



# THE REAL NEWS

## Louisiana

"A Community With a Voice Shall Be Heard" ®

**Publisher: Latorria Freeman**

Mother's Day is a universal celebration of love, sacrifice, and nurturing care. Yet for Black mothers, this day carries a deeper resonance—one forged in the fires of history, endurance, and quiet triumph. Across generations, Black mothers have embodied extraordinary strength and resilience, transforming adversity into legacy, pain into power, and limitation into limitless possibility for their children and communities. From the era of enslavement, when Black mothers fought desperately to keep families intact despite the constant threat of separation, to the civil rights movement where they stood on the front lines while raising tomorrow's leaders, Black mothers have been the backbone of survival and progress.

They have navigated systemic barriers—economic inequality, racial injustice, and the double burden of racism and sexism—while ensuring their families not only survived but thrived. Many worked multiple jobs, pursued education against all odds, and created homes filled with dignity even when the world offered little respect. Their hands have cooked meals, wiped tears, braided hair with stories of ancestors, and clapped at graduations that once seemed impossible.



**"HONORING THE STRENGTH AND RESILIENCE OF BLACK MOTHERS ON MOTHER'S DAY"**

"The love of a Black mother is a light that guides us through darkness."

— Oprah Winfrey —



"Thank you, Black mother, for teaching us to stand tall and be proud of who we are."



**Continued Page 3...**

# What's Inside...



Mother's Day Tribute Pages 1,3



Page 4

ST. PAUL MISSIONARY  
BAPTIST CHURCH

Page 6



St. Mary's Head  
Coach Steps Down  
Page 10



Page 24



HB 211  
Page 7



Page 8



Page 14



Page 13



Page 12



Page 9



Chamber News...  
Page 10



Pages 21-23



Page 25-26

Upcoming  
**COMMUNITY  
EVENTS**

Page 28



BOM Gives Back  
Page 27

And Much More...

## "HONORING THE STRENGTH AND RESILIENCE OF BLACK MOTHERS ON MOTHER'S DAY"

*Continued from Page 1...*

Today's Black mothers continue this powerful tradition. Whether single parents balancing demanding careers and parenting, or those raising children in the face of health disparities, educational inequities, or community violence, they demonstrate a resilience that defies easy explanation. They teach children to walk tall with heads held high, to speak truth to power, and to find beauty in their heritage. They are the first teachers, the dream keepers, and the healers. Through cultural preservation—passing down recipes, songs, proverbs, and faith—they ensure that identity and pride endure. The strength of Black mothers is not loud or performative; it often lives in the quiet moments: staying up late to help with homework after a long shift, offering words of encouragement when opportunities seem scarce, or modeling grace under pressure. It is seen in the entrepreneurial spirit that builds businesses from kitchens and living rooms, in the activism that marches for justice while holding a child's hand, and in the joy they cultivate even in challenging circumstances. On this Mother's Day, we honor not just the labor but the love that refuses to break. We celebrate the matriarchs whose sacrifices have shaped nations, the working mothers whose determination inspires, and the grandmothers whose wisdom anchors generations. To every Black mother: your resilience has rewritten histories and opened doors. Your strength lights the path for those who follow. Thank you for your unyielding spirit. May you be celebrated, supported, and cherished—not just today, but every day. Your legacy is the greatest gift to the world.

**A Face  
You Know,  
A Bank  
You Can Trust.**



**BOM**  
**Bank**

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

MEMBER  
**FDIC** 

## Louisiana Democratic Party Chair Condemns Senator's **"Shut Up, Boy"** Remark as Racially Charged

BATON ROUGE, La. — Randal Gaines, a 70-year-old Black man and Chair of the Louisiana Democratic Party, issued a strong rebuke following an exchange during a state legislative redistricting session in which Republican State Senator Jay Morris allegedly told the party's Executive Director, Dadrius Lanus, to "Shut up, boy." In a statement released by the Louisiana Democratic Party, Gaines described the incident as part of a long pattern of racial disrespect toward Black voices in American politics. "Sir, I am a 70-year-old Black man, and I know what it means to be called 'boy,'" Gaines wrote. He said Morris directed the comment at Lanus while the executive director was "commenting and talking" during the session, reportedly loud enough to disrupt the senator's concentration.



Senator Morris has disputed the characterization of the remark. According to Gaines' account, Morris maintains that the audio recording shows he said, "you all need to shut up," addressing Black constituents seated behind him who were protesting that their votes would not be counted under the proposed redistricting maps. Gaines argued that even the alternative phrasing would be problematic. "What Senator Morris doesn't understand is that White people have been telling Black folk to 'shut up' for over 250 years," he stated. He referenced historical grievances including the Three-Fifths Compromise, poll taxes, literacy tests, and the legacy of lynching, framing the exchange within the broader struggle for racial equality and voting rights. "What Black people have always wanted is equality," Gaines continued. "I don't let anyone call me or my brothers 'Boy.'" The exchange occurred amid contentious debates over redrawing legislative and congressional district lines in Louisiana. Such processes frequently draw accusations of gerrymandering and voter suppression from Democrats, while Republicans typically argue they are simply following legal requirements and census data. Tensions ran high as affected communities voiced concerns about the dilution of minority voting strength. As of now, no independent verification of the exact audio has been detailed in the statement, though both sides reference a recording. The incident highlights the charged atmosphere surrounding voting and representation issues in the state. Gaines' statement underscores a generational perspective on language and power dynamics. For many older Black Americans, the term "boy" carries deep historical weight when used by White authority figures toward Black men, regardless of age or context. The Louisiana Democratic Party has positioned the episode as emblematic of larger fights over voting access and racial equity in Southern politics. Republicans have not yet issued a detailed public response beyond Morris's reported explanation.

## Kedrin Seastrunk Steps Down as Head Football Coach of St. Mary's Catholic School Tigers



Natchitoches, La. — St. Mary's Catholic School announces that Kedrin Seastrunk will not return as head football coach for the 2026 season. The announcement follows the conclusion of the 2025 campaign, in which Seastrunk led the Tigers to a competitive postseason appearance.

Seastrunk was promoted from defensive backs coach to head coach in the 2024 offseason, succeeding Aaron York. In his two seasons at the helm (2024–2025), he guided the program through challenging schedules in the LHSAA Select Division, emphasizing player development, resilience, and community involvement.

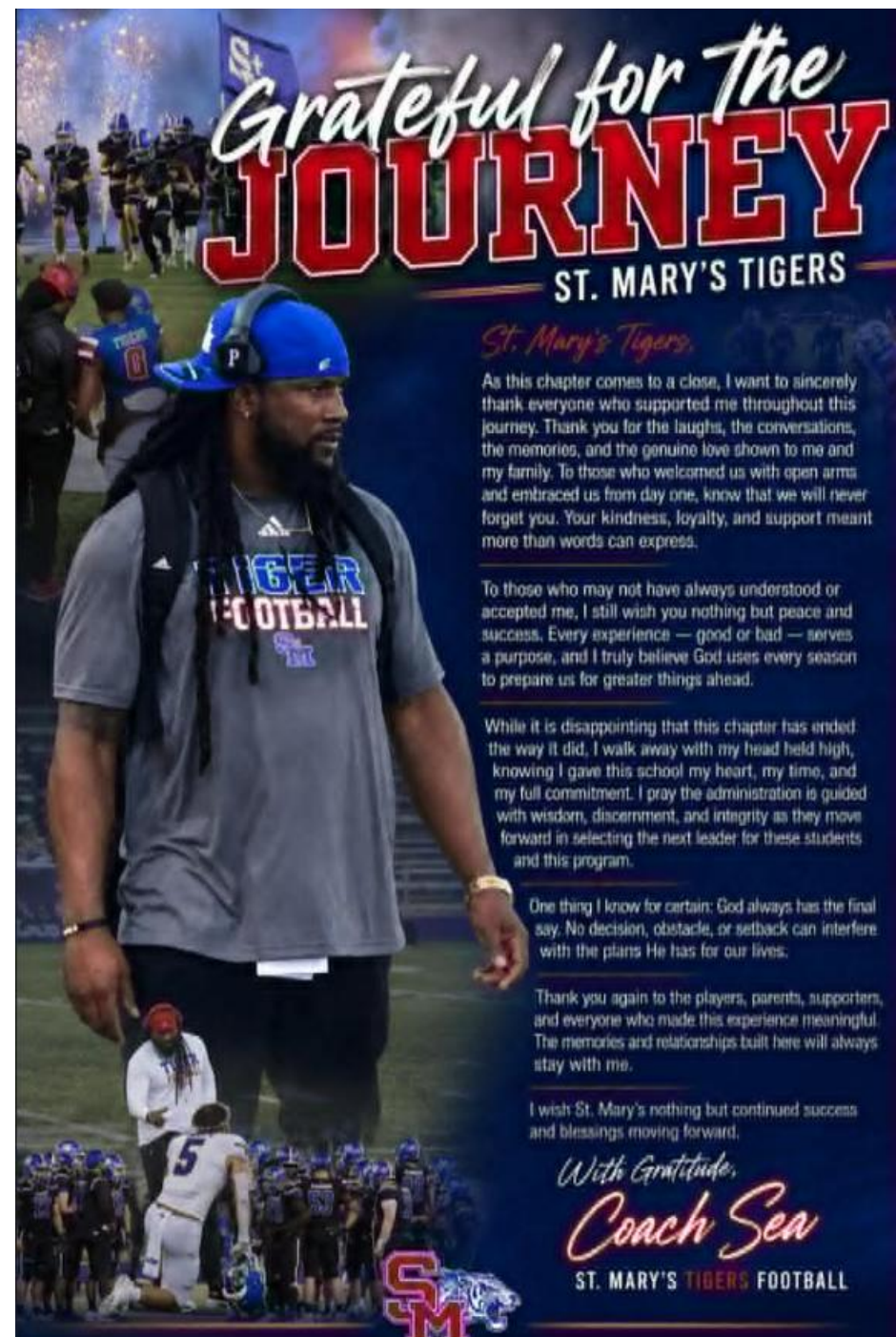
Under Seastrunk's leadership, the Tigers achieved a playoff berth in 2025, highlighted by a first-round upset victory and a strong district showing. His tenure is noted for fostering team culture and mentoring student-athletes both on and off the field.

A Newton, Texas native and Northwestern State University alumnus, Seastrunk played tight end for the Demons before entering coaching. He brought energy and dedication to St. Mary's, building on the program's tradition of competitive Catholic school athletics.

“Coach Seastrunk has been a positive influence on our student-athletes and the broader St. Mary's community,” said school officials. “We appreciate his commitment and wish him success in his future endeavors’. Mary's Catholic School will begin a national search for its next head football coach immediately and will provide updates on the timeline and process in the coming weeks.

### About St. Mary's Catholic School

St. Mary's Catholic School in Natchitoches, Louisiana, is a private PreK–12 institution dedicated to academic excellence, spiritual formation, and competitive athletics. The SMS Tigers compete in Louisiana High School Athletic Association (LHSAA) football and pride themselves on developing well-rounded student-athletes rooted in faith and community values.





The Officers and Members of the St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church  
Bermuda Community, Natchez, LA

Cordially Invites Everyone to Join us for **OUR ANNUAL VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL.**

This Event Will Take Occur from:

Monday June 1- Friday, June 5

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Theme: Reigning with Purpose 1 Peter 4:10

**"Reigning with Purpose,"** is an exciting VBS lesson series that emphasizes good stewardship through a fun western theme! Based on 1 Peter 4:10, which invites kids to explore how they can reign as responsible stewards in various areas of their lives and focus their "reigns" on the important aspects of life, with gifts that God has entrusted to them. **Come Join Us For This New Adventure!!**

**ST. PAUL BAPTIST CHURCH VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED & APPRECIATED.**

**Contact Directors:**

**Sharon Harris @ (318) 289-7837 OR Annie Helaire @ (318) 652-2450**

Thanking You in Advance for Your Prayers and Presence

**ST. PAUL MISSIONARY  
BAPTIST CHURCH**

391 St. Paul Church Road, Natchez, LA 71456

## Louisiana's House Bill 211: Criminalizing Public Camping

Louisiana lawmakers have advanced House Bill 211, known as the “Streets to Success Act,” which would make it illegal for unhoused people to sleep or camp on public property without authorization.



### What the Bill Does

Sponsored by Rep. Debbie Villio (R-Kenner), the bill classifies unauthorized camping — using tents, shelters, or bedding on public land — as a misdemeanor punishable by up to \$500 in fines and/or six months in jail.

Key features include:



**Diversion programs:** Offenders can avoid or reduce jail time by entering drug treatment, mental health services, or job training through specialized “Homelessness Courts.”

**Repeat offenses:** Treated as misdemeanors after amendments softened earlier harsher penalties.

**Authorized zones:** Cities may designate specific areas for encampments. The legislation aims to clear streets while connecting people with services.

### Background

The bill follows the 2024 U.S. Supreme Court Grants Pass decision, which allowed cities to ban public camping even when shelter beds are unavailable. Louisiana struggles with high poverty, one of the nation's largest unhoused populations, and limited affordable housing and treatment beds.

### Support vs. Opposition

Supporters, including Gov. Jeff Landry and business groups, say the measure promotes accountability, improves public safety, and encourages people to accept help. Critics, including homeless advocates, service providers, and Democrats, argue it criminalizes poverty and survival without solving root causes like housing shortages and mental health/addiction services. They warn it could lead to more arrests, lost belongings, and barriers to recovery.

### Outlook

If passed and signed, HB 211 will join a national wave of similar laws. Its success will depend on whether diversion programs can effectively move people off the streets or simply increase incarceration of vulnerable residents.

The bill has passed the House and is advancing in the Senate as of May 2026.



## Natchitoches Police investigate Homicide on Grace Avenue

The Natchitoches Police Department is investigating a homicide that occurred Saturday afternoon on Grace Avenue.

On May 9, 2026, around 5:22 p.m., officers with the Natchitoches Police Department were dispatched to the area of Grace Avenue and Dixie Street in reference to gunshots in the area. Upon officers' arrival they located an overturned vehicle in the 1400 block of Grace Avenue. Inside of the vehicle officers found the victim, Michael Leslie (W/M, 20 y.o.a. of Many) suffering from several gunshot wounds. Officers immediately began to render aid while other first responders were arriving to the area. Michael Leslie was pronounced deceased by the Natchitoches Parish Coroner's Office as a result of his injuries.

Detectives and Officers spoke with several witnesses that led to the collection of additional physical and digital evidence. All of the evidence recovered will be sent to the crime lab for additional analysis. This investigation is ongoing and the Natchitoches Police Department will release more details as they become available.

If you would like to report suspicious activity, please contact the Natchitoches Police Department at (318) 352-8101 or if you have additional information in regard to this investigation, please contact Detective Davanta Stevenson at (318) 357-3814. Remember all information given shall remain confidential.

How to report an anonymous tip via Natchitoches Crime Stoppers:

You can also report a tip anonymously by downloading the P3 Tips app on your smart phone or by calling Natchitoches Crime Stoppers at (318) 238-2388. All tips remain confidential and the caller can receive a cash reward up to \$5,000 for the arrest of an offender.

Sergeant John Greely  
Public Information Officer

# PROTECT OUR COMMUNITY.

# SEE SOMETHING. SAY SOMETHING.

318-238-2388



P3TIPS.COM

FOR MORE INFO VISIT [NATCHITOCHESCRIMESTOPPERS.COM](http://NATCHITOCHESCRIMESTOPPERS.COM)



The Chamber Ambassador Program is group of engaged professionals who serve as the **heart of** the Natchitoches Area Chamber of Commerce. Ambassadors help strengthen relationships across the local business community, welcome new and prospective members, and support the Chamber’s mission through meaningful engagement and service.

Ambassadors meet on the **second Wednesday of every month from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM** to stay informed on Chamber initiatives and get involved in upcoming community events and volunteer opportunities.

Whether you’re looking to increase your visibility, expand your professional network, or play a more active role in shaping our local business community, the Ambassador Program offers a welcoming, professional environment to do just that. **Participation is open to all and Chamber membership is not required.**

Ready to be part of the heart of the Chamber?

Learn more and get involved at [GoNatchitoches.com/Ambassadors](https://GONatchitoches.com/Ambassadors).

**Date and Time**

Wednesday May 13, 2026  
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM CDT

**Location**

NRMC - Legacy Room  
501 Keyser Avenue  
Natchitoches, LA 71457

**Fees/Admission**

Free



# EXPERIENCE MATTERS.



- ✓ **Women** are a growing part of the bench.
- ✓ **Many women** delay their careers to **raise** families and live longer.
- ✓ **Let voters** decide who stays on the job
- ✓ **People** are working longer and **living healthier** lives.
- ✓ **Life expectancy** is at an all time high.
- ✓ **Eliminates** age & gender bias.

## KEEP EXPERIENCED JUDGES ON THE BENCH

VOTE ON AMENDMENT #5  
May 16, 2026



- ✓ **Raise retirement age** for judges from 70 to 75.
- ✓ **Judges over 70** already serve in **Louisiana**.
- ✓ **Life expectancy** is at an all time **high**.
- ✓ **Eliminates** age & gender bias.

**Let voters decide:**  
✓ **Vote on Amendment #5**

## Statement on the Recent *Louisiana v. Callais* Supreme Court Decision

Today's ruling striking down Louisiana's congressional map and invalidating key protections under the Voting Rights Act is a sobering moment for our state and our democracy. It represents a legal setback, but it also **exposes a deeper challenge to the principle that every voter deserves an equal voice in our political process.**



In 2022, the Power Coalition was proud to serve as a litigant in *Robinson v. Landry*, a case in which the court ruled that the Louisiana Legislature violated the Voting Rights Act by passing a congressional map that gave Black voters an opportunity to elect their candidate of choice in only one district. Following that decision, the legislature moved to comply by drawing a fairer map, one that provided Black voters in Louisiana with equitable representation in congressional districts. We were proud once again to participate as interveners in the *Callais* case, defending the fair map that legislators ultimately enacted.

Today's decision is incredibly disappointing. But the reality on the ground remains the same. **Louisiana's congressional districts must reflect the people who live here.** For too long, Black voters in Louisiana and across the country have faced barriers to full and fair representation. That reality cannot be ignored. Our work did not pause after our victory in 2024, and it will not rest because of a setback in 2026.

**The court's decision on the map will not slow our fight, because this fight has never been about a single map.** Our work is about ensuring that communities who have historically been sidelined are finally afforded a fair opportunity to participate in the democratic process. It is about affirming that every vote carries equal weight, and that representation is not a privilege reserved for some, but a right guaranteed to all. Today's outcome does not diminish the resolve of the hundreds of thousands of Louisianians committed to this cause.



There is no retreat from the pursuit of fair and representative elections. The effort to ensure that every community has the opportunity to elect leaders who reflect their lived experiences will only intensify.

For those who are discouraged by today's ruling, just know that your discouragement is part of the plan. They want you to sit down, bow out, and waive the white flag. The Power Coalition is here to reject that offer. **We invite you now, in this moment of democratic uncertainty, to stand up, raise your voice, and continue this fight, because we can't stop until voting rights are realized by every single American.**

# Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated

Mu Omega Zeta Chapter invites collegiate and professional women who are driven by Service, Scholarship, and Sisterhood to take the next step.

Join us and discover how your passion can meet a legacy that transforms communities and elevates lives.



ZETA PHI BETA SORORITY, INCORPORATED  
MU OMEGA ZETA CHAPTER



**When:** May 23, 2026 @ 11:00 am

**Where:** 560 2nd Street, Natchitoches, LA

**What:** Business Attire, Resume, Transcript and ID required

<p>Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated- Mu Omega Zeta Chapter warmly invites collegiate and professional women who value Sisterhood, Service, and Scholarship, and who aspire to embody Finer Womanhood, to attend our Informational Meeting.</p>	<p> <b>DATE &amp; TIME</b> May 23, 2026 11:00 AM</p>	<p> <b>Business Attire Required</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resume</li> <li>• Official Transcript</li> <li>• Gov't ID</li> </ul>
<p>Discover our rich history, impactful mission, and the standards that define Finer Women.</p>	<p> <b>LOCATION</b> Natchitoches City Municipal Building <i>(Next to Fire Station)</i> 560 Second Street Natchitoches, LA 71457</p>	<p> <b>CONTACT</b> Sandra Williams 318-527-6959</p>



HAPPY  
*Mother's Day*

TODAY AND EVERY DAY,  
WE CELEBRATE YOU.





Photo Credits: Natchitoches Farmers Market



**Exchange Bank**  
Established 1892

*Oldest Bank in Louisiana  
Come See Why!*

318.352.8141 | EXCHANGE-BANK.COM  
Serving Natchitoches & Pineville

# NATCHITOCHEES

## LOUISIANA

# FARMERS

# Market

GOOD FOR YOU. GOOD FOR OUR COMMUNITY.



**FRESH FINDS**  
 ♡ Every ♡  
 Time!



**FRESH PRODUCE**  
 Picked at the  
 Peak of Flavor



**BEAUTIFUL PLANTS**  
 Bring Life & Color  
 to Your Home



**LOCAL GOODNESS**  
 From Our Farmers  
 & Makers



**COMMUNITY & FUN**  
 Good Food, Good People,  
 Good Times!

Shop Local.  
 Make a Difference! ♡

SUPPORT  
**LOCAL**  
 VENDORS



## Driver education course to be offered in June and July

NATCHITOCHEs – Northwestern State University’s Office of Electronic Learning and Global Education will offer summer sessions of a 38-hour driver education course in June and July.

The first session begins on June 8, and the second on July 6. Students must be 15 years old on or before Sept. 8 to take the session starting June 8. They must be 15 years old on or before Oct. 6 to take the session starting July 6.



The deadline to register for the June 8 session is Friday, May 29. A mandatory parents meeting will be held on Monday, June 1 at 6 p.m. The deadline to register for the July 6 session is Friday, June 26. A mandatory parents meeting will be held on Monday, June 29 at 6 p.m.

For more information, go to [checkout.nsula.edu](http://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](https://facebook.com/NSULA.ece).

## Dates set for NSU’s Fun & Fitness Camp

NATCHITOCHEs – Northwestern State University’s Wellness, Recreation and Activities Center will host three sessions of Fun & Fitness Camp for kids age 5-12. Camps will be from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday July 20-24, July 27-31 and Aug. 3-7.

Registration forms are available by contacting Jason Stelly at (318) 357-5341 or [stellyj@nsula.edu](mailto:stellyj@nsula.edu).

**Owner Jason Brock** 318-228-8848

Tire Shop Repair Shop

1908 HWY 6 NATCHITOCHEs, LOUISIANA 71457

FINANCING AVAILABLE PITSTOP76

Hours Monday- Friday 8 am- 5 pm  
Saturday 9 am- 1 pm  
Sunday Closed

**FUN & FITNESS SUMMER CAMP**

## NRMC RECOGNIZED BY AMERICAN HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION FOR PATIENT SAFETY AND LEADERSHIP

Natchitoches Regional Medical Center (NRMC) has been recognized by the American Hospital Association (AHA) as part of its Patient Safety Member Stories, highlighting hospitals that demonstrate excellence in leadership, strategy, and patient safety. This national recognition reflects NRMC’s commitment to delivering safe, high-quality, patient-centered care across Natchitoches Parish and surrounding communities. Through a focused leadership strategy built on key pillars including people, service, quality, finance, and growth, NRMC continues to strengthen outcomes and enhance the patient experience.

Over the past decade, NRMC has expanded access to care while maintaining a strong emphasis on quality and safety. Patient touchpoints have grown from approximately 55,000 in 2013 to more than 225,000 in the most recent fiscal year, demonstrating both growth and the trust of the community.

NRMC leadership remains actively engaged with patients, staff, and the community through daily rounding, CEO roundtables, and local outreach. This hands-on approach helps build a culture of safety, accountability, and continuous improvement across the organization.

At NRMC, patient safety is more than a goal. It is a core part of who we are. Every decision is guided by our mission to provide reliable, compassionate care close to home. We are proud to be recognized by the American Hospital Association and remain committed to advancing healthcare in Natchitoches and beyond.

### Real Pain. Real Patients. Real Relief.

When pain takes over your life, the right care can give it back. At NRMC Pain Institute, we believe the best measure of success is how our patients feel. Every day, people just like you come to us searching for answers, relief, and a path forward. And every day, they leave with renewed hope.



“Dr. Naranjo provides more than pain medicine. He gives good advice on how to help speed up your recovery...”

These aren’t just testimonials – they’re real stories from real patients who trusted us with their care. Utilizing advanced, personalized treatment options designed to target the source of your pain – not just mask it, we’re here to help you reclaim your quality of life.



“I have no words to thank Dr. Naranjo for everything he has done for my wife, for alleviating her pain and improving her quality of life...”



“Dr. Naranjo has been treating me since January. He has been very helpful with treating my pain and also educating me on my injury.”



“Dr. Naranjo sincerely cares and genuinely wants to alleviate your pain. As an elderly lady with pain over the years, I highly recommend!!”

Don’t let pain define your story.  
Call 318.214.4153 today!

**NRMC**  
**Pain Institute**

501 Keyser Avenue  
First Floor of NRMC

## Two summer music camps to get underway in June

NATCHITOCHEs - Northwestern State University's Department of Music will sponsor two sessions of summer music camp starting in June for children in kindergarten through grade six

Music Around the World will be on June 22-26 from 9 a.m. until noon at the Performing Arts Complex. The camp is \$150. Summer Music Daze will be on June 29 – July 1 from 9 a.m. until noon at the Performing Arts Complex.

Those attending will take part in singing, playing instruments, crafts, music games and creating.

For more information, contact Dr. Jennifer Pulling at [pullingj@nsula.edu](mailto:pullingj@nsula.edu).

Northwestern State  
Department of Music presents

The Dear School of  
CREATIVE & PERFORMING ARTS  
**CAPA**

# FUN WITH MUSIC

## SUMMER CAMPS 2026

For Children Ages 5-12 (Grades K-6)  
Both Camps Meet 9am-12pm

**Music Around the World**  
June 22-26: \$150

**Summer Music Daze**  
June 29-July 1: \$80



Contact Jennifer Pulling at [pullingj@nsula.edu](mailto:pullingj@nsula.edu) or scan the QR code for more info.



Singing • Instruments  
Crafts • Music Games • Creating

Northwestern State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, genetic information, age, pregnancy or parenting status, and veteran or retirement status in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Complaints or inquiries related to Title IX should be directed to the Director of Student Advocacy and Title IX Coordinator, Julie Powell (318-357-5570). For Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) concerns, contact the Accessibility and Disability Support Director, Crissey Smith, at 318-357-5460. Additionally, Northwestern complies with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy & Campus Crime Statistics Act. Information about NSU's campus security and crime statistics can be found at <https://www.nsula.edu/health-safety/university-police/>. Full disclosure statement: <https://www.nsula.edu/ehsr/>.




**NORTHWESTERN STATE**

# 100+ AREAS OF STUDY

[WWW.NSU.LA/EXPLORE](http://WWW.NSU.LA/EXPLORE)

## SHAPE YOUR TOMORROW AT NORTHWESTERN

## So, what do you want to be when you grow up?

*Career Connections provides career exploration for teens*

NATCHITOCHEs -- Northwestern State University's Office of Career Services will host Career Connections summer camp on Wednesday, July 8, an opportunity for students ages 13-15 to explore exciting hands-on education experiences offered at NSU.

"This innovative summer program connects students with hands-on learning experiences across various academic disciplines and career paths, fostering early career exploration and academic engagement," said Tiffany Killion, director of Career Services.

Career Connections will expose students to diverse career paths and college opportunities. Students will be able to visit with NSU faculty to talk about how to become an athletic trainer, engineer, DJ, doctor/nurse, computer programmer, banker/accountant, light/sound tech, mental health specialist, teacher and more.

The camp is tailored for students in 7-9th grades and will run for one day with 50-minute courses. Six sections will be offered in the morning curriculum and three afternoon session of the students' choice. Lunch and snacks will be provided. Sessions will take place in the Student Union with check-in from 7:30-8:45 a.m. Camp activities will run through 4:30 p.m. with checkout from 4:30-5 p.m.

Registration is \$20 and is available by visiting [www.nsula.edu/careercenter](http://www.nsula.edu/careercenter) or accessing the QR code below. Killion can be reached at [carriert@nsula.edu](mailto:carriert@nsula.edu).



# CAREER CONNECTION



## NSU's Engineering Technology Department announces summer events for kids and professionals

NATCHITOCHEES – Northwestern State University's Department of Engineering Technology will host two camps this summer for students interested in ACT prep and robotics and a workforce development workshop for adults.



Camp ACT for Engineering will be Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays June 22-July 1 for students age 14-17. The group will meet from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. covering math, English and some engineering with hands-on activities. Classes will be in Williamson Hall Rooms 112 and 113. Registration is \$150 and is available at <https://commerce.cashnet.com/engtechweb> or by accessing the QR code below.



NSU Robotics Camp for students ages 11-14 will be from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursday, July 2 in the Student Union Ballroom. Registration is free and will be open May 15- June 15. Information is available at the QR code below or by visiting [www.nsu.la/RobotCamp](http://www.nsu.la/RobotCamp).



Camp ACT and Robotics Camp are both support by the Natchitoches Parish A+ Coalition.

The workforce development workshops are for individuals age 18 or older with high school diplomas. Classes will be from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. in Williamson Hall Rooms 112 and 123. Weyerhaeuser is a support sponsor of the workshops.

The first, "Agile Project Management," will be July 14-16 with Instructor Craig Caskey, an instructor and lab coordinator in NSU's Department of Engineering Technology. The workshop will offer tips on moving forward and leading a team when plans change.

A second workshop, "Statistical Quality Control," will take place July 21-23. Instructor Dr. Nabin Sapkota will lead the session on quality principles, basic tools and understanding process variation. The sessions will introduce control charts and how to create and interpret them and cover process capability and the application of these tools to real-world problems.

The cost is \$200. To register visit <https://commerce.cashnet.com/engtechweb> or scan the QR code below.

Information on NSU's Department of Engineering Technology is available at [www.nsula.edu/engrtech](http://www.nsula.edu/engrtech)





# May 16, 2026

## UPCOMING ELECTIONS

### Parish

### U. S. Senator Democratic Party 1 to be elected

Name/Address/Phone	Filed Date	Party/Race/Gender
Nicholas "Nick" Albares 2415 Dreux Ave., New Orleans, LA 70122 (504) 330-1245 <a href="mailto:nick.albares.louisiana@gmail.com">nick.albares.louisiana@gmail.com</a>	02/13/2026	Democrat White Male
Gary Crockett 141 Allen Toussaint Blvd., #386, New Orleans, LA 70124 (504) 422-6100 <a href="mailto:Info@crockettforlouisiana.com">Info@crockettforlouisiana.com</a>	02/13/2026	Democrat Black Male
"Jamie" Davis * P.O. Box 55, Ferriday, LA 71334 (318) 200-0236 <a href="mailto:info@jamieforlouisiana.com">info@jamieforlouisiana.com</a>	02/11/2026	Democrat Black Male

### U. S. Senator Republican Party 1 to be elected

Name/Address/Phone	Filed Date	Party/Race/Gender
"Bill" Cassidy P.O. Box 80505, Baton Rouge, LA 70898 (225) 228-0372 <a href="mailto:info@billcassidy.com">info@billcassidy.com</a>	02/13/2026	Republican White Male
John Fleming P.O. Box 1362, Minden, LA 71058 (504) 884-4953 <a href="mailto:flemingforlouisianajobs@gmail.com">flemingforlouisianajobs@gmail.com</a>	02/11/2026	Republican White Male
Julia Letlow P.O. Box 106, Baton Rouge, LA 70801 (318) 918-3682 <a href="mailto:info@julialetlow.com">info@julialetlow.com</a>	02/13/2026	Republican White Female
Mark Spencer 113 Tau St., Belle Chasse, LA 70037 (504) 373-0163 <a href="mailto:markstevenspencer@protonmail.com">markstevenspencer@protonmail.com</a>	02/12/2026	Republican White Male



# May 16, 2026

## UPCOMING ELECTIONS

### Associate Justice Supreme Court, 3rd District - Democratic Party 1 to be elected

Name/Address/Phone	Filed Date	Party/Race/Gender
<b>No candidates</b>		

### Associate Justice Supreme Court, 3rd District - Republican Party 1 to be elected

Name/Address/Phone	Filed Date	Party/Race/Gender
Cade R. Cole 400 Royal St., New Orleans, LA 70130 (504) 310-2380 <a href="mailto:ccole@lasc.org">ccole@lasc.org</a>	02/11/2026  <b>Unopposed</b>	Republican White Male

### PSC District 5 - Democratic Party 1 to be elected

Name/Address/Phone	Filed Date	Party/Race/Gender
James Edward Green 4101 Evers Dr., Shreveport, LA 71109 (318) 635-7118 <a href="mailto:jsema@att.net">jsema@att.net</a>	02/11/2026	Democrat Black Male
Austin Lawson 1307 S. Jonquil St., Bossier City, LA 71112 (555) 555-5555 <a href="mailto:austinl6401@gmail.com">austinl6401@gmail.com</a>	02/13/2026	Democrat White Male

### PSC District 5 - Republican Party 1 to be elected

Name/Address/Phone	Filed Date	Party/Race/Gender
John E. Atkins 11010 Chenier Point, Shreveport, LA 71106 (318) 222-2161 <a href="mailto:jeatkins@latimber.com">jeatkins@latimber.com</a>	02/11/2026	Republican White Male
Aiden C. Joyner 1705 Strozier Rd., West Monroe, LA 71291 (318) 331-4971 <a href="mailto:aidencjoyner07@gmail.com">aidencjoyner07@gmail.com</a>	02/11/2026	Republican White Male



# May 16, 2026

## UPCOMING ELECTIONS

### Mayor Village of Natchez 1 to be elected

Name/Address/Phone	Filed Date	Party/Race/Gender
Patsy Ward Hoover P.O. Box 188, Natchez, LA 71456 (318) 527-9294 <a href="mailto:patsywardhooverpcd2@gmail.com">patsywardhooverpcd2@gmail.com</a>	02/11/2026	No Party Black Female
Monique Hamilton Sarpy * P.O. Box 7512, Natchitoches, LA 71457 (318) 332-8264 <a href="mailto:sarpyestates@gmail.com">sarpyestates@gmail.com</a>	02/13/2026	Democrat Black Female

### Chief of Police Village of Natchez 1 to be elected

Name/Address/Phone	Filed Date	Party/Race/Gender
Michael Dewayne Gillie Jr. P.O. Box 174, Natchez, LA 71456 (318) 609-1508 <a href="mailto:natchezpdnp1@yahoo.com">natchezpdnp1@yahoo.com</a>	02/13/2026  Unopposed	No Party Black Male

### Aldermen Village of Natchez 3 to be elected

Name/Address/Phone	Filed Date	Party/Race/Gender
Amos R. Bradley P.O. Box 162, Natchez, LA 71456 (318) 357-1876 <a href="mailto:amosbradley82@yahoo.com">amosbradley82@yahoo.com</a>	02/13/2026	Democrat Black Male
John Groce P.O. Box 155, Natchez, LA 71456 (318) 332-3469	02/13/2026	No Party Black Male
Shelia F. Johnson P.O. Box 131, Natchez, LA 71456 (318) 527-9920 <a href="mailto:shelia.braxton@att.net">shelia.braxton@att.net</a>	02/12/2026	Democrat Black Female
Alvin Murray P.O. Box 117, Natchez, LA 71456 (318) 228-3805 <a href="mailto:alvinmurray58@icloud.com">alvinmurray58@icloud.com</a>	02/12/2026	Democrat Black Male

\* The address on the proof of identity of the candidate is different than the candidate's address on the notice of candidacy.



# Democracy & Freedom Are At Stake

Black Americans fought, through sacrifice, courage, and persistence, for the right to vote. That right was earned, not given.

In 2026, our vote remains one of the most powerful tools we have. It defends our rights, strengthens our communities, and shapes our future.

**Honor the fight. Use your voice. Cast your vote.**



## DEFENDING BLACK VOTER POWER



Our democracy is in a crisis. The recent Supreme Court decision in Louisiana vs. Callais is a direct attack and amplifies voter suppression spreading across the country. Our fight for our Black voting rights is fueled through organizing and mobilizing to protect Black electoral power.



**“ People say their vote doesn’t matter, and I understand the exhaustion behind that. But I’ve also seen what happens when we don’t show up versus when we do. Black communities have always been strategic about survival. Voting isn’t separate from that strategy. It is a core part of that strategy.**

*- TYLER STERLING, NATIONAL CAMPAIGNS DIRECTOR*

CAMPTI COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTER PRESENTS

# SPRING INTO WELLNESS BASKETBALL

Campti

WITH TRAVION KIRKENDOLL  
WARD FOUNDER  
HARLEM GLOBETROTTER

FRIDAY, MAY 8TH, 2026  
5-8PM

CAMPTI RECREATIONAL PARK, MILL STREET

## Campti Community Development Center Presents: Spring into Wellness Basketball Camp



Photo Credits: RTSS Photography



**The BREADHOUSE**  
Nakatosh

Soulicious  
Food &  
BB-Q

1202 Texas St, Natchitoches, LA 71457

(318) 214-2400

Open 7 Days a Week Hours 11 am to 7 pm

CAMPTI COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTER PRESENTS

# SPRING INTO WELLNESS BASKETBALL

WITH TRAVION KIRKENDOLL  
WARD FOUNDER  
HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS

SCAN TO REGISTER NOW!



FRIDAY, MAY 8TH, 2026  
5-8PM  
CAMPTI RECREATIONAL PARK, MILL STREET

Logos for RTSS, CCDG, and The Rapides Foundation are at the bottom.

## Campti Community Development Center Presents: Spring into Wellness Basketball Camp



Photo Credits: RTSS Photography





**NATCHITOCHEs:**

Join us in welcoming Kieler Soape to the BOM Bank family! Kieler serves as a Credit Analyst Intern and is originally from Montgomery, Texas. He is currently attending Northwestern State University, where he is pursuing his bachelor’s degree in business administration and will begin his senior year in the fall. In his free time, Kieler enjoys golfing, hunting, and watching movies. We’re excited to watch him grow and are thrilled to have him as part of the BOM Bank family. Welcome to the team, Kieler!



**RAPIDES:**

BOM Bank is proud to sponsor the Midstate Arts & Athletics Golf Tournament! Midstate Homeschool Organization is a Christian nonprofit serving homeschool families in the greater Alexandria area, providing Christ-honoring opportunities for social, physical, and educational growth through sports, classes, and special events. Pictured left to right: BOM’s Titan Marler and Dylan Stokes.



**Caddo/Bossier:**

BOM Bank is proud to support the Louisiana Thunder 13U Travel Ball team! We’re excited to cheer on the Louisiana Thunder 13U, a hardworking travel ball organization based out of Haughton. Our donation will help offset travel expenses, equipment costs, tournament fees, and more — giving these young athletes the opportunity to grow, compete, and represent their community with pride. Travel ball builds more than strong players — it builds character, teamwork, discipline, and leadership. We are honored to play a small part in supporting their big dreams! Pictured left to right: BOM’s Sam Marvin, Catie Colvin, Melinda Williams, Dewayne Beck, BOM’s Eldeen Potter, and Fran Myles. Good luck this season, Thunder — we’re rooting for you!



**SABINE:**

BOM Bank is proud to support the Legends 12U travel baseball team from Sabine Parish! We love investing in our local youth and cheering on the next generation both on and off the field. Best of luck to this talented group as they represent our community! Pictured left to right: Jed Scott, Walker Baruch, Noah Neugent, Gage Bush, Brayden Sistrunk, BOM’s Ashley Parrie, and Obadiah Scott.

# COMMUNITY EVENTS

**KHM SUMMER CAMP**

FUN • LEARNING • GROWTH • FAITH  
WITH APOSTLE WASHINGTON

AGES 1-12 YEARS OLD

JUNE 1 - JULY 24  
MONDAY - FRIDAY

7:30 AM - 5:00 PM

500 Royal St.

**WHAT WE PROVIDE:**

- BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DAILY SNACK
- EDUCATIONAL GAMES
- PHYSICAL PE
- ARTS & CRAFTS
- FULL FIELD

Our goal is to create a safe, loving, and structured environment where every child can learn, grow, and have **FUN** all summer long!

**\$125 PER WEEK DUE ON MONDAY**

**SPOTS ARE LIMITED! Register Today!**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:  
**318-228-4112** Apostle Washington  
**318-703-9414** © Dornin Johnson

BETA OMEGA SIGMA PRESENTS

**Youth Symposium**

**Guest Speaker**  
**Mrs. Tara Black**

MAY 14, 2026  
 GREEN OAKS PERFORMING ARTS ACADEMY  
 2550 THOMAS E. HOWARD

WORKSHOPS - CARNIVAL - PEP RALLY

TO BECOME A SPONSOR OR WORKSHOP FACILITATOR  
 PLEASE CONTACT JOHNITA TISBY (318-762-3698) OR  
 MONIQUE SARPY (318-332-8264)

BETA OMEGA SIGMA



## NATCHITOCHEES PARISH HIGH SCHOOLS GRADUATION DETAILS



**LAKEVIEW HIGH SCHOOL**  
 Thursday, May 14 at 7PM  
 Lakeview Football Field



**NATCHITOCHEES CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL**  
 Friday, May 15 at 7PM  
 NSU Prather Coliseum

**Natchitoches Provisional Learning Center:**  
 Seniors graduate with their home based school

**Advertise Here**

Interested in Advertising?

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

**CONTACT US**

Phone: (318) 354-7712

Email:  
[support@therealnewslouisiana.com](mailto:support@therealnewslouisiana.com)  
[www.therealnewslouisiana.com](http://www.therealnewslouisiana.com)

P.O. Box 1082 Natchitoches, La 71458