In our current COVID-19 climate it’s time to think differently about employee health. With over 65 trusted years of leading edge healthcare experience, TGMC is here to help you and your employees return to work safely.

In response to the current COVID-19 pandemic, TGMC Wellness for Life has the resources to keep you and your workforce healthy and prepared.

- COVID-19 Symptoms & Triage Questionnaire
- Safe to Return: Workplace Guidelines & Tools
- Testing
- Service Guidelines
- Cleaning Protocols

A healthy workforce is a productive workforce! Schedule your Workplace Readiness Assessment by calling 985-850-6214 or visit TGMC.com to learn more.

HOW CAN TGMC HELP YOU?
- Employee Health Risk Screenings
- Virtual Options
- Wellness Tips
- Helpful Educational Resources
- Continuous COVID-19 Updates
- Nurse Hotline for Frequently Asked Questions
### SEPTEMBER 2020:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/1</td>
<td>Chamber Development Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Chamber Office/Virtual</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/7</td>
<td>Happy Labor Day!</td>
<td>Chamber Office Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/9</td>
<td>Chamber Finance Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Chamber Office/Virtual</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>7:30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/9</td>
<td>Chamber Executive Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Chamber Office/Virtual</td>
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<td>8:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/9</td>
<td>Chamber Government Activities &amp; Economic Development/Infrastructure</td>
<td>Chamber Office/Virtual</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Committee Meetings</td>
<td>Noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/10</td>
<td>Pitch Your Niche</td>
<td>Chamber Office/Virtual</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/15</td>
<td>Chamber Board of Directors Meeting</td>
<td>Chamber Office/Virtual</td>
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<td>8:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/16</td>
<td>Chamber Community Development (Education &amp; Healthcare) Meeting</td>
<td>Chamber Office/Virtual</td>
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<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/22</td>
<td>General Membership Luncheon</td>
<td>Matt Rookard with Terrebonne Economic Development Authority (TEDA)</td>
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<td>Courtyard by Marriott</td>
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<td>11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/29</td>
<td>Third Annual Chamber Cornhole Challenge</td>
<td>Southdown Plantation’s Buquet Pavilion</td>
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<tr>
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<td>3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

Events in red denotes Chamber events

### IN THIS ISSUE:

The Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce contacted candidates running for City Marshal, City of Houma, District Judge 32nd Judicial District Court Division A & E (pages 4 & 5), an article from the Office of Public Health, Region 3 on Fact and Fiction of COVID-19 (pages 8 & 9), New Member Spotlight with Golden Eve Photography, and what’s going on with our members in the member news section!

### Member Milestones

**20 Years**
- Cristiano Ristorante, Lounge & Wine Boutique

**15 Years**
- Kiwanis Club of Houma

**5 Years**
- Candlewood Suites

Happy Anniversary! Thank you for trusting the Chamber!

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### 2020 OFFICERS:

- **Chairman of the Board**
  - Chuck Weaver Jr.
  - South Louisiana Financial Services

- **Chairman-Elect**
  - Michael Garcia, M.D.
  - South Louisiana Medical Associates

- **Treasurer**
  - William “Bill” Eroche
  - Watkins, Walker, Eroche and Hoychick, Attorneys at Law

- **Vice Chair-Community Development Division**
  - Kristine Strickland, Ph.D.
  - Fletcher Technical Community College

- **Vice Chair-Chamber Development Division**
  - LaDonna Cruse
  - Stephanie Hebert Insurance Agency

- **Vice Chair-Infrastructure & Economic Development Division**
  - Mitchell Marmande
  - Delta Coast Consultants, LLC

- **Vice Chair-Government Activities Division**
  - Nicholas “Nick” Hebert
  - Quality Energy Services

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

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### 2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

- **Melissa Adams**
  - Danos
  - CEO, Southern Human Resource Solutions, LLC

- **Deanne Benoit**
  - Southern Human Resource Solutions, LLC

- **Carleton Casey, Jr.**
  - Buquet Distributing Company

- **Kevin Champagne**
  - MacDonell United Methodist Children’s Services

- **Monique Crochet**
  - Nicholls State University

- **Kevin Ghirardi**
  - Terrebonne General Medical Center

- **Charles Kornegay**
  - Trapp Cadillac-Chevrolet, Inc.

- **Brett Means**
  - Synergy Bank

- **Janel Ricca**
  - b1BANK

- **Blanca Robinson**
  - VIVA Consulting Group, LLC

- **John Rogers**
  - b1BANK

- **Brian Rushing**
  - Rushing Media

---

### STAFF:

- **Nicol Blanchard**
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- **Cyndi Wilson**
  - Executive Assistant
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- **Tara Wolfe**
  - Sales and Membership Coordinator
  - tara@houmachamber.com

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6133 Hwy.311 | Houma, LA 70360 | 985.876.5600 | Fax 985.876.5611 | www.houmachamber.com
Getting to know our candidates

District Judge 32nd Judicial Court, Division A

“Being a judge means a lot to me. I don’t take for granted the important responsibility that comes with the position of district court judge. It’s more than a political office. It’s having the decision-making power over very personal circumstances and life-altering court cases for the parties involved. It’s having the personality, the demeanor and the patience to interact with people on a daily basis. I am prepared to rule with a heavy hand while extending compassion to the parties in unfortunate positions.

Having witnessed the economic and societal costs of recidivism in criminal court, I support the efforts for rehabilitation and specialty courts. Neither the court system nor the jails were designed to fix people. It takes a combination of intentionality and creative solutions to make a difference in the court system, and I’m prepared to offer just that.

More than anything, Terrebonne needs an independent judiciary. What I offer the people of Terrebonne Parish is something new, an opportunity to move forward. I have developed wonderful relationships with my colleagues, but I have not and cannot be bought. I will rule in accordance with the law and jurisprudence without taking into consideration any bias or prejudice. I will give parties an equal opportunity to be heard, and I will bring due diligence to the research and decision-making component of the job. With diversity in leadership, we can move forward as a united community for the people.” - Teresa King

District Judge 32nd Judicial Court, Division E

“My name is Randy Bethancourt and I am running for re-election as Judge for Division E in Terrebonne Parish. With confidence in my judicial record, professional education, community service and charitable efforts, I humbly ask for your support. The honor of being your judge for 17 ½ years has allowed me to see many of you in my Court as litigants, jurors, witnesses, or students. I have met many more people in our local schools, businesses, and sporting events.

My campaign platform is the same platform I ran on 18 years ago. My pledge was to be a conservative, compassionate, and fair judge. I feel confident that I have done that and have grown each year to be the best judge I can be. Being the Chief Judge and judge on duty during Hurricane Katrina, presiding over a serial killer case, have served as constant reminders the serious responsibility a judge has to dispense justice consistently and efficiently. This experience has also been enhanced by presiding over literally thousands of civil and criminal cases in my career. If elected, I will continue to strive to maintain that judicial excellence that has been an honor to provide for all citizens that appear in my courtroom.

I love the job you have entrusted me with for all these years. It is a privilege to be your judge, and my dedication to that obligation has not wavered. When I am addressed as “Your Honor” it is a constant and daily reminder that it is the people of Terrebonne Parish who have honored me to be your judge. That is what fuels me to seek another term on the bench for Division E, on November 3, 2020. I am excited to reach out to as many people as possible, under current conditions, and ask for your continued support. Please vote for me, Randy Bethancourt, (#74) on Tuesday November 3, 2020.” - Randall L. Bethancourt
Agreements (NC-SARA) to offer distance learning have been accepted as a member of the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA), which streamline regulations around distance education programs.

SARA helps expand students’ access to educational opportunities and ensures more efficient, consistent, and effective regulation of distance learning programs. It is a voluntary agreement among member states, districts, and territories; entities that no longer wish to participate in SARA may simply withdraw from the agreement. As of December 2019, 2,040 institutions in 49 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands are all voluntary members of SARA. Participating colleges and universities must adhere to stringent requirements, including accreditation and remaining in good financial standing.

“Fletcher Technical Community College continues to find new and innovative ways to provide access to our affordable education and training opportunities,” commented Fletcher Chancellor Dr. Kristine Strickland. “The pandemic has continued to demonstrate the importance of finding various methods for teaching and we know that online educational opportunities are essential to many to gain access to high wage, high demand jobs that will allow everyone a chance to participate in the recovery of our communities. This agreement continues to strengthen the value of a Fletcher education and enables more individuals to access the training and education they need.”

“Distance education programs are creating novel, more flexible learning opportunities for students, and we’re excited to develop quality online programming that is accessible to students both locally and across state lines,” commented Kasi Guillot, Dean of Fletcher’s Global Online Division. “As the pandemic continues to create upheaval in higher education this fall, the NC SARA agreement ensures we can continue to deliver a high-quality education for Fletcher students in the face of turmoil.”

Benefits of SARA include the improvement of the quality of distance education, a reduction of costs and bureaucracy for states and institutions, and it makes it easier for students to access online courses across state lines.

Fletcher Receives Approval to Offer Distance Education in Other States

City Marshal City Court, City of Houma

“Working for the People- I was born and raised in Terrebonne Parish, raised by the late Vivian Fitch known by many as “Momma Fitch.” I am blessed to be the father of 3 children, Tiffany, Todd and Zoe and engaged to my fiancée Mia Martinex. For 30 years I have served as a volunteer firefighter, I have been a Mason since 1995, as well as a Shriner. I currently hold the position of Lieutenant with the Terrebonne Parish Sheriff’s Office, having been employed with them for 31 years as well as a member of the Brothers in Blue Motorcycle Chapter. Most of my adult life has been dedicated to serving and helping the wonderful people throughout our parish and other parish. Now I would like to further my services by asking for your support and vote in this year’s election for the office of City Marshal. I thank you all for your time and would greatly appreciate your support. God bless you all and God Bless America.” - Herbert Fitch

“To the Residents of Terrebonne Parish, I’m Randy Pijor, and I am running for the Office of City Marshal. I am a resident of Terrebonne Parish and am married to Monique Pijor. Together, we have five children and six grandchildren. I am a retired Captain with the Terrebonne Parish Sheriff’s Office after serving for 32 years. I began in Uniform Patrol in 1978 and was promoted as Shift Lieutenant. I held the positions of Detective, Assistant Chief of the Detectives Bureau, Narcotics Agent, Assistant Warden at the Terrebonne Parish Criminal Justice Complex and Criminal Justice Annex Supervisor. I was also an active member of the Special Weapons and Tactics (S.W.A.T.) Team, an Arson Investigator, and worked in the Human Resources and Internal Affairs departments. During my tenure with the Sheriff’s Office I also participated in re-writing the entire policy and procedures manual. I am currently employed by Ochsner/LCMC Security. During my career I have handled numerous investigations, interviews and interrogations, executed search warrants, arrest warrants, and served civil papers, transported suspects and prisoners to and from Court and provided Courtroom and Judiciary Security detail. I am very confident, if elected, that I can bring new life into the position of Terrebonne Parish City Marshal. It is my desire to modernize and streamline the department’s functions through establishing better relationships with both law enforcement agencies and the judicial system, and improving upon, and creating, meaningful policies and procedures. If you are seeing Accountability and Positive Change, please vote Pijor for City Marshal. Thank you.”- Randy Pijor

Thibodaux Regional Health System Partners with Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux for Students Safe Return to School

Thibodaux Regional Health System is pleased to announce that it has partnered with the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux to provide a safe return to school for its students and faculty during the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic.

“During these unprecedented times, Thibodaux Regional has been a leader in helping people navigate the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Greg Stock, Thibodaux Regional CEO. “Providing guidance and support to the schools is another way that we can positively impact the safety and well-being of our region.”

“We appreciate the opportunity to work with the Diocese, school administrators, leaders, and teachers in this endeavor,” continued Stock. “We continuously strive to make a difference in the health and wellness of the people in our region.”

“Working with Thibodaux Regional Health System affords us just that opportunity.”

“Our plans for a safe return of our students, teachers, and staffs to our schools is best supported in collaboration with medical professionals who can provide us with best practices in this area,” said Suzanne Troxclair, M.Ed., Superintendent, Office of Catholic Schools, Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux. “Working with Thibodaux Regional Health System affords us just that opportunity.”

“The services provided through this collaborative effort assists us in providing a safer return to our campuses, while allowing us to continue providing an outstanding academic education in a Christ-centered environment,” added Troxclair.
New Member Spotlight

Golden Eve Photography

We love the passion of our New Members. They come into the Chamber family fired up, eyes facing forward, and are usually networking fiends. This month we are featuring New Chamber Member Golden Eve Photography. We sat with owner Sarah Dickerson to learn more about her business.

Sarah was born in New Orleans. She attended Nicholls State University where she earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts with a concentration in photography, a bachelor’s in general studies, a minor in Art History, and a second minor in humanities. She immediately returned to her beloved New Orleans area living in Gentilly. It was there she worked at the Historic New Orleans Collection and thrived in the hustle of the Quarter. She met her husband and moved back to Terrebonne Parish to live in Chacahoula. After marriage in 2016, they welcomed a son in 2018. She values family over everything and her time with them is more precious than nearly anything else. She is a full-time juggler; she works full-time, takes care of her family which includes a 4-legged baby, and is striving to get her small business thriving. Photography is a true passion of hers and has been since childhood. She said she still remembers playing with film cameras in primary school and impatiently waiting for the developments to return. Researching new practices, networking with fellow photographers, and practicing new techniques has never been a problem for her because she genuinely loves photography and “does it for fun.” The marketing, on the other hand, is the reason her business took a while to come about. This brings us to the fruition of Golden Eve Photography which was created with an LLC in January of 2019 with the genre set in portrait photography.

Golden Eve Photography is a company of one with all the focus and energy placed in customer care. The business was created to fill a gap that Houma has for quality customer service in the photography field. She feels most photographers address the modern needs of clients: quick, fast, one-size-fits all, with digital photographs. She feels it isn’t a problem, but it does neglect a large portion of the community that still desires tangible heirlooms that can be treasured for years to come. This is what her business stands on. She created a company that is entirely hands-on. From beginning to end, she assists each client with professional guidance. She even does into their closets, helps choo the best wardrobe choices that will be both flattering and photograph well. She also removes stress of how to organize the new wall art by designing various options. She likes to discuss media, format, size options, and more with her clients. Each image is designed to show off the unique beauty within each person. Raw, unique, and authentic is what she strives for in each image. The company is young, but it has grown impressively in the past year and a half. Golden Eve Photography is a member of the Professional Photographers of America (PPS; a prestigious networking group) and has recently been entered into the International Photography Competition. Should it win, it will receive publication in the monthly PPA magazine and will be displayed at the annual PPA conference.
Sarah wants her clients to know their beauty. “I want them to leave with a renewed sense of hope and love for themselves, their family, and their homes.” She says the work of a true photographer is to capture the soul and essence of each person they photograph. “My clients love the products they receive. They love the degree of quality and sustainability that comes as a side dish to the memorialized moment of themselves, their children, or their family.” She goes on to tell a beautiful story of visiting a family she has shot for and the toddler grabs her hand, takes her to her room, and excitedly shows her the pictures on her wall. She was so proud! “It brought tears to my eyes to know that little child was touched so by seeing herself on her family’s walls.”

Sarah joined the Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce in hopes of creating new alliances, new friendships, and helping other small businesses fulfill their dreams. “I want my company to help nourish the community and believe joining the Chamber is the first step in that direction.” She plans to attend as many events as possible. She admits that as a new member and new to the events, she will be a little hesitant to volunteer, however she wants to become an active member!

“My vision is to create a sustainable company that can be financially support itself, provide clients with products that will last for generations to come, and create a symbol of love, support and authenticity within the community...Both the company and I have a long road ahead of us, but I’m pumped, excited, and determined to make these dreams happen.”
In August, the Chamber’s Community Development Committee visited with Dr. Chip Riggins, MD, MPH, Medical Director of the Louisiana Region 3 Office of Public Health (OPH), to discuss the facts and debunk the fiction about COVID-19 in our region. The FOCUS is following up on the discussion.

The back-to-school season is reinforcing the importance of understanding facts as best we know them and putting them to good use in the battle with COVID-19. It’s also a reminder that data is a strong foundation for making community and personal health decisions. However, in this era of social media, fictional rumors can spread faster than factual information about COVID-19 and lead to the misinterpretation or misuse of health information.

"Through analysis and interpretation of data, the Office of Public Health continually works to clarify health information that can help with local decision-making," explains Dr. Chip Riggins, who guides public health in the bayou and river parishes. He reaffirms that the global COVID-19 pandemic is a tragic reality, and the subsequent economic conditions amplify the need for the local business community and OPH to be solid partners in the recovery.

“The better we understand our local data, the more effective we can be as partners to develop strong communities,” Dr. Riggins affirms. “It’s a growing partnership between OPH and the Chamber and will be crucial as we move beyond the response phase to the recovery phase of this disaster. That’s when we can leverage our resiliency to address local conditions that continually put local people at risk for poor health outcomes.”

Words of Wisdom

The last thing a workplace wants to have on social media is that their organization had to close due to widespread COVID cases among staff or has been accused of spreading COVID-19. It’s not what the OPH wants to see, either, says Dr. Riggins, but it’s a daily occurrence and requires constant measures to clarify facts and correct any fictions.

During this pandemic, he said many local businesses have heard from Penny Cuneo, RN, BSN, when their workplace has had multiple cases of COVID. Penny is part of the local community and her help has been gratefully received by business owners who have questions.

"Some people are reluctant to talk with me at first, but by the time we hang up, they are very appreciative of our explanations and guidance,” says Cuneo. "It’s been a little crazy, but it’s also very rewarding work."

Navigating the right way to do self-quarantine and isolation can be very confusing, Dr. Riggins adds. "We want businesses to know that along with their local Emergency Preparedness and health system partners, OPH specialists are available to offer non-judgmental, technical assistance for improving health practices during the COVID pandemic and beyond." It’s a broad team including epidemiologists, nurses, emergency preparedness coordinators, nutritionists, water specialists, health educators, and sanitarians.

COVID-19: Quarantine vs. Isolation

| QUARANTINE keeps someone who was in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 away from others. |
| ISOLATION keeps someone who is sick or tested positive for COVID-19 without symptoms away from others, even in their own home. |

Local school system leaders worked with public health professionals throughout the summer to plan for safely re-engaging the teachers, support staff, and their customers—the students and their families, during the COVID19 pandemic. Guidance from the CDC and Louisiana Dept. of Health was adopted by daycare, K-12, and higher education systems in Louisiana. With input from local education stakeholders, including governmental, civic, business, healthcare, faith, tribal and family leaders, campuses reopened in creative ways with fingers crossed for good health outcomes this fall.

That collaborative planning approach applies to other workplaces. It puts the well-being of workers and customers first when adapting spaces, systems, and resources to the health and safety guidance provided by health industry experts. Dr. Riggins points to samples of infographics for environmental protections, operational policies, and system modifications that are readily available online.
Stewardship for the future

“We’re also keenly aware that key local industries like agriculture, oil and gas, healthcare, and hospitality-tourism are feeling the impact of COVID-19,” says Jeanne Solis, Community Health Improvement Specialist for OPH in Region 3. As a liaison to community partners, she has been witnessing how COVID-19 has tested leadership resilience and inspired impressive stewardship at the local levels. The engagement in public health among Chamber members is sparking collaborations during COVID-19 aimed at maintaining healthier communities in the recovery phase ahead.

Health equity will take center stage as this decade unfolds, Solis predicts. With technical assistance from the Governor’s new Task Force on Health Equity, local engagement in the State Health Assessment (SHA) 2021, and the alignment with local action plans will need stewardship in every sector.

‘Tis the season

“We’ve joked in the past that the four seasons of south Louisiana are Mardi Gras, crawfish, shrimp, and football,” says Dr. Riggins. But our spring, summer, and fall seasons of 2020 have clearly been overshadowed by the unprecedented Stay-at-Home orders and the early phases of reopening safely during COVID-19.

“If we had a crystal ball and could foresee the upcoming holiday season, I think we would discover that COVID-19 will still be with us,” concedes Dr. Riggins. “Planning together now for that reality is vital to maintaining a relative leg up on this virus.

Dr. Riggins stresses characteristics of stewardship that we must maintain: our collective vigilance, our patience with the inconveniences in each phase, and resisting the urge to see our status as completely ‘closed down’ or ‘wide open.’ For now, we’re teetering somewhere between pandemic response and recovery.

“For OPH and its health system partners, planning for the convergence of Gulf Coast storms, harvest season challenges, flu season and COVID leaves little time for innovation,” Dr. Riggins admits. So, the creative, entrepreneurial skills of local Chamber members are a welcome element of the public health system to save as many lives as possible during the COVID pandemic. That’s not an urban legend, says Dr. Riggins, “it’s a fact!”

FACT VERSUS FICTION

DR. RIGGINS SETS THE FACTS STRAIGHT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FICTION</th>
<th>FACT</th>
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<tr>
<td>It’s okay to mingle in public places after I’ve been in close contact with a COVID-19 sick person.</td>
<td>The Preventive methods of self-Quarantine and self-isolation help to reduce spread.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of cases and deaths reported by health officials is exaggerated.</td>
<td>Current research indicates that COVID19 positive cases and death rates are under-counted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masks are just a political statement.</td>
<td>Worn properly, masks can prevent the spread of COVID19 between people, and help to reduce COVID-related illness or death.</td>
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Dr. Riggins: “If you know you’ve been exposed to a COVID-sick person, stay home and away from others, and cooperate with Dept. of Health contact tracers.”

Dr. Riggins: "The Dept. of Health transparently reports the data it receives. We are likely to be under-counting, not over-counting, the victims of this slow-motion disaster."

Dr. Riggins: “People of all ages and affiliations can be infected by COVID19. Choosing not to wear a mask when in close contact with others displays a sad lack of humanity.”

Aspen University & Fletcher Community College Add New Credit Transfer Agreements for Nursing

In a virtual signing ceremony on July 15, Aspen University and Fletcher Technical Community College (Fletcher) signed articulation agreements between their nursing programs making it easier for students to transfer credits from Fletcher to Aspen University.

As a result of the agreement, Fletcher students will now be able to complete the Associate of Science in Nursing and transfer credit hours earned in the various concentrations within that degree and apply them toward completion of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Aspen University.

The agreement was announced and signed by Aspen Provost, Dr. Kevin Thrasher, and Fletcher Technical Community College Chancellor, Dr. Kristine Strickland.

“Because of our shared student and community-centric values, we at Aspen University are excited to embark on an alliance with Fletcher Technical Community College where together we can provide high-quality, affordable, and flexible pathways for students to further advance their educational goals,” commented Aspen Provost, Dr. Kevin Thrasher.

“We are pleased to sign this articulation agreement with Aspen University,” said Fletcher Chancellor Dr. Kristine Strickland. “Fletcher Technical Community College knows that each students’ educational journey is unique and opportunities to further their education are unique as well. This is why Fletcher Technical Community College continues to expand transfer options for students. We are happy that our students will now have Aspen University as an option.”

O M S is here to answer your Coronavirus concerns

Our prayers are with our community.

Since 1997, Occupational Medicine Services, LLS (OMS) has provided medical and testing services for business and industry at our clinic in Houma. Today, our certified staff remains committed to delivering quality care efficiently to promote your employees’ health.

• Pre-Employment Testing and Annual Physicals
• Drug & Alcohol Screening
• Ergonomic & Agility Assessments
• Onsite Testing
• Injury Care

OMS
Occupational Medicine Services
Celebrating 23 Years

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As a means to address the severe saltwater intrusion continuously flooding and affecting the parish’s drinking water supply as far north as Houma in the late 90s/early 2000s, the Houma Navigation Canal Lock Complex project was conceived and design was developed as part of the Louisiana Coastal Area Study, later becoming an integral inclusion of the Morganza-to-the-Gulf hurricane protection system which protects approximately 150,000 residents of Lafourche and Terrebonne parishes. The Houma Navigation Canal Lock Complex independently moved to a 50 percent design milestone at the same time Hurricane Katrina and Rita hit Louisiana’s coast in 2005. The catastrophic effects of these storms on local structures resulted in the changing of design standards in Louisiana, halting the progress on the Houma Navigation Canal Lock Complex project. However, the project’s obstacles were continuously met with innovative design and financing solutions as funds from the 2010 Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) and Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (RESTORE Council) offered additional support to continue project design and begin construction. With final plans and specifications scheduled for August of 2020, the first phase of construction of the Houma Navigation Canal Lock Complex is on track to begin later this year. For what is predicted to be a four-year process, the targeted date of construction completion is the close of year 2024.

“The Houma Navigation Canal Lock has always been the anchor for restoring this part of the Bayou Region, providing benefits well beyond the protection afforded through the Morganza to the Gulf system,” said Terrebonne Levee and Conservation District Executive Director Reggie Dupre, Jr. “We have taken careful consideration to design a complex with far-reaching environmental benefits by distributing freshwater into the basin and keeping salt water at bay, but also making critical accommodations for business and industry to continue to thrive along our working coast.”

The physical components of the HNC Lock Complex include a 110 x 800-foot lock chamber with both a flood side gate and a protected side gate; adjacent to the lock chamber would be the existing 250-footwide Bubba Dove barge floodgate. The two components will be tied together by a braced flood wall across the channel, and work in concert to allow larger marine vessels to traverse in and out of the canal. The HNC Lock Complex would also act as a midpoint, tying together “Reach G” and “Reach F” of the Morganza-to-the-Gulf hurricane protection system.

This large-scale, multidimensional hydrologic restoration project provides numerous benefits by incorporating environmental, protection, navigation and commercial features; a great reflection in the main goals of coastal restoration, flood protection, and resiliency of economy in the State’s Coastal Master Plan. Environmentally, the Houma Navigation Canal Lock Complex provides restoration opportunities to the thousands of critically-starved acres of wetlands in Terrebonne Basin by limiting saltwater intrusion with the manipulation and dispersal of fresh water. The HNC Lock Complex will work in tandem with the Increase Atchafalaya Flow to Terrebonne project (TE-0110) to manage further freshwater flow into the basin, nourishing the wildlife and fisheries habitat and aiding in salt-induced land loss. Additionally, the Houma Navigation Canal lock complex uniquely allows for safe harbor navigation of marine traffic without simultaneously flooding the canal with salt water from the south. As mentioned, this project will provide critical flood protection by resisting storm surge that could inundate surrounding communities as a key feature of the Morganza-to-the-Gulf hurricane protection system.

This project largely exhibits the great benefits that can be achieved through collaboration of local, state and federal efforts to effectively implement a large-scale project capable of withstanding the complex coastal challenges the Bayou Region faces. Marrying aspects of environmental and ecological benefits, in addition to crucial flood protection, the Houma Navigation Canal Lock Complex validates and underscores the meaning behind a “working coast.”

Since 1972, locally owned Terminix Pest Control of Houma has proudly served Bayou Region businesses and residents. Put our power to work fighting all pests—from termites and mice to roaches and crazy ants. Call the Bayou Team, Dan and Billy Foster, today for a FREE inspection and a FREE quote to make your business or home pest-free!
Meet a CASA: Beth Tabor

We would like to introduce you to a fairly new CASA volunteer, Beth Tabor. Beth was born in Bitburg, Germany when her father was stationed there while serving in the U.S. Air Force. Beth has been “home” in Louisiana for about 15 years now. Both of her parents were born and raised in the Morgan City area.

In her spare time Beth enjoys doing cross-fit 5-6 times a week usually at 5 am. She sometimes goes twice a day! She works for Rushing Media in sales to help local businesses grow through local advertising. Her job is what brought her to CASA when she was assigned to the CASA account. When she researched how to best help CASA grow, she became inspired to join and she and her partner, Brian Elliot, both signed up for the training classes. Beth stated that she chose to become active in CASA because she felt it would give her an opportunity to do something for her community and make a difference in a young person’s life.

Beth was sworn in as a CASA volunteer on March 12, 2020. She, along with the rest of her class, have had a unique CASA experience thus far as they swore in the day before Louisiana began the lockdown for COVID-19. She accepted a case and was given the normal tasks -- see your child, talk to the case worker, reach out to teachers/counselors and report back. She had to be really creative to the fear of schedule conflicts with work and court went out the window when I learned how spread out the dates are. Also, when my coworkers found out what I was doing, they were all so supportive and proud. I knew I would be able to make it work.”

Golden Eve Photography is Now Full-Time Luxury Portrait Studio

Have you ever reached into the back of the closet only to find a shoebox of old photographs? As you flip through, you suddenly discover one that really hits home. As you sit holding the image, you start to reminisce about the person or place within. In that moment, that one scrap of paper in your hands suddenly becomes so much more. It becomes a lifeline to a loved one since passed. It becomes the photo you tuck into a safe spot that allows you to spend a few moments with it each day. It may even be you as a young child running barefoot through the grass. But, in that moment, it’s not the dozens of images you have on your phone or the random memories popping up on your news feed, but the sheer presence of that single precious image, created with a quality that has lasted through the years. It’s with the best of intentions that we plan to schedule a family session, but with work, life, and the same family, it never happens, and sadly, another year passes by. But when was the last time you pondered what will remain when you’re gone? Will your grandchildren have that perfect moment of experiencing the “shoebox”? With Golden Eve Photography, you never have to worry. Guided by experienced hands, you’ll be taken care of. From wardrobe selection, hair, and makeup, design of portraits, and finally, to installation, each client leaves with an heirloom that stands the test of time. Golden Eve Photography, now a full-time luxury portrait studio.
Cardiovascular Institute of The South Is Named One of The Best Places to Work in Healthcare

Cardiovascular Institute of the South (CIS) has been selected by Modern Healthcare as one of the 2020 Best Places to Work in Healthcare. The complete list of this year’s winners, in alphabetical order, is available at ModernHealthcare.com/bestplaceslist.

“It has been an especially trying year for the world, and healthcare in particular as COVID-19 ravages our communities and your workplaces,” said Aurora Aguilar, Modern Healthcare’s editor. “But the organizations recognized on this year’s list rose to the top and continued to be a source of strength for their teammates. They have seen their colleagues fall ill to the virus and struggled with the economic impact of the pandemic. The loyalty and trust between employers and their workers is being put to the test now more than ever. We congratulate the Best Places to Work in Healthcare for continuing to serve their workforce and communities during such an unprecedented time.”

“Our physician-led, employee-driven culture has always been the key ingredient in our success at CIS,” said CIS CEO David Konur, FACHE. “Now more than ever, our team has shown amazing perseverance through these difficult times, and their commitment to our patients has been nothing short of exceptional.”

This award program identifies and recognizes outstanding employers in the healthcare industry nationwide. Modern Healthcare partners with the Best Companies Group on the assessment process, which includes an extensive employee survey.

Cardiovascular Institute of the South will be recognized at the 2020 Best Places to Work in Healthcare awards gala taking place virtually on October 8 in conjunction with the Workplace of the Future Conference. Information on the award celebration and conference is available at ModernHealthcare.com/WOTF. To learn more about CIS, visit www.cardio.com.

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Join Us!
for our September events

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON
Tuesday, September 22 • 11:30 am-1:00 pm
Courtyard by Marriott, 142 Library Drive
Guest Speakers: Matt Rookard with Terrebonne Economic Development Authority (TEDA)
Admission is $25 per Chamber member and $30 per non-Chamber member with payment required in advance. No walk-ups allowed. The registration and cancelation deadline is Wednesday, June 17th. Call the Chamber office at 985-876-5600 or email info@houmachamber.com to get more information and to register. SEATS ARE LIMITED and details are subject to change depending on the latest COVID-19 mandates.

CHAMBER CORNHOLE CHALLENGE
Tuesday, September 29 • 3:00 - 8:00 PM
Southdown Plantation’s Buquet Pavilion, 1208 Museum Drive, Houma
The Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce will host its Third Annual Cornhole Tournament in partnership with Southdown Plantation. Teams are invited to register! This is a double-elimination tournament and includes refreshments. Space is limited, so please register today! This event is OPEN TO THE PUBLIC! Fees are $40 per 2-person Chamber member team, $50 per non-Chamber member two-person team. Deadline to register is Wednesday, September 23rd. Call the Chamber office at (985) 876-5600 or email heidi@houmachamber.com for more information.

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

Members,

Our Chamber was asked to support the plan drafted by Councilwoman Jessica Domangue, District 5. Your executive board met quickly and unanimously agreed to ask for a full board vote. The board agreed to support the plan and the letter of support also attached was sent to the Council yesterday. Government Activities Chair, Nick Hebert spoke on behalf of our Chamber expressing support. We applaud those council members that voted in favor of accepting the plan. The six voting in favor were Carl “Carlee” Harding, Jessica Domangue, Darrin Guidry, Steve Trosclair, John Navy, and John Amedée. Three opposed were Danny Babin, Dirk Guidry, Gerald Michel. According to the plan, the task force recommendations will be put to a vote of the people, the taxpayers who pay mileages to support recreation and enjoy the facilities that enhance Terrebonne Parish. Our compliments again to Councilwoman Jessica Domangue for her leadership, putting this long overdue matter before the council and bringing this to Terrebonne Parish voters. We also commend the council members that supported her efforts for the good of all of Terrebonne Parish, not just one district. The council meeting and discussion can be viewed on Facebook. The discussion can be heard at an hour and 15 minutes into the video. Please visit our website at www.houmachamber.com to read the plan and support letter in the news section.

Thank you for being a part of your Chamber. We are here to represent you and welcome your participation in all our events and committees.

Chuck Weaver, Jr.
Chairman of Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce

New Members

Kevin D. Thompson
(985) 876-4399
7921 Park Ave., Houma Louisiana 70360
Attorney’s, Legal Services

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www.legacyrandr.com
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Bond Youth & Community
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(985) 381-4861
422 Kleinpeter
Thibodaux, Louisiana 70301
Non-Profit Organizations

QHS Learning Academy, LLC
Gena Ross
(985) 346-6791
580 Corporate Dr.
Houma, Louisiana 70360
www.qhslearningacademy.com
Education
TFAE Announces New Grant Opportunity in Light of COVID-19 Challenges

Terrebonne Foundation for Academic Excellence (TFAE) announces new grant offering to help local public school educators with traditional and virtual learning classroom needs in light of challenges and restrictions presented by pandemic.

“We recognize that this school year will look very different for our teachers and students,” Katie Portier, TFAE Executive Director, said. “With these new guidelines and options for learning comes additional needs in a classroom – whether it’s a traditional classroom or a virtual one. We hope that by offering this special grant we can help in creating a positive experience in a challenging time.”

Brief synopsis of all TFAE Grants available for the 2020-2021 school year:

**TFAE Covid-19 Challenges Grants:**
Special grant offered for the 2020-2021 school year to assist teachers with resources needed to teach effectively (traditionally and/or virtually) while maintaining a safe environment. Allowable expenditures can include but are not limited to additional supplies, technology, student storage items, software, etc. Teachers can submit a grant application for up to $1000 in grant funding.

**Innovative Ed-Venture Grants:**
TFAE Innovative Ed-Venture Grants are designed to encourage teachers to incorporate innovative, educational, and developmental activities into their classroom curriculum to provide students with an exciting approach to the learning process. There is no limit to the amount a teacher can request for this grant.

**New Teacher Grants:**
The New Teacher Grant allows new educators to stock their classrooms with the supplies needed to be ready for students. Allowable expenditures include but are not limited to paper, pencils, storage containers, dry erase boards, calculators, etc. Teachers who meet the criteria can submit a grant application for up to $500.

**Bayou Board of REALTORS® Journey to Careers Grants:**
This grant is for teachers of business and career classes to utilize for the exploration of careers and to enhance the learning environment for students. Teachers who meet the criteria can submit a grant application for up to $400.

The deadline to apply for grants is August 31, 2020. All grant applications are submitted online at www.tfae.org/grant-information. TFAE Grants are open to Terrebonne Parish public school teachers. Detailed instructions and guidelines can also be found on this page. To learn see past TFAE Grants in action, visit www.tfae.org/grants-in-action.

Since its inception, TFAE has awarded more than $1.3 million dollars to Terrebonne Parish public school teachers.

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