



THE REAL NEWS

Louisiana

"A Community With a Voice Shall Be Heard" ®

Jazlyn Revels:

Breaking Barriers as Natchitoches Parish's First African American Woman Firefighter

Publisher: Latorria Freeman



Jazlyn Revels, a 30-year-old resident of Natchitoches, Louisiana, embodies resilience, faith, and a lifelong commitment to serving others. As the proud daughter of Kanika Revels and the late Sean Revels, she carries forward the love and legacy of her family, which has profoundly shaped her character and choices. A 2014 graduate of Natchitoches Central High School, Revels went on to earn a bachelor's degree in general studies from Northwestern State University in 2019. From an early age, she felt a deep passion for helping people, particularly children. During her high school and early college years, she worked in childcare, a role she continued after graduation by teaching in the Austin, Texas, school system. After a period of reflection and soul-searching, Revels experienced a pivotal shift in December 2024. Seeking mental clarity and divine guidance, she took a bold step by volunteering with her local fire department.

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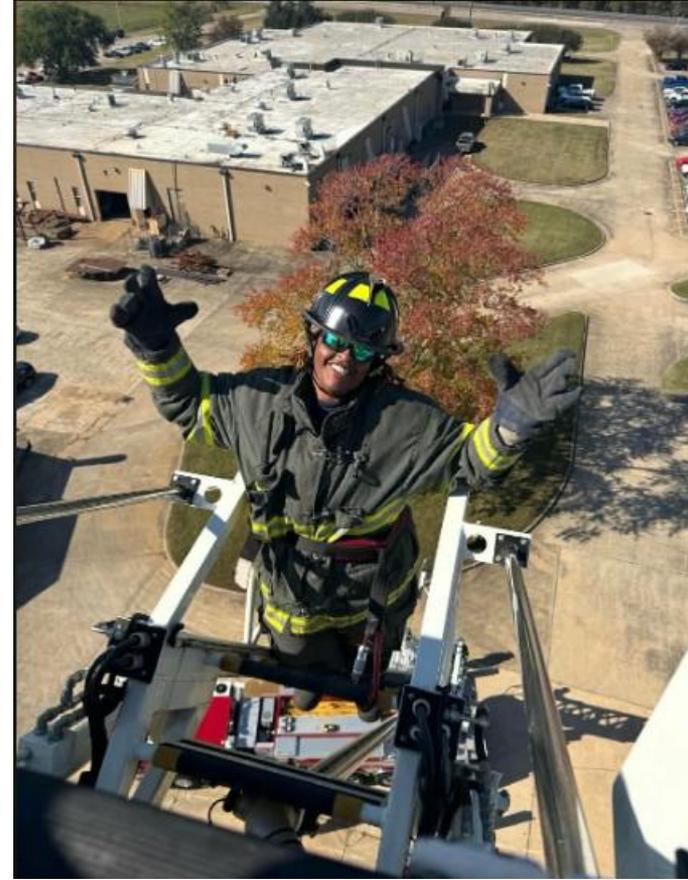
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Jazlyn Revels: Breaking Barriers as Natchitoches Parish's First African American Woman Firefighter

What began as an act of faith quickly evolved into a true calling. She completed her Firefighter I certification in November 2025 and soon accepted a part-time position with Natchitoches Parish Fire District 6, making history as the first African American woman to serve in the fire service in Natchitoches. Revels' path reflects a deep sense of purpose. She had always known she was meant to help others, but it was through prayer and perseverance—bolstered by the strength of her ancestors—that she discovered her true vocation in emergency service. As Black History Month highlights the achievements and struggles of African Americans, Revels' story serves as a powerful reminder that representation matters.



Her role honors the sacrifices, courage, and determination of those who paved the way before her. Today, Revels serves not just as a firefighter but as an inspiration to young girls and aspiring dreamers everywhere.

She demonstrates that barriers can be shattered, purpose can be uncovered at any stage of life, and with faith, dedication, and heart, anyone can step boldly into spaces once deemed off-limits. Her journey encourages others to pursue their calling fearlessly, proving that change begins with one courageous leap.

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Demons Engage: Nursing students talk clinicals with the Kiwanis Club

NATCHITOCHES – A class of Northwestern State University nursing students in first-level clinicals and Associate Professor of Nursing Dr. Shaun Wheat spoke to the Natchitoches Kiwanis Club on March 12 to discuss their experiences with hands-on nursing and applying textbook knowledge to a real clinical setting. Afterwards, they conducted blood pressure checks and visited with club members one-on-one.

The discussion was the first in a series titled Demons Engage, in which students visit with civic organizations, business leaders, and community partners. The initiative was created by NSU's Office of Economic Development as a way to share NSU stories with the community.

"Demons Engage highlights NSU students applying what they learn through short, student-led interactive experiences," said Danielle Cobb, associate director of Corporate and Community Engagement. "These 20- to 30-minute showcases demonstrate workforce readiness and the real-world impact of NSU's academic programs."

Cobb said that although NSU sits in the heart of Natchitoches, many residents and community leaders may not see the learning and innovation happening on campus.

"Demons Engage allows our students to step forward and demonstrate the hands-on skills they are gaining, giving civic organizations and community leaders a firsthand look at how NSU is preparing the next generation of professionals and strengthening our region," she said.

For information on Demons Engage or to request a student presentation, contact Cobb at cobbd@nsula.edu.



Blood Pressure:

NSU nursing student Ruben Kho of Alexandria checked Don Barker's blood pressure following a Demons Engage presentation for the Kiwanis Club on March 12.



Nursing Presentation:

NSU nursing students in their first level of clinicals at the Natchitoches campus and their professor, Dr. Shaun Wheat, far right, spoke to the Natchitoches Kiwanis Club about putting classroom knowledge into nursing practice.

Natchitoches Crime Stoppers: Anonymous Tips, Cash Rewards

Natchitoches Crime Stoppers partners with local police and the sheriff's office to solve crimes. Report information anonymously—no names, no recordings, no caller ID. If your tip leads to an arrest, you can earn up to \$2,000 or more.



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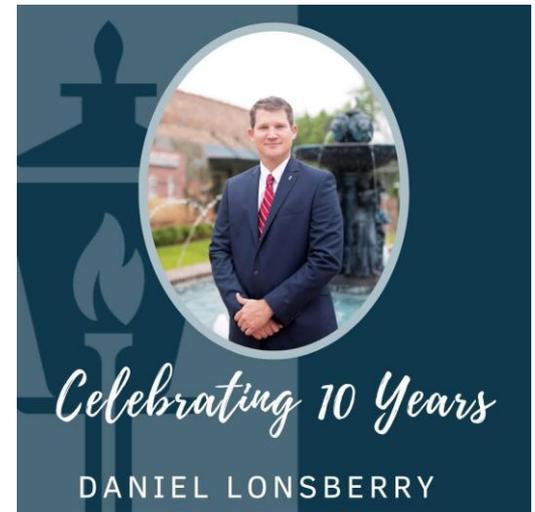


NATCHITOCHES:

Mackenzie works as a Teller II at BOM Bank's Washington Street branch. She is originally from Montgomery, LA, and graduated from Montgomery High School. After graduation, she moved to Natchitoches, LA, and made it home! In her free time, Mackenzie loves to mud ride and spend time with her bonus son. She has demonstrated a strong start and is already making a great impact on BOM Bank. Welcome aboard, Mackenzie! Keep up the fantastic work!

SABINE:

Our lovely ladies in Many are proudly wearing green to cheer on the Zwolle High School Lady Hawks! Playoff season is here, and BOM Bank is all in supporting our local athletes. Let's go, Lady Hawks! Pictured left to right: BOM's Twyla Lovelady, Brittany Sepulvado, Tonya Hall, Genevieve Loe, Linda Guay, Ashley Parrie, Tiffany Miller, and Kim Wilkerson.



RAPIDES:

Time to celebrate a BIG milestone! Join us in congratulating Daniel Lonsberry on 10 incredible years with BOM Bank! Daniel serves as our South Regional President at the Coliseum branch in Alexandria, LA, and his dedication, leadership, and commitment to our team and community make every day better. Here's to 10 amazing years—and many more to come!

Caddo/Bossier:

BOM Bank is proud to support the Benton High School Basketball Team! Head Boys Basketball Coach Jake Bankston is pictured accepting a sponsorship check from BOM's Aaron Savell. These funds will help cover travel expenses, meals, gear, and more—making sure our Tigers are ready to hit the court and compete at their very best. At BOM Bank, we believe in backing our local student-athletes both on and off the hardwood. Here's to fast breaks, clutch shots, tough defense, and a season full of slam dunks!

Happy St. Patrick's Day



BOM

East Natchitoches Community Tributes



Our East Natchitoches Community is proud to announce Mrs. Ollie Mae Ficklin age 95 born to Mr. Paul Washington Jr. and Mrs. Melvina Baldwin Washington. Together they had four children. Mary Ann Washington Casson, Paul Washington III, Ollie Mae Washington Ficklin. and Earl Washington. Reared on the Future Plantation later moved to the east Natch. Community. She was married to the late Mr. Freddie Ficklin of fifty-one yrs., and to this union four children were conceived. Dorothy Washington) Steve Below of Dallas, Texas, Joyce Marie Ficklin and Freddie Mae both of Natchitoches. Steven Markey Ficklin which preceded her in death. Nine grandchildren, six great-grandchildren. She is a member of St. Savior Baptist Church of Cane River under the leadership of Rev. Henry Edwards.



Our East Natchitoches Community is proud to present Mr. Isaac (93 years old) and Mrs. Theresa (87 years old). This beautiful couple have been married for 66 years, and to this union four daughters were born. They have lived in East Natchitoches since they got married. He worked for Coca Cola and she worked at East Natchitoches Middle School in cafeteria. Grew up and went to school on Cane River.



Our East Natchitoches Community is proud to recognize Mrs. Mary Moses as the second African American woman to work for the District Attorney's Office. She was hired in 1982 in the child support division part time, within months she went full time. In 1983 an added position was given to her in the Division of Criminal Court B. At her request, she went back to the child support division full time, where she remained as an analyst until her retirement from the District Attorney's Office January 2013.



Our East Natchitoches Community is proud to present Mrs. Mary. L. Armstrong who later moved to east Natchitoches. She is ninety-six and was married to the late James Armstrong Jr., and together had five children, a host of grands, great- grand and more. She retired from the NSU middle school in the '90's. She is a member of The Rock Island B.C under the leadership of Conway Terrell Jones. She is extremely loved and cared for by her family.



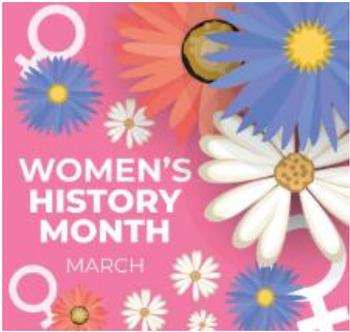
Mrs. Hestiner Washington (94), was married to Mr. Ameail Washington for sixty-seven years, and to this union six children were born: Emile Washington, Jo Ann Washington Roque, Willie James Washington, Rose Ann Washington Coutee, Sandra Diane Washington Perot, Bradley and Valerie Washington all of Natchitoches. Fourteen grandchildren, a hosts of grand and great-grands.

She was employed by the Natchitoches Nursing Home and is a member of St. Martha B.C., under the leadership of Pastor Albert Gillie Sr. She faithfully served as a usher in her younger days, but now she's is the mother of the church.

East Natchitoches Community Tributes



Mrs. Shelby Walker Graham, a native of Winnfield, LA, married Mr. J.D. Graham in 1964 and later moved to Natchitoches, LA where she began her career working in the Natchitoches Parish School System. As a member of the choir, she continues to serve as a long-standing member of the historic Asbury United Methodist Church in Natchitoches. Mrs. Graham is mother to one daughter, Angela. Mrs. Graham has been a pillar of the east Natchitoches community where she has been employed at Natchitoches Parish Council on Aging since February 2, 1980, where she has served with the USDA Commodity Program, Medicaid Enrollment Program, and COA Public Transportation. In 2013, she was awarded a Gold Lapel Pin from the Louisiana Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs for her 30+ years of service. With 46 years of employment with NPCOA, Mrs. Shelby Graham currently serves as Nutrition Director with the Meals on Wheels Program.



Mrs. Idell Snowden age ninety-six is the oldest children and three grandchildren. She was born and reared in the Baton Rouge, Louisiana and she and him are graduates of Southern University of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She is a member of Asbury Methodist Church of Natchitoches. She worked faithfully in the field of Agriculture Center through LSU as an extension agent. She volunteered for years after retiring to help out at the Council on Aging of Natchitoches. Many kids remember her for impacting their lives 4-H and participating annually in the state Achievement Day Program where the with they had made in 4-H was on exhibit. She is well known for her good cooking and baking such as: moist cakes, delicious pecan candy, and anything that can be baked I cooked, she could do it.



Our East Natchitoches Community is proud to acknowledge Mrs. Barbara Roque Llorens, 87 yrs. old, who has been in our community for a very long time. She is the widow to Mr. Earnest Llorens, in whom she married on December 28, 1960. To this union two children were conceived. Ms. Deborah A. Llorens who preceded them in death, and one son, Mr. Michael D. Llorens (Knakita). One lovely grandson, Stephen Llorens (Allison), and three beautiful great-grandchildren, Isabella, Alexandra, and Gianna.

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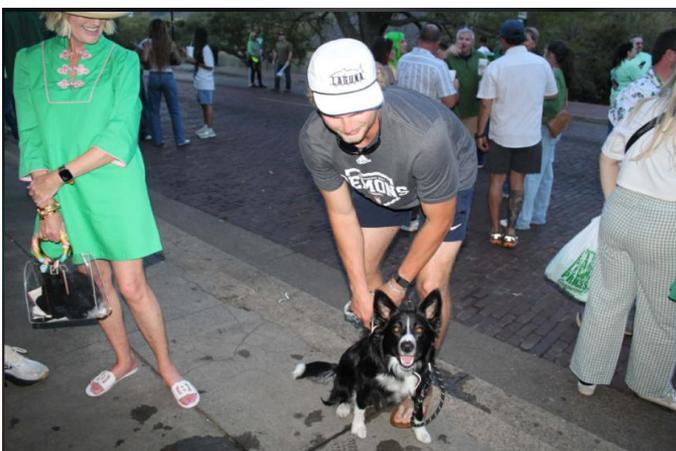


Pub Crawl Magic: FAUNA’s 11th Annual Event a Community Triumph

The 11th Annual FAUNA Pub Crawl in Natchitoches proved to be a resounding success, drawing crowds to downtown's historic streets for a lively evening of fun, fundraising, and community spirit.

Hosted by Friends All United for Natchitoches Animals (FAUNA), the event took place on Saturday, March 14, 2026, from 4:00 PM to 10:00 PM along Front Street in the Historic Landmark District. Timed to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day, the pub crawl combined themed drinks, live music, food trucks, and vendors across five participating stops, all while raising vital funds for the nonprofit’s mission to care for neglected, abused, and homeless animals. This year's iteration marked the 11th annual edition, highlighting the event's growing popularity and staying power in the community.

Attendees enjoyed a festive atmosphere complete with a costume contest, special promotions at each stop, and additional entertainment from musical acts. Despite the possibility of rain, the event proceeded rain or shine, and organizers emphasized safety with ID checks and a focus on responsible enjoyment. The pub crawl not only delivered an entertaining night out but also strengthened community ties while making a tangible difference for local animals. As one of Natchitoches' standout charitable events, the 11th Annual FAUNA Pub Crawl once again demonstrated how good times and a great cause can come together to create lasting impact. Cheers to another successful year—and here's to many more!





Pub Crawl Magic: FAUNA's 11th Annual Event a Community Triumph





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Hear insights on certified site development, statewide economic development initiatives, and the current legislative outlook impacting site readiness and industry recruitment. Their team will also discuss strategies communities can use to strengthen infrastructure, align with state priorities, and position sites more competitively for future investment.

Strategies Priorities: Site Readiness & Industry Development

Don't forget to register for the first Natchitoches Economic Development Alliance (NEDA) Breakfast Club of 2026 as we take a closer look at site readiness, legislative insights, and industry priorities shaping the year ahead.

As communities across Louisiana compete for new investment and growth, certified sites, targeted industries, and strong policy alignment are becoming increasingly important to long-term success. This discussion will explore how these elements come together and what they could mean for economic opportunity in Natchitoches Parish in 2026.

Date: Wednesday, March 18
Time: 8:15 – 9:30 a.m.
Location: NRMCM – Listach Room

Discussion Leaders



Mark Goodson
Principal, Planning and Resilience Practice Lead



Taylor Gravois
Principal & Economic Development Practice Lead



Elliot Boudreaux
Project Manager

Why Attend?

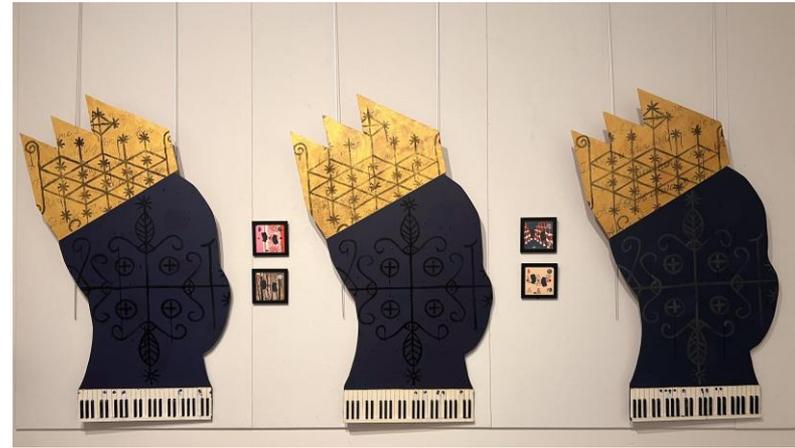
- Gain Strategic Insight: Learn how site readiness and targeted industries strengthen competitive positioning.
 - Understand the Policy Landscape: Hear perspectives on anticipated legislative developments and their potential local impact.
 - Connect with Regional Leaders: Engage with stakeholders focused on long-term growth and investment readiness.
- We hope you will join us for this timely conversation.



Grambling State University Professor Brings New Exhibition to LSMSA Art Gallery

LSMSA announces Grambling State University professor and mixed-media artist Rodrecas Davis for the gallery's latest exhibition, "What it Look Like" (W.I.L.L.), on display through March 26th in the LSMSA Sharon Turcan Gahagan Art Gallery.

Using the Rorschach test as a conceptual framework, the works in W.I.L.L. invite viewers into reflection and contemplation. The exhibition poses layered questions: what do you see, what do you think is happening here, and what is the shape of things to come?



Davis's practice centers on drawing and painting in a mixed-media approach, often weaving in wordplay and lyrics. His work is deeply influenced by hip-hop culture, life in the American South, and the legacy of African history and spirituality.

A native of Monroe, Georgia, Rodrecas Davis is a 2006 graduate of the University of Georgia Fine Arts program with an emphasis on drawing and painting. Primarily a mixed-media artist, Davis is also a former columnist for the Athens Banner-Herald and Code Z Online: Black Visual Culture Now. Davis has presented papers at several academic conferences, including the HUIC Conference (Hawaii University International Conferences) Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences, where he discussed manifestations of hip-hop culture in the visual arts. His work has been featured in the Politics Issue of Callaloo: A Journal of African Diaspora Arts and Letters, ColorLines, and over one hundred exhibitions. Davis is a professor and Head of the Department of Visual & Performing Arts at Grambling State University in Grambling, Louisiana. An inaugural recipient of the Take Notice Fund Grant awarded by the National Performance Network (Ford Foundation), Davis also served as juror of the 77th Annual Wabash Valley Exhibition at the Swope Art Museum in Indiana and was most recently awarded a Creative Residency Fellowship at the Hambidge Center for the Creative Arts and Sciences.

This solo exhibition is open to the public Monday through Friday, 11:00am – 4:00pm. The gallery is located inside the Center for Performance and Technology on LSMSA's campus.

The public is also invited to attend the closing reception with the artist on March 26th, 4:30pm – 6:00pm.

For further information, contact Chris King, Senior Lecturer of Visual Arts and Gallery Director, at cking@lsmsa.edu.

LSMSA is a tuition-free, public residential high school serving high-achieving sophomores, juniors, and seniors from across Louisiana. Financial assistance is available to ensure access to its 42-year tradition of a rigorous, college-level living and learning experience.

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God Specializes in the Impossible

By: Evangelist and Author, Bonita Moses Arnold

Weighing in at only 4lbs. at birth, my mother, Elena Moses and my grandmother, “Mama Shug were instructed by the mid-wife to put me in a shoe box because I was going to die anyway. I am so grateful that I had a praying mother and grandmother that trust in the Lord, and knew that God specializes in the impossible.

If the head doesn't lead the tail can't follow.

Look at a snake and see how his 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 would always say...

As a young child walking from our East Natchitoches home on Keegan St. as Mama Shug and I approached the bridge, I stopped. She looked back and said, “Gal, come on here, I am trying to get to Cleco and pay this gas bill before the sun gets too hot”. I asked her if there was any other way that we could get across, and she said, “Sure, it is, you can always swim across”.

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Different and Dangerous Times: Keep Our Children Safe.

By: Author Shelia Pierre

Our children should be safe in the neighborhood in which they live and play. It's great when we know neighbors, especially in small neighborhoods. When I was growing up, people across the street and down the street were called neighbors. We knew their faces, names, their houses, and what cars they drove. Parents even left keys with them to unlock the door for their kids when they got off the school bus. Many of us don't even know the names of the people who live right beside us. I'm blessed to have a great neighbor, who I later found out was my cousin.

Young children are always walking down the roads. I'm always wondering who's in charge of them and what's the reason they are so busy. Because children know me from the schools, they have seen me leaving or coming home. They pop up, and as I open the door, I ask the question, "What are you doing walking these roads?" Next thing I hear is "Do you have snacks?" I tell them to get home and fast!

On March 12th, I arrived home from a meeting when there was a light knock on my door. I opened the door, and a girl from the classroom was standing there, but this time she had a younger friend with her. She asked why I wasn't at the school, and she asked the same question about snacks. She heard the same speech from me. While standing in the door talking to them, a van was passing by, it slowed down and backed up. The lady got out of the van and came to get the little girl and her scooter. I needed to tell that mom what I told the girls about danger and walking alone. She smiled a little but didn't say much.

When children are outside playing, they need supervision. Pull up a chair and watch from the porch. If they want to play at the community park, don't send them alone; go with them! Just like they asked me for snacks, somebody else could have snatched their hands and brought them inside their houses. Keeping your eyes on them while they're playing is so important. Never be so busy allowing the children to do whatever they want to do. Be present in the moments while they are playing outside, because things happen so fast. Being with them may very well save you from pain, tears, and heartbreak.

We are living in a totally different time from our childhood days. Predators are waiting for opportunities to hurt innocent children. Some of them could be next door and all over our neighborhoods. People need to get back to the days of telling children about strangersNOT to go into people's houses and not to get into cars with people they don't know. Some "strangers" can be people we know. The news shows us daily just how sick some individuals are when it comes to our children. Do your best to keep them protected and safe from the wickedness of this world: Know where your children are at all times so you won't get a telephone call, or that dreaded knock at your door that will alter your lives forever.

A great prayer to pray over the children, to keep them from harm. Psalm 91:11 (NKJV) reads: "For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways."

A Piece of the Heart: Natchitoches Unites for Autism Awareness Day in the Park

The Natchitoches community is coming together this April for a morning of advocacy, education, and family-oriented fun. The Mu Omega Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Incorporated in a proud partnership with Healthy Blue Louisiana, is hosting the annual Autism Awareness Day in the Park.

This impactful event is designed to foster inclusivity and provide a platform for support within the local community. Whether you are a family directly impacted by autism or a neighbor looking to learn more and show your support, there is a place for you at the park.

Event Details

- **Date:** Saturday, April 11, 2026
- **Time:** 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- **Location:** Natchitoches City Park
- **Address:** 401 Amulet Street, Natchitoches, LA 71457

What to Expect

The day is packed with activities aimed at both spreading awareness and celebrating the diverse neurodivergent community in Natchitoches. Attendees can look forward to:

- **Guest Speakers:** Local experts and advocates will share insights on autism resources and the importance of community support.
- **Support Walk:** A centerpiece of the morning, this walk invites participants to move together in a show of solidarity.
- **Food & Games:** A variety of refreshments and interactive games will be available for attendees to enjoy.
- **Fun for All Ages:** From sensory-friendly activities to community bonding, the event is crafted to be inclusive for everyone, from toddlers to seniors.

Supporting the Mission

The Mu Omega Zeta Chapter’s initiative aligns with the "Power of S.H.E." (Social, Health, and Economic Justice), emphasizing the importance of health equity and community wellness. By partnering with Healthy Blue, the organizers aim to bridge the gap between families and the vital resources they need to thrive.

Interested in Participating? For those looking to get involved as an exhibitor or vendor, please contact the organizers directly at **318-461-1300** for more information.

A Life Well Lived: Julia Sylvie Brossett

Julia Sylvie Brossett was born in the Cane River area on November 2, 1930. She received her early education at St. Joseph School in Melrose and St. Anthony of Padua in Natchitoches, where she completed the eighth grade. On November 27, 1946, she married Oscar Brossett Jr., and the couple settled in Natchitoches the following year, making their first home on Jean Marie Street. In February 1948, they welcomed their firstborn son. Oscar pursued auto mechanics at trade school and went on to work for the Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Natchitoches. As their family grew by two more children, the couple relocated to Scarborough Street, where Oscar — a true jack-of-all-trades — expanded their two-bedroom home to accommodate three additional children as well as Julia's grandmother, who came to live with them.



Determined to further her own education, Julia earned her GED at the Natchitoches trade school. After Oscar's parents passed away, the family briefly returned to the Cane River area before ultimately coming back to their home on Scarborough Street.

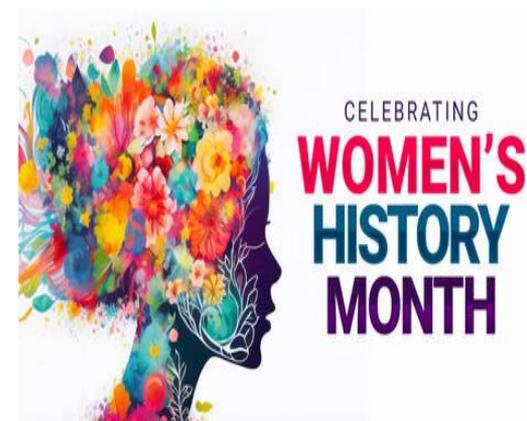
For most of her early years, Julia devoted herself fully to her family as a homemaker, taking on part-time housekeeping work when the opportunity arose. Once her youngest child was old enough to attend Head Start, she joined the staff at Natchitoches Parish Hospital, working in the laundry department for approximately eight years. Her career was cut short when she was injured in an automobile accident, forcing her to return home to recover. In the years that followed, Julia channeled her energy into service — volunteering as a Pink Lady at Natchitoches Parish Hospital for many years before turning her attention to Heritage Manor, where she spent countless hours brightening the lives of residents. She delighted in bringing her beloved dog, "Baby," to visit, and together with her sister Isabel, she organized bingo games and other activities to keep the residents engaged and uplifted.

She joined the Natchitoches COA and became an active member. She participated and won many medals in the Senior Olympics every year. She was also a member of the Cane River Stompers, a dance club that performed at different events in Natchitoches.

God was the center of her and Oscar's life. She is a lifetime member of St. Anthony Catholic Church. Together, they raised their 6 children in the catholic faith. She lost the love of her life in 2004 and lived alone with her little dog until she passed away.

Though she maintained her residence in Natchitoches, Julia cherished the time spent with her children. For 78 years, she was a beloved fixture in East Natchitoches — a constant, steadying presence in the community she called home.

She leaves behind a remarkable legacy, cherished as the proud grandmother of 13 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great-grandchildren



Phlebotomy Technician Training class to begin March 31 at NSU

NATCHITOCHEES - A phlebotomy technician training class will be offered by Northwestern State University's Office of Electronic and Continuing Education in Natchitoches starting March 31. The course was originally scheduled to begin on March 17. The class will be on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the classroom on the second floor of South Hall through May 14.

The fee for the class is \$995 plus a material fee, and the National Board Certification Exam Fee is paid directly to the instructor on the first night of class. The National Board Certification Exam fee is due before May 1. A minimum payment of \$497.50 must be made at the time of registration and does not include the material or board fees. The remaining balance must be paid through checkout.nsula.edu before Friday, May 1.

This seven-week face-to-face course, which includes 50 required venipuncture sticks, is designed to teach entry-level phlebotomy skills to students interested in pursuing a career in phlebotomy. Students must complete classroom instruction and 50 venipunctures before they can take the National Board Exam. Upon satisfactory completion of this course, students will be eligible to take the National Board Certification Exam on-site through the National Healthcareer Association (NHA). This course also includes Basic Life Support (BLS) Certification through the American Heart Association.

Course requirements and other details are available at checkout.nsula.edu or by calling (800) 376-2422 or (318) 357-6355. Stay up to date with course offerings by following NSULA Continuing Education on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/NSULA.ContinuingEducation>.

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GENERAL ELECTION
December 12, 2026

QUALIFYING PERIOD
July 29-31, 2026

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OPEN GENERAL				
U.S. Senator*	6	1/3/2027	1/3/2033	—
U.S. Representative*	2	1/3/2027	1/3/2029	6
Associate Justice, Supreme Court*	10	1/1/2027	12/31/2036	3
Public Service Commissioner*	6	1/1/2027	12/31/2032	5
OPEN PRIMARY				
Court of Appeal Judges*	10	1/1/2027	12/31/2036	3-1-B 3-1-C
District Judges	6	1/1/2027	12/31/2032	10th JDC
District Attorney	6	1/11/2027	1/9/2033	10th JDC
School Board Members	4	1/1/2027	12/31/2030	all
Justices of the Peace	6	1/1/2027	12/31/2032	all
Constables (Justice of the Peace Courts)	6	1/1/2027	12/31/2032	all

- Candidates qualify with Secretary of State.
- All other candidates qualify with Clerk of Court.

QUALIFYING PERIOD
JULY 29-31, 2026

2026 UPCOMING ELECTIONS

Important Dates

QUALIFYING PERIOD

July 29-31, 2026

- District Judges
- District Attorney
- School Board Members
- Justice of the Peace
- Constables
- City Court Marshal
- City Court Judge- Ward 1

ELECTION

April 2026

Village of Natchez

- Mayor
- Chief of Police
- Aldermen

QUALIFYING PERIOD

July 29-31, 2026

Mayors of Natchitoches' Towns and Villages through the Parish

CLOSED PARTY RACE

April 2026

- US Senator
- U.S. Representative
- Associate Justice of the Supreme Court
- Public Service Commissioner

Celebrating Women’s History Month: Anna Marie Santiago

Anna Marie Santiago, Pastor and Evangelist at a divine Street Ministry, 523 Amulet Street, Natchitoches, LA exemplifies daily the concept of loving God and loving all of His people regardless to race, creed, color or their station in life.

JESUS is the head of her life and He directs her footsteps and her pathway into many parts of these united states. She began her mission at the St. Titus Baptist Church in the Clear Lake vicinity of northern Natchitoches Parish. There, she served as Baptist Training Union teacher as well as a Sunday School Teacher, Leader of the Prayer Group and Director of the Children’s Ministry.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Her gift has made room for her and yielded many forward footsteps on her earthly journey including, but not limited to:

- *Serving as a Pageant Mother and Judge of several programs
- * Serving as a Vacation Bible School teacher in Natchitoches Parish and beyond
- *Becoming a Children’s teacher and Director at the Shady Grove Baptist Church
- *Becoming a Youth Teacher at the Evergreen Baptist Church
- *Completed Missionettes Leadership Training Course of the Assembly of God, Natchitoches
- *Worked with the Children’s Ministry at Evangelist Assembly of God Church, Columbus, MS
- *Worked with the Youth Department in Dorthan, AL
- *Completed Teacher Training Certification at Convent Baptist Church, New York, N. Y. as well as worked with the Pre-School aged children and the Girl Scout Program



- *Has successfully completed and received Child Abuse and Maltreatment Training in connection with employment at the Boys’ Harbor Drama and Theater School of the Arts for pre-school and school aged children.
- *Received a Diploma in Child Care from Louisiana Technical College
- *Began curriculum for her Bachelor of Arts in Christian Education with United Baptist Theological Seminary Bible College and later completed her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Christian Education at Excellent Word Bible Theological Seminary in Natchitoches, LA
- *Obtained a Certificate of License as an Evangelist
- *Obtained a Pastor’s License from Sakal Global Ministries
- *Formerly associated with Outreach Street Ministry of Kilgore, Texas and still in fellowship with that movement

She is the wife of a humble and precious man, Mr. Wilfredo Santiago and the mother of five anointed and appointed children: Petula Bush Holden (a heavenly angel in our Master’s arms), Joseph (Jody Bush), Jr., Naroby Bush, Zorrilla-Naomi Hannah Bush, Miracle Coutee

Mrs. Santiago has been the proprietor and operator of Marie’s Wig & Beauty Salon for more than a half century. She describes herself as energetic, excited, and striving for excellence with great expectations of victorious living.



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- Making lifestyle shift

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Thursdays at 9:00 am starting April 2nd, 2026
Natchitoches Parish Council on Aging
1016 Keyser Ave.
Natchitoches, LA 71457



COMMUNITY EVENTS



March 20th, 2026 · 6:00pm

Prather Coliseum

220 S Jefferson St, Natchitoches, LA 71497

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Deadline: MAY 20

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 Samantha Anthony 318-609-3521
 Jalessa Hardy Washington 318-289-4333

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