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MAGAZINE

APRIL 2023, VOL. 21 ISSUE 4



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On the Cover: Francois Parc Page 24

Welcome Spring Time and all of the fun filled activities that come along with it!

Spring has sprung and we are all ready to hit the roads to the beach, ball field or senior trips but don't forget to check your driver's license and registration renewals to be sure you are legal when traveling. Don't forget to carry the necessities in any bag. Check those important documents before you get caught "red handed".

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Jamie Frederic-Braud





GONZALES LIONS CLUB

Pancakes Galore

The Gonzales Lions Club (2023 - Pancake Breakfast) was an absolute success once again! The club cannot thank the Center-Stage dancers, parents, grandparents, close-family friends, and everyone that came out to support and make a local contribution through the purchase of pancake breakfast meals, jambalaya plates, concessions, and raffle tickets. This year was by far the largest fundraiser event, bringing in close to \$10,000 in donations to use throughout the year on community projects. All of this being done on a rainy Sunday as well! No event of this magnitude can flourish without the help of volunteers and stewards of the one and only Ascension Parish. Thanks to

all local dignitaries, high-school volunteer clubs, local boy scout groups & pack leaders, church members looking for volunteer opportunities, all current and past Lion's members (past members still come and help cook for the annual breakfast), and Ascension (Bobby Webre) and Gonzales (Sherman Jackson) police departments for their generous assistance with cooking equipment, griddles, and lots of the deputies come every single year bright and early to help cook (shout-out to the "Pancake Wizard" from Gonzales PD (see photos – he is hands down a pancake making machine). Last but certainly not least, thank you East Ascension High School faculty, staff, principals,





janitors, and Center Stage for the use of your facility, cafeteria / stage area, and getting to host your guests and dancers for their competition trial-run. We are so grateful to the Center Stage school (Larry and Linda Schexnayder). If you have not been able to check out the wonderful talent that comes through the studio and their routines before they head off to compete it is certainly something to witness. The talent of singing and dancing in our community will blow you away!

Our Club's objective is to be a local staple and pillar within the community and help serve others with a helping hand. Lion club's across the U.S. provide help with eye-care or providing eye-glasses for those in need. A neat little piece of history if you are looking to join a local club or ever considered or are considering joining Gonzales

Lion's – the club turned 80 YEARS OLD in 2023! The club was first chartered on April 7, 1943. It is by far one of the oldest sustaining clubs within Ascension Parish. Our annual pancake breakfast and center stage highlight falls on the last weekend of January. If you have not had a chance to attend, we would love to see you in January - 2024. More details to come closer to 2024's breakfast date. If you would like to learn more about our club, considering joining, or just wanting to stay in the know with our many local projects & volunteer opportunities: please like us on Facebook - Gonzales Lions Club or visit us at gonzaleslionsclub.org. Here is to 80 years and to those that can / want to be a part of pushing this club through for the next 80! Have a blessed week, Ascension!





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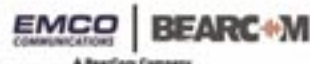
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NFL Superbowl winner, Ascension Parish Proud Justin Reid gets heroes welcome home

Ascension Parish Proud Justin Reid, safety for the Kansas City Chiefs who won the NFL Superbowl, returned home to Ascension Parish on March 18 for a homecoming parade.

The Ascension Parish parade and a



ceremony was held at the Dutchtown Griffin Football Stadium at 9:30 a.m. Reid was on a local firetruck with his family to greet the Ascension Parish Community.

"I understand the opportunities afforded to me from working hard on the field and the

impact it can have off the field. I am blessed to have a family and community that wants to celebrate me. Reid was excited and at the same time in disbelief. I have never had a parade, just to celebrate me, this is very humbling. I am forever grateful to Ascension Parish, my





home,” Reid said.

Reid played football at Dutchtown High School and attended Stanford University before entering the NFL draft in 2018. Reid won the Superbowl with the Chiefs and has only been on the team for a year.

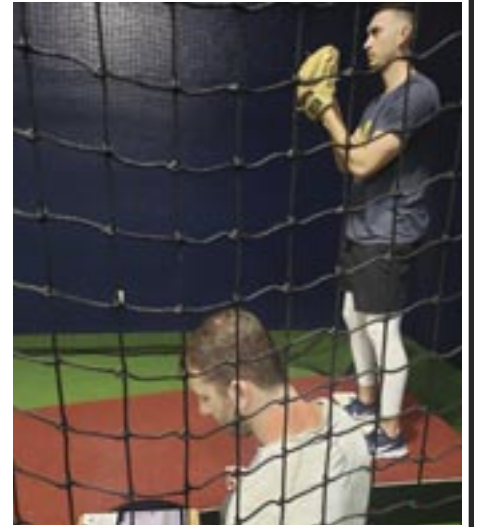
Parish President Clint Cointment, Ascension Parish Sheriff Bobby Weber, the Ascension Parish School System and Dutchtown High School all awarded Reid with awards after the parade.

The St. Amant, 5th. Ward, 7th. Dist, Galvez-Lake, Geismar, Sorrento, Gonzales and Prairieville Fire Departments along with the Ascension Parish Sheriff’s Office and Gonzales Police Department all welcome Reid home in the local parade.

The parade started at Alexander’s Harvest Market on Highway 73 and ended at the Dutchtown High School football stadium.



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Plant Sale Preparation

In preparation for the Gonzales Garden Club's annual spring garden sale, the members were invited to a hanging basket workshop and garden tour on March 1 at the home of GGC Plant Sale Chairman Janis Poche. It was a perfect spring day to learn about designing beautiful and functional hanging baskets from long-time member Janis and Janis' garden expert sister Pat Brussack. Pat is the past president of the Piedmont Gardeners and current member of the Friends of the Botanical Gardens of Georgia. She is a favorite presenter among GGC members. This year's perennial visit to the home and garden of Janis Poche did not disappoint.

The presentation began with an in-depth discussion of color theory in the garden. Pat explained how certain colors like orange can really pop and dominate softer pastel blooms. Color theory is crucial in developing pleasing garden arrangements and greatly affects the overall visual theme. She demonstrated the use of harmonious color strategies when choosing plants and gave guidance for using a variety of textures and shapes to create interest within plant groups.



Hosting the March meeting were, from left, Janis Poche's daughter Kristy Anthony, Janis, Janis' sister Pat Brussack, Dale Bowman and Jamie Trisler.

Pat explained the importance of choosing plants with similar needs for each basket to ensure plants have optimal levels of sunlight, water and pH requirements. She also noted some plants have shorter bloom times and reduce the color longevity of the basket. Her improved plant selections have very long bloom cycles and provide color throughout the spring, summer and into the fall. Additionally, she noted it is important to select plants that can take our southern heat and continue to flourish.

Next, Janis showed members her creative use of hanging bas-



Members made nearly 50 pots and baskets to sell at the May 12 plant sale. Janis has been nurturing them through the heat, wind, and rains, even protecting them during the unexpected March 20 freeze.



Janis Poche bought six-packs and members brought cuttings and starter plants to create containers for the club's annual fundraiser.

kets for growing edible plants like snow peas and strawberries. With her natural approach to design, she demonstrated how edible baskets can be beautiful, as well as provide delicious treats like fresh berries. She encouraged members to use hanging baskets in unusual ways to grow various plants like herbs, fruits, succulents and vines.

Together Pat and Janis demonstrated the proper method for using a basket liner by securing it to the frame with zip ties. Next, they



Barbara McCormick came prepared to stay clean in an apron.



Dale Bowman and Ellen Posey worked together to incorporate cuttings with transplants into the pots.

demonstrated potting up the basket and giving it a good watering with a water soluble fertilizer. Members were able to join in the fun and get their hands dirty potting up lots of hanging baskets for the club's plant sale in May. Harlan Poche, Janis' husband, joined in by helping with supplies and materials.

After all the garden fun,

members were treated to a tour of the Poches' garden and a delicious St. Patrick's Day Irish themed luncheon by hostesses Janis Poche, Dale Bowman and Jamie Trisler, along with guests Pat Brussack and Kristy Anthony, daughter of Janis and Harlan Poche.

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



Marilyn Rice enjoyed working outdoors.



Rita Bourque and Jade Thibodeaux potted up impatiens, dusty miller and purple heart.

GONZALES GARDEN CLUB

Annual Plant and Bake Sale

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

Friday, May 12, 2023
9:00am – 1:00pm



We'll have hanging baskets, pollinators, natives, perennials, annuals and house plants plus homemade sweets and garden items for sale.



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





pass - in the summer a tree is in full bloom, completely green and full of foliage, but then the fall brings cooler weather, and the tree begins to change colors, then ultimately and inevitably in the blustery coldness of winter, the tree loses its foliage and lays bare. But then...then...spring brings forth grateful sunshine and warm breezes, and the first few leaves and blooms begin to emerge. But just because the tree seemed like it was not producing during the cold, dormant months, it was still alive.

Spring...it's More Than a Season

There aren't many Louisiana days that offer perfect temperatures with low humidity, so now is the time to embrace and enjoy the weather and the beautiful outdoors.

The birds are chirping, calves and yearlings are being born. These simple pleasures are a

tell-tale sign for us to enjoy the moment. It's time to put your hands in the dirt, plant some flowers, and swap gumbo for crawfish. Ah, yes.... Spring, probably my favorite season.

There's not only a change in the weather, but there is also a change in the attitudes of people you encounter. Everyone has an extra pep in their step, ready to embrace the extra sunshine. Some may even be ready for new beginnings.

April showers bring May flowers...ever heard that expression? Basically, the expression conveys that April usually begins with cold, rainy weather and ends up in May with the newness of spring, full of colors and fresh blooms.

I was having a conversation with a friend recently, and we discussed how this is symbolic of the seasons within our own lives.

For example, trees physically and visibly change as seasons

How true when we go through difficult seasons in life, things seem dormant, but then...voila, sunlight gives birth to newness. These are the times that the good Lord uses to create something new in us.

So, rejoice in the changing of seasons; the good Lord is about to bring you a bountiful harvest. Wishing you blessings, peace, and joy Ascension Parish.

XOXO,
Sweet Eyes





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Get Growing, Ascension!

Annual Home Vegetable Garden Contest

The Ascension Parish LSU AgCenter and the Ascension Parish Master Gardener Association will once again sponsor the Home Vegetable Garden Contest for 4-H youth and adults. Each year the contest is held to encourage home gardeners to produce quality vegetables for home consumption and economic gain.

Gardens eligible for participation must be located in Ascension Parish and contain at least four different types of vegetables. Gardens can be entered into the adult large, adult small, youth, or school category. Small gardens include containers, raised beds and one row gardens. Large gardens include gardens of two or more rows.



Gardens will be judged in person by Ascension Parish Master Gardeners. Judging will take place in early May and be based on site selection, record keeping, apparent productivity, and weed, disease, and insect pressure. Youth gardens should be primarily maintained by the 4-H member. Complete contest rules are posted on the Ascension LSU



AgCenter webpage. The deadline to register is May 1.

Plant Swap Scheduled for April 25

Bring your labeled plants, cuttings, bulbs, or seeds to exchange with other local gardeners as part of the final workshop of the Spring Gardening Library Series. This series of workshops is hosted by the Ascension Master Gardener Association and the Ascension Parish Library. The event will be held at the Gonzales Branch Library beginning at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 25. A gardening Q&A will be held prior to the swap. The library asks that those planning to attend please register by calling (225) 647-3955.

Mariah Simoneaux is the Horticulture Agent serving Ascension and Assumption Parishes. For more information visit www.LSUAgCenter.com or contact Mariah at MJSimoneaux@agcenter.LSU.edu

ASCENSION PARISH HOME VEGETABLE GARDEN CONTEST

CATEGORIES - ADULT SMALL, ADULT LARGE, SCHOOL GARDEN, AND YOUTH GARDEN. GARDENS MUST BE LOCATED IN ASCENSION PARISH AND CONTAIN AT LEAST 4 DIFFERENT TYPES OF VEGETABLES.

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CONTEST DETAILS AND RULES CAN BE FOUND AT LSUAGCENTER.COM/ASCENSION.



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YOUR ESTATE MATTERS



By Linda Melancon

Beware the Living Trust Scam

None of us wants to believe that we or our loved ones could fall victim to a scam that could rob us of our hard-earned money. But according to the AARP, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), and a number of state attorneys general, around this time of year, deceitful companies step up their efforts to market costly living trusts to older Americans – an arrangement that may actually undermine the buyer's financial security.

These high-pressure con artists, who often pose as affiliates of AARP, have built an industry around older people's fears that their estates could be eaten up by probate costs or taxes, or that the distribution of their assets could be delayed for years. The solution, they claim, is a living trust.

The living trust is an estate planning device that eliminates the need for probate of the individual's estate at his death (a process known as a succession in Louisiana). Assets are held in the trust and then distributed outside of probate at the time of death.

There is nothing wrong with a living trust or with trying to avoid probate. Attorneys often recommend a living trust as an estate planning device for clients – but only where it is appropriate for their particular needs. However, salespeople masquerading as professional estate planners have been found trying to convince older Americans that such trusts are for everyone. Going door-to-door or using phone solicitation, they often greatly exaggerate the costs and delays of probate and are unlikely to mention

that the vast majority of estates are not subject to federal or state estate taxes. Their products are "cookie-cutter" living trusts, sometimes in the form of living trust kits.

The problem is that many people don't need a living trust, a trust from a kit may not meet a particular client's needs, and more times than not, these companies charge more than the service is worth. In addition, according to the FTC, some companies are using the living trust concept merely as a way to gain access to consumers' financial information and sell them other financial products, such as insurance annuities.

Among the dangers of "one-size-fits-all" living trusts is that in many cases they won't make the grantor and spouse eligible for Medicaid reimbursement of nursing home costs. In addition, some trusts improperly instruct the trustee to distribute property to beneficiaries immediately upon the death of the grantor. If creditors make a claim against the trust after asset distribution, the trustee becomes personally liable for any valid claims against the trust.

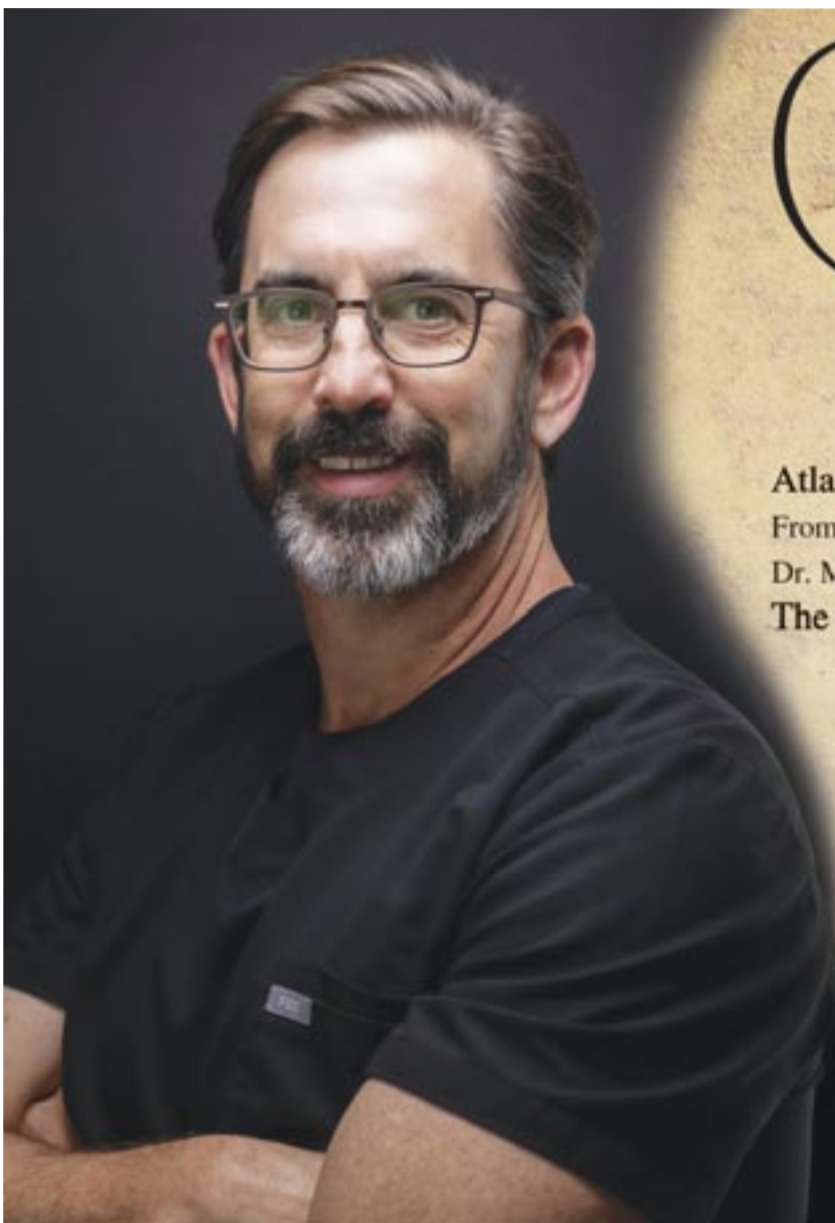
According to an AARP study published in 2000, about four million people older than 50 with

less than \$25,000 in annual income may have purchased costly, unnecessary, and potentially dangerous living trusts as a result of high-pressure sales tactics by firms masquerading as AARP affiliates. In fact, AARP is not associated with and does not endorse any company that markets or sells living trusts.

The Federal Trade Commission also reminds consumers of the "Cooling-Off Rule," which provides that if you buy a living trust in your home or somewhere other than the seller's permanent place of business (say, at a hotel seminar), the seller must give you a written statement of your right to cancel the deal within three business days.

Needless to say, if you are considering exploring strategies that will help you avoid probate, seek the advice of a qualified estate attorney before signing anything.

And for additional resources for older adults and their families to make better decisions about annuities, the Healthcare and Elder Law Programs Corporation (H.E.L.P.) has created annuitytruth.org.



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Some 'did-you-knows' estate plans

If you've done any estate planning, or even if you're just familiar with it, you probably know the basics — that is, a comprehensive estate plan can help you pass on assets to your family while also achieving other goals, such as designating someone to take care of your affairs if you become unable to do so. But you may not know about some other estate-planning issues that could prove important in your life:

• **Power of attorney for students** – Children heading off to college may be considered legal adults in many states. Consequently, you, as a parent, may not have any control over medical treatment if your child faces a sudden, serious illness or is involved in an accident. Instead, a doctor who doesn't know your child or your family may decide on a course of action of which you might not approve. To help prevent this, you may want to have your college student sign a medical power of attorney form, which will allow you to make decisions on your child's behalf if doctors don't think your child can make those choices. You might also want to combine the medical power of attorney with an advance health care directive or living will, which lets you specify actions you do or don't want to happen. In any case, consult with your legal advisor before taking any of these steps.

• **Community property versus common law** – Not all states

treat married couples' possessions equally. If you live in a community property state, the property you acquire during your marriage is generally considered to be owned in equal halves by each spouse, with some exceptions. But if you live in a common law state, the property you obtain while you're married is not automatically owned by both spouses. In these states, if you buy some property, you own it, unless you decide to put it in the name of yourself and your spouse.

This doesn't necessarily mean, however, that your spouse has no rights, because common law states typically have rules that guard surviving spouses from being disinherited. But here's the key point: If you move from a community property state to a common law state, or vice versa, you might not want to assume that your and your spouse's property ownership situations will remain the same. Consequently, if you do move, you may want to consult an estate-planning attorney in your new state to determine where you stand.

• **Pet trusts** – You always strive to take good care of your pets. But what might happen to them if you become incapacitated in some way? Unless you have a close family member or friend who's willing to take over care for your pet, you might want to consider setting up a pet trust, which can take effect either during your lifetime or after you pass away. A trustee typically will make payments to the caregiver you've designated for your pet, with payments continuing for the pet's lifetime or a set number of years. Again, an estate-planning attorney can help you with this arrangement.

Estate planning certainly involves the big-picture issue of leaving a legacy to the next generation. But the issues we've discussed can also be meaningful to you, so you'll want to address them properly.

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



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Then he left the door wide open for everyone to receive the promise themselves! *For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.* - Acts 2:39


**Please join us as we celebrate Pentecost Sunday
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State Representative Tony Bacala

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Friends,

My Fundraiser was a great success because of all of the individuals who continue to support my efforts. Of course, there are too many to mention individually, so I am taking this opportunity to thank you all now.

Seven years ago the voters of Louisiana House District 59 elected me to be their voice in Baton Rouge, and I made a solemn promise to all that I would be honest, open, and accessible. I want to assure all of you that every day I endeavor to keep those promises, 100%.

In 2016 our first priority as a State Legislature was to correct a \$2 billion deficit that we had inherited from the



previous administration. We have since turned the states finances around and have enjoyed budget surpluses for the last several years, allowing us to invest in infrastructure improvements that benefit all of us.

strides in tort reform, we have passed strong statutes to protect the lives of the unborn, we have protected our 2nd amendment rights, we have continued to improve teacher pay, and we have restored funds to our colleges and universities. I could continue on and on with this list.

We have also made great





As I enter the final year of my second term in office, I know that there is much more that needs to be done, and more that I personally want to do, to advance our parish and our

state. For that reason, I am running for re-election to a third and final term (term limits) as State Representative for District 59. With your support I will continue to represent all of you to the best of my ability. I am always just a phone call away, if anyone needs me. My cell phone number is 225-921-3852.

For your continued support I will always be grateful and see it as my honor and duty to be your strong voice at the Capitol.

Tony



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56TH ANNUAL GONZALES JAMBALAYA FESTIVAL

EVENT SCHEDULE

FESTIVAL GROUNDS: 219 South Irma Boulevard, Gonzales, LA 70737
FREE ENTRY AND FREE PARKING



BANDS FRIDAY, MAY 26

MAIN FESTIVAL STAGE

Damon Troy	5:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Ryan Foret & Foret Tradition	9:00 pm - 12:00 am

INDOOR STAGE

Back Street Band ft. Ruckle Gautreau	5:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Dustin Sonnier	9:30 pm - 12:00 am

COOKING AREA STAGE

Joey Ray	12:30 pm - 3:30 pm
Lauren Lee Band	4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

SATURDAY, MAY 27

MAIN FESTIVAL STAGE

Crazy Blue	11:00 am - 1:30 pm
Justin Cornett	2:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Eddie Smith Band ft. Floyd Brown	5:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Gregg Martinez w/ TK Hulin & Johnny Allen	9:00 pm - 12:00 am

INDOOR STAGE

Kenny Cornett	11:30 am - 1:30 pm
Swampland Revival	2:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Mike Broussard & Nite Train	5:30 pm - 8:30 pm
South 70 Band	9:00 pm - 12:00 am

COOKING AREA STAGE

T-Boy Moore & Just Us	12:30 pm - 3:30 pm
Jovin Webb	4:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Announcement of Champ of Champ & Top 32 Semi-finalists	7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

SUNDAY, MAY 28

MAIN FESTIVAL STAGE

Dustin Guedry	12:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Chris LeBlanc & Jonathon Boogie Long	3:30 pm - 6:30 pm
2023 World Champion Announcement	6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
The Mojoes	8:00 pm - 11:00 pm

INDOOR STAGE

Rhett Glindmeyer	10:30 am - 12:30 pm
Na Na Sha	1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Don Rich	4:30 pm - 7:30 pm
After 8	8:00 pm - 11:00 pm

COOKING AREA STAGE

Announcement of Top 12 Finalists	12:00 pm - 12:30 pm
Ghost Riders Band	12:30 pm - 3:30 pm
Taylor Nauta	4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

PAGEANT

SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 2023

Gonzales Civic Center

COOKING CONTEST FRIDAY, MAY 26

Heats 1-4: 10:00 am | 11:30 am | 2:00 pm | 3:30 pm
Mini-Pot Champ of Champs: 6:00 pm

SATURDAY, MAY 27

Heats 5 - 8: 6:30 am | 8:00 am | 10:30 am | 12:00 pm
Semi-finalists announced at 7:00 pm

Champ of Champs 2:30 pm - 5:30 pm
Champ of Champs Winner announced at 7:00 pm

Mini-Pot Cooking Contest 7:00 am - 11:00 am
Along New River - Across from Gonzales City Hall

SUNDAY, MAY 28

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 - 7:30 pm

5K & 1 MILE RUN

SATURDAY, MAY 27

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

CARNIVAL

FRIDAY, MAY 26 - SUNDAY, MAY 28

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
Weekend Passes for Friday - Sunday \$60
Single Ride Tickets range from \$3 - \$7 each

CAR SHOW

SUNDAY, MAY 28

Registration	9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Awards	3:00 pm

Council On Aging Parking Lot

VENDOR BOOTHS

FRIDAY, MAY 26 - SUNDAY, MAY 28

Irma Boulevard
Friday 2:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Saturday & Sunday 10:00 am - 7:00 pm

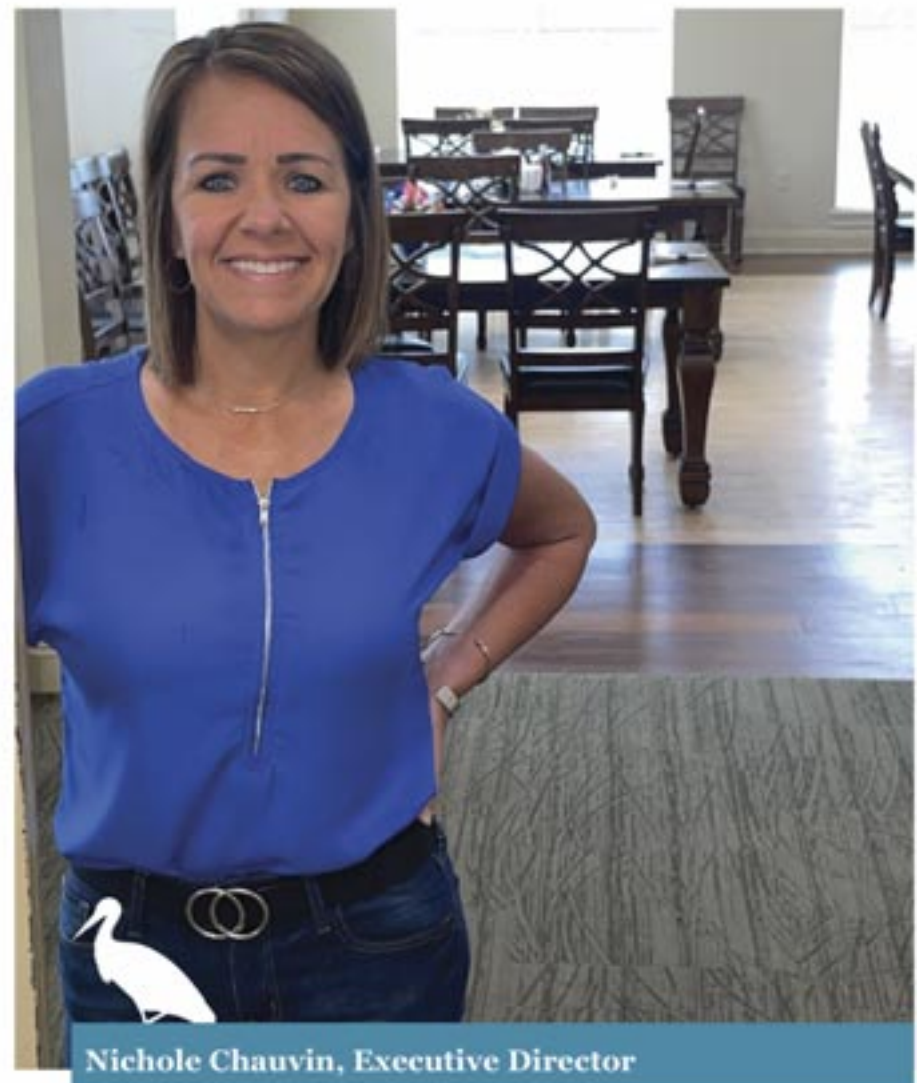
Francois is Flourishing!

The highly successful Francois Bend Senior Living group recently purchased Magnolia Assisted Living. Magnolia is now Francois Parc.



Francois Parc is “dedicating its 54 units to quality independent living”, says Nichole Chauvin, Executive Director of both facilities. “We are focusing Francois Bend’s 108 units on assisted living and memory care; bringing the highest quality nursing and food service of ‘the Bend’ to ‘the Parc.’”

After opening in 2018, the Bend, as Chauvin likes to call it, won Best Assisted Living Facility in Ascension Parish all four years in a row. “We’re very proud of the quality we bring to seniors’ lives, and are delighted to continue this care with expanded operations.” Francois Bend owner Bay Ingram explains “after a decade in the hospital business, several partners and I decided to pursue senior living by bringing our award-winning nursing and food model with us. It’s amazing what Nichole and her staff has done to enhance the quality of life of its residents.”



Ingram outlined how Francois Parc is in the process of new paint, carpet, furnishings, roof, signage and other sparkling finishes. “Francois Parc’s staff is now first class,” Ingram added. Ingram makes it a point to brag about Chauvin’s heart for seniors, outlining how during COVID “Nichole and members of her clinical staff stayed feeding ice chips to residents with COVID for 3 weeks without going home, and she had no COVID deaths at all.”

Chauvin, a local, who started at Francois Bend as a weekend nurse and worked her way up to Executive Director, is enormously proud of her staff. She comments “our team, marketing, food and human resources, have made the Bend so successful from the beginning are all involved in operations of the Parc.” In fact, Ingram explained, he and his partners have welcomed Chauvin, Marketing Director Amanda Williams, CFO Mari Anne Guzman and Culinary and Facilities Director Gavin Schwing, as part owners of Francois Parc.

The Bend and the Parc’s missions are the same – “to offer seniors the comfort of home, comprehensive loving care and dedication to enriching their lives.” Both facilities have an in-house internist who makes “house calls” to residents as well as in-house physical, speech and occupational therapy.



Gavin Schwing, Culinary & Facilities Director

The two facilities are right off Burnside and are a short distance from each other. Both are centrally located near shopping, churches, City and Parish offices, emergency services and the hospital. Residents of the Parc can enjoy walking trails, recreational facilities and pickle ball courts right outside their backdoor.

The Parc residents will also have priority to transfer to the Bend as their needs for assisted living or memory care arise. Francois Bend was the first facility to bring memory care to Ascension parish.



Katie Boudreaux, Human Resources Director & Demetrice Ellis, Personal Care Attendant

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Culture*



*Compassion &
Integrity*

Francois Parc invites you to the grand opening on May 31st, 2023, at 10 am. To schedule a tour, please call (225) 647-8400.

For more information, please visit www.francoisparc.com

Jambalaya Festival

Cruising with Queen Ava!



The past month of my travels has mostly revolved around all things Tangipohoa Parish and crawfish season. I traveled to Abbeville, where we welcomed the new Cattle royalty. Next up was the Sicilian festival, where I had the best oven-fired pizza, and fell in love with the Italian iced tea! We competed in a spaghetti eating contest and a meatball toss, where Catherine, the Plaquemine's Parish Seafood Queen, and I took 3rd place! Next up was the Amite Oyster Festival, where I was invited to ride in the parade, ate fried oysters, and celebrated Queen Hallie. Later that evening we sailed over to Hammond for the Pirates of the Ponchartrain pageant where we welcomed back our rhinestone sister, Sarah Sommers, as their new Miss Queen. My last two events were filled with delicious Louisiana crawfish! I headed over to Chalmette to the La Crawfish festival where Paisley and I modeled our best crawfish-eating bibs (thanks Dad!). I competed in a crawfish race and my chosen crawfish and I won! I also ate delicious jambalaya egg rolls and



crawfish nachos at the festival. My final adventure of the previous month took me to Breaux Bridge where I feasted on the best crawfish etouffee and potato salad. On day 2 in Breaux Bridge, my rhinestone sisters and I toured Crawfish Town USA, crawfished in a local crawfish pond, and ended the night by saying goodbye to Leiton LeBlanc and welcoming in the new queen!

If you are interested in becoming the next Miss or Teen Gonzales Jambalaya, please reach out to Katie Battaglia, the Jambalaya Festival Pageant Director at gonzalesjambalayadirector@gmail.com

Ava Savoy



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East Ascension Sportsmans League

Letter from president -
Mike Lambert

Just had our first quarterly meeting this year in March. We had a pretty good turn out and a good meal to eat. Our guest speaker was Mr. Ethan Lee. He was on the show Forged in Fire three times and the winner once. He is also a gunsmith. We also honored last years bass fishermen. The results of that are in the bass club column below. We also gave a plaque to our big buck contest winner,

Mr. Goosie Guice. The prize is usually a mount, but Goosie opted for a plaque instead. There was no youth hunter that entered a deer this year.

Still coming up is the big turkey contest. The winner will have a fan tail mount of their bird done by Fins to Feathers Taxidermy, owner Thad Bellow. Also coming up at our June meeting the guest speaker will be Mr. Cliff Crochet, also known as "The Cajun Baby". He is a professional bass fisherman



coming up soon also. The date is July 29th at Twin Lakes in Geismar. We are asking for sponsors, so if you can help, please let us know. We appreciate it! Make sure all of your young fishermen are ready. It should be a great event for all. It is our biggest event every year and is always getting bigger each year. If you or anyone you know wants to sponsor this event, contact me at bmworks2016@gmail.com. Anything you can do will be a great help. Thanks for your time.

from
Pierre Part. This meeting will be on the 19th of June. Hope to see y'all there.

The kid's fishing rodeo is

Till next time,

Mike Lambert

To renew your 2023 EASL dues please send a check for \$20 (made out to EASL) to: EASL, 36156 Sycamore Circle. Geismar 70734 .

EASL Bass Club News

The EASL Bass Club went to Caney Creek Lake on March 24th and 25th for our annual two-day away Tournament. There were 17 boats that fished this one. Members stayed anywhere on the Lake and launched wherever they wanted to. Fishing started at 6:45 AM. Weigh in time on both days was 4:00 PM at the Jimmy Davis State Park. Most of our members had never been there before, so no one had any pre-conceived notions about how the fishing might turn out. There were a bunch of our members staying in the rental cabins so everyone seemed to agree that the pre-fishing was really tough. Personally I didn't get a bite until Thursday morning. After returning to the cabin and

enjoying a little rest, we went back out and fished that afternoon and actually got a few bites and established a pattern that we thought might

work for the Tourney the next day.

By 4:00 the next day we understood why Caney Creek Lake was a great fishing

destination. Member after member lined up with bags packed with large Bass. There were five Bass weighed in over 6 lbs. No one counted the



Left to right, Warren & Jim Hebrt, Steve Babin & Tim Braud, Ivy Alberes & George Valentine, Kevin Cahill & Taylor Carter.tif



Big Bass Winner is Tony Arceneaux with 7.8 lb Bass

Babin and Tim Braud were fourth with 14.52 lbs. All four of those teams each weighed in a Bass over 6 lbs. Friday was overcast with an approaching front and Saturday was predicting post frontal conditions with blue bird skies. We had no clue as to how this would affect the bite but everyone was hoping for the best.

Saturday's weather forecast was right on the money and the fish did not disappoint anyone. By 4:00 we saw the same results with members lined up with bags of large Bass. Saturday produced 4 Bass over 7 lbs, two more over 6 lbs and too many over 5 lbs that weren't even weighed. Saturday produced two stringers over 20 lbs, one stringer over 19 lbs. and two stringers over 18 lbs. When the weigh-in was complete, Dirk announced the winners.

First place went to Jim and Warren Hebert with their two day total of 10 Bass weighing 44.96 lbs.

Second place went to Steve

number of 5 pounders because they weren't individually weighed for Big Bass. There were three stringers weighed in over 14 lbs, one stringer over 15 lbs and one whopping stringer that weighed 24.10lbs. After the first day, Jim and Warren Hebert were leading with 24.10 lbs. Chad Cannon and Dale Babin were second with 15.28 lbs. Kevin Cahill and Taylor Carter were third with 14.96 lb stringer. Steve



Steven Babin with 7.78 lb Bass

Babin & Tim Braud with their two day total of 10 Bass weighing 34.76 lbs.

Third place went to George Valentine & Ivy Alberes with 10 fish weighing 30.26 lbs. Fourth place went to Tony Arceneaux & Jason Beck with 10 fish that weighed 27.11 lbs. Three of those winning stringers included a 7 pounder in their bags.

The battle for Big Bass of the tournament was enough to make some members chew

their fingernails off as they watched the numerous 7 pounders being weighed in. Members of the 7 pounders club were Anthony Bonadona with 7.22 lbs. George Valentine with 7.26 lbs., Steven Babin with his 7.78 lb. Big Bass of the tournament was awarded to Tony Arceneaux with his Lunker weighing 7.80 lbs.

All we can say is "thank goodness for our new digital scale that locks in on the weight".

I have records dating back over 20 years and I think that this tournament broke all previous records for total weights as well as numbers of big fish being weighed in.

I think everyone enjoyed this away tournament for sure. Congratulations to the winners of the March Tournament. Our next tournament will be on April 25th. Our meeting to plan that event will be on April 16th...

Crawfish Season is Really Heating Up!

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Jim & Warren with Friday catch that weighed 24.1 Lbs.

Jammin' with Goosie

Wounded War Heros

Playing a music gig the night before leaving for my annual three day north Louisiana hunting trip along with trying to get in a few days of hunting back home after my return had taken a toll on my aging soul. Not yet recovered from that week of action I was staring at the events staged for the upcoming weekend. That stretch would begin with an all day trip to Slidell, La. for our annual Boilermaker retirement party. That event did not disappoint for sure. It was great to see many of my old working buddies. One of the attendants was an old job relationship of mine, along with his wife, that I had worked, hunted, fished, shrimped, and crawfished with for many years of my life. What a pleasure it was to see those folks again. For many years they were a big part of my life. It's strange how life can change your

direction from time to time.

While speaking of changing directions, as soon as I returned home I quickly jumped into my vehicle (it's now dark) and headed to the home of my co-partner of Ascension Outdoors TV, Lyle Johnson to load up and head to Venice, La. for the weekend. It's been said that you actually do the things in life that you really want to do. In most cases if you choose to do one thing over another it's because that's the thing that you really wanted to do. Although I was really worn out at this point, I decided to just suck it up and go anyway. Being a little tired would be no sacrifice at all in comparison to the sacrifices that the group of outdoorsmen that I was going to film for had given in their life. The fishermen of this event were members of the Wounded War Heroes along with their guides for the weekend.

Our arriving at Venice Marina came right smack in the middle of an all out power outage. This made room arrangements and introductions a little difficult.



But in a short amount of time I was in my appointed room having a conversation by the aid of a flashlight with two vets that had served in Iraq from 2003-2005. After the intros and a short conversation about this and that the need to get some rest from an exhausting day came quickly.

A foggy daylight found me partnered up with an executive board member at large of the group named Joey Stein. From his boat I would film other boats of veterans, guides along with my co-partner of our outdoor program. Stein, the president of Westside Bassmasters, is responsible for administering many of the events provided for the group. The biggest majority of anglers were bass

fishing for the beginning of the day and most of them would later set their sights on reds and specs as the day would progress. The bite for our group started out slow but gradually picked up as the hours passed by. By midday the spec bite in what's known as "the jump" was wide open. These tournament guys who were responsible for most of the guiding usually release their catches, but this would not be the case for this outing. After returning to the marina early that evening it was evident that this group of ten or twelve crafts had boated about as many fish as I've ever seen caught in that amount of time before in my life. A few of the group stayed behind at the room



headquarters to cook a deer sauce piquante while the biggest majority of the gang headed off to clean the catch. It took every bit of a pickup truck bed to haul that mess of fish to the cleaning tables. Deservedly so, they had caught Venice fall fishing in its prime.

Wounded War Heroes was founded to show appreciation to the men and women who have been wounded or injured as a result of serving our country by providing them therapeutic outdoor experiences upon their return home from fighting for our country. To become eligible as a member of the group the participants must have served in combat from the first Gulf War to present and have acquired a fifty percent disability from their deployment. If you know any vets that may qualify for membership in this organization I would ask that you please inform them of this group's opportunities provided for some excellent outdoor adventures. Just a couple of upcoming events listed begins with a two day

Toledo Bend Veteran Tournament In April. The vets will be partnered up with some of the best bass anglers of that region. This will be followed by a Grand Isle offshore fishing trip. Later on will be the Westside Bassmasters Vets Open. This event will be held on July 16th out of Doirons Landing. More events will follow with a large amount of the proceeds from each going back to the organization for the funding of more projects into the future.

The sauce piquante turned out great for the supper that evening and the camaraderie of friendship among this group of American heroes and their assigned fishing guides flourished as well. But all good things must unfortunately come to an end and the next morning found the group up early dividing the many packs of filets among each and preparing



for the trip back home. The fish were a great gift to receive but prior to leaving my partner and I were presented a gift from my roommate of the weekend and one other of the veterans that brought tears to my eyes. The beautiful piece that was handed to us is called a "Challenge Coin". These coins are handed out by vets to others that have gone far and beyond their line of duty. We both felt very humbled and touched by the thought that one of these heroes would present us with such a

gift. There are certain rules of a Military Challenge Coin and challenges can happen anywhere. It's said that if you are asked to present your coin among people of those ranks in a bar and can not show it, then you are required to buy the next round of drinks. I will always cherish that coin and I do sometimes carry it with me. If the situation arises and I can not produce the coin then I'll be more than happy to buy the round. That payment would be only a small sacrifice to pay compared to what these fantastic individuals have encountered in their lifetime. Sad to say, but in too many cases some will always have challenges of digesting the past.

Till next time

Thanks to all who have fought to keep this country free

God Bless America

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CAN THE GOLF GODS PICK THE DERBY WINNER?

by Bill Delaune



“If Jack Nicklaus can win the Masters at 46, I can win the Kentucky Derby at 54.”

Bill Shoemaker-1986.

If Betty White, Bea Arthur and their merry TV crew of sexy senior citizens were the “Golden Girls”, then the spring of 1986 was surely a time for the “Golden Guys”.

First of all in April, the “Golden Bear” Jack Nicklaus won one of the most memorable Masters ever at the over-the-hill age (for pro golfers before the Senior Tour) of 46.

Then, jockey Bill Shoemaker-age 54-and trainer Charlie Whittingham-a spry 73-teamed up to win the Kentucky Derby on an 18-1 longshot named Ferdinand to give hope to ancient athletes everywhere.

Neither Hall-of-Famer had an

easy time of it. Nicklaus trailed Seve Ballesteros and Greg Norman by four shots after three rounds and by three with only four holes to play.

An eagle on the par-5 15th hole pulled the Bear within two, and when the Spaniard hit into the water on the same hole and made bogey, the match was tied. Nicklaus birdied 17 and parred 18 to get in the clubhouse at nine under.

Ballesteros 3-putted 17 to drop out of contention but Norman-who had fallen apart on the front nine as he was prone to do-came back from the dead and birdied four straight holes to pull into a tie for the lead. But true to form, the “Great White Shark”-who was apparently surgically removed of all luck at birth-went for the pin on 18 , hit his second shot in the gallery and bogeyed the hole.

When the pollen had settled from Augusta’s azaleas, Nicklaus had shot 30 on the treacherous back nine to win his sixth green jacket and become the oldest Masters champion at age 46.

Shoemaker and Ferdinand got into more trouble at the start of the Derby than Jack’s competitors did at the end of the golf tournament. Breaking from the dreaded number one post position in a field of 16, Ferdinand was bumped badly coming out of the gate and shuffled back to dead last.

With star sprinter Groovy setting blistering fractions on the front end, Shoemaker bided his time and began his move-much like Nicklaus did-with only a quarter mile to go. As the favorites gave way-thanks to the hot early pace-Ferdinand slipped through on the rail and

drew away.

The Derby win was Shoe’s fourth and Willingham’s first. At age 54, the former was the oldest jockey to win the race by a dozen years.

Now all this is nice sports history says you-but how in the hell is this supposed to help me pick the winner of the Kentucky Derby?

Patience, my children, just as Jack and Shoe showed in their landmark wins.

As I watched the final round of the Masters on Easter Sunday, I was also looking over the major Derby prep races from the day before. Always looking for an edge-like any degenerate gambler-my brain-cell depleted mind began to wonder-could there possibly be a correlation between the Masters and the Derby like in ’86 when age was the rage?

So I began to pair up

some of the leading Derby contenders with Masters golfers in search of possible clues to lead us to a pot of gold on the first Saturday in May. For example...

1. Practical Move-Tiger Woods. Poor Tiger. After making the cut on the number to break the record for most consecutive cuts made, his reconstructed legs gave out in the cold rain of the third round leaving the TV announcers who had openly rooted for him to play on the weekend scrambling for other angles.

Two double bogeys in a row finally finished him off so it was a Practical Move for him to withdraw. As his limp got progressively worse with each bad shot (Would hard-hearted Nick Saban have called it a "loser's limp"?), I couldn't help but think how Practical Move had handled the California curves during his Santa Anita Derby win better than Tiger did a couple of years ago in his SUV.

2. Two Phil's-Phil Mickelson. Will the real Phil Mickelson please stand up? Is this the Phil who led the revolt against the PGA and took the Saudi blood money to play on the LIV tour? The one that Fred Couples called a "nut-bag"?

Or is this the Phil who kept his mouth shut all week and shot a sizzling 65 during the grueling final round to tie for second in the Masters? His namesake is just as unpredictable bouncing back from a disappointing loss to win a stakes race by five lengths at Keeneland and qualify for the Derby.

Your guess is as good as mine although Two Phil's sire was Hard Spun which certainly describes some of Mickelson's high, spinning iron shots on Sunday.

3. Blazing Sevens-Sam Bennett. Seven amateurs were invited to this year's Masters but only one made the cut and he made quite a

name for himself. Texan Sam Bennett came out with guns blazing shooting a 68 in the first round and standing in third place after 36 holes. He displayed the nerve of a gunslinger during the final rounds settling for a tie for 16th with defending champion Hidecki Matsuyama and 2019 British Open champ Shane Lowry. As a reward, Bennett got to return home to College Station to play in the Texas A&M Invitational on Monday where he had to walk 36 more holes and carry his own bag.

Hopefully Blazing Sevens can find some of the same Good Magic (his sire) in the Derby and make all my slot playing friends (That's you, Vera.) very rich.

4. Derma Sotogake-Hidecki Matsuyama. A Japanese horse for a Japanese golfer. Ever wonder how horses get their names? Well, the owner is a dermatologist and "Sotogake" is a move in sumo wrestling. But how often does a caddy get as much air time as a defending champion as Shota Hayafuji's respectful bow to Augusta National after he claimed the flag on 18 following Matsuyama's win has become part of Masters lore.

So we have another Japanese horse for the caddy's shining moment-Mandarin Hero who was a fast closing second at Santa Anita.

5. Reincarnate-Fred Couples. For a while it looked like old "Boom-Boom" was a Reincarnate of his 1992 championship self shooting under par in the first round. But Couples's 63-year old body gave way-not before he became the oldest man to make the cut. Despite criticism for his yellow balls (for his fading vision) and his hoodie sweatshirt one day (He was cold.), he still has that smooth swing I've always envied. As far as the horse, he would have to be a Reincarnate of his grandfather Scat Daddy to challenge in the Derby.

6. Cyclone Mischief-Brooks Koepka and the gallery. When the storm that roared through Augusta on Friday, it caused lots of Cyclone Mischief forcing the unfortunate fans that had gathered under the majestic pines on the course had to run for their lives. Several trees were snapped off and fell causing havoc among the thousands of spectators. Fortunately, no one was injured but Koepka's game began falling like the pines on Sunday when he squandered a 2-shot lead and brought on the jokes about the LIV players only being able to play 54 holes.

Cyclone Mischief is a nice horse but he keeps running into a hurricane of a horse named Forte who is the probable favorite in this year's Derby.

7. Verifying-Jon Rahm. With his impressive Masters victory, Rahm has now verified himself as one of the greatest

golfers ever. He will probably Justify (Verifying's sire) that when he wins the PGA and the Open in years to come to complete golf's elusive Grand Slam.

As for the thoroughbred, he looked like a winner in the Blue Grass but didn't have Rahm's closing kick. Top trainer Brad Cox will have him better conditioned next time.

So there you have it, pick your favorite golfer and play the corresponding horse to bring home a winner.

As for me, I'm betting one for my favorite of all time-the "King", Arnold Palmer, a 4-time Masters champion. Arnie's long since passed but he established a golfing empire that still benefits today's players. So I'll try Cox's other horse Angel of Empire and hope for some divine intervention.

Word of caution-my last Derby winner in 2012 reflected my drinking philosophy-I'll Have Another at 15-1. Good luck to all in all endeavors.

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Entertainment Schedule

April 21

Justin Cornett Band

April 29

Twenty Something

May 12

Crescent Kings

May 20

Yeah You Right



Crescent Kings

May 12

www.parkplaceofgonzales.com



Useless Random Facts with Kellie

•
China has 28000 rivers and lakes that have disappeared in 13 years.

•
The human brain on average has 70,000 thoughts a day.

•
Average 4yr old ask 437 questions a day!!!!!!

•
The small intestine is almost twenty-two feet long

•
Eggplant is a fruit not a vegetable.

•
The worlds most sold instrument is the harmonica

•
Only about 60% of Americans have gone to a dentist.

•
No Word In The English Language Rhymes With Month, Orange, Silver, And Purple.

•
There Are Two Credit Cards For Every Person In The United States.

•
Also Another Theory For The "Whole 9 Yards" Is The Term "The Whole 9 Yards" Came From WwII Fighter Pilots In The South Pacific. When Arming Their Airplanes On The Ground, The .50 Caliber Machine Gun Ammo Belts Measured Exactly 27 Feet, Before Being Loaded Into The Fuselage. If The Pilots Fired All Their Ammo At A Target, It Got "The Whole 9 Yards."

•
The International Telephone Dialing Code For Antarctica Is 672.

•
Dr. Seuss Pronounced "Seuss" Such That It Rhymed With "Rejoice."

Thoughts from Bully

**OMG
Spanishtown
Judges give
Krewe of Nemesis
a trophy!!!**



I have been riding in the Spanishtown Parade for 29 years. I also paint the floats. I've always heard that they have a judging for the floats. Over all the years I know I have painted and had the best float at least 15 times.

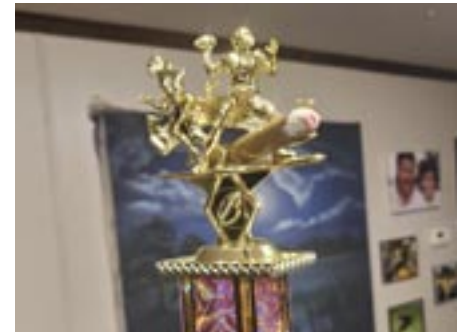
The Looney Tune Float was awesome one with a cartoon dessert scene complete with the Road Runner eating bullets. While bending over and consuming the bullets he was shooting them out of his

feathered butt and ric-ka-cheeing them off the Coyote's head. The float didn't get a second look. I had heard you have to bribe the judges but my pride wouldn't consider winning by payola.

A few years back the television craze was 'Game of Thrones'. Spanishtown theme was 'Game of Thongs'. I knew I had this year in the bag. My design had a 25ft wide flying dragon burning down Baton Rouge with the perfect tail end

of the float. After not being considered I said to heck with trying and stopped even following the theme. It didn't matter what we did. This year we didn't even paint pink on the float at a parade that is 100% pink. So what happen. We painted our float orange to look like the General Lee of the Dukes of Hazzard and gave it a Cincinnati Bengal twist and named it 'General Joe'.

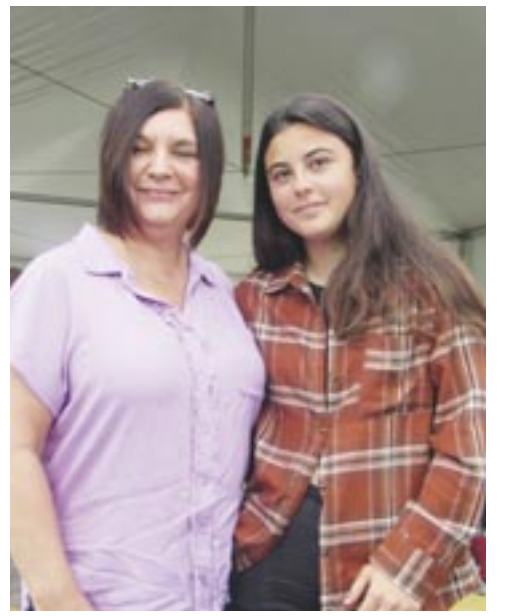
It so happened one of the judges was a freak for Joe Burrow and went nuts when she got one of our t-shirts and that's all it took. We won a trophy because Judge Mona Lisa had the hots for Joe. I'm not complaining I like the trophy. She even customized the trophy with a football flare and Joe's cigar. Thank You Judge Mona Lisa.





Taillon & Anderson Families Gather for *Easter*





The Garney Gautreau **Spring into the Senior Soc Hop**





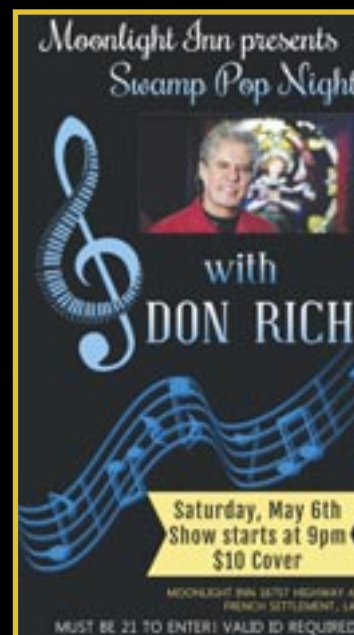
"She's a little old, but still has alot of life in her"

Est. 1936

BAND SCHEDULE

- 4/20 – **JT McCAFFEREY @ 7:30**
- 4/21 – **DIS N DAT BAND @ 9**
- 4/22 – **3RD STREET @ 9**
- 4/27 – **BRYAN MANNINO @ 7:30**
- 4/28 – **HONKYTONK PLAYBOYS @ 9**
- 4/29 – **THE GHOST RIDERS @ 9**
- 5/4 – **BYRON BUJOL @ 7:30**
- 5/5 – **JERRED KELLY DUO @ 9**
- 5/6 – **DON RICH @ 9**
- 5/11 – **BRYAN MANNINO @ 7:30**
- 5/12 – **KYLE WILSON & TAYLOR HUNNICUT @ 9**
- 5/13 – **TRENT BOURGEOIS & FLY BY NITE @ 9**
- JULY 28TH, T.G. SHEPPARD TICKETS ON**
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Saturday, April 29th from 9a-3p.

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Band Schedule

- April 16 – Chris Allen Trio 3-7pm
- April 22 – Chris Leblanc Band & Zydeco Mike 9-1am
- April 23 – Enuf Band 3-7pm
- April 28 – Southdown Souls Album Release party 9-1am
- April 29 – Thomas Cain Band 9-12
- April 30 – The Mojos 3-7pm
- May 5 – Thunder Kiss Band 9-12
- May 6 – Lauren Lee Band 3-6pm, Dustin Guidry Band 8-11pm (Tickfaw 200 poker run)
- May 7 – Mike Sanchez Band – 3-7pm
- May 11 – Kyle Wilson & Taylor Hunnicutt 7-10pm
- May 12 – Titanium Rain Band 9-12
- May 13 – Echo Forge Band 8-12
- May 14 – 3rd Street Band 3-7pm (Mother's Day)

Pat Michel
GM



Southdown Soul ... April 28th ... 9pm



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Cooking Gourmet at Home with SNO'S SEAFOOD & STEAKS



Heart of Romaine “Wedge” salad



Executive Chef, John Donaldson

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.

ENJOY!!!!!!

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