

LA PAROLE
Newsletter of the Acadian Museum
By: Chairman Warren A. Perrin
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January 23, 2018

- You are on the museum's email list to receive *La Parole*. If you know of anyone who would like to receive it, please forward their name and email address to my secretary Darylin at: darylinb@plddo.com. If you no longer want to receive future issues, please advise at the email noted above.
- On January 26, I will be speaking at Yale University at a symposium, "French South of the Border: Colloquium on Franco-American identity and Francophone culture in the United States," and, on the same day, Mary and I will do a PowerPoint book presentation and cook a jambalaya for the attendees. Our invitation was made possible by historian Dean Ryan Brasseaux, a native of Lafayette and son of Dr. Carl Brasseaux.
- *Acadie Then and Now* was named the 2015 winner of the prestigious *Prix France-Acadie*. In Canada, the books in French or English editions may be ordered from Jacques Ouellet of *La Grande Marée* at email: jouellet@nbnet.nb.ca, or on the web at www.amazon.ca. In the U. S., call (337) 233-5832, or email perrin@plddo.com.
- Let **Acadian Museum Editing Services** polish up your written word. We provide proofreading and editing services for all forms of written documents, from brochures to school papers to full-length book manuscripts. We work for international students and faculty, business and government officials, high school and



college students, or anyone who needs a perfect written document. All profits go to the Acadian Museum. Call 337-501-3053 or email mlbperrin@gmail.com. Ask for Mary Perrin for more information.

- The *Times-Picayune* is marking the tricentennial of New Orleans with its ongoing 300 for 300 project, running through 2018 and highlighting the moments and people that connect and inspire us. In the 1930s, Justin Wilson was already a storyteller, but he didn't do it for a living. Rather, the native of the Tangipahoa Parish town of Amite spun his folksy Cajun stories -- using an adopted Cajun patois -- for his family, his friends and those he encountered during his travels through Acadiana as a safety engineer. Then, in the early 1930s, he met the iconic American humorist Will Rogers. That encounter, according to *The New York Times*, would end up inspiring Wilson to embark on a second career as a humorist.



Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards (left, with wife Donna) invited the former governors to visit the Mansion, November 12 for a reception called "Memories at the Mansion." Happily, former Governor Edwin W. Edwards (right, with Robert



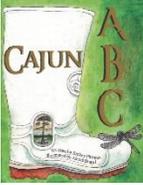
Vincent) invited Robert B. Vincent of Erath as his special guest. Robert is one of the founders of the Acadian Museum and serves on the executive committee. They have had a very special personal relationship ever since Robert met him when he was just an adolescent.

- We received this email from CODOFIL's president William "Bill" Arceneaux: "Bonjour. I know that I speak for all the members of the CODOFIL Council when I say how distressed we all are concerning the resignation of Charles Larroque as E.D. of CODOFIL. Charles has been a terrific leader."

- We are pleased to announce that Peggy Feehan, a long-time promoter of French in Louisiana in several capacities, has been named the new executive director of CODOFIL. Her appointment comes at the same time that CODOFIL is launching a wonderful program of year-long events commemorating its 50th anniversary of its founding in 1968. A 50th-specific website will be launched in the coming weeks. Congratulations to Peggy! Peggy sent this email: “This school year, Louisiana welcomes 62 new French teachers – three from Canada, eight from Belgium, 43 from France, and eight are our own home-grown *Escadrille Louisiane* participants. The new French teachers have been hired by 10 different parishes all over the state of Louisiane.”
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- The image shows a woman standing in front of a poster for CODOFIL. The poster features the text 'CODOFIL' at the top, followed by 'FRANCAIS EN LOUISIANE' and 'EDUCATION'. Below the text is a photograph of two children, a boy and a girl, smiling. The woman is wearing a dark blue long-sleeved shirt and dark pants. She is standing on a small step in front of a doorway.
- Tamara Linder, UL Lafayette, sent this email: “I wanted to share with you the news of the publication by UL Press of a new Anthology of Louisiana Francophone literature (http://www.ulpress.org/item_232/Anthologie-de-la-littérature-louisianaise-d'expression-française-de-1682-nos-jours.php).”
 - I received this email from Fernand de Varennes, *Université de Moncton*: “It is time to begin the search for a Louisiana student who will be admitted to the law program to study common law in French at *l'Université de Moncton* in 2018. We are beginning an effort to raise funds for a scholarship to be given to the student. The scholarship will be called *Bourse de l'Acadie Louisiane–Warren Perrin* to recognize your efforts and work for Acadie in matters involving culture, law, history and literature.” Applications for the scholarship should be sent to me at perrin@plddo.com. The deadline to submit a name is January 31.
 - Founded in 1890, *Université Sainte-Anne* has a deep and illustrious history on the Acadian shore of Nova Scotia and key staff members predict it has an even brighter future. *Sainte-Anne's* main campus in Church Point, has expanded its programming, this year introducing the integrated French immersion option for anglophone students who have attended a French immersion program secondary school. University president Allister Surette is in his seventh year leading the institution.

- *Familles rebelles de La Petite-Rochelle: un pan méconnu de l'histoire des Acadiens* - This is a book by Michel Goudreau was launched November 20, after over 20 years of research, which is about the last Acadian refugee camp (1760) and at the end of the Acadian resistance on the Restigouche River (on Québec side, in front of Campbellton, New Brunswick). Many Louisiana Cajuns' ancestors were at the refugee camp, including the Boudreau and Richard family lines. To order the book, *la Société historique* sells it: *Société historique Machault*, 1830 boul. Interprovincial, Pointe-à-la-Croix, Québec, Canada G0C 1L0
<http://ici.radio-canada.ca/nouvelle/1067136/familles-rebelles-petite-rochelle-histoire-acadiens-michel-goudreau>
- We received this email from Dana Kress: “Some time ago Bill Arceneaux asked me if I would chair the search committee to select the new *Poete Laureat de la Louisiane Francaise*. Zachary Richard was the first selected. It is time to select a new *Poete Laureat* and I have asked Mavis Fruge, Amanda LaFleur, Darrell Bourque, and Brenda Mounier to serve on the committee. Included please find the English and French Nomination forms attached. Distribute them far and wide. You can also access them online here: <http://french.centenary.edu/poetlaureaten2.pdf> English; <http://french.centenary.edu/poetlaureatfr2.pdf> French.”
- On November 18, Mary Perrin again hosted Healing Traditions In Acadiana — The Power Of Prayer at Vermilionville. The series is an introduction to the healing traditions of the Cajun and Creole people, in addition to preserving medicinal plants and the knowledge of their uses. Guest speaker was Living Legend Allen Simon. Mary is now writing a book, to be published by UL Center for Louisiana Studies, on the history of using native plants for medicinal purposes.
- Lucius Fontenot has a photography exhibit at Glide Studio of muddy, drunken *Mardi Gras* participants that have made viewers stare and giggle. That same exhibit has photos of tools and bloodied animals at a *boucherie* that made some walk away. Fontenot couldn't be happier with both reactions. “I'm not documenting these two events but evoking emotions,” said Fontenot.



- Here is a summary of the book *Cajun ABC: Pass a good time in Acadiana* on this tour of Cajun country and culture. From the stars of the zydeco stage to the food, music, literature, and language unique to the people of southern Louisiana are rhymed and beautifully illustrated. With a heritage firmly rooted in the bayous and marshes of Louisiana for more than 200 years, the Cajun people have established a way of life that reflects triumph over struggle. More about *Cajun ABC* at www.riveroadpress.com. 
- As a reminder, we sent a letter to all state newspapers advising that the Friday after Thanksgiving was Acadian Day in the state. Gov. John Bel Edwards signed a proclamation on Nov. 3 declaring Friday, Nov. 24 the Acadian Day for 2017. The day commemorates, “the arrival in Louisiana of the Acadian people from the French colony Acadia following the ceding of that colony to England in 1713,” according to the proclamation. Acadian Day is designed to recognize that Acadians helped establish much of Louisiana’s early political and economic development “through cultivation of land, utilization of Louisiana’s natural resources and the interest of the Acadian people in political self-determination and American democracy.”
- The Cajun band *Lost Bayou Ramblers* performed two orchestral-style shows in New Orleans Village with Jim Sclavunos of Nick Cave and the *Bad Seeds*. The performances celebrated *Kalenda*, the Ramblers’ most recent release (of which *OffBeat*’s Brett Milano said “Not since Dr. John’s storied debut—which coincidentally also included a piece based on the Kalenda legend—have Louisiana traditions been so thoroughly psychedelized”), which “celebrates the complex history and cultural diversity of Kalenda – a Caribbean dance.”
- On December 2, there was the debut of ‘*Cajun Aces*’ on the Food Network. Starring husband and wife team Cody and Samantha Carroll, who live in Batchelor, La, and own Sac-A-Lait restaurant in New Orleans, and Hot Tails Crawfish House in New Roads, they will use their culinary magic to whip up fresh dishes using Louisiana ingredients. They will also bring Cajun culture and Louisiana charm to the rest of the world through their extensive cooking experiences. In 2014, the Carroll's were winners of Country Roads Magazine's 'Small Town Chef's' Award.

- Friends and fans rallied to help Cajun musician Courtney Granger, a fiddle player with the four-time Grammy-nominated band the Pine Leaf Boys. According to social media posts from family members, Granger was hospitalized with encephalitis, a serious illness that causes inflammation of brain tissue. Wilson Savoy, leader of the Pine Leaf Boys, set up a GoFundMe account to help Granger with medical expenses. 
- The Fall 2017 editions of *Generations* is now available for you to peruse about the Guidry family. They include information on our upcoming 2019 Reunion at Prince Edward Island, a get-together in March, 2018, an article on early Guidry Cajun musicians. Thanks to Allie Guidry for editing the newsletter and Becky Boggess for placing it on the website where you can access it easily. The link to the newsletter is: <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~guedrylabinefamily/newsletters.html> Just double-click "Fall 2017 Newsletter" in the center of the page.
- Thanks to the SNA (*Société Nationale de l'Acadie*) for helping to disseminate information on CODOFIL's 50th anniversary in 2018 and commemoration of Acadian Day in Louisiana on November 24: "*À l'occasion d'Acadian Day, la SNA encourage vivement la société civile acadienne à promouvoir l'Acadie louisianaise, son épanouissement ainsi que sa riche contribution au patrimoine culturel de l'Acadie, de la francophonie et de l'Amérique du Nord.*"
- Historical painting: Like many people isolated by circumstances, the Acadians had a strong sense of community and performed many tasks together. For more than a hundred years the Acadians were able to maintain their self-contained lifestyle, enjoying their large families and peaceful communities, strengthened by a firm sense of religion. They lived on friendly terms with their immediate neighbors, the Mi'kmaq, and profited from their trading links with New England and other French settlements. By preference, they had no strong ties with either France or England, and tried to avoid confrontation with them. In 

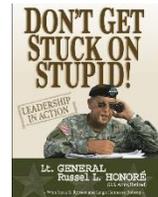
some sense, it was their very isolation from the influence of these major colonial powers, coupled with the impact of the marshland landscape which was their home, which helped the Acadians to establish and maintain their unique way of life. This was painted by Azor Vienneau. Very careful attention was paid to detail in this painting; they are based largely on both historical research and on the results of an archaeological dig which the Nova Scotia Museum conducted at a pre-expulsion Acadian farm-site at Belleisle, N.S. in 1983.

- On November 17th, Carlin Trahan, Allison Miller and I hosted 31 students and their teachers studying French and Acadian history at the Acadian Museum. The group from Vermilion Catholic School High School from Abbeville, Louisiana were hosting a group of French students from Abbeville, France. Some of the students are shown here with me



- outside of the Acadian Museum in Erath. This past May the Louisiana students were hosted in France by their French counterparts. I presented each one of them with an Acadian flag pin and a copy of the book *Tout Bec Doux* (UL Press, 2011), the first attempt to write down Cajun French with a cartoon column that was syndicated throughout Acadiana in the mid-20th century. The visit was coordinated by VCHS French teacher Judy Lapeyrouse.
- Cinema on the Bayou Film Society and Acadiana Center for the Arts were pleased to present the 20th anniversary screening of *Dirty Rice* on December 4, 2017. This debut narrative feature film by acclaimed Cajun filmmaker Pat Mire, filmed in and around Eunice, Louisiana, was released on United Artist screens throughout the state. To this day, *Dirty Rice* holds the record for the longest-running film to play in a Lafayette movie theatre – it was booked for a two-week engagement and was held over for five months.
 - 13th Annual Cinema on the Bayou will be held January 24-31, Louisiana's 2nd oldest film festival, is an annual eight-day film festival founded in 2005 by filmmaker Pat Mire. The festival is held beginning in the last week of January at various venues in and around Lafayette, Louisiana.

- When he was 19, Louis Michot of Pilette, Louisiana, a tiny community in between Lafayette and Broussard, decided he wanted to learn French. His paternal great-grandparents spoke French, though they insisted their children only speak English in the home. His paternal grandfather, also named Louis Michot, became a successful businessman and prominent politician, and when he served as Louisiana's state superintendent of education in the 1960s, and he helped spearhead the creation of CODOFIL, the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana. So, at 19, Louis enrolled in an intensive, five-week French language immersion program in Nova Scotia. He also made another life-changing decision that year: He taught himself how to play the fiddle. About a year later, he and his brother André formed the *Lost Bayou Ramblers*. Earlier this week, the brothers and their bandmates were nominated for their second Grammy Award.
- The Louisiana artist, the late George Rodrigue, became famous for his Cajun Paintings and the iconic Blue Dog series. He and his wife Wendy set up a foundation to advocate arts integration in schools. Wendy came up with a statewide "Life and Legacy Tour" for Louisiana A+ Arts Integration in Schools. The first stop on the tour was in Shreveport. The foundation has been very supportive of the Acadian Museum.
- That blunt commonsense that retired Army Gen. Russel Honoré delivered to desperate New Orleans neighborhoods during Hurricane Katrina in 2005 is made available between two covers in a book Acadian House Publishers released at the Academy of the Sacred Heart in Grand Coteau. *Don't Get Stuck on Stupid* is the title of Honoré's work, which speaks to the general's viewpoints on many key issues that trouble the nation, including hurricane response, prison reform, health care costs and democracy. Trent Angers of Acadian House published the book.
- Louisiana State University College of Arts senior Interior Design Students recently presented at the Knight of Columbus Hall in Arnaudville 18 possible designs for retrofit of the former St. Luke Hospital for use as an adult French immersion school and cultural campus. The LSU project was conducted with the permission of St. Landry Parish Government.
- Sadly, Living Legends Judge Kaliste J. Saloom, Jr., Elwood P. LeBlanc, A. J. LeBlanc and Arconge "T-Coon" Touchet have died.



- Spring 2018 French classes at Loyola University New Orleans College of Law: Faculty, staff, students, alumni and Loyola friends are invited to take French courses. There are three options available: Beginner, Intermediate/Advanced & A la carte. Dates and schedules of the classes are as follows: Beginner: Wednesdays, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm, January 17 - April 18, 2018; Intermediate/Advanced: Wednesdays, 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm, January 17 - April 18, 2018 & A la carte, schedule and program on demand. All the classes are held at: 526 Pine Street. For more information or to enroll, please contact Prof. Claire Lebas, Ph.D. at cslebas@loyno.edu.
- Steve Riley, shown at left with Sam Broussard, knows a thing or two about emotions. The Grammy winner's music has made people dance, smile and sing from the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival to the Tiny Desk Concerts of NPR and beyond. But one of Riley's most moving, personal experiences occurred at Progressive Baptist Church in Lafayette.
 
- Fans know Living Legend Jo-El Sonnier as a Grammy winner, a Cajun music legend with 30 albums, Top 10 country hits and performances at the Grand Ole Opry. People closer to Sonnier have seen another side, when the musician seems like a 71-year-old child. Some dismissed the odd behavior as a quirky personality. Others gossiped that Sonnier, as a touring musician, had too much alcohol and drugs, although he never did either. For the first time, Sonnier unveils the reason for his behavior in a new children's book, *The Little Boy Under the Wagon*. Written by his sister-in-law, Shirley Strange-Allen, the book reveals that Sonnier has Asperger syndrome, a form of autism that can result in repetitive behavior, impaired verbal and nonverbal skills, social struggles and other challenges.
- The New Acadia Project Steering Committee held a meeting on December 5 at the home of Brenda and Ray Trahan and were joined by University of Louisiana President Dr. Joseph Savoie. The focus of the meeting was the presentation by the project's principal investigator, Dr. Mark Rees, covering the eight weeks of archeological field work that took place during June and July 2017. Dr Rees also presented a summary of the project's significant work since the 2013 formation of the group. This work, supported in part through fundraising efforts of the steering committee, has resulted in the recording of

approximately thirty-six archeological sites on the Loreauville Teche Ridge. Seven of these sites have artifacts that could date the site into the mid to late 1700's supporting the archival records that place the earliest settlements of the Acadians who arrived in 1765 in the Loreauville area. To learn more visit: www.facebook.com/NewAcadiaProject. Shown in the photo are, left to right, Ray Trahan, Stephen Ortego, Kim Broussard, Nelwyn Hebert, Dr Joseph Savoie, Brenda Trahan, Dr Mark Rees, Alan Broussard, Cheryl Perret, Brenda Broussard, Dr. David Cheramie, and Carolyn Langlinais.

- I received this email from Lily Keber: “For the last year, I’ve been shooting a film about Louisiana’s French-speaking communities. We’re crafting a documentary that honors the cultural heritage, language retention and environmental preservation warriors of our state. On January 11th, they hosted a fundraising soiree to raise funds to finish shooting and editing this project. Tax-deductible donations may be made at: <https://louisianafrench.brownpapertickets.com>.”
- #CreateLouisiana announced today the recipient of the 2017 Narrative Feature Film Grant, *Lost Bayou*, directed by Brian Richard, produced by Alicia Davis Johnson, Brian Richard, Hunter Burke, Murray Roth, Kenny Reynolds and Lorraine Caffery, and lensed by Natalie Kingston. Selected from five finalists, *Lost Bayou* will receive a \$10,000 cash grant supported by Deep South Studios, along with a camera rental package from ARRI Rental valued at \$25,000.
- Thibodaux’s Table Francaise (*Cercle Francophone*) meets every Tuesday at Jean Lafitte National Park (Wetlands Acadian Cultural Center), 314 St. Mary Street, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. The group gathers each Tuesday to speak French, except on *Mardi Gras* and federal holidays when the park is closed. On Tuesday, February 20, 2018, there will be a program by Edgar Benoit, an engineer and a Thibodaux native, who will speak about engineering projects which were significant to the Acadians’ lifestyle, their expulsion, and their resettlement to Louisiana.
- Mary Lou Swanson’s body was shutting down after battling a rare and debilitating autoimmune disease affecting her brain for nearly a decade. After seeing a segment on

the long-running program “Unsolved Mysteries” about a grave site in Louisiana where hundreds of people flock weekly to pray for healing, Swanson persuaded her husband to take her there. Within a day after running her fingers over the tombstone of 12-year-old Charlene Richard, “the Little Cajun Saint” who, according to legend, offered up all her suffering to others when she died of leukemia in 1959, Swanson’s symptoms began to disappear. Weeks later, her doctor confirmed Swanson’s disease had suddenly gone into remission.

- Submitted by Phil Comeau: The DVDs of the award-winning film Zachary Richard, *Toujours Batailleur* (Acadian French) and Zachary Richard, *Cajun Heart* (English) are available for purchase on the *Acadie-Nouvelle Boutique* website for North Americans. To order the feature film: ENGLISH DVD <https://www.anboutique.ca/catalogue/boutique/dvd/zachary-richard-cajun-heart/> ACADIAN FRENCH DVD <https://www.anboutique.ca/catalogue/boutique/dvd/zachary-richard-toujours-batailleur/>.
- On April 24, the Loyola College of Law is planning to offer a Skills course in the spring 2018, with the tentative title "Basic French, Law and Culture." Prof. Claire LeBas is involved in the project, in close cooperation with Prof. Linares, who is Director of Skills and Experiential Learning, and Dr. Davrados who teaches Civil Law at Loyola. I have been asked to do an introduction to the class and I will summarize Louisiana history, explain why French is still spoken today and the implications thereof.
- Suire’s Grocery and Restaurant near Kaplan has been around for 41 years. It was started by a local couple and now their two daughters run the business. The *News 15 Today* crew spent the morning behind the counter and in the kitchen with the owners and got the history of the family business and their signature dishes.
- Learn more about local history with boat tours by the Wetlands Acadian Cultural Center. National Park rangers hold tours Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, taking guests to one of two historic sites in Lafourche Parish. Information about the boat tours and how to make a reservation can be found at www.nps.gov/jela/boat-tours-of-bayou-lafourche.htm.
- In July, we lost a Cajun music legend, D.L Menard. Since then, three of his granddaughters started a band, *Autumn Wild*, and are releasing an album that tells his story. The three sisters have been singing all their lives, but it wasn’t until this summer

when their grandfather passed away that producer Chris Foreman urged them to take their talent to the next level. For more information on the new Autumn Wild album, visit <https://www.autumnwild.com>. When D. L. died, *The New York Times*, *USA Today* and other newspapers across the country proclaimed “The Cajun Hank Williams is Dead.” Menard’s Cajun anthem, *The Back Door*,” was heavily influenced by Williams’ classic *Honky Tonk Blues*.

- Save the date: The unveiling of the Amédé Ardoin statue at the St Landry Parish Visitor Center at I-49 and Kennerson Road will be on March 11 at 4 pm which is Ardoin’s and my birthday.
- After three years in production, a company has released a new hour-long documentary about Acadians preserving their traditions in the St. John Valley. *Acadian Traditions*, which Crown Of Maine Productions based at Madawaska Lake produced, includes folks from all corners of The Valley engaged in a variety of activities. “It was fascinating to see how much Acadian heritage still exists in The Valley today,” said filmmaker, Brenda Jepson, a volunteer producer for Maine Public TV since 1983.
- Sadly, Dr. David Maraist, husband of Christie, passed away. He was an ardent supporter of our Acadian culture. In 1994, he was part of our group to attend the first *Congrès acadien mondial* in New Brunswick. He was very helpful to me by aiding me to write a speech on The Petition for an Apology in French which I gave to an assembly in Moncton. His support for the Acadian Museum was much appreciated. He will be missed. Keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.
- Sarah Gauthier Roy sent this email to us: “This past year I was very fortunate and received a grant and permission to produce an album of music from the *Clovis Crawfish Book* series. I hired local award-winning Cajun musicians and created a great album of French music for the whole family. The musicians are: Chad Viator, Roddie Romero, Michael Doucet, Kevin Wimmer, Chris French, Danny Devillier, Yvette Landry, Megan Brown, Kristi Guillory, Michael Joseph, and Sarah Gauthier Roy. You can find more information at cloviscrawfish.com.”
- The University of Louisiana at Lafayette has launched its search for the next leader of the Center for Louisiana Studies. The Center has been a flagship of the University in its efforts to explore, preserve, disseminate and celebrate the state's rich and diverse heritage

since its inception in 1973. Founding director Mr. Glenn Conrad led the Center until June, 2004, when Dr. Carl Brasseaux took over, eventually handing the reins to Dr. Michael S. Martin in 2011. Now the Center seeks its fourth director. For more information and to apply, visit:

https://louisiana.csod.com/ats/careersite/JobDetails.aspx?site=1&id=78&utm_source=CLS+News+%7E+January+2018&utm_campaign=CLS+News&utm_medium=email.

- The Center for Louisiana Studies at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette launches its fifth season of Bayou State Book Talks on Tuesday, February 6, beginning at 6:30pm in the Main Library second floor meeting room. Admission is free and open to the public. The series is co-sponsored by the Center for Louisiana Studies, UL Lafayette, and the Lafayette Public Library System. The Spring 2018 season features: February 6 - Mathé Allain, Barry Jean Ancelet, Tamara Lindner, & May Rush Gwin Waggoner *Anthologie de la littérature louisianaise d'expression française de 1682 à nos jours*; and March 13, John Laudun *The Amazing Crawfish Boat*.
- We received this email from Dr. Thomas Cauvin “Our film on CODOFIL and French education in Louisiana will be presented at the Bayou Film Festival on January 26 at 7pm at Vermilionville.” Cinema on the Bayou Film Society is pleased to announce the 13th Cinema on the Bayou Film Festival’s opening night film, Rifles & Rosary Beads, which will make its World Premiere screening on Wednesday, January 24, 2018, at the Acadiana Center for the Arts, 101 W. Vermilion, Lafayette, LA, 70501. The evening will end with a gala reception with hors d’oeuvres and a cash bar. Tickets are \$15.00 and can be purchased at www.cinemaonthebayou.com or at the door on the night of the event.
- There are many things that can define Ricky Skaggs. He is a bluegrass and country legend. The Grand Ole Opry member is a 15-time Grammy Award winner. And this month, Skaggs will be the headliner for a Bossier City concert. Ricky Skaggs and Kentucky Thunder will play at 8 p.m. Jan. 20 in Margaritaville Resort Casino's Paradise Theater. Skaggs talked to *The Shreveport Times* about the concert, his life and career and revealed he's even more than what fans see on stage. Skaggs: "We really love playing in Louisiana. We were over in Lafayette last year and in Baton Rouge played the performing arts center there and it was just fantastic. I love Cajun music and there's



something about bluegrass and Cajun music that I would love to explore more because the sound of it — much of it came from the Acadians in Canada and a lot of it is Celtic-influenced. I love the whole gumbo sound of Cajun music and zydeco." He and D. L. Menard were good friends.

- We received this email from Gary E. Theall: "To all who are interested in the Vermilion Historical Society: I have been associated with the VHS for four decades now. I have served as board member, president, secretary, and treasurer at various times. It is with regret that I inform you that at the April 25, 2018, meeting of the general membership, I will not accept nomination for any official position with the VHS."
- On March 10, the Breaux-Guidry-Hebert families will meet in the Lafourche Parish Public Library 705 W 5th St, Thibodaux, LA 7030, according to the association presidents, Marty Guidry, John Hebert, and Gayle Breaux Smith. The gathering is planned in Thibodaux, LA as an effort to encourage the Breaux-Guidry-Hebert families to again meet, share genealogy, and, if they wish, have assistance in their family research. Thanks to Marlene Breaux Touns of Thibodaux who has been a great asset in planning this event. In 2014, Marty Guidry received the Living Legend award presented by the Acadian Museum.
- Over the years, Jason Theriot has worked on various public history projects that provided additional sources and insights into the westward movement of Cajuns from Louisiana to Texas. This work, just published *Louisiana History*, allowed him delve into a topic that has received little historical treatment, and to explain to his two kids—native born Texas Cajuns—why we have such a deep connection to the Bayou Country. Shown are, Jason Theriot (standing left), Mae Theriot (seated), and Pete Johnson (standing right) of Pete's Cajun Bandstand in Houston. If anyone is interested in conducting research on Texas Cajuns, please contact Jason Theriot at jpriot@hotmail.com.
- Here follows some news from our Acadian "cousins" in France: Dominique Mérel has succeeded Gérard-Marc Braud as president of *l'Association Bretagne-Acadie-Louisiane* in Nantes. Braud continues to serve as vice-president. The group is soliciting funds to repair the damage which has developed over the years of the beautiful Robert Dafford



mural of the Acadians. We have seen the beautiful mural and encourage donations to this worthwhile project. We also hope to revisit the Bretagne Region in mid-June with a tour being organized by Richard Laurin of Nova Scotia <http://www.novacadie.ca/>. For making donations or seeking more information here is their contact information: Dominique Mérel, Présidente Association Bretagne-Acadie-Louisiane, 3 bis rue de l'Erdonnière, 44400 Rezé (Nantes), Tel: 01133 6 89 24 11 62, dominique-merel@orange.fr.

- Antique accordions were among the items destroyed during a January 14 blaze at Larry Miller's workshop in Iota. Miller plans to rebuild after the total loss of his shop which the fire destroyed. For 40 years, Miller used the shop to build his brand name “Bon Tee Cajun” accordions, a popular model played by Cajun and zydeco musicians. Miller's shop also contained nine antique accordions, including rare, German models from the 1930s.



- A historic pirogue donated to the Acadian Museum. In the late 1920's, Mr. Howard Joseph Rhodes, living in Terrebonne Parish, split a very large cypress log and fabricated two dugout pirogues. Only one survives and it is shown here. In the photo Howard is pictured with his grandson, Robin Rhodes, who donated the pirogue to the Acadian Museum on January 9. Charles J. Rhodes, Howard's son, preserved the dugout since Howard's death in 1961.



- On January 26, in the Performance Center of Vermilionville, 300 Fisher Road, Lafayette, CODOFIL will have its first official activity of its 50th anniversary. *Le Choix de Théo* is a documentary on Theo Brode, a French Immersion teacher at Myrtle Place Elementary here in Lafayette. The documentary was produced by Dr. Thomas Cauvin and Mikael Espinasse. The documentary will take place as part of the Cinema on the Bayou Film Festival. Tickets are \$5 and you can buy them by clicking [here](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/13th-cinema-on-the-bayou-film-festival-jan-24-31-2018-tickets-40184581164).