

**LAYAYA**

CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT PAGE

ing another poll on our social media pages. As an all-volunteer 501C3 nonprofit organization, we invite volunteers who would like to become involved and assist with the project. They can reach us via email at LAYAYAorg@gmail.com or 504.345.9292."

LAYAYA is on a mission to bring this vital community asset to reality, and they are currently reaching out to industry leaders and community partners to help fund the LAYAYA Creative Community Center for 2024. They are kicking off the efforts this week and Chevron Oak Point Oronite will be supporting the project by pledging \$4,500 to help fund the technology lab. Chevron Oak Point Oronite Plant General Manager, Naomi Woodard said, "We are pleased and ex-

cited to partner with LAYAYA in laying the foundation for this special and unique community space that will serve as a valuable resource for the Parish. Supporting the Center's Technology Lab is consistent with our belief that today's students are tomorrow's future innovators."

In addition to the Technology Lab, they are planning a culinary arts department, two art studio spaces, a woodworking workshop, a designated film set for the performing arts department, a science lab station, a music room, a community garden and so much more. In the future they hope to offer meeting space for other groups in the community who are aligned with the community service mission that drives LAYAYA. They are putting together a menu of activities for ages 5-105 and hope to engage people of all ages who would like to spend

time learning new skills, enjoying creativity and coming together to help create a better community.

Jo Hughes states, "I see this as a quality-of-life investment for the benefit of Plaquemines Parish. We hope to provide something for everyone in the form of hobbies, classes and social activities much the way that surrounding parishes have done. I am confident that we will raise the funds for the 2024 operating budget for the project through corporate sponsorship, donations and fundraisers to expand the new LAYAYA Studio into the full vision of the LAYAYA Creative Community Center. With so much new industry in Plaquemines it is an exciting time of growth for our parish. This project extends an opportunity for corporate investment in the quality of life of Plaquemines Parish through sponsorship of various sections of the LAYAYA Creative Community Center. We are poised to open the LAYAYA Studio in early September and will be updating progress and listing our sponsors on our social media pages and website as we move towards our 2024 goal."

LAYAYA will start registration for a variety of youth departments in early September for ages 6 to 19. For information about registering, to join the mailing list for upcoming events and classes for all ages or if you are interested in sponsoring a section of the LAYAYA C3 you can visit them online at [www.LAYAYA.org](http://www.LAYAYA.org).

LAYAYA (Louisiana Young Artists & Young Authors) is an all-volunteer 501C3 nonprofit organization serving the community since 2012 with year-round programming.

**Craft a Leafy Luminary!**

This Woodlands Conservancy craft project will help teach children about the different kinds of trees and how to identify them based upon the shape of its leaves! Visit <https://tinyurl.com/7t7fyds> for the instructions

**TC Energy Funds Habitat Enhancement at Woodlands Preserve**

Thanks to a generous donation of \$45,000 received from TC Energy on September 1, 2023, you will start to see a lot more assessment and restoration activity underway at Woodlands Preserve beginning this fall. "TC Energy became one of Woodlands Conservancy's partners in 2022 and continues to invest in restoring our forested wetlands," said Katie Brasted, Woodlands Conservancy.

Woodlands Preserve has experienced a major loss of forest canopy as a result of both fallen trees from hurricane activity in combination with those resulting from successful herbicide treatment of non-native vegetation. The downed trees in combination with a proliferation of briars has made it challenging to reforest with native trees and understory plants. Funding from TC Energy will help prepare open canopy areas of the forest and reforest with native seedlings and trees this coming winter. "We at TC Energy," said Charles Heame, Social Impact Advisor at TC Energy, "are firm supporters of doing what we can to improve the quality of our forests for the benefits they provide to wildlife and the community at large."

"The permanently protected Woodlands Preserve property is capable of absorbing 32 million gallons of water annually which serves to reduce flooding in the surrounding community," said Brasted. "Moreover, that water is transpired slowly back into the atmosphere, keeping our temperatures lower – something I think we all can appreciate this summer." A healthy forested wetland provides habitat to native wildlife and "stopover" habitat for the thousands of neotropical migratory birds that depend on the site during spring and fall migration. Bird surveys beginning in 2004 and continuing on a monthly basis have documented over 160 bird species utilizing Woodlands Conservancy's properties including species of Greatest Conservation Need.

**Deadline Set For October 2023 Commodity Food Distribution**

Deadline for accepting applications for participation in the October 2023 Food Distribution Program is October 5, 2023. Plaquemines Parish residents who have not yet applied for or completed an Application/Declaration Form of Eligibility can do so now or before the above mentioned date. All applications received after the deadline will not be processed for the upcoming October 2023 distribution. Commodity applications are available at ALL Parish Council offices, Council on Aging and the Community Action Agency office.

All applications must be thoroughly completed with a current copy of Applicant's gross monthly

house hold income and identification attached. These copies must show the total combined income of all persons living with the following limits (see income guideline chart).

- Applicant's household is composed solely of food stamps recipients.
- Applicant's receives supplemental security income.
- Applicant's household receives general assistance or aid to families with dependent children.

All inquiries concerning this food distribution should be directed to the Community Action Agency Office only. For more information, please contact Cara L. Phillips at 504.934.6940.

INCOME GUIDELINE		
Size of Household	Monthly Income Is Less Than	Yearly Income Is Less Than
1	\$1,580	\$18,954
2	\$2,137	\$25,636
3	\$2,694	\$32,318
4	\$3,250	\$39,000
5	\$3,807	\$45,682
6	\$4,364	\$52,364
7	\$4,921	\$59,046
8	\$5,478	\$65,728
FOR EACH ADDITIONAL FAMILY MEMBER ADD	\$ 557	\$ 6,682

regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability. Hearing impaired individuals contact: Louisiana Relay Service at 1-888-699-6869 TTY/Voice.

**OBITUARIES**

**Daniel "Dan" S. Caluda Sr.**



Daniel "Dan" S. Caluda Sr. passed away peacefully on Tuesday, September 5, 2023 at the age of 88. He was the beloved husband of Mercedes V. Caluda. Loving father of Janice Caluda Perdue (Preston), Danny Caluda (Jodie), Linda Caluda Jackson and Connie Caluda Brown (Mike). Brother of Roselyn Fernandez (Tony), Gaynel Parker (Mac) and Gerald Caluda. He is also survived and fondly remembered by his 9 grandchildren, & eight great-grandchildren and many nieces, nephews, cousins and dear friends. Dan was preceded in death by his parents, Angelo and Hazel Caluda; his brothers, Charles and Marion Caluda; and his dear grandson Jonathan Caluda. Born in Braithwaite, La., Dan embodied the values of community, hard work, and family. He was a longtime resident of Braithwaite, La., where he laid down roots and became an integral part of the community. He proudly served his country in the National Guard Reserves. In addition to his military service, Dan was the Director of the Lake Borgne Basin Levee District, where he played a role in protecting the parish from the ever-present threat of flooding. Beyond his public service, Dan was a part owner of the Hi La Food Store, where he worked diligently to provide for his family. He brought joy and laughter into the lives of those around him. He delighted in entertaining his children and friends with his famous finger removal trick. Dan was a man who found happiness in life's simple pleasures, whether it was sharing a meal with loved ones, enjoying a quiet evening on the porch, or sharing stories and jokes with friends. His 68-year marriage to his beloved wife, Mercedes, was a shining example of enduring love and devotion. As we mourn the loss of Dan, let us also celebrate the rich and meaningful life he led. May his memory be a source of comfort and inspiration to us all. Relatives and friends attended a visitation followed by a Mass in Dan's memory held at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, 2621 Colonial Dr., in Violet, La., on Monday, September 11, 2023. Interment: St. Bernard Catholic Cemetery, St. Bernard, La. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to your favorite charity in memory of Dan. To view and sign the Family Guestbook, please visit [www.stbernardmemorial.com](http://www.stbernardmemorial.com).

**Alvenes "Al" Dummlies**



Alvenes "Al" Dummlies, a native of Plaquemines Parish and a resident of Gibson, La., passed away peacefully on Thursday, August 31, 2023, at 10:09 a.m. at the age of 76. He is survived by his wife, Paula Bonvillain - Dummlies; daughters, Betty Ann (Wilson) Dorsey, Barbara Jean Dummlies, Angela Knight, Lashanda (Ralph) Williams, and DeNiece Bonvillain; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren; godchildren, George Dummlies, Arrienna Miller, and David Livas, Jr.; brothers, Larry (Gail) Dummlies and George (Brenetta) Dummlies; sisters, Annie Nixon and Joyce Dummlies. He was preceded in death by his son, Henry Dummlies; grandson, Derrell Dummlies; great-grandchildren, Faith and Kezeshkai Dummlies; parents, Elijah, Sr. and Icela Dominic Dummlies; siblings, J.C. Ranson, Elijah, Jr., Henry Allen, Henry Louis, Elton Tea Dummlies, Leola Mitchell, and Garrett Lee Dummlies, Sr. Relatives and friends of the family attended a visitation and funeral service on Saturday, September 9, 2023, at Morning Star Baptist Church, 120 Mission Blvd., in Houma, La. Interment followed in the church's cemetery. Online condolences can be given at [www.samarfuneralhome.com](http://www.samarfuneralhome.com).

**Edwin Hobson Riley Sr.**



Edwin Hobson Riley Sr., or "Pee Wee," transitioned peacefully on Thursday August 31, 2023, surrounded by family; at the age of 97. He was born November 11, 1925, to the late Hobson Petty Riley Sr. and Ethel Sweet-ed Carrier Riley. The Brother of Lillie Mae R. Baker, Rev. Clearance Riley, late Hobson Jr., late Hattie R. Trufant, and Lydia Riley. Edwin served in the United States Navy and was a World War II Veteran. Edwin was married to the late Gloria Griffin Riley. To this union four children were born, Jackie (Barbara), Noel (Arlene), Stephanie Brown (late Kenneth), and late Edwin Jr. (Sharon). He was blessed with nine grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, one great - great grandchild and brother-in-law to Andrew Griffin. He is also survived by a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives, and friends. Relatives and friends of the family, also pastors, officers, and members of all neighboring churches of Plaquemines and St. Bernard Parishes attended the Visitation and Celebration of Life service held on Saturday, September 9, 2023, at St. John Baptist Church, 7047 LA 39, in Braithwaite, La. Pastor John D. John Riley Sr., officiated, and interment with Military Honors followed at Griffin Family Cemetery, in Davant, La. For online condolences, visit [www.robinsonfamilyfuneralhome.com](http://www.robinsonfamilyfuneralhome.com)

**Send us your loved ones' obits.**

Email obituaries to [copy@plaqueminesgazette.com](mailto:copy@plaqueminesgazette.com)

