

**THE****REAL****NEWS****Louisiana**

"A Community With a Voice Shall Be Heard" ®

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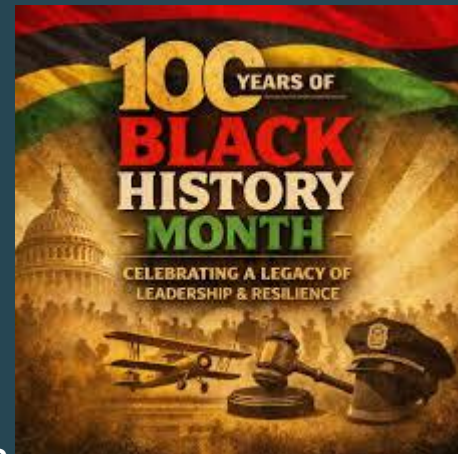
Black History Month

100 Years of Resilience: Black History in Natchitoches, Louisiana

As Black History Month unfolds in 2026—marking a century since Dr. Carter G. Woodson established Negro History Week—Natchitoches, Louisiana, stands as a powerful testament to African American endurance, culture, and progress

Founded in 1714 as the oldest permanent settlement in the Louisiana Purchase, Natchitoches has been home to people of African descent since the early 1700s. Enslaved Africans labored on plantations along the Cane River and Red River, cultivating cotton and indigo while preserving cultural traditions that blended African, French, Spanish, and Native influences into a vibrant Creole heritage.

A distinctive chapter began in the late 18th century with Marie Thérèse Coin-Coin, an enslaved woman freed by her enslaver (and partner) Claude Thomas Pierre Metoyer. She became a successful landowner and businesswoman, establishing the foundations of the Cane River Creole community. Her descendants, including the Metoyer family, built thriving plantations like Melrose (originally Yucca), where free people of color owned land, enslaved others in some cases, and created unique bousillage architecture infused with African techniques. Sites like Melrose Plantation, Oakland, and Magnolia preserve this legacy, highlighting how free people of color in Natchitoches achieved relative prosperity under French and Spanish rule—unlike in many Anglo-American regions—before Americanization eroded those freedoms in the antebellum era. The 20th century brought profound shifts. *Continued Page 3...*



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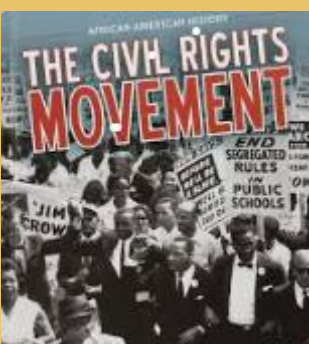
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Black History Month

100 Years of Resilience: Black History in Natchitoches, Louisiana
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Yet the Black community in Natchitoches built resilient institutions: churches, schools such as the Natchitoches Parish Training School, mutual aid societies, and family networks that fostered self-help and pride. Oral histories from the Cane River region document stories of segregation, resistance, and everyday life, underscoring the transition from slavery to sharecropping and beyond. Over the past 100 years, Natchitoches has celebrated and advanced Black contributions through education, leadership, and culture. Northwestern State University and local efforts have documented this history through projects such as "Civil War to Civil Rights: African American People and Places in Natchitoches," which maps community landmarks and tells the stories of institution-building. Modern milestones include trailblazers like Mayor Ronnie Williams Jr., the city's first African American mayor, symbolizing political empowerment. Annual Black History Month events—parades with grand marshals, genealogy workshops, memorial illuminations at historic plantations honoring the enslaved, and school programs—keep the legacy alive, drawing crowds to honor figures like young achievers recognized at "Moments in African American History" gatherings. Today, with African Americans comprising over half of Natchitoches' population, the city embraces Juneteenth as an official holiday and promotes Creole heritage along the Cane River National Heritage Area. This centennial reflection reminds us that Natchitoches' Black history is not just about survival—it's about innovation, community strength, and the ongoing pursuit of equity. From Coin-Coin's legacy to today's celebrations, 100 years highlight an unbreakable spirit shaping Louisiana's story.

If the Head Doesn't Lead, the Tail Can't Follow

By: Author and Evangelist Bonita Moses Arnold

Look at a snake and see how its head leads. Look at a turtle, as a matter of fact, look at any reptile or animal, and notice how they get around. Do you see any walking backwards? Have a seat for a moment. Now get up. When you got up, what went forward first? Was it your head or your back end? (Your head). If you want to live a beautiful life, just allow Jesus to take the lead.



Mama Shug always said...



Because it seems normal and everyone else is doing it doesn't make it right"! Normal represents popularity, whereas right represents ethics. The majority rules (popularity), but it doesn't make them right at all.



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The Significance of Black History Month

Black History Month, observed every February in the United States, celebrates the achievements, contributions, resilience, and rich heritage of African Americans while recognizing their central role in shaping the nation.



It began in 1926 as Negro History Week, created by historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson, known as the "Father of Black History." He chose the second week of February to include the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, aiming to counter the neglect of Black history in education and promote its serious study. In 1976, during the U.S. Bicentennial, President Gerald Ford expanded it to a full month, officially designating February as Black History Month. Congress later supported this through resolution, and every president since has issued annual proclamations. Its core significance includes: Highlighting Black excellence in science, the arts, politics, civil rights, sports, and more.

Correcting historical omissions and affirming that Black history is American history.

Educating about the legacy of slavery, segregation, civil rights struggles, and ongoing fights for equality.

Inspiring reflection, pride, unity, and progress toward a more just society.

In 2026, Black History Month marks its 100th anniversary (from the first Negro History Week). The official theme from ASALH is "A Century of Black History Commemorations", reflecting on how these observances have evolved and influenced perceptions of Black life globally. Black History Month is more than a one-month event—it's a reminder that African American contributions are ongoing and essential, encouraging year-round learning, celebration, and action for equality.



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Natchitoches Zetas Celebrate Founders' Month with Service and Sisterhood



NATCHITOCHES, LA — The Mu Omega Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated kicked off 2026 with a powerful demonstration of community spirit, social action, and sisterhood. Throughout January, the chapter engaged in a series of events to commemorate the sorority's 106th anniversary and its international Founders' Day.

A Season of Service and Social Justice

The new year began on January 7, as chapter members worked to provide warmth and comfort for clients. The sorority donated blankets to two vital local organizations: the Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center and Gracie's Gift, led by Dr. Brenda Sarpy and Ms. Sheree Roberson, a non-profit dedicated to supporting individuals with special exceptionalities.

On January 16, in observance of Founders' Day and the Zeta Global Day of Service, the Mu Omega Zeta Chapter partnered with the Amicae of Natchitoches to donate essential supplies to the Northwestern State University (NSU) Food Pantry. This initiative honored the legacy of the five founders by addressing food access on the local campus.

Continuing their commitment to civic engagement, the chapter participated in the MLK Day March for Justice and Peace on January 19. As part of the Zeta Phi Beta Social Justice Initiative, members marched from Ben Johnson Auditorium to the MLK Triangle, for a wreath laying ceremony, reaffirming their dedication to equity and community unity.

"Brewing a Finer Future"

To conclude the month's festivities, the sorority hosted an elegant Founders' Day Tea themed "Brewing a Finer Future." The program featured keynote speaker Jacqueline Woods, a Graduate Life Member and initiate of the Xi Epsilon Chapter at NSU. The event, chaired by Lockey Reliford, served as a time of reflection and recognition for outstanding contributions to the organization.

High honors were presented to several distinguished individuals:

- Josephine Franklin: Celebrated for a milestone 52 years of dedicated service to Zeta Phi Beta.
- Alice Johnson: Honored as the Zeta Amicae of the Year.
- Ariyonna Sarpy (Xi Epsilon Chapter): Recognized as Undergraduate Zeta of the Year.
- Carletta D. Jones (Mu Omega Zeta Chapter): Awarded the title of Graduate Zeta of the Year.

By blending community outreach and social advocacy with a celebration of their history, the Mu Omega Zeta Chapter continues to uphold the sorority's founding principles of Scholarship, Service, Sisterhood, and Finer Womanhood.

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Natchitoches Zetas Celebrate Founders' Month with Service and Sisterhood

(Blanket donations)



Katrina Braden, Amicae President, Linda Howard



(L to R) Mary Calhoun, Doryce Polk, Alice Johnson, Rev. Brenda Sarpy, Sharon Blake, Sandra Williams, Carletta Jones, Sheree Roberson



Tea Party Pictures (L to R-Lockey Reliford, Josephine Franklin)



Graduate Zeta of the Year
Carletta Jones



Zeta Amicae of the Year- (L to R)Katrina



Guest Speaker, Jacqueline Woods

Braden, Amicae President, Alice Johnson



(Pic L to R: Linda Howard, Julia, President Candance Gray, Joanna Washington, Doryce Polk, Alice Johnson, Carletta Jones, Sandra Williams, Josephine Winder, Sandy Irchirl, Belinda Turner

MLK Day March for Justice & Peace



Pic (l to R) Julia Davis, Candance Grayson, President, Belinda Turner, Dr. Jasmine Wise, MLK Program Coordinator, Joanna Washington, Jessica H. Miller, Carletta Jones, Sandy Irchirl)



Undergraduate Zeta of the Year

L to R (Faith Miller, Xi Epsilon President, Ariyonne Sarpy)

MLK Wreath Laying Ceremony



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The Civil Rights Movement and Beyond

Timeline of Events in African American History

1909

NAACP is founded to fight for civil rights.



1920s

The Harlem Renaissance flourishes as a Black cultural movement.



1954

Brown v. Board of Education declares school segregation unconstitutional.



1955

Rosa Parks refused to give up her bus seat, sparking the Montgomery Bus Boycott.



1963

March on Washington, Martin Luther King Jr. delivers the "I Have a Dream" speech.



1964/1965

Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Voting Rights Act of 1965 are signed, banning segregation and protecting voting rights.



2008

Barack Obama elected as the first African American President.



2020s

Widespread protests against racial injustice, including the Black Lives Matter movement.



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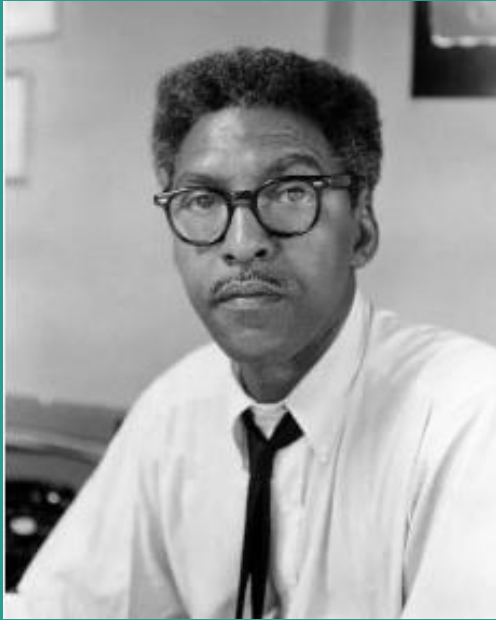
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We are ALWAYS here for you.

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

DID YOU KNOW?



Bayard Rustin was a close advisor to Martin Luther King and an American leader of the civil rights movement. Rustin organized and led several protests, including the 1963 March on Washington.



Jesse Owens was an American track and field athlete and four-time gold medalist in the 1936 Olympic Games in Germany. Owens specialized in the sprints and the long jump.



Zora Neale Hurston was an American author, anthropologist, and filmmaker. In 1937, she published her famous novel, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.

RARE! DOESN'T MEAN IMPOSSIBLE

GALLBLADDER CANCER often hides in plain sight and is a rare but aggressive disease. Early symptoms are frequently mistaken for common digestive issues, which can delay diagnosis. Individuals with a history of gallstones or chronic gallbladder inflammation may face a higher risk.

At **NRMC General Surgery Associates**, Dr. Ball and Dr. Jackson specialize in gallbladder health and offer advanced diagnostic care and treatment options, including minimally invasive surgery, for gallbladder-related conditions. They combine advanced techniques with compassionate care to help patients reach optimal health and return to everyday life.

EARLY EVALUATION MATTERS. IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING ANY OF THE SYMPTOMS, SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT TO BE EVALUATED TODAY.

GALLBLADDER CANCER SYMPTOMS:

- Persistent Abdominal Pain
- Unexplained Weight Loss
- Jaundice (yellowing of the skin or eyes)
- Loss of Appetite

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February is **GALLBLADDER CANCER** Awareness Month

Reading on the River Returns to the Natchitoches Riverbank March 14



January 29, 2026: (Natchitoches, LA) The Service League of Natchitoches will host Reading on the River, an annual community literacy event promoting the importance and enjoyment of reading outside of the classroom, on Saturday, March 14, 2026. The event will take place on the Natchitoches Riverbank from 10am-2pm.

The free, fun event for pre-K to 5th grade children includes reading-related activities, games, and music for children and families. Each child who attends will be able to take home at least one free new or used book. In past years, Reading on the River has distributed over 1,000 books to local children to promote literacy and education.

“Reading on the River is about meeting children where they are and showing them that books can be exciting, engaging, and full of possibility,” said Savannah Williams, Service League President. “Early exposure to reading is critical, and this event allows us to support literacy in a meaningful, hands-on way.”

Applications are now open for vendors to participate. There is no cost for participation, and each vendor is responsible for their own tent/booth space, table, chairs, and decorations. Each vendor should select a theme of their choice, whether centered around a popular children’s book or organization specific. Vendors should provide at least one activity for attendees, such as storytelling, a small craft activity, or a coloring sheet.

This event is supported by Cane River National Heritage Area and the Natchitoches Parish Early Childhood Network.

If you or your organization is interested in serving as a vendor or supporting Reading on the River, please contact Jessica Mullican at jessica@canerivernha.org or 318-356-5555.

Be Part of the Largest Business Gathering of the Year. Your Seat at the Table Matters!



This event serves as the Chamber's Annual Meeting and is the **largest gathering of the Natchitoches business community each year, bringing together business leaders, community partners, and this year's honorees.** With just five weeks to go, we invite you to be part of the evening that recognizes leadership, impact, and excellence across our local economy.

Date: February 25th, 2026

Time: 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Location: Natchitoches Event Center



Contact Morgan Green
morgan@gonatchitoches.com



Keynote Discussion



We are excited to welcome Jeff Siegler, founder of the "Revitalize, or Die" brand and thought-leadership platform, as the featured keynote speaker for this year's Go Natchitoches Awards.

Jeff will share an engaging message centered on place, pride, and purpose and why those elements are critical to building resilient communities. Drawing from decades of experience working with towns and cities across the country, Jeff challenges communities to confront apathy, embrace collaboration, and take ownership of their future. His perspective is shaped by a diverse background in urban planning, downtown district management, economic development, real estate, and organizational leadership, offering a practical and refreshingly honest look at what it truly takes to revitalize a community.

We look forward to welcoming Jeff for an event full of insight, inspiration, and celebration. Thank you to the Natchitoches Area Convention & Visitors Bureau and the Cane River National Heritage Area for sponsoring this address.

Caddo Conference will take place at NSU March 27-28

NATCHITOCHES – The Caddo Conference Organization/Louisiana Archaeological Society will hold their annual meeting at Northwestern State University March 27-28. Members will present papers and posters of Caddo archaeology, history and culture.

The purpose of the CCO is to promote interest in the Caddo ethnography of the Caddo region, southwestern Arkansas, northwestern Louisiana, southeastern Oklahoma and northeastern Texas and adjacent areas, enhance communication among researchers and advocate for and assist in the preservation and conservation of archaeological data and resources related to Caddo studies or sacred to the Caddo people.

The conference program run from 8:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Friday, Marh 27 in NSU's Student Union Ballroom with speakers presenting on a broad range of archaeological topics. A silent auction will be open. Light refreshments and lunch will be provided.

The conference will continue from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday in the ballroom. Members of the Caddo Culture Cub will perform traditional dances and songs from 3:30-5 p.m. and 6-8 p.m.

Pre-registration is free for Caddo tribal members and \$20 for the public with a \$1 processing fee for online transactions. Registration at the conference is \$25. Memberships for the Caddo Conference Organization will also be available. Members are eligible to receive a copy of the group's yearly journal. Membership is \$31 for individuals, \$21 for students, \$21 for Caddo tribal members, \$41 for families and \$71 for institutional subscribers. Donations are also accepted.

For details, registration and to submit abstracts for presentation, visit <http://caddoconference.org>.

NSU powerlifting team to begin competition

NATCHITOCHES - Northwestern State

University's club powerlifting team will begin its first season of competition Saturday, Feb. 21 at the USA Powerlifting Capital City Classic in Baton Rouge.

Representing NSU will be freshmen Ja'Leigha Gray of Plaquemine and Keith Wade of Belle Rose.



"I am excited to continue my journey in powerlifting and can't wait for the upcoming challenge of this competition," said Gray.

Wade said he is taking part in powerlifting because "wanted to get stronger and build connections with fellow lifters."

Other members on the team are Ayana Taylor and Breanne Jones of Shreveport, Passion Lemelle of Ville Platte and Rubin Seastrunk and Tyrein Richardson of Alexandria. Jones will be a handler for the lifters at this competition. Taylor is team manager and will assist with meet logistics.

USA Powerlifting, established in 1981 as the American Drug Free Powerlifting Association, Inc, is the leading drug-tested powerlifting organization in the United States.

Distinct from weightlifting, a sport made up of two lifts: the snatch and the clean-and-jerk, where the weight is lifted above the head. Powerlifting includes three lifts: the squat, bench press and deadlift. Powerlifting competitions may include one, two or all three of the lifting disciplines.

Gray sees added benefits from taking part in powerlifting.

"I started powerlifting to teach myself resilience and do the unexpected," said Gray. "I also love this sport."

For more information or to join the NSU Powerlifting Team, contact Head Coach Maya Lucas at lucasma@nsula.edu.

Club sports are student-run organizations that bring together students with a shared interest in athletics. Competing with other colleges and clubs across the region, these teams offer a competitive outlet without the full-time commitment of NCAA sports. NSU offers 11 club sports. For more information, contact Coordinator of Competitive sports Courtney Chancellor at chancellorc@nsula.edu or go to <https://www.nsula.edu/wellness-and-recreation/wrac/>

An advertisement for Northwestern State University. It features a photograph of a smiling young woman with braided hair, wearing a purple shirt, sitting at a desk with a laptop. Overlaid on the image is the Northwestern State University logo (a stylized 'N' in a square) and the text 'NORTHWESTERN STATE'. Below this, in a large purple box, is the text '100+ AREAS OF STUDY'. Underneath that, in an orange box, is the website 'WWW.NSU.LA/EXPLORE'. At the bottom, in a white box, is the text 'SHAPE YOUR TOMORROW AT NORTHWESTERN'.



City of Natchitoches Selected by The National League of Cities for Second Phase Grant to Boost Economic Growth and Resilience

NATCHITOCHES, LA – The City of Natchitoches is proud to announce it has been selected by the National League of Cities (NLC) to move forward to the Implementation Phase of the Southern Cities Economic Initiative (SCEI). As one of 14 cities selected for this next two-year phase of SCEI, the City will receive a grant of \$50,000 to elevate and implement local strategies that boost economic mobility and resilience for Natchitoches residents.

Through participation in this project, the City of Natchitoches has launched the UPLift Natchitoches Entrepreneurship Program (UPNEP), which is dedicated to empowering aspiring entrepreneurs and further supporting newly opened small businesses to help them grow and thrive. Interested participants have an opportunity to compete for up to \$7,500 in grant funding to help launch or grow their businesses after successful completion of the nine-month curriculum.

The program, which was developed by Community Outreach and Grants Manager Nicole Gray, delivers targeted business training, networking opportunities, and hands-on support to help navigate the challenges of starting and growing a small business. “UPLift was created to ensure local entrepreneurs, especially those who have historically been overlooked, have access to the resources, training, and support needed to build sustainable businesses. This program allows us to strengthen our local economy by focusing on small businesses with proven techniques to build long-term sustainability,” said Gray.

During the project’s initial planning phase, the City of Natchitoches received a planning grant for \$15,000, which provided tailored technical assistance, peer learning opportunities, access to data and experts from the Federal Reserve Bank, as well as connections to national funders. Other cities selected to participate in the initiative include Atlanta, Ga.; Center Point, Ala.; Charlottesville, Va.; Fayetteville, Ark.; Greenville, Miss.; Harrisonburg, Va.; Jackson, Miss.; Jonesboro, Ga.; Lauderhill, Fla.; Little Rock, Ark.; Monroe, La.; New Orleans, La.; and Thomasville, N.C.

“This grant is more than funding. It’s belief in our people, our ideas, and our ability to build something lasting right here in Natchitoches. UPLift was born from the conviction that when you invest in everyday dreamers and doers, you strengthen the entire community. We are deeply grateful to the National League of Cities for standing with us and helping turn hope into opportunity,” said Mayor Williams.

“The South is a region of remarkable strength, innovation, and resilience, and cities across the region are primed to overcome the barriers of limited job growth, access to capital, and affordable housing,” says NLC CEO and Executive Director Clarence E. Anthony. “We are pleased to see this select group of 14 cities and work with the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta to build stronger, more resilient economies and create opportunities for all residents to thrive.”

SCEI’s implementation phase will run through December 2027. NLC is implementing this project in collaboration with the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta and with support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Kresge Foundation, and the Nathan Cummings Foundation. Learn more at nlc.org/initiative/southern-cities-economic-inclusion-scei-expanding-capacity-building-resilience.



11th Annual Natchitoches Pub Crawl

FAUNA (Friends All United for Natchitoches Animals) is excited to announce that it will once again host the annual Natchitoches Pub Crawl. This event raises much needed funds for the 113 dogs and cats currently in our care, as well as allows us to help neglected, abused and homeless animals in our parish.

This year's 11th Annual Pub Crawl will take place on Saturday, March 14 from 4:00p.m. to 10:00p.m. in downtown Natchitoches. This event will happen rain or shine. There will be five (5) pub crawl stops in addition to musical acts, food trucks and vendors on Front Street. Each crawler who registers before March 7 will receive a t-shirt, goody bag and wristband entitling them to drink and appetizer specials and 2 free beers at the red beer truck. IDs will be checked at the registration/packet pick up table and at the beer truck.

A costume contest will be held at 6:00 p.m. Prizes will be awarded for best male costume and best female costume. Additionally, there will be first, second and third place prizes for the best pub crawl poker hand. All cards must be turned in by 8:30pm. The winners will be announced at 9:00pm. To register please visit - <https://FAUNAPubCrawl2026.eventbrite.com>.

Discount early bird registration is open until February 6. After that date the tickets will be regular price. The deadline to register and ensure an event t-shirt is March 1. You can register after March 1 and at the event but t-shirts are not guaranteed.

Our packet pick-up party will be Friday, March 13 from 4-6pm at Flying Heart Brewery. We will have door prizes as well as Trail Boss free lunch coupons for the lucky first few who pick up their packets.

If you would like to sponsor this event, participate as a vendor or volunteer, please contact FAUNA Board Member Kathy Owsley at katcamcal@yahoo.com or text 318-471-6624.



Below is the schedule of events:

- 3:30 – Packet pick-up begins
- 4:00-8:30 – Pub Crawl & Vendors
- 4:00-6:00 – Jenny & Kelli
- 6:00 – Costume Contest
- 6:00-8:00 – Coming In Crutch
- 6:00-10:00 – Wrinkle Free Entertainment
- 8:30 – All cards must be turned in
- 9:00 – 1st, 2nd & 3rd place winners announced

Natchitoches Coalition on Homelessness Presents Teatime in Springtime



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2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

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NATCHITOCHES:

Welcome to the BOM Family, Trace Bonnette! We’re excited to introduce Trace, our new Computer Operator Intern at the Operations Complex! Trace is a proud Natchitoches native and NSU student who enjoys working on cars, camping, cooking, and spending time with his dog—whether they’re taking walks around campus or relaxing at home. We are thrilled to have you on the team, Trace!



RAPIDES:

Meet Kristina Bagwell, our trusted Secondary Market Lender!

Whether you’re exploring Conventional, FHA, VA, or Rural Development loans, Kristina is ready to help you find the right fit. Contact her today for an easy process and a fast closing!

You can visit with Kristina by visiting her at 1423 Wimbledon Boulevard in Alexandria, LA 71301 or by calling her at (318) 448-2430 *ext* 2706.



SABINE:

Help us celebrate BOM’s Genevieve Loe and Kelcie Sepulvado on reaching their 90-day milestone with BOM Bank! In just three months, these two have already made a big impact with their hard work, positive attitudes, and dedication to taking great care of our customers. We’re excited to watch them continue to grow and thrive as part of the BOM family! Join us in congratulating Genevieve and Kelcie on this milestone—and here’s to many more successes ahead!



Caddo/Bossier:

BOM Bank was proud to make a donation to the Bossier Schools’ i3 Art Expo, a family-friendly event that is free to the public and showcases the incredible artistic talents of students throughout Bossier Parish. Events like the i3 Art Expo highlight the importance of arts education and give students a chance to shine while bringing families and the community together. Pictured left to right: Sonja Bailes, BOM’s Aaron Savell, Tiffany Spillman, and Gabby Stafford.



Thurgood Marshall documentary gives NSU students legal perspective on civil rights

NATCHITOCHES – A documentary screening of the life of Thurgood Marshall led to discussion about how the U.S Constitution is interpreted, impactful statutes that the public should be aware of, and the role that courage plays in practicing law.

Northwestern State University's Gail Metoyer Jones Center, NSU's NAACP Chapter, and Black Studies, Pre-Law & Paralegal Studies programs hosted a screening of "Becoming Thurgood: America's Social Architect" as part of Black History Month, followed by a panel discussion on civil rights, discrimination, and how college students can get involved in shaping government policy.

Marshall was an American civil rights attorney and the U.S. Supreme Court's first African American justice. But before he served as justice, he spent decades of his career leading the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and was a prominent figure in working to end racial segregation in America.



Thurgood Marshall panelists:

Guests who served on a panel to discuss the legacy of the late U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall were, from left, Judge David Williams, Dr. Rebecca Riall, Judge Monique Rauls, Dr. Carmella Parker and Dr. Michael McClanahan.

"Becoming Thurgood" examined Marshall's pragmatic approach to civil rights from a legal standpoint and how his legacy paved the way for Black Americans and other minorities to pursue ongoing social justice initiatives.

Panelists were Dr. Michael McClanahan, a civil rights attorney and advocate who serves as Louisiana NAACP State Conference president; Dr. Carmella Parker, attorney, NSU professor of business and and chief legal officer of a digital company; Judge Monique Rauls, 9th Judicial District Court; Judge David Williams, a 2004 NSU alum, 9th Judicial District Court, and Dr. Rebecca Riall, JD., Ph.D., attorney at law and associate professor and coordinator of Prelaw and Paralegal Studies and Indigenous Studies at NSU. They were welcomed by NSU NAACP President Morgan Swafford of Natchitoches. Arthur Malveaux of New Iberia moderated the panel.

"Becoming Thurgood: America's Social Architect" is a production of Maryland Public Television, made possible with appropriation from the State of Maryland for The Center for Maryland and History Films. Funding for the film is also provided by Morgan State University, Theralogix, Sage Policy Group, and Allan and Shelley Holt (through the Hillside Foundation. Louisiana Public Broadcasting enabled NSU to screen the documentary free of charge.



Annual Spring Career Fair to be held Feb. 24

NATCHITOCHES - Northwestern State University's Office of Career Services will hold its Spring 2026 Career Fair on Tuesday, Feb. 24, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the Friedman Student Union Ballroom.

The event is open to both undergraduate and graduate students at NSU who would like to connect with employers and explore internships and full-time opportunities.



Students should bring their résumés and be prepared to be interviewed. Director of Career Services Tiffany Carrier Killion said networking with different employers from multiple industries can increase the chances of finding an internship or job after graduation.

Free headshots will be available from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. courtesy of NSU's marketing team.

Prior to the Career Fair from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., students can take part in The Demon Wears Prada, a special event where costuming students from the School of Creative and Performing Arts can help individuals put together polished, professional business attire for the Career Fair. Participants will receive personalized styling help and can keep one complete outfit for free.

Employers planning to attend include the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office, Charter Schools USA, Natchitoches Regional Medical Center, the Beauregard Parish School Board, Cintas Corporation, Louisiana Legislative Auditor, Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, and the Louisiana Department of State Civil Service.

Other prospective employers are the City of Baton Rouge/Parish of East Baton Rouge, CHRISTUS Health, Crest Industries, Northwestern Mutual - North Louisiana, Natchitoches Army Recruiting, BOM Bank, the Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts and the Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office.

Also participating are Enterprise Mobility, the Louisiana Department of Health - Sanitarian Services, IHS Group, U.S. Department of State, the LA Workforce Commission, Ochsner LSU Health, Behavioral Specialists of Louisiana, Coca-Cola UNITED and the Texas Department of Public Safety.

Student registration is available at nsu.la/GFstudent. Employer registration is available at nsu.la/GFemployer.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

BLACK History MONTH

Lineup will be on church street Courthouse parking lot. Will exit east onto Church, turn right on second proceeding to Amulet, turn left onto Amulet proceed to Jefferson, turning left on Jefferson towards front street, turn onto Lafayette heading towards Church Street, turning right and dispersing at courthouse parking lot.


Got
FEB 28

PARADE LINE UP @11AM
PARADE STARTS @12:30PM

FOR INFORMATION & LINE UP ORDER:
MARIA MANGUM 318-332-0081

FOR APPLICATIONS:
BETTY KIRKENDOLL 318-332-8668

FOR GROUPS:
TEE JOHNSON 225-235-3088



CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH
410 Sixth St. - Natchitoches, LA



2nd Pastoral ANNIVERSARY

Pastor Carlos & Lady Rosie Donaway



Theme:
Rooted in Faith,
Growing In Grace
Colossians 2:6-7
March 15, 2026
@ 2:30pm

Guest Speaker
Dr. Kurt Clark
Sardis MBC
Birmingham, Alabama

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
1116 Amulet St.

Pre Anniversary Musical Celebration

*Honoring
Pastor Thomas Carter Sr.
& First Lady Tina Carter*

**27th FEBRUARY
@ 6:30PM**

GROUPS, CHOIRS,
SOLOISTS, PRAISE DANCE
OR MIME OF YOUR CHOICE

RSVP: Evangelist Gilda
Johnson 318-792-1542



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