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Chamber and Community News

The President's Corner . . .

Here we end the second quarter of 2007 and we are beginning one of the most enjoyable seasons Louisiana has to offer—Summer.

Fundraisers—Our Annual Chamber Golf Tournament was held Saturday, May 19, at the Abbeville Country Club and exceeded expectations. The Golf Tournament grossed \$16,345, netted \$11,937, and topped the previous tournament by \$4,234. Thanks go to everyone who made this a great event—you know who you are! Special thanks to all players and to all sponsors.

June 2 also brought the Annual Daylily Festival and Garden Show to Magdalen Square. This popular festival seems to get bigger and bigger every year bringing more vendors from different areas with an increasing assortment of daylilies, plants, and merchandise. This year's festival was a huge success. Thanks to all the workers and sponsors.

Government—Not only is it hot at 12 noon in Vermilion Parish, hot issues were debated in Baton Rouge. The Abbeville-Vermilion Chamber of Commerce joined a statewide coalition of chambers to support the concept of making road construction and improvements a state priority. "Driving Louisiana Forward" is a grassroots efforts aimed at properly funding our state transportation system. For more information on "Driving Louisiana Forward" please go to www.drivinglouisianaforward.org.

Membership—We currently have 219 paid members and need your help to reactivate unpaid members. We encourage current chamber members to recruit two new members or to reactivate two unpaid members. If you would like a list of former members to recruit, call Lynn or Shelley at the chamber office—893-2491.

If you have not checked out the chamber's new website, visit www.abbevillechamber.com.

Scott Borel

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2007 Officers
President—Scott Borel ♦ Executive Director—Lynn Guillory
VP Membership—Rick Coleman ♦ VP Business Development—Charlene Beckett
VP Workforce (Education)—Mike Davis ♦ VP Finance—Beau Phares
VP Government Affairs—Dexter Duhon

THANK YOU GOLF SPONSORS!

The generous contributions of the following sponsors helped the Chamber meet and exceed this year's fund raising goal.

Abbeville Building & Loan
Abbeville Chiropractic Clinic
Abbeville General Hospital
Acadian Ambulance
Acadian Contractors
Acadiana Ford
Acadiana Shell & Limestone
Armentor Jewelers
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Bank of Erath
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City Marshall Jimmy Touchet
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Courtesy of Vermilion
Custom Glass & Mirror
Darnall, Sikes, Gardes, & Frederick, CPA's
Dave Holley Agency, Inc.
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Dexter Duhon Tax Service
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Discount Tire Center
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Dr. Gerald Baudoin
Duhon Oil Company
Eagle Pest Control
Earl's Furniture
Edwards & Edwards
El Camino Restaurant
Elite Medical Supply
F & R Air Conditioning
Fallis Vision Center
Fluid Crane
Francis GE Center
Funderburk & Herpin
Gordy Landry
Grand Isle Shipyard
Gulf Coast Bank
Gulf Coast Chemical
Hebert's Specialty Meats
Hollier's Drug Store
Iberia Bank
James Noel Appraisals

John Joy
Jonathan Perry
Judge Ed Broussard
Kaplan State Bank
Kathy Broussard
Kathy Dyson Realty
Kolder, Champagne, Slaven & Company
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Mike Hardy
Mike Harson District Attorney
Otto Hebert Lumber Co.
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Paw's Pump, Inc.
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Rayne State Bank & Trust Co.
Representative Mickey Frith
Republic Wholesale Auto Parts
Richard A. Broussard Insurance Agency
Ronald Melebeck, Attorney
Sellers & Associates
Senator Nick Gautreaux
Shane N. Sellers Insurance Agency, Inc.
Sonic
Sonnier Law Firm
State Farm Insurance—Cordell Dartez
State Farm Insurance—Ray Morvant
State Farm Insurance—Terri Landry
State Farm Insurance—Wayne Hebert
Stine Lumber
Sunbelt Lodge Motel
Ted Ayo, Attorney at Law
Terry's Diesel Repair & Sales, LLC
The Sellers Group
Thrifty Way Pharmacy
Toups Propeller Service
Truman Abshire Body & Wrecker
Vermilion Office Supply
Vincent Funeral Home
Voorhies Supply Co.
Wayne Touchet

Thank you Golf Tournament Door Prize Sponsors!

Abbeville Meridional
Boulevard Exxon
Bourbon Street Deli
Breath of Life
Cashway Pharmacy
CC's Café
The Depot
Dupuy's
Golden Corral
Golf Connection
GolfBalls.com
McDonald's
Meche's Donuts
Piazza Office Supply
Pizza Hut
Popeye's
Quizno's
Richard Meat Market
Shucks!
Stelly's Boiling Point
Village Café
Winn Dixie

**I would like to thank the
following members for
playing a vital role in
making our annual golf
tournament a success:**

**Louis Garrot, Golf
Tournament Chairman**

Scott Borel

Alex Crochet

Lloyd Doré

Kathy Dyson

Duane Leger

Richard Melancon

Glenn Suire

**Shelley Choate, Chamber
Administrative Assistant**

Advertise in the Chamber Newsletter

\$25—Business Card Size Advertisement

\$50— $\frac{1}{4}$ -Page Advertisement

\$75— $\frac{1}{2}$ -Page Advertisement

\$100—Full-Page Advertisement (8 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 11)

Insert flyers in the newsletter at a cost of
\$75. You provide copies of the flyers—we do
the rest.

Thank you Sponsors of the Daylily Festival!

Gulf Coast Bank
City of Abbeville

**Thank you Charlene
Beckett, Abbeville Main
Street, and Stuart Gauthier,
LSU Ag Center, for
organizing another
successful Daylily Festival.**

*Lynn Guillory
Executive Director*

Louisiana Small Business Development Center

by Mark Galyean, Center Director

The Louisiana Small Business Development Center (LSBDC) at UL Lafayette is part of a network of eight Small Business Development Centers located at Louisiana universities.

Our Center is a sponsored program of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and is partially funded by the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and by Louisiana Economic Development (LED).

We provide free assistance to small businesses throughout the eight Parishes of Acadiana. Our free services include confidential business consulting and technical and management assistance to entrepreneurs. We also provide free or low-cost business training to our customers throughout Acadiana.

We also assist customers with business plan creation in addition to marketing plans. We also provide detailed information on SBA Loan Guarantee programs, in which many Acadiana banks participate.

Our state-wide network is also accredited by our national organization of over 1,000 Small Business Development Centers.

The LSBDC at UL Lafayette has the expertise to counsel entrepreneurs on a broad range of issues. We also tap into the resources available to us at the UL Lafayette B.I. Moody, III College of Business Administration and throughout the University.

We partner with the Enterprise Center of Louisiana (ECOL) business incubator, the Acadiana Regional Development District (ARDD), and many area chambers of commerce and economic developers in order to assist our customers. We also provide free information and outreach on behalf of the University, Louisiana Economic Development (LED), and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

Like all of our SBDC Centers around the country we offer free technical assistance services to the general business public, both pre-venture and existing companies, spanning every industry. We work constantly to build a close relationship with the regional economic development agencies across Acadiana. We are also committed to implementing the initiatives of Louisiana's master plan for economic development.

Recent studies have shown that future growth of the Louisiana economy will be based in large part on the expansion and growth of small businesses. Most of these companies employ less than fifty people with the largest segment employing less than twenty. (Quite a few of our customers have only one or two employees including the owner).

This is the customer base Louisiana Small Business Development Centers across the state serve every day. We understand the problems facing entrepreneurs, whether it is finding the money and manpower to get a new company started, creating a business plan or trying to decide how to take a mature company to the next level. Our consulting staff has years of experience in business ownership, banking, and economic development.

Following the natural disasters of 2005 we provided assistance to a number of businesses affected by the storms by conducting numerous workshops for applicants of business recovery loan programs. Like our LSBDC Centers in Lake Charles, New Orleans, Baton Rouge and Hammond, we also counseled clients on managing the interruption in operations they suffered.

In addition, we have assisted companies which evacuated from the most devastated areas by providing free management consulting services. In one case, we even provided free temporary office space so that a displaced company could get back up and running as soon as possible. Some of these companies have located in Acadiana permanently.

We also partner with two other UL Lafayette-sponsored programs, the Louisiana Procurement Technical Assistance Center (La. PTAC) and the Manufacturing Extension Partnership of Louisiana (MEPoL). Louisiana PTAC assists companies seeking government contract. MEPoL works with area manufacturing companies to streamline their operations and make them more competitive.

Our web site is a valuable resource for entrepreneurs wanting information on the services we provide as well as links to other agencies across our region. The address is: <http://sbdc.louisiana.edu/>. You can also contact us at 337-262-5344 to make an appointment with a consultant or to get more information about our programs.

LSBDC (cont.)

Assistance from the Acadiana Small Business Development Center is available to anyone interested in beginning a small business for the first time or improving or expanding an existing small business, who cannot afford the services of a private consultant.

The ASBDC also makes special efforts to reach minority members of socially and economically disadvantaged groups, veterans, women and the disabled.

Marketing Tip

Here are some good general tips for marketing your business:

- Never let a day pass without engaging in at least one marketing activity.
- Determine a percentage of gross income to spend annually on marketing.
- Set specific marketing goals every year; review and adjust quarterly.
- Maintain a tickler file of ideas for later use.
- Carry business cards with you (all day, every day).
- Create a personal name tag or pin with your company logo on it and wear it at high visibility meetings.

As seen in The Daily Advertiser- Saturday, June 30, 2007

Louisiana Technical College, Gulf Area Campus held its eighth annual commencement ceremony on Friday, June 15, in the Abbeville High School auditorium. Of the 102 students who graduated during the 2006-2007 school year, 60 proud graduates participated in the ceremony to the delight of the full house in attendance. These students earned diplomas, certificates, and associate degrees in programs such as Accounting Technology, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration, Computer Specialist Applications, Computer Electronics Technology, Cosmetology, Diesel Powered Equipment Technology, Drafting and Design Technology, Medical Office Assistant, Nursing Assistant, Office Systems Technology, Patient Care Technician, Practical Nursing, and Welding.

Mr. Brett Mellington of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System Board of Supervisors brought greetings and congratulations, as did Mrs. Phyllis Dupuis, Regional Director of the Louisiana Technical College, Greater Acadiana Region IV, of

People News . . .

Gulf Coast Bank hired Brad Ruffins

June 12 as the Branch Manager of the Kaliste Saloom Branch located at 1405 Kaliste Saloom Road in Lafayette.

Ryan Breaux was hired June 4 as the Assistant Branch Manager of the Evangeline Branch located inside WalMart at 1229 N.W. Evangeline Thruway in Lafayette.

Physical Therapy Plus has moved

down the street to 1828 Veterans Memorial Drive across from El Caminos. **Duane Lege** and staff cordially invite everyone to come and see the new building.

LTC

Graduation 2007

by Etta Fair

which Gulf Area is a member. Mr. **Eric Robichaux**, Greater Acadiana Foundation District Trustee, was the very captivating emcee for the night, and Mr. **Scott Borel**, current president of the Greater Abbeville-Vermilion Chamber of Commerce, recognized the many honor graduates present. Mrs. **Angela Lee**, Assistant Campus Dean, presented candidates and Mr. Mellington and Mrs. Dupuis awarded diplomas, degrees, and certificates.

A highlight of the evening was the three testimonials from graduates themselves who related their trials, tribulations, and triumphs while at Gulf Area. Amber Landry, Shari Vice, and Amanda Perry certainly entertained the audience with their lively stories!

Congratulations to all Louisiana Technical College graduates!

Acadiana Tech Prep Moving to Career Tech Facilitation

by **Paul Bourgeois**, Career Tech Facilitator - Chrissie Broussard, Project Administrator

The vision of the Acadiana Tech Prep Consortium and now Career Tech Facilitation Program (CTFP) is to provide opportunities for collaboration between the secondary school systems and the postsecondary institutions within the consortium boundaries. Students need assistance with career guidance to help them choose a realistic and affordable career pathway. The consortium organizational structure consists of three parish school systems—Iberia, St. Martin, and Vermilion Parishes. These parish school systems include 13 high schools and 14 junior high/middle schools. The consortium includes three campuses of Louisiana Technical College. The Gulf Area Campus serves Vermilion Parish, Teche Area Campus serves Iberia Parish, and Evangeline Campus serves St. Martin Parish. South Louisiana Community College in New Iberia is also within our consortium.

The consortium will now employ one full-time Career Tech Facilitator and one full-time project administrator. Starting July 1, 2007, CTFP will endeavor to provide the following: a seamless transition for students by providing dual credit and dual/concurrent enrollment at postsecondary institutions within our consortium, resources and opportunities for students to make a smooth transition from their secondary to postsecondary education path, and secondary and postsecondary students the opportunity to gain skills, training and education to meet the needs of the workforce within, but not limited to the geographic area of the consortium.

MAIN FOCUS WILL BE ON OUTREACH AND RECRUITMENT

- Career Tech Facilitators (CTF) located around the State will work to enhance the knowledge level about career and technical education opportunities available to secondary students at the postsecondary level.
- Other focus areas will include: dual enrollment, professional development, career awareness, and collaboration and communication.

THE CAREER TECH FACILITATORS (CTF) WILL:

- Assist in promoting linkages between secondary and postsecondary career and technical education programs.

- Facilitate professional development opportunities for career and technical education teachers, postsecondary faculty and counselors related to Career and Technical Education (CTE).
- Facilitate increased information sharing to counselors, teachers, students, and parents regarding opportunities at the postsecondary level.
- Place a greater emphasis on career guidance and development.
- Expose students to high-skill, high-wage, high-demand occupations.
- Enhance and build partnerships with business and industry to support the development of programs of study in high-wage, high-skill, and high-demand occupations.

OUTCOMES

- Increase the number of students dually enrolled.
- Increase in the Career and Technical Education enrollment at the postsecondary level in all areas of the state.
- Better informed counselors, teachers, faculty, and staff regarding Career and Technical Education opportunities.
- More involvement of business and industry in the development of high-skill, high-wage, and high-demand programs of study.

**A leader is one who
knows the way,
goes the way,
and shows the way.**

John C. Maxwell

Workshop/Event Calendar

Event/Date/Cost per Person	Day/Time	Location/Registration
<u>Business Boot Camp II</u> July 14 \$50, \$35 with a valid student or faculty ID	Saturday 9:00 a.m.—3:45 p.m.	LSU Campus CEBA Building, Rm. 1109 Baton Rouge, LA 70803 Registration Preferred: 225-578-7555
<u>Starting and Financing a Small Business</u> August 8 \$10	Wednesday 6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.	Enterprise Center of LA (ECoL) 3419 NW Evangeline Thruway Carencro, LA 70520 Registration Preferred: 337-262-5344
<u>Starting and Financing a Small Business</u> August 22 \$10	Wednesday 6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.	Enterprise Center of LA (ECoL) 3419 NW Evangeline Thruway Carencro, LA 70520 Registration Preferred: 337-262-5344
LEDA Job Fair August 22 Registration: \$175	Wednesday 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.	Heymann Convention Center 1373 South College Road Lafayette, LA Registration Required: 337-593-1405
<u>Cover Your Assets: Should You Incorporate</u> August 29 \$15	Wednesday 5:30 p.m.—6:30 p.m.	Enterprise Center of LA (ECoL) 3419 NW Evangeline Thruway Carencro, LA 70520 Registration Preferred: 337-262-5344

The Square and Beyond . . . Main Street News

by Charlene Beckett

The Main Street Program is a worldwide program to revitalize downtown areas. The Abbeville Main Street Program began in 1994 and there have been marked physical and financial improvements in the area. This July we are beginning our 13th year as a certified Main Street city.

The Sixth Annual Daylily Festival and Garden Show was the most recent event held in Magdalen Square. The original objective of the festival was to promote horticulture and our love for gardening. The success of the festival is due to the combination of talents from the LSU AG Center, the Abbeville-Vermilion Chamber of Commerce, and Main Street staff and volunteers. The 2007 Daylily Festival and Garden Show was well attended and surpassed last year's event in sales and number of shoppers. We had positive things happen at this year's festival such as, more daylily vendors and more food vendors. Comments from our shoppers indicated that there was a good selection of plants and flowers even late in the day as the festival was winding down. Mark your calendar for the 2008 Daylily Festival and Garden Show—Saturday, May 31, 2008.

The Abbeville Cultural & Historical Alliance Center Museum & Art Gallery is currently exhibiting chil-

dren's art. The exhibit is a combination of art created by Vermilion Parish Talented students and art that was created by area students during the Carousel of Arts.

Plans are underway for an exciting fundraising event scheduled on September 20 to benefit the Vermilion Arts Council. The evening will be filled with fine art, great food, and excellent music. More information will be forthcoming as plans are finalized.

The realization of the Guarino Blacksmith Shop Museum is taking shape. The equipment is being repaired and belts have been ordered for the pulleys. Exhibit panels are under construction with information on the Guarino family and the history of blacksmithing. Blacksmithing is one of the longest established crafts known to civilized man and has held its place of importance through all the changes of thousands of years. The craft of blacksmithing is mentioned in the Bible and played an important role in classic mythology. Any information you would be willing to share with Main Street regarding Mr. Sam Guarino or the Blacksmith Shop would be greatly appreciated.

Sheriff's Office Continues to Move Forward

by Major Ron Sonnier, Chief Civil Officer

The Vermilion Parish Sheriff's Office continues to make improvements to the Office of Sheriff. In January of this year, Sheriff Couvillon began what he calls "Rebuilding the Office of the Sheriff" by expanding personnel by over 30 percent, opening more patrol zones, expanding drug enforcement operations, replacing old equipment, purchasing new modern equipment like the Mobile Incident Command Center, implementing new services such as the Special Response Team, providing deputies with bullet proof vests, more training and competitive salaries along with a lengthy list of other valuable improvements already implemented. According to the Sheriff, he is NOT done improving the office of Sheriff, by a long shot. "As long as the public allows me to serve as Sheriff, this office will CONTINUE TO PROVIDE professional service to the public and I will never be satisfied when it comes to improving YOUR office," says Couvillon.

What's next? According to the Sheriff, many more improvements are in the making for the Office of Sheriff. One of the Sheriff's concerns has always been the ability to communicate effectively with other responding agencies, which was really evidenced during and after Hurricane Rita. The Sheriff, his staff, the Office of Emergency Preparedness, and the 911 offices along with the private sector have been diligently working on solving this long-standing handicap that has plagued first responders for years. "We have purchased the new 700 MHz radio system for the Office of Sheriff which will eventually allow us to communicate with various state agencies, and we hope to procure and distribute this system and its equipment to ALL first responding agencies in Vermilion Parish as a comprehensive solution to this long-standing communication problem," says the Sheriff.

"A car per man" program is soon to be seen as the Sheriff is currently outfitting 34 more patrol cars. "The ability to deploy off-duty personnel rapidly in emergencies is a MUST in today's world of law enforcement, and the increased visibility of these marked patrol cars all over Vermilion Parish should help deter criminal

activity," says the Sheriff.

For the first time, the public will soon see a uniform patrol deputy on a motorcycle as Sheriff Couvillon plans to implement a motorcycle traffic enforcement unit as another integral part of his comprehensive plan to continue moving the Office of Sheriff forward. These motorcycles will be deployed in areas where Vermilion Parish citizens have informed the Sheriff's Office of speeding, reckless driving and residential drivers. "Many of the complaints about speeding drivers come from areas which are primarily residential and with children out and about for the summer, the Sheriff's Office will become even more vigilant with enforcement of laws regulating speeding," adds Couvillon.

Additionally, the Sheriff plans to equip and certify at least one or more deputies in open water rescue diving. According to the Sheriff, having a certified diver on staff if needed will be a great asset in our ability to respond to water-related incidents due to the many waterways, bayous and lakes in Vermilion Parish.

"These are just a few plans to improve the Office of Sheriff that are in the works right now, but there is MORE TO COME in our comprehensive plan to Re-Build the Office of Sheriff. We take our responsibility for public safety, YOUR safety, very serious and will continue to make necessary improvements to YOUR Sheriff's Office to ensure that we are capable in meeting our obligations and service to YOU," says Couvillon.

It is common sense to take a method and try it. If it fails, admit it frankly and try another. But above all, try something.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Louisiana Set to Promote Culinary Tourism

by Alison Miller, Vermilion Parish Tourist Commission Executive Director

A couple of months ago, I wrote about an emerging tourism sector called Culinary Tourism and how Vermilion Parish can take advantage of this growing market. On June 15, I attended a luncheon in Ruston where the Louisiana Office of Tourism (LOT) and the Louisiana Travel Promotion Association (LTPA) announced that they would be developing culinary trails throughout the state to highlight our state's great cuisine in one comprehensive marketing program. The program, Louisiana Culinary Trails, is in its beginning stages, but is expected to give tourism in Louisiana a boost by showcasing a product we have known about for years – Cajun and Creole cuisine – to the world.

Culinary tourism is a term that refers to travelers who are looking for unique and memorable eating or drinking experiences. Culinary activities that these travelers participate in may include cooking classes, dining out at a local restaurant, visiting farmers markets, gourmet food shopping and attending food festivals. In a recent study conducted by the Travel Industry Association, 27 million travelers, or 17% of American leisure travelers, engaged in culinary or wine-related activities while traveling in the past three years. On average, food travelers spend \$1,194 per trip, with over one-third (36% or \$425) of their travel budget going towards food-related activities.

Louisiana Culinary Trails is expected to launch later this year and will include an entire marketing campaign centered on food and food-

related businesses. The initial advertising campaign will run for three years and will be placed in food magazines, promoted in the Louisiana State Tour Guide and on www.FoodTrekker.com, the official web site for the International Culinary Tourism Association of America. Another part of the campaign will include targeted press releases, sponsored events and festivals, familiarization tours of businesses on the culinary trail and a printed brochure. The program will be made available to restaurants, attractions and accommodations along the designated trails. There will be a charge of about \$450 to be included in the Louisiana Culinary Trails. More information will be published as it becomes available.

I encourage all Vermilion Parish restaurants, attractions and accommodations to begin thinking about ways to market their business to the culinary tourism growth and consider setting aside part of your budget for inclusion in the Louisiana Culinary Trails program. Another way to get your business information in the hands of tourists is to consider joining LTPA. More information on this tourism organization can be found by visiting www.ltpa.org or by calling Mark Allemond at 337-380-3126.

The Vermilion Parish Tourist Commission office is located at 1905 Veterans Memorial Drive in Abbeville. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m.-noon, 1:00-5:00 p.m. For tourist information on Vermilion Parish, call 337-898-6600 or visit www.vermilion.org.

SUGGESTION BOX...Here's your chance to tell your Chamber what you think we need to be doing. Mail, fax, or email your suggestions, opinions, or comments. Each suggestion will be shared with your Board of Directors.

Name (optional) _____ Telephone _____

News from the Office of Perrin, Landry, deLaunay, Dartez & Ouellet of Lafayette

The law firm of Perrin, Landry, deLaunay, Dartez & Ouellet has deep roots in Vermilion Parish: Warren Perrin is a native of Henry and has maintained a practice in Vermilion Parish at the firm's Erath office since 1974. He established the Acadian Museum in 1990. In 2004, Perrin was honored by the citizens of Vermilion Parish with the "Pioneer Award" for his cultural and professional services to the people of Vermilion Parish. Perrin stated: "Perrin, Landry, deLaunay, Dartez & Ouellet was founded in 1974 and presently maintains offices in Lafayette, Houma, and two other Vermilion Parish locations in Maurice and Erath.

Donald D. Landry's grandfather was Sevignier Touchet of the Bayou Tigre area. He has many family members in Vermilion Parish, including Vermilion Parish Police Juror Wayne Touchet, who is Landry's first cousin. Since 1980, Landry has been Assistant District Attorney for the 15th Judicial District which includes Vermilion Parish. He also serves as the attorney for the Town of Erath.

Gerald deLaunay's father, William H. deLaunay, Sr., was born and raised in Vermilion Parish near Lake Arthur. deLaunay said: "To show our commitment to the future of Vermilion Parish, in 1993, our law firm endowed a \$10,000 UL scholarship which is annually awarded to aid a needy and deserving Vermilion Parish student to attend the university."

Scott Dartez is a native and resident of Maurice who graduated from North Vermilion High School in 1986. He is married to Rachael Mouledous Dartez whose family resides in Abbeville. Dartez has been very active in the North Vermilion community by participating in the Choices program for youth and worked to bring the Junior Achievement program to Vermilion Parish schools. Currently Dartez serves as Trustee for the St. Alphonsus Catholic Church in Maurice. Both his father and mother are natives of the parish and his father, **Cordell Dartez**, was the principal at Maurice Elementary and is currently the State Farm Agent in Maurice. Dartez has maintained an office in Maurice since January 1, 1996.

Jean Ouellet, a native of Quebec, Canada, is married to Perrin's daughter Rebecca, and he is co-owner of Vermilion Parish-based oilfield service company, Envirochem. Ouellet stated: "We look forward to working with Judge Edward Broussard and his staff to expand our probate, corporate, labor and personal injury litigation sections in Vermilion Parish. We have a well-trained and experienced staff of 10 paralegals with over 115 years of combined legal experience. All partners will participate by spending time in the Abbeville office to insure that all of our expertise will be available to serve the citizens of Vermilion Parish at our new office in Abbeville at 105 Trivoli Street."

Acadian Museum of Erath

A reception was held on March 16 at the home of Warren and Mary Perrin for two special events:

- On January 13, the year-long exhibit commemorating the 250th anniversary of the birthday of the Marquis de La Fayette opened: "The Overlooked Legacy of La Fayette: The Louisiana Purchase." Highlights of the exhibition are the original Brevet Commission signed by La Fayette on February 10, 1790 which is owned by Alfred Lippman and is on loan to the museum for the exhibit and an original map of the Louisiana Purchase by Bouchon showing the location of La Fayette's land grant in Louisiana made to him by Congress on January 1, 1825. Attending the reception were Count Gonzague Sain-Bris, author of the book "La Fayette."
- Terry Davis, President and CEO of the American Association State and Local Histories, announced that the Acadian Museum had been selected as a "special" museum to receive support from the History Channel: a \$3,500 donation and publicity on the History Channel to show the museum's recovery from Hurricane Rita.

Welcome New Members to the Chamber . . .

Elle's Closet
 Fast Signs
 First United Pentacostal Church
 Matthew Motty/Northwestern Mutual
 Perry Law Firm
 Pitt Stop Oil Change & Auto Repair

Welcome back to the Chamber

Abbeville Hardware
 Darnall, Sikes, Gardes & Frederick
 C. S. Steen Syrup Mill

. . . we appreciate your support.



"I see by your résumé that you're my wife."

2007 Chamber Board

	Terms
Dexter Duhon	2007—3 yrs.
Paul Bourgeois	2007—3 yrs.
Kathy Dyson	2007—3 yrs.
Rick Coleman	2007—3 yrs.
Scott Borel	2007—3 yrs.
Deborah Parsons	2006—2yrs.
Louis Garrot	2006—2yrs.
Beau Phares	2006—2yrs.
Bert Istre	2006—2yrs.
Lloyd Doré	2006—2yrs.
Mike Couvillon	2005—1yr.
Suzanne Jones	2005—1yr.
Charlene Beckett	2005—1yr.
Glenn Suire	2005—1yr.
Mary Ellen Sonnier	2005—1yr.
Mike Davis	Appt.—1yr.
Ray Dugal	Appt.— 1 yr.
Leah Lavergne	Appt.—1 yr.

In September members will be asked to submit nominations for five Board positions. ALL CHAMBER MEMBERS are eligible to be a member of the Board of Directors. Now is the time for you to get involved and make a difference in the community in which you live and work.

What qualifications does a Board Member need?

1. **Willingness to serve.**
2. **Ability to participate and support Board decisions.**
3. **Objectivity—the ability to leave personal agendas out of the decision making process.**

Ways to Keep Your Employees Happy

Released June 2007 by the Lafayette Better Business Bureau in *The Memberlink*.

According to management experts the single greatest key to productivity is happy employees. Happy employees are usually energetic and tend to be highly motivated. But, determining what makes workers happy can be a mind-stretching exercise. For years, the belief was that money was the source of employee happiness and retention. While there is no question that money is important, management studies show that it doesn't buy employee happiness. While employees want to be fairly compensated for their efforts, they also want to be challenged and treated with respect.

The Better Business Bureau offers the following ways to increase happiness:

- Understand why people are working and commit to help them achieve their goals on the job. Develop a plan that will assist them in getting where they want to go.
- Empower workers to do the job you hired them to do. A work environment in which employees are constantly monitored, micro-managed and bossed around is stifling. But keep in mind that not all employees are capable of receiving empowerment.
- Keep employees informed. Share the big picture as to why they are asked to do what they do and how

their work can benefit other. Invite them to share their opinions. Allow them to actively participate in the discussions that lead to business decisions. By including them, you signal that you value their expertise and recognize that they are a valuable asset to the organization. Remember, involvement equals commitment.

- Communicate your expectations. Let your employees know what you expect from them in terms of work ethic, quality, honesty, and job performance. Don't assume that employees somehow inherently understand what is required.
- Take care of the people who work for you. Recognize their accomplishments. The fact is, praise pays! Take time to single out employees who have gone well beyond the call of duty.
- Hire the best people for the job, give them directions and tools to do the job and step aside. But, be sure to follow up.

Treat employees the way you would want to be treated. Think about how you would want to be informed of changes or acknowledged for a job well done.

Top Five Mistakes A Small Business Manager Makes

Released July 2007 www.managingsmallbiz.com

There are several common mistakes that are made by small business managers in their day-to-day business practices that can affect their ability to grow and succeed. Richard Laermer, the CEO of RLM pr (www.RLMpr.com) and coauthor of a new book called *Punk Marketing*, identified the following mistakes when he co-starred in *Taking Care of Business*, a reality show on The Learning Channel:

Stagnation—Many small business owners don't change with the times. In the business world today, a common business mantra is "evolve or die," so it's crucial to stay ahead of the competition.

Lack of Planning—There's no substitute for a good plan. It's critical for business owners to find their niche, craft a business plan, and then execute to the best of their abilities each day. Some business owners get distracted or enter into an industry they know nothing about and don't stay focused on what they do best.

Turning Off Customers—Too many businesses focus on bringing in new customers and end up ignoring the ones that are already there. Typically, 20 percent of cus-

tomers are responsible for 80 percent of business, and it's a lot easier to keep them happy than find new ones. That's something the small businesses often don't seem to know about or remember when making business decisions.

Not Knowing the Customer—Knowing the competition is the key, and knowing your customer is too. Many businesses don't follow trends in the media, don't pay attention to what the business down the street is doing and suddenly the company is obsolete. It's critical for business owners to stay informed by reading everything they can about their industry and about everything else, while they're at it, in order to continue to succeed.

Staying Quiet—Just because a company builds it doesn't mean that customers will come. A critical mistake for business owners and managers is not getting the word out about who they are and what they offer. It is important to leverage marketing, the Internet, the Yellow Pages, and PR for maximum exposure. Businesses can leverage PR by calling reporters and getting the stories they want to share about the company out into the public.

Just in Time for Fig Season

Submitted by **Kathy Dyson**

Fig Cobbler

*5 to 6 cups peeled fresh figs
3/4 cup sugar
3 tbsp. all-purpose flour
Butter or Margarine
*Pastry for a 8-inch pie

Combine figs, sugar, and flour; mix well. Spoon into an 8-inch square baking pan; dot with butter (I use 1/4 cup). Roll pastry to 1/4-inch thickness on a flour surface; cut into 9 x 12 inch strips. Arrange strips in lattice fashion over fig mixture. Trim edges as needed. Bake 375° for 45 minutes or until golden brown. Serve warm with homemade vanilla ice cream or cool whip. Yield: 6 servings.

*5 to 6 cups fig preserves may be substituted for the 5 to 6 cups of fresh figs and 3/4 cup of sugar.

*Kathy's Rich Pastry

1 cup sifted all-purpose flour
1/2 tsp. salt
6 tbsp. soft shortening or butter
3 tbsp. water

In a medium size bowl sift together flour and salt. Cut in shortening or butter with a pastry blender or two knives until mixture looks like coarse meal. Stir in water with tossing motion until all the mixture has been moistened. Turn pastry out on wax paper and gently press together to form a ball. Refrigerate until ready to roll out.

A ready made pie crust maybe used to save time.

Fresh figs should be available in late June early July.

Sudoku-Printable.com

Puzzle #1 - Easy

How to Solve Sudoku Puzzles

Sudoku doesn't require any special math skills or calculations. It is a simple and fun game of logic - all that's needed is brains and concentration.

There is really only one rule to Sudoku: Fill in the game board so that the numbers 1 through 9 occur exactly once in each row, column, and 3 x 3 box. The numbers can appear in any order and diagonals are not considered.

Your initial game board will consist of several numbers that are already placed. Those numbers cannot be changed. Your goal is to fill in the empty squares following the simple rule above.

	1	2	8			9		6
			7	3			5	
	3	4				8		
8	4		3	6	7	2		
3		5	1		2	7		4
		7	9	5	4		8	1
		9				6	2	
	2			9	6			
6		8			3	1	4	

Supplied by Sudoku-Printable.com

BUSINESS HUMOR

The New CEO

A company, feeling it was time for a shake-up, hires a new CEO. This new boss is determined to rid the company of all slackers. On a tour of the facilities, the CEO notices a guy leaning on a wall. The room is full of workers and he wants to let them know he means business! The CEO walks up to the guy and asks, “And how much money do you make a week?”

A little surprised, the young fellow looks at him and replies, “I make \$300 a week. Why?”

The CEO then hands the guy \$1,200 in cash and screams, “Here’s four weeks pay, now GET OUT and don’t come back!”

Feeling pretty good about his first firing, the CEO looks around the room and asks, “Does anyone want to tell me what that goof-off did here?”

With a sheepish grin, one of the other workers mutters, “Pizza delivery guy from Domino’s.”

Don't forget to mark your calendar!

July	August	September
25 Business After Hours Courtesy of Vermilion 5:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m. <i>(see insert)</i>	2 Board Meeting Chamber Office 12:00—1:00	6 General Membership Meeting Abbeville Country Club 12:00—1:00
27 Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Elle's Closet 2321 Charity Street 4:00 p.m.	16 Networking Luncheon Golden Corral 12:00—1:00	20 Networking Luncheon 12:00—1:00

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