

LA PAROLE

NEWSLETTER OF THE ACADIAN MUSEUM

By Warren A. Perrin, Chairman

APRIL 2022

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SHARE THE GOOD NEWS!

If you know anyone who'd like to get this newsletter, send their name and email address to darylinb@plddo.com.

HELP PROMOTE THE CULTURE

Your tax-deductible contributions¹ can help fund these important projects:

- Finding the [lost location](#) of our first Acadian settlement.
- Transcribing and digitizing tapes of rare and valuable interviews.
- Developing videos and podcasts for distribution online.
- Promoting the French language and "immersion" programs.
- Expanding and categorizing our holdings of cultural treasures.

You can donate¹ [online](#) or by sending a check to The Acadian Museum, P.O. Box 53597, Lafayette, LA 70505.

UNSUBSCRIBE

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please send your request to darylinb@plddo.com.

¹The Acadian Museum is a Louisiana 501(c)(3) nonprofit. All contributions are tax-deductible.

75th Anniversary of the Erath Derouen-Moss Post 279 American Legion

Andy Perrin, Chairman of the Acadian Museum's Executive Committee stated, "on April 9, 2022 at 12 noon, the Acadian Museum is hosting a celebration for the 75th anniversary of the Erath Derouen-Moss Post 279 American Legion. We are proud to be able to host such a special event." Warren Perrin stated that "The event will feature the naming of the museum's two exhibits: the Robert B. Vincent Military Exhibit and the Willis Granger American Legion Exhibition." There will be a presentation and posting of Colors by the Acadian Veterans Honor Guard and US Flag (to the bugle rendition of the *Star-Spangled Banner*). The program will include singing *America The Beautiful* by Natial d'Augereau; introduction of American Legion guests by Robert Dore, Post 279 Commander; a history of Derouen-Moss Post 279 by Boni Suire, Post 279 immediate past commander; an introduction of guest speaker Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser by Warren A. Perrin; and a moment of silence in remembrance of all deceased members of Post 279. For more information, call the Acadian Museum at 337-456-7729 or consult info@acadianmuseum.com.

Visit Us, "Like" Us on Facebook, or Shop in Our Store!

The Acadian Museum is open Tuesday-Friday from 1-4 pm and Saturdays from 10-noon. But you can also visit us online using the links below. For group tours, dial 337 456-7729.

Website: www.acadianmuseum.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/AcadianMuseum

Museum Store: www.acadianmuseum.com/boutique.html

ACADIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE FOUNDATION, INC.

203 S. Broadway, Erath, Louisiana 70533 | (337) 233-5832 or (337) 456-7729 | acadianmuseum.com

MUSEUM NEWS

Book Talks/Special Events

We are accepting invitations to give presentations. Here are some scheduled talks:

- April 9, 75th anniversary of the American Legion Post, Acadian Museum, 203 S. Broadway, Erath, La. at 12 Noon
- On April 11, lecture, Stark Center at the University of Texas in Austin, Texas at 9:00 a.m.
- April 11, SAGE seminar, Thompson Conference Center, University of Texas, Austin, Texas at 2:30 p.m.
- April 23, Capitol Park Museum, 660 N. Fourth St, Baton Rouge, at 1:00 p.m.
- April 27, "Salute to Frenchie: Honoring French-Speaking WWII Veterans," National World War II Museum, New Orleans, from 2 - 3 p.m.
- April 30, La. Sports Hall of Fame Museum, 800 Front St., Natchitoches, LA, 71457 at 2 p.m.
- May 10, 1:00 p.m. Out to Lunch Acadiana (radio show)
Listen on KRVS 88.7 FM or krvs.org
- July 21, 12 noon, Hancock Historical Society, 198 Cue St., Bay St. Louis, Mississippi

Spinning and Weaving Workshop a Great Success

"Madame Dronet's Legacy: Spinning and Weaving" held on April 2nd in Prairie Greig was presented by Elaine Bourque and Austin Clark at the Perrin Farm (see photo below), 6805 Hwy 330, Erath, LA. The event was attended by members of the Dronet family: Phyllis Dronet Leblanc; Sonny and Charlene Dronet; Jody and Dana Dronet; Leslie Dronet Mencacci; Claire Dronet Dubroc; Gene and Cynthia Dronet; Travis and Sybil Dronet; and Anthony and Ava Dronet (Jody's son and granddaughter).



Austin Clark and Elaine Bourque



Jody Dronet and Austin Clark

Catherine Blanchet Workshops

Erath Public Library

Saturday, April 9 – 10am - noon

Finale: Abbeville Public Library

Saturday, May 14 – 9am - noon



In the 1940's, Catherine Blanchet documented songs and round dances in French by recording school children and adults when she was music supervisor of Vermilion Parish Schools. She dedicated the rest of her life to teaching and

sharing this treasure. The goal is to pass on these traditions to a new generation. This public event is sponsored by the Acadian Museum of Erath and funded with support from the Louisiana Folklore Society, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Louisiana Division of the Arts and the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism

Catherine Blanchet Day Proclaimed in Four Towns

Erath Mayor Taylor Mencacci declared April 9, 2022, as Catherine Blanchet Day in Erath.



Shown at the signing of the proclamation by Mayor Taylor Mencacci are, left to right, Natal d'Augereau, Acadian Museum volunteer; Gwen Bodin; Councilman Scott Bernard; Mayor Mencacci; Town Clerk Raquel Harris; and Chairman of the Acadian Museum Warren Perrin.

Kaplan Mayor Mike Kloesel proclaimed March 18, 2022, as Catherine Blanchet Day. In attendance were Ann Henry, Earlene Broussard, Daniel Duhon, Betty Girouard, Lisa Broussard, Patrice Mire, Warren Perrin, Altha Blanchet Rodin, Greg Rodin, Cecelia Blanchet, Ben Blanchet and Vickie Betts

On March 11, Wayne Theriot, the mayor of Maurice, signed a proclamation declaring

Catherine Blanchet Day as part of the Passing it On Workshops in Vermilion Parish. In attendance at the signing were Warren Perrin, Mayor Theriot, Ann and Ben Blanchet.

Mayor Jude Reese declared March 26 as Catherine Blanchet Day in Gueydan.

Healing Traditions Workshop Was Successful



Presenters, shown above, left to right, are Melanie Francois, Dr. Mary Ann Armbruster, Beverly Fuselier, and Mary Perrin.

On March 12, the Acadian Museum and Mary Perrin conducted a "Passing It On Workshop." The purpose of this series of workshops is to preserve and pass on the customs and traditions unique to the Louisiana coastal parishes endangered by flooding and coastal erosion. This particular workshop was entitled "Healing Traditions of South Louisiana." Presenters

discussed the folk healers or *traiteurs* of Vermilion Parish as well as native Louisiana medicinal plants and demonstrated the actual making of medicine from these plants.

Storytelling Workshop Was a Success



The Passing It On: Storytelling group held its first of two workshops on March 20, 2022 at the *Musée à Maurice*, in Maurice, LA. The group was led by Richard Landry (shown above, center). There were 15 attendees who discussed storytelling techniques and elements of good stories and presentations. The second workshop, on April 10, will focus on each attendee presenting a story that they have chosen, using the elements and techniques discussed at the first workshop. To register, contact Richard Landry at risulandry@gmail.com.

Acadian Museum is Rated as One of the Top Ten Museums in Louisiana

Best Things in Louisiana website has recommended the Acadian Museum as one of

the Top Ten Museums in Louisiana:
<https://bestthingsla.com/museums/>

The recommendation included an outline our historic collection, which you can see [here](#) on our website.

Museum Visitors



On March 15, Marla LeBlanc brought her granddaughter, Magnolia Doolin, to visit the museum—she is seen under our sign holding an Acadian flag. Docent Jackie Vincent is in the background.

How Many Cajun French Words Do You Know? Many Fear it's a Dying Language

This article by Leigh Guidry appeared in the *Daily Advertiser*.



It was French that attracted the Acadians to Louisiana. After years of imprisonment, Joseph Beausoleil Broussard brought his band of Acadians to the West Indies and then followed his people's language to New Orleans in 1765. From there they crossed the Atchafalaya and settled in and grew what we would come to call Acadiana.

Warren Perrin tells this story to patrons within the Musée Acadien – Acadian Museum – in Erath. The 75-year-old attorney and museum founder does so in both English and French, switching between the two languages effortlessly like he did in the bilingual, childhood home in Henry.

Today Louisiana is home to an estimated 250,000 French speakers, including Perrin and the men visiting his museum Friday. But just a generation or two ago, the Bayou State boasted more than one million Francophones.

"Our language is imploding as we don't use it enough," Perrin said. "We're not expanding it in Louisiana. We have a very precious commodity. We've got to save it."

Click [here](#) to read the entire article.

Cajun Astronaut Hayley Arceneaux Inducted Into Living Legends

On March 18, the Acadian Museum inducted the Cajun astronaut Haley Arceneaux into the Order of Living Legends.



Shown following the induction ceremony are (L-R) Mary Perrin, inductee Cajun astronaut Haley Arceneaux, and Warren A. Perrin.



Shown are (L-R) Kermit Bouillion, Chairman of the Living Legends program, and inductee Hayley Arceneaux.

Belizaire the Cajun



On March 17, UL Lafayette Library's Special Collections hosted a program commemorating the film *Belizaire the Cajun*. Organized by Zachary Stein and Sandy Himel, the event featured a film screening, soundtrack songs performed by BeauSoleil avec Michael Doucet, and a panel discussion moderated by Conni Castille (UL Lafayette Moving Image Arts). The panel included Glen Pitre (writer/director), Allan Durand (producer), and Michael Doucet (music).

LOUISIANA/CAJUN NEWS

Grand Reveille Announced

On October 1-9 of this year, there will be events all across Acadiana for the Great Acadian Awakening also known as the Grand Reveille. Opening ceremonies will be in Abbeville, but other events will occur in West Baton Rouge, St. Martin, Iberia, Lafourche, and Terrebonne parishes, as well as in downtown Lafayette, Broussard, Breaux Bridge, Rayne, and Church Point.

Things will round up Sunday, October 9 with a Mass in French at St. John's Cathedral in Lafayette, followed by a *tintamarre* to Warehouse 535 where there will be food trucks and music. We will publish a complete schedule in our newsletter later this year.

The umbrella group for these events is *Louisiane-Acadie*, which encourages you to organize a family reunion and let them know about your events by May 1st, and your event will be added to the website. Visit their website for details: [Home/Accueil - Louisiane-Acadie \(louisianeacadie.com\)](http://Home/Accueil - Louisiane-Acadie (louisianeacadie.com)). As events are confirmed, they will be posted on the website. Their Facebook page is at [\(20+\) Grand Réveil Acadien / Great Acadian Awakening | Facebook](#)

It would be great if your family planned an event and joined in the Great Acadian Awakening! However, if your family does not have an active organization, you might consider joining with another family for a celebration of our Acadian heritage!

Vermilionville - Annual Creole Culture Day

The Annual Creole Culture Day will be held on Saturday, June 12, 2022 starting at 10:00 a.m. The day promises to be informative and fun to include sharing circles, cooking demonstrations, children's activities, live music, jam sessions, exhibits, Creole language studies, and boat tours. The day includes the Richard J. Catalon, Sr. Award ceremony at 1:00 p.m. where they honor an individual who has contributed to the Creole Culture.

Cooking with Shaq

On April 3, 2022, this article by Alison Ashton appeared in *Parade*:

A cookbook from basketball great Shaquille O'Neal really shouldn't surprise anyone. "I'm an avid eater," he says. And as the founder of Big Chicken in Las Vegas and a Papa John's board member and franchisee, he's also in the food business....And *Shaq's Family Style* (out April 5), with its lip-smacking compilation of recipes, reflects his very personal style of cooking and eating—hearty, fun and un-fussy fare influenced by the food he grew up with and the places he's lived over the years (especially the Cajun cuisine he loved as a college basketball star at Louisiana State University). So go ahead, cook—eat—like Shaq!

Read all about it [here](#).

FRENCH/ACADIAN NEWS

LeBlanc Association of Nova Scotia

Robert Surette sent this information:

On a besoin d'aide! SVP observez le canal devant notre monument. On a besoin d'y installé une pipe et du couvert afin de mettre en sécurité les touristes et nos bénévoles dévoués. Le panneau commence à montrer du dommage...a besoin de réparations. Si vous pouvez nous aider, svp visiter notre site web et appuyer notre bouton de donations.

Merci beaucoup

We need help! Please note the ditch in front of our monument. We need to install a culvert and a cover in order to protect tourists and our devoted volunteers. The panel is starting to show some wear and tear...needs repairs. If you can help, please visit our donation button on our website noted below. [LeBlanc Association of Nova Scotia](https://www.monumentleblanc.com) | Facebook
www.monumentleblanc.com



Automne / Fall 2021



Hiver / Winter 2021-2022

Fort Edward Important Piece of the Puzzle for Acadian History in Nova Scotia

This article by Carole Morris-Underhill appeared on saltwire.com:



A campaign was launched in 2021 to prevent the lots, pictured to the bottom left of Fort Edward National Historic Site, from being sold to a developer. The West Hants Historical Society would like to see a museum or interpretation centre that will help tell the area's history be constructed there instead. — Alex Hanes/Contributed

Buried underneath the oldest wooden blockhouse in North America lies the ruins of a

church that was destroyed to make way for a military encampment. Dating back to the 1700s, Fort Edward National Historic Site in Windsor is well known for its role in various war-related historical events and its involvement in creating the oldest, continuously-run agricultural fair in North America. Its role in the Acadian expulsion, however, is often overlooked or just mentioned in passing. But the area holds much meaning for the Acadian community.

To read the article, click [here](#).

Peggy Feehan Appointed to *Centre de la Francophonie des Amériques* Board

The Centre de la Francophonie des Amériques (CFA) is headquartered in Quebec City and represents the 33 million French speakers of the Americas (North and South). The CFA is a longtime friend of CODOFIL and Louisiana. The CFA just appointed Peggy Feehan, Executive Director of CODOFIL, to their board. She replaces Zachary Richard who completed 12 years of service with them. We thank Zachary for his tireless efforts and dedication to the French language and wish Peggy success.



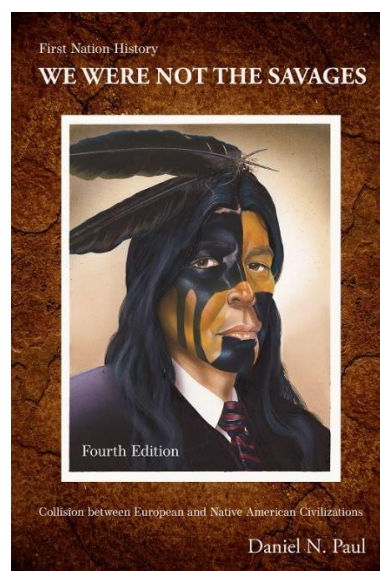
An engineering study says the cost of a decade-long project to save the land link between Nova Scotia and New Brunswick from climate-related flooding will range between \$189 million and just over \$300 million.

The study released Friday suggests either raising the height of the existing 35 kilometres of dikes for an estimated \$200 million, building a new dike at a cost of \$189 million, or raising the existing dikes and installing steel sheet pile walls in select locations for about \$301 million.

The area, called Chignecto by historians, was the home of the ancient area of Beaubassin, which was where the deportations started before moving on to Grand Pré and Port-Royale. To read the entire article, click [here](#):

Dr. Daniel N. Paul's New Book

Dr. Daniel N. Paul, our friend from Halifax, I sent this information about his new book:



Dr. Daniel N. Paul's new book *We Were Not The Savages* is to be launched and on sale September 30, 2022.

Dikes to Prevent Chignecto Flooding Expected to Cost Up to \$300 Million

This article by Michael Tutton, *The Canadian Press*, appeared on *thestar.com*:

Daniel Paul website:

<http://www.danielnpaul.com>

Amazon Author's Page

<https://www.amazon.com/author>

LAGNIAPPE

Lâche pas la musique Was a Success

Madeline DeHart, Supervisor of Fine Arts and French Immersion, Vermilion Parish School Board, sent this:

Vermilion Parish Schools Music Department has made strides in nurturing the music of Louisiana within its students. Currently, students meet after school to learn fiddle, accordion, guitar, and percussion. All of these lessons revolve around our LA French language and music.

Please see the flyer (below) to learn the details of local performances featuring our students along with professional musicians.

Lâche pas la musique
EN VERMILION

Guitar Clubs from Gueydan High, Rene Rest, and JH Williams
with
The Envies
Turnley Park in Kaplan
March 23 at 6:00p.m.

LeBlanc Elementary Fiddlers
with
Blake Miller and the Old Fashioned Aces
Sounds on the Square
Downtown Abbeville
March 31 at 6:00p.m.

Erath Middle's Bayou Tigre Steppers
with
Poisson Rouge
Sounds on the Square
Downtown Abbeville
April 7 at 6:00p.m.

This performance is funded in part by a grant from South Arts in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and the Louisiana Office of Cultural Development, City of Abbeville, City of Kaplan, and Vermilion Parish School Board Member, Dale Steffy.

For more information, call Madeline DeHart at 337-898-5807.

Louisiana Youth Writing Contest Announced

Jim Davis, Director of the Louisiana Center for the Book, State Library of Louisiana sent this:

LA Writes, in partnership with the Louisiana Center for the Book in the State Library of Louisiana, is sponsoring a writing contest for kindergarten through 12th grade students. Louisiana students may submit poetry, fiction, and nonfiction in both French and English. Electronic entries will be accepted through May 31, 2022. Winners will be notified by September 1 and will be honored at a ceremony held during the Louisiana Book Festival in Baton Rouge on October 29. Entry/release forms with further

information are available on the Louisiana Writes website at www.lawrites.org. Submissions should be sent to Dr. Ann B. Dobie, contest director, at louisianawritescontest@gmail.com.

Rogers Romero
rommo1@aol.com
Laman35@gmail.com
338-519-7942

Virtual and Real “French Tables”

Rogers Romero of New Iberia sent this information about his French Table events:

1. Since the pandemic began, I have been hosting a Virtual French Table via Zoom which is called "Bayou Teche Virtual French Table" and we meet online every Monday at 9:00 a.m. Being the host of this meeting, I send out words and phrases for our members to practice with. The words and phrases are normally taken from the "Dictionary of Louisiana French." Many people from different parts of the world have attended our Zoom sessions, ie. France, Belgium, Canada, Brazil, and different parts of the U.S., such as Boston, Chicago, Arizona, Oregon and several places in Louisiana.

2. Before the pandemic, and since 2009, I have been conducting French Table meetings live in New Iberia with the same words and phrases as mentioned above. This meeting is held on Thursday at 7:00 a.m. at the McDonald's restaurant located at 1501 Center St., at the corner of Center St. (Hwy 14) and Admiral Doyle (Hwy 674). From Hwy 90, go north on Hwy 14 to the corner of Center St. and Admiral Doyle and McDonald's will be on the right. The restaurant will be open for those who want to eat before the meeting at 6 AM. The time is subject to change in the near future. Once a month, we have students from a French Immersion class from North Lewis Elementary School come and visit with us, participating in the words and phrases and conversations in French.

Event Hosted by Vermilionville

On March 26, Vermilionville hosted an all-day event with organizations from the community providing music, poetry, and dance all in French; Petanque sessions, and food and drinks from French countries around the world! There were some great vendors, films, and the weekly Cajun Jam, and, of course, touring the Vermilionville village.

Website

Link: <https://bayouvermiliondistrict.org/event/237272/>

Facebook Event

Link: <https://fb.me/e/mtD3RAG5x>

Iberia Parish School District's French Immersion Celebrating 20 Years

Iberia Parish School District's French Immersion Program, housed at North Lewis Elementary and Belle Place Middle, celebrated 20 years of enriching students' lives while preserving the French language's place in Louisiana culture and providing students an opportunity to be educated by teachers from around the world. The pinnacle of the festivities, a picnic and celebration called Le Grand Pique-Nique d'Immersion en Ibérie, was held on March 27. *Les Amis de L'Immersion Française* (the friends of the French Immersion program) organized the event to give teachers, students, and families an opportunity to come together and celebrate the program they all embrace.



Cajun Mondo Duplantis from Lafayette Extends Pole Vault World Record

This appeared in *The Indian Express*:

Olympic champion Mondo Duplantis again broke his own pole vault world record with a clearance of 6.20 meters or 20 feet, 4 inches at the world indoor championships. The 22-year-old Swede had promised "something higher" at the event and set the new mark at his third and final attempt. He had already secured his first world title at 6.05 (19-10 1/4).

Duplantis cleared 6.19 (20-3 3/4) on March 7 at the Belgrade Indoor Meeting at the same Stark Arena, extending his record from 6.18 (20-3 1/4)

that was set in February 2020 in Glasgow. Duplantis is believed to be the first Cajun to hold a world record in track and field.

To read the article, click [here](#).

School System Gets \$810,000 Grant to Teach Cajun History

This article by Chris Rosa appeared in the *Abbeville Meridional*:

"...Thanks for an \$810,000 federal grant, some Vermilion Parish middle school students are going to learn the history of their Cajun Culture.

Madeline DeHart, the music and art program supervisor in the parish public schools, informed the school board about an \$810,000 Reimagine Innovation Federal Grant that the school system recently received..."

US House Passes Legislation to Give Full Ownership Theatre to Eunice

This story appeared on *KATC.com*:



The House passed the *Save the Liberty Theatre Act* by a vote of 422-4 which would give the City of Eunice, full ownership of the Liberty Theatre and its annex. The legislation will make it so the community can move forward with its

restoration efforts and host French-related events.

To read the article, click [here](#).

UL First in U. S. to Join Global Network of French-Speaking Universities

This article by Ken Stickney, Staff Writer, appeared in *The Advocate* on March 18, 2022:

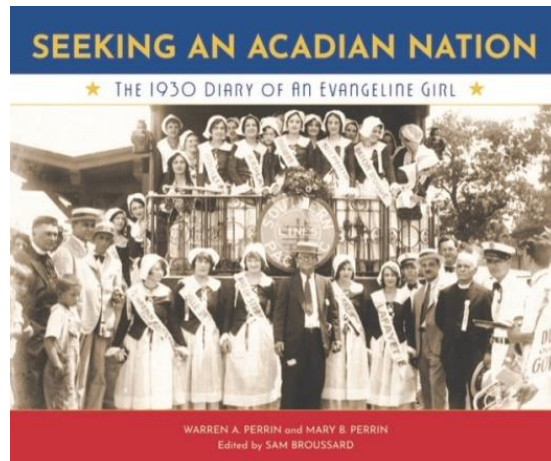


Madame Nathalie Beras, consul general of France in New Orleans, meets with Lafayette Mayor-President Josh Guillory.

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette is set to become the first in the United States to join a global network of French-speaking universities. Madame Nathalie Beras, consul general of France in New Orleans, told a gathering of UL Lafayette administrators and department heads this week that membership in *Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie* will assert the university's credentials for its French-speaking heritage. "It's neat to be recognized as a French-speaking university, the first U.S. university to be a member of AUF. That will help attract scholars

and students from French-speaking countries here," she said.

Visit the Boutique / Get Cool Stuff !



Another way to support the museum is by visiting our [online boutique](#) and purchasing one of our books or other souvenirs. Our latest book, [Seeking an Acadian Nation](#), traces the movement toward Acadian reunification across the decades. Other titles and available souvenirs include:

- [Acadie Then and Now: A People's History](#) with articles by Cajun and Acadian authors from around the world.
- [Acadian Redemption - From Beausoleil Broussard to the Queen's Royal Proclamation](#) by Warren Perrin.
- *A Century of Acadian Culture, Erath (1899-1999)* by General Curney Dronet.
- *The University of Louisiana's National Championship Weightlifting Teams*
- Historical "picture books" on Vermilion, Iberia, and St. Landry parishes.

- T-shirts, posters, and reproductions.

Acadian Museum TV Channel Still Planned

Just to let you know, the Acadian Museum TV Channel is still in the works. We finally got over 100 of our old VHS tapes converted to digital by the ULL Center for Louisiana Studies (thanks to Chris Segura) and they are currently being catalogued and cleaned up by museum volunteer Kermit Bouillion. We are hoping that within another month or two, we will have everything in working order and uploaded to YouTube so that we can open the channel to the public.

Please stay tuned! And while you're waiting, enjoy this little jewel from the collection.



Our Town Erath – Local Artisans Discuss their Craft
(from 1999) <https://youtu.be/ypSwQtpqCKM>