

Vermilion Parish

ASSIST Agency, 407 Charity St., Abbeville, LA 70510, 337-898-9554

In addition to the VITA sites, three Super Tax Days will be held at the following locations:

Acadiana High School, Feb. 13, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Northside High School, 301 Dunand St., Lafayette, LA 70501, Feb. 20, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

People with AGI more than \$54,000 and less than \$62,000 can file for free at www.myfreetaxes.com.

For more information, dial 2-1-1, 337-232-4357, or visit www.UnitedWayofAcadiana.org/VITA. Get the full list of sites by texting key word FREETAXPREP to 51555.

NO FEAR NO FUTURE

No Fear No Future is a presentation to young drivers to create awareness about the dangers of distracted driving. This event will have a reenactment of a texting related crash at 7:00am on Thursday, April 7th and Friday April 8th at Comeaux High School.

Spring is the time of year during which thousands of Lafayette Parish high school students will attend prom and will celebrate graduation.

The Louisiana Highway Safety Commission reports that 42% of traffic fatalities were estimated to be alcohol related. Junior League of Lafayette would like to encourage parents to talk with their teens attending prom or graduation celebrations to discuss a plan to get them home safely.

https://www.juniorleagueoflafayette.com/?nd=no_fear_no_future

FESTIVAL PASSES

THE 30th ANNUAL FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER, APRIL 20th-24TH. ENHANCE YOUR EXPERIENCE AND ENJOY WITH **EASE** WHILE DOING YOUR PART TO FUEL THE FESTIVAL WITH THE FESTIVAL PASS. FEATURING PRIVATE REST STOPS, EXPRESS DRINK LINES, SHADED SEATING NEAR THE STAGES AND DAILY WRIST BANDS. COMFORTS, STARTING AT \$65. VISIT WWW.FESTIVALINTERNATIONAL.ORG/PASS TO GET YOUR FESTIVAL PASS TODAY.

FESTIVAL 5K RUN WALK

Festival International de Louisiane and Stuller hosts its annual Courir (pronounced Career) du Festival 5K run/ walk, on Saturday, April 23th at 8:00am at Scene Chevron Heritage– downtown Lafayette. Run, walk, or stroll to the finish line! The Courir du Festival is another way to Fuel the Festival and includes an after party with food, beer

and live music by Sabra and the Get Rights.

Registration is available at www.festivalinternational.com/courir. Join us for the 30th Anniversary Festival International de Louisiane on April 20-24

FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS

Don't miss the 30th anniversary Festival International de Louisiane, April 20-24th. Make Festival happen, become a volunteer!

Each year it takes over 2,000 volunteers to pull off the nation's largest admission-free Francophone music festival. Become part of a community that makes Festival International so special. Choose from areas like merchandise, hospitality, pin sales, even security. It's easy! Just go to www.festivalinternational.org/volunteer to sign up today!

MACA SPRING CONCERT

The 11th annual Magnet Academy for Cultural Arts Spring concert will be held Tuesday March 22nd, 2015 at 6:00 P.M. in the MACA auditorium. MACA is located on 1100 East Leo Street in Opelousas. Admission will be \$5.00 for adults and \$1.00 for students. Call MACA at 337-942-6195

Patron's Preview: Haiti: Paintings From Paradise The Yvonne and Glenn Stokes Collection

In celebration of its 30th anniversary, Festival International de Louisiane proudly presents a Patron's Preview of Haiti: Paintings from Paradise featuring the collection of Yvonne and Glenn Stokes with additional paintings from the collections of John Allen Franciscus, Paul and Madlyn Hilliard and Sandra and Joel Wallins. Wednesday, March 9, 2016 from 6p - 8p Acadiana Center for the Arts (Lafayette, LA) \$50 ticket benefits Festival International de Louisiane

SWEET INDULGENCE

Volunteers of America-Acadiana Programs festive new signature event, will be April 6th at the Palmetto Club in Lafayette's Oil Center. The event will feature delicious treats and decadent desserts from Acadiana's finest restaurants, caterers, bars and bakeries. This fun filled evening will include great music and a silent auction for several unique gift packages! As part of the event, attendees can vote in the Sweet Indulgence Dessert Competition. This will allow attendees to recognize which of the competitors presented the most delicious treat of the day! The winner receives a plaque to commemorate their sweet victory. Why should you help? Every year we provide help to hundreds of the forgotten people of Acadiana. Daily we provide the emotional and physical support our clients need to succeed. Often though, we are unable to secure enough funding for purchasing essential items for our programs and needed by our clients. Wednesday,

April 6, 2016 6pm-9pm cost \$20

LA CASI CAJUN CHILI FEST

LA Casi Pod Cook off on Saturday, March 19 at the Youngsville Sports Complex 801 Savoy Road. Youngsville LA 70592 Open to the Public 11am thru 3PM Benefiting: Family Promise of Acadiana Contact Barry Poole 337-359-7081, Lynn Howell 337-288-5156, Local Entry Fee \$25 per 3 person Team 12lbs Meat Minimum Turn in 12 noon. Anything Goes Chili 1st place \$300, 2nd place \$175 3rd place \$75. Cooks Dinner Friday Night 6:30-8:00pm at the Complex RV's Welcome Firday set up only sorry no hooks up

BENEFIT FOR KINDRA WELCH ROY

Benefit on Saturday March 12, 9am - 4pm at Cajun Harley-Davidson. Live music by Keith Myers, Mike V, Joel Martin, Kevin Naquin, and Ken Holloway, jambalaya Cook-off, concessions, 50/50 Raffle Auction, Special Appearances by Disney Characters and the Easter Bunny. Blood Drive 9am- 2pm. If someone wants to sign up for the cook off, just send an email to benefitforkindra@gmail.com. It's a \$50 sign up fee.

If you don't like jambalaya and just want to come out to support Kindra, there will be bbq burgers, sodas, and chips at concessions.

\$5 to get it. Children under 3 get in FREE.

SUPPORT SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The St. Landry Parish office of Faith House provides support services for individuals who have experienced domestic violence.

A support group designed to help empower women who are enduring or who have endured and survived domestic violence will be held every Thursday evening at 5pm. Topic of discussion will be "Domestic Violence Education". Please call Kyra at 337-948-5974 for more information.

Downtown Alive! Announces Spring 2016 Lineup

Lafayette, La. – Everyone's favorite Friday night party is back this Spring with another exciting lineup! Downtown Alive! (DTA!) is back March 11th with Roddie Romero & the Hub City Allstars kicking off a banner season!

This season, DTA! is bringing some of the best Cajun and Zydeco party bands with Roddie Romero & the Hub City Allstars and Nathan & the Zydeco Cha Chas; rock favorites that you won't find anywhere else like Cowboy Mouth; fresh faces to DTA! such as Zydeco Radio and The Revelers; national Country stars Little Texas and closing out with local legends the Boogie Kings. Hear them all in the DTA! Spring 2016 Playlist.

Spring 2016 Season Schedule:

<u>March 11</u>	<u>Roddie Romero & the Hub City AllStars (Parc International)</u>
<u>March 18</u>	<u>Nathan & the Zydeco Cha Chas (Parc International)</u>
<u>March 25</u>	<u>No DTA! (Good Friday)</u>
<u>April 1</u>	<u>Cowboy Mouth (Parc International)</u>
<u>April 8</u>	<u>Zydeco Radio (Parc Sans Souci)</u>
<u>April 15</u>	<u>Little Texas (Parc International)</u>
<u>April 22</u>	<u>No DTA! (Festival International)</u>
<u>April 29</u>	<u>The Revelers (Parc Sans Souci)</u>
<u>May 6</u>	<u>Boogie Kings (Parc Sans Souci)</u>

TOPS YANKEE CANDLE FUNDRAISER

With TOPS Scholarships and college budgets in jeopardy, CLASS is hosting a Yankee Candle Fundraiser. The proceeds will allow us to award scholarships to low-income, academically successful Louisiana public community college, college and university students in July 2016 right before the 2016-2017 school year starts. The financial burden caused by higher tuition is affecting all of our families, and your support of this fundraiser will help successful students graduate. For more information about the Yankee Candle Fundraiser, please visit www.classla.org and click on the Yankee Candle Fundraiser banner at the top of the page or call us at 337-326-9592. CLASS is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit with the IRS. Thank you!

CHURCH NEWS

The St. Matthew Church family will host their 131st Church Anniversary celebration to be held on Sunday, March 20, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. The theme for this grand occasion is, "A House Built by God." Scriptural Reference – Psalm 127:1.

Bishop George Veal, Pastor of Richland Baptist Church of Wilson, Louisiana, will be the guest speaker for this special service. He will be accompanied by the Richland Church family.

The public is cordially invited to attend. We look forward to having you fellowship with us during this momentous occasion.

The church is located at 107 Nursing Home Road in Palmetto, Louisiana. Bishop Leon Figgins is host pastor.

MAD DASH FOR GROCERIES" SHOPPING SPREE FoodNet

Get your shopping carts ready! It's time to sign up and start fundraising for FoodNet Food Bank's Second Annual "Mad Dash for Groceries" Shopping Spree. The event will take place on April 9, 2016 at Adrien's Supermarket on West Congress Street.

The goal for each individual/team is to raise as much money as possible for a chance to be one of two finalists in the "Mad Dash for Groceries" Shopping Spree. Each finalist will have a minimum of five minutes to dash through Adrien's Supermarket collecting groceries which they will keep, free of charge, as their grand prize. The more money collected, the higher the chances are of winning the shopping spree. For more information or to register to participate, please visit MadDashShoppingSpree.org or call 337-232-3663.

All of the funds raised during the "Mad Dash for Groceries" fundraiser will benefit FoodNet Food Bank of Lafayette, LA. FoodNet Food Bank is a non-profit organization dedicated to reducing hunger in Lafayette Parish by providing food to those in need.

LOUISIANA UNITED WAYS FUND FOR TORNADO RECOVERY

The Louisiana United Way Tornado Fund has been launched to leverage resources and make the greatest impact in long-term recovery efforts for communities hit by the Feb. 23 storms. Households in several parishes experienced devastating loss, with a large concentration of families affected in St. James and St. John parishes. The Louisiana United Way Tornado Fund will provide resources for the recovery efforts in the affected regions. Financial donations to the fund can be made online at www.launitedway.org. Donors can also text gifts to LAUnited to 313-131. Donations can also be mailed to the Louisiana United Way Tornado Fund, c/o Louisiana Association of United Ways, P.O. Box 3416, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821. Additionally, you may also deliver donations to the fund to a nearby United Way.

Kappa Delta's 33rd Annual Shamrock

Kappa Delta's 33rd Annual Shamrock event will take place March 12th from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at First Baptist Gym located at the corner of Lafayette St. and Barry St. at 1117 Lafayette St.. Shamrock Carnival is an event for families and friends to come have a good time, great food, popcorn, cotton candy, glazed apples, and benefit a great cause. There will be activities for children and raffle prizes for adults. Activities have \$1 ticket donation or with the purchase of a wristband you can play unlimited times and enjoy popcorn, cotton candy, and glazed apple all in one donation of \$12. All donations will proceed to Faith House & Prevent Child Abuse America. Don't miss out on the fun &

join the ladies of Kappa Delta in a fun & exciting day! :)

Open House/Testing Meeting

Gethsemane Christian Academy, located 701 East Pinhook will be holding an important parent testing meeting and an open house for perspective students for the 2017-2017 school year. Testing Meeting will take place Thursday, March 10, 2016 from 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm at 701 East Pinhook, Lafayette, LA Free Test Preparation and Recruiting for 2016-2017. Contact Randy Pitre 337-233-2750 ext. 4
gethsemaneschool@aol.com

UBS BLOOD DRIVE

Blood Drive Thursday, March 10th 9am-1pm 204 E. St. Peter Street, Carencro. Help Save a Life. Every Donation Saves 3 Lives!! Sponsored by: United Blood Services. Partnered with Therapy Center. All donors will receive a St. Patrick's Day T-shirt. For questions call 337-896-6686

SLCC Adult Education March Enrollment

South Louisiana Community College's Adult Education Program is holding enrollment for new students on March 14th beginning at 8:45 a.m. at the Gulf Area Campus in Abbeville and March 16th beginning at 8:45 a.m. at the Acadian Campus in Crowley. Students must arrive on time in order to register for the session, doors will be closed at 9:00 am sharp.

Potential students need to bring picture identification and Social Security card to register. Students 16-years-old and 17-years-old need to contact the Adult Education Office at (337) 892-2360 before registering to check on registration requirements for youth.

Both the Gulf Area Campus and Acadian Campus will hold mandatory orientations. The Gulf Area orientation will take place on March 15th at 8:30am and the Acadian orientation will take place on March 17th at 8:30am.

Classes are free--the only cost incurred by students is that of the actual HiSET exam.

If you have any questions, please call (337) 892-2360 for the Gulf Area Campus or (337) 788-8114 for the Acadian Campus.

Bayou Art Co-op Grand Opening

Bayou Art Co-op is having it's Grand Opening! Come out and support local artist and artisan. Specialty items will be available to help raise money for Hospice of Acadiana. SATURDAY, MARCH 05, 2016 10:30am-6pm 1300 Bertrand Dr. Lafayette Cost: FREE

Ribbon Cutting at 1pm, Food and Beverages available, sip on wine and browse through the store <http://bayouartco.com>

April Duhon or Alecia Myers 3378067676 bayouartco@gmail.com

Just Nail It

We invite you to the 3rd annual Just Nail It event with Celebrate Recovery, where we will have the opportunity to "nail" our hurts, habits, and hang-ups on the cross. God's Word tells us, "those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to His cross and crucified them there" (Galations 5:24). This is a visually powerful experience, and we hope you will take part. Pastor Mike Walker will be delivering a message of hope, freedom, and healing that you won't want to miss. Additionally, children (K-5th grade) are invited to Celebration Place, and students (6th-12th) are invited to The Landing during this event. March 21 6:30pm-8:30pm

<http://thebayouchurch.org/JustNailIt>

Melissa Tramonte 337-654-4931 miss_lissa1014@yahoo.com

MORROW MORROW RYAN BASSETT SCHOLARSHIPS

The law firm of Morrow, Morrow, Ryan & Bassett is offering scholarships to individuals of St. Landry and Evangeline Parishes. The purpose of these scholarships is to encourage applicants to pursue a degree in their field of study and upon graduation to encourage those individuals to seek employment within these two parishes.

Scholarships will be awarded based on academic background (must have a 2.5 cumulative GPA), maturity of the applicant, financial need, community involvement, the availability of resources, funding and the applicants' chosen career field. Applicants must be permanent residents of St. Landry or Evangeline Parish.

Six (6) scholarships for \$2,500 each will be awarded. These six scholarships will be awarded as a one-time award for the 2016-17 school year. Scholarship amounts and guidelines will be set by the MMRB Scholarship Committee and may be adjusted on an annual basis. Scholarship funds will be paid directly to the educational institution the applicant is attending. Applicants must be attending an educational institution/college in the state of Louisiana and can apply during any portion of their educational career

(i.e., undergraduate, graduate, professional school, etc.) Applicants can also be current TOPS recipients.

The OGHS Foundation is operating this scholarship program. Therefore the completed applications should be submitted to the OGHS Foundation office located at the Main Campus of Opelousas General Health System. Application forms must be submitted with:

1. a photo of applicant (at least a 4 X 6)
2. two letters of recommendation
3. original high school transcript/GED and all original post-secondary transcripts (college) if applicable.

All documents, including application, should be submitted to the Foundation Office by mail or in person no later than end of business day on April 1, 2016. Applications may be mailed to the following address: P. O. Box 1389, Opelousas, LA 70571. All applications will be considered without regard to race, sex, national origin, age, physical or mental impairment or veteran status. Applications will be reviewed by the MMRB Scholarship Committee and the top candidates will be called for interviews with the committee. Scholarships will be awarded in July/August.

A copy of the application can be obtained online at www.mmrblawoffice.com or www.opelousasgeneral.com under the Foundation tab.

Questions can be directed to the Foundation Office at 337-594-3499.

Joshua A. Pellerin Urges Acadiana to Give Back this Lenten Season

Local entrepreneur and businessman, Joshua A. Pellerin, is urging Acadiana to join him in taking a different approach to this Lenten season. Mr. Pellerin is implementing a program that will instill a sense of giving in the community; a focus on caring for our brothers and sisters and giving of ourselves to bring aid and grace to our brethren.

A collection area will be set up outside of the main entrance of the Acadiana Mall (5725 Johnston St, Lafayette, LA 70503) for the duration of the Lenten season (February 11 through March 20, 2016). Drop off times will be **every Sunday from 11am to 3pm**. Each week, Pellerin will hold collections benefitting various community organizations including churches, nonprofit organizations, and diverse members of the community.

DONATION 1: SUNDAY; February 14, we ask for donations of the following: **NEW** adult women's clothing (Plus Sizes are most needed), Large Size diapers, and children's clothing (male and female for ages 0-9 years) to be donated to local women's shelters.

Spring Eggs-pressions Public Art Exhibit Coming to Downtown Opelousas

An art exhibit designed by students will transform unused building space into an eye-catching outdoor museum. The exhibit, titled Spring Eggs-pressions, is headed to downtown Opelousas this spring and will feature exquisitely designed eggs from students in Opelousas and around St. Landry Parish. The exhibit, which will be displayed across from the St. Landry Parish Courthouse, is scheduled to be unveiled Friday, March 18th at 5 p.m. at a special ceremony.

The decorated eggs will be judged by a committee who considers design, originality and overall beauty; students will win cash prizes for winning designs. Students from the following schools involved in the project include Opelousas Catholic Elementary, Opelousas High School, Magnet Academy of Cultural Arts, Port Barre, J.S. Clark; Southwest, Grolee and Southwest Elementary.

For more information about Spring Egg-spressions, please contact Opelousas Main Street at 337-948-5227 or tourism@cityofopelousas.com or visit www.cityofopelousas.com.

REPTICON

Repticon returns to Baton Rouge, LA, March 12 & 13, 2016, opening to the public at 10 a.m. with a fun and educational reptile exposition geared to all ages and personalities. A true family-oriented event, Repticon's reptile shows are held in major cities throughout the United States and attract thousands of enthusiasts. Repticon, a nationwide promoter of reptile and exotic animal expos, brings its unique blend of vendors, breeders, and educators back to Baton Rouge for a family-oriented, fun-filled event. The expo brings thousands of reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates, spiders, and small exotic animals to area enthusiasts. Top breeders and vendors will offer animals, merchandise, cages, supplies, live and frozen feeders, and much more, as well as their expert advice where needed. The doors open to the general public at 10 a.m. on Saturday, closing at 5 p.m. On Sunday, the show hours are 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. At the door, tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 5-12, and children under 5 are admitted free. VIP and advance tickets may be purchased from our website at <http://www.repticon.com/batonrouge.html>.

St. Jude Dream Home® giveaway set for February 19

Gulf Coast; February 12, 2016:— Tickets for the St. Jude Dream Home giveaway are now available for the 3,500 sq. ft. house located in Malpass West subdivision. Individuals who reserve tickets by Friday, February 19, 2016 will also qualify for the Early Bird Prize, \$5,000 Visa gift card, courtesy of Dream Day Foundation. A limited number of \$100 tickets are available for the St. Jude Dream Home house, estimated to value \$350,000. Winners of the house and other prizes will be announced

Sunday, April 10, 2016 on WLOX at 3 p.m. Proceeds from the giveaway will benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.
Tickets can be reserved by calling 800-206-2263 or visiting www.dreamhome.org.

Seventh Annual Zonta Club of Lafayette Art Bra Event, "Save ze Ta Ta'z."

Help us to celebrate an important milestone for the women (and men) who have triumphed over breast cancer. Just as women are never too young to be aware of the risks for breast cancer, people are never too young to start supporting breast cancer education, treatment, prevention and advocacy. Join us on **Thursday March 10, 2016, at 6:00 pm at River Oaks Event Center Napoleon**

Ballroom for an evening of breast cancer survivors, who will model amazing art bras created by local artists, friends, family, celebrities and even themselves. Mix, mingle and enjoy fellowship, dinner and drinks. You will have an opportunity to bid on art bras in both the silent and live auctions. Tickets for "Save ze Ta Ta'z" available at \$40.00/person on Eventbrite or at the door. All funds raised will benefit local service and advocacy projects of the Zonta Club of Lafayette Foundation, Inc. Our Club will donate a portion of the proceeds to the Institute for Breast Health, Inc., an nonprofit 501(c)3 organization. Community service projects include Faith House of Acadiana, the Lafayette Community Health Care Clinic, Fire Prevention Week, and more. The Zonta Club of Lafayette Foundation, Inc. is a not for profit 501(c)3 organization. For more information, please, contact Mary B. Neiheisel at mbn8682@louisiana.edu or at 337.482.6683 or 337.278.4241 or ZontaLafayette@gmail.com.
www.zontalafayette.com

Games of Acadiana:

August 20, 2016 Price: FREE

The first Games of Acadiana (GOA) was held in 2001 with the hope of raising money to make a difference in the lives of individuals fighting cancer. Today, GOA has become the largest fundraiser for Miles Perret Cancer Services. Featuring over sixty games and activities including Life-Sized Angry Birds, Home Run Derby and Hula Hoop, this family-centered event appeals to all age groups.

See more at: <http://milesperret.org/gamesofacadiana>

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Triathlon:

August 20, 2016 Price: \$45 for pre-registration, after July 20th it increases to \$55

- 200-yard swim (UL Bourgeois pool)
- 8-mile bike (2 loops along Cajundome Blvd)

- 2-mile run(1 lap along Cajundome Blvd)

It is perfect for all fitness levels...whether you are new to triathlons or wanting a tune-up before a larger event! Only 350 spots available and they fill up quickly!

Participants can sign up as an individual or a relay team.

See more at:

<http://milesperret.org/mpcstriathlon/2015-Registration-Information#sthash.1Y5Fy7Wf.dpuf>

Camellia Crossing:

November 23, 2016

Price: Adults (13+) \$35, Children (12 & under) \$30. Fees increase by \$5 after November 13th.

Ready. Set. Gleaux!

On Thanksgiving Eve (Nov 23rd), light up the night sky with us by wearing things that GLEAUX as we run or walk down Camellia Blvd for the 14th annual Camellia Crossing: Acadiana's Gleaux Run. Your registration fee and the funds you raise will make a direct impact on lives in Acadiana. Start a TEAM with your family, friends, and co-workers and discover the difference you can make together! All funds raised stay in Acadiana to fund our mission to help families fight, survive, and live with cancer. This night of family fun begins at 5:30pm in Town Square River Ranch._

See more at: <http://milesperret.org/camelliacrossing#sthash.qA1LTs7i.dpuf>

BOUDREAUX AND THIBADEAUX WEDDING

The Woodlawn players present Boudreaux & Thibadeaux 's wedding. Babay Boudreaux and T-Boy Thibadeaux get married Friday and Saturday nights at the Woodlawn Chapel. The most fun you could have with Cajun comedy, music, food and dance. The critically acclaimed all time box office winner is back for a limited run at the Woodlawn Chapel just 15 minutes south of the mall. Make your reservations now at 989-9291 and pass you self a good time at Boudreaux and Thibadeaux 's wedding.Woodlawn Chapel

8001 Woodlawn Road, Maurice 70555

Opening 1/29 (no closing date yet)

For Reservations and Info call Imonelli's 989-9291

Free tax prep, earned income tax credit services for qualifying families

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance sites open January 19 throughout Acadiana

Families and individuals with household income less than \$54,000 in 2015 may be eligible for free tax preparation services and a quick refund offered at 11 United Way of Acadiana-sponsored Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites throughout Acadiana January 19 – April 18.

IRS-certified, trained volunteers are also on hand to help families who qualify to receive the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), which could mean up to \$6,200 back in their pockets.

To qualify for the EITC, Tax Year Earned Income and Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) must meet certain criteria. For example, a married couple with two children with a household income \$49,974 or less can qualify.

VITA locations and contact information:

Acadia Parish

Assist Agency, 11 North Parkerson, Crowley, LA 70526, 337-788-7550, ext. 138

Iberia Parish

Iberia Parish Library, 445 E. Main St., New Iberia, LA, 70560, 337-364-7024

SMILE/New Iberia, 722 Walton St., New Iberia, LA, 70560, 337-365-8151

Lafayette Parish

Acadiana High School, 315 Rue de Belier, Lafayette, LA 70506, 337-984-2324

SMILE/Lafayette, 501 St. John St., Lafayette, LA 70501, 337-234-3272, ext. 219

Proyecto Hispano de Ayuda la Comunidad, 1006 Surrey St., Lafayette, LA 70501, 337-849-4145

St. Landry Parish

Continuous Links, 8202 Highway 182, Opelousas, LA, 70570, 337-942-3911

The Southwest Center for Rural Initiatives, 1209 Diesi St., Opelousas, LA 70570,

337-943-2410

St. Martin Parish

SMILE/St. Martin, 2097 Terrace Rd., St. Martinville, LA, 70582, 337-394-6013

St. Mary Parish

St. Mary CAA Central Office, 1407 Barrow St., Franklin LA 70538, 337-828-5703

Vermilion Parish

ASSIST Agency, 407 Charity St., Abbeville, LA 70510, 337-898-9554

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Acadiana High School, Feb. 13, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Northside High School, 301 Dunand St., Lafayette, LA 70501, Feb. 20, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

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LE TRIOMPHE GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

On Monday April 11th, the Outreach Center will team up with local businesses and community leaders to host the 17th annual Charity Challenge golf tournament to benefit the poor and less fortunate women and children of Acadiana. The three-person scramble tournament will be held at Le Triomphe Golf & Country Club with lunch at 11am and shotgun start at noon.

This year's event will feature a fun day of golf, food, and networking as sponsors and volunteers work together to raise funds that will make a real, tangible difference in the lives of the women and children of the community.

The Outreach Center is a 501c3 non-profit organization that provides housing and counseling services to women and children in need. For more information call the Outreach Center at (337) 237-7618 or visit us online at outreachcenterlafayette.org.

OPELOUSAS MUSIC AND MARKET

Music and Market brings together the best in Louisiana music & fresh

produce! Sponsored by the City of Opelousas, FREE concerts take place on Fridays from April 22—May 20. The series includes rich variety of entertainment including Zydeco, Cajun, Soul and Swamp Pop!

The schedule is:

- April 22: Curley Taylor and Zydeco Trouble
- April 29: Cedryl Ballou and Zydeco Trendsetters
- May 6: Tee Chaoui Social Club
- May 13: Gregg Martinez and the Delta Kings
- May 20: "D" Street Band

Plus, you will find a range of fresh vegetables from mustard greens to sweet potatoes!

Come to Music and Market 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. for a great time at the Opelousas Farmers Market! 828 E. Landry St., Opelousas.

For more information:

cityofopelousas.com or toll free 800-424-5442.

KILL DATE: May 20

Event Website and/or social Media Pages:

cityofopelousas.com

For More information:

337-254-9695

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FESTIVAL 5K RUN WALK

Festival International de Louisiane and Stuller hosts its annual Courir (pronounced Career) Du Festival 5K run/ walk, on Saturday, April 23th at 8:00am at Scene Chevron Heritage— downtown Lafayette. Run, walk, or stroll to the finish line! The Courir du Festival is another way to Fuel the Festival and includes an after party with food, beer and live music by Sabra and the Get Rights.

Registration is available at www.festivalinternational.com/courir. Join us for the 30th Anniversary Festival International de Louisiane on April 20-24

FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS

Don't miss the 30th anniversary Festival International de Louisiane, April 20-24th. Make Festival happen, become a volunteer!

Each year it takes over 2,000 volunteers to pull off the nation's largest admission-free Francophone music festival. Become part of a community that makes Festival International so special. Choose from areas like merchandise, hospitality, pin sales, even security. It's easy! Just go to www.festivalinternational.org/volunteer to sign up today!

MACA SPRING CONCERT

The 11th annual Magnet Academy for Cultural Arts Spring concert will be held Tuesday March 22nd, 2015 at 6:00 P.M. in the MACA auditorium. MACA is located on 1100 East Leo Street in Opelousas. Admission will be \$5.00 for adults and \$1.00 for students. Call MACA at 337-942-6195

Patron's Preview: Haiti: Paintings From Paradise The Yvonne and Glenn Stokes Collection

In celebration of its 30th anniversary, Festival International de Louisiane proudly presents a Patron's Preview of Haiti: Paintings from Paradise featuring the collection of Yvonne and Glenn Stokes with additional paintings from the collections of John Allen Franciscus, Paul and Madlyn Hilliard and Sandra and Joel Wallins. Wednesday, March 9, 2016 from 6p - 8p Acadiana Center for the Arts (Lafayette, LA) \$50 ticket benefits Festival International de Louisiane

SWEET INDULGENCE

Volunteers of America-Acadiana Programs festive new signature event, will be April 6th at the Palmetto Club in Lafayette's Oil Center. The event will feature delicious treats and decadent desserts from Acadiana's finest restaurants, caterers, bars and bakeries. This fun filled evening will include great music and a silent auction for several unique gift packages! As part of the event, attendees can vote in the Sweet Indulgence Dessert

Competition. This will allow attendees to recognize which of the competitors presented the most delicious treat of the day! The winner receives a plaque to commemorate their sweet victory. Why should you help? Every year we provide help to hundreds of the forgotten people of Acadiana. Daily we provide the emotional and physical support our clients need to succeed. Often though, we are unable to secure enough funding for purchasing essential items for our programs and needed by our clients. Wednesday, April 6, 2016 6pm-9pm cost \$20

LA CASI CAJUN CHILI FEST

LA Casi Pod Cook off on Saturday, March 19 at the Youngsville Sports Complex 801 Savoy Road. Youngsville LA 70592 Open to the Public 11am thru 3PM Benefiting: Family Promise of Acadiana Contact Barry Poole 337-359-7081, Lynn Howell 337-288-5156, Local Entry Fee \$25 per 3 person Team 12lbs Meat Minimum Turn in 12 noon. Anything Goes Chili 1st place \$300, 2nd place \$175 3rd place \$75. Cooks Dinner Friday Night 6:30-8:00pm at the Complex RV's Welcome Firday set up only sorry no hooks up

BENEFIT FOR KINDRA WELCH ROY

Benefit on Saturday March 12, 9am - 4pm at Cajun Harley-Davidson. Live music by Keith Myers, Mike V, Joel Martin, Kevin Naquin, and Ken Holloway, jambalaya Cook-off, concessions, 50/50 Raffle Auction, Special Appearances by Disney Characters and the Easter Bunny. Blood Drive 9am- 2pm. If someone wants to sign up for the cook off, just send an email to benefitforkindra@gmail.com. It's a \$50 sign up fee.

If you don't like jambalaya and just want to come out to support Kindra, there will be bbq burgers, sodas, and chips at concessions.

\$5 to get it. Children under 3 get in FREE.

SUPPORT SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The St. Landry Parish office of Faith House provides support services for individuals who have experienced domestic violence.

A support group designed to help empower women who are enduring or who have endured and survived domestic violence will be held every Thursday evening at 5pm. Topic of discussion will be "Domestic Violence Education". Please call Kyra at 337-948-5974 for more information.

Downtown Alive! Announces Spring 2016 Lineup

Lafayette, La. – Everyone's favorite Friday night party is back this Spring with another exciting lineup! Downtown Alive! (DTA!) is back March 11th with Roddie Romero & the Hub City Allstars kicking off a banner season!

This season, DTA! is bringing some of the best Cajun and Zydeco party bands with Roddie Romero & the Hub City Allstars and Nathan & the Zydeco Cha Chas; rock

favorites that you won't find anywhere else like Cowboy Mouth; fresh faces to DTA! such as Zydeco Radio and The Revelers; national Country stars Little Texas and closing out with local legends the Boogie Kings. Hear them all in the DTA! Spring 2016 Playlist.

Spring 2016 Season Schedule:

<u>March 11</u>	<u>Roddie Romero & the Hub City AllStars (Parc International)</u>
<u>March 18</u>	<u>Nathan & the Zydeco Cha Chas (Parc International)</u>
<u>March 25</u>	<u>No DTA! (Good Friday)</u>
<u>April 1</u>	<u>Cowboy Mouth (Parc International)</u>
<u>April 8</u>	<u>Zydeco Radio (Parc Sans Souci)</u>
<u>April 15</u>	<u>Little Texas (Parc International)</u>
<u>April 22</u>	<u>No DTA! (Festival International)</u>
<u>April 29</u>	<u>The Revelers (Parc Sans Souci)</u>
<u>May 6</u>	<u>Boogie Kings (Parc Sans Souci)</u>

TOPS YANKEE CANDLE FUNDRAISER

With TOPS Scholarships and college budgets in jeopardy, CLASS is hosting a Yankee Candle Fundraiser. The proceeds will allow us to award scholarships to low-income, academically successful Louisiana public community college, college and university students in July 2016 right before the 2016-2017 school year starts. The financial burden caused by higher tuition is affecting all of our families, and your support of this fundraiser will help successful students graduate. For more information about the Yankee Candle Fundraiser, please visit www.classla.org and click on the Yankee Candle Fundraiser banner at the top of the page or call us at 337-326-9592. CLASS is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit with the IRS. Thank you!

CHURCH NEWS

The St. Matthew Church family will host their 131st Church Anniversary celebration to be held on Sunday, March 20, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. The theme for this grand occasion is, "A House Built by God." Scriptural Reference – Psalm 127:1.

Bishop George Veal, Pastor of Richland Baptist Church of Wilson, Louisiana, will be the

guest speaker for this special service. He will be accompanied by the Richland Church family.

The public is cordially invited to attend. We look forward to having you fellowship with us during this momentous occasion.

The church is located at 107 Nursing Home Road in Palmetto, Louisiana. Bishop Leon Figgins is host pastor.

MAD DASH FOR GROCERIES" SHOPPING SPREE FoodNet

Get your shopping carts ready! It's time to sign up and start fundraising for FoodNet Food Bank's Second Annual "Mad Dash for Groceries" Shopping Spree. The event will take place on April 9, 2016 at Adrien's Supermarket on West Congress Street.

The goal for each individual/team is to raise as much money as possible for a chance to be one of two finalists in the "Mad Dash for Groceries" Shopping Spree. Each finalist will have a minimum of five minutes to dash through Adrien's Supermarket collecting groceries which they will keep, free of charge, as their grand prize. The more money collected, the higher the chances are of winning the shopping spree. For more information or to register to participate, please visit MadDashShoppingSpree.org or call 337-232-3663.

All of the funds raised during the "Mad Dash for Groceries" fundraiser will benefit FoodNet Food Bank of Lafayette, LA. FoodNet Food Bank is a non-profit organization dedicated to reducing hunger in Lafayette Parish by providing food to those in need.

LOUISIANA UNITED WAYS FUND FOR TORNADO RECOVERY

The Louisiana United Way Tornado Fund has been launched to leverage resources and make the greatest impact in long-term recovery efforts for communities hit by the Feb. 23 storms. Households in several parishes experienced devastating loss, with a large concentration of families affected in St. James and St. John parishes. The Louisiana United Way Tornado Fund will provide resources for the recovery efforts in the affected regions. Financial donations to the fund can be made online at www.launitedway.org. Donors can also text gifts to LAUnited to 313-131. Donations can also be mailed to the Louisiana United Way Tornado Fund, c/o Louisiana Association of United Ways, P.O. Box 3416, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821. Additionally, you may also deliver donations to the fund to a nearby United Way.

Kappa Delta's 33rd Annual Shamrock

Kappa Delta's 33rd Annual Shamrock event will take place March 12th from 11 a.m. to 3

p.m. at First Baptist Gym located at the corner of Lafayette St. and Barry St. at 1117 Lafayette St.. Shamrock Carnival is an event for families and friends to come have a good time, great food, popcorn, cotton candy, glazed apples, and benefit a great cause. There will be activities for children and raffle prizes for adults. Activities have \$1 ticket donation or with the purchase of a wristband you can play unlimited times and enjoy popcorn, cotton candy, and glazed apple all in one donation of \$12. All donations will proceed to Faith House & Prevent Child Abuse America. Don't miss out on the fun & join the ladies of Kappa Delta in a fun & exciting day! :)

Open House/Testing Meeting

Gethsemane Christian Academy, located 701 East Pinhook will be holding an important parent testing meeting and an open house for perspective students for the 2017-2017 school year. Testing Meeting will take place Thursday, March 10, 2016 from 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm at 701 East Pinhook, Lafayette, LA Free Test Preparation and Recruiting for 2016-2017. Contact Randy Pitre 337-233-2750 ext. 4
gethsemaneschool@aol.com

UBS BLOOD DRIVE

Blood Drive Thursday, March 10th 9am-1pm 204 E. St. Peter Street, Carencro. Help Save a Life. Every Donation Saves 3 Lives!! Sponsored by: United Blood Services. Partnered with Therapy Center. All donors will receive a St. Patrick's Day T-shirt. For questions call 337-896-6686

SLCC Adult Education March Enrollment

South Louisiana Community College's Adult Education Program is holding enrollment for new students on March 14th beginning at 8:45 a.m. at the Gulf Area Campus in Abbeville and March 16th beginning at 8:45 a.m. at the Acadian Campus in Crowley. Students must arrive on time in order to register for the session, doors will be closed at 9:00 am sharp.

Potential students need to bring picture identification and Social Security card to register. Students 16-years-old and 17-years-old need to contact the Adult Education Office at (337) 892-2360 before registering to check on registration requirements for youth.

Both the Gulf Area Campus and Acadian Campus will hold mandatory orientations. The Gulf Area orientation will take place on March 15th at 8:30am and the Acadian orientation will take place on March 17th at 8:30am.

Classes are free--the only cost incurred by students is that of the actual HiSET exam.

If you have any questions, please call (337) 892-2360 for the Gulf Area Campus or (337) 788-8114 for the Acadian Campus.

Bayou Art Co-op Grand Opening

Bayou Art Co-op is having it's Grand Opening! Come out and support local artist and artisan. Specialty items will be available to help raise money for Hospice of Acadiana. SATURDAY, MARCH 05, 2016 10:30am-6pm 1300 Bertrand Dr. Lafayette Cost: FREE

Ribbon Cutting at 1pm, Food and Beverages available, sip on wine and browse through the store <http://bayouartco.com>

April Duhon or Alecia Myers 3378067676 bayouartco@gmail.com

Just Nail It

We invite you to the 3rd annual Just Nail It event with Celebrate Recovery, where we will have the opportunity to "nail" our hurts, habits, and hang-ups on the cross. God's Word tells us, "those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to His cross and crucified them there" (Galatians 5:24). This is a visually powerful experience, and we hope you will take part. Pastor Mike Walker will be delivering a message of hope, freedom, and healing that you won't want to miss. Additionally, children (K-5th grade) are invited to Celebration Place, and students (6th-12th) are invited to The Landing during this event. March 21 6:30pm-8:30pm

<http://thebayouchurch.org/JustNailIt>

Melissa Tramonte 337-654-4931 miss_lissa1014@yahoo.com

MORROW MORROW RYAN BASSETT SCHOLARSHIPS

The law firm of Morrow, Morrow, Ryan & Bassett is offering scholarships to individuals of St. Landry and Evangeline Parishes. The purpose of these scholarships is to encourage applicants to pursue a degree in their field of study and upon graduation to encourage those individuals to seek employment within these two parishes.

Scholarships will be awarded based on academic background (must have a 2.5 cumulative GPA), maturity of the applicant, financial need, community involvement, the availability of resources, funding and the applicants' chosen career field. Applicants

must be permanent residents of St. Landry or Evangeline Parish.

Six (6) scholarships for \$2,500 each will be awarded. These six scholarships will be awarded as a one-time award for the 2016-17 school year. Scholarship amounts and guidelines will be set by the MMRB Scholarship Committee and may be adjusted on an annual basis. Scholarship funds will be paid directly to the educational institution the applicant is attending. Applicants must be attending an educational institution/college in the state of Louisiana and can apply during any portion of their educational career (i.e., undergraduate, graduate, professional school, etc.) Applicants can also be current TOPS recipients.

The OGHS Foundation is operating this scholarship program. Therefore the completed applications should be submitted to the OGHS Foundation office located at the Main Campus of Opelousas General Health System. Application forms must be submitted with:

1. a photo of applicant (at least a 4 X 6)
2. two letters of recommendation
3. original high school transcript/GED and all original post-secondary transcripts (college) if applicable.

All documents, including application, should be submitted to the Foundation Office by mail or in person no later than end of business day on April 1, 2016. Applications may be mailed to the following address: P. O. Box 1389, Opelousas, LA 70571. All applications will be considered without regard to race, sex, national origin, age, physical or mental impairment or veteran status. Applications will be reviewed by the MMRB Scholarship Committee and the top candidates will be called for interviews with the committee. Scholarships will be awarded in July/August.

A copy of the application can be obtained online at www.mmrblawoffice.com or www.opelousasgeneral.com under the Foundation tab.

Questions can be directed to the Foundation Office at 337-594-3499.

Joshua A. Pellerin Urges Acadiana to Give Back this Lenten Season

Local entrepreneur and businessman, Joshua A. Pellerin, is urging Acadiana to join him in taking a different approach to this Lenten season. Mr. Pellerin is implementing a program that will instill a sense of giving in the community; a focus on caring for our brothers and sisters and giving of ourselves to bring aid and grace to our brethren.

A collection area will be set up outside of the main entrance of the Acadiana Mall (5725

Johnston St, Lafayette, LA 70503) for the duration of the Lenten season (February 11 through March 20, 2016). Drop off times will be **every Sunday from 11am to 3pm**. Each week, Pellerin will hold collections benefitting various community organizations including churches, nonprofit organizations, and diverse members of the community.

DONATION 1: SUNDAY; February 14, we ask for donations of the following: **NEW** adult women's clothing (Plus Sizes are most needed), Large Size diapers, and children's clothing (male and female for ages 0-9 years) to be donated to local women's shelters.

Spring Eggs-pressions Public Art Exhibit Coming to Downtown Opelousas

An art exhibit designed by students will transform unused building space into an eye-catching outdoor museum. The exhibit, titled Spring Eggs-pressions, is headed to downtown Opelousas this spring and will feature exquisitely designed eggs from students in Opelousas and around St. Landry Parish. The exhibit, which will be displayed across from the St. Landry Parish Courthouse, is scheduled to be unveiled Friday, March 18th at 5 p.m. at a special ceremony.

The decorated eggs will be judged by a committee who considers design, originality and overall beauty; students will win cash prizes for winning designs. Students from the following schools involved in the project include Opelousas Catholic Elementary, Opelousas High School, Magnet Academy of Cultural Arts, Port Barre, J.S. Clark; Southwest, Grolee and Southwest Elementary.

For more information about Spring Egg-spressions, please contact Opelousas Main Street at 337-948-5227 or tourism@cityofopelousas.com or visit www.cityofopelousas.com.

REPTICON

Repticon returns to Baton Rouge, LA, March 12 & 13, 2016, opening to the public at 10 a.m. with a fun and educational reptile exposition geared to all ages and personalities. A true family-oriented event, Repticon's reptile shows are held in major cities throughout the United States and attract thousands of enthusiasts. Repticon, a nationwide promoter of reptile and exotic animal expos, brings its unique blend of vendors, breeders, and educators back to Baton Rouge for a family-oriented, fun-filled event. The expo brings thousands of reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates, spiders, and small exotic animals to area enthusiasts. Top breeders and vendors will offer animals, merchandise, cages, supplies, live and frozen feeders, and much more, as well as their expert advice where needed. The doors open to the general public at 10 a.m. on Saturday, closing at 5 p.m. On Sunday, the show hours are 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. At the door, tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 5-12, and children under 5 are admitted free. VIP and advance tickets may be purchased from our website at <http://www.repticon.com/batonrouge.html>.