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
Calendar

JULY 2020:

7/3  Happy 4th of July!
Chamber Office closed for July 4th Observation

7/7  Chamber Development Committee Meeting
Chamber Office | Noon

7/8  Chamber Government Activities & Economic Development/Infrastructure Committees Meeting
Chamber Office | Noon

7/15 Chamber Finance Committee Meeting
Chamber Office | 7:30 a.m.

7/15 Chamber Executive Committee Meeting
Chamber Office | 8:00 a.m.

7/15 Virtual Pitch Your Niche
www.houmachamber.com | 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

7/21 Chamber Board of Directors Meeting
Chamber Office | 8:00 a.m.

7/28 General Membership Luncheon: Terrebonne Parish Sheriff-elect Tim Soignet
Courtyard by Marriott | 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.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:
Tax deadline is July 15th! Check out this month’s article from LaPorte CPAs & Business Advisors on page 5, “Federal and Louisiana Extensions Give Taxpayers a Break”!
For help with your financial needs, call LaPorte at (985) 851-2433, visit http://www.laporte.com, or stop by their Houma location at 304 Corporate Drive, Suite E.

Contact Us!

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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
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Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce Focus/June 25, 2020
Member Milestones

June & July Anniversaries

50 Years
Foley & Judell

35 Years
Bluewater Rubber & Gasket Company, Inc.
Nobles Tire & Service, Inc.
Regions Bank
South Louisiana Bank
T. Baker Smith, LLC
Vida Paint & Supply, Inc.
Walther Animal Clinic

30 Years
START

25 Years
Edward Jones- Lee Stiel
Financial Advisor

20 Years
Charles L. McDonald
Land Surveyors, Inc.
West Park Veterinary Services
Acadiana Contractors
Piggly Wiggly
Blanchard’s Refrigeration

15 Years
Peppers Pizzeria

10 Years
Amelia Belle Casino
Bayou Reserve Apartments
Heartland Payment Systems
Propriete Shoppe LLC
Raising Cane’s-
Grand Caillou Location

5 Years
Access Health
Ascent Health, Inc.
Eastside Credit Corp.

Happy Anniversary!
Thank you for trusting the Chamber!

Houma-Terrebonne
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Join the Chamber today!
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The same day the World Health Organization classified the coronavirus as a pandemic, the White House declared a national emergency. To provide financial relief to taxpayers affected by the pandemic, the IRS began postponing tax payment and filing deadlines. Virtually all Federal tax returns and payments that were due between April 1 and July 14 are now due on July 15. Taxpayers can file these returns and make payments as late as July 15 without incurring underpayment or late filing penalties or interest.

These extensions are helpful for some, but it may not be in all taxpayers’ interests to wait until July to file or pay taxes due. Those who expect to receive a refund should file as soon as possible. And although taxpayers may appreciate a temporary reprieve from paying taxes, some may find it difficult to make those payments all at once on July 15.

### Federal and Louisiana Extensions Give Taxpayers a Break

By: Jodie Arceneaux, CPA

#### Louisiana Extensions

Even though the Federal government postponed filing and payment deadlines, not all states followed suit.

The Louisiana Department of Revenue pushed Louisiana tax deadlines back to July 15th to mirror Federal laws but could not legally extend quarterly declaration payment deadlines for individual taxpayers. To compromise, the Department offered to waive the Underpayment of Estimated Tax (UET) penalty under certain conditions. Unfortunately, the waiver is not as generous as one might hope.

Under normal circumstances, taxpayers who do not make adequate or timely declaration payments will be liable for UET penalties unless they meet one of five exceptions. One exception is granted when taxpayers’ declaration payments equal or exceed 100% of the previous year’s tax liability. Now that Louisiana’s filing deadlines have been extended, taxpayers may not know their prior year tax liability when it’s time to make their first two declaration payments. To address this problem, Louisiana’s new ruling waived the UET penalty if taxpayers have done all of the following:

1. Made timely first quarter and second quarter declaration payments on April 15 and June 15
2. Ensured their April 15 payment was at least 90% of the declaration payment they made on April 15 of last year
3. Ensured their June 15 payment was at least 90% of the declaration payment they made on June 15 of last year

Even though taxpayers cannot defer declaration payments, Louisiana gave them a new opportunity to avoid UET penalties. Contact your tax advisor if you have additional questions regarding these extended filing deadlines.

#### Tax Form Original Due Date Revised Due Date

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tax Form</th>
<th>Original Due Date</th>
<th>Revised Due Date</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Individuals</strong></td>
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<td>Form 1040</td>
<td>April 15</td>
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<td><strong>Trusts and Estates</strong></td>
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<td>Form 706</td>
<td>Within 9 months after the decedent passed</td>
<td>July 15 if the original due date falls anywhere between April 1 and July 14</td>
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Jodie Arceneaux, CPA, is a tax director with LaPorte CPAs & Business Advisors, one of the largest accounting and business advisory firms in the region, with over 190 personnel in Louisiana and Texas.
Junior Auxiliary of Houma to Host “Junk In The Trunk” Sale

Junior Auxiliary of Houma (JA of Houma) will host a unique garage and bake sale Saturday, July 11 from 7-11 a.m. in the First United Methodist Church parking lot, located at 6109 Hwy 311 in Houma. The event is open to the public and benefits the service projects of JA of Houma.

Dubbed a “Junk in the Trunk” sale, members will line up their vehicles and sell donated items out of their vehicle trunks in a pop-up style event. Items such as clothing, home goods, furniture, and more will be available for purchase, as well as delicious homemade treats.

Due to COVID-19, JA of Houma had to cancel their annual Dancing With The Stars fundraiser, which provides most of the funding for the group’s service projects throughout Terrebonne Parish. The organization will pivot this year’s fundraising into smaller efforts throughout the year in an attempt to recoup funds to provide important programs to local women and children in need. Service projects that will benefit from this event include JA’s work with residents at the MacDonell Children’s Home, Louis Children’s Crisis Center, Terrebonne ARC, and The Haven.

Donations of garage sale items can be made through any JA of Houma member or by emailing JAofHouma@gmail.com.

Nicholls Professor Named 2020 Outstanding Educator

The Association for Business Communication—Southwest U.S. named Nicholls State University Professor Laura Valenti its 2020 Outstanding Educator.

The assistant professor of marketing joined the College of Business Administration faculty in 2010.

“When I read the congratulatory email from the association president, I teared up,” Valenti said. “I genuinely care about the impact I make on my students and their careers. I am honored to be recognized by an association that I hold in such high regard.”

Valenti served on the association’s board from 2013-2019, including serving as president and past-president. She received the association’s best paper award in 2012.

Besides her teaching role, Valenti advises the college’s competitive sales and social media teams. She led the social media team to a top-three finish and Most Creative Award at a 2018 competition at Ball State University.

In 2019, the Association of College Marketing Editors named Valenti a finalist in their teaching innovation competition. She also organizes the Bayou Sales Challenge, which brings teams from all over the Southeast to the Nicholls campus every spring.

The nonprofit Federation of Business Disciplines is dedicated to the advancement of business education and research. Founded in 1973, the organization includes 10 associations and over 1,000 professors. Their annual spring meeting draws attendees from business schools worldwide.

For more information on the College of Business Administration, visit https://www.nicholls.edu/business.

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HAVE A VOICE IN WHAT’S IMPORTANT!

BE A PART OF YOUR COMMUNITY
JOIN A CHAMBER COMMITTEE TODAY!
The SLCC Foundation is honoring a strong supporter of the community college and communities across Acadiana with its most prestigious award. The SLCC Foundation named Gulf Coast Bank its 2020 Benefactor of the Year.

The College plans to recognize Gulf Coast Bank’s widespread impact throughout the Vermilion Parish and Acadiana communities during a ceremony later this year when it is deemed safe to gather.

Gulf Coast Bank has partnered with SLCC since 2013 in a number of ways. The Bank has offered time and expertise through its President and CEO, Paul Patout, serving as a key voice on the SLCC Foundation board in its early years of development. In addition, Gulf Coast Bank has partnered with the Lt. Dronet Marine Corps League in Abbeville to offer an annual scholarship for a student who graduated from a Vermilion Parish high school and who is studying at SLCC’s Gulf Area Campus in Abbeville. The Bank also helped to underwrite several initiatives and events at SLCC, including the Foundation’s scholarship 5K.

“I cannot think of a more deserving honoree this year than Gulf Coast Bank,” said Lana Fontenot, executive director of the SLCC Foundation. “Leaders and employees at Gulf Coast Bank have poured their hearts into this community through the generosity of their time, talent, and treasure, and we look forward to celebrating their overall investment and decades-long support for this community.”

Under the leadership of the Patout brothers, Paul Patout as President & CEO, and Pat Patout as Chairman of the Board, Gulf Coast Bank has become known throughout Acadiana for its continued generous support and commitment to the local community. Pat and Paul’s dedication and enthusiasm cannot help but spread throughout the company. Gulf Coast Bank’s impact includes not only financial contributions, but also the volunteered time and effort of its team; employees are regularly encouraged to volunteer at events in the community, and on average serve over 250 hours total each year.

Many organizations have been impacted by Gulf Coast Bank’s support over the years, including the Boys & Girls Clubs of Acadiana, the Vermilion Chamber of Commerce, Leadership Vermilion, the Vermilion Economic Development Alliance, One Acadiana, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, SLCC, the Community Foundation of Acadiana, LARC, St. Jude’s, as well as many other local festivals, fundraisers, and events.

Paul Patout and Pat Patout have been recognized over the years for their generosity and commitment to Acadiana. In 2019, they received a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the American Legion Vermilion Post 29, in appreciation of their efforts and contributions over the years. Gulf Coast Bank was named Business of the Year by the Vermilion Chamber of Commerce this year, as well as by the Louisiana Cattle Festival in 2016. In 2015, Paul Patout and Pat Patout received the Community Foundation of Acadiana (CFA) Leaders in Philanthropy award for their contributions to Vermilion Parish and the greater Acadiana area.

“Gulf Coast Bank’s passion to give back to the community is rooted in our history. We are inspired by those that came before us at Gulf Coast Bank,” said Paul Patout, president and CEO of Gulf Coast Bank. “My father Charles Patout, Lorraine LeBlanc, Richard Dubois, and many others truly put their heart into this Bank and the communities it serves, and we are honored to continue the legacy, which would not be possible without our amazing team that cares as much as we do.”

The Benefactor of the Year award is the fourth for the SLCC Foundation, where an outstanding partnership is recognized each year. Previous honorees are the Hugh and Byrnes Young Foundation, Lafayette General Health and Elder Outreach.
Coach Luigi Vegas

Vandebilt Catholic High School announces that Luigi Vegas has retired after dedicating forty years of teaching and mentoring to the students and faculty of Vandebilt Catholic.

Mr. Luigi Vegas was reared in a very close-knit family in the small community of Grand Isle. His parents, Herbert and Helen Vegas, instilled values that led to his formation into a dedicated, caring individual with integrity. In addition to spending many of his early years as an altar server, Luigi has been affiliated with Catholic education for forty years in several capacities. After teaching in his hometown for two years, Luigi joined the Vandebilt Catholic faculty in 1980 and has been an integral part of the Science Department since. After receiving his Bachelor of Science degree from Nicholls State University, Mr. Vegas worked on his Master of Education degree while coaching and teaching science, physical education, and driver education. “Coach Vegas,” as he is affectionately called by former and current students alike, has worked with student athletes in basketball, football, and track at VCHS. Science Department Head at VCHS for over two decades, Luigi has taught earth science, physical science, biology, and anatomy and physiology. He has also worked with students as moderator of the 4-H Club, the sophomore class, and the senior class. He has enjoyed sharing his faith with senior boys on annual weekend retreats. Luigi has also given to the Vandebilt Catholic family by using his gift of music. He has played his guitar and sung for countless school Masses and other functions such as plays and talent shows at the school. Luigi regularly participates in school Masses as an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist. For his contributions to the education of the whole child, Vandebilt Catholic honored Luigi with the Brother Alfred Kolb Teacher of the Year Award in 2001, for which he was nominated by his peers. He has also been the recipient of an inspirational teacher award from Nicholls State University, receiving the nomination from his former students as someone who made a difference in their lives.

Luigi has served as a master teacher at Vandebilt and has supervised classroom instruction not only for the Science Department but also for the entire school. He was inducted into the Vandebilt Catholic Hall of Fame in 2008 and his most recent honor was for the second time, the Brother Alfred Kolb Teacher of the Year award in 2019. He continues to be a role model to students, and still finds innovative ways to keep students engaged in his classroom. Mr. Vegas is widely recognized in VCHS circles for his teaching methods that customarily inject humor into his lessons. His vast knowledge and entertaining approach to teaching has made him a candidate for various presentations to the Vandebilt faculty and at workshops for educators in the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux and schools in the New Orleans Province of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart. As a contributing faculty member at Vandebilt, Luigi has served on a number of committees including faculty advisory, discipline, academic, Strategy for Progress, and SACS. Additionally, Luigi has served on SACS evaluation committees for other Catholic schools in the area. Luigi and his wife of nearly thirty-three years, Lisa, raised their two sons in the Catholic school system, both attended St. Francis de Sales Cathedral School and Vandebilt Catholic. Danté (1989-2018) graduated from Vandebilt Catholic in 2007 and Dominic, 2012. Luigi served on the St. Francis school board on the facilities committee and served one year as vice president; he also worked for the annual barbecues at the school. Prior to joining St. Francis parish, Luigi was a member of Maria Immacolata Church, where he participated in several capacities as a music minister. He has also served the community by teaching Red Cross CPR classes. In 1985, Luigi recorded a song that received regional publicity, and he generously donated the proceeds from the record sales to victims of Hurricane Juan and to the Louisiana Chapter of the Hemophilia Society.

The Vandebilt Catholic community is blessed to have worked alongside Luigi Vegas for forty years, and he epitomizes the qualities that a Catholic educational institution strives to instill in its students. The faculty and students want to thank Coach Vegas for her dedication and support of Vandebilt Catholic throughout the years and wish him nothing but the best in his next chapter.

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www.HoumaChamber.com
Meet a CASA

Our June “Meet a CASA” is Mrs. Mary Guidry. Mary has been married to Leroy Guidry for 8 years and they have four children. Even though Mary does not work outside of the home she does work extremely hard as a mom, a CASA and a volunteer for a number of other charitable organizations. In her free time, she and her husband enjoy attending live music concerts. Mary was not born in Houma, however, she has been living here since the 3rd grade.

Mary came to CASA initially as a board member. She has been a volunteer advocate for 2 years and is wrapping up her first case which is a sibling group. She has spent numerous hours in visits, research and travel for the best interest of these children. When asked, she stated that: “the best feeling is to be loved unconditionally by someone who is not related to you. It is amazing to see the excitement when they see you coming down the driveway.” Mary feels that the best part of her case is seeing these two children adopted and knowing that they have a chance to live up to their full potential. We are thrilled and blessed to have Mary Guidry on our CASA of Terrebonne team!

Just like Mary, you can be the voice for a child in foster care. To join our next training class beginning July 7, 2020, fill out our online application at: www.casaofterrebonne.org

Submit Your Articles 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.

The Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce hosted its first virtual Pitch Your Niche where members connected and shared what’s going on with their businesses! Special thanks to Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses, EmpowHERed, The Catholic Foundation of South Louisiana, Express Employment Professionals, Houmeostasis Chiropractic Pro Corp, Golden Eve Photography, LLC, Wolfe’s Pharmacy, Southern Human Resource Solutions, Holiday Inn Houma, and Jani-King of South Louisiana for participating! Join us for another session Wednesday, July 15th!
Fletcher Technical Community College is excited to launch two inaugural virtual summer camp experiences. Working with our partners at Central Creativity, these unique experiences allow participants to interact with industry professionals from the comfort of their own homes. Camp members will receive a kit in the mail approximately one week prior to camp. The kit includes everything participants will need during camp week, including parent and participant guides.

“Fletcher Technical Community College is excited to offer the Shell Energy Venture Camp and the NASA Astro Camp this summer,” commented Fletcher Chancellor Dr. Kristine Strickland. “These are fantastic opportunities for children and teens in our community to learn more about STEM careers and NASA. Allowing students to explore career options through engaging summer camps like these is critical to encouraging a future generation of global leaders.”

Fletcher is proud to partner with NASA, Chevron, and Shell to provide two different camp experiences this summer:

• **The Shell Energy Venture Camp, July 13 – 17.** This camp is designed for participants to learn about careers in energy while increasing their knowledge in STEM and having fun. Activities covered will include learning about different energy sources, as well as how we utilize energy in our homes and businesses. Participants should be between the 7th and 12th grades to participate in this camp. We also have opportunities for our WorkReady U college population.

  “With the new reality of COVID-19 bringing new challenges with many of our community college partners, it has also sparked new and innovative ways of doing things,” said Frazier Wilson, Shell Manager Workforce Development & Diversity Outreach. “Moving to a virtual camp environment brings increased safety while continuing vital STEM education to students in a home environment. This year’s camp will help Shell and Fletcher Technical College cast a wider net of STEM education for students, parents and teachers during this time of unprecedented challenge.”

• **NASA Astro Camp, July 20 - 24.** Get ready to blast off with our NASA Astro summer camp! Enroll now for the inaugural NASA Astro Camp ‘To Go’ Summer Camp experience and be a part of history. This one-week action-packed and highly educational NASA event is sure to please and motivate future innovators and engineers. Participants can choose from grade appropriate experiences (K-2nd, 3rd-6th, and 7th-12th grade).

  “Despite these challenging times, we are tremendously grateful that Fletcher is finding ways to safely provide a unique, engaging, educational experience to children in Louisiana,” said Leah Brown, Public Affairs Manager for Chevron’s Gulf of Mexico Business Unit. “Summer programs dedicated to STEM are proven to stimulate greater interest in related career fields. Kids who participate in the Virtual Astro Camp are laying the foundation for their future success, while having fun in the process. Chevron is proud to be a part of it and looks forward to a great session!”

  “I am excited to offer this innovative summer camp experience to the Fletcher community,” commented Dr. Clint Coleman, Dean of STEM at Fletcher. “Our team has been working since the first day of the pandemic lockdown to find alternative solutions for our traditional summer camps. We are looking forward to launching these experiences and the future opportunities it provides Fletcher and the region.”

  Space is limited, so early registration is encouraged. The registration fee for each camp is $150, but through generous gifts from Chevron and Shell, needs based scholarships may be available. Please contact BayouSTEM@fletcher.edu for scholarship details. Registration for both camps is open and is available at https://www.fletcher.edu/bayou-stem/.

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### TGMC Board of Commissioners Appoints New Board Chairman and Vice-Chairman

Terrebonne General Medical Center (TGMC) and Southern Regional Medical Corporation (SRMC) Board of Commissioners announce the appointment of J. Louis Watkins, III, as Chairman and Angelique T. Barker, CPA, as Vice Chairman.

Mr. Watkins joined the TGMC Board of Commissioners in 2010 and has served as the Board Vice Chairman for the past two years and previously served as the TGMC Quality Committee Chair. He is a practicing attorney for the past 33 years and is a member of both the Terrebonne Parish Bar Association and the Louisiana State Bar Association. He is currently a member of the Rotary Club of Houma. He has previously served as a board member for the YMCA and as past Chairman of the Terrebonne Economic Development Authority (TEDA). Watkins currently owns J. Louis Watkins, III, A Professional Law Corporation in Houma.

Mrs. Barker joined the Board of Commissioners in 2013. She previously served as Chairman of the TGMC Finance Committee. She obtained her Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Nicholls State University. She is a Certified Public Accountant and a member of the AICPA and Louisiana Society of CPAs. Mrs. Barker is employed as an Audit Partner at Stagni & Company, LLC and has over 35 years of public accounting experience with a concentration in audits of governments and non-profit organizations. She also has experience in financial institutions, construction and small business.

“We are proud to welcome this year’s Chairman and Vice Chairman to their new roles,” said Phyllis Peoples, TGMC President and CEO. “Mr. Watkins and Mrs. Barker are both very committed to ensuring TGMC provides the most innovative healthcare solutions for our community right here close to home.”
Danos Names Renee Piper VP

Danos is pleased to announce that Renee Piper has been named vice president of marketing, strategy and community affairs. In her new role, Piper is responsible for leading the company’s marketing initiatives, strategic planning and execution, and building community engagement in Danos’ key markets.

“Danos has a vibrant 73-year history, and we are excited to have Renee join the executive team to help lead us forward,” said Owner Paul Danos. “Renee’s in-depth marketing and leadership experience across a variety of industries will serve as an invaluable asset to our company.”

Piper has more than 25 years of marketing experience, which includes positions in the gaming, retail, economic development and higher education sectors. Before joining Danos in 2014, Piper served as the director of university relations at Nicholls State University for seven years.

Piper has also been named executive director of the Danos Foundation. Founded in 2017 by Danos employees, the Foundation awards funds to non-profit organizations through Danos GIVES, the Foundation’s grant-giving program, and Danos WORKS, a program that contributes money to qualified organizations where Danos employees volunteer their time. A graduate of Louisiana State University, she and her husband have two children and live in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Taking over the leadership of the marketing and communication department is Nicole Williams. A 25-year industry veteran and graduate of Northwestern State University, she joined Danos in 2008. Williams and her husband have three children and live in Larose, Louisiana.

Danielle Mack Promoted to Mary Bird Perkins Vice President and Chief Development Officer

Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center announced today that Danielle Mack has been named vice president and chief development officer for the cancer care organization. Mack, a Certified Fundraising Executive, has nearly 15 years’ experience building and managing fund development, volunteer engagement and special event programs.

A nearly 10-year member of Mary Bird Perkins’ development team, she has provided oversight and leadership in advancing philanthropic support throughout Southeast Louisiana. She most recently served as the interim chief development officer, leading the organization’s philanthropic strategy throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Danielle leads by example and inspires others by her passion to propel cancer care forward,” said Todd Stevens, president and chief executive officer. “Her ability to establish trusting, long-lasting relationships with donors, steward donor support and manage a team of talented development professionals are a few of the many reasons she will excel in this position. We were excited to promote a long-standing team member to help build on our mission to improve survivorship and lessen the burden of cancer.”

Throughout her fundraising career, Mack worked at the LSU Foundation and Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. Her career highlights include securing multiple major gifts of fifty-thousand dollars and above and leading strategy for a successful annual giving program resulting in 95 percent growth.

In 2018, Mack was named Outstanding Professional Fundraiser by the Greater Baton Rouge Chapter of Association of Fundraising Professionals, serving as the organization’s youngest recipient of this prestigious local award. She is a graduate of the Baton Rouge Area Chamber’s Class of 2014 Leadership Class, 2019 John W. Barton Sr. Community Leadership Program and 2019 Adweek Executive Mentee.

“I have been blessed to experience firsthand the power of philanthropy each and every day within the organization,” said Mack. As Mary Bird Perkins approaches its 50th anniversary, I am pleased to lead and work with our generous supporters and dedicated Cancer Center team during this forthcoming milestone to provide the funds that make the highest-level of cancer care possible. It’s an honor and earned responsibility that I will work to uphold to the highest levels of transparency and trust.”
Join Us!

**Virtual Pitch your Niche**

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON**

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Visit www.houmachamber.com for more information and to register.

**Courtyard by Marriott, 142 Library Drive**

**Guest Speaker: Terrebonne Parish-Elect Tim Soignet**

Admission is $25 per person with payment required in advance.
The **deadline** for pre-reservations and cancellations is 4 p.m. on **Wednesday, July 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.

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Fletcher Enterprise Corporation Receives $2.1 Million Grant for New Nursing Training Facility

Earlier this week, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross announced that the Department’s Economic Development Administration (EDA) is awarding a $2.1 million grant to the Fletcher Falcon Enterprise Corporation of Schriever, Louisiana, to build a new nursing training facility to support the workforce demands of regional employers. The EDA grant, to be matched with $560,000 in local investment, is expected to create 500 jobs.

“This investment will support construction of a new, state-of-the-art facility at Fletcher Technical Community College dedicated to workforce development in Louisiana’s healthcare sector, said Dana Gartzke, Performing the Delegated Duties of the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development. “The new facility will allow the college to expand its nursing programs, and Fletcher’s partnership with local employers will ensure job placement for students after graduation.”

“Fletcher is thrilled to be the recipient of this EDA grant from the Department of Commerce,” commented Fletcher Chancellor Dr. Kristine Strickland. “This new healthcare training facility will prepare students for successful careers in the healthcare industry.”

“This investment will support construction of a new, state-of-the-art facility at Fletcher Technical Community College dedicated to workforce development in Louisiana’s healthcare sector,” said Senator John Kennedy. “This EDA grant will not only help create new jobs, but also promote quality health care for Louisiana communities.”

This project was made possible by the regional planning efforts led by the South Central Planning and Development Commission, which EDA funds to create an economic development roadmap to strengthen the regional economy, support private capital investment and create jobs.

This project is funded by the Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act of 2019 (Pub. L. 116-20) (PDF), which provided EDA with $600 million in additional Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) Program (PDF) funds for disaster relief and recovery for areas affected by Hurricanes Florence, Michael, and Lane, Typhoons Yutu and Mangkhut, wildfires, volcanic eruptions, and other major natural disasters occurring in calendar year 2018, and tornadoes and floods occurring in calendar year 2019, under the Robert T. Stafford Act.

Danos Names Reed Peré VP of Permian

Danos Executive Reed Peré, a 15-year industry veteran, has been named vice president of Permian operations. In this new role he is responsible for overseeing all Danos service lines and operations in the Permian Basin.

“The Permian continues to be a place of great potential for Danos’ future, and we are excited to have an executive-level team member overseeing our growing operations in the area,” said owner Paul Danos. “Reed’s leadership skills, industry credibility and deep understanding of our business make him well-suited for this new position.”

Peré joined Danos in 2006, received the company’s Staff Employee of the Year award in 2012 and became a member of the executive team in 2015. He served as vice president of production services from 2015 – 2018 and vice president of business development since 2018, an area he continues to lead.

Established in 1947, Danos has been working in the Permian since 2012 and recently completed construction of a new Permian headquarters in Midland. Rounding out Danos’ Permian leadership team are the following:

• General Manager of Permian Projects Juan Torres joined Danos in February 2020. He has 15 years of experience in oil and gas and industrial construction. A graduate of West Texas A&M University, Torres holds a Bachelor of Science in industrial engineering.
• Executive Account Manager Steve Bailey joined Danos in December 2019. He is assisting with growth processes while working to expand service lines and improve communication. Bailey brings 37 years of industry experience with major oil producers, including Occidental and Shell.
• Permian Operations Manager Jim Comfort returned to Danos in 2019. He oversees construction and fabrication projects and facilitates the acquisition of new projects in west Texas. Comfort has over 20 years of industry experience, 15 of those with Danos.
• Permian Area Manager Brian Gray brings 15 years of Permian Basin experience. He is a graduate of Texas Tech University and began his oilfield career as a mud engineer at Halliburton. He worked for Danos from 2012 until 2014 before rejoining the team last year.

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Census 2020: It’s More Than Numbers

The U.S. Census happens every 10 years and it is much more than a count of the population. Did you know that the Census can shape you and your family’s future? Did you hear the 2020 Census deadline was in April? No worries, you have until October 31st!

Census results affect:

• Planning and funding for healthcare for programs such as Medicaid and Medicare

• Planning and funding for education for programs including Head Start, Pell Grants and rural education

• Planning and funding for infrastructure for programs including highway planning and construction, federal transit, and community development

• Planning and funding for employment and training for programs including vocational rehabilitation state grants, dislocated workers and American Indian and Alaska Native employment and training

• Determines the number of seats each state has in the House of Representatives

• Used to draw congressional and state legislative districts

The U.S. Census tells us who we are and where we are going. It promotes community and economic development that helps grow our nation. Don’t have time to fill out paperwork and mail it? For the first time, all households can answer online in only minutes! As of June, Louisiana has a 55.7% response rate and Terrebonne Parish has a 51% response rate. Let’s get that number higher! For more information about benefits or to participate in the 2020 Census, visit http://www.countdabayou.org/. Let’s make it count!

You do not need a reason to vote early! All voters may vote early, just like they are voting on Election Day. Voters who want to vote early for any election may do so in person at their parish Registrar of Voters Office or at designated locations in the parish from 14 to seven days prior to any scheduled election. When one or more state holidays fall within an early voting period, the first day for early voting will begin 15 days prior to the election. Refer to the schedule below for early voting time periods for upcoming elections and refer to the schedule of elections for future time periods.

For a complete list of the locations of parish registrars of voters and designated early voting locations, please refer to early voting locations.

The registrars of voters will open their offices from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. for each day of early voting. When you go to cast your vote early, you will be asked to identify yourself with either a photo ID or signature on a voter affidavit. You may use a Louisiana driver’s license, a Louisiana special identification card, a United States military identification card that contains the applicant’s name and picture or other generally recognized picture identification card that has your name and signature. You may wish to contact your local Registrar of Voters Office for specific locations, dates and times. See La. R.S. 18:1303 for more information about voting early.

**July 11, 2020**
Presidential Preference Primary and Municipal Primary Election
Early voting has been extended by one week in accordance with the Emergency Election Plan and is now June 20-July 4 (excluding Sunday, June 21 and Sunday, June 28) from 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

**August 15, 2020**
Municipal General Election
Early voting has been extended by one week in accordance with the Emergency Election Plan and is now July 25-Aug. 8 (excluding Sunday, July 26 and Sunday, Aug. 2) from 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

**Nov. 3, 2020**
Presidential General and Open Congressional Primary Election
Early voting is Oct. 20-27 (excluding Sunday, Oct. 25) from 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

**Dec. 5, 2020**
Congressional and Open General Election
Early voting is Nov. 20-28 from 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m. (excluding Sunday, Nov. 22, Thursday, Nov. 26 (Thanksgiving) and Friday, Nov. 27 (Acadian Day); early voting is advanced one day because of the holidays)

*Information is from the office of Louisiana Secretary of State website: https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/Vote/VoteEarly/Pages/default.aspx*
These are unprecedented times — at home, school and work. But one thing remains constant and that is our commitment to the safety and well-being of patients and staff.

While we have always adhered to the strictest safety protocols, as we move toward once again fully providing all healthcare services, we have put extra safety precautions in place.

If you have had to delay your medical care due to COVID-19, we encourage you to speak with your healthcare provider so that something routine doesn’t become something serious.

And when you need us, we are here.