



LAGNIAPPE

MONTHLY EMPLOYEE NEWS

Springtime Safety

By: Jeremy Olivier, Lofton Safety Services

In Spring, many homeowners strive to create perfectly manicured lawns and gardens. If you intend to beautify your landscape, don't underestimate the potential hazards of using machinery, tools, pesticides and fertilizers. Some important tips for keeping you and your family safe:

Don't take on more than you can handle. To prevent fatigue and heat stress, avoid sustained periods of activity, take periodic breaks, and drink plenty of water.

Lift properly. Keep your back straight, bend your knees and lift with your legs. Get help when moving or lifting heavy objects like mulch, soil, large shrubs, and trees.

Use the right tools for the intended task. Inspect tools before each use and don't use if damaged. Operate them according to manufacturer's instructions. Unplug all power tools when not in use. Never allow children or anyone inexperienced to operate them. Before using any equipment, inspect the area in which it will be used for hazards that could potentially harm people or damage the equipment.

Wear shoes that protect your entire foot. Protect your hands from cuts, splinters and burns by using gloves. Wear the correct pair for the type of work being done. Rubber boots and gloves offer the most protection



when applying chemicals. Wash your hands after completing any garden or lawn project.

Safety goggles can protect eyes from a number of hazards. Always wear them when mowing, blowing, weed whacking, pruning or performing other tasks that can cause flying debris.

Protect lungs and nasal passages by wearing a dust mask.

Equip all outdoor electrical outlets with ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI). If using extension electrical cords, make sure they are UL-approved for the required power and outdoor use. Never use electrical equipment (electric mowers, edgers or trimmers) on wet/damp grass, shrubbery, or in the rain.

Store gas in an approved container. Fill gas powered equipment outside using a funnel to prevent spills and never fill while equipment is operating or hot.

Store chemicals in their original containers and locked in cabinets. Always read the label and follow directions regarding proper use, suggested personal protective equipment, safe method of disposal, and appropriate first-aid treatment. Wear long sleeves, long pants, rubber gloves and boots, and eye protection when mixing and applying chemicals. When finished dusting or spraying, wash hands and clothes and rinse rubber gloves and boots to eliminate any chemical residue.

Tips for Success at Work

By: Julie East, Corp. Marketing

2025 is the year of Passion, Communication, Mastery, Effort and Execution leading to growth and success!

PASSION. Embrace what you do and channel that enthusiasm into your work every single day. Passion is a source of strength!

COMMUNICATION. Don't hesitate to listen, ask questions, and engage with both management and colleagues. Effective communication nurtures strong relationships.

MASTERY. How well do you know the job? Learn everything you can to understand the process, procedures and tools so you can focus on the fundamentals. In no time, you will be a MASTER and a value to the company.

EFFORT. Achieving success is the culmination of small, consistent efforts made daily. You might not notice immediate results, but it all contributes to the bigger picture over time.

EXECUTION. Focus on the process with purpose - Every day, to deliver results. If a job is worth doing, it's worth doing well. A strong work ethic paves the way for success.

March 2025

March 4
Mardi Gras Day

SOME LOFTON OFFICES CLOSED. CHECK YOUR LOCAL BRANCH.

March 5
Ash Wednesday

March 9
Daylight Saving Time Begins



March 17
St. Patrick's Day



March 20
First Day of Spring





The Teachings of Betty Kraft

By: Glenda Lofton, Ph.D.

This past month, while on a cruise with Tommy, Bart, and Michelle, I received the heart-breaking news that my long-time friend and colleague, Betty Kraft, had passed away.

Betty was originally from Winn Parish in north Louisiana, the same place where my family originates and where I spent countless summers with my grandparents. I knew her mom (a distant relative), but I didn't meet Betty until we worked together at the State Department of Education in the late 70's and 80's. Betty and her husband, Russ, lived in Pride, LA, where my father, Gordon Gaar, taught and coached at Pride High School until his early retirement. It's interesting how, even in a small town, people can reside in close proximity without ever crossing paths. It often takes divine timing for connections to happen.

As I reflected on Betty and considered how God's plans may differ from our own, I reminisced about our first meeting. With a Ph.D. from the University of Georgia, I had hoped to teach at LSU, but the College of Education had just been placed on probation due to an excess of former graduates on staff. I then applied to Southeastern; they interviewed me and were poised to hire me when the state imposed a freeze on new hires. Interestingly, this did not affect the State Department of

Education, so in late 1978, I accepted a Supervisor position there. Just before starting, I experienced intense pain from a kidney stone lodged between my bladder and kidney, which necessitated major surgery. By the time I began my first day in the Office of Elementary Education, I had lost a significant amount of weight. Betty, who hadn't yet met me, later shared that she hesitated to befriend me on that initial day, believing my appearance suggested I might not survive much longer. Thankfully, she was wrong!



Betty Lou Kraft
1943 - 2025

Like me, Betty was a lifelong educator and a passionate fan of the Tigers and Saints, but she also had a deep love for horses. During one of my last visits to Betty and Russ's home in Pride, I expressed my wish to visit the construction site of the "new" Sandy Creek Baptist Church, which our family had attended many years ago, or to see the former location of Pride High School, which sadly no longer exists. Time truly does fly!

While sitting on the ship, reflecting on Betty, her family, Russ, and my family in Winn Parish whom I have lost over the years, I gazed out over the water and was struck by a breathtaking sight. In the distance, a storm brewed; half the sky was engulfed in darkness while the other half shone with light. Some may dismiss it as a mere act of nature, but I see it differently. It filled me with a profound sense of peace.

At times, God communicates with us in moments of need, grief, or sorrow. He sends subtle messages to remind us – a belief held by Tommy – that Life is a Temporary Assignment. This brings me back to Lofton Staffing and our mission of service, emphasizing Tommy's principles: (1) Learn to love Mondays. (2) Have a good day; you won't get it back. (3) Relationships are built one-on-one. (4) When we help others, we help ourselves. (5) We do what we do...for the joy of it.

I hope you, too, will come to know and learn from Betty and take time to reflect on your relationships with family, friends, coworkers, the community, and the faith that sustains us in life and death.

You've Been Caught!

Officer Anissia Toliver, Houston, has been caught! Anissia is always willing to cover a shift on a moment's notice. *"We have called her multiple times with little to no notice of another officer calling out and she never hesitates! She always has a positive attitude and is always willing to help."*



Way to go, Anissia! We may not say this enough, but we truly appreciate you and your willingness to help out when needed!

Officer Annie Williams came back to Lofton of Lafayette in May of 2022. She has stepped up to cover posts so many times that we can't even count! Annie truly is a star in our eyes!

Thank you, Annie for everything you do and your dedication to providing excellent service to our clients. You are so appreciated.

Keeping In Touch With Lofton

Technology is amazing! 97% of America now own a cellphone of some kind. With technology so accessible, it makes communicating with employers (and potential employers) easier than ever. Many online job boards, like Indeed and CareerBuilder, utilize e-mail and text alerts for potential jobs. Lofton is no exception. If you are not receiving emails or text messages from Lofton, or other potential employers, there may be a few reasons why.

SPAM FILTER. Be sure to check your email spam folder or blocked numbers on your phone and mark Lofton (and others) as approved.

OLD CONTACT INFO. If you have changed your primary e-mail address or mobile number, be sure to update your records with Lofton.

INACTIVITY. Inactivity is a red flag for employers as this could indicate the candidate is no longer interested. If you are open to new positions, be sure to stay active.

If you have not received any emails or text messages from Lofton and would like to stay at the top of announcements, log into your Lofton account @Lofton.jobs to verify your address, email, and phone number.

