

Along these LINES

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2023



The Race to Save Louisiana's Disappearing Coast

Page 12

ALSO INSIDE >>

Manager's Message Page 4

Congressman Garret Graves talks about flood protection measures and projects Page 8



Rep. Graves recently inspected progress on the Comite Flood Control Project and the Five Bayous Project (Jones Creek).

 /DEMCOLouisiana
DEMCO.org



CRUISE CLOSE TO HOME[®] *on the Mighty Mississippi River*

This extraordinary adventure along the legendary Mississippi begins the moment you step aboard our fleet of new American Riverboats. With fewer than 200 guests on board, you will explore local treasures and historic ports along the most storied river in America.

Small Ship Cruising Done Perfectly[®]



Call
800-459-2596
to request a
★ FREE ★
Cruise Guide



New Year, Fresh Start

Every New Year, we search for a fresh start, a new beginning and a resolve to do better. We reflect on what has worked well in the past and the changes we need to make for the future.

However, if you talk to a typical electric cooperative employee or member, they will often tell you they don't like change. That is because we pride ourselves on our traditions and historical accomplishments.

As most of our Louisiana electric cooperatives approach their 85th anniversaries, I challenge them to think about how much they have changed through the years.

During the 1940s, lineworkers used pickup trucks with ladders or sometimes a horse and buggy. There were no bucket trucks, so workers had to climb poles. There were no mechanical augers or equipment to dig the holes for each pole. Every hole had to be dug by hand.

With few safety standards, lineworkers put their lives at risk.

Automated system operations didn't exist, so power outages lasted longer. Meters were read by walking the entire system with pen and paper, and bills were handwritten.

In some cases, members called the cooperative with their meter readings for the monthly bill.

Reflecting on our history, it is clear electric cooperatives have not been averse to change. We have strategically ventured into and adapted as technology, our society and the markets have driven changes.

During 2022, all our member cooperatives received approval from the Louisiana Public Service Commission for power supply contracts that take effect in 2024 and 2025. Those will change how Louisiana electric cooperatives buy power.

When negotiating the contracts, our Louisiana electric cooperatives put you, the consumer-members, first. You can expect a reliable power supply, lower rates and cleaner energy.

Due to several retirements and the effects of the great career shift, our Louisiana electric cooperatives have brought on new talent, trained current staff on new technologies and systems, and focused on our most significant assets: our employees.

In their work plans, our electric cooperatives are thinking ahead and planning for the future, always focused on making our electric grid stronger and more resilient.

Our co-ops adopt technology and systems to educate you, the consumer



Addie Armato

members, on your energy use habits. Every cooperative has an energy-efficiency program focused on helping you save money.

Louisiana electric cooperatives also empower our communities through charitable donations and youth programs.

An example is the Louisiana Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.—a trip of a lifetime for high school students. During the weeklong adventure, students learn about electric cooperatives, the history of our great nation and how government works. The trip includes visits with congressional representatives.

Louisiana electric cooperatives have always found a balance between keeping up traditions and principles that make us special and adopting new ways to do better.

That is how we stay relevant after 85 years of being in business.

As we prepare for 2023, one thing remains the same: We will face the many challenges and changes by always putting you, the consumer-member, first.

From everyone at ALEC, we wish you a happy, healthy and prosperous new year. We hope you will continue to change with us.

Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives Inc.

Staff

- CEO Addie Armato
- CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER Beama Pierce
- DIRECTOR OF LOSS CONTROL Aaron Graham
- SAFETY COORDINATOR Ricky Melancon
- COMMUNICATIONS AND DIGITAL MARKETING SPECIALIST Conley Bourgeois
- ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Rhianna Garon
- CREDIT UNION
 - Robin Plunket, manager
 - Jody Overhultz, representative

Board of Directors

- President Dennis Glass
- Vice President Michael Heinen
- Secretary/Treasurer Roger Dale DeHart

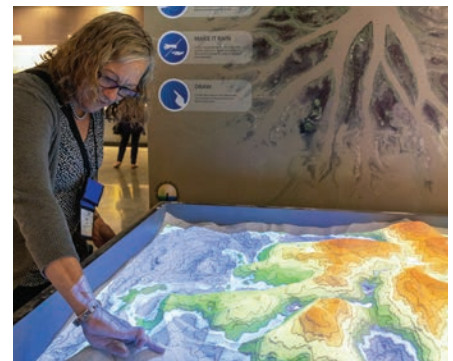


ALEC Members

- BEAUREGARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.
 - J.R. Hickman
 - Trent Buxton
- CLAIBORNE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.
 - Mark Brown
 - Lane Davidson
- DEMCO
 - Daniel Berthelot
 - Richard "Dickie" Sitman
- JEFF DAVIS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.
 - Michael Heinen
 - Byron Hardee
- SOUTH LOUISIANA ELECTRIC CO-OP ASSOCIATION
 - Trevor Benoit
 - Roger Dale DeHart
- WASHINGTON-ST. TAMMANY ELECTRIC CO-OP INC.
 - Joe Jarrell
 - Dennis Glass

Associate Member

- PANOLA-HARRISON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.



The Race to Save the Disappearing Coast

State-of-the-art center helps researchers study the Mississippi's flow, water levels and sediment movement [Page 12](#)

Local Pages 4, 5, 8, 17, 20, 21
In the Kitchen 10



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ASCENSION

Elinda Taillon

EAST BATON ROUGE

Steve Irving
Randy Lorio, Vice President
Jill McGraw

EAST FELICIANA

Mike Anderson
Glenn DeLee

LIVINGSTON

Danny Berthelot, President
Leslie Falks
Dennis Lott, Secretary-Treasurer

ST. HELENA

Tresa Byrd
Richard Sitman

TANGIPAHOA

Melissa Dufreche

WEST FELICIANA

Kevin Beauchamp

CEO & GENERAL MANAGER

Randy Pierce

CHIEF MEMBER SERVICES OFFICER

Galen Dunbar

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Peggy Maranan

CHIEF ENGINEERING & OPERATIONS OFFICER

Mark Phillips

CHIEF CORPORATE SERVICES OFFICER

Russchelle Overhultz, CEBS

Mission

DEMCO is focused on enhancing the quality of life for members by providing safe, reliable and competitively priced energy services.

Volume 38, Issue 1

Along These Lines (USPS 4089) is published bimonthly by the Association of Louisiana Electric Co-ops Inc., 10725 Airline Hwy., Baton Rouge, LA 70816, in partnership with Pioneer Utility Resources.

Annual Subscriptions: Members \$2.02.
Nonmembers \$5.

Postmaster: Send form 3579 to 10725 Airline Hwy., Baton Rouge, LA 70816.

Periodicals postage paid at Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821 and additional mailing offices.

DEMCO is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



As we bid farewell to 2022, we are optimistic that we will continue to see the cost of natural gas retreat, which will finally help lower the power supply cost on your electric bill. For much of 2022, we faced skyrocketing fuel costs, along with everyone else in America.

During parts of 2022, DEMCO members experienced a 60% increase in electricity cost per kilowatt-hour, which mostly correlates to increased cost of power generation and supply. In other words, the total electricity cost per kWh increased from an average of about 10 cents per kWh in 2021 to as high as 16 cents in 2022. The retail cost of electricity in Louisiana during 2022 is the highest I've seen in my 38 years of experience in this industry—an unprecedented mark that caught the world by surprise. Considering the weather in 2022, many DEMCO members experienced the “double whammy” of higher usage and higher cost per kilowatt-hour.

As many of you know, the Louisiana Public Service Commission approved two new DEMCO wholesale power contracts that will take effect April 1, 2024. We are eager for these new contracts, which will deliver lower and more stable power supply costs. We estimate DEMCO members will save \$16 to \$20 million annually on their electric bills compared to our current contract.

Since you only pay for what you use, you can make choices about your energy usage to help you save money on your electric bill. Visit DEMCO.org/Power-Smart to learn more.

Preparing a home for colder weather is the first line of defense against high energy consumption during the winter.

There are quite a few low- and no-cost ways to reduce home- and water-heating costs without buying anything. Setting your home's thermostat to 68 F and turning the thermostat down when you're at work or asleep can result in savings for 16 out of 24 hours.

Lowering the temperature of your water heater to 120 F and running the dishwasher only when it has a full load will also help reduce your electric bill.

If you haven't downloaded the DIY Home Energy Audit, it's a free checklist to help you evaluate your home and energy use to conserve energy and save money on your electric bill. Visit DEMCO.org/Power-Smart to download your free DIY Home Energy Audit and for other helpful information to help you Get Power Smart!

Taking control of your power bill requires continual mindfulness about using energy wisely—being energy efficient—and only using energy when you are in a room. DEMCO encourages everyone to take control of their power bills by becoming more energy efficient.

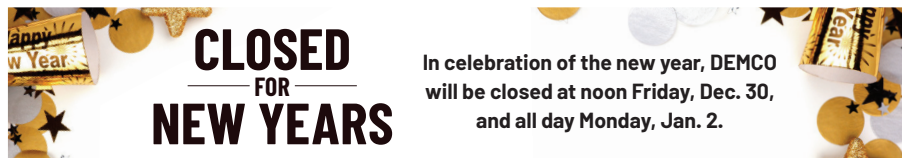
As the cooler months are upon us, please also review the items below:

- When the heater works hard to keep you warm, more kilowatt hours are used.
- Last month's usage is reflected on this month's bill.
- Compare kWh usage to the same month in the previous year.

• The Energy Department offers a weatherization program, geared to low-income households, that can help pay for recommended upgrades, like added insulation or more efficient heating systems.

Also, remember DEMCO members may apply to the DEMCO Foundation for assistance up to \$2,500 per year, to help with rent, mortgage, home maintenance, medical supplies, home fires and emergencies. Visit DEMCO.org/Community to learn more or for the online application materials.

Wishing you a healthy, joyful and prosperous new year.



**DEMCO BOARD ELECTION
DIXIE ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION
CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**2023 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Saturday, May 13, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.**

**LOCATION OF MEETING
DEMCO Headquarters Facility
16262 Wax Road, Greenwell Springs, LA 70739
(Elections in Districts 4, 5, 8 and 10)**

**February 13, 2023 –
March 10, 2023**

Publish the Calendar of Events in the official journal of each parish, including the date, time and place of the meeting of the Nominating Committee.

**March 20, 2023 –
March 22, 2023**

Pre-qualification period. Members interested in seeking a position on the board of directors are required pursuant to DEMCO bylaws to appear in person between these dates to determine eligibility as prescribed in the corporation's bylaws. Candidates not pre-qualified will not be eligible to seek a position on the board of directors.

March 23, 2023

DEMCO Board Meeting at 6 p.m. at DEMCO Headquarters. The Committee on Nominations will be appointed at this meeting.

March 23, 2023

The Nominating Committee meeting begins at 6:05 p.m. at DEMCO Headquarters, 16262 Wax Road, Greenwell Springs, LA, with results of the meeting to be posted March 24, 2023.

March 28, 2023

DEMCO Governance Committee will meet at 4:30 p.m. on this date, if needed, to determine eligibility of director candidates who have pre-qualified. Only candidates who have pre-qualified will be considered.

March 29, 2023

Beginning on this date, pre-qualified director candidates may obtain a petition to run for a seat on the board of directors. DEMCO bylaws require 50 valid signatures for the petition to be validated.

March 31, 2023

This is the Record Date for the 2023 Annual Membership Meeting. A final list of those

members eligible to vote in DEMCO's 2023 Annual Membership Meeting will be prepared.

April 12, 2023

Petitions must be returned to DEMCO headquarters office by 4:30 p.m. and received by the CEO and General Manager's office.

April 13, 2023

The Governance Committee will meet at 4:30 p.m. on this date, if needed, to validate each petition and post the results as required by the corporation's bylaws on this date.

**April 19, 2023 –
April 26, 2023**

The Official Notice of the 2023 Annual Meeting will be mailed to all members of the cooperative during this time.

April 24, 2023

Ballots for the 2023 Annual Meeting will be mailed to members of the cooperative on this date. Members should receive their ballots by Saturday, April 29, 2023 — VOTE and mail your ballot immediately.

May 5, 2023

The deadline for receiving ballots for the 2023 Annual Membership Meeting is 4:30 p.m. on this date — DO NOT DELAY — VOTE.

**May 8, 2023 –
May 10, 2023**

Ballots will be counted during this period by the certified public accountants selected by DEMCO to conduct the annual meeting. Candidates will be advised as to the time and place that the ballots will be counted.


May 13, 2023

Annual meeting and election results announced at 10 a.m., at 16262 Wax Road, Greenwell Springs, LA 70739.


**Inspiring
YOUTH**

CALLING HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS!
Enter the DEMCO Essay contest and you could win an all-expenses paid trip to attend the Rural Electric Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. **Entries due by January 20.**

For eligibility requirements and to enter, visit DEMCO.org/Community.



DEMCO
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

 /DEMCOLouisiana

**Building
BRIGHTER
COMMUNITIES**

Member-students can apply for one-year scholarships of \$1,250 for each of two consecutive semesters awarded in a random drawing at the DEMCO annual membership meeting. **The DEADLINE is May 8, 2023.**

For eligibility requirements and to enter, visit DEMCO.org.

Bidding Farewell to Friends

The close of 2022 marks the retirement of three people who have histories with Louisiana electric cooperatives

SLECA Manager Reflects on End of an Era

After 22 years, Joe Ticheli has concluded his career as general manager of South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Association.

Joe was familiar with SLECA even before he walked in the door as an employee. He knew then-General Manager Mike Guidry and many of the employees and directors.

Joe started his electric cooperative career in 1989 as corporate communications director at the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives. When budget cuts eliminated that department about 12 years later, Joe went to work for a public relations firm.

He missed the cooperative world and jumped at the opportunity to join SLECA in 2000. One of six staff members, he was responsible for member services, meter reading and safety.

“The thing that impressed me the most during those first days and weeks was how welcoming everyone was to me,” Joe says.

Though he knew SLECA well, Joe was not from the area. He was from Baton Rouge. He says that didn’t seem to matter.

“I was embraced with open arms as if I was a native son,” he says. “From that moment on, I knew I was home, and 22 years later I still call it home.”

Joe was member service and safety director for 10 years.

“I fully intended to hold those jobs until I retired,” he says.

When Mike unexpectedly announced his retirement, Joe applied for the manager position, and the board selected him.

That was 12 years ago.

Though his career plans never included being a co-op general manager, Joe says it has been the most rewarding and challenging chapter of his career.

“What has made being SLECA’s general manager so interesting for me is the diversity of the job,” he says. “Whether employee matters, regulatory and rate issues, interaction with members or simply the day-to-day running of the co-op, there’s never a dull moment. That keeps it fresh and exciting.”

Joe says the time has flown by, with highs and lows during his tenure. By far the lowest was Hurricane Ida in 2021—the worst natural disaster in SLECA’s history. The highest was SLECA’s recently certified wholesale power contracts, which will lower consumer rates 35% to 37% in 2025.

He says he is ready to pass the baton.

“I have been blessed to have worked with some of the best employees any co-op general manager could ask for, as well as a very supportive board of directors,” Joe says. “I feel like I won the Powerball.” ■



ALEC Chief Operating Officer Closes Out Her Career;

Beama Pierce concluded 13 years of service, retiring as chief operating officer of the Association of Louisiana Electric

Cooperatives. She previously spent nine years at Beauregard Electric Cooperative.

“Having grown up on co-op lines that served my family’s dairy in rural Nebraska, I saw the benefits of being served by a utility company that is locally

owned by its members,” Beama says.

“When my life’s journey brought me to Louisiana, I was presented with an opportunity to go to work for BECi in DeRidder. This allowed me to learn more about the cooperative model and the value of bringing critical services to less-populated, rural areas, and being partners for the communities served by BECi.

“Later in my cooperative career, I was hired by ALEC, where I have had the pleasure of working with its

cooperative members to rebuild and restore communities after hurricanes and winter storms, and assist with legislative, regulatory and economic development efforts. I have been blessed to be a part of the Louisiana electric cooperative family—truly hardworking, salt-of-the-earth people—for 22 years.”

During her tenure at ALEC, Beama filled a number of roles, including accounting manager and benefits administrator, interim CEO and COO.



Joe Ticheli accepts a framed poster of the cover of a recent edition of his consumer-member magazine from Addie Armato, CEO of the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives. The cover features Joe talking with John Nullmeyer of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association during a volunteer cleanup effort from Hurricane Ida in August 2021.

Magazine Editor Calls it a Wrap

“Electric co-ops will always be a part of my life,” Beama says. “There’s something about them that makes you feel at home.”

Also retiring is Pam Blair, Pioneer Utility Resources senior editor, who has worked behind the scenes to produce Louisiana’s statewide magazine since ALEC turned to PUR for communications assistance in 2020.

During her 39-year journalism career—the last 28 with PUR—Pam helped launch publications for Arizona, Kauai, Florida

and Louisiana co-ops.

“It has been an honor to help co-ops connect with their member-owners,” Pam says. “I have enjoyed featuring the special people served by rural communities, and lending a hand to co-op communicators in the aftermath of hurricanes. I never cease to be amazed by the spirit of resiliency, and how co-ops come together to help one another.” ■



Louisiana Welcomes General Managers

Two Louisiana electric cooperatives begin 2023 led by new general managers.

Dane Hocott

became general manager/CEO of Washington-St. Tammany Electric during the final months of 2022, replacing the retired Charles Hill.



Dane Hocott

Before joining WSTE, Dane spent 26 years working at Magic Valley Electric Cooperative in Mission, Texas. He was in charge of administration, finance and IT.

“My first few months at Washington-St. Tammany Electric Cooperative have been very rewarding,” Dane says. “I have met with employees, members and community leaders. I am thankful for the warm welcome from everyone here in Louisiana. I look forward to collaborating with my fellow cooperative leaders and serving in the state for many years.”

Matt Peters

succeeds Joe Ticheli as general manager at South Louisiana Electric Cooperative.

Matt began his career at SLECA in June 2000 as a groundman.

He graduated from the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives’ lineman training in 2006 and has had many titles since then, including serviceman, substation technician and superintendent of operations.

“I am extremely humbled and blessed to have this opportunity and show others that you can start from the bottom and work your way to the top,” Matt says. ■



Matt Peters



Rep. Garret Graves recently inspected progress on the Comite Flood Control Project and the Five Bayous Project (Jones Creek).

PHOTO COURTESY OF REP. GARRET GRAVES' OFFICE

A Place Worth Protecting

Rep. Garret Graves talks about flood protection measures and projects

By Erin Bass

As a representative of Louisiana's 6th Congressional District in the U.S. House, Garret Graves is the voice for more than 750,000 people in 13 parishes. The district encompasses Baton Rouge, parts of parishes along both sides of the Mississippi River to the western shores of Lake Pontchartrain and south into Houma and Thibodeaux.

Graves' district is no stranger to floods and natural disasters. He was first elected in 2015 with a platform focused on water- and transportation-related policy issues. That was put to the test with the flood of 2016, which resulted in Graves threatening to sue the Department of Housing and Urban Development over delays in delivering relief to flood victims.

He was reelected in November and serves on the Natural Resources Committee and the Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee. To date, he has secured \$6.5 billion for investments concerning water resources, with another \$1.2 billion earmarked for future projects.

Graves' most recent legislation is the FEMA Loan Interest Payment Relief Act that would require the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide financial assistance to a local government or electric cooperative as reimbursement for qualifying interest on disaster-related loans. The bill was an amendment to HR 5689 – Resilient America, which passed in April 2022.

Continues on page 20

MUELLER STEEL BUILDINGS AND METAL ROOFING



READY TO BUILD YOUR **DREAM?**

With Mueller, you have access to a wide range of high-quality steel buildings, residential metal roofing, and components.

From complex buildings to self-storage units, from living spaces to backyard buildings, Mueller manufactures our products to ensure years of reliability. We invite you to see our many options at muellerinc.com, then call or come by one of our 36 locations.



Learn more at: www.muellerinc.com
877-2-MUELLER (877-268-3553)

Food of the Outdoorsman

Duck Camp Dinners takes viewers on a journey through Louisiana culture

By Cheré Coen



From the hunt to the kitchen, Jean-Paul Bourgeois brings the stories of his childhood alive on YouTube. PHOTOS COURTESY OF JEAN-PAUL BOURGEOIS

Jean-Paul Bourgeois worked as a chef around the country, with stints in California, New York City and St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands. His passion, however, remained rooted in Louisiana's bayous and marshlands.

Jean-Paul is the creator and host of "Duck Camp Dinners"—a video series on YouTube that introduces viewers to Louisiana, its culture and foodways, and the joy of duck hunting with friends.

Its origins are rooted in Jean-Paul's childhood in Thibodaux. He followed his father to area duck camps.

He learned to cook by watching his father, who always made sure everyone at the camp was well-fed.

Jean-Paul went on to earn a bachelor's degree in culinary arts from the John Folse Culinary Institute at Nichols State.



He credits those early years with his father with inspiring him to follow a culinary career.

"My foundation in cooking has always been centered in duck camps, fishing camps," he says.

Jean-Paul and his wife relocated to a quiet region of East Texas to raise their children, but his love of hunting the wetlands—and his desire for storytelling—led him to create the original series, first on Instagram, then on YouTube.

The episodes are complemented by breathtaking drone videos of South Louisiana and songs by Louisiana musicians.

Produced by Split Reed Media, the series has garnered hundreds of thousands of views worldwide.

The videos are not all hunting and cooking, but more a combination of subjects. Jean-Paul says the first three to five minutes may discuss hunting, but the rest of the episode offers cooking and lifestyle topics.

On one episode, for instance, Jean-Paul and friends pause at Rob's Donuts in Thibodaux for breakfast sustenance and to pick up pounds of andouille sausage at Bourgeois Meat Market before heading out to hunt.

"The conversation started, 'How do we see conservation, friends, camaraderie and wildlife through duck camps?'" he says. "The history of food and culture parallels the outdoors. We realized there was more to tell besides the recipes. The series checks a lot of boxes."

The crew traveled throughout the Louisiana coast to tape episodes—from Venice and Plaquemine Parish south of New Orleans through Acadiana to the Texas border.

"There's something unsaid, untold, about what makes the coast special," Jean-Paul says.

Recipes on the show run the gamut. One episode features poule d'eau gumbo, or coot gumbo. Most hunters ignore coots—mud hens—as food. Ducks Unlimited calls them "the Rodney Dangerfield of the waterfowling world."

"We're (Louisiana) the only state that eats them," Jean-Paul says. "I've always called Cajun cuisine the great equalizer for wild game. Louisiana's history of food is one of affliction. They ate to survive and created a whole culture around it."

Jean-Paul and his crew are considering taking the series around the country and world, distributing "Duck Camp Dinners" to a larger audience.

"It's definitely going to take a next step, but we're not sure what that will be," he says. "We want to be a voice to what we see as the American outdoorsman." ■

For recipes and more information about the show, visit www.themeateater.com/shows/duck-camp-dinners. To learn more about the man, the chef and the outdoorsman, visit www.jeanpaulbourgeois.com.



Duck and Andouille Pastalaya

- 4 ducks
- 3 tablespoons cooking oil
- 3 pounds smoked sausage, such as andouille, cut in half moons
- 3 cups sliced mushrooms
- 4 cups onions, diced
- 2 tablespoons fresh garlic, minced
- 4 bay leaves
- 4 green bell peppers, finely diced
- 1 cup celery, finely diced
- 8 cups duck stock (liquid that was used to cook your ducks)
- 2 teaspoons Cajun seasoning
- 2 pounds fusilli pasta (can use bow tie, penne or rigatoni)
- 2 cups green onions, sliced
- ½ cup Italian flat parsley, chopped
- Hot sauce, as desired

Simmer ducks in a broth until tender. Pick the meat off the bone. Set aside.

In a heavy bottom pot, add cooking oil and smoked sausage. While the sausage renders, add mushrooms and roast in the fat. Cook on medium to low heat for 10-15 minutes.

Add onions and garlic. Cook on medium-low heat for 15 to 20 minutes. Add bay leaf, bell peppers and celery. Cook an additional 15 to 20 minutes.

Mixture should look brown and deeply roasted. This is what helps give pastalaya its iconic color and rich flavor.

Add stock and Cajun seasoning. Bring to a boil.

Add duck meat and pasta to the liquid. Let it come back up to a boil, cover and simmer for 20 minutes, until the pasta is al dente.

Remove the lid and add green onions, parsley and hot sauce. Fold into mixture and serve immediately.

The Race to Save Louisiana's

Disappearing Coast

State-of-the-art center helps LSU researchers study the Mississippi's flow, water levels and sediment movement

Stories and photos by Colette Boehm

The Louisiana State University Center for River Studies in Baton Rouge is part interactive museum and part high-tech research lab. Here, universities and other state entities combine forces to better understand the complex dynamics of the Mississippi River and to develop solutions for protecting and preserving its adjacent landscapes and coastlines.

The Center for River Studies conducts research on the world's major rivers, with a specific focus on the Mississippi.

The next generation of engineers, geologists and river experts study and work here to develop their knowledge and skills in hopes of expanding understanding of—and generating positive outcomes related to—the many challenges facing coastal regions, specifically in Louisiana.

The center is made possible through a partnership with the Louisiana Coastal

Protection and Restoration Authority, or CPRA—the state agency responsible for coastal protection.

The mandate is to develop clear priorities to achieve coastal protection for Louisiana through implementation of a comprehensive coastal protection and restoration master plan, according to Clint Willson, director of the LSU Center for River Studies. He holds the Mike N. Dooley professorship in civil and environmental engineering at LSU.

His research efforts—and the funding for those efforts—are closely coordinated with CPRA to collectively move toward the positive outcomes each seeks.

CPRA designed and funded the center, which is now owned and operated by LSU, through grants funded by federal offshore oil and gas revenues.

“It’s very coordinated,” Clint says. “All of our funding for research currently comes through CPRA. The building—even though it says LSU Center for River Studies—is the CPRA-LSU center.”

A Fragile Resource

Louisiana's nearly 800 miles of coastline are the centerpiece of the state's economic, cultural and environmental identity.

First and foremost, the coastline is home to nearly half the state's population—more than 2 million people.

Its rich ecological environment supports many animal species, including waterfowl, migratory birds, reptiles, and abundant commercial and recreational fisheries.

It is also the base for five of the top



A student researcher measures changes in sediment load and dispersion using a physical model the size of two basketball courts.



Clint Willson, LSU Center for River Studies director, describes how the river model was made.

12 cargo ports in the United States, and an energy industry that supplies oil and natural gas across the country.

This complex and fragile ecosystem faces environmental and human pressures, and is disappearing at an alarming rate.

Between 1932 and 2016, Louisiana's coast lost more than 2,000 square miles of land. From 2004 through 2008 alone, more than 300 square miles of marshland were lost to hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav and Ike.

The land loss is caused by human and natural factors, including the effects of storms and their associated surge and erosion, subsidence due to shifting layers beneath the surface, climate change and sea-level rise.

Controls on the Mississippi River—namely, levees and floodgates—provide flood control and economic benefits. But by channeling the river and its tributaries, those controls have deprived the coastal

ecosystem of the natural flow of fresh water and sediment it needs to survive.

Dredging activities supporting oil and gas exploration supply much-needed energy and jobs, but disrupt freshwater and saltwater balance and flow.

Collaborative Research and Learning

CPRAs mission to protect the state from storms and rebuild coastal wetlands led to development of the facility to foster collaborative protection and restoration.

The partnership between CPRA and LSU showcases Louisiana's Delta region and the coastal programs and research dedicated to restoration and river management.

“What’s happening here is something that can help determine whether coastal areas of south Louisiana will survive,” says CPRA Executive Director Bren Haase. “We’ve been losing coastal land at the rate of a football field every 90 minutes. But

right here is where we’re learning ways to stop that trend.”

At the center’s entrance, visitors come face to face with a wall-sized cross section of the river and the layers of sediment beneath and around it, which Bren describes as a “layer cake.”

From there, a 10,000-square-foot exhibit area includes illustrations and interactive displays used to communicate the importance of the Mississippi River Delta, the ongoing coastal land-loss crisis and ongoing projects associated with CPRAs comprehensive Coastal Master Plan.

Most notably, the center houses one of the world’s largest movable bed physical models: the 10,000-square-foot Lower Mississippi River Physical Model, which is based on the topography and bathymetry (depth of water) of the Mississippi River Delta covering southeast Louisiana.

The model is designed to help scientists,



The physical model of the Mississippi fills the second floor of the LSU Center for River Studies in Baton Rouge and provides research opportunities to develop solutions to real-world problems. PHOTO COURTESY OF LSU CENTER FOR RIVER STUDIES



Interactive displays demonstrate how layers of sediment move through the Delta region.

engineers and students see and better understand how Mississippi River water and sediment move downriver and to help the state better plan and design coastal restoration projects, including marsh creation and sediment diversions.

This state-of-the-art model can replicate the flow, water levels and sediment movement of the river.

“We spent two years calibrating and validating the model with real river hydrographs and sediment loads and comparing dredging and changes in the bed elevation to what the Corps of Engineers measures,” Clint says. “We’re really interested in how sand is moving down the river, and we can replicate that with the model.”

“As we observe river sediment, the state thinks about how they’re going to operate river sediment diversions, when they open them, which ones they open and how that changes the way that sand moves down.”

In the real world, that sand may have traveled hundreds of miles through the Mississippi River watershed—the largest in the country and fourth largest in the world.

“Any drop of water that falls travels to a single point,” Bren says. “So, rain that falls in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, or in Louisville, Kentucky, let’s say, all travels to the same point. It travels past Baton Rouge and New Orleans to the mouth of the Mississippi River. That water’s carrying tremendous amounts of sediments. That’s what builds that layer cake.”

The model covers the region from Donaldsonville, Louisiana, through New Orleans down to the Gulf of Mexico. It includes 216 panels composed of a dense foam, each carved to represent authentic river elevations.

“One foot on this model represents one mile in the real world,” Clint says. “Because of that scale, we’re able to reproduce what happens in one year of actual Mississippi River time in one hour on the model.”

“We’re so excited about the opportunities that our LSU students get to perform hands-on experiments. They get to collect the data, analyze the data, and play a major role in transferring the data and results to the CPRA, which uses those for their coastal restoration and master plan efforts.” ■

Complex Dedicated to Coastal Restoration

Situated on 35 acres adjacent to downtown Baton Rouge near the banks of the Mississippi River, the Water Campus—home to the LSU Center for River Studies—is the country's first major research park dedicated to the study of coastal restoration and sustainability.

More than \$107 million in public and private capital has been invested in the campus since it opened in 2015.

The park has earned national and international acclaim as a hub in developing innovative solutions for challenges affecting coastal communities and wetlands.

At the 2022 International Economic Development Council awards ceremony in Oklahoma in September, the Water Campus was recognized with two prestigious awards: best overall economic development project in the country and gold in the Resiliency, Recovery and Mitigation Economic Development Initiative category.

The Water Campus features more than 1.6 million square feet of labs, research facilities and commercial space. It was created to provide a dedicated place for collaborative coastal science, applied research and aligned commercial development. It houses business, residential, government, research and higher education entities, including the state's Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, the nonprofit Water Institute of the Gulf and the LSU Center for River Studies.

The research park is intended to be a destination for scientists and engineers working on solutions for adapting to shifting coasts worldwide.



The LSU Center for River Studies is part of the 35-acre Water Campus research park built along the banks of the Mississippi River to promote public, private and educational collaborative efforts in coastal resilience and restoration. The center received national awards in 2022 for its efforts. ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF THE WATER CAMPUS

“The Water Campus was built to bring together the best minds from the academic, government, nonprofit and private sectors to work collaboratively on some of our most pressing challenges,” says Justin Ehrenwerth, president and CEO of The Water Institute of the Gulf. “Together, we’re advancing innovative water and climate resilience solutions for Louisiana and exporting that knowledge to communities across the country and around the world.”

The awards for the Water Campus were among five for Louisiana—the most the state has received since Louisiana Economic Development became the only IEDC-accredited state economic development agency in the United States in 2018.

The state’s rural revitalization program—including

LED’s Rural Entrepreneurship Initiative—won a silver award for equity and inclusion programs. LED’s multiplatform annual report, “Louisiana: Building for Tomorrow, Today,” won awards in two categories.

“Congratulations to the team at LED and the many state, regional and local partners who have worked so hard to confront some of our state’s biggest challenges in ways that create economic opportunities,” Gov. John Bel Edwards said in a press release. “Receiving this national recognition for Louisiana’s economic growth and diversification is truly an honor, especially given the importance of our coastal restoration and rural revitalization efforts. Our commitment remains steadfast.”

IEDC is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization supporting efforts to promote economic well-being and quality of life.

Its more than 4,800 members work for government agencies, public-private partnerships, chambers of commerce, universities and other institutions. It is the largest organization of its kind in the world. Its annual awards are considered among the profession’s highest honors.

“Our team at LED is dedicated to creating economic opportunity for communities all across Louisiana,” LED Secretary Don Pierson says. “Our success represents the productive partnership we share with Louisiana’s business community, higher ed institutions, elected officials and others.

“This recognition of our hard work is particularly gratifying because IEDC represents the best in economic development experiences and practices—from the broadest international perspective to the local level.” ■

Now, THIS is a Knife!

This 16" full tang stainless steel blade is not for the faint of heart —now **ONLY \$99!**

In the blockbuster film, when a strapping Australian crocodile hunter and a lovely American journalist were getting robbed at knife point by a couple of young thugs in New York, the tough Aussie pulls out his dagger and says "That's not a knife, THIS is a knife!" Of course, the thugs scattered and he continued on to win the reporter's heart.

Our Aussie friend would approve of our rendition of his "knife." Forged of high grade 420 surgical stainless steel, this knife is an impressive 16" from pommel to point. And, the blade is full tang, meaning it runs the entirety of the knife, even though part of it is under wraps in the natural bone and wood handle.

Secured in a tooled leather sheath, this is one impressive knife, with an equally impressive price.

This fusion of substance and style can garner a high price tag out in the marketplace. In fact, we found full tang, stainless steel blades with bone handles in excess of \$2,000. Well, that won't cut it around here. We have mastered the hunt for the best deal, and in turn pass the spoils on to our customers.

But we don't stop there. While supplies last, we'll include a pair of \$99, 8x21 power compact binoculars, *and* a genuine leather sheath **FREE** when you purchase the *Down Under Bowie Knife*.

Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed. Feel the knife in your hands, wear it on your hip, inspect the impeccable craftsmanship. If you don't feel like we cut you a fair deal, send it back within 30 days for a complete refund of the item price.

Limited Reserves. A deal like this won't last long. We have only 1120 *Down Under Bowie Knives* for this ad only. Don't let this beauty slip through your fingers at a price that won't drag you under. Call today!

Down Under Bowie Knife \$249*

Offer Code Price Only **\$99** + S&P Save **\$150**

1-800-333-2045

Your Insider Offer Code: **DUK354-01**

You must use the insider offer code to get our special price.

Stauer® 14101 Southcross Drive W., Ste 155, Dept. DUK354-01
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337 www.stauer.com

* Discount is only for customers who use the offer code versus the listed original Stauer.com price.

- Etched stainless steel full tang blade ; 16" overall • Painted natural bone and wood handle
- Brass hand guards, spacers & end cap • Includes genuine tooled leather sheath

Stauer... *Afford the Extraordinary.*®

**EXCLUSIVE
FREE**

**Stauer® 8x21
Compact
Binoculars**

**-a \$99 value-
with purchase of
Down Under Knife**



BONUS! Call today and you'll also receive this genuine leather sheath!

What Stauer Clients Are Saying About Our Knives



"This knife is beautiful!"

— J., La Crescent, MN



"The feel of this knife is unbelievable...this is an incredibly fine instrument."

— H., Arvada, CO



Not shown
actual size.



Rating of **A+**

Understanding Power Blinks

Have you ever noticed your lights blinking during a thunderstorm? Or perhaps you have arrived home to discover the clock blinking on your microwave.

When this happens, you likely experienced a brief disruption to your electric service, which could be the result of a power blink.

Power blinks are typically caused by a fault (short circuit) on a power line or a protective device reacting to try and “clear” a fault.

Faults occur for a variety of reasons, including when squirrels, birds, bats, snakes or other small animals contact an energized power line. Other causes include tree branches, weather, vandalism and other things beyond our control such as acts of third parties, animals and acts of God.

Power blinks also occur when protective devices acting like circuit breakers work to detect the fault. These brief interruptions are actually good. They signal the equipment is working as it should to prevent a prolonged outage. If a circuit is unable to clear the fault by the third attempt, an outage occurs.

What can you do to help prevent power blinks?

Do not hang anything on DEMCO poles. That includes flags, security cameras, animal feeders, bird houses, or anything that attracts animals. Keeping the poles clear is also a good way to help keep line workers safe. ■



Squirrels are the leading critter-caused source of power disruptions nationwide. PHOTO BY CARINA HOFMEISTER

BACKGROUND: Lightning is another cause of power interruptions and is a good reason to install devices to protect your electronics. PHOTO BY PAT GAINES



Powerful PROTECTION

For only **\$7.95 per month**, DEMCO will install and maintain a surge protector on the electric meter of your home or shop. If it ever fails to stop a power surge from entering your home through the meter, damaged electronics are **warrantied up to \$50,000**.

FOR INFORMATION CALL 225.262.2921

Auto Pay Winners

Congratulations to these DEMCO members, winners of the random drawing for a \$50 gift card. You will each receive a gift card in the mail! Gary L., Joseph K., Patricia F., Michael B.



PANAMA

8 DAYS \$995

Fully guided tour. Includes all meals, all activities, all hotels. Tax and fees extra.



COSTA RICA

9 DAYS \$995

Fully guided tour. Includes all meals, all activities, all hotels. Tax and fees extra.

MEXICO

9 DAYS \$995

Fully guided tour. Includes all meals, all activities, all hotels. Tax and fees extra.



Caravan

Book online now at caravan.com



PROUD PARTNERS WITH ALEC

We understand the politics of business and the business of politics.

GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS


As honest advocates leveraging applied knowledge of the executive, legislative, regulatory and administrative processes, we help you navigate state and local government seamlessly.

POLITICAL RISK MANAGEMENT

Understanding and preparing for political risk is imperative; we stay ahead of politics' ever-changing outlook to provide our clients with the tools and analytics needed for success.

543 Spanish Town Rd - Baton Rouge, La 70802 - (225) 381-0166 - www.ssgla.com - firm@ssgla.com



Culotta Insurance & Investments
Serving Miss-Lou STATEWIDE Since 1992
1-844-AGENT4U
FIXED INDEXED ANNUITIES
MORE GAINS • NO LOSSES • SAFETY
Up to 10% IMMEDIATE INTEREST BONUS on Deposits
ROLLOVER CD OR 401K TODAY! 
FINANCIAL FREEDOM
SAFE RETIREMENT STRATEGIES, MEDICARE SUPPS, LONG-TERM CARE, MEDICAL & LIFE

Richie Culotta • Cameron Culotta • Zach Dustin

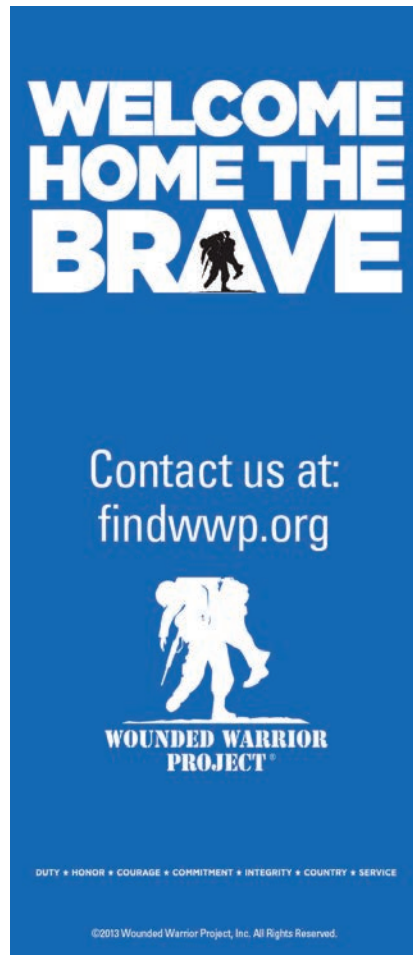


Habitat for Humanity

this is **my** house

Daniel's house is the foundation for his family's strength, stability and self-reliance.

To learn more or find the local Habitat serving your community, visit habitat.org.



WELCOME HOME THE BRAVE

Contact us at:
findwwp.org

WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT

DUTY • HONOR • COURAGE • COMMITMENT • INTEGRITY • COUNTRY • SERVICE

©2013 Wounded Warrior Project, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

ALL-NEW mobility technology

Introducing the world's lightest mobility scooter with anti-tip technology

The So Lite™ Scooter is easy to transport and almost impossible to tip over.

Like millions of older Americans, I struggle with mobility. For years, I watched my quality of life slip away, as I was forced to stay home while friends and family took part in activities I'd once enjoyed. I thought I'd made some progress when I got a mobility scooter, but then I realized how hard it was to transport. Taking it apart and putting it back together was like doing a jigsaw puzzle. Once I had it disassembled, I had to try to put all of the pieces in the trunk of a car, go to wherever I was going, and repeat the process in reverse. Travel scooters were easier to transport, but they were uncomfortable and scary to drive, I always felt like I was ready to tip over. Then I found the *So Lite™ Scooter*. Now there's nothing that can hold me back.

Years of work by innovative engineers have resulted in a scooter that's designed with seniors in mind. They created Electronic Stability Control (ESC) that makes it virtually impossible to tip over. If you try to turn too quickly, the scooter automatically slows down to prevent it from tipping over. The battery provides powerful energy at a fraction of the weight of most batteries. With its rugged yet lightweight aluminum frame, the *So Lite™*



Why a So Lite™ Scooter is better:

- Latest "No-Tip" Technology
- Lightweight yet durable
- Folds and locks in seconds
- Easier to operate

Scooter is the most portable scooter ever—but it can hold up to 275 pounds—yet weighs only 40.8 pounds without the battery! What's more, it easily folds up for storage in a car seat, trunk or even on an airplane. It folds in seconds without tools and is safe and reliable. Best of all, it's designed with your safety in mind, from the newest technology and superior craftsmanship. Why spend another day letting your lack of mobility ruin your quality of life? Call now and find out how you can get a *So Lite™ Scooter* of your very own.

journey
solite Scooter

Call now Toll-Free

1-888-720-0296

Please mention code 117663 when ordering.



NOW
available in red



FREE
2 Carry-all bags
(a \$38.90 value)

Exclusive Electronic Stability Control helps prevent tipping

mobility | sleep | comfort | safety

enjoying life never gets old™

journey
HEALTH & LIFESTYLE

Continues from page 8

How did you become such an advocate for flood protection and coastal issues?

In regard to flood protection, after going through things like hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav, Ike and others, you realize how pervasive the devastation is in the event of a hurricane or flood. And it really came to a point right after we were elected in 2016 with the flood then.

You can have the greatest schools in the country, you can have awesome roads, just incredible fellowship and great churches. You can have amazing economic or employment opportunities for your citizens, but if it's all under water, it doesn't matter. It's kind of like food and shelter and clothing. It's fundamental to the safety of our communities. So, flood protection became a huge priority for us.

Ninety percent of the coastal wetlands loss in the United States is happening to us and effectively 2,000 square miles of our state. It's like wiping the state of Rhode Island off the map. That's how much land we've lost. Our state doesn't matter if it's not here, and with some of the rapid rate of land loss we're experiencing, if we don't arrest or stop that, then our entire state, our culture, our future, our livelihood is at risk.

Why has it taken so long to get funding for something so critical? Part of the funding you've secured is just for a backlog of projects.

The (U.S. Army) Corps of Engineers is the primary agency within the federal government that is responsible for building resiliency projects, restoring the coast, hurricane protection, flood control. In doing a deep dive on their project process, it normally takes somewhere around 40 years—I'm not kidding—to get a project moving. The project development and delivery process does not reflect the urgency of the types of projects we're carrying out. It's frustrating.

We've come in and some of the projects—like the West Shore project—have been stuck since before I was born. The Comite project, the Five Bayous project, these are projects that should

have been done decades ago. We are going back and trying to clear the backlog. That's probably \$2.5 billion worth of projects right there.

The Corps of Engineers spends about \$2.5 billion in all 50 states in a year's time, so it's a substantial amount of the Corps' overall project load that we're talking about. We secured all the funds. In fact, if you add it all up, we've secured somewhere close to \$6.5 billion for water resources type investments.

We also secured \$1.2 billion for prospective projects. We need to be thinking about the 2020s, 2030s, 2040s, and that's why we secured the extra funds to really address those prospective projects recognizing current and future growth.

Let's get into specifics. Can you tell us more about some of those projects?

Comite and Amite Basin—a subbasin of the Manchac/Bayou Paul/Spanish Lake area that water just kind of gets stuck in—and then the West Shore one that's in St. James, St. John and St. Charles parishes—those are three of the bigger ones we're working on.

When you get to the east side of the Mississippi River, every community south of St. Francisville drains into Lake Maurepas, Lake Borgne, Lake Pontchartrain and out to the Gulf of Mexico. We don't drain into the Mississippi River. The Comite project changes that. It builds a 12-mile new river from the Comite River west over to the Mississippi River, pulling off huge flows and sending it where there's excess capacity.

We also have another feature of that. We're building a third outlet out of the Amite River called the Highway 22 Spillway that will allow for water levels to come down faster and higher volumes going out.

Another one in the basin is called Five Bayous. It's things like clearing, snagging, widening, finding some of the chokepoints like bridges that are the narrowest. Just clearing that up and allowing for faster flow evacuation, getting the water out of streets and neighborhoods and into the canals, ditches and ultimately out to the

Ongoing Flood Control Projects

Comite River Flood Protection

- Goal: Drain Cypress Bayou floodwaters into the new Comite Diversion Canal and then into the Mississippi River.
- Areas affected: Baker and Zachary.
- Cost: \$5 billion.
- Projected completion: First half of 2024.

Five Bayous

- Goal: Quickly drain East Baton Rouge Parish during severe rain events by improving the water flow in Jones Creek, Ward Creek, Bayou Fountain, Blackwater Bayou and Beaver Bayou.
- Areas affected: Amite River Basin.
- Cost: \$255 million.
- Projected completion: End of 2024.

West Shore

- Goal: Provide protection from flooding along the west shore of Lake Pontchartrain and Lake Maurepas.
- Areas affected: St. James, St. John and St. Charles parishes.
- Cost: \$1.2 billion.
- Projected completion: 2026.

Gulf.

The West Shore project is where you have the confluence of Lake Maurepas and Lake Pontchartrain. I-10 goes underwater right there, Highway 51 in LaPlace goes underwater, Airline Highway goes underwater, so this provides protection along that west shore of Lake Pontchartrain and Lake Maurepas and keeps the water south and east of there and keeps the interstate and those communities dry.

These are all projects that are critically important and long overdue, but that does not mean we won't have protection. A lot of these projects are going to be providing incremental protection even before they are complete.

You've said regional flood protection requires a regional solution. How do you work toward that and get all those parties together?

It's hard because the mayor president of Baton Rouge is responsible for Baton Rouge; the parish president of Livingston's responsible for Livingston Parish; the parish president of Ascension is responsible for Ascension Parish.

Sometimes folks will get myopic in their view, and they'll say, "Well, I'm only going to focus on keeping Ascension or Livingston Parish dry," not thinking about, "What is this going to do to Baton Rouge?"

Being a representative that covers 13 parishes, it's our job to come in and help referee. One of the first things we did is we got them to sign a regional cooperation agreement to focus on regional flood protection. That's been really helpful in that we have a dialogue of the regional leaders, the parish officials, the levee districts involved.

We can help to secure funds for regional projects where there's cooperation and buy-in from the region, but this is all about relationships and cooperation and helping everybody understand the greater good. For example, we talked about the Manchac/Bayou Paul/Spanish Lake basin, and that affects Iberville, Ascension and East Baton Rouge. So, we've had to have all of the parishes at the table talking through different solutions and ideas on how we can help drain that bucket that just holds water.

You have also been working on upgrades to federal disaster response and flood insurance. What's involved in that process?

I'll start with flood insurance. The best solution to disasters is being prepared for them—making sure that families have a game plan.

That's one thing, but what it means from a government perspective is the best thing you can do is to prevent disaster from happening—and that's by making sure you have the right flood protection measures, whether that's a pump station, a levee.



Rep. Garret Graves inspects progress on the Comite Flood Control Project in October with the Army Corps of Engineers. PHOTO COURTESY OF REP. GARRET GRAVES' OFFICE

It's natural features like barrier islands, dunes, native forests, things along those lines. Making sure that we're not spending billions of dollars picking up the pieces, but we're spending millions of dollars on the front end being proactive and making sure that these communities are protected.

What that does is it doesn't allow for flood insurance rates to continue rising to completely unaffordable rates that devalue our homes, but instead, it actually lowers flood insurance rates. It results in safer communities and lower rates. That's how we need to be approaching this.

In regard to disaster reform, the federal government really incentivized spending billions of dollars after (disasters), so we've begun changing that paradigm where we're putting financial incentives in place to actually build protection features and invest in resiliency on the front end.

Making more federal dollars available through a program called BRIC (Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities),

for example—putting more money into proactive protection investment.

In regard to DEMCO, making sure that we have appropriate federal programs and dollars available, making infrastructure like electrical grids more resilient for the types of storms that we experience in our communities in south Louisiana.

Any final thoughts?

We live in south Louisiana on purpose, and we're aware we're a coastal community. You don't have anywhere in the country that's as unique or as fun as we are. It's worth protecting. It's worth investing in, and that's why we've been able to pull together \$6.5 billion in new water resources-type investments, because there's a better way of doing this.

It's not just letting us get the heck beat out of us every time a storm comes. It's making it a safe place and making sure that our most valuable assets—our homes, families and businesses—are protected. ■

Prioritizing Safety and Education

At the annual Louisiana Superintendents and Foremen's Association banquet, the group recognized those who work tirelessly to safely keep the lights on, and who are dedicated to the statewide's educational programs.



From left, Jeff Davis Electric Cooperative's Ben Hetzel, Jonathan Nunez, Kain Miller and Heath Lemieux attend the Louisiana Superintendents and Foremen's Association banquet in Gonzales. Kain was nominated as vice president of the association.



DEMCO's Trent Bigner, right, awards Claiborne's Stephen Faulk with a certificate of recognition for his dedication to the Louisiana Superintendents and Foremen's Association. Stephen has passed the presidency torch to Trent.



Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperative staff at the banquet included, from left, Rhianna Garon, Conley Bourgeois, Aarron Graham and Addie Armato.



Training for Field Work

The Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives provides many programs and services to its member cooperatives, including hands-on training. **ABOVE:** Several crew members attended a recent lineworker training in Baton Rouge. **BELOW LEFT:** Beauregard Electric Cooperative's Jonathan Lunsford, left, and Matthew Hollins attend lineworker training. Matthew is assisting Jonathan in the underground portion of the school. **BELOW RIGHT:** SLECA's Sage Dykes, left, and Collin Authement terminate underground elbows. PHOTOS BY CONLEY BOURGEOIS





Save A Bundle On TV And Internet!

\$300 Get TV.
Get \$100.
Add Internet.
Get \$300.

Visa® Prepaid Card

1234 5678 9012 3456

4000

Gift Card EXPIRES END 01/25

VISA

Mention code Card100 when you order TV only. Mention code Card300 when you order both TV and internet services. Courtesy of GoDISH.com with activation, certain conditions apply. Free \$300 VISA Gift Card when you order a qualifying service (premium customer qualification only).



3-Year TV Price Guarantee

Only DISH Offers a 3-Year TV Price Guarantee with just a 2-Year Commitment!



It's All Included for \$79.99!

- ✓ 190 Channels With Locals
- ✓ Live, Recorded And Streaming TV All On Your DVR
- ✓ Free Premium Channels **SHOWTIME** **DISH MOVIE PACK**
- ✓ Free Professional Installation
- ✓ A Reliable Signal, Now Backed By Our Reliability Guarantee

IT'S FINALLY HERE! Reliable 5G HOME INTERNET

- 📶 No Data Limits
- 📶 No Contract
- 📶 No Upfront Cost
- 📶 No Equipment Fees
- 📶 No Installation
- 📶 Lifetime Price Lock

\$50

Includes All Taxes and Fees!
month for Internet

TV service not required for Internet. Speeds and prices vary by provider. Call for details or visit godish.com/internet.

Live TV + Streaming in One Place!

FREE Streaming on 5 Devices with DISH Anywhere App



Smart Remote w/ Voice and Google Assistant

Hey Google



Seamless Integration with DISH



iSe Habla Español!

godish.com/priceguarantee 🔍

1-866-290-7151

Mon-Fri: 7am-10pm • Sat: 7am-9pm • Sun: 10am-7pm Central Time

dish
Authorized Retailer

Offer for new and qualifying former customers only. Important Terms and Conditions: Requires credit qualification and 2-year commitment. Upfront activation and/or receiver upgrade fees may apply based on credit qualification. Offer ends 4/12/23. Offer requires 2-year commitment: Early termination fee of \$20/mo. remaining applies if you cancel early. Included in 3-year price guarantee at \$79.99 advertised price: America's Top 120 programming package, local channels, HD service fees, and Hopper Duo Smart DVR for 1 TV. Included in 3-year price guarantee for additional cost: Programming package upgrades (\$94.99 for AT120+, \$99.99 for AT200, \$109.99 for AT250), monthly fees for upgraded or additional receivers (\$5-\$7 per additional TV, receivers with additional functionality may be \$10-\$15). NOT included in 3-year price guarantee or advertised price (and subject to change): Taxes & surcharges, add-on programming (including premium channels), DISH Protect, and transactional fees. Premium Channels 3 Mos. Free: After 3 mos., you will be billed \$20/mo. for Showtime, and DISH Movie Pack unless you call or go online to cancel. Remote: The DISH Voice Remote with Google Assistant requires internet-connected Hopper, Joey or Wally device. Customer must press Voice Remote button to activate feature. Other: All packages, programming, features, and functionality and all prices and fees not included in price guarantee are subject to change without notice. After 6 mos., if selected, you will be billed \$10.99/mo. for DISH Protect Silver unless you call to cancel. After 3 years, then-current everyday prices for all services apply. For business customers, additional monthly fees may apply. Free standard professional installation only. Reliability Guarantee: limited time offer, subject to change. Available only to new or returning former customers. Guarantee covers signal loss outages due to normal weather and/or technical issues. Does not cover signal loss outages due to user error. Does not cover changes in programming content. To receive outage credits, you must contact DISH customer service by phone or chat within 72 hours of the outage. Upon verifying the outage, DISH will issue bill credits in daily increments from the time of the outage until the outage is restored. Not available to DISH Outdoors customers. 99% signal reliability based on data from set-top boxes. Not a guarantee of signal in all weather conditions. Watching live and recorded TV on DISH Anywhere requires internet-connected Hopper and compatible mobile device. Miscellaneous: Taxes or surcharges may apply. All packages and offer subject to change without notice. Additional restrictions may apply. Netflix, Prime Video, HBO Max and Discovery Plus streaming memberships required. Indiana C.P.D Reg. No. - 19-08615. ©2023 GoDISH.com. All rights reserved. Internet speeds, prices, and providers vary by customer address. \$50 price refers to widely available plan from multiple providers. Restrictions apply. Nationwide availability is subject to change without notice. The application of "No Data Limits" varies by provider, but commonly means that your access to the Internet will not be stopped by going over a data limit, but that speeds may be lowered. Call for details. Internet not provided by DISH and will be billed separately.