Tuesday, October 15th
Southdown Plantation-Buquet Pavilion
4 pm - 7 pm

A Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce & Southdown Plantation Partnership
The TGMC Wellness for Life team will work with you to keep your greatest asset, your employees, healthy and happy! Our Corporate Wellness Program will help control rising healthcare costs by improving your employees overall health, which leads to a more productive workforce and a boost in morale. Having a wellness program in place has also been proven to reduce absenteeism, injury and illness. Onsite wellness screenings could be covered by your health insurance at 100% with NO OUT OF POCKET EXPENSE! Think differently about employee health and happiness.

Call 985.850.6208 or visit TGMC.com
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Events in red denote Chamber events

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On the Cover:
Join us for the Second Annual Cornhole Tournament! We have many exciting changes and additions, so visit our website at www.houmachamber.com to register for sponsorship opportunities and two-person teams! This event IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!
Why Join Your Local Chamber of Commerce?

NICOL BLANCHARD
CEO

Some business owners might say their schedule is demanding enough at the moment, and the thought of adding one more activity to their busy calendar is unbearable. So why should they try to cram time into their already hectic schedules to join and actively participate in their local chamber of commerce?

Because membership in the local chamber offers numerous benefits and keeps business owners on top of important, ever-changing issues and trends within their community and local marketplace. Not only that, but research points out that consumers are more likely to do business with a company if it’s a member of their local chamber of commerce.

According to a research study by The Shapiro Group, Inc. and Market Street Services, when consumers know that a small business is a member of their local chamber of commerce, they are 44 percent more likely to think favorably of it and 63 percent more likely to purchase goods or services from the company in the future (www.americanbusinessmag.com).

If you still don’t think you have time to join and participate in your local chamber of commerce, consider the following:

1. Membership brings credibility to your business. You can increase positive perception among consumers and business owners when you’re identified as a member of a chamber of commerce.
2. Increase your visibility in the community. As a new member of the chamber of commerce, you will be listed in the chamber newsletter, e-newsletter, on Facebook and have the opportunity to be highlighted in other chamber publications. You also can grow your business by advertising with the chamber and sponsoring events. The chamber may also promote your grand opening/ribbon-cutting ceremony and assist with any public relations efforts.
3. Create networking opportunities. Chambers have numerous committees and serving on one of them provides numerous networking opportunities as well as professional leadership development. You can build your business while promoting developments of keen interest to local businesses and the community at large.

4. Gain a voice in government. The local chamber takes on the tough issues and opposes new regulations, taxes, fees, assessments and costs directed at small businesses. It also helps protect the principles of free enterprise and aids businesses in being treated fairly.
5. Make business contacts. The chamber’s most fundamental mission is to generate more business activity for the community. The chamber initiates more business-to-business commerce and more opportunities for networking and connecting local professionals than is available through most other local organizations.
6. Receive chamber newsletters. Newsletters provide new member information, interesting information about operating a local business, articles about the local community, a community calendar and details about up-coming chamber events, among other things.
7. Acquire customer referrals. Every day, the local chamber receives calls from individuals and businesses looking for potential vendors, and chamber members typically recommend chamber members.
8. Chamber events and programs. Chamber events and programs provide members with great opportunities to get to know new people and expand their prospect base. Chamber events are innovative and fun ways to help members meet potential customers, clients and vendors—and generate new business leads.
9. Promotion and publicity. With a chamber membership, you can reach potential clients through member exclusive advertising and opportunities for business-to-business advertising and publicity.
10. Access to members-only discounts and services. Such as Office Depot, ADDvantage Care, etc....

Small businesses represent the largest segment by number of most local chamber membership rolls. Results in the research study by The Shapiro Group, Inc. and Market Street indicate the impact of local chamber membership on small businesses is very powerful. If a consumer knows a small business is a member of its local chamber, the business enjoys a 44 percent increase in its consumer favorability rating, a 51 percent increase in consumer awareness, a 57 percent increase in its local reputation and a 63 percent increase in the likelihood that consumers will patronize the business in the future.

Research indicates that chamber membership stimulates business-to-business commerce in the local community. Other businesses in town are more likely to do business with you and your company if you are a member of the local chamber. Because a major part of a small business typically comes from business-to-business services, it is essential to maintain a positive standing within the local business community.

Ready to join your local chamber, if you aren’t already? Keep in mind, however, that you can’t just be a member of the local chamber to reap the benefits of chamber membership. Paying your annual dues just isn’t enough. You must also make an investment of time and effort in chamber activities and become involved. Simply put, what you get out of chamber membership is directly relative to what you put in.

Contact the Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce at 985-876-5600 or info@houma-chamber.com for more information. Uniting the Community and building a Stronger Terrebonne.
As the Chamber gears-up for this coming fall elections, I would like to focus my thoughts on exercising our right to vote. Voting is a fundamental right of any citizen that enables them to choose the leaders of tomorrow. Voting not only enables the citizens to vote for political parties, but it also helps them to realize the importance of citizenship. Many people do not vote thinking one vote will not make a difference, but as a matter of fact, it does. Our nation’s political foundation is built using elections.

The benefit of voting is the basic process that keeps our nation’s governmental system working and it enables us to choose our own government. It also allows us to choose our representatives in the government. The purpose of every government is to develop and implement various policies for the benefits of its citizens. It also enables the voter the right to question the government about issues and demand clarification. Your vote is the way to express your opinion as a citizen in a democratic nation and is crucial to activating the democratic process.

Every adult is given the right to vote, regardless of sex, class, occupation and so forth. It is a fundamental right in which all citizens get an opportunity to choose who represents them.

Every party that is competing in any elections announces and establishes various benefits and social reforms for their constituents. It is up to you to make an educated decision on who you want representing you. It’s your responsibility to decide which government officials are elected.

It is the right, benefit and obligation to vote as a citizen of your nation and an individual from your community. You may figure your vote does not make a difference, but rather your vote can shape the community, state and country.

Please make every effort to exercise your right to vote this fall. You have a vote make it count.

RAISING CANE’S CHICKEN FINGERS PRESENTS THE SECOND ANNUAL

CHAMBER CORNHOLE CHALLENGE

October 15th
4:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Southdown Plantation-
The Buquet Pavilion

For more information, to register a team, or claim a sponsorship, visit www.houmachamber.com or call 985.876.5600.
New Member Spotlight — Calypso Paddle Co.

Calypso Paddle Co.— Spreading Happiness One Paddle at a Time

The Houma Chamber has been busy with uniting our community, and we’ve had a boost in new membership! This month, we’re meeting with owners Zachary Meeks and Fallon Ellender of Calypso Paddle Company.

Calypso Paddle Company was brought forward as a spin-off of Calypso’s Bayou SUP, a service company that offered guided excursions in Cocodrie, Grand Isle, and Bayou Lafourche, SUP yoga classes at local pools, plus kayak and paddleboard rentals. As paddleboard, kayak, and fishing enthusiasts, Zachary and Fallon came across problems with finding accessories that were needed. They self-traveled to New Orleans or as far as Florida for certain units and accessories. They felt the Houma and Thibodaux area has been long overdue because of our sportsman paradise with waterways, and they are passionate about people being able to be tourists in their own backyards.

The service company started as a mobile unit working by traveling to locations across the Gulf Coast. From weekend excursions in Grand Isle, to becoming part of week-long retreats in Florida and Mississippi; they had it covered! Bringing paddle boarding to the bayou was surely an adventure. After five years, Zachary and Fallon decided it was finally time to open a store front and give the Houma-Thibodaux area a piece of what makes them happy; nature, fishing and the love of paddle sports. They said “we are beyond excited to share this with the bayou communities here. We plan to extend our service and retail area to all aspects of the paddle sport world.”

Zachary was born and raised in Houma where he graduated from H.L. Bourgeois. He works in the oil field while also running his manual therapy business. His new adventure is co-owner of Calypso Paddle Co. where he loves to pick new products from various vendors to offer in the store. He says the process of running a new business that is brand new to an area is challenging, rewarding and provides growth in many aspects of life.

Fallon was born and raised in Pointe-Aux-Chene where she graduated from South Terrebonne. She earned a Culinary degree at Nicholls State University, which she left the culinary world to jump all in with Calypso’s Bayou SUP in May 2019, and now with Calypso Paddle Co. She also teaches at local yoga studios in the Houma area. Her love for the water at such a young age has inspired her to share what

See PADDLE, page 7
both Zachary and Fallon agree that the best sight is seeing customers and clients happy, whether it is trying something new, or having fun with their family fishing in their new rigs. They want everyone to have a chance to experience what Calypso Paddle Co. has to offer “Get out and explore what Louisiana has to offer; we are truly lucky to live in such a place!”

When asked why they invested in the Chamber of Commerce, they said they want to be around other like-minded business owners and individuals who are a part of the community of Terrebonne Parish. They plan to support other local businesses and get people out on the water to explore what we have here to offer for each other, and other communities. Their vision is to bring people together for the pure enjoyment of disconnecting from the world, by being in nature as a community, and importantly having fun while doing it!

Nicholls State University and the Peltier Foundation are proud to announce another donation to the Peltier Foundation Nicholls Alumni Legacy Scholarship.

Since 2016, the Peltier Foundation has given $75,000 to the scholarship, which has benefitted six students since being created.

“We wanted to create legacy scholarships designed for students who are children of Nicholls alumni,” said Peltier Foundation Board Member Stephen Peltier (BS ’75), “To us, this increased the value of being a Nicholls alum.”

Eligible students must be full-time undergraduates in good academic standing with at least one parent who is a Nicholls alumnus. Applicants must submit a 250-typed-word essay detailing why they should receive the scholarship. The Alumni Federation Awards and Scholarship Committee will review the essays to determine the winners, who will receive $500 per semester for up to two semesters.

Founded in the mid-1990s, the Peltier Foundation has given a substantial amount to Nicholls over the past two decades, supporting projects and programs such as Nicholls Online, the Mary and Al Danos Theater, the Lanny D. Ledet Culinary Arts Building, Peltier Hall, Nicholls Soccer Complex and Stopher Gym.

“Nicholls is in our view, the foundation of our community. It has benefitted everything from Baton Rouge to the river to Grand Isle and all of Terrebonne and South Lafourche,” said Peltier, who served on the Alumni Federation board from 2008 to 2015, including a stint as board president from 2012-2013. “We feel like Nicholls has created an opportunity for the vast part of our community to get a higher education, where they could not otherwise.”

The Nicholls Alumni Federation honored the foundation’s generosity by awarding the nonprofit the 2017 Corporate Mark of Honor.

“The Peltier Foundation has made a tremendous impact across the Nicholls campus, and we’re proud to continue working with them,” said Jeremy Becker, executive director of the Nicholls Foundation. “Scholarships like this one help open the door for more students to experience what Nicholls State University has to offer and to shape the future of Louisiana.” For more information, visit nichollsalumni.org.
Special thanks to Fletcher Technical Community College for hosting the August Business After Hours! At the event, the Burguieres Family presented a donation check for the student center which makes it possible for the facility to provide the best possible space for students. Visit fletcher.edu to see how Fletcher has been thriving.

Congratulations to Fletcher Technical Community College on the new Fresh Market, made possible by Grady V’s! The market will allow students and visitors to have the option of healthy meals and snacks.

Staff, local officials, and business leaders gathered to celebrate a new Hancock Whitney location at 912 Grand Caillou in East Houma with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Visit them for all your financial needs!

Pictured from left to right are Chamber Staff Tara Wolfe, Heidi Guidry, Nicol Blanchard and Angie Walsh. The Houma Chamber was a drop-off location for the Pack the Bus school supply drive. Thank you to everyone who participated and made it a great success!

Pictured is Chair Elect Chuck Weaver (South Louisiana Financial Services), Jimmy Nguyen (Louisiana Small Business Development Center), and Chamber CEO Nicol Blanchard at the July General Membership Luncheon, which was a drop-off location for Pack the Bus school supply drive!

Pictured is Jimmy Nguyen, Business Consultant with Louisiana Small Business Development Center, speaking at the July General Membership Luncheon! Also, special thanks to Regions Bank for sponsoring the luncheon!
Confidence won’t grow from a superficial understanding of your business.
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Meet the Terrebonne Parish Candidates

The Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce is passionate about our area issues and it reflects in our mission statement; uniting community and building a stronger Terrebonne! We invited all district candidates for the opportunity to voice their platforms in this month’s issue.

State Representative District 51

Beryl Amedee

In 2015, voters elected me as a pro-life, pro-jobs candidate, a supporter of family values, parental choice in education, 2nd amendment rights, small businesses, and as a believer that government should “live within its means.” My voting record shows I firmly support all of these. I have consistently pushed for budget transparency and fiscal responsibility while fighting efforts to increase taxes so that taxpayers could keep more of their hard-earned dollars. At the same time, I worked to appropriate $436,774,700 in capital outlay projects for the district. But more work is needed! I humbly ask for your vote again.

Clayton Voisin

Clayton J. Voisin, lifelong resident of Terrebonne Parish, District 51. Married to Veronica LeBoeuf Voisin. We have 5 children and 10 grandchildren. I promote our Private and Public-School System for better education and fellowship. I have served on the Terrebonne Parish Council for 3 terms and seek the seat of State Representative District 51 to continue serving the people and area I passionately love. We pray at Holy Family Catholic Church in Dulac. I am a leader who can mend not tear apart the fabric of Government. I will work with our Governor, Senators, Representatives, local officials and leaders to better serve District 51 and our great State of Louisiana as a Republican.

Council District 1

John Navy

This is my last term as an elected servant leader, working with the community has been my mission and purpose while serving District I and Terrebonne Parish. I will continue progress we accomplished by protecting our coast and parish from flooding, protecting our residents with crime prevention programs we put in place, improving our parish infrastructure, protecting our residents tax dollars by not raising taxes, creating a safer environment for our residents by fighting against hazardous wastes facilities building in residential areas while building a stronger futures for our children. I served one year as council chair and 4 years as Budget and Finance Chairman while working with parish administration to balance the budget each year... Together let’s continue to make Terrebonne Parish our good earth and work together in unity God Bless!
“What would you like the community and constituents to know about you? What’s your campaign platform?”

**Council District 2**

**Clarence Williams**

I am a candidate because I care about the wellbeing of our community and would like to work with you (the community) to maintain and improve our community quality of life and image. Additionally, my experiences, training and education, acquired Nationally, Internationally and Locally have prepared me to meet the challenge of being your next councilman for District 2. My Professional career has included work as a professional Financial Accountant; a Director of Audit; a Corporate Administrative Business Manager; and a Business Owner. My community involvement has been demonstrated by my work through the following affiliates: Leadership Terrebonne, The Houma Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce, The Terrebonne NAACP, Habitat for Humanities, The Terrebonne Economic Development Authority (TEDA), The Houma Area Convention and Visitor's Bureau, The Terrebonne Foundation for Academic Excellence, The Leonard J. Chabert Medical Foundation, The Manning Passing Academy. I am asking for your support, especially Voters of District 2, to vote for me in this October’s election.

**Council District 3**

**Robert Boudreaux**

I’m Robert Boudreaux and a candidate for Parish Council in District 3. This district has been my family’s home for over 26 years and I truly love this community. As Houma continues to grow and new communities are developed, it is vital that District 3 not be left behind. I will work together with all elected officials to move Terrebonne Parish forward while making District 3 my priority. As your councilman, I will be active in the district, I will present the needs of the people, and negotiate results. I humbly ask for your support on October 12th, 2019!

**Gerald J. Michel**

As the councilman for District 3, I have demonstrated all three necessary components of a councilman: responding to the needs within District 3, including lighting, drainage, streets, parks, etc.; being cognizant of the needs of the entire parish, including levees, recreation, appropriate taxation, fiscal responsibility, and transparency; and providing “checks and balances” over administration to ensure tax dollars are spent appropriately. Many of these issues are complicated and require intellect over politics. Terrebonne Parish needs more public servants and fewer politicians. I am proud to be the public servant for District 3 and Terrebonne Parish.
Meet the Terrebonne Parish Candidates

Council District 4

John Amedee

I graduated from H.L. Bourgeois in 1981. I married my high school sweetheart Beryl Adams Amedee of Schriever. We purchased our home on Rhett Place in Gray in 1996. I’ve worked for Volute Inc. for 27 years currently holding the position of Project Manager. This has given me experience and knowledge of the infrastructure work for which parish government is commonly responsible. I believe my understanding of the district and how government works gives me an advantage over my opponents. I humbly ask the residents of District 4 for their vote in the upcoming election. My platform is “Finding Solutions” - Drainage, traffic, road issues, blighted properties and opportunities for our elderly and children.

Council District 5

Jessica Domangue

I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and have a Master’s Degree in Social Work from Louisiana State University. I have lived and worked in this parish for nearly 20 years, and my career in mental health has given me the opportunity to deeply understand many unaddressed needs of our community. I am a wife and a mother, as well as a member of the Louisiana Federation of Republican Women and president of Houma Republican Women. I am ready to advocate for Terrebonne Parish to become a better place to raise our families. My goals for this campaign are to focus on quality of life; public health; economy; and infrastructure. www.facebook.com/jessicadomanguedistrict5

Council District 6

Darrin Guidry

Darrin Guidry is a successful businessman who was elected to the Terrebonne Parish Council in 2015. In addition to finishing current projects, Guidry plans to focus on finishing the Bayou Country Sports Park and beginning substantial improvements to streets, sidewalks and curbs. “I was elected to the Parish Council on the promise of being accessible and working hard for you. I will never forget that promise!” said Guidry. His experience includes 6 years on the Terrebonne Economic Development Authority, 8 years on the Terrebonne Levee Board, 4 years on the Chamber Board and 30 years with the Houma Rotary Club.
Meet the Terrebonne Parish Candidates

Council District 6
Michael ‘Cuz’ Prosperie

Terrebonne Parish has always been my home. I’ve been a businessman & sales rep in the oilfield business for over 29 years. I’m no career politician. In my business, I deal with people, & my success has relied on two things – listening & my word. I give you my word that this seat will be returned to YOU. My platform is simple: represent our District not as a career politician, but as the lifelong resident that I am. We deserve to finally have OUR seat & OUR voice returned to us, & I intend to do that on Day 1.

Council District 7
Daniel ‘Danny’ Babin

I am excited to announce my anticipated return to the Terrebonne Parish Council to represent the good people of District 7 and the entire Parish of Terrebonne. I look forward to listening to our people in continuing conversations over flood protection, drainage, roads, recreation, quality of life issues and all other issues that affect us on a daily basis. I will work with our Administration and Parish Council to make the “Good Earth” the best it can be for all. I have an extensive record of Public Service from President of the School Board at VCHS, Chairman of the State Wildlife and fisheries Commission under Two Governors, Parish Planning Commission Chairman 4 years and of course Councilman for District 7 where I served as Vice Chairman of the Council, Public Service Chairman and Chairman of the MPO. I look forward to speaking to as many of you as humanly possible up to the October 12 election. I can be reached at 985 637 1178. I humbly ask for your vote.

Council District 9
Wallace Ellender III

Bourg has been my home my entire life. I earned a B.S. degree from LSU in Agricultural Economics and am the 5th generation of Ellenders to farm in South Louisiana. Therefore, I know the land, I know the people, and I deal with the same issues we all face in District 9. I have served as Chairman of the Bourg Recreation Committee, President of the Bayou Land YMCA, and President of the American Sugar Cane League, among numerous other local, state, and national Boards. My goal is to listen to, focus on, and represent the people of District 9.

Mike Pellegrin

My Name is Mike Pellegrin and I’m running for District 9 Parish Council in this year’s upcoming election. I want to become the voice of our community! We need to make sure that our children and our recreation stays on the bayou where we grew up. We need to make sure the fireman and the first responders have what it takes to protect us and to better serve us. We need to make sure our educators and school systems continue to grow and flourish in the future. I’m a lifelong citizen of this area. I’ve seen good and bad in our community. I’ve seen storms and flood issues. I want to listen and learn from our people. And what they want and need to make our community strive! I want the best for us. I want us to be heard!!! I want to be heard through you! I want us to be the next voice of the Bayou. Please vote for Mike Pellegrin Parish Council District 9.

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Fletcher Holds Service Awards During Convocation

Fletcher Technical Community College faculty and staff gathered together on August 12, 2019, in the beautiful facilities in the Wellness Center of Thibodaux Regional Medical Center for Convocation, which leads up to Fletcher’s Fall semester. Between informative sessions around topics such as Conflict Management and Customer Service, 14 Fletcher employees were recognized for their combined 155 years of service to the organization.

“Congratulations to our faculty and staff on their recent anniversaries,” commented Chancellor Dr. Kristine Strickland. “The commitment they’ve shown to our institution, and more importantly to our students, is commendable. We appreciate their service and celebrate them as we begin this academic year.”

Congratulations to our faculty and staff on their recent anniversaries:

- 25 Years: Janie Cypret, Nursing Assistant Master Instructor
- 20 Years: Keith Prejean, Electrical Assistant Master Instructor
- 15 Years: Terry Authement, Math Assistant Professor/Department Head
- 10 Years: Terri Ferreira, Surgical Technology Instructor
- 5 Years: Lynette Callahan, Business Instructor/Department Head
- Nancy Clement, Interim Executive Dean of Technical Education
- Stacey Guidry, Psychology Assistant Professor
- Kelly LaRusso, Engineering Assistant
- Gina Naquin, Transition Coordinator
- Kristine Strickland, Chancellor

Catholic Foundation Announces Bishop Shelton Fabre’s Second Annual Dinner for October 10

Bishop Shelton J. Fabre and The Catholic Foundation of South Louisiana have announced the date of the Catholic Foundation’s Second Annual Dinner, October 10, 2019, at Nicholls State University’s Cotillion Ballroom in Thibodaux. This dinner will bring our Catholic community together for an evening of fellowship in recognition of all who have contributed to the success of the Diocese and the Catholic Foundation’s mission. All proceeds from the dinner will benefit the Seminarian Education Endowment and Catholic Charities endowment.

The event will begin with cocktails at 6 o’clock in the evening and dinner to follow at 7 pm with our diocesan seminarians as guest waiters for the evening. Tickets for the evening are $100, or a table of eight for $800, and can be purchased through the Catholic Foundation of South Louisiana at catholicyourle.org or by calling 985-850-3122.

“We are looking forward to hosting our second annual dinner as a way to gather our community together in thanksgiving for all of their generous support. Last year’s dinner was a huge success, where our parishioners came together to celebrate their generosity and faith. We are eager to host this event again with our seminarians as our guest waiters, taking the time to recognize and honor our parishioners across our diocese,” stated Bishop Fabre.

During the evening Bishop Fabre will recognize one recipient of the Bishop’s Faith in Action Award to a layperson or permanent deacon who models Christian stewardship and has an outstanding record of volunteer service, high moral character and exemplary values. Nominations are open and forms can be found online at catholicyourle.org.

For more information about the inaugural dinner please contact executive director Amy Ponson at 985-850-3122 or apsonon@htdiocese.org.

Ladies Night Out Is Now the Gala Goes Gatsby

Mary Bird Perkins TGMC Cancer Center is thrilled to announce that our signature event, Ladies Night Out, will take on a fresh, new look and feel, along with a new name, The Gala. Ladies and gentlemen attending this event will be introduced to a different theme every year. Our inaugural theme for 2019 is The Gala Goes Gatsby presented by Louis Mohana Furniture. Get ready to be transported back to the 1920’s to have a roaring good time!

This exciting affair will be held on Thursday, September 19th, at the Houma-Terrebonne Civic Center. Guests will experience an intimate atmosphere where men and women can sip on libations from the period, dress in their 1920’s best, and mingle in a cocktail party styled setting. Mission moments centered on our patients and survivors will be highlighted throughout the evening.

The Gala will highlight a 365 Days of Giving Wall sponsored by Louis Mohana Furniture. Guests are encouraged to purchase a day on the wall for $50, to honor, celebrate or in memory of a loved one. On the wall, there will be multiple chances to win gift cards to Louis Mohana Furniture with one day featuring a hidden $1,000 gift card. The Bee’s Knees sponsor will be Peoples Drug Store, DJ Rhett is the emcee for the enchanted evening and The Gatsby Gang Jazz Band is sure to get you on your feet.

“We are excited to showcase a fresh new theme to the tremendous community support of our patients and the Cancer Center with a timeless and fabulous roaring 20’s evening,” said Phyllis Peoples, TGMC President and CEO.

“Over the past 12 years, we have raised close to $1 million for patients receiving treatment right here at home. We are proud to be able to offer world-class services to our community so that each patient can continue to live life to its fullest.”

Get your flapper’s gowns, and bow ties ready for a timeless good night! Tickets to the exciting evening are $75/person and can be purchased at mbptgmc.org/gala.

Sponsorship spots are still available — for more information contact Erica Seely at esseely@marybird.com or call 851-8658.

CIS Saves Hearts & Lives in South Louisiana for 36 Years

On August 15, 2019, Cardiovascular Institute of the South (CIS) will celebrate its 36th anniversary of providing complete cardiovascular care to communities in south Louisiana. In the past year, from August 2018 to date, CIS has treated nearly 115,000 patients in Louisiana and beyond.

Beginning as a one-man practice under the leadership of Dr. Craig Walker in Houma, La., CIS has grown to become a world-renowned practice with more than 60 physicians and 800 team members with 19 locations and seven telecardiology sites. Though Louisiana is known to have one of the highest incidences of heart disease in the United States, statistics show that CIS has improved heart disease death rates since 1983, making a dramatic impact on the number of hearts, limbs and lives saved in our communities.

“Our greatest accomplishment has been that we have dramatically improved cardiovascular outcomes in each of the areas where we have established practices, and this is confirmed by national statistics,” said Dr. Craig Walker, interventional cardiologist and Founder, President and Medical Director at CIS. “We have now treated patients from every inhabited continent and from every U.S. state which is far beyond our early dreams.”

Dr. Walker began CIS with the intent to provide world-class cardiac and peripheral vascular care to south central Louisiana. Throughout the years, CIS has pioneered many “firsts” including participating in the first peripheral stent trial in 1988 and the first coronary stent trial in 1989. These are just examples of the many “firsts” that CIS continues to pioneer, using new devices and procedure techniques, which have earned CIS international acclaim as a leader of research and development in cardiovascular care. Most recently, CIS was the first in Louisiana to use the BASILICA Procedure Technique for transcatheter aortic valve replacement, the first in the southeast U.S. to use the Tack Endovascular System to treat peripheral artery disease, and first in the country to use the Mynx closure device for venous disease.

In putting patients first, CIS has contributed significantly to the advancement and development of non-surgical treatments for cardiovascular disease, with a special focus also on peripheral artery disease in the legs. These interventional procedures are minimally-invasive, involving a much lower risk for our patients and less recovery time than surgery.

“From the beginning, we sought out new techniques and helped to develop techniques to better care for our patients,” said Dr. Walker.

Leading the region in technological advancements, CIS has established a first-of-its-kind Virtual Care Center in Lafayette, offering patients 24/7 access to their care team through a variety of programs, increasing access to care, improving outcomes and enhancing communication between the patient and the provider. CIS also recently announced its plans to develop a cardiac rehab facility in Lafayette, offering

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The Foundation for TGMC Honors Morris P. Hebert with the TGMC Healthcare Humanitarian Award

The Foundation for Terrebonne General Medical Center presented the 2019 TGMC Healthcare Humanitarian Award to Morris P. Hebert. Recipients are presented this award for their dedication and commitment to the Foundation.

Hebert has served on the Terrebonne General Medical Center Board of Commissioners since 2009 and as Board Chairman. He was extremely instrumental in helping to create the Foundation and since its inception has continued to support the endeavors to generate funds for programs and activities that align with TGMC’s mission as the region’s leading healthcare provider. He truly realizes how important it is to give back to his community.

“Mr. Hebert has been a committed board member and a true friend to the Foundation for TGMC since its inception,” said TGMC President and CEO Phyllis Peoples. “We are extremely grateful for his generosity and thankful for his unwavering support to our hospital and community.”

Cardiovascular Institute of the South Hosted Annual Cardiac Screening

Terrebonne General Medical Center and Cardiovascular Institute of the South (CIS) hosted their annual Cardiac Screening for the community. Screenings were provided free of charge to participants from funds raised at the Night Light Dash 5K through the Foundation for TGMC. Participants received EKG, ABIs, Cholesterol and Blood pressure checks, along with BMI calculations via the InBody230 scale.

Member Milestones

September Anniversaries

15 Years
Hope Restored Pregnancy Center
Houma VA Outpatient Clinic

10 Years
Terrebonne Port Commission

5 Years
Volunteers of America
Greater New Orleans
Acadian Total Security
Junior Auxiliary of Houma
Steve Scalise, U.S. Congressman, 1st District of Louisiana
Terrebonne Parish Communications District
Homewood Suites by Hilton Houma
CIS Is Named #1 Telehealth Provider for Cardiology

Cardiovascular Institute of the South (CIS) was awarded the #1 Telehealth Provider for Cardiology by InTouch Health, and CIS nurse practitioner, Marcus Montet, was named the #1 Individual Provider for Cardiology.

The Telehealth Leadership Awards by InTouch Health honor the health systems and providers who are leading the way in virtual care transformation. These awards were selected based on consult volume from June 1, 2018 to May 31, 2019 and were presented at the InTouch Tele-Health Forum in July in Santa Barbara, California.

CIS partnered with InTouch Health in 2017 to provide remote medical services geared towards emergent and general cardiology expertise in acute settings. CIS expanded the adoption of InTouch Health’s services, adding expert cardiologists to their service line and collaborating on the development of workflow solutions to drive best practices and allow for standardized quality of care in telecardiology settings.

For more information on CIS or its telecardiology services, visit cardio.com or call 1-337-988-1585.

Biology Instructor to Visit Indonesia as World Class Professor

A Nicholls biology professor has been selected to visit Indonesia in August as part of the World Class Professor program.

Dr. Raj Boopathy, Alcee Fortier Distinguished Professor of Biological Sciences, will visit the Institute of Technology, Bandung, for two weeks. The Indonesian government only awards 10 World Class Professorships every year, and it is based on research output and publication record. Dr. Boopathy’s work has been cited more than 7,000 times worldwide.

“It is a big honor to be selected as a World Class Professor,” he said. “This says that Nicholls accommodates professors with high research output, and Nicholls always encourages the scholarly work of its professors.”

Dr. Boopathy will talk about his research in environmental biotechnology on the presence of antibiotic-resistant bacteria in the environment, biodegradation and bioremediation of hazardous chemicals, biofuel production and biological treatment of wastewater. He will also host workshops on how to write and publish scientific papers for peer-reviewed journals.

“I am looking forward to this trip and hope to learn from this exchange of scholars including Indonesian University systems, their education curriculum and scholarly work,” he said. “I am also looking forward to learning about Indonesian customs and culture.”

As part of this program, one professor from the Institute of Technology, Bandung, will visit Dr. Boopathy’s lab in October for two weeks to learn more about collecting data and publishing work in the highest quality journals worldwide. This visiting program is funded by the government of Indonesia.

Dr. Boopathy is also a Fulbright Specialist and has won three Fulbright awards since 2007. As a specialist, Dr. Boopathy’s services can be requested by international entities seeking his expertise, and he visited Malaysia earlier this year to aid the country with its pollution problem.
Terrebonne General Medical Center Receives 2019 Safety Star Award

Terrebonne General Medical Center (TGMC) was awarded a 2019 Safety Star Award by the Louisiana Hospital Association (LHA) Trust Funds at its summer conference. The Safety Star Award is presented to healthcare facilities that have successfully implemented new processes or developed innovative ideas that improve patient safety.

Terrebonne General Medical Center was recognized for its patient safety initiative, “Journey to Reduce HA-CDI Rates” and was awarded $10,000.00. Patients now have a lower risk of acquiring an infection, less exposure to additional antibiotics, fewer complications and a decreased cost of hospital care. The project results have positively impacted patient satisfaction.

“TGMC is continuously improving processes to provide the highest quality care to our patients,” said Phyllis Peoples, President and CEO. “Being recognized by the LHA Trust Fund validates our efforts to provide patients with the most advanced treatments available.”

The LHA Trust Funds have served Louisiana healthcare facilities and physicians with insurance solutions for more than three decades.

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Donate Gently Used Purses to Help Fund Local Literacy Program

Terrebonne Foundation for Academic Excellence (TFAE) is seeking donations of gently used trendy or designer purses and handbags for their annual Purses and Promises event in November.

At the event, purses will be sold and auctioned to raise funds for a local children’s literacy program called the Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library. Through this program, registered children in Terrebonne Parish received one age-appropriate book every month until their fifth birthday – at no cost to their families. Reading these books increase a child’s learning capacity, promotes literacy and social skills, and most importantly – prepares them for Kindergarten and sets them on a path for success in life.

Examples of purse designers include Coach, Michael Kors, Kate Spade, Louis Vuitton, Chanel, Tory Burch, and many more. TFAE will also accept “trendy” or other attractive gently used purses, handbags, clutches, etc.

“We are asking women in our community to please take a look in their closets and see if they have a nice purse that they could donate for a great cause,” Katie Portier, TFAE Executive Director said. “What’s great about this particular event and program is that you know it will help local children in our very own community.”

In addition to gently used purses, Portier said the event will also feature new designer purses for auction, as well as gift baskets, local art, and more. TFAE is also accepting sponsorships and in-kind donations for their silent and live auctions. Please visit www.tfae.org/purses-promises for how you can become involved.

Tickets for the event will go on sale soon. Those with purses to donate can contact Katie Portier at 985-868-5881 or katie@tfae.org.

Donations are tax deductible as TFAE is a 501c3 non-profit organization.

Tasha Lirette Named CASA of Terrebonne’s Volunteer of the Month

A Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) is a trained volunteer who is appointed by a judge to provide one-on-one advocacy for a child who has been placed in State’s custody because of neglect and/or abuse. The mission of CASA of Terrebonne is to be an independent and objective presence in the courts to speak for the best interest of abused and neglected children here in our parish.

We have chosen Tasha Lirette to Spotlight in August as CASA of Terrebonne’s Volunteer of the Month. She was sworn in as an advocate in November 2019 and was assigned to a case shortly afterward. She has met with biological and foster parents as well as caseworkers and other associated parties. She has advocated tirelessly for the best interest of the three children on her case.

If you are interested in making a difference in the life of an abused/and or neglected child from Terrebonne Parish, go to www.casaofterrebonne.org and fill out the online application. Just like Tasha, you can make a difference, one child at a time. Or in her case, three children at a time! A new training class begins Tuesday, September 10, 2019.

CIS | Con’t from Page 14

A holistic approach through exercise and nutrition to help patients with chronic conditions in the healing of their hearts.

CIS continues to grow and expand to multiple locations, opening new clinics and offering telecardiology services to rural hospitals, to make the most advanced cardiovascular care accessible to more communities. “I take great pride in the fact that CIS has grown into one of the largest and most comprehensive cardiovascular programs anywhere in the world,” said Dr. Walker.

To learn more about CIS or find a location near you, visit www.cardio.com.
Ochsner Classroom Naming Ceremony Held in Thibodaux Facility

Fletcher Technical Community College is pleased to announce the receipt of a $10,000 gift from Ochsner Health System. The funds will be used to continue building the program, and Fletcher’s Cardiopulmonary classroom has been renamed. A ceremony was held Wednesday, July 31, 2019, at Fletcher’s Thibodaux facility to formally recognize the Ochsner Health System Cardiopulmonary Care Science Program classroom. The donation and dedication comes on the heels of the announcement that 100% of Fletcher’s 13 Cardiopulmonary program students who graduated this spring have already gained employment. Two of the students, Bekah Crosby and Margo Olivier, are working at Ochsner Medical Center – Kenner. Fletcher students who graduate in a variety of programs have career opportunities across Ochsner Health System in both the Bayou Region and the greater New Orleans area. “We are so thankful to Ochsner Health System for their generosity in naming the Fletcher Cardiopulmonary classroom,” commented Dr. Kristine Strickland, Chancellor, Fletcher Technical Community College. “Through this donation, the College will continue to train and educate students in this critically needed area of healthcare. We appreciate the generosity of Ochsner and their partnership in our educational offerings.” “Ochsner is proud to support Fletcher Technical Community College’s growth and programs,” said Timothy Allen, CEO, Ochsner Bayou Region. “Fletcher is dedicated to building a thriving community of healthcare professionals and our partnership ensures that we’re developing a talented and engaged workforce for years to come.” Cardiopulmonary Care Science prepares individuals to treat patients ranging from premature infants to the elderly with acute and chronic cardiopulmonary illnesses. Graduates of the program work with patients on mechanical ventilation to maintain life support such as oxygenation, ventilation and airway management. They treat patients with pulmonary disease who have underdeveloped lungs and patients with chronic lung disease. These individuals play a vital role in many areas of health care. Fletcher Technical Community College’s Cardiopulmonary Care Science Program is nationally accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC).

Girls on the Run Bayou Region Needs Volunteers

Girls on the Run is a physical activity-based, positive youth development program that inspires girls in 3rd through 8th grade to be joyful, healthy and confident. The ten-week program teaches critical life skills, encourages personal development and fosters team building and community service. Volunteer coaches utilize a curriculum to engage teams of girls in fun, interactive lessons. Girls on the Run Bayou Region serves girls at multiple school sites in Terrebonne, Lafourche, St. Mary and St. Charles Parishes and is in need of coaches to ensure that girls at each site will have an opportunity to participate in this transformative program this season.

“What I loved most about coaching was the curriculum,” said Susan Crochet, a volunteer coach turned board member, “it guided the coaches week after week throughout the ten weeks to give the girls the lessons they needed, not only to run a 5k, but lessons in life that will carry them forever.” Volunteer coaches facilitate lessons to small teams of girls who typically meet after-school twice a week for 75-90 minutes. The program culminates with all teams participating in a celebratory 5K event. Individuals must be eighteen years old to serve as an assistant coach or twenty-one years old to serve as a head coach. Volunteer coaches do not need to be runners but must complete a background check and participate in online and in-person training.

Girls on the Run Bayou Region’s fall coach registration is now open. For more information or to sign-up to coach visit www.gotbayoureregion.org/Coach.
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