PUBLISHED MONTHLY June 2025



Building Dreams, Creating Opportunities



LAFAYETTE RETIREMENT ACTIVITY CENTER UNDER CONSTRUCTION!

Lafayette will be extending its continuum of services for adults with IDD by adding a "Retirement Activity Center" called *Legacy*. The new program will allow current Lafayette employees a venue for retirement. Retirement is something that Lafayette employees choose to do when it fits their personal needs, which may happen at any age. The *Legacy Day Program* is designed to provide a continuation of care for the Lafayette employee who desires to exit the employment setting but wants to remain engaged with Lafayette. Construction began on March 19th with *Legacy* located within Lafayette's existing footprint.

Legacy will provide individuals with the opportunity to increase functional living skills, social skills, and health and wellness, all while engaging the community. Services are delivered on a similar schedule to Lafayette West. The program is free for individuals who have Medicaid Waiver, but private pay is also available.

Legacy is scheduled to begin operation in July, has a separate entrance off of the employee parking lot, and will have the same hours as the workshop.

Contact Stacey Elster, Chief Program Officer, with any questions about enrollment—or if you would like a tour and see what it is all about!

Stacey's number: 636-227-5666 ext. 1110 selster@lafayetteindustries.com



Thea

Rob Libera CEO & Executive Director rlibera@lafayetteindustries.com

<u>Mission</u>: 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

LAFAYETTE WEST AT THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Lafayette would like to congratulate James Riester and Jason Marx on winning a gold medal in bowling doubles in the Special Olympics. We are all immensely proud of you. You represented Lafayette very well.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR JUNE FOLKS

<u>NORTH</u>

Patricia	Cornell	3
Amber	Williams	9
Arthur	Clark	11
Joe	Turner	11
Tracy A	Cooper	11
Phillip	Johnson	15
Cecelia	Brown	16
Gregg	McClellan	16
Mikhail	Chikin	28

Royal Scott 5 Jangi 14 Angad 5 15 Caroline Staab Burgan Aaron Danielle Staab 5 Stevenson 15 Daniel Stephen Schroeder 6 Rachel Randolph 16 Catharine Woerner 8 Alison Hanners 19 Karcher Jimmy Poppell 10 Kathleen 19 Allison Pinkston 19 Lucas 12 Andrew 20 Suzy Morrow 13 Anne Morrisey Nancy Kakalya Partlow 21 Radha 26

WEST

JEFFCO

Donald	Schrameyer	3
Jennifer	Lipsey	10
Jane	Howell	21
Kevin	Ziy	17
Sarah	Walker	22
Ken	Ellington	24





MOBILE DENTAL SERVICES LETTER OF INTEREST

Compass Health Network, in partnership with your local community organization, have partnered to bring Mobile Dental Services directly to you. If you're interested in receiving dental care, please complete the form below and return. **Contact us at 636-538-1030** for assistance.

The van will be on site at Lafayette West 179 Gaywood Manchester, Missouri 63021

June 23-25, 2025

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT?

- Complete the letter of interest and return it to the community organizer to request dental services for yourself or your child.
- You will receive a follow-up phone call from Compass Health Network to schedule a set appointment time.
- 24 hours after you schedule your appointment you will receive a text message and/or email to complete the paperwork (a sample of the message you will receive is shown below). Please click onto the link to complete the registration.

SAMPLE TEXT MESSAGE:



SAMPLE EMAIL MESSAGE:







MOBILE DENTAL SERVICES LETTER OF INTEREST

Compass Health Network, in partnership with your local community organization, have partnered to bring Mobile Dental Services directly to you. If you're interested in receiving dental care, please complete the form below and return. **Contact us at 636-538-1030** for assistance.

ORGANIZATION NAME	DA		
			MALE OR FEMALE
FIRSTNAME	LASTNAME	1	
PREFERRED LANGUAGE		INTERPRETER NEE	DED Y/N
,			<i>1</i>
ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
GUARDIAN FIRST NAME IF APPLICABLE	GUARDIAN LAST NA	ME IF APPLICABLE	RELATIONSHIP
ATIENT OR GUARDIAN MOBILE PHONE	PATIENT OR GUARDIA		FERRED CONTACT METHOD MOBILE/EMAIL
s			
FINANCIAL INFORMATION			
Please list your 8-digit Medicaid ID numbe MoHealthNet _Healthy Blue _Homestat No Insurance No Insurance? Ask about	e Health _UHC	538-1030.	
Private Insurance Information		,	
NAME OF THE POLICYHOLDER	POLICY HOLDER'	S DOB	RELATIONSHIP TO PATIENT
MEMBER ID# OR SS#	INSURANCE CAP	RIER	STATE

BRAD DAVIS' 2025 AFRICA TRIP

Part 1

We started our trip by flying into Cape Town, South Africa. There we spent two days touring the city and visiting the various parks and nature reserves surrounding it. The administrative capital of South Africa, Cape Town was originally built by the Dutch in the 1600s and captured by the British in 1795.

The Castle of Good Hope. The Castle of Good Hope is the innermost section of the bastion fort built by the Dutch East India Company to defend the city against the British.



The view from Cape Point, the southeasternmost tip of the Cape of Good Hope.



A male ostrich foraging along the coast in the Western Cape Nature Reserve.





A colony of African penguins. These penguins nest on the beaches of South Africa and Namibia year-round. In the hotter summer months, they dig burrows in the dunes to help escape the heat.

Mountain. A large, flat-topped mountain overlooking downtown Cape Town. There are multiple trails of varying difficulty leading to the top as well as a cable car if you don't feel like climbing

Table



The view from the top of Table Mountain. The cloud cover was light that day, normally they hang over the edge of the mountain like a tablecloth.



One of the many rock hyraxes living on Table Mountain. Despite only being around 20 inches long, they're actually the closest living relative to elephants.



After two days in Cape Town, we boarded our flight for Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. Marking the boundary between the upper and middle Zambezi River as well as the border between Zimbabwe and Zambia, Victoria Falls is the largest waterfall in the world and one of the Seven Natural Wonders.



Our hotel in Victoria Falls. Although malaria isn't as prevalent in Zimbabwe as it is in many of their neighboring countries, it's still a major concern and our room was sprayed for mosquitos twice a day.

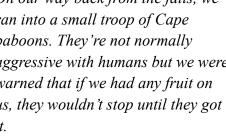


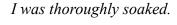
A small herd of bushbucks would graze outside our room every afternoon. We would also see baboons running through the bushes occasionally.

At over 350 feet tall and over a mile across, Victoria Falls is the largest waterfall in the world. The Tonga people call it Shungu Namutitima which means "Boiling Water" while the Lozi call it Mosi-oa-Tunya or "The Smoke that Thunders."

The area around Victoria Falls is constantly shrouded in mist and light rain. We were given raincoats at the start of our tour, but they didn't really help, by the end

On our way back from the falls, we ran into a small troop of Cape baboons. They're not normally aggressive with humans but we were warned that if we had any fruit on us, they wouldn't stop until they got it.











On our last night in Zimbabwe, we took a sunset cruise along the upper Zambezi River. There we had our first elephant sightings of the trip.

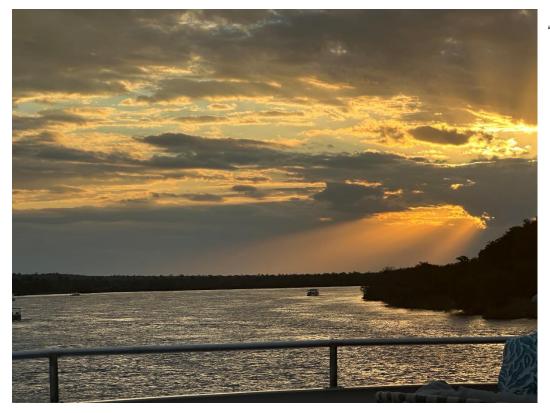




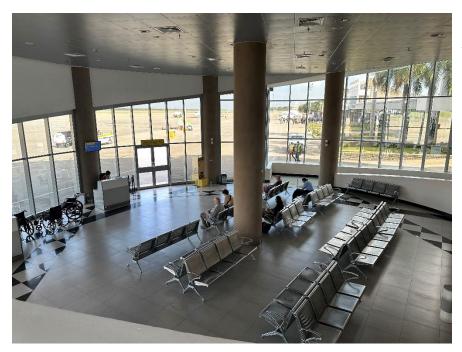
A pair of young male elephants playfighting on the bank of the Zambezi.

A Nile crocodile gets one last bit of sun.

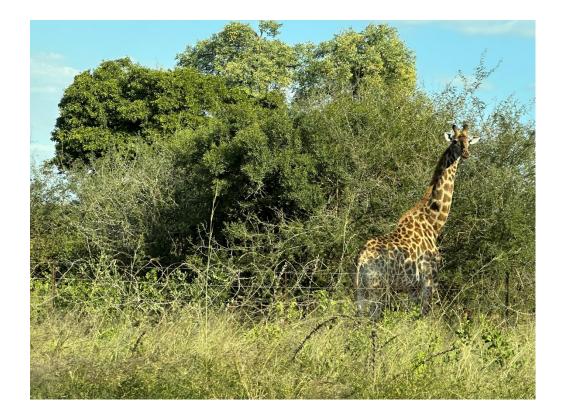




After two days in Victoria Falls, we boarded our flight back to South Africa; our next stop was the Timbavati Game Reserve.



The main gate at the Victoria Falls International Airport *Timbavati gave us a warm welcome*





THE GUENTHERS GO TO HAWAII

By Debbie Guenther (Proud Lafayette Parent)

Courtney Guenther accompanied her parents to the big island of Hawaii!! We saw the Kilauea volcano spewing gases but just missed the recent lava eruptions (look it up!). We saw a black sand beach, beautiful sunsets over the ocean, a hula show, green sea turtles, Hawaiian history, exotic plants, beaches, waterfalls, and that warm blue water. Courtney spotted geckos, wild goats, mongooses, and even a pod of dolphins jumping off shore. There was black lava rock everywhere, two13,000ft mountains (old volcanos), open air restaurants, flowers garnishing our food, and lots of mahi-mahi,

calamari, and ahi tuna to eat. It is wonderful to have these tropical exotic islands and the Hawaiian culture as our 50th state!







ANGELA GENTILE VISITS YOSEMITE AND SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARKS

By Diane Gentile (Proud Lafayette Parent)

Angela Gentile visited Yosemite and Sequoia National Parks with her parents.

There was lots of hiking, and Angela is showing her silly side in these pictures of some of the giant trees and waterfalls. I think it's safe to say she had a good time, and she even got a picture of a BEAR that we encountered on one of our hikes. Yikes!! Ask her if you want to see it!



ETHEL McLUEN MEMORIAL

One of Lafayette's beloved founders, Ethel McLuen, passed away in April. She was a good lady, and we will miss her. The above picture was taken during her memorial service. She touched many lives here at Lafayette, but these are the people that were touched by her the most. Thank you for all you did for us at Lafayette, Ethel. We love you,

CALLING FOR BEER DONATIONS!

As in previous years, we are seeking donations of 24 or 30 pack beer—Bud Light, Busch Light, Busch, or Michelob Ultra—for the Knights of Columbus Golf tournament on June 13.

About 60% of the proceeds from this tournament go to Lafayette, and your generosity has enabled the organizers to avoid the cost of buying beer, which greatly enhances the donation to Lafayette!

You can drop your beer at the Front desk between 7:30 am-3:30 pm by Wednesday, June 11; and thank you in advance for your support!!



NORTH CAUGHT BEING SAFE AND RESPECTFUL APRIL 2025

CAUGHT BEING SAFE: (top left) Glenn Moore

CAUGHT BEING RESPECTFUL: (top right) Alice Gibson

WEST CAUGHT BEINH SAFE AND RESPECTFUL APRIL 2025



<u>CAUGHT BEING SAFE:</u> (from left to right) Vicky James (staff) Sheri Cooley, Heather Reed, (staff) Atul Kukaiya, Claude Turner, Kim Lamb (staff)



<u>CAUGHT BEING RESPECTFUL</u>: (from left to right) Vicky James (staff) Caroline Kijowski, Daphney Buhr, Nathan Schera Kim Lamb (staff)





<u>WEST - ART CLASS – WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11TH – 3:00-3:45p</u>

Register today for June 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. <u>Please turn in your</u> <u>registration to Becky S. by Friday, June 6th</u>.



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

WEST - ART CLASS - WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11- 3:00-3:45p

Name of Participant_____

Preferred Phone_____

Preferred Email_____

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

COME JOIN OUR CREATIVE GROUP – SHOW YOUR INNER VAN GOGH!!



SAFETY THOUGHTS FOR JUNE 2025 By Tom Heitert (The Safety Guru)

IT'S SWIMMING SEASON

Some years back, the Ol Safety Captain was fishing with some friends. I thought I might try fishing on the other side, so I hiked the half mile or so to where I was directly across from them. Having little success, it was time to hike back. It was VERY hot and did not relish the idea. The water in the lake was quite low, so I thought I could easily walk across. At about the halfway point I stepped into a deep hole. The Captain doesn't swim, and I was carrying both my rod and tackle box. I nearly drowned and my friends never looked up or were even aware I had struggled.

Most drownings are silent and happen within two minutes. This is the perfect time of year to get a few reminders and suggestions.

1) Our neighbor had a pool with a 4-foot decorative fence around it that included a gate with a lock that also had an alarm. Remove or put away all toys when not in use to avoid temptation. If at a hotel or motel, use the chain lock on your room door so children cannot get out without you knowing.

2) Assign an adult whose sole purpose is to watch the water. No phone, no photos, no food, no anything but watching swimmers. Children who cannot swim independently should be within a few feet of the 'watcher.' Floaties, boogie boards, or pool noodles are NOT safety devices.

3) On boats? Good fitting life jackets are an absolute must.

4) Don't overdo it. Adults and children get tired. Get some swimming lessons for the children. It will likely save them at some point in their life.

5) In our homes, take everything you will need into the bathroom first for bathing the children. If the children can sit up straight, the tub should only be filled to belly button levels.

6) Finally for the teens. Know the aspects of the water you are about to enter. Depth, visibility, current, impediments like brush from trees, etc... Drinking alcohol and swimming do not mix.

That's all for now. There is plenty more, but it is hoped this will get you focused on the risks that come with fun in the water. Take care and enjoy.

<u>SAFETY IS NO ACCIDENT</u> - MORE LATER!

EMPLYMENT CHOICE VS. EMPLOYMENT FIRST

By Rob Libera

You will see articles/communications about "Employment First" with regard to individuals with disabilities, especially from some agencies and legislative communications. While we support the entire spectrum of employment, we support "**Choice**" as the driving factor for each and every individual. The flyer below demonstrates the differences, some subtle, some not-so-subtle, between Employment "First" and Employment "Choice."

A CLOSER COMPARISON EMPLOYMENT EMPLOYMENT VS CHOICE FIRST **Employment First is a national** Employment Choice refers to a policy and practice framework person-centered approach that emphasizes the right of that holds competitive, DEFINITION individuals to choose their own integrated employment as the employment path, including first and preferred outcome whether, where, and how they for people with disabilities want to work. receiving public services. Promotes the idea that everyone is Promotes individual dignity and SUPPORTS capable of working, regardless of control over one's own life. disability severity. Focuses on individual Focuses on employment in autonomy and self-FOCUS typical work settings alongside determination. people without disabilities. Respects a wide range of employment options - including competitive employment, APPROACH Undermines individual preferences supported employment, sheltered workshops, or even nonemployment activities.



<u>JUNE 2025</u>

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5 North Free Lunch	6	7
8	9	10 West Free Lunch PAY DAY (North and West)	11	12	13 PAY DAY (Jeffco)	14
15 Father's Day	16	17	18	19 Juneteenth North Free Lunch West Free Lunch ALL WORKSHOPS OPEN-NO OATS or JC TRANSIT	20 Lafayette Night at the Ballpark Reds vs. Cardinals 6:15 pm	21
22	23	24	25 PAY DAY (North and West)	26	27 PAY DAY (Jeffco)	28
29	30					
29	30					