

LOFTON LAGNIAPPE MONTHLY EMPLOYEE NEWS



Holiday Electrical Safety

By: Steve Ham, Lofton Safety Services



December is here! It's the season to trim the tree and make your home merry and bright with those twinkling lights. According to the U.S. Fire Administration, nearly 400 household fires each year are caused by holiday lights and decorations. As you get those boxes of Christmas decorations and try to untangle the lights, be sure to follow some simple safety tips to ensure a safe and very Merry Christmas.

- When taking lights out of storage, be sure to inspect lights for frayed wires, broken sockets or other signs of wear. Test each light string before use.
- When purchasing new lights, be sure to check the package for indoor or outdoor use. Putting indoor-only products outside in the weather can result in electric shock and fire hazards.
- If you are in doubt as to whether light strings are rated for indoor or outdoor use, just check the color-coded UL mark on the package. A green holographic UL mark says, "indoors only, please," while a red one indicates that the product is safe for both indoor and outdoor use.
- Use nonflammable decorations. If you use an artificial tree, choose one that is tested and labeled as fire resistant. Artificial trees with built-in electrical systems should have a UL label.
- Avoid connecting more than three strings of lights together.
- DO NOT route extension cords under rugs or near walkways.
- Keep electrical connections off the ground. There are lots of products and easy DIY ideas to keep connections dry.
- Turn off or unplug holiday lights late at night or when you are away from home. Use a timer to automatically turn lights on and off based on a set schedule.



Year End W-2s

It's almost that time of year again - W-2's! It's important to review your paystubs this month to make sure the following are correct:

- Your address
- State and federal withholdings
- Your social security number

If you worked for more than one department, i.e. Security, Clerical, Industrial, Energy or Medical, you will receive a W-2 for each. If you need to make any changes (address, etc.), log into your account through the employee login on the Lofton website, or contact your local payroll department immediately. Changes must be called into the payroll department by January 15th. W-2(s) will be mailed no later than the last day in January. W-2's can also be printed from your Lofton online account (employee paystubs link) in mid-February.

Survey Reminder



On December 1st, a short survey will be emailed asking three questions about the service at Lofton Staffing & Security. It would help us greatly if you could spend a few minutes completing the online survey. These surveys help us to continue delivering and/or improving our service each year.

The email will be from **Clearlyrated** Survey. If you do not receive the email, please let us know and we will get one sent out to you.

*** Everyone who participates in the survey will be entered in a drawing for a Gift Card.*



DECEMBER 2020

DECEMBER 10

Hanukkah

Happy Hanukkah



DECEMBER 21

First Day of Winter



DECEMBER 25

Christmas Day

**LOFTON OFFICES
CLOSED**

Friday, Dec. 25th

**Merry Christmas
From the
Lofton Family
to Yours!**





"Precious Memories"

By: Glenda Lofton, Ph.D.

For me, Christmas is a time for reflecting on precious memories from the past and present. This year isolation at home brought about by the COVID virus provided additional time to not only reflect, but also to go through boxes of keepsakes collected over the years from mine and Tommy's families. I made scrapbooks to share with loved ones, and spent hours talking to my three aunts on my mother's side: Elois-100, Eileen-96, and LaVerne-94, plus cousins, nieces and nephews on both sides of my family.

Among my memories growing up as the oldest grandchild in my mom's family was my desire to be a "good little girl." Perhaps it was because I learned very early the penalties of wrongdoing. I can still recall the guilt I felt as a four year old when my friend and I, like Adam and Eve, hid behind the door after coating the coffee table and all of our end tables with a layer of cold cream and margarine. I also can't forget the humiliation when a kind yet stern first grade teacher kept me after school with the admonishment that "good little girls don't write love notes to little boys" – even if they were as "dashing" as David C. These incidents, combined with one trip to the "infamous corner" in second grade, impacted me, and from then on my sins were behind me. And so as a fourth grader, when an evangelist at our church called all sinners to repent, I sat there passively. It never entered my mind that he was talking about me. I was a "good little girl." But it had entered the mind of the zealous young pastor's wife sitting next to me. "Have you asked Jesus to forgive you of your sins?" she whispered. Words cannot adequately describe the agony I experienced at the realization I was a sinner. I cried all the way home. That afternoon the pastor and the evangelist visited me at my home, and I asked Jesus to be my Sav-

ior. Our family would go on to move two more times and attend two more churches after that. I continued to learn and grow in my faith until I graduated high school and began my freshman year at LSU.

Many of you know the next chapter in my life. On my first day at LSU, I met Tommy Lofton, a senior, and we began to date. He also, to my delight, took me to his church every Sunday night. He was happy I shared his faith, but the fact that I had been Valedictorian at Baton Rouge High did not seem to impress him, and he could not believe I had



never had a job!!! Tommy had started working when he was 12 years old. From ages 12-14, he delivered papers for the N. Baton Rouge Journal where he won a bike for his work. When he was old enough to get a driver's license, he delivered papers for the State Times after school. During his senior year he was provided a truck to pick up and deliver papers at 3:00 am to stores that sold them, and to the paper boys that delivered them. Then he hurried to class at Istrouma High School. (Thankfully, Tommy learned early on the value of hard work because the summer after he finished high school, his dad, a construction worker, died unexpectedly in his sleep at age 52. He left behind Tommy's mom, an invalid sister, and a sister married and traveling with a career service man.) Given his strong work ethic, my first semester at LSU, Tommy immediately got me a job for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays at J.C. Penney. The next semester, he had me apply for a job at LSU working in the Veterinary Science lab where I worked until I finished LSU. (It came as no surprise to me that he eventually started a staffing ser-

vice. To him, work was more natural than play, and he believed strongly that we are all called to serve.)

Tommy and I married a year before I finished LSU. Upon graduation, I became a career mom, but I did plan my pregnancies so I could have a year of maternity leave to be with Bret in 1963 and Bart four years later. In 1963, as a "stay at home mom," I became a big fan of President Kennedy, and watched his weekly press conferences with Bret beside me. And then one day, to my dismay, I heard on the news that President Kennedy had been shot. I was heartbroken! I held Bret close and began to sob. "What kind of world have I brought you into?" I cried. I got my Bible and began to pray for comfort and assurance. As I opened the Bible, the first words I read were 1 John 5:12-13: "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the

name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God." A peace I cannot explain came over me from head to toe. I had no fear. I knew that nothing including death could separate me or my children from the love of God, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

Reinforcing this belief among my keepsakes is a book of "All Time Favorite Hymns" compiled by our former governor, Jimmie Davis. As I reflect on memories, I can hear him singing the last verse of one of my favorite songs, "Precious Memories" written by JBF Wright back in 1925 when he was 48: "As I travel on life's pathway, Know not what the years may hold; As I ponder, hope grows stronger, Precious mem'ries flood my soul." May this Christmas be a time of "precious memories" for you and your families as we remember the reason for the season and grow stronger together.



Officer Good News

It's one thing to have an officer step up to help out on short-notice, but when a team comes together...that's something else. Very

special shout out to Little Rock officers **Cpt. Carson Griggs, Marcie Carelock, Demika Adams, Wolf VonKindberg, and Charles Vedder** who came together to cover the shift of a fellow officer who had to have emergency surgery.

These officers worked in conjunction to ensure the client site NEVER noticed a shift in security coverage. This is exactly what our clients expect when they partner with Lofton - to have a security company who cares, with officers who care. Thank you for your teamwork!

We did this shout-out last month, but it bears repeating. Thank You to the officers who worked remote locations for Storm Cover-

age. We have had a run of hurricanes that caused destruction throughout Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi and Arkansas. We would like to take this time to thank each and every Security Officer called into action for our large energy client. Many of these posts have been in rural areas with few creature comforts. You are what makes Lofton THE DIFFERENCE in security. Thank you!