

COMPLIMENTARY

# Ascension

## MAGAZINE

APRIL 2025, VOL. 23 ISSUE 4



# All American Queens

Boucherie Queen  
*Kenley Lemoine*

Jambalaya Queen  
*Gracie Guillot*



# BRACELETS

# FOR MOM



*Happy  
Mother's  
Day*



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**ON THE COVER .....Kenley and Gracie Festival Queens ... Photo by Jace' Babin**



# Rotary Club of Gonzales's Annual Food Fest Extravaganza a Huge Success!

The Rotary Club of Gonzales hosted another unforgettable Annual Food Fest Extravaganza on Thursday, March 27th, bringing together over 350 attendees and 30 local vendors for a night of food, fun, and philanthropy! This highly anticipated event, held at the new Pace Center in Gonzales, not only showcased

the best culinary talents in Ascension but also raised vital funds to support local nonprofits, reinforcing our commitment to #Service-AboveSelf.

Months of dedicated planning by our Rotarians paid off as guests enjoyed a vibrant atmosphere filled with

delicious bites, community spirit, and charitable giving. This year's proceeds will be given to the following charities: St. Theresa Food Bank, Sheriff Bobby Webre's Triple E Program, Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center, Junior Achievement, Ascension Community Theatre, Community Advocacy Center

and The Ascension Fund. The funds raised from this event will support these organizations in various ways and truly make a difference in the local community.

A heartfelt thank you to our main sponsor, OLOL St. Elizabeth, as well as all our generous sponsors, vendors,





and Rotarians who made this event possible. The Rotary Club of Gonzales looks forward to next year's event and another incredible celebration of food and giving back.

For more information about our initiatives or ways to get involved, please visit the Rotary Club of Gonzales Facebook page.

**About Rotary**

Rotary brings together a global network of volunteer leaders dedicated to tackling the world's most pressing humanitarian challenges. Rotary connects 1.2 million members of more than 34,000 Rotary clubs in over 200 countries and geographical areas. Their work impacts lives at both the local and international levels, from helping families in need in their own communities to working toward a polio-free world. For more information, visit Rotary.







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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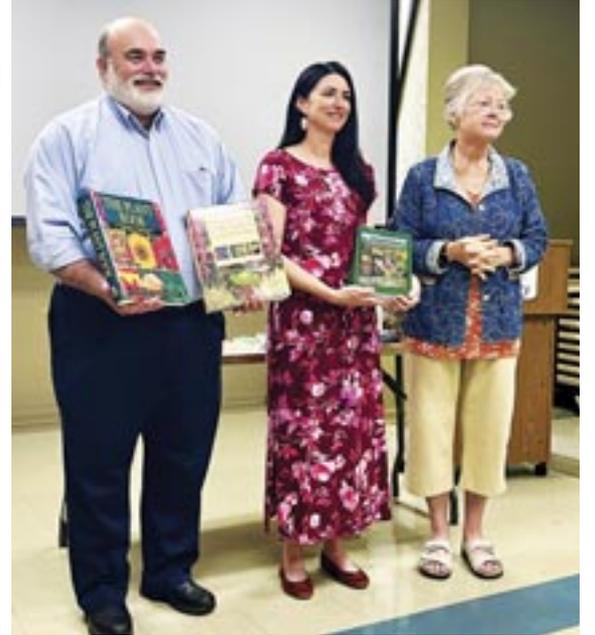
# From the Gonzales Garden Club



Member Marilyn Rice presented items used in flower arranging in her talk, "The Mechanics of Flora Design".



Member Janis Poche began her talk on "Ten Ways to Be a Better Gardener" by advising people to access sources geared to the southern region.



Accepting donated books from GGC President Jamie Trisler (right) are Library Director John Stelly (left) and Assistant Library Director Carrie Goodall (center).

## Garden Inspiration

The Gonzales Garden Club produced its annual flower show this month. The Garden Inspiration Exhibit at the Gonzales library on April 2nd – 4th was the club's largest exhibit of floral designs, horticulture specimens and container plants in recent memory. The public was encouraged to vote for their favorite entry in each division of the exhibit.

Club participation was outstanding. Every active club member contributed. Many members submitted multiple entries. Paola DiNatale, Flo Hernandez and Raakhee Malani submitted entries in all three divisions. Marilyn Rice created the most floral designs (three) entries in the show. Flo Hernandez brought three container plants, which was the most in that category. Conchita Richey displayed 13 specimens which was tops in

that group.

Ten creative flower arrangements in niches adorned with fabric, figurines and thematic accessories comprised the Floral Design Division. Floral designers used trays, pedestals and a wooden lazy Susan to underscore their colorful arrangements of fresh flowers.

Eighteen entries formed the Container Plants Division. The display of plants was intriguing. The unique variety of the containers added interest to the fascinating plants themselves. In addition to house plants in stylish pots of metal, terra cotta and ceramic, there were a succulent wreath hung from a window frame, an orchid in a wooden crate, a fern in a decoupaged basket and a pothos in a fancifully painted head pot.

The Horticulture Specimen Division boasted 62 flora and foliage samples. Featured blooms were iris, amaryllis, verbena, gerbers, roses, stokes aster, phlox, bridal wreath, African violets, begonia, spiderwort, society garlic, Texas bluebonnets, coral honeysuckle, mock orange, shrimp plant, snapdragons, mandevilla, Savannah holly, sweet olive, ground orchids and foliage from Japanese maple, cannas, ivies, ferns and herbs. Vessels for these cut stems included traditional colorless glass vases and bottles plus colored glass, cut crystal, glazed ceramic, a hand-painted bottle and a grapevine wreath.

Past GGC President Conchita Richey pointed out, "The show was very pretty, and it was also very educational, too." In light of the club's objective to share knowledge



The club enjoyed lunch at Diversion Pizza after mingling with library patrons at the flower show.



Horticulture specimens were labeled so visitors could identify each flower and foliage sample.



An array of potted plants in unusual containers gave patrons ideas for their patios and house plants.



of gardening, current GGC President Jamie Trisler remarked, "The show was an opportunity for patrons of the library to enjoy a bounty of horticulture specimens, eye-pleasing floral designs and various plants. The club hopes those attending the Gonzales Garden Club's 'Garden Inspiration' leads others to engage in different aspects of gardening and reap the many benefits it brings."

To complement the Garden Inspiration Exhibit, two presentations were offered at the opening of the flower show on that Wednesday morning. Member Marilyn Rice

presented "The Mechanics of Floral Design" by recommending useful items for constructing stable flower arrangements. She discussed wet foam, weighted "frogs", floral tape, water reservoirs, picks for soft stems, risers and pedestals, Spanish moss lightly coated with hairspray, containers from the thrift store, long twigs from her yard, and a lazy Susan to turn the arrangement as she works. Member Janis Poche's "Ten Steps to Become a Better Gardener" worked through topics to consider: resource material, soil improvement, the right tools, planning diagrams, knowledge of fertilizers and pesticides, plant

requirements, propagation options, merits of pruning, daily perusal, and the joy of the pastime. As lagniappe, Janis spoke of an eleventh step, patience. She advised, "Don't get angry. Gardening is the work of a lifetime. You'll never finish." Janis ended her talk with her personal opinion of her favorite pastime, "Checking my garden is the most peaceful time of the day."

Incorporated into the club's visit to the library was the annual presentation of books to the public library system. Five hardback copies of *Louisiana Wildflower Guide* by



Charles M. Allen were gifted for distribution to each branch. Additionally, two beautifully illustrated coffee table books were personally donated by Associate Member Loretta Speligene: *Small and Container Gardening* and *The Plant Book*.

The garden club's May meeting agenda includes the President's Report, Installation of Officers, and Garden Inspiration Exhibit People's Choice Awards.

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



# Introducing Housewares!

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# Get Growing, Ascension!

## Managing Pest in the Garden

Every gardener encounters pests in the garden at some point. Managing these pests doesn't have to be complicated. Integrated pest management (IPM) is an ecosystem-based strategy that focuses on the long-term prevention of pests or their damage. IPM uses a combination of techniques to manage a variety of pests and can be used by both conventional and organic gardeners.

**Resistant Plant Varieties.** Many plants naturally resist pests better than others. Plants may contain chemicals



Mariah Simoneaux

that repel pests or have physical characteristics that make them more difficult to attack. Prior to planting your garden, take some time to think about issues you have had in the past and look for varieties with resistance.

**Cultural Controls.** Gardeners may incorporate practices that reduce pest establishment and survival. Examples of cultural controls include sanitation, crop rotation, and moving your planting or harvest date. In Louisiana gardeners often plant sweet corn early to avoid



Dragonfly photo by University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

damage from the common insect pest corn earworm. By moving their planting date, they can avoid this pest. Mechanical Controls.

**Mechanical controls** are some of the easiest control tactics to implement, they include physical removal of a pest, tillage, and creating a barrier so that pests no longer have access to your plants.

assassin bugs can be found preying on small, soft bodied insects like aphids and whiteflies. Dragonflies are another beneficial insect, some of their favorite foods are flies, midges, winged ants, and mosquitoes.

**Pesticides.** In situations where gardeners need to use pesticides they can choose from

conventional or organic options. No matter which type of pesticide you use it is extremely important to read and follow the label instructions. Avoid contact with pollinators by not spraying when plants are in bloom.

Spending plenty of time in your garden is one of

the best things you can do. And most importantly remember that before implementing any type of control it is key to identify the pest correctly.

*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).*



Lady beetle photo by Steve Schoof, NC State University.

Examples of barriers include row covers, bird netting, fencing, and cloches. Have you ever seen a garden with tin cans around each plant? This is an easy way to keep cutworm caterpillars from reaching tender seedlings.

**Biological Controls.** Most pests have many natural enemies. These may be predators, parasites, pathogens, or competitors and are often referred to as beneficial insects. Lady beetles, lacewings, and



BEFORE

AFTER

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# YOUR ESTATE MATTERS



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

By Linda Melancon

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 leaving a charitable legacy. The gravity of the word legacy often triggers thoughts of financial assets and property, but your legacy is much more than what you own. While property and assets are part of your legacy, so too are recipes you collected in a box, the oak you planted in the backyard, the art you created, the traditions around family and friends you establish in your home, and the park bench engraved with your name to recognize your donation and support.

An important consideration in estate planning is legacy giving, that is, charitable donations. This is an opportunity to model your values while supporting causes that matter to you. The motivation to make a charitable gift is deeply personal and varied. You may want to ensure the continuation of a charity's mission, honor someone by supporting an organization beloved to them, or set a

philanthropic example for your children. Establishing a charitable gift in your estate planning can be simple or complex.

Charitable gifts can be made during your lifetime or arranged as part of your estate plan to take effect after your death. Both options allow you to support the causes you care about, but they offer different advantages. Lifetime gifts provide the immediate satisfaction of seeing your donation at work and may offer current tax benefits, such as income tax deductions and the ability to reduce capital gains. Gifts made after death—through a will, trust, or beneficiary designation—allow you to make a lasting impact without affecting your current financial situation. Whether you choose to give now or later, charitable giving is a powerful way to extend your values, make a meaningful difference in your community, and shape how you are remembered. Planning these gifts with intention ensures that your generosity aligns with your goals and maximizes the benefit to both your chosen causes and your loved ones.

Beginning with simpler options for bequeathed gifts, you can leave a gift to a charity in your will or trust. The gift can be a specific dollar amount, a percentage of your estate, or a donation of assets such as vehicles, stocks, and real estate. Another option is to name the charity as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy.

If you have specifications about how you want your charitable gift to be used, you can set up a Donor-Advised fund. These funds will be invested according to your advice, and the grants to qualified public charities will be distributed according to your recommendations. You also choose who will make

decisions about the fund in the future.

If you're looking for more advanced ways to give to charity, two options to consider are a Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT) and a Charitable Lead Trust (CLT). With a CRT, you move assets into a trust and receive annual payments from it for a set number of years or for the rest of your life. When that period ends, whatever is left in the trust goes to the charity. A CLT works the other way around. The charity receives the annual payments first, and after the trust term ends, the remaining assets go to the beneficiaries you've chosen—such as your children or other loved ones.

Giving to charity during your lifetime offers tax benefits. These gifts may qualify for an income tax deduction, potentially reducing your taxable income and increasing the assets available for your retirement and your heirs. Additionally, gifts to charity during your lifetime remove gifted assets

from your estate for federal estate tax purposes. Testamentary gifts made through your estate plan qualify for an unlimited estate tax deduction. Gifting highly appreciated property (like real estate or stocks) to a charity may help you avoid or defer paying capital gains tax.

Whether during your lifetime or through your estate, charitable giving adds a meaningful layer to your legacy. If you're considering incorporating a charitable gift into your estate plan, speak with an experienced estate planning professional to help you navigate the options and make the greatest impact.

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

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



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## Set Your Goals High and Love the Journey

There's something powerful about deciding you want more. More growth. More alignment. More excellence. Whatever your version of "more" looks like, choosing to aim higher is an act of courage. It means you're not settling. You're not shrinking to fit in. You're claiming your potential—even if it feels a little scary.

Big goals are supposed to be a stretch. That's the point. They should make you a little nervous. But too often, we glamorize the end result without giving enough attention to what it actually takes to get there. The truth is, there's a whole stretch of the journey that no

one talks about much—but it's where the real work (and magic) happens.

That's the "messy middle." It's that phase after the initial excitement has worn off, but before the finish line is anywhere in sight. It's when you're deep in the doing—navigating obstacles, adjusting your plan, second-guessing yourself, and wondering if you're even on the right path. It's chaotic. It's unglamorous. And it can feel lonely. But here's what you need to know: this is normal.

The messy middle isn't a sign you're doing it wrong. It's proof that you're in it. That you've committed to something meaningful. And if you can find a way to stay grounded in your "why," to trust the process even when the outcome feels far away, you'll come out the other

side stronger, wiser, and more aligned than ever before.

I remember sitting in grad school after long days of working multiple part-time jobs, exhausted and mentally stretched thin. I was trying to stay focused on lectures while juggling responsibilities and doing my best to just keep up. I had taken on something big that was supposed to open doors and elevate my career. But in the thick of it? It was hard to see past the overwhelm. There were plenty of nights I questioned if it was worth it.

Then one day while hanging with one of my girlfriends, her mom told me, "Be all you can be!" I know that was the US Army's tagline years ago but that really resonated with me. That stuck with me; it gave me more fire to stay the course. I kept showing up—some days

with confidence, and others sheer determination.

And it was worth it. Grad school gave me the opportunity to work in the corporate world, where I developed skills, confidence, and perspective. But even more importantly, it helped me build the foundation for the life I have now: running my own business as a freelance consultant, doing meaningful work with clients I love, while having the space to show up for my family and live life on my terms. The goal may have been the degree, but the real win was creating a life that aligns with what matters most.

So, keep going. Keep choosing yourself, even when it's hard. Keep showing up for your vision, even when the path forward feels foggy. Because every day you do, you're building something—momentum, resilience, and a version of you who no longer doubts her ability to do hard things.

Set your goals high. Let them stretch you, grow you, challenge you. But more importantly, learn to love the journey. The early momentum, the messy middle, and everything in between. Because that's where the transformation happens. That's where you become the person who's not just dreaming big—but living it.

Have a great month Ascension Parish and remember... be all you can be!

Sweet EyesXOXO,

*Sweet Eyes*



# Elevating Excellence

## Join Us for our Spring Open House at Z Aesthetic Dermatology.

*We are excited to invite you to our Open House on Friday, May 9th, at Z Aesthetic Dermatology! This special event, hosted by Dr. Ann Zedlitz, a board-certified dermatologist with a focus on skin and aesthetics, offers you a unique opportunity to experience the very best in aesthetic care.*

*This once-a-year event will feature live demonstrations, where you can see firsthand the advanced techniques Dr. Z uses in her practice. You'll also enjoy delicious food, music, and giveaways throughout the day. Whether you're a current patient or new to Z Dermatology, this is the perfect occasion to explore the office, meet our team, and discover why Dr. Z is a leader in the field.*

*As the #1 provider of Radiesse in Louisiana and the #1 provider of Dysport injectables in the Gulf Coast region, Dr. Z and her team will be offering special event pricing on many of your favorite treatments, including relaxants, fillers, lasers, and much more!*

*But that's not all! Dr. Z will also be revealing exciting news that will elevate the practice even further. A new addition to our team will be announced during the event. This is your chance to receive expert care, at exclusive pricing, and gain insight into the latest advancements in aesthetic treatments. Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to elevate your skin care regimen!*

*We look forward to seeing you on May 9th for an unforgettable day of beauty and excellence at Z Aesthetic Dermatology.*



## Open House

May 9th, 2025

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*Baton Rouge Location*



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**6:00 – 7:30 SOCIAL/BUFFET    7:30 – 8:00 AWARDS/CLASS PICTURE**  
**8:00 – 10:00 MUSIC BY RHODES & FRIENDS**  
**CASH BAR    CASUAL DRESS**

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**Contacts**  
 Ralph Rebowe 817-692-9840    Debbie Hancock Cambre 225-408-1421  
 Amy Rossi 225-715-2400    Vickie Manuel Boyce 225-936-5159





# 58TH ANNUAL GONZALES JAMBALAYA FESTIVAL

## EVENT SCHEDULE

FESTIVAL GROUNDS: Lamar Dixon Expo Center, Gonzales, LA



### ENTRY FEES:

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

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

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

### BANDS

#### FRIDAY, MAY 23

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

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

#### SATURDAY, MAY 24

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

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

#### SUNDAY, MAY 25

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

**SWAMP POP STAGE (Trade Mart Building)**  
 Grayland Templett 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



# St. Amant Volunteer Fire Department and 5th. Ward Volunteer Fire Department honored Volunteers!

This past Saturday, members of the St. Amant Volunteer Fire Department and 5th. Ward Volunteer Fire Department honored all its volunteers for their accomplishments for the 2024 year. The night was filled with recognition, camaraderie, and celebrating the dedication of the incredible volunteer firefighters who serve their communities with pride.

We're always grateful for the opportunity to capture the moments that matter and highlight the commitment of these first responders.

The following members were honored at the banquet:

**Josh Wingerter** was honored as a Lifetime Member of the Louisiana State Fireman's Association.

**Christine Willson and Sean Gilbert** received the St. Amant Fire Prevention Awards.

**Hunter Deroche** received the St. Amant Junior Firefighter of the Year.

**Corey Hergruder** received the St. Amant Officer of the Year. Clayton Poche and Christine Willson received the St. Amant EMS Responder of the Year.

**Riley Miller** received the St. Amant EMS Rookie of the Year.

**Jacob Stewart** received the St. Amant EMS Chief Award.

**Robbie Villenurve and Bradley Norwood** received the St. Amant Night Time Rider Awards.

**Jeremy Pourciau** received the St. Amant Firefighter Rookie of the Year.

**Mytrail Whitehead** received the St. Amant President's Award.

**Viki Dawn Landry** received the St. Amant Firefighter of the Year Award.



**Delaune's Supermarket** received the St. Amant Community Award.

**Sherri Jenkins** received the St. Amant Member of the Year Award.

**Dina Holubar & Kerey Detillier** received the St. Amant Key Person of the Year Award.

**Shane Pourciau** received the St. Amant Training Award.

**Nathan Pourciau and Braylan Jenkins** received the St. Amant Firefighter Participation Awards.

**Jacob Stewart** received the St. Amant Five Year Service Award.

**Braylan Jenkins** received the St. Amant Five Year Service Award.

**Stacey Denham** received the St. Amant Fifteen Year Service Award.

**Chris Deroche** received the St. Amant Fifteen Year Service Award.

**Trisha Gulino Mahaffey** received the St. Amant Fifteen Year Service Award.

**Ken Spivey** received the St. Amant Twenty Year Service Award.

**Shane Pourciau** received the St. Amant Forty Year Service Award.



# ST.AMANT FIRE/RESCUE



**Bill and Pam Dawson** received the 5th. Ward Outgoing Board Member Awards.

**Jaxon LeBlanc & Dallin Winegar** received the 5th. Ward Junior Firefighters of the Year.

**Tarrell Milan** received the 5th. Ward Officer of the Year.

**Blake Stone** received the 5th. Ward EMS Responder of the Year.

**Lucas Carroll** received the 5th. Ward EMS Rookie of the Year.

**Jacob Ozol** received the 5th. Ward EMS Chief Award.

**Elliot Stepteaux** received the 5th. Ward Night Time Rider Award.

**Clayton Marix** received the 5th. Ward Firefighter Rookie of the Year Award.

**Sherri Jenkins** received the 5th. Ward President's Award.

**Derek J. LeBlanc** received the 5th. Ward Firefighter of the Year Award.

**Occidental Chemical** (Oxy Chem) received the 5th. Ward Community Award.

**Jesse Bartley** received the 5th. Ward Member of the Year Award.

**Drake LeBlanc & Sanielle Kennedy** received the 5th. Ward Key Person of the Year Award.

**Mytrail Whitehead & Shane Rojas** received the 5th. Ward Training Awards.

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## Band Schedule

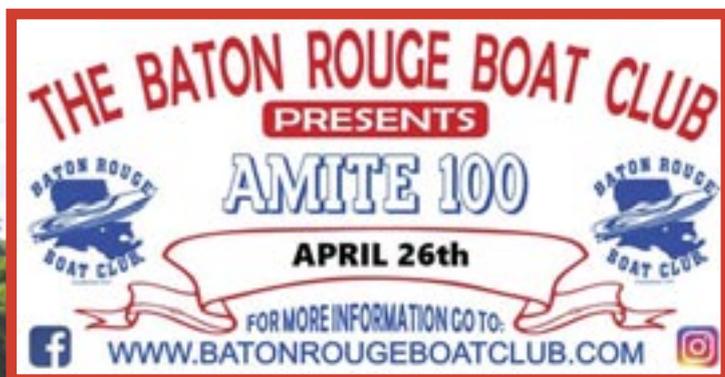
### April

- 18 - Whiskey Bent 9-1am
- 19 - ALT'R Ego 9-12am
- 20 - Magnolia Sun 3-7pm
- 24 - Rhett Guillot 7-10pm
- 25 - Party at Joe's 9-1am
- 26 - True Spin 9-1am  
**AMITE 100 POKER RUN**
- 27 - River Road 3-7pm

### May

- 1 - Jared Daws 7-10pm
- 2 - I-10 Bound 9-1am
- 3 - Chris Leblanc 9-1am
- 4 - 3rd Street 3-7pm
- 8 - **Dustin Gaspard 7-10pm**  
**SENIOR DAY**
- 9 - Run for Cover 9-12am
- 10 - After 8 Band 9-12am
- 11 - The Mojoes 3-7pm
- 15 - Syllas Faust 7-10pm

- 16 - La Southbound 9-1am
- 17 - Lauren Lee band 9-12am
- 18 - T-Boy & Just Us 3-7pm
- 22 - Jenna D'Shay 7-10
- 23 - On Tap 9-12am
- 24 - Peyton Falgoust Band  
9-12am
- 25 - PBR Plus 3-7pm
- 29 - Taylor Stumbo 7-10pm
- 30 - Thomas Cain 9-12am
- 31 - Spank the Monkey 9-1am



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# FINANCIAL FOCUS

## Be alert for caregiver financial abuse

Do you have a parent or other elderly relative who may soon need a caregiver? If so, be diligent when selecting the right person for the job — because choosing the wrong one could lead to big financial problems.

You might find a close family member or friend to serve as caregiver — someone who is honest and trustworthy, with good judgment and strong money management skills. However, in many cases, people hiring caregivers just don't know how they'll perform until the caregivers have begun work. A dishonest caregiver could steal valuables or cash from the person they have been paid to assist or intercept their mail to obtain credit card numbers and other sensitive information to commit identity theft.

So, if you enlist a caregiver and begin having doubts about them, you'll need to watch out for these warning signs of possible financial abuse:

- Efforts to prevent the individual receiving care from

speaking to family members

- Inquiries into the location of estate-planning documents, such as a will

- Interest in brokerage and retirement accounts, possibly with the intent to change transfer-on-death designations

- Withholding financial or medical information from the family

- Missing jewelry or property
- Requests to be a joint holder on bank or brokerage accounts, sometimes followed by large cash withdrawals paid to the caregiver

- Request for legal authority, such as a financial power of attorney naming only the caregiver

This last item — the request for financial power of attorney, or POA — is particularly concerning because of the scope of duties covered by this type of authority. That's why it's so important that all family members understand what a financial POA can and cannot do.

A general financial POA provides the agent with the authority to act on behalf of an individual's finances, while a limited financial POA gives the agent the authority only for certain actions, such as paying bills, making withdrawals and

opening or closing bank accounts. A general financial POA and a limited financial POA both can be durable, which means they take effect once executed, or springing, which is contingent on a specific event, such as a physical illness, mental incapacity or even a hospitalization.

Unfortunately, some POA agents have abused their responsibility by stealing money, making unauthorized transactions and even attempting to change the beneficiary designations on retirement accounts or insurance policies owned by the people for whom they provide care. These beneficiary designations can even supersede the instructions left in a will or living trust — and they can't be

changed by a financial POA.

If you suspect financial abuse by a caregiver, you can consider contacting your loved one's financial advisor or attorney, if you know who it is. While they can't share information with you, they can check for red flags and contact your loved one directly. You also can get help from your state government. The National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA) provides a listing of offices in each state at [napsa-now.org/help-in-your-area](http://napsa-now.org/help-in-your-area).

Finding a caregiver for a parent or other elderly relative can be emotionally difficult — but it doesn't have to be financially draining. Get to know the caregiver if you can and watch for any red flags, so you can take comfort in knowing that your loved one's finances are in good hands.

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



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# *JamBouch*



## *Jammin' with Gracie Guillot*



As I am reaching the finish line in my reign as the 2024 Miss Gonzales Jambalaya, I can't help but reflect on the opportunities and the memories that this title has given me. I have been supported by the Jambalaya Festival Association and the City of Gonzales since the beginning and I can't believe that the year I've dreamed of my entire life is nearing the end. When I started pageantry, my goal was to represent and promote Ascension Parish fairs and festivals since it was all I had ever known. Still, this past

year shed light on the cultural, economic, and tourism impact that all fairs and festivals have on the state of Louisiana. The Jambalaya Festival has been a historic and beloved event in our community since 1968, constantly making innovative changes and improvements to make a better festival year after year for the public. One thing that has always remained the same is the gift of Ascension Parish residents and even out-of-state visitors coming together to celebrate this cuisine that is so special to our state and the "Jambalaya Capital of the World." When this crown was placed on my head, I knew the job I had to do and the legacy that I was joining and I can only hope I left a legacy that made the JFA and Ascension Parish proud.

In February 2025, I had the privilege of representing the Gonzales Jambalaya Festival at the 2025 Louisiana Association of

Fairs and Festivals Convention and Queen's Contest. LAFF in simple words, is a "One Stop Shop" for all fairs and festivals in Louisiana. Throughout the weekend, festival associations and representatives come together to network, gather ideas, collaborate, and gain resources to better improve their event. From musical entertainment, carnival associates, vendors, and various workshops like financial advice, safety resources, and how queens can get involved with their boards and continue making a difference after giving up the crown. This convention is the backbone to ensuring the legacy of Louisiana Fairs and Festivals continues to thrive. They also hold events like "Taste of Louisiana" where members can show off the finest dishes that represent their fair or festival. The Jambalaya Festival had jambalaya cooked by our 2024





World Champion, Tyler Billingsley, and even created a new dessert, jambalaya beignets, that were a hit. We also participated in a costume night that aligns with the convention's theme, which was "Off to the Races" Kentucky Derby-themed this year. It was so amazing watching these fairs and festivals come to life through the queen's costumes and watching associations dress up to support their queen was so beautiful to see.

On Saturday night of the convention, the Queens of these LAFF-associated fairs and festivals compete in a queen's contest for the opportunity to hold the title and the job that is a very prestigious honor. The title of "LAFF Queen" is every fair and festival queen's dream and has a significant role in promoting all fairs and festivals throughout the state and also the association itself. Going into my first LAFF Convention ever, I just wanted to make the Jambalaya Festival proud and was eager to learn more about LAFF and how we can improve our festival. With 63 queens attending the convention and 53 delegates vying for the title, making the Top 10 is a tremendous honor in itself. As I was the last name called in the Top 10, the emotions I felt were indescribable. All the tables filled with JFA members and Boucherie and Balloon Festival members exploded with joy. As I took my



place on stage and looked out in the crowd, I knew I had accomplished something amazing and I felt an immense amount of pride being on that stage next to 9 other ladies that I have looked up to and admired throughout my time as the Jambalaya Queen.



After the on-stage portion of the competition, I couldn't believe what I had just done and I had no idea what was coming next.

On February 8, 2025, I was crowned the 2025 Louisiana Association of Fairs and Festivals Queen, making history as the first official Gonzales Jambalaya Queen to ever win the title. My body went into pure shock and I couldn't hear or see anyone or anything. I never thought obtaining this title was possible, but I feel honored and humbled to be able to share that same passion I have for the Jambalaya Festival for all fairs and festivals



in Louisiana. I am representing something greater than myself and living out a childhood fantasy being able to represent two amazing associations that are so important to Louisiana culture. I will never be able to fully explain what this honor means to me but I promise to do everything I can to be the best queen and representative I can be. I want to thank my family, the JFA, and my



directors for the constant support you've given me. This win was a win for the Jambalaya Festival and I can't wait to watch this festival continue to flourish in our "new era."

Through my travels as both the Jambalaya Queen and the newly crowned LAFF Queen, I have been able to develop so many connections, and make some lifelong friendships and memories that I will cherish forever. I've been able to attend the Louisiana Sugar Cane Festival in New Iberia, the Cattle Festival in Abbeville, the Rice Festival in Crowley, the Le Fête Des Vieux Temps Festival in Raceland, The Boucherie and Balloon Festival in Sorrento, the Festival of the Bonfires in Lutcher, the Amite Oyster Festival, and the Louisiana Crawfish Festival in St. Bernard Parish. I've also attended numerous pageants, queens day events, and balls. Some of those include the New Iberia Spanish Festival Ball, The Sicilian Heritage Festival Ball, The Plaquemines Parish Fair, and Orange Festival Ball, the Fur & Wildlife queens weekend and pageant, the Tickfaw Italian Festival Ball, the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival Queen's weekend and ball, the Amite Oyster Festival Gala, and the Scott Boudin Festival queen's weekend and pageant. I've also visited several schools across the state talking to students about the Jambalaya Festival and letting them know everything Louisiana has to offer. One of my most



memorable events was being invited to ride in the Krewe of Bacchus Mardi Gras Parade by Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser. The theme of the parade this year was "Louisiana Fairs and Festivals" and being able to watch people celebrate these events that we queens cherish was an experience I'll never forget. My travels are far from over even after I give up the Jambalaya title, I will be representing as the LAFF Queen until February 2026 and I cannot wait to see what's in store.

As we gear up for the 2025 Gonzales Jambalaya Festival, I want to invite everyone to our festival which will be May 22nd through the 25th at Lamar Dixon Expo Center. It is going to be an unforgettable weekend filled with



carnival rides, live music, food and craft vendors, a 5k Run, a Car Show, and of course, the 2025 Jambalaya World Championship cook-off. The Gonzales Jambalaya Pageant will be on June 14th at the Price Leblanc PACE Center in Gonzales and we encourage the young women of Ascension Parish to come out and compete for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. We will also be bringing back our children's pageant which will be on June 15th at the Jambalaya Festival Building. The time has finally come and I cannot wait to see everyone at this year's festival and finally be able to reign over this beloved event.

*With a humble heart .....*

*Gracie*



## Traveling with Kenley Lemoine

On February 6th-9th I was able to represent the Sorrento Lions Club and the Boucherie and Balloon Festival at the Louisiana Association of Fairs and Festivals Convention held in Baton Rouge, LA. It was a fun weekend filled with experiences to last a lifetime. We started the convention off with the Taste of Louisiana contest where we placed 2nd for our delicious main dish (our now famous Boucherie Balls created by association member, Brad Robinson, which consisted of pulled pork rolled into a ball coated with cracklin dust then

fried! To top it off, they were served on delicious homemade bacon jelly made by our Teen Queens dad, Kevin Heinz) Yum!



Throughout the weekend we attended different workshops, had a costume themed night representing all things Derby where we invited everyone to our festivals, on Saturday morning we competed in the interview portion of the pageant for the title of the 2025 LAFF Queen and then wrapped it up on Sunday with a breakfast celebrating the newly



selected queen, Gracie Guillot, who is the current Gonzales Jambalaya Queen. On March 8th, 2025, I had the best time celebrating Allie Landry at The Independence Sicilian Heritage Festival! We started off our morning with our onstage introductions, followed with a spaghetti eating contest, a meatball toss, and scavenger hunt! Carissa, Rebekah and I placed first in the scavenger hunt! Saturday March 22nd, I made my way north to the Moonpie Festival in Ball LA to spend time! We



played two fun games of moonpie bingo and had a scavenger hunt. Beforehand we had to create a craft that represent both our festival and the Moon-pie festival. I absolutely loved how my moon pie hot air balloon came out. Thanks to Lacey Lemmons, the 2025 Miss Town Of Ball Moon Pie Festival Queen for having us. On Sunday March 23rd, Teen Queen, Addie, and I traveled South to St.



Bernard Parish for the Louisiana Crawfish Festival! It was so amazing to celebrate the 50th Annual Festival with Queen Caleigh Remondet and Teen Queen, Sydney Fauchaux. We started the day by going on a visiting queens tour of the city, followed by a crawfish eating contest. After lunch we got to decorate cookies and lastly was able to ride on some rides with my rhinestone sisters. I am now 4 months into my reign as the 41st Miss Boucherie Festival Queen and I have traveled a total of 1,354 miles.

**Till Next Time**

*Kenley*



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**LA State Representative  
Tony Bacala (District 59)  
"Best Catch" Fundraiser**

*It was a Great Night!*

I want to thank the 300+ people who joined Lisa and me at our annual "Best Catch" fish fry. It is always enjoyable and humbling to talk to friends and

supporters, and it is a stark reminder of my responsibility to serve our community. I want to thank Donna and David Hebert for all of the



assistance in setting up and more. I also cannot thank Lanita and Darren Braud and the crew at Elegant Affairs enough for once again surpassing all of my expectations. The food was delicious, and the service was excellent.

I heard from many of you who were unable to attend because of other commitments, and though you were not able to be there, your continued support is also greatly appreciated.

We were truly blessed with music by John Foster, who is



now in the top 24 on American Idol 2025.

He was outstanding and a true crowd pleaser! We wish him great success as he moves forward on American Idol and beyond. Stay tuned, watch his performances, and vote for him.

Just as all of you were there for me or supported me, I will be there for you in the 2025 Louisiana Legislative Session.

As always, please call if you need me. My cell number is 225-921-3852.





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*Jeanette Catalanatta*

Jeanette is from a small town outside of New Orleans. She went to John Jay beauty school, graduated in 1998 and has been a stylist for 27 years. She began working at Joie De Vie in 2013.

Jeanette specializes in short, curly and unique hair cuts. She also loves experimenting with vivid colors.

When Jeanette is not working she loves spending time with her family outdoors being adventurous and camping.



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# The Three Stooges Pick the Kentucky Derby

by Bill Delaune

*"...A chance in a lifetime-  
In a lifetime of chance..."*  
Dan Fogelberg

Most of you know that I've been around since they poured the slab on My Old Kentucky Home, but I've never had much luck in the Kentucky Derby.

I've been hooked on the Run for the Roses since 1958 when I heard Uncle Harry raving about a "deadlock cinch" named Tim Tam, and I talked him into betting two dollars on the horse for me.

Imagine the impression made on a lad of nine when Tim Tam romped home a winner, and I collected the whopping sum of \$9.20-a small fortune in my world at that time.

Apparently, Harry had wagered quite a bit more because later that year he named his second son Timothy Tam Bullion.

Even in my "lost years" of the 60's I still kept up with the Derby. In 1968 I was hanging around with some worthless hippie freaks (still my friends) who couldn't comprehend my fascination with the big race. As the horses came onto the track, one of my cosmic cowboy sidekicks casually remarked, "I don't know much about horses, but I do know something about drugs, and that number two horse is wired."

The two horse was Dancer's Image and he was kicking up his heels, looking more like a bucking bronco than a seasoned thoroughbred.

"He's just nervous in front of a big crowd," I explained. But when Dancer's Image came flying down the stretch to win the Derby, the stewards suspected the same thing my incoherent cohort had-that he was flying a little bit too high. Traces of an illegal drug were found in his urine sample, and he was disqualified.

I did make sure the next time I went to Evangeline Downs I brought my "chemical expert"



with me to gaze into the eyes of each horse looking for signs of "enhancers".

Speaking of the Lafayette area, I got caught in a traffic jam en route to the Breaux Bridge Crawfish Festival in 1970 and was in danger of missing the Derby entirely. As post time neared and the stall on Highway 94 continued, I jumped out of the car and raced to a shotgun house with a horse trailer outside and banged on the door. An ancient Cajun man opened up and slowly gave the once-over to this wild-eyed college kid with hair hanging over his collar and a plastic gallon jug of "Pink Death" jungle juice tied to his belt.

"You watching the Derby?" I asked cautiously.

Fortunately, track rats have a built-in radar that allows them to identify one another-over-shadowing minor things like age or appearance.

"Who you like?" he said-the universal 3-word greeting of every track denizen, and I knew right then he was going to let me in.

"They can't beat My Dad George," I answered confidently.

My host took a long pull from a can of Budweiser and led me into what passed for the living

room in his humble abode. "I got Dust Commander," he said plopping down into a worn-out recliner.

Now this man was kind enough to let me into his home so I didn't want to laugh in his face. But Dust Commander? He was at least 30-1 and climbing on the tote board. Before I could ask "why", he answered my question.

"The track's sloppy," reasoned the old man. "All those Dust horses run good in the mud."

Two minutes and five seconds later, a "miracle in the mud" had occurred. Dust Commander won and paid \$62 for every \$2 bet. My Dad George finished right in front of the tractor that drags the track for the next race.

Another painful lesson in handicapping the Kentucky Derby. I thanked my elderly mentor as I left and congratulated him on his nice score.

"Sorry about your horse," he said. "If he'd won you mighta could've afforded a haircut." My luck has been so bad on the first Saturday in May that even off-track activities have turned disastrous. In 1975 we decided to mix up a batch of Mint Juleps-the official drink of the Derby-despite my father's

warning that it was "just a waste of good whiskey".

His prophecy proved ominous when the mint sprigs someone had produced turned out to be stinging nettles and everyone's lips puffed up like Mick Jagger. Fittingly, the horse that won that day was named Foolish Pleasure.

I even tried to exorcise all my Derby demons in 1987 by wagering on a splendid colt named Demon's Begone-one of the few times I have bet on a favorite.

Demon looked full of fire and brimstone going into the starting gate, but he began to have a devil of time breathing during the early stages of the race. Jockey Pat Day had no choice but to pull him up after only a half mile, and he was taken away in an ambulance.

No wonder Father Karras threw himself out that second-story window in "The Exorcist".

But this is a new year and as Uncle Harry used to so astutely put it after a losing day at the Fair Grounds, "Well, Billy, there's 10 more races tomorrow."

Harry has long since gone to his Heavenly Hialeah so this year I turned to inspiration from three other wise men on my favorite morning television

show. No, not the “Today” show or “Good Morning America” that most viewers prefer. My experts are named Moe, Larry and Curly and are known as the “Three Stooges” on the old movie network.. Now if my Derby disasters are not tailor-made for the Three Stooges and their knuckleheaded misadventures, then I don’t know a comedy script when I see one.

The original Stooges even had a 1937 show called “Playing the Ponies” where they get conned out of their restaurant by some mob types who make them an offer they can’t refuse—a broken-down racehorse named Thunderbolt. At one point Moe instructs Curly to race the horse around the track, but Curly returns with bad news.

“You told me to race him around the track-so I did. And I beat him,” says the world’s most famous Nyuk-nyuker. However, when Curly mistakenly feeds Thunderbolt hot peppers instead of peanuts, the horse runs like Secretariat to the nearest water trough.

Armed with this knowledge, the Stooges feed Thunderbolt

some peppers before the big race, use a motorcycle to keep a bucket of water just in front of him during the running and, of course, win going away.

Now I know what you’re thinking. What in the hell does this have to do with picking the winner of this year’s Kentucky Derby?

Well, excuse me, but with my track record on this race, I’d kinda like to know who the Three Stooges might favor.

I was thinking that with the success they had with the jalapeno peppers, they’d be looking for a horse with a Mexican name. Something like Bob Baffert’s speedy colt Rodriguez if President Trump hasn’t deported him.

But a recent episode where the boys posed as reporters to get into a big golf tournament changed my mind. Turned away the first time for lack of credentials, the Stooges emerge from the Gentlemen’s Lounge with some buttons to show the receptionist. Moe: Press! (showing a “press” button). Larry: Press! (doing the same). Curly: Pull (showing a “pull” button with medal rods coming out).

For this kind of journalistic

ingenuity, I award the Three Stooges a beautiful West Coast colt named Journalism. His late running style fits the Derby distance of 1 and ¼ miles as Curley might say “poifectly” and should make our bald friend and Larry look no Moe for a winner.

But what about some picks from our local stooges to fill out the trifecta (top three finishers) and the superfecta (top four). First of all let’s give the aforementioned President Trump the winner of the Virginia Derby American Promise for all the promises he made before the election.

Remember the one about grocery prices going down his first day in office. Well, we’d wipe the egg off his face if they weren’t so expensive. And if Trump doesn’t like that one he can have Citizen Bull which is what his promises turned out to be.

And for our own “Man Who Would Be King” Gov. Jeff Landry who just saw his kingdom start to crumble with the devastating defeat of his amendment package, a royally bred colt named Sovereignty.

And finally for my sleeper pick in the Masters Will

Zalatoris who was in more bunker scenes than Adolph Hitler and missed the cut, Arkansas Derby winner Sandman. Hopefully, Sandman can avoid the traps and troubles that doomed poor William.

And from another William—the biggest stooge of all, yours truly—my pick this year is Chunk of Gold. The colt is named for an old Billy Joe Shavers song “Old Chunk of Coal” about a simple man who aspired to be a diamond. Well if Chunk of Gold wins on the first Saturday in May, I’ll have diamonds for the ladies and silver (bullets) for the men.

So there you have it—box Journalism, American Promise, Sovereignty and Sandman in the tris and supers and you won’t be a stooge at all. And make a little side bet on Chunk of Coal for me and Billy Joe.

Good luck—and remember Curly’s classic song before you bet—“She was bred in Old Kentucky, but she’s only a crumb down here.”

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## East Ascension Sportsmans League

Letter from president -  
**Greg Cedotal**

At the regular meeting of the East Ascension Sportsman's League, we awarded the 2024 Big Bass contest winner and the Big Buck contest winner. The results of the 2024 Big Bass contest are 3rd place Reed Babin with a 9.33 lb. bass, 2nd place Kyle Melancon



2024 Big Bass Contest winner, Warren Hebert with a 9.56 lb. bass.

with a 9.54 lb. bass, and the winner is Warren Hebert with a 9.56 lb. bass. The results of the Big Buck Contest are 3rd place Thad Bellow with an 8-point that scored 69-1/2 points, 2nd place Jamie Guedry with an 8-point that scored 111-3/4 points, and the winner is Emile Leblanc with a 9-point buck that scored 115-1/4 points as scored by the chairman. Congratulations to all. Thank you to the contest chairmen; Big Bass Contest, Jim Hebert and Big Buck Contest, Thad Bellow.

Plans are being made for ribbon cutting at the Amite River Wildlife Sanctuary. EASL donated to build a foot bridge in the ARWS. I will send out an email as soon as I get the date and time. If you have

the time, consider hiking in this new sanctuary and enjoying the outdoors.

The weather has been enjoyable enough to take your children and or grandchildren to enjoy the outdoors and teach them about nature while building memories that will last them a lifetime.

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 April 12th. If you are interested in fishing with the bass club, contact Jim Hebert at



Big Buck Contest Winner, Emile Leblanc with a 9-point buck scoring

225-717-6037. The March 22 Rifle Silhouette Match will be April 26th 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 [gdced1@gmail.com](mailto:gdced1@gmail.com).

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

# EASL Bass Club News

The EASL Bass Club fished their March Tournament at Caney Lake Reservoir. This was a two-day event fished on Friday and Saturday the 21st and 22nd. The Tourney was held out of Jimmy Davis State Park.

The weather was ok for the most part. The pollen was thick, there was smoke from burning tree debris in the park, the wind was blowing and there was ice on the boats on Friday to start the Tournament. The afternoons were short sleeve warm to add to the excitement.

There were 19 boats that fished the Tournament. The fishing was actually tough for everyone this year. On Friday, there were only three boats that limited out with 5 Bass. The results were the same on Saturday with only three limits brought to the scale.

There were

some big fish weighed in to keep everyone hopeful during the two days of fishing.

On Friday, Mark Kramer caught a 7.6 #, Gary Christian caught a 7.62 #, Tony Arceneaux caught a 6.88 #, Corey Guitreau caught a 8.66 #, Jim Hebert caught a 8.34 #, and to top it off, Carlos Gray caught his 9.88 # Bass. On Saturday, BoJack Anderson caught a 7.84 #.

The winners of the Tournament were Tony Arceneaux and Tim Braud with a two-day total of 27.4 lbs.

Second place was the team of Mark Kramer and Mack Graves with 22.8 lbs.

Third place went to the team of Reed and Patrick Babin with their total of 21.44 lbs.

Big Bass winner was Carlos Grey with his lunker that weighed in at 9.88 lbs.

Congratulations to the

winners of the Caney Lake Tournament.

The next Tournament will be on April 12th. Members will be able to launch from Amelia to Bayou Pigeon and anywhere within those boundaries.

Weigh in will be at the Spillway Public Launch.



Corey Guitreau with 8.X lber



Gary Christian & Wilson Mulina



Carlos Gray



Left to right, Carlos Gray, Mark Kramer & Mack Graves, Patrick & Reed Babin, Tony Arceneaux & Tim Braud



Jim & Warren Hebert with 8.34 lber



Tony Arceneaux & Tim Braud



Brody and Bojack Anderson with 8 lber.

# Jammin' with Goosie

## The Payoff

As I was performing my hunt club work day duties shortly after the end of the 2023 deer season one of the whitetail hunters that had attended the event looked at me and said "You turkey hunters ought to have a good season this spring. We've been seeing a lot of them during the deer season and y'all need to kill a bunch of them corn eaters." I replied saying "Yeah I've heard some good reports from several of you deer guys. But after those feeders are emptied and the turkeys begin their spring reproduction ritual things will begin to change quickly within their lifestyles. From what I've heard I must say that if I don't mess up and if no one else messes me up I should be able to harvest a gobbler this spring but I'm a long way from getting my hands around one's neck at the moment."

My scouting trip had revealed some pretty fair turkey sign although I actually had only laid eyes on two birds during the outing. I did hear a gobble on opening morning and after three days of hunting no one from our club had taken a bird. That may have been a first time event for the participants of that gang given the fact that there were some pretty good turkey hunters involved in the effort. I personally had only seen two hens until early morning on the fourth day of the season when two longbeards gobbled their way to my setup giving me the opportunity to use my first tag of the season. After the loud boom I remained motionless and watched the living bird, who stayed around for about fifteen minutes, try to figure out what had happened to his now lifeless friend lying on the ground. First mistake. I probably should have scared him off. I would pay for that mistake after hunting that same setup a couple of long days later when he silently appeared out of nowhere. At about the time I first saw him he saw my decoy that was placed in the same spot that it had been situated when he lost his buddy. Without hesitation he immediately walked away without giving me a shot. I tried some other areas after that incident without having any success and a couple of mornings later I went back to

that area once again. I tried a different setup that I wasn't really comfortable with and had a bird twenty steps from me gobbling constantly but the poor setup would not afford me a good shot. I told myself that this scenario was taking way too long to complete and that something not good was going to eventually happen. About that time a hen busted me from my backside. The hen putted and flew off making the gobbler shut up and walk directly away from me. I only needed that turkey to have taken one more step to the left to offer a good shot. Shortly after that excitement another hen then flies down and lands about five



feet from me as a jake turkey now comes running straight for me. I decided not to take the youngster but all in all it had been a very exciting morning for sure. Unbelievable. At that time I'm worn out, frustrated and need to take care of some household needs along with playing a few music gigs with my buddies as well.

Three or four days later after resting up a little bit I returned to the turkey woods to try to complete my quest. As soon as I got there that evening I saw a gobbler strutting with a hen in another area of our property. I made a move that involved a bit of driving and a very long hot walk to try to get in position to intercept the couple's travel. Six hours later without any success I decided to give that area another try the next morning. Tired and hungry I found myself that night at a local sports bar where I would eat supper and enjoy a little company. One of the bar's



customers was a young man who was obsessed with the playing of one of the club's video poker machines. His luck was going fairly well that evening. I told him several times that he should quit while he was ahead. As I left the establishment I wished him good luck and he did me the same as I began to think that my turkey hunting was kinda like his gambling and if I wanted to succeed I would have to continue on hoping for the big payoff.

After a fairly painful wakeup and a long hot walk the next morning I finally made my way to my new setup spot. The strutter I'd seen the day before gobbled four or five times that morning and walked away from my position never answering any of my calls. Meanwhile in the distance from the area where I had been hunting several days earlier a tom gobbled for at least an hour and a half that morning. That drove me crazy so I attempted a couple more stays in that area for another day or two without any luck. Meanwhile I was learning more about the strutter I had seen as the days passed by. After those few days without any success on my gambles had passed I once again returned home worn out again for weekend activities.

My return back to the turkey woods several days later confirmed the fact that according to our club's harvest record sheet no one had killed another turkey since I had last been there. Perfect. That meant that the strutter that I had seen was still alive. But my hard head still somehow sent me back for a seven hour sit that evening to where I had shot my first bird. As I was gathering my gear before dark three very large jakes came to my setup and offered a twenty yard shot. I aimed at one of the group's beautiful red necks and decided not to pull the trigger. No payoff yet. Again hungry, tired, thirsty and needing someone to vent

my frustration too I headed back to the sports bar again. The gambler was not there but a local drama queen was. After chatting with her for sometime I soon admitted to myself that my problem of not being able to complete the killing of my second mature turkey for the season was only a small thing in the scheme of things compared to the problems involved with the kind of lifestyle that she was living.

As I headed back to my sleeping bag that night I made the decision to hunt the strutter again the next morning. I thought hard about what the bird had been doing on my prior hunts for him and most importantly which direction he would head after flydown. I made a plan and rolled the dice. The plan was to sit in one particular spot until nine or so and go to another location that I believed to be one of his daily travel destinations if necessary. At first light he gobbled a couple of times about two hundred yards to the north of my setup and again would not answer my calls. He had been called to by three or four different people in the past couple of weeks which probably led to his non responsive nature. Soon after the gobbling ended a hen flew down not far from me and passed by in a fast walk. At about 8:30 another hen appeared from the same direction that the other female had come from. I saw some movement behind her and guess who it was. What a beautiful sight it was to see as he strutted to the pull of the trigger in the April sun. Fifteen days had passed since my first kill of the season. There had been a lot of gambles and mistakes along the way but the payoff was worth the wait. To me it was the jackpot.

Till next time  
Enjoy the gift of life  
James "Goosie" Guice

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

*President James Garfield could write Latin with one hand and Greek with the other-at the same time.*

*You can use the inside of a banana peel to polish leather shoes, silverware and stop mosquito bites from itching.*

*You're more likely to die on your way to buy a lottery ticket than you are to actually win the lottery.*

*Wind originally has no sound; a sound is created only when wind blows against an obstacle.*

*One single elephant tooth can weigh as much as nine pounds.*

*A four-year-old asks an average of 437 questions a day.*

*Swedish wasn't the official language of Sweden until 2009.*

*Every time you lick a stamp, you're consuming 1/10 of a calorie.*

*Shark teeth and human teeth are equally as strong.*

*The word "escalate" did not exist until the invention of the escalator in 1944.*

*Sweden has 221,800 islands, 1,000 of which are populated.*



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## Thoughts from Bully

# Cayenne Pepper. The Coon Eradicator.



My 'Thoughts from Bully' article has taken on a life of it's own. Since the beginning I've written a total of 279 articles. It started as a breeze because I had a life time of stories to write about and now I have the present to write about.

This month the present has delivered a real life episode that is some what entertaining but to me a big deal.

Here we go. I don't like people messing with my peckers. Sometimes I've have a little tiny pecker show up and sometimes a little bit bigger pecker shows up. But when my big pecker shows up I get real excited. His big red head pecking away at the suet in the bird feeder is really relaxing.

I've written before about my bird feeding protections. I have a sign that reads, "No Squirrels. Penalty of a Lead Shot Sandwich." It's not my fault they can't read.

Recently I noticed my pecker

suet was being eaten remarkably fast and one night I saw why. At 11 o'clock a racoon showed up and climbed up and grab a paw full of suet and started munching. I grabbed my 410 gauge squirrel eradicator and headed to open the door. I was face-to-face 4ft away from affectionally known as Rocky. He took off and me like Elmer Fud quickly in behind him and as he trotted across the yard. I hard him in my sights. I shot behind him to send a message. He was actually cute.

The next night he showed up again and Elmer Fud headed out the door and Rocky followed the same track and I didn't pull the trigger to end his suet stealing.

I gave him one more chance and set a live trap. I put old tuna fish from the fridge in the trap but he showed up again. The trap missed him and proceeded to the



and grabbed a paw full of cayenne covered suet and put in his mouth. He then grabbed another hand full and with a surprise to me. His mouth flew open and he went to whipping his tongue and then rubbed it in his noses. Shaking his head and took off in a panic. I didn't even get up. I laughed and wondered what he did after that. I'm sure putting his face in my pond was a plan.

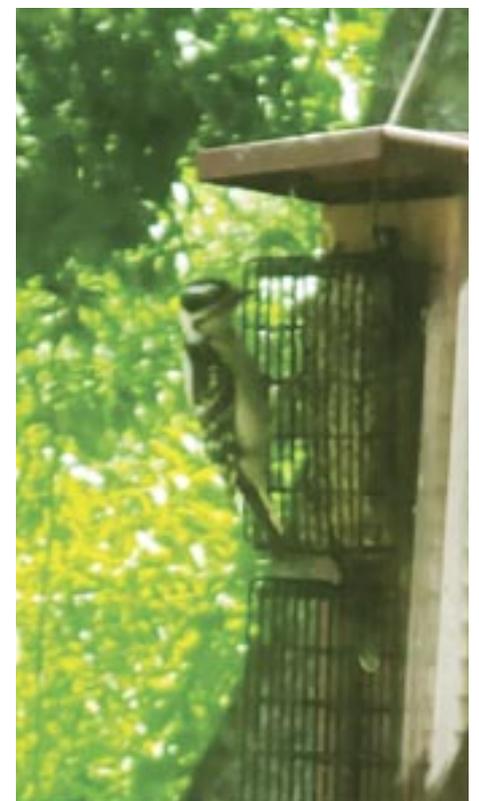
It's been 2 weeks and I haven't seen him since.

Good luck Rocky but don't show back up. A lead sandwich may await you.

suet. I went to plan 'B' and slipped out the front door and as he came around the corner, he was shocked to see the barrel of my gun and bolted the other way and I heard a big thud as he jumped from the my upstairs and landed 16ft down on the wood deck below.

I've been hunting for 60 years and feel bad for allowing Rocky to live by not shooting him. Racoons are a pest and need to move on or suffer the consequences. I remembered an article I read to put cayenne pepper on your suet to prevent squirrels from eating it. Maybe it works on coons.

I put a brand new suet square in the feeder and the suet was covered with cayenne pepper. Sure enough as I sat at my computer. At 11pm Rocky showed up and I hid in my chair behind a plant and watched as he climbed





# Congratulations Charley Moran, Inducted into the Louisiana Hall of Fame!!

*Charley was inducted on March 16, 2025 at Manny's by Louisiana Music Hall of Fame. Here's who he is and history of his musical journey.*

Born July 15, 1956  
 Father - Charles Ray Moran, Sr.  
 Mother - Esther McCutcheon Moran  
 Siblings - Linda Bourque & Janice Murphy

Music has always been a part of my life. My Dad played all of his life. Some of my earliest memories are sitting on the bandstand with him while he played. I got my first 6 string steel guitar when I was 8 years old. I really couldn't play it. Some guys

and I started playing on a friends front porch. All we had were guitars; so, my Dad gave me one of his old basses. He taught me a few things and I have been playing bass ever since.

The first time I played on a Bandstand, I was 12 years old. My Dad would let me play a few songs when he was playing with «Mike LeBlane & The Dreamers" at Do Do's in Paulina, Louisiana. When I was 14 years old, our first gig was at Mrs. Abbott's house in Port Vincent. The next weekend, we moved to The Port Vincent Community Center because they had so many kids show up.

Every Saturday and Sunday from 1971-1975, I played at a



place called "The Y", in French Settlement across from Moonlight Inn. Then, I joined a band called "Southern Boogie Band".

I played with them for 5-6 years. After that, Kenny Fife called me to see if we could get a band together with Randy Braud and Brett Babin. That's when "The Bac Trac Band" was formed. I played with them for 11 years. Around 1989, I formed a band with Troy Dupuy, Sam Scott and Brett Babin called "Mainline".

We played together for 7 years and opened up for a band called "Little Texas". During that time, I also played, periodically, with "Van Broussard & The Bayou Boogie Band". Then I joined "The

Russell Walker & The Bandero Band" for a couple of years until I was asked to play with "Van Broussard & The Bayou Boogie Band". I played on his CD called "2000". After leaving Van, I joined a band called "Primetime Express", based out of Hammond, Louisiana.

In 2008, we recorded a CD called "Until Your Love Grows Old". We played together until 2013. I played another stint with Kenny Fife. For the past 5 years, I have been playing with the "Enuf Band".

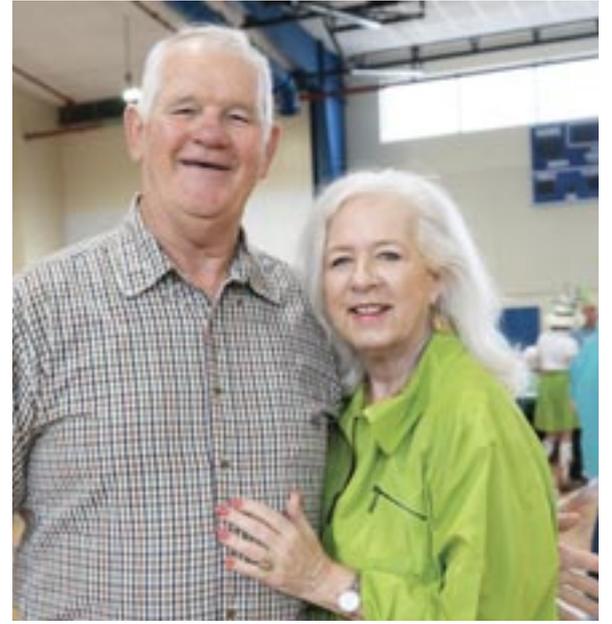
"My Dad taught me the love of music. for which I am very grateful"





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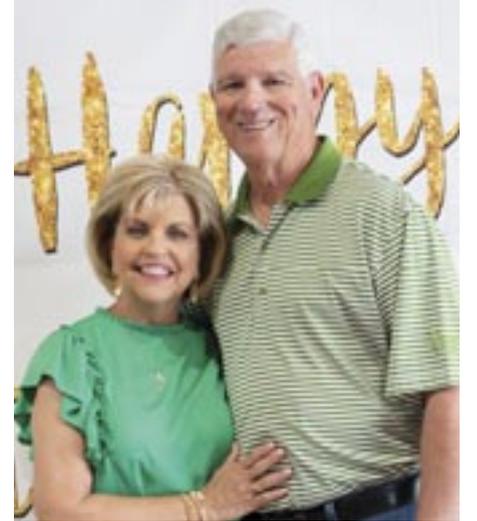


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Yield: 2

Prep: 20 minutes

Cook: 15 minutes

Serving: 2

#### Ingredients:

1 Head Romaine Lettuce  
6 Grape Tomatoes  
1 Red Onion  
Bleu Cheese Crumbles  
½ cup Balsamic Vinegar  
¼ cup Sugar  
1 tsp Corn Starch  
Salt & Pepper  
Favorite Salad Dressing  
6 Strips of Bacon (cooked crispy)

#### Method:

First let's get the Romaine lettuce washed up really nice. Run the whole head of lettuce under cold water, allowing the water to get in-between the leaves, then cut the Romaine in half length ways, and trim any brown discoloration off of the bottom core. Next, let it soak in an ice water bath to get nice and crisp. While the Romaine is crisping, prep the rest of your ingredients. Thinly slice or shave the red onion, cut the grape tomatoes in half, and chop up the crispy bacon. In a small sauce pan, bring the balsamic vinegar and sugar to a simmer. In a small cup or bowl, dissolve the corn starch in 2 tsp cold water then add to the vinegar. Stir the vinegar mixture until it returns to a simmer then remove from the heat and allow time to cool.

Put it all together!! Remove your Romaine from the ice bath and drain off any excess water. Place the Romaine in the center of a large plate and creatively place the remaining ingredients around or on top of the lettuce. Finally, drizzle with your sweet balsamic syrup and serve with bleu cheese dressing, or any one of your favorite dressings.

Top with grilled shrimp or chicken for a meal or serve as an hgaccompaniment with a hearty meal.

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