

COMPLIMENTARY

# Ascension

## MAGAZINE

MARCH 2025, VOL. 23 ISSUE 3

*30 Years of Spanishtown*

**I Must of Lost  
My Mind!!!**

Mike Strong, Publisher



# AN ASCENSION LEGACY

## Our Lady of the Lake St. Elizabeth

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In honor of our legacy as St. Elizabeth Hospital, Our Lady of the Lake Ascension is now Our Lady of the Lake St. Elizabeth, reflecting our longstanding commitment to the Ascension Parish community and our Franciscan heritage. The future of healthcare in Ascension has never been brighter. With expanded services, we're bringing world-class care closer to home and are ready to meet the needs of our growing community.



Our Lady of the Lake  
St. Elizabeth

[ololrhc.com/StElizabeth](http://ololrhc.com/StElizabeth)

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**ON THE COVER ..... Ascension Magazine Publisher Mike Strong**

**We are Going Green!**

**It's March again and I'm celebrating my "Little Leprechaun" and also my NEW HUSBAND'S birthday!! (wow that's strange to say)**

**DON'T FORGET THE REAL ID DEADLINE is May 7, 2025**

**If you plan on boarding a plane or entering a federal building, you can't do it without that "gold star" on your driver's license.**

Give us a call for the required documents or check our facebook page for the list. We want to make sure that no one gets held up at the gate or the courthouse.

**\*\*Also now authorized to do NAME CHANGES ON DL!!**

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# Swamp Pop in the Gulf of America!

*By Roland & Shirley Doucet*

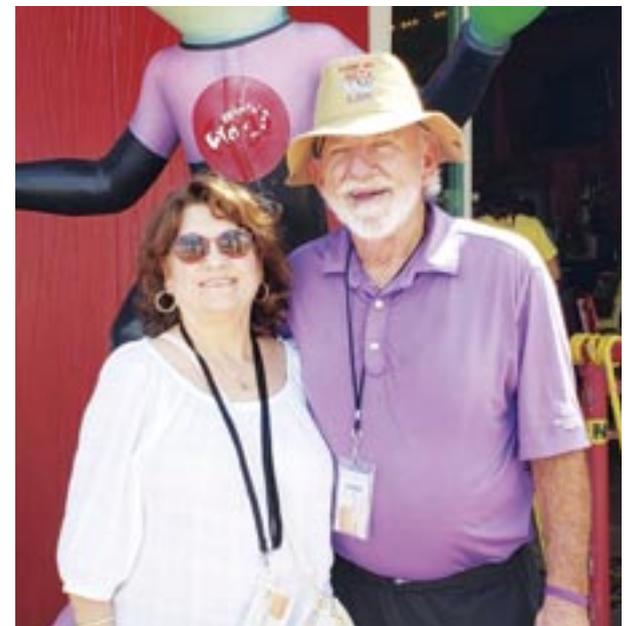
A few months ago, at the monthly Sock Hop, Greg Brignac announced that the Nite Train and Na Na Sha bands would be hosting another cruise. That started a buzz throughout the building. Quite a few people had been onboard for the last cruise they hosted so were instantly

interested in doing it again. The band enlisted the help of the ladies at Gulf South Travel who took care of the details for everyone. The cruise left from New Orleans and made four stops from Cozumel to Roatan. I believe the official head count was 420 Swamp Pop fans! Shirts and bracelets were

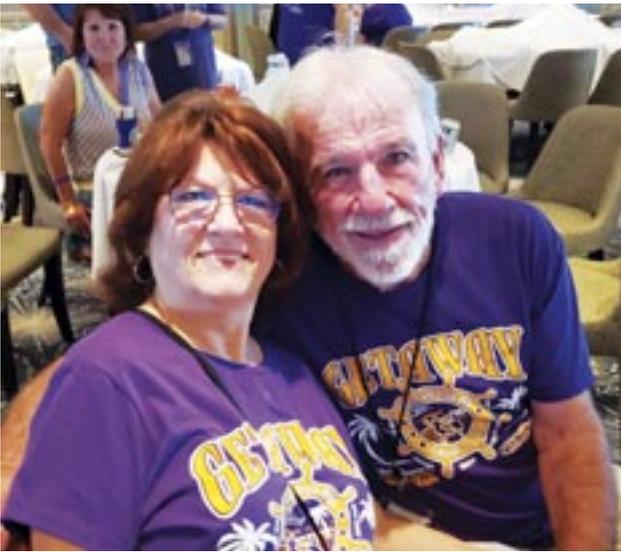
ordered to identify the group. Four dances were scheduled exclusively for our group.

We became some popular cruisers after the music was heard around the ship. Everyone wanted a purple bracelet! True to form, we were very popular on the ship,

as you can imagine. After the first day we were recognized in the elevators and all over the ship for being the most friendly and fun group on board. Shirley and I want to compliment our entire group for the great job they did as ambassadors for South Louisiana during this cruise.



08, 2025



Father Martin Lawrence and Father Keyser were also on the cruise with us and celebrated Mass for us on the last day of the cruise. Our travel agent Melanie Williams and Iris Schexnayder led us in singing "One Bread, One Body" giving the entire room goosebumps! A glorious finish to a wonderful week!

entertaining they were! For a while we thought Peanut had paid for them to have the front seat in the Atrium lounge! They were there every time we went. The entertainment on the ship was excellent. The level of performers they employ is amazing. If you ever cruise be sure to take in the free shows they put on.

A few of us got to be famous by participating in "The Newlywed Game". Peanut and Penny Cornett and Sharon and Lloyd Hebert were brave enough to play. You can imagine how

We did have a few hiccups. Marsha Broussard couldn't make the trip at the last minute so we all had to look after Mike, who was very lonesome! Then there was a stomach bug



jumping around the ship. Our group didn't escape this bugger but thankfully it was mostly a 24 hour thing. Even poor Pat Sanchez had to end their set early when the bug bit him.

Despite the hiccups I think most everyone had a wonderful week in the Gulf of America with Mike Broussard & Nite Train and Na Na Sha! I know Shirley and I had a fantastic week! I mean really, two great bands to dance to and a

ship full of friends, BEST CRUISE EVER! We enjoyed making new friends and connecting with our old friends.

Now that I've reached "middle age" I'm starting to realize how important it is to "stop and smell the gulf breeze".

Thanks to both bands and Melanie and her staff from Gulf South Travel for the memorable "Getaway".





GRILL & BAR

## Boiled Crawfish Friday & Saturday Night

*Serving begins at 4pm. Happy Hour Specials 2 for 1 on tap!*

### *Boiled Seafood Bucket*

**4# crawfish, 1# shrimp - 2 corns - 4 potatoes.**

4 lbs boiled crawfish  
1 lb jumbo shrimp  
1 cluster Dungeness crab  
4 potatoes  
2 corn cobs

### *Boiled Crawfish Special*

**3# 4# & 5# Specials 2 potatoes and 1 corn**

### *Boiled Seafood Pot*



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# From the Gonzales Garden Club



GGC Members received Super Plant door prizes from Dr. Owings.

## Bedding Super Plants

Dr. Allen Owings is a renowned authority in the world of Louisiana Horticulture. He graciously agrees to speak at Gonzales Garden Club functions and did so on the first Wednesday in March. The club met in the gym of the First Methodist Church in Gonzales to hear him speak on one of his favorite topics, Super Plants.

Dr. Owings, Professor Emeritus at LSU AgCenter, opened his presentation with a rundown of the Super Plant selections for 2025, which are gaura, Vermillionaire cuphea, southern indica azalea and dusty miller.

Gaura is a native perennial that likes full sun. It attracts hummingbirds, bees and butterflies. The plant is also called whirling butterfly. Cuphea is sometimes called cigar plant or firecracker bush. It can grow two feet tall and two feet wide; it can be pruned back and will rebloom. Bees like it. Southern indica azaleas include three varieties. These evergreen shrubs grow six to eight feet tall. Plant Formosa azaleas more than three feet apart. They bloom for about two weeks. Dusty miller is best grown from September through May. It blooms with pansies and violas.



Dr. Allen Owings, Senior Horticulturist at Clegg's and Bracy's Nurseries, talked about the Super Plants he brought for the group.

Dr. Owings expounded on previous selections of tried-and-true cool and warm season bedding plants. He said not to buy vinca now, "Wait until summer when it's hot enough." Petunias are fall/winter plants. Plant the prolific bubble gum petunias three feet apart. If you want to keep Supertunias blooming through the summer, put them in a container so you can move them into the shade and use light fertilizer. Dianthus is a cool season bedding plant that will last until June. Amazon and Jolts varieties have taller spikes. Coreopsis is a perennial pollinator plant that blooms spring through fall. Frost will not hurt it. Cut it back, and it will come back stronger. It can be divided now or early fall. Marigolds need to be deadheaded every seven to 10



Hosting the meeting were (kneeling) Kathy Guidry and Katherine Stagg and (standing) Dale Bowman, Marilyn Rice, Janet D'Benedetto, Paola DiNatale and Cynthia Stafford.



Curt Rice cooked his famous loaded chicken, sausage and shrimp gumbo with that perfectly seasoned dark roux for the occasion.

days. Dr. Owings attested, "It's not true that marigolds repel bad insects. That's hogwash." Dragon's Breath Celosia is a "fantastic thriller" in a container. It grows beautiful crimson plumes. Lemon sedum could be a spiller plant or a ground cover. He recommends buying a 4" pot since "it will grow fast." Beacon impatiens is an improved variety for disease resistance. Cut it back in mid to late summer. Note that they will get tall if you plant them too close together.

Dr. Owings is a self-proclaimed "salvia fan". He has had 45 different varieties. He recommends planting Roman red, white flame, and black and blue in a pattern. They will get three feet tall in full sun. He advised, "If they get too big, cut them back half way for a better growth habit. You will get lateral branching and even more blooms." Senorita Rosalita Cleome is another Owings favorite. It's a tall plant full of flowers that does not need deadheading. Bees, butterflies and hummingbirds love it. Owings proclaimed, "Ruby Red is the best penta for pollinators, no doubt about it. It has more nectar." He also likes porterweed for hummingbirds. It comes in blue, purple, coral and red in different heights.

After his talk, GGC members asked many questions to get expert advice from the senior horticulturist. He provided guidance for managing post-freeze plant material and insight into preparing gardens for spring. For a complete list of Louisiana Super Plants, visit [LSUAgCenter.com/SuperPlants](http://LSUAgCenter.com/SuperPlants). Owings promised, "With 70 Super Plants to choose from, you'll have an award-winning landscape."

Curt and Marilyn Rice, Dale Bowman, Janis D'Benedetto, Paola DiNatale, Kathy Guidry, Cynthia Stafford and Katherine Stagg served a meal of gumbo with rice, potato salad, vegetarian pasta, spice cake, lemon ice box pie and bread pudding. They were proud to feed Dr. Owings before he headed out to his next gig in Hammond.

The horticulture hint is to plant fruit trees and shrubs as soon as possible. April 2 will be the opening of the club's Garden Inspiration Exhibit at the Gonzales Library. A two-part program will begin at 9:00am. The flower show will be on display through the evening of April 4. The public is invited to vote for the People's Choice Awards. April 11 will be the club's

**2025 Louisiana Super Plants**

LSU AgCenter  
CERTIFIED LOUISIANA

**Warm Season Bedding Plants**

- Alternanthera 'Little Ruby'
- Angelonia - Serena Series
- Angelonia 'Serenita Raspberry'
- Begonia - BabyWing series
- Buddelia 'Flutterby Tutti Frutti'
- Celosia 'Infera Classic'
- Cleome 'Senorita Rosalita'
- Coleus 'Henna'
- Coleus - Flameflower series
- Evolvulus 'Blue Daze', 'Blue My Mind'
- Gallardia - Mesa series
- Hibiscus - Luna series
- Impatiens - Beacon Series
- Lantana - Sandana series
- Lemon Sedum
- Louisiana Iris
- Ornamental Peppers
- Fernisium 'Fireworks'
- Pentas - Butterfly series
- Pentas - Lucky Star series
- Porterweed
- Salvia farinacea 'Evolution'

**Cool Season Bedding Plants**

- Columbine - Swan series
- Delphinium 'Diamonds Blue'
- Dianthus - Amazon series
- Dianthus - Joli series
- Fraglove - Camellat series
- Kale 'Redbar'
- Superunia Mini Vela 'Indigo'
- Superunia Vela 'Bubblegum'
- Viola - Sobel series

**Shrubs**

- Athys 'Aphrodite'
- American Beautyberry
- Azalea 'Conversation Piece'
- Buescheria - Robbseye
- Camellia 'Shiki Dazila'

**Trees**

- Baldcypress (Taxodium distichum)
- Chaste Tree 'Shadi Creek' (Vitex agnus-castus)
- Evergreen Sweetbay Magnolia (Magnolia virginiana)
- Hybrid Magnolia 'Jane'
- Southern Magnolia 'Little Gem' (Magnolia grandiflora)
- Southern Sugar Maple (Acer saccharum)
- Willow Oak (Quercus phellos)

For more information, visit [LSUAgCenter.com/SuperPlants](http://LSUAgCenter.com/SuperPlants)

Plant/Bake Sale from 9:00 til noon at Gonzales City Hall. Please support the club's only annual fundraiser.

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

**GONZALES GARDEN CLUB**

**Annual Plant and Bake Sale**

Gonzales City Hall Lawn  
E. Cornerview and S. Irma Blvd.

**Friday, April 11, 2025**  
**9:00am - 12:00pm**

Hanging Baskets  
Native Plants  
Pollinator Plants  
Homemade Sweets  
Garden Items

This annual fundraiser supports community garden maintenance at Jambalaya Park and Kidz Kove and provides charitable donations to worthy causes.

We appreciate your support!  
~ Gonzales Garden Club

**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"

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

# Get Growing, Ascension!

## Native Plants in the Landscape

Native plants are plants that occur naturally in a particular region without direct or indirect human intervention. In a home landscape the addition of native plants brings natural beauty, interest, and diversity to the garden. The popularity of native plants among home gardeners is on the rise.

Native plants are adapted to grow and thrive in our environment. This is especially beneficial to gardeners in South Louisiana where we face challenges from Mother Nature quite often. Native plants provide food and shelter for wildlife, birds, and insects. They can be used to attract important pollinators and beneficial insects to your garden. Overall native plants are considered fairly low maintenance. They require less watering during periods of drought and less fertilizer inputs. They can also better tolerate and overcome damage from many insect pests and plant diseases when com-



Mariah Simoneaux

pared to non-native plants.

A few trees that are native to Louisiana include American holly, sweetbay magnolia, red maple and many oaks, including live oaks and willow oaks. Gardeners seeking a native shrub may want to consider dwarf yaupon holly, American beautyberry, wild azalea, or oakleaf hydrangea.



An extensive list of herbaceous plants are native to Louisiana, such as purple cone flower, black eyed Susan, spotted beebalm, and swamp rose mallow just to name a few.

If you are looking to purchase native plants, begin

by visiting our local plant nurseries. We are lucky to have several in Ascension Parish, and the surrounding area, that carry a great plant selection. Their staff members are knowledgeable and can help you to select the right plant for the right location. Larger, national retail stores may also have native plants and of course there are many options online as well.

For gardeners looking to learn more about native plants, the Louisiana Native Plant Society is an excellent resource. Visit their website [www.LNPS.org](http://www.LNPS.org) to find a native plant database, information on invasive species, and much more. You may want to consider having your outdoor space certified as native habitat, which can also be done through the Louisiana Native Plant Society. Other resources include LSU Hilltop Arboretum, located in Baton Rouge, and numerous online extension publications.

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



# YOUR ESTATE MATTERS



By Linda Melancon

## The Importance of Long-Term Care Insurance in Estate Planning

Planning for the future involves making critical financial decisions that will protect you and your loved ones in the years ahead. One essential but often overlooked aspect of financial and estate planning is long-term care insurance. As people age, the likelihood of needing extended healthcare services increases. Without proper planning, the cost of long-term care can quickly deplete savings and assets, leaving families in financial distress. Long-term care insurance (LTCI) provides a safety net, ensuring that individuals receive the necessary care without jeopardizing their financial security.

Sounds like a good idea, right? But how does this differ from the insurance I likely already have? Long-term care insurance is a type of policy designed to cover the costs of extended care services, such as nursing home care, assisted living, in-home care, and adult daycare. Unlike traditional health insurance or Medicare, which provide limited coverage for long-term care needs, LTCI helps cover the expenses associated with chronic illnesses, disabilities, or conditions that require ongoing assistance with daily activities.

Without long-term care insurance, individuals may have to rely on personal savings, family support, or Medicaid. However, Medicaid eligibility requires individuals to spend down most of their assets, making it a last-resort option for many families. LTCI helps bridge this gap by preserving wealth and ensuring access to quality care.

There are several types of long-term care insurance policies available, allowing individuals to choose coverage that best fits their financial situation and needs.

### 1. Traditional Long-Term Care Insurance:

- Provides coverage exclusively for long-term care services.
- Premiums are paid regularly, and benefits are available when needed.
- If the policyholder never requires long-term care, the premiums paid are not refunded.

### 2. Hybrid (Linked-Benefit) Policies:

- Combine life insurance or an annuity with long-term care benefits.
- If the policyholder does not need long-term care, the policy may still provide a death benefit to beneficiaries.
- Offers flexibility and ensures that money is not “wasted” on unused coverage.

### 3. Short-Term Care Insurance:

- Provides coverage for a limited duration (e.g., one year or less).
- Often easier to qualify for and more affordable than traditional LTCI.
- A good option for those who may not qualify for or afford long-term policies.

### 4. Group Long-Term Care Insurance:

- Offered through employers or associations at potentially discounted rates.
- Coverage may be portable, meaning individuals can maintain the policy even after leaving employment.

Integrating long-term care insurance into an estate plan is a strategic way to safeguard assets and ensure that future healthcare needs are met. Here’s how LTCI complements estate planning. The most obvious benefit of using LTCI is the ability to preserving wealth and assets. Without LTCI, individuals may need to deplete their savings and assets to pay for care. This can erode the wealth intended for children, other family, or charitable causes. LTCI helps cover care costs, allowing individuals to preserve their estate for future generations.

There’s also the benefit of potentially reducing the burden on familial caregivers. When a

loved one requires long-term care, family members often become primary caregivers, leading to emotional and financial strain. LTCI ensures professional care is available, relieving family members of full-time caregiving responsibilities.

Crucially, this option also allows individuals to protecting their Medicaid eligibility. Medicaid has strict asset and income limits for eligibility. Without proper planning, individuals may be forced to “spend down” their assets to qualify. LTCI can delay or prevent the need to rely on Medicaid, preserving assets for beneficiaries.

Finally, LTCI provides people with more care options. Those with LTCI have greater flexibility in choosing care options, including private nursing homes or in-home care services that may not be covered by Medicaid. A well-structured policy can ensure quality care in preferred settings rather than relying on limited government-funded options.

Long-term care insurance is a critical component of financial security and estate planning. It ensures access to

quality care, protects assets, and reduces the burden on family members. By proactively planning for potential long-term care needs, individuals can maintain their independence, protect their estate, and provide peace of mind for themselves and their loved ones. Consulting with a financial planner or estate attorney can help tailor a long-term care strategy that aligns with personal and financial goals.

For more information on this topic and to learn how YOU can pay for long-term care, join us on **Thursday, March 27th for lunch at Drusilla’s in Baton Rouge or for dinner at Mike Anderson’s in Prairieville** for a delicious meal and a wealth of information. Call Sara at (225) 744-0027 to sign up.

*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.*

## Spring Clean Ups and Maintenance!

*A good beginning can last all year.*

Currently servicing Residential and Commercial from All of Ascension Parish to Florida Blvd. to Walker.

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(Depending on size of property • Spring Clean-Ups Require Quotes)

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**Xtreme Services Lawn Care LLC**

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## March: A Month for Women; Health and Wellness

March is more than just the start of spring — it's a time to focus on taking care of yourself and recognizing the incredible strength and resilience of women. As National Nutrition Month, National Sleep Month, National Kidney Month, and Women's History Month, March is the perfect reminder to prioritize your health and well-being.

Recently, a friend shared a story about her mother that highlights the importance of listening to your body. Her mom had been feeling unwell and visited her doctor, but no concrete diagnosis was given. Trusting her instincts, she sought a second opinion, which led to a test that revealed a heart aneurysm. Thankfully, she was able to have a procedure to

correct the issue and is now feeling great.

This story is a powerful reminder: if you feel like something isn't right with your body, don't ignore it. Listen to your gut, schedule a checkup, and if you're not satisfied with the answers you're getting — seek another opinion. Your health is worth it.

### Essential Health Screenings for Women

Preventative care can save your life. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, here are a few important health screenings to keep on your radar:

- Blood Pressure Test
- Pap Test
- Bone Mineral Density Test
- Cholesterol Test
- Mammogram
- Colorectal Screening

- Heart Health Assessment
- Sleep Apnea Evaluation

Please speak to your physician about these (and other) tests to make sure you are on the path of being your best self. It's also a great time to evaluate your daily habits and self-care.

### Nutrition

Fuel your body with nutrient-rich foods that support your overall health.

Be sure to include lean proteins, a variety of fruits and veggie, whole grains, and healthy fats in your meals. (Of course, always discuss nutrition goals with your nutritionist or health care provider.)

Minimize processed foods and added sugars, which can lead to inflammation and fatigue, and try to get at least half your body weight in ounces of water daily!

### Sleep

Quality sleep is essential for mental and physical health. Aim for 7–9 hours of sleep each night. If you struggle to get restful sleep, create a relaxing bedtime routine and limit screen time before bed.

### Schedule "Me Time"

Make a monthly standing appointment with yourself to recharge. Get a massage, take a class that makes you use your creative side, have lunch with a friend, or do something that brings you joy and helps you relax.

### Daily Moments of Peace

Try to take at least 15 minutes a day to pray, read, meditate, or simply sit in silence. No TV, no phone, no distractions — just quiet time for yourself. Even if you must hide in the closet or the bathroom to make it happen, it's worth it!

### Find Community

You don't have to do it alone. Asking for help isn't a sign of weakness — it's a sign of strength and self-awareness. Whether it's your spouse, family, co-worker, or friends, let others support you when you need it. Be vulnerable if you need help.

So, as we celebrate March let's remember to listen to your body, take care of your health, and give yourself the care you deserve — because you're worth it!

Blessings and beauty to you Ascension Parish.

XOXO,

*Sweet Eyes*





AESTHETIC  
DERMATOLOGY

**Morpheus8V** is a new, safe, and effective solution delivering life-changing technologies for women's wellness. It is a comprehensive and versatile in-office system designed to improve functionality and appearance of the delicate female anatomy.

This innovative device is designed specifically to leverage multiple technologies to treat a broad range of



conditions, such as stress, urge, and mixed urinary incontinence, weak pelvic floor muscles, blood circulation, and pain relief.

#### HOW DOES MORPHEUS8V WORK?

EmpowerRF uses a combination of synergistic complementary energies including radio-frequency (RF) and electrical muscle stimulation (EMS) to address common feminine wellness concerns.



## We have a Zecret in Women's Wellness

### Morpheus8V by InMode Aesthetics is now at Z Dermatology!

Treatments are customized and tailored to meet your specific needs and conditions. All EmpowerRF procedures are performed by one of our trained providers right here in our office. With EmpowerRF, there is no general anesthesia, large incisions, or the downtime that is associated with excisional interventions. EmpowerRF will help you regain your self-confidence and improve your quality of life!

#### WHAT CAN I EXPECT DURING MY TREATMENT?

EmpowerRF is designed to safely and effectively treat delicate areas of the body and improve functional health. You can expect to feel a heating sensation during your treatment with little to no pain or discomfort.

#### HOW MANY SESSIONS ARE REQUIRED?

Dr. Z will recommend the best treatment plan for you. The majority of patients have 3-6 sessions; however, most notice a difference after only 3 treatments! The number of sessions depends on your treatment concerns, your personal goals, and if you plan to use a combination treatment or a single treatment approach.

#### What is the downtime?

Depending on the therapy type, and the intensity of the treatment, there is little to no downtime. Some patients may have slight discomfort during and immediately after treatment, however many patients will experience no discomfort at all. Numbing cream will be provided one hour prior to the treatment along with Pronox Laughing gas if needed.

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by INMODE

Ann Zedlitz, M.D.  
**Board Certified Dermatologist**  
"Skin Boss"





# Jambalaya Festival

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

*All Bands and Dancing are in Air Conditioned Buildings*

# Jambalaya Festival Moves to Lamar Dixon



Mike Gonzales JFA President

have been working diligently to bring you a fun filled weekend of good cooking, great bands, exciting carnival rides, delicious food, various vendors, awesome car show, and challenging 5k and 1k run. Here is our full event schedule for an entire weekend of fun at The 58th Annual Gonzales Jambalaya Festival.

*Mike Gonzales*

We are excited to kick off our 58th Annual Gonzales Jambalaya Festival at Lamar Dixon Expo Center on May 22 - 25, 2025. We



Tyler Billingsley Wins the 2024 Jambalaya Festival with helper Michael McCloud



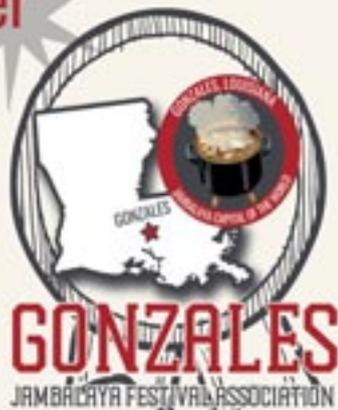


**Saturday, May 24**

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



All cooking events are under roof protected from summer rains.

**5k & 1 Mile Fun Run**



**THE PARC SOCIAL & LEISURE CLUB !**



We are so pleased to announce the startup of a day program at The Parc Senior Living: "The Parc Social & Leisure Club". Stimulating cognitive activities, meals and fellowship within The Parc community.

Monday through Friday  
 9 AM - 4:30 PM

\$75.00 a day

Enroll at The Parc by calling  
 Julie 225-252-1533  
 Lisa Marie 504-909-2178



1604 S Burnside Ave, Gonzales LA 70737



**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**  
**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



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# CHC Closet and Pantry

## “Seeking to Glorify God by Helping People”

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



Mary, Sheila, Jessica, Tina and Faye working hard



"Allison is a great volunteer"

We have been very busy and much blessed at CHC Closet and Pantry in the time since I last wrote an article for this magazine. The Christmas season was very busy for us as we tried to provide families with food and necessities for the holidays. It isn't our custom, but we were able to provide several families with toys for their children and we were able to donate some toys for the Christmas dinner at Country Kitchen restaurant.

To put into perspective how great our needs are, we were able to provide food, hygiene and/or clothing, sometimes

all three, to 189 families in January and 212 families in February. Most of our families have 3-4 people but some have as many as 8 people in the home. Almost everyone who gets food needs the basics like PB&J and condiments as well as rice, sugar, beans, cereal and whatever meat we have at the time. That's a lot of food to purchase if it isn't donated.

We have a lot of people to recognize and thank:

Mac's Cajun Sausage has given us a lot of sausage, boudin and chicken patties.

Starbuck's provided coffee,

sandwiches, cakes and cake pops. This is a great way for us to feed our homeless folks as they come in.

Blue Runner Beans gave us many cases of delicious Blue Runner beans.

LA Oral Surgery Center gave us dental hygiene bags.

Prairieville Middle provided peanut butter, water, tuna and diapers.

The BETA club at Prairieville High School sent toothbrushes.

A special thank you to Janet and Sally for a lot of hygiene items sent from Amazon.

You guys rock.

Atmos Energy made a great financial donation that really helped us a lot. We had another large financial and food donation from a wonderful man who won't let me publicly thank him but he knows who he is and hopefully he knows how much he is appreciated.

We have had fundraisers at Rotolo's, Off the Hook and Raising Cane's, all of which brought in much needed cash. Thank you to these sponsors for having us.

Thank you to the sweet coupon lady who brings us great stuff. I am so sorry that we forgot to get your name and



Jada and Cindy LA Oral Surgery Center



Mike T. "Mover of heavy boxes"



Thank you to Blue Runner

I can't remember it right now but we appreciate your help a lot.

New Song Community Church helps us on a regular basis and we thank them for it. They ALWAYS come through for us when we need help. Thank also to Mike and Allison who came and worked a day at the closet.

Holy Rosary food bank shares their extra with us so we are sometimes able to offer fresh produce and other items. It a treat everytime they show up.

We thank Ms. Connie who brings us food from Olive Garden and Chick-Fil-A and we thank those restaurants also.

Pastor Gregory brings donuts and pastries from Thee Heavenly Donut. It's always a good day when pastor Gregory comes as we get to sample the delicious pastries. Thank you to him and Thee Heavenly Donut.

We have been receiving a regular check from someone every month which helps so much.

I am sure that I have forgotten someone and for that I apologize. We thank and appreciate everyone who donates to us.

I would also like to thank our amazing volunteers. We couldn't be open without each of them. If you would like to

join us please call me at 225/647-8612. Please leave a message and I'll get back with you.

If you are able or know of anyone who could host a food/hygiene drive for us please contact me. With the cost of groceries and other items going up every day, the need is great and we need help to keep up with it.

Again, thank you to the entire Ascension Parish community who helps us so much. God bless you all.

*Janell Brent*



Thank's to Brent at Mac's Sausage

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- Indoor Kite Flying
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- Professional Kite Flying Teams
- Inflatables
- Waters Edge playing 4-8pm
- Nite Flight followed by Fireworks!

## 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

# 2025 Kite Fest

# Louisiane

Saturday & Sunday  
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Saturday 11am till  
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# FINANCIAL FOCUS

## How can you boost your savings?

It might not be on your calendar, but America Saves Week is observed from April 7–11. Are you saving enough?

If not, how can you save more?

If you don't think you're saving enough, you're not alone. Just 22% of Americans are completely satisfied with the amount of money they've saved, according to a recent Yahoo Finance/Marist Poll survey. And the same survey showed that a third of households couldn't cover one month's worth of bills if they lost a job or other source of income.

What's behind this savings gap? Several factors are involved, including the high cost of housing. But while you can't control these external forces, you may be able to increase your savings by taking these steps:

- *Create a budget* — and stick with it. Following a budget is not everyone's idea of fun, but it can be of great use in managing your spending, which,

in turn, can help you save more. You can find many free budgeting apps that allow you to track your spending and place it into categories. Once you know where your money is going, you may find it easier to cut back in certain areas, such as possibly eliminating streaming services you don't use much.

- *Pay yourself first.* Like everyone, you have a lot of bills to pay each month. But why not pay yourself first? Even if you can't put away a lot of money, any amount will help. And you can make it easier on yourself by having some funds moved automatically each month from your checking or savings account into a liquid, low-risk account — one you don't use for your everyday expenses. Over time, as your income goes up, you can increase the amounts in these automatic transfers.

- *Take advantage of "cash-back" offers.* You may already use a credit card that provides you with cash back on purchases. But did you know you can also download cash-back apps? Like cash-back credit cards, these apps give you a percentage of your spending back, helping you save money

on many of your regular purchases, such as groceries and gas. You can even find apps that offer promotions that let you earn more at specific times or for buying certain items.

- *Cut down* — or consolidate — your debts. It's easier said than done, but the more you can reduce your debts, the more money you'll be able to save. You can choose to tackle the debt with the highest interest rate or get rid of the smallest debts first, but whichever method you choose, try to be as diligent as you can. You also might be able to consolidate your debts — but be careful, because not all debt consolidation offers will work in your favor.

- *Get some help.* Your employer may provide an employee assistance program that offers, among other benefits, credit counseling and other types of financial guidance. You may want to contact a financial professional who can take a holistic look at your situation and offer recommendations on saving, investing and goal setting.

It's always important to save money — but it's not always easy. However, by exploring every avenue available to you, you may be able to improve your saving skills to the point where they can make a real difference in your life.

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



**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING  
**Jamie Lavigne,**  
Financial Advisor

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Thank you Robin of Off the Grid Photography

# 30 Years of Spanishtown

Thirty years ago I lost my Mardi Gras float riding virginity and I've been riding ever since. Why? I couldn't tell you other than us cajuns get frisky as it gets closer to Mardi Gras. Then we start checking the weather because there is a good time in our future. Please don't rain on our parade.

This year the weather gods smiled on us and maybe a little to much. It was hot!

This years theme was a tribute to Columnist Smiley Anders. He passed earlier this year. He also attended the parade wearing ped pumps and a pink too too. The above photo of our float showcases Smiley's parade attire and the theme.

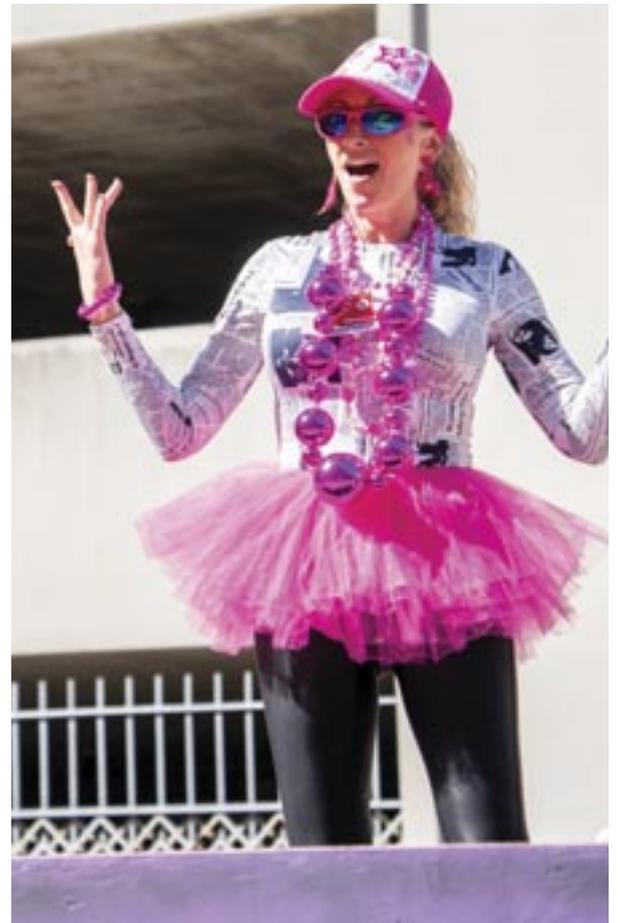
This years ride was outstanding. People were 20 rows deep in some sections and

the warm weather allowed the crowd to wear some really skimpy clothing and there are lots of pretty girls in the world.

Fortunately I ride up top and don't have all the people in my face all day. Up top this year my godchild Sarah rode with me and her mother-in-law, Cathy. Cathy was a first time virgin rider. She made the most of a fabulous ride. Then there was Katy that stood on an ice chest all day and she didn't fall off. I think she had more fun than all of us.

We have a remarkable krewe. We have Champion Jambalaya cooks, carpenters, salesmen, DJ's, hairdressers, artist, welders and all like to have a cold beverage.

We survived the day and rested for a week. ***Laissez le bon temps rouler!!!***





Friday, April 4, 2025 at 5 PM - 8 PM  
**LA State Representative  
 Tony Bacala (District 59)  
 "Best Catch" Fundraiser**  
*Join Us at 'Elegant Affairs'*

Dear Friends,

It has been a great pleasure to represent the people of District 59 in the Louisiana House of Representatives for the past nine years, and I am excited to announce my intention to seek election to the Louisiana State Senate in 2027. Senator Eddie Lambert has served our community with honor, dignity, and integrity for the past 21 years, first as a State Representative, and now as a State Senator, but term limits prevent him from seeking reelection to the State Senate, leaving his District 18 Senate seat open.

As the State Representative for District 59, I have been a strong proponent of the conservative tenants that make up the core values of the vast majority of the people within the district. As such, I have been recognized and honored by Christian organizations, law enforcement associations, and education, community and business groups.

During my first term in office, budget shortfalls were a continual challenge. A few of my accomplishments related to the budget centered on my response to a challenge to identify and eliminate over \$700 million in "excess budget authority" from the budget. I also initiated actions that have led to the identification of tens of thousands of people who enrolled in Medicaid improperly, saving the State and Federal government hundreds of millions of dollars a year.

During my second term in office, I remained strongly conservative and opposed wasteful spending. In fact, I was one of only nineteen legislators who opposed exceeding the state's expenditure limit by over one billion dollars, only to see much of that money squandered.

While I am just one year into my third term, I can already point to several conservative accomplishments. One that stands out is my authoring of the bill that led to the passage of a constitutional amendment guaranteeing that legislators will have at least 48 hours to review spending bills before being forced to vote on them. Never again will the legislature be forced to pass spending bills in order to see what is in them! I think it important to also mention that if the voters approve Constitutional Amendment Number 2 on March 29th, a bill I passed with overwhelming support from all LA Legislators, will provide a much needed permanent \$2,000 pay raise for our teachers and a \$1,000 raise to school support staff.

I truly want to continue to be on the front line, fighting for Louisiana and for House District 59 now, and Senate District 18 beginning in 2028. To that end, I hope that you will join our family for our Annual "Best Catch" Fish Fry and Fundraiser on Friday, April 4th.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at this event, so please come dressed casual and ready for a good time. The event will be at Elegant Affairs, located at 14190 Airline HWY in Gonzales, and will be from 5:00 - 8:00 P.M. Once I receive your donation, I will send your tickets to you.

As always, if you have any questions, please call me on my cell phone. The number is (225) 921-3852.



Thanks, Tony Bacala Representative, District 59



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# Louisiana Friends Against Childhood Cancer (LFACC)

## 30th Annual "Krewe of Diversion" Boat Parade

Photos by Mike Strong

Parade was on February 22, 2025 started at Noon Boats lined up starting at Canal Bank and went up the Diversion to the weir and continued on the old Amite River and ended at Mannys Bar. Spectators on the Diversion and



Amite River have parties and hang out on piers/docks waiting for the Boats to pass. When the Boat participants spot the spectators on piers they throw beads, stuffed animals and other special trinkets. Spectators usually have dollar bills and place in the boat fishing nets. All boats bring the money collected back to Mannys to be counted where the Parade ends.

This Event would not be successful if the Spectators and Volunteers were not present.

LFACC is blessed to have our dedicated Spectators and Volunteers.

Volunteers from donating food and cooking meals for Friday Night Parade Registration prior to Parade on Saturday. Food is also donated for Parade day.

Volunteers cooked Cracklin, Pasta-laya, Jambalaya and Spaghetti and other volunteers served and sold the food and t-shirts.

We also have dedicated volunteers that gather auction items from retailers etc. The items are donated and auctioned off after the parade. The auction consists of a group of hard working volunteers that keep an organized committee to label, number all items. LFACC is fortunate enough to have auctioneers that



Grand Marshal Abigail Whitam



Photos by Rhett Bourgeois  
are designated with RB

donate their time to auction items every year.

LFACC has boat Marshals that follow the boats participating in the Parade and are available for anything they may need during the Parade.

After the Parade and the Auction is over there is a team of counters that have a total amount raised by the end of the night. The team of counters consist of approximately 10 people. We also have volunteer police officers with the counters.

The LFACC Officers and Volunteers would like to give a shout out to Manny and Christine Simoneaux for hosting the Boat Parade at Mannys Bar. In addition a thank you goes out to our Grand

Marshal Abigail Whitam, WBRZ Multimedia Journalist.

The 2025 LFACC Boat Parade raised \$55,100.00.

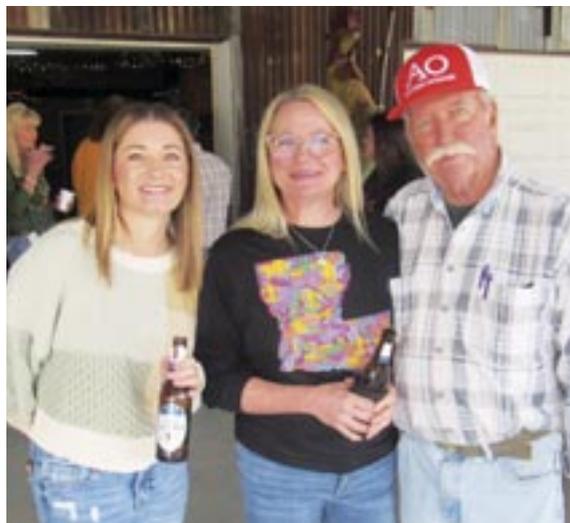
**LFACC 2025  
St. Jude Upcoming Events  
April 4th ..  
Calcutta @ Canal Bank**

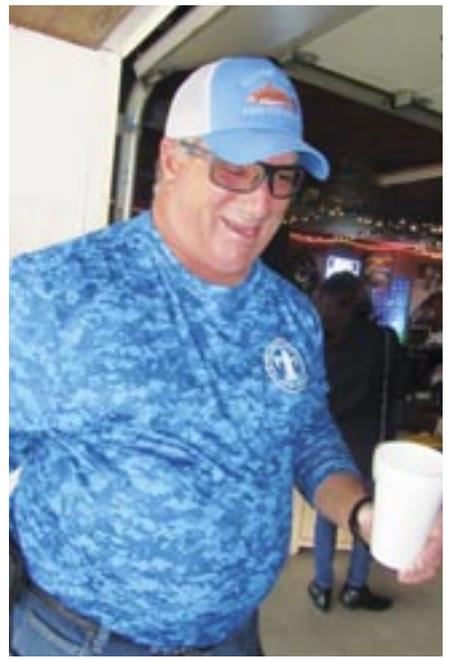
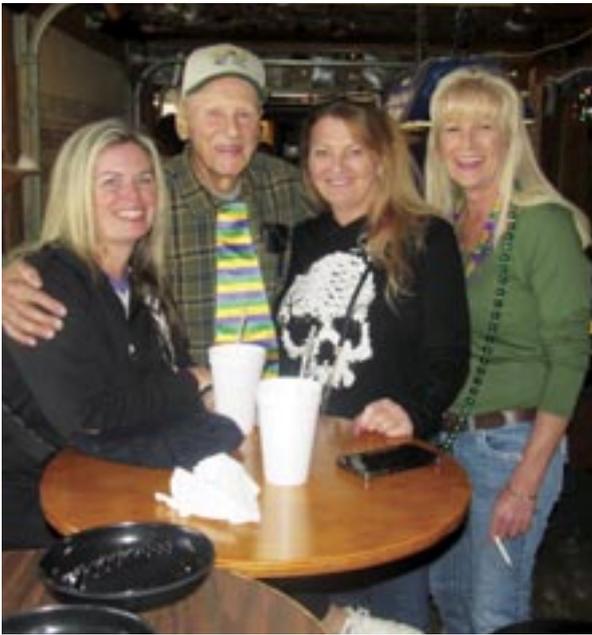
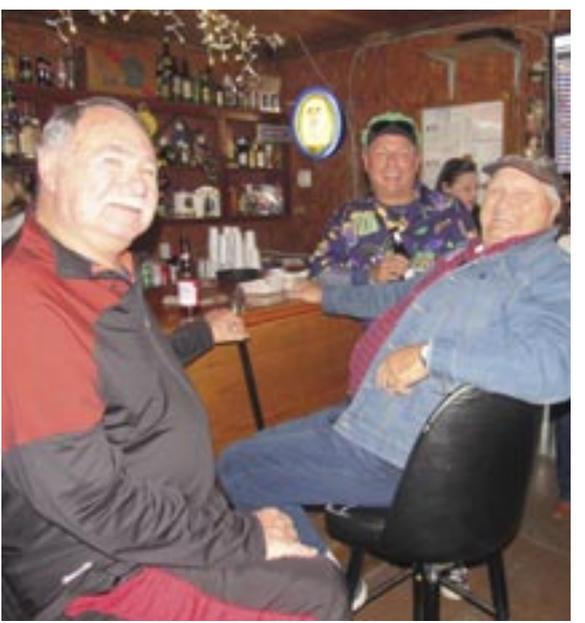
**April 12th ..  
Bass Tournament @ Manny's Bar**

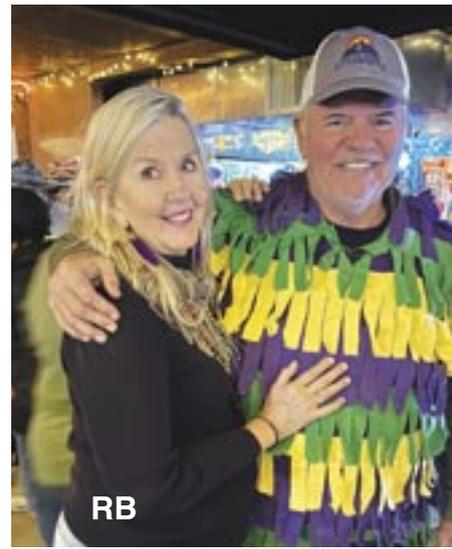
**August 2nd ..  
Garfish Rodeo @ Blind River Bar**

**August 16th ..  
Poker Run @ Manny's Bar**

**November 6th ..  
Fish Fry @ Fred's on the River**







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# Hacking Your Way Through March Madness

by **Bill Delaune**

*"I asked you to kill Superman and you're telling me you couldn't even do that one simple thing..."*

**Gene Hackman as Lex Luthor in "Superman."**

With apologies to Ben Franklin, the only other thing as certain as death and taxes is that my March Madness basketball bracket will go up in flames quicker than you can say Sweet 16.

But hope springs eternal-especially in the spring-when even Detroit baseball fans (That's you, Will.) believe this might be the year that the long-suffering Tigers will win the World Series.

And maybe-just maybe-this is the year I'll pick the right Cinderella in my bracket to fit that Silver Sneaker and kick that number one Super team right out of the tournament.

Now I must admit, if you go by my past performances, I don't look too good in the form. Take last year, for instance, when I decided-in a loyal stand for Southern culture-to take all the SEC teams (Where it just means more) to advance in the NCAA Tourney.

Well, in 2024, it just meant less-as in less cash in my wallet-when in rapid succession... 1. Miss State's Bulldogs got neutered. 2. South Carolina's Cocks failed to achieve or sustain. 3. Florida's Gators got skinned by Troy Landry's Colorado cousins. 4. Kentucky's Wildcats got tamed by someone called Oakland who wasn't even from California. 5. Auburn's WhatEVERS got out SAT'd by Yale.

Things got so bad that when Alabama finally broke the streak, I gave a high-5 to our Redneck Tide lady friend in the sportsbook whom we had affectionately named March Madness for her teeth-down to the Final 4.

Or two years ago when I abandoned my longshot system and picked a number- one seed Purdue and

a two-seed Arizona to meet in the Finals and then watched in horror as a pair of Jersey boys-namely Farleigh Dickinson and Princeton-knocked the favorites out in the first round.

And don't get me started on my worst pick of all time-the top-seeded 2018 Virginia Cavaliers, who had lost only two games all year despite playing in the brutal ACC. The Cavs didn't just lose-as a 30 point favorite-to the University of Maryland-Baltimore County, they got beat by 20. Yes, this was the same UMBC that had lost earlier in the season to that basketball powerhouse Albany by 43 points.

But a wiser man than I once said," That's why the Good



Lord put our eyes in front of our head and not in the back so we can see where we're going and not where we've been." And where I was going was down Alligator Bayou Road in search of the All-Seeing, All-Knowing Sports Ninja to help cure my spring fever, give me a little spiritual guidance and get some hot bracket tips and maybe a cold beer.

I found him in the back of the old Alligator Hilton Bar where Sunday nights often found a motley crew of cowboys, bikers, hippies and LSU frat kids shooting pool and attempting to dance on the badly-warped dance floor. He was decked out in a red and gold Hickory Husker sweatshirt

and a porkpie hat and was staring longingly out into once was known simply as Bluff Swamp.

"This used to be a damn good country, Fish Wrap," he lamented. "A man could walk into that swamp, catch a couple of sacks of crawfish and have a boil that night. Now the restaurants want 10 dollars for a pound of the little critters and there's 'Posted' signs everywhere. Everything's changing-except that antiquated magazine you and Bully put out." He laughed at himself and turned to face me to give me the full look at his outfit.

"An obvious tribute to Gene Hackman," I pointed out. "I didn't know you were such a fan."

"How could anyone not like Hackman," Ninja replied. "An actor's actor. Name another thespian that could play comedy like he did as the washed-up producer in 'Get Shorty' and turn around and play a super villain like Lex Luthor in 'Superman'. And don't forget he won an Oscar playing a detective in 'The French Connection' despite wearing this goofy hat. What an epic car chase through New York City in that one. And kids nowadays think the 'Fast and Furious' series invented that."

I attempted a weak segue to suit the purpose of my trip. "I like the Popeye Doyle hat but I'm really digging the Norman Dale coaching shirt from 'Hoosiers'-possibly the best basketball movie ever made and..."

"Speaking of basketball, you've come here for some help filling out your brackets." He beat me to the punch as usual. "Well, with a little assistance from the late, great Mr. Hackman, we have some picks for you that may be as shocking as Hickory winning the Indiana State Championship. Right this way..."

He opened a creaky door and led me inside. But instead of the old bar, the place looked

more like an arcade with four large machines resembling the old carnival fortune-telling machines-not unlike the one Tom Hanks used in the movie "Big". Except instead of a turbaned Indian mystic, the characters were a cowboy, a 1920's gangster, the aforementioned bald-headed Lex Luthor and Coach Norman Dale.

The Great Ninja was like a kid in a candy shop as he giggled with glee and handed me a handful of coins and pointed to the machines. "Go ahead, try one out and see what happens."

I'd learned a long time ago not to question even his strangest requests so I walked up to the one with Lex Luthor and dropped a coin in the slot. The man who could never get the best of Superman whirred mechanically and sent back a card.

"Go ahead. Read it." Ninja was positively giddy now. "See what Lex has to say."

I picked up the card and read out loud, "To combat Superpower's might, Choose a K like Kryptonite."

"Okay, I know that's the material that weakens

Superman but what's that got to do with March Madness?" I asked.

"Come on, Wild Bill. Use that detective alter-ego you write about from time to time. Who is the Superteam in this year's tournament?"

"I'd say Duke," I ventured.

"Good," smiled the Great One. "And two of the three teams to beat Duke this year started with a 'K'. I exclaimed. "So one of those is a Final 4 team."

"Correctamundo," Ninja said. "Try Little Bill from 'The Unforgiven'."

I dropped my coin, got my card and read, "Sometimes when it's hard to choose, Wish for both of them to lose."

"Kinda like when Auburn plays Alabama," I guessed. "There are no good guys as far as I'm concerned."

Ninja looked pleased. "Just like the movie where Hackman played a crooked sheriff and Clint Eastwood a retired gunslinger reluctantly on one last mission. But like them or not-one makes the finals."

I strolled over to the Gangster machine. "I'd forgotten Hackman played Clyde Barrow's brother in

'Bonnie and Clyde'". But the outlaw remembered to give me a card like the others. "Follow the route we used to ride, When we robbed banks with Bonnie and Clyde."

I must have looked puzzled so Ninja thought he'd throw me a clue. "Most of their dirty work started in East Texas before they met their deaths in Louisiana so they had to pass through..."

"Houston!" I crowed proudly.

"Now you've got the hang of it. Three down, one to go."

I tried to think of a famous Norman Dale quote from "Hoosiers" but all I could think of was a drunken Dennis Hopper as Hackman's assistant. But the card did mention the name of the school. "Odds on Hickory were not great, But take a shot from another state."

"So no Indiana," I mused, "but a big longshot."

"Maybe the clue is the school's nickname 'Huskers', offered Ninja.

"Well Nebraska's the Cornhuskers but they're not going to the Tournament either," I said. "But there is a small school in Omaha that is-Creighton-and they'll be

over 100-1."

"Excellent," shouted the Great One. "Now look what you and Gene have put together. Houston, Alabama (or Auburn), Creighton and Kentucky (or Kansas). Take the first letter of each-the options are yours-and you spell out Hack! A Final Four tribute to Gene Hackman!" "You never cease to amaze me with your selection systems," I admitted. Now, you got a cold beer around here?. Your games wear me out."

Of course he had one more shot in his cannon-"Hey, Wild Bill, I know you like that 'simple job' quote from 'Superman' but you know mine? When Lex says, "Do you know why the number 200 so vitally descriptive to both you and me? It's your weight and my I.Q."

"Very funny," I said. "In that case make mine a Lite."

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## East Ascension Sportsmans League

Letter from president -  
**Greg Cedotal**

The regular meeting of the East Ascension Sportsman's League will be held March 17th at 7:00 pm in the meeting room at Cabela's. The guest speaker will be Cody Cedotal with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. He is

scheduled to speak about the status of turkeys and turkey hunting in Louisiana. He may talk about other states where he has hunted turkeys.

Now that the hunting season has taken a break between the regular season and Turkey along with the Spring Squirrel hunting season, it is the time of year to start putting out the hummingbird feeders and getting outdoors to enjoy nature. Louisiana is filled with trails, hiking or ATV, waterways where you can go canoeing or kayaking or boat riding to relax and enjoy the great outdoors. While enjoying the outdoors, think about how we can get together and protect nature for our children and grandchildren to enjoy. Then come to a meeting and talk to us about the thoughts you have for protecting and passing forward our great heritage of living in the Sportsman's Paradise.

EASL is considering having a Catfish Rodeo, if you are

interested, please let me know. We would like input on a possible location and other ideas you may have.

EASL and the Ascension Waterway Commission are working to get a fishing pier built at the public boat launch by Fred's. Let us know if you support this idea and are interested in helping show your support.

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 March 21st and 22nd. If you are interested in fishing with the bass club, contact Jim Hebert at 225-717-6037. The March 22 Rifle Silhouette Match will be March 22nd 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. The Big Buck contest has officially

ended. I cannot wait to see who won. See EASLONLINE.org, Annual & Monthly Contest. Get your membership renewed to be ready for The Big Turkey 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 gced1@gmail.com.

**EASL's next regular meeting is March 17th in the second-floor meeting room at Cabela's, starting at 7:00 PM.**

# EASL Bass Club News

The EASL Bass Club fished their recent Tournament on February 15th. This was another "trailer tournament" where you could launch and fish from Amelia to Pigeon. There were 17 boats that fished the tournament with a 3:00PM weigh in at the Belle River public launch. The weather was warm and very windy so everyone was looking forward to a good day of fishing. The results showed that the fishing was tough but the members still brought 10 limits brought to the scales.

The winners were BoJack & Brody Anderson with a limit that weighed 13.5 lbs.

Second Place was Bubba Rossi & Tim

Guillaume with a limit that weighed 11.38 lbs.  
Third Place was Corey

Guitreau & Layne Trahan with their limit that weighed 10.66 lbs  
Big Bass winner was Julien Day with a lunker that weighed 4.74 lbs.

Congratulations to the winners of the February

Tournament. Our next event will be held at Caney Lake on March 21st and 22nd. There will be a meeting to sign up for the Tournament on March 13th at Dirk Anderson's home on Babin Road.



L-R BoJack & Brody Anderson, Tim Guillaume & Bubba Rossi, Julien Day, Corey Guitreau

# Jammin' with Goosie

## It's Alive

Our historical snow storm was now a week or so in the rear view mirror and the thermometer was now showing temps in the high seventies. As I was backing out of my driveway one evening I noticed quite a bit of activity occurring in the roadside ditch. For the months of December and January minnow, turtle, and shellfish action in those waters were basically non-existing but the warmer temperatures had now brought back signs of life that had been in a dormant state for some time. The water movement inspired me to get my boat ready for a nearby fishing trip to the Amite River. Reports from that area had not been great at the time but the warmup would soon change fish activity in that region for sure. Hurricane Francine did create a minimal fish kill in the Amite

Basin so I kinda wanted to test those waters to compare catches of the past to the present. Although it was still a little early in the season for a lot of fish activity to occur in the big waters I did manage to catch ten beautiful sacalait on that outing in a small amount of time. Not my best catch ever for sure but plenty enough for a Super Bowl fish fry. The catch had also eased my mind in regards that the recent hurricane fish kill of that area had not been all that bad. One negative that I did see on this day out was the presence of water hyacinths clogging up some of the waterways making many banks unfishable. The prior freeze had killed the tops of these invasive plants but many of their underwater tubers are unfortunately still alive. I did notice less fish action in areas where many of the decaying parts of the plants were to be seen. Hopefully some high water this spring will wash the remaining survivors away.



Not long after my fishing trip had taken place I finally got up enough nerve to go out to my hunting lease and remove the fabrics from my deer stands so they could once again be stored away until next year. After I completed that process I decided to walk out into a certain swampy area to see what kind of activity was now taking place in those waters. During the heart of the winter I had ventured out there in search of ducks and as I waded through that swampy environment I witnessed basically no life at all under the water. Now approximately one month later with every step I took I revealed thousands of minnows and

small crawfish frantically trying to escape each footstep of my invasion.

Have you ever noticed the seemingly absence of life in our freshwater ponds, rivers, and swamps during the dead of winter. Most freshwater species of fish find deep warm water and become lethargic at that time of the year. Creatures such as crawfish, amphibians, and reptiles will at times bury themselves in the mud to escape the cold. Surface activity during the cold months is at its lowest point but as the sun warms the water signs of life can quickly reappear. Spring and summer are the time of the year that our fish and shellfish repopulate our waters. After spawning activity is complete the summer waters, now replenished with an enormous population of life, are teeming with visible action once again. As the months pass by many of the newborn will be consumed by larger predators and the survivors will then become the next generation to carry out reproduction of the species.

Next winter's waters may show no signs of life but one thing is for sure, the warmth of the following spring sun will reveal that "It's Alive" once again.

Till next time

Enjoy the gift of life

James "Goosie" Guice



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## ***Useless Random Facts with Kellie***

*Octopus ink doesn't just hide the animal. The ink also physically harms enemies. It contains a compound called tyrosinase, which, in humans, helps to control the production of the natural pigment melanin.*

*Flamingos are born with gray feathers, which turn pink from their diet of shrimp.*

*Abraham Lincoln's corpse has been buried, exhumed, inspected, or reburied at least seventeen times since his death.*

*A mosquito's saliva acts as an anesthetic, so you usually don't notice when one is biting you.*

*Velcro was invented by a Swiss guy who was inspired by the way burrs attached to clothing.*

*Until 450 BC, February was the last month of the calendar year.*

*The cables of the Golden Gate Bridge contain 80,000 miles of steel wire.*

*Women started removing hair from their legs in 400 BCE. They either plucked them with tweezers or singed them with a flame.*

*The lowest temperature ever measured on Earth was -126 F(-88 C) in Antarctica.*

*Office desks have 400 times more bacteria than toilet seats.*

*The western lowland gorilla's scientific name is Gorilla gorilla gorilla.*

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**IT'S A PARTY ON THE RIVER**

**March 22nd**



**5th Annual Boat Extravaganza  
starts at 10:30 am at Fred's**

### ***Band Schedule***

**March 21 - Run for Cover Band**  
**22- Thomas Cain Band**  
**23- Justin Cornett Band**  
**28- Letters in Red Band**  
**29- Chase Tyler Band and Crawfish Boil**  
**30- Wild Life Band**

**April 4 - Drunk Uncles Band**  
**5- Taylor Nauta Band**  
**6- Natalie & Southern Accent**  
**11- Spank the Monkey**  
**12- Petty Betty Band**  
**13- Junior Lacrosse Band**  
**18- Whiskey Bent**

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CHASE TYLER BAND

**March 29th**  
**Chase Tyler Band**  
**and Crawfish Boil**

**Crawfish @ 3pm**  
**Music @ 7pm**



**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL FRED'S BAR 225.622.4884**

Thoughts from Bully

# Rib-Off 2025 19 Years of Great Ribs and Lots of BEER!!



The Ascension Magazine Rib-Off was held for the 19th year a couple of weeks ago. When I look around the field of cooks I think I can get an idea of who's a threat and who's not. Well I think I'm losing my touch.

This year we had some weather to contend with and the rain move pit temperatures but at the end of the day everybody did great. The first thing the judges did during the awards was congratulate the cooks that all the ribs had potential and were really good. Most of the time there are burnt or dry ribs. Maybe lighter fluid taste. But not this year.

This year we had in influx of

new young cooks. That is good for future years but one look at the amount of beer flowing I figured my chances were going way up. Well, I didn't even place this year.

Big Luke a former Champion from about 15 years ago won 1st place. Rueben a new comer who is typically a jambalaya cook helper but he was from Texas so I knew he was trouble. He won 2nd place. And then there is Nick who came in 3rd. I kept hearing rumors of a great BBQ sauce he created so it worked.

Congratulations guys you deserve it.

I hope we have more new young cooks next year to build the future of our contest.



*Big Luke*

*Nick*

*Rueben*



*Big Luke*



*Rueben*



*Nick*





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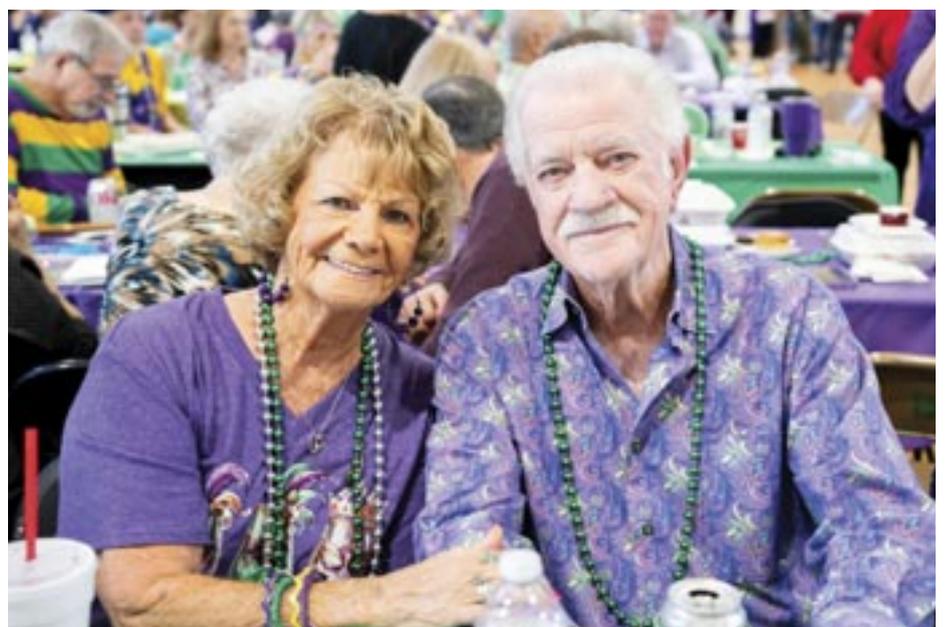
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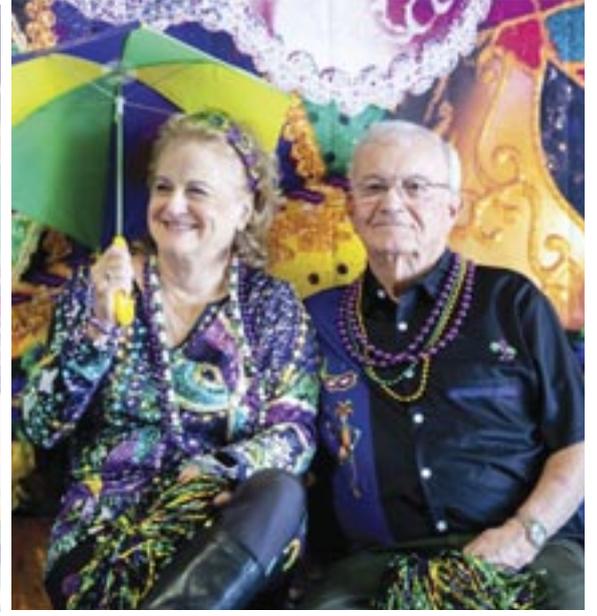
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## Cooking Gourmet at Home with SNO'S SEAFOOD & STEAKS



### “After the Boil” Deviled Eggs



Executive Chef, John Donaldson

Yield: 12

Prep: 15 minutes

Cook: 20 minutes

Serving: 6

#### Ingredients:

- 6 eggs (hard boiled)
- ¼ cup mayonnaise
- ¼ to ½ lb peeled boiled crawfish tails
- ¼ cup green onions (thinly sliced)
- 2 boiled red potatoes (mashed)
- 1 tablespoon Creole mustard
- 1 teaspoon dry crab boil mix
- Salt & Pepper to taste
- 1 or 2 corn cobs (cut corn off of the cob)

#### Method:

Peel all of your boiled eggs. Cut them in half length ways and carefully remove the yolks. Place all the yolks in a mixing bowl and add your mayo, mustard and green onions. Be sure that before adding your corn and potatoes that you chop and mash them as much as possible to ensure proper mixture. Finally, rough chop your crawfish tails and add to mixture. Salt and pepper the mixture to taste. Using a piping bag or spoon add the mixture back into the boiled egg halves. Sprinkle with dry crab boil and serve.

ENJOY!!!!!!

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