



THE REAL NEWS

Louisiana

"A Community With a Voice Shall Be Heard" ®

Publisher: Latorria Freeman

Vote Today for Your Grandchildren Tomorrow

The right to vote stands as one of the most powerful tools for shaping the future. The simple act of casting a ballot today determines the policies, laws, and leaders who will govern the world our grandchildren inherit. For African Americans, this truth carries profound historical weight. Generations fought, marched, and sometimes died to secure voting rights—not merely for themselves, but for the generations yet to come.

After the Civil War, the 15th Amendment in 1870 promised Black men the right to vote. During Reconstruction, African Americans turned out in large numbers across the South, electing nearly 2,000 Black officials to state and federal positions. Black political participation reached impressive levels, with turnout sometimes exceeding 70 percent in certain states. This brief era demonstrated what full inclusion could achieve.

That progress was deliberately dismantled.

Following the withdrawal of federal troops in 1877, Southern states enacted Jim Crow laws, including poll taxes, literacy tests, grandfather clauses, and understanding clauses. These measures appeared neutral on paper but were designed to suppress Black votes. Coupled with widespread violence, intimidation by the Ku Klux Klan, and lynchings, Black voter registration in many Southern states fell below 5 percent by 1900. The Supreme Court's Plessy v. Ferguson decision in 1896 upheld segregation, providing legal cover for systemic exclusion.

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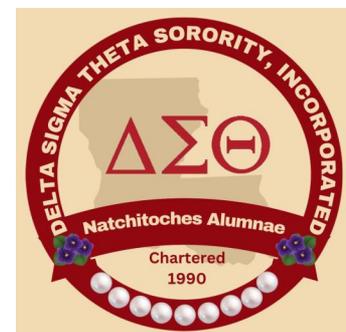
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Vote Today for Your Grandchildren Tomorrow



Throughout the 20th century, Black leaders and organizations like the NAACP waged legal and grassroots battles to restore voting rights. The modern civil rights movement brought the issue to national attention. The 1965 Selma-to-Montgomery marches, particularly the brutal attack on peaceful protesters on Bloody Sunday, shocked the conscience of the nation. These sacrifices highlighted that the fight was never just about the present generation. President Lyndon B. Johnson responded by signing the Voting Rights Act on August 6, 1965. The landmark legislation banned literacy tests and other discriminatory practices, authorized federal examiners to register voters, and introduced preclearance requirements for states with histories of discrimination. The 24th Amendment had already eliminated poll taxes in federal elections in 1964. Within months, hundreds of thousands of new Black voters were registered in the South.

These hard-won victories expanded democracy for all Americans. High Black voter turnout in recent decades has influenced major elections and advanced policies on education, criminal justice, healthcare, and economic opportunity—issues that directly affect future generations. Today, the principle remains clear: voting is intergenerational stewardship. Every election decides school funding, criminal justice reform, housing policies, and economic frameworks that will shape tomorrow's opportunities. Low turnout risks ceding control of that future to others. The activists of Selma and Reconstruction understood this deeply. They voted—and fought for the right to vote—precisely so their grandchildren could live with greater dignity and opportunity. When you cast your ballot, you continue that legacy.

Vote today for your grandchildren tomorrow. Locate your polling place, bring your family if possible, and participate in the democracy they struggled to build. The future is on the ballot. Make your voice count.



Notary Public Exam Prep Course to start April 20

NATCHITOCHEs - Northwestern State University's Office of Electronic Learning and Global Education will offer a Notary Public Exam Prep Course starting Monday, April 20. The class will be taught via Zoom on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The fee is \$519.

In partnership with Louisiana State University-Shreveport, this 52-hour course is an introduction to notary public fundamentals. The instructor, attorney, and notary, Jennifer Brown, will distribute significant course study guides and materials to assist in preparation for the exam. This course will be delivered via online video conferencing.

Participants must have broadband access, a camera, and sound. The test is based on the Louisiana Secretary of State's newest edition of "The Fundamentals of Louisiana Notarial Law and Practice," only available at www.sos.la.gov. For more information, call (225) 922-0507. Participants must have this book before the end of the course. Those in the class will also need the "Louisiana Notary Exam Sidepiece" to the 2026 Study Guide by Steven Alan Childress.

Please visit the Louisiana Secretary of State's Notary and Certifications website for qualifications to take the notary exam at www.sos.la.gov or call (225) 922-0507.

For more information or to register, go to checkout.nsula.edu or call (800) 376-2422 or (318) 357-6355. Stay up to date with course offerings by following NSU Electronic Learning and Global Education on Facebook at facebook.com/NSULA.ece.

A campaign graphic for Judge Robert Owsley III. On the left, a photograph of Judge Owsley, a man with glasses and a goatee, wearing a black judicial robe, sitting at a wooden bench with a gavel. Behind him are the Louisiana state flag and the seal of the Louisiana State Bar Association. To the right, the text "RE ELECT ROBERT OWSLEY III *CITY JUDGE" is displayed in a stylized font. The word "RE" is in blue, "ELECT" is in maroon, and "ROBERT OWSLEY III" is in maroon. A large, faint image of a scale of justice is in the background. At the bottom, a maroon banner contains the text "ON THE NOVEMBER 3, 2026 BALLOT" in white.

Paid for by The Campaign to Reelect Judge Robert Owsley

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GOOD FRIDAY
EGGSTRAVAGANZA

FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2026

1-4 PM

PHOTOS
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Candidacy for Village of Natchez Mayor

I, Monique Hamilton-Sarpy, am excited to announce my candidacy for the position of Village of Natchez Mayor. With over eight years or 2 terms of experience as an alderman and in governance, I am committed to making our community a better place for all of us.

I am married and have two children. I graduated from Northwestern State University with a degree in Business Administration with a minor in Computer Information System. I also have a degree in General Studies with a background in Criminal Justice. I have a certificate in Entrepreneurship from NSU Small Business Program. Louisiana Technical College Hospitality certification, SHRM learning system certification of completion, along with Southern University certification in Small Business Development. I am a member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.



With a passion for public service and a strong desire to make a positive impact in The Village of Natchez Community. Where I have lived for all my life, I am aware of the needs of the community, the resources available and concerns of the public that face our community.

In my tenure as alderman some of my achievements were as follow:

- ✓ Helped secured funding from Water Shed/Drainage Project \$1,000,035
- ✓ Secured funding from Love Louisiana/for park improvements \$125,000
- ✓ Secured funding from KLB/New Village Signage \$3,250.00
- ✓ Secured LGAP funds for police department/police unit or equipment \$25,000
- ✓ Secured used Police unit for Police Department
- ✓ Secured trash receptacles for Village
- ✓ Secured funding from Commission office/for Lights and Light Poles for old town hall/park \$75,000

My focus will be on the following:

- ❖ Seek funding for Lighting throughout the Community
- ❖ Work with DOTD to install Pedestrian Crossing and side walks
- ❖ Seek funding for sewer repairs & expansion
- ❖ Seek funding that will provide opportunities to residents
- ❖ Seek funding for road repairs & capital outlay projects
- ❖ Work together as a community & treat residents with respect

Together, we can create an enriching, vibrant, and inclusive community. I look forward to the opportunity to serve and connect with all of you. Please remember to vote on **May 16, 2026. Monique Hamilton-Sarpy for Mayor Ballot number #47.**

Sincerely,

Monique Hamilton-Sarpy

Natchitoches Leaders Unite at State Capitol to Advocate for Regional Growth and Opportunity

Baton Rouge, LA: On March 25, 2026, the Natchitoches Area Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with its Regional Advocacy Committee, hosted *Natchitoches Day at the Capitol*, bringing together community leaders, partners, and stakeholders to elevate the voice and priorities of Natchitoches Parish at the state level.



The annual advocacy initiative aims to strengthen relationships with state leadership while showcasing the region's impact and potential. Throughout the day, participants focused on four key objectives: raising awareness of Natchitoches' cultural and economic significance to Louisiana, tracking legislation impacting the region during the current session, continuing meaningful dialogue with elected officials and agency leaders, and advocating for strategic investment in the parish.

The Chamber's Regional Advocacy Committee includes leadership from Natchitoches Parish Government, the City of Natchitoches, Northwestern State University, Natchitoches Regional Medical Center, the Natchitoches Area Convention & Visitors Bureau, Cane River National Heritage Area, and the Natchitoches Parish Port. Together, these partners represent a unified front committed to advancing the parish's long-term growth and sustainability.

The day began with a Legislative Appreciation Breakfast held in the Governor's Press Room, sponsored by Lamar Advertising and featuring breakfast and signature roast coffee provided by French Market Express. Attendees heard directly from a strong lineup of state leaders, including Senator Alan Seabaugh, Representatives Gabe Firment and Jason DeWitt, Louisiana Economic Development (LED) Chief Engagement Officer Rachel Shields and Director of Legislative Affairs Chris Stelly, Chief Deputy Attorney General Larry Frieman, Secretary of State Nancy Landry, Governor Jeff Landry's Chief of Staff Julie Emerson, Louisiana Works Secretary Susie Schowen, Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) Deputy Secretary Beau Black; and Senate President Cameron Henry.

Following breakfast, attendees participated in legislative committee meetings, gaining insight into the policymaking process and current issues under consideration.

The day's signature event, the *Cane River Calling* lunch reception, was held in the Pentagon Barracks Courtyard and sponsored by Expand Energy. The reception highlighted six core policy pillars: business and industry, infrastructure, education, healthcare, tourism, and history and culture. Guests engaged with community representatives to learn more about the region's assets, economic contributions, and priority needs. ***Continued next page...***

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Natchitoches Leaders Unite at State Capitol to Advocate for Regional Growth and Opportunity

The event also brought a taste of Natchitoches to Baton Rouge, featuring live entertainment by the LaCour Trio Zydeco Band and catering by Lasyone's, two beloved cultural staples of the region. The reception was hosted at the invitation of Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser.

Approximately 100 attendees from Natchitoches participated in the day's events, with about 150 guests attending the Cane River Calling lunch reception. This is a significant turnout for a population our size, signifying the seriousness of our community in advocating for opportunity, investment, and growth for our region.

In the afternoon, participants returned to the Capitol, where Natchitoches Day attendees were recognized on the House floor. Resolutions were presented honoring Angela Lasyone and Katrice LaCour for their cultural contributions, as well as a memorial resolution recognizing the legacy of the late Northwestern State University Coach Sam Goodwin. The Louisiana Senate also extended formal recognition to the Natchitoches delegation in the Rotunda prior to convening.

Leadership Natchitoches Cohort 7 participated in Natchitoches Day at the Capitol as the Government and Governance session of their program. They, along with other attendees, concluded the day with a guided tour of the State Capitol provided by the Louisiana Office of Tourism.

The return of Natchitoches Day at the Capitol reflects the Chamber's ongoing commitment to champion business, connect community, and cultivate growth for Natchitoches Parish, ensuring that our voice is both heard and valued at the state level.

The Chamber extends its sincere appreciation to each committee member, volunteer, sponsor, and attendee who made this event such a resounding success. We also offer a special thank you to Senators Luneau and Seabaugh and Representatives McFarland, Firment, and DeWitt for their presence and continued support of the Natchitoches region.

For more information regarding the Natchitoches Day at the Capitol, visit GoNatchitoches.com/CapitolDay.

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\$25
A MONTH

Contact Morgan Green
morgan@gonatchitoches.com



Welcome!
Jorian Dodd

BOM Bank is pleased to welcome Jorian Dodd to the BOM family. He will be joining our Operations Department as an HR Assistant! Jorian is originally from Dallas, Texas, and he graduated from Northwestern State University with a degree in Engineering Technology. He is a cheer coach at Natchitoches Flipping Athletics (NFA) as well as at Northwestern State, where he cheered during college. In his free time, Jorian enjoys coaching cheer and cooking!

Welcome, Jorian!



NATCHITOCHEES:

BOM Bank was proud to support the Alpha Zeta Chapter of Sigma at their Chili Cook-Off fundraiser this past weekend on NSU's campus! All proceeds from the event benefit the March of Dimes, Tri Sigma's national philanthropy. This incredible organization is dedicated to ending preventable maternal health risks and deaths, preventing preterm birth and infant loss, and closing the health equity gap for families everywhere. We love seeing our team members give back—especially when it brings together current members and proud alumni of Tri Sigma! Pictured left to right: BOM's Chloe Langlois, Maddie Downs, and Carrie Hough (Tri Sigma alumna), Allison Chevalier, BOM's Claire Mayeaux, and Mallie Harper (Tri Sigma alumna).



HAPPY EASTER

**MAY THE MIRACLE OF THE SEASON
BLESS YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.**



Boots Buckles and Blessings: Charles Payton Sr.'s Legendary 80th Birthday Celebration

Photo Credits: Erick Wilson RTSS Photography



Boots Buckles and Blessings: Charles Payton Sr.'s Legendary 80th Birthday Celebration

Photo Credits: Erick Wilson RTSS Photography



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Boots Buckles and Blessings: Charles Payton Sr.'s Legendary 80th Birthday Celebration

Photo Credits: Erick Wilson RTSS Photography



Old Money vs. New Money: Key Differences

Old money and new money describe two approaches to wealth. Old money refers to generational or inherited wealth passed down through families for decades or centuries, often from land, industry, or established businesses. New money is wealth earned recently, usually within one or two generations, through entrepreneurship, tech, entertainment, or innovation.

Core Mindset Differences

- Old money treats wealth as a quiet responsibility and family legacy. Money is background noise—something to steward responsibly rather than celebrate.
- New money views wealth as a hard-won achievement worth showcasing. It often comes with a drive to prove success and enjoy the rewards.

Behavior and Social Style

- Old money: Values privacy, refined manners, and established networks (exclusive clubs, legacy schools). Conversations rarely mention money or prices. Emphasis is on humility, tradition, and the "leisure class."
- New money: Often more outgoing, networks aggressively, and may discuss deals or success openly. There can be a subtle "wealth anxiety" from building it quickly.

Old Money vs. New Money

OLD	NEW
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Been in family for generations • Owns heirlooms (antique pieces from ancestors) of furniture or jewelry • Does not need to show wealth by purchasing extravagant items • Belongs to Elite Upper Class • Highly educated (Ivy League) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First generation with money • Owns all/mostly new pieces of furniture or jewelry • Feels the need to show wealth to impress others • Belongs to any class but the Elite Upper Class • Not necessarily educated



Old money excels at preservation and subtle influence, while new money drives innovation, economic growth, and social mobility. The divide often appears in literature (The Great Gatsby) and culture, where "old money aesthetic" trends celebrate restraint amid flashy displays. In reality, lines blur in today's world of rapid wealth creation and social media. The true distinction isn't just the age of the money—it's the mindset: security and stewardship versus achievement and celebration. Both have strengths; what endures is how wealth is managed and what values are passed on.



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God Specializes in the Impossible

By: Evangelist and Author, Bonita Moses Arnold



Don't lose your praise

In life, we have ups and downs. We have good days and days when things just seem as if they're not going quite right. I come to encourage every reader that no matter what you may lose in life, no matter what you may have to let go in life, please don't lose your praise. The Lord inhabits the praises of his people. It simply means it honors it, he admires it, he blesses it, and he dwells right there where the praises are.



Mama Shug would always say...

"At all costs, keep your heart clean, it's nothing but the pure in heart that shall see God. Now we're all going to see him because we all got to stand before him on the day of judgment, but we all want to go back with him to spend eternity in heaven".

Welcome

Dr. Heather Jarrell Havener, Obstetrics/Gynecology

NRMC is pleased to welcome Heather Jarrell Havener, MD, FACOG, MSCP to NRMC OB/GYN Associates and its active medical staff. Board certified by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology and a certified menopause practitioner by the Menopause Society, Dr. Havener brings compassionate, patient-centered care and extensive experience in women's health, including prenatal care, high-risk pregnancy management, menopausal management, minimally invasive gynecologic surgery, and routine wellness care. A native of Sabine Parish, she is excited to return to the communities where she grew up and provide expert care to women of all ages.

We are excited to have Dr. Havener join Dr. Aviles, Dr. Mason, and Dr. Olatinwo at NRMC OB/GYN Associates and look forward to the outstanding care she will provide to women and families in the communities we serve.

Education & Background:

- Bachelor of Science from Northwestern State University
- Medical Degree from LSU School of Medicine, New Orleans, LA
- Naval Medical Officer and Staff OB/GYN in Portsmouth, VA and US Naval Hospital Naples, Italy



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OPINION**From Hoods to Courtrooms:
The Evolution of the Ku Klux Klan's Influence**

By: Ava Black



The Ku Klux Klan once terrorized America under white hoods and burning crosses. Today, the narrative suggests its members have traded robes for suits, quietly occupying courtrooms, district attorney offices, doctors' practices, and political positions. Founded in 1865 by former Confederate soldiers, the Klan emerged as a violent resistance to Black freedom after the Civil War. During Reconstruction, Klansmen — often local officials, lawyers, and law enforcement — used intimidation, lynchings, and murder to suppress Black voting rights. The Ku Klux Klan Act of 1871 temporarily curbed its power. A second wave exploded in the 1920s, drawing millions of members, including professionals such as doctors, lawyers, and politicians. The Klan influenced governors, congressmen, and local governments while parading openly in many communities.

By the 1960s, the third Klan violently opposed the civil rights movement. Though smaller, it still maintained ties to some in law enforcement and government. In modern times, the KKK has splintered into tiny, heavily monitored factions with little national influence. Overt membership in high office is rare due to public scrutiny and legal risks. However, isolated cases continue to surface law enforcement officers linked to Klan activity, attorneys with alleged ties, and politicians criticized for associations with Confederate symbols tied to the Klan's history. The phrase "from hoods to courtrooms" serves more as a metaphor than a literal reality. While card-carrying Klansmen in positions of power are uncommon today, concerns persist about lingering racial biases and ideologies that once fueled the Klan. Ensuring fairness in justice, medicine, and governance requires ongoing vigilance, transparency, and accountability. The hood may have disappeared, but the duty to protect American institutions from supremacist influence remains essential. Democracy demands justice wear no mask.



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.



Mu Omega Zeta Chapter
In partnership with HEALTHY BLUE LOUISIANA

AUTISM AWARENESS DAY IN THE PARK
Natchitoches City Park | 401 Amulet Street Drive | Natchitoches, LA 71457

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SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2026





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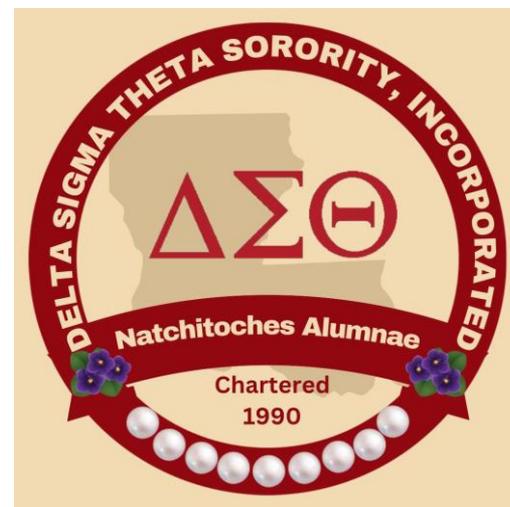
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*ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARD DELTA PROGRAMMING

The Natchitoches Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. invites you to join us for the 34th Annual Beautillion on Sunday, April 19 at the beautiful Natchitoches Events Center. We will present 4 outstanding young men who will compete for Mr. Beautillion 2026. Doors open at 5 PM. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. You can see any member of Natchitoches Alumnae or one of our beaux for tickets. Refreshments will be provided for our guests. Entertainment will be provided by Tanner Holden and Q Major the Violinist. Semi-formal attire is requested.



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For the Natchitoches Parish Detention Center, dial 357-9300

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Local Court welcomes Demons of Due Process

NATCHITOCHEs - Northwestern State University has launched a competitive mock trial team, the Demons of Due Process. The eight-member squad will compete nationally through the American Mock Trial Association. According to K. Jacob Ruppert, court counsel and district hearing officer for the 10th State Judicial District, the team made its debut to an enthusiastic reception from the local legal community, including the very court where its coaches practice.



The Demons of Due Process has been formed at Northwestern State University to give mock trial experience to students in the Pre-Law and Paralegal Studies program. Students develop cases using authentic evidence and applicable law, then argue those cases before actual judges and juries. Pictured, from left, are K. Jacob Ruppert, court counsel and district hearing officer for the 10th State Judicial District, Judge Desiree Dyess of the 10th State Judicial District, NSU students Hailey Wolff and Hannah Gore, and Dr. Rebeca Riall, NSU's pre-law and paralegal studies coordinator.

Ruppert, a 20-year veteran of the state judiciary, is working with Dr. Rebecca Riall, NSU's pre-law and paralegal studies coordinator, to create and coordinate the team. Riall maintains an active litigation practice and serves as district hearing officer for the 11th State Judicial District Court in Sabine Parish. The team is led by Hannah Gore of Pineville and Hailey Wolff of Leesville.

Ruppert said the program is designed to close the gap between classroom theory and courtroom reality. Students develop cases using authentic evidence and applicable law, then argue those cases before actual judges and juries. Ruppert will teach the team's anchor curriculum, a three-credit, senior-level mock trial course.

"Our PLPS classes mirror exactly what students experience in law school, and this mock trial course takes it a step further, giving them a raw unfiltered look at what litigation is really like," said Ruppert.

The mock trial team is the latest milestone for NSU's Pre-Law and Paralegal Studies program, which has grown steadily under Riall's guidance. Riall said the program prepares graduates to hit the ground running on their first day in law school or paralegal profession.

The American Mock Trial Association (AMTA) serves as the governing body for intercollegiate mock trial competition. Its mission is to create opportunities for students, alumni and schools to come together in an environment that combines education with competition. Through immersive trial simulations, the organization aims to develop the next generation of litigators, public speakers and critical thinkers.

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Theme: We Are Better Together

Scripture: “Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.”

Galatians 6:2



Greetings: Brothers and Sisters in Christ

The Brotherhood of New Beginning Baptist Church #2 warmly invites all men, families, and friends to an uplifting gathering centered on unity, faith, and spiritual growth. This special occasion is designed to strengthen our bonds as brothers in Christ and inspire a deeper commitment to God’s purpose for our lives.

Our guest speaker of the hour will be Pastor Lonnie Bradley and the Gilgal Baptist Church Family, who will share a powerful message of encouragement and hope.

Come join us in this powerful fellowship as hearts unite in faith and brotherly love.

Yours In Christ

Elder Alfred J. Houston

& The Brotherhood of NBBC#2



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How to Submit a Tip

You can report tips in two easy ways:

- Phone: Call the dedicated tip line at (318) 238-2388.
- Online/App: Use the P3 Tips app (available for smartphones) or visit p3tips.com to submit electronically.

All tips stay completely confidential. If your information leads to an arrest or helps solve a case, you may be eligible for a cash reward—typically up to \$2,000 (with some reports noting potential amounts up to \$3,000 depending on the crime's severity).

For more details or to submit a tip, visit the official site:

natchitochescrimestoppers.com. In an emergency, always call 911 first. Crime Stoppers is for providing information on unsolved crimes or ongoing issues, not for immediate threats. This program empowers everyday citizens to make a real difference in keeping Natchitoches safe!

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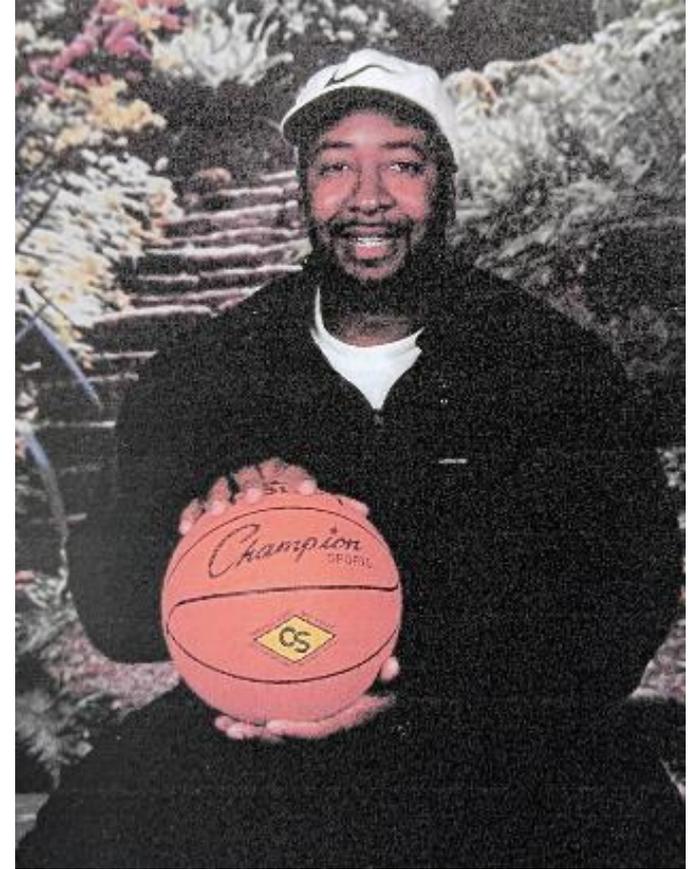


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One Man's Vision, A Community's Gain: The Legacy of Ronnie Washington Sr.

In the spring of 1999, Mr. Ronnie Washington Sr. launched a youth basketball league for fifth and sixth-grade boys at several area elementary schools — returning again in 2000 for a second season. Drawing on years of experience in the school system, he recognized that young people needed more than academics. They needed structure, community, and a place to belong. With Ms. Linda Franklin helping coordinate operations, the league came to life through the efforts of volunteer coaches, sponsors, school principals, and a full cast of support — from cheerleaders and referees to DJs and bus drivers. It was a true community effort. The energy at each game reflected just how much people had invested in the vision, turning school gymnasiums into vibrant gathering spaces for families and neighbors alike.



For many of the youth involved, Mr. Washington was a big brother and mentor who believed in every child's potential, especially those others overlooked. He had a rare gift for making young people feel seen, valued, and capable of more than they imagined. Years later, many still credit him with giving them their start — proof that one person's commitment to a community can echo far beyond a single season.

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CHANGE YOUR LIFESTYLE
CHANGE YOUR LIFE

2026 UPCOMING ELECTIONS

**OPEN CONGRESSIONAL
GENERAL AND OPEN
PRIMARY**
November 3, 2026

GENERAL ELECTION
December 12, 2026

QUALIFYING PERIOD
July 29-31, 2026

OFFICE TITLES	YEARS OF TERM	BEGINNING OF TERM	EXPIRATION OF TERM	DISTRICTS
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

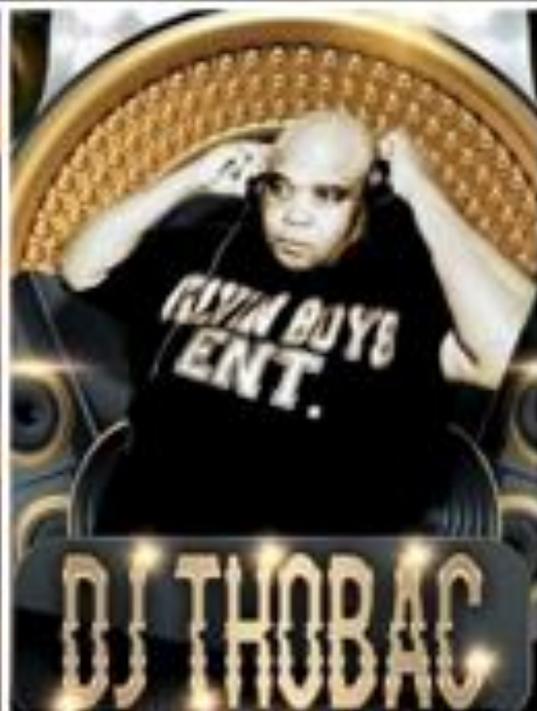
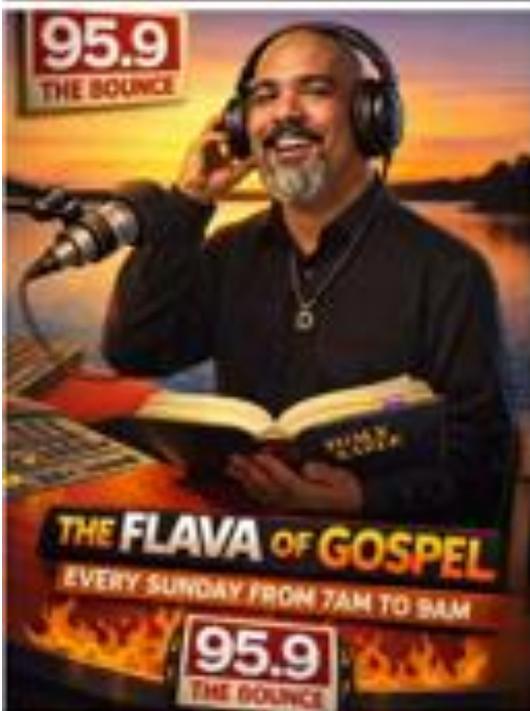
- US Senator
- U.S. Representative
- Associate Justice of the Supreme Court
- Public Service Commissioner



**TALK BACK
NATCHITOCHEES**

**Monday- Friday
7 am- 8 am**

Pastor Steve Harris Sr.



**The Flava of Gospel Sunday
7 am-9 am**

with Derrell Hobdy

**Thobac Fridays 4 pm- 6
pm with DJ Thobac**

Get Back to the *Life* you Love.

Chronic pain affects every part of your life – from work and sleep to the activities you enjoy most.

Our experienced team of pain specialists, led by Dr. Naranjo, provides advanced treatment plans including interventional pain relief therapies, medications, and specialized procedures to help effectively manage pain. Our goal is to help you move better, feel better, and get back to the life you love.

**Don't wait another day in pain.
Call 318.214.4153 today to
schedule an appointment.**

NRMC
Pain Institute

501 Keyser Ave. • First Floor of NRMC

COMMUNITY EVENTS

PACK THE Park

WHERE: NATCHEZ PARK | TIME: 12 - UNTIL | WHEN: APRIL 4, 2026

Join Us for an Easter Celebration!
EGG HUNT STARTS AT 12

FACE PAINTING	KICKBALL STARTS AT 3
BOUNCE HOUSES	BINGO
SACK RACES	SPLIT THE POT
EGG RACE	DOMINOS
BASKET WALK	

ALL FESTIVITIES WILL START immediately after the egg hunt!

Events sponsored by Forest family donations accepted.
Contact Ben Braxton 318-521-3165

STREET REVIVAL!!!!

Wednesday April 1, 2026 @ 6pm

Corner of MLK and Berry Ave.
Natchitoches, La

Bring a friend and come out and enjoy!

DIRTY SOUTH | KICKATORS | HERBA

APRIL 3RD DOORS OPEN @ 10PM

GOOD FRIDAY CELEBRATION!

LEON CHAVIS
Performing Live

@THE DIRTY SOUTH
7319 HWY 1 BYP, NATCHITOCHEES, LA

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