

LAGNIAPPE



LOFTON
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Monthly Employee News

March 2016

Yard Work Safety By: Steve Ham, Lofton Safety Services



Every spring, people across the country purchase grass seed, mowers, and other lawn products to beautify their yard. Yard work enhances the environment of your home and provides a way to get fresh air and exercise. However, there are certain hazards associated with yard work that you need to consider to ensure your safety. Below are a few tips on staying safe while working in your yard.

- Avoid wearing loose clothing or jewelry that could be caught in moving parts of lawn equipment, such as a lawn mower.
- Wear slip-resistant shoes, especially if your yard is hilly.
- Eye and hearing protection may be needed at times, depending on what chore you are tackling.
- Gloves should be worn when pulling weeds or using

equipment, to avoid burns.

- It is best to pick up any objects in the yard, such as sticks, glass, rocks, or metal that could become a projectile, if caught inside motorized lawn equipment.
- You should also make sure electrical tools, such as trimmers, are unplugged before making any adjustments.
- All equipment should function properly and all electrical cords should be in good condition. Any cords that are frayed should be replaced before use.
- It is important to watch for small children and keep them away from moving equipment. Never allow small children to operate any power equipment.
- You should not overexert yourself while doing yard work, especially on hot days. Stay hydrated during extremely warm weather to avoid heat exhaustion or heat stroke.
- NEVER reach or grab into lawn equipment, while in use, to remove debris.

Lofton Receives 2016 Best of Staffing® Talent Award



This year, Lofton again conducted a company-wide survey with our employees (talent) through Inavero, an independent, third-party company that conducts nationwide satisfaction surveys. Presented in partnership with CareerBuilder, the Best of Staffing list provides the only service quality benchmarks in the industry that reveals which staffing agencies are delivering exceptional service to their employees (talent).

We are very proud to announce that **Lofton Staffing, Lofton Security, Lofton Energy, and Lofton Flex Med** were named to the exclusive list of **2016 Best of Staffing Talent award winners**. Lofton received a satisfaction ranking of 9 or 10 out of 10 from **73%** of our placed employees. This year's winners have proven to be industry leaders in service quality, based completely on the ratings given to them by the per-

manent and temporary employees they've helped find employment.

What does this mean? For us, this survey allows us to measure our progress and results against ourselves each year. We take the good with the bad to improve our service standards to not only you, our employees, but to our clients and the community. It also allows us to compare our results to the industry standards. **We don't just say that we have the best service in the industry, WE PROVE IT!** Less than 2% of all staffing firms in the country have been named to the 2016 Best of Staffing Talent list. We did great! But, we will continue to take steps to improve our service standards to our clients and to each other.

We would like to thank each of you who has been placed on assignment for being an important part of this year's success and look forward to working with you on future assignments.

What's Happening This Month

March 13
Daylight Savings Time

March 17
St. Patrick's Day



March 20
First Day of Spring



March 25
Good Friday

March 27
Easter



Become a fan of **Lofton Staffing, Lofton Security, Lofton Energy, or Flex Med**. Stay on top of current job openings, get great tips on job hunting, and stay in contact with some of your Lofton friends!



Every Person Has a Story to Tell By: Glenda G. Lofton, Ph.D.

Years ago, one of the early morning network programs periodically had a special feature in which a town in the United States was randomly selected (I believe by throwing a dart at a map), and one person was chosen by pointing to a name in the telephone directory to tell his or her story on national TV. The segment, "Every Person Has a Story to Tell", served as a reminder of the uniqueness of each person and the fact that ordinary people have extraordinary stories to tell.

This March marks the fifteenth anniversary of the death of Addie Lofton, the mother of Tommy and the grandmother of Bret and Bart. She died at the age of 95. Born in 1906, she observed in her lifetime the transition from horse and buggy to the automobile, the airplane, and rockets to the moon. She lived through the Depression and witnessed the rise and fall of the Third Reich and the Soviet Union. While she was influenced by these events, these were not the things that made her who she was. One of six girls who lost both her parents and her only brother at an early age, she and her husband, Sam Lofton (that was his full name) helped rear her younger sisters, and then took care of an invalid daughter for almost 40 years.

In 1955, the year Tommy graduated from high school, the year he refers to as "the year of

the roaches," she survived two major surgeries and the unexpected loss of her husband from a heart attack at the age of 52. She was left with a married daughter, Betty who was stationed



"The best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person"

with her husband overseas; an invalid daughter, Montie; a teenage son, Tommy, who according to him knew absolutely nothing about life and survival; and a beat-up old Chevy. (We had our first dates in that Chevy, and Tommy always put \$1.00 worth of gas in before each date.) In one week's time after Sam's death, Addie found an apartment in a low-rent housing project, waged a victorious battle against the roaches there, and got a job as a sales clerk in close proximity to the project so that she could go home on her breaks to care for her daughter. She never finished high school, but

when Tommy needed help with algebra, she stayed up all night studying the book so she could teach him. (She must have done a good job, because Tommy majored in math at LSU and taught Algebra II at Istrouma for three years.) A woman of true grit and ingenuity, she was guided and sustained throughout her life by her love for the Lord, her commitment to her family, and a strong work ethic which she actively encouraged in all she knew (including the owners of Lofton Staffing Services).

Not long after Addie's death I was reading "Andy Rooney's Thoughts on life". Andy, if you recall, appeared on the TV show "Sixty Minutes", and lived to the age of 92. I was struck by his statement, "The best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person." Are there older people in your life that you can learn from? Take time to talk to them and even record what they have to say. Most bookstores now have books or journals such as "Grandmother Remembers" that can help you with the task. And, what about you? What have you learned in your own life that is worth passing on to others? Every person has a story to tell.

Grandparents Hear the Darndest Things

A grandmother was in the bathroom, putting on her makeup, under the watchful eyes of her young granddaughter, as she'd done many times before. After she had applied her lipstick and started to leave, the little one said, "But Grandma, you forgot to kiss the toilet paper good-bye!"

My young grandson called the other day to wish me Happy Birthday. He asked me how old I was, and I told him, 62. My grandson was quiet for a moment, and then he asked, "Did you start at 1?"

After putting her grandchildren to bed, a grandmother changed into old slacks and a droopy blouse and proceeded to wash her hair. As she heard the children getting more and more rambunctious, her patience grew thin. Finally, she threw a towel around her head and stormed into their room, putting them back to bed with stern warnings. As she left the room, she heard the three-year-old say with a trembling voice, "Who was THAT?"

A grandmother was telling her granddaughter what her own childhood was like. "We used to skate outside on a pond. I had a swing made from a tire; it hung from a tree in our front yard. We rode our pony. We picked wild raspberries in the woods." The little girl was wide-eyed, taking this all in. At last she said, "I sure wish I'd gotten to know you sooner!"

I didn't know if my granddaughter had learned her colors yet, so I decided to test her. I would point out something and ask what color it was. She would tell me and was always correct. It was fun for me, so I continued. At last, she headed for the door, saying, "Grandma, I think you should try to figure out some of these colors yourself!"

When my grandson Billy and I entered our vacation cabin, we kept the lights off until we were inside to keep from attracting pesky insects. Still, a few fireflies followed us in. Noticing them before I did, Billy whispered, "It's no use Grandpa. Now the mosquitoes are coming after us with flashlights."

When my grandson asked me how old I was, I teasingly replied, "I'm not sure." "Look in your underwear, Grandpa," he advised "Mine says I'm 4 to 6."

A second grader came home from school and said to her grandmother, "Grandma, guess what? We learned how to make babies today." The grandmother, more than a little surprised, tried to keep her cool. "That's interesting," she said. "How do you make babies?" "It's simple," replied the girl. "You just change 'y' to 'i' and add 'es'."

A 6-year-old was asked where his grandma lived. "Oh," he said, "she lives at the airport, and when we want her, we just go get her. Then, when we're done having her visit, we take her back to the airport."

A grandmother was telling her 4 year old she was growing up too fast and needed to slow down. "It's not my fault Grandma, my mom keeps giving me all those birthdays."