

May 2025

THE NEWS

WORDS FROM THE
DIRECTOR

Page 2

SUPERVISOR
TIPS

Page 3



Scan for more
information on how to
become an advocate

HAPPENINGS
IN OUR
COMMUNITIES

Page 6-9

TRAINING
Page 4

MAY FUN DAYS
Page 5



CASA
Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN
CASA OF WEST CENTRAL

CASA
Court Appointed Special Ad
FOR CHILDREN
CASA OF WEST CENLA

CHILD ABUSE
PREVENTION
MONTH
HIGHLIGHTS

Page 10-13

SPOTLIGHTS

Page 14

CASAWESTCENLA.ORG



WORDS FROM THE DIRECTOR

As the warmth of summer approaches, it brings more than just longer days and outdoor fun—it offers a powerful reminder of the childhood every child deserves: safe, joyful, and filled with opportunity. We would also like to thank every organization, municipality and business that planted pinwheels with CASA in April during Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month.

At CASA OF West CenLA, we know summer can be a time of both possibility and vulnerability. While many children look forward to camps, family vacations, and carefree play, others face increased risk due to food insecurity, lack of supervision, or unstable environments. That's why our work as child advocates is especially critical during these months.

Whether it's connecting children with safe summer programming, supporting families in crisis, or simply being a consistent and trusted adult in a child's life, our commitment doesn't take a summer break. And neither does yours. To our volunteers, partners, and staff—you are the heart of this mission. Thank you for showing up, speaking up, and standing up for children when they need us most.

Let's continue working together to make this summer one of safety, healing, and hope—for every child.

SUPERVISOR TIPS

BEFORE MEETING THE CHILD:

LEARN ABOUT THE CASE: FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH THE CHILD'S BACKGROUND, THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE CASE, AND ANY RELEVANT COURT ORDERS.

UNDERSTAND YOUR ROLE: KNOW WHAT INFORMATION YOU ARE ALLOWED TO GATHER AND WHAT YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES ARE AS A CASA VOLUNTEER.

PREPARE FOR THE FIRST MEETING: PLAN WHAT YOU WANT TO DISCUSS WITH THE CHILD, AND WHAT YOU HOPE TO LEARN.

COMMUNICATING WITH OTHERS:

COMMUNICATE REGULARLY WITH YOUR VOLUNTEER SUPERVISOR: KEEP THEM INFORMED ABOUT YOUR CASE AND ANY CONCERNS YOU MAY HAVE.

COLLABORATE WITH OTHER PROFESSIONALS INVOLVED IN THE CASE: WORK WITH SOCIAL WORKERS, THERAPISTS, AND OTHER PROFESSIONALS TO ENSURE THE CHILD'S NEEDS ARE MET.

BE PROFESSIONAL AND RESPECTFUL: MAINTAIN A POSITIVE AND COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE IN ALL INTERACTIONS.

DON'T OVERTHINK THINGS: REMEMBER YOU ARE AN INFORMATION GATHERER, NOT A JUDGE.

SCHEDULE VISITS AHEAD OF TIME: WITH SOME CASA FAMILIES, IT WORKS WELL TO SET UP REGULARLY SCHEDULED HOME VISITS, SUCH AS EVERY FIRST AND THIRD TUESDAY OF THE MONTH.

DURING MEETINGS WITH THE CHILD:

BE A GOOD LISTENER: PAY ATTENTION TO THE CHILD'S CONCERNS AND FEELINGS.

BE PATIENT AND UNDERSTANDING: CHILDREN WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED ABUSE OR NEGLECT MAY NEED TIME TO OPEN UP AND TRUST YOU.

BUILD A RELATIONSHIP: CREATE A SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE CHILD TO SHARE THEIR THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS.

FOCUS ON THE CHILD'S NEEDS: ADVOCATE FOR THEIR BEST INTERESTS IN ALL COURT PROCEEDINGS.

DOCUMENT YOUR OBSERVATIONS: KEEP A RECORD OF YOUR INTERACTIONS WITH THE CHILD, INCLUDING THEIR STATEMENTS AND YOUR OBSERVATIONS.

BE CONSISTENT: MAINTAIN REGULAR CONTACT WITH THE CHILD AND THEIR CAREGIVERS.

BE A POSITIVE ROLE MODEL: SHOW THE CHILD THAT YOU CARE ABOUT THEM AND THAT THEY ARE IMPORTANT.

May 2025

TRAINING

PRE-SERVICE TRAINING

For new advocates
coming on board

2025

April 29 5:30pm-7:00pm Orientation
May 13 5:30pm-8:15pm Session 1
May 20 5:30pm-7:15pm Session 2
May 27 5:30pm-7:15pm Session 3
June 3 5:30pm-7:15pm Session 4
June 10 5:30pm-8:15pm Session 5

IN-SERVICE TRAINING

For current advocates only

Foster Care Awareness
May 15, 2025
5:30pm-6:30pm

420 McMahon Street
DeRidder, LA 70634
337.462.4667 Phone
337.462.1554 Fax

113 S. 3rd Street
Leesville, LA 71446
337.239.1970 Phone
337.239.1960 Fax

casawestcenla.org
[facebook.casawestcenla](https://facebook.com/casawestcenla)



Scan for more
information on how to
become an advocate

CASAWESTCENLA.ORG

MAY FUN DAYS

May 1 Batman Day	May 13 Frog Jumping Day
May 2 Space Day	May 14 Dance Like a Chicken Day
May 3 Astronomy Day	May 15 Chocolate Chip Day
May 3 Herb Day	May 16 Pizza Party Day
May 3 Free Comic Book Day	May 17 Pack Rat Day
May 4 Star Wars Day	May 18 No Dirty Dishes Day
May 5 Square Root Day	May 20 Be a Millionaire Day
May 6 Beverage Day	May 21 Talk Like Yoda Day
May 7 National School Nurse Day	May 24 Scavenger Hunt Day
May 9 Europe Day	May 25 Sing Out Day
May 9 Lost Sock Memorial Day	May 25 Towel Day
May 10 Clean Up Your Room Day	May 26 World Lindy Hop Day
May 11 Twilight Zone Day	May 27 Sun Screen Day
May 11 Eat What You Want Day	May 28 Hamburger Day
May 12 Limerick Day	May 29 Put a Pillow on Your Fridge Day
	May 30 My Bucket's Got a Hole Day
	May 31 Macaroon Day

HAPPENINGS IN VERNON

3 MAY 12 PM

JUDGING TIME

GRAND CHAMP CASH PRIZES!!!

\$150 per team

WILD WEST LOUISIANA

★ BARBECUE ★

SHOWDOWN

BEST RIBS • BEST CHICKEN
• BEST BRISKET

OVERALL GRAND CHAMP • PEOPLES CHOICE

Teams must be signed up by April 15 at 12 pm.
QR code is the registration.
NO EXCEPTIONS!

MAYFEST 2025! VERNON PARISH FAIR GROUNDS

INFO AND QUESTIONS CONTACT SHAYLYNN BUSBY ON FACEBOOK

MAYFEST

MAYFEST
VERNON PARISH, LA

May 2-3, 2025
Vernon Parish
Fairgrounds

34th Annual AUSA

ARMADILLO STAMPEDE

5K

LEESVILLE, LOUISIANA

MAY 6, 2017

Presented by your local **GEICO** office

Early On-line Registration Fee: \$25.00
Packet Pick-up Day Registration: \$30.00
Packet Pick-up: **Friday, May 5**
1:00 PM - 6:00 PM
@ Geico (11275 Lake Charles Hwy)

CHIP-TIMED COURSE

START LOCATION:
Downtown Leesville
near Oak Pointe Wellness Center
800 1/2 South 3rd Street
Race Start Time: 7:30 AM

Register at www.eventbrite.com
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/34th-annual-armadillo-stampede-5k-registration-32088520629>
Participants registered online by **April 19** are guaranteed a **RACE SHIRT**.
*Note: Online registration closes April 29. Late registration is available during Packet Pick-up Day only.
THERE IS NO RACE DAY REGISTRATION. Shirts are not guaranteed for Packet Pick-up Day Registration.



The **Leonidas Feltz** Chapter AUSA is hosting the Armadillo Stampede for the 34th year. Proceeds from the race benefit the **Association of the United States Army (AUSA)**. AUSA is a private, non-profit educational organization that supports America's Army - Active, National Guard, Reserve, Veterans, Wounded Warriors, Veterans, and family members. Learn more by visiting www.ausa.org

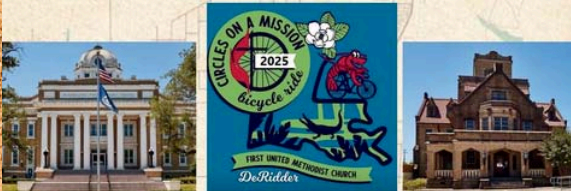


SCAN HERE TO REGISTER ONLINE

CASAWESTCENLA.ORG

HAPPENINGS IN BEAUREGARD

Let's Go
Walking
Historic Downtown DeRidder



History Enthusiast, Homeschool Group, Walking Groups

Join US!!
May 17th at 8 a.m.

<https://runsignup.com/Race/LA/DeRidder/CirclesonaMissionBicycleRide>

Register today for Circles on A Mission's 1-mile historic walk through downtown DeRidder! Led by local historians, the tour features landmarks like the "Hanging Jail" and Courthouse. Your \$20 registration benefits the Methodist Children's Home of SW LA and includes a T-shirt, meal, and a chance to win prizes, including a gift certificate for new walking shoes.

DeRidder Lions Club

Baggin' & Braggin'
CORNHOLE
TOURNAMENT



Family Friendly

Includes Lunch
Add Ons Available

FAIRGROUNDS EXHIBIT HALL

MAY 31
GAMES START @ 10 AM

WIN CASH PRIZES
REGISTRATION
\$50 PER TEAM
UPPER & LOWER BRACKETS

CONTACT MICHELLE MINION -
337.348.2136

**CIRCLES ON A MISSION
BICYCLE RIDE**

May 17, 2025

First United Methodist Church DeRidder
406 Shirley Street, DeRidder, LA

Registration is Open!
<https://www.bikesignup.com/Race/LA/DeRidder/CirclesonaMissionBicycleRide>



All funds benefit
Methodist Children's
Home of Southwest
Louisiana in Sulphur,
LA. For more
information, visit
www.lumchf.org

Let's Ride!

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
406 SHIRLEY ST • DERIDDER, LA 70534 • 337.463.4891
P.O. BOX 955 DERIDDER, LA 70534
WWW.FIRSTUNITEDMETHODISTCHURCHDERIDDER.ORG
Central to Outreach, Committed to Christ
Our Mission is to Grow and Serve in Christ

HAPPENINGS IN BEAUREGARD



Mother's
DAY
On Main



10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturday, May 10
DeRidder Main Street

*Special shopping, snacks, photos, fun activities, and
honoring our mothers in small, but special ways!*

The poster features a circular design with a red dashed border. At the bottom left, there is a large, detailed illustration of a red rose with green leaves. The background of the poster is white, and it is pinned to a corkboard with two orange pushpins at the top corners.



**YOU'LL FIND
TREASURES GALORE AT THE ANNUAL**



**TREASURE
FEST**

**SATURDAY, MAY 3
7:00AM-3:00PM**

**800 MEL BRANCH MEMORIAL DRIVE DERIDDER, LA
ON THE GROUNDS OF PINEWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

FREE ADMISSION

**ONE STOP , MULTI YARD SALE SHOPPING!
PLANTS, FURNITURE, ANTIQUES & MUCH MUCH MORE**

**FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:
BEAUREGARD TOURIST COMMISSION 337-463-5534**

The poster has a black background. At the top, the text 'YOU'LL FIND TREASURES GALORE AT THE ANNUAL' is in yellow and red. Below this is a large, detailed illustration of a treasure chest with a metal latch. The text 'TREASURE FEST' is in large, bold, yellow letters with a red outline. Below the chest, the date and time 'SATURDAY, MAY 3 7:00AM-3:00PM' are in white. The location '800 MEL BRANCH MEMORIAL DRIVE DERIDDER, LA ON THE GROUNDS OF PINEWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL' is in yellow. 'FREE ADMISSION' is in yellow. 'ONE STOP , MULTI YARD SALE SHOPPING! PLANTS, FURNITURE, ANTIQUES & MUCH MUCH MORE' is in white. At the bottom, 'FOR MORE INFO CONTACT: BEAUREGARD TOURIST COMMISSION 337-463-5534' is in yellow. The poster is secured to the corkboard with two pieces of brown tape at the top corners.

HAPPENINGS IN BEAUREGARD



Senior Appreciation Lunch

In honor of Older Americans Month, the Beauregard Council on Aging will be hosting our annual Senior Appreciation lunch on Thursday, May 15th. There will be live music, information stations, door prizes, and lunch provided. This event is free for any Senior who is 60+ and lives in Beauregard Parish.

Please call 463-6578 or 463-9694 to register for the lunch.

Date: May 15th, 2025

Location: Beauregard Parish Fairgrounds
Exhibit Hall

Time: 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Menu:
Fried Fish
Baked Beans
Cole Slaw
Hush Puppies

**BEAUREGARD
PARISH
FAIRGROUNDS
DERIDDER
LOUISIANA**

**20TH ANNUAL
Beauregard
Watermelon
Festival**

Thursday, May 8, 2025 5:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Friday, May 9, 2025 12:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 10, 2025 10:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m.

Admission \$5
Free for ages 3 years & Under
Free Admission with Military ID

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH HIGHLIGHTS



Anacoco City Hall



Beauregard DCFS



Beauregard
Health Systems



Beauregard Parish
Police Jury



Beauregard Parish
School Board

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH HIGHLIGHTS



Byrd Hospital



DeRidder Library



Gallery111



KJAE



Hornbeck City Hall



Leesville
City Hall

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH HIGHLIGHTS



New Llano
City Hall



Rosepine
City Hall



Simpson Town Hall



Sunshine #8



Vernon Community
Health Center

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH HIGHLIGHTS



Vernon Council
on Aging



Vernon DCFS



Vernon
Police Jury



CASA of West
CenLA



Vernon Parish
School Board



Veteran's Park

SPOTLIGHTS



CHRISTIE, OFFICE ADVOCATE
VERNON PARISH



BERNICE, BOOKKEEPER
BEAUREGARD PARISH



TIFFANY, VICE PRESIDENT
BOARD MEMBER