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# Slidell magazine

Vol. 155 September 2023



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**COVER: "FROM NOTHING"**

## ARTIST: TERRANCE OSBORNE



New Orleans Artist Terrance Osborne grew up in the heart of his culturally rich city being inspired by his diverse and colorful social surroundings. As a youth, Osborne held an interest in art, largely fueled by his mother and his older brother. While in high school, he was introduced to painting by his mentor Richard C Thomas.

Osborne attended the prestigious New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (N.O.C.C.A.) and later graduated with a degree in Fine Arts from Xavier University. For the following five years, he taught art at Alice Harte Elementary until Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans and he relocated his family to Georgia. From then on, with his wife Stephanie at his side, Osborne dedicated his time completely to art. After two years in Georgia, he moved his family back to New Orleans and created a new body of work depicting scenes of a colorful New Orleans saturated by Hurricane Katrina imagery. His work quickly became internationally recognized. Over the years, Osborne would be featured in a slew of public media for his vividly whimsical works glorifying New Orleans culture. "New Orleans is one of those places in the world that everyone loves because our people love people."

His 2007, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2018 and 2022 Official Jazz & Heritage Festival Posters are a handful of the most collected posters in the world.

Osborne gained partnerships with companies such as Nike, NBA, CocaCola, Heineken, Tulane University and Coup De Fondré Winery to name a few.

In 2017, he opened Terrance Osborne Gallery in uptown New Orleans. It remains one of the top galleries in the city. Be it art connoisseur or causal collector, Terrance Osborne's art continues to delight the eyes across all divides.

It is an honor for us to carry Terrance's artwork on this month's cover! The embellished giclee of this piece, titled "From Nothing", has been graciously donated by Mr. Osborne to be raffled at the Wild Game Cook-off later this month. 100% of the proceeds will benefit CCC.

You can view and purchase Terrance's art on his website:

[www.terranceosborne.com](http://www.terranceosborne.com)

or visit his amazing gallery at 3029 Magazine Street in New Orleans.

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# Slidell magazine

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## Editor's Letter

*Kendra Maness, Editor / Publisher*

### Eating Crow and Crawfish Pies...

Last month, Antique Umbrella Alley in Olde Towne was officially opened. I am blessed to serve as one of the coordinators of this project and, for the past two months, it has absorbed my life. The planning, development, installation and marketing have been a collective effort of sooo many people. Far too many to name here; but, believe me, it took a village. We poured our hearts and souls into the project. We all love Slidell and wanted to make it more beautiful.

So, imagine our surprise when Facebook began lighting up with negative comments about the display. Not just a few, either. Dozens of comments condemning the umbrellas' validity, its funding, its appearance, its usefulness, and its structural integrity. Ouch.

The post that seemed to ignite the biggest firestorm regarded the removal of the Bradford pear trees along First Street. It was posted by Alaynna King on an extremely popular page, *What's going on in Slidell*. The post wasn't really a criticism - just a picture of the rather barren street after the trees were cut and Alaynna's forlorn remembrance of sitting under the shade, along with a little angry-faced emoji.

And the pile-on began! Comments from the public that had criticism, conspiracy theories, name-calling, shaming, and worse. I tried to explain the bigger picture and master plan in my comments, but finally gave up and listed my email address and phone number for anyone's questions. By night's end, Alaynna had removed the post.

The next day, I got a message from Alaynna, whom I had never met. *Can we talk about this?* You damn right we can, lady. I armed myself for battle, sharpening my tongue to a razor's edge.

Alaynna was inquisitive, concerned, and protective of the quaintness of her beloved Olde Towne. I was a jerk. Alaynna was calm and well-spoken. I spewed vitriol every time she paused to take a breath. She then reminded me that her post wasn't meant to incite the riotous barn burning that took place in the comments. She was genuinely saddened to see the trees being cut and wished she knew why. Somehow that snapped me out of my belligerence, and we began to talk - really talk.

And, the more we talked, the more I liked her. She and I are the same creature. We both love our community and just want the best for it. Before we hung up, I apologized. She accepted, and offered to bring me some of her famous homemade crawfish pies. Heck yeah!

The following Tuesday morning, Alaynna drove to meet me with a freezer bag filled with crawfish pies. We chatted for a minute in the parking lot and she asked for my honest feedback when I tried the pies. Sunday night, the savory smell of crawfish pies filled my home. They were DELICIOUS!!! I texted her as I was eating them to tell her as much, then we text-chatted for the rest of the evening. I think I have a new friend.

I think eating a little crow with my crawfish pies was good for me.

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# Extraordinary Slidell Neighbors



by Charlotte Collins

## Laura & Dave Kaufmann

We all know the adage that life has its ups and downs. We have probably all lived through those roller coaster rides. Laura and Dave Kaufmann are living proof that you can get through them together. I am willing to bet that most of my readers see Dave and Laura Kaufmann as the successful couple behind K. B. Kaufmann & Company and Joli Coupé Salon. Those that know them well know that they were hard working kids that came from two families with strong work ethics, who fell in love at a young age. As busy as they kept themselves, there was always a long-range vision guiding them. Their combined energy, faith, and determination worked out. It wasn't easy, it wasn't magic; it was faith and perseverance, and it worked.

As I waited for them in a conference room, I perused the bookshelf of awards, getting a sense of their community spirit. Among them were awards from Rotary, the Chamber of Commerce, the Wild Game Cookoff, National Rifle Association, Hospice Foundation of Hope, Golden Eagle Boy Scout, and Knights of Columbus (KofC). What a diverse display of community giving!

Laura came in with fresh coffee, and we looked at the awards together. I learned that not only is Dave heavily involved with KofC, but he has also earned the role as their Grand Knight. I also learned that he is a great cook, doing all the cooking at home. Dave has a natural chef's flair and learned to cook when Laura was building her beauty business. I was beginning to get a sense of the man behind the awards.

The couple met in New Orleans when they were 14 years old. They lived down the street from each other. She smiled and admitted, "I lived on a corner and Dave would drive by in his truck, so he would have to pass my house. I got to know his schedule and was always looking for him as he came down the street. We went to separate schools, but my sister went to school with Dave. I had met his younger brothers, and they were so kind. I think they may have let him know I was interested in him." She looked up at her husband and laughed.

He laughed along with her and explained, "I was working all the time in a framing crew in the neighborhood, so I needed the truck. At 14 years old, I

didn't have a driver's license yet. I got my first truck at 15 so I could drive to school at 5:30 in the morning. Then I had football practice and drove straight to work framing houses until dark. My parents, Valentine and Ernestine (Tina), required me to work and give them 25% of my \$5/hour pay for room and board." When I looked surprised, he laughed and added, "Oh yes, my parents were tough. But my mom was smart. She saved that money and gave it back to us when we got married. Most of the framing crew knocked off at 3:30, but I kept working. Laura was often out riding bikes or standing in her yard at that time, so I stopped and talked to her, and finally I asked her on a date."

"I took her duck hunting," Dave laughed. Laura wasn't very good at first but, with time, she got better. For her part, she took him skating, which he wasn't thrilled about. After Dave got off work, he would come over to help Laura finish her chores. Luckily, they both liked to stay busy.

Soon, the couple found common ground. For starters, both families loved to fish. Laura's parents, Ronald and Cynthia

Latapie, had a fishing camp on Rat's Nest Road and spent most of their summer weekends there. Laura described, "We had a big family, so we had two camps next to each other. Once I started dating Dave, I wanted to stay home to see him. My parents were smart, so they allowed him to join us. And of course, he's a good worker. So he started to come with us on weekends and did a lot of fishing with my dad, and pitched in around the camp. We also went to church together because Dave went every Sunday."

They graduated in 1979 and married the year after, when they were both 18, neither having dated anyone else. They both loved her family camp and decided to move to Slidell in 1980. Dave's vision was to move near the I-12, I-10 and I-59 split. He recognized this meant he could go 30 miles in any direction, and soon started framing houses in Picayune, the Mississippi Gulf coast, West St. Tammany, and Slidell.

He recalled, "I went to St. Tammany Homestead and told them that I wanted to start building houses. Because I had no credit, I couldn't get a loan. I had a policy of paying for everything up front. My parents and my grandpa taught me that you don't spend more than you make. By this time, I had paid for and built my house on my own, so I decided to use it as collateral. I had built the house in about 60 days. I did everything I could myself and got help from my family. After the bank inspected it, they asked what I would do with the money since the house was finished. It was the reverse of the norm. Most people need a loan to buy the materials to start the house. It was approved. Now I had the money to start my business."

Laura smiled, and announced, "I was impressed! It was a small house but we were young and already had our house paid for! Three years later came the big flood of 1983, and we got three inches of water inside the house even though we had built up high. Our first child, Dave, Jr., was three months old when we were forced to move back to my family camp while we remodeled.

It was crazy with my huge extended family visiting on weekends, so Dave made the repairs pretty quickly."

Dave began building spec houses. Laura loved them and would have moved into every one of them. As Dave's business progressed, the homes got larger, enticing Laura all the more. The Kaufmann family grew too, with daughter Lauren. Finally, in 1985, with a downturn in the real estate market, Laura convinced Dave to let them move into the house she loved most while it was for sale.

Laura looked over at Dave and laughed, "I kept taking the 'For Sale' sign down and putting it back up before he got home. Dave eventually caught on to my shenanigans, but we were still in that house until very recently and I loved it! We also decided we could finally afford for me to go back to school at the Academy of Creative Hair Design, which later became Paul Mitchell. I worked at American Bank & Trust by day and cut hair in the evenings at home. That is when Dave learned to cook, because I was working most of the time. I have to give credit to him. There were some really tough times in the late 80's, but I was never afraid because I knew he would take care of everything. Ever



*Dave & Laura in 1976 at an Abramson High School dance*

since the day I met him, he always took care of things. He really was his own person and he wanted to do the right thing. He wasn't a follower. So I wasn't nervous at all."

Dave shifted gears, and began commercial and industrial construction, which is the majority of what he and Dave Jr. still do today. It took time, and there were some lean years in there. He became licensed as a commercial general contractor, and things began to fall into place.

In 1991, Dave discovered rodeo and "team penning," a fast-paced sport that gives a team of three riders on horseback about one minute to separate three cattle from a herd of 30 and put them into a pen at the opposite end of the arena. It soon became almost a family obsession. They all fell in love with the sport and spent most weekends competing together as a team.

"It all began with one horse that I bought for hunting in Mississippi," Dave says. My kids wanted me to bring him home. I boarded him in Slidell, and Lauren and Dave Jr. started going to horse camps, and doing anything that related to horses. One day, a man told me all about team penning. He convinced me to come watch him in Henleyfield, Mississippi. I bought a second horse and a horse trailer the next week and started boarding them there. The whole family got hooked."

Laura added, "I was skeptical when he first told us about it, but we went with him to watch. Next thing I know, he tells me that he bought me a horse and the whole family was team penning all over the U.S. We made it to the top 10!" The prize money they were winning was beginning to add up. "In 1991, we boarded our horses at a little ranch with a 10,000 foot barn and an attached apartment in Henleyfield. When the kids were six and eight we started spending most weekends there. In 1994, we purchased the ranch. Dave Jr. and Lauren always say they had the best childhood memories at the barn and rodeoing."

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Dave's humility and loyalty were apparent when he described himself as "blessed" to be in the driver's seat as a general contractor in 1991 when the commercial market started opening up. Dave teamed up with Pete Damon as his architect. The business took off and, all these years later, he is still working with the Damon Engineering firm.

Dave explained, "We were real conservative with our money all those years, and saved every penny we could. Laura didn't even know how much we had been saving. In 2000, we decided to tear down the home where we raised our kids and build a two-story home on the same property. So, in order to do that, we built a nice house at Henleyfield, and moved all the furniture and appliances there. I built that house in sixty days."

We all have our Katrina stories, so here comes the Kaufmann's. The family was in Baton Rouge during the storm, and Dave was determined to get back to Slidell the very next day. As many of you recall, the police were not allowing anyone back as the roads were impassable. But Dave had the advantage of owning chain saws. The police escorted him to his business to load them up, and he discovered that his office was miraculously fine other than 18 inches of flood water. Dave and three employees started cutting trees on Fremaux and Old Spanish Trail. The water was still too deep for most trucks, but Dave's 4x4 dually was able to make it through just fine.

Shaking his head at the memory, he shared, "Those were crazy times! I still couldn't get in touch with my brother, Chris (St. Tammany District #1 Fire Chief). I found a fireman and was able to hear Chris's voice over the radio, so we just kept helping wherever we were needed. No one's phones were working, not the mayor's or the fire station. But for some reason, my office land line was working! I mean, there were wires down and tangled all over the place. My office quickly became like Grand Central with people trying to reach their families."

Chuckling at the memory, he continued, "We had a yellow pad and people started lining up to get their names on the list to have their homes restored. We quickly had 60 names, and I decided to start with those. Next, we hired over 100 employees because everybody had lost their jobs. We hired any and every one that was willing to work. Luckily, our vehicles were parked across the street, and had no water. So we were able to hit the ground running. We had friends here and from other states helping us with supplies. We are forever grateful for everyone's efforts."

Laura added, "His office building was just plain crazy! Folks were lining up in one office to use the phone, another line was signing up on that yellow pad, and another was wanting haircuts from me. We just worked day and night."

Laura and Dave's home withstood the storm but received three feet of water. The fishing camp and family home on

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Rat's Nest Road, as we all know, did not make it. So, they moved back to the Mississippi ranch, along with Dave's brother, Mark, and his family. Dave Jr. had graduated from college and married, so they moved into one of the trailers on the property. In order to rebuild homes for his clients, Dave added more trailers for some of his workers. It would be a full year before Dave could remodel their own home, and it was the last residential home they renovated after the storm.

Dave put his hand on the table firmly, as if to quell the memories of the storm. "But, within two weeks, things kind of settled in. I'm OCD, so I quickly got organized. We carpoled to work in Slidell seven days a week. With a handshake agreement from clients, we started work. We had all these people working for us for about six to eight months until their jobs came back, and they were very thankful. We felt blessed to be able to help during this traumatic time."

Once Dave Jr. joined the company full time, they went back to their commercial construction. In 2006, they won a national award for their design and construction of the platform crane building on I-12. Things were returning to normal, but the pressure and the pace was not as fast and furious as the early 80's or just after Katrina.

This is also the year that Dave joined Rotary, introducing him to a new extended family and allowing the Kaufmanns even more opportunities to serve their community. Over the past 15 years, Dave has served in multiple board positions, chaired the skeet-shoot fundraiser, and has been awarded numerous times, including Rotarian of the Year.

Dave and Laura make it sound like things were back to normal, but the truth is that their lives were brimming to the top with work, charity and family. Dave's grandfather passed away a week before Katrina, so they were taking care of his grandmother who was living with them. Then Laura's niece and family came to stay as well, followed by Laura's mother. Next, Dave Jr. moved in while building his house. Next came Lauren, who bought property and was waiting to build. The couple loved family and everyone had a great time together, kind of like the fishing camp years. It was eleven years after Katrina before the couple found themselves alone in the house together.

Prior to Katrina, Dave did not build churches. He actually hung a sign on his office door saying as much. Regardless of the signage, one day a pastor came to him and said that he needed K.B. Kaufmann to rebuild his church. After years of turning down work, Dave felt God move him towards church construction; and he's been building them ever since. The work is part of the Kaufmanns' commitment to their faith, with the company not taking a profit. "The joke is on me. God showed me that I would be building churches until the end of time," Dave laughs.

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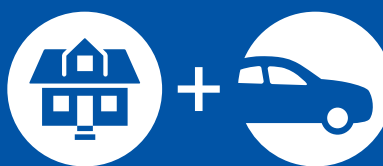
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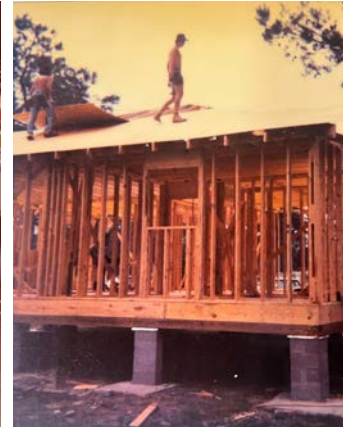
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1.) Circa 1977: the teenage love birds at 16 years old, celebrating Dave's birthday at Laura's family camp 2.) Engagement Photo  
3.) Wedding day, April 26, 1980 4.) Dave, with help from family, built the Kaufmann's first home in only 6 months in 1980!

The Kaufmanns had a five-year plan to turn the construction company over to Dave, Jr. and retire so they could travel together. Then along came COVID. Dave caught it in the first round of the pandemic, becoming extremely ill. In the ICU, his oxygen level dropping, Dave prayed the rosary. If it was time, he was ready. But, if not, he asked to be given a sign that there was hope. The last thing he remembered was a nurse over him saying, "They are getting ready to hook you up to the respirator. If they do that, you will more than likely die. You can deny it."

He denied the procedure, but still could hardly breathe, even with 100% oxygen. There were blood clots in his lungs and legs. That nurse stayed with him in ICU all night, teaching him breathing exercises and giving him breathing

treatments. The nurse on the next shift did the same all the next day. Finally, they helped him move, and eventually walk. Laura's sister was a nurse and she suited up to enter his room. They were both so happy, they cried together. He was in ICU for eight days. Slowly, he was able to turn the oxygen lower and exercise more, literally crawling at times, just to keep moving. His hospital stay continued in a regular room, still with no family contact; which, for this family man, was almost unbearable.

Laura had been silent while Dave recounted the scariest time in their lives. Now she related, "When I picked him up from the hospital, he looked terrible. He had lost 30 pounds and he was pale and drawn. I just kept looking over at him and was so happy he was still alive."

It took seven months of breathing exercises and a stationary bike, but he was getting stronger. Dave laughed, "I got on that bike every time a commercial came on during my Gunsmoke shows. I pedaled until I was ready to pass out."

Since his recovery, he and Laura make time for things that are important outside of work. Laura officially retired, selling her salon of 37 years to her long-time employee, which gave her more time to be active in community programs. She is active in Beta Sigma Phi, where she served as Vice-President, Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus, and the Rosies of Habitat for Humanity, where she serves as a team leader. She is a member of the Krewe of Titans and is delighted to serve as Queen Titan XII for 2023.



(Left) Dave at the commercial construction company he owns and founded, K.B. Kaufmann & Co. (Middle) Laura was a hair stylist for 37 years and owned 'Joli Coupe' Salon & Co. for 25 years before retiring this year. (Right) Dave & Laura on their African hunt in 2022.



(Left) The Kaufmann family, early 1990's - Lauren, Dave, Laura, & Dave Jr. (Middle) A family trip to Gatlinburg, 1996. (Right) Dave competes in the 2004 Western National Finals rodeo competition, 2004.

Dave has put his efforts in the Knights of Columbus as Grand Knight and as a group leader for a men's Bible study, titled *That Man Is You*, which focuses on being a better husband, father, brother, etc. "You only get out of your marriage what you put into it. After focusing so many decades on work, I'm coaching young men to set their priorities."

Once again, Dave is on the path to retirement. He has one more big project he wants to see through to the end, a three story building for Sterling Surgical on Robert Road that he aims to make into a top-notch medical campus.

The Kaufmanns have continued to hunt and fish, traveling with friends and family to enjoy the sports they love whenever they can. Their family has grown to include five grandchildren,

and they joke that kids' swim meets have become their new full-time jobs! Sundays together at church is their favorite time of all.

Laura spoke of their incredible life together. "It is all from our hearts full of love and respect for each other. We thank God for all the blessings he has bestowed on us. We don't have to worry about our children, and that is amazing in itself. They take care of us now when we go out to eat or on vacation. They get mad if we try to pay for them. They say it's their turn after all we have done for them. It's beautiful really. Family is why we do what we do, right? We are so proud of their success and example of their family life."

Looking at Laura, nodding and smiling, Dave conceded, "I'll even do cruises

if I can get in a day of fishing! But seriously, we've had a wonderful life and made a lot of good friends here in Slidell. I've been able to do a lot for the community. It's all about the people you get to know. And the church will always be an important part of my life. Not just my church, but all churches, because God doesn't care which church you are praying from, as long as you are thankful and put God first."

For Laura and Dave, it all started as two young kids in love who shared a strong work ethic and faith. Decades of life added ingredients like patience, wisdom, and lots of trials and triumphs. Their journey became a lifelong lesson about a deeper commitment. All the accomplishments and possessions pale in comparison to the people you touch and the higher purpose you achieve.



(Left) L-R, back: Jason & Lauren Navarre, Laura & Dave, Dave Jr., Charee' & Mason Kaufmann. L-R, front: Jocelyn and Dyllan Navarre, Raegan & Marshal Kaufmann (Middle) Dave fishing with grandkids Dyllan and Mason (Right) Laura in 2023 as Queen Titan XII.

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3

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10

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4

**Happy  
LABOR DAY**

11

**PATRIOT DAY**  
WE WILL NEVER FORGET

18

SAINTS @ PANTHERS > 6:15 PM

**KREWE OF DIONISIUS WEEKLY BINGO!**  
Mondays - 7:30 PM • KC Hall on West Hall

25

**NATIONAL  
COMIC BOOK  
DAY**

29

St Tammany Parish Library  
**KID'S STORYTIME**  
Lacombe Branch • 5 PM

**RIBBON CUTTING**  
The Blood Center  
Slidell > 11:30 AM

5

**Cheese Pizza Day**  
Sept. 5

St Tammany Parish Library  
**ASK YOUR MASTER GARDNER**  
Pearl River Branch • 5 PM

12

Slidell Council Meeting > 6:30 - 7:30 PM

**BINGO!** Every Tues & Thurs • 3 PM  
Slidell Lions Club - 356 Cleveland Ave.

**BINGO!**  
14 16 44 5 24 34 50 60  
10 20 30 40 50 60

19

St Tammany Parish Library  
**VOTER REGISTRATION**  
Robert Blvd Branch • 10 AM

**LOBBY LOUNGE**  
ROMAN STREET > 7 PM

26

**NATIONAL  
Love Note  
DAY**

Slidell Council Meeting > 6:30 - 7:30 PM

30

Fan Up Luncheon  
The Harbor Center  
Slidell > 11:30 AM

**TEEN VOLUNTEER COUNCIL**  
Robert Blvd Branch • 5 PM

6

**National Read a Book Day**

St Tammany Parish Library  
**A Taste of Italy: A Partake Event**  
Middendorff's • 6:30 PM

13

Food for Seniors Distribution Day  
St Luke's • 1 - 3 PM

**EST Legislative Candidate  
Forum Dinner** > 6 PM

St Tammany Parish Library  
**HANDCRAFT HOUR**  
Pearl River Branch • 2 PM

20

St Tammany Parish Library  
**INTRO TO GENEALOGY**  
Lacombe Branch • 6:30 PM

Romualdo Costa: A Century of Faith, Love & Art Exhibit  
Slidell City Hall Gallery > 9/20 thru 10/27 > Mon - Thurs / 10 AM - 4 PM

27

**PLEASE  
LIKE OUR  
FACEBOOK  
PAGE**

31

**LAW ENFORCEMENT  
TORCH RUN**  
for the Special Olympics  
Texas Roadhouse • 4 PM

7

St Tammany Parish Library  
**ELDER FRAUD & CYBER SECURITY**  
Pontchartrain Branch • 2 PM

Slidell High vs. Bogalusa  
High School Football @ 7 PM

14

**B2B Networking**  
Slidell Chamber  
8:30 - 9:30 AM

21

**BUSINESS EXPO**  
The Harbor Center  
Slidell > 3:00 PM

28

**RIBBON CUTTING**  
Covington Country Club  
Covington > 11:30 AM

1 SEPTEMBER

P.R. vs. Pope John Paul  
High School Football @ 7 PM

Slidell High vs. Jesuit  
High School Football @ 7 PM

BEAUTY & THE BEAST > Slidell Little Theatre > Fri, 8 PM / Sat, 2 & 8 PM

8

**GENERATIONS LEGACY  
NETWORKING**  
Studio G • Slidell • 11:45 AM

P.R. vs. East Jefferson  
High School Football @ 7 PM

BEAUTY & THE BEAST > Slidell Little Theatre > Fri, 8 PM / Sat, 2 & 8 PM

BACK TO THE CHAPEL > Cutting Edge Theater > 8 PM

15

**OPENING RECEPTION**  
Romualdo Costa Art Exhibit  
Slidell City Hall Gallery • 5 PM

HOME COMING P.R. vs. Pine  
High School Football @ 7 PM

BACK TO THE CHAPEL > Cutting Edge Theater > 8 PM

22

**BAYOU JAM CONCERT**  
Seaux4 • Heritage Park • 5:30 PM

**BEEKEEPING CONFERENCE & EXPO**  
Friday, Saturday & Sunday  
BACK TO THE CHAPEL > Cutting Edge Theater > 8 PM

29

**BAYOU JAM  
CONCERT**  
Redline • Heritage Park • 5:30 PM

**POETRY & OPEN MIC**  
Roots Plants Coffee • 6 PM

2

**ROLLER DERBY**  
Northshore Lethal Ladies 7 PM

9

Olde Towne Slidell Art Market  
Green Oaks Apothecary - 12 PM

Friends of the Pearl River  
Police Department Fundraiser  
Gator's Daiquiris • Pearl River • 10 AM

LSU vs. GRAMBLING ST. > 6:30 PM

BEAUTY & THE BEAST > Slidell Little Theatre > Fri, 8 PM / Sat, 2 & 8 PM

BACK TO THE CHAPEL > Cutting Edge Theater > 8 PM

**CARS & COFFEE**  
Fremaux Town Center • 9 AM

**REAL HEROES**  
OF SAFE HARBOR 7 PM

**BLUE LINE BASH**  
Slidell Auditorium • 8 PM

LSU @ MISSISSIPPI ST. > 11 AM

BACK TO THE CHAPEL > Cutting Edge Theater > 8 PM

**FIRST DAY OF  
AUTUMN**

LSU vs. ARKANSAS > T.B.D.

30

**WILD GAME &  
SEAFOOD COOK-OFF**  
Olde Towne Slidell • 11 AM

Camellia City Farmer's Market  
Every Saturday 8 AM - Noon

**\$7 PANCAKE BREAKFAST**  
SLIDELL LION'S CLUB • 8 AM

LSU @ OLE MISS > T.B.D.



# The Storyteller

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## HAINT BLUE

*The Gullah people were brought to South Carolina after being captured in West Africa and enslaved. They were a superstitious group and believed in “haints”. Haints were what they called ghosts. They believed that the blue color made from local indigo tricked the haints into thinking whatever was coated in it was sky or water, both of which the haints feared.*

Rufus built the house around 1910. It was small, with only two rooms plus a kitchen. Both rooms were bedrooms but the larger one belonged to him and Reba. That room also served as the living room. When the house was built, they only had one child.



At that time, Rufus was not what you would call a perfect family man. The sawmill paid their employees on Friday afternoon and Rufus’s first stop was Dunnie’s Tavern, located next door to the mill. It would be daylight before he would come home on some occasions. Reba didn’t seem to mind, as that was not uncommon behavior for most of the sawmill workers she knew. Sawmill work was both hard and dangerous, and she reasoned a man needed some time to unwind.

Rufus was not a big man and may have suffered from a complex due to his size. This often led to fights and, on more



***In Our Community  
In Our World***

Rotary Club of Slidell North Shore  
meets every Tuesday at 7:30AM  
Pinewood Country Club



RCSN members led a food drive at Sam’s to benefit Northshore Food Bank. Joined by the noon Rotary Club, members collected a total of 2420 pounds of food which will feed about 70 families!



LA State Treasurer John Schroder not only gave a great update on our state’s finances, he also distributed 6 checks to our members that had unclaimed funds with the state!

than one occasion, he was locked up and did not come home until Reba could raise the bail to get him out. She could tolerate that, too, because she loved him.

As the years passed, the family grew and, by 1920, there were five children; still only two rooms, but five children, three boys and two girls. Both he and Reba knew they needed more space, but it was clearly not in the budget.

It isn't known what came first. Did he stop drinking first, or did he get religion first, which caused him to stop? It seemed to have happened about the same time. Reba certainly noticed the change and, after twenty years of marriage, had a new respect for her husband.

With his change in habits, Rufus began to excel in his job. Over the next few years, he got several promotions. With more income, he decided to take the beer money he had been spending and buy a piece of lumber from the mill each day. As he walked the mile to his house, he could be seen with some type of timber on his shoulder being transported home.

Over the next couple of years, a room was added to the house. It would be called the girls' room. Then, across the front of the house, a large room was built. It would be a living and dining room. As to the size of the house, it was now adequate for their needs.

Even with added living space, the house still had one basic flaw. It didn't have a front porch. No house in the south was considered more than basic shelter unless it had a front porch. A porch not only added beauty to the structure, it was also a functional addition. There was no air conditioning in those days; nor any electricity for a fan. A porch was the perfect complement to an evening breeze on a hot summer day; and they were used almost daily during all seasons except the coldest winter.

Rufus, with the help of his sons, worked on Saturdays and, in a couple of months, the porch was complete. On one end, he hung a swing, and added four rocking chairs purchased from a neighbor. While Reba grocery shopped in town, he went to the hardware store and bought paint for the porch. It never crossed his mind that any color other than white would be considered. The hardware clerk convinced him that the new trend was to paint the floor grey. It held up better and did not show dirt as much as white. The clerk also reached for a gallon of blue paint.

"What's that for?" Rufus questioned.

"The ceiling, of course. Blue paint keeps the bugs away and also the haints. You know, you see it on almost all front porches. The name of the paint is Haint Blue. Like its name says, it is rumored to keep the haints away."

Rufus knew that "haints" referred to "haunts" which implied ghosts.

"Yeah, I've heard about that, but I don't put any stock in it and I don't believe in superstitions either. The Bible says don't seek after wizards to be defiled by them. Read Leviticus, it tells a great deal about that stuff."

For some reason, he took the paint home anyway, but left the ceiling until last to be painted. He was conflicted about using the paint. He liked the color, a light blue-green, but his religious faith had grown. He was concerned about what significance was attached to the paint and its reference as haint blue.



Taft worked at the mill when extra help was needed. Other than that, he sharecropped on the same land his grandfather had worked as a slave. Taft followed the old customs. He planted by the signs of the moon and chanted over the seeds as he carefully placed them in the ground. Whatever he did, it worked. He was a good farmer.

Taft would walk by Rufus's and Reba's house on his way to the mill or to the highway to hitchhike to town. Rufus was on the porch spreading the white paint when Taft came walking by.

"Mr. Rufus, that be a nice porch you done built. Yall's gone enjoy that but make sho you paint that ceiling Haint Blue."

"Taft, come up here. Tell me what you know about painting the ceiling Haint Blue."

"Well sir, you got to. If you don't, the haints gone come in yo house."

"What does blue paint have to do with keeping the haints, as you call them, away?"

"Yes sir, it do. You sees, haints are scared of the sky and water. They think that blue ceiling be the sky and they know if they get near it, they will be sucked up from the earth. Also, theys hate water and they think they gone drown. Yes sir, sho do. And it works. You make sho you paint that ceiling haint blue."



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Reba liked the idea of the blue ceiling. She had waited years for a porch. To her, it was a symbol of their success. She wanted all the traditional trimmings, including a blue ceiling. Rufus objected based on his religious views. He didn't believe in anything that involved the supernatural. There was a lot of discussion; but Reba won the argument, and the ceiling was painted blue, Haint Blue, a mixture of blue and green tints. It stayed that way for years.



Rufus became more involved in his religious practices. After he finished his regular job at the mill, he would then tend to the crops and livestock. After all the chores were done, he would study his Bible, often on the front porch. That was his only hobby and pasttime. He even became a lay minister and was often called to fill in when a local minister was on a trip or ill. He was respected as a God-fearing Christian.

He was always troubled by the presence of the Haint Blue ceiling. His spiritual side questioned if he was tempting the Lord with this superstitious symbol that existed not ten feet from where he read his Bible.



It was 1941 when, one day, he opened his Bible and again studied Leviticus. He read, *"I will set my face against anyone who turns to mediums and spiritists to prostitute themselves by following them, and I will cut them off from their people."*

To him, this was the word of God. The blue ceiling had to go. He was not sure if having it was in conflict to the Bible, but he believed in being more safe than sorry.

On Saturday, December 6, 1941, he painted the ceiling white. Reba objected; but, even though her religious convictions were not as ingrained as his, it was what he wanted and she would not strongly object.

The next day, after church and lunch, it was a warm day for December, and he took a seat in a chair on the front porch to study his Bible. Only absolutely necessary chores would be done on the Lord's Day.

About 1 o'clock, his youngest son, who was a senior in high school, came into the living room and turned on the radio. The New York Giants were playing the Brooklyn Dodgers in a football game and he liked to follow them because fellow Mississippian, Bruiser

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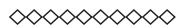
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Kinard, was a star player for the Dodgers.

Rufus's son heard the radio announcer say that Kinard made a sensational tackle, then the program was immediately interrupted.

"We interrupt this program to inform you that Pearl Harbor has been attacked by the Japanese. Reports are that there is great destruction and loss of life."

It would be the next day when President Roosevelt would make his famous "Day of Infamy" speech and war would be declared.



That was the day, for most, the world stopped turning. War had been declared and it would affect every aspect of American life. The household of Rufus and Reba was not spared. Within six months, all three of their sons would volunteer for the cause.

Reba did not exactly understand the worldwide implications or reasons for the war; all she knew was that her three sons were in danger. She looked for reasons and talked to Rufus about God's will, but this gave her little insight.

A year passed and, after first believing that the war would be short lived, it was common knowledge it would be lengthy. Often, she would not hear from her boys for weeks at a time.

She did not share her thoughts with Rufus, but she more than once wondered if the removal of the blue paint could have contributed to the events and her family's involvement. After all, it happened the day after the paint was removed.

December 7, 1942 came. It had been a year since her world had changed, and she had to do the only thing she knew to do. She, by herself, painted the ceiling Haint Blue. She did not consult Rufus. Eventually, all her sons returned from the war without a scratch.

Rufus and Reba and all the children are now deceased. The house has been neglected and most of it has rotted to the ground. However, if you look where the remnants of the porch existed, you will still see boards painted "Haint Blue".

  
John S. Case  
September 2023



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# **WHAT WILL Bob Owen ACCOMPLISH FOR YOU?**

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► Bob gets votes. He has the ear and confidence of other legislators. He is credible. His opponent was censored and removed as House Education Committee Chair by fellow Republicans.

► Bob embodies the values that our community holds dear. He has a proven track record of accomplishment for the people he serves. Bob will never waver from his commitment to protect the State of Louisiana and her people.

► Bob brings home our taxes. The Tammany delegation brought home more than \$170,000,000 in project money (both state and federal) to St. Tammany in 2023. His opponent was stripped of more than \$100,000,000 for St. Bernard (his district) due to divisive politics.

► Bob passed Safe Path to School legislation to reduce childhood deaths. Sixty children on average per week in the US are hit by vehicles. Two of those each week are injured or die. Even one death of a child prevented makes this worth the effort.

► Bob supports efforts to create gates at the Rigolets to protect every community affected by coastal flooding in St. Bernard, New Orleans/Rigolets, St. Charles, Tangipahoa, and St Tammany by utilizing the CSX railroad. He will assist the Levee Board, where appropriate; and if supported by voters, help reduce flood damage and reduce insurance rates.

► Bob assists and funds local law enforcement. Safety and security are the backbones of a community. We need to shackle criminals, not law enforcement. In the State House, Bob supported legislation that stiffened penalties for repeat offenders and gave law enforcement and victims more notification of prisoners' release.

► Bob helped secure funding for the design and initial construction of the Pearl River Bridges. This is a crucial path to safety in a hurricane evacuation.

- A complete overhaul of DOTD is necessary to drive traffic projects already designed but are being

delayed, including improvements at Fremaux, Gause East, Military Road, Hwy 90 West, Old Spanish Trail (Hwy 433), I-10, and the Pearl River Interchange.

► Bob has shown his ability to work with others to accomplish goals for our community while in the State House of Representatives, and has been recognized by leading conservative organizations for protecting our values. This includes receiving the Family Forum Advocate Award for defending our conservative values, the "Most Valuable Policymaker" by the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry for supporting Louisiana job creators, and the Regional Legislator of the Year by the Coastal Conservation Association for protecting Louisiana's natural resources.

► Bob is committed to better health care for all Louisianians. Based on his work in the medical field, he understands the expenses, delays in testing, surgery, and approvals for medications that affect patients and doctors.



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## *Touching One Life at a Time*

By Kendra Maness, Editor

In the early 80's, members from several local churches came together to consolidate their efforts to help individuals and families with true needs. They sought to tackle urgent problems requiring immediate, short term solutions such as basic emergency needs in the form of food, clothing, shelter, emergency travel and counseling services. In 1983, they created Community Christian Concern (CCC), a non-profit organization in Slidell whose mission is to "Touch One Life at a Time." This year, CCC is celebrating their 40th anniversary of providing compassion, guidance, and basic necessities to those in crisis.

CCC has built a ministry through compassion, love and most importantly, their relationship with God to build our community members back up when they have lost their way. They believe each person has a sacred value and worth and that walking alongside them in their time of need can build a bridge of hope.

Today, Community Christian Concern operates a food pantry, a thrift store, a community garden, and the only transitional housing facility for homeless men and low income senior men in St. Tammany Parish. Each year, they assist

over 3000 individuals - veterans, seniors, the disabled, the working poor, homeless persons and families, and a growing number of single families and grandparents raising grandchildren. CCC aims to not only meet their needs, but to inspire self-sufficiency and build a stronger community.

CCC had its start in Olde Towne, originally being run out of Dudley Smith Printing. Dudley, along with the Ministerial Alliance and other community stewards, would help families with needs like uniforms and gas for their car. With their churches' support, their charitable efforts evolved and CCC became a central channel of support for different churches, community organizations, government agencies, and interested individuals to help the local underprivileged and transient destitute.

Gina Schuette, CCC Board President, gives a great example. "We have a woman that regularly shops at Janet's Korner (CCC's thrift store). Twenty years ago, she came here and she was just...broken. She had a number of needs. We sent someone over to her house to fix her stove, we gave her food, we found a church that would provide her children with Christmas. She still comes and shops at Janet's Korner



# ision, Guidance & Basic Necessities To Those in Crisis

and tells me the story. What an impact CCC made on her life that, 20 years later, she's retelling a story about how grateful she was. We didn't buy her a house or a new car or solve all of her problems; she still had things she had to work out. But she said she was just so appreciative; because, at the time, she just felt helpless, like she had no options. And we were there to help."

Executive Director Debbie Schimmeck knows the story well, and has heard and witnessed dozens of similar stories. "We want to empower people. Whether it's a disabled person, a veteran, a single parent, or grandparents raising grandchildren, or a homeless person - those are your most vulnerable populations. Sometimes people come in and they can't read or write. We're helping them with their application for SNAP or other services. People come in, especially for our men's housing program, and they're at the bottom. They may not have a Social Security card or an ID, or even shoes. They may have just come from prison and the police drop them off for services. We give them more than food and help, we give them hope."

CCC helps more than their clients, they also help each other. "We start out on Monday mornings here with a prayer devotion. I love that because sometimes when I get derailed, it's great to have another person here for me. Whether it's a volunteer or staff member or a community service worker, it's a ministry."

CCC has many different programs that help people with immediate needs, as well as offering a structured referral program for long-term solutions. Debbie explains, "When people come in, they're going to see a counselor who identifies what their needs are so they can assist them. They can pray with them and offer hope, compassion, and guidance. We can give them immediate food, they won't go hungry, and immediate clothing and hygiene items."

## Food Pantry

In Louisiana, 1 in 6 people experience hunger everyday. The Food Pantry at Community Christian Concern provides eligible individuals and families with two weeks of food every three months. Single parent households are eligible for additional assistance. Debbie notes, "Anybody can apply for services, but we do have a process. We're here Monday - Friday and we go by scheduled appointments because, today, we might have 10 or 11 families and we need to make sure everyone gets the services they need. Some people come here and they have



10 or 12 people in their family. It's a lot of food but that's fine, the pantry can handle it. We put in an application for them through Second Harvest to make sure that their income qualifies for the food service and they will get a voucher for two weeks of food. They'll get food that very day. Our food shelves are arranged by how many people are in the family." Debbie points out that it's

not just dry goods; it's cold foods too, as she shows me the dairy refrigerator and deep freezers for meats in the back.

There are also hygiene items and baby goods right there for immediate assistance.





## YEAR TO DATE STATISTICS AS OF MAY 2023



### Janet's Korner

Janet's Korner is the in-house thrift store located just inside the CCC main entrance. With clothing, kitchen goods, decorative items, shoes, art, and more, it's an absolute favorite shopping destination for many (including myself). Janet's Korner does more than provide much needed funds for CCC through the sale of these items that have been donated from the public; it also allows for eligible individuals and families to shop for free. The Clothing Ministry serves Slidell, Alton, and Pearl River and also helps those experiencing loss from fires, personal emergencies, and natural disasters.

"It serves two purposes," Debbie says. "One is, what a beautiful thing the community gives us! All these great gifts and these items to sell that help us financially so that we can continue our mission. And it also provides for our clients - a family, a mom, a homeless person - that they can take a voucher and they could shop for what they need."

Debbie also encourages people to donate. CCC accepts gently used items that are clean and in good repair, including: Clothing (especially men's and children's), shoes, household items, small furniture (chairs, end tables, etc), jewelry, purses, wallets, small appliances, antiques and collectibles, tools, bicycles, and scooters.



### Men's Housing Program

CCC's Men's Housing Program offers housing, life coaching and spiritual development to homeless men in St. Tammany Parish. The dormitory style housing located on the top floor of the CCC building in Olde Towne provides a bed, dresser, and night stand for each resident. There is also a fully equipped kitchen, dining area, communal bathroom and living room area. Additionally, the adjacent community garden allows residents an outdoor area for fellowship and quiet contemplation.

The CCC program coordinator is available to provide life coaching and assist each resident in finding employment and permanent housing, with the ultimate goal to facilitate each resident's re-entry into mainstream society.

Debbie notes, "Each of the Men's Housing residents pay \$350 a month. They're treated like anybody else - they can receive food here through the food pantry, get clothing here. We can help them apply for SNAP or a job. Some of the residents are paying child support or have a background in addictive disorders or mental health diagnoses and can't afford \$1100 or \$1200 apartment rental." Since its inception, the Men's Housing Program has housed and assisted over 200 men.

A new arm of the Men's Housing Program was started this year to provide for senior men. "We identified a need, especially during COVID, of many other applicants that were older men who had hardships along the way and can't afford to live alone on one income. Whether they are disabled or have medical conditions or their Social Security benefits just aren't enough to pay their rent."

For all of the residents, CCC has a partnership with the Tri-Parish Works Program to help find them jobs for which they qualify and are capable. Grant programs have allowed for some residents to find employment at CCC. "Some men can live here and work here! We definitely need the help. If they don't have transportation, what a great set-up that is!"

### The Giving Garden

The Community Garden located at CCC was started as a way to supply the Food Pantry with fresh produce. Over time, its purpose has evolved and expanded and today it serves many purposes, including therapy for just about everyone who tends to it. It houses several raised garden beds which are planted with a variety of vegetables, herbs, fruits and flowering plants. The garden sitting area provides a wonderful spot for quiet contemplation and reflection and is a popular respite for residents of the Men's Housing Facility. Day to day, the garden is tended by staff, volunteers and residents of the Men's Housing Facility. The Garden is always in need of supplies and attention; which brings us to...



### Volunteer Opportunities

"WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!" Debbie exclaims. The volunteers of CCC are the working body of the organization and, without them, the organization could not accomplish the various tasks necessary to serve those in need. The staff of CCC is small, so volunteers are an integral part of the charity's success.

Volunteers are needed to serve as:

**Food Pantry Workers** - unloading, stocking, packing and dispensing food quantities to individuals and families.

**Christian Counselors** - interviewing clients and connecting them to appropriate community services.

**Thrift Store Workers** - sales, stocking shelves, setting up sales displays, maintaining the store in a neat and orderly fashion and assisting clients and the general public with their selections.

**Clothing Sorters** - organize shoes and clothing for both clients and the general public.

**Front Desk / Receptionist** - greet clients, collect information and assist with the application process. Tasks include answering phones, booking appointments, filing and interacting with clients and counselors.

Help CCC to fulfill their mission to "Touch One Life At A Time."

Community Christian Concern is located at 2515 Carey Street in Olde Towne Slidell. They can be reached at (985) 646-0357. You can also visit their website: [cccslidell.org](http://cccslidell.org) or visit their Facebook page: Community Christian Concern-Janet's Korner ThriftStore-Miramonte Center.

*Chief Fandal's*

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OCTOBER

14

ELECTION



## Election Info

**September 13**

**The deadline to register to vote in person, by mail, or at the OMV Office.**

**September 23**

**The deadline to register to vote using the GeauxVote Online Registration System.**

**September 30 - October 7 (excluding Sunday, Oct. 1)**

**8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.**

**Early Voting**

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# "Your Estate Matters" Legal-ease

By Ronda M. Gabb, NP, JD, RFC



## BE PREPARED...

### It's Not Just For The Scouts!



If you have read some of my previous articles, I hope you took to heart that the person responsible for handling the household finances has already shared their tips, tricks, locations, logins and passwords, for keeping the bills current and the finances organized. While both of you are involved in this process, unfortunately it's time to prepare for hurricane season by reviewing your important papers and deciding what is important to bring along in case of an emergency evacuation.

In anticipation of this upcoming dreaded high-activity hurricane season, it is a good time to be sure your insurance policies are all up-to-date. We have spent so much more time at home over the last few years that many of us have taken the opportunity to renovate or upgrade our homes and perhaps our furniture. This may warrant an increase in coverage for your home and/or contents and all that has to be done when there isn't a storm already in the Gulf! Be sure the limits on your homeowners and flood insurance are sufficient if you must rebuild or replace the contents of your home or business. Remember, contents coverage exists under flood insurance policies, too, as many of us (including me) learned the hard way after Hurricane Katrina.

Another lesson learned from Katrina is that safe deposit boxes are not waterproof! Important papers, titles and valuables (like the 1,000,000 Iraqi Dinars I have had for

20+ years waiting for it to be worth \$1-LOL!) that are kept in your safe deposit box (or even a safe at home) should be stored in waterproof Ziploc bags for extra protection. Now, I even keep my tax returns at home stored in big Ziploc 2-gallon bags (but I do live on the water).

In this day and age, much of the information you may need can be stored electronically. If you are bringing your laptop or iPad, you may have all you need. Or you can save this data (and photos) on a thumb-drive or a small external hard drive that is small and easy to carry with you. However, you may also wish to carry paper copies of your insurance declaration pages in case websites or internet are inaccessible for a while after a major catastrophe. Of course, we hope and pray that will not be the case, but we've seen it happen before, and this season's projections are higher than ever so we may as well BE PREPARED!

As dismal as this sounds, when we evacuate, we have to admit the possibility of what we left behind may not be there when we return. Therefore, we should be evacuating with our cash, passports, valuables, heirlooms, people/pet cremains/urns, medications, etc. However, the "bad" people know that too, so be extra vigilant when leaving your car, or hotel room unattended, even when locked. Use your hotel safe if they have one, or just be sure someone is always in the room or keeping an eye on the car,

yes, even at the rest areas. Unfortunately, someone's tragedy is all-too-often someone else's opportunity.

Here are some suggestions of what you may need in case of an emergency:

- 1) Insurance policies and your Agent's contact information;
- 2) Bank account information and extra cash;
- 3) Health Care directives, like your Health Care Power of Attorney and Living Will that should include your emergency contacts (or your \*DocuBank card if you have a membership);
- 4) Other important papers/documents (Last Will & Trusts, car titles, passports, birth certificates, Social Security cards, if these originals are stored at home), family heirlooms/art, photographs—this may include items of monetary value, and especially those of sentimental value.

*\*DocuBank is a service that houses members' medical directives electronically, and allows access to these documents and information from anywhere in the world, 24 hours per day. Visit [www.DocuBank.com](http://www.DocuBank.com)*

These days it's easy to be consumed by the possibility of a catastrophic event. Anyone who knows me, knows that I am a planner. I like to know the people that I love are safe, and those things I have worked so hard for are protected. The best we can do is BE PREPARED, just like the Scouts would do!



See other articles and issues of interest!

Ronda M. Gabb and Ronald "Chip" W. Morrison Jr. are both Board Certified Estate Planning and Administration Specialists, certified by the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization. Chip and Ronda combined have devoted over 40 years of practice solely to estate planning, and are Members of the American Academy of Estate Planning Attorneys, National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, and the Governor's Elder Law Task Force. Ronda is also a Registered Financial Consultant. While Chip and Ronda both reside on the Northshore, Gabb Morrison LLP has offices in Covington and Metairie.

A vibrant red bird with black wings is perched on a branch, surrounded by green foliage. The bird is facing right, looking slightly back over its shoulder.

## A BIRDWATCHING Oasis

Story and photos by Donna Bush

Just a short ride from Slidell is an oasis of birdwatching and photography heaven. This past spring, I enjoyed an epic, eco-tourism birding and photography trip to a private house on the spectacular Cat Island off the beautiful Mississippi Gulf Coast.

What makes this the most heavenly oasis for birding? It is a prime location for the spring fallout! Spring fallout is all about bird migration, which is most prominent from March to May as trans-Gulf migrants make the long, arduous journey from their wintering grounds in Mexico, the Caribbean, Central America, and South America. There are roughly two million of our feathered friends flapping their wings for several hundred miles to make landfall along the western and northern coasts of the Gulf of Mexico. They are ultimately headed for their breeding grounds, which may be here or further north.

Their numbers are so great, they can be tracked on weather radar! (So can insect migration! Think mayflies.)

There's even a website (birdcast.info) devoted to providing real-time predictions!

Often, with a south wind or tailwind to speed up their crossing over the Gulf, their trip is quite efficient. However, when the opposite happens, as often does, with a fast-moving cold front barreling south, bringing strong north winds and severe thunderstorms, the birds are placed in jeopardy as they exert all their energy just to make it to the first tiny spit of land they see. I've heard stories of them landing, completely exhausted, on oil rig platforms, where they receive assistance with their remaining travels as they hitch a ride to shore with a rig helicopter ferrying crew.

While I've never experienced a huge fallout, I have read of this phenomenon, and it sounds incredibly magical for birders and photographers to behold. Even if you are not an avid birder or a photographer, it would be an amazing sight to witness.

Cat Island lies south of a point about halfway between Long Beach and Pass Christian, approximately a 20–30-minute boat ride from the Long Beach Ship Harbor. High-rise Gulf Coast buildings are hazily seen in the distance. The island is roughly 2400 acres in size and divided between privately, state, and nationally owned property. The nationally owned portion is governed by the National Park Service (NPS) and is part of the Gulf Islands National Seashore which comprises six barrier islands off the Mississippi Gulf Coast, including Cat Island, Horn Island, Petit Bois Island, and Ship Island.

T-shaped Cat Island is made up of sandy beaches as you would expect. But unlike many other islands to our south, it also has dense forests of slash pines and live oaks with lots of bayous for alligators to cruise. It received its name from French explorers who assumed the four-legged, masked critters they observed were cats. When, in reality, they were raucous raccoons!

The private house I visited on the Island is shared by the owner with Shore Thing Charters, a fishing charter service that provides stellar fishing in both Mississippi and Louisiana waters. The house is used as a base for both fishing and eco tours. The eco tours were started about 6 years ago after Mike Jones with Visit Mississippi reached out to them. However, they struggled with the switch. Enter Robert Smith, the Coastal Program Coordinator with Wildlife Mississippi. Robert, a photo biologist, aided the guides with where and what to place for food and water stations; along with locations and times to look for nests and migrants. With this assistance, their ecotourism began to take off.

The trip I enjoyed consisted of three days and two nights for eight guests. We were transported by Captains Matt, Kenny, and Jimmy in their private boats from Long Beach Harbor directly to the island house. The ride had a good bit of chop and saltwater spray; so glad we protected our gear with heavy duty garbage bags! When we reached the island, we were thrilled to discover that we were completely protected in the waters of the surrounding bayous. If I hadn't experienced the rough trip myself, I would have never suspected. We were greeted by Chef David and his girlfriend, Shannon, who provided delightful appetizers and meals during our stay.



The first thing I noticed as I stepped off the boat onto the dock was the lyrical music of tweeting birds in the lush woods around the house. After getting settled, we grabbed cameras, tripods, etc. and made our way downstairs to the open porch where we could observe hundreds of brightly colored birds all around the peaceful property. Photo blinds were set up on the grounds aimed at various food stations. I was genuinely impressed with the fabulous features provided to entice songbirds close enough to photograph. Delectable food was sprinkled around, with nearby natural driftwood perches available for a respite from flight. Tempting drip stations and placid ponds gave both migrants and locals a place to drink and bathe. Migrating rose-breasted grosbeaks and blue grosbeaks decorated the popular perches and sandy surroundings.

Male rose-breasted are small black and white birds with a vibrant red patch extending from the bottom of their jet-black neck to mid-chest. Females and immatures are brown and heavily streaked with a bold white stripe above their eye.

Male blue grosbeaks sport a deep, rich blue with a hint of a black mask in front of their eyes, a black and silver beak, with chestnut wingbars. This subtle female songbird is a more subdued rust and tawny brown, with brown wingbars.

Magical migrants weren't all we were able to photograph. Numerous native species visited; including northern cardinals, red-winged blackbirds, northern mockingbirds, Carolina wrens, and more. It was fascinating to see these creatures in their Sunday-best, vying for a mate.

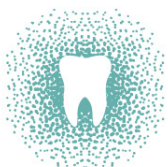


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Hummingbird feeders attracted daredevil aerial acrobats in droves. Even though there were probably 8-10 feeders, the ruby-throated bullies still fiercely fought over the food. A hungry native northern mockingbird hogged the meal worms strategically placed on a live oak limb. Even though they breed in our area, I was thrilled to see male indigo buntings sporting their brilliant blue breeding plumage.

About the size of a sparrow, the male indigo bunting is smurf-blue with a vaguely richer blue on his head and a shiny silverish bill. Females are a rather non-descript brown with some light streaking on their breast and darker brown wingbars. Occasionally,

you can spot a bit of blue on the wings, tail, or rump. These beautiful songbirds migrate at night, using the stars as guidance.

One of the most attractive migrants I photographed was the scarlet tanager, a small, striking songbird only passing through. The breeding male is a vivid red with black wings and tail, while the female is an olive-yellow with darker olive wings and tail. Interestingly, the males molt to female coloration but maintain their black wings and tail.

Similar in color and size is the migrating summer tanager. However, the breeding males are entirely fire-engine red. Females sport a bright yellow green, with yellower head and underparts,

contrasting with slightly greener back and wings. I have observed the fancy females in our backyard.

With so many soaring ospreys overhead, we decided the name should be changed from Cat Island to Osprey Island. They were in the thick of nest building and sitting on eggs, as were great blue herons.

Also known as fish hawks or seahawks (think the Seattle football team), these opportunistic fish eaters often rise 30 to 100 feet in the air before plunging into shallow water feet first to snag their prey. Unlike most hawks, this raptor has a reversible outer talon that enables them to grasp their catch with two toes in front and two behind, along



with barbed pads on the soles of their feet to help them hold onto their slippery meal. They are smart enough to arrange the fish head first for less wind resistance for the flight to their nest.

On our second afternoon, we ventured to a nearby sandy beach to photograph several shore birds. As many as there were, I was surprised to learn from our guides that this was a small amount compared to the usual numbers observed. Dowitchers, dunlin, black-bellied plovers, and terns galore, abounded! Thankfully, one of our group, Mary, was an amazing birder and provided me with tips on how to identify the various terns that we saw. I'm still honing my skills so don't test me too much. With observations of six different tern species, I felt quite challenged.

After all, they were all small, sleek seabirds with white bodies and black heads. Plus, juveniles, breeding and non-breeding were mixed in the group, all with subtle differences. What they did have in common was their ability to glide effortlessly over the glistening water and pluck a small silvery, slivery morsel for lunch. I found it fascinating to watch them spread their wings, casting a shadow on the water to better see their prey in the bright, blinding sunlight.

Dunlin breed much further north in arctic Alaska and Canada. These stocky brown shorebirds' name originated from the word *dunling*, which is a compound of the English word *dun*, meaning gray-brown and the diminutive *-ling*. Essentially, their name means "little brown job."

The reddish egret is one of the most dashing of herons. They are known for their darting and dancing, back and forth movement, while opening and closing their wings all to catch their seafood dinner. Often, the breeze would ruffle their feathers giving them a definitive bad hair day look.

One of my favorite shorebirds, our year-round resident American oyster catcher, was not as prevalent as I thought they would be. They are boldly patterned with provocative red-ringed yellow eyes, paired with a red-orange bill, causing them to stand out easily on the sandy beaches. One was colorfully adorned with multiple bracelets from three prior bird taggings on his/her legs. Interestingly, they have a relative, known as the black oyster catcher, which I've photographed frequently in Alaska.

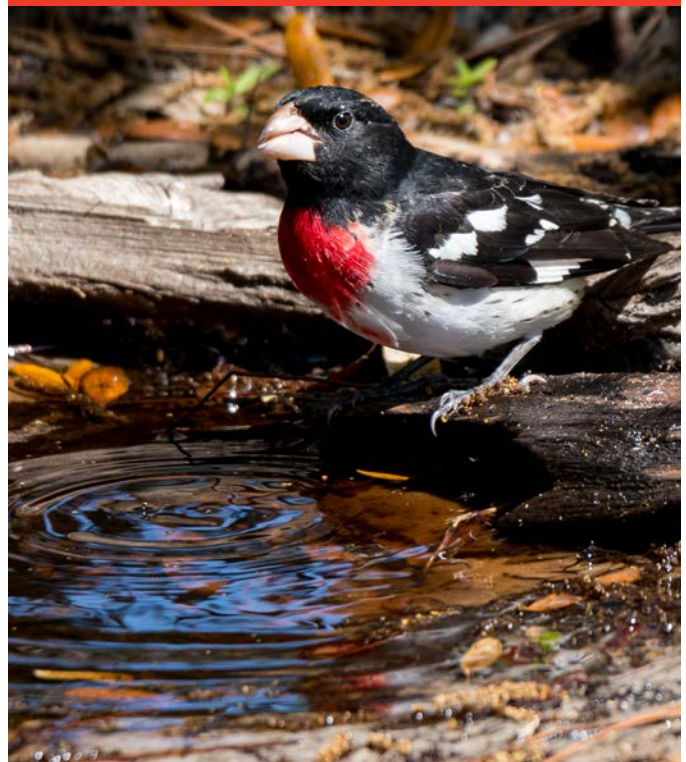
I found all the migrant warblers difficult to photograph! These small, insect-ingesting creatures never stopped moving! I spent hours trying unsuccessfully to snag a sharp photo. Finally, my patience paid off with two sharp images of a tiny black and white warbler who worked over the oak tree nearest the porch.

## WHAT'S *Eco-Tourism*?

According to The World Tourism Organization ([untwo.org](http://untwo.org)), ecotourism refers to forms of tourism which have the following characteristics:

- ▶ All nature-based forms of tourism in which the main motivation of the tourists is the observation and appreciation of nature as well as the traditional cultures prevailing in natural areas.
- ▶ It contains educational and interpretation features.
- ▶ It is generally, but not exclusively organized by specialized tour operators for small groups. Service provider partners at the destinations tend to be small, locally owned businesses.
- ▶ It minimizes negative impacts upon the natural and socio-cultural environment.
- ▶ It supports the maintenance of natural areas which are used as ecotourism attractions by:
  - Generating economic benefits for host communities, organizations and authorities managing natural areas with conservation purposes.
  - Providing alternative employment and income opportunities for local communities.
  - Increasing awareness towards the conservation of natural and cultural assets, both among locals and tourists.

Source: *The British Ecotourism Market*, UNWTO 2002

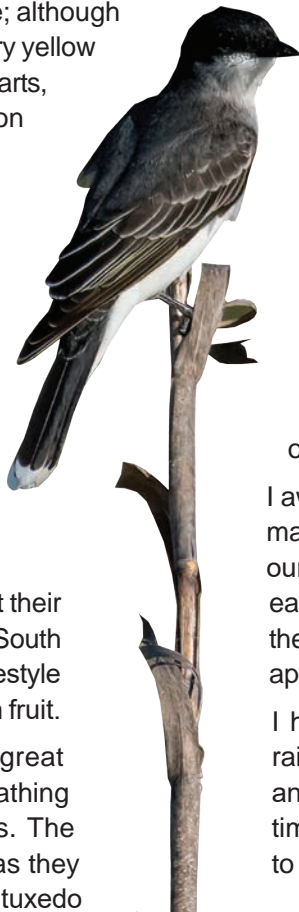


Yellow warblers weren't any easier to capture; although they were easier to spot with their bright canary yellow bodies sporting reddish streaks on their underparts, looking like they had a Morse Code pattern on their bellies.

The most accommodating bird was an eastern kingbird that delighted us with his presence while perched atop a black rush stalk and a small shrub in the marsh. He looked like he was wearing a business suit with his black and white plumage and a white tip on his black tail.

Eastern kingbirds spend their summers in the U.S. perched in open areas with good visibility where they can swoop in to gobble up flying insects. They fiercely defend their habitat against other kingbirds. At their wintering grounds along the Amazon River in South America, they exhibit a completely different lifestyle where they travel in flocks and feed mostly on fruit.

Resident red-winged black birds were in great abundance and vied for the best food and bathing spots with the numerous migratory visitors. The males appear to wear their dress uniforms as they flaunt red and yellow epaulettes against their tuxedo



black bodies. The brown females are more subdued with contrasting streaks.

Our captains paid close attention to weather forecasts for our trip back to Long Beach as several thunderstorms would be headed in our direction. Yep, you guessed it, we had one of those strong fronts projected. Our last morning would be our only option to motor into Louisiana waters to the Biloxi Marsh to visit roseate spoonbill and brown pelican rookeries. We went to sleep dreaming of seeing two of the most prehistoric looking baby birds on Earth. Our plan was to be on the boats ready to go at 6:30am.

I awoke early with anticipation, quickly dressed, and made my way downstairs with a cup of tea to learn our fate. I wasn't the first, but I wasn't the last. We eagerly, anxiously waited for the captains to review the latest weather forecast and make a decision. Matt appeared, giving us a thumbs up. Yay! We are a go!

I hurried upstairs to gather my camera gear and raincoat; better to be prepared. I bumped into Laura and gave her the good news. This would be her first time to witness roseate spoonbills. I totally related to her excitement!

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In Louisiana, they are nicknamed the “Cajun Flamingo,” sporting bright pink feathers with striking flamboyant red highlights, an intense red eye, and a large, flat spoon-shaped bill. They are usually spotted wading in shallow waters, looking for food by swishing their partially opened bill from side to side. Their diet consists of aquatic insects, shrimp, and fish.

Our 30-minute boat ride was surprisingly smooth, even though we could see storm clouds off in the distance. We arrived at the first rookery to discover that most of the spoonbills were still either building nests or sitting on eggs. We were too early to see the cutie-pie chicks! More on this in an upcoming story.

Even though we didn’t see the juvies, we were treated to an abundant number of spoonbills, great egrets, white ibis, tri-colored herons and more. From here, we made our way to the brown pelican rookery only to find a similar situation. No babies, just nest building and sitting on eggs.

Our Louisiana state bird, the brown pelican, closely resembles a pre-historic pterodactyl. As awkward as they appear on land, they are just the opposite in the air as they glide effortlessly, often in large groups, known as a “squadron.” Just watch them next time you drive across the twin-span; without so much as a flap of their wings, they can ride the lift like graceful gliders!

Tricolored herons, formerly known as Louisiana herons, are the most debonair of herons, displaying a mix of blue-gray, purplish, and white bodies, with a white underbelly and white stripe from their neck down. While at the rookery, we witnessed an unusual tricolor that had bars of white mid-way of its wings. None of us had ever witnessed this coloration. Perhaps it is a new morph or crossbreeding with other heron species.

By this time, we were watching some building storms on radar quickly moving in our direction. It was time to make a b-line back to the house, load everything in the boats, and run for the Harbor. Spoiler alert: we made it back, unloaded everything in our vehicles, and never got a drop of rain!

I had a few lifer birds; meaning that I observed a species for the first time! The trip was everything I hoped it would be and more.

If you want to visit Cat Island for a magnificent birding experience reach out to Shore Thing Charters ([shorethingcharters.com](http://shorethingcharters.com)). Plan well in advance, the Cat Island house is booked at least a year out for fishing or birding/photography trips. I’m already eyeing dates for my next trip in the spring. Email me if you want to join me!

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## How to Prevent Wounds

As your body ages, you are more susceptible to developing chronic wounds. Wounds are defined as chronic when they do not go through the typical phases of healing over an extended period.

Seniors above the age of 65 account for approximately 85% of all chronic wound cases and it is estimated that 8.2 million seniors develop a chronic wound each year. Certain health conditions can increase your risk for developing chronic wounds, such as:

- Diabetes
- Lack of mobility
- Heart disease
- Poor circulation
- Poor diet and nutrition

Prevention is the best way to ensure that wounds do not become chronic. It is important to focus on monitoring your overall health and attend your regularly scheduled primary care visits to catch any conditions early. Here are some things you can do to prevent wounds from becoming chronic.

### 1. Manage chronic health conditions.

Did you know that patients with diabetes have a 15-25% chance of developing a chronic wound? Chronic health conditions such as diabetes, vascular disease and peripheral artery disease that go unmanaged often lead to further complications. If you are living with a chronic health condition it is important to regularly visit with your primary care provider to ensure that your disease is managed to prevent further complications.

### 2. Practice good hygiene.

Keeping your skin clean by showering and moisturizing regularly will help to prevent infection. It is also important to wash your hands before touching a wound to prevent infections. Proper hygiene will not only help to prevent a wound from occurring, but it will also help to speed up the healing process of an active wound.

### 3. Wear proper footwear.

The type of footwear you choose to wear can impact your foot health tremendously, especially if you have



a chronic condition such as diabetes. It is important to make sure that your shoes fit properly and are not too small for your feet. If you notice that you are experiencing foot pain when you walk, your shoes may be too small for your feet, which can lead to blisters and sores that can become infected. Closed-toe shoes and seamless socks that wick moisture will protect your feet the most and help to prevent injury.

### 4. Keep wounds clean and adequately covered.

If you do notice a wound on your body, you need to attend to it properly to promote healthy healing. Wash your hands before attending to any wound and seek advice from your care provider on how to dress it correctly. Keeping the wound clean, dry and covered is the best way to speed up the healing process.

If you notice signs of infection such as pus, foul odor, redness or warmth from the area it is time to seek out a wound care specialist. A wound care center hosts a team of medical professionals who will examine your wound and decide the best treatment plan. At SMH Ochsner Wound Care patients receive specialized care to treat the needs of their wound. Call to schedule your appointment today:

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Dear Neighbors & Friends:

Since I took office as your Parish President in January of 2020, I have made it my top priority to improve and protect our esteemed quality of life in St. Tammany Parish. I have worked hard each and every day to ensure St. Tammany Parish continues to be the best place to live, work, play and raise our families. As a lifelong resident of St. Tammany Parish, I am fully invested in preserving our community and upholding **our shared values**.

My administration has accomplished a lot, in spite of the unprecedented hurdles that our community has faced since I took office. This year alone, we have invested \$44M to **improve our infrastructure** and finally tackled our existing traffic and drainage issues. We have also received over \$50M in federal funding to bring our tax dollars back to St. Tammany Parish by investing in our water and sewer systems and our coastal flood protections. These investments are resulting in a better quality of life for all citizens and protecting our interests for generations to come.

Under my leadership, I have put into motion multiple, "first of their kind" initiatives to plan for our community's future and to ensure any growth is made thoughtfully and intelligently. My administration is committed to taking a coordinated, holistic approach to planning to avoid the mistakes of our past.

Serving as your Parish President is the only job I want. It hasn't always been easy, but fighting for this community has been the most rewarding undertaking of my life. **I know there is more work to be done here and it would be an honor to continue to lead this Parish for another four years.**

Thank you for your time and attention, as well as your involvement in our community. I appreciate your continued support and serving you remains my most humbling honor.

Sincerely,

*Mike*

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# MAKING CENTS OF YOUR MONEY

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by: Mike Rich, CFP® | Pontchartrain Investment Management

## WHAT CAN YOU ACCOMPLISH WITH 50 YEARS AND A LITTLE MONEY?

This past July, Mary and I spent a beautiful week with our family at Panama City Beach. All 14 of us were there for much of the week, and we had a great time. The weather was perfect, the Gulf water was crystal clear, and that famous sugar-white sand was spectacular. We rented a big house (where the reality TV series *Florabama Shore* was filmed, if you are into that sort of thing), had great food and drinks, and enjoyed a perfect week of family time together.

A week before we went to PCB, Mary and I marked our 50th wedding anniversary, but we put off the celebration until our entire family was together. Much to our delight, our kids did it up big at the beach. They decorated the house with anniversary regalia and had ordered special koozies, coffee mugs, and a puzzle with pictures from our dating days. We even had a flag that said "Cheers

to 50 Years" with one of our wedding pictures on it. We flew it proudly by our tents all week long. Occasionally, passersby walking on the beach noticed the flag and congratulated us, which was really fun and special.

When it comes to marriage – and money – time flies, and being together with Mary for 50 years started me thinking about what someone might accomplish during that same amount of time by saving and investing.

Hmmm....

Think about a young couple just starting out in life. Let's say they decide to start investing \$50.00

per month. That's \$600.00 per year. They invest their money at the end of each year, and each subsequent year they increase their contribution by 10%. They earn an average 5% rate of return. In 50 years, they'll have approximately \$1,398,000.00. That's not bad, folks,



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and it's not magic, just math.<sup>1</sup> I've made many such calculations during my 15 years as a financial advisor, and the numbers continue to amaze me.

Our annual family beach trips are special times for Mary and me. We have been blessed with three amazing children and they have married fantastic partners. Together, they've given us six beautiful grandchildren and a lot of memories

I can't help you make memories with your own family, but I can help you figure out a way to perhaps bring financial clarity to your life. If you'd like to sit down and do some figuring, call me for a free consultation.

Don't let the years – 50 of them or otherwise – get away from you.



*<sup>1</sup>This is a hypothetical example and is not representative of any specific situation. Your results will vary. The hypothetical rate of return used does not reflect the deduction of fees and charges inherent to investing. Investing involves risk, including loss of principal.*

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**"WE HAVE AN  
INSURANCE CRISIS.  
Reducing Homeowner's  
Insurance and securing  
better flood protection  
WILL BE MY TOP PRIORITY  
for District 90."**

# Experience Matters

***Connecting Talent With Community:***

**The rising cost of homeowner's insurance and  
flood insurance is forcing families to leave Slidell.**

**Why is Brian Glorioso the right man for the job?**

- ▶ ***Over 20 years experience in the insurance industry***
- ▶ ***Represented both businesses & insurance companies***
- ▶ ***Currently a licensed insurance Producer***

***"I will use my  
experience to find  
solutions; to bring  
more competition to  
the marketplace; &  
fight to lower  
overpriced  
insurance costs."***

*Brian Glorioso*

— BRIAN —  
**GLORIOSO**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**LAGOP**  
REPUBLICAN PARTY OF LOUISIANA

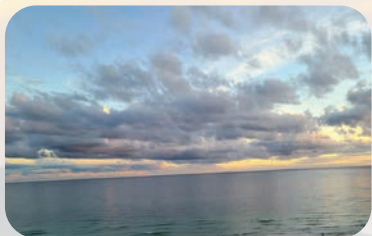
**GNOR  
★ PAC ★**

“Chamber membership gives our business access to an expanded network with a meaningful impact on our business.”

Brenda Case  
Lowry-Dunham, Case & Vivien



www.StTammanyChamber.org  
985-892-3216  
#StTammanyStrong



### *Footprints in the Sand*

Perfectly located directly on the beach with a Gulf Front view and pool. Next door to the Hangout.

2 Bedrooms • 2 Baths ★ 4.96



### *The Vieux*

A gorgeous cabin boasting an amazing view of the mountains from windows and wrap around balcony. Hot tub & game room.

6 Bedrooms • 5 Baths ★ 5

## DESTINATION RENTALS

*Locations for your special event*

Family Vacation, Honeymoon  
& Anniversary Rentals

Small Retreats &  
Company Gatherings

Destination Wedding,  
Wedding Party & Guests

Perfect for Family Reunions,  
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8 Cabins on 12 acres in  
Pigeon Forge, Tennessee

1 Condo in Gulf Shores,  
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**985-288-8037**

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### *The Ranch*

Perfect mountain getaway for 8 friends. Relax with the whole family, hike around 12 acres and have pictures with beautiful views as your background.

[airbnb.com/h/theranchpmw](https://airbnb.com/h/theranchpmw)

4 Bedrooms • 2.5 Baths ★ 4.95



### *The Beehive*

Everything that you need for a great vacation. The furniture is brand new and comfortable, while the decor is buzzing with cuteness.

[airbnb.com/h/thebeehivepmw](https://airbnb.com/h/thebeehivepmw)

1 Bedroom • 1 Bath ★ 4.84



**VOTE**  
**OCTOBER 14TH**



**TOMMY WILLIAMS**

For St. Tammany Parish Sheriff

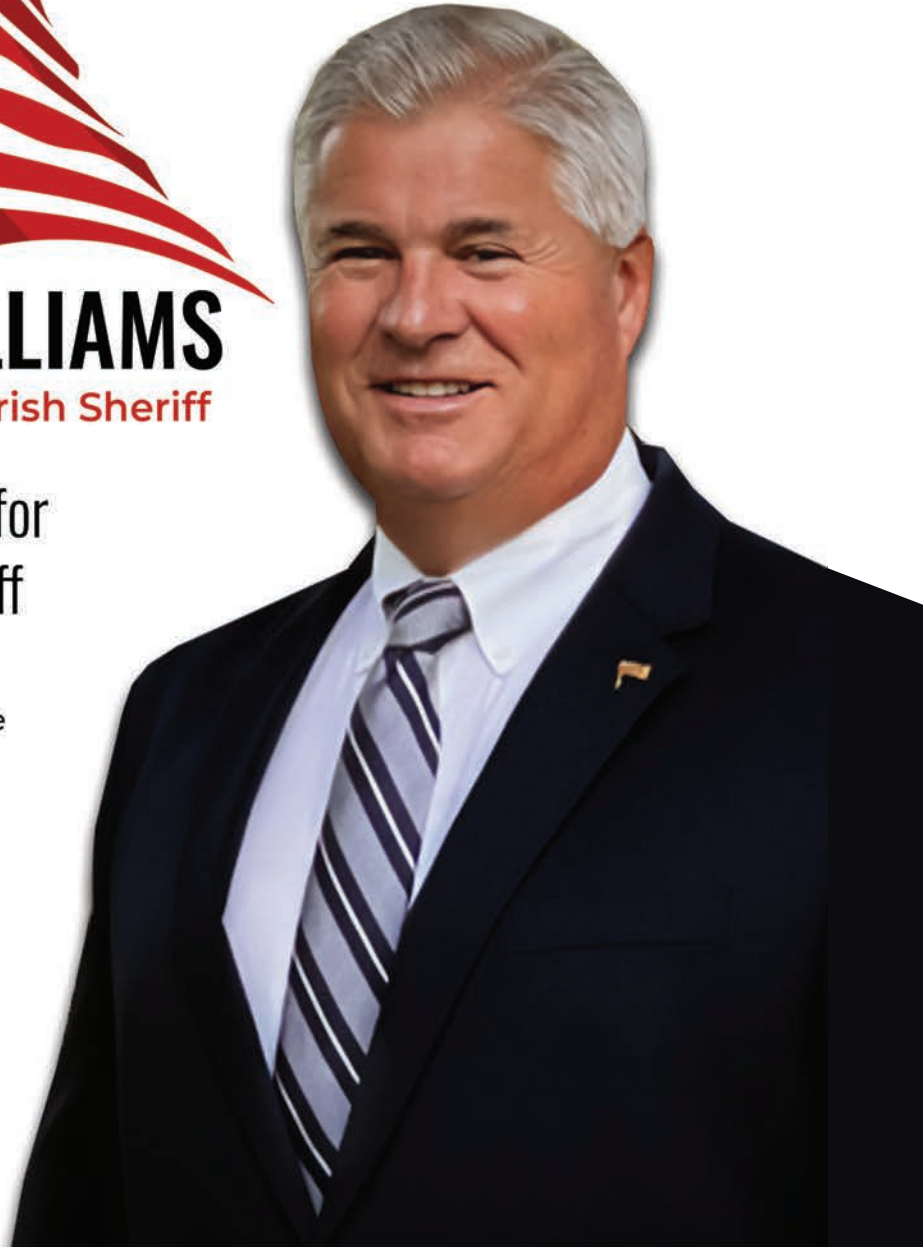
## Leadership with Integrity for St. Tammany Parish Sheriff

When leaders prioritize openness,  
communication and collaboration, we  
empower our community to thrive.

- ✓ Accountability
- ✓ Transparency
- ✓ Open Communication

Leadership is not just about what  
you do at work; it is about how you  
carry yourself in all aspects of life.  
True leaders lead by example.

PAID FOR BY THE THOMAS WILLIAMS CAMPAIGN FUND



**VOTE**  
**TOMMY WILLIAMS**  
ST. TAMMANY PARISH SHERIFF  
TOMMY4STPS.COM

**“ I AM COMMITTED TO  
PRIORITIZING PUBLIC  
SAFETY AND KEEPING  
OUR PARISH SAFE.**

[WWW.TOMMY4STPS.COM](http://WWW.TOMMY4STPS.COM)

# OUT TAKES

August was a busy month (and scorching hot).  
Here are some moments Slidell Magazine enjoyed!

## BACK TO SCHOOL

PROD. NO. SCENE Slidell Magazine  
TAKE 155-September 2023  
ROLL DIRECTOR



Antique Umbrella Alley had its Grand Opening at White Linen & Lagniappe! Mayor Greg Cromer, along with Mary Poppins & Bert (Melanie & Joshua St. Cyr), led a second-line down First Street to cut the ribbon on Slidell's most vibrant art display. Thousands of people strolled under the colorful canopies, including baby Oaklynn, flying high with grandma Traci Plaisance. Antique Association board members Cindy Fisk & Kendra Maness were recognized for their contributions to the project.



- 1.) Slidell Ladies for Liberty volunteers, ChrisAnn, Anna Merle, & Linda, place the August edition of Slidell Magazine in care packages for our overseas troops.
- 2.) Rep. Mary DuBuisson, Sen. Sharon Hewitt, Kendra, & Gwendolyn Clement enjoy great food & great company at the Chamber's Southern Nights soiree.
- 3.) J.D. Bank served up deliciousness at The Red Beans & Rice Cook-Off. 4.) Congratulations to Dionysus King XXXIX Josh Wismer and Queen XXXIX Rylee Majoue!



- 1.) What you doin?? Bistro 55 held a hilarious *Friends* trivia night to benefit the Slidell Animal shelter.
- 2.) The Krewe of Poseidon ALWAYS looks spectacular! King & Queen Chris & Gisele Abadie join members of the Slidell super-Krewe to feed the masses at The Red Beans & Rice Cook-off.
- 3.) Mayor Cromer, Dania Fandal, & Miss Rosemary Clement giva a bit of hula entertainment to the residents of Greenbriar Nursing Home.

## STATE SENATE DISTRICT #1

# Bob Owen is One of Us!

Bob, a lifelong resident of Slidell, understands our history and culture.

That's why, as a business owner, he chose our community to make a home.  
With his wife, he chose our community to raise their daughter.

When our community needed a strong leader,  
Bob Owen stood up and served us honorably in  
the State House of Representatives.

Now, Bob Owen is running for the  
State Senate to ensure our values  
and way of life are protected.

Bob's opponent recently purchased a  
home in Slidell to run for this race.  
We don't need political opportunists  
representing us.

Slidell needs a stronger leader  
who understands our needs  
and has a proven record of  
fighting for us.

**We need  
Bob Owen  
as our  
State Senator.**



**STATE SENATE DISTRICT #1**

**Early Voting**

September 30 thru October 7, 2023

**General Election**

Saturday October 14, 2023



Paid for by Campaign to Elect Bob Owen

[info@votebobowen.com](mailto:info@votebobowen.com) • [www.VoteBobOwen.com](http://www.VoteBobOwen.com)

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