



the Swine Festival

Where Evangeline, Acadia, St. Landry, and Jeff Davis meet

the Bearcats

Basile, Louisiana

Thursday, December 8, 2011

75¢

# BHS Band, Bearcat Voices in concert

## Tuesday

The Basile High Band and Bearcat Voices will present their annual Christmas Concert on Tuesday, December 13 at 6 p.m. at St. Augustine Catholic Church. Admission is \$2 per person and tickets are available from the band and singers or at the door.

Both groups are under the direction of Darrel Lejeune.

# Knights of Columbus sponsoring food drive through Dec. 18

The Basile Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a food drive for the poor and destitute of our community. Items being accepted will be canned goods and staple foods. Some examples of items to donate may include the following: canned fruit, canned beans, rice, cornbread mix, canned ham, and turkeys.

Donations may be dropped off at the Basile Town Hall and at the new Basile Family Healthcare. The K.C.'s will take donations until December 18.

# “Sweet Dreams” brings Basile native back to musical passion

Joyce Fontenot Spencer, now residing in Rowlett, Texas, in the Dallas area, grew up in Basile with limited resources to study music; however, it did not discourage her passion.

She started playing clarinet in middle school at Basile High School but grew very fond of the tenor saxophone in the twelfth grade. Later, she added the alto sax and flute while studying at McNeese State University in Lake Charles where she majored in instrumental music education.

After an approximate 20-year hiatus, Joyce returned to her love and passion for music and released her first CD, “Sweet Dreams”, in 2010. The CD is a collection of instrumental (alto/soprano sax and flute) and vocal music created to calm, soothe, and bring healing to your soul.

Her music has been labeled Christian, Inspirational Jazz, Smooth Jazz, and Smooth/Contemporary Gospel, but she plays all styles.

She was recently nominated Best Female Artist by the South Florida Gospel Music Awards and was awarded by the ASCA-PLUS Awards panel for original work on the CD and an original musical score entitled, “Glory to God”.

Joyce has been featured in several radio and television shows in

the Dallas, Texas area such as Joshua’s House for Christian Artists, Jazzy100.com streaming music and commentary around the world, GHP Radio Network, Bethlehem Baptist Church Television Program, The Ester Davis Talk Show, The Dallas Spot Light – “The Grind”, Dallas Late Night Gospel Show, LA Jazz, Wendy Williams’ WNUR 89.3 FM Inspirational Jazz hour, Smooth Jazz Radio Channel/Audiorealm.com internet radio, Tehillah Praise TPBN Radio, iTrack radio, etc.

Joyce was recently honored for her accomplishments in a published article by “All About Jazz”, a leading jazz music website for industry professionals and enthusiasts, entitled “Take Five with Joyce Spencer”.

Although Joyce is a solo artist, she plays in several venues with her band, Expressions, which includes H. Tyrone Walls (keys/band leader), James Ward (bass), Jay Stixx (drums) and Harry Jackson (lead guitar).

Basile residents might remember her as a member of the Basile High School Band and the Basile Sing Out during her high school years. She was also a choir member and lector at Assumption Catholic Church and graduated from BHS in 1977.

Older Basile resi-

# Christmas Special set for December 18 at First Baptist Church of Basile

First Baptist Church of Basile will be hosting a “Christmas Special” on Sunday, December 18 at 6 p.m. All are in-

ited to attend. There is no admission fee and refreshments will be served following the program.

on Christmas Day, and 16 degrees the day after that.

There was plenty of ice associated with that cold snap, but no Christmas snow.

As is so typical of Louisiana weather, the Christmas before that frigid holiday season was the warmest ever



Joyce Fontenot Spencer

Basile in Acadia parish. Recently, Joyce returned to Basile to perform with other Basile Sing Out alumni at Basile’s Centennial Celebration. She accompanied the group on alto sax and impressed the crowd when singing duet with Darrel Lejeune, her 1977 classmate, on “Friends are Friends, Forever” on a farm just north of

Her parents are Theresa Fontenot, who now resides in Arkansas, and the late Marcena Fontenot. The couple raised their children on a farm just north of

Basile in Acadia parish. Recently, Joyce returned to Basile to perform with other Basile Sing Out alumni at Basile’s Centennial Celebration. She accompanied the group on alto sax and impressed the crowd when singing duet with Darrel Lejeune, her 1977 classmate, on “Friends are Friends, Forever” and when she jubilantly

sang solo on “Up With People.” For more information on Joyce, her band, and her music, go to [www.reverbnation.com](http://www.reverbnation.com)

“Sweet Dreams” is available locally at Redlich’s City Cash on Highway 190 in Basile.

In addition, the church is announcing a time change for morning services on Christmas Day. Worship will Sunday Night Bible

Study be held Christmas Day.

# White Christmas rare in Acadiana

We’ve had a little nip in the air for a week or so, parts of the South got an usual November snowfall, and this has been a crazy year for weather events. But the odds are still against a White Christmas in Acadiana.

As far as I can tell, we’ve never had a

freezing only 21 times in the last 100 years: 32 degrees in 1935 and 1947; 31 degrees in 1900, 1918, 1953, and 1995; 30 degrees in 1920 and 1996; 29 degrees in 1896 and 1924; 28 degrees in 1961 and 1963; 27 degrees in 1966 and 1980, 26 degrees in 1905, 1906 and 1985.

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two days there was an average rainfall of 15 inches over a 100-mile-wide stretch diagonally across the state from



Jim Bradshaw

C’est Vrai

“a few flakes of snow, the first in seven years,