

# CONNECTIONS

MAGAZINE

NO.10 • November/December 2019 • Price Free • [www.pcemc.org](http://www.pcemc.org)

PC Electric annually awards

**CERTIFICATES &  
SCHOLARSHIPS**

Committee nominates

**CANDIDATES**

for Districts 3 and 5

 01 | 29 | 20

**SAVE THE DATE**

for the 81st Annual  
Membership Meeting

**Sugar**  
IN POINTE COUPEE IS  
**OH SO**  
**Sweet!**

+6  
*Fun  
Sugar  
Facts*



Connections Magazine is the official publication of PC Electric

2506 False River Drive  
P.O. Box 160  
New Roads, LA 70760  
225.638.3751 Phone  
800.738.7232 Toll Free  
www.pcemc.org

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### DISTRICT 1

Al Ewing

### DISTRICT 2

Jimmy Ewing, Jr.  
*(President)*

### DISTRICT 3

George G. LaCour, Jr.  
*(Vice-President)*

### DISTRICT 4

Ralph B. Chustz, Sr.

### DISTRICT 5

Peter Rumfola, Jr.

### DISTRICT 6

Eric Elliott

### DISTRICT 7

Chris Settoon

## EXECUTIVE STAFF

Myron A. Lambert

*General Manager*

Craig Magruder

*Operations Manager*

James Jewell

*Manager of Finance and Administration*

Desiree Lemoine

*Director of Government and External Affairs*

Joe Langlois

*Safety Coordinator*

Jill Copeland

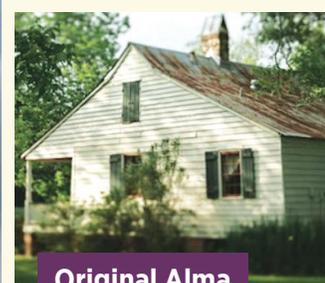
*Manager of Member Services  
and Communications*

# Sugar

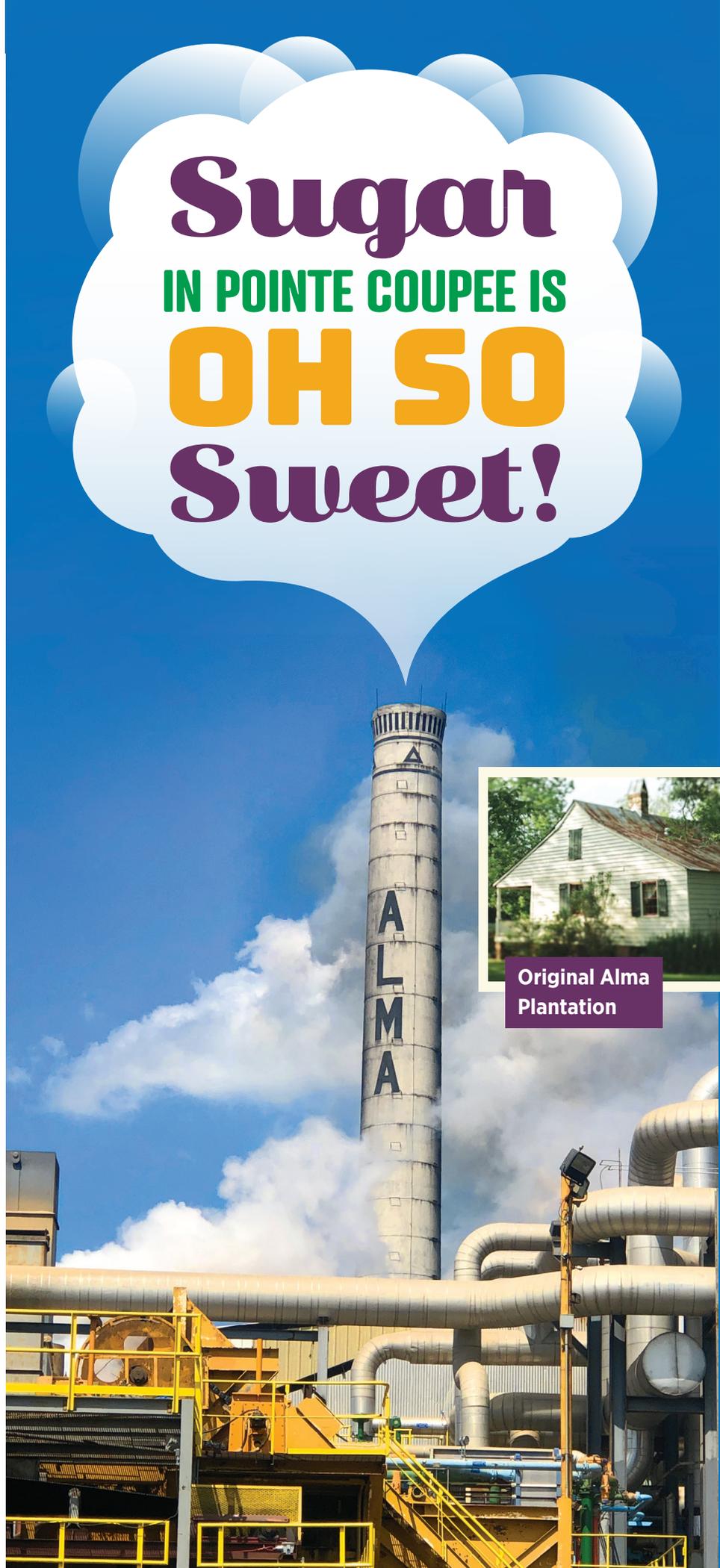
IN POINTE COUPEE IS

# OH SO

# Sweet!



Original Alma  
Plantation



## As you travel the rural roads and farming communities of South Louisiana, it is easy to see the miles and miles of lush green sugarcane stalks.

Sugarcane is an integral part of the South Louisiana economy and culture, and has been for more than 200 years. Sugarcane was introduced to South Louisiana by the Jesuit Priests in 1751. Little did they know that their contribution would eventually become a \$2 billion-dollar industry.

Pointe Coupee Parish has a storied history in the planting, harvesting and milling in one of America's sweetest success stories. (Lucky Number: 1903100) Beginning in late 1700s, a man from South Carolina named Mr. Benjamin Farrar took ownership of land in Pointe Coupee Parish as payment for surveying work of the "lower False River" lands. This land was referred to as "l'Habitation Chenal". After Farrar's death, l'Habitation Chenal was inherited by Farrar's daughter, Mrs. Margaret Butler.

In 1801, Mrs. Butler sold l'Habitation Chenal to Mr. Julian Poydras, where he first cultivated indigo and cotton on this land before experimenting with sugarcane. (Lucky Number: 1996504)

Mr. Poydras is now known as Pointe Coupee's most famous statesman. He was born near Nates, France, eventually making his way to Pointe Coupee Parish as an entrepreneur. During his lifetime, Mr. Poydras was a successful merchant, planter, financier, poet, educator, and political leader who served as a delegate from the Territory of Orleans to the U.S. House of Representatives.

After Poydras' death, Mr. and Mrs. David (Susan) Barrow, owners of Afton Villa Plantation in West Feliciana Parish, purchased the land. The following year, Barrow sold an interest to Mr. George Pitcher with the condition that he would manage and cultivate the land and sugarcane mill.

Pitcher successfully managed the mill through the Civil War and the Reconstruction Era. Shortly before Pitcher's death in 1885, he became the sole owner of the land and changed its name from l' Habitation Chenal to what we know today as **Alma Plantation**, naming it after his daughter, Alma.

Descendants of Pitcher still own and operate Alma Plantation, and it is the only remaining present-day sugar plantation still operating under the original plantation structure. Alma is currently in its fourth generation of operation.

Alma is one of eleven sugar mills in Louisiana that produce raw sugar product, and is the only operating sugar mill in Pointe Coupee Parish.

Today's farmers begin the sugarcane season a year before cane is harvested. "Seed" cane is used to plant a new crop, but do not let the name fool you, "seed" cane is not a seed at all, but rather a short cane segment that is planted in the soil to make new plants. Seed cane ranges in length from six to 24 inches long, and must include at least one ring node from where roots and leafy shoots emerge. The seed cane is planted three to seven inches deep in the soil in single rows.



Raw Sugar Product

From the time of planting to the time of harvesting is a long one. It takes approximately 13 months for the plant to fully mature. During this time, farmers are constantly fighting against persistent pests and ever-changing weather conditions.

Harvesting of this sweet crop typically begins in September and can last through January. A sugarcane harvester is used to harvest and



Current Day Harvester

partially process the sugarcane. Once the cane is harvested, it is trucked to a sugar mill where equipment unloads the cane from the trucks. It is then placed onto a cane conveyor allowing the cane to pass through a series of revolving knives, cutting the stalks into small pieces to prepare the cane for milling. This process extracts the juice of the cane, also known as sucrose. Afterwards, water is applied to the cane mat to dilute the juice, or sucrose, and improve the extraction. the previous cycle to further increase extraction. Afterwards it is strained to remove any particles that may remain. The sucrose is then limed

and heated to approximately 215 degrees Fahrenheit, raising the pH and making the sucrose more stable. The lime also supplies calcium to the product that is necessary for the clarification process. The limed sucrose is then recycled to juice heaters where it once again passes through the clarifiers, and sent to evaporators to remove any extra water to make a thick syrup. This syrup is boiled at low temperatures in vacuum pans while seed crystals are added to cause the growth and development of sugar crystals. The mixture of sugar crystals and molasses is called *massecuite*, and is delivered to centrifugal machines that separate the sugar crystals from the molasses. Raw sugar remains in the drum and the molasses is returned to the process for re-boiling and removing any additional sugar.



Cane Conveyor

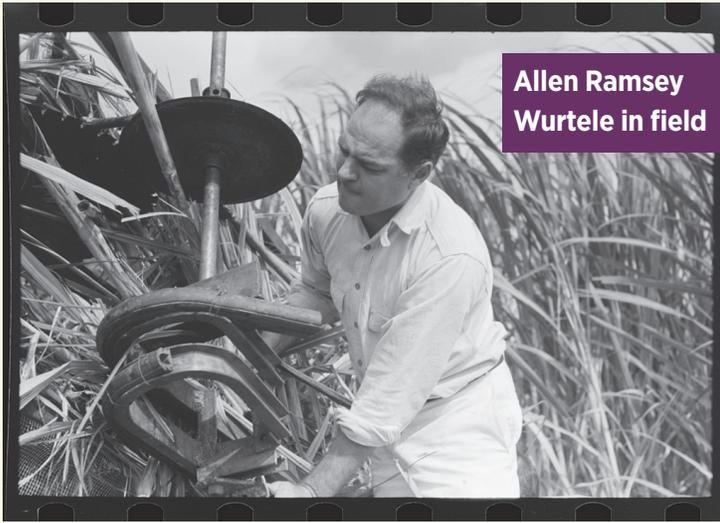
In one hour, Alma Plantation can grind 750 tons of sugar cane and produce 166,667 pounds of raw sugar. (Lucky Number: 2335500) That equals 41,666 four-pound bags of sugar.

The final raw sugar product is shipped in bulk to refineries and converted into the food-grade white sugar that we all know and love.

With this agricultural mainstay now being in its third century of production, it is undeniable that *Louisiana sugarcane* is the most successful crop in the history of our state.

To fully appreciate the process, a new exhibit entitled *Sugar in Pointe Coupee* is on exhibit at the Pointe Coupee Museum through December 15, 2019. (Lucky Number: 2414501) This exhibit is hosted by the Friends of The Pointe Coupee Museum.

One of the highlights of the exhibit is Allan Ramsey Wurtele. Wurtele was born and raised in Minnesota but came to Pointe Coupee Parish in 1927 after seeing an ad in the paper for a house and

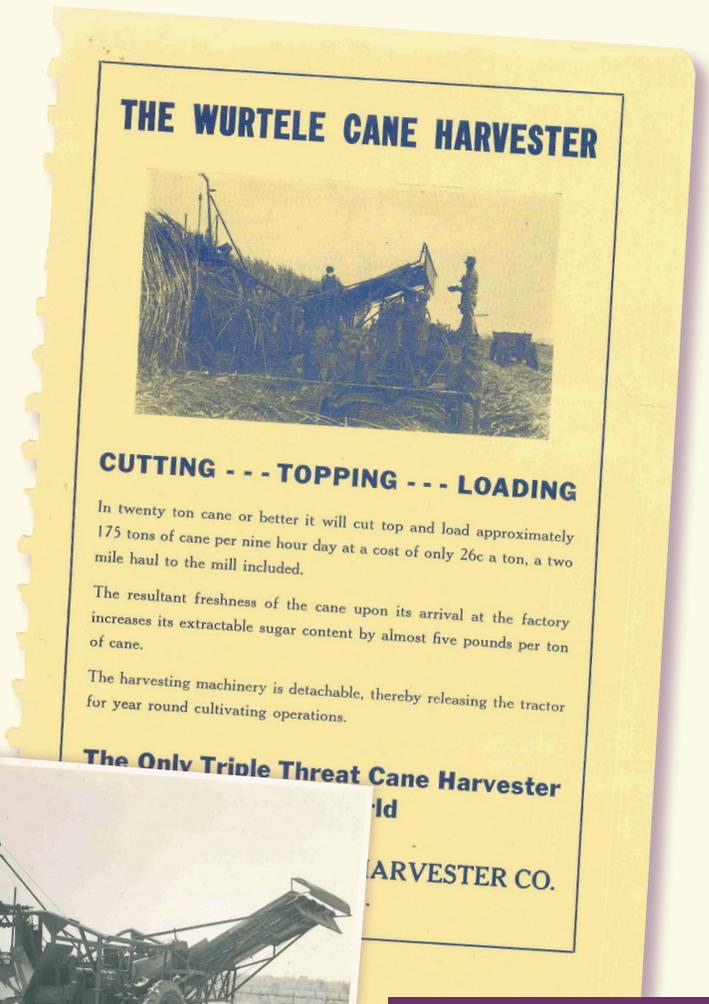


**Allen Ramsey**  
Wurtele in field

2,000 acres of land. Wurtele bought the property sight unseen and moved to Pointe Coupee where he became a local sugarcane farmer.

Harvesting sugarcane by hand took a large number of people and was very expensive. In an effort to find a more efficient way to harvest the crop, Wurtele successfully invented and patented a design for a mechanical sugarcane harvester. This harvester could cut, top, strip and bunch 15 to 20 tons of cane per hour. This is equal to the labor of 50 to 60 men.

*The Friends of The Pointe Coupee Museum* invite you to visit and see the exhibit for yourself every Monday through Saturday from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM, and on Sunday from 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM. The Pointe Coupee Museum is located at 8348 False River Road in Oscar, Louisiana. ●



**Wurtele Cane Harvester**



# 6 Fun Sugar FACTS

Louisiana sugarcane growers provide the sugar needs for more than **53 MILLION AMERICANS**

The Sugar Bowl originated at Tulane Stadium where sugarcane used to grow, until it was moved to today's location of the Louisiana Superdome

**1.4 MILLION TONS**  
All of the raw sugar produced by Louisiana's 11 sugar mills would fill up half of the Louisiana Superdome

One teaspoon of sugar is only **15 CALORIES**

In 2017, Louisiana's sugarcane was worth **\$3 billion** to state's economy.

**LOUISIANA** Sugarcane grows best in a tropical climate but researchers have developed sugarcane varieties that grow quickly with high sugar content in Louisiana's subtropical zone

# COMMITTEE NOMINATES CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICTS 3 AND 5

The Nominating Committees made up of PC Electric Members from Districts 3 and 5 met Monday, November 4, 2019 at PC Electric Headquarters at 2506 False River Drive in New Roads. The purpose of the meeting was to nominate candidates for the Board of Directors for terms of three years beginning January 29, 2020.

The candidates nominated are incumbents George G. LaCour Jr., District 3 and Brenda Hurst District 5.

PC Electric members serving on the nominating committee from Districts 3 and 5 were listed in the September/October issue of Connections.

**DEADLINE FOR NOMINATING CANDIDATES BY PETITION** is Tuesday, November 26, 2019.

According to the by-laws of PC Electric, (Lucky Number: 345600) candidates to run for the Board can be nominated in two ways:

- (1) **NOMINATING COMMITTEE** of PC Electric Members make recommendations from their district; and,
- (2) **PETITION** - Any fifteen (15) members acting together in a district may nominate another candidate by petition not less than fifteen (15) days prior to the election.

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**NOMINATIONS BY PETITION** for candidates in District 3 and 5 are due in the office of PC Electric at 2506 False River Drive, New Roads, Louisiana before or by the close of business at 4:30 Tuesday, November 26, 2019. (Lucky Number: 1010701)

Candidates for the Board must be active members of PC Electric and their main residence must be in the district for which they are nominated.

Only active members within the same district as the candidate may make nominations. The district number is listed on the far-right side of the PCEMC bill in the green shaded area.

The list of nominations will be posted in the lobby of the PC Electric office.

If there are no nominations by petition, the candidates placed in nomination by the Nominating Committees will assume their seats on the Board of Directors on January 29, 2020. ●

## PC ELECTRIC ANNUALLY AWARDS CERTIFICATES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

to three graduating high school seniors, one from each of our tri-parish service areas; Iberville Parish, Pointe Coupee Parish and West Baton Rouge Parish. The three \$1000 scholarships will assist the students in their continuing education at any accredited college, university, business or vocational school of their choice.

### THE CRITERIA TO BE USED IN SELECTING THE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

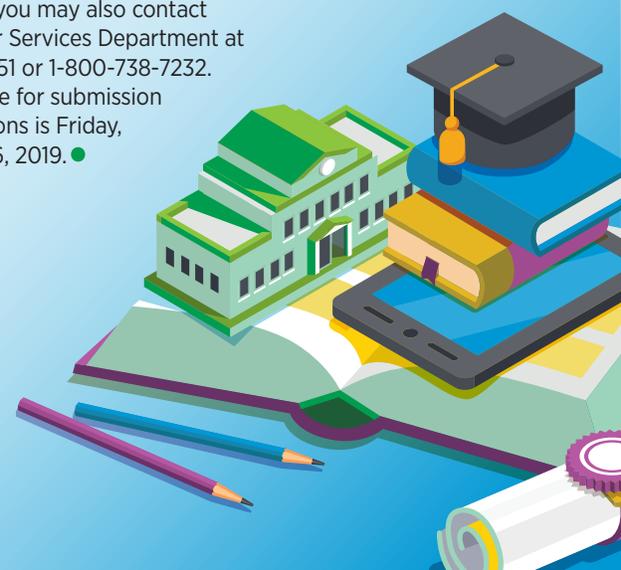
- Applicant must live on PC Electric lines or have a parent who is a manager or owner of a company on the Cooperative lines.
- Applicant must have maintained at least a 2.5 overall grade point average in high school.
- Applicant must submit a copy of high school grade transcript.
- Applicant must be entering their freshman year of an accredited college, university, business or vocational school of their choice.
- Applicant must be entering as a full-time student.

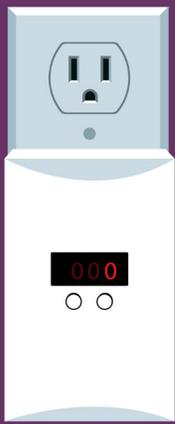
The scholarship recipients are chosen at the PC Electric Annual Membership Meeting which is set for noon on January 29, 2020.

(Lucky Number: 1089800) One winner will be selected from each of the three parishes in which we serve.

Applications and eligibility requirements are available at the local high schools in the tri-parish service area or the information may be picked up at the PC Electric office in New Roads. Application and guidelines can also be downloaded from our website at [www.pcemc.org](http://www.pcemc.org) and clicking on the Educational Programs link. To request an application and guidelines, you may also contact the Member Services Department at 225-638-3751 or 1-800-738-7232.

The deadline for submission of applications is Friday, December 6, 2019. ●





## CARBON MONOXIDE SAFETY REMINDERS

- Install CO alarms on every floor of your home and outside each sleeping area.
- Test CO alarms monthly.
- Replace CO alarm batteries at least annually.
- Make sure your family knows the difference between CO and smoke alarm sounds.
- If your CO alarm sounds, immediately go outdoors.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Trim your holiday energy costs by choosing energy efficient LED lights! LED holiday lights use less energy and can last up to 40 seasons. They're also easier to install - you can connect up to 25 LED strings without overloading a wall socket! ●

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



# Save the Date

All PC Electric Members are invited to attend the 81st Annual Membership Meeting of PC Electric on Wednesday, January 29, 2020 at the Scott Civic Center in New Roads, LA.

# 01 | 29 | 20



## Lucky Numbers

### LOOK FOR YOUR LUCKY ACCOUNT NUMBERS!

If you see your account number published inside this issue, call PC Electric by Dec. 31, 2019 to receive a \$25 credit on your bill.

Your account number can be found on your bill statement. **Good Luck!** ●

## closing notice

**PC Electric would like to wish you and your family a very happy & safe holiday.**

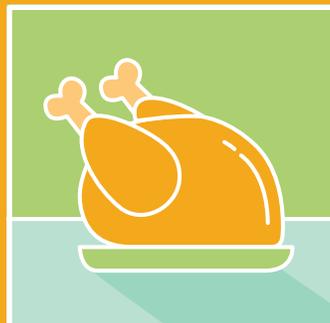
Our office will be closed the following days on the right. (Lucky Number: 1090101) A dispatcher will be on duty in the event of an emergency or power outage.

(225) 638-3751 OR 800-738-7232

[WWW.PCEMC.ORG](http://WWW.PCEMC.ORG)



PC Electric is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



THANKSGIVING  
NOVEMBER 28 & 29



CHRISTMAS  
DECEMBER 25 & 26



NEW YEARS DAY  
JANUARY 1