

# LOFTON LAGNIAPPE

## MONTHLY EMPLOYEE NEWS



### Tailgating Safety

Fall is upon us, which means the leaves are changing, the air is cooling and football season is here. Pre-game tailgating gives us the chance to bond with fellow sports fans over the grill and cold beverages, but it also presents a few hazards that shouldn't be overlooked. The following are some tips to help you have fun and be safe:



- Plan a menu a couple of days before the game and make a list of the items you want to take along.
- Wash utensils, cutting boards and other surfaces every time raw meat comes in contact with them to prevent cross contamination.
- Pack perishable foods in several inches of ice.
- Double pack meat in separate plastic bags.
- Don't store coolers in direct sunlight.
- Use an instant-read food thermometer to ensure meat is cooked thoroughly.
- When in doubt, toss it out. Throw away any perishable foods that have been left out for more than an hour in hot temperatures.
- Keep a fire extinguisher and first aid kit on hand.
- Eat before drinking alcohol.
- Drink plenty of water, while drinking alcohol, to stay hydrated.
- Use sun protection even in cold weather.
- Know your limit when drinking alcohol.
- Keep alcohol out of minors' reach.
- Don't drink and drive.
- When you finish tailgating, leave your area clean.

It's important to have fun, but also important to stay safe while enjoying your favorite sporting event. Stay cool, remember these tips, and Geaux Team!

### Open Enrollment

From: Mary Dixon, Benefits Coordinator

Open enrollment will be held from August 30, 2021 through September 8, 2021 for an October 1, 2021 renewal date.

[Lofton is excited to expand benefits this year to even more of our employees by introducing new and affordable benefit options!](#)

Please make sure that your email information on file with Lofton is correct, as this is how benefit information will be distributed.



### Officer Kudos

**BIG shout-out to Officer Kris Savoie, Lake Charles.** Officer Savoie covers a site where people of all ages, including children, visit every day. During a shift, a suspicious man approached on a bike carrying a shovel. 911 was immediately contacted while Officer Savoie held the doors in a closed position to prevent entry. The man was waving the shovel and trying to gain entry. Officer Savoie continued to restrain the doors so the man could not enter. After a period of time, the man left on his bike. Officer Savoie continued to monitor the parking lot until police arrived. Due to Officer Savoie's dedication to his duties, there were no injuries to the staff or guests. Kudos to Officer Savoie for his quick actions!

Another shout-out to **Officer Wilbert Mitchell, Lake Charles.** Officer Mitchell is known for his considerate nature to staff and patients, care and his professional dedication. Good news travels far and wide. Kudos to Officer Mitchell for going above and beyond to ensure the safety of our client's patients and staff.

Shout-out to the **entire Houma security team!** Our officers have stepped up to the plate to cover posts short-staffed due to COVID vacancies. Special shout-outs to **Officers Hailey Theriot and Lakeishia Norman** for their loyalty and dedication to Lofton Security. They have both gone above and beyond to represent Lofton Security!

### SEPTEMBER 2021

#### SEPTEMBER 6

Labor Day



Lofton offices will be closed  
**Monday, Sept. 6th**  
in observance of Labor Day.

#### SEPTEMBER 11

Patriot Day



#### SEPTEMBER 12

Grandparents' Day



#### SEPTEMBER 22

First Day of Autumn





## When Life Gives You Scraps.

By: Glenda Lofton, Ph.D.

As I skimmed the paper this week, watched TV, listened to the radio, and even attended the first Saints game in New Orleans (wearing masks), nothing seemed to diminish the ongoing problems in America and worldwide. Headlines and bylines read "COVID Virus Spreading like Wildfire", "Crash at Kabul airport kills 7", "Tennessee: 22 dead, many missing after 17 inches of rain". Also prominent were headlines about a declining economy, economic stimulus projects, and saddest of all, a declining faith in God in America. And then, as I prayed, I was encouraged by reflecting on my life and lessons learned over the years. Strangely, the first words that "popped into my head" were from an old-time entertainer on the Grand Ole Opry named Minnie Pearl that our family listened to every week on the radio when I was a kid. Despite all that was going on in the world then, Minnie Pearl would always say, "I'm just so glad to be here!" AND from there my list began to grow:

**1. Have a good day! You won't get it back.** This was one of the beliefs on which Lofton Staffing was founded, and I hope, despite recent hurricanes, etc., are still posted in all our offices.

**2. When life gives you scraps, make a quilt.** Tommy and I both had the good fortune of being born to parents and grandparents who had lived through the depression and who taught us that **although we cannot always change our circumstances, we can change our attitude toward them.** As I have written about before, my mom's dad died when she was only five leaving behind four girls from ages 7 to 3 months. My grandmother literally made quilts from scraps, and the quilts were used to keep the family warm in a house with no electricity, no running water, and only a fireplace and wood stove for heat. I have some of those quilts along with the sheets Grandma made from feed sacks as a reminder of that "can do" spirit handed down to me.

For me that spirit is captured in one of my favorite children's books called *Amigo* (Schweitzer, 1963) which tells the story of a young boy. "When he asked for a dog... Francisco's mother turned with a sigh. Francisco's father looked off at the sky. 'No, Francisco. It's all we can do just trying to feed your brothers and you.' Francisco seldom thought about the things he had to do without...Because he thought about the things he had. In his mind he tried to add them up...So many brothers. So many jokes. So many miles of desert all around. So many cactuses. So many mountains--so many places where caves can be found. And--plenty of wishes to wish on a star. Plenty of songs in that guitar,



*When life gives you scraps, make a quilt.*

but not enough money in his father's pocket...That's the way things are." When Francisco's mom suggests he tame a wild creature, he chooses a prairie dog, and in the end, Francisco thinks, "I've tamed me a prairie dog. He's my greatest joy." And *Amigo* (the prairie dog) thought, "Mine is the best pet. I've tamed me a boy."

**3. Waste not. Want not.** This old adage was also adhered to by our families. Even until her death at 91, my mother kept a pail full of left-over pieces of soap she dissolved to make her own soft soap. But...my most memorable example came from Tommy's mother, Addie. Sadly, Addie's mother died during the birth of her seventh child, and when her father also died soon after Addie was married, she and her sister took in the younger children. Being frugal became a way of life for her and was reinforced when Tommy's daddy died unexpectedly at the age of 52--a

few months after Tommy finished high school. Addie, in that "waste-not" mode, could darn a pair of socks so that you never felt the stiches, but our son, Bret Lofton, was the recipient of one of her greatest accomplishments--*designer shorts*. When Bret grew too tall for his jeans, she cut them off and made shorts. When the shorts got too small in the waist, she inserted colorful insets down the side. Before men and boys' clothing became so fashionable, he was the envy of all his friends!

**4. Develop your business first before building your house.** I was surprised to know that this quote comes from the Bible, the "book of wisdom" called Proverbs. When Tommy made the decision to start Lofton Staffing Services, he used the money from the house we had recently sold--the money we had planned to use to build a new house. This meant we lived off my income as a teacher for four years and lived in an older, smaller house which needed renovation, with Tommy's mom sleeping in the living room. When the business began to make a small profit, I wanted to build our house, but he said, "Not yet!" I wanted to argue but...the next Sunday our preacher read Proverbs 24:27. (The Living Bible, Paraphrased), and it said: "Develop your business first before building your house!" Even before the COVID virus, priorities in life are important. Sadly, many Americans today grew up in an age of instant gratification, enticing commercials, and "plastic money." It's easy, as my Grandma used to say, for your "eyes to be bigger than your stomach...and your pocketbook." When I told Tommy about an article I read listing priorities in spending and budgeting, he said, "I can make it simpler than that: Stay out of debt--period!!! When you are in debt, you are in bondage. You have put someone else in charge of your life, and it's not God!!!" And that triggered one more thought from me, in regard to the virus and current world events, and it's also from the book of Proverbs...

**5. In everything you do, put God first, and He will direct you and crown your efforts with success (Proverbs 3:6).**

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