

## Seasons of Louisiana with Dianne Cage

As the old saying goes, it is hot but the cotton is growing... also watermelon, cantaloupe, peaches, tomatoes, okra, eggplant, peppers and basil for the world. Do not forget to make the wonderful Tomato Basil Pie! I finely chopped a handful of my Hot Banana Pepper and added to the list of ingredients; it adds a nice zip and texture to your summertime pie.

Happy July to MARILYN LEWIS, now living in Ruston. It's always a treat to see and hear from her. GRETCHEN DEAN, thank you for my lovely Neiman Marcus couture card — it is one I will save and maybe have it framed one day. LILLIAN GENTRY, a new and first for her, a GREAT GRANDMOTHER, you go girl and love to HERSCHEL! PAIGE RYAN, Happy Birthday to you and love to your mama and daddy. ERICA & MICHAEL RYAN, two of my very favorites and also little brother JACK, BEVERLY JARRELL. I miss seeing you, beautiful LINDA NELSON. LYNN & BUNZIE BRYANT, love that Silver King Florida Corn; KERRY KILPATRICK, amazing custom made jewelry; MELANIE KING, magical brush strokes to create beauty; LU JONES never forgets wonderful happenings; KATHRYN HUTCHINSON, so pretty and her "Ham/Cheese Rolls" are the very best! JUDY HADDAD, best smile & best flowers; DEBBIE EDGERTON, best holiday attire; and love to old friend and LSU roommate across the hall ANN COOKSEY, LSU suitemate, LINDA GRAVES.

Happy memories are just the best! ROMONA CALDWELL & BRYAN, you sure know how to put on an exiting estate sale, MARIE & VICTOR would be proud! First Lady of Ruston KAY GODFREY WALKER, the best gift basket of all, with the very best Smoked Bloody Mary Mix, Smoked Crackers & Smoked Rice. The presentation in the wonderful basket is perfect. I use the little basket every day to pick my figs and other garden happenings... \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

New beginnings ... MAYOR FRIDAY ELLIS took the oath of office Tuesday. This is so exciting for our community! I think I have an in with the new mayor and his lovely smart wife, Ashley. When they married many years ago, guess who was their first landlady? That is right, ME! They were very good tenants. We wish them and their darling family all the very best!

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You know what I have been doing, cleaning out and organizing this old house... It really has been fun, running across fun, happy old happenings, pictures and notes, etc., etc.

"You are encouraged to take advantage of JAMES DAVISON'S kind offer of round-trip transportation for my Monroe guests (listed below). The Squire Creek Mini Bus will be located in the parking lot at Community Trust Bank on North 18th Street where you have the permission to park and lock your car. The bus will depart the parking lot at about 10:45 and will leave Squire Creek by 2:00 for the return DEANNIE BAKER, CAROLINE BROWN, DIANNE CAGE, MARIE CASCIO, ANN CROWE, JANET HAEDICKE, PAT JORDAN, MARGARET LAUVE, CONNIE McCANTS, KAY McDONALD, JOAN MULLINS, DIANNE WALTERS & PHA-LA WRIGHT....and some Ruston folks will show up too.... MELBA JONES." Guess who was driving the bus? One of my most favorite Boy Friends.... JAMES DAVISON. Guess where I sat on the bus? The closest seat to the good looking driver! Yes we had a ball, and I have pictures to prove it....

Will close with one of my favorite poems from "A Fistful of Stars" by one of my dear old friends, PHILLIP FISHMAN....

"Night Blooming Cereus" ... See only the stars... Know only the moon... Sweet fragrance of night... Fade not so soon... Reign oner the blackness... Unblemished queen, Reign till the day... With beauty unseen. ... Comes the gray dawn... Breaks the cold light,... Now tis all over.... One glorious night...

Mine are blooming now and I always think of my friend of so many years ago!

Be kind to all and I look forward to the next time!

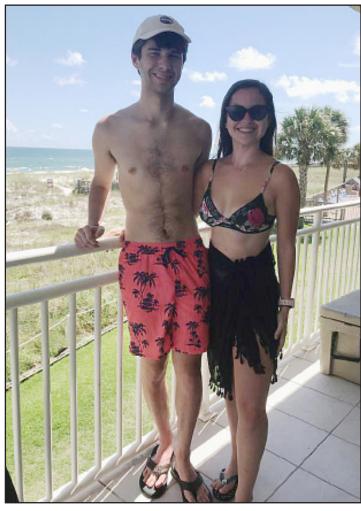




ABOVE: Emelie and Phillip Mosely and baby noy Hartwell, the great-grandson of Lillian Gentry. What is sweeter than a baby?



ABOVE: A birthday party! London Hammons, Paige Ryan, Katherine Godfrey, Julia Woods, Hadley Read, Riley Bryant and Malia Salas.





**ABOVE:** Thomas and Virginia Deshotel enjoying their mom's 60th birthday in remote Florida.

LEFT: Marilyn Lewis, getting ready for Christmas early.



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ABOVE: Fun in Perdido, cousins Katherine Godfrey and Lily Kate Hoy-

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## Toy drive aims to help children learn

hosting a toy drive to help children learn during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In Health, owned by Laurie Daniel, and P2K, owned by Asja Jordan, have teamed

Two local businesses are up to host the Interactive Learning Toy Drive. Examples of items being sought from 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. include games, books, cards and other interactive toys to help children in grades kindergarten though sixth.

Drop off donations to 526 Hudson Lane in Monroe, Friday, July 24.

For more information, call (318) 376-7606 or email p2kmovement@gmail.com.

\$10 a month.

The world judges. We don't.

