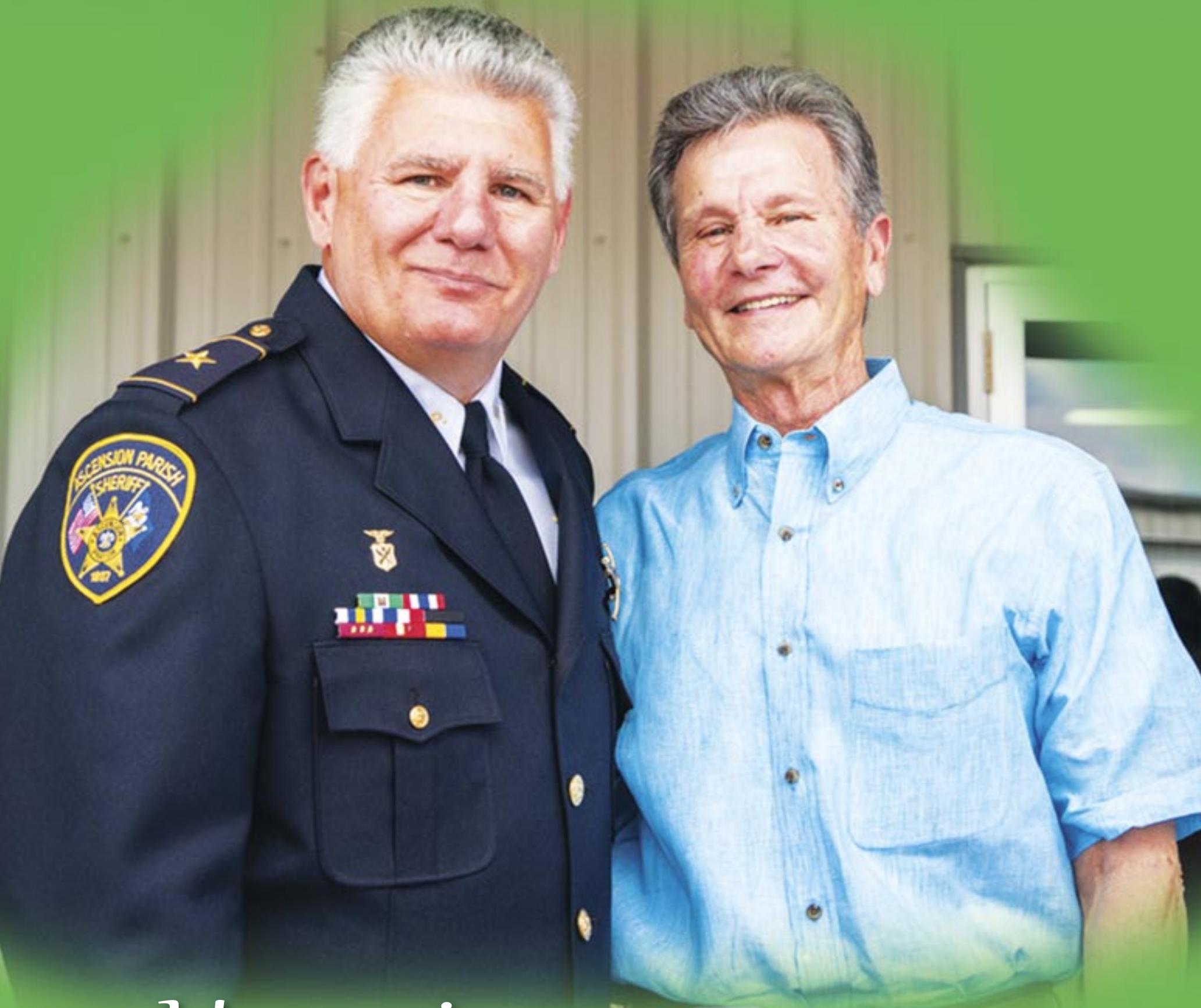


COMPLIMENTARY

# Ascension

## MAGAZINE

DECEMBER 2025, VOL. 23 ISSUE 12



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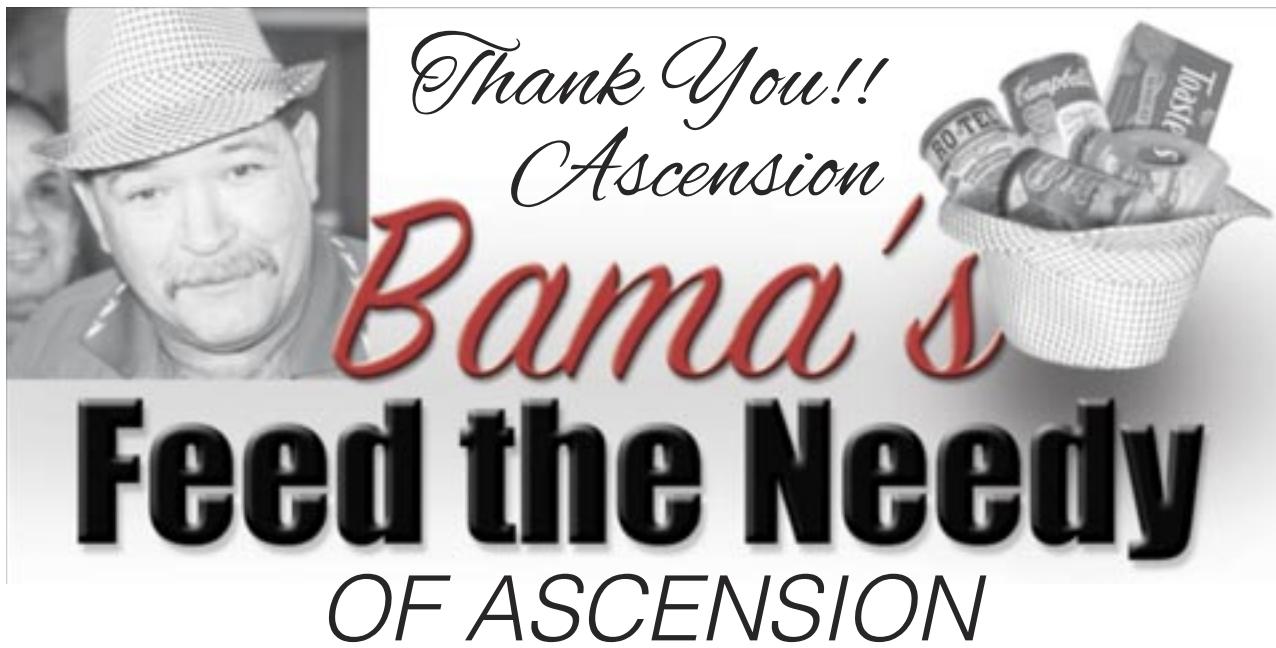
***Tags & Titles wishes our friends, families and customers a happy holiday season and hope that the new year brings you many blessings.***

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## Bama's Feed the Needy Raises \$27,095

Twenty years ago 3 local families were down on their luck and had little for their family for Christmas. Not necessarily for toys but for food. Tommy 'Bama' Aldridge grabbed his black iron pot and cooked a sauce picaante and sold plates at the Gonzales Country Club and raised \$800 plus dollars. He divided it up and delivered it to these families.

Here Twenty years later he has fed thousands of families. Now it takes a village to restore hope to raise funds through jambalaya sales and donations.

This year the Feed the Needy of Ascension operation sold 675 plates.

The final tally is not in yet but here are the audited numbers for 2024.

**Grand total collected 2024:  
\$29,988.00**

- \$11,500.00 disbursed to 5 Ascension Parish Church Food Banks
- \$10,400.00 disbursed to 13 local Ascension Parish schools
- \$1,000.00 disbursed to OTOW
- \$1,500.00 disbursed to CHC Closet
- \$1,000.00 disbursed to EDANB
- \$500.00 disbursed to Courts of St. Anne & Anthony
- \$4,500.00 disbursed to 11 individual families in need

I looked around the KC Hall and their were 30 plus volunteers helping with this noble cause. Bama's small gesture 20 years ago has made us all better

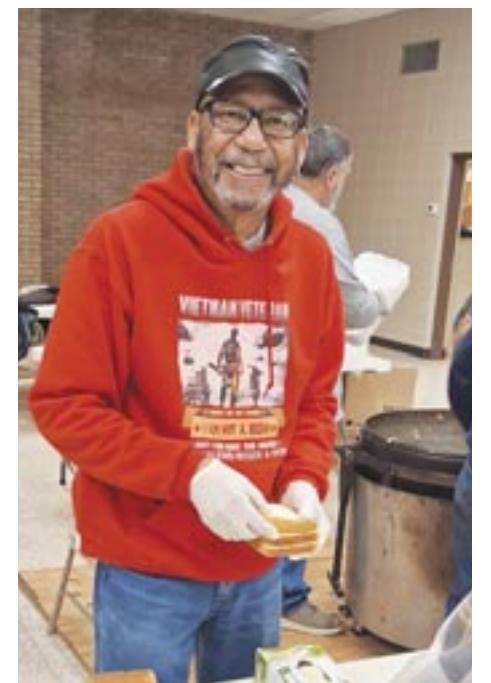
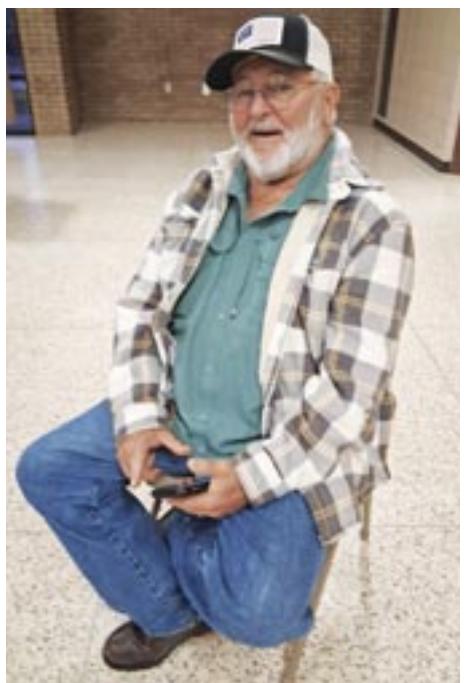
people.

I don't know how long Tommy can keep this up but I can guarantee I'll be there to help. When he started this salvation operation we all were 40lbs lighter and our golf swings were sweet. No matter when it comes to an

end remember how one browned roux and some browned meat that saved a community.

Bama, there are wings waiting for you my friend. However I hope many years pass before you get them.







# CHRISTMAS TRAIN ROLLS INTO TOWN





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# From the Gonzales Garden Club

## Happy Holidays

Members arrived at the December gathering with pot luck dishes, wrapped Christmas gifts, and nonperishable food pantry items. Gonzales Garden Club President Flo Hernandez opened the December 3 meeting by thanking Member Cynthia Stafford for graciously hosting the club Christmas party for the third consecutive year. Flo then shared comments from Louisiana Garden Club Federation President Carla Gauthier regarding the GGC's achievements. The club received a Gold Seal Certificate with Gold Ribbon for the superior quality of their projects and activities. Carla specifically praised the club for its Garden Inspiration Exhibit

displayed at the library, the public workshops presented by Janis Poche and Marilyn Rice, and the library book donations of *Louisiana Wildflower Guide*.

The club detoured to the foyer staircase for a group picture before heading to the kitchen for a buffet of appetizers, baked ham, side dishes and desserts. After the meal, an exchange of garden related gifts was metered by Conchita Richey's reading of "Twas was the Night Before Christmas". The fresh greenery incorporated into each gift wrap was a special touch. The celebration was concluded by the club thanking hostesses Cynthia Stafford, Angelle Croman, Janis D'Benedetto, Flo Hernandez,



Hostesses seated in Cynthia's den are (front L to R) Flo Hernandez, Jamie Trisler, Cynthia Stafford, (Back L to R) Dana Teepell, Janis D'Benedetto and Angelle Croman.

Dana Teepell and Jamie Trisler for their hospitality.

The Horticulture Hint this month is to spread 4 to 6 inches of mulch around tropical plants to protect roots and rhizomes. The

Horticulture Design Tip is to be aware that a vase of flowers displayed in a warm area, a draft, or direct sunlight will wilt quickly.

Plans for January include a floral design workshop and a



Members attending the 2025 holiday party pose on Cynthia's foyer staircase.



Cynthia's kitchen island served as an ample buffet table.



Janis Poche embellished her gift with a mass of cashmere bouquet buds and evergreen pieces of false holly, Roman candle and cypress.



Marilyn Rice used Savannah holly to accent a big satin bow.

seed exchange in preparation for the spring flower show and plant sale.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year to all Ascension Magazine readers!



Conchita Richey decorated her package with camellia blooms.



The colors of Zanna Brewer's Savannah holly matched her plaid wrapping paper.



Jamie Trisler's sprigs of nandina complemented the design of her wrapping paper.

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



The Commercial Landscape of the Month for November is the Ascension Parish Court House located at 607 E. Worthey Street. Noteworthy is the vast landscape and especially selections of plant material that thrive in our climate. Including in the landscape are ornamental grasses, Nandinas, Gold Holly, Agapanthus, Black-eyed Susans, Crepe Myrtles, and Bald Cypress.



The Residential Yard of the Month for November went to first-time homeowners Lane and Taylor Watkins, 1135 E. Tiffani Street. The couple has installed over 80 plants with labor and enthusiasm! Including in their landscape are Drift Roses, Shi Shi Camellias, Pringle Jews, Agapanthus, Hydrangeas, Hybrid Lilies, Daylilies and a Japanese Magnolia.

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Merry Christmas

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# YOUR ESTATE MATTERS



By Linda Melancon

## A Scrooge-Style Wake-Up Call: Five Legal To-Dos Before the Year Ends

Every year when the holidays roll around, I find myself watching at least one version of A Christmas Carol. No matter if it is an old black-and-white version, the Muppet

version, or a newer one, I always get pulled in when Scrooge is shown the parts of his life he has tried to avoid. By the end of the story, he is ready to get his life in order. And I smile every time because I meet so many people who have their own "Scrooge moment." It might not be as dramatic as the Ghost of Christmas Present yanking them from their bed, but something small happens that makes them stop and think, "I need to take care of this."

Last December, a good friend of mine, Paul, gave me a call after he had his own moment like that. He was watching a holiday movie with his grandkids when he realized he could not remember who he had named as the beneficiary

on a life insurance policy from his old job. He said he felt like the main character waking up and finally seeing things clearly. He laughed when he said it, but there was truth in it. The end of the year has a way of making us think about our past, our future, and the people we care about.

I told Paul what I tell many families: there are a few simple tasks you can finish before the new year that make a big difference later. These tasks do not take long, but they protect the people you love. Around the holidays, when life slows down for a moment, it can be the perfect time to get them done.

The first thing we talked about was updating beneficiaries. Many people think they are set because they did this once, years ago. But life changes. Families grow. Loved ones pass away. People get divorced or remarried. Paul checked his policy and found he still had his brother listed, even though he wanted everything to go to his daughter now. Fixing it took less time than wrapping a gift.

Next, I asked him to make a clear note of where he kept his digital passwords. You do not have to write the passwords themselves, but you should write down where they are stored and who can get to them. I have seen families struggle to open a parent's email or online bank account, and it becomes a real burden during an already hard time. Paul had all his passwords saved in one app, but no one knew how to access it. He decided to share the instructions with his daughter so she would

not be left guessing.

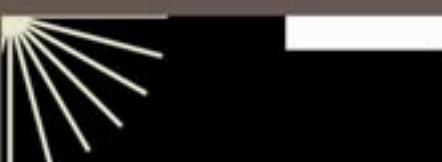
Then we talked about checking home documents and bank accounts. Titles and names on accounts can sometimes have small errors that cause big problems later. Paul found that his middle initial was missing on one deed, and an old bank account still had his name spelled wrong. These were simple corrections, but important ones.

Paul also gathered his key documents. He had a will, a power of attorney, and an advance directive, but they were scattered in different places around his house. He put them into one folder and stored it somewhere safe. He then told his daughter where the folder was. That last step may sound small, but it brings a lot of peace to families.

When he finished, Paul told me next time we ran into each other, "You know, this feels like the part in the movie where the character finally wakes up and starts doing the right things." I told him that taking care of these tasks is not about fear or pressure. It is about love, preparation, and wanting to make life easier for the people who will one day walk behind you. At the very least, doing these things now may save you a visit from three Christmas spirits.

# Joie de Vie

## SALON



### Jessie Naquin



Jessie started working at Joie De Vie Salon as a receptionist when she was in high school. She then attended Paul Mitchell Hair School. After graduating she started her career as a stylist at Joie De Vie and has been here for 15 years.

Jessie's outgoing personality and kind heart makes each client feel like family. Amongst many skills, she specializes in blonde coloring and extensions.

When she is not behind the chair, Jessie enjoys spending time with her husband and adorable dog, hanging out by the pool and being close to nature at the camp.

"If you are lucky enough to find a way of life you love, you have to find the courage to live it."

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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.

# Christ Healing Community Closet and Pantry

**Free food & clothing to those in need!**

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

**No Donation is too small. Help one today help two tomorrow!**



As Christmas approaches and the New Year draws near I would like to reflect on 2025 at CHC Closet and Pantry. We have had a very busy year helping the community. Our busiest month this year was October when we served 235 families. As of this writing in early December we have served 2118 families or individuals with an average of 177 per month. This is a minimum because on a busy day we probably forgot to count everyone.

We have hosted fundraisers at Chick-Fil-A, Raising Cane's and Rotolos. Several businesses a the year.

We have been blessed with generous donors all year long. In just the past month we have received large donations of food from The Lions Club, The Rotary Club, Dutchtown Middle 4-H and Beta Clubs, Prairieville Middle Beta Club, New Song Community Church, and Graceworks Church. Christ Healing Community Church helps us financially every month. REV and Trash Rangers provide services for us. Cut Rite Tree Service provides our space and so much more.

Chick-Fil-A gives us food each week. Ms. Connie with Tank Proof drops off food also to keep our freezers stocked. We have also received financial donations from several people who don't want to be thanked publicly.

We also have many people who stop by with donations of food, clothing, blankets and household goods. We don't always know who they are, but we always appreciate their help.

We also love when Amazon randomly makes a delivery. Sometimes it's like Christmas on the porch.

We are able to help a lot of people only because a lot of people help us. Much love and appreciation goes to the incredible group of volunteers who keep us going. We couldn't do this without each one of them. I love each of you and thank God for your giving and generous hearts.

As we move into 2026 we thank God and our community and pray for their continued support. We wish you a merry and blessed Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Much love and God bless you all.

*Janell Brent*

Manager,  
CHC Closet and Pantry

**God bless you.**

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This season, don't let stress, fatigue, or the Louisiana humidity steal your sparkle. From wrinkle relaxers and filler refreshers to skincare tailored to winter skin, we're here to help you glow with confidence—whether you're hosting, celebrating, or ringing in the New Year.

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- *Appointments fill quickly during the holidays—book early to secure your spot!*

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**"Skin Boss"**

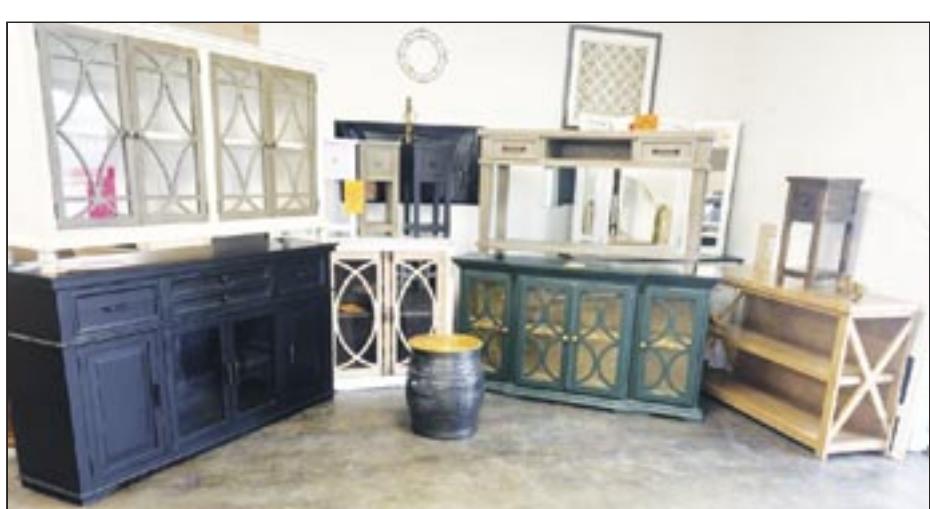
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Photos by Robin Stevens





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# Happy Holidays



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Dec. 22nd closing at 4pm • Employee Christmas Party  
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Closed Christmas Day  
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Closed New Years Day

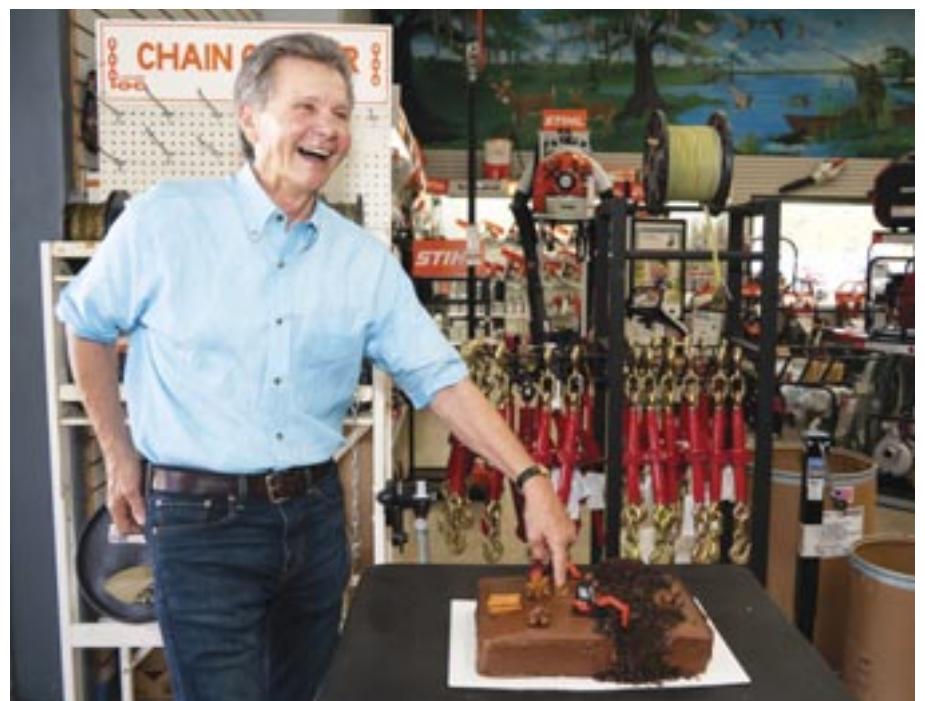
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*May Your Crab Traps Be Full on Christmas Morning!  
Merry Christmas from Ascension Magazine!!*



# FINANCIAL FOCUS

## New Year's financial resolutions: Making them stick

As the calendar flips to a new year, millions of Americans pledge to improve their financial lives. But without a concrete plan, those well-intentioned resolutions often fade quickly.

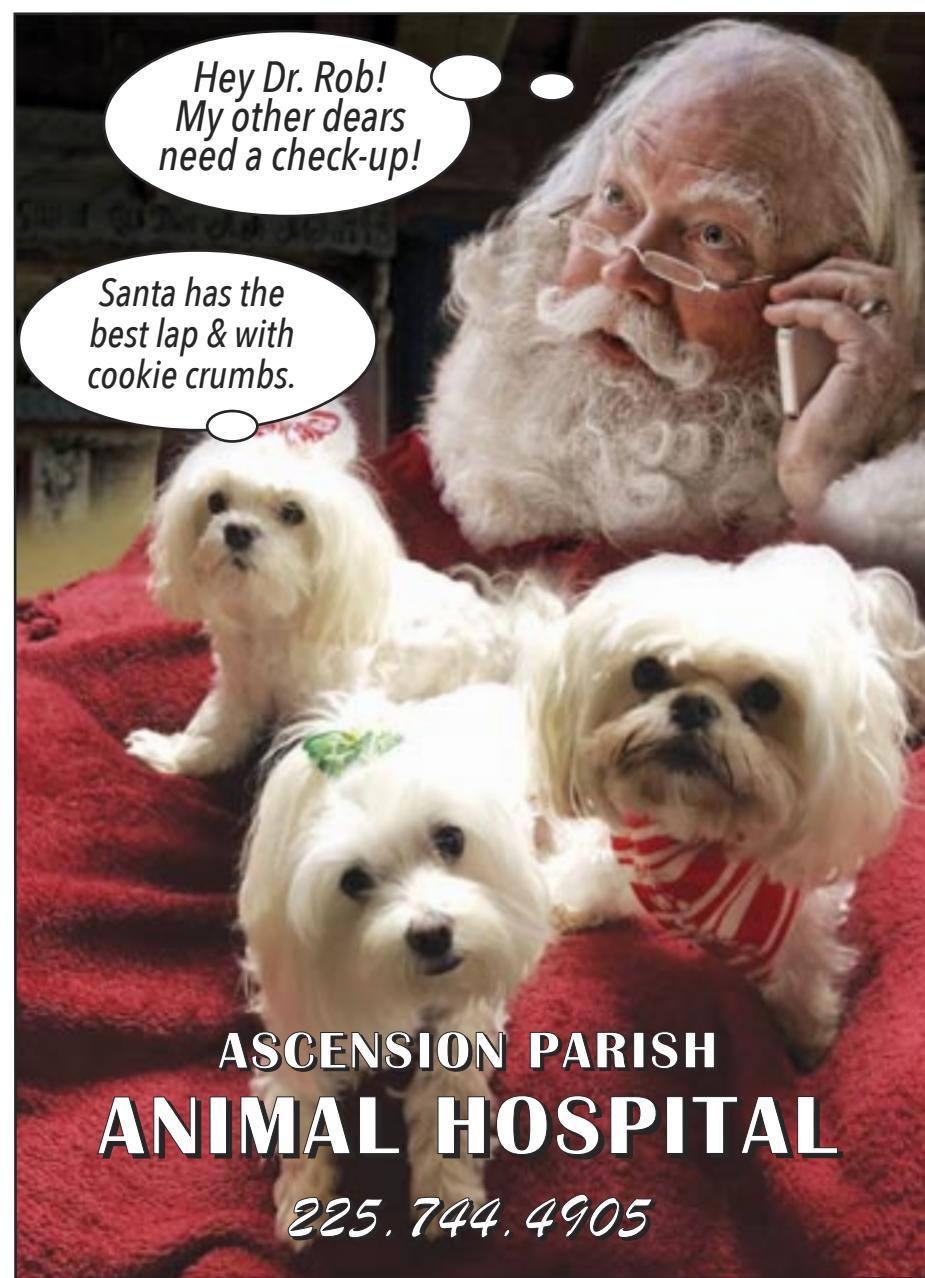
Financial goals consistently top the list of New Year's resolutions. A 2025 CFP Board study shows that financial resolutions are prominent, with saving more money (45%) and reducing debt (32%) ranking among the top

three goals.

Unfortunately, most resolutions don't last. A 2023 Forbes Health poll found that over half of people give up on resolutions by the four-month mark and only 1% make it the full year.

The challenge isn't a lack of desire for change. People may set the same resolution year after year, revealing a disconnect between intentions and action. Or it may be that they try to tackle too many goals at once, or aim higher than is realistic, setting themselves up for disappointment.

**Set smart financial goals.** Before crafting your action plan, consider which



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financial priorities matter most to you. If you need ideas, here are some areas where you may want focus in 2026:

- Regularly review your financial goals and track progress toward meeting them
- Increase your 401(k) contributions or max out your IRA and/or HSA contributions
- Pay down debt strategically and negotiate lower interest payments
- Build an emergency savings fund of six to 12 months
- Save more consistently

**Be specific.** Vague resolutions like "save more money" rarely succeed. Instead, it can help to make goals specific and measurable. For example, rather than making a resolution to "start an emergency fund," commit to a specific goal, such as, "I will put \$100 a month into an emergency fund."

This shift from general to specific transforms wishful thinking into actionable steps. When goals are attainable, it's easier to track progress and stay motivated.

**Find an accountability partner.** Don't go it alone. Having someone to check

in with can help you stay on track. This could be a spouse, friend or family member who shares similar goals.

Consider working with a financial advisor who can help you create a realistic plan, monitor your progress and adjust strategies as needed. A professional can provide expertise and accountability, making it easier to stay on track throughout the year.

**Start small and build momentum.** Rather than overhauling your entire financial life all at once, focus on one or two priority areas. Identify where the largest gap exists between your current situation and where you want to be, then concentrate your energy there.

Breaking larger goals into smaller, manageable actions makes them less overwhelming and more achievable. Each small win builds confidence and momentum for tackling the next challenge.

The new year offers a fresh start and renewed motivation to improve your financial health. With specific goals, a solid action plan and the right support system, this could be the year your financial resolutions finally stick.

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



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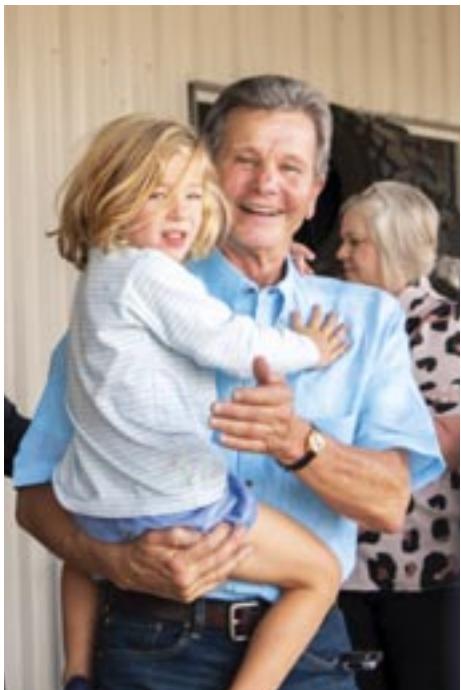
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# PARISH TRACTOR HONORS

## *Harry Robert*



On November 20th, Parish Tractor hosted a surprise appreciation luncheon honoring Mr. Harry Robert for his many dedicated years in the tractor business here in Ascension Parish.

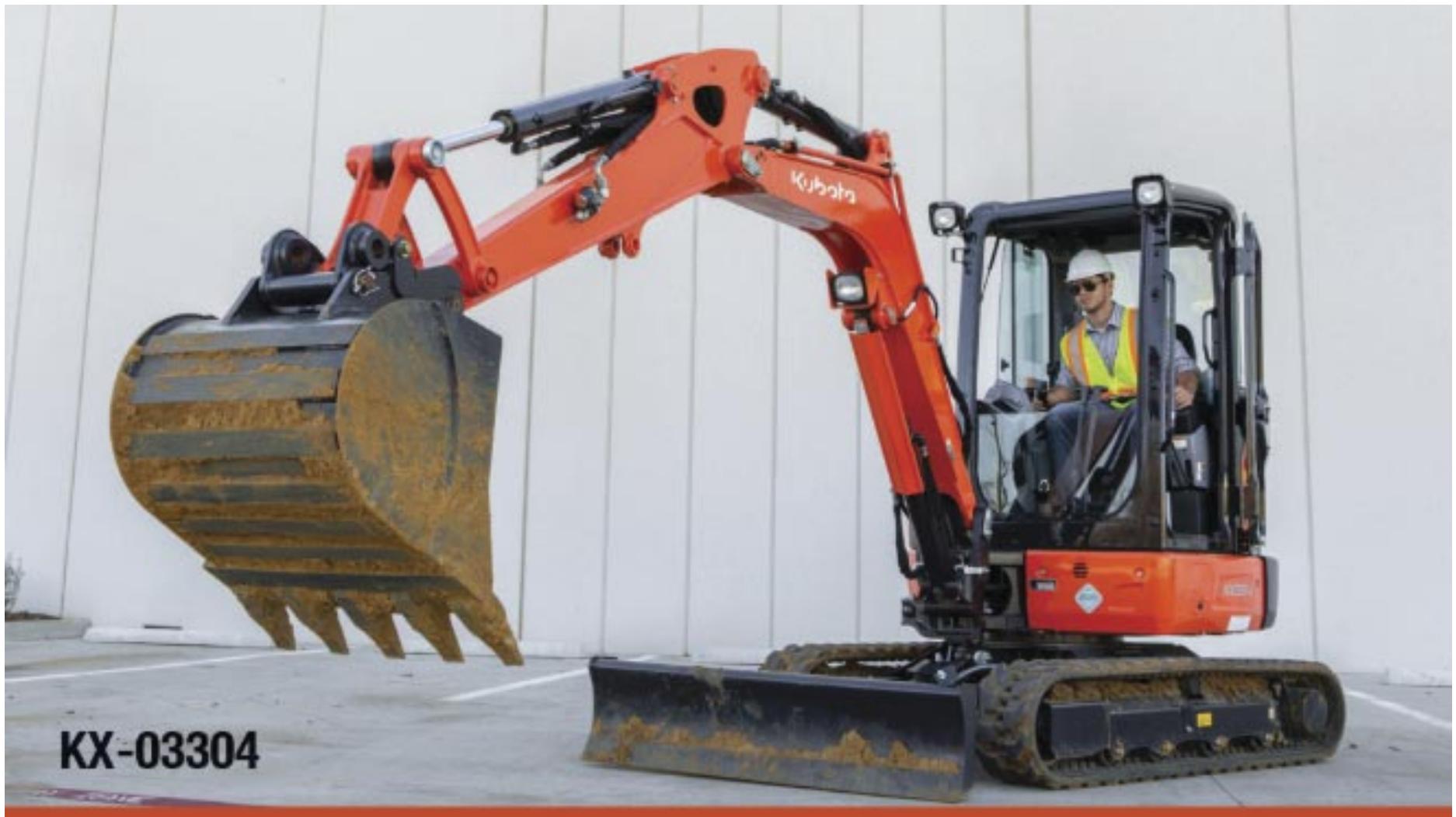
During the event, Lee Parish spoke about the smooth and meaningful transition between he and Mr. Harry, expressing his gratitude for the foundation Mr. Harry built, and that he is committed to carrying forward the hard work and values that have long defined the business.

Sheriff Bobby Webre also attended and presented Mr. Harry with several special recognitions, including an Honorary Sheriff of Ascension Parish Plaque, a Bicentennial Badge, and even a key to the jail. A very well deserved honor.

Parish Tractor team members, along with many family and friends of Harry Robert, all gathered to celebrate and honor his contribution, leadership, and legacy.







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## East Ascension Sportsmans League

Letter from president -  
**Greg Cedotal**

While sitting in the spare bedroom I call the office, I found myself looking out the window watching the rain fall, thinking back to the first time I heard of the East Ascension Sportsman's League. I was fresh out of high school; it seems like such a long time ago. The first meeting I attended at the Prairieville Volunteer Fire Department came to mind. That is where I learned that EASL has a board of directors and officers who gave their time to run the organization

and work to protect our rights to hunt, fish and conserve our natural resources. That piqued my interest.

A few years later, I was asked if I would run for the board of directors. After explaining to the membership that I wanted to serve on the board to give back to the cause, I found myself elected to the board. It was a great learning experience. EASL hosted fishing tournaments, classes on fishing, National Hunting and Fishing Day events and of course the Annual Kids Fishing Rodeo, among other things. Being on the board gave me the opportunity to learn about the process of writing resolutions to be presented at Louisiana Wildlife Federation convention.

Every year EASL would present a number of resolutions to LWF for support to be submitted to the Louisiana Legislature or Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Many were passed into law or funded to build boat launches, enhance management areas and protect our resources.

Numerous members received awards for their service over the years and EASL would receive multiple awards, in the organization category, for our service to the cause. There were many good productive years of working together to protect our way of life.

Now, as I see the rain is coming

to an end, I spend my time comparing EASL, then to now. The number of members in the organization and list of activities there were to do back then. Today there are about a quarter of the members and not much for the membership to do as an organization. It pains me to wonder how much longer EASL will last. Wondering if I will be the last president and will be left with no choice but to close the book on EASL's long history. Or will I have the pleasure of passing the torch to a younger generation who will pick it up and fight to protect our rights to hunt, fish and conserve the natural resources against those who would take away our way of life.

As I am about to turn out the light for the night, the words of the John Prine song "Paradise" comes to mind, "And daddy, won't you take me back to Muhlenberg County down by the Green River where paradise lay? Well, I'm sorry my son, but you are too late in asking, Mr. Peabody's coal train has hauled it away." I would hate to be the parents who will have to tell their children that they cannot hunt, fish or go nature watching because no one fought to prevent those rights from being taken away.

Looking at the window, I see my reflection from the light in the room against the dark of night and wonder, are we on our way to a

day when the "Sportsman's Paradise" will just be a memory? Not if I can help it, but I need the help of the younger generations. We need men and women to step up and become members, to put out an effort to serve and help further the cause. Let me know if you are interested in learning how you can help preserve our way of life.

Now for a little bit about EASL events. You must be a member to participate in these events. The EASL Bass Club has finished their tournaments for the year. If you are interested in fishing with the bass club in 2026 contact Jim Hebert at 225-717-6037. The 22 Rifle Silhouette Match will be November 27th 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.

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 become a board member.

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 Bass Club News

The East Ascension Sportsman's League Bass Club fished their annual end of the season "Classic Tournament" on September the 8th. There were 12 Boats competing in this event.

The location was the Belle River Public Landing in the Atchafalaya Basin. This was a singles event where the members fished against the other members. There was an increased payout for this Tournament due to money being set aside all year long in each monthly event.

The weather was foggy for the take off but the rest of the day was pre-frontal passage expected that night.

Everyone was hoping that

the fish would cooperate. The weigh in was held at 3:00 PM.

The winner of the Tournament was Tony Arceneaux with a 5 fish limit that weighed 11.09 lbs.

Second place went to Mark Kramer with his limit that weighed 10.12 lbs.

Third place went to BoJack Anderson with his 5 fish limit that weighed in at 10.08 lbs.

Big Bass went to BoJack Anderson with his biggest Bass weighing 3.09 lbs.

Second place Big Bass went to Tony Arceneaux with his biggest Bass weighing 3.03 lbs.

Congratulations to the winners of this year's Classic Tournament. The new Officers of the EASL Bass Club for 2026 will be Gary Christian, President and the Secretary/Treasurer will be Chris Day.

The Board members will be Julian Day, Tim Fatheree, Tony Arceneaux, Corey Guitreau and Dirk Anderson as Past President.

Thanks go out to Dirk Anderson for his role as President for the last two years.

Thanks also go out to George Valentine for his role as Secretary/Treasurer for the past 6 Years.

The Club will start up again in January with its annual Banquet. The date will be announced later.



left to right--Bojack Anderson, Tony Arceneaux and Mark Kramer



# Annual Tree Lighting in Gonzales





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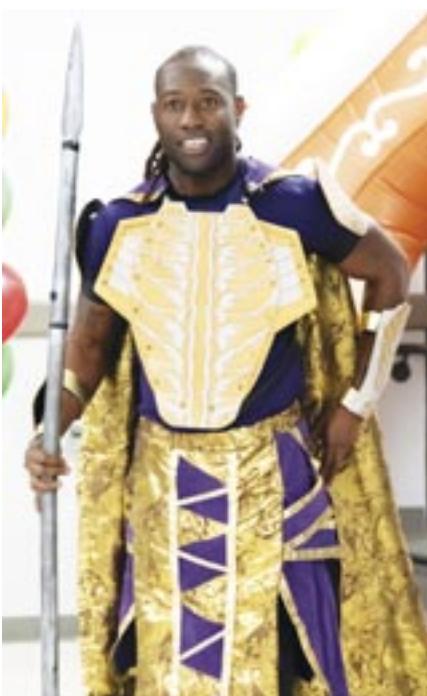
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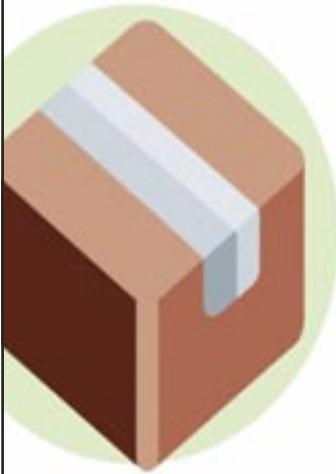
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# HOLIDAY THEFT PREVENTION

## 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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# The ABC's of Christmas or Bowling Is Right Up My Alley

by Bill Delaune

## Scene: A

South Louisiana living room on Christmas Eve.

## Characters:

The kids-ages 1-92 in all shapes and sizes.

**Uncle Bill**- a disillusioned dreamer who is so old and technology-challenged that when told he needed to get Bluetooth, he made a dentist appointment.

## Act 1

**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 doctor up this egg nog punch with a little Captain Morgan-because there are pirates in this story-and we'll see what we can come up with.

**Kid 1**- You're running late this year, Uncle Bill. I was almost getting visions of Sugar Bowls dancing in my head.

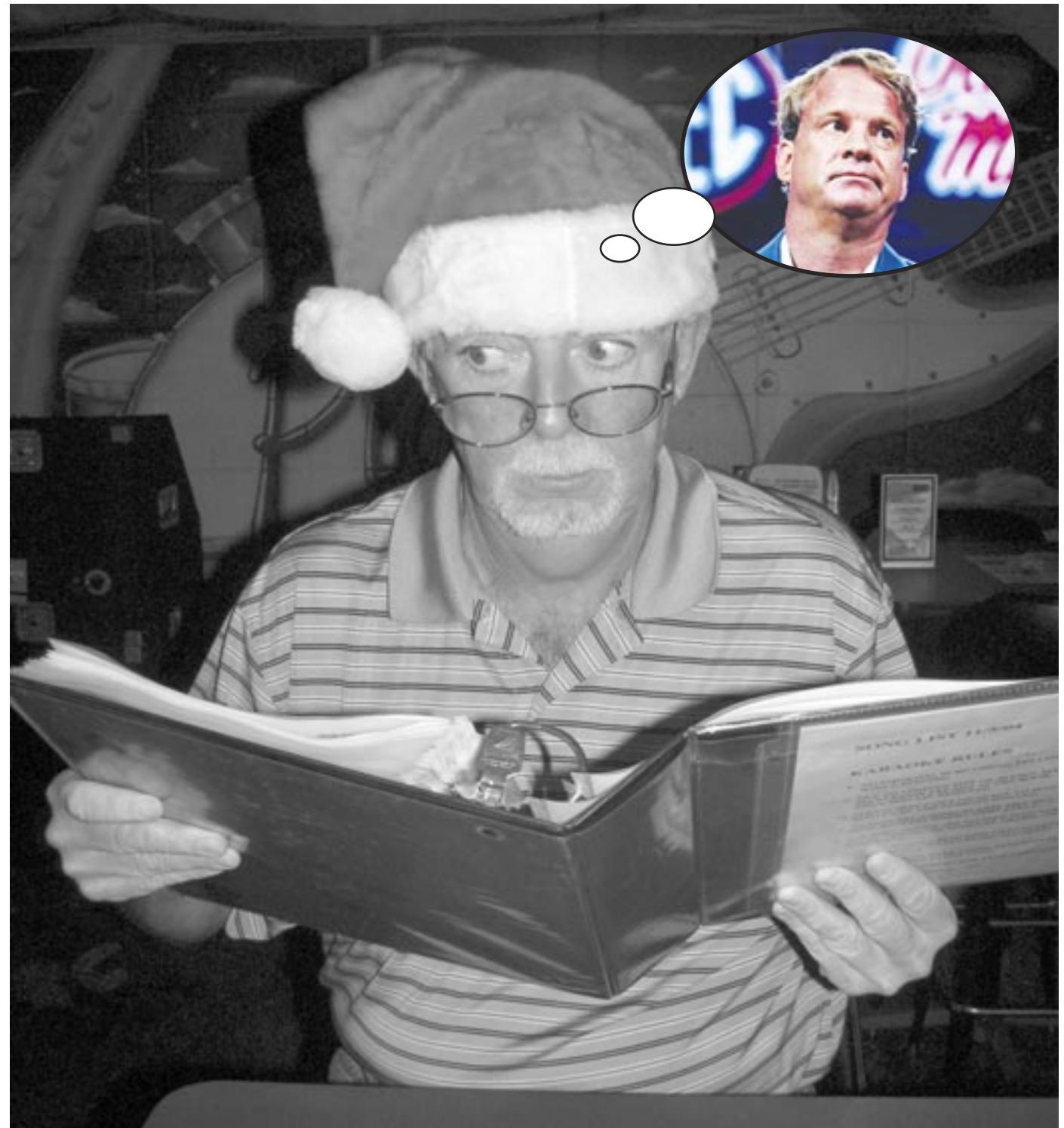
**Bill**- Yeah, I had to stop off at that new medical marijuana dispensary in downtown Prairieville so I could get a few visions of my own.

**Kid 2**- But how did you get here? I didn't hear your '65 GTO with the busted muffler pull up outside.

**Kid 3**- And don't give us that "flew in with reindeer" bullsquash this year.

**Bill**- Well, I was with some "deer" friends of mine right across Bayou Manchac in a joint called "Just Wingin' It". And I do remember their names by using Santa's method of motivation. For example- "On Haley and Heather and Jessi and Ryleigh. On Jade and Alisha and Kaylin and Bryleigh..."

But this year I caught a ride with a nice man named Willie Green who was out-of-work and driving a dog sled for the holiday season. He said he had lots of experience coaching a dog team.



But I've decided to do something a little different this year and read to you a Christmas poem...

**Kids** (in unison)-Not that "Night Before Christmas" crap.

**Bill**- Oh no-not even I have sunk that low. This is an epic work that covers the crazy happenings of football playoffs, bowls and other madness. I call it "The ABC's of Christmas"...

**A** is for Adios- to Woodward and Kelly, One bargained a contract that made the other one wealthy,

**B** is for Bowl Eligible- Teams used to need six wins with good reason, Now a 5-7 record and you're in the post-season!

**C** is for Committee- No matter which way they went was wrong, But there are some teams that just don't belong.

**D** is for Dukes-Quite a big difference between a pair of Dukes, James Madison's Dukes are in the playoffs, Duke's Devils want to puke.

**E** is East Carolina- The Pirates invade the Navy's home stadium, Just don't tell the President, he'll probably bomb 'em

**F** is for Fresno- The Bulldogs in Snoop Dog's Bowl- oh what a sight. Invite one more dog and make it a Three Dog Night. Snoop's bowl will take place the week after Hanukkah. Maybe Fresno's bowl gifts will include marijuanaka.

**G** is for Georgia- More Bulldogs, but these dogs have plenty more bite, In their defense to make it to championship night.

**H** is for Houston- LSU's bowl and city- quite an arrangement, With this dud game, I really hope there's other entertainment.

**I** is for Indiana- Basketball school? But that football team, wow! Just ask Ohio State- "Hoosier daddy?" now.

**J** is for J&B Scotch's holiday ad- " 'ingle 'ells, 'ingle 'ells, what's missing's plain to see, Can't have Christmas Jingle Bells without our J&B.

**K** is for Kiffin- The Lane Train has made many stops with his unique style, Let's hope he parks his caboose in Baton Rouge for a while.

**L** is for Landry- Coach K's blonde daughter-a beautiful offspring, Or our miniature governor who would rather be king.

**M** is Mississippi- The Rebels always knew the SEC would poach, So now all Ole Miss is missing is a coach.

**N** is New Orleans- A NOLA Bowl and UL is not there? They're off in Mobile to see what did Delaware.

**O** is for Oklahoma- Where the wind comes seeping down the plain, No offense, Boomer Sooner, but with no offense, your hopes go seeping down the drain.

**P** is Penn State- Cowardly Lions and Clemson's Toothless Tigers were once early season top five types, Now close friends and family will be the only ones there to witness this meaningless cat fight.

**Q** is for Quitters- No playoffs for the Irish cause your schedule's not that strong, Then we won't go bowling, we'd just as soon stay home. Historical note-Notre Dame had a school policy until 1969 not to go to any bowl games. That year, LSU was 9-1 (only loss by three points to Ole Miss and Archie Who) and set to play number one Texas in the Cotton Bowl. But the Irish changed directions and decided to play knocking the Tigers out of the bowl picture completely. We old-timers remember. So in the words of the Saints quarterback- Slough 'em!

**R** is for Radiance Tech Independence Bowl- This bowl has had many sponsors including Poulan Weed Eater, That year they invited Lesley Miles, another notorious grass eater.

**S** is for Sun Bowl- El Paso is close to Nuevo Laredo-always open late, Sponsor Tony the Tiger might even find a trip to Boys' Town "Grrreat!"

**T** is for Tulane- When was the last great "Green Machine"-it has been a spell, But these Greenies made the playoffs and kept their coach as well (At least one more game.).

**U** is the University of Miami-In Hurricane country they're known as just "The U", But it will be a Texas Tornado when the Aggies blow through.

**V** is Virginia- Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus, And his gift was a playoff spot if you hadn't lost your drawers.

**W** is the winner- When the dust all settles and the hype dies down, It's the Georgia Dogs who will wear the crown.

**X** is for Xmas- Cross out Christmas in the Vegas Bowl- the City of Sin, Couldn't find a virgin in the strip clubs or in the casino-three wise men.

**Y** is the Yule Log- Make sure you have a Yule Log to burn on Christmas Day, Because there are no bowl games and we're

stuck with NBA.

**Z** is for Zebras- Okay refs, don't call what you thought you saw and let the players play, Let a little holding go and that will be okay.

**Kid 1**- Gee, Uncle Bill, that was surprisingly decent. I thought the ABC's might be something sappy like Angels, Bells and Candles.

**Kid 2**- I thought he was going religious on us with A Birthday of Christ.

**Kid 3**- That degenerate track rat? I thought about all his horses that get run over in the long stretch at the Fairgrounds and figured he was going with Always Bet Closers.

**Bill**- Well, my stories are always open to interpretation. Our interfering governor would probably have guessed Avoid Big Contracts. But see if you can complete one more rhyme before we go...

To all our faithful readers- both far and near...

**All- Have a Merry, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

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# The New Miss Boucherie and Balloon Queen Begins Her Reign



On November 2nd, I, Ava Savoy, was crowned the new 2025 Miss Boucherie and Balloon Queen. This is a dream I've had since competing in my first Boucherie pageant at 3 years

old. I am honored to hold this title and look forward to dedicating myself to the Boucherie and Balloon Festival, its Association, and the Sorrento Lions Club. It is especially important to me to



spread the word about the Sorrento Lions Club's initiatives of sending children with special needs to the Louisiana Lions Camp in Leesville, Louisiana, and donating eyeglasses to those in need through the Louisiana Lions Eye Foundation.

My reign began immediately with a busy and exciting schedule! On November 8th, I attended the Plaquemines Parish Orange King's Coronation Ball in Buras, Louisiana. This ball's purpose is to honor and celebrate the Orange Festival's royalty. The Louisiana Festival Queens and I were presented in our full regalia before we indulged in an evening of dinner, dancing, and celebration. My favorite part was seeing the 79th Orange King and Queen perform a classic ballroom style dance together.

The following day, on November 9th, I proudly rode on my festival's float, alongside my fellow Boucherie and Balloon royalty and Association at the Annual Gonzales Veterans Day Parade. I am grateful to be a part of a community that is always willing to come together, especially to support, honor, and show appreciation for our veterans in Ascension Parish.

Most recently, I attended the Festival of the Bonfires Queen's Day Events in Lutcher, Louisiana, to

celebrate the reigns of Miss and Teen Miss Festival of the Bonfires Queens, as they will be giving up their titles soon at the end of the year. To begin the day, my Teen Queen, Scarlett Lott, and I competed against other queens in a gumbo cookoff, as well as bonfire-building relay races. Then, the queens and I decorated wooden ornaments that represent our festivals, which will be displayed on the Queen's Christmas tree at the entrance of this year's Festival



of the Bonfires. Lastly, all of the queens who attended were instructed to build and bring a sled out of cardboard. The Boucherie and Balloon sled was decorated to look like a flying pig! We ended our day by heading to the top of the levee, hopping in our homemade sleds, and sliding down the levee.

# Jammin' with Goosie

## Access

My father at one point of his life had saved a few dollars for the possibility of purchasing several acres that would be used primarily for hunting. Being frustrated with different types of hunting club rules had led to this decision of acquiring our own property in which we could stay within the law and do things in our way of doing so. Back in those days we looked at parcels of property in and out of our state. He once discovered a nice piece of land around the Woodville, Mississippi area



that he really liked. The problem with this property was that it did not have good access to it. He passed on the purchasing of that property because of that reason. Shortly after that time a couple of friends of ours brought the piece of land. They soon acquired a way in and out and by all means that acreage was all you could ask for when it comes to turkey and deer hunting. The place had a nice fishing pond located on it as well. Dad regretted the decision of not buying the land for the remainder of his life.

For many years now I have had a very easy access point to a portion of one of my hunting clubs property that

I have a personnel stand on.

I have hunted that little section of woods for thirty years now. For many of those years I had entered the spot through our club's property. I could still do that although my old trail and the surrounding forest is now privately owned land and the only other way to get there through our club's property is a pretty big hassle for me to do so. For the past fifteen years or so I've been fortunate enough to park and enter the spot from some private property that borders it. The first person that gave me permission to do so was a security guard of a nearby casino who was renting the homestead of the bordering land. After he moved on an



season I noticed that a couple of men were at the establishment working on the properties holdings. After seeing the new too me folks I began to have doubts of what could come about with my situation. When I returned to my vehicle, a man approached me and told me that the owner didn't want anyone hunting there this year. The hip guy was an employee of the owner who was working on the establishment and living there as well.

I explained to him my situation and how difficult it would become for me to do otherwise. At the end of our conversation I asked for the owner's telephone number and he politely quoted it to me.

As I headed back home I became determined to get in touch with the owner and ask permission to park and enter from his land. After several calls and text messages I had not yet got in touch with the older gentleman. I figured that someone of my age probably wasn't going to answer a call from an unknown number for fear of scams etc. After several days of no luck on the calls and by asking others of his whereabouts I found out the name of the business he worked for. I'd made up my mind to drive to that location and talk to him if I had too. I just had to explain to him that I only use the spot two or three times a year. He needed to know who I was, what I was really asking for and how I would respect his property at all times if permission was granted. I had decided to offer a payment for the privilege of doing so if necessary.

Believe it or not, one day

before I planned to make tracks to his job site my phone rang and I enjoyed a conversation with one of the nicest people I have ever talked to. I explained my need to him and promised that I had never and would never take advantage of the privilege if permission was granted. I also revealed to him that I would never take any other person from our club there unless I needed their help to retrieve an animal.

I pledged to him that I would always respect his property in every way. We talked for a while about several other things and when it was all said and done he told me to send a picture of my vehicles and their plates to him. He then called the attendants and told them to let me access the lease from his property.

There's no need to have hunting property if you have no way in and out of it. Anything that makes it easier to do is a blessing for sure. In these days and times I must say that allowing someone on your property can be a risky situation for the land owner to be a part of. If you are ever given permission to access property from a piece of land owned by someone else be sure to always respect that privilege to the fullest.

Till next time

Wonderful people are still out there

James "Goosie" Guice

elderly lady who was raising her two grandkids took up the residency. We became good friends and she always welcomed me to enter and park at the location. When this lovely lady moved on, an employee who managed a nearby convenience store that was owned by the actual owner of the property gave me permission to carry on with my mission. During that stretch of different renter years I would always bring whoever was responsible for allowing me to park there a backstrap at the end of each hunting season to show my appreciation for that gift.

This past summer as I went to the area to get prepared for the upcoming

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## **Useless Random Facts with Kellie**

Sixty-eight million People go to Major League Baseball games each year.

Alfred Hitchcock never won an Academy Award for directing.

The Beatles song Dear Prudence was written about Mia Farrow's sister Prudence when she wouldn't come out and play with Mia and The Beatles at a religious retreat in India.

Herbert Hoover was the first U.S. president to have a telephone in his office.

When first lady Eleanor Roosevelt received an alarming number of threatening letters soon after her husband became president at the height of the Depression the Secret Service insisted that she'd carry a pistol in her purse.

Chevrolet tried marketing a Chevrolet Nova in Spanish speaking countries, it didn't sell well because "No va" means "doesn't go" in Spanish.

Robin Hood's friend little John was really named John little

Bill Bowerman founder of Nike got his first shoe idea after staring at a waffle iron. He got the idea of using squared spikes to make shoes lighter

If you lace your shoes from the inside to the outside the fit will be snugger around your big toe.

A single share of Coca-Cola stock purchased in 1919 when the company went public would have been worth \$10 million today.

NERF the popular foam children's toy company doesn't actually stand for anything.

# Thoughts from Bully

## I Have Proof That Santa Claus Really Exist.

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 will see his foot prints everywhere 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 37 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 this way. Then we strung Christmas lights 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 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. Doner 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 and 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, while deep in the woods, he said, "Dad, Thanks for being the best Santa Ever."

With a heart full of pride and a tear in my eye, I said, "It wasn't me, it was Santa."

With a smile on his face, he said, "How cool is it that I'm hunting with Santa."

If this isn't proof Santa is real and Christmas dreams do come true, you should adjust your life.

**Always Believe!**



# Jambalaya Festival

## Brad Robinson is Awarded the Nora Lee Rica Award

To be recognized by the JFA and its members with Nora Lee Ricca reward is an honor. To be able to carry on a legacy

of hard work, community involvement, and promoting the city and parish performed by its members over the years

is something I truly enjoy doing. This organization and its mission are very near to me, and I consider it a privilege to be able serve the community that my family has been a part of for a few hundred years. I truly appreciate having this bestowed upon me by the membership and look forward to continuing to be a part of it for many years to come. I would also like to thank my family for allowing me the time

to volunteer and joining with me when they can with not only the JFA but the BFA, CFF, and Lions club. Having the opportunity over the past 12 years to work side by side with this awesome group of people has been fun, and to be presented the award by Nora's daughters was amazing. Once again thank you to the JFA and its members for the recognition.

I truly appreciate it.





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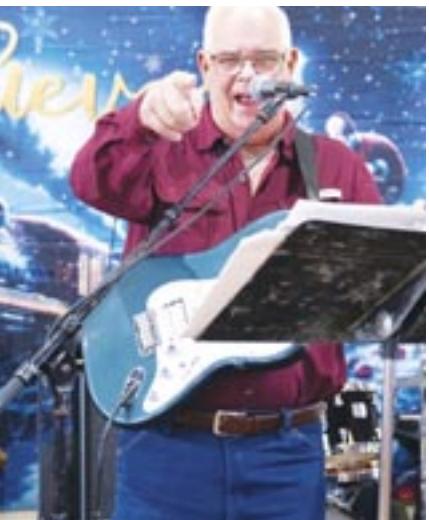
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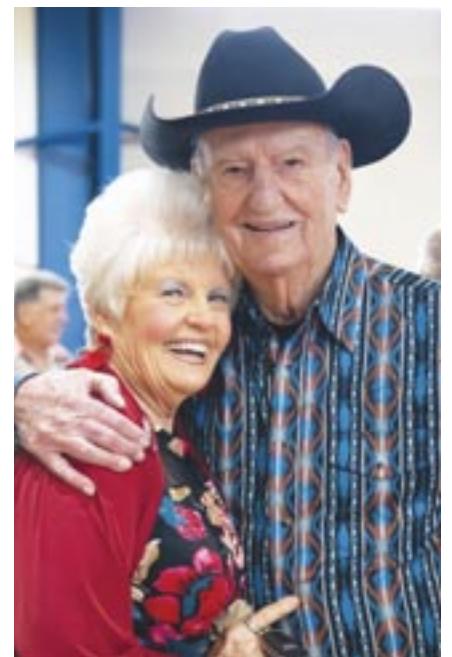
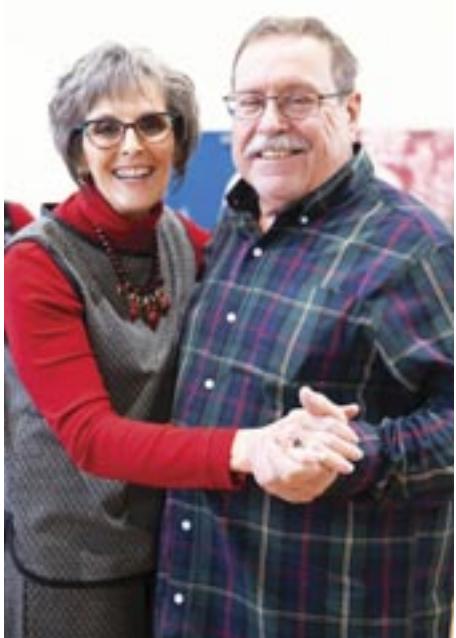
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## *The Garney Gautreau* **Rocking Around the Christmas Tree**





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A photograph of the exterior of the Francois Bend Senior Living building, showing its white facade and arched entrance.





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## Cooking Gourmet at Home

with SNO'S SEAFOOD & STEAKS



### Baked Brie Louisianne



Executive Chef, John Donaldson

**Prep Time:**  
20 minutes

**Cook Time:**  
5 minutes

**Servings:**  
4 servings

#### Ingredients:

(1) Brie Wheel	8 oz
Pecan Pieces	1/2 oz
Golden Raisins	1/2 oz
Purple Raisins.	1/2 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.



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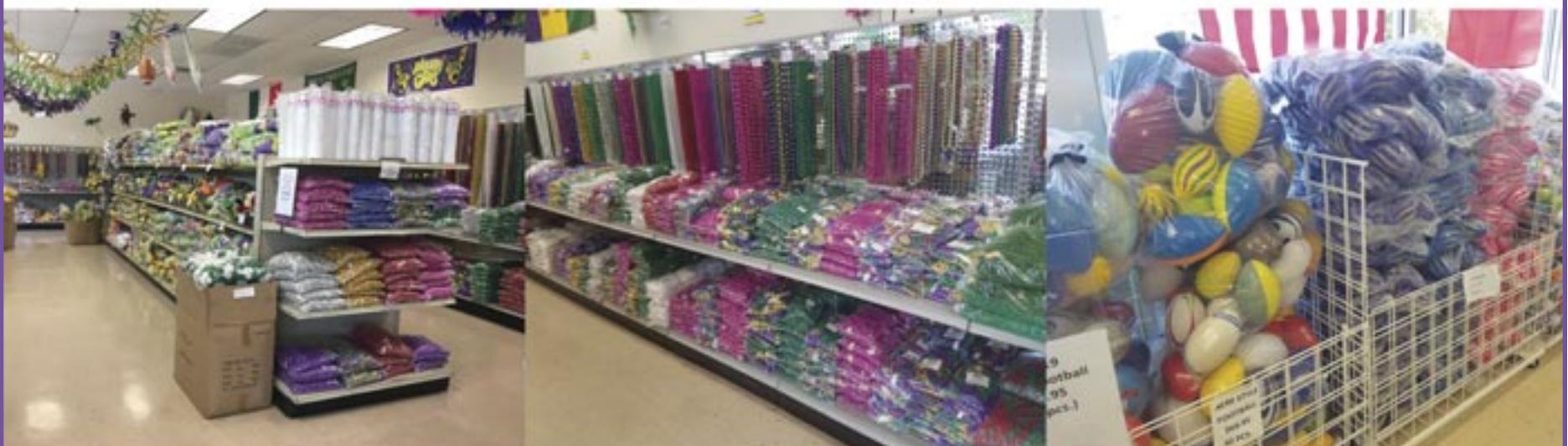


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