



LAFAYETTE: 6 YEARS LATER

By Bill Taylor (Proud Lafayette Employee)

We're coming very close to the end of another year of business here at Lafayette Industries. I started working here 6 years ago, and it's been a fantastic time. During these past 6 years there's been a lot of changes. For instance, there is the STEPUP program that helps people with finding competitive employment outside the workshop. Many people now have the chance to learn valuable skills that will help them out in any job they have. It opens a lot of doors for people to succeed, and one can't ask for much more. Inside the workshop there've been some good changes too. In addition to the Safety Program that has been in place since I came here, workers are incentivized to show as much respect as they can to their coworkers every day. It's led to Lafayette being a friendlier place where everyone feels welcome. Free Lunches are twice a month, and we all have Friday afternoons to ourselves, so we all feel rewarded for working hard for so long, and it motivates us all to put our best foot forward every week.

Yet for all the changes, there are a few things that remain the same. The people that work here are some of the nicest, most dedicated people around. Every day has its challenges. That was especially true through the pandemic. However, we never closed during that time, and we trucked through it. While we never stop encountering those challenges, the most important thing is that we always come in to work, rise up to those challenges, and give it all of our best until the day is done. They are remarkable and it is a pleasure to be working with them for six years and counting.

I can't wait to see what the future holds for Lafayette, and I appreciate the strides that have been made thus far. The future is never limited by what we can see right now, and Lafayette has been a great example of this mindset in action. For that, I, and many others, are thankful and grateful for it.



Rob Libera
CEO & Executive Director
rlibera@lafayetteindustries.com

Mission: The mission of Lafayette Industries is to provide employment opportunities to persons with developmental disabilities and to persons with other disabilities who are 18 years or older.

Goals: • To provide a meaningful and productive work experience to persons who are disabled • To maintain a safe and pleasant work environment • To teach and to train persons with disabilities to acquire better work habits • To enhance self-worth and dignity through employment • To provide high-quality business service through packaging, light assembly and commercial mailings • To operate the center in a professional, fiscally responsible manner • To provide fair wages and good benefits

WEST – CAUGHT BEING RESPECTFUL AND SAFE – JULY 2024



Respectful – left to right: Emily Prado, Kim Lamb (staff), Shad Burnett, Rob Libera (staff), Joe Hagan



Safe – left to right: Kim Lamb, Danielle Staab, Nate Schiera, Marla DeHahn, Rob Libera (staff)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR SEPTEMBER FOLKS

NORTH

Christopher	Moore	2
Honey	Robinson	4
Kristina	Schrader	5
Dorothy	Gilmore	8
Cameron	Bransford	11
Paul	Klutho	12
Joe	Clark	15
Tamara	Little	15
Erica	Pratt	15
Barbara	Richter	15
Jasmine	McCoy	19
Elizabeth	Moore	20
Joseph	Johnson	21
Robert	McCoy	21
Taylor	Bandsma	27
Kathleen	Branson	27
Chabrielle	Muse	27
Andrew	Causey	30

WEST

Shad	Burnett	2
Allison	Pfeiffer	9
David	Dust	11
Ralph	St. Leger	11
Robin	Corpora	16
Stephan	Dolan	16
Carol	Sax	16
Kurt	Pfeiffer	17
Sean	Noonan	18
Kristine	Kuehl-Johnson	21
Aida	Przulj	21
Lillian	Kwok	25
Daniel	Johnson	28
Ryan	Snover	30



FLU VACCINATION FORMS: Each workshop has a packet of flu vaccination info that they'll be handing out. West's will be attached to the pay stubs. It is comprised of a note about the flu vaccinations dates, a sheet that lists what insurances the VNA takes, and a regular flu shot form to be filled out. Before you turn it in, make copies of your insurance cards, and attach them to the form. North forms get returned to lock box by the Safety board, and West forms get returned to Becky. The deadline is Friday, September 27th. Please be sure to get your information in on time. We do have forms for preservation free shots and shots for those over age 65. However, we need to know you want these shots ahead of time so that the nurses can bring them. Their supply of them will be limited. We hope to see you there!

WEST - ART CLASS - WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2024 – 3:00-3:45P



Register today for September 11th. You have to register each month for each Art Class!!

Volunteers will give personal instruction for each project. Everyone attending the Art Class will have the chance to participate in each Art Station. **Please turn in your registration to Becky S. by Friday, September 6th.**

Questions: Call or email Vicky James vjames@lafayetteindustries.com 636-227-5666, ext.1118

WEST - ART CLASS – WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH – 3:00-3:45p

Name of Participant _____

Preferred Phone _____

Preferred Email _____

Contact name/phone number of person picking up art student at 3:45p.



WE HAVE 2 MORE ART CLASSES BEFORE THE ART CONCERT IN DECEMBER!

FELICE CUORES PARTY TIME

*A party for adults, age 18 and older with special needs who are
Physically handicapped or are developmentally disabled*

St. Clare of Assisi School Cafeteria

15642 Clayton Road

Ellisville, MO 63011

3½ miles West of Hwy. 141; ½ mile East of Clarkson Road

7:00 – 10:00p

\$5.00 includes SounSational DJ / snacks / soda / door prizes

2024

September 14, October 12, November 16, December 14

September – Welcome Back

October – Halloween Party – wear your costume

November – Thanksgiving

December – Christmas Party with Santa and Mrs. Claus

2025

January 11, February 8, March 8, April 12, May 10

January – Welcome in the New Year

February – Valentine Party

March – St. Patrick Party – Wearin' o' the Green

April – Celebrate the Cardinals with FredBird

May – Patriotic Celebration – Wear your red, white and blue

For additional information call:

Bill or Jan Lukas (636) 537-9801 or (636) 226-6822

Gary Smith (636) 256-6786

*Sponsored and chaperoned by the Knights of Columbus and Ladies
Auxiliaries in West Louis County in cooperation with St. Clare of Assisi parish*

**In the event of inclement weather, call: 636-537-9801 or 636-226-6822 or 636-256- 6786 or
314-570-5261 for cancellation information. DO NOT CALL THE CHURCH RECTORY.**

****You need to send in a registration form if you plan to attend. Call one of the
people listed above if you need one. This was sent out in a packet
of information to those who usually attend the dance.****

TOOTSIE ROLL DRIVES SCHEDULED FOR ST. JOSEPH IN MANCHESTER, CAN YOU HELP?

The Knights of Columbus Marian Council #9522 of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Manchester, Missouri, has started posting some of their upcoming Tootsie Roll Drives for October. They are asking Lafayette's help. This Council is one of our most loyal supporters since before 2002. They have been extremely generous to Lafayette, and are some of the nicest folks that you could meet. We are posting store captains for two of the locations, along with their contact information, dates and shifts in the hope that some of you will sign up. While numbers of volunteers from Lafayette were up last year, we're hoping more of you will consider signing up this year. It takes only two hours of your time, and it makes a big difference for us. People have told me time and again, "I work full-time," so they aren't able to help collect. These Saturday and Sunday hours are usually available. If the store captains are fully booked, I'll bet they would find out if other locations had times available for you to help out. All it takes is a little bit of your time! Here is the information, if you think you can help out:

- 1) Tony Grinstead, ajgrinstead@gmail.com, 314-303-8341 – Walmart @ Hwy. 141 – Dates are October 4-6:
October 4 – 9-11a, 11a-1p, 1-3p, 3-5p and 5-7p October 5 – 9-11a, 11a-1p, 1-3p, 3-5p and 5-7p
October 6 – 9-11a, 11a-1p, 1-3p, 3-5p and 5-7p
- 2) Dave Gockley, bandsaw363@charter.net – Schnucks @ Twin Oaks (Hwy. 141 @ Big Bend Road) – Dates are October 18-20:
October 18 – 4-6p, 6-8p October 19 – 10a-12p, 12-2p, 2-4p and 4-6p
October 20 – 10a-12p, 12-2p, 2-4p and 4-6p

Okay, we'll see what happens, but it's up to you all now. We thank everyone in advance for their time.



SAFETY THOUGHTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2024

By Tom Heitert (The Safety Guru)

SDS's

Whoa! What in the world is *THAT* Safety Captain? My friends, it's only one of the most important parts of any corporate safety plan. The letters are an acronym for the *Safety Data Sheets*. They are documents that come with every chemical that is in use at an industrial plant such as ours. The information in them enables all users to confidently work safely with a chemical product. They come with or can be sent to us from the producers of each product. From the glass cleaner we use on our windows to the metal solvents we might use in our tool shops, all have SDS's.

They each contain information about usage, storage, handling, and any emergency response that relates to the material being used. Our Safety Committees at Lafayette Industries keep these sheets up to date for us in a large (very large) binder near or in each of the production offices.

It can be a difficult job keeping up with it all, and these men and women have to spend a lot of time with it. Consider this: Every new production job that comes into our plants might have new chemicals to be used and a SDS would be needed for each one. They also must be updated from time to time. Some countries, like China for instance, require reviews and updates every 5 years.

Here in the USA, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration states that upon becoming aware of significant new information about a product, we have 3 months to make the update on labels, and 6 months to make updates on the sheets. We should never take the Safety Committees and the people in them for granted. They have a BIG job to do on our behalf. Keeping up with the SDS's is one of them.

Three cheers for the Safety Committee!

SAFETY IS NO ACCIDENT - **MORE LATER!**

JULIE BAUER'S VACATION IN FLORIDA

By Julie Bauer (Proud Mom)



I thought I'd send in some photos from Petra's summer trip to Cape Coral, Charlotte Harbor and Sanibel, Florida. She went with her sister, Bella, and I. Petra enjoyed searching for pretty seashells, swimming in the pool, and basking in the sun!!

BETH GOODWIN'S NEW NEPHEW

By Marien Goodwin (Proud Mother and Grandmother)



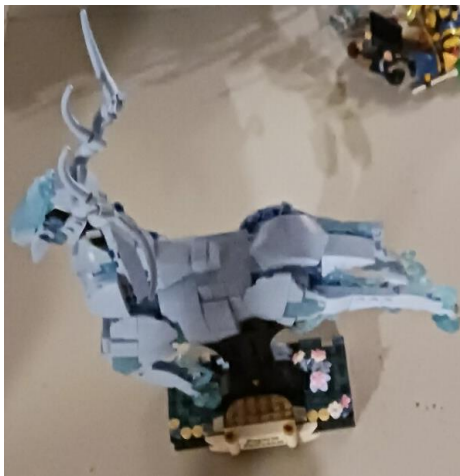
Beth Goodwin has a new nephew! Beth's brother, Jeff, his wife Christina, and their son Evan, welcomed the new baby on July 13th. Theo Allen was born at 10:26a, weighed in at 8 lbs., 4 ozs. and was 21 inches long. They live in Anchorage, Alaska. Beth, along with the rest of the family (including her other nephews shown above), spent time getting to know Theo. They also had fun while in Anchorage. There is no snow, but the temperatures have only been in the 60's and 70's.

ROBIN CORPORA HAS A NEW NEPHEW

By Jane Corpora (Proud Mother and Grandmother)



Robin Corpora was thrilled to finally meet her new niece over the Fourth of July holiday. Little Murphy was born mid-May, but her family lives in Independence and visiting is a little harder. Murphy is tiny because she came a little early, but Robin still got to hold her and help her sister Ellen give her a bath.



CHARLES YOUNG

By Sheila Zigrye (Proud Lafayette Staff)

Charles Young wanted to share pictures of some of his Lego kits

that he and his mother have built over the years. He thought his co-workers would like to see what he has built.

SCOTT ROYAL SPOTS A FAMILIAR ITEM

By Erika Royal (Proud Mother)



We are currently at Flathead Lake, Montana, on our way to Glacier National Park.

We stopped at a travel plaza-type place stop off Highway 90 (it's a mini Buckee's or Wally's) in the town of St. Regis, Montana, for drinks to stretch our legs.

The first thing Scott notices is the display of dog bones that he worked on at Lafayette. The products that Lafayette touches do reach the corners of our country.

He was proud of the work he did on the job, and he was thrilled to see it. People were picking them up to purchase them.

Thanks for all Lafayette does every day in support of our guys and gals. Great job in securing the doggie Bakery Bone Treat job!

ADAM BIRDSONG'S 2024 ALASKAN ADVENTURE

By Cindy Birdsong (Proud Mother)

This was pretty much the trip of plans, trains and automobiles! We started off in a plane and flew up to Anchorage, Alaska. We were some of the few lucky people to get a clear full blue sky view of Denali. Locals told us they had just had 30+ days of rain.



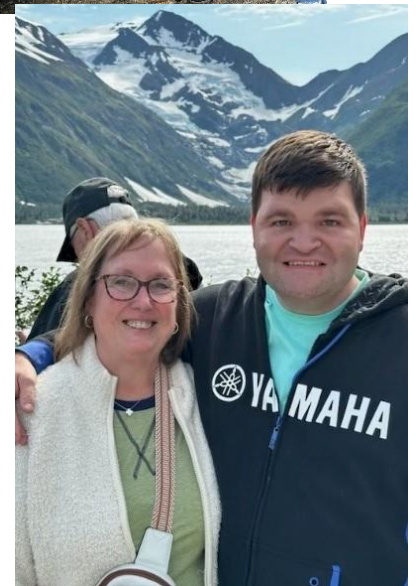
The next morning we left on a train and got to have breakfast while going up to Denali. It was quite the adventure! Next, we loaded onto a bus to take us to our hotel. We spent 2 days up there and got to ride ATV's around



the mountain! We had a blast and got very muddy!



Next it was off to the ship where we boarded in Whittier. We saw humpback whales as we left and spent the next 2 days visiting glaciers. Cold but still blue skies and no clouds. This is Adam's friend, Patty. She and 6 other friends and relatives were traveling with Adam, Orville and I.



Article continued on next page



ADAM BIRDSONG'S 2024 ALASKAN ADVENTURE – CONTINUED

We went on a sky tram in our first stop in Icy Straits. This is our ship from the sky tram as we went up the mountain. We got to skip rocks in the bay where the salmon and shrimp boats work and dock. We watched them come in and go out.



Then in Juneau we went dog sledding. So much fun! The 16 dogs that pulled us were so happy and fast. They are doing their summer conditioning so they look different, but these are full-breed huskies. They will start bulking up fur in October for their racing in March. This first picture is where the 16 dogs are lined up and ready to run. They were all barking and jumping, so excited to start running. This is the cart they pull us in. IT is to mimic the weight of what they pull in the winter races to keep them in shape. We got to play with the dogs and then puppies after we rode the dirt trail!



There were sea planes everywhere! We ate lunch at the pier where they load and unload people and supplies, and then fuel up.



We also saw Orcas, jellyfish and starfish!



Article continued on next page

ADAM BIRDSONG'S 2024 ALASKAN ADVENTURE – CONTINUED:

Our next stop was Ketchikan where we took a Zodiac (inflatable boat) out, and we drove it through the fjords. We saw a black bear seals, salmon and eagles. Absolutely beautiful country!



We had a great time on our adventure and it is a must-see for anyone that hasn't had the chance.

Then Adam became an UNCLE! He's excited to get to go see his new nephew later in August.



NORTH – CAUGHT BEING RESPECTFUL

AND CAUGHT BEING SAFE – AUGUST 2024

Immediate left – right to left:

Caught Being Respectful – Marie Ball

Caught Being Safe – Antwoine Edwards

MAKE YOUR VOICE COUNT!

The Missouri Governor's Council on Disability (GCD) wants to hear from you! The 2024 Legislative Priorities Poll is now open, giving you the opportunity to share the issues that matter most to you and others in the disability community. Your input directly influences the decisions and actions of state legislators and elected officials. All parties are encouraged to complete the poll; whether you're a person with a disability, a caregiver, or someone who works closely with individuals with disabilities, your perspective is invaluable. Please take a few moments to complete the Poll by **Friday, November 1, 2024, at 5:00p.**

The poll can be completed both online ([direct link](#)) and via fillable pdf ([link here](#)). The PDF may be returned to the GCD office via mail (see signature block below), email (GCD@oa.mo.gov) or fax (573-526-4109). Laura Mueth, Senior Program specialist, is available to assist anyone who has difficulty completing the poll.

By taking a few moments to complete the survey, you're helping to ensure that our community's needs and concerns are front and center in state policy decisions. Your voice truly makes a difference.

Laura Mueth, M.A., CRC
Senior Program Specialist
Missouri Governor's Council on Disability

Governor's Council on Disability
301 West High Street, Room 620
PO Box 1668
Jefferson City, MO 65102-1668

GCD Phone: 573-751-2600 or 800-877-8249

GCD Fax: 573-526-4109

Website: <http://disability.mo.gov> and <https://disability.mo.gov/gcd/>

ONE MORE REMINDER AS WE EXIT THE NEWSLETTER

Folks – One more repeated reminder about flu vaccination forms – **don't forget to include copy(ies) of your insurance card(s) to attach to the flu shot form.** If you are 65+, if you want that particular flu shot, be sure and let Sheila Z. at North or Becky S. at West know you want it. Deadline will be Friday, September 27th.

SEPTEMBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Labor Day <u>Both Workshops</u> <u>closed for the</u> <u>Holiday!</u>	3	4	5 North Free Lunch	6	7
8 Grandparents Day	9 Lafayette Links Golf Tournament	10 PAY DAY	11 Patriot Day Art Class – West – 3-3:45p	12 West Free Lunch	13	14 K of C Dance – St. Clare of Assisi School Cafeteria – 7:00-10:00p – Welcome Back!
15	16	17	18 Exec. Comm. 5:00pm Board Mtg.at North 5:30 pm	19 North Free Lunch	20	21
22 Fall Equinox	23	24	25 PAY DAY	26 West Free Lunch	27	28
29	30	31				