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The Real Views



Nov 29, 2024 Natchitoches Parish Vol 22 Issue 11

Miss Merry Christmas 2024 “Layla Johnson”

NATCHITOCHES, LA — The 68th Miss Merry Christmas, Layla Johnson, was crowned on September 8, 2024. She is the second African American to hold this title in the City of Natchitoches. Layla shares with our readers a more personal look at who she is.

Hello! My name is Layla Johnson, proud daughter of Michael and Latricia Johnson. I admire Halle Bailey as my role model for her talent and resilience. I have three wonderful siblings: Michael Jr., Marcus, and Maleek. I aspire to become a pharmacist, driven by my passion for helping others. In my free time, I enjoy hanging out with friends and exploring new experiences. At school, I'm actively involved in various organizations, including Beta Club, National Honor Society, the African American History Club, Activate, FFA, PBIS, Chief Council, and I also serve as the Varsity Cheer captain. I am dedicated to giving back to my community through volunteer efforts, such as working at nursing homes, par-



ticipating in community clean-up initiatives, and supporting Operation Christmas Child.

As one of the few African American Miss Merry Christmas titleholders, my advice to younger girls aspiring to follow in my footsteps is to take the leap and go for it. You'll never know what you're truly capable of until you

step outside your comfort zone and take that chance. Remember, you won't know the outcome until you try! Additionally, hold yourself to high standards, stay true to who you are, and strive to be the positive impact you wish to see. Remember that people are always watching, whether they show it or not, so lead by exam-

ple and inspire others along the way. Embrace your journey!

Three important traits I value are adaptability, approachability, and charisma.

Commit your work to the Lord, and yours plans will be established... **Proverbs 16:3**

MORE PICTURES OF LAYLA ON PAGE 2...

Miss Merry Christmas Layla Johnson



The Real Views

Latoria Freeman, Publisher
P.O. Box 1082
Natchitoches, La 71458

Phone: (318) 354-7712
Email: support@trvnatchitoches.com

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Analyzing the 2024 Presidential Election

By: Marvin Blake Jr.

On election night, I turned in early because it did not take long to realize that Kamala Harris would lose, and that Donald Trump would be the 47th president of the United States. Since the election, there are some who believe that race played a part in Donald Trump's victory. My response was maybe, but there are variables that came into play/

To begin, I personally felt that when the democratic establishment literally pushed Joe Biden out of the race last summer and by proclamation choose Kamala Harris. I felt at the time that there could possibly be some backlash with some of Joe Biden's core supporters possibly sitting on Kamala Harris in November. Next, some may disagree, but I feel that just like with Hillary Clinton there were men, both black and white who will not under any circumstance vote for a female for president. Then when the Kamala Harris made her pick for vice president, I had no doubt that her choice would be Josh Shapiro, the popular

Governor of Pennsylvania who could add to the ticket and help secure his state. Nothing against the Minnesota governor, I just did not feel that he could help Kamala Harris become president.

Listening to James Carville, the democratic strategist who managed Bill Clinton 1992 and 1996 successful presidential campaigns recently said that the reason that he could help Bill Clinton win was that they had a personal connection and relationship. He went on say that he although he liked president Obama, he could not have helped President Obama the way he did for Bill Clinton because they had no personal connection. He finished by saying that one condition that Joe Biden had when dropped out the race, was for Kamala Harris to keep the campaign staff that he had in place. Carville's point was that the staff was connected to Biden, not Kamala Harris and that her message was a Joe Biden message.

In addition, being truthful, many Americans both

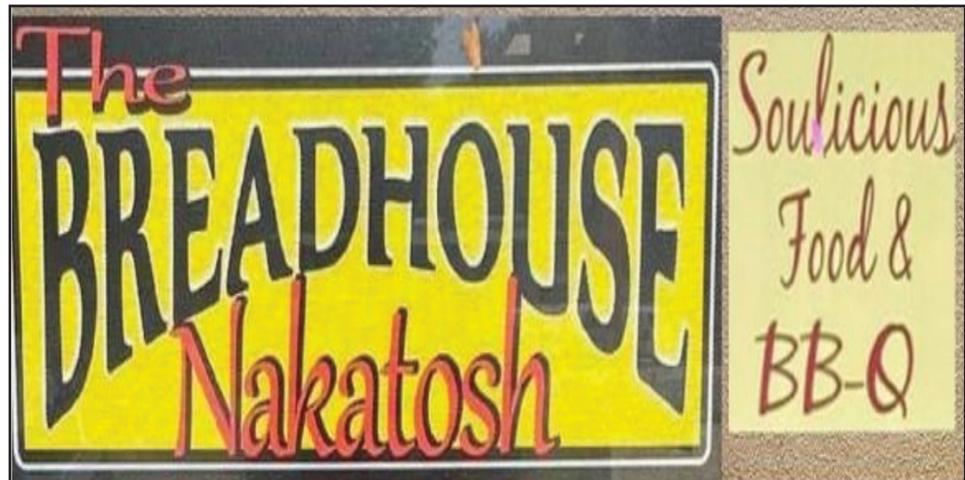


black and white are not totally in sync with many views that the democratic party have and support. Finally, just like in 2020 where Covid hurt Donald Trump, the extremely high grocery prices cost Kamala Harris many votes on November 5, 2024.

Finally, within days of the presidential election, TV Pundits were already handicapping who would be the 2028 Democratic Nom-
inee.

At the top were two states that Kamala lost that had democratic governors who many say wanted to be president themselves in Josh Shapiro of Pennsylvania and Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer. I am not saying they did not truly help Kamala Harris, but former President Bill Clinton once said that **"if you're looking for a friend in politics, go find yourself a dog".**

That's My View!



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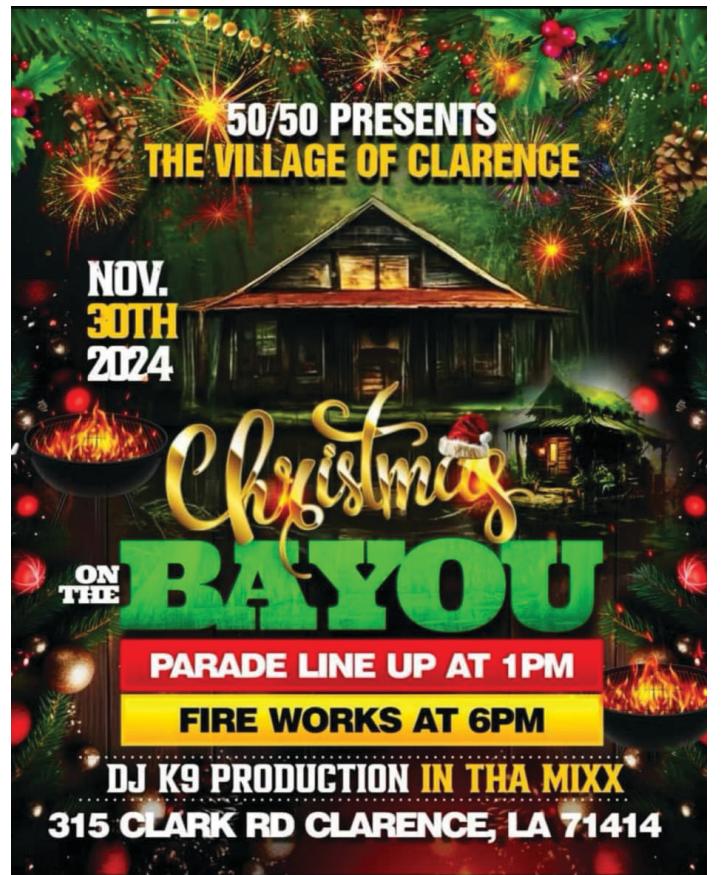
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Thanksgiving Basket Giveaway



Members of Cane River Branch of Magnolia State Peace Officers Association and Theta Chi Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Of NSU teamed up to provide Thanksgiving boxes to families in need in the city and parish of Natchitoches. With the assistance from the local Walmart the families were able to receive boxes packed with a turkey and all the trimmings needed to prepare a nutritious Thanksgiving meal. The boxes were delivered on Wednesday, November 20th by members of Magnolia State Peace Officers and members of Theta Chi. Magnolia State Peace Officers is a non-profit organization founded in 1956. The organization is dedicated to strengthening relationships between law enforcement and the community. We extend our deepest gratitude to Walmart and Theta Chi Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha for their support in providing a thanksgiving meal to those less fortunate.





BOM Gives Back to the Community



NATCHITOCHES:
BOM donated Thanksgiving food items to Monica Evans for her 3rd annual Holiday Drive. The drive took place at Evans Hill on Saturday, November 23. Turkeys, hams, canned goods, and other Thanksgiving essentials were available for families in need.



Welcome! Elizabeth Greely

BOM Financial Services would like to welcome Elizabeth Greely as an Administrative Assistant. Elizabeth is married to John Greely and she has a son, Alex, and a daughter, Maddie. She enjoys spending time with her family & friends, as well as cheering on her kids in baseball & volleyball.

Welcome to BOMFS, Elizabeth!



BOM donated to the Natchitoches Magnet basketball team to help them with team uniforms.



Don't forget those grieving for the Holidays!

By: La'Quinta Scott-Favors

Remember those who lost a loved one during the holidays. When we look at grief, the first thing that comes to the mind of many is that they will show their emotions on their shoulders, or they will break down in front of others. However, we must look again. Grief has come in many different stages this year alone. Pay attention to those constantly trying to be strong, those who become angry out of the blue, and those who say too much in the least number of words. I know so many frown upon counseling, but I encourage them to get professional counseling! Yes, many will go out of town first, but we have an amazing woman of God who is here and isn't judgmental! Elder Mrs. Brenda Sarpy owns At His Feet Christian Counseling Service LLC! Her license is through the National

Christian Counseling Association. Her counseling is biblically based. However, if you want something else, depending on what you are looking for, she can send referrals to appropriate professionals as needed! Call for an appointment today at 318-663-4272 or email her at Brendasarpy@icloud.com. I promise you will not be disappointed at all. She is a safe place for many. Switch it, send those who are grieving a message once a week, love them but love them through honesty, encourage them to accomplish everything that's ahead of them with their loved one in mind, and pray for them! Cover them from the top of their heads down to the soles of their feet! Pray for their sleep pattern; pray that they get more than sleep but gain rest through this daily walk. Pray for the depression that's going to sneak



up, but mostly, pray for their hearts and the posture of their hearts. Grief is a terrible thing that many do not recover from but are sustained! They know they must continue to push forward because their loved ones will want them to! The best thing we can do for those who are going through grief is not to allow our emotions

to overshadow theirs. It's normal for them to feel angry, sad, frustrated, confused, and uncertain on their journey! We can't always place ourselves in their shoes, but we can be the reason their feet don't become sore during this transition by listening to them express their grief without judging them! Being genuine will always be remembered and appreciated!

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Mental Health

By: Nikki Madison

Mental illness affects both adults and children. People struggling with their mental health may be closer to you than you think. Like your family members, colleagues or even the people that live right next to you. Out of all those people very few receive treatment. It's okay not to be okay. Society makes us feel that if you struggle with a form of mental illness, that asking for help is sometimes frowned upon. But it should really be encouraged. Usually when mental health goes untreated or unnoticed, that can contribute to many things such as increased risk of suicide, unable to function in a social setting



and even children performing poorly in class with their peers.

Mental illness can be genetic, or it can be caused by emotions or behavior that make it almost impossible to cope with everyday life. In some instances, people may have experienced trauma and tried to block it out. But in most of those cases it can cause them to struggle with mental health issues. Holding things inside can only make matters worse. Seek out professional help or even get more involved in church or organizations that may offer programs that help with mental health crisis. Most all mental health cases are treatable. And with treatment we can live healthy and successful lives. You can start with self-care and accountability if you or know of someone that may have mental health issues. By encouraging others to seek



**This Thanksgiving, eat right
for your mental health**

help, or just by being there for someone when they need you will make a difference to someone that may have mental health issues. Showing them that you care can make a major difference in their lives. So, look for signs,

ask questions and look for behavior patterns. This is the first step in showing someone that you care about their well-being. You can change a person's life for the better by getting them the help they deserve.

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Scenes from The Get Us Justice March and Rally

Contributors: City of Natchitoches (Mayor Ronnie Williams), Earnest and Sadie Sawyer, Natchitoches Coalition on Homelessness, Merci Beau Coup (Ron and Sara Corken), RTSS Photography (Erick Wilson)



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Courage to Do the Things I Can

By: Herbert de Launay

In the Serenity Prayer we pray: "God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference." As I get older, I appreciate the wisdom and simplicity of this prayer more and more.

I can apply this to the recent election. Some people have trouble accepting election results. We saw an example of that four years ago.

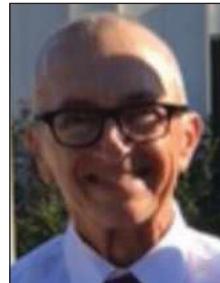
Consider our presidential elections, and all the promises politicians make, and all the unrealistic hopes, expectations, and even fears that we place on them.

It reminds me of the people's request for a king in 1 Samuel 8. Perhaps we think that if we just had the right leader, the right president, or governor, or mayor, then all our problems would be solved. Samuel tries to warn the people that having a king was not going to solve their problems. Sometimes a king or president or governor can create as many problems as they solve.

But the people insisted that they needed a king. And so, they got a king. But problems continued. Then another king came in, and then another and another.

Psychologists and sociologists talk about self-efficacy. Am I in charge of my life? Do I control things in my life, or am I merely a victim?

Of course, the answer is a little of both. That is why the Serenity



Prayer is so helpful. It reminds me to look at things, sort things out, and pray for God's guidance and strength.

There are things I cannot personally control, such as grocery prices and inflation. I cannot control the weather and things like the hurricanes and floods that have struck the past several months. But people can respond heroically to help their neighbors, as many have done.

I am reminded of Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10. We may not have control over the situations we encounter or the events around us. But we can control our reactions and responses. The priest and Levite in the story walked by on the other side of the road. Maybe they thought to themselves that we need more laws or better law enforcement. But the Good Samaritan stopped to help. He used his own time and resources and personally helped.

Do we have self-efficacy or are we victims? Often the problem is in our attitudes. Do I blame my problems on others? Some politicians blame immigrants and foreign countries. They say we need to deport immigrants, build a border wall, and raise tariffs. Of course, in all fairness, the opposing political groups have just as many false ideas and issues.

Consider Jesus. Even on the cross he could bring salvation to the thief dying on the cross next to him (Luke 24:43). Consider Paul and Silas in Acts 16. They were

thrown into prison, and that night they baptized the jailer.

So, we can go back to the wisdom of the Serenity Prayer. I may be in a difficult situation. So, I need to distinguish between what I need to accept and what I can change or do. I need to pray for acceptance, insight and wisdom, and courage and strength.

I am also reminded that God's ways are not our ways (Isaiah 55:8-9). This morning, I read Luke 19:1-10. Jesus went to the house of Zacchaeus. The people complained that Zacchaeus was a sinner. Perhaps he was. But Jesus blessed Zacchaeus and brought him salvation.

Similarly, God loves those we

demonize, those we look down on. God loves immigrants, legal and illegal. God loves poor and rich. God loves Democrats and Republicans. God loves Ukrainians and Russians. God loves you and me. God loves everyone and everything God made (Wisdom 11:24-26). God said that everything God made is very good (Genesis 1:31).

So, what are we going to do? I need to look at myself, my family and community, and the world. I need to accept some things. But there are things I can work on. I pray for wisdom, guidance, acceptance, courage and strength. There is work to do. Take a deep breath, say a prayer, and get started.

Thank you!

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Coach De's Closet: Winter Edition





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NSU Students and Mu Omega Zeta Chapter volunteered with The Natchitoches Coalition on Homelessness at their monthly “Share a Meal” function.



Are you at risk of or have you been diagnosed with type 2 diabetes?

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Invite a friend or family member for support and sign up at: bit.ly/RealViewDiabetes

Class starts in January!

If you are at risk of type 2 diabetes, our Diabetes Prevention Program can help you prevent or delay diabetes and learn to:

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Class starts in Spring!

New Beginning Baptist Church #2

815 5th Street Natchitoches, La. 71457

"Mailing Address 107 South Drive Box 125 Natchitoches, La. 71457"

Greetings in Christ!

We trust that you are enjoying the blessings of God.

We are excited about what God is doing here at New Beginning Baptist Church.

We are looking forward to all that God has for us in the future as we continue to look

to him for guidance and wisdom.

We want to take this opportunity to invite you and your Church family to our 9th Year Anniversary Service on Sunday, December 8, 2024, at 2:00 p.m.

Theme: The Church Sustained by God.
Scripture: Isaiah 28:16, "Therefore thus

saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste."

The guest for this occasion will be Pastor Tyrone Malveaux and the St. Davis Baptist Church, Cloutierville, La.

We thank you in advance for your prayers and participation on this occasion. We hope to see you there.

Yours in Christ.

Elder Alfred J. Houston, Pastor
And The New Beginning Baptist Church Family.

"Kick-off" Krewe of the 9 - 2024 Toy Drive is off to a great start!!!!



In connection with Community Partners: Natchitoches Leadership Through Athletics Committee, Ben D. Johnson Education Center, Emanuel Temple Masonic Lodge #141 and Omega Psi Fraternity, Inc. Theta Delta Chapter, NSU Krewe of the 9 has already received some great toys BUT needs more!!!! New unwrapped toys can be dropped off to Legacy Cafe' (Tuesday through Saturday 7:30- 3:00) for children ages 0 to 10 years old!!!! Let's make this Christmas special for the children in our community!! ... Everyone is welcome to drop off a toy!

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Actively Involved in the Community

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority incorporated has always been dedicated to social action. As we approached the election, the Natchitoches Alumnae Chapter has been actively involved in our community. We have made it a priority to help

register local high school seniors, ensuring they are able to vote. In addition, we partnered with the local Divine 9 organizations to participate in a "Stroll to the Polls" event. Following that, several Sorors attended the Red River

Junior High Fall Carnival, encouraging community members to head out and vote. Lastly, we collaborated with the Legacy Café, run by Mrs. Karen Wallace, to provide free hamburger lunches to those who voted in the election.



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Community Events



Louisiana's harsher new sentencing laws are in effect

Louisiana's tougher new sentencing laws are now in effect. These new laws apply to all offenses committed on or after August 1, 2024. The new laws will significantly lengthen jail time for all offenses across the board.

Under prior law, persons sentenced to prison for nonviolent offenses (such as drug possession or theft) typically served about 35% of their sentences (with other adjustments based on their participation in rehabilitative classes). The part of the sentence that is not served is generally known as "good time." In addition to this "good time" credit, many persons may also earn "CTRP credit" for taking CTRP courses in jail—if they are fortunate enough to be housed in a jail where those courses are offered ("Certified Treatment and Rehabilitative Programs"). **Under the new law, persons sentenced for nonviolent offenses will serve about 85% of their sentences.** Also, under the new law, persons will no longer receive "good time" credit for pretrial jail time (meaning the time between arrest and conviction).

Here are some examples of the changes:

Nonviolent Offenses

Old Law: Nonviolent Offense—Felony Theft; 1-Year of Pretrial Jail Time; 10-Year Sentence

10 years x 35% - 1 year jail credit – 360 days CTRP credit = 1.5 years projected "Good Time Release Date."

New Law: Nonviolent Offense—Felony Theft; 1-Year of Pretrial Jail Time; 10-Year Sentence

(10 years – 1 year jail credit) x 85% – 360 days CTRP credit = 6.65 years projected "Good Time Release Date."

Violent Offenses (First Offense)

Old Law: Violent Offense—Armed Robbery; 1-Year of Pretrial Jail Time; 20-Year Sentence

20 years x 75% - 1 year jail credit – 360 days CTRP credit = 13 years projected

"Good Time Release Date."

New Law: Violent Offense—Armed Robbery; 1-Year of Pretrial Jail Time; 20-Year Sentence

(20 years – 1 year jail credit) x 85% – 360 days CTRP credit = 15.15 years projected "Good Time Release Date." (Note: all of these formulas were provided by Continuing Legal Education Seminars for general information only; these are not intended as precise calculations for any particular sentence or person, and should not be used as such. The rules are complex, and only the Department of Corrections can provide final calculations for a particular person or situation.)

Here are some other things to know:

1. According to the Prison Policy Initiative, Louisiana incarcerates 1067 per 100,000 people, the highest rate internationally. The United States average rate is 614 per 100,000. The next closest country is the United Kingdom, at 144 per 100,000. (See <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/global/2024.html>; other statisticians provide slightly different results, and the results vary depending on the year selected; for instance, see also, www.vera.org).

2. Over 40% of the people in jail in Louisiana are being held "pretrial," meaning prior to conviction. (See <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/profiles/LA.html> (Statistics vary depending on source). Louisiana's pretrial incarceration rate has been called the highest of any state. (See <https://www.laaclu.org/en/publications/justice-cant-wait-indictment-louisianas-pretrial-system>)

3. Many persons who are in jail "pretrial" are persons who simply cannot afford to make bail, even though they have been arrested for nonviolent offenses.

Here are some other things to think about:

People in jail include a lot of young

mothers who are there for drug offenses, who cannot make bail, and who have children at home that depend on them. In addition, people in jail include a lot of men and women who are supporting their families, including their own children, and sometimes their elderly parents and other family members. Once someone is in jail—and particularly if they are there after having previously been placed on probation (often for drug use or some other nonviolent offense)—it is almost impossible to get them out quickly. While they remain in jail, their families fall apart, their children become distraught (and are sometimes placed in State custody), and they typically lose their jobs, and sometimes their homes (whether they own or rent), and everything else. Drug habits are hard to kick. Anyone who has ever kicked any kind of habit knows that this is true. But while drug

use—including now even marijuana use—is legal if one obtains the proper prescriptions, *illegal* drug use (even for an addict) can land someone quickly in jail, and then their whole world—and the world of their children and other family members—quickly falls apart. Think about these people as Christmas time approaches. They need help.

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 Sabine Parish. He formerly served as a public defender for Natchitoches Parish, Red River Parish, and Rapides 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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J. Chris Guillet, Attorney at Law

2nd Annual Mu Omega Zeta Chapter Sneaker Ball Scholarship Fundraiser

Join us for a fun-filled evening at the Knights of Columbus -1105 East 5th Street in Natchitoches, LA, USA. Lace up your favorite sneakers and get ready to dance the night away for a great cause! Our Sneaker Ball Scholarship Fundraiser is an in-person event that aims to raise funds for scholarships. It's a BYOB affair. Tickets are \$30 per person and \$240 for a table of 8. There will be a Split the Pot Raffle as well as a Best of Contest. Music is by Rob Real.

So, put on your most stylish sneakers and come support our mission to provide educational opportunities for deserving students. Don't miss out on this exciting event!

Tickets can be purchased online at:

[Bit.ly/2024mozsb](https://bit.ly/2024mozsb), Eventbrite or by contacting communications. muomgzeta@gmail.com

Get your tickets today. This event sells out.



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Never Lose Hope

**By: Evangelist and author,
Bonita Moses Arnold**

Let us be mindful how we handle smaller things, those who are less fortunate than we are.

There is still hope for them. When I was born reigning 4 oz.

The mud-wife instructed my mother, Elena Moses, & my grandmother, Georgina "Mama Shug" Moses to put me in a shoe box saying, "There is no hope, she's too tiny, she has pneumonia". But because of the faith they had in our Lord & Saviour, Jesus Christ, they knew



there was hope. Just as God made promises to Abraham in Hebrews 6:14-15 KJV. "Saying, surely blessing I will bless thee, & multiplying I will multiply thee". 15). "And so after he had patiently endured, he over as ones the promise".

So, as it was given to Abraham, it was also given to his seeds, myself, because of the hope my mother and MSMs Shug had. That's how I've grown spiritually in believing in God, through his son Jesus, that whatsoever I ask in Jesus' name, believe it, & I will receive it.



Mama Shug would always say...

" If you catch a person hating on you, it's not you that is the problem. The problem lies within themselves."

It's out of the abundance of the heart that the mouth speaks.
Luke 6:45 KJV

6:30 PM

Tuesday
DECEMBER
10TH

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THE COLOR OF MY SKIN
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NATCHITOCHES, LOUISIANA

The Natchitoches Krewe of Excellence Hosted Their 20th Anniversary & Founder's Day at Onyx Wine & Cigar Lounge



Founding Members
Top row: Henry Berryman, John Thompson, Charlie Davis, Melvin Holmes, Cloyd Benjamin Jr., Ronald Helaire

Bottom row: Barbara Thompson, Doretha Hooper, Brenda Sowell, Betty Smith, Sandra Williams, Nell Lebrum
Not pictured: J. D. Oliphant

Photo Credits: Amber Holmes





More Than A "Turkey" Day

By: Author Shelia Renee Pierre

This is a wonderful time of the year for family and friends to link up and enjoy one another. Some people will be traveling for hours, in lots of traffic, just to spend time together. Thanksgiving Day may be the first holiday of the year they're able to share some time together. Whether they watch football, movies, parades, do some shopping or feast upon different foods, this will be a joyous occasion. All of those things are great, but we must not lose focus of what Thanksgiving really means: Being Grateful to God for everything and everyone we love.

Thanksgiving has a long history of harvest festivals celebrated between Native Americans and Pilgrims. A group of people fleeing religious perse-

cution sail to North America and settle on the Plymouth Rock. In 1621, after a hard winter, The Wampanoag people helped the pilgrims survive their first winter, taught them how to cultivate crops and hunt local wildlife. Many years later, in 1863, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national Thanksgiving Day to be held each November. The holiday's date was changed to the fourth Thursday in November in 1942. (Google search).

In the Old and New Testament, Thanksgiving emphasizes gratitude and Praise to God for His many blessings. "Give Thanks in all circumstances; for this is the Will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18) We are to glorify God in the good



times and in the midst of trials and tribulations. Every day is a day of Thanksgiving, for the blessings of the year and the years behind us. We should consistently speak prayers of gratitude for our lives, health, family, friends, shelter and for all things God provides.

On this day of Thanks, reach out to others who may be going through a difficult time. Make time to visit someone in the hospital, nursing home or jail. Check on your "quiet and strong" friends. We never know what people are going through behind closed doors. Make some phone calls. This time of the year can be hard and emotional for some people. Our voices and presence can do a lot of good. The truth is, we all

need love and encouragement.

Lord, Thank You for the day you have made. We rejoice and we're glad in it. You are worthy to be praised for everything you have done, is doing and will do. Thank You for all the things money can't buy--your love, strength, comfort, healing, your faithfulness, grace, mercy, forgiveness, being a lifter of our heads, our peace in a messy world. We Thank you for our family, friends, our pastors, church family, coworkers and everyone you unite us with. We Praise You and give you all the Glory! In Jesus Name, AMEN.

"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name."

(Psalm 100:4 KJV)

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CAREER FAIR

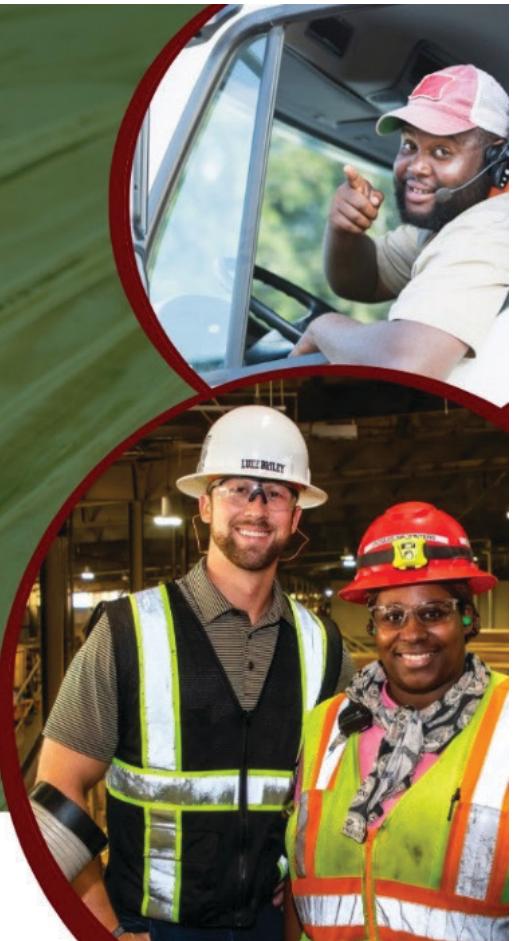
WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 11

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3:00 & 5:30 PM

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Natchitoches Veterans Day Program

Photo Credits: RTSS Photography, Erick Wilson



Northwestern State University Restarts its Rodeo Team

Rodeo team active again at NSU after two-decade absence

NATCHITOCHES – Northwestern State University has restarted its rodeo team after a hiatus of more than 20 years.

According to team advisor Professor of Educational Psychology Dr. Michelle Morris, alumni of the program reached out to the NSU administration last summer requesting the university sponsor a rodeo team again.

“We have received an outpouring of support from the local community offering resources to support our rodeo athletes,” said Morris. “Rodeo alumni and the Natchitoches community rallied to restart the team. They called the university, connected with administrators and faculty and made Facebook posts to gain support. I’ve never seen such an outpouring of support and enthusiasm for bringing back a cherished sport to Northwestern.”

NSU had a rodeo program from the early 1960s through the mid-90s supported by a student fee. Cuts to academic

programs in agricultural sciences made it difficult to recruit students to participate.

Morris said the university has been helpful in restarting the team. She said NSU has provided financial support for recruitment and rodeo advising since the beginning of the fall semester. Students were gifted competition vests with NSU’s logo to use while on the team. Student fees are available to support riders at the completion of paperwork.

The team has two members, barrel racers Karli English, an accounting major from Leesville, and McKenzie Davis, an accounting major from Pollock. English competed in four intercollegiate rodeos this semester and Davis competed in two. NSU is in the Southern Region of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NIRA). There are five rodeos each semester and the national finals in the summer.

Events for male rodeo

athletes include saddle bronc riding, bareback riding, bull riding, tie down roping, steer wrestling and team roping. Events for female rodeo athletes include barrel racing, breakaway roping, goat tying and team roping.

Morris said she is actively recruiting new team members. Current NSU students, incoming freshmen and transfer students who are ready to compete are welcome. For more information, contact Morris at paulselm@nsula.edu





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www.nsula.edu/tours

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.

Shekinah Glory Ministries Community Giveaway

Sponsors: TD Jake Ministries, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Community donations



QUOTES BY RANDY STELLY

" In the next four years, America will be tested. Let's see who passes the test. "

Randy Stelly

A formal portrait of Randy Stelly, an elderly Black man with a mustache, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and a light-colored fedora hat. He is looking directly at the camera.

A festive red poster for the "1ST ANNUAL CHRISTMAS HOOPS & TOY DRIVE". The poster features a basketball, a teddy bear, and a wrapped gift. It is surrounded by Christmas decorations like candy canes, pine branches, and ornaments. The text includes "WE ARE KING DAVID PRESENTS", "MUSIC . FUN . GAMES", and the event details: "5 DEC", "ADMISSION: TOY OR CASH DONATION", "6-8 PM", and "660 Martin Luther King Jr Drive MLK Center".

The Natchitoches Chamber of Commerce Celebrates Businesses in Natchitoches

Super 1 Groundbreaking Ceremony

Dean Dermatology | Ribbon Cutting and Open House



Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for Good Day Farm Dispensary



Orhan Mc Millan & dezinsINTERACTIVE Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



The Natchitoches Chamber of Commerce Celebrates Businesses in Natchitoches

Ribbon Cutting and Holiday Open House Honoring Gretchen Murchison Ceramics



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Village of Natchez and Save the Children Giveaway



Village of Natchez and Save the Children Giveaway



Acclaimed children's author Jan Brett to stop in Natchitoches on Christmas book tour

NATCHITOCHES – Acclaimed children's author and illustrator Jan Brett will include Natchitoches as a stop on her "Alice in a Winter Wonderland" tour. The best-selling illustrator and creator of colorful picture books will be featured at a free event beginning at 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8 at the Natchitoches Events Center, 750 Second St.

The event will begin with a drawing illustration and story presentation, followed by a book signing. Seating is limited and registration is encouraged using the QR code below. Guests will be able to purchase copies of "Alice in a Winter Wonderland" and other titles at the event, which will be signed as time permits with bookplates featuring Brett's artwork available for extra books. The first 100 families will receive a signed Jan Brett poster.

In addition, families are invited to take photos in front of the "Alice in a Winter Wonderland" tour bus that will be parked at the Events Center beginning at 4 p.m. Fans can also meet

and take photos with Hedgie, the favorite friend from "The Mitten" and "The Hat." "Alice in a Winter Wonderland" is "a striking rendition of 'Alice in Wonderland' transported to the a shimmering Alaskan tundra in Jan Brett's rich signature style," according to a press release.

Brett lives in a seacoast town in Massachusetts, close to where she grew up. She is a New York Times #1 bestselling author/illustrator, one of America's most popular, with over 44 million books in print, and has brought to life lovable characters and imaginary backdrops for children for more than 40 years. Her illustrations are adored for their classic beauty and vibrant, life-like images of animals, landscapes and flourishes from cultures around the world.

The Natchitoches Parish Library, NSU's Positivity Club and Books-A-Million are presenting the event, which is sponsored by NSU's Gallaspy College of Education and Human De-



velopment, NSU's School of Education and NSU's Child and Family Network.

For more information, contact Natchitoches Parish Library at (318) 357-3280.

Register and purchase a copy of "Alice in a Winter Wonderland" using this QR code:



The Henry O. Flipper Foundation's Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

The Henry O. Flipper Foundation Inc. (HOFF) ribbon cutting ceremony was held at 1392 Dixie St. Natchitoches, LA on Nov. 1, 2024., one of the building site locations. Present from left to right: Charles Hall-(HOFF) Vice Chairperson, Joe Salter-Natchitoches Parish Council Pres., Barbara Dessources-Secretary-(HOFF), Dorothy McGaskey-Chairperson(HOFF), Leroy Cole-cousin of Vincent Cofield, Tom Tubre Consultant-(HOFF), Katrina Evans-Mayor of Campti, Dustin Dauzat-Natchitoches Area Chamber of Commerce-(not pictured) Harry Hymes-co-owner-The

Breadhouse-not pictured) Martin Johnson, Treasurer(HOFF) Kelvin Sanders-Attorney (HOFF), Vincent Cofield- Executive Director(HOFF)-(not present). The two other low-income houses HOFF received financial assistance from LA Housing Corp. and Sabine State Bank will be located at 419 Sanford and 1150 Grace Ave. Applications should be submitted to charles.hall@ipaper.com to be forwarded for consideration for credit approval. (There are only 3 locations currently.) available.) We wish to thank Dustin Dauzat for providing the ribbon and scissors for the ceremony.



Foster Grandparent Program
Volunteers Enriching Students



Are you 55 years of age or older and want to make a difference in the lives of children?

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Qualifications for Participation:

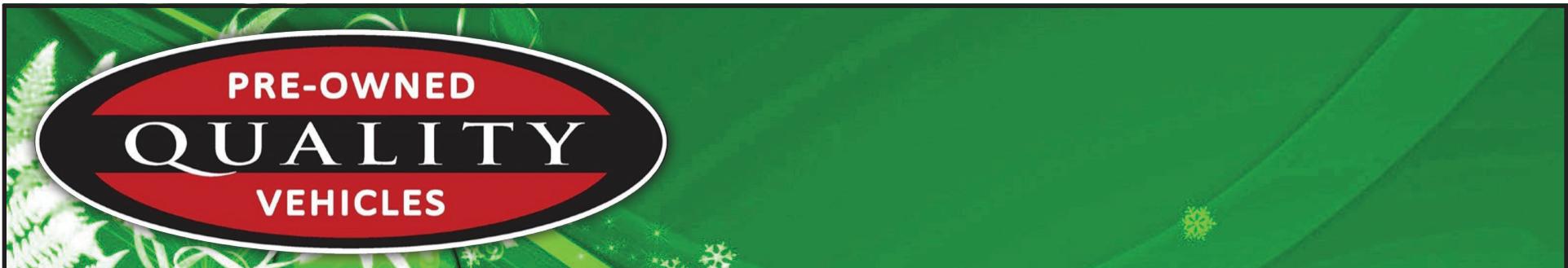
- At least 55 years of age
- Clear criminal background check
- Meet low-income eligibility requirement
- Desire to help children succeed

Benefits of the Program:

- Tax-free stipend that does not affect any assistance programs you may qualify for
- Mileage reimbursement
- Paid time off and holiday pay

For more information, call 318-357-2220

Rodney Irchirl, Project Director
Patricia Telsee, Program Support
Natchitoches Parish Office of Community Services



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