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Cajun Critters Seafood (985.876.1834)
Castalano’s Deli & Catering/The Main Affair (985.853.1090)
Civic Stop/Exxon/Subway (985.917.0504)
CoCo Marina, Inc. (985.594.6626)
Copeland’s of New Orleans (985.873.9600)
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Downtown Jeaux Coffee Cafe (985.346.6669)
Ellendale Country Club-Restaurant (985.872.9924)
Fig Cafe’ (985.262.1909)
Griffin’s Poboy and Grille (985.580.1777)
Ground Part’i of Houma (985.872.3781)
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L&R Seafood (985.346.8072)
Milano/The Patio (985.879.2426)
Off the Hook (985.868.4438)
Peppers Pizzeria (985.872.0006)
PJS Coffee of East Houma (985.262.0622)
Plantation Inn of Houma (985.868.0500)
Plantation Truck Plaza & Casino (985.853.1399)
Premier Catering & Events, Inc.- Grady V’s American Bistro (985.446.0075)
Raising Cane’s Grand Caillou (985.876.1773)
Raising Cane’s MLK (985.219.1430)
ShopRite/Tobacco Plus/Bourbon Street Deli (985.876.0418)
Taco Bell (985.384.3333)
Terrebonne Arc (985.876.4465)
Walk-On’s Bistreaux & Bar (985.262.8501)
Zen Japanese Grill & Sushi Bar (985.879.2195)
A Monthly Publication of the Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce
KEEP YOUR EMPLOYEES HEALTHY AND HAPPY

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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Immediate Past Chairman of the Board  
Chad Hebert  
Safeworx Safety Solutions, LLC  

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Tara Wolfe  
Sales and Membership Coordinator  
tara@hou machamber.com

On the Cover:
Many local businesses have been greatly affected with COVID-19 precautions and mandates. From closures, cancelations, postponements, and alterations to everyday living, what is a small business to do during a disaster or emergency? Check out our website at www.hou machamber.com for our small business resources and tips along with a list of our Chamber Member Restaurants & Grocery Stores information to stay supplied!

Contact Us!

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Notes from the CEO

NICOL BLANCHARD
CEO

The Chamber cares about our members and the community. We are here to provide you with the resources you need during this difficult time. Please visit our website www.houmachamber.com and click on Business Resources. Our small businesses will need help now more than ever. We recommend that you visit our website and Facebook page to become aware of the latest information. We have contacts to resources you will need to sustain your business through this troubling time. Below are a few websites you can contact for assistance:

Small Business Administration (SBA) www.sba.gov SBA has various funding opportunities for small businesses. If you need assistance with application process, contact Louisiana Small Business Development Center at www.lsbdc.org. There is center in Thibodaux on Nicholls State University Campus (South Babington Hall) 322 Audubon Avenue, Thibodaux, LA 70301 or call (985) 493-2587. For more local information and assistance, you can contact Terrebonne Economic Development Authority (TEDA) https://www.tpeda.org/covid19-info (985) 633-1887 and Terrebonne Parish Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness http://tohsep.com/news/covid19 for local and state updates. Also keep in mind the Louisiana Workforce Commission offices are closed to the public, but accessible by phone (985) 876-8990 or email employerservices@lwc.la.gov. The Louisiana Workforce Commission can employers with workforce assistance. Visit their website http://www.laworks.net for the most up-to-date Louisiana Workforce Commission updates. If your business has unemployment insurance questions, please contact EmployerServices@lwc.la.gov. Please make sure to provide your company’s name, a point of contact, telephone number and email address, as well as specifics on the assistance you are requesting. The Employer Call Center is (225) 326-6999 is also available.

We hope these resources are helpful to you. If you need assistance, please contact the Chamber at (985) 876-5600 or info@houma-chamber.com. We are here to help. Thank you for your cooperation.

Happy Anniversary!
Thank you for trusting the Chamber!

Member Milestones  April Anniversaries

30 Years
EMR

20 Years
Terrebonne Foundation for Academic Excellence
South Louisiana Medical Associates

10 Years
Rob Hamilton Construction, Inc.
Hebert Insurance Agency
iConcergence

5 Years
Southern Human Resource Solutions, LLC
Lofton Staffing & Security
Judy Smart

Happy Anniversary! Thank you for trusting the Chamber!
In this unprecedented time filled with uncertainty and fear, I look around and realize why I am so proud to be a resident of Terrebonne Parish and a member of an unbelievable support group, The Houma Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce. Your chamber and its committees have been working together to make sure you are kept informed of all resources available to you and your business during these trying times. We immediately created a page on our website directing you to the most up-to-date information available and have blast emailed important calls or webinars that you should know about. We are a strong community, we have survived much worse and TOGETHER, we will emerge better and stronger. I urge you to use this time productively. Think about what really matters and about what really doesn’t matter. Reach out and help someone in need. Maybe as simple as grabbing an extra milk for a neighbor that can’t or shouldn’t get out. Represent Terrebonne, lead by example showing others what it means to be from the “Good Earth”. Most importantly, be safe and smart. Practice safe distancing, control your sneezes and coughs, refrain from our South Louisiana kissing, hugging, and handshakes for now, wash your hands often and stay home if you exhibit any symptoms then contact your doctor.

The most important thing you can do to help our local businesses and employees is to remember our Chamber Member Restaurants and Grocery stores. The list below shows you who invests in our community by partnering with The Houma Terrebonne Chamber. Terrebonne Parish and the success of local business means something to the businesses listed below. They prove it by their membership and participation in our Chamber. This is a time to show them that we support them and appreciate what they do for our community. PLEASE pickup meals or shop at our fellow members. Show them what being a member of the chamber means. This list will be constantly updated with hours should they change and available from the scrolling banner on the top of our website www.houmachamber.com I ask any member listed to contact the chamber if your hours change so we can distribute the information. Stay smart and safe. This too shall pass.

Chamber Restaurants

- Atchafalaya Golf Course (985.395.4653)
- Big Mike’s BBQ Smokehouse (985.876.4477)
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- Copeland’s of New Orleans (985.873.9600)
- Cristiano Ristorante, Lounge & Wine Boutique (985.223.1130)
- Downtown Jeaux Coffee Cafe’ (985.346.6666)
- Ellendale Country Club-Restaurant (985.872.9924)
- Fig Cafe’ (985.262.1909)
- Griffin’s Poboy and Grille (985.580.1777)
- Ground Pat’i of Houma (985.872.3781)

Chamber Grocery

- Anelas Yoga & Wellness (985.223.9091)
- Bourg Supermarket (985.594.5888)
- Cannata’s Family Market (985.873.9191)
- Gaubert Food Marts Inc. (985.876.2257)
- Piggly Wiggly (985.594.5953)
- Sam’s Club (985.851.3631)
- Walmart Grand Caillou (985.917.0151)

L&R Seafood (985.346.8072)
Milano/The Patio (985.879.2426)
Off the Hook (985.868.4438)
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Walk-On’s Bistreaux & Bar (985.262.8501)
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Thank you for trusting the Chamber!
The U.S. Small Business Administration is offering designated states and territories low-interest federal disaster loans for working capital to small businesses suffering substantial economic injury as a result of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Upon a request received from a state’s or territory’s Governor, SBA will issue under its own authority, as provided by the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act that was recently signed by the President, an Economic Injury Disaster Loan declaration.

- Any such Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance declaration issued by the SBA makes loans available to small businesses and private, non-profit organizations in designated areas of a state or territory to help alleviate economic injury caused by the Coronavirus (COVID-19).
- SBA’s Office of Disaster Assistance will coordinate with the state’s or territory’s Governor to submit the request for Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance.
- Once a declaration is made for designated areas within a state, the information on the application process for Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance will be made available to all affected communities as well as updated on our website: SBA.gov/disaster.
- SBA’s Economic Injury Disaster Loans offer up to $2 million in assistance per small business and can provide vital economic support to small businesses to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue they are experiencing.
- These loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that can’t be paid because of the disaster’s impact. The interest rate is 3.75% for small businesses without credit available elsewhere; businesses with credit available elsewhere are not eligible. The interest rate for non-profits is 2.75%.
- SBA offers loans with long-term repayments in order to keep payments affordable, up to a maximum of 30 years. Terms are determined on a case-by-case basis, based upon each borrower’s ability to repay.
- SBA’s Economic Injury Disaster Loans are just one piece of the expanded focus of the federal government’s coordinated response, and the SBA is strongly committed to providing the most effective and customer-focused response possible.
- For additional information, please contact the SBA disaster assistance customer service center. Call 1-800-659-2955 (TTY: 1-800-877-8339) or e-mail disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.
- Visit SBA.gov/disaster for more information.

Please also check in with the local banks for more information.
SLCC Sees Increase in Student Enrollment This Semester Despite National Declining Trends

South Louisiana Community College is seeing an increase in student enrollment this semester, despite decreasing national trends. The college is also experiencing an increase in enrollment from year-to-year.

According to Debbie Tabchouri, director of Enrollment Management, the college saw a 7 percent increase in enrollment for Spring 2020 compared to Spring 2019. This follows a 5.7 percent increase experienced in the fall 2019 semester.

“Our recruiters, along with everyone in Student Services, works hard each semester to reach new and returning students,” said Tabchouri. “The community college has a lot to offer across Acadiana.”

In addition, the college’s Communications and Marketing team rolled out an aggressive marketing plan that focused on recruitment recently. According to Tabchouri, the effects of that campaign are still being realized.

“Our annual, overall enrollment numbers also increased,” she said. “The college has seen a 5.6 percent increase in enrollment from the 2018 – 2019 academic year. This increase can be attributed to the teamwork between Enrollment Management and Communications and Marketing, along with the work we do on each campus to support retention of students.”

The college’s newest program, in particular, contributed to the increase in overall enrollment. The LPN to RN Transition program launched last Fall at the college’s Opelousas campus.

This accelerated program is for LPNs with at least three years-experience and includes three semesters combined with credit for prior learning.

This program benefits the community in a number of ways including: allowing LPNs an opportunity to become an RN more quickly, providing students the ability to continue working while completing the program, and building upon the skills graduates already possess as nurses.

The college is also retaining students from semester-to-semester. SLCC’s retention rates are above national averages: the retention rate from Fall-to-Spring is 76 percent; while the full-time student retention rate is 81 percent.

“We continue to improve the advising process and are being more creative,” said Saul Broussard, assistant director of Student Success. “We have pop-up advising sessions and are implementing an easier way for students and advisors to communicate.”

Duval Law Firm Announces New Partner and New Associate

The law firm of Duval, Funderburk, Sundbery, Richard and Watkins in Houma, Louisiana, is pleased to announce that attorney Rachel South Boquet is now a partner in the firm, and attorney April Trahan has joined the firm as an associate.

A life-long Houma resident and attorney for over 15 years, Boquet specializes in estate planning, successions, special needs trusts, and continuing tutorships for individuals and families. She has been with the Duval firm since 2017 and also supports its general civil practice. Boquet is member of the New Orleans Estate Planning Council and the National Association of Elder Law Attorneys. Locally, she is a life member of the Junior Auxil-

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www.HoumaChamber.com
Art Contest Celebrates Favorite Childhood Books

Terrebonne Foundation for Academic Excellence (TFAE) is hosting a Books & Banner Art Contest, where students are encouraged to use their creativity to reimagine their favorite book. The contest is open to all children of Terrebonne Parish, ages 4-17 and/or grades Pre-K through 12. Students are asked to redesign the cover of their favorite childhood book. Winning artwork will be made into light post banners that will hang in historic downtown Houma during the summer. All entries will also be featured in an art exhibit at the Terrebonne Main Library.

A full list of guidelines and the registration form can be found at www.tfae.org/what's-new. Deadline to turn in artwork is April 24. TFAE is an independent local non-profit organization that strives to positively affect academic achievement and to fundamentally improve education. TFAE has awarded more than $1.2 million grant dollars to Terrebonne Parish public school teachers and has funded more than 250,000 books for Terrebonne Parish children through the Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library.

Join Us!

New Event!

Pitch your Niche

POSTPONED!

Thursday, April 2 • 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Chamber Office, 6133 Highway 311
Admission is $10 per person for members which includes lunch. Seating is LIMITED, so reserve TODAY! The deadline to register is Wednesday, April 1.

General Membership Luncheon

POSTPONED!

Tuesday, April 28 • 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Courtyard by Marriott, 142 Library Drive
Admission is $25 per person with payment required in advance.
The deadline for pre-reservations and cancellations is 4 p.m. on Wednesday, April 22.
You will need your company’s login and password to register online at www.houmachamber.com. You may call the Chamber office at 876-5600 to request your login and password or to register by phone.

Consolidated Waterworks
District No. 1
Jennifer Hardeman
(985) 879-2495
8814 Main Street
Houma, Louisiana 70363
www.tpcw.org
Utility Companies, Public Water

Insure Shoppe LLC
Diane Authement
(985) 221-7544
1070 West Tunnel Blvd.
Houma, Louisiana 70360
Insurance, Notary Public

Houma Health and Wellness
Windy Adams
(985) 804-0904
410 Corporate Drive
Houma, Louisiana 70360
Health Care, Health, Wellness & Fitness

Associated Staffing Consultants, Inc.
Cassidy Liner
(985) 580-2005
1422 Bayou Blue Road
Houma, Louisiana 70364
www.associatedstaffing.biz

Windye’s Mobile Marketing
Windye Boudreaux
(985) 991-2842
211 Jane Ave.
Houma, Louisiana 70363
wlbtravel.ibuumerang.com
Travel Agent
Vandebilt Catholic High School Announces National Recognition for David Malone, Head Girls Cross Country Coach

David Malone was recently named a Finalist for the National High School Athletic Coaches Association (NHSACA) 2020 National Girls’ Cross Country Coach of the Year Award. Coaches across the nation are nominated for this award in recognition for their achievements in coaching, their years of service to high school sports, and their honors and championships earned while coaching. On July 23, Malone, along with the 7 other finalists, will travel to Lincoln, Nebraska for the National Coach of the Year Awards banquet where the winner will be announced.

Coach Malone has been teaching at Vandebilt Catholic for 18 out of the 20 years of his teaching career. He currently teaches US History to the junior class. Along with cross country, Malone is also the head boys track coach. He has 16 years experience as the head boys and girls cross country coach.

As head coach of the girls cross country team, Malone has won 16 parish titles, 10 district titles, and three state championships. He was named the 2018-2019 Louisiana High School Coaches Association (LHSCA) Girls Cross Country Coach of the Year. After winning the LHSCA Girls Cross Country Coach of the Year award in 2019, Coach Malone stated, “I am very excited to have won this award in a state that has a legacy of highly successful cross country coaches such as Eddie Cole and Pete Boudreaux. This award is a testament to the hard work and dedication that my athletes have put into their craft of running. Without their blood, sweat, and tears, I would never have won this award. It is all about the girls and their ability to perform in the worst possible conditions imaginable for a cross country meet. I owe my success as a coach to their winning spirit and their willingness to compete at the highest level.”

The National High School Athletic Coaches Association serves high school coaches and athletic directors throughout the United States through education, recognition, and support. Their goal is to promote high school athletics and provide professional services and opportunities for all high school coaches. The NHSACA provides resources to promote professional growth, and attitude of teamwork, sportsmanship and healthy lifestyles for Athletes, Coaches, and Athletic Directors.

The Vandebilt community is blessed to have worked alongside David Malone for nearly twenty years, and he epitomizes the qualities that a Catholic educational institution strives to instill in its students and athletes.

CASA Names Rhonda and Bill Lovell as March Advocates of the Month

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 March is Rhonda and Bill Lovell. They were sworn in as CASA volunteers on October 2, 2018. They chose a case with 3 siblings. Bill & Rhonda formed a bond with all three children by consistently visiting them and being their voice in the court room. The older children even have them saved in their phones as “Mama and Papa Bear”. CASA is so fortunate to have such dedicated advocates.

If you are interested in advocating for an abused child from Terrebonne Parish, fill out the online application at www.casaofterrebonne.org. Just like Rhonda & Bill, you can “Change a Child’s Story”. NEW TRAINING CLASS BEGINS April 14, 2020.

Houma Chamber Postpones Upcoming Events

The Houma Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce would like to announce upcoming event postponements and rescheduled events. Please read below for details:

- March 19th Lunch & Learn featuring Senior Business Consultant (Louisiana Small Business Development Center) Jimmy Nguyen has been rescheduled to Tuesday, May 7th.
- March 24th General Membership Luncheon featuring Terrebonne Parish Sheriff Elect Tim Soignet has been postponed to July 28th.
- April 2nd Pitch your Niche event has been postponed to a later undetermined date. Be on the lookout for new date.
- April 28th General Membership Luncheon featuring TEDA CEO Matt Rookard has been postponed to September 22nd.
- The 12th Annual Chamber Golf Classic scheduled for Monday, May 4th has been postponed to an undetermined date. Be on the lookout for new date.

TGMC Names New Emergency Department Medical Director

Terrebonne General Medical Center has named Dr. Brian Roberts as Medical Director of the Emergency Department.

Dr. Roberts became a member of the TGMC family as a student nurse extern in 2002. In 2004, he received his Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Nicholls State University, then continued his education and received his medical degree from American University of the Caribbean in 2009. Upon completing his residency at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge in 2012, he rejoined the TGMC Emergency Department staff in 2013 as a practicing physician.

“We are proud to have Dr. Roberts as Medical Director of our Emergency Department. His knowledge and tenure have made him a valuable asset to our team and we are looking forward to continuing our mission of providing the highest quality care,” said Phyllis Peoples, President and CEO.

In 2019, the TGMC Emergency Department treated over 46,700 patients and was awarded first place for Best Emergency Department two consecutive years in a row by the Courier and Daily Comet.

William Lopez Recognized for Years of Service

Terrebonne General Medical Center has named Dr. Brian Ro Mr. William Lopez, M.S. Dean of Liberal Arts, CDYC & Business at Fletcher Technical Community College, was recognized recently by the City of Thibodaux for the 16 years of service he has provided to the City of Thibodaux as part of the Civil Service Testing and Selection Process for the Thibodaux Police Department promotion and police officer recruits. Mr. Lopez is a retired Lieutenant of the Louisiana State Police, Troop C. He was the head of the Criminal Justice Program for Nicholls State University and Fletcher Technical Community College.

“We are so proud to have Mr. William Lopez as a member of the Fletcher family,” commented Fletcher Chancellor, Dr. Kristine Strickland. “Bill has demonstrated over the years his dedication to educating our future law enforcement and criminal justice workforce and more broadly, a commitment to the betterment of our community. His recognition by the City of Thibodaux is well deserved and we are lucky to have him as a member of our community.”

“I am humbly honored that I was considered for this certificate of appreciation,” commented Mr. Lopez. “It has been my pleasure to serve in this capacity as a representative of State Police, Nicholls State University and most recently Fletcher Technical Community College. I am grateful for this recognition.”
TFAE Recognizes Veteran Educator with Award of Distinction

Terrebonne Foundation for Academic Excellence (TFAE) has named James Charles as the recipient of the 2020 James J. Buquet, Jr. Award of Distinction.

The award is given annually to a Terrebonne Parish public high school graduate recognized for vision and excellence in their chosen field or other areas of personal endeavor. This individual has provided service unselfishly to his or her community, state, nation or internationally.

Mr. Charles has dedicated his life to serving the students of Terrebonne Parish. He began his career as a math teacher at Southdown High School. He taught throughout the parish before becoming an elementary math curriculum specialist, an assistant principal, and coordinator of migrant education. In 1988, he was named the first-ever principal of Ellender Memorial High School. Mr. Charles has also served as supervisor of secondary, adult, and vocational education, Assistant Superintendent, and Interim Superintendent.

An avid volunteer, Mr. Charles also created many enrichment programs for local underprivileged and at-risk youth. He is a 1960 graduate of Southdown High School and received his degree from Southern University. He received an Honorary Doctorate from Southern University in 2019.

The James J. Buquet, Jr. Award was established by TFAE in 2008 to honor Mr. Buquet’s commitment to public education.

Mr. Charles will be honored at the annual TFAE Celebrates Excellence event on March 26 along with the named TFAE Distinguished Scholars and Inspirational Educators.

Fletcher Signs Multiple Agreements with Nicholls State University

Fletcher Technical Community College welcomed leaders from Nicholls State University to campus on Tuesday, March 10, 2020, to sign multiple agreements that will make it easier for the educational goals of many to be reached in the bayou region.

A new partnership was celebrated between Fletcher’s Associate of Science degree in Care and Development of Young Children (CDYC) and Nicholls State University’s Bachelor of Science degree in Birth to Five/Early Interventionist Education.

An updated agreement between Fletcher’s Integrated Production Technologies (IPT) Associate of Applied Science and Nicholls’ Petroleum Services Bachelor’s degree, and an updated cross-enrollment agreement for shared courses between Nicholls State University and Fletcher were also signed.

“I am so pleased to see the Fletcher and Nicholls relationship continue to expand upon the strong foundation set over the years,” commented Fletcher Chancellor, Dr. Kristine Strickland. “Statewide, the partnership that exists between Fletcher and Nicholls has been noted as a model for cooperation in higher education and we are proud to continue this long-standing tradition. The signing of these agreements will provide expanded opportunities for all students in our community to work toward gaining the training and education they need to be successful in the workforce in our region.”

---

Flu Season Is Here!

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Keep your employees healthy and prevent a flu outbreak at your office. Flu shots are quick, easy and may be covered by medical insurance. OMS will even travel to you!

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- Walk-ins welcome at our office
- 144 Valhi Lagoon Crossing in Houma
- We can bill many insurance companies
- Call Us! (985) 223-0032

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Staff healthcare providers are on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
Nicholls State University will Remain Online for Spring Semester

Nicholls State University President, Dr. Jay Clune, released a statement regarding what the remainder of the spring semester will look like.

“The coronavirus situation continues to grow and evolve, but we are steadfast in our commitment to “get better” and not “get by” as we transition to the virtual campus. I will continue to update you daily so you are abreast of the latest information. Please continue to visit the Nicholls FAQ on the emergency website for up-to-date information about the university’s status.

All classes will remain online for the rest of the spring semester. The campus currently remains open, but we are asking that only those employees who have been notified by their supervisor to report to campus do so. We want as many people as possible working remotely to reduce the spread of this virus. Employees who are working remotely should have by now retrieved everything they need from their campus workspaces, as access to campus could become more restricted in the coming days.

We understand that this is also a stressful time for our students. In an effort to lessen the stress on our student employees, we will continue to pay student employees who want to continue to work remotely in the online environment. Student employees should discuss remote work responsibilities with their supervisors.

Residence halls and apartments remain open at this time, but campus residents have been strongly encouraged to go home if they can. Students who completely check out of their rooms before the end of the semester and remove all of their belongings will be eligible for refunds/credits on housing and meals. For campus residents who do not wish to return to campus to collect their belongings will not be eligible for a refund, but there is no additional charge for remaining in your room.

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2020 Woman of Achievement Award Winners Honored for Campus Impact

Nicholls State University recognized an advocate for campus women and veterans, the student body president and a former professor as the 2020 Women of Achievement Award winners.

Brandy Burbante, cataloging librarian at the Ellender Memorial Library, received the faculty/staff award. Emma Bourgeois, Student Government Association president, received the student honor. Linda Stanga, retired instructor of English, receiving the community award. Awards were presented Thursday at the 2020 Bonnie J. Bourg Lecture Series and Women’s History Month Luncheon.

Each winner has contributed to future opportunities for other women, served as a role model for women on campus and contributed to the advancement of their field on campus. In addition to her role with the library, Burbante spends her free time advocating for women and students on campus through the American Association for University Women and Nicholls State Veterans Organization. Burbante is a faculty advisor for the AAUW where she mentors and supports female leaders on campus. In November 2019, she organized an AAUW Veterans Day panel featuring student and alumni women veterans.

A senior health science major from Thibodaux, Bourgeois has been involved in student government since she arrived on campus. Before serving as the SGA President, she was elected as a freshman senator and senator for the College of Nursing and Allied Health. She chaired the SGA Judiciary and Campus Affairs committees before serving as vice president. She is also a member of Phi Mu.

For nearly four decades, Stanga was a staple on the Nicholls campus teaching English and writing courses. During her tenure, she organized the Fletcher Lecture Series which brought internationally recognized writers, radio hosts and filmmakers to campus. She has remained active in the community after her retirement from Nicholls in 2018 as a member of the TaWaSi Civic Club.

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This month we learned about one of Houma's new and unique businesses! Noah J. Lirette, Owner/Operator/Janitor of Bayou Terrebonne Distillers, tells the story of the Houma-based distillery. Noah Lirette was born and raised in Houma, graduating from Terrebonne High School, and LSU with a BS in Finance and later earned an MBA. He's been with the distillery since its origin and is responsible for “keeping the stills hot.” As a Cajun, he was raised in a very industrious and entrepreneurial family, and that's what he credits for his career path. Noah prides the business on home-grown-roots. Bayou Terrebonne Distillers is a marsh-roots company founded the belief that honest joy is distilled from hard work and earned victories, big and small. It is owned and operated by my two cousins, Nick Hebert and Rodney Lirette, and Noah J. Lirette. Their story begins on the bank of Bayou Terrebonne during Prohibition. “Our great grandmother Lily Lirette, Houma’s first Mardi Gras queen and a mooshiner, lit a fire under a small copper pot still, igniting a family tradition. The legend goes that the Revenue turned a blind eye to Lily’s operation because her moonshine was too damn good. Lily’s legend gave birth to Terrebonne Parish’s first distillery nearly a century later.”

The facility is in historic Downtown Houma at 8043 Main Street which is the old Blum & Bergeron Red Bug dried shrimp packing house. The distillery is now open to the public and proudly preserves the building’s rich, century-long history. The distillery has recently released their first product, “Contraband,” a clear corn whiskey dedicated to Lily’s defiant spirit. Noah says they will be releasing a Bourbon named “Good Earth” later this year, so be on the lookout!

Noah says that the most challenging and rewarding part of the job is bringing together all the little pieces of the product/service puzzle to create value for the customers. The distillery brings out Houma’s curious customers who Noah says they appreciate the company’s authenticity. “Bayou Terrebonne Distillers’ purpose is to preserve a family tradition along with the unique culture and beauty of the Bayou Region. That purpose has guided everything we’ve done, from restoring a historic building, to having our stills built locally at an old copper shop. Beginning at 5 AM, our whiskey is handmade from Louisiana corn and is certified by the Department of Agriculture as a LA, Cajun and Craft Beverage product. If nothing else, we hope our customers leave the shop with a greater appreciation for downtown’s beauty and offerings.”

We’re happy the distillery has joined the Chamber family! They have joined to become more involved in the community and Noah says they look forward to attend as many events as possible. The vision for their business coincides with the reason behind joining the Houma Chamber. “The vision is to create a quality product with a quality purpose. That purpose is rooted in community for us. We are hoping the Chamber of Commerce can help fortify our connection with the community.”
Photo Gallery

The Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce partnered with Lafourche, St. Mary and Thibodaux Chambers of Commerce for a Joint Luncheon featuring Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards (center). Special thanks to all of the sponsors and attendees who made this a successful luncheon!

Congratulations to Shell Pipeline on your new 14,000 square foot facility located at 4766 Hwy. 311 in Houma! The new facility will be the headquarters for Shell’s pipeline maintenance for the Gulf of Mexico and will house 50 employees. Welcome to Terrebonne!

Protect what you’ve worked hard for. No matter where you live or what kind of home you have, I can help you find coverage that fits your needs. Plus, Allstate TrueFit® Life Insurance could be customized to help pay off your mortgage so your loved ones have one less thing to worry about if you’re gone. Call me today.

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Let me help you rest easy knowing your family is protected.
Louisiana Prepares for the 2020 Census

A head count is conducted every 10 years since 1790, as required by the U.S. Constitution.

- A Census count is constitutionally mandated for re-apportionment of Congress.
- Census results are used for Redistricting at national, state, and local levels.
- After 2010, LA lost 1 congressional seat.
- Over $675 Billion/year is distributed to state and local governments using Census numbers (Over $4 Trillion over the decade).
- Census data guide decision making on all levels of government and will determine the need for future government services over the next decade.

NEW INITIATIVES DESIGNED TO INCREASE ACCURATE, SELF-RESPONSE

Allowing people to respond anytime, anywhere, via phone or internet. Tests have shown internet self-response is the most cost effective and accurate way.

Reengineering Field Operations- The Census Bureau is eliminating paper and incorporating the use of handheld data collection devices.

- In 2010, 74 percent of households in the United States filled out and mailed back their 2010 Census questionnaires. 65 percent in LA Mailed back theirs.
- In 2010, 47 of the 64 Parishes had Mail Response Rates that were lower than 70 percent.
- The Census provides Low Response Scores by Census Tracts. This score is a tract’s predicted nonresponse rate.
- The map of Low Response Scores allows us to identify areas likely to need additional targeted outreach and field follow-up.
- More 2020 Census info, go to https://2020census.gov/
- One way to ensure success and an accurate Count in the 2020 Census is by forming a Complete Count Committee (CCC).
- Local governments, businesses and community leaders form CCC’s to encourage participation in their community. They develop an outreach plan tailored to the unique characteristics of their community. Then they work together to implement the plan.
- Form or join a CCC in your area and help us spread the word about Census jobs and our jobs website- https://2020census.gov/jobs

Contact your Census Bureau Partnership Specialist, Nilima Mwendo, 678-938-9168, nilima.z.mwendo@2020census.gov, or the Census at Atlanta Partnership Staff 470-889-6530, atlanta.rcc.partnership@census.gov for more information, resources, or to schedule a CCC Workshop.
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March is National Colorectal Cancer Month

Colorectal cancer (commonly called colon cancer) is the third leading cause of cancer-related death for men and women in the U.S.

Due to early detection and treatment, the death rate from colon cancer has been dropping.

PREVENT COLON CANCER:
Regular Screenings Starting at Age 45*

You may need to be screened earlier if you have:

- A close relative diagnosed with colorectal polyps or cancer
- Inflammatory bowel disease, Crohn’s disease or ulcerative colitis
- Other genetic or hereditary syndromes such as FAP or Lynch syndrome

Screening tests can actually stop colon cancer before it starts, or catch it early when treatments are more likely to be successful.

For more information: 985.493.4008

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*Early detection screening guidelines per the American Cancer Society.