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# The Real Views



May 31, 2024

Natchitoches Parish Vol 22 Issue 5

## Celebrating Juneteenth: Recognizing How Far We Have Come and Can Go Together

**By: La'Quinta Scott-Favors**

The sixth month, the 19th day, in the year 1865 that ended complete slavery by law was a great day for African Americans! The chains were officially destroyed!! The chains that held many broken, bruised, battered, and in bondage! The chains that would no longer be able to hold African Americans in captivity!! The chains that were broken for African Americans to have their freedom! June 19th, 1865 was a day that many rejoiced! Which leads us to today! Freedom, we have but togetherness we lack! Community is such an important thing to have!

We must begin to have one another's back, we must begin to treat others as we want to be treated, and we must begin to look out for one another again! Community is more than living in the same town or parish! Community means coming together as one and making our town and parish a better place! Community is being able to help one another instead of talking about one another! The community is lending a helping hand to those we see struggling! Community is praying for one another instead of preying on one another! Community is putting actions behind our words instead of lying to one



another and on one another! Community is putting our differences to the side and coming up with ways to help decrease crime!

Our community is currently divided in more ways than one! If we take away the division and pull together, we will be one powerful town and a parish! The generation coming up needs to see it! There's a generation that's coming up that's counting on many of us to help the community and the Parish move forward! I completely understand that we want to blame crime on different people, but we must understand we are all in some way responsible! We can extend

ways to help those who need help with their children, with their siblings, or even with their grandchildren! I understand the village is completely different now, but I know some people still care for the future of the generations that are coming up! Individuals who care about where the future of our town is heading, and individuals who do not have a jealous spirit and want to see the next person win because of who they are and how far they have come! Together we can bring the rate of poverty down, the rate of crime down, and the rate of success up! Together we can make Natchitoches Parish great once again! It's going to take us all!!

**Let's choose TOGETHERNESS!**



# What Juneteenth Means to Me

By: Nikki Madison



Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated ceremony of ending slavery in America by African Americans. We have done this since the 1800s. As history states, this was the day troops arrived in Galveston to take control of the state and ensure that the slaves were freed. We would sing, pray, and come together and celebrate in the only way we knew how. Today these celebrations still take place. Over the years other things have been incorporated such as programs and parades. Juneteenth is a day for reflecting on our culture and celebrating the fact that we are free and able to do all the things that our ancestors weren't allowed to do. And for that, I am forever grateful. On Juneteenth, we get to acknowledge our past. I love to see how it's embraced by the Black community throughout the country. Yes, our culture had it extremely hard in the past and some of the struggle is still present today. But what I can appreciate is that instead of dwelling on our struggles on this day we

can embrace ourselves with love and show how far we have come. The purpose of Juneteenth is to uplift our community. I love being black and I am thankful for

all our achievements. Juneteenth isn't a day to dwell on the hurt that we endured. Participating in all the activities that are celebrated on that day doesn't change our history, but it gives a sense of pride,

love, and a way to rejoice by being African American. So, take this day to embrace our culture and be grateful that we are here and that we are free to do all the things our ancestors fought for us to be able to do.

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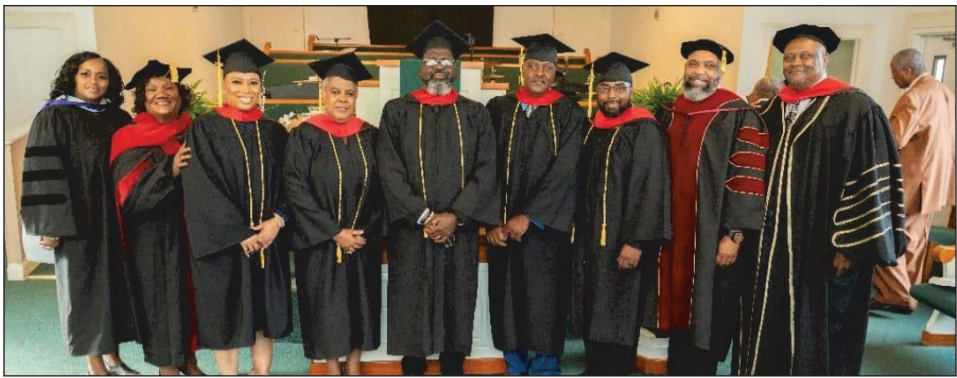
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# Scenes From the United Baptist Theological Seminary & Bible College Spring 2024 Commencement Exercises

*School Motto: "The School Where Iron Sharpeneth Iron" Proverbs 27:17*

Photos By: Erick Wilson



**Pictured: Dr. Altorio Holden Sr, Instructor, Dr. Doris Small, President, Instructor, Mayor Dr. Ronnie Williams Sr., Dr. Elbert Demery, Jr., Dean/Director, Instructor**



**Pictured: Paul Dan Shawn Beavers, Summa Cum Laude, Bachelor of Theology Yolanda Reed, Magna Cum Laude, Bachelor of Theology**



**Pictured: Thomas Carter, Summa Cum Laude, Master of Theology Nettie Ligon, Summa Cum Laude, Master of Theology**



**Pictured: Bishop Dr. Aill R. Harris Sr.**

**Pictured: Dennis Payton, Cum Laude, Bachelor of Theology**



Pictured: Dr. Aill R. Harris Jr., Bishop Dr. Aill R. Harris Sr. Nettie Ligon and Dr. Doris Small



# A New State Constitution for Louisiana?

By: Marvin Blake Jr.

In a special session of the Louisiana Legislature in February, Governor Jeff Landry proposed, passed, and signed into law a sweeping and extremely harsh criminal justice reform package. Now the governor is proposing to rewrite Louisiana's Constitution with a constitutional convention to start in late May and run through the middle of July. Now two months later, the governor wants to rewrite Louisiana's Constitution. In a prepared statement, Governor Landry stated that **"the time for change is now."** He went on to say that **"WE"** must reshape our state constitution to move Louisiana forward and meet the needs of our people." In observation of the new governor, it seems that he is in my opinion moving at an extremely swift pace which reminds me of a British historian by the name of Lord Acton who wrote in 1887 that **"Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely."**

And so, before the rewriting of our state constitution, shouldn't **WE THE PEOPLE** of Louisiana know exactly what he wants to change? Does he want to change the **MFP**

**funding formula** that is restricted in the current constitution that funds the public school system in grades K-12 and give those state funds to parents whose children attend **private schools**? Will the new constitution allow all members of the **Board of Elementary and Secondary Education** to be appointed by the governor? Will the new constitution give the governor total authority to appoint all members of Boards that govern **Louisiana colleges and universities**? And with Louisiana being the second poorest state in the union, what group(s) on the socioeconomic scale (rich, middle class, working class, or the poor) will the new constitution **benefit** and **take away** from? Finally, will there be a six-week or less ban on **abortion** placed in this new constitution?

Now, Governor Landry has said that the constitutional convention will be made up of 144 Louisiana House and Senate members to serve as delegates, along with 27 delegates that he will appoint. Serious? Of the 144 state senators and representatives in Louisiana, **101 are Republican** while **43 are Democrats**.



Even if the governor appoints **14 democrats** of his 27 to be nominated, which I doubt, **Republicans** will have a total of **114 delegates** at the Constitutional Convention while the **Democrats** will have a mere **57** which will give Governor Landry and State **Republicans** a huge majority in rewriting Louisiana's constitution.

Also, with **democrats** in Louisiana representing **43%** of voting-age adults while **41%** are **Republicans** with

16% having no lean, and with Louisiana's **African American** population being **33%** of the state's total population, should not there be a **larger Democratic** and **African American** presence at this new proposed constitutional convention.

Having been in office for less than six months, the rewriting of Louisiana's Constitution is nothing **in my opinion** nothing more than a **right-wing power grab** that will affect the lives of many decades here in Louisiana.

**That's My View!**



# Racism, Poverty, and War

By Herbert de Launay

Racism, poverty, and war are the three evils facing society and the world. This was stated by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in various words and on multiple occasions.

Dr. King's words are prophetic. The messages of the prophets in the Bible were addressed to the people of their day. But those messages are true for us today as well. Similarly, the root problems observed by Dr. King are still the root problems in our country and the world today.

You can do a Google search for "Dr King's Nobel Peace Prize speech." In his talk on December 11, 1964, he elaborated on these three problems.

You can search "Dr King's three evils." Dr King spoke on this point on many other occasions to various groups.

One useful reference for further information is The King Center, thekingcenter.org. You can do a Google search for "The King Philosophy - Nonviolence365." This resource includes The King Center's Definition of Nonviolence; The Triple Evils of poverty, racism, and militarism; the six principles of nonviolence; and six steps for social change.

Poverty includes "unemployment, homelessness, hunger, malnutrition, illiteracy, infant mortality, slums...."

Racism includes "prejudice, apartheid, ethnic conflict, anti-Semitism, sexism, colonialism, homophobia, ageism, discrimination against disabled groups, stereotypes...."

Militarism includes "war, imperialism, domestic violence, rape, terrorism, human trafficking, media violence, drugs, child abuse, violent crime...."

The King Center also presents Dr King's fundamental principles of nonviolence. "Nonviolence seeks to defeat injustice or evil, not people. Nonviolence recognizes that evildoers are also victims and are not evil people." "Nonviolence chooses love instead of hate."

The King Center article then presents Dr King's six steps of nonviolent social change: Information gathering, Education, Personal Commitment, Negotiation, Direct Action, and Reconciliation.

Pope Francis has often spoken of the present age as being involved in a third world war. It is a war being fought all over the world on various continents and between various countries and groups. The daily news informs us of war, famine, and violence in many, many places.

We can look at the conflicts and arguments that go on throughout the world and in our own country. Frank Bruni just came out with a book, "The Age of Grievance." Each side feels they are losing, and the other

side is winning. We blame others for our problems.

Looking at the hungry crowds, Jesus asked his disciples to feed them. The disciples wanted to send them away. When they complained that it would cost too much, Jesus asked them to see what they had.

Jesus gives us the parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10. In Matthew 25, Jesus says we will be judged on feeding the hungry, giving water to the thirsty, clothing the naked, and caring for those who are ill or in prison.

Paul wrote: "There is neither

Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28; see also Colossians 3:11).

In Galatians 2, Paul describes meeting with the Apostles and being encouraged to be mindful of the poor. James 1:27 describes pure religion as including care for orphans and widows in distress. The Bible also reminds God's people to be merciful to aliens, for they themselves were once aliens (Leviticus 19:34; Deuteronomy 10:17-19 and 27:19; and elsewhere).

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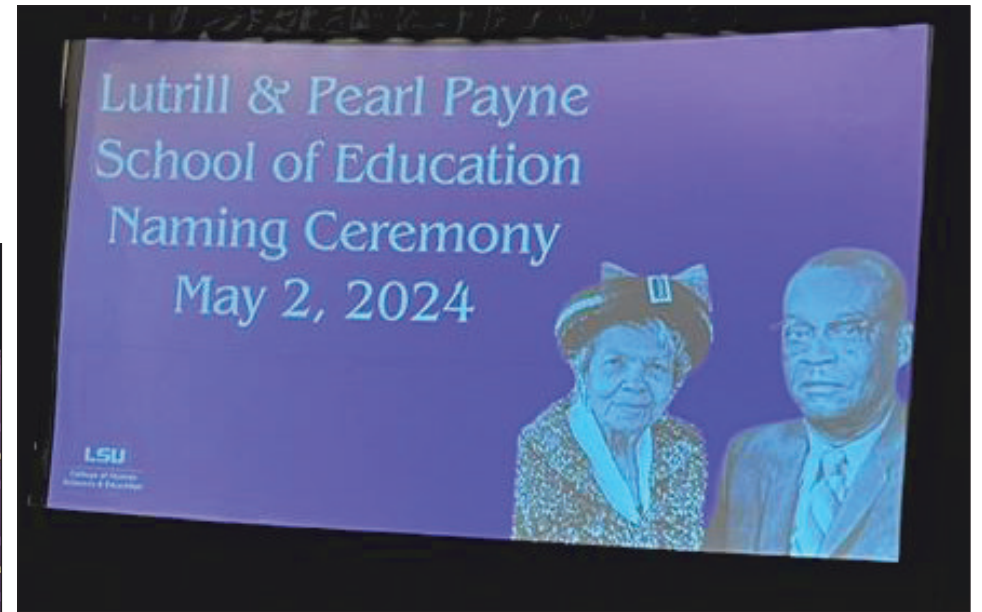
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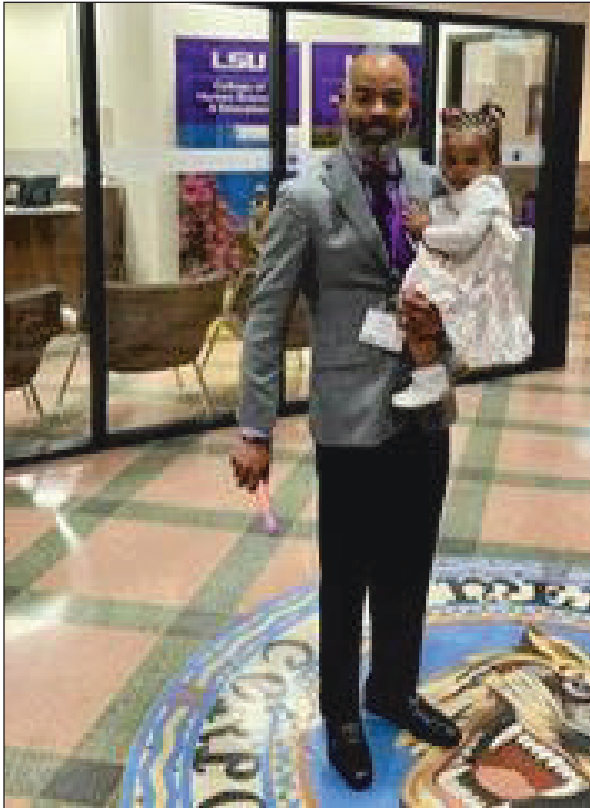
# Lutrill & Pearl Payne LSU School of Education Naming Ceremony

Lutrill Payne was the first African American to attend LSU after winning a federal court judgement in 1951, seventy- three years ago. He paved the way for others, including his wife Pearl Payne, who was among the first

African Americans to earn a Master of Education from LSU in 1956. Lutrill Payne passed in 1999 and Pearl Payne lived to celebrate her 100th birthday in 2018. They remained trailblazers their entire lives.



**Pictured: Dr. Gallot, University of Louisiana College System, Renee Meyers, LSU, Dorothy Schumpert, Natchitoches, Dean Mitchell, LSU, College of Human Sciences and Education, Carolyn White, former State Representative, Kenny Cox, Mayor Johnny Cox, Coushatta, La., Edward Ward, Natchitoches, Valencia Jones, LSU Board of Supervisors**



Pictured: Ralph Payne Jr. & Harlym, grandson, and great, great granddaughter of Lutrill & Pearl Payne



Dr. Jacinta White Topps & Dr. Kristen Payne Gaylor, granddaughters of Lutrill and Pearl Payne



Travis Lynch, Kendall lynch, Nola Pearl Lynch & Bianca White Lynch (granddaughter, great granddaughter of Lutrill & Pearl Payne



Prentiss Jackson, granddaughter, Priyah & Harlym, great, great granddaughters of Lutrill & Pearl Payne



## Did You Know?



Did You Know? Lutrill & Pearl Payne risked their lives to empower and educate other African Americans to read to pass literacy tests designed to prevent blacks from voting.

# A Knock at Midnight: Encountering Those in Prison

By: J. Chris Guillet, Attorney at Law

The Natchitoches Detention Center houses several hundred inmates at any given time. Some of the people in the Detention Center have been convicted of crimes. Other people are held there before a trial (“pretrial”), or because they have been arrested after violating the conditions of their probation. The State pays the parish less than \$30 per day to house those persons who have been convicted and sentenced. The Parish pays the costs of housing others that are held there “pretrial.” There is not enough money in the system to take care of people properly, regardless of why they are there.

People housed in prison—and their families—need the help of other people. Here in the South, in particular, they could use the help of their churches, their fellow Christians, and any other people that might help. In addition—and it may seem odd to consider the issues together—local prisons need more funding to provide proper staffing and necessities for the people held in prison. Though we are encouraged to pit the interests of prisoners and prison administrators against one another (and prisoners always lose), in fact, those persons live and work within the same space.

According to the teachings of the Catholic Church, one of the most important corporal acts of mercy is to “visit people in prison.” In *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*, the great Black theologian, Professor James Cone, framed the Cross boldly: “Christ was not crucified on an altar between two candles, but on a cross between two thieves.” Many people fail to understand the things that affect people in prison, and their families, and the people who work around them.

Prisoners are separated from their families. Some of them are mothers of

young children, or caretakers for their own adult parents. The lives of these other family members—almost all of whom have no involvement with the criminal system whatsoever—are disrupted and sometimes destroyed by the resulting separation. The following needs are particularly important for persons in prison, and their families:

1. The right to be housed near their families (or at least in the parish where they are charged or convicted). Today, upon a conviction for an offense, they are often housed far away from their home parishes.

2. The right to free and frequent communication with their families (and their lawyers). Today, they must often pay hefty fees to private companies to make phone calls, even to their own lawyers. These calls are unnecessarily expensive.

3. The right to an affordable bond unless they pose a danger to the public. Today, persons charged with non-violent crimes—including even drug crimes—are often held in jail simply because they cannot afford bond, even when the bond is set relatively low.

4. The right to adequate food and medical care. Today, the costs of food, medical care, and other such items are variable costs that prison administrators are encouraged to hold to a minimum in order to balance their budgets.

The families of prisoners—including particularly their children and other dependents—need material support, guidance, and stability (including sometimes planning for their futures). Even persons that have no interest in helping prisoners, per se, might be moved to help their families and others that they leave behind.

Local detention centers need better budgets and more money to provide these basic necessities. These facilities



need adequate, well-paid staffing for security, educational programs, and medical care. Current levels of state and local funding are too low for administrators to hire the best staff and provide the best programs to improve prison conditions.

This is particularly true for local, parish prisons and detention centers.

When considering how to manage what seems to be an ever-increasing crime rate, people always ask: “so what’s the answer?” The truth is that there is likely no lasting answer that does not consider the material problems of all of the people in the equation. As Dr. Martin Luther King said, “the preacher must be concerned about the whole man. Not merely his soul but his body.” The prison system

is made up of people that live and work together. This is ground zero of the criminal justice system. Treating them all as people is the first step towards change. The Detention Center could be a school for change, the first step in this process.

*J. Chris Guillet grew up in Natchitoches and graduated from Natchitoches Central in 1987. He has practiced law since 1999. Chris currently serves as a part-time public defender for Rapides Parish. He formerly served as a public defender for Natchitoches Parish and Red River Parish. He also served as an Assistant District Attorney for Red River Parish from 2008 through 2017, and for Natchitoches Parish from 2017 through 2023. He maintains a civil practice and a criminal defense practice.*



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# Celebrating Juneteenth: Recognizing Influential Black Leaders of The African American Community in Natchitoches



James "JW" Scarborough,  
Civil Rights Activist



Mayor Patsy Ward  
Hoover, Civil Rights  
Activist



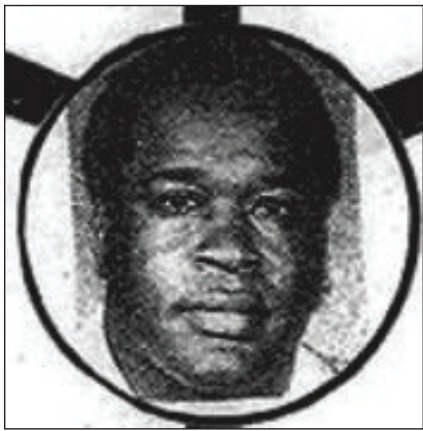
Betty Sawyer Smith,  
Councilwoman at Large,  
Civil Rights Activist



Elnora Roberson,  
Civil Rights Activist



John Winston Sr.,  
Civil Rights Activist



Robert Jackson Sr.,  
Civil Rights Activist

# WHAT IS JUNETEENTH?

**JUNETEENTH**  
- FREEDOM DAY -  
JUNE 19

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which stated that all persons held as slaves in rebellious states shall be set free.

Two years later in 1865, the enslaved people of Galveston, Texas finally learned that they had been set free from slavery.

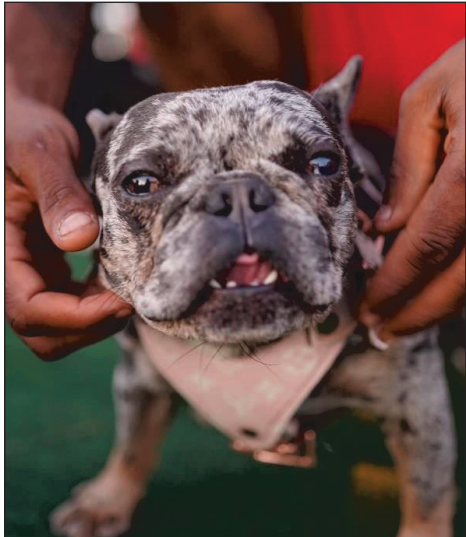
Juneteenth is an important celebration of black liberation.

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# King & Queen of the Kennels Exotic Dog Show, Car, Truck and Bike Show

*Presented by: Trippple Crown Kennels*



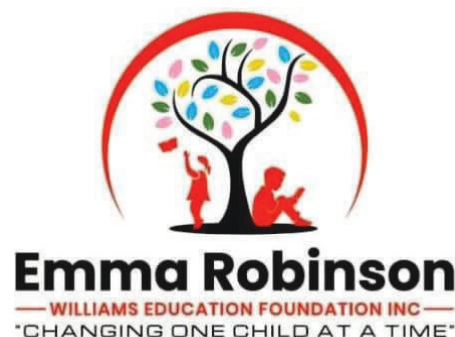


# Emma Robinson Williams Education Foundation Awarded Prime Time Grant to Enhance Literacy and Learning Programs

Natchitoches, LA – The Emma Robinson Williams Education Foundation (ERWEF) is proud to announce that it has been awarded the prestigious Prime Time Grant, funded by the Kathleen O'Brien Foundation, the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, and Prime Time. This significant grant will support the implementation of Prime Time's literacy and learning programs at the Asbury United Methodist Church, serving as the host site for Fall 2024.

Prime Time offers innovative learning programs designed to strengthen families and communities by harnessing the power of the humanities. These programs create lifelong learning pathways for children and families of all backgrounds by encouraging critical thinking and shared ideas about the world around them.

"We are thrilled to partner with the Kathleen O'Brien Foundation, the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, and Prime Time to bring these impactful programs to our community," said Dr. Ross F. Williams Jr, Executive Director of ERWEF. "At ER-



WEF, we believe in building a lifelong love of learning, literacy, and leadership, and this grant will help us further our mission."

Prime Time reading programs introduce children and their families to the humanities through storytelling and discussions that foster a lifelong love of reading and learning. Hosted by local community organizations, Prime Time programs are free for all participants and offered after school, providing a valuable opportunity for family bonding and engagement.

At the heart of the Prime Time reading programs are thematically grouped, carefully chosen, humanities-rich children's books. Participating families will receive copies of each book, enabling them to begin or expand their personal libraries and continue the journey of learning at home.

"We are excited to see the



positive impact that the Prime Time programs will have on our community," said Dr. Williams. "By providing families with the tools and resources they need to foster a love of reading, we are helping to build a brighter future for our children."

The Emma Robinson Williams Education Foundation is dedicated to enhancing educational opportunities and



supporting lifelong learning for all. The partnership with Prime Time and the generous support from the Kathleen O'Brien Foundation and the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities will play a crucial role in achieving these goals.

# 10-Point Justice Plan: National Urban League

## Police Reform and Accountability Recommendations

**By: Marc H. Morial, President & CEO National Urban League**

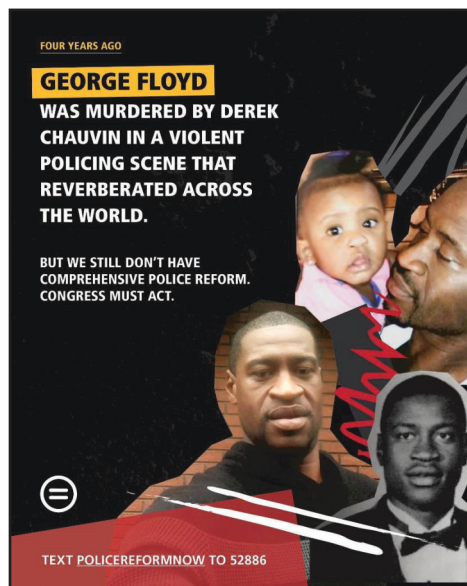
*Article Published January 9, 2015  
in The Real Views Publication*

“The phenomenon we have seen in America since the announcement of the non-indictments of officers in the killings of Michael Brown and Eric Garner is new to a generation but not to the nation. Young people have always helped to fuel historic social change. We must not forget- 50 years ago, it was young people on that bridge in Selma, Alabama; young people sitting-in in Greensboro, NC; young people riding Freedom buses all over this nation challenging conventional laws and the status quo; young people like Schwerner, Goodman, and Chaney losing their lives in Philadelphia, Mississippi. A multicultural band of young people, united with historic civil rights organizations, legislators, clergy, and everyday Americans who decided that it was time for our country to do better and be better, have been the impetus for so many of the changes we’ve witnessed as a nation through the decades.”

Millions of Americans have now taken to the streets and

to social media not because the problems that have caused the outrage just began yesterday, but because sometimes difficult circumstances present a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to bring about historic change. Now is that time. Now is our time.

This conversation and the subsequent action that will result from it will continue because we remain committed to the idea that these cases do not end where they are. In addition to the opportunity for the Justice Department to conduct independent investigations, we each have an opportunity to participate in our great democracy by helping to ensure that the America of tomorrow is better



than who we are today.

1. Widespread Use of Body Cameras and Dashboard Cameras

2. Broken Windows Reform and Implementation of 21st Century Community Policing Model

3. Review and Revision of Police Use of Deadly Force Policies

4. Comprehensive Retraining of All Police Officers

5. Comprehensive Review and Strengthening of Police

Hiring Standards

6. Appointment of Special Prosecutors to Investigate Police Misconduct

7. Mandatory, Uniform FBI Reporting and Audit of Lethal Force Incidents Involving All Law Enforcement

8. Creation and Audit of National Database of Citizen Complaints against Police

9. Revision of Nation Police Accreditation System for Mandatory Use by Law Enforcement to Be Eligible for Federal Funds

10. National Comprehensive Anti-Racial Profiling Law

Happy Juneteenth!

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# Natchitoches Parish Council on Aging Celebrated Older Americans Month



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**LOUISIANA**  
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# Minister Tristen Jefferson sends a special congratulations to the following students on their 8th Grade Graduation

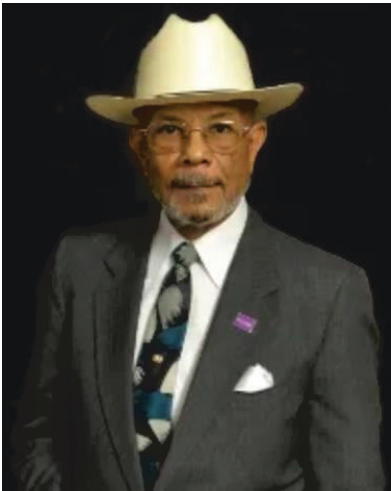
*Kaden Redford, Shalyha Burks, Malashia Garner and Deshun Snow*



**Pictured: Minister Tristen Jefferson and NJH Principal Alexa Bernard- Conday**



## Quotes by Randy Stelly



**"Juneteenth is not just a black thing. Hundreds of thousands of white men died in the Civil war to make Juneteenth happen."**

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MAYOR OF NATCHITOCHE



*Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr.*

Friday, May 31, 2024 at 6:00 PM  
Rue Beauport Riverfront Stage  
Downtown Natchitoches

THIS EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

# “We Rose”

By: Kristina Ka

From Africa’s heart, we rose  
Already a people, our faces ebon, our bodies lean,  
We rose  
Skills of art, life, beauty and family  
Crushed by forces we knew nothing of, we rose  
Survive we must, we did,  
We rose  
We rose to be you, we rose to be me,  
Above everything expected, we rose  
To become the knowledge we never knew,  
We rose  
Dream, we did  
Act, we must



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CHECK IN BEGINS AT 9AM-10AM ALL TEAMS MUST BE CHECKED IN BY 10AM COMPETITION BEGINS AT 12PM

ARTWORK BY DJ TWILITE AT ROUNDTABLE STUDIOS SOUTH 3185811083

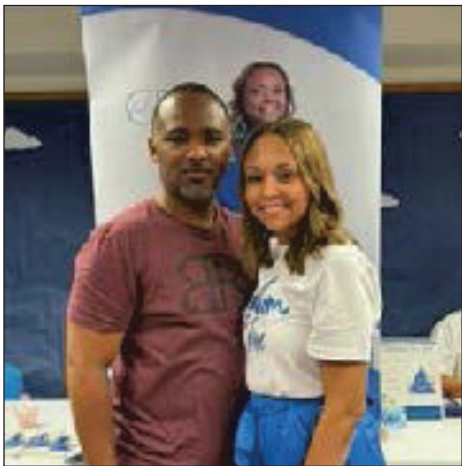
# “Freedom to Live” Book Signing Meet & Greet with Dr. Carla Roque Allen

Dr. Carla Roque Allen is the daughter of the late Earl Michael “Mike” Roque & Theresa Roque and a native of the Cane River Community. She is married to Natchitoches native Lloyd W. Allen III

and mother to sons Caleb Roque Allen and Caden Rachal Allen. Her debut book “Freedom to Live” was released in November 2023. In the book, she shares her story of freedom, which only

came when she invited Christ into her life on an intimate level. She shares fatal roadblocks that attempted to hinder her from enjoying the abundant life Jesus promised. The reader will discover

practical tools and resonating scriptures to help guide them along their freedom journey. Readers can find the paperback copy on Amazon’s website or at [www.carlaroqueallen.com](http://www.carlaroqueallen.com).



# James L. Oliphant Memorial Golf Tournament



# Who can...

**By: Author/ Minister**  
**Bonita G. Moses Arnold**



Who can make it rain and storm in one part of a city as the sun shines bright and pretty in another?

Who can make the sun shine immediately following rain?

Who can heal the sick in one hospital, facility, or another place at the same time in a different place?

Who can answer your prayers while you're still praying and answer the prayers of others at the same time?

Who turned water into wine at a wedding? Who can bring a dead man from the grave and speak life into him again?

Who can arrive in the courtroom and cause the jury and the Judge to grant you favor?

Who can be a mother and a father at the same time?

Who can cause your enemies to be at peace with you?

Who can be a friend when you're friendless?

Who can be a bridge over troubled water?

Who can breathe breath back into you after no visual signs of life? Who was brutally crucified, buried, and stayed in the tomb for three days, but got up on that third day, early with all power from heaven and earth in his hands?

Can you, or I?  
No!

But I know a man that can. His name is Jesus Christ, my personal savior who is sitting on the right side of his Father in heaven making intercession on our behalf.

Why don't you make him yours today?

He says, " Behold, I stand at the door and knock, if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come into him and eat with him, and he with me". Revelation 3:20.

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# NSU Gets Approval for Master of Social Work Degree

NATCHITOCHES — Northwestern State University received approval from the Louisiana Board of Regents to offer a Master of Social Work degree. The program will be offered completely online and will build upon NSU's existing Bachelor of Social Work that graduates about 50 students per year.

"The MSW program will help address the dearth of the mental health workforce and services in Louisiana. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), nearly 3.4 million people in Louisiana live in a community that does not have enough mental health professionals such as social workers," said Dr. Susan Campbell, interim chair of NSU's Department of Social Work. "The mission of the MSW is to develop clinically trained social work professionals to meet the growing need for practitioners in our regional and national work force, with particular emphasis on providing trauma-informed services in rural central and western Louisiana."

Dr. MaryAnne Candley, MSW, a Licensed Master Social Worker, will serve as the program coordinator. Candley joined the NSU Social Work faculty as an assistant professor in 2019. In addition to teaching and advising, Candley is also the coordinator of online studies where her duties include supporting and enhancing the online learning environment and experience for social work students. She holds bachelor's and master's degrees in social work and earned a Ph.D. in human services with an emphasis on social and community services.

"Social work is a very rewarding career in that social workers have the opportunity to be change agents," she said. "We work with individuals, families, groups, communities and organizations, so social workers enjoy the ability to effect change in whatever setting is most comfortable for them."

Before joining the NSU faculty, Candley worked with an interdisciplinary group that focused on birth inequities. She also engages in practice as a medical social worker. Previous practice experi-

ence also includes working with the homeless and elderly populations, and with children and families.

"Across the board higher education is engaging with different learners than the traditional, 18-year-old student," Candley said. "Many people are seeking degrees while actively in the throes of employment, raising children and assisting elderly or ailing parents or loved ones. Online learning allows people, regardless of their circumstances, to continue to meet their competing demands while also pursuing higher education."

Campbell said the Social Work Department will work with the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Board of Accreditation for the MSW program to become nationally accredited. The timeline for accreditation is approximately three years with a likely approval date of February 2028.

The CSWE accreditation process will allow the Master of Social Work program to back-date accreditation to its initial start date of August 2025. Students who graduate from the MSW program before 2028 will have to wait until February 2028 for the accreditation to be granted and backdated. Therefore, graduating MSWs prior to May 2028 would not be able to pursue licensure until official accreditation approval is given.

"To maintain the integrity of the MSW program and support the professional development of our students, the Department of Social Work will welcome its inaugural MSW class in stages," Campbell said. "Stage one will be a part time, traditional MSW program, with students beginning their coursework in August 2025 with an anticipated graduation date of May 2028. Stage two will be a two-year, full time MSW program in which students begin their coursework in August of 2026 and graduate in May of 2028. The final stage will be the one-year Advanced Standing program with students beginning in August of 2027 and graduating in May of 2028."

Most employment data and job

prediction statistics identify an increase in the need for social workers, Candley said. There are only three accredited MSW programs in public institutions.

"NSU is uniquely situated, as the central and southwestern portions of the state do not currently offer any MSW programs," she said. "While this program will be offered completely online, our geographic location and focus on trauma will help prepare students to work in these underserved areas as well as nationally."

The push for approval of the master's in social work at NSU began years ago, spearheaded by the late Dr. Claudia Triche, then department head, who advocated for the creation of a Master of Social Work degree at NSU.

"Social work is a profession that assists people to improve their lives by helping them deal with their social

environments, relationships, personal and emotional problems, disabilities and resources for life, such as shelter, food and employment," Campbell said. "Social workers are employed in the areas of children and family services, schools, health care, mental health, substance abuse and prevention, employee assistance programs (EAPs), as well as in federal, state, or local policymaking along with other sectors. While the bachelor's degree in social work is the minimum requirement for entry into the social work profession and qualifies one for a number of entry-level jobs, the master's degree (MSW) is necessary for many positions, including most in health care, K-12 schools, mental health and in supervisory and administrative positions."

Information on NSU's Department of Social Work is available at <https://www.nsula.edu/socialwork/>.



A promotional graphic for NSU's campus tour. It features a purple and orange background with a map of Louisiana in the top left corner. The text "SCHEDULE YOUR FREE CAMPUS TOUR" is prominently displayed in white and purple. Below this, the website "WWW.NSU.LA/TOURS" is shown in white on a purple background. At the bottom, a purple box contains the text: "See residence halls, lab spaces, and classrooms where you'll live and learn as an NSU student. We offer private, personalized campus tours led by our student ambassadors and admissions experts."

# Wait on the Lord!

**By: Minister Tristen Jefferson**

Waiting on the Lord involves the confident expectation of a positive result in which we place a great hope. This expectation is based on knowledge of and trust in God. Those who do not know the Lord will not wait on Him; neither will those who fail to trust Him. We must be confident of who God is and what He can do. Those who wait on the Lord do not lose heart in their prayers: “This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask

anything according to his will, he hears us” (1 John 5:14). Waiting on the Lord renews our strength (Isaiah 40:31). Waiting on the Lord by trusting, seeking, and praying establishes our faith and brings serenity and stability: “I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to



our God. Many will see and fear the LORD and put their trust in him” (Psalm 40:1–3). As this passage affirms, waiting on the Lord is also a testimony to others who will see our faith and, as a result, put their trust in God. Waiting on the Lord brings God’s blessings: “Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him” (Isaiah 64:4; see also 1 Corinthians 1:7). Sometimes we

might feel as though the Lord does not see or hear us—that He’s not answering our prayers. During these moments, we can put our complete faith and trust in the living God. We can wait on the Lord in eager anticipation, knowing that He is with us and in control of our lives. He will do what He has promised. He will rescue and save us. He is always working for our good, even when we don’t feel Him (Romans 8:28). Through patience, courageous, active trusting, seeking, and prayer, we can learn to wait on the Lord.

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Children: Kelton Sapp, Cordell Sapp, Trevon Reed

Grandchildren: Mavery and Ace Sapp

Siblings: Trinetta Reed-White, Carey

D. Reed, Byron V. Reed

Member of The Living Word Ministries under the leadership of Pastor Dr. Altorio Holden

Sr. and First Lady Adrian Holden

Photos By: Erick Wilson



# Zeta's Go Green for Mental Health

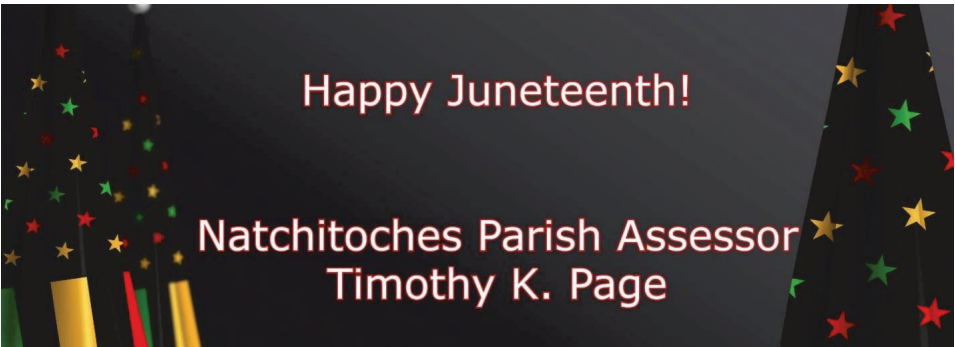
Mu Omega Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., its Youth Affiliates, Xi Epsilon Chapter of Northwestern State University, and Zeta Amicae of Natchitoches held its annual Mental Health Awareness Program on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at Word of Faith

Ministries on Bossier Street.

The program's theme was "Bridging the Gap-A Mental Health Conservation". Rozlyn Taylor, a member of the Xi Epsilon Chapter at NSU, shared her mental health experiences after being involved in a car crash where she had

multiple injuries. Alisa Raggio LPC-S, NCC, a member of Mu Omega Chapter of Natchitoches and a certified Mental Health Counselor, shared information on how to recognize when someone needs help and how to get the help needed. Ariyonna Sarpy, a member of

the Xi Epsilon Chapter at NSU, performed an emotional praise dance that brought cheers from the crowd. Doryce Polk, a member of Zeta Amica, provided the song service. Refreshments were served after the program.



# 3rd Burt Clark Foundation Golf Tournament

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# Natchitoches Leadership Through Athletics Committee Annual Awards Ceremony

*Hosted at the LA. Sports Hall of Fame Museum*

All the awards were given to SENIOR year students from Lakeview, Natchitoches Central, and St. Mary's. Sanctioned sports (ONLY; not club sports) by the LA. High School Athletic Association (LHSAA). One of the awards presented (started last year) is the Calvin C. "Snoop Dogg" Broadus Leadership/Youth Business Development Award. Camryn Davis was the winner. Mr. Broadus sent him a video message to congratulate him. This year's new award was the L'Jarius Sneed Leadership/Math Challenge Award. Sneed, a professional athlete from Minden, played in the last two (2024 and 2023) Super Bowl games with the Kansas City Chiefs. He was traded in March to the Titans.

## 2024 Winners are:

### Natchitoches Central:

Nicholas Egnas- Pat Listach Baseball Award

Logan Smith- Joe Dumars Basketball Award

Ma'Kayla Gallien- Shantel Hardison Basketball Award

Camryn Davis- J.D. Garrett Football Award, Calvin C. "Snoop Dogg" Broadus Leadership Award/Youth Business Development Institute, Andre' Jackson Sr. Memorial Leadership Award and Scholarship and the Mayor's Award

Antonio Brown- Robert Walker Memorial Leadership Award and Stephanie Sowell Track and Field Award

Lora Cole- Volleyball Award

Cristy Evans- Stephanie Sowell Track and Field Award

Dinah Ellzey- Powerlifting

Nathan Lovemore- Powerlifting

### Lakeview:

Jorryn Harris- Pat Listach Baseball Award

Andre' Sowell- Joe Dumars Basketball Award

Kaleb Collins- Charlie Tolar Football Award and The Andre' Jackson Sr. Memo-

rial Leadership Award and Scholarship

Jordan Kirts- Robert Walker Memorial Award

Alonna Henderson- Stephanie Sowell Track and Field Award and Shantel Hardison Basketball Award

Katie Bedgood, "Becca" Allen Softball Award

Treston Carter- Stephanie Sowell Track and Field Award

### St. Mary's:

Andrew Kautz- Tennis Award

Ayden Warren- Joe Dumars Basketball Award

J. Payne Williams III- L'Jarius Sneed Leadership-Math Challenge Award, Pat Listach Baseball Award, and the Mayor's Award

Mixon Bankston- Robert Walker Memorial Leadership Award

Drake Griffin- The Andre' Jackson Sr. Memorial Leadership Award

Baylea Johnson- Tennis Award

Ava Errington- Shantel Hardison Basketball Award and the Mayor's Award

Molly Coleman- Scholar Athlete and Mayor's Award



## EXCITING NEWS!



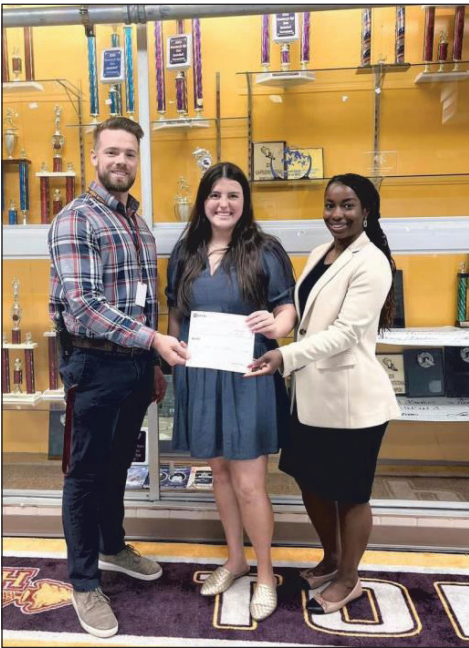
The excitement of Mardi Gras is growing in North Central Louisiana!  
A new Mardi Gras called "The Krewe of Divine 9" is coming to Natchitoches soon! This new krewe will encompass constituent members of the National Pan-Hellenic Council-also known as the Divine 9.



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Facilitator Apostle Tammi Witherspoon  
Facilitator Minister Rodrick Johnson  
Facilitator Prophet Cassandra Moore

**Keynote Speaker**  
Pastor David Allen, Jr.

**Prophetic Immigration**  
Apostle Derrick Vercher

**Fire Starter**  
Apostle Charles Moore

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Keynote Speaker

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JUNE 2, 2024  
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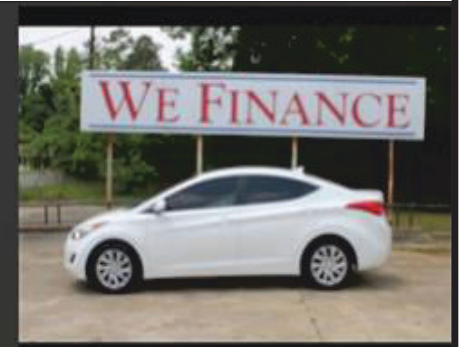
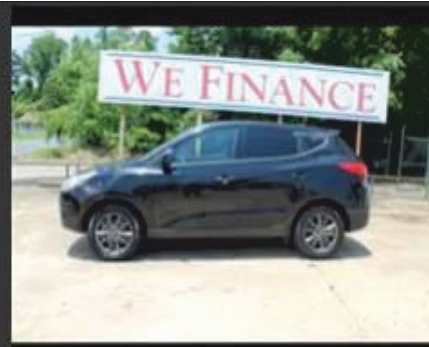
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