Friday, Feb. 14, 2020
Krewe of Hercules @ 6pm

Saturday, Feb. 15, 2020
Krewe of Tee Caillou in Chauvin @ 12pm
Krewe of Aquarius @ 6:30pm

Sunday, Feb. 16, 2020
Krewe of Hyacinthians @ 12pm
Krewe of Titans, following Hyacinthians

Friday, Feb. 21, 2020
Krewe of Aphrodite @ 6:30pm

Saturday, Feb. 22, 2020
Krewe of Mardi Gras @ 6:30pm (East Side)

Sunday, Feb. 23, 2020
Krewe of Terreanians @ 12:30pm
Krewe of Montegut @ 2pm

Monday, Feb. 24, 2020
Krewe of Cleopatra @ 6:30pm

Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2020
Krewe of Houmas @ 1pm
Krewe of Kajuns, following Houmas
Krewe of Bonne Terre @ 11am (Montegut)
EMPOWER A STRONG AND HEALTHY TEAM

TGMC
Wellness for Life

The TGMC Wellness for Life team will work with you to create a healthier and more productive workplace by empowering your greatest asset, your employees. 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 how to empower your team!

Call 985.850.6208 or visit TGMC.com
FEBRUARY 2020:

2/4  Chamber Development Committee Meeting
Chamber office | 12:00 Noon

2/5  Pedro J. Cuartas, DDS, APDC Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
600 Valhi Boulevard, Houma | 4:30 p.m.

2/11 Chamber Finance Committee Meeting
Chamber office | 7:00 a.m.

2/11 Chamber Executive Committee Meeting
Chamber office | 7:30 a.m.

2/11 General Membership Luncheon
Courtyard by Marriott | 142 Library Drive, Houma
11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Speaker: Terrebonne Parish President, Gordon Dove
Sponsorship is still available!

2/18 Chamber Board of Directors Meeting
Chamber office | 8:00 a.m.

2/19 Community Development Committee - Education & Health
Chamber office | 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

2/20 Business 2 Business Luncheon
Holiday Inn | 1800 Martin Luther King Boulevard | 11:30 a.m.

For more information about Chamber Events call (985) 876-5600 or Email: info@houmachamber.com
Events in red denotes Chamber events

On the Cover:
On the cover is an updated schedule for the upcoming 2020 Mardi Gras parades that will be held in the area.
The Chamber events are marketed directly to 1000 to 1500 executives who do business in our Parish and in our region. Sponsors receive promotional benefits through direct mail pieces such as our Focus newsletter and monthly flyer that go out to over 1000 members. Our weekly eFocus events newsletter goes out to over 2000 subscribers. In addition, a benefit of sponsorship includes a few minutes to talk about your business in front of the attending audience. An added benefit, when we have space, is that your logo is placed on the homepage of our website for one month and we link it to your website or Facebook page.

Our 2020 General Membership Luncheons will be at the Courtyard by Marriott. We’ll enjoy good home cooked style lunches and interesting, informative speakers. Our first GML of the year will be on February 11th with Gordon Dove, Terrebonne Parish President. President Dove will discuss the state of the parish and upcoming projects.

There are several General Membership Luncheons available for sponsorship. Sponsorship is $450. The benefits of sponsoring a GML: a 5 minutes-presentation to 100 to 125 attendants, two reservations, logo on monthly event flyer, logo in eFocus, event ad in printed FOCUS (circulation 12,000 homes) before the event, logo on Chamber homepage linked to your website or flyer, and picture in FOCUS after the event.

Another opportunity to connect with members is our Business 2 Business events. Sponsorship is $200 with attendance about 40 to 50 people at the event. Sponsor speak for 5 minutes to address all attendees, two reservations at the event, place information at every seat, logo on the monthly flyer, logo in eFocus, event ad in FOCUS before the event and listed on the Chamber website banner.

The Business After-Hours events are a fun way to bring other Chamber businesses into your business and show off what you have to offer. Sponsor pays for food and drinks at the event and is responsible for having a few door prizes. The event can be co-sponsored, but the sponsor must be a Chamber member. The sponsor usually holds the event at their place of business. The benefits of sponsoring a Business After-Hours are logo on flyer announcing the event, event posted on the Chamber website with sponsor logo, advertisement in the FOCUS and in eFOCUS before the event, pictures from the events will be placed in the FOCUS. The Business After-Hours are held from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

The Chamber Golf Classic has been moved from March to Monday, May 4th. Mark your calendars and get ready to swing! Information on teams and sponsorships will be coming your way soon.

Please give us a call (985) 876-5600 or email info@houmachamber.com if you are interested in learning more about sponsoring any of our events for 2020. We look forward to working with you.
Chairman’s Message

CHUCK WEAVER JR.
2020 Chairman of the Board
South LA Financial Services, LLC

Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce is here to help grow your professional network. We have several opportunities for members to network at our luncheons, special events, business after-hours, banquet and committee meetings. How you can become better at networking? Here’s 10 business networking tips you can use to grow your professional network.

1. Be helpful & Share – When people in your network get stronger, you get stronger. By helping people in your network get stronger, they may be in a better position to be able to help you in the future. Share your expertise and ideas. Promote your network’s work and accomplishments. Business transactions are always mutually beneficial. One person is buying a product or service because it will benefit them in some way, and one person is selling a product or service because they can profit. If you can connect two people you know who would benefit from knowing each other, you can help two people as well as improve the strength of your network.

2. Build a Reputation – In a professional setting, people prefer to build business relationships with people they see as being valuable. By building a reputation as someone who is talented, helpful, and valuable, people will be more motivated to meet you and stay in touch with you. Let people know what you’re accomplishing and learning through blogging, emails, and conversations.

3. Be Visible – If no one knows what you’re doing, it’s like it never happened. Maintain regular and consistent with people you want to stay in touch with. Communicate via email, blogging, social networking, and of course, in-person.

4. Meet Lots of People – The best way to make things happen, is to make a lot of things happen. Ways to meet new people include conferences, events, asking people you know for introductions, reaching out to people directly, personal interest groups, intramural sports leagues, classes and workshops, parties, happy hours, alumni associations, Twitter, and LinkedIn groups.

5. Be Intentional – Go where the people you want to meet hang out both online and offline. Interact with people and build rapport. Share valuable content and spark interesting conversations. Also think about who else spends time with the people you want to meet and connect with them.

6. Think Long-Term - Connections open doors, but relationships close deals. Networking is not just about exchanging business cards and connecting on LinkedIn. Networking is most valuable when long-lasting, mutually beneficial relationships are formed. Relationships take time to build. Be patient. Stay in touch with people you like.

7. Get Rejected - When you push yourself, in any area of life, you will inevitably face setbacks. In networking, you will face a lot of rejection. People will ignore your calls and email. They will decline meeting invites, and requests for introductions. Trying and failing is much better then not trying at all. At least when you try you have a chance to succeed. Learn from your rejections and grow stronger for when it happens again.

8. Listen – Listening is one of the most valuable, yet commonly overlooked, skills to have in networking and in business. People love to talk about themselves and appreciate when you take a genuine interest in what they have to say. Listening will help you to get to learn about peoples’ challenges and get to know them better, which can ultimately lead to more productive professional relationships. Ask open-ended questions, be genuinely interested, and express interest and curiosity.

9. Ask – You never know until you ask, and more often than you think, you will get the answer you want. Ask for introductions. Ask people you want to meet with you and ask for advice.

10. Follow up – Build a reputation as someone who delivers on their promises and is persistent. Follow up with on people who promised to do something for you. Follow up on emails you send that get ignored. Do what you promised to do for others.

Member Milestones February Anniversaries

25 Years
Methodist Church

20 Years
Best Western Houma Inn
Bunkhouse Shelter, Inc

10 Years
Adaptive

5 Years
Cheramine+Bruce Architects
LA Visage Rouge Mobile Home Park

Thank you to our 2019 event sponsors!
Interested in hosting or sponsoring a 2020 event?

Call 876-5600 for more details!
2020 Chamber Event Schedule

In 2020, The Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce will continue with our amazing events like General Membership Luncheons, Business 2 Business, Lunch & Learn, etc. We understand that it’s hard for our members to decide which beneficial Chamber event to attend monthly, so we narrowed down some things and scheduled so we can get the best quality events for your buck; quality over quantity, right?

Every month will still feature our member favorite monthly events, the General Membership Luncheon and the Business After Hours. Below is the TENATIVE dates for the General Membership Luncheons. These events are still being booked, so visit our website or keep an eye out on our eFocus newsletters for upcoming updates.

Sponsorship opportunities are available for all our upcoming events! Any questions about sponsorship, please feel free to contact the Chamber office, (985) 876-5600. Please read below for the General Membership sponsorship opportunities for 2020:

**General Membership Luncheon**

Attendance at GML is usually 100-125.

Benefits of sponsorship: 5 minutes to address attendees, 2 reservations at event, logo on monthly event flyer, logo in eFOCUS, ad in FOCUS before the event, listed on Chamber website banner for the event, and picture in FOCUS after the event. Location – Courtyard by Marriott. This event is from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm.

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***All dates are tentative***

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Intense Care Unit (ICU) Team Recognized for the TGMC Team DAISY Award

Terrebonne General Medical Center (TGMC) is proud to honor our Intensive Care Unit (ICU) team, with the Team DAISY Award for extraordinary nurses and teams. This department consists of a team of people that strive towards giving amazing care and making patients feel comfortable and at ease. Recently, this team of employees worked together to make a patient feel safe and secure. Members of the ICU team were attentive to his every need calming his wife’s fear and anxiety. The patient’s wife commented, “I felt comfortable and assured my husband was very well taken care of.”

**The ICU team members included left to right: Tomie Davis, RN, Lucetta Sweet, RN, Courtney Stoufflet, RN, Cherie Alombro, RN, Logan LeBlanc, RN, Hansen Breaux, RN, Ryan Hebert, RN. Not Pictured: Tyler Creel, RN.**

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Confidence won’t grow from a superficial understanding of your business. LaPorte goes deep.

When you talk, we listen. But we don’t stop there. We go deeper to uncover important accounting, tax, and advisory needs. LaPorte invests the time and tools to provide strategic, long-term guidance and to build enduring relationships. Combine that with our industry strength, national and international resources, and proactive service—and you walk away with something substantial: deep confidence in your CPA firm.

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New Member Spotlight —
Vacations by Katie - Travel Central

Katie Smith - Travel Advisor
Travel Central has been in business since 1988.
The physical office is based in Metairie, Louisiana while Katie Smith is a home based agent in the Houma area. Our specialties are custom vacations that include cruises, group travel, independent travel, destination weddings, honeymoons, and even corporate travel.

Our customers like the personal touch that we offer. We truly want our customers to have the best experiences on their trips so we treat it like our own and they really appreciate that. Our goal is for them to have the experience of a lifetime without ever having to worry about the stress of planning everything.

I was born and raised in Metairie, Louisiana. I have been with Travel Central for 9 years. My primary responsibilities start when the client calls and expresses interest in traveling. I help them figure out the right destination for them and the best way to experience that destination based on their needs and interest. I take care of setting up all of the necessary details for the trip such as flights, transfers, hotels, tours, etc. I started at Travel Central as a receptionist with no desire to travel. My desk was in the center of the office so all I heard all day was details about our clients trips and I started becoming interested in seeing the places I was always hearing about. My grandparents asked me to plan their 50th anniversary trip to Hawaii and I enjoyed it so much and felt great about the trip I had put together and from there just wanted to continue planning more and seeing more destinations for myself. The best part of the jobs is when a client comes back and had such an amazing time and you can hear the appreciation in their voice. It’s a great feeling knowing that you gave that family an experience that they will always remember. The challenging parts of the job are when issues happen that can’t be avoided. For example flights delays or cancellations. It’s terrible seeing someone miss a part of their trip a reason that you can’t prevent for them, but unfortunately it does happen and that is what makes having a travel advisor so valuable. In situations like that we spring into action and immediately work to find a solution as soon as possible and we also work to get compensation for the client. This is such a huge relief to the client when they start to panic in these situations and they can call us and know that we know what to do and will handle for them.

We have decided to invest in the Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce to expand my business in the area. Although I was raised in Metairie, I moved to Houma after getting married to my husband. Having a family makes the commute to working in Metairie a challenge. I want to expand my business in the area while still being able to be available to my family. I am looking forward to the opportunities that will come from becoming a trusted travel advisor in the area.

I am planning to be involved in the Chamber by being part of the education committee. Having you kids of my own this is an important subject for me.

My vision for the company is to develop enough professional growth in the area to create an entire Houma based branch of Travel Central. I hope that the Chamber is able to help accomplish those goals with personal professional growth from getting involved in the opportunities that the Chamber offers through networking and events.

CASA’s January Spotlight

The mission of a Court Appointed Special Advocate (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 of Terrebonne Parish. CASAs are trained volunteers who are 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.

Our ‘Spotlight’ for January is on Michael Brown. He was sworn in as a CASA on May 6, 2019. His advocacy consisted of meeting with the foster parents and the biological mother and report his observations. He met regularly with his CASA child and shared wisdom and valuable information that helped his CASA child improve not only socially but also academically. We appreciate Michael’s advocacy and are grateful he has remained a consistent presence in the life of the child he serves.

If you are interested in making a difference in the life of an abused and/or neglected child from Terrebonne Parish, fill out the online application at www.casaterrebonne.org.

Just like Michael, you can “Change a Child’s Story”.

Call the Terminix Team for a FREE quote.

“Terminix will protect your home and business from termites, roaches, mice and even mosquitoes. Call the local team, Dan and Billy Foster, at Terminix of Houma.

Go Colonels!”

-Nicholls football coach Tim Rebowe
New Member Spotlight — M & A Safety Services

We are excited to highlight a new member of the Chamber family and give them a chance to introduce themselves along with their business. This month we are highlighting Bryan Aucoin, CEO of M&A Safety Services, which is located at 311 Trinity Lane in Gray, LA.

Bryan Aucoin was born and raised in Thibodaux, LA. He is a proud graduate of Thibodaux High School and Nicholls State University. While attending Nicholls State, Aucoin earned his first opportunity in the safety profession as completing the petroleum safety technology program. After college, he began working in the safety profession as a medic/HSE Tech offshore. Aucoin has been in the safety profession for over 28 years and has been in the training industry for 15 years. M&A is Aucoin’s second safety training business. Previously, he was a partner in Occupational Safety Training, a New Iberia based company.

M&A Safety Services is a full-service safety training provider. The company was formed in 2016 by Aucoin, Travis Martin (President), and Don Romero (Chief Commercial Officer). Between Aucoin and his two business partners, they bring 74 years of oil and gas experience to their clients. M&A Safety Services’ vision is to dominate the Houma/Thibodaux and New Orleans region using its new Gray, LA facility as a hub to serve those areas. They have been able to accomplish this in the Acadiana region using their Youngsville facility as the hub. “Our customers have grown to appreciate the flexible scheduling along with quality training services at a competitive rate. M&A strives to provide its clients the training they need, when they need it. Our customers are in charge and drive our business!” Aucoin mentioned.

Since 2016, M&A has served over 600 different companies. Over 90% of our clients are oil and gas industry based. With the Youngsville facility, they trained over 28,000 students in 2018 and over 34,000 students in 2019. With two facilities in 2020, Aucoin expects those numbers to grow significantly.

Aucoin stated that he wanted the company to join the Chamber to initiate business-to-business commerce as well as opportunities for networking and connecting local professionals. The company plans to support the Chamber by attending functions as often as possible as well as encouraging its clients to participate.

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Krewe of You Celebrates Sensory-Safe Mardi Gras

Junior Auxiliary of Houma is proud to host Krewe of You, a free sensory-safe Mardi Gras event for kids and kids at heart on February 22, 2020. This event allows children and adults with disabilities, on the autism spectrum, and/or have sensory sensitivities to enjoy Mardi Gras in their own unique way.

Many children with sensory issues, such as sensitivity to lights and loud noises, cannot attend or enjoy a typical Mardi Gras parade and have to miss out on the holiday that is an important part of our culture. With Krewe of You, participants can enjoy Mardi Gras activities in a safe and quiet environment. Activities include crafts, games, soft obstacle course, king cake decorating, and a “quiet” indoor parade where children can both throw and receive beads and trinkets from their wagon “floats.”

Krewe of You is all about enjoying Mardi Gras just as “you” are!

The event will take place at Kandi Lyn’s cheer gym in Houma. Three sessions will be offered throughout the day to allow for small group settings to not overstimulate participants. Registration is required to attend. Parents can register their child at www.jaofhouma.com. Spots are assigned on a first come, first serve basis. More information on the event can be found (including address and time slots) at the website listed.
Mary Bird Perkins TGMC Cancer Center Announces Golf Tournament

Mary Bird Perkins TGMC Cancer Center is excited to announce the Mary Bird Perkins TGMC Golf Classic is returning to Ellendale Country Club in 2020! The tournament will take place the week of March 30-April 4th 2020. The schedule of the week is as follows, Pro-Am Tournament, Tuesday March 31st, Glow Ball Tournament and Par-Tee Friday, April 3rd and Professional Tournament Wednesday – Saturday, April 1-4th.

This is the only Pro AM tournament in our region, and gives local golfers the opportunity to play with future PGA stars! Throughout the week, we will feature food and drinks from local vendors and amazing prizes for participants.

In the past, the tournament has been very successful with the generous support of our local community. Every net dollar from the tournament benefits Mary Bird Perkins TGMC Cancer Center at helping to take the fight against cancer forward through prevention, innovation, research, survivorship, teamwork and patient assistance.

“It is due to the tremendous support of our community members that the Golf Classic has helped touch the lives of hundreds patients undergoing treatment right here at home,” said Phyllis Peoples, president and CEO of TGMC. “The funds raised have allowed our Cancer Center to host numerous free screenings when they may not otherwise have had the opportunity.”

To get more information, create a team, become a sponsor call 985.873.4635, or email Layne.Bordelon@tgmc.com

Rouses Markets Donates $25,000 from New Store to Nicholls

Rouses Markets has donated $25,000 from their new store’s opening day sales to benefit Nicholls State University student-athletes and culinarians.

The donation will be split into two $12,500 contributions, with one going to the Chef John Folse Culinary Institute and another going to the Nicholls Athletic Department.

“This is fun and exciting. Nicholls State University and Rouses Markets are from the same town, we’re some of the largest employers in town, and we interact with a lot of people. This is all about being a part of a community,” said Donny Rouse, CEO of Rouses Markets. “Just to be able to talk with people around town that see what we’re doing with Nicholls and what Nicholls is doing with Rouses is great. And it’s not just in Thibodaux. If I’m in Lafayette or Baton Rouge, people are talking about it.”

Located at 1030 South Acadia Road across from Thibodaux Regional Medical Center, the store is Rouse’s first college-themed store. Catered to Nicholls students and healthcare professionals, the store’s interior is painted red and gray and features Nicholls images and logos throughout.

“Rouse’s Markets have been a long-time partner of Nicholls. They have always been generous, and this is one more example of their generosity. This money will go a long way here,” said Nicholls President Dr. Jay Clune. “This new store has been a game-changer for us. I know a lot of our students, faculty and staff spend their lunch hour there, and they spend a lot of money there. It’s a gift to the community and Nicholls.”

Culinary Head Chef John Kozar said the money will be used to send students to study at Institut Paul Bocuse in Ecully, France. Athletic Director Matt Roan said the money will be used to benefit all student-athletes.

Terrebonne Parish Main Library Mardi Gras Celebration

Terrebonne Parish Main Library is excited to celebrate the 2020 carnival season with its second annual after-hours Mardi Gras Bash, Saturday, February 1 at 6:30 p.m.

The program will feature king cake tasting and a festive photo booth. The Cajun French Music Association, Bayou Chapter will provide live music for dancing and socializing. The event will conclude with a second line parade. Mardi Gras-inspired attire is encouraged but not mandatory.

The Mardi Gras Bash is an adults only program. Admission is free.

Please call the Main Library reference department at 985-876-5861, opt. 2 to register.

Keller Williams Realty and Houma’s Town & Country Real Estate Combine Forces

Keller Williams Realty Bayou Partners, Market Center #1025, is excited to announce their merger with Houma’s Town & Country Real Estate effective 11/1/19.

“We are thrilled that two of Houma’s top Real Estate players are coming together as One. Keller Williams Realty Bayou Partners is excited to welcome Bill & Jelene Boyd, along with their agents into our Keller William’s Family. Their 40 plus years in the Real Estate Industry is such an accomplishment and we are honored that they have agreed to join us! We’re confident that this merger will have a positive impact on agents and for the buyers and sellers we serve in the area.” said Holly Guidry Broker/Operating Principal for Keller Williams Realty Bayou Partners.

The new location for Keller Williams Realty Bayou Partners will be 5958 West Main, Houma, LA.

“The economic benefits of the merger give the new office a huge strategic advantage in the market place,” said Ivan Jenning, Team Leader of Keller Williams Realty Bayou Partners. “We’re excited about implementing the Keller Williams business model, which offers world-class training, strong values and a culture that focuses on results through people.”

As of December 31, 2019, the two companies accounted for just shy of $165 million dollars in closed sales volume, representing 874 units, which is roughly 20% of the local market. Keller Williams Realty Bayou Partners is the largest Real Estate Company in the Bayou Board of Realtors in one single office.

Each Keller Williams Office is Independently Owned and Operated.
Lorio Foundation Donates $35,000 to Stopher Gym Improvements

Nicholls State University and the Lorio Foundation announced today a $35,000 donation to benefit Stopher Gymnasium and the Nicholls Volleyball program.

With the gift, Nicholls upgraded the sound system in Stopher Gym and added a new volleyball net.

Cam Morvant, chairman of the Lorio Foundation, noted the sound system will benefit all of the programs that take place in Stopher Gym, such as volleyball, men’s and women’s basketball and commencement.

“We look at what is going to be the overall benefit, is it going to benefit a small group or Nicholls as a whole,” Morvant said. “The university has been very diligent in asking us for things that benefit a large group or large aspect of the campus. This is something they told us they needed, and it was something that we looked at as a board and said if that’s what they need, we’ll help them out. If we can be there to help and benefit the university and make it better, make its students better or make the community better, then that’s what we’re here for.”

The new net was installed earlier in the fall and used for home games against Southland Conference opponents. Nicholls Athletic Director Matt Roan said the net was a necessary addition because it is compatible with the portable court added in 2018.

“With this gift, we have become a better volleyball program,” Athletic Director Matt Roan said. “The players like playing on the portable court because it has much more give. They like jumping off of it and landing on it.”

The Thibodaux-based nonprofit has donated more than $3 million over the years to improve facilities on the Nicholls campus. They have impacted projects such as the resurfacing of tennis courts, renovating the steps at the Donald Bollinger Student Union and building a pavilion at Ayo Pool.

Danos Awarded Delaware Basin Contracts

Danos has been awarded two major contracts with a leading Texas-based natural gas and oil production company for projects in the Delaware Basin. One contract is for fabrication, construction and installation of central tank batteries. The second is for the fabrication, construction and installation of saltwater disposal facilities.

While the facilities are being constructed on site in New Mexico, Danos will pre-fabricate most of the piping in its LaRoose, La., facility, which is particularly helpful during the winter months when harsh weather can cause project delays, quality concerns and increased driving risks.

“Our fabrication facility environment removes the external factor of the weather, which allows us to be highly efficient,” said owner Eric Danos. “On top of that, these projects are campaign work, where we take the same design and replicate the same process, which enables us to deliver efficiency and cost savings to our customers.”

Danos’ fabrication, construction, and instrumentation and electrical service lines will be utilized for the contracts, the first of which began in early October. Combined, the projects will enlist over 80 Danos employees across the three service lines to complete the work.

Danos has worked in the Permian and Delaware basins since 2012 and has over 500 employees in the area. Headquartered in Gray, La., the company has 3,000 employees with additional office locations in Lafayette, LaRoose and Amelia, La., and in Houston, Kenedy and Midland, Texas.

Thibodaux Regional Medical Center Recognized by LOPA

Thibodaux Regional Health System is proud to announce that it was among a select group of hospitals nationwide recognized for promoting enrollment in state organ donor registries in a national campaign sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

Thibodaux Regional was awarded Silver Recognition from the Louisiana Organ Procurement Agency (LOPA) for its efforts and participation in the Workplace Partnership for Life (WPFL) Initiative. This campaign is a special effort of HRSA’s Workplace Partnership for Life to mobilize the nation’s hospitals to increase the number of people in the country who are registered organ, eye, and tissue donors and ultimately, the number of organs available for transplant. The shared goal is promoting “a donation friendly America” by fostering organ, tissue and eye donation and creating opportunities for individuals to register.

This year’s initiative began October 1, 2018 through April 2019. More than 1500 hospitals participated in the national campaign including Thibodaux Regional Health System. During that time period, 48,000 people were added to the registry nationwide.

With LOPA and the full support of Thibodaux Regional’s Administration and staff, the hospital conducted awareness and registry campaigns to educate staff, patients, visitors, and community members about the critical need for organ, eye, and tissue donors and, by doing so, increased the number of potential donors on the LOPA’s donor registry.

Nicholls Announces Interim Athletics Director

Lindsey McKaskle, executive associate athletics director for internal affairs, has been named interim Director of Athletics at Nicholls State University.

McKaskle replaces Matt Roan, who has been named the vice president and director of athletics at Eastern Kentucky University. Roan will remain at Nicholls through the end of the month.

“Matt has done a phenomenal job for Nicholls State University and our student-athletes, and I know Lindsey will continue that trend,” said Nicholls President Dr. Jay Clune. “We are going to conduct a national search to find the individual who meets our university values and can continue to build upon the positive momentum in the classroom and on the field.”

McKaskle, who also serves as senior woman administrator, oversees internal affairs including compliance, reporting, academic services, game day experience, sports performance, facilities and equipment.

McKaskle joined the Nicholls athletics department in June 2017. A native of West Monroe, Louisiana, came to Nicholls after working with Roan at EKU. While at EKU, she served as assistant athletic director for compliance and student success, and senior woman administrator.

McKaskle earned her bachelor’s in sociology from Louisiana College in 2003 and was a four-year letter winner for the softball team. From there, she earned her master’s at Bel- mont University in 2009 in sports administration. McKaskle served as a compliance intern at both Belmont and Vanderbilt before being hired at Eastern Kentucky.

Roan was first hired as athletic director at Nicholls in 2016. Since then, he has led Nicholls Athletics to achievements both on and off the field, including:

- Record-breaking GPA and retention rates of student-athletes
- Conference championships in men’s basketball, women’s basketball, softball and football
- NCAA postseason appearances in football and women’s basketball
- Land the largest donation in school history for the Barker Hall Expansion Project
- Added beach volleyball to the competitive slate and reinstated indoor and outdoor men’s track and field

“Matt has been a driving force in the success and momentum we have seen in community support both on- and off-campus,” Clune said. “We will certainly miss him and his family, but we wish him the best at Eastern Kentucky University.” He added, “We have a succession plan. I have complete confidence and trust in Lindsey McKaskle to do the job, as I do in our coaches and athletic staff to do their jobs. It will be business as usual over the next several months as we notch more victories and hopefully win more championships.”

Submitting Your Articles to Focus for Member News

Our Member News section of the Focus is a great way for Chamber members to promote your event or project, and to announce special awards or certifications. Word Document articles of 250 words or less may be submitted to info@houmachamber.com by the 1st of each month for publication in the following month’s newsletter, space permitting.
T. Baker Smith Welcomes 2020 With a Texas-based Acquisition

T. Baker Smith (TBS) has acquired Naismith Marine Services, Inc. (NMS), a hydrographic, geophysical surveying and environmental firm based in Rockport, Texas. Naismith Marine Services specializes in bathymetry, underwater inspection and imaging, oyster and seagrass surveys and wetland delineations. TBS is a multi-disciplinary firm serving the public works, land development, industrial, pipeline and exploration and production market sectors primarily in Texas and Louisiana. The acquisition is part of TBS’ overall growth strategy, enhancing its Texas capabilities and further building on over 20 years of providing client service in the Houston and San Antonio markets.

With additional engineers, surveyors and technical staff joining TBS from NMS, the strength of combining resources expands TBS’ ability to provide responsive, cutting-edge solutions to a collective customer base in coastal South Texas. Kenneth Wm. Smith, PE, PLS, FACEC, Chief Executive Officer of TBS stated, “The synergy that comes from TBS’ first acquisition opens a myriad of client service opportunities in our focus markets in Texas. We’re excited about our ability to now provide a broader array of engineering, surveys and environmental solutions delivered by local experts in the Texas Gulf Coast Region.”

Jim Naismith, founder of Naismith Marine Services, will continue to lead the Corpus Christi area-based office and its charged with growing and expanding the local office. Jim stated, “Naismith is well-known for bringing innovative efficient solutions to our clients. As a part of TBS, our local office brings exceptional depth of expertise, allowing us to deliver comprehensive, integrated solutions and service to our South Texas coastal clients.”

CIS and TGMC Presents New Heels for Hearts Event for Women

Heart disease is the number one killer of women each year, taking more lives than all forms of cancer combined. Recognizing the need for awareness and prevention, Cardiovascular Institute of the South (CIS) and Terrebonne General Medical Center (TGMC) are proud to host the inaugural Heels for Hearts event on Thursday, February 6 from 5:30-8 p.m. in the 2nd floor Events Room of the Mary Bird Perkins TGMC Cancer Center (8166 W Main St., Suite 201, Houma, LA 70360).

The educational social encourages women to get informed about their heart health. The evening will include a Q&A session with a panel of physicians and wellness experts as well as a heart-healthy dinner, wine and signature cocktails, interactive games, door prizes and more. Tickets are $25. To purchase tickets, visit https://heelsforheartsb.eventbrite.com/houma.
Mary and Al Danos Family Foundation
Contributes to Theater, Mom’s Pantry and Tutoring Center

Nicholls State University and the Mary and Al Danos Family Foundation announced today a gift benefitting student resources and the university theater. The $220,625 donation will be split four ways, with $200,000 benefitting the programs connected to the Mary and Al Danos Theater. That money is a part of a $1 million pledge by the nonprofit in 2016 to honor the last wishes of the theater’s namesake. In life, Mary and Al Danos were longtime supporters of the Nicholls Players, the choir and the concerts especially the Monster Piano concert. Their four children – Rene, Andre, Alyce and Marcel operate the foundation.

“The Danos family are some of the kindest and most generous people I have ever had the pleasure of working with,” said Nicholls President Dr. Jay Clune. “I like to say that Nicholls is all about people, places and programs, and this donation benefits all three.”

Among the remaining money, Mom’s Pantry and the Nicholls Tutoring and Academic Enhancement Center will each receive $10,000. The remaining $625 will go to the Nicholls Department of Art to help with the cost of hosting the Exhibit Catalog of Dorothy Fratt.

Mom’s Pantry at Nicholls State University opened to the campus community in May 2019. Located behind the former office of continuing education, the service offers non-perishable foods 24/7, 365 in an effort to combat food insecurity at Nicholls.

“We serve on a lot of committees in the community and we know the hunger crisis in Terrebonne and Lafourche parishes are real,” said Rene Danos David. “When we saw that Mom’s Pantry was coming to Nicholls, that just resonated with us. We knew we had to give back and help with any hunger issues here on campus.”

The Nichols Tutorial and Academic Enhancement Center provides help to students through peer tutoring, writing coaching, modeling learning strategies and other forms of academic assistance for all students.

“It costs money for tutoring and as parents of kids in college, we’re already helping to pay for tuition and books. But when you have to give a little bit more, some kids and their families might not be able to do that,” David said. “If this helps a student pass a class so they can stay in school, then we’re excited to do that.”

For more information, visit nicholls.edu/academic-services-center/tutoring-and-academic-enhancement-center/
A RESOLUTION BY THE HOUMA-TERREBONNE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
SUPPORTING AN INCREASED AND STABLE FUNDING STREAM TO THE
TERREBONNE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TEDA)

WHEREAS THE HOUMA-TERREBONNE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, WITH APPROXIMATELY 620 MEMBERS, EMPLOYING OVER 15,000 CITIZENS OF TERREBONNE PARISH, RANKS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AS ONE OF ITS TOP PRIORITIES FOR TERREBONNE PARISH, AND

WHEREAS, TERREBONNE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TEDA) IS CHIEFLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN TERREBONNE PARISH, AND

WHEREAS, TERREBONNE PARISH HAS SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEEDS, AND

WHEREAS, TEDA HAS SEEN A SIGNIFICANT DROP IN PUBLIC FUNDING OVER THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS, AND

WHEREAS, THE AVERAGE PUBLIC FUNDING FROM TERREBONNE PARISH CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT (TPCG) TO TEDA AVERAGED $662,000 PER YEAR BETWEEN 2007 AND 2013, AND

WHEREAS, IN 2019 AND 2020 TEDA IS ESTIMATED TO RECEIVE ONLY $372,500 FROM TPCG, AND

WHEREAS, THE LAFAYETTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, BY COMPARISON, RECEIVES ALMOST EIGHT TIMES THE AMOUNT OF FUNDING RECEIVED BY TEDA, AND

WHEREAS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITIES WORK SUCCESSFULLY ALL ACROSS THE UNITED STATES WHEN PROPERLY FUNDED, AND

WHEREAS, THE CURRENT LACK OF A STABLE, MULTI-YEAR FUNDING STREAM FOR TEDA GREATLY INHIBITS TEDA’S PLANNING AND EXECUTION OF PROJECTS FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF TERREBONNE PARISH.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE HOUMA-TERREBONNE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, THAT THE HONORABLE GORDON DOVE, PRESIDENT OF TERREBONNE PARISH CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT, IS HEREBY RESPECTFULLY REQUESTED TO SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE FUNDING TO TEDA, TO AT LEAST $507,000 PER YEAR, AND TO DEVELOP A MULTI-YEAR FUNDING PLAN WITH FUNDING FROM THE TPCG ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND, THAT ALLOWS TEDA TO FULLY EXECUTE ITS MISSION.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION BE SENT TO ALL MEMBERS OF TERREBONNE PARISH COUNCIL, TO THE LOUISIANA STATE DELEGATION FOR TERREBONNE AND THE BAYOU REGION, TO THE SOUTH CENTRAL INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATION (SCIA), TO THE BAYOU INDUSTRIAL GROUP (BIG), TO THE BAYOU BOARD OF REALTORS, TO THE SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA HOME BUILDER’S ASSOCIATION, AND TO DR. MICHAEL GARCIA, PRESIDENT OF TERREBONNE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS.


CHAD HEBERT
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
CH/NB

We take our role as the leader in cancer care seriously which is why we have more doctors to fight more types of cancer for the very best outcomes. Doctors who are here everyday to help you fight cancer and win. If you need to battle cancer, these are the experts you want on your team.

CANCER CENTER OF THIBODAUX REGIONAL
Thibodaux.com

Left to Right: Dr. Gerardo Arias, Dr. Scott Hebert, Dr. Nguyen Dang, Dr. Ashish Udhrain, Dr. Omer Khokhar and Dr. Laura Chauvin. Dr. Dani Dang joining in 2020.

For more information, call: 985.493.4008.