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COMMUNITY

The Real Views



CHURCH

June 28, 2024

Natchitoches Parish

Vol 22 Issue 6

Grace and Forgiveness

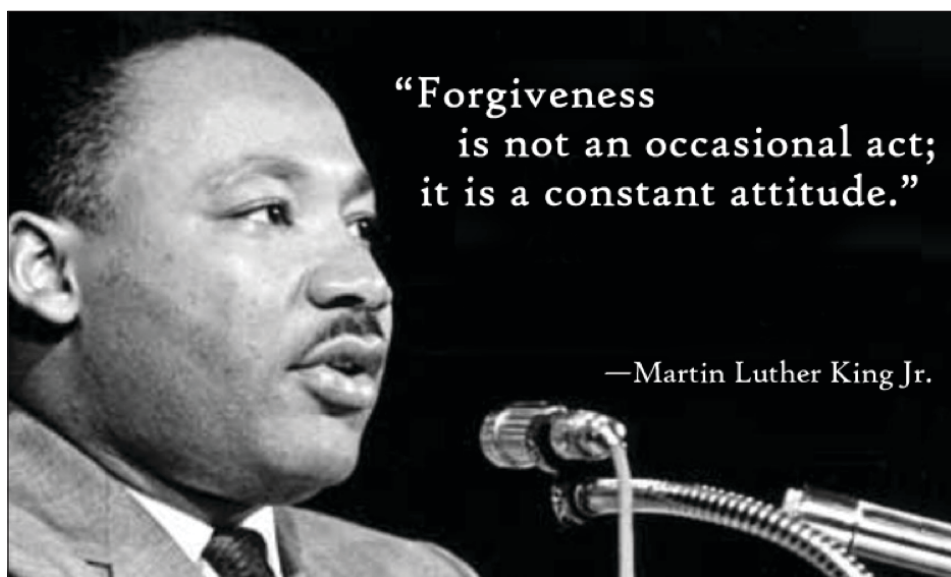
By: Delrix Franklin

Grace and forgiveness are the two things we want but don't always want to give. It's funny how we want something we don't like to give in return, right? Human nature, or shall I say our sinful nature, will more times than not want revenge on those who have done us wrong. You may wonder what's "sinful nature?" Your sinful nature is your flesh; you know that side of you that wants to go against what's right and just. The more we follow our sinful nature, also known as our flesh, the less likely we are to forgive and or show/give grace. The Bible tells us in Galatians 5:19-21 that "When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and

other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God." Ask yourself if it is worth not inheriting the kingdom of God. We have choices to make each day between good and evil, and that good part of us is our spirit, which is the opposite of the flesh. The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 22.) I know you are probably thinking, what does this have to do with grace and forgiveness? Well, look at the fruit of the spirit, specifically love, and what does the Bible say about love? In 1 Corinthians 13:4 (NLT), Paul says, "Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable and keeps no record of being wronged." Notice that he says love keeps no record of being wronged, so how can we forgive and show grace when that's the

very thing we do? In Matthew 22:37, Jesus told the Pharisees and Sadducees that the most important commandment was, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind." A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' See, the Bible has a trickle-down effect with grace, love, and forgiveness! It makes you wonder how much we love those around us or even ourselves.

Continued on Page 2...



**"Forgiveness
is not an occasional act;
it is a constant attitude."**

—Martin Luther King Jr.

Grace and Forgiveness *Continued from Page 1*

The main important factor is how God views it all! We expect him to do something we aren't willing to do; isn't that wild? I get it; it's not the easiest thing to do, but as I'm learning, it's the most beneficial thing to do, especially when it comes to pleasing him because he lets us know, "But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins." (Matthew 6:15 NLT.) Also, in Colossians 3:13 NLT, "Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others." It's a reason why, in Galatians, Paul tells us, "Don't be misled—you cannot mock the

justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant. Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature. But those who live to please the spirit will harvest everlasting life from the spirit. So, let's not get tired of doing what is good. We will reap a harvest of blessings at just the right time if we don't give up. Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially those in the family of faith."

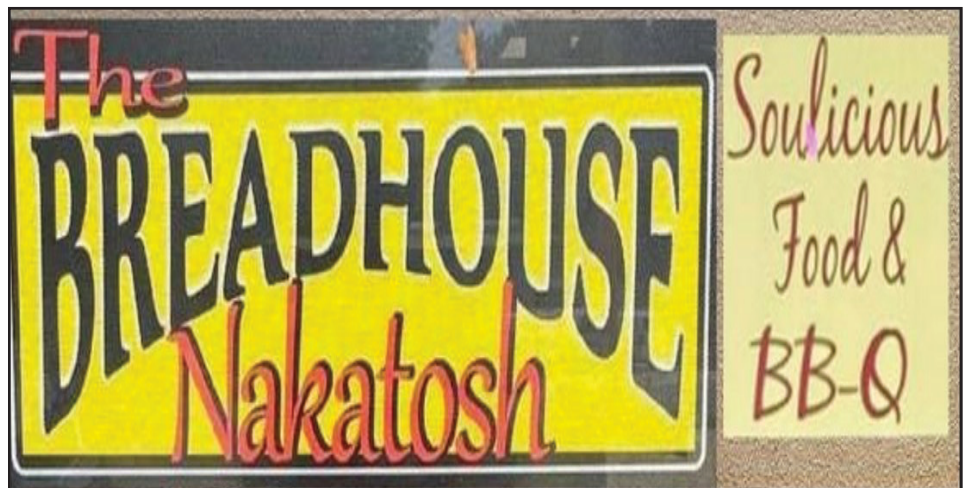
(Galatians 6:7-10 NLT) I firmly believe that not forgiving or showing grace, especially within your family, can perpetuate a generational curse of hardened hearts or an unforgiving spirit. How often do we wit-

ness aunts and uncles who never forgive or show/give grace, and the cousins have to bear the consequences, continuing the cycle for generations? It's time to

break these cycles/curses, and there's no better guide than God's word, The Bible! Sometimes, you have to be the change you want to see! It can start with you.



Give yourself
grace and forgiveness



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P.O. Box 1082
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Hosted by The City of Natchitoches

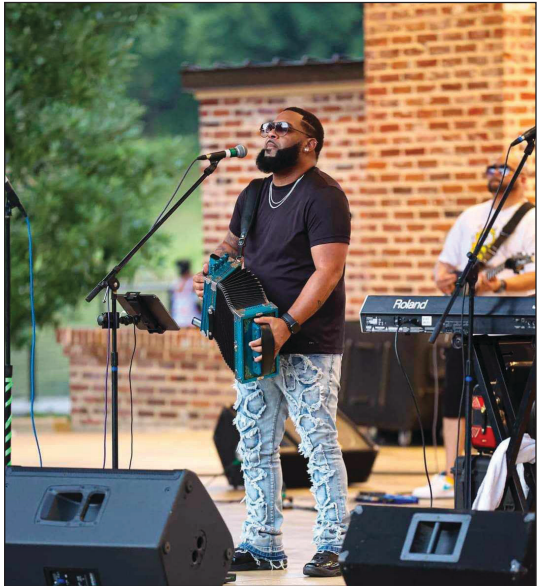
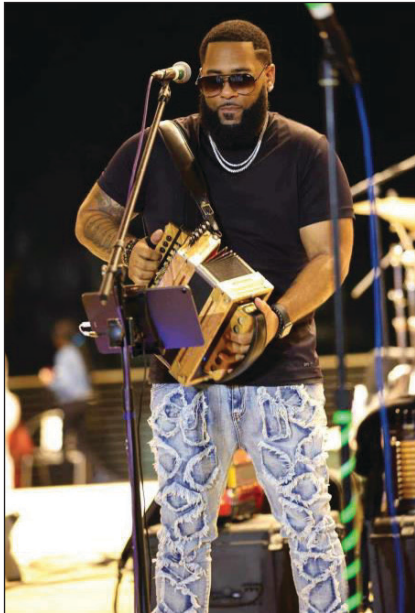


Photo Credit: Turner's Photography



Natchitoches Juneteenth on the Riverbank

Hosted by The City of Natchitoches



All Politics is Local (personal)

By: Marvin Blake Jr.

In the 2010 U.S. Census, Louisiana came away with six congressional districts, five Majority White **Republican** Districts and one **Democratic** African American District. But when the 2020 U.S. Census was completed, based on population, Louisiana retained its six congressional seats in the United States Congress, but things changed due to the African American population in the state growing to **thirty-three percent**, which paved the way (through many court filings) from the five **republican** white majority districts to four districts where African Americans went from one **Democratic** Majority Districts to two.

After the numbers came in after the census, former Democratic Governor John Bel Edwards tried to pass legislation to bring a second minority district to Louisiana, but with a **Supermajority Republican Legislature**, the new district failed. African American voters decided to sue Louisiana's Secretary of State and **Republican** legislative leaders. The case was heard by U.S. District Judge Shelly Dick who ordered the state to create the new district, but Republicans in Louisiana filed suit with the U.S. Supreme Court to look at the case which was hearing a similar redistricting case concerning Alabama.

Then surprisingly, the Conservative U.S. Supreme decided against state **republicans** and sent the case back to U.S. District

Judge Shelly Dick to implement the new African American district. Judge Dick, a Barack Obama appointee, gave the state until early February 2024 to make the new minority district reality.

And so, on Friday January 19, 2024, in a special session of the Louisiana Legislature that was called by the new **Republican** Governor Jeff Landry, the **Republican** Controlled house and senate of Louisiana legislated and passed a second majority **African American Congressional District** that was signed into law by the governor.

The new African American congressional districts map runs from West Baton Rouge Parish and moves through the parishes of Rapides, Natchitoches, parts of Desoto Parish and ends in Western Caddo Parish or Shreveport. Remembering how ugly and disrespectful Jeff Landry was while holding a sign up at then President Barack Obama while he was giving a speech to congress in 2011, having him to be forced to create a second majority **African American Congressional District** in Louisiana is karma.

Although the courts gave the governor and legislature no choice on the matter, the governor was not mandated on which district to make minority and what congress person would lose his or her seat.

Listening to political pundits, it seems that Garrett Graves, a close friend, and supporter of former Speaker of the House Kevn Mc-



Carthy would be the guy to bite the bullet and lose his seat. And because **all politics is local**, it must be noted that Graves' support of his friend Stephen Waguespack during the

2023 Louisiana governor's race against Jeff Landry who eventually won is the main reason that the governor chose Graves as the **republican congressman** to be axed. In addition, it is also being acknowledged that Congressman Graves failure to support fellow Louisiana **Republican Congressman** Steve Scalise in his

bid to become the Speaker of the House after Kevin McCarthy was ousted created hard feelings from Scalise. This resentment was like pouring gasoline on the fire to take Garrett Graves down.

Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neal, who is a former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington, D.C. coined the phrase that "**All Politics is Local**". In reference to the new African American Congressional District in Louisiana, the court system removed one of the five white congressional districts in the state, but **Local** politics took Garrett Graves **down**.

That's My View!



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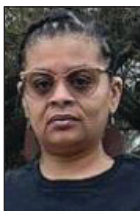
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Self-Worth

By: Nikki Madison

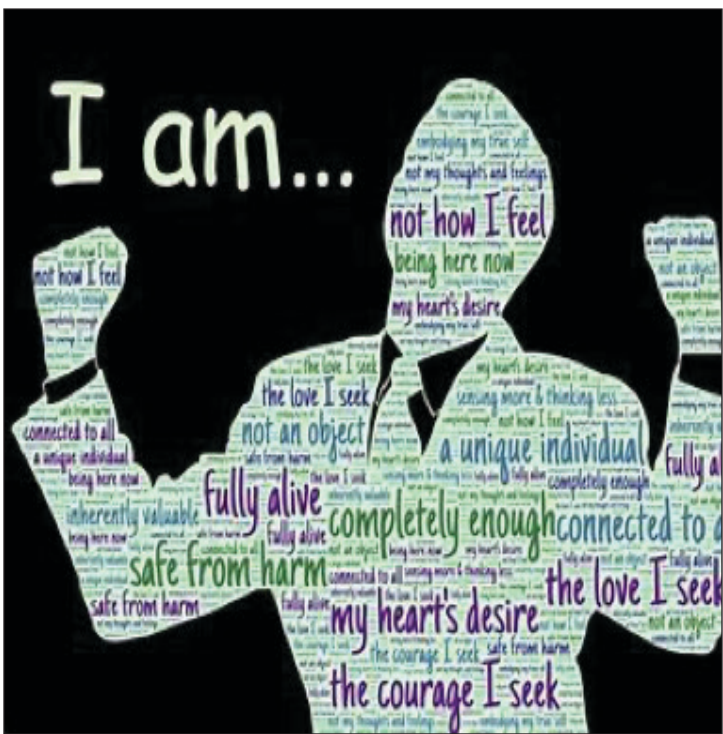
Self-esteem can come from our accomplishments, societal positions, and what we believe in and achieve. Depending on how we are feeling and how well we are doing can have a significant effect on our self-esteem. Let's not compare ourselves to others. Loving yourself and having self-worth can make you feel like you deserve to be here. Sometimes, we look at the people around us, whether ordinary people or celebrities, and feel the sense of mimicking what they are doing. Television also has a significant role in how we think about ourselves, influencing our



success and how we feel accepted in society. Even as parents, sometimes we affect our children's self-esteem.

We may not understand that sometimes, as parents, we must listen just as much as our kids. We put them in activities we may have wanted to experience as children. They may want to create their own paths. By forcing them to do certain things can significantly impact their self-esteem. People who've experienced trauma in their lives search every day to find a little piece of happiness that does not remind them of what they have

gone through and to reclaim their self-worth. Social media is a significant part of self-esteem issues in our society today. Most of us struggle to feel appreciated and worthy. Sometimes, we get so distracted with reliving our past mistakes that we don't allow our future selves to grow. Accepting and acknowledging will allow you to move forward and regain your self-worth. Surround yourself with positive people, people who want to make you do better. Your circle can also influence how you feel about yourself. Love your flaws and your imperfections. We are who we are; once we accept that, we will never lose our self-worth again.





*"May we think of freedom,
not as the right to do as we please,
but as the opportunity to do what is right."*

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY



Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Office
and Sheriff R. Stuart Wright

Asbury Methodist Church Celebrates 48th Annual Parade of Salads



Asbury Methodist Church celebrated its 48th Annual Parade of Salads on Sunday June 9th following its 11 am service. The theme was "Feeding the Spirit." A vast array of wonderful salads was prepared. Speaker for the occasion was Minister Gwendolyn Williams with her message coming from Matthew 5:6.



LCHE Announces LA40by2030 Region 7 Tour

The Louisiana Center for Health Equity (LCHE) and Navigators for a Healthy Louisiana will host the **LA40by2030 Tour to Region 7*** on **Tuesday, July 2, 2024, from 7 to 9 pm at the Natchitoches Arts Center**. This tour gathers together community members, state and local officials, community-based organizations, health professionals, and more to foster meaningful dialogue and gather valuable insights with a focus on rural areas.

The LA40by2030 Tour is facilitated by a collaboration with the Navigators for a Healthy Louisiana, Mayor Ronnie Williams of Natchitoches (LA), and others to produce an event that amplifies the voices of residents within the region. As LCHE diligently works to create a platform for engagement, we invite local residents and professionals to participate.

For additional information, please visit LA40by2030Tours.eventbrite.com or email info@lahealthequity.org. Note: There may be a virtual option. Organizers will offer updates soon.

About the Louisiana Center for Health Equity

The Louisiana Center for Health Equity is dedicated to advancing health equity to improve the overall health and well-being of all Louisianans. LCHE works to eliminate health and healthcare disparities attributed to structural, institutional, or social disadvantages. Established in January 2010, LCHE is a statewide nonpartisan nonprofit organization with IRS status as a 501(c)(3) tax exempt public charity.

*As designated by the Louisiana Department of Health to include the following parishes: Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, DeSoto, Natchitoches, Red River, Sabine, and Webster.

LA40BY2030

REGION 7 TOUR

LA40BY2030

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PURPOSE OF TOURS

The Louisiana Center for Health Equity aims to foster meaningful dialogue and gather valuable insights from local residents, organizations, and leaders with a focus on rural areas. Your voice is important in shaping our **LA40by2030** initiatives and priorities as we work towards a healthier, more equitable and inclusive future for all Louisianians.

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Magnolia State Peace Officers Conference

The Cane River Branch of Magnolia State Peace Officers Association received top awards at the 67th Annual Training Conference held in Lafayette, Louisiana on June 12th-16th, 2024.

Chief of Police Nikeo Collins was named Officer of the Year 2024, and The Cane River Branch was named Chapter of the Year. The awards are based on the contributions of individuals and members of the organization who go above and beyond to serve their communities. Chief Collins serves as Parliamentarian for the State Chapter of MSPOA.

Cane River Branch participates in many community activities such as coat drives for local schools, fan donations to Council on Aging, blanket donations to Nursing Homes, donating personal hygiene and laundry items to local schools and donating Thanksgivng Baskets to the elderly in the community. Cane River Branch of MSPOA also sponsors the Cane River Zydeco Festival and Poker run held every Labor Day Weekend, this year they will be celebrating their 25th Anniversary of sponsoring the festival.

The theme for this year's

conference was "Knowing from whence thy came". Honoring MSPOA Founder William B. Hines. Mr. Hines formed and incorporated the organization in 1956 while he was an officer with the Shreveport Police Department. The Magnolia Peace Officers Association is a non-profit community service organization dedicated to the betterment of Law enforcement through formal training for all officers and the administering of justice in the State of Louisiana.



Chief Collins received "Officer of the Year" award from MSPOA State President Brian Strong.

Members of the Cane River Branch who attended the conference accepted the "Chapter of the Year" award



Pictured from left to right: Charlie Davis, Jr. Vanessa Monroe, Sandra Williams, President Brian Strong, Chapter President Billy Meziere, LaQuita Collins, Chief Nikeo Collins, LaMarr McGaskey, Siggie Silvie, Jr. Clinton Jones and Lillie Owens Jones.


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From One Single Active Mother to Another!

By: La'Quinta Scott-Favors

Life can sometimes become tough, and our roads can become rough! Many of us are single mothers. If we knew we would have been single mothers with no fathers in our children's lives, we would have opted out of giving birth because this role is not for the weak! Society says, "It's our fault" because of the person we had children with; society blames us and calls us names because the father isn't present, and society stereotypes us, saying our children won't become anything because a father isn't present! Today, we will put anything society says behind us and continue raising our children with the Lord on our side!! It's not your fault because your children are fatherless. The Lord is on your side and said he will be the father to the Fatherless! Don't worry about what the father does and doesn't do! Don't worry about whose child your kid's father chooses to father, and

don't worry about him playing a step-father's role in the lives of other children! Let it go and allow the Lord to step in and rewrite your and your child's stories for you!! When we let go and grow from what we go through, when we are pushed to be strong daily, when we want to fall apart and don't, and when we step back and allow the Lord's will to be done in our lives, the Lord will blow our minds! The Lord will send a man to love you and your children, a man after the father's heart, a man who will make you his wife, and a man who will leave you in awe because God will establish it!! Your situation may not be what you wish to have now but be in a position for God to give you a happy ending! You are a WONDERFUL mother, and you are doing an AMAZING job. I am proud of you!

I want to pray for you today. I pray that you forgive the father(s) of your child or



children! I pray that you completely trust God to rewrite your story! I pray the Lord sends a man who will be an amazing husband to you and a father to your children! I pray the man will be able to be the head of the home, leading, protecting, guiding, loving, and be who God called him to be in all areas of his life! I pray the Lord sends a man your way who will make

you forget about all that you have been through, a man who can help you correct, discipline, and push your children to a greater level through their lives! I pray for a turnaround in your situation right now, and I pray the Lord begins to shift your situation and you will receive your kingdom spouse. Suddenly, in Jesus' mighty name, I pray, Amen!



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Natchitoches-NSU 44th Annual Folk Festival

The Old Songs Live Forever



Forest Huval



David Simpson



Dikki Du and the Zydeco Krewe

Nadja's Photography



Sunny Gullage and the Blues Groovers



The Zion Harmonizers



Zack Smith

NATCHITOCHES – The 44th Annual Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival will be held on Saturday July 20, 2024, in air-conditioned Prather Coliseum located at 220 South Jefferson Street at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches. The festival's curated showcase of Louisiana folk musicians, food vendors, and traditional crafts persons will open at 9 am, with live entertainment scheduled for 9:30 AM to 10:00 PM. The family-oriented festival is fully wheelchair accessible. Children 12 and under are admitted free. Tickets are \$10 at the door for all events, or \$6 for an evening pass to all events after 5 PM.

In honor of this year's theme, The Old Songs Live Forever, the festival will feature three stages of music, with performances by Johnny Earthquake and the Moondogs, Sonny Gullage and the Blues Groovers, Dikki Du and the Zydeco Krewe, the Forest Huval Cajun Band, Brandon Degeyter and The Mire Playboys, the Armadillo Jackal Band, Fire of Tierra Caliente, The Rick Adams Band, The Thistle Dancers and Pipers, the Zion Harmonizers, and traditional songs and dances by the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe. The festival will also include a performance by Grupo de Danza Folklórica Mexicana Ketzaly, and a musical patriotic tribute by the Victory Belles performing World War II-era songs in three-part harmony. The festival will also include numerous food vendors offering traditional Louisiana cuisine. Outdoor activities include demonstrations of traditional blacksmithing and Dutch oven cooking. A child-friendly hands-on demonstration of a 19th century wash day will also be presented.

The festival will include a Jambalaya Cookoff, in which professionals and hobbyists alike can compete in one of multiple categories and demonstrate their cooking skills. Registration and the Cooks' Meeting will take place at 8:00 AM. Tasting and judging will begin at 12:30 PM, with winners be announced at 3:30 PM. There is no fee to compete in the Cookoff. Jambalaya must be cooked on-site outside of Prather Coliseum.

The Annual Louisiana State Fiddle Championship will be held at 1 PM in the Magale Recital Hall. There will be a non-championship class and a championship class. A twin fiddle category will also be held. Registration is at noon in the first-floor foyer outside Magale Recital Hall. The Fiddle Championship winner will perform on the main stage in Prather Coliseum at 5:00 PM.

The festival includes several opportunities for patrons to engage directly with Louisiana folk culture. Fiddler Clancey Stewart will lead free

square dance lessons accompanied by live music from the Willie Stewart Bluegrass Band. Festival patrons can also take advantage of free Cajun and zydeco dance lessons taught by the Cajun French Music Association Dance Troupe. "The festival bridges the distance between artists and the festival patrons, thus breaking the artificial barriers between artists and audience," said Dr. Shane Rasmussen, director of the festival and NSU's Louisiana Folklife Center. "Rather than watching from the sidelines, everyone who takes part in these activities will share and engage in Louisiana's rich culture."

More than 80 crafts vendors have been invited to display and discuss their traditional work with festival patrons. Craftspeople are expected to display beadwork, baskets, cowhide chair covers, alligator jewelry, Pysanky eggs, Native American crafts, and pottery. Other expected craftspeople will display needlework, wood carvings, handmade toys and dolls, paintings, sculpture, homemade soap, spinning & weaving, handcrafted knives, handmade brooms, walking sticks, folk art quilts, and more.

KidFest will be available from 9 AM to 4 PM. Kidfest is an area dedicated to child-friendly activities and is a fun way for children to examine their own cultural and family traditions as well as those from around the state.

Narrative sessions will be held in the festival N-Club Room from 10 AM to 6 PM and

feature presentations on Delta music, Day of the Dead celebrations, music preservation, Native American traditional songs and dances, and Louisiana French narratives, with music informances on the blues with Sonny Gullage and the Blues Groovers and gospel music with The Zion Harmonizers. ASL interpretation, assistive listening devices, and audio description for these cultural discussions will be made available upon prior request. For a full schedule of events, as well as registration forms to participate in the Louisiana State Fiddle Championship and the Jambalaya Cookoff go to louisianafolklife.nsula.edu or contact the Louisiana Folklife Center at (318) 357-4332 or email folklife@nsula.edu.

Support for the festival is provided by grants from the Cane River National Heritage Area, Inc., the City of Natchitoches, the Louisiana Division of the Arts Decentralized Arts Fund Program, the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, the Louisiana Office of Tourism, the Natchitoches Historic District Development Commission, the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Foundation, the Shreveport Regional Arts Council, and the State of Louisiana.

Free the Press: Who's Running For President?

By: J. Chris Guillet, Attorney at Law

Freedom of the Press, guaranteed by the First Amendment, is (purportedly) a great American virtue. In fact, the Press is the daily chronicler of American life. Historians—who are also members of the Press—contextualize the experience of daily life, looking backwards through time, selecting specific events for emphasis. Today, the Press is—once again—chronicling the election of the American president. But who is running for President? Who, for that matter, was the first President?

John Hanson was the first President of the United States in 1781. Elias Boudinot was the second. Thomas Mifflin was the third. Richard Henry Lee was the fourth. John Hancock—the first to sign the Declaration of Independence—was the fifth. Nathan Gorman was the sixth. Arthur St. Claire—who was born in Scotland—was the seventh. Cyrus Griffin was the eighth.

George Washington was the ninth President of the United States. Washington was not elected President until 1789—thirteen years after the nation declared its independence on the Fourth of July in 1776.

Congress selected Hanson to be the President in 1781, just one month after the British surrendered. Hanson's sons and nephews had fought and died in the American Revolution. During his presidency, Hanson ordered all foreign troops off of American soil, established the Great Seal of the United States, and created the Treasury Department, the War Department, and the Foreign Affairs Department.

Washington was the first president elected after the United States Constitution was ratified in 1789. Eventually, American historians—all members of the Press—re-contextualized Washington to be and to have been the real “first” president. The entire history of the earlier

period was effectively erased.

Dr. Cornell West—formerly of Harvard University—is now running for President of the United States. His platform unapologetically advocates for the interests of the poor, and challenges the interests of the current economic establishment, which he sometimes describes (at least considering international relations) as “the U.S. empire.” West is the Dietrich Bonhoeffer Professor of Philosophy and Christian Practice at Union Theological Seminary (the same distinguished seminary where Professors James Cone and Howard Thurman formerly taught). He is a former professor at Harvard University, and a Professor Emeritus at Princeton University, having been the first Black person to obtain his doctorate in philosophy from Princeton. West has written over twenty books on Black history, philosophy, politics, and other subjects.

But in addition to Cornell West, there are dozens of other people—men and women—now running for President of the United States. Their names are also not mentioned at all by the national Press. They include Jill Stein, Chase Oliver, Robert Kennedy, Peter Sonski, and many others. The fact that their names are not mentioned, and that they are banned from the debates, and that their candidacies are not taken seriously, has been normalized by the national Press. As such, whatever contributions they may have to the national discussion—and to the debate of relevant issues—has been buried. (And indeed, though some of them may appear cartoonish in their eccentricities, that seems to be a requirement for the job, judging by the front-runners.) In an age where teenagers routinely become internationally famous overnight by posting videos from their own living rooms, American adults are still taught, and still believe, that they may only learn about political



candidates through the lens of a national Press that sorts all of their political “choices” into two pre-approved groups, from the same two political groups (parties) of people that do not agree on anything whatsoever, except that one or the other of them must remain in charge.

Edward Benays explained in his 1928 classic, *Propaganda*, that “[w]e are governed, our minds molded, our tastes formed, our ideas suggested, largely by men we have never heard of.” A century later, this remains true. The point of this inquiry is not to endorse any particular candidate, nor to criticize the semantics used by presidential historians. The point is that there is a great deal of information that is not published or respected

by the national Press. Young people now instinctively recognize this and have already turned to Tik Tok and social media for political information. The role of the independent Press is particularly critical and important to American life, now more than ever.

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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A Bright Future Ahead: Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated-Mu Omega Zeta Chapter Rewards Academic Excellence

In a momentous celebration of academic excellence, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated-Mu Omega Zeta Chapter awarded its annual scholarship to five local seniors. The scholarship recognizes local high school seniors for their outstanding scholastic achievements, leadership, and community involvement.

The five high school graduates' dedication to their studies, commitment to community service, and exceptional leadership skills have set them apart. Their passion for learning and unwavering determination has made a lasting impact on both their peers and educators.

The 2024 Mu Omega Zeta Chapter Scholarship awardees are:

- Ariel Joseph, a graduate of Lakeview High School pursuing a Nursing degree at Louisiana Tech
- Jorryn Harris, a graduate of Lakeview High School pursuing a Nursing degree at Grambling State University
- Naiim Helaire, a graduate of Natchitoches Central High School pursuing degrees in Accounting and Computer Science at Grambling State University

• Shona Moses, a graduate of Natchitoches Central High School pursuing a Mass Communications degree at Northwestern State University

• Shani Winder, a graduate of Natchitoches Central High School pursuing a Business Administration degree at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

In recognition of the graduates and their outstanding achievements, the Mu Omega Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated hosted a reception. Scholarship Committee Chairperson, Carletta Jones, Scholarship Committee members, parents, supporters, and the chapter members came together to extend congratulations and best wishes for their future success.

"We are immensely proud of all of this year's recipients and their accomplishments. This scholarship will empower each one to achieve their dreams. We have no doubt that they will continue to thrive and make a positive impact," says Chapter President, Josephine Winder.

The celebration of these young scholars serves as a reminder of the incredible impact that support and encourage-

ment can have on an individual's life. The Mu Omega Zeta Chapter's commitment to fostering academic excellence and

community service continues to shine brightly, paving the way for future leaders to emerge and make a difference in the world.

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated
Mu Omega Zeta Chapter
Natchitoches, LA

Natchitoches

Ariel Joseph
2024 Graduate
Lakeview High School
Pursuing Nursing
at Louisiana Tech

Jorryn Harris
2024 Graduate
Lakeview High School
Pursuing Nursing
at Grambling State University

Naiim Helaire
2024 Graduate
Natchitoches Central High
Pursuing Accounting/Computer
Science at Grambling State
University

Shona Moses
2024 Graduate
Natchitoches Central High
Pursuing Mass Communication
at Northwestern State
University

Shani Winder
2024 Graduate
Natchitoches Central High
Pursuing Business Administration
at University of Louisiana at
Lafayette

Congratulations!
2024 Scholarship Recipients

www.muomgzeta.org | Mu Omega Zeta Chapter | Mu Omega Chapter ZPB



Award Recipients: (L-R) Shona Moses, Ariel Joseph, Shani Winder



Reception Attendance: (L-R) Linda Howard, Candance Grayson, Josephine Winder, Shona Moses, Ariel Joseph, Shani Winder, Sandy Irchirl, Sandra Williams, Scholarship Committee Chairperson- Carletta Jones

Natchitoches Native Burtis “Pee Wee” Holden Inducted into the Hall of Fame

Burtis C. Holden, fondly known as PeeWee, emerged as a basketball star from the heart of Louisiana. Raised in Natchitoches Parish, Pee-Wee, the eldest of two brothers and two sisters, honed his skills on the hardwood from an early age. His talent flourished during his high school years at Allen High School in Allen, LA, where he showcased his scoring prowess, averaging an impressive 18-20 points per game.

In a twist of fate, PeeWee's journey to greatness took a pivotal turn when there was a player already there that the coach was asking if he knew any good players he could recruit in the south and that player gave him a contact in Natchitoches, which was Major Fisher. Major talked highly of PeeWee's talent, leading to a life-changing encounter that would shape his collegiate career. Coach David Honer got his contact and offered him a scholarship to join Rainy River Community College in 1979 without even seeing him play one game.

PeeWee's arrival at Rainy River heralded a new era of dominance. He quickly ascended to unprecedented heights, etching his name



in the halls of basketball history. To this day, Pee-Wee remains the record holder for the most career points at Rainy River, amassing a staggering 1,171 points while maintaining a remarkable average of 26 points per game achieved in an era without the three-point line.

Throughout his tenure from 1979 to 1981, PeeWee's on-court brilliance garnered widespread recognition. His exemplary play earned him the distinction of being ranked among the top seven scorers nationally in Division 1 for consecutive years. PeeWee's accolades include All-Division, All-State, and All-Region honors, along with an honorable mention for the all NJCAA in his final year.

Post-graduation, PeeWee returned to Louisiana, where he built a successful career in the construction industry, ultimately becoming Superintendent of Environmental at International Paper Mill, working for the company for 18 years. Off the court, PeeWee's devotion to family



and community shines. He shared 37 years of love with his late wife, Petula, until her passing in 2023. He is a beloved father to Chris and Christy, as well as a proud grandfather to Victor. Active in his local church, PeeWee finds solace in his faith and enjoys watching his grandson's basketball games, imparting wisdom from his storied career.

PeeWee's journey is a testament to perseverance and talent, leaving an indelible mark on the lives he touches. As he continues to inspire, his legacy remains etched in the hearts of all who have had the privilege of witnessing his extraordinary journey. Congratulations on being inducted in the Rainy River Basketball hall of fame 2024.



DOG WASH & NAIL CLIPPING

SCHEDULE 2024

June 8th

July 13th

August 10th September 14th * October TBD

*microchipping

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM Tractor Supply

Baths: \$10~ Over 60 lbs \$15

Nails \$10

Anal Gland Expression

\$10

BYOT (if possible): Bring Your Own Towel

The Village of Natchez's Juneteenth Heritage Celebration



The Village of Natchez's Juneteenth Heritage Celebration



Government By Cooperation

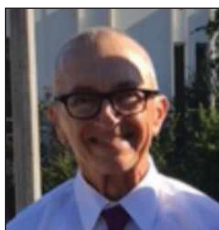
By Herbert de Launay

The founders of this country had experience of government by a king, the King of England. On July 4, 1776, they declared independence from the King of England and the British government.

The founders of this country were wary of government by a king or a strongman. And so, they devised a government with checks and balances, with power divided between three branches of government with two houses of Congress.

Yes, we have a president, but the president does not have absolute power. We have two houses of Congress and a Supreme Court with multiple justices.

This model requires coopera-



tion and negotiation. It is designed to prevent one person or one group from controlling everything.

This form of government might seem frustratingly slow to

those who seek to control things. But it has worked for almost two hundred and fifty years. The U.S. Constitution embodies the concerns and wisdom of the founders of our country.

Let me point out Hillary Clinton and Mike Pence as two American heroes who strongly believe in the Constitution of the United States of America.

In 2016, Hillary Clinton ran for president against Donald Trump. Actually, she won the popular vote. However, the U.S. Constitu-

tion provides for the Electoral College to select the president. And so, on election night, realizing that Donald Trump had more votes than she in the Electoral College, she conceded the election. She did not claim the vote was rigged or fraudulent. She did not try to overcome the election. She respected the U.S. Constitution and accepted the results.

In 2020 Joe Biden ran for president against Donald Trump. Joe Biden not only won the popular vote, but he also won the electoral votes. Donald Trump and his supporters loudly protested. However, Vice President Mike Pence, on January 6, 2021, upheld the election results, despite the attack on the U.S. Capital Building by a mob encouraged by President Trump.

Mike Pence respected the U.S. Constitution and fulfilled his duties in accepting the election results.

There are countries that have a strongman running the country. We can look at China or North Korea or Putin in Russia. We can remember Hitler in Germany. However, our government was specifically designed to be different.

We do not want a leader who can control everything or even make everything great. Instead, we seek people who believe in the constitutional vision of the founders of our country. We seek a president, representatives, and senators who are willing to work together, overcoming partisan divisions. We need people who respect the Constitution and its vision of shared leadership and cooperation.



BOM Gives Back



Good luck to the Natchitoches 8U All Star Team. They traveled to Baton Rouge to compete in the State All Star Tournament. Pictured left to right: BOM's Kristi Lee and Chloe Longlois, MJ Calvin, Braddox Townson, Alden Trichel, and BOM's TJ Mitcham.



Good luck to the Natchitoches 10U All Stars Team. They went to Baton Rouge to compete in the State All Stars Tournament. Pictured left to right: BOM's Ragan Hale, Head Coach Richard Moody, Eddie Weaver, Cameron Graham, and BOM's Mary Scruggs.



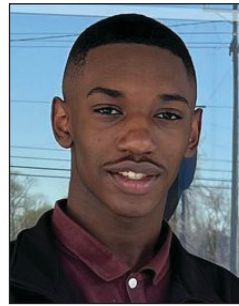
BOM made a donation to help with the Lakeview High School Teacher Appreciation Week. Pictured left to right: BOM's Katrice Below, Chanda Goff (Positive Behavior Intervention and Support Program Sponsor), and BOM's Juanita Tabares.

The Faith of the Wise Men Matthew 1:1-2

By: Minister Tristen Jefferson

1. Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, 2. Saying, where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. A. Still Seeking Jesus? The Christmas season reveals many sayings that try to encapsulate the meaning of the holiday in just a few words. Near my neighborhood, one house always displays a banner that reads, “Christ is the reason for the season.” Another neighbor annually displays a sign proclaiming, “Let’s put Christ back in Christmas.” These sayings are self-explanatory. After all, why have a season bearing the name of Christ without consideration of Christ himself? Even asking that question shows the absurdity of some secular Christmas traditions. Should Christmas remind us of cola-drinking polar bears in red mufflers? Clydesdales hauling a beer wagon? A snowman comes to life. Or is there something more important? Another saying requires a bit of knowledge of the biblical Christmas story to make sense: “Wise men still seek him.” This saying is based on the account in today’s text. B. Lesson Context Our text for study involves a mysterious star. This invites a consideration of the distinction between astronomy and astrology. In modern times, we make a clear-cut distinction between those two areas of inquiry. But the two were blended in the ancient world. Astronomy is the scientific study

of the sun, moon, stars, planets, etc.; astrology combines that study with the belief that the so-called gods orchestrate the appearance, positions, and movements of heavenly phenomena and, therefore, reveal information about divine plans (omens). Astrology is practiced today in the form of horoscopes associated with the zodiac. In the Old Testament, astrologers are mentioned most notably in the book of Daniel (Dan-iel 2:2, 10; 4:7; 5:7, 11; see also Isaiah 47:13). The people of Israel were warned about pagan occult practices; astrology, being a type of divination, was one of those (Deuteronomy 18:10-11; Jeremiah 10:2). And moving from consulting the stars to worshipping the stars was an all-too-easy step to take (Deuteronomy 4:19; 17:2-5; Jeremiah 8:2). The ancient Greek translation of the book of Daniel designates such men as magoi, from which we derive our modern word magician. But words change meaning over time, and how ancient people viewed magoi is not to be equated with the contemporary role of a magician who uses sleight of hand to entertain audiences. Instead, this word describes men of wisdom; we surmise they were astrologer-scholars. This same Greek word magoi is behind the English translation “wise men” in Matthew 2:1, 7, 16. It occurs also in Acts 13:6, 8, translated there as “sorcerer.” 1a. Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea. Matthew gives fewer details about the actual birth of Jesus than does



Luke. Instead, Matthew relates the nativity story with simplicity: Jesus was born in Bethlehem. A few details are added, tying his account to the geography and history of Palestine. Bethlehem (meaning “house of bread”) of Judaea was a village located a few miles south-southwest of Jerusalem. It is not to be confused with Bethlehem of Zebulun (Joshua 19:15). The Bethlehem noted in today’s text was the birthplace of King David (1 Samuel 20:6). 1b. In the days of Herod the king. The phrase the days of Herod the king sets the context of a specific ruler in an identifiable time frame. This is the king known as Herod the Great, who ruled 37-4 BC as the first Roman puppet-king of Judea. The name Herod occurs in the New Testament about 40 times, often referring to different people—it’s a challenge not to get them confused! According to our best records, the Herod in view here died in 4 BC. Therefore, the events in today’s text take place shortly before that (compare Matthew 2:19). Herod the Great was not an ethnic Jew but an Idumean (related to modern Arabs). He is designated “the Great” because of his extensive building projects. The grandest of these was the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem, a project he began about 20 BC and that was unfinished at the time of his death (compare John 2:20). 1c. Behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem. Many legends have arisen in Christian tradition about these wise men. These include specula-

tions regarding their occupations (kings?), their number (three?), their names (Melchior, Caspar, and Balthazar?), and their place of origin (Babylon? Persia?). Matthew’s account doesn’t answer such questions. See the Lesson Context for background observations regarding the word magoi, translated as “wise men.” We should understand from the east as describing their point of origin, not their route; it’s “wise men from the east,” not “came from the east.” This origin reminds us of the lands of Babylon and Persia, which lie 600 miles or more from Jerusalem in a straight line that crosses the Syrian Desert. But it is highly unlikely that the wise men traveled across that intervening desert. Instead, they would have come to Jerusalem by following the Euphrates River valley to Syria and then south through Damascus. This was a well-traveled trade route through a region known as the Fertile Crescent. Such a route would have been over a thousand miles, making a grand geographic arc from the Middle East to Palestine. To walk this distance would have taken four months (compare Ezra 7:8-9). That there are at least two wise men is certain because the term is plural. But beyond that, we don’t know how many there were. (The tradition that there were three wise men seems based on the fact they offer three gifts to Jesus in Matthew 2:11, below.) They likely would have been in a large, well-funded entourage, perhaps a couple of dozen men altogether (compare 1 Kings 10:1-2). These details paint a picture of determination on their part.

Members of the 2024 Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame

NATCHITOCHES – Thursday afternoon's introductory press conference for the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2024, presented by La Capitol Federal Credit Union, felt like a love letter to the state and its people.

The nine inductees on hand inside the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and Northwest Louisiana History Museum recounted the relationships and people that ushered their careers and the pride they feel to represent the place where they left their marks on the athletic world.

"It's stunning," a sentiment shared by every inductee and voiced by Distinguished Service in Sports Journalism Award winner Ron Higgins. "It was an emotional day when I got the call from (Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame Chairman) Doug Ireland. It was the anniversary of the day my dad died. He was the reason that I got into the business. I was helping him since I was seven years old. Looking over the shoulder of sport's writers and how they wrote stories."

The son of longtime sports information director Ace Higgins, the bug for writing and the "fun part of the unpredictability" of covering sports was cultivated at a young age. Similarly, it was the character traits instilled into New Iberia native and McNeese football great Kerry Joseph at a young age that propelled him to the Hall of Fame.

"My mom was an educator and taught me patience," Joseph said. "My dad pushed me and my brothers to be competitive. We were never going to be outworked. He pushed us every day to be the best and refuse to let the next man take our jobs."

That patience and drive paid off for Josph after engineering a comeback win for the Cowboys early in his redshirt freshman season. He never looked back from earning the starting job, parlaying his success in Lake Charles into an equally as successful playing career in the NFL and the CFL and to his current role on the Chicago Bears' coaching staff.

"My dad helped me build character and perseverance," Joseph said. "I just kept working to be the best that I could be. Every time I was told I couldn't do something, I wanted to prove them wrong. I've held on to the saying, 'never say yes to can't'. It's propelled me to the man I am today."

A multiple time WNBA champion and Olympic Gold winner, Seimone Augustus continued her Hall of Fame year of 2024 on Thursday. She enters the Louisiana Sports Hall following her Women's Basketball Hall of Fame induction in April and prior to her Oc-

tober induction into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame.

"This is the best one," she said. "Being honored by the people that I know and that I love and have watched me since I was knee high. This one means the most because it's home."

Augustus, much like Josph, got her drive, determination and refined her skill set thanks to her father. Helping her with the fundamentals, creating imaginary courts to hone her skills and teaching her how to deal with losses, something she did little of in her career.

He was part of the "village" of Baton Rouge that helped raise her and motivate her, either through cheers or boos, to build the mental fortitude that led to a statue outside LSU's Pete Maravich Assembly Center.

"The first time I saw my dad cry was when I made the 2008 Olympic Team in Beijing," Augustus said. "That was the first goal I had as a basketball player -- to be on the U.S. National Team. When I was a kid, I told him I was going to be on that team one day. So, when I got a chance to put the medal around his neck that was the moment, we did what we said we were going to do."

The fundamentals that helped define Augustus' career are also what lay at the basis of coach Frank Monica's philosophy and style for more than five decades years.

Continued on Page 28...

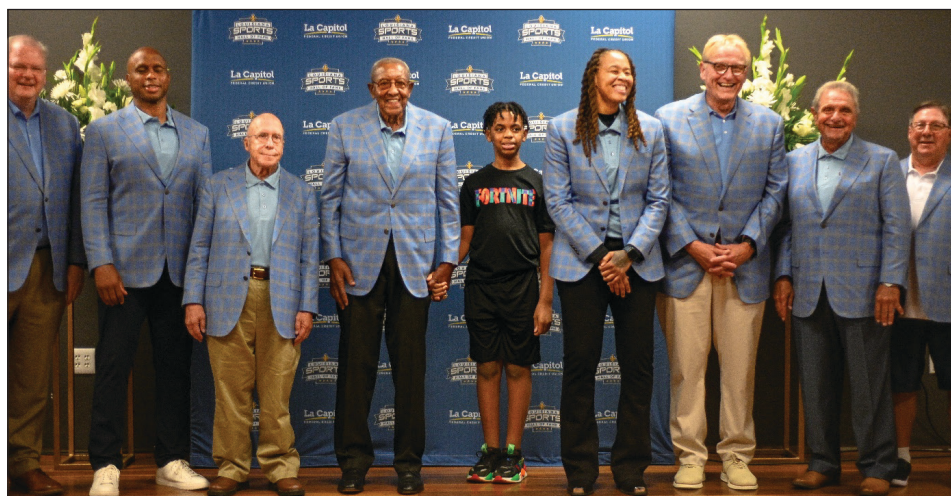


Photo Credit: Bret McCormick

The "WE ELITE AAU BASKETBALL ORGANIZATION" is a Travel Youth Basketball League. The league is comprised of boys and girls teams, ranging in age from 9 to 17. The organization is geared to helping in keeping the kids off the streets by giving them something to do and something to look forward to. They are taught responsibility and sportsmanship, as well as how to treat and get along with others. Some of these kids have no help or support and no one there for them. This organization gives them a feeling of family, love and support. This is a Non-Profit Volunteer Run Organization that operates year-round. The coaches of these teams commit their time and energy to these kids in order to help them and our City and community as a whole.

Because of what these kids have accomplished in their travels to different cities and competitions, they have been invited to participate in the 2024 Prime Time Sports National Basketball Championship in Dallas, Tx. This event is July 24 – 28. These kids have won numerous 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place Trophies and Awards. We are so proud of them and so should you be too.

Because of the costs of travel, lodging, tournament fees and food and other expenses that may arise, we are asking for your help and support in whatever way possible. We need your donations, no matter the amount, to help these kids get there. You say keep the kids off the streets and give the kids something to do, well now is your chance to help.

ANY DONATIONS WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED BY THESE KIDS.

Thanking you in advance for whatever you are willing and able to do.

Coaches: William (Bam) Shields, (354-5594) Organization President; Angel Johnson, Bruce Smith, Sr., Gary Roberson, Shanard Patrick

QUOTES BY RANDY STELLY



"The 4th of July is the Declaration of Independence, not the Declarations of Republicans or Democrats."



Kamela Williams
REGIONAL LEADER
1424 Metro Dr
Alexandria, LA 71301
Office: 318-625-7449
Cell: 318-663-3791



Overspending is usually related to distorted thinking about what you feel you deserve, and/or a disconnect between the buying impulse and actual results of the purchase.

In some cases, overspending may stem from wanting to live a similar lifestyle as others – even though the reality is everyone's financial situation is different. If overspending is a problem for you, here are some tips to rein in the impulse:

Take Some Time Give yourself some time before you buy to ask, "Why do I want to buy this?" Try waiting three days and then see if you still want to buy the item.

Distract Yourself Instead of making a purchase, distract yourself by engaging in another activity, such as reading or exercising – anything other than a money decision.

Try Physical Cash Challenge yourself to spend only cash for a month. Seeing the cash leave your wallet carries more impact than buy-now-pay-later methods like digital wallets, cash apps and credit cards.

IS MONEY MAKING YOU S-T-R-E-S-S-E-D?

More than 65 percent of respondents in a recent poll said money is a significant source of stress for them. If you're in that group, here are some ways to manage:

1. Take financial decisions one at a time
2. Prioritize essential bills
3. Track spending with a budget
4. Keep saving each month
5. Reach out for support



TAKE TIME TO INVEST IN YOURSELF

As the old saying goes – investing in yourself pays the best dividends. Here are some ways:

1. Develop a Hobby – Hobbies can complement your education and increase networking opportunities.
2. Read More – Reading for pleasure is a natural way to reduce stress.
3. Volunteer – Lending your talents and expertise to a volunteer opportunity is a great way to network.
4. Try a Solo Sport – Self-confidence and discipline are benefits of individual sports like swimming, biking, hiking, martial arts, archery, or dancing.



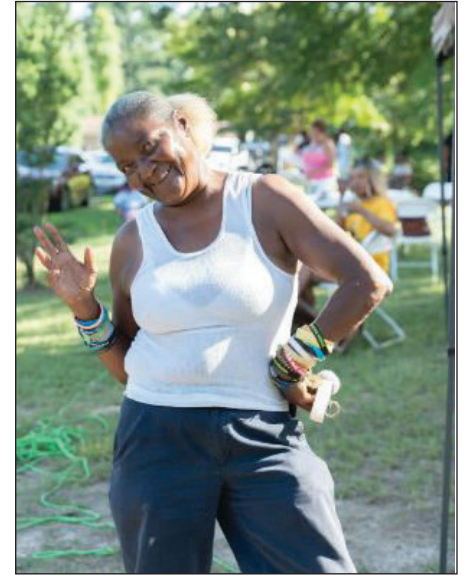
Juneteenth Payne Subdivision Reunion 2024



Photo Credits: Erick Wilson with RTSS Photography



Juneteenth Payne Subdivision Reunion 2024



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for TakeFive Driving Academy



Photo Credits: Natchitoches Chamber of Commerce & TakeFive DA



Community Events

HOSTED BY DIAMONDMADE MINISTRIES
Prophetess Christine Pier





FRIDAY
POWER PACK
PROPHETIC FRIDAY
THEME: I DECIDED TO BE DELIVERED

Time 06:00 PM
Date July 12, 2024

MY FATHER'S HOUSE
1454 Berry Avenue
Natchitoches, LA 71457

PROPHET
JACOBY BRADLEY



PERFORMING LIVE
J PAUL JR
2024 ANNUAL
ZYDECO
FOOD TRUCK

SAT JUNE 29
454 NATCHITOCHES FAIR GROUNDS ROAD
NATCHITOCHES, LA 71457
VISIT KURATORSLA.COM
FOR TICKETS AND MORE INFORMATION





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FOUNDATION

AND

**GOLF
CHRIS**

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COACH DE'S CLOSET:
BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

JULY 27TH, 2024
2PM-5PM

CITY PARK
401 AMULET STREET
NATCHITOCHES, LA

FREE BACKPACKS, UNIFORMS, CLOTHING, SHOES, HYGIENE PRODUCTS, SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND ENTERTAINMENT.

SPONSORS:

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SAT JULY 6TH
5PM-10PM

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Everything
DAY PARTY**

**INDEPENDENCE DAY
WEEKEND**

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\$6 HENNY SHOTS
\$5 STRAWBERRY LEMON DROPS
\$2 TEQUILA SHOTS | \$10 WING PLATES



2024 3D Digital Summer Field School with Jason Church

Jason Church held a two-week field school for Natchitoches high school students, teaching them

digital documentation. The students documented the Ashbury United Methodist Church, Morgan Hotel,

Texas and Pacific Railroad Station, the Prince Hall Masons Lodge, and the ARGO lab in Keyser Hall at

NSU. They learned to process the collected data and presented their work at the Sports Hall of Fame.



Photo Credits: National Center for Preservation Technology & Training



2024 3D Digital Summer Field School with Jason Church



Photo Credits: National Center for Preservation Technology & Training



**LUNCHTIME LAGNIAPPE:
TALES FROM THE 2024 3D
DIGITAL SUMMER FIELD
SCHOOL WITH JASON
CHURCH**

Date: June 21, 2024
Time: 12:15-12:45pm
Free and open to the public

Visitors are welcome to
bring their lunch and eat
during the presentation.

LOUISIANA SPORTS
HALL OF FAME &
NORTHWEST LOUISIANA
HISTORY MUSEUM
800 Front Street
Natchitoches, LA 71457



During the 2024 NCPTT/NSU 3D Digital Summer Field School, nine Natchitoches Parish high school students spent two weeks in the Jackson Square neighborhood of Natchitoches learning to digitally record historic buildings.

They have documented the Asbury United Methodist Church, Morgan Hotel, and the Texas and Pacific Railroad Depot. Come and hear about the students' adventures learning their local history, flying drones, and making 3D digital models.

Please visit our FLASH Facebook page or call (318) 357-2492 for more information.

Members of the 2024 Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame

Continued from page 20...

"I never got into coaching worried about awards," Monica said. "I got into it to teach fundamentals and techniques. The game of football has changed a lot in my time, but the values haven't. Discipline is discipline and it all comes back to blocking and tackling. I try and teach these kids the importance of the little things. Make the little things matter and the big things will take care of themselves."

That philosophy and work ethic has helped Monica to the most wins (284) by a head coach in River Parishes history and three state titles at three different schools. Monica also spent 12 years spent as an assistant at Tulane, where he credited the talent in the state and the emphasis put on recruiting local talent, that helped change the program.

That talent across the state that continues to produce some of the most elite athletes in the nation, were some of the same ones that left an impact on a Washington D.C. transplant in coach Perry Clark.

Clark helped resurrect a Green Wave program and took it to three NCAA Tournaments in four seasons and seven trips to the postseason in 11 seasons.

"This state has the most unique people," Clark said. "If you love people in Louisiana, they will love you back. They will give you their heart and soul and that's what

makes them and this so special. Ron (Higgins) befriended me and helped me understand how important basketball was in this state.

"And I wouldn't be here today if it were not for (1999 LA Sports Hall of Fame Inductee) Dale Brown. He helped raise the quality of the game in the state. Because of the culture and because of the people here, it made you raise your game to that next level."

While Clark offered due credit to a coaching legend, the latest acclaimed coach to enter the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame had his own illustrious list of mentors and staples of the athletic community that impacted his career.

The recipient of this year's Ambassador Award, coach Wilbert Ellis spent 30 years as the head coach of Grambling baseball and is recognized as one of the finest representatives of college baseball.

A trusted advisor for countless coaches and administrators, Ellis reflected on those that he learned from and now join in the state's most elite sports group.

"Eddie Robinson would say don't cry," Ellis joked. "It's pretty hard not to but I think I'm alright. I've been honored to go into a few of these but when you think about it being your own state it's something to be proud of.

"I knew I wanted to be a coach from the time I was nine. I just wanted to form a group and see what we could do to win some games. My dad said you might win ball games, but can you win

lives. And thankfully through the grace of God we've been able to do that."

Ellis offered credit to Fredrick Hobdy and Ralph Waldo Emerson Jones, two more pillars of Grambling, for being mentors and guides through his career and life.

Tom Burnett, the Dave Dixon Sport's Leadership Award winner, equally reflected on the people in his life going back to his time at Louisiana Tech that led him to his role as commissioner of the Southland Conference and on the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament committee.

"Louisiana is home to me," Burnett said. "The Hall itself is special and even more so because of people like Jerry Pierce (2000 Distinguished Service Award Inductee). You think of people like Teddy Allen, Ro Brown and of course Dave Dixon, it's truly an honor to be here. To be mentioned in the same breath as him, it's overwhelming."

It was Hall of Fame Louisiana Tech sports information director Keith Price that helped the "meandering student" into his path to commissioner, igniting a light bulb that exploded into a successful career. Craig Thompson introduced him to the sports world of New Orleans and Wright Waters, longtime Sun Belt commissioner, polished Burnett into a 20-year stint leading the Southland Conference.

Burnett's connection to Pierce was one also felt by the other

recipient of the Distinguished Service Award in Bobby Ardoin.

"I had a few choices for journalism school but when I visited Northwestern State and met Jerry Pierce, that's where I wanted to go," Ardoin said. "I met Rick Woodson about a year later or so and I knew that sport's writing was what I wanted to do."

Ardoin, a baseball player growing up, covered the gamut of sports while working at the Opelousas Daily World, including fellow 2024 inductee jockey Ray Sibille at nearby Evangeline Downs, all while teaching full time.

"I never started out wanting to be a teacher," Ardoin said. "I was working on my masters and wanted to get married, so it was kind of a survival tactic. But it was great to be with the kids every day."

One of the many athletes Ardoin has written about in his illustrious career, Sibille and his more than 4,000 career wins and \$68 million won across the country in 35 years of racing on horseback, enter the Hall of Fame at the exact right time, without need of a photo finish.

"The call came at the right time for me," Sibille said. "I thought there might be a chance I would get in a few years ago but then my grandkids wouldn't have been able to come, some of them wouldn't have even been born yet either. So, to have them here with me now and get to experience all this with me is special."

The Ultimate Test

By: Author and Minister,
Bonita G Moses Arnold

It's truly remarkable how we can feel so consumed by life's physical challenges, such as medical exams, academic courses, or job promotions. Yet, we often overlook the fact that we are constantly undergoing spiritual tests, every second, every minute, every hour, every week, every month, throughout the years, come what may.



Some of the most difficult situations we encounter in life are actually "only a test." God tests us only to develop us spiritually and make us more like him. We're the potter, and he is the clay, and the clay molds us, reshaping us each time we fall short, repent, and surrender to him.

Think about it...

Life is a test. The way we live, the way we give, and the services that we offer unto others and the Lord. The Apostle Peter explains the tests we encounter better in 1 Peter 1: 6&7. "God tests us to do good and to cause us to stand, to make our faith strong and pure."

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734 HIGHWAY 485 NATCHITOCHES (POWHATAN), LA 71457
PASTOR WILLIAM B. ROBERSON, BISHOP

"This is the Lord's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes." (Psalm 118:23)

New Beginnings Baptist Church #2

1st Annual Men's Conference

Elder Alfred J. Houston, Pastor
Theme: "Kingdom Men Rise and Recover it All!"


1 Samuel 30: 8

Saturday July 27, 2024
Starting @ 9:00a.m.

Location: Restoration Apostolic Ministries
175 Fairgrounds Rd. Natchitoches, La. 71457

Registration Fee: \$10 per person


Session I: Pastor Brian Small
Goodwill Baptist Church Natchitoches, La.
Topic: "What Is a Kingdom Man?"



Session II: Pastor Thomas Carter
First Baptist Amulet Natchitoches, La.
Topic: "Kingdom Man Rise Up"



Closing Session Keynote Speaker
Pastor Tyrone Malveaux
Ministry Unlimited Alexandria, La.
&
Saint Davis Baptist Church Cloutierville, La.





Hosted by Elder Alfred & Lady Janice Houston

NRMC Walk in Clinic Celebrates 10 Years of Service



Photo Credits: Natchitoches Regional Medical Center

A large graphic of the number '10' is the central focus. Inside the '1' and '0' are various small photographs of diverse patients and healthcare staff. To the right of the '10' is a large purple exclamation mark.

Years of Always Caring

NRMC Walk-In Clinic is celebrating 10 years of caring for our community.

What started in 2014 to improve our community's health has grown into so much more. Each and every year, we have raised the bar for ourselves to continually ensure consistent, high-quality care for our patients. From minor illnesses and injuries, to laboratory services and primary care, we have helped thousands of patients get back to living active lives. When you need immediate care for minor illnesses and injuries, there is only one team to choose - the team that is and has always cared about you and your families' needs -- NRMC Walk-In Clinic.

The logo for NRMC Walk-In Clinic, featuring the letters 'NRMC' in a large, serif font, with a small cross symbol below it, and 'Walk-In Clinic' in a smaller, sans-serif font below that.

A circular logo with the number '10' in the center, 'YEARS' written below it, and '2014-2024' written around the top inner edge of the circle.

Scan for more information.

A square QR code located to the right of the text 'Scan for more information.'

Always Caring

Football -- Demons Announce Addition of Six Division I Transfers

NATCHITOCHES – The Northwestern State football team's roster makeover has been ongoing since first-year head coach Blaine McCorkle arrived in late November.

It has hit a different gear this summer as the Demons announced the addition of six Division I transfers Friday.

A trio of defensive linemen – Atravon Bossier of Texas Southern, UL Lafayette's Cam George and Stetson's Tyler Lewis – are joined by offensive lineman Caleb Billiot (Louisiana Tech) and wide receivers John Barr (ULM) and Kody Finley (Southeastern), helping the Demons build depth at a variety of positions.

"I am really excited to add these six young men to our program," McCorkle said. "They all fit some very specific positional needs. It is no secret that our numbers were low in the spring on both sides of the line of scrimmage and adding four older big bodies, combined with high school guys coming in, will put our numbers about where they need to be on both the offensive and defensive lines. The addition of two long, tall wide receivers was also a need. We feel good about our receiving core as a whole, but we did need to add some size, and John and Kody both fit that mold. All of these guys will have a chance to make an impact on the field, but all are also the type of men we need to help continue building a strong culture in the locker room. They all six are high achieving students in the classroom and are of great character, and we are proud to welcome them to our NSU football family."

Bossier, a 6-foot-3, 280-pound Lafayette native, comes to Northwestern State following three seasons at Texas Southern. A three-year letterman for the Tigers, Bossier appeared in 16 games, recording 29 tackles in his career. His most productive season came in 2022 when he collected 21 tackles (1.5 for loss).

His Texas Southern career followed a 49-5 career at Acadiana High School where Bossier helped the Wreckin' Rams win a pair of state championships, including the 2020 state crown at NSU's Turpin Stadium. A second-team all-district pick, Bossier was teammates at Acadiana with George.



George, a 6-2, 245-pounder, spent three seasons at his hometown university. He had a tackle and a quarterback hurry in the 2023 season.

A two-year letterman at Acadiana, George was the No. 65 overall prospect in Louisiana according to 247Sports.com after earning LHSAA Class 5A Defensive MVP honors as a senior, helping the Wreckin' Rams defend their state championship.

As a senior, George recorded 12 sacks and had 22 in his high school career. In his junior season, George collected 53 tackles (17 for loss), 10 quarterback hurries and three fumble recoveries for the state champions.

Lewis rounds out the new additions in the defensive trenches.

Lewis (6-1, 295) spent four seasons at Stetson, enjoying the best season of his career in 2023 when he tallied 28 tackles (1 for loss) and a half sack. He set a single-game, career-high with seven tackles against Valparaiso on Nov. 4, 2023. Lewis was a three-time Pioneer Football League Academic Honor Roll awardee and was named honorable mention All-PFL in 2022, recording 22 tackles and 1.5 sacks.

Offensively, the Demons added Billiot (6-2, 295) from state rival Louisiana Tech.

Billiot spent three seasons at Louisiana Tech and was a two-time member of the Conference USA Commissioner's Honor Roll. A Houma native, Billiot played his

high school ball at Terrebonne High School where he graduated with a 3.98 GPA.

Joining Billiot in the Demons' offensive additions are Barr, who comes to Natchitoches from ULM after one season, and Finley, an intraconference transfer.

Prior to college, Barr – a 6-3, 191-pound receiver – enjoyed a standout career at Sterlington High School near Monroe. In his final three seasons with the Panthers, Barr caught 57 passes for 1,516 yards and 23 touchdowns.

Barr earned Louisiana Sports Writers Association Class 3A All-State honors as a senior, catching 19 passes for 340 yards and seven touchdowns. A year earlier, Barr was an honorable mention all-state selection after catching 25 passes for 890 yards and 12 touchdowns for a Sterlington team that went undefeated and captured the state championship.

Finley is another tall receiver, standing 6-5. He spent two seasons at Southeastern, appearing in two games.

Prior to college, Finley played high school football at Ponchatoula where he hauled in 112 receptions for 1,685 yards and 16 career touchdowns while holding down a 3.5 grade point average.



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