



# Seasons of Louisiana with Dianne Cage

Happy Saint Patrick's Day! "Oh the luck of the Irish"... The leaves of the four-leaf clovers are said to stand for Faith, Hope, Love & Luck. They say there are more four leaf clovers in Ireland, giving meaning to the phrase: "The Luck of the Irish."

A long time ago, on KNOE-TV, I did a St. Patrick's Day show with Victor Cascio. I closed the show with a giant Sterling Silver Shamrock and said "Even Victor Cascio is Irish on St. Patrick's Day." I sure miss all my old friends who have gone to a better place. I sure do not want to go see them any time soon... God is Great, God is Good!

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Coronavirus-19 is the real deal! There has not been a world pandemic since 1918 when the Spanish Flu came and killed between 50 million-100 million people worldwide. Many of you remember polio, an epidemic, not pandemic, here in the 1950's — movies, churches, the swimming pool were closed. Mike said he remembered his father, Shelby Cage, who grew up in West Monroe on Ludwig Street, talking about the Spanish Flu and remembering hundreds of people died every day in our area. Stay home and believe what you are hearing!

We did go to Cormier's on Saturday for the best Crawfish and we went to church on Sunday. We will just have to see how this thing plays out and take a day at a time and trust in the Lord. We saw a woman from Seattle being interviewed on T.V. who tested positive for the virus. At the end of her talk, she added that she had not run out of toilet paper. That has not been one of our concerns. I suggest you all get Giant Mullein Seeds (*Verbascum Thapsus*) and grow your own toilet paper, or as some call it, "Cowboy toilet paper." It is a beautiful plant that grows like crazy and comes back every year. It has lovely long stalks, with yellow flowers, the leaves are soft and fuzzy like Lambs Ear. I have plenty of seeds if anybody is interested. Another fun fact, The Mullein flower stalks were used as torches by the Romans and it's use as such even in the new world. The dry stalks were soaked in tallow and burned. I promise, Giant Mullein will be one of your favorite things in your garden.... A true gift from Mother Nature!!

Mike was telling me more stories his father told him that were so interesting. Without too much information, Mike's grandmother, Ethel Watkins (her grandmother was Harriet Louisa Filhiol, married Henry B. Watkins), was asked years ago to dedicate Filhiol at ULM as she was the closest living relative. Don Juan Filhiol lived in West Monroe across the river from Fort Miro... the streets, still there, Linderman and Ludwig were named after two Germans who married into the Filhiol family. Mr. Cage said when he was a boy, before the locks and dams, they used to wade across the Ouachita River at different times of the year. I have really wanted to write a book, a children's version, a Ladybug book, so to speak about "Prairie des Canots." Just the fun facts like a true fairytale. I have, over all these years, also heard wonderful stories from my father, Tom W. King, old father-in-law, George M. Snellings Jr. and my grandfather Earnest Breard, of childhood happenings and growing up in Ouachita Parish. This might just be a good time to start my little book!

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Monroe Garden Club's P. Allen Smith was a huge success; 350 attended with great support from area garden clubs in Ruston, Bastrop, Ferriday, Alexandria and Oak Grove to name a few. It was so much fun, and I enjoyed seeing so many new and old friends. What a wonderful center, ULM's Bayou Point! We have lots to be proud of, here in North Louisiana. One thing I would like the Monroe Garden Club to think about: We have so much money that we are hoarding. We have made more money with our P. Allen Smith event. What are we going to do with it? This money should go back into the community... not a little dab here and a little dab there... into something big and wonderful that would make us all proud! I still like the idea of beautifying Forsythe Ave from North Sixth to North 18th. Let's get a committee and get going. I would love to chair it or be on it. We have the money, let's be good stewards of our gifts. "The Parable of the Talents" in Mathew 25:14-30 tells of a master who was leaving his house to travel and before leaving, entrusted his property to his servants. According to the abilities of each man, one servant received five talents, the second received two and the third received only



**LEFT:** Barry Rubin, Kansas City Chiefs strength coach with the championship trophy. **ABOVE:** MGC members Mary Sue Jacka, Susan Marx, Judy Marx and Faith Marx. **RIGHT:** June and Charles Poole visiting Jorenda Stone in her amazing West Monroe home.



**ABOVE:** LaVerne Bodron and daughter Allison and Carolyn Dolecheck. **LEFT:** Patsy Deal, Cindy Price and MGC President Vicki Robinson.

one. Read the parable and see what the Lord said to each of his servants: "Well done, good and faithful servant ..... the third servant, had merely hidden his talent, burying it in the ground and was punished by his master."

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What a story! From Victorian, Plantation, Lace and such to Frank Lloyd Wright, Picasso, Avant-Garde Art.... JORENDA STONE, you go girl! Remember the EF2 Tornado, about six years ago, that ran through West Monroe, across the river and then through the Garden District? Jorenda's ancestral West Monroe home was destroyed. You have to see her new dwellings to believe! As my daughter SATCHIE said this is "PURE JOY"... If you ever get the chance to visit, do not miss!

I do not understand the politics of running a city but I sure was impressed with Mayor Mayo's plans for the proposed Monroe Event Center and adjacent hotel ... truly spectacular!

Congratulations to North Louisiana remarkable women OLIVIA CUTHBERT, AUDREY EWING, JOAN HAMP-TON and my good friend, GEORGIA STREET..

Aren't we just so blessed to have THE CHENNAULT MUSEUM here in Monroe? Thank you NELL CALLO-WAY for all you do!

Sunday at Saint Paul's Methodist Church has the most amazing choir, musical director, JAY PETTIT with ALICIA REITZELL on the piano... Her offertory selection was so spectacular, she got a standing ovation.

So proud of BARRY RUBIN, Monroe's own as in R&A Jewelry Family. The Kansas City Chiefs and the Vince Lombardi Super Bowl Trophy. The team sure ate good coming home! I happened to see the menu: Rosemary Seared Beef Filet with a demi-glaze sauce served with Cheesy Potatoes Gratin, Haricot Vert, Peppers & Tomatoes. Dessert was Mesclun Salad with Strawberries, Oranges & Apples... That sounds good!

Do not forget BOYS & GIRLS CLUB WEEK OF North Louisiana. Whatever it takes to Build Great Futures. I know first hand this is a great organization to support. It would

make you proud and feel so good to be part of Boys & Girls Club on 500 Evergreen St. in West Monroe.

Be safe, wash your hands! If you can not find hand sanitizer, make your own. Aloe Vera Gel, add 100 proof Cheap Vodka.

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

*Dianne*

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The position will be full time with benefits.  
**Qualifications required are:**  
Be a registered voter; if appointed as Registrar of Voters, must become a resident and registered voter of Morehouse Parish prior to taking oath of office;

**Must possess at least one of the following:**  
Baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution and two years of full-time, professional work experience.  
An Associate's degree from an accredited institution and four years of full-time, professional work experience.  
Seven years of full-time professional work experience.  
Five years of full-time employment in a registrar's office in Louisiana.

As used above "professional work experience" means experience in an occupation which requires specialized and theoretical knowledge usually acquired through college training or through work experience and other training which provides comparable knowledge.

Applications for employment may be picked up at the Morehouse Parish Police Jury Office located at 125 East Madison Avenue, Bastrop, LA between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday or 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. Friday. Deadline for submission of application will be Wednesday, March 25, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.

**Terry Matthews, President**  
The Morehouse Parish Police Jury is an equal opportunity employer.

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## Pick Up Your FREE Colorectal Cancer Screening Kit

During the month of March, 2020  
Monday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

#### Northeast Louisiana Cancer Institute

Corner of Hall & Calypso Street, Monroe, LA

The EZ Detect kit is a simple and sanitary home test requiring no stool handling. This is a home test for hidden blood in the stool and does not replace a physician's examination or other screening procedures.

For more information, please call: (318) 966-1953 or 1-800-393-2029

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