



# THE REAL NEWS

## Louisiana

"A Community with a Voice Shall Be Heard" ®

### Unsolved Murders of Natchitoches: Growing Cases and a Call for Community Action

Latorria Freeman, Publisher

This article was originally published on August 30, 2024, and has been updated to include additional unsolved cases in Natchitoches. Unfortunately, the list of cases has risen to 36. We strongly encourage the community to get involved.

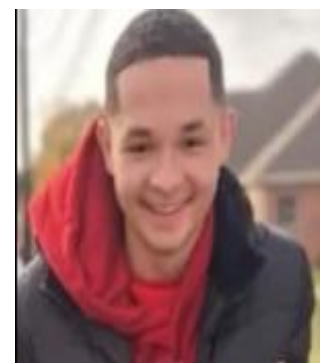
If you have any information, please do not hesitate to contact the Natchitoches City Police at (318)352-8101, the NPSO Criminal Investigations Division at (318)357-7830, or Natchitoches Crime Stoppers at (318)238-2388. You can also visit their website at <https://natchitochescrimestoppers.com/>.

You could be eligible to receive a cash reward ranging from \$250 to \$2,000.

**D'Mario Moran, age 33 Murdered October 27, 2024**



**Devin Prudhomme, age 16, Death September 26, 2024**



**Quenton Nash, age 32 Fatal Hit & Run September 2, 2024**



**Kadarius "KD" Miller, age 24 Murdered September 1, 2024**



**Cameron Dwon Jackson, age 19, Murdered March 2, 2024**



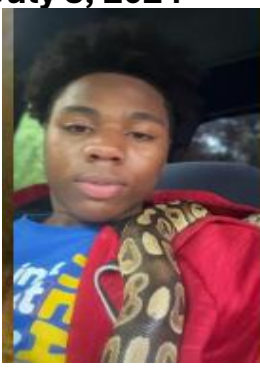
**Deon Shontell Coleman Jr., age 23, Murdered March 17, 2024**



**Daylon Harris, age 15, Murdered April 29, 2024**



**Jourdan Taylor, age 16, Murdered July 3, 2024**



**Johnny Ray Simmons, age 70, Victim of a Hit and Run on July 30, 2024**



**Derrick Tatum, age 19 Shot on October 1, 2020, died from Injuries June 13, 2023**



**Marcus Sowell, age 23, Murdered December 26, 2023**





# Unsolved Murders of Natchitoches: Growing Cases and a Call for Community Action

*Continued from Page 1...*

**Daniel Williams, age 23 Murdered on June 25, 2022**



**Renrick Duke, age 38, Murdered January 31, 2022**



**Kimanesha Nicole Carter, age 28, Murdered March 17, 2022**



**Jay Tousant Jr., age 21, Murdered August 6, 2022**



**Rodjay Jaheim Stackhouse, age 19 Murdered November 26, 2022**



**Brandon McHenry, age 23 Murdered January 13, 2021**



**Kandra Randolph, age 28, Murdered January 28, 2021**



**Jerome Pier, age 38, Murdered April 11, 2021**



**Paul Smith Jr., Age 14, Murdered November 27, 2021**



**Thomas Payton, age 52. Body found December 17, 2021**



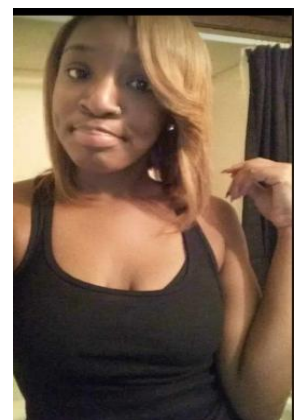
**William R. "Bob" Lang Jr. age 76, Murdered December 29, 2021**



**Eddie Varice Jr., age 34, Murdered May 31, 2020**



**K'ya Monique Pier, age 19, Body Found May 16, 2018**





# Unsolved Murders of Natchitoches: Growing Cases and a Call for Community Action

Continued from Page 2...

**Cordarious Cortez Smith, Age 24, Murdered August 8, 2018**



**Rodney D. Richards, age 24, Murdered August 8, 2018**



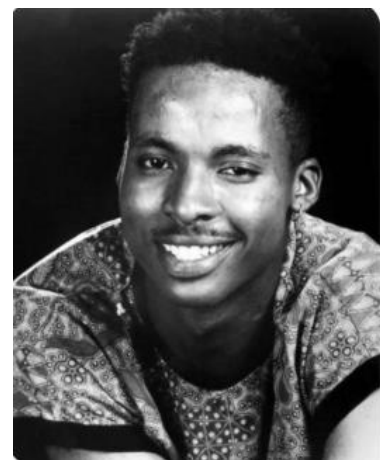
**Ronald Gary Green, 57, Murdered on December 11, 2018**



**La'Terrian Mitchell, age 27, Murdered December 17, 2019**



**Prysock Freeman, age 48, Murdered July 23, 2017**



**Stafford Jefferson, age 52, Murdered September 22, 2017**



**Frederick Sowell, age 35, Murdered November 21, 2015**



**Trevor Bush, age 25, Murdered December 7, 2015**



**Kenneth "Dogg" Bayonne, Age 32, Murdered August 18, 2011**



**Lee Otis Payne Jr., age 26, Murdered January 17, 2010**



**Rosalind Meziere, age 26, Body found September 15, 1988**



**Building a Safer Community Together**

Call 318-238-2388  
[www.natchitochescrimestoppers.com](http://www.natchitochescrimestoppers.com)



## "Attorney Dan Dyess's Nottoway Plantation: Natchitoches Preservationist's Vision Lost to Fire"

Nottoway Plantation, located in White Castle, Louisiana, was the largest antebellum mansion in the South until it was destroyed by fire on May 15, 2025. Built in 1859, this 53,000-square-foot mansion features Greek Revival and Italianate architecture, symbolizing both architectural grandeur and the horrific history of chattel slavery. Attorney Dan Dyess, a preservationist from Natchitoches, acquired Nottoway in late 2024 from the estate of Jaeger. Dyess, who also owns the Steel Magnolia House Bed and Breakfast, aimed to preserve the mansion's history while enhancing it as a venue for events and tourism. His plans included making structural repairs, reopening the restaurant, and hosting cultural events. However, on May 15, 2025, a fire—believed to have been caused by an electrical issue—started in the south wing and ultimately destroyed the main house. Dyess expressed his devastation but intends to evaluate rebuilding in the coming weeks, recognizing the site's economic importance to Iberville Parish and its complex historical legacy.

In a statement, Dyess said, "I take this position — we are non-racist people. I am a lawyer, and my wife is a judge. We believe in equal opportunity rights for everyone, total equality, and fairness. My wife and I had nothing to do with slavery, but we acknowledge its wrongness. We are trying to make this a better place. We have no interest in left-wing radical ideas. We need to move forward positively and won't dwell on past racial injustice."





## North Star MBC Men's Ministry Hosts Fan Drive for the Elderly in Powhatan & Allen Community

Photo Credits: North Star MBC



Welcome to the  
North Star Missionary Baptist Church  
734 Highway 485  
Natchitoches (Powhatan), LA 71457  
Pastor William B. Roberson, Bishop



*If God Said It, We Believe It!*  
Pastor William B. Roberson, Bishop

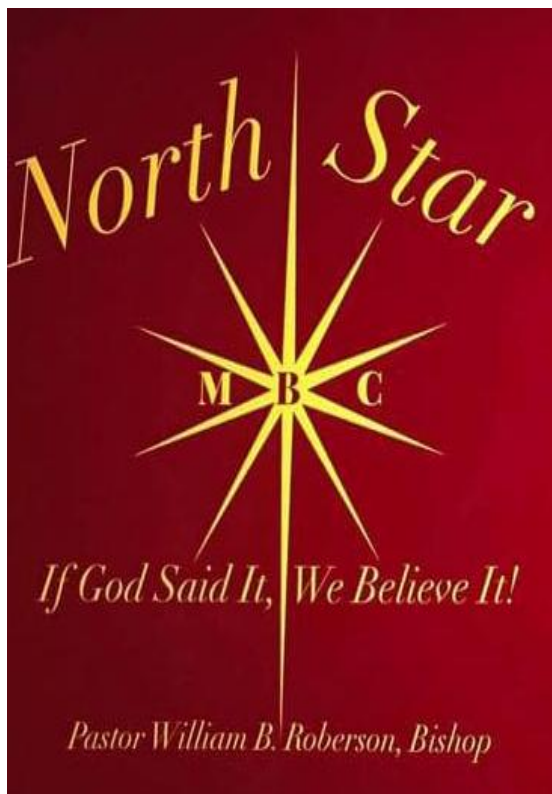


Morning Worship 11:15 AM Wednesday Night In The Word 6:00 PM



## North Star MBC Men's Ministry Hosts Fan Drive for the Elderly in Powhatan & Allen Community

Photo Credits: North Star MBC



**FREE 11-WEEK CLASS**

## PROJECT BOOST

Strengthening Families Program

**WHAT YOU GET**

- SIGN-ON BONUS
- COMPLIMENTARY MEALS
- FREE PARENTING CLASSES
- FREE YOUTH CLASSES AGES 7-17
- GIFT CARDS
- CHILDCARE FOR AGES 6 & UNDER
- COMPLETION BONUS
- GRADUATION CERTIFICATE

**REGISTER BY JUNE 1**  
**AT 420 4<sup>TH</sup> ST**  
**OR**  
**USE THE QR CODE**

**CLASSES START**  
**JUNE 3, 2025**  
**Tuesdays or Thursdays**

**LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE REGISTER TODAY!**

**THE COACH OF FOUNDATION**

**NATCHITOCHES**  
WHERE HISTORY LIVES



## Youth Volunteer Summer Service Grant 2025

***Funding for the Youth Volunteer Summer Service Program gives our youngest community members more opportunities to become engaged in their communities and make volunteerism a lifelong habit.***

It is with great pleasure to announce that Morning Star Baptist Church is a recipient of the Youth Volunteer Summer Service Grant for 2025. Youth Volunteer Corps (YVC) is a network of affiliated organizations across the U.S. and Canada running the same program by engaging youth ages 11-18 in team-based, structured, diverse, and flexible service-learning opportunities. This program is offered to students in 7<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> grades to engage in volunteer opportunities. The four fundamental goals of YVC are to:

1. Engage teams of youth in volunteer service projects that are challenging, rewarding, and educational.
2. Serve the needs of the community.
3. Promote a greater understanding and appreciation for diversity in their community.
4. Inspire youth to a lifetime ethic of service.

During YVC meetings, students discuss and identify needs that are unique to their individual communities and plan service projects to address those needs. The YVC allows students a fun and convenient way to accrue service hours to receive the Community Service Diploma Endorsement offered by the Louisiana Department of Education.

YVC affiliates are hosted by credible nonprofit organizations or are independent YVC programs. Each YVC program looks a little different depending on the host organization and the local community, but they all implement the same program model and receive ongoing support and resources from YVC Headquarters.

This project is funded by a Youth Volunteer Summer Service Grant from The Rapides Foundation, and Morning Star Baptist Church has been awarded \$5,000 over four months beginning May 1, 2025, and ending August 31, 2025.

For more details about the program and how to sign up you can follow us on [Facebook@morningstar.170](https://www.facebook.com/morningstar.170) and check our website at <https://morningstar170.churchtrac.com>. You can also feel free to reach out with any initial questions or to express interest at [Morningstarbaptistchurch170@gmail.com](mailto:Morningstarbaptistchurch170@gmail.com) or contact Mrs. Monique Sarpy or Mrs. Cynthia Robinson at 318-471-5782.



Funded by:

THE RAPIDES FOUNDATION



## Natural Talent Basketball Team Traveled to Montgomery, Alabama

Leading scorers in Championship Game Braxton Cabrera 11pts,  
Jaysen Prelow 10pts, Harold Remo 10pts, Khaelyb Creighton 10pts



## Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Office

### INTRODUCING OUR NEW APP

Instant access to essential information at your fingertips.



- NPSO Directory
- Submit A Tip
- Sex Offenders
- Inmate Information
- Extra Patrol Requests
- School Resource Officers
- Join Our Team
- Emergency Prep

● + Much More!

SCAN TO  
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**AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD NOW!**



ADMISSION: **\$5** CEREBRAL PALSY AWARENESS

**PROSPER DAY FUNDRAISER**

FREE POPCORN!  
1 FREE RAFFLE ENTRY!

**JUNE 7TH**  
FROM 12PM TIL 6PM

**ACTIVITIES**  
FUN GAMES,  
RAFFLES  
AND MORE

DIXIE YOUTH COMPLEX  
100 SCHOOL DR.  
NATCHITOCHES, LA 71457

**FAITH,  
FAMILY,  
FUN!**



Join us for PROSPER DAY!  
We're raising awareness for Cerebral Palsy with a day full of faith, family, and fun!

When: June 7th | 12 PM – 6 PM  
Where: Dixie Youth Complex, 100 School Dr., Natchitoches, LA  
Admission: \$5 (includes free popcorn + 1 raffle entry!)

Enjoy games, raffles, and fun activities for all ages! Don't miss this chance to support a great cause and have a blast doing it!

Info: Call 318-909-4791



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# NATCHITOCHESE JUNETEENTH FESTIVAL

**EVENING ACTIVITIES 6PM-10PM**

**LIVE PERFORMANCE  
ON POINT BAND**

**SOUNDS BY  
GODJ CHRIS**

**PERFORMING LIVE  
CHRIS ARDOIN**

- FIREWORKS
- KIDS ZONE
- POPUP SHOP
- FOOD VENDORS

**JUNE 21ST**

**NATCHITOCHESE RIVERBANK**





## Outpatient Medical Center's Mental Health Fair



On Saturday, May 10, 2025, Outpatient Medical Center (OMC) hosted a successful Mental Health Fair, in partnership with the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. and the Natchitoches Parish School Board. This event hosted a variety of community health partners who serve the mental health needs of Natchitoches and surrounding areas. The event was held in OMC's parking lot, which offered free screenings, resources, and interactive workshops, helping to break down stigma and connect individuals with vital mental health services. Organizations represented include Aware 2 – Natchitoches Parish School Board, Big Brothers / Big Sisters of Natchitoches, Brentwood, Cane River Community Counseling, Community Counseling Center, Cultured Therapy, Jeter Therapy, Mended Mental Health, March of Dimes, Natchitoches Behavioral Health Clinic, Natchitoches Fire Department, Natchitoches Police Department, Natchitoches Parish School Board, Touch of Grace, Voices of Autism, and Unlimited Alternatives to Changes.

Participants were thrilled to see such a strong turnout and deeply grateful to everyone who participated, volunteered, and shared in the mission of fostering a healthier, more informed community. CMO, Dr. Mark Guidry, said, "OMC looks forward to an annual event that brings together resources to address mental health needs in our community."



— MAY IS —  
**MENTAL  
 HEALTH  
 AWARENESS  
 MONTH**

**Natchitoches Clinic**  
**1640 Breazeale Springs St.**  
**Natchitoches, LA 71457**  
**(318) 352-9299**

**LP Vaughn SBHC**  
**1500 Gold Street**  
**Natchitoches, LA 71457**  
**(318) 238-7440**



Congratulations to the Spring 2025 graduates of the College of Business and Technology, Graduate School, and Gallaspy Family College of Education and Human Development

Photo Credits: NSU



**1202 Texas St, Natchitoches, LA 71457**

**(318) 214-2400**

**Open 7 Days a Week      Hours 11 am to 7 pm<sup>4</sup>**



## Justin Roberson: Natchitoches' Own Shines on the International Basketball Stage

Parents: Gary Roberson Sr. and Melissa Payton

**Natchitoches, LA:** Justin Roberson, a 5'11" shooting guard from Natchitoches, has gained international recognition as a key player for BC Samara in Russia's VTB United League. His journey embodies grit and talent, starting on local courts and progressing to a successful college career at the University of Louisiana at Monroe (ULM), where he earned accolades, including the 2015-16 Sun Belt Conference Defensive Student-Athlete of the Year. After college, Roberson played in Switzerland, Russia, and the USA, notably tying his career-high of 29 points with Fribourg Olympic and achieving standout defensive performances with Parma. "Playing overseas is tough, but Natchitoches taught me to stay grounded," he said. Back home, he's an inspiration for local youth, showcasing that dreams can come true. His recent season with BC Samara further solidified his reputation, as he averages double-digit points while leading in defensive plays. "Every time I step on the court, I'm carrying Natchitoches with me," Roberson states, making him a symbol of perseverance for his community. For more on his career stats, visit [www.proballers.com](http://www.proballers.com) or [www.eurobasket.com](http://www.eurobasket.com).





## Leading by Example: NPSB Leaders Show Appreciation to Local Educators

5 Amazing teachers won the ultimate gift of a well-deserved break from the classroom



Photo Credit: NPSB



Dr. Grant Eloi, Superintendent



Reba Procell Phelps  
School Board President



Barbara Page, School Board Member



Sarah Rachal, NPSB Director



Felicia Pinkney, NPSB Director

FREE  
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REPAIR

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IN BUSINESS

# ARCHIE'S

## PAINT & BODY

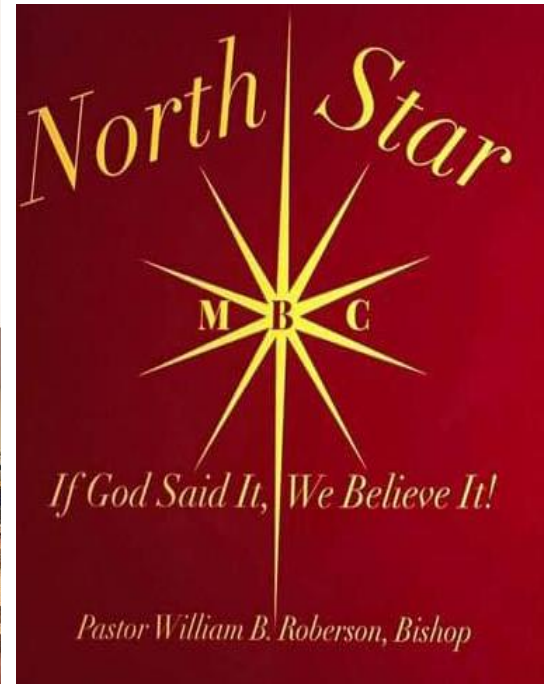
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**Fax: (318) 356-0466**  
**Mobile: (318) 730-5543**





**CHARGED WITH A CRIMINAL OFFENSE?  
INVOLVED IN A CAR ACCIDENT?**



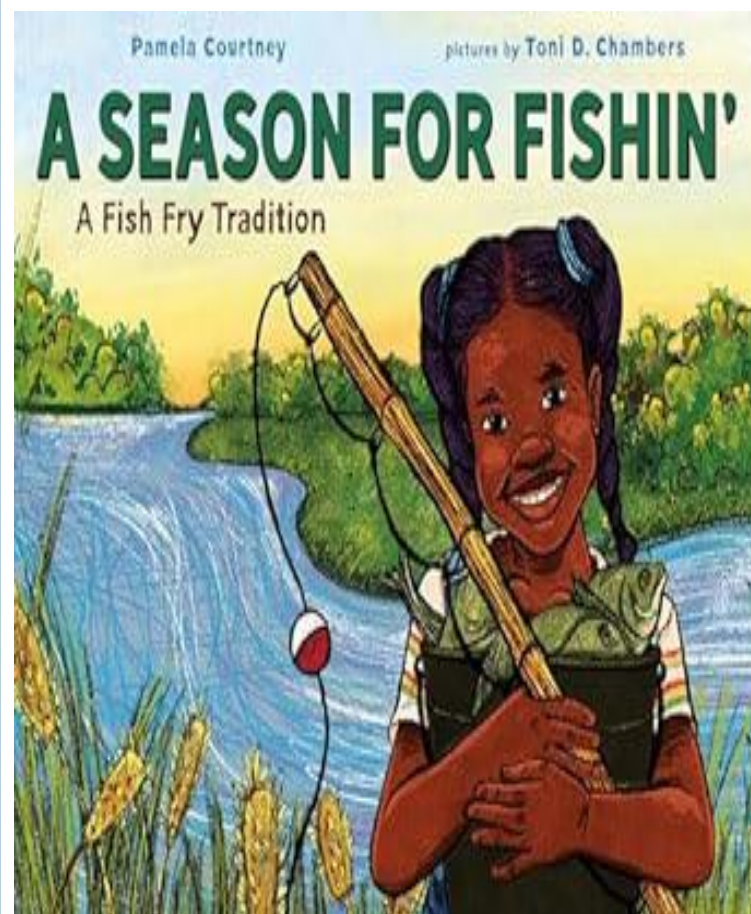
**Phone: (318) 238-1756**  
**328 St. Denis Street**  
**Natchitoches, La 71457**  
[assistant@howardcondaylaw.com](mailto:assistant@howardcondaylaw.com)







**Pamela Courtney** has three loves: writing, teaching, and music. She combined her loves to create MyLMNOP, a literacy and music program for early learners. *A Season for Fishin': A Fish Fry Tradition* is her debut. She lives in Natchitoches, Louisiana, where she homeschools her nephews.



## Book Details

**A Season for Fishin'** is a joyous debut picture book by Pamela Courtney full of fishing, summertime traditions, and delicious food, inspired by the author's intergenerational and multicultural Louisiana upbringing.

*There's a rush in the water.  
Ripples sway,  
back and forth,  
back and forth.  
Sounds like Fish Fry Friday.*

On the first Fish Fry Friday of the year, Cher wakes before sunrise. It's the start of the fishing season, and her wish is coming true: She's finally big enough to join her papere on Ol' Cane River! She can't wait to catch a mess of bream for Mamere to fry up for the evening feast.

Fishing pole in hand, Cher races to the prized spot down on Ol' Cane River. Wrigglers wiggle on the line. Cousins giggle as a sign of approval as Cher reels in batch after batch of bream. But when things don't go as planned, Cher learns the true importance of Fish Fry Friday, and it's not the big catch . . .

*Plates clatter.  
Kinfolk gather.*  
Cher is part of tradition. It's *her* season of fishin'.

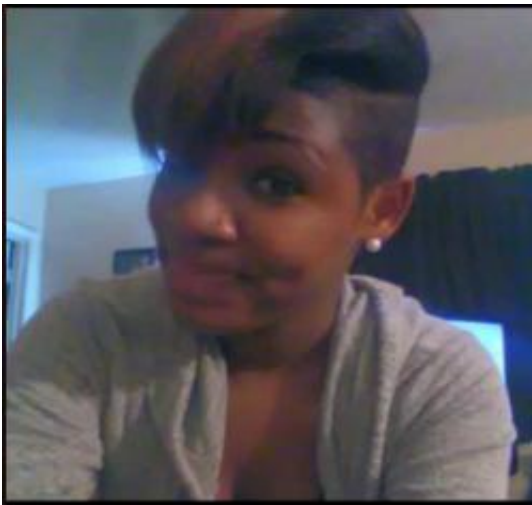


Who Killed K’ya Pier?

A Mother Seeks the Public’s Help  
(names omitted for legal reasons)



My name is Tyrongala Pier, and I am seeking justice for my daughter, K’ya Pier. She was last seen on April 17, 2018, the same day as her son Dy’Kyrus’ birthday. She was picked up from Carter’s trailer park in Natchitoches, and that was the last time she was seen. K’ya was found deceased on May 16. If anyone has any information about where they took her or where she might have been dropped off, don’t hesitate to get in touch with me or the police at (318)352-8101, the NPSO Criminal Investigations Division at (318)357-7830, or Natchitoches Crime Stoppers at (318)238-2388. There are people who love her dearly, including her son and family, and we will not stop until we get justice for K’ya. We need the public’s help; no piece of information is too big or too small. Every detail can help us in our quest for justice. Thank you, and God bless.

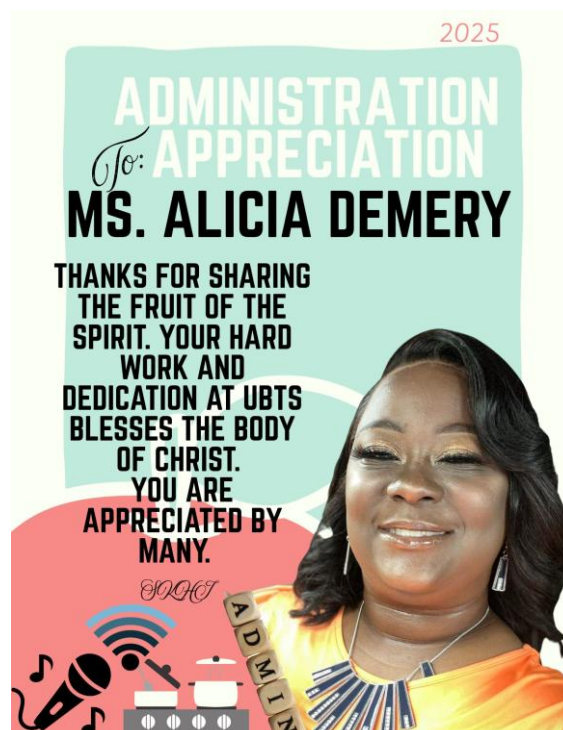
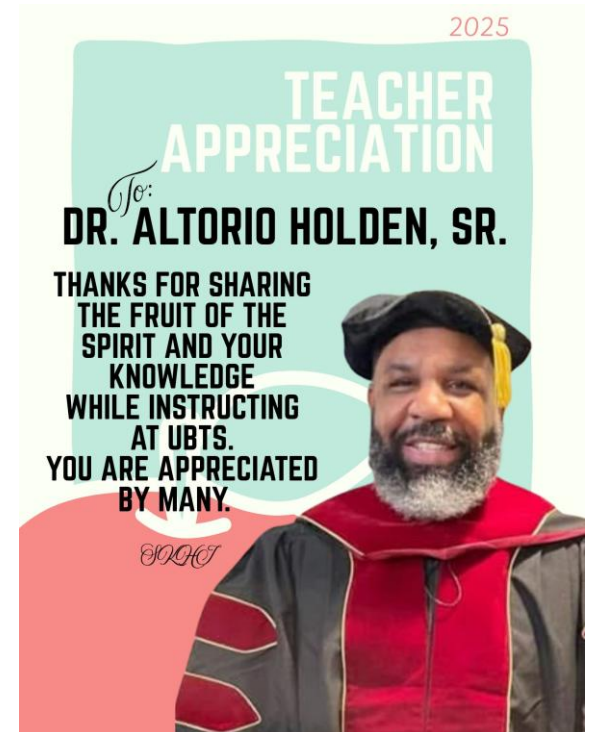
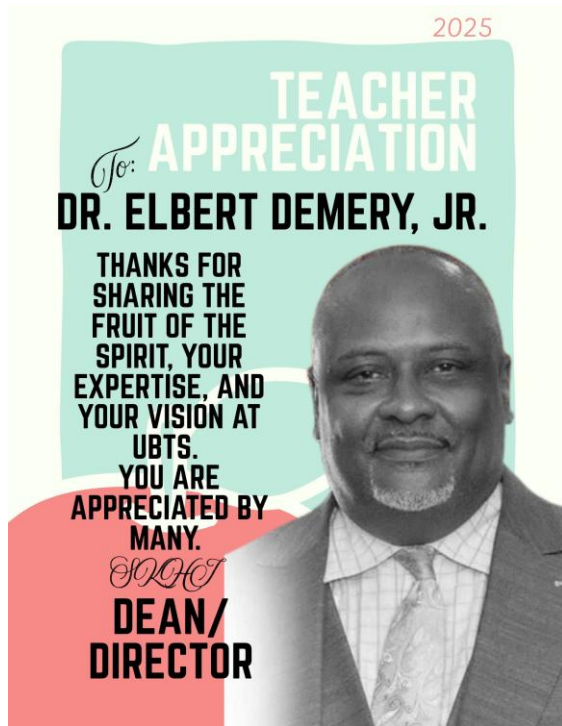


A large green graphic for Mental Health Awareness Month. It features a silhouette of a head with a brain made of puzzle pieces. A green ribbon is tied around the neck. The text 'MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH' is written in large, white, bold letters. At the bottom right, it says 'Yolanda C. Reed, CLA Natchitoches Parish Assessor'.



## UBTS (United Baptist Theological Seminary) Natchitoches Campus Appreciation Acknowledgement

A UBTS student would like to thank her teachers and staff for embodying the Fruit of the Spirit. Their genuine credibility, spiritual insight, warmth, support, and helpful guidance have been invaluable throughout her first semester. Thank you for being so dedicated to the school and the community.






**The Emma Robinson Williams Education Foundation, Inc.** continues to live out its mission of empowering communities through education and literacy. We are honored to announce that we have been awarded a grant by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities (LEH) on behalf of the Prime Time team.

We are thrilled to host two impactful programs in Fall 2025:

Prime Time Preschool at Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Shreveport, LA, and Prime Time Family Literacy at Asbury United Methodist Church in Natchitoches, LA.

These programs are designed to deliver high-quality, humanities-based literacy and family engagement opportunities to our communities. We look forward to partnering with LEH to inspire a lifelong love of learning and reading in the families we serve.

**Emma Robinson**  
EMMA ROBINSON WILLIAMS EDUCATION FOUNDATION, INC.  
"CHANGING ONE CHILD AT A TIME"

**MISSION:**

A Collaborative Approach Changing One Child at a time. To positively impact Natchitoches Parish by deploying needed resources:

- To improve access to healthcare
- To improve access to education
- To improve economic opportunities through community education

**"CHANGING ONE CHILD AT A TIME"**



Conveniently located in the heart of Natchitoches, **Dr. Ashby** and his dedicated team at NRMCMedicine Associates are committed to helping you achieve your best health. From routine wellness exams and chronic disease management to unexpected illnesses or minor injuries, you can count on us for expert, compassionate care every step of the way. ***Our goal is to help you reach optimal health and stay healthy, so you can enjoy all the sweet things life has to offer.***



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**1730 Texas St, Natchitoches, LA 71457**



## Flight Forward drone technology showcase June 11 at NSU

NATCHITOCHES -- Join the Northwestern State University School of STEM for *Flight Forward*, a hands-on showcase of drone technology and innovation from the Advanced Remote and Geospatial Operations (ARGO) Lab. Attendees will experience live flight demonstrations, explore drone simulation and control technology and hear from NSU leaders on real-world applications and workforce impact.

Flight Forward will take place from 9-11:30 a.m. Wednesday, June 11 at Russell Hall on the Natchitoches campus, 125 Central Avenue. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. Participation is free of charge, but registration is required.

Register at <https://nsu.la/FlightForward> or through the QR code below.





## Artists sought for 2025 Christmas Festival Poster

NATCHITOCHES – Artists are being sought to design the 2025 Natchitoches Christmas Festival Poster, commemorating the 99th year of the beloved festival. The theme for the poster is “Christmas in Natchitoches.” Artists who would like to enter the contest should submit a drawing or painting to the Natchitoches Arts Council using the chosen theme. The size of the completed sketch or painting should be 18 inches wide and 24 inches tall. If chosen, the painting will become the exclusive property of the Natchitoches Arts Council. The chosen artist will receive a commission of \$600.

The deadline for entering the competition is Friday, August 1, 2025. All entries should be submitted to The Office of Community Development, 420 Fourth Street, Natchitoches, LA 71457. The Natchitoches Arts Council is not responsible for insuring the safe or timely delivery of the artwork to the appropriate party. We do reserve the right to refuse any submissions and to extend the deadline. Numbered prints in the form of a poster will be available and on sale to the public in October. All posters are \$35 each. The 1980-2004 collage posters are \$15 each. The small posters (3 ¾” x 5”) are \$3 each or two for \$4. Special prints of the 2008 Fleur de Lis Poster (11” x 17”), the 2016 Christmas in Natchitoches Poster (11” x 14.5”), and the 2019 Sacred Crossroads (11” x 14” reprint of the 1986 poster) are \$20. The Natchitoches Christmas Festival Poster has been a tradition for 45 years. All of the original artwork can be viewed at the Natchitoches Arts Council office located at the Community Development Office, 420 Fourth Street or City Hall, 806 Second Street, Natchitoches, LA. For more information about the poster contest, please call Karen Terrell at (318) 792-7234.



2024 Winner “Kathryn Latham” with Miss Merry Christmas and the Christmas Belles



2023 Winner “Matt Dawson” with Miss City of Lights and the Christmas Belles



## BOM Gives Back

### NATCHITOCHES:

BOM is continuing our support of the Natchitoches Jazz/R&B Festival, May 9-10, in downtown Natchitoches. Pictured left to right: BOM's Abby Williams, Daniel Page, Valencia Jones, BOM's Grace Brooks, and Mary Anna Scruggs.



### RAPIDES:

BOM donated to the Peabody Magnet High School's CBT Special Needs Prom. Pictured left to right: Nicole Vanderlick and BOM's Titan Marler.



### CADDO/BOSSIER:

BOM continued our support of the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women Luncheon. Pictured left to right: BOM's Kira Yeates and Kevin Koch.



### SABINE:

BOM is a proud supporter of the Ho Minti Society. Pictured left to right: BOM's Kylie Miller, Vicky Holbrook, and BOM's Kayla Windham.

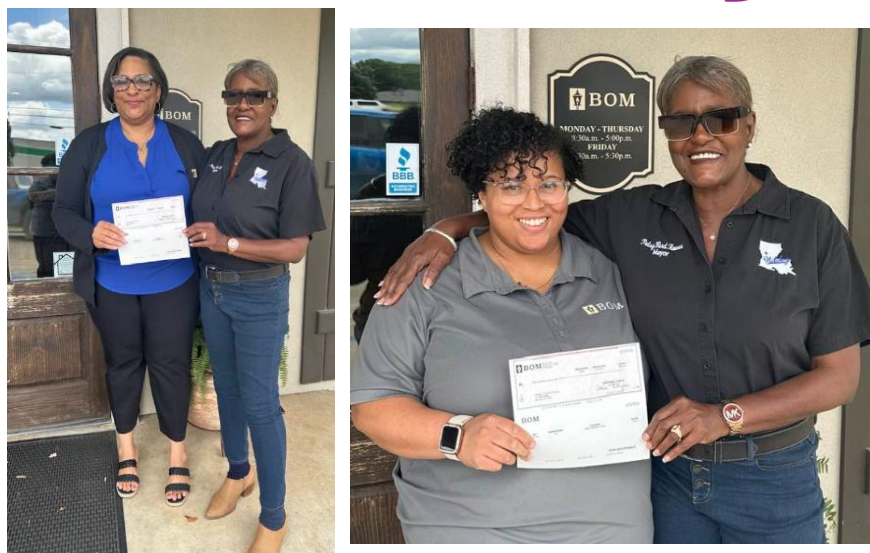


# BOM

A face you know.  
A bank you can trust.



# Community News



BOM gives back to the Village of Natchez for their upcoming Juneteenth Celebration on June 28, 2025

## Congratulations to the New NPSB Principals!



**Bobby Benjamin Named New Principal of Natchitoches Jr. High-Frankie Ray Jackson**

[WWW.NPSB.LA](http://WWW.NPSB.LA)

#TogetherWeCan



**Chrystal Davis Named New Principal of Natchitoches Parish Technical & Career Center**

[WWW.NPSB.LA](http://WWW.NPSB.LA)

#TogetherWeCan



Mayor Marques Braxton and the Village of Clarence donated to the Lady Gators Basketball Team to help fund their championship rings.

## JOB OPENING:

### PRINCIPAL AT MARTHAVILLE

**LOCATION:** Marthaville Elementary & Jr. High

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Applicants must be certified or eligible at the time of application according to Louisiana State Department of Education requirements and must have 5 years of teaching experience.

**APPLICATIONS:** Application packet should consist of a letter of application, resume, official transcripts from institutions awarding degrees, a copy of Louisiana Teacher's Certificate with principal/education leadership endorsement, three (3) letters of reference, (one being from your immediate supervisor).

APPLY NOW
➔

To apply or view full requirements, visit [www.npsb.la/page/employment-opportunities](http://www.npsb.la/page/employment-opportunities) by Wednesday, June 4, at 3PM



## Louisiana Main Street Restoration Grant Opportunity

Louisiana Main Street is accepting applications for Restoration Grants to assist with interior and exterior building improvements on historic commercial structures located within designated Main Street districts!

Grant amounts range from \$2,500 to \$10,000

- Open to commercial building owners and business owners
- Projects must be on structures 50+ years old and used for commercial purposes
- Application deadline: May 30, 2025

All exterior work must be approved by the local historic district commission and meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

For details, contact the City of Natchitoches Main Street Office at (318) 357-3822.



**Louisiana Main Street**  
**RESTORATION**  
**GRANT OPPORTUNITY**

Louisiana Main Street is now accepting grant applications to assist with building restoration projects on historic commercial structures located within designated Main Street districts.

**APPLY NOW**



**NATCHITOCHES**  
AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**JOIN**  
TODAY

FOR AS LITTLE AS

**\$25**

A MONTH

Contact Morgan Green  
morgan@gonatchitoches.com




**LOOKING FOR A JOB?**

Visit [NatchitochesJobs.com](http://NatchitochesJobs.com) to see member job listings in Natchitoches Parish including those in the following industries:

- Healthcare
- Manufacturing
- Education
- and more!

To have a Chamber member job listing added the website, email the information to [Morgan@GoNatchitoches](mailto:Morgan@GoNatchitoches) today.

5/15/2025

**NATCHITOCHES**  
AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



## 16th Annual James Oliphant Memorial Golf Tournament Weekend

Photo Credits: Nicole Gray





## 16th Annual James Oliphant Memorial Golf Tournament Weekend

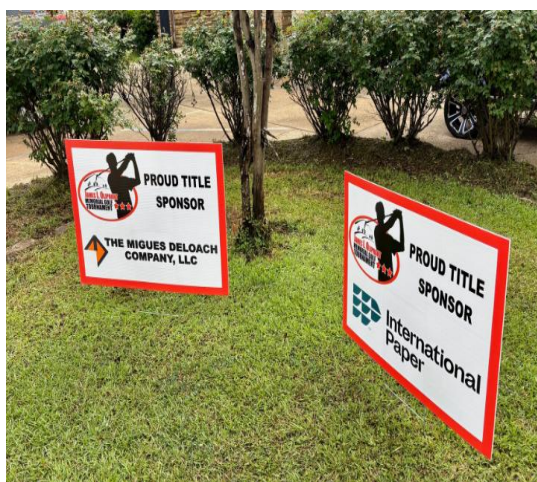
Photo Credits: Nicole Gray





# 16th Annual James Oliphant Memorial Golf Tournament Weekend

Photo Credits: Nicole Gray





## Characteristics of True Leaders Versus a Bigot



Martin Luther King Jr.

- **Transformational Leadership:** King's ability to inspire and motivate people, articulate a clear vision for the future, and create a sense of shared purpose are key aspects of transformational leadership. He was able to connect with people on a deep level and encourage them to believe in the possibility of change.
- **Servant Leadership:** King's focus on serving others and prioritizing their well-being is a hallmark of servant leadership. He was known for his humility, empathy, and willingness to put the needs of others before his own.
- **Entrepreneurial Leadership:** King's ability to build alliances, cultivate partnerships, and connect with people from diverse backgrounds reflects the principles of entrepreneurial leadership. He understood the importance of working with others to achieve a common goal.
- **Nonviolent Leadership:** King's unwavering commitment to nonviolence was a defining feature of his leadership style. He drew inspiration from Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of nonviolent resistance and applied it to the fight for civil rights.



Malcolm X

- **Disciplined and Principled:** Malcolm X lived with strict personal discipline, rooted in his NOI training and later his Sunni Muslim faith. He adhered to moral codes, avoiding alcohol and drugs, and emphasized self-reliance and community upliftment.
- **Empathetic Leader:** He connected deeply with marginalized Black communities, drawing from his own experiences with poverty, incarceration, and racism. His authenticity resonated, making him a voice for the alienated.
- **Courageous and Uncompromising:** He fearlessly confronted systemic racism and white supremacy, often at great personal risk. As a minister for the Nation of Islam (NOI), he boldly criticized American hypocrisy, earning both admiration and enmity.



## Characteristics of True Community Leaders Versus a Bigot

Continued from page 30...

### Malcolm X

- **Reflective and Self-Critical:** He openly acknowledged past mistakes, such as his criminal youth or initial NOI dogmatism. His willingness to evolve publicly, even under scrutiny, reflected rare humility and introspection.
- **Inspirational and Visionary:** His emphasis on Black pride, self-determination, and global solidarity inspired generations. His autobiography, co-authored with Alex Haley, remains a timeless testament to personal transformation and resistance

**Slang definition of bigot:** a person who won't listen to anyone whose ideas or beliefs are different from his or her own. especially: one who regards or treats the members of a group (as a racial group) with hatred and intolerance.



- **Mocking of Leadership:** They openly mock Black leaders—politicians, activists, or cultural icons—accusing them of corruption, ineffectiveness, or exploiting the community for personal gain.
- **Provocative and Confrontational:** They use inflammatory language to shock or gain attention, often framing their critiques as “tough love” or “speaking truth.” This can include derogatory terms or stereotypes about Black culture, delivered through platforms like social media.
- **Performative Authenticity:** They emphasize their “realness” or insider perspective, using their age, background, or street credibility to legitimize their critiques. They might claim to speak for the “silent majority” of Black people frustrated with their community’s direction.
- **Selective Focus:** Their criticism often ignores positive contributions or resilience within the Black community, focusing instead on negative stereotypes or sensationalized issues. They may downplay systemic racism, attributing problems solely to individual or cultural failures.
- **Older and Pessimistic:** As an older figure, they may draw on personal experiences of hardship or disillusionment (e.g., growing up in tough environments or witnessing failed reforms) to justify their bitterness. This pessimism fuels a belief that the community is inherently flawed or resistant to change.



*Congratulations!*

To All Graduates

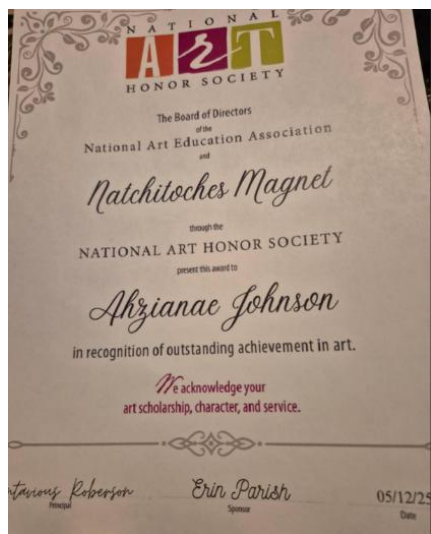
From: Preston Durr

Brenda Roberson Sarpy Th.D.

Doctoral of Theology



Natchitoches Magnet Student  
**Ahzianae Johnson** receives an award for  
outstanding achievement in art.



**Congratulations, Kay Williams!**  
College of Education & Human Development  
Major- Child & Family Studies with a  
concentration in Child Development & Family  
Relations Program- Bachelor of Science







Northwestern State University  
Photo Credit: NSU



Natchitoches Parish Technical and Career Center



Natchitoches Magnet 8<sup>th</sup> Grade



Natchitoches Magnet PreK



From: Michael Wilson



# COMMUNITY EVENTS



## FAUNA Dog Wash & Nail Clipping Schedule 2025



May 3 ~ June 14  
July 12 ~ August 9  
September 13 - microchipping  
October 11



9:00 AM - 1:00 PM ~ Tractor Supply  
Baths - \$10 under 60 pounds ~ \$15 over 60 pounds  
Nails - \$10 ~ Anal Gland Expression - \$10

## Juneteenth

### FREEDOM DAY PARADE

Date: Saturday, June 21st, 2025  
Line up starts at 1:30p.m. - Parade starts at 3p.m.  
\*BREATHALYZER TEST WILL BE ADMINISTERED

Parade Route: Line up on Third street at the Natchitoches Parish Courthouse Parking Lot, exit left onto Third Street towards Texas Street, turn left on Texas Street, turn left on MLK Jr., proceed towards Amulet, turn right on Amulet, turn right onto North Street, head towards Trudeau, turn right on Trudeau, end at the Ben Park.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE INVOLVED PLEASE  
REACH OUT TO THE NAMES BELOW:

BETTY SAWYER-SMITH 318-332-8668  
MARIA MANGUM 318-332-0081  
ROBERT JACKSON 318-229-1774  
RALPH WILSON 318-332-8254



# COMMUNITY EVENTS



**The Clothes Closet**

*"I needed clothes, and you clothed me."*  
Matthew 25:35

**FEATURING WOMEN, MEN AND KIDS CLOTHING**

**CLOSET HOURS:**  
TUESDAY and THURSDAY 1:00 PM TO 3:00 PM  
WEDNESDAY - DONATIONS

**VISIT THE CLOTHES CLOSET AT 1116 AMULET STREET  
NATCHITOCHES, LOUISIANA**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT MRS. LINDA M. @ 318-652-4518  
OR FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OFFICE 318-352-3314, ABOVE HOURS ONLY.



ONYX WINE & CIGAR LOUNGE PRESENTS

CELEBRATING 2 YEARS OF CULTURE AND COMMUNITY

**HAVANA Nights**

ENTERTAINMENT BY  
ZEREK CURRY &  
GUMBO DELUXE BAND

SATURDAY  
MAY 24TH  
8PM

312 TEXAS ST. NATCHITOCHES, LA 71457  
[WWW.THEONYXLOUNGE.COM/EVENTS](http://WWW.THEONYXLOUNGE.COM/EVENTS)



**Advertise Here**

Interested in Advertising?

Call us today at  
(318) 354-7721 or email us at  
[support@therealnewslouisiana.com](mailto:support@therealnewslouisiana.com)





# COMMUNITY EVENTS

Applications Open Now!

Please call (318) 554-9300 to apply.

*United Missionary Baptist Church Presents*

## 1st Annual Occie Lee Sykes BOYS 2 MEN BOOTCAMP

MISSION: TRAINING BOYS TO BECOME MEN

**JUNE 2-6**  
7 AM - 4 PM  
9166 HWY. 1 SOUTH, NATCHEZ, LA

**Glasses Include:**  
BIBLE STUDY WELDING MECHANIC BUTCHER FERRIER  
GARDENING APPLIANCE REPAIR

**\$100 per child (meals included)**  
**AGES 8-18**

*"Bonus: Sports & Fishing Trip"*  
*"transportation will be available"*  
*"Please see sponsorship form if you would like to sponsor a child"*

*Sponsored By: Pastor Ocie Lee Charles Jr.*

**IamGabrielleJ**  
GIVING YOU ALL THE BUSINESS TEA

## Brunch & Business '25

**TEA PARTY EDITION**

**JUNE 7TH, 2025**  
**11AM-2PM**

**621 BOSSIER STREET,  
NATCHITOCHES, LA 71457**

**TEA PARTY ATTIRE REQUIRED**

**SPONSORED BY:**  
bayone beauty   

**GRAB YOUR TICKET AT: [WWW.IAMGABRIELLEJ.COM](http://WWW.IAMGABRIELLEJ.COM)**

# ST. LUKE

BAPTIST CHURCH

## PASTORAL INSTALLATION OF Reverend Christopher L. Anderson

**05.25.2025**  
**AT 2:00 PM**

193 POSEY ROAD | NATCHITOCHES, LA 71457

**GUEST SPEAKER:**  
REV. ISIAH D. ANDERSON SR.  
ST. JOHN B.C.

*You're Invited to Attend*  
**ST. MATTHEW BAPTIST CHURCH**  
(Creston, LA)

## ANNUAL MEMORIAL Service

**SATURDAY**  
**JUNE 7, 2025**  
12 pm (noon)

**LOCATION:**  
1074 Five Forks Rd.  
(Saline, LA)

**HOST PASTOR:**  
PASTOR  
STEVEN HARRIS, SR.

**GUEST PREACHER:**  
DR. AILL R. HARRIS, JR.  
Abundant Life Church  
(Natchitoches, LA)



# COMMUNITY EVENTS

**B.I.O.N.I.C. Presents**



## BACK To SCHOOL BASH 2025

**SAT AUGUST 09**

**What to expect:** **FREE FOOD, GAMES, FREE SCHOOL SUPPLIES**

**Admission Per Person:** **FREE**

**Disclaimer:** Come out and enjoy yourself! This is a family friendly safe environment! Security will be enforced!

**RESPECT** yourself, **RESPECT** each other and **RESPECT** these kids!

**K&Z Seafood** from Coushatta, La will be selling seafood for the event!

Games Included: Kickball, volleyball, etc. Water slides will be available for kids!

**B.I.O.N.I.C.** is not responsible for any injuries sustained by any child! Parents are responsible for their children!

**Location:** 1117 Highland Park Dr. Natchitoches, LA 71457 **Time:** 12:00 P.M-6:00 P.M.

**AGE 9-14 YEARS**



**JULY 8-24**

**TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, & THURSDAY**

## STEAM EXPLORERS SUMMER CAMP

**8:00AM -1:00PM**

**REGISTRATION FREE**

### ACTIVITIES

Explore STEAM Like Never Before! Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math.

**WHAT'S IN STORE?**

- **DRONE TECHNOLOGY:** LEARN HOW TO FLY AND PROGRAM DRONES!
- **ENGINEERING CHALLENGES:** BUILD BRIDGES WITH SPAGHETTI AND CREATE REAL-WORLD DESIGNS!
- **FINANCIAL LITERACY:** LEARN TO BUDGET, PLAN BUSINESSES, AND UNDERSTAND MONEY!
- **ART & CODING:** CREATE DIGITAL ART AND GAMES USING SCRATCH & TYNKER!
- **ROBOTICS:** DIVE INTO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND ROBOTICS.
- **INNOVATION CHALLENGE:** WORK WITH A TEAM TO DEVELOP AN INNOVATIVE PROJECT.

**1621 WELCH ST., NATCHITOCHES**  
**RSVP HAROLD BAYONNE AT**  
**+(318) 413-2064**






**ROCKFORD BAPTIST CHURCH - 609 OLD RIVER ROAD - NATCHITOCHES, LA 71457**

## 12TH ANNUAL

*Pastor and First Lady Celebration*




## SUNDAY MAY 25 2:30 PM

**SPECIAL GUESTS**  
 Pastor and First Lady [Names] AND THE HIGHER GROUND MINISTRIES CHURCH FAMILY

COLORS OF UNITY: SHADE OF JADE, GOLD, AND CREAM. PLEASE USE FLYER FOR REFERENCE.

## CONTACT US

**Phone: (318) 354-7712**

Email:

[support@therealnewslouisiana.com](mailto:support@therealnewslouisiana.com)

[www.therealnewslouisiana.com](http://www.therealnewslouisiana.com)

P.O. Box 1082 Natchitoches, La 71458