught him in the act and then it hit him to look outside to see if where the foot prints lead. Sure enough there were prints leading down the side walk and a plastic trash can at the corner of the house had its lid crushed in. He looked at the white prints on the lid and then looked to the roof. He ran into the front yard to get a better look at the roof and what to his wondering eyes should appear. There were

white baby powder foot prints on the roof. He looked at me, smiled and started spinning in the yard with hands held high screaming, "He was here, he was here!" It was a magical morning and you can never tell that boy to this day that Santa isn't real. He's 35 years old now.

The next year Christmas came along and Michael had learned a few things from me while hunting deer with putting corn out on our stands. He asked, "Dad, do reindeer eat corn?" Seizing the opportunity to educate him more about catching Santa I informed him reindeer like Fruitloops and Chex trail mix and Rudolph goes crazy over popcorn.

Since we caught Santa the year before I suggested we set a trap for the reindeer and Santa's sleigh.

We started by painting signs to place in the yard as a directional, 'Santa Land Here' with an arrow pointing the way.

admit when he ask, "Do all the reindeer like the same thing?" it caught me off guard. However I seized the moment to add a little spice to our adventure. I told him Dasher, Prancer and Cupid liked more mix than Fruitloops and Dancer, Vixen and Comet preferred more Fruitloops and a few Chex mix. Donder and Blitzen were straight Fruitloops. His next question sent us to the internet. "How do we know which deer are in which positions?" Amazing enough the internet has everything.

I then poured out some unpopped popcorn on the ground at the front and head position. Michael looked at me asking why the kernels are not popped popcorn. It was a simple answer. Rudolph likes fresh popped pop corn and when Rudolph places his magic nose to the ground the popcorn will pop and it will be hot and fresh for him. With a giant smile he poured the entire jar at the end of the landing strip.

We went inside and enjoyed all the Christmas traditions and finally I got him in bed. While sleeping Santa came again on Christmas Eve and the next morning he almost head butted me jumping out of his bed to check the landing strip.

Sure enough Santa had landed. There were skid marks in the ground where the sled had landed. The mixtures for all the deer were crunched on and munched up. The most magical thing was there was popped popcorn everywhere. Apparently when his nose touches it not only pops its spreads out at least 5 feet. There were deer hoof prints in the ground and a note thanking Michael for thinking of the deer and thanks for the cookie and milk for him. He immediately began to spin and yelling, "He was here. He was here!"

I miss those days of bringing magic to my son but the magic is set and will pass on from generation to generation.

Years later Michael and I were hunting around Christmas Day and he said, "Dad, Thanks for being the best Santa Ever."

With a heart full of pride and a tear in my eye this is proof Santa is real and Christmas dreams do come true.

Always Believe!

Then we strung Christmas light creating a landing strip for Santa to land. The landing strip included colorful pin wheels at each corner to help Santa with wind direction and wind speed. The landing strip was about 20ft. long and 4 ft. wide but had to be placed in the yard to accommodate an easy landing around the big pecan tree. Of course I had to describe to Michael that Santa would circle around the trees across the street and swoop in and land at the perfect angle we had laid the lighted landing strip.

After the lights were set it was time to bait the trap. Fruitloops and Chex mix were ready to be placed on the ground in the positions of all the deer. I must



Useless Random Facts with Kellie

•
1 in 3 men wait until Christmas Eve to do their shopping.

•
Buying all the gifts from the “12 Days of Christmas” would cost you a ton of money. The most expensive being “Swans a Swimmin” — about \$6,300.

•
When the Candy Cane was invented in Germany, it was made into a J for Jesus. The red stripes symbolize his blood.

•
It is a tradition in Japan to eat KFC for Christmas. Orders must be placed two months in advance.

•
Paul McCartney earns \$400,000 a year from his “Wonderful Christmastime” song, which is widely regarded as the worst song ever recorded.

•
Christmas trees usually grow for close to 15 years before they can be sold.

•
Toys for Tots was founded in L.A. 5,000 toys were collected during the first drive in 1947. A handmade doll was the first donation.

•
The biggest display of lights ever made is in Australia. It has 1,194,380 LEDs covering 3,865 sq. meters. David Richards has used his home to raise \$20,000 for SIDS and Kids ACT since 2011.

•
The highest grossing movie about Christmas since 1980 is Jim Carrey’s “How the Grinch Stole Christmas.” It came out November 2000 and pulled in \$260,044,825.

•
Krampus is a demonic character that wanders the streets with chains and bells looking for misbehaving children. This is one of the scariest Central European Christmas traditions.

•
The concept of caroling had nothing to do with Christmas. Medieval carols were liturgical songs in the 12th century, while traveling to different homes came from a tradition in England of wishing good fortunes to your neighbors in exchange for gifts.



Entertainment Schedule

Dec 23rd

Party at Joes

Dec 31st

Dragging in the New Year

Jan 6th

Southern Swing

Jan 14th

True Spin



Party at Joes

Dec 23rd

www.parkplaceofgonzaless.com

Jammin' with Goosie

A Path Well Traveled

From the entrance gate the first one-hundred yards of the old logging road kinda looks the same as it did some thirty years or so ago. The loggers of that time had deposited some large limestone rocks at its beginning since that portion of the road was a low lying area. That particular stretch has a very solid bottom and basically stays under water with the exception of drying up during very dry spells that occur from time to time. At times I have driven down the old road with my truck or ATV for work related issues or to fish the gravel pit at the end of the trail, but if my memory serves me correctly, I have never removed any game out of there by the use of a vehicle. Believe me when I tell you that there have been many wild creatures carried out that stretch of right of way by this old boy in the last thirty nine years. The list includes several hundred squirrels, at least fifteen or more fine gobblers, and several whitetails that I either carried, carted, or drug out in my younger days.

Paper company land at this day and time does not remain in the same form for very long. What was once a beautiful mature mix of pine and hardwood forest is now a pine tree plantation. On portions of this landscape I have had the opportunity to see this once gorgeous stand of timber harvested,

replanted in pine plantation manner, and harvested again. With this change of habitat comes a change of which species of wildlife use the land at different times of its growth. The fabulous turkey population that once inhabited that piece of property has basically disappeared with the exception of one or two of them passing through every now and then. There's a few squirrels inhabiting some small slashes of hardwood that voluntarily grew in some of the land's low lying areas that are too low for the pine trees to prosper. Rabbits and whitetails have adapted to the changes of that environment.

The approximately one mile long old access road into the leased property has changed very little in the last quarter century or so. With the exception of a few more potholes developed by some other users who can't seem to do anything without the use of a vehicle of some sort, the old trail remains the same. Without the use of motorized transportation for access it became clear to me how the game traveled on this land. It was those many walks down the old trail before, during, and after daylight that taught me how to be a successful hunter on that property. My trips up and down the old road seemed to open up new and exciting sights and scenes to my outdoor experiences. It was there that I learned to sit and wait for a gobbler that had answered me instead of continuing to go to him. It was on a foggy October morning, on my way to make a squirrel hunt, that one one



the best bucks that I've ever seen stepped out into the old road broadside at fifty yards. He nonchalantly stared at me as I put the crosshairs of my 22 rifle on his chest while wishing that it was another day and time with a larger caliber rifle. It was down this old trail that I witnessed the negative use of poisons to control predator populations. As I was walking down the road scouting for turkeys, I noticed a dead opossum, racoon, buzzard, and a blue heron. I first thought that someone had outlawed the place. I later found out that one of our club members had applied the poison to kill coyotes and bobcats. Bad move and lesson learned. Turned out that other creatures became victims also. I witnessed my first turkey fight on that old road. I even chased two trespassers down the old road one morning at the crack of dawn. I had worked all night long and had made the drive from my job to there in a mad rush. Having walked my way back there for gobbling time, I was in no mood to put up with trespassers who did not belong.

My hundreds of memories and experiences of my lifetime down that old outdoor highway are far more than I can mention here. I have fished in the gravel pit at the end of the road and although it's only ten or twelve years

old it has a good fish population. I haven't hunted that piece of property for several years now. I still have a deer stand on a pipeline off of the beaten path and I do go there once a year to either work on the stand or to retag it for club purposes. Each spring I make myself go there to scout for turkey sign. Hopefully they'll return in good numbers someday but that hasn't happened yet.

Just recently while walking back to my truck down the old road, after attending to my deer stand duties, a strange feeling came upon me. I am now beginning to accept the fact that in the not so long future that I will someday never walk down that old road again. It was a big part of my life and for me just like all of the game that I carried out of there, it's been a path well traveled.

Till next time
Walk and learn

Happy holidays to you
and yours

James "Goosie" Guice

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<p>Bacon Wrapped Stuffed Tenderloins stuffing choices: Brisket & Pepper Jack Cheese Brisket, Jalapeno & Cheese Mac n' Cheese Jalapeno & Cream Cheese Boudin & Pepper Jack Cheese Pulled Pork & Pepper Jack Cheese Glazed w/ Pepper Jelly & Brown Sugar w/ Jalapeno & Cream Cheese</p> <p>Bacon Wrapped Boneless Chicken Thighs stuffing choices: Boudin & Pepper Jack Cheese Boudin & Jalapeno Jalapeno & Cream Cheese</p> <p>Fresh Sausage Pepper Jack Cheese Jalapeno & Cheese Green Onion Cajun Green Onion Regular Italian Alligator Jalapeno & Cane Syrup Green Onion Chicken Crawfish Alligator Green Onion Alligator Jalapeno</p>	<p>Bacon Wrapped Stuffed Duck Breast stuffing choices: Mac n' Cheese Jalapeno & Cream Cheese Brisket & Pepper Jack Cheese Boudin & Pepper Jack Cheese</p> <p>Boneless Pork chops Stuffed with Boudin</p> <p>Partial De-boned Stuffed Chicken stuffing choices: Brisket & Pepper Jack Cheese Rice Dressing Red Beans & Rice Mac n' Cheese Pulled Pork & Pepper Jack Cheese Loaded Mashed Potatoes</p> <p>Smoked Sausage Pepper Jack Cheese Jalapeno & Cheese Green Onion Cajun Green Onion Regular Andouille Pineapple & Brown Sugar Alligator Crawfish Duck</p>	<p>Lagniappe Regular Boudin Pepper Jack Cheese Boudin Hoghead Cheese Smoked Andouille Shrimp Burger Patties Jalapeno Chicken Patties Green Onion Chicken Patties Boneless Chicken Tenders Boneless Skinless Chicken Thighs 80/20 Ground Beef Pre Cut Jambalaya Pork Meatloaf Hamburger Patties Pepper Jack Hamburger Patties Crawfish Cornbread</p> <p>Gumbos & Stews Seafood Gumbo (gallon or quart) Chicken & Sausage Gumbo (gallon or quart) Shrimp Stew (quart) Shrimp Etouffee (quart) Chicken Sauce Picante (quart) Pork Sauce Picante (quart) Crawfish Stew (quart/seasonal)</p>
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Cooking Instructions

Bacon Wrapped Chicken Thighs
Completely thaw and place on a sheet pan. Do not cover. Preheat oven to 350. Cook for approximately 60-90 min or until internal temperature is at 155.

Boneless Stuffed Pork Chops
Completely thaw and place on a sheet pan. Do not cover. Preheat oven to 350. Cook for approximately 45 min or until internal temperature is at 155.

Crawfish Cornbread
Completely thaw and place in oven. Do not cover. Preheat oven to 350. Cook for approximately 30-45 min or until golden brown.

Bacon Wrapped Tenderloins
Bacon Wrapped Duck Breast
Completely thaw and place on a sheet pan. Do not cover. Preheat oven to 350. Cook for approximately 60-90 min or until internal temperature is at 155.

Partial De-boned Stuffed Chicken
Completely thaw and place on a sheet pan. Do not cover. Preheat oven to 350. Cook for approximately 60-90 min or until internal temperature is at 155.

Bacon Wrapped Chicken Thighs
Completely thaw and place on a sheet pan. Do not cover. Preheat oven to 350. Cook for approximately 60-90 min or until internal temperature is at 155.



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Monday thru Friday: 8am-2pm



East Ascension Sportsman's League

Letter from president - Mike Lambert

Well another year has gone by. It has been a little rough going, but the club is going to keep on going. Last year, was the first full year after the Covid pandemic and people are finally getting back to normal. At our November meeting, as the past November meetings for many years, we enjoyed a great

gumbo supper provided by the Gautreaux family. The Gautreaux family has been a big part of the Sportsman's League for a long, long time. I think my grandfather Yep, was a founding member. The meal was prepared by Perry Berteau and Richard Gautreaux and was enjoyed by a good crowd.

We took nominations from the floor for next years officers and board members. I am proud to say we will have three new board members. Mr. Thad Bellow,

Mr. Greg Cedatol, and Mr. Richard Gautreaux. They will be sworn in at the December 19th meeting. We will have a turkey dinner with all the trimmings.

Next year, we will be going from a meeting every month to a quarterly meeting. These will be held on the 3rd Monday night of the months March, June, September, and December at 7:00 PM at Cabela's.

The Sportsman's League presented a \$500.00 donation to the Ascension 4-H Foundation. This money is to support the youth shooting sports, which include air rifles and bow and arrow. These kids participate in regional, state, and national events and have won many awards. We are proud to support such outdoor activities in our area. In the picture you will see some of the instructors and a couple of the 4-H shooting team. They are Nathan Debenedetto, Thad



Bellow, Greg Cole, Aidan Cole, and Dan Debenedetto. Presenting the check to Thad, is Vice President Herb Finnerty and President Mike Lambert. The Sportsman's League wish the Ascension 4-H Foundation all the best for next year.

Before I end this letter, I would like to recognize the officers and board members of the East Ascension Sportsman's League for the year 2022:

1st Vice President Herb Finnerty
2nd Vice President Charlie Moore
Membership Chairman Warren Hebert
Secretary Barney Callahan
Treasurer Goosie Guice

Board Members: Darlene Bourgeois, Marcia Jimmerson, Francis Gautreaux, Lyle Johnson, and our kids fishing rodeo chairperson Bettye Lambert. Also, thanks to all the people who help out throughout the year. I thank all y'all from the bottom of my heart. Also, the Ascension Magazine for their help. And Cabela's for letting us use their facilities.

Merry Christmas to everyone and a Happy New Year!

Thanks for your time,

Mike Lambert

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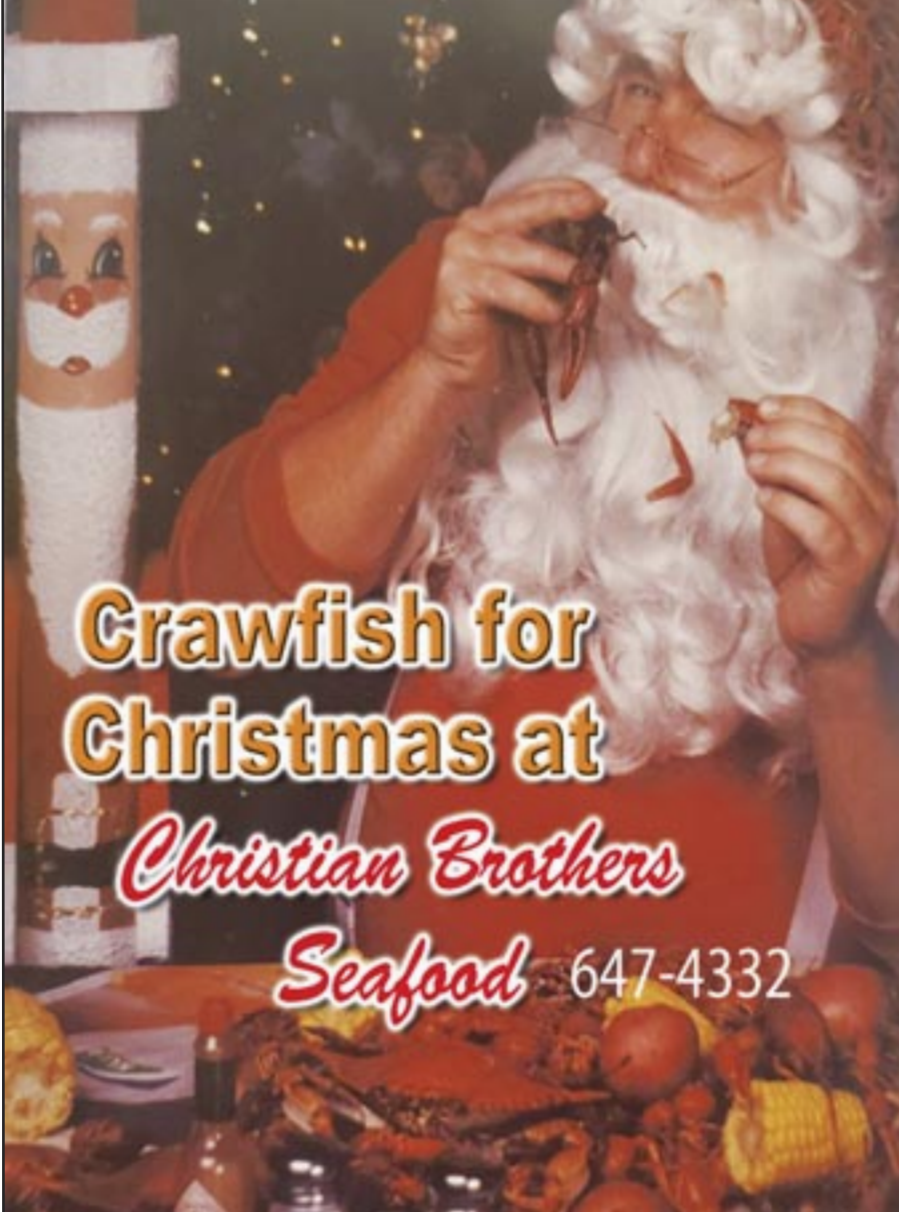
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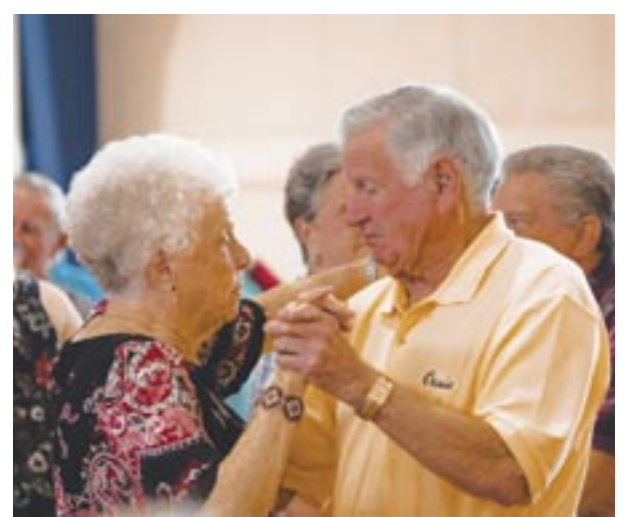
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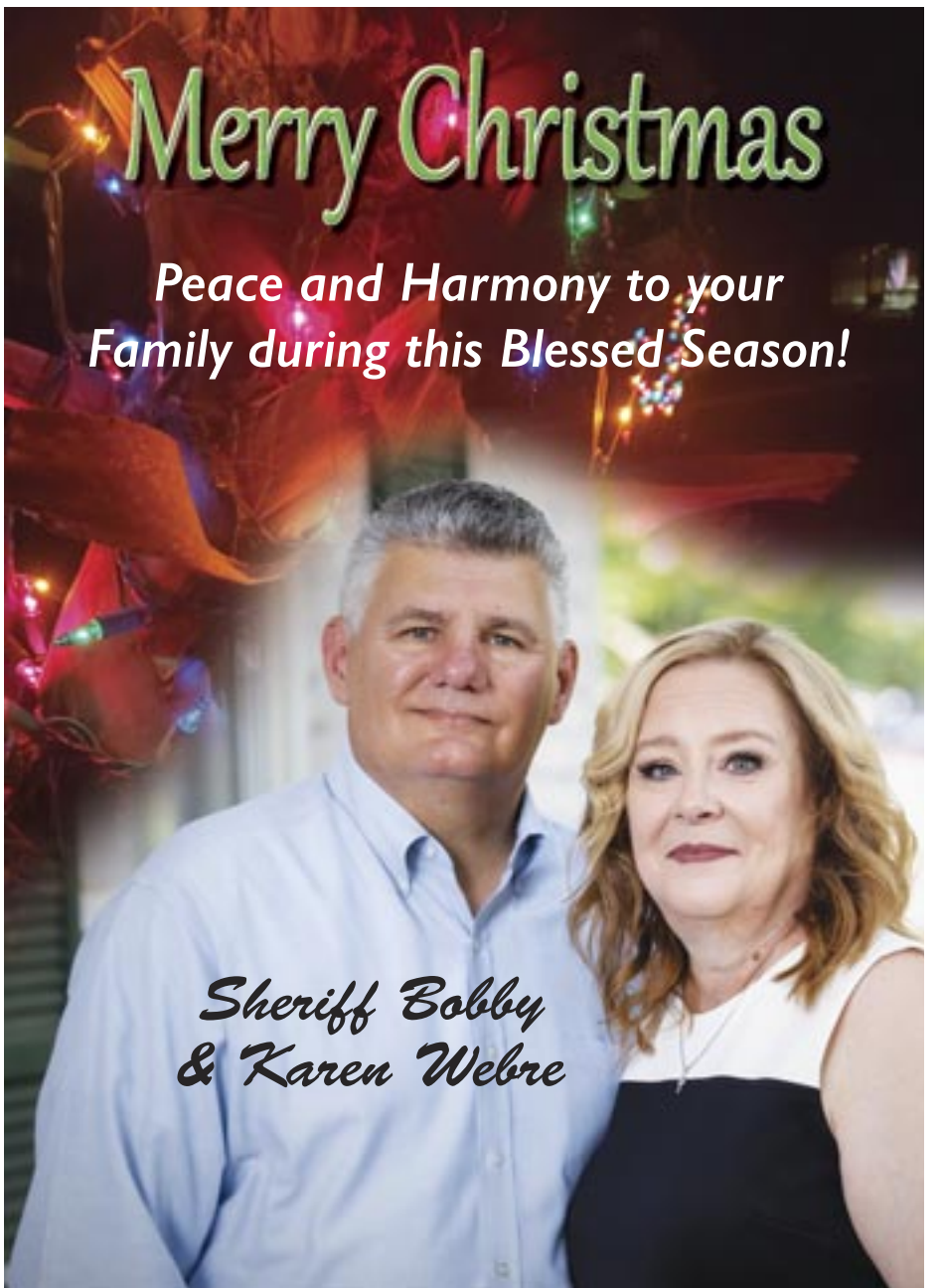
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HOLIDAY THEFT PREVENTION



PROTECT FROM PACKAGE THIEVES

Monitor when your packages are expected to arrive and don't leave them on your porch or in your mailbox. Sign up for delivery notifications. If possible, ship your packages to your workplace or have a neighbor who is home during the day collect your packages for safekeeping.

PROTECT FROM CAR BURGLARS

Keep the interior of your vehicle clean. Never leave gifts or shopping bags in plain sight. Lock valuables in your trunk or remove them before exiting your vehicle. Remove all gifts and items of value from the vehicle when leaving it overnight.





PROTECT FROM HOME BURGLARS

A Christmas tree in your front window is an invitation to a burglar. Set up your tree in a location not easily seen by passersby or cover your windows with blinds/curtains overnight and while you are away from your home. Another option is to wait to put presents under the tree until it's time to unwrap them.

PROTECT FROM HOME BURGLARS

After presents are opened, break down all boxes and place in the garbage or recycling. If packaging is too big to fit in the receptacles, drop it off at the dump. Do not leave packaging materials outside your home for garbage collection. Leaving a box for a brand new TV, or other gifts, outside your home alerts thieves to high-dollar items inside and puts you at an increased risk of a home burglary.





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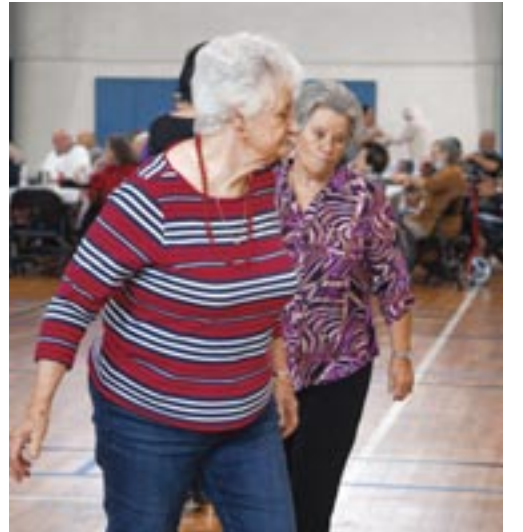
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Baked Brie Louisianne



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Prep Time:
20 minutes

Cook Time:
5 minutes

Servings:
4 servings

Ingredients:

(1) Brie Wheel	8 oz
Pecan Pieces	½ oz
Golden Raisins	½ oz
Purple Raisins.	½ oz
Honey	1 oz
Steen's Cane Syrup	1 oz
Butter	14 oz

Instructions:

First remove the white film from the brie by scraping it with the back of a butter knife. Score the brie wheel with a chef knife four times diagonally. Preheat oven to 500 degrees. In a large sauté pan over medium heat melt the butter until slightly brown, then add pecan pieces and sauté for a minute, then add both raisins and sauté another minute. Add both honey and Steen's to the pan and allow to simmer over low heat about five minutes. Remove from heat and season with salt and pepper to taste. Pour raisin and pecan topping over brie wheel and place in oven for ten minutes on a baking sheet. Remove from oven and serve over warm bread or crackers.

'Tis the Season!

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ALL THE FEELS

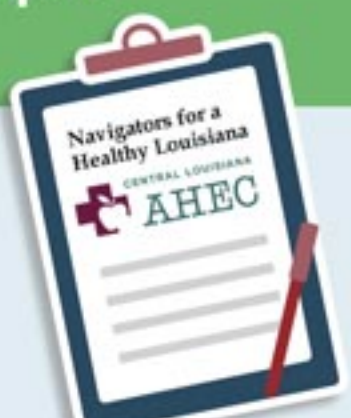

2023 Winter Reading Challenge

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