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MAY 2025, VOL. 23 ISSUE 5



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Senior Day on the River @ Fred's

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Band Schedule

May 23 – ON-TAP Band 9-12

24 – Shane Madere Jr. Trio 2-5pm

No cover charge

24 – Peyton Falgoust Band 9-12

25 – PBR Plus Band 3-7pm

25 – DJ Trebble 9-2

26 – Memorial Day BASH 2-7pm

Enuf Band with Zydeco

Mike, Chris LeBlanc,

Chase Tyler, Jason

Broussard & Don Rich

29 – Taylor Rae Duo 7-10

No Cover

30 – Thomas Cain Band 9-12

31 – Spank the monkey 9-1

June 1 - Junior Lacrosse and

Sumtin' Sneaky 3-7

5 – Aaron Day 7-10 No cover

6 – Taylor Nauta Band 9-12

7 – True Spin 9-1

8 – Enuf Band 3-7

12- Trey Morgan 7-10

No cover

13 – Chris Prior & Main Event 9-1

14 – Chris Leblanc band &

Zydeco Mike 9-1

15 – Half Price Band 3-7

19 – TBD No cover

20 – Ransakk Band 9-12

21 – Party @ Joes band 9-1

22- T-Boy & Just us Band 3-7

Memorial Day Bash May 26th 2-7pm

Enuf Band with Zydeco Mike, Chris LeBlanc, Chase Tyler,

Jason Broussard & Don Rich



Pat Michel

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From the Gonzales Garden Club



Club members attending were Razzie Cagnolatti, Dale Bowman, Raakhee Malani, Gwen Heck, Barbara McCormick, Kathy Guidry, Paola DiNatale, Jamie Trisler, Conchita Richey, Ellen Posey, Marilyn Rice, Flo Hernandez, Janis Poche, Janis D'Benedetto, Phyllis Charrier, Patti Mouton, Zanna Brewer and Angelle Croman (not pictured).

Closing the Garden Club Year

The final meeting of the Gonzales Garden Club 2024-25 season was held at the Clarion Inn on May 7. The agenda listed President's Remarks, Officers' Reports, Committee Reports, Installation of Officers, and Recognitions.

President Jamie Trisler began by thanking each member in attendance with personal comments of their contributions to the club. She installed 2025-26 officers with acknowledgements of six past officers who are continuing in their positions. She presented each officer with a pink long-stem rose, each adorned

with a different ribbon color symbolizing the job's responsibilities. Jamie assumed the role of Past President as Flo Hernandez was elected President. Marilyn Rice presented the club's now Past President with a grapevine wreath that she made in gratitude for Jamie's eight years of leadership.

Janis D'Benedetto received a service pin for her ten years of membership. Janis Poche, Flo Hernandez and Patti Mouton received monetary prizes for their winning entries in the club's April flower show. Dale Bowman, Janis D'Benedetto, Raakhee Malani and Patti



Janis Poche, Jamie Trisler, Conchita Richey and Ellen Posey are past club presidents.



Officers for the GGC are Parliamentarian Barbara McCormick, Historian Patti Mouton, Corresponding Secretary Janis D'Benedetto, Past President Jamie Trisler, President Flo Hernandez, Vice President Janis Poche, Treasurer Razzie Cagnolatti and Recording Secretary Dana Teepell (not pictured).

Mouton were recognized for perfect attendance. Marilyn Rice reported the club's contribution to the Louisiana Garden Club Federation (LGCF) Blue Star Marker Program. Conchita Richey announced that the club received awards from LGCF for Garden Club Achievement, Horticulture Honor Roll, Special Conservation of Louisiana Native Plants, and Arbor Day Commemoration.

Members identified highlights of the year by recounting Janis' floral design



Janis Poche's arrangement, "Spring is Here", won best floral design at the club's flower show on April 2.



Patti Mouton's amaryllis (pictured before cutting) was the favorite among the horticulture specimens.



Flo Hernandez's "Living Wreath" was the People's Choice for container plant winner at the Garden Inspiration Exhibit.

demonstration, the Beaver's Abundance visit, the Living Wreath presentation, Dr. Owings' Super Plant presentation, the LGCF District Meeting, the Christmas party, Garden Inspiration Exhibit, meetings at Phyllis' and Dale's homes, lunch at Diversion Pizza and the plant/bake sale. The club's last project for this fiscal year will be Proclamation of National Garden Week at City Hall on June 2.

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

Garden Club Yards of the Month



Homeowners Jake and Jacey Lambert on Babin Rd won Residential Yard of the Month for May. Their garden offers a gorgeous blooming display of numerous flower beds surrounding the sides and front of the home. Coral drift roses, snapdragons, dianthus, knock out roses, and a mix of shrubs highlight the beds.

Joie de Vie SALON

Amber Tullier

Amber graduated from Denham Springs beauty school in 2016 and has been at Joie De Vie for 8 years.

She specializes in highlights, extensions, makeup and special occasion styles. Her favorite part of being a stylist is making her clients feel special.

When she is not working you can find her running after her two young boys and spending time with family and friends.

"If you are not willing to learn, no one can help you. If you are determined to learn, no one can stop you"



The Whataburger Restaurant at 840 N. Airline Hwy was chosen as May's Commercial Landscape of the Month. This site offers an abundance of bright knock out roses that surround a flagpole and extend across the entire front of the building. The display draws the eye to the establishment, adding lots of color and low maintenance.

622.5085 • 44253 Hwy. 42 (1 mile from Port Vincent)

Get Growing, Ascension!

Summer Lawn Care

Keep lawn care simple this summer. To build a dense, healthy lawn avoid removing more than the top 1/3 of the leaf blade when mowing.

St. Augustine grass should be mowed to a height of 2.5 – 3 inches, while centipede grass should be mowed to a height of 1.5 – 2 inches. Mow every five to seven days or less frequently during drought conditions.

Prevent unsightly damage to your lawn from overlay. Overlay occurs when grass clippings form unsightly clumps as you mow. These clumps can discolor your turf, lead to increased disease pressure



Mariah Simoneaux

and promote thatch, a layer of living and dead grass plant parts and pieces located between the soil surface and the green vegetation. To avoid overlay, use a well-designed mulching mower and follow the 1/3 rule.

A properly fertilized lawn is more resistant to weeds and other pests. Fertilizers supply essential nutrients to the turfgrass for proper growth and development. Always have your soil tested before applying any fertilizer and follow soil test recommendations for proper fertility. It is important to

consider irrigation timing or potential rainfall because water can affect the release of nutrients, rate of leaching and runoff. In general, fertilizer is more effectively used by turfgrass if it is applied more frequently in small amounts as opposed to being applied less frequently in large amounts. Most fertilizers should be applied from midspring to midsummer when turfgrass is actively growing. Never apply more than 1 pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet for each application.

Use a rain gauge to monitor weekly rainfall and determine if additional watering is necessary. If it is needed, irrigate in the morning when temperatures are cooler. This allows the plant to store the water and use it throughout the heat of the day. Watering in the morning also helps to reduce disease pressure. For best results wet the soil to a depth of four to six inches. St. Augustine, centipede, and bermudagrass lawns typically require 1 – 1.25 inches of

water each week.

Scout for insects and signs of disease regularly, both are easier to treat when identified early. Homeowners who apply any type of pesticide during the summer months should take time to read the label thoroughly and follow all instructions. Be aware of any temperature restrictions that may be noted on the label to avoid burning your lawn and causing even more damage. For additional information and more information on all these topics download a copy of the “Louisiana Lawns Best Management Practices” publication available free of charge from the LSU AgCenter website.

Mariah Simoneaux is the Horticulture Extension Agent serving Ascension Parish. For more information visit www.LSUAgCenter.com or contact Mariah at (225) 621-5799 or MJSimoneaux@agcenter.LSU.edu.



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YOUR ESTATE MATTERS



Why “I’ll Get to It Later” Can Cost You Everything

By Linda Melancon

May is National Elder Law Month—a time when we pause to think about the choices we make as we age and how those decisions, or lack thereof, affect our independence. At our firm, we use this month to remind people that planning ahead is not just smart—it’s empowering. It allows you to remain in control of your life, even if one day you’re no longer able to speak for yourself.

Let me tell you about Mr. Henry. He’s not a real person, but his story reflects what we see all too often. Henry was 76, a retired contractor who still drove his pickup around town and walked his terrier Max twice a day. He prided himself on doing things on his own. But his daughter, Emily, noticed things slipping. He’d repeat himself often, forget where he’d parked, and once left the oven on all night. Then came the check—\$10,000 made out to a new “friend” who had recently started stopping by. That’s when the family realized they needed help.

Before Emily and her siblings could take any steps, a neighbor who Henry had been friends with for

many years filed for interdiction, claiming Henry couldn’t manage his affairs. Suddenly, Henry’s future was in the hands of a judge. Emily was distraught. Henry was confused and humiliated. The legal system had to determine if this man, who’d been independent his whole life, should lose his right to make decisions about his health, his money, and even whether he could live at home.

In Louisiana, interdiction is the legal process used to declare an adult incapable of caring for themselves or their property. It’s sometimes called the “civil death penalty” because of what’s at stake—basic rights are taken away, and someone else, a court-appointed curator, steps in to make decisions. That curator might be a family member, or it could be someone Henry barely knows. The process is expensive, stressful, and usually very public. Expenses for court costs, attorneys, and medical evaluations can add up quickly. Even in uncontested cases, families often spend thousands just to get through the system.

What many people don’t realize is that Henry’s situation could have been avoided. If he had signed a power of attorney while he was still competent—before his memory began to slip—he could’ve chosen who would step in to help him when needed. That one document, done at the right time, might have saved him and his family months of legal battles and significant financial strain.

This is why early planning matters so much. When someone still has capacity—meaning they understand the nature of what they’re signing—they can execute a financial power of attorney, a

medical power of attorney, and other tools that legally name someone they trust to act on their behalf. These documents are far less costly and stressful than going through interdiction proceedings and can often prevent the need for one entirely. Unfortunately, once someone crosses that fine legal line where they’re no longer considered cognitively capable, it’s too late to sign anything, even with good intentions.

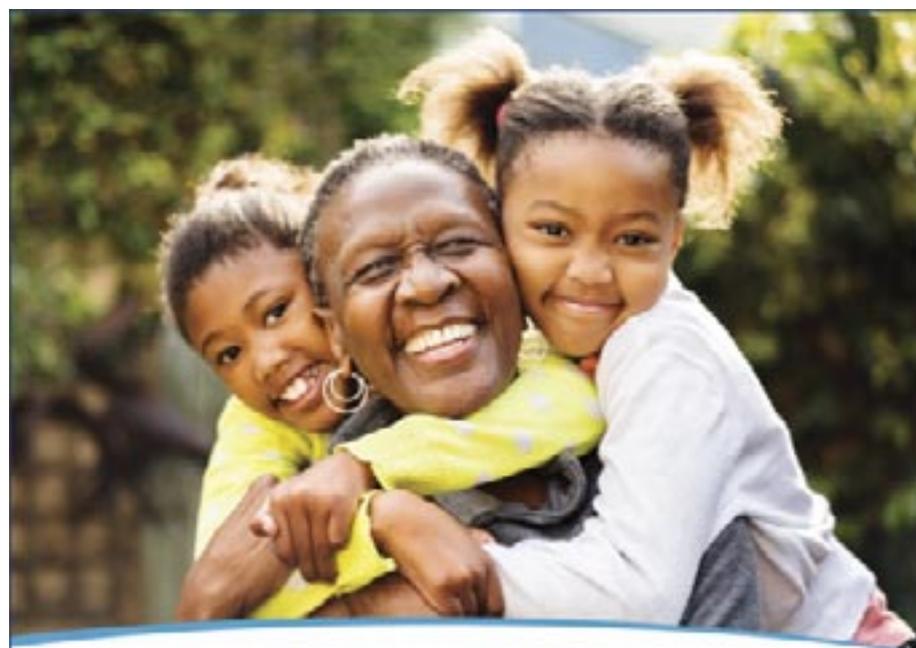
We’ve seen this happen too many times. During National Elder Law Month, we want to shift that pattern. It’s not about scaring people—it’s about empowering them. No one should find themselves in Henry’s shoes, at the mercy of the court or the intentions of others, simply because they assumed they’d have more time. Planning ahead isn’t giving up control, it’s protecting it. It’s making your wishes known and putting

legal structures in place while you still have the voice to do so. It’s a gift to your family and peace of mind for yourself.

Henry’s story had a resolution, but it came at a cost. Yours doesn’t have to. Take this opportunity to look ahead and talk to a qualified elder law attorney about how to make sure your future stays in your hands.

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

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



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Beat the Brass + Save Your Skin

I just got back from a long vacation on the island, St. Barthelemy; between the salt water (so intense it was in the air immensely) and intense UV rays, I had to be super mindful of a constant habit of body and hair protection. So, as we embark on the summer months, its time for another switch step on how we care for our skin and hair. Here's a few ways I did it!

Banish Brass + Defeat Dryness

R+Co SUN CATCHER Power C Boosting Leave-In Conditioner

I have a client that started carrying all R+Co products. Now, I can see why! These products provide beautiful hair and smells amazing!

Their Power C Leave in conditioner does it all: detangles, hydrates, strengthens, and offers UV protection thanks to its potent blend of vitamin C, hyaluronic acid, and coconut oil. Use it before the beach, pool, or any outdoor activity to protect your color and prevent dryness.

R+Co Sunset Blvd Blonde Shampoo & Conditioner

This toning duo is a game changer for blondes and silver strands. It eliminates brassiness without over-drying, thanks to its gentle formula with natural mineral pigments and botanical extracts.

Oribe Bright Blonde Essential Priming Serum

A little goes a long way with this multitasking serum that tones, brightens, and protects

blonde hair from UV rays, pollution, and heat. It also seals split ends and smooths the cuticle to leave your hair shiny and soft without weighing it down. Apply before styling or heading into the sun to help preserve your blonde brilliance.

Bumble and Bumble Hairdresser's Invisible Oil Primer

You can't go wrong with this cult classic. It's a leave-in that protects against heat and UV, while taming frizz and adding shine. Mist it on wet hair before you hit the beach—or before you style—for softness that lasts all day. I like to spray this primer and pull my hair back into a pony or a low bun for extra sun protection!

Sun Protection and Post Sun Care

Caudalie Vinosun SPF 50 Lightweight High Protection Spray

This French favorite is a go-to for clean, non-greasy sun protection. It offers broad-spectrum UVA/UVB defense with antioxidant-rich grape polyphenols to fight free radicals and sun damage. It absorbs quickly, works well under makeup, and leaves no white cast—perfect for face and body. Bonus: it's reef-safe and smells like a vineyard vacation.

Sun Bum Cool Down After-Sun Spray

This is a beach bag must-have. The ultra-fine mist cools your skin at application using aloe and cucumber extract, and absorbs quickly—no rubbing required. It's perfect for that quick refresh after a day in the sun or if your skin's feeling hot and tight. Highly recommend!

Incorporate these products into your daily routine during the summer months to prevent damage and maintain healthy hair and skin.

So, moving forward, remember to stay hydrated, wear your hats, but also embrace the summer with confidence!

Sweet EyesXOXO,
Sweet Eyes





Thank You for Joining Us at Our Elevating Excellence Spring Open House!



On May 9, 2025, our Baton Rouge location came alive with energy, excitement, and the smiling faces of our incredible patients and community members at the Elevating Excellence Spring Open House. We were thrilled to welcome everyone through our doors for an afternoon filled with celebration, connection, and a behind-the-scenes look at the personalized care that defines Z Dermatology.



From exclusive giveaways and live demonstrations to one-on-one time with Dr. Z and our expert team, the event was a wonderful opportunity to share our passion for excellence in aesthetic care. We loved seeing so many familiar faces — and welcoming new ones — as we showcased the innovative treatments and services that help our patients look and feel their best.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who came out to support us. Your enthusiasm and trust mean the world to us, and we're so grateful to be part of your skincare journey.

Dr. Z and the Z Dermatology Team





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A very rare diagnosis was given to our friend and fellow Gator and the community couldn't wait to do what they could and give to help this family.

Ewing's Sarcoma is a rare bone cancer that only effects around 250 people in the United States per St. Amant, LA. He attended Lake Elementary K-8th grade and St. Amant High School. He attended and graduated from Southeastern University and was apart of Delta Tau Delta. He will have an aggressive treatment plan thai will last at least a year. All proceeds will help offset medical expenses.



If you missed the event and want to help you can send donations to the Venmo QR Code.



Congratulation Jambalaya Cooks.
Justin 'Big Cat' Courville ... 1st place
Kirk Elisa's 2nd place
Damon Blue 3rd place



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- Mike Broussard Jr.
- Aaron Day
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Is Your Child Struggling to Produce Single Words?

Maybe that's not so bad! I know, this sounds totally backwards... But let me explain! There are two main theories for how children learn and develop language: analytic language development and gestalt language development. Let's talk about them!

Analytic Language Learners...

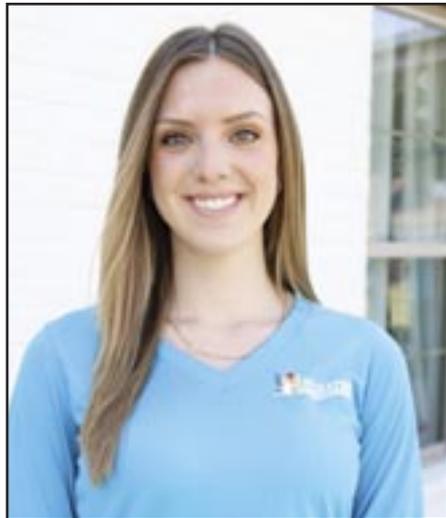
will first learn single words, followed by two-word phrases, and eventually they will produce multi-word sentences. For example, a child will learn to say "milk" * "more milk" * "more milk please." These children process words as single units BEFORE learning how to combine those units into sentences!

Gestalt Language Learners...

will begin by learning gestalts, or chunks of language, and later learn to break down those gestalts to form original phrases. These "chunks" could be phrases overheard from a teacher, movie quotes, a line from a commercial...the possibilities are endless! These children process words as single units AFTER learning them in chunks!

How do Gestalt Language Learners develop language?

A gestalt language processor will first communicate by repeating longer strings of



Shelby Jackson,
M.A., L^OSLP, CCC-SLP, CLC

words, or gestalts. They will then learn to break apart and "mix and match" those gestalts to form new phrases. The next step is to isolate single words and combine them with other single words, and from there, we begin to see more complex, grammatical utterances emerge. Here we can see that the use of single words occurs at a later stage of development

than in analytic language learners, and this is not a bad thing!

This Sounds Familiar...

Maybe your child babbles strings of words that are difficult or impossible to understand. Maybe they use one phrase for a variety of purposes. Maybe they sing nursery rhymes, songs, or movie intros to communicate while playing, or simply repeat what is said to them. Maybe they do all these things! Whatever the case may be, it's all part of their language development! Here's how you can support them:

Play with them! Children learn best when playing, so be sure to provide plenty of language input during play!

Model functional language! Try using phrases such as "Let's go to the car," "Time for school," or "This is so fun!" throughout the day to apply language to our everyday tasks!

Meet them where they are! No matter what level they are communicating at, it's important to remember that they are LEARNING!



If you believe your child may be a gestalt language learner, an evaluation with one of our speech-language pathologists could be the key to understanding and expanding their communication abilities! Through a play-based, multisensory approach, our therapists are able to continuously monitor and expand your child's language while aiding parents in supporting their children along the way!



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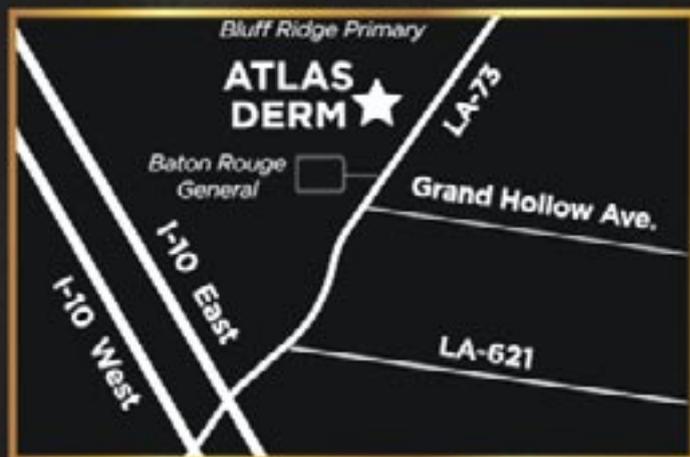


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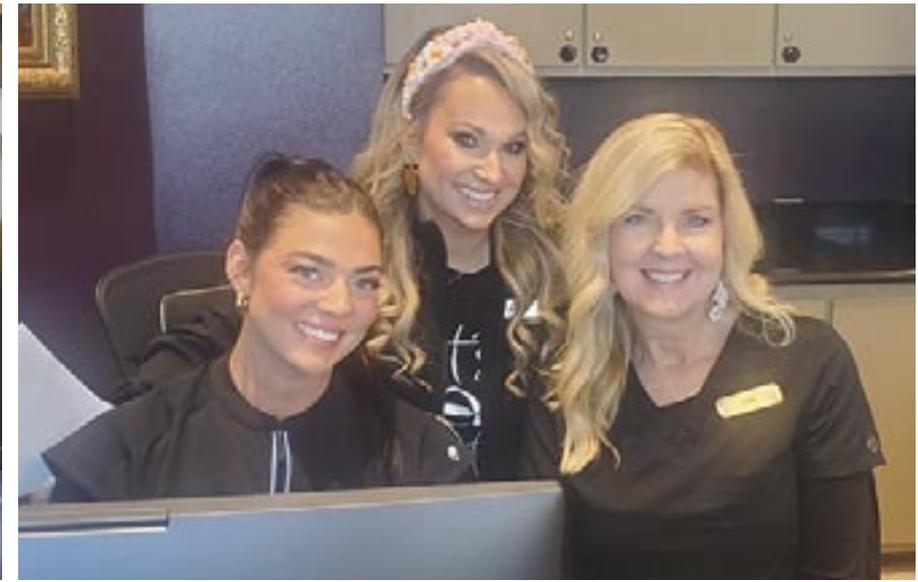
Atmos Entergy Hosted a Jambalaya, White Beans, Fish & Sweet Treats for Our First Responders



A BIG THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE







Cooks sign up for 2025 Jambalaya Festival

FINANCIAL FOCUS

Should you pay off debts or invest?

Some financial decisions can be challenging — like whether to use your money to reduce your debt or to invest. If you already have a significant amount of debt and not a lot in savings or investments, it can be hard to figure out which issue should be a priority.

There's no simple answer, and everyone's situation is different, but here are a few suggestions for helping you make a good choice:

- *Evaluate your cash flow.* If you already have enough after-tax income to meet your monthly living expenses, you might lean toward investing any leftover cash, but if you are just getting by, possibly due to heavy debt payments, then you might be better off using your funds to reduce your debt load.

- *Build an emergency fund.* Paying off your debt as fast as possible may seem like the

responsible thing to do, but not having an adequate emergency fund or saving for your future could leave your finances at a permanent disadvantage. It's a good move to have an emergency fund containing three to six months' worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account. Once you have such a fund, you could use it, instead of going into debt — or adding to your debt — to pay for unexpected costs, such as a new furnace or a major car repair.

- *Evaluate your debts.* Some of your debts are actually more "expensive" to you than others. This expense level doesn't necessarily refer to the size of the debt, however. You might have a large mortgage, for instance, but because your interest payments are typically tax deductible, your "after-tax" interest rate may be relatively modest. Therefore, you might consider investing rather than paying down your mortgage. But if you have consumer loans or credit cards that carry a high interest rate and whose interest payments are not deductible, you

might be better off paying down or refinancing this debt.

- *Take advantage of any employer match.* If your employer sponsors a retirement plan and offers a match, you will want to prioritize contributing at least what is required to receive the match. It's essentially free money. So, if your employer matches up to 3% of your contributions, for example, you should contribute at least 3% of your income to this retirement account. Additionally, some employers will match a portion of your contributions to a Health Savings Account. Eventually, you'll likely want to get to a point of saving more than just the

match, but you'll have to weigh the benefit of additional contributions against the cost of any debt you're carrying.

- *Make it easier on yourself.* To make achieving these goals easier, automate as much as you can. For example, you can divert part of your paycheck into an emergency savings account or a retirement account through automatic payments for any debt reduction or savings needs.

While it may seem like a huge endeavor to pay off your debt while still saving for the future, it doesn't have to be. Taking small, incremental steps is key to helping you get to where you want to go.

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Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Jamie Lavigne,
Financial Advisor

516 Moore St., Suite 103 • Baton Rouge, LA 70806

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A black and white dog is lying on a brown carpet, looking towards the camera. A speech bubble above the dog contains text.

Hey Dr. Rob!
Am I cute enough
for you to be my
doctor?

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An advertisement for Black Bayou Lending. The background is a tropical sunset with palm trees. The text is stylized and colorful.

*Dream Vacations
Come True!
at Black Bayou Lending*

Call Tessa

The logo for Black Bayou Lending, featuring a stylized 'BB' with a palm tree in the center, above the words 'BLACK BAYOU LENDING' in a bold, serif font.

225-743-3739 • email tessa@bblending.net • Monday-Friday 8:30am 5:00pm

Jambalaya Festival

The 58th Annual Gonzales Jambalaya Festival at Lamar Dixon Expo Center May 22nd-25th, 2025

Get ready for a weekend packed with excitement and entertainment at the Jambalaya Festival! From the moment you arrive, you'll be immersed in a lively atmosphere filled with thrilling carnival rides, engaging games, and vibrant live music that will keep you dancing all day long. Don't miss the exhilarating Jambalaya Cook-off, where top cooks compete to create the most mouthwatering jambalaya, and you get to savor the results! Enjoy a variety of food vendors offering delicious local cuisine, browse through unique arts and crafts, and take part in fun activities for all ages. With so much to see and do, the Jambalaya Festival promises an unforgettable experience for the whole family.

Come join the celebration and make lasting memories with us!

Thursday Free Entry
Friday Entry \$5
Saturday \$10
Sunday \$5
Week End Pass \$15

Jambalaya Cook Off

Discover the heart of our festival at the Jambalaya Cook-off, where skilled cooks compete to create the best jambalaya you've ever tasted! Visit our Jambalaya Cook-off page for details on the competition, contestant information, and how you can join the fun as a taster or a participant.

Car Show

Rev up your engines and admire a stunning collection of classic and custom cars at the Jambalaya Festival Car Show! Head over to our Car Show page for information on registration, event timing, and how you can showcase your vehicle or simply enjoy the spectacular display

Vendors

Explore a diverse array of vendors at the Jambalaya Festival, offering everything from delicious food to unique crafts and local merchandise! Visit our Vendors page for a complete list of participants, booth locations, and how you can become a vendor at this year's festival.

Our Fun Run

Lace up your running shoes and join us for the Jambalaya Festival 5K/1K Fun Run, a perfect way to kick off the festivities with some active fun! Check out our Fun Run page for registration details, race times, and everything you need to know to participate in this exciting event. Go to Jambalayafestival.net.



[Go to Jambalayafestival.net](http://Jambalayafestival.net)
For additional information

JAMBALAYA FESTIVAL
presents 2025
MITCHELL BROTHERS AMUSEMENT
CARNIVAL

LAMAR DIXON EXPO CENTER
9039 S SAINT LANDRY AVE • GONZALES
MAY 22-25
THUR. 5PM-10PM \$25 BRACELET • FRI. 5PM-10PM \$30 BRACELET
SAT. 11AM-10PM \$30 BRACELET • SUN. 11AM-10PM \$30 BRACELET





Car Show

Saturday, May 24

Lamar Dixon Expo Center
 registration at 7am
 show from 8-12
 awards to follow

\$30 ENTRY FEE

9039 St Landry Ave • Gonzales La 70737
 Contact Edmond Rouyea • 225.405.0628

GONZALES
 JAMBALAYA FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION



Event Map



2025 JAMBALAYA FESTIVAL

EASTON CORBIN

MAY 24TH 2025 @ 9:30PM
 Lamar Dixon-Expo Center

Traffic Map





We are Going to Party like it's 1969!!

**Good Luck to
Our Cooks
Justin & John
Courville**

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58TH ANNUAL GONZALES JAMBALAYA FESTIVAL

EVENT SCHEDULE

FESTIVAL GROUNDS: Lamar Dixon Expo Center, Gonzales, LA



ENTRY FEES:

Thursday, May 22 - Free
Saturday, May 24 - \$10
Weekend Pass - \$15
 ** Children 12 yr. and under - Free entry

Friday, May 23 - \$5
Sunday, May 25 - \$5
Parking - Free

Weekend Camping Site (Thur. – Mon.) - \$280 (30 amp), \$360 (50 amp)
Festival Grounds opens: 7:30 am – each day

BANDS

FRIDAY, MAY 23

MAIN FESTIVAL STAGE (REV Building)
 The Adam Leger Band 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm
 Trey Gallman 8:30 pm - 11:00 pm

SWAMP POP STAGE (Trade Mart Building)
 Chris LeBlanc 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
 Ryan Foret & Foret Tradition 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm

SATURDAY, MAY 24

MAIN FESTIVAL STAGE (REV Building)
 Local Entertainment (TBD) 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm
 Thomas Cain 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm
Announce Champ of Champ & Top 32 Semi-finalists 6:30 pm - 7:45 pm
 Ben Ragsdale 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm
EASTON CORBIN 9:30 pm - 11:00 pm

SWAMP POP STAGE (Trade Mart Building)
 Trent Bourgeois & Fly By Night Band 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm
 Kyle Wilson 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm
 T-Boy Moore & Just Us 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
 Justin Cornett Band 7:30 pm - 10:00 pm

SUNDAY, MAY 25

MAIN FESTIVAL STAGE (REV Building)
 Local Entertainment (TBD) 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm
 Lauren Lee Band 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm
 Clancey Stewart (Sabine Freestate Festival) - National Anthem
2025 World Champion Announcement 6:30 pm - 7:15 pm
Party at Joe's 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

SWAMP POP STAGE (Trade Mart Building)
 Grayland Templet 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
 Backstreet Band 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm
 Mike & Steve Broussard & Nite Train 7:00 pm - 9:30 pm

5K & 1 MILE RUN

SATURDAY, MAY 24

Registration 7:00 am
 1 Mile Fun Run 8:00 am
 5K Run Start 8:30 am
 Awards to follow

VENDOR BOOTHS

FRIDAY, MAY 23 – SUNDAY, MAY 25

Gates open @ 7:30 am each day

COOKING CONTEST

FRIDAY, MAY 23

Heats 1-4: 8:00 am | 9:45 am | 1:15 pm | 2:30 pm
 Mini-Pot Champ of Champs: 6:00 pm

SATURDAY, MAY 24

Heats 5 - 7: 8:00 am | 9:15 am | 12:45 pm
 Semi-finalists announced at 6:30 pm

Champ of Champs 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm
 Champ of Champs Winner announced at 6:30 pm

Mini-Pot Cooking Contest 7:00 am - 11:00 am
JR. Cooking Contest (12-17yr) 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
 ** 5# rice on propane burner

SUNDAY, MAY 25

Semi-finals 6:00 am - 10:00 am
 Finalists announced at 12:00 pm

Finals 1:30 pm - 5:00 pm
 World Champion announced 6:30 pm - 7:15 pm

CARNIVAL

Thursday, MAY 22 - SUNDAY, MAY 25

5:00 pm - 10:00 pm (Thursday)
 Pay one price of \$25
 5:00 pm - 10:00 pm (Friday)
 Pay one price of \$30
 11:00 am - 10:00 pm (Saturday)
 Pay one price of \$30
 11:00 am - 10:00 pm (Sunday)
 Pay one price of \$30
 Single Ride Tickets range from \$3 - \$7 each
 after 10:00 pm each night.

CAR SHOW

Saturday, MAY 24

Registration 7:00am
 Car Show 8:00 am - 12:00 pm
 Awards To Follow

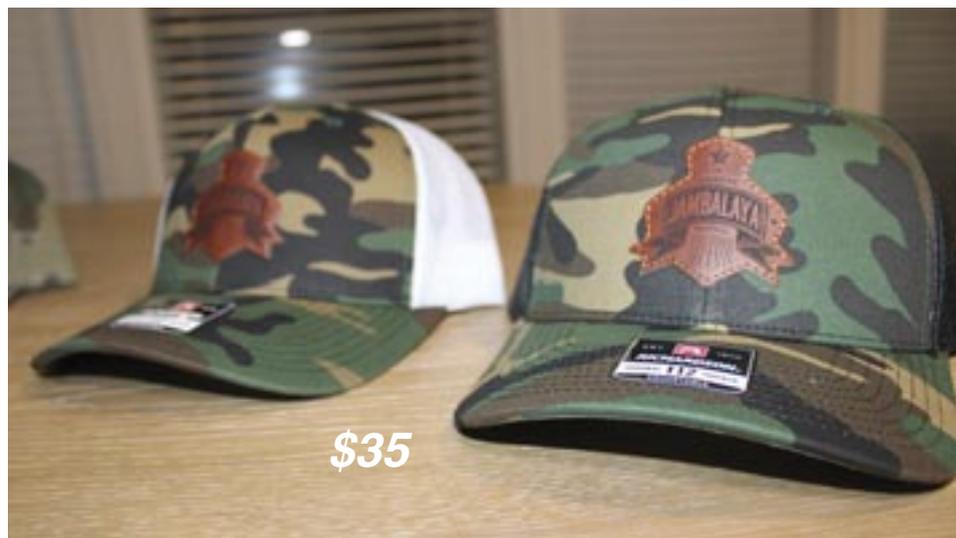
PAGEANT

SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 2025

7pm - PACE Center

Jambalaya Festival

Products and Memorabilia



\$35



\$35



\$35

Stars and Stripes Hat \$30

All Leather Patch Hats are \$35
 Camo w/ white back
 Camo w/ black back
 Olive Green w/camo back
 Gray w/white back
 Blue w/ gray back



The official 2025 Festival T-shirt are \$25. They are a two sided shirts and offered in sizes youth small up to 4XL



The Jambalaya Festival won the Best pin in the state. Award winning pin \$5.



Koozies are \$3 each Regular and Slim can sizes Donated By Laynes Jewelry



The Flag is \$40. It is a 3ft x 5ft flag made of 100D 4 oz. polyester with reinforced 210D nylon



Ladies Pony tail hats blue front with a white back are \$25



The Ladies Racerback tank top are \$20 They are in sizes Adult small to 2XL

The Sweatshirts are \$40. They are in adult small to 2XL

Real Estate Shoppers Guide

Ascension Magazine will be having this page each month. You can send a personal ad. You can send a listing and the ad space is \$50. If you need assistance putting the ad together I can assist at no charge. Please contact Mike Strong at 225.413.5485



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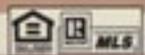
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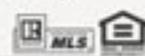
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LSU Champions 50 Years Later

A few weeks back the 1975 SEC baseball team was to be honored for their 50 year anniversary for winning the SEC Conference Championship. However it was the Friday night game against Tennessee with rain delay after rain delay until it was impossible for the team to walk out for their recognition.

I reached out to Bill Franques, of LSU Baseball Sports information, to research the teams history. He sent this write up with the history and achievement that could be considered the beginning of the modern era of LSU baseball.



LSU Baseball 1975 SEC Champions

Provided By LSU Sports Information

LSU's 1975 SEC baseball champions, the first team to represent the university in an NCAA Regional, will hold its 30-year reunion this weekend in conjunction with the Tigers' series versus Ole Miss in Alex Box Stadium.

Members of the '75 squad, which posted a 40-16 mark and established 37 team and individual school records, will be introduced prior to Saturday's 2 p.m. game between the Tigers and the Rebels. The '75 team also set SEC marks for most overall victories (40) and most conference wins (19).

"We feel like our team kicked off the modern era of LSU baseball," said Wally McMakin, an all-SEC third baseman on the '75 squad. "We broke virtually every record that had been set in the first 82 seasons of the program. We had a



great team, and we're very proud of what we accomplished."

The '75 team was directed by head coach Jim Smith and assistant coach Ernie Hill, both of whom are now deceased.

The 1975 Tigers swept two games from Georgia in the SEC championship playoff to claim the conference title, LSU's first since 1961.

LSU then played in the NCAA South Regional in Starkville, Miss., posting a 1-2 mark as the Tigers made their first NCAA Tournament





Randall Aldridge, LSU's team captain. Randall is a life long resident of Ascension Parish

The '75 Tigers featured several all-SEC players, including McMakin, first baseman Steve Frank, pitcher Pat Mook, outfielder Vaughn Meiners, catcher Tommy Saizan, pitcher Paul Stefan, shortstop Tony Toups, pitcher Tom Charpentier and outfielder Randall Aldridge, LSU's team captain.

Frank, McMakin and Mook were also voted to the 1975 ABCA All-South Region team, and McMakin, Aldridge and pitcher Guy Hollingsworth were named to the 1975 SEC Academic Honor Roll.

appearance. LSU defeated Murray State, 7-2, in its opening regional contest before losing consecutive games to Florida State (2-4) and Miami, Fla. (1-8).

Go Tigers!



1975 LSU TIGERS SEC CHAMPS



Top Row: Coach Jim Smith, Vaughn Meiners, Wally McMakin, John Cashio, Paul Stefan, Guy Hollingsworth, Steve Frank, Asst. Coach Ernie Hill

Middle Row: Trainer Gary "Flop" Lewis, Mike Crosswell, Pat Mook, Pat Whealy, Steve Bollman, Tony Toups, Frank Judice, Gary Allen

Bottom Row: Dominick Giambrone, Larry Wright, Greg Ferrarra, Ronnie Savoie, Tommy Saizan, Chuck Voorhies, Randall Aldridge

I Have Met the Enemy and It Is Me

by Bill Delaune

"Be honest with yourself and lie to everyone else."

Josh Hartnett

Sometimes when it's fourth and 10 and you're backed up in the shadow of your goalposts-or you're down in the count 0-2 against Paul Skenes-or you have to make a 30-foot downhill putt to win the club championship and your hands are shaking like a trailer park washer on the spin cycle...Well, it might be time to have a little chat with yourself-which is exactly what happened to me the other day.

Maybe it was a landmark birthday in March or just some soul-searching decisions I've had to make recently, but on a rainy afternoon last week at Sammy's Grill in the Prairieville CBD, I found myself face-to-face with-well-myself.

There was no one else in the bar and one TV was analyzing the new Pope while the other was covering Shedeur Sanders's first day in Cleveland's rookie camp when my double plopped down on a stool beside me. I noticed immediately there was something "strikingly similar" (a phrase I used to tell my freshmen classes about their study guide as in-"This study guide looks 'strikingly similar' to tomorrow's test.") about his looks and demeanor.

- I started in with my "Wild Bill from Prairieville" intro but he was way ahead of me.

- We've met before, Wild Bill. I'm Sweet William.

- What are you drinking, William? Let me buy you a beer. Paisley, I'll have a less-filling Lite Beer from Miller and a...

- Lite Beer from Miller that tastes great. How about that American Pope? I'll bet you could have got some odds on that in Vegas.

- Or the fact that the Pope would get picked on the second day and Deion's son wouldn't go until the third.

- Yes sir. I heard the ESPN's



draft expert Mel Kipur had to be put on suicide watch after they announced-"The Cardinals' pick is in..." and it wasn't Shedeur Sanders.

- And another analyst said at least Chicago produced a Pope before the Bears had a 4,000 yard passer. Well, I heard the Pope is a White Sox fan. If that's true, then he knows a lot about suffering. Speaking of suffering, how's the golf game.

- Are you kidding? If I planted tomatoes right now they'd come up sliced. In fact, the best two balls I hit yesterday were when I stepped on a rake. What about you?

- About the same. I was only three over after six holes the other day. The only problem was that it was one over a patio, one over a pool and one over a house. What about the

short game?

- Awful. My putts hit more lips than Mick Jagger's dentist and the yips have gone to my chips. And the water hazards are giving me fits.

- I hear you, brother. I've been in so much water lately I had to change the grip on my ball retriever. You ever think about lessons?

- I did get so desperate once that I went to a guy whose ad read "Draw-Shank Redemption". Being a sucker for a bad pun and a Stephen King reference, I scheduled an appointment and met him at the driving range. He watched me hit about five balls, told me he'd seen better swings on the playground and refunded my money.

- Yeah, I tried one too. My guy advised me to take up bowling. He reasoned that it's

air conditioned, the bar's closer and you didn't lose as many balls. That last part really hit home since I'd just left a dozen and a half Titleists in the waste lands of Lost Cove in Perdido Bay.

- My buddies and I not-so-affectionately call that place "Lost Ball". That is one semi-tough golf course.

- Ah, a Dan Jenkins reference. He was one of my favorite writers-not only for the football novel "Semi-Tough" but his golf stories about the characters and the games at his 9-hole course in Fort Worth reminded me so much of the old Gonzales Country Club.

- Jenkins was one of the best that ever lived and he covered 68 Master's. His account of the final round of the 1960 U.S. Open when Arnold Palmer launched one of his famous charges and came from seven shots back to beat Ben Hogan is a journalistic masterpiece.

- Agreed. A true classic about the historic crossroads of an aging Hogan, the new King Arnie and an overweight amateur named Jack Nicklaus.

- The final quote from the normally stoic Hogan after he hit in the water on the last two holes to pass the crown to Palmer was memorable in itself. A Texan, like Jenkins, Hogan never said a whole lot but he summed up the tournament perfectly in just a few words.

"I guess they'll say I lost it. Well, one more foot and that wedge on 17 would have been perfect. But I'll tell you something-I played 36 holes with a fat kid today who should have won this Open by 10 shots."

- That was probably the last time Jack Nicklaus was called "a fat kid" as he went on to lose a ton of weight and win a ton of tournaments including 18 Majors. He even reeled in the years to win a Masters at the age of 46.

- Speaking of the Masters, I had Ludvig Aberg and he looked like a winner when he

took the lead at the 16th. Then my "Super Swede" went downhill faster than some of his country's skiers with a bogey on 17 and a triple bogey on 18. So long to that century note at 22-1.

- I know the feeling. I had Bryson DeChambeau at roughly the same odds. He was in the final group with Rory McIlroy and stayed with the eventual winner for most of the front 9. Then he began spraying shots so far into the Georgia pines that the marshall gave him some bread crumbs to make a trail so he could find his way out.

Suddenly, the sound system- obviously a Nicklaus fan-broke into a Steely Dan classic- "Reeling in the Years".

- Listen to that guitar ride, Sweet William. I missed nearly and entire semester at USL in the late 60's trying to learn the lead solo in that song.

- Man, you're reading my mail. I did the same thing at LSU trying to figure out Glen Campbell's "Gentle on my Mind" before I discovered John Hartford had written it for banjo chords. Do you still write any of those silly songs you used to play?

- No-the last thing I wrote was "At Least, Dammit I Tried" about the three frustrating hobbies that we seem to share in common-golf, guitars and gambling.

- I think you may be on to something. All of our pastimes start with the letter "G" and you have to be brain-dead to play them.

- Well, Wild Bill, we may not have been very lucky with our G-rated hobbies but you just reminded me of another "G" where we're very fortunate-grand children-and now, great-grandchildren. What do you say we head out to a ballpark or a golf course or a tennis court or a gym and watch our offsprings perform.

- Sweet William, I think you've just picked a sure winner for us there.




East Ascension High School
CLASS OF 1975
50 YEAR REUNION

ONCE A SPARTAN ALWAYS A SPARTAN

Saturday
August 2, 2025
6:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Clarion Inn
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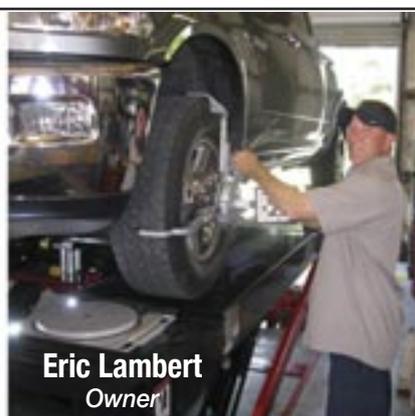
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Gonzales, LA 70737
Send payment by June 1, 2025

6:00 – 7:30 SOCIAL/BUFFET 7:30 – 8:00 AWARDS/CLASS PICTURE
8:00 – 10:00 MUSIC BY BACKSTREET with Ruckle Gautreaux
CASH BAR CASUAL DRESS

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East Ascension Sportsmans League

Letter from president -
Greg Cedotal

The other morning, I woke up to the thought that I have been so busy trying to start a business making fishing lures, only to realize, I need to go fishing more. How did I get my priorities crossed up. It is so

easy to get involved with a job that you forget to take time to enjoy the outdoors.

I had a thought at the board meeting the other night, what if we did a senior fishing event. Find a location, set up a tent and let the participants set out their lawn chairs and have some fun visiting, talking and maybe catching some fish. Then provide a meal. No weight in, no trophies, just good fun. Kind of like a Kid's Fishing Rodeo for seniors, you know, for those in their second childhood, like me. Let me know what you think.

Speaking of the Kid's Fishing Rodeo, the date has been set for July 26th. Bring your children and or grandchildren out to enjoy the event. More details will be announced soon. Let EASL know if you would like to help with this wonderful event.

The ribbon cutting at the Amite River Wildlife Sanctuary is scheduled for May 20th. Parking is limited. EASL donated to build a 30-foot-long foot bridge in ARWS. If you have the time, consider hiking in this new sanctuary and enjoying the outdoors.

I am doing research on offering meetings online through a program like Zoom, let me know if you would be interested in this option.

Now for a little bit about EASL events. You must be a member to participate in these events. EASL Bass Club will hold a tournament on May 24th. If you are interested in fishing with the bass club, contact Jim Hebert at 225-717-6037. The May 22 Rifle Silhouette Match will be May 24th at the Sheriff Shooting Range starting at 8:30 AM. Don't forget to weigh your bass for the Monthly Big Bass contest and weigh your specs for the Monthly Big

Speckled Trout contest. See EASLONLINE.org, Annual & Monthly Contest.

If you decide you would like to serve on the board of directors and help move the organization forward, let us know. You do not have to wait until December to get on the board.

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

EASL's next regular meeting is June 16th in the second-floor meeting room at Cabela's, starting at 7:00 PM.

EASL Bass Club News

The East Ascension Bass Club fished its April Tournament on the 12th.

This was another trailer tournament where you could launch anywhere from Amelia to Bayou Pigeon. The weigh in was

held at the Belle River Public Launch at 3:00 PM. The fishing was feast or famine for the fishermen as 9 boats weighed a limit, while the rest of the field scratched.

The winners were Anthony Bonadona & Terry Molea with 5 Bass that weighed 10.46 lbs.

Second place was Bubba Rossi & Tim Guillaume with 5 bass that weighed 10.28 lbs.

Third place was Brody & BoJack Anderson with 5 bass weighing in at 9.16 lbs.

Big Bass winners were Bubba and Tim with their lunker that weighed 3.90 lbs.

Congratulations to the winners of the April Tournament. The next Tournament is scheduled for May 24th. The meeting to sign up for the event will be held on May 15th at Dirk Anderson's house on Babin Road.



Bubba Rossi & Tim Guillaume



Left to right, Brody & BoJack Anderson, Bubba Rossi, Anthony Bonadona, Tim Guillaume, Terry Molea

Jammin' with Goosie



Good Hunting And Fishing Spots Don't Last Forever

As I approached the location that the grill smoke was coming from I noticed a sea of white flower blooms that blanketed the neighboring property. After a few handshakes and hellos I eased into the grass patch to check out the beautiful flowers. On my return to the grillsite I mentioned to the cook, who is a regular at this location, to please keep an eye out on the progress of those blooms and be sure to let me know when those flowers have turned their magic into dewberries. After a couple of weeks passed and a turkey hunt or two later I decided to check out my buddies once again at that location for some cooking and Sunday hospitality. On my approach towards the site my friend who once again tended the grill said, "Those dewberries are ripe and it looks like there's a bunch of them." I stepped across the property line and immediately saw the best dewberry crop that I have ever seen in my entire life. Mother Nature's recipe for that crop of berries must have been just what the doctor ordered for such a healthy crop to occur. I now wish that I had taken a picture of what actually looked like what I would envision a commercial dewberry farm to look like. On my return back to the group I told them that I would skip turkey hunting the next day and drop by the site to harvest some of the fruit so that my wife could bake us a cobbler for our next get together. In forty five minutes the next morning I picked three gallons of berries and that

landscape was still painted black and red as I walked away.

Things in nature constantly change over time. Some changes are caused by man's influence and some are caused by nature itself. Most of us that participate in hunting, fishing or food gathering could write many books about the loss of great locations for those activities of the past that have fallen by the wayside. The problem seems that we lose more great locations than we gain. Well maybe in my case it could be



because I don't venture out as much as I once did to find many new special places. Maybe so but I don't think that's the only reason for the loss of great hunting and fishing spots. It does not take too much of a change to make a quality hunting, fishing, and gathering spot less productive. Events such as siltation, weed control, invasive plants, timber cutting, water quality, development, climate changes, floods, drought, desnagging and hundreds

of other factors can negatively affect a location and make it less productive or not productive at all.

When I retired a few years ago I had plans of catching and selling crawfish each spring from

burrowed underground with eggs or their young but did not happen that year. To this date to the best of my knowledge there has not been a crawfish caught on that property since. So much for a little extra retirement money. On a good note I did see some signs of the crustaceans maybe making a return to the swamp recently.

Shortly after my berry picking experience was over I did finally manage to harvest my second turkey of that season and it was time again to start participating in the Sunday outings that take place near the dewberry field. The following Sunday as my wife was carrying a beautiful dewberry cobbler toward the pit area the grill master grinned at me and said, "I'm glad that you got those berries for her to make that thing when you did. Look at the field now." I glanced quickly in that direction to see what he was talking about. What once was the most beautiful dew berry field I had ever seen had since been bushogged to the bare ground. After gathering my thoughts I then quoted to the small gathering. "I've told y'all before that good hunting and fishing spots don't last forever and you better enjoy them while you can. I then toasted a cold one to what once was there.

Till Next Time

Good spots are hard to find
James "Goosie" Guice

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***Useless Random Facts
with Kellie***

The distress signal SOS does not stand for anything.

Eighteen percent of an American's income is spent on transportation.

It costs \$20,000 per football game to broadcast the yellow line.

In Idaho, a citizen is forbidden by law to give another citizen a box of candy that weighs more than fifty pounds.

It costs more to buy a car today than Christopher Columbus to equip and undertake three voyages to the New World.

The fat molecules in goat's milk is five times smaller than those found in cow's milk.

John Travolta's white suit from Saturday Night Fever was auctioned off \$145,500.

Bambi was originally published in 1929 in Germany.

The Wheel on the game Wheel of Fortune is 102 inches in diameter.

Each of us generates five pounds of garbage a day, most of it is paper.

CHC Closet and Pantry

“Seeking to Glorify God by Helping People”

Follow us on FB @ CHC Closet and Pantry. Thank you and God bless.



I was reminded recently that as we have had CHC Closet and Pantry open for 3 ½ years that not everyone knows or remembers how we got started so here goes.

In July, 2021 my husband Larry and I lost our oldest son Justin to his alcoholism. It an extremely hard thing to lose a child and it changes your life forever. Justin was also a nephew of Mike Strong, who publishes this magazine. A couple of months after that, the owner of Cut Rite Tree Service and a friend bought a building to use as Cut Rite's office space. They had a desire to open a food pantry and clothing closet in some extra space. I needed a place to put my grief and I do this in memory of my Justin. Christ Healing Community Church and a few volunteers joined in and a pantry was born. We have worked very hard and God has blessed us greatly. In 3 ½ years we gave gone from two empty rooms in the back of The Cut Rite office to being a fully functional closet and pantry. We have added a shower and a washer/dryer for the use of our homeless and needy population in the parish.

Our space is provided by Cut Rite, our phone is funded by REV, Trash Rangers provides our garbage service and everyone who works at the pantry is a volunteer so we have no overhead, allowing us to spend all funds donated on food for the needy.

The week of May 5th we had a



Ms. Angie and Jessica. Ms. Angie comes all the way from Houston to volunteer.

homeless man, whose privacy I'll protect, come in, get new to him clothing, a shower and wash his clothes. In the past we have fed him, arranged for a free haircut from Ms. Becky at the hair salon next door and found someone to replace a guitar which was stolen from him. We were also able to contact his mama, who lives out of state, and let her know that he is OK and that he has people who care for him. The joy and pride on his face is worth any effort we make. Another day, we fed a homeless man a hot sandwich and gave food to a lady who sleeps in the park. In the three days we were open the week of May 5th we served 60 families with food, hygiene products and/or clothing. They are able to get food/hygiene products once a month and clothing as needed, all at no cost to them.



Noemie and Ms. Sally

Because we don't charge, we are always in need of donations of food and money. We have a FB page, CHC Closet & Pantry with links to Amazon and Wal-Mart wish lists. We do not require that things be off the lists. If you find something at a lower price elsewhere please feel free to purchase and drop it off. Brand names don't matter at all, just be sure that it is within the use by date. We accept food and clothing donations at 209 E. Railroad St. Suite B, Gonzales, LA. We are open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9-12. In addition, donations may be dropped at the Cut Rite office in the front of the building Monday-Friday from 9-3. PLEASE do not leave any donations if no one is there to receive them. The neighborhood animals will ruin them and we have to throw them away. We are always happy for cash donations as that allows us to buy

meat for our freezer.

I would like to ask that you please consider making a donation of food or funds to help this worthy cause. If you know of anyone or organization that would sponsor a food drive, host a fundraiser or make a corporate donation please contact me at 225/647-8612 (leave a message if we are closed) or e-mail me at brent44@eatel.net.

We are blessed with the best volunteers in the world but we don't have nearly enough of them. We recently closed the pantry for a day so that our volunteers could go help another organization, The Haven of Ascension, with a food giveaway that they hosted. We recently had a day where three mother/daughter teams were at the pantry working. We work hard but we have a great time. Sometimes, there are shenanigans afoot and we laugh all day. The blessings that you receive from helping those less fortunate are so worth the little time it takes to help. If you would like to join us and make a difference in someone's life, please contact me at the above phone # or e-mail. There is a Bible verse that says, "Truly, I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me". Please help us by helping them. God bless you.

Tanell



Ms. Mary and Hannah are regular volunteers.



Thoughts from Bully

Because I'm Your, Mom!

I was rummaging through some papers the other day and came across this classic family photo.

It was Easter Morning 1958. My sister Janet and I were dressed to the 'T'.

It was a perfect Sunday morning. The Bunny had shown up with the baskets and they were filled with colored eggs, candy, hog head cheese and that hollow Chocolate Bunny in a box.

I swear my sister Donna could eat the back out of her Bunny so slow. It would be June before she made the first nibble that scarred the chocolate on the front of the Bunny. Don't even think about touching those yellow candy eyes.. Once she'd start eating the front, she'd start at the bottom and work her way up so eventually she'd just be holding the head in her hand. The ears were last. She'd carry them around and it looked like a brown hotdog.

Anyway, back to the photo. Mom had the day going great and she took this photo. Look at my happy little face.

A real cutie.

Well I climbed in the back-seat of the car and crawled up in the back window to look out as we drove to church. This behavior could have a parent incarcerated today. I then took off that hat. She said, "Put it on." I said, "No". She said, "You better or else. I threw the hat out of the window of the moving car.

The next part is a little cloudy. I remember the squeal of tires. The slamming of a car door. The opening of the door next to where I was sitting. Then like a ride at the State Fair I was jerked out of that car and was soon on my way to



pick up and put on that hat.

At first I pitched a fit. Flopping and whalering in the ditch. Hollering Why!!!

I said a few more No's.

It then came time for that 'or else', part from her.

I then proceeded to get my butt whipped on Easter morning and I had to where that stupid hat anyway.

I screamed one more time why do I have to where the hat? She said simple, because "I AM YOUR MOM!!!"

On that Easter Sunday in 1958 I received the greatest love of all. Discipline!

Thank you Mom on this Mother's day. Now that you have passed I feel comfortable calling you Thelma. I love me some Thelma. She taught me how to fish and pitch baseballs. She taught me how to bowl and cook and most of all she taught me how to dance. Listen to the beat of the drums and the man leads. We used to frequent the 'The Music Box' back in the day. It was awesome jitter- bugging with her. She was a pro. Not classically trained but a natural. We'd get to spinning and she'd never miss a step.

My Favorite part of those dances was my Grandmother MaMaw would come. I'd wait till there was less than a minute left in the song to ask her to dance. We'd get a



couple of turns and hugs in and then the song was over. She felt accomplishment for making it to the end of the song.

I got to love on my Grandmother. She would always say, "Thank You Mikie!"



Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers in the world. You are the back bone of our life. You will always be missed but always loved.



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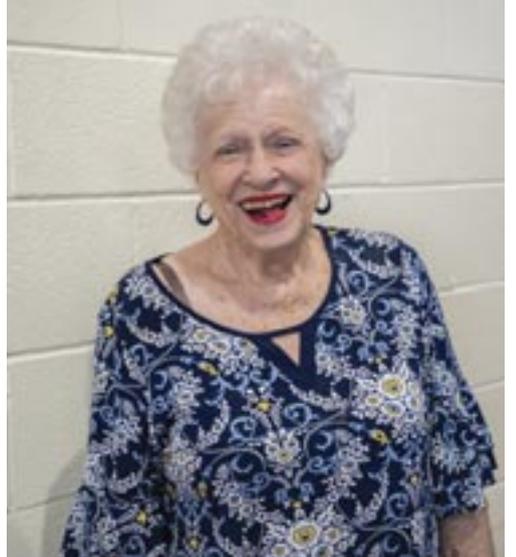


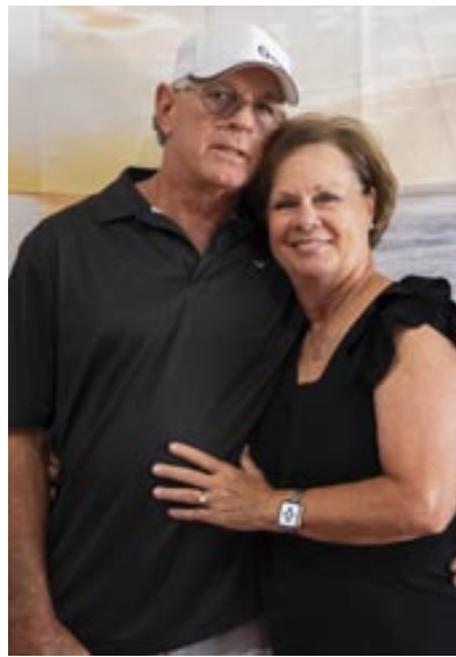
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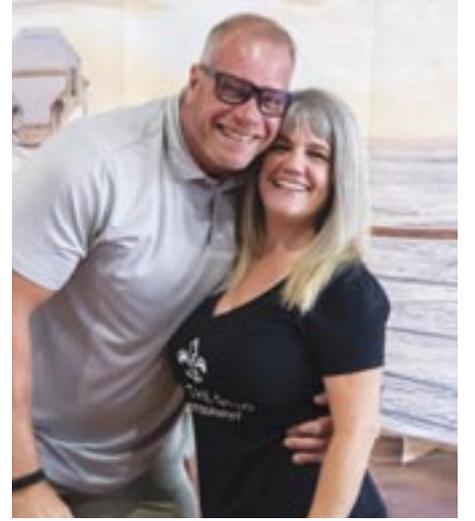
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Crab & Apple Bruschetta



Executive Chef, John Donaldson

Yield: 10-15 servings

Prep: 15 minutes

Cook: 10 minutes

Serving: 4

Ingredients:

8 ounces fresh Jumbo Lump crabmeat
1 small loaf French bread
1 Granny Smith apple
4 ounces Smoked Gouda (whatever cheese you like)
8 cherry tomatoes
1 ounce fresh basil
2 ounces extra virgin olive oil
2 lemons
Kosher salt & fresh ground black pepper to taste

Method:

First thing you want to do is get those toast points cooked. Set your oven on 375 and allow it to preheat. Take your French bread and cut it into ½ inch slices then lay them out on a sheet pan/cookie sheet. Drizzle them with olive oil and bake for 5 minutes or until lightly browned. Remove them from the oven and allow them to cool and get nice and crispy.

Next, grab your crabmeat and put it into a small mixing bowl. Drizzle the crabmeat with a little olive oil, the juice of the lemon (no seeds), and salt & pepper to taste.

Now get your cheese. Here we are using Smoked Gouda, but you can use any of your favorite cheeses. Shred the cheese and set aside until it's time to use.

Take out your cherry tomatoes and cut them in ½ and add them to the bowl of crabmeat

Thinly slice the basil leaves

The last ingredient to prepare is the apple. Remove the core of the apple either with an apple corer or simply by cutting off each side of the apple. Cut the apple into small cubes and put them into the small mixing bowl with the crabmeat and tomatoes, then drizzle with the juice of the last lemon (no seeds). This will keep the apple from turning brown.

LET'S PUT IT ALL TOGETHER!!!

Eat, Drink, & Enjoy!

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