



LAGNIAPPE

September 2009



Monthly Employee News

Celebrating 30 Years of Service



Lofton Security Service

Hurricane Preparedness

From: Fred Mingo, Director of Safety

The National Hurricane Center is getting ready for a busy storm season. The hurricane season runs from May 15th to November 30th. Are you prepared for a major hurricane? A violent tropical cyclone with constant wind speeds of 75 miles per hour or more is known as a hurricane. A **category 5** hurricane is the strongest storm with wind speeds of **155** miles per hour and higher. A hurricane watch means conditions pose a possible hurricane threat in a specific area, usually within 36 hours.

Here are some things to do to prepare for a hurricane:

- Have plenty of cash on hand.
- Plan multiple escape routes.
- Plan where to go if told to evacuate.

- Prepare a supply kit including batteries, candles, flashlights, and several days water supply.
- Prepare the interior of your home.
- Prepare the exterior of your home.
- Avoid low-lying areas.

After the hurricane is over, keep listening to the radio or television for instructions. When local officials tell you when it is safe, you may return home. While no one knows where the next hurricane may form or hit, being prepared is a good defense.

Be safe and be prepared this hurricane season!

New Branch Manager Lofton Covington



Lofton Staffing and Security is proud to announce the appointment of Jerry Horn as Branch Manager for the Lofton location in Covington, LA. Jerry brings more than 20 years of experience in management & sales. Jerry owned a jewelry store in Hammond for 9 years, then worked at Wells Fargo first as a Mortgage Consultant then as a Sales Executive. Jerry has been married for over 33 years and has a daughter and a son, who currently works for CVS in Covington.

Jerry is making the transition from Lofton's Baton Rouge office as a Personnel Supervisor where he was an instrumental part of the placement team. In his new role, Jerry will have the opportunity to grow the Northshore community by offering his skill and passion for service in finding employment for people. "Jerry is a valuable asset to the Lofton team. We see him as an essential part of our continued growth on the Northshore and our overall development as a company," says Bart Lofton, Co-President of Lofton Staffing Services.

Please help us in congratulating Jerry in his new role and wishing him success on the Northshore!

Lofton Client Survey Lofton Corporation



Last year, Lofton embarked on our first annual company-wide survey. We were extremely pleased with the feedback that we received and also learned some valuable ways on how we can improve our services.

This year, Lofton sent out over 1,800 surveys representing many clients in various industries. Our goal was to determine how well we had done at satisfying our clients with our improved services. The results were very encouraging!

According to the survey results, Lofton not only exceeded the industry averages in every category, but we also improved our scores from last year across the board! We were applauded for our *quality of service, our focus on partnering with clients, and our ability to address problems in a timely manner.*

We don't just say that we have the best service in the industry, WE PROVE IT!

What's Happening This Month

September 7
Labor Day

September 13
Grandparents Day

September 22
First Day of Autumn

Lofton offices will be closed on *Monday, September 7th* in observance of Labor Day.

Way to Go!



Beth McLin & Donna Pandocchi, Gonzales Security, witnessed a 'hit and run' accident near their work site. They saw two people run

from the accident and hide in the woods. **McLin & Pandocchi** spotted one of the suspects in the nearby wooded area and called 911. This person was apprehended by local law enforcement! Great Job, Beth & Donna, for a keen eye and quick thinking!

Tweet!

Follow us on **Twitter** for relevant business news for employers and job seekers!
www.twitter.com/LoftonStaffing

Readmore Le'arn By: Glenda G. Lofton, Ph.D.

It's "Back to school--2009" and once again I experience the fluttery feelings I felt as I walked to my first grade classroom at the laboratory school at Northwestern Louisiana University where my dad, a wounded veteran of World War II, was attending school on the GI Bill. I had spent very little time away from my mother, and I clutched her hand fearfully, until I entered my classroom, filled with colorful book characters and a teacher who stimulated my love for reading and learning. Years later, I experienced that same fluttery feeling on the first day of my involvement in an ambitious statewide reading improvement project called SPUR. The acronym stood for Special Plan Upgrading Readng, but for me, it represented Special People Upgrading Readng—a dedicated, idealist group of people who worked together across regions, districts and schools to develop effective reading programs and to spur on a lifetime love of reading and learning for Louisiana's children. In one of the eight regions, the people created a character, a crawfish known as Readmore Le'arn, who challenged his friends to read and learn. Readmore lived on Bayou De Book in South Louisiana with his good friend, Dewey D. Dragonfly, who lived in the library's card catalogue. The children themselves wrote of his adventures and shared their stories across the region and state. During the nine years that SPUR lasted, there were gains in reading achievement, but for me one of the most rewarding moments came when a parent from an inner city housing project said to a legislator, "This project is not just changing a school. It's changing a whole community."

The One Book One Community project of Baton Rouge, part of a national initiative, is also based on the belief that reading and the themes and ideas in books can powerfully alter lives and communities. Each year a local committee chooses two books for discussing and generating ideas that will

help our community grow stronger together. Recently I had the opportunity to learn from and with Rheta Grimsley Johnson, award-winning newspaper columnist and author of this summer's selection, *Poor Man's Provence: Finding Myself in Cajun Louisiana* (NewSouth Books, 2008) and from the Cajun people she wrote about. In 1996 when Rheta was sent by her editor at the Atlanta Constitution to cover a story in south-west Louisiana, she was not prepared for the trip to be a life-altering event,



"This project is not just changing a school. It's changing a whole community."

but for her it was. In the small town of Henderson, on the edge of the Atchafalaya Swamp, she fell in love with the people and the place, bought a second home there, and with the help of those she met began "to determine once and for all what is most important in life--the woods, the water, time before money, friendship and family before all else. The Cajuns value good music, full bellies, hard work, and each other...have simple

needs, are amazingly resourceful, and seem never to lose their way." While many of us "live to work...in Cajun Country, people work to live." (p. 16,17) Their religious faith and ways of expressing it, she elaborates, is real...cuts to the chase...is faith in action... People live by what they say—no pretense, no hypocrisy. "They give because it is part of their nature...They help one another because survival has taught them how." And, she concludes, "I'm happier—better if you will—for having found Henderson...I've learned *from* my friends, not *about* them." (p.220,221)

A handout distributed by the Greater Baton Rouge Literacy Coalition at the One Book One Community Author Event emphasized the impact of literacy in our homes, in the workplace, and in the community. The literacy level of a child's parent is the greatest predictor of a child's academic success. Fifty percent of the chronically unemployed are not functionally literate. One in four working families is considered low-income and lack the education and training to earn family-sustaining wages. Annual health care costs are four times higher for individuals with low literacy skills. Over 70% of inmates in America's prisons cannot read above a fourth grade level.

As we begin a new school year, I hope that each of us will be inspired by the fictional Readmore Le'arn and by the real Rheta Grimsley Johnson and her Cajun friends to read and learn more, to encourage our family, friends, and co-workers to read and learn more, to think about what matters most in life, and to learn with and from each other at home, in the workplace and in our communities—remembering as Tommy often reminds us that when we help others to learn, we also help ourselves.

Did you know? Lofton is dedicated to finding you the perfect assignment? To stay active in our system, be sure to call in "Available" at least once a week. To stay informed, you can sign up for email and text* announcements. If you have found permanent employment, please call and let us know. **It is your responsibility to inform us of your availability.**

In the event you do not call in availability in over 6 months, your file will be deactivated. If you are absent or will be tardy for a work assignment, you are **REQUIRED to call the Lofton office**. In the event you fail to notify us, it may be necessary to terminate your employment with Lofton. The Lofton office has a 24 hour answering service, including weekends.

*Text rates are based on your carrier & plan.