



THE REAL NEWS Louisiana

"A Community With a Voice Shall Be Heard" ®

Publisher: Latorria Freeman

Ben D. Johnson Educational Center's "I Tried" 4th Annual Awards Fundraiser

Natchitoches – The Ben D. Johnson Educational Center (BDJ) in Natchitoches, Louisiana, has been a transformative force in the community, fostering growth, opportunity, and second chances for countless residents. The annual "I Tried" Awards Fundraiser was held on August 26, 2025, at Riverside Reserve. The event celebrated BDJ's lasting positive effect, which includes job training, mentorship, and community support that have helped individuals build brighter futures and strengthened the local workforce.

The atmosphere was welcoming, and a shared sense of purpose was clear.

Over the years, BDJ has provided vital workforce development programs, youth mentorship, and access to resources like resume writing and financial literacy. These efforts have helped participants secure stable jobs, gain confidence, and become active contributors to Natchitoches. This success would not have been possible without the positive impact of the Natchitoches community, whose generosity, volunteerism, and encouragement have fueled BDJ's mission at every step. The event honored the legacy of Mr. Ben D. Johnson and celebrated those who strive for success.

Speeches from honorees like Phil and Mary Lou Brown, Matthew Craig, and Gail Jones Metoyer highlighted stories of personal transformation and community progress, made possible by the unwavering support of local residents.



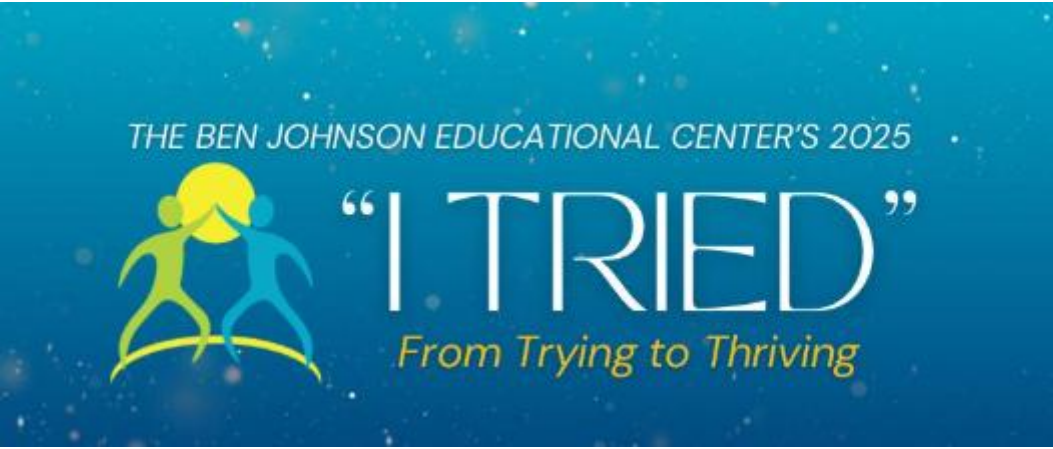
Attendees enjoyed appetizers and live music, all supporting BDJ's programs, which have touched hundreds of lives. The evening was bittersweet, as President Claire Prymus announced that the Center would close on September 30, 2025, due to changes in state funding. The Ben D. Johnson Educational Center stands as a testament to the power of community service and leadership. President Claire Prymus's vision, dedication, and tireless advocacy have been instrumental in changing lives across Natchitoches. Her selfless commitment and the sacrifices she made to create opportunities for others have left a lasting legacy, and her impact on the community will be remembered with gratitude. Claire ended her speech with the words, "We Tried," capturing the Center's spirit of perseverance and hope.

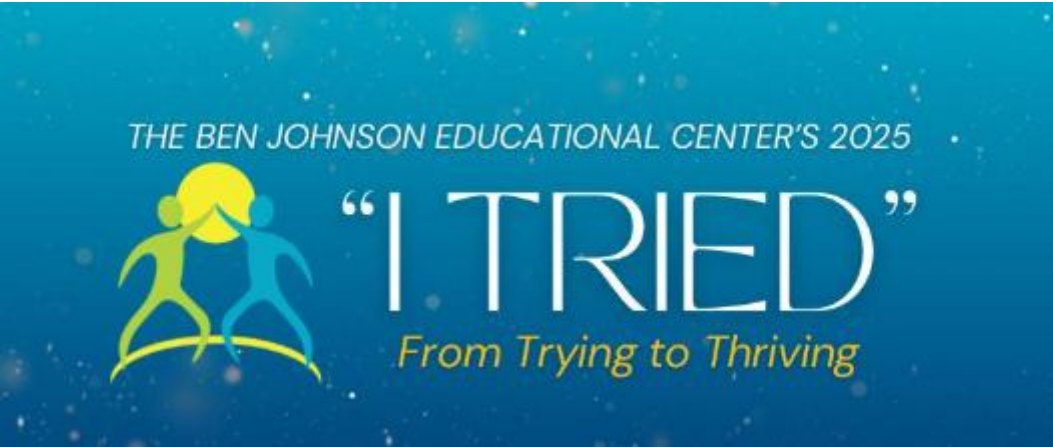
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Photo Credits: Erick Wilson, RTSS Photography







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SCAN ME



Roundtable Meeting with Congressman Cleo Fields

US Congressman Cleo Fields recently visited Natchitoches for a Congressional Conversation organized by Chamber of Commerce President Laura Lyles. During the event, Congressman Fields provided a comprehensive update on current federal legislative initiatives. He emphasized his commitment to advancing Head Start and higher education programs, supporting critical infrastructure improvements such as local roads, and addressing the significant impact of the Big Beautiful Bill, which is projected to result in the loss of Medicaid coverage for approximately 260,000 Louisiana residents. Congressman Fields also highlighted federal grant opportunities that could support future local projects.

A roundtable discussion brought bankers, business owners, and elected officials together to identify key regional priorities and challenges facing Natchitoches Parish.

Topics included the ongoing teacher shortage, workforce retention, infrastructure needs, grant funding, and efforts to secure new operators for the International Paper plant.



From left to right, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Congressman Cleo Fields, Chamber President Laura Lyles, and NSU President James Genovese

Congressman Fields responded to these concerns and pledged continued advocacy for the resources needed to drive economic growth and improve community well-being.

Congressman Fields reinforced his commitment to representing his constituents first and foremost, stating that his focus remains on the needs of the district rather than politics in Washington. While the Head Start bill may not pass this year, he expressed his continued passion for expanding early childhood education and pledged to keep working on this important issue.

NSU President James T. Genovese discussed major projects in development at Northwestern State University, including plans for an innovation park designed to benefit Natchitoches and surrounding parishes. The park would create educational and employment opportunities for students by aligning curricula with the needs of regional industries such as RoyOMartin. President Genovese stated that the university has secured land, seed funding, and architectural plans, but requires an earmark to move forward. He commended Congressman Fields for being a man of his word, not about politics, but concentrated on what we can do to make Northwest Louisiana better. **Continued next page**

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Roundtable Meeting with Congressman Cleo Fields

Councilwoman-at-Large Betty Smith-Kirkendoll requested support in facilitating the reopening of the International Paper plant under new ownership. Mayor Ronnie Williams and President Genovese reported meeting with a potential buyer, but negotiations have stalled due to International Paper's reluctance to sell. Congressman Fields was asked to advocate reasonable pricing in these negotiations. While discussions are ongoing and not yet finalized, there is cautious optimism regarding the plant's future.

Congressman Fields noted that job incentive funding through the state may be available to support any company that acquires the plant. Chamber President Laura Lyles acknowledged that such transitions require time and patience.

Additional grants and resources may be available to support small business owners and to provide law enforcement agencies with funding for initiatives such as solving cold cases. The district attorney plays a key role in requesting supplemental funding for law enforcement needs.



From left to right, Tourism Manager Sarah Zeagler, Congressman Cleo Fields, and Tourism Commission Board member Ricky LaCour

Congressman Fields explained that funding for road and infrastructure improvements is allocated through the state, with projects prioritized based on need and impact. In closing, Congressman Fields emphasized the importance of community engagement in effective representation. He urged officials to return regularly to their districts, actively listen to constituents, and remain accountable to those they serve. Congressman Fields reaffirmed his commitment to ongoing dialogue and partnership with the Natchitoches community.



From left to right, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Congressman Cleo Fields, Chamber President Laura Lyles, and NSU President James Genovese



From left to right, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Councilwoman at Large Betty Smith-Kirkendoll, Congressman Cleo Fields, and Natchitoches Chamber of Commerce President Laura Lyles



Northwestern State University invites you to join us for Family Day!

Family Day is designed for the members of your family to visit your student's home-away-from-home! Family Day will be held **Saturday, October 25, 2025**. Spend time on campus and in the Natchitoches community with your student. Game day activities, a family tailgate party, and Northwestern State football are highlights of the day.

A complete Family Day package includes a ticket to the Northwestern State vs Lamar University game purchased individually. Children three years and older must have a ticket to attend the game. NSU students must have a ticket for the tailgate dinner. Proximity game day parking will be \$10 cash.

 | NORTHWESTERN STATE

TAKE THE NEXT STEP.

SCHEDULE YOUR CAMPUS TOUR

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ATTORNEY CLOYD BENJAMIN, JR.

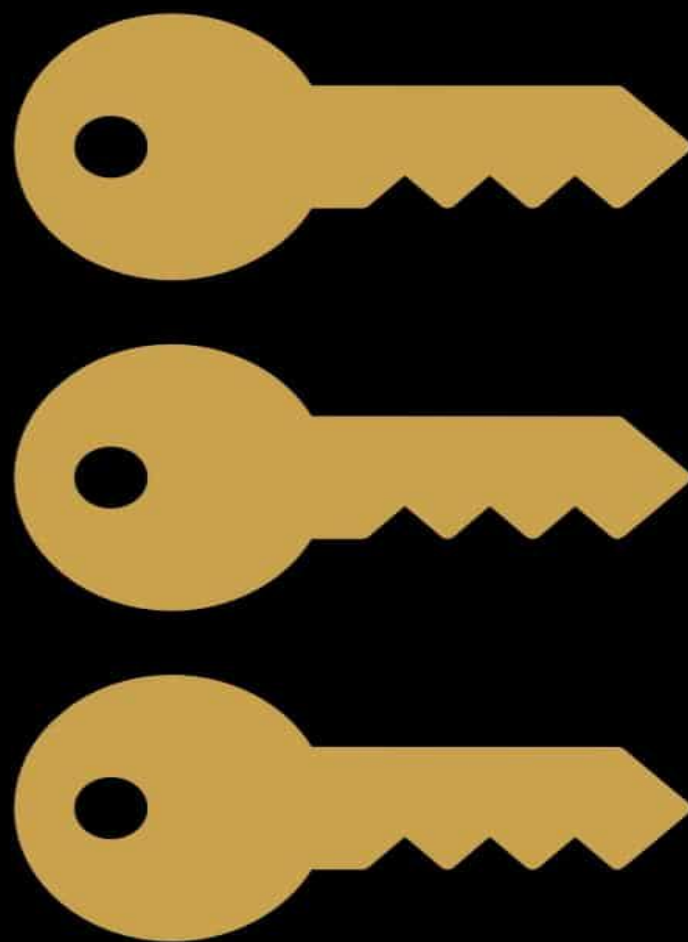
I serve as First Assistant District Attorney for Natchitoches Parish. I grew up in the Jackson Square Neighborhood "The Square". My father was Director of Housekeeping at the Hospital and mother sewed for the public. I graduated from NCHS, NSU (Criminal Justice), University of Texas-Dallas (Sociology), Southern University Law Center, 1998. I served as Natchitoches Parish Deputy, 1986-1989, US Department of Justice, 1990-1995, Shreveport City Prosecutor, 1999-2001, Natchitoches District Attorney Office 2008-present. Benjamin Law Firm, LLC, 2005-2018. I count God, my loving family and many strong, involved community members for holding me up and providing the foundation for my success...

FOR COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS:

318-820-9595

Benjaminlawfirmllc@yahoo.com

P.O. BOX 573 Natchitoches, LA 71458



KEYS TO SUCCESS

By Attorney Cloyd Benjamin, Jr.

KEYS TO SUCCESS

STEP ONE:

FAITH IN GOD AND FAITH IN YOURSELF

Faith is simply believing with expectation that you can reach your goals. Pray for help, and put in the work. Your Dreams and Goals are possible. No matter your life story, neighborhood or background, you can be successful. "Keep Pushing. Keep the Faith."

STEP TWO:

STAY ON YOUR GAME - BE PREPARED

Study, Train, and Educate yourself. Go hard in the books. Learn the technology. Practice speaking and communicating correctly. "Prepare for Success and WIN."

STEP THREE:

BE BOLD AND COURAGEOUS TO OBTAIN YOUR SUCCESS

Your Dreams and Goals are personal. Trust the process and the people that believe in you. Move alone and in silence. Stay focused and positive. Keep the FAITH, stay PREPARED. "Be Bold and Courageous About Your Success."

STAY ON TRACK

LET NO ONE OR NOTHING "HIJACK" YOUR SUCCESS
BY INVOLVEMENT IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

STEP ONE:

ROLL BY YOURSELF - STAY CRIME AND DRUG FREE

Be responsible for yourself and not for your homeboys or girls. Rolling 4 deep especially with people you don't know well is a recipe to get CAUGHT UP. In Louisiana rolling with a GUN plus 14 grams or more of Marijuana, or possession of any other drug can land the occupants of the car in jail. If convicted under LARS 14:95 (E) the sentence range is 5 to 10 years in prison. Prison and Probation create Permanent Records and steal away opportunity for success. "Stay Inside and Out the Streets."

STEP TWO:

TRAFFIC STOP - STAY COOL, STAY CALM

Driving is a privilege, NOT A RIGHT. Police can ask for Identification and where you are going. Smoking weed and driving is a crime which can lead to all kinds of probable cause searches and felonies. Please do not resist or speed away. This turns a traffic ticket into a potential felony. "DO NOT Hijack Your Success."

STEP THREE:

ASSOCIATE YOURSELF WITH OTHERS WHO ARE DESTINED FOR SUCCESS

Stay away from guns, drugs, and gangs. Nothing good comes from this. If you or your friends are victimized by a crime, REPORT IT! It's not snitching, it's having the courage to do the right thing. "Be FEARLESS and let no one hijack your success."

NSU recognizes employees for years of service milestones

NATCHITOCHES – Northwestern State University recognized several employees for years of service during the annual campus-wide luncheon, an annual event that draws the campus community together for announcements, door prizes, and a meal provided by Sodexo, the university's campus dining service.

This year's lunch provided a first look at the newly refreshed Iberville Dining Hall, where a months-long renovation has been underway.

Recognized for 25 years of service were Dr. Dana Clawson, professor in the College of Nursing and School of Allied Health; Renee Downey, assistant professor in the College of Nursing; Sontonia Helaire, library specialist; Dr. Cynthia Lindsey, professor and clinical director in the Department Psychology and Addiction Studies; Dr. Thomas Reynolds, head of the Department of English, Languages and Cultural Studies; Sandra Rufty, library associate; Kristi Salard, administrative coordinator in the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Human Resources; Binky Speir, accounting technician; Dr. J. Mark Thompson, professor of music, and Kristi Waters, associate director of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships.

Recognized for 30 years were Melanie Bedgood, coordinator of Non-Credit Activities; Joann Bell, accounts payable supervisor, and Dr. Greg Granger, professor in the School of Social Sciences and Applied Programs.

Recognized for 35. Years were University Registrar Barbara Prescott and Helen Tousek, administrative assistant in the Department of Psychology and Addiction Studies.

Al Velotta, assistant professor in the College of Nursing and School of Allied Health, was recognized for 50 years of service.



25 Years:

Northwestern State University recognized employees with 25 years of service. From left are President James Genovese, Dr. Dana Clawson, Dr. Charles King accepting on behalf of Dr. Cynthia Linsey; Sontonia Helaire, Dr. Thomas Reynolds, Renee Downey, Kristi Salard, Dr. J. Mark Thompson, and Kristi Waters.



30 Years:

NSU recognized employees with 30 years of service. From left are President James Genovese, Melanie Bedgood and Dr. Greg Granger.

BOM Gives Back

NATCHITOCHES:



Welcome! Gracie Borders

Gracie is joining our Washington Street Branch as a Teller, and we're thrilled to have her on board. A proud Natchitoches native, Gracie was raised by her "Weezie" and recently earned her Bachelor's degree in Social Work from Northwestern State University in 2024. In her free time, she enjoys reading on her Kindle, spending time with family and friends, and making the most of crawfish season! Gracie shared, "I look forward to succeeding in my position here at BOM and hope to grow within this bank!"

Welcome, Gracie!



NATCHITOCHES:



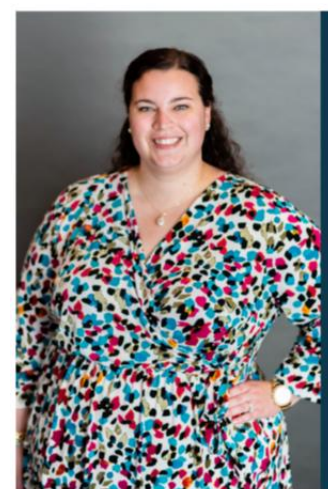
Congratulations! Kelsten Antoine

BOM Bank is pleased to congratulate Kelsten Antoine on her promotion to Accounting Clerk! Kelsten is a 2023 graduate of Northwestern State University, receiving a bachelor's degree in mathematics. Shortly after graduating, she started with BOM Bank as a Teller at the downtown Natchitoches branch. In her free time, she teaches dance at a local dance studio, and coaches the St. Mary's Tigerline dance team. When she is not teaching dance, she enjoys reading, hanging out with family and friends, and playing video games. What Kelsten enjoys most about working for BOM Bank is the wonderful growth opportunities, positive atmosphere, and encouraging/supportive work environment.

Congratulations, Kelsten!



CADDO/BOSSIER:



Congratulations! Hilary Peace

BOM Bank is pleased to congratulate Hilary Peace on her promotion to Regional Retail Manager! Hilary is a wife and soon-to-be mom of two boys. She knew from a very young age that she wanted to be a banker, so she graduated from NSU in 2015 with a degree in Business Administration and has been in banking ever since. She stated, "Working at BOM has allowed me to grow professionally in a way I never thought possible, thanks to the invaluable opportunities BOM has provided me throughout my six-year tenure here. I am thrilled to start this new chapter!"

Congratulations, Hilary!



RAPIDES:



Welcome! Brittney Meynard

BOM Bank is pleased to welcome Brittney Meynard to the BOM family! Brittney will be joining our Mac Lee branch. Her hobbies include spending time with her fiancé, family, kids, and her Frenchie named Kreed. She is the mother of two children and has one on the way! She stays busy with her kids' school and sports activities, and her favorite summer activity is going to the beach. Brittney stated, "I'm so excited to be joining BOM and look forward to growing with this bank."

Welcome, Brittney!



NATCHITOCHES:

BOM was proud to sponsor the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority-Rho Beta Omega Chapter's financial literacy program. Pictured are BOM's Emily Breedlove, Bridgett Carpenter (Chairperson), and BOM's Katrice Below.



SABINE:

OM Bank supports the Florien High School Varsity Cheerleaders! Pictured are Abby Kennedy, Emmalynne Lee, Vivi Graves, Kaylee Chreene, Paig Handy, Brylee Nichols, and BOM's Lance Rivers.



BOM Gives Back

NATCHITOCHES:

BOM was proud to support Tajarrius Bowers on his journey to the Junior High National Career Development Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana! Pictured left to right: BOM's Syddah Shults, Tajarrius Bowers, and BOM's Gracie Borders.



SABINE:

BOM is continuing our support of the Many High School football program. Pictured left to right: Alan Warfield, Tyler Haskell, BOM's Daniel Bennett, and Micah Chaney.



CADDO/BOSSIER:

Congratulations! Breanne George

BOM Bank is pleased to congratulate Breanne George on her promotion to Branch Manager at our Fern location! Breanne has been with BOM for three years, where she was previously Head Teller. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family, reading, and spending time volunteering in her community. Breanne stated, "I am thankful for a company that pours into their employees the way that BOM does, as well as for the friends I have made while working here. I am so excited to see what comes next!"

Congratulations, Breanne!



RAPIDES:

Congratulations! Allyson Blais

BOM Bank is proud to congratulate Allyson Blais on her promotion to Head Teller at Kingsville! Allyson has been with BOM since 2023. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with her boyfriend and family, playing with her miniature poodle and weenie dogs, and fishing. Allyson's goal within BOM is to move up as much as she can. She stated, "I enjoy my job the most because of the customers. I love helping them get into the accounts they need or with any banking business they need to attend to. I am excited to see how far I can go in my career at BOM!"

Congratulations, Allyson!



3.794% APY*
11-Month CD Special

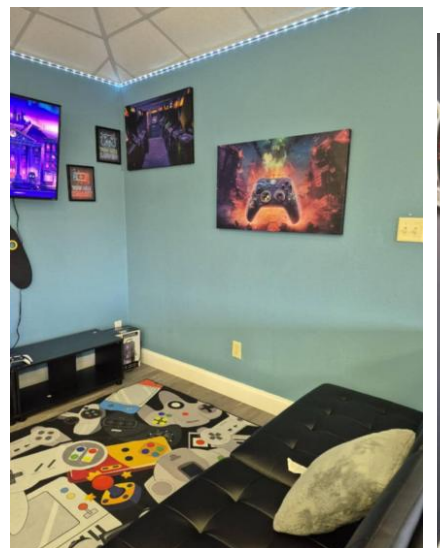
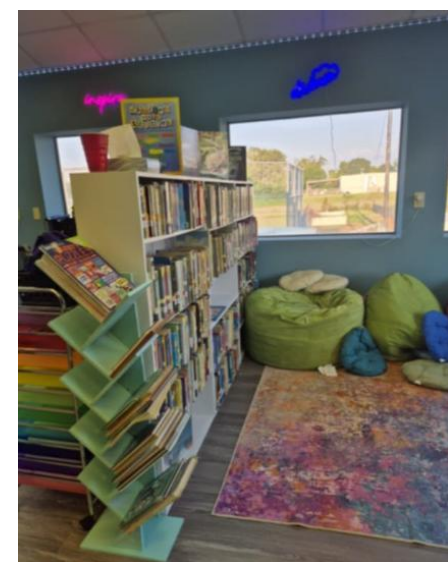
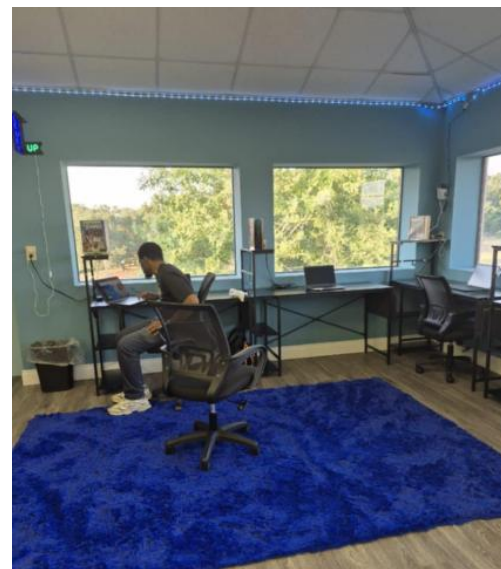


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*Annual Percentage Yield

Member FDIC

Address: 625 MLK Drive



An advertisement for Exchange Bank's "Spring Into Homeownership" program. The background features a large, ornate building and a field of red tulips. The text "Exchange Bank" is at the top, with "Louisiana's Oldest Bank" below it. The main headline is "SPRING INTO Homeownership" in a mix of bold and script fonts. Below that, it says "WITH A MORTGAGE FROM EXCHANGE BANK!". Four people (three men and one woman) are smiling in the foreground. At the bottom, the address "700 Front St. Natchitoches, LA" and phone number "318.352.8141" are listed, along with the website "exchange-bank.com" and an FDIC logo.

A poster titled "TEEN CENTER ACTIVITIES" in large, bold, white letters. Below the title, a list of activities is provided: Conflict Resolution, Mental Health workshop, Hygiene discussion, Line dance class, CPR & First Aid Certification, Vision Board Party, Intership program, Financial literacy class, Trip to NSU (tour), Job fair, Health Relationships/Boundaries, Life Skills workshop, Teen Entrepreneur Market Day, and Public Speaking Confidence Class. The poster also features a small image of a group of teens at the bottom right.

Part-Time Job Fair to be held Sept. 9

NATCHITOCHES - Northwestern State University's Job Location and Development Office will sponsor its annual Part-Time Job Fair on Tuesday, Sept. 9 from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. in the Friedman Student Union Ballroom.

NSU students will be able to connect with local employers offering flexible schedules and opportunities to build skills and gain added income. Employers will also have internship opportunities. All majors and classifications are invited to attend.

Scheduled participants include RoyOMartin, Natchitoches Regional Medical Center, Natchitoches Convention & Visitors Bureau, the Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts, Natchitoches Army Recruiting, BOM Bank, Stine LLC, Campus Living Villages, Dark Woods Adventure Park, Boys & Girls Clubs of Acadiana, Louisiana National Guard at NSU, Magnolia Belle Women's Addiction Wellness, Wascom, Brown, & Associates, Women's Resource Center and Rolling Hills Ministries.

Students can register for the event at

https://app.joinhandshake.com/career_fairs/829f14f9-c142-4505-8b9b-e69c5cc22aea/student_preview

Employers can register for the event at

https://app.joinhandshake.com/career_fairs/829f14f9-c142-4505-8b9b-e69c5cc22aea/employer_preview

For more information, contact Job Location and Development Officer Tiffany Killion at carriert@nsula.edu.



SEPTEMBER 07 25

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158th

A God-built Church

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SIGN DEDICATION & UNVEILING | 10AM

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION | 2:30PM | PASTOR DOUG RANDLE
MT. HERMON BAPTIST CHURCH



**SUNDAY
SEPT. 28
4 PM**

**UNITY IN THE
COMMUNITY
BLOCK PARTY**

Entertainment By:

Ben Park - 618 MLK Dr.

- ✓ Music, Games & Prizes
- ✓ Free Food, Local Vendors
- ✓ Special Presentation

GARY CHRIS

Vendors can call 318-352-2772 ext. 1035 to reserve your spot at no charge.

Proclamation Declaring August 29 and 30th as The Cane River Zydeco Festival in the City of Natchitoches

Hosted By: Magnolia State Peace Officers Association Cane River Branch



RESOLUTION NO. 071 OF 2025

PROCLAMATION DECLARING AUGUST 29 AND 30, 2025 AS THE CANE RIVER ZYDECO FESTIVAL IN THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES

WHEREAS the City of Natchitoches celebrates a rich cultural heritage that is expressed through music, dance, food, and community gatherings; and

WHEREAS, the Magnolia State Peace Officers have continued their tradition of hosting the 26th annual Zydeco Festival, which brings residents and visitors together to experience one of Louisiana's most treasured art forms; and

WHEREAS the 2025 Zydeco Festival will kick off on Friday evening with the dynamic sounds of DJ Rob Real, along with line and swing dancing that highlight the joy and togetherness of our community; and

WHEREAS the celebration will continue on Saturday with live performances by Marcus Ardoin and DA Zydeco Legendz, and will feature the highly acclaimed headliner, Lil Nate, ensuring an unforgettable weekend of music and culture; and

WHEREAS festivals such as this promote unity, boost the local economy, and keep alive the traditions that make Natchitoches and Louisiana unique;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Williams, Jr., Mayor of the City of Natchitoches, on behalf of the City Council and our citizens, do hereby proclaim August 29–30, 2025 as

“Zydeco Festival Weekend” in the City of Natchitoches

and encourage all residents and visitors to join in celebrating the music, dance, and cultural heritage that the Zydeco Festival brings to our community.



From left to right: Councilman Dale Neilson, Councilwoman at large Betty Smith-Kirkendoll, LaQuita Collins, Vanessa Monroe, Chief Nikeo Collins, Billy Meziere, Sandra Williams, Mayor Ronnie Williams, John Robertson, Councilman Chris Petite, Councilman Eddie Harrington



Magnolia State Peace Officers, Cane River Branch

26th Cane River ZYDECO FESTIVAL & POKER RUN

FOOD & BEVERAGE VENDORS

Food, Fun & Music

Sponsored by the Magnolia State Peace Officers Association Cane River Branch



Schedule:	
 FRIDAY, AUGUST 29—FREE ADMISSION 6:00–10:30 PM Gates Open Poker Run Registration Zydeco Dance Contest 6:00–10:30 PM DJ Rob Real 7:00–8:00 PM Line Dancing 8:00–9:00 PM Swing Dancing	 SATURDAY 7:00–9:30 PM LIL NATHAN & Zydeco Big Timers
	SATURDAY, AUGUST 30 ADMISSION \$20 9:00 AM—Poker Run Registration 12:00 PM—Ride Begins 2:00 PM—Gates Open 4:00–6:30 PM—MARCUS ARDOIN & DA ZYDECO LEGENDZ 7:00–9:30 PM—LIL NATHAN & ZYDECO BIG TIMERS 9:30–10:30 PM DJ ROB REAL

Ticket & Event Information:- Melvin Holmes 318-332-7455
 Billy Meziere 318-471-9920 & Sandra Williams Vendor Info: 318-527-6959

Labor Day Weekend - Downtown Riverbank August 29—30, 2025 Natchitoches, LA

Thank you to our SPONSORS

Cane River Waterway Commission



CANE RIVER CHARITIES



NATCHITOCHES

For more information 800-259-1714

visit www.natchitoches.com

The Cane River Zydeco Festival began in 1999 by members of the Magnolia State Police Officers Association, Cane River Branch. The Magnolia State Peace Officer's Association is the state wide organization that started the Toys for Tots program. They also help the community through other various programs such as community service, Shop with a Cop, food baskets and preparing Thanksgiving dinners for underprivileged families. Proceeds from this event assist in funding various community functions around Natchitoches Parish.



BETA OMEGA SIGMA CHAPTER OF SIGMA GAMMA RHO SORORITY, INC. 2025 WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE LUNCHEON



Beta Omega Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. would like to take a moment to recognize the **amazing women** who have paved the way for progress, justice, and a brighter future. We all know the legendary pioneers Rosa Parks, Susan B. Anthony, Maya Angelou and so many more whose courage and contributions changed the world. However, history is still being made!

On September 6, 2025, at Sci-Port @ 12:00 p.m. Beta Omega Sigma will be celebrating seven women whose goals align with Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. mission. Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority's aim is to enhance the quality of life within the community. Public service, leadership development, and education of youth are the hallmark of the organization's programs and activities. Sigma Gamma Rho addresses the concerns that impact society educationally, civically, and economically. Our theme will be **"Visionaries, Making Good Trouble"**.

The dream of seven women became a reality when Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. was established on the campus of Butler University on November 12, 1922 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Today, women continue to break barriers in education, business, and beyond while shaping industries, inspiring change and redefining what's possible for future generations. Please let us introduce to you seven **fierce** and **impressive** women who are making an impact right now in your communities across central and northern Louisiana.

Nominees



Mrs. Katrice Below



Dr. Aubra Gantt



Ms. Essence Payne



Mrs. Kimberly S. Nard



Mrs. Rachel Jackson



Mrs. Jean Ashley Thomas



Mrs. Latoya Chalmers



Scan to pay



Dr. Patricia Johnson
Guest Speaker/Author

If you are interested in attending this luncheon please scan the QR code. Tickets are \$60.00 each and all proceeds will go toward our scholarship program that provides scholarships to students who plan to seek secondary education. For more information you can reach out to Janet Armand @ 318-553-9518 or Monique Sarpy @ 318-332-8264.



Natchitoches, LA Meatpie Festival September 19 - 20, 2025

Proclamation declaring September 19 and 20, 2025, as Natchitoches Meat Pie Festival Days

RESOLUTION NO. 068 OF 2025

PROCLAMATION DECLARING SEPTEMBER 19 AND 20, 2025 AS NATCHITOCHES MEAT PIE FESTIVAL DAY'S IN THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES

WHEREAS, Records show that the concept of the meat pie took shape in the mid-1700's in Louisiana by Native Americans and later enhanced by the Spanish; and

WHEREAS, 55 years ago, James Lasyone's - opened his meat pie kitchen which is still in operation today in Historic Downtown Natchitoches; and

WHEREAS, the recipe of the meat pie has changed slightly from its inception and has been handed down from generation to generation; however, the basic ingredients and the process for creating a meat pie remains the same; and

WHEREAS, with an abundance of excitement in 2002, the Natchitoches Meat Pie Festival was formed to celebrate the noted culinary staple in Natchitoches, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, the Natchitoches meat pie was named Louisiana's official meat pie, and Natchitoches was one of the last cities to not have an identified food festival until 2002; and

WHEREAS, the annual Festival attracts visitors from throughout the state and over a dozen of other states as well each year; and

WHEREAS, the festival has always been a family-oriented, non-admission required event over a two-day period in Downtown Natchitoches, helping to enhance the area's economy with individual activities that can be enjoyed at a small fee; and

WHEREAS, the organizing committee for the Festival is a complete volunteer committee; and

WHEREAS, the Natchitoches Meat Pie Festival is returning by popular demand after a two-year break due to the novel coronavirus.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Williams, Jr., Mayor, and the Natchitoches City Council, do hereby proclaim September 19 and 20, 2025 as:

NATCHITOCHES MEAT PIE FESTIVAL DAY'S

in the City of Natchitoches, and invite all residents to participate and enjoy the two-day Festival, that will include various bands, fireworks, vendors, children's performances and play area, and a "how to" workshop will encompass this year's celebration.



26TH ANNUAL RIVER RUN

CHARITY MOTORCYCLE RIDE

Saturday 9/20

Natchitoches, LA



Hosted By:
Independent
Motorcycle Riders of
Natchitoches



Scan me!

2025 St. Matthew “Dynamic 12” Class Reunion

Class reunions celebrate old friendships and offer a chance to catch up since graduation. They also let you reflect on how you remember your high school days.

On May 23-24, 2025, Memorial Weekend, “St. Matthew High School Dynamic 12” hosted a class reunion. The event included classes from 1970 to 1981, with participation from other classes as well. The festivities began with a “Wild, Wild West” western-themed meet-and-greet on Friday, May 23, 2025. On Saturday, May 24, 2025, several activities were planned. These included a boat ride on Cane River Queen, a tour of Fort St. Jean Baptiste, and a Louisiana Hall of Fame Tour. Saturday night ended the reunion with a dazzling dinner dance banquet, themed “St. Matthew Goes to Hollywood.” This weekend helped us take a trip down memory lane as we socialized, mingled, and relived those unforgettable memories. St. Matthew High School opened its doors in 1952. It gained significant local importance in education and ethnic heritage. The school was the first public high school building constructed for African-Americans in Lower Natchitoches Parish. It provided education for rural families in Cane River, Melrose, and Natchez, LA communities. At that time, it was one of only two public senior high schools for African-Americans in the parish. Motto: “Look Sharp, Be Sharp, Stay Sharp,” as Mr. Noble Bulter would say.



St. Matthew sits in the heart of Cane River plantation country, about three miles from Melrose Plantation and community. St. Matthew’s history dates back to a “church school” established at St. Matthew Baptist Church in 1916. The school permanently closed in 1989.

It has been 44 years since the last class graduated from St. Matthew High School. It was a great time to reconnect with old friends and staff. We hope this will continue the spark and conversation. We want to revitalize this building into a community center that would serve the South area of Natchitoches Parish.

In closing, we would like to thank all our sponsors. These include Dunahoe Law Firm, Blanchard St. Denis Funeral Home & Crematory, Trail Boss Steakhouse, Natchitoches Convention and Visitors Bureau, City Bank & Trust Company, Bank of Montgomery, Burger King, Super 1 Foods, Whataburger, Sabine State Bank, The City of Natchitoches, Archie's Paint & Body, and Walmart. Their support made this event a huge success.

Photos Provided Courtesy of Monique Hamilton- Sarpy



St. Matthew High School Reunion 2025

2025 St. Matthew “Dynamic 12” Class Reunion

Photos Provided Courtesy of Monique Hamilton- Sarpy



2025 St. Matthew “Dynamic 12” Class Reunion

Photos Provided Courtesy of Monique Hamilton- Sarpy



2025 St. Matthew “Dynamic 12” Class Reunion

Photos Provided Courtesy of Monique Hamilton- Sarpy



St. Matthew "Dynamic 12" Class Reunion

Photos Provided Courtesy of Monique Hamilton- Sarpy



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Greater Is He

By: Evangelist Bonita Moses Arnold

If greater is he that is in you than in the world, why do we sometimes feel defeated? Where is your faith? No need to worry or fear when the greatest one lives inside of you.



Mama Shug Always Would Say...

"Parents, be careful how you treat your parents in front of your children because when you get older, they will treat you the same."

“THE MOST COMMON WAY PEOPLE GIVE UP THEIR POWER IS BY THINKING THEY DON’T HAVE ANY.”

—ALICE WALKER



“INSTEAD OF LETTING YOUR HARDSHIPS AND FAILURES DISCOURAGE OR EXHAUST YOU, LET THEM INSPIRE YOU. LET THEM MAKE YOU EVEN HUNGRIER TO SUCCEED.”

—MICHELLE OBAMA



“IF THEY DON’T GIVE YOU A SEAT AT THE TABLE, BRING A FOLDING CHAIR.”

—SHIRLEY CHISHOLM



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**The Burt Clark Foundation Presents
2025 BCF Weekend Of Events
5th Year Celebration**



To our faithful supporters, Natchitoches residents, and the surrounding areas....

The **Burt Clark Foundation** presents the 2025 BCF Weekend of Events, October 10th -11th, in Natchitoches, Louisiana. This year, we are celebrating 5 years, and it's going to be a family affair, so get ready, get ready, get ready!!

The weekend will kick off on Friday, October 10th, with a **Social Mixer at Onyx Wine & Cigar Lounge** at 7:30 pm. On Saturday morning, we will have our annual **RunForBurt 5K Run/Walk** at Northwestern State University's Collins Pavilion. The 5K run/walk will begin promptly at 8 AM.

We will close out our weekend celebration Saturday evening with the **BCF Black Tie Fundraiser Gala** at the *Northwestern State University Student Union Ballroom*, starting at 6:00 pm, where we will recognize and celebrate our 2025 BCF Scholars.

All funds raised at each BCF Event support educational scholarships for deserving high school graduating seniors.

We look forward to celebrating this milestone year of service to the community with you and your family.

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



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

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				
				3-1-B
Court of Appeal Judges*	10	1/1/2027	12/31/2036	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

COMMUNITY CHATTER ABOUT THE SHERIFF'S RACE & THE READERSHIP OPINION POLL RESULTS



Poll Results Courtesy of Natchitoches Parish Journal

If the election for Natchitoches Parish Sheriff was held today, who would you support:

Steve Pezant	32.91%
Victor Jones	23.33%
Chad Nelson	17.03%
Other	7.20%
Preston Durr	6.75%
Richard Shane LaCaze	6.59%
Michael Wilson	6.18%

Sheriff-Elect Stuart Wright has not publicly confirmed whether he intends to participate in the upcoming election.

Community members have expressed concerns regarding the sheriff's visibility and communication, noting a perceived lack of engagement with residents on local issues.

Steve Pezant has been encouraged to run for City Marshal, Ward 1. However, it is reported that the Current City Marshall, Randy Williams, intends to seek reelection. In the past, Pezant has faced criticism regarding the use of excessive force during his tenure.

Former Sheriff Victor Jones has received some backlash from the community for backing Sheriff Stuart Wright over Michael Wilson.

Although he still has strong community support, some concerns are that he would only run for one more term. Some have suggested that current and/or former captains want him to return for financial reasons.

Chad Nelson- word is that he would have the support of the Mardi Gras krewe he is a part of, but that he is not experienced enough in the field to be Sheriff.

Michael Wilson- word has been said that he is not always truthful, and because of an old case involving a family member of a prominent Pastor, he won't get the support from the community. Some have suggested he run for City Marshall.

Richard "Shane" Lacaze, in his earlier career as an officer, was known as a "pit bull" and had no problem with being overly aggressive when called out to arrest someone. He has changed within the last 5 years, but that is his history.

Preston Durr, it has been stated that Rapides and other area police chiefs have shared that he would not be a good candidate for sheriff, and Natchitoches needs someone else. It was suggested that he was released from his duties in a surrounding parish for a questionable job injury.

Other - Some have suggested that if Sheriff Victor Jones does not agree to return, Natchitoches Parish should consider finding another candidate from the pool of candidates listed above.

Wine and Cheese Gathering: The Krewe of the 9 Honors Two Recipients for Scholarships, Layla Johnson and Ayla Payne

Photo credits: Krewe of the 9



Provider Spotlight: Dr. Dametra Taylor, DNP

Dr. Dametra Taylor, Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP), has been a nurse practitioner since 2018 and achieved her DNP credential in 2023! Since joining the Outpatient Medical Center (OMC) team, she has been known for her genuine, strong patient relationship and dedication to patient-centered care.

“My healthcare philosophy is caring for the whole patient: physically, emotionally, and spiritually,” she explains. She ensures that a patient feels safe and seen at all times. When discussing her number one piece of health advice, Dr. Taylor says, “It takes two (the patient and provider) to achieve optimal health outcomes. By educating patients and giving them the tools they need to help themselves become healthy in every area, the collaboration process and wellness journey achieves the most optimal outcomes.”



Two conditions she is especially passionate about treating are hypertension and diabetes; chronic illnesses that can significantly affect a patient's quality of life. “These are two chronic conditions that are vital to a patient's health and well-being, and by playing a role in the treatment and management process from beginning to end gives me great joy to advocate for patient safety and well-being.”

Outside of her clinical work, she enjoys family time and expressing her creative pursuits through writing! “One fun or interesting fact that people might not know about me is that I am an author of two religious books currently on Amazon and working on a third. I love writing and reading books in my spare time when I'm not being a grandma ('Meme') to my five grandchildren.”

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Sunday Closed

Louisiana's Legacy of Corruption: A Timeline of Recent and Historical Political Scandals



- **Mayor LaToya Cantrell (August 2025):** The sitting New Orleans mayor was indicted by a federal grand jury on charges of wire fraud, obstruction of justice, and lying to a grand jury. The charges relate to her alleged misuse of city funds for travel with her former police bodyguard, Jeffrey Vappie, who was also indicted.
- **Police visa fraud scheme (July 2025):** Several police chiefs and other law enforcement officials in Central Louisiana were federally indicted for their involvement in a visa fraud scheme. The scheme allegedly involved accepting bribes in exchange for producing fraudulent police reports to assist foreign nationals in securing U visas.
- **Former state senator corruption (May 2025):** A former Louisiana state senator and political party chairman was sentenced to 22 months in prison for a scheme to defraud a campaign entity, donors, and a political party.
- **Governor Jeff Landry's ethics issues (2024–2025):** Governor Jeff Landry has been involved in several ethics disputes, including a months-long disagreement with the state's ethics board over his failure to disclose private flights. After the board pushed back, Landry signed a bill in mid-2025 that gave him more control over its members.

Historical Scandals

- **Edwin Edwards casino scandal (convicted 2000):** One of Louisiana's most notorious politicians, former Governor Edwin Edwards, was convicted in 2000 on racketeering and extortion charges. The charges stemmed from a scheme to extort millions of dollars from companies seeking riverboat casino licenses. He was sentenced to 10 years in federal prison.
- **William J. Jefferson freezer cash (indicted 2007):** In a scandal that drew national attention, former Congressman William J. Jefferson was indicted on bribery and corruption charges. The investigation began when FBI agents found \$90,000 in cash wrapped in foil and hidden in his freezer.
- **Ray Nagin, Hurricane Katrina scandal (convicted 2014):** Former New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin was convicted on 20 of 21 corruption charges, including bribery, wire fraud, and money laundering. He was found to have accepted bribes from contractors seeking city work following Hurricane Katrina and was sentenced to 10 years in prison.
- **Aaron Broussard's retirement scandal (resigned in 2010):** The former Jefferson Parish president resigned and later pleaded guilty to corruption charges. Broussard was indicted for using fake retirement benefits to defraud the parish and was sentenced to prison.
- **Huey P. Long (1934):** The populist governor and senator known as the "Kingfish" faced numerous accusations of corruption and eventually an impeachment attempt. Though he was never formally convicted, his political machine was rife with allegations of vote buying and misuse of public funds.
- **Cleo Fields scandal (1997):** In an incident captured on FBI surveillance video, Cleo Fields was shown accepting a large bundle of cash from then-Governor Edwin Edwards. While Fields was never charged with a crime, the footage was used as evidence in Edwards's federal corruption trial in 2000.

OPINION**Building Black Wealth**

By: Ava Black

1. Shift to a Wealth-Building Mindset: Overcoming financial trauma from systemic inequities is crucial. Acknowledge that building wealth is possible by focusing on long-term goals rather than immediate needs. This mindset shift counters distrust in financial systems, encouraging participation in wealth-building opportunities like investing.

2. Budget with Purpose: Understand your financial situation by tracking income, assets, and expenses. Set clear, goals-based budgets to prioritize needs over wants. Avoid high-interest debt but consider strategic debt for appreciating assets like real estate or education, which can yield long-term returns.

3. Invest in the Stock Market: Black Americans are significantly underinvested in stocks, which make up only 4% of Black wealth compared to 30% of white wealth. Start small, even with \$5-\$10 weekly, to build the habit. Utilize tax-advantaged accounts like 401(k)s or IRAs, especially with employer matches, to grow wealth efficiently.

Pursue Real Estate Ownership: Despite historical barriers like redlining, real estate remains a powerful wealth-building tool. Options include house hacking (living in one unit, renting others), partnering for multifamily properties, or investing in Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) with low capital.

4. Leverage Collective Financial Strategies: Form Family Investment LLCs to pool resources for investments in property, businesses, or stocks. This approach offers tax benefits and strengthens community wealth. Support Black-owned businesses and banks to keep dollars circulating longer in the community.

5. Protect Assets with Insurance and Estate Planning: Over 70% of Black adults lack wills or trusts, risking wealth loss. Secure term or whole-life insurance, create wills, and name beneficiaries to ensure assets transfer to heirs.

6. Advocate for Policy Reform: Individual efforts must be paired with systemic change. Support policies like baby bonds, reparations, or housing grants to address historical wealth extraction and structural barriers.

These strategies address both personal and systemic factors, leveraging education, investment, and collective action to close the racial wealth gap, which sees the median white household with 7.8 times the wealth of the median Black household (\$188,200 vs. \$24,100). For further reading, explore resources like the Brookings Institution's articles on wealth gaps or the Urban Institute's policy recommendations.

Disclaimer

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ADVISOR.
THIS IS NOT
FINANCIAL
ADVICE**





Football Season

LAKEVIEW GATORS FOOTBALL SCHEDULE 2025

Aug 21 Scrimmage @ Glenbrook High School	Sept 19 Woodlawn-Shr. Vs. Lakeview Homecoming	Oct 17 Logansport Vs. Lakeview
Aug 30 Jamboree @ NSU Prather Collesium	Sept 26 Lakeview @ Dequincy	Oct 24 Lakeview @ Northwood Lena
Sept 5 Booker T. Washington @ Lakeview	Oct 3 Lakeview @ Avoyelles	Oct 31 Lakeview @ Montgomery
Sept 12 Lakeview @ Cedar Creek	Oct 10 Lasalle Vs. Lakeview	Nov 7 St. Mary's Vs. Lakeview Senior Night

Home Games are in Orange
Away Games are in White

Playoffs Tentatively Scheduled for November 14, 2025

NATCHITOCHEES CITY CHIEFS 6/7TH Grade Football Schedule

- 8/23** Jamboree starting at 9:30AM
- 8/28** Jamboree at Lakeview at 6PM
- 9/4** North Desoto at 5:30PM
- 9/9** Provencal (at NCHS) 6PM
- 9/11** Pineville at 5PM
- 9/18** Arthur F. Smith at 5PM
- 9/25** Lakeview at 6PM
- 10/23** Tioga at 5PM

Team is comprised of:



Home Games

STOP BULLYING!

STAND UP
STAND STRONG
STAND TOGETHER
DON'T STAND BY.



**NATCHITOCHEES PARISH
SCHOOL BOARD**
TOGETHER WE CAN

WE ENCOURAGE STUDENTS,
PARENTS, AND STAFF TO
WORK TOGETHER TO
RECOGNIZE, PREVENT, AND
RESPOND TO BULLYING.

NATCHITOCHEES CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

CHIEFS

Meet the Chiefs

Natchitoches Central High School brought the community together on Saturday, August 16, 2025, at the Natchitoches Events Center for its annual "Meet the Chiefs" event. The evening served as an opportunity to introduce the football team and coaching staff, while also strengthening the bond between the Chiefs and their supporters.

Attendees enjoyed a lively program featuring both live and silent auctions, with proceeds supporting the Natchitoches Central Football program. The event was designed with community engagement in mind: families and fans met players and coaches and enjoyed a spirited video featuring team member interviews and lighthearted coach impersonations. The warm welcome from team members and the enthusiastic participation from the crowd made the event a booming success.

Several items were auctioned to benefit the Chiefs football program.

Auction items included grills, LSU football tickets, hunting mounts, sunglasses, gift baskets, signed sports memorabilia, cheer lessons, casino packages, drone services, Chiefs experiences, as well as home goods and services. Notable memorabilia featured baseballs signed by Nolan Ryan and Tommy White, photos signed by major athletes, signed helmets, basketballs, footballs, jerseys, as well as a racing helmet.

The success of "Meet the Chiefs" reflects the unwavering support of the Natchitoches Central community, setting a positive tone for the upcoming football season and underscoring the strong spirit that unites Chiefs fans, families, and athletes.



NATCHITOCHEES CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

CHIEFS

Meet The Chiefs

Photo Credits: Dusty Woodruff Grimes

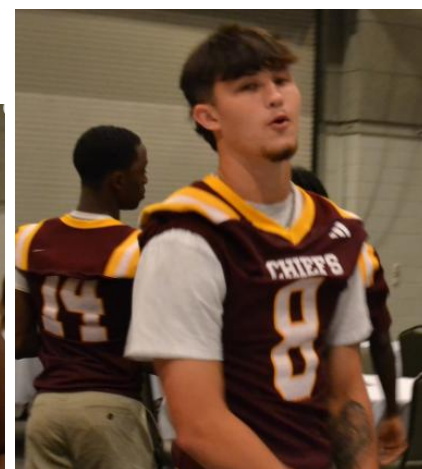


NATCHITOCHEES CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

CHIEFS

Meet The Chiefs

Photo Credits: Dusty Woodruff Grimes

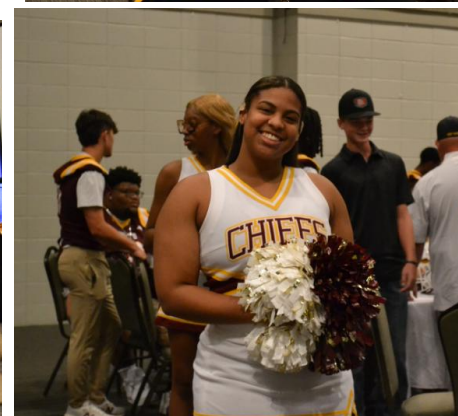
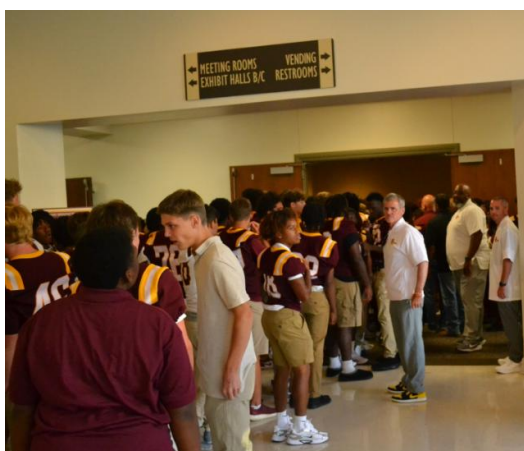


NATCHITOCHEES CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

CHIEFS

Meet The Chiefs

Photo Credits: Dusty Woodruff Grimes

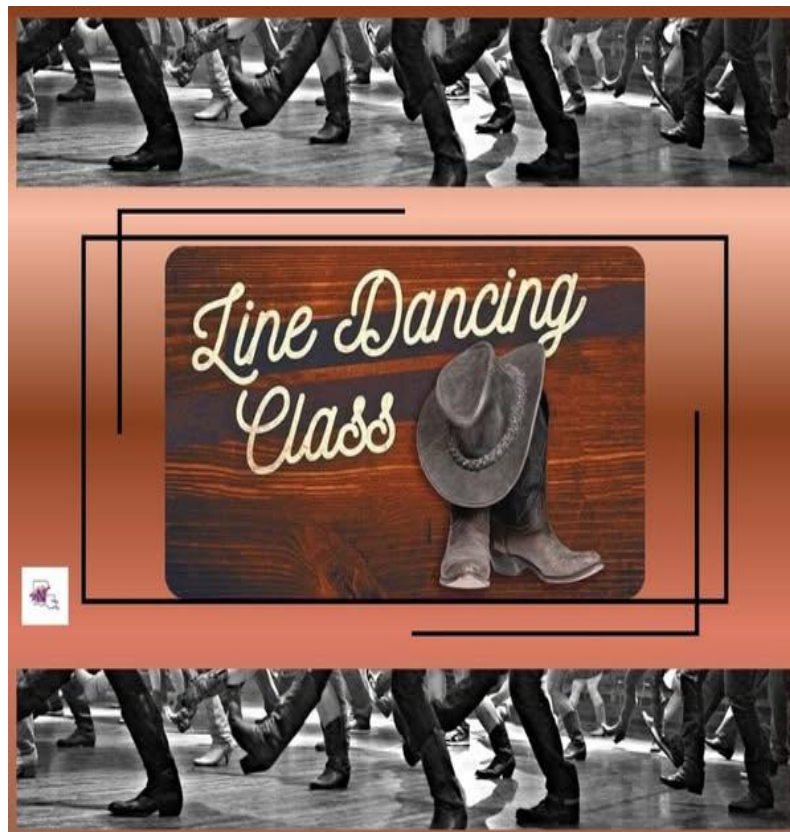


Line dancing class to begin Sept. 9

NATCHITOCHES – A line dancing class will be offered by Northwestern State University's Office of Electronic Learning and Global Education starting Tuesday, Sept. 9. The class will be taught on Tuesdays from 5:30 p.m. until 7 p.m. through Oct. 14 in Room 127 of the Health and Human Performance Building. The fee is \$65.

Line dancing is a way to exercise your body and mind by dancing to lively, upbeat music. It is a fun way to dance socially without a dance partner. Dancing styles covered in this class will include country-western, zydeco and hip-hop. No dance experience is required. Attire for the class is casual with soft soled shoes required.

For more information or to register for classes, 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.



Ready, Set, Work- Campti





READY, SET, WORK!

Build confidence. Sharpen skills. Get hired.
Workplace Scenario Icebreakers. Personal Introduction Practice. Resume Building.

DATE
Friday
August 29 , 2025

LOCATION
Campti Community
Recreation Center
201 Edenborn St

TIME
3 PM - 6 PM

Free workforce event with food and giveaways for the Campti Community!
Register [HERE](#)



Neda Q3- The Natchitoches Parish Port: Driving Economic Impact

Membership Breakfast Q3

**The Natchitoches Parish Port:
Driving Economic Impact**

Learn how the Port powers our economy by connecting industries today—and hear about upcoming projects that could bring new jobs and investment to Natchitoches Parish.

Sept 17, 2025 | 8:15-9:30AM
NRMC - Listach Room
501 Keyser Avenue

This meeting will be in-person, with virtual option offered.





Travis Tyler
Executive Director
Natchitoches Parish
Port

NATCHITOCHES
AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

2025 Right to Life Gala- Be the light



**SEPTEMBER
18TH**

Women's Resource Center
Pregnancy Help Medical Clinic

presents:

be the
LIGHT

2025 RIGHT TO LIFE GALA



Psalm
119:105



**JOIN
TODAY**

FOR AS LITTLE AS

\$25

A MONTH

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Community Events

**Celebrating Culture, Cuisine,
Faith, Family & Friends**



Creole AND Family FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 10th - 12th

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FRIDAY 6PM — 11PM

- FRIED FISH & TRIMMINGS
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- MUSIC

SATURDAY 8AM — Until

- 2ND ANNUAL "RUN FOR ROD" Run/Walk in Loving Memory of Chadwick "Rod" Nelson
- 10AM — 5PM**
 - FUN & GAMES
 - BINGO & RAFFLES
 - GUMBO, MEAT PIES, TAMALES & DINNER PLATES
- 5PM — 6PM**
 - MASS
- 6PM — 11PM**
 - FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES RESUME
- 6:30PM — 10:30PM**
 - GERARD DELAFOSE & THE ZYDECO GATORS!

ZYDECO CONCERT!!

SUNDAY 10:30AM

- MASS
- 11:30AM - 3PM**
 - FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES RESUME



2025 NATCHITOCHES PARISH FAIR AND RODEO

Schedule of Events:

Friday, September 19th : Rodeo 7:30pm
 Saturday, September 20th : Rodeo 7:30pm
 Sunday, September 21st: Horse Show & Exhibit drop off
 Monday, September 22nd: Exhibit Drop Off
 Tuesday, September 23rd: BeeBee Martin FFA Competition
 Wednesday, September 24th: Opening Ceremonies, Carnival Opens
 Thursday, September 25th: Livestock Show, Carnival opens at 5pm
 Friday, September 26th: Carnival Opens 5pm
 Saturday, September 27th: Carnival Opens 11am



Demon Diamond & Devotion Breakfast

Saturday, September 20

Join us at Prather Coliseum for a morning of prayer, faith, and community togetherness to support the NSU Baseball Team.

9 AM - Player Meet & Greet

9:30 AM - Breakfast Served

10 AM - Program Begins

Tickets - \$20 Each
 Sponsorships Available
 Scan Here for more info:



Step Up to the Mound — and Hear a True Story of Faith by #13 Right-Hander Kevin Robinson

Hosted by the **LIGHTNING** 12U Team



Demon Diamond & Devotion Breakfast Sponsorship Opportunities

Home Run for Hope : \$750

Give 7 local kids and one chaperone from the Boys & Girls Club of Acadiana (or a local school) the chance to attend this unforgettable event! As a sponsor, you'll also enjoy a table for 8 for your family or staff. Your name or logo will shine on both tables you sponsor, plus you'll be featured on our Facebook event page and in the official event program.



Fork Em Fan Sponsors Table: \$500

Table of 8 at the event, name on the table and program.

Demon Dugout Sponsor: \$250

4 tickets to the event, name on the program.

Individual tickets: \$20

For More Information Visit:

www.nsudemons.com/devotionbreakfast

Community Events



NSULA Fine + Graphic Arts
Natchitoches Art Guild and
Gallery

FIRST ANNUAL REGIONAL ART COMPETITION AND SHOW

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF
CREATIVITY AND INSPIRATION!

Experience art
from 22 regional artists,
Monday, September 15, 2025,
from 5:30 to 7:30 PM.

DON'T MISS OUT!

ORVILLE HANCHEY ART GALLERY
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UNIVERSITY CAMPUS
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"World on Fire"
by Melinda Parrie

The Pantry *Fall Hours*

Monday - Thursday
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Friday
9:00 am to 11:00 am



***The Pantry will be closed when the university
is closed, unless noted otherwise.***

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PASTOR CHRIS WYATT
And The
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CHURCH FAMILY**
NATCHITOCHE, LA

17TH *Pastoral* ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

HONORING
PASTOR CHRISTOPHER & LADY CHRISTY BURTON

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH @ 2:30PM

Scripture: Isaiah 52:7 TPT

What a beautiful sight to behold—the precious feet of the messenger coming over the mountains to announce good news! He comes to refresh us with wonderful news, announcing salvation to Zion and saying, "Your Mighty God reigns!"

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
CONTACT US @ CHRISTY.E.JACKSON@GMAIL.COM

BETA OMEGA SIGMA CHAPTER

NEW OR REACTIVATED MEMBERS

Referral & Win CONTEST

NSU HOMECOMING WEEKEND
OCTOBER 4, 2025

BETA OMEGA SIGMA CHAPTER (BOSS) OF SIGMA GAMMA RHO SORORITY, INC. WILL BE LAUNCHING ITS " WELCOME BACK CAMPAIGN" . AN INITIATIVE AIMED AT CELEBRATING, AND WELCOMING NEW AND INACTIVE SORORS BACK.

FROM JULY 22, 2025–OCTOBER 4, 2025 ANY SOROR WHO HAS REACTIVATED OR ENCOURAGES A NEW MEMBER TO JOIN SIGMA GAMMA RHO SORORITY, INC " BETA OMEGA SIGMA CHAPTER" WILL BE ENTERED INTO A DRAWING FOR SEVERAL AMAZING PRIZES, INCLUDING

2026 REGIONAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION
\$100.00 TOWARD YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER DUES
\$50.00 GIFT CARD

LET'S COME TOGETHER LAMBDA THETA AND REMIND SORORS THAT THERE'S ALWAYS A HOME WAITING FOR THEM IN SIGMA GAMMA RHO SORORITY, INC.

CONTACT MONIQUE SARPY 318-332-8264

E-MAIL: BETAOMEGASIGMA.1922.SGRHO@GMAIL.COM

Community Events

Cane River Creole National Historical Park	
FREE	PAINTING
	WORKSHOP
 Image courtesy Betty Metoyer Roque and George N. Balhazer	
Learn from Cane River Creole professional artist KELLY JACKSON	
Oakland Plantation	
Reservations required - Limited to 12 adults	
All supplies provided	
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4	
9:00AM-11:00AM	
For information and to reserve a spot email CARI_Interp@nps.gov	

Rick Cabrera
BASKETBALL



ELITE CAMP

PRATHER COLISEUM
NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY

AUGUST 30TH | 1 - 5PM | GRADES 9 - 12

\$85 PER CAMPER

BRYCE FINK: BFINK393390@NSULA.EDU
DANIELLE CABRERA - RICKCABRERABASKETBALLCAMP@GMAIL.COM

NORTH STAR MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH & PASTOR WILLIAM B. ROBERSON PRESENT

3RD ANNUAL LADY ROBERSON CELEBRATION



SEPTEMBER 7, 2025
11:15 A.M.

ATTIRE: RED AND WHITE

JOIN US FOR A POWERFUL WORSHIP SERVICE AS WE HONOR THE HEART OF OUR HOUSE - OUR BELOVED ELECT LADY!
COME CELEBRATE HER DEDICATION TO GOD, THE CHURCH, AND THE COMMUNITY.

CONTACT US

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