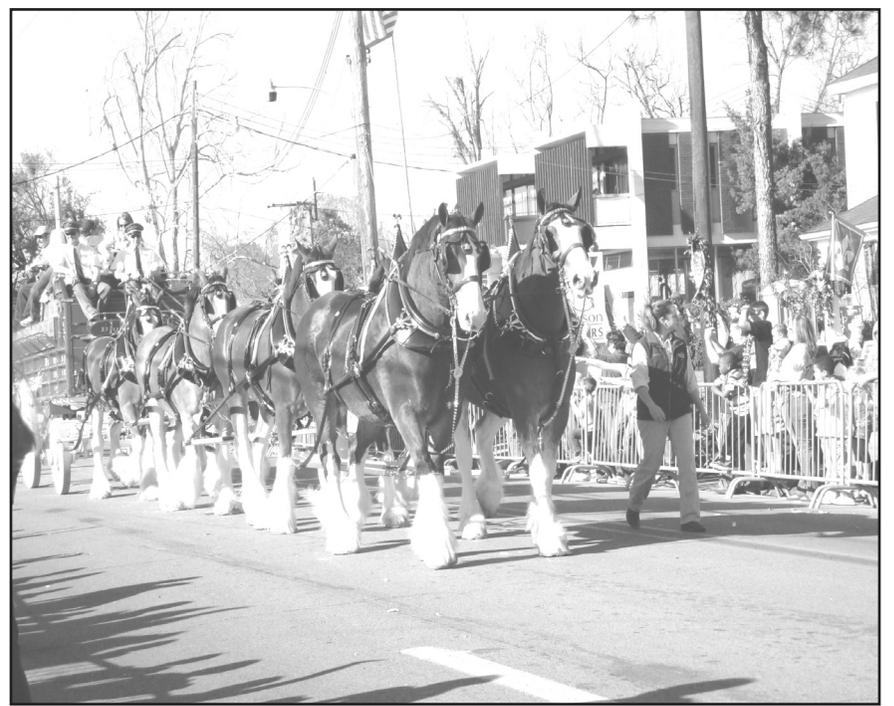


16th annual Mardi Gras parade brings food, fun fellowship for participants, parade watchers



Photos by Sherri L. Jackson
For more photos see www.cenlalight.wordpress.com

Links hosts Ebony Fashion Show

Ebony Fashion Fair is set to deliver a riveting fashion extravaganza with THE RUNWAY REPORT: What's Hip. What's Hot. What's Now! Fabulous meets fierce in the 51st annual fashion show as the latest trends and unique styles are unveiled.

The Alexandria Chapter of the Links Inc. will host the 51st Annual Ebony Fashion Fair Show: The Runway Report. The show will be held at 8 p.m. March 11 at the Coughlin Saunders Performing Arts Center in downtown Alexandria.

Tickets are \$36 and may be purchased from Von Jennings or any Link sister. For more information, may contact Jennings at (318) 4470191 or vnj198@aol.com

Commanding the catwalk will be 13 alluring models that will work the runway in designs by a host

of the best designers in the world, including Christian Lacroix, Sarli, b. michael, Carolina Herrera, Ruben Singer and Jean-Louis Scherrer.

Each ticket purchase includes a copy of Ebony Fashion Fair magazine. In addition, attendees will have a choice of a one-year subscription to Ebony magazine or a six-month subscription to Jet magazine. Incredible door

prizes will also be given away during intermission by the shows sponsors. Ticket holders will have a chance to win round-trip airfare for two to any U.S. destination courtesy of American Airlines or American Eagle.

Other prizes include a one-year supply of hair care items from Luster's Pink collection and products from Fashion Fair Cosmetics, the No. 1 cosmetics company in the world for women of color.

Ebony Fashion Fair is an elaborate production fully equipped with special effects, hip-hop and R&B music as well as all of the entertainment of a Broadway show. Known for its commitment to giving back to the community, the show has donated over \$55 million to charitable organizations and scholarship funds.

Fashion authority Eunice W. Johnson continues to preside as the show's producer and director and wows spectators with cutting-edge trends and rare collections of apparel. Fashionistas across the country will find out what's hip, what's hot and what's now when the world's largest traveling fashion show hits their city!



French designer Christian Lacroix's bejeweled patent shoes with spats, studded leather sleeves and a gem-encrusted cummerbund give high-fashion flair to a casual jean look worn with Giles Montezin's tulip sleeve dutchess satin jacket and Lanvin's silver and black velvet ribbon necklace. (At right) German designer Jutta Nordheim creates a fun and flirty fortuney pleated dress accented with a large ruffle hemline and a flower brooch worn with thigh-high suede boots from French shoe designer La Rare.

Alma Mills is 100 years old

Alma Mills of Pineville is 100 years old.

Her family celebrated the milestone recently at Ryan's Restaurant in Pineville.

"I have been blessed to live through two great events in my life: the election of a black mayor in the town I live in and the election of a black man as President of the country I was born in," Mills said



"If You're Not Reading The Light, You're in the Dark!"

Spring 09

Community Development

Works (CDW) provides free access to training, leadership programs, and informational resources to support citizen-led efforts that address local issues to improve the quality of life in Central Louisiana.



Community Development Works

Training Calendar

MARCH OFFERINGS

Basic Courses

To Be or Not to Be a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization

Speaker: Felicia Walker
Date: Tuesday, March 3
Time: 4 p.m - 8 p.m.

Financial Management (2-days)

Speaker: Jan Eastman
Date: Wednesday, March 18, & Thursday, March 19
Time: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

General Courses

Developing Budgets for Grant Proposals

Speaker: Tiya Scroggins
Date: Monday, March 9
Time: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Advanced Courses

Facilitating Strategic Planning Retreats

Speaker: Rob Benson
Date: Friday, March 20
Time: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Ministries in Action Committees That Work Wonders

Speaker: Susan Shaffette
Date: Friday, March 27
Time: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Learning Lab Using the Foundation Center Directory

Speaker: Felicia Walker
Date: Tuesday, March 24
Time: 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

- ⊕ There is no cost for CDW training.
- ⊕ Class size is limited and pre-registration is required.
- ⊕ To register for courses please call 318.443.7880 or 800.803.8075 or register online at communitydevelopmentworks.org

Funded by
THE RAPIDES FOUNDATION

Spotlight on Religion

Obeying God brings blessings

By Pastor Lillie Thompson
Pleasant Valley Full Gospel Church

“Obey God, and he will take care of you.”

All last year, I told this to my church family, Pleasant Full Gospel Baptist Church in Lena, and to all believers that I meet.

All last year in every Sunday school lesson, it has been getting stronger and stronger in my spirit that God is saying, “Obey me and I will take care of you.”

The New Year has come in and I still feel in my spirit that God is still saying “Obey me and I will take care of you.” Everyone is talking about the recession and how hard things are getting. This is not so for the believers who put their trust.

Deut 11:27 states a blessing, if ye

obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you this day.” But, I think that Jeremiah said it best in Jeremiah 7:23, “But this thing command I them, saying Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people, and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you.”

You see obeying God is not saying that we are not going to go through hard times. It does mean that when we do go through those hard times, we have hope because we know what the end is going to be.

When we obey God, He will take care of you. That is why in good times and in bad times we praise God for He knows all things and He will never put more on you than you can bear. God always provides a way out.



Photo by Sherri L. Jackson

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION – The Rev. S.Y. Brady, pastor of Second Bethlehem Baptist Church, enjoys the singing of St. Matthew Baptist Church’s Brotherhood during the church’s 102nd anniversary as a congregation. Second Bethlehem is located at 1910 Harris St., in Alexandria. Dr. Joe S. Green, pastor of St. Matthew, was the guest speaker.

EXTREME MOUNTAINTOP EXPERIENCE

- Eye-Popping Puppets
- Kids expanding their faith through healing and miracles
- Spectacular Illusions
- Student led worship
- Clowns & Juggling
- Challenging kids to answer the call to His service
- High-Energy Involvement

Everyone is Welcome!
Over thirty-five different denominations represented!

March 14, 2009 6:00 PM
The Pentecostals of Alexandria
2817 Rapides Ave.
Register by Email at tra90@thepentecostals.org

144th Church Anniversary Celebration Newman United Methodist Church March 13-15, 2009

Friday, March 13
Community Reception/
Press Conference
6 to 8 p.m.
Martin Community Center

Dr. Joseph Awotwi
Senior Pastor

Saturday, March 14
Youth Musical Production
6:30 p.m.
Newman United Methodist

5700 Oran St.
Alexandria, LA

For more information call
the church at

Sunday, March 15
Anniversary Celebration
3 p.m.
Newman United Methodist

(318) 442-4434

or
Dr. Norvella Williams
(318) 487-1747

The Rev. Hilton Harrell
Guest Speaker
Pleasant Grove East
McComb Baptist Church
McComb, Miss.

Coach

Continued from Page 1

“I would be lying if I said I wasn’t disappointed to have to battle this again right now. Sure, I got discouraged especially when I heard about the cancer in my bones,” she said. “It’s a mean disease. There is no cure, but there are things available to help prolong your life.”

“When I was diagnosed with breast cancer the first time, my faith and relationship with God were not as strong as it is today. Through the battle, I gained strength and developed a relationship with Him. The second time around, I’m still standing on my faith, and I hear many success stories on how people have survived this disease.

The game begins

Richard admits it’s hard to separate Janice and basketball, except when it comes to family. She is the 10th child of Clarence and Menda Joseph’s 11 children.

“I come from a large family. It was wonderful always having people around. That was so important to me. I hate the fact that my son is the only child,” she said. “The experience of growing up in a large family was great because we had each other. We were poor. We didn’t have all of the toys that my son has. We had to make do. My parents worked to provide a roof over our heads. We basically had what we needed.”

“It had to be difficult for them. My mom worked as a cook and my dad worked for the City of Alexandria and owned a sanitation business.”

As in all large families, it’s important that all members pitch in to make sure all chores are done. Yet, Richard is quick to admit, she didn’t do her best work in the kitchen as her sisters, Pam and Lillie did.

She soon discovered her best work would be outside of the home.

It was in a field behind the family’s home and on the basketball courts in Frank O. Hunter and Cheatham parks that Janice Joseph first realized she had could handle a basketball. In fact, she credits the men on those courts for making her tough enough to play anyone she would ever come in contact with in her career.

“There’s no doubt they helped me to elevate my game to be able to play on the collegiate level. Whenever I see all of those guys, I thank them,” she said. “Of course, they used to beat up on me, but I gained their respect. I earned the right to get out there and be with them.”

Richard’s basketball career began

in earnest at Peabody Magnet High School, where she is a 1982 graduate.

At Peabody, she was named All-State Player and All-District Player among other honores and awards.

She would leave Peabody with a basketball scholarship to attend Louisiana College, where she earned a business degree in 1986.

At LC, Richard, led the team to a number one national ranking and a final four appearance in 1986. Also, she was twice named a First Team All-American (1985 and 1986), was named team captain all four years, was a four-time All-District performer, and was twice named the Gulf Coast Athletic Conference Player of the Year.

She still holds school records for points in a season (822), most field goals in a season (315), and most free-throws made in a season (192).

She was drafted by the National Women’s Basketball Association and played for three months with the Louisiana Blues, which was stationed in Monroe.

“That didn’t last long because the league folded. It was one of several different pro leagues that was started and folded before the Women’s Basketball Association came along,” she said.

With ties to Frank Schneider, then head women’s basketball coach at Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond, Richard became an assistant basketball coach. Schneider had been Richard’s coach at LC for her first three years as a player.

Leaving SLU, she headed to Germany to play ball and try her hand at coaching for two years.

She then returned to Louisiana to become the head coach at Xavier University, where she remained for six years and winning five championship games.

She resigned from Xavier, got married and had a son, Otis Lee Richard Jr.

From Xavier University, Richard headed to San Jose State University and coached for seven years.

The battle begins

At San Jose State University, Richard said, life was good and she was “on top of the world.”

“I was making more money than I ever thought about making as a coach. I had a great family, a wonderful son, everything was good,” she said.

Then in a twinkling of an eye, life changed for Richard.

“I got the news that I had breast cancer and we needed to act immediately. I got chemotherapy right away, had a mastectomy and radiation,” she



SIBLINGS – Coach Janice Joseph Richard is shown with five of her 10 sisters and brothers. From left to right, front row, are Richard, Walter Collins, and Lillie Jackson. Second row from left, are Kenneth Joseph, Raymond Joseph and Pam Jones. Not shown are James Joseph, Larry Joseph, Burnell Williams, Jerry Joseph and Clarence Joseph Jr.



WE ARE FAMILY – Coach Janice Joseph Richard is surrounded by family members, who attended Louisiana College’s last home game Thursday, Feb. 19 when the Lady Wildcats beat Tyler 76-68. Richard said she is grateful to be at home to enjoy her family and friends.

said. “It was devastating news. Before I was diagnosed, I had participated in awareness programs such as Relay for Life, but I didn’t think it would ever impact me.”

Richard said she delved into anything she could get her hands on regarding breast cancer. She read success stories. She read about how far research had come regarding the disease.

“I took a positive attitude. I always knew the best would happen. I had a lot of support from survivors, friends and family.

“My sisters were there for me for every treatment. Lillie and Pam took turns flying out to be with me, and

Lillie retired early from Central State Hospital to be with me.”

In the midst of Richard’s battle with cancer, San Jose State decided not to renew her contract. That move helped her make her move back to Alexandria, where she would become the head women’s basketball coach at Louisiana College, her alma mater.

Second time around

In January Richard learned she once again had cancer. This time in her bones.

Though the disease is much different and harsher than breast cancer,

Coach

Continued on Page 9