

THE REAL NEWS

Louisiana

"A Community with a Voice Shall Be Heard" ®

STEAM EXPLORERS SUMMER CAMP

Publisher: Latorria Freeman

NATCHITOCHES- Coordinated by the Emma Robinson Williams Foundation (ERWEF) and proudly funded by the Natchitoches Community Improvement Foundation (NCIF), this camp exemplifies our community's commitment to education and growth. Students embarked on a hands-on learning journey through exciting STEAM activities—exploring science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics with creativity and curiosity. ***Continued next page...***



STEAM EXPLORERS SUMMER CAMP

The STEAM Explorers Summer Camp offered a variety of engaging activities for students in grades 4–8, focusing on the following subjects:

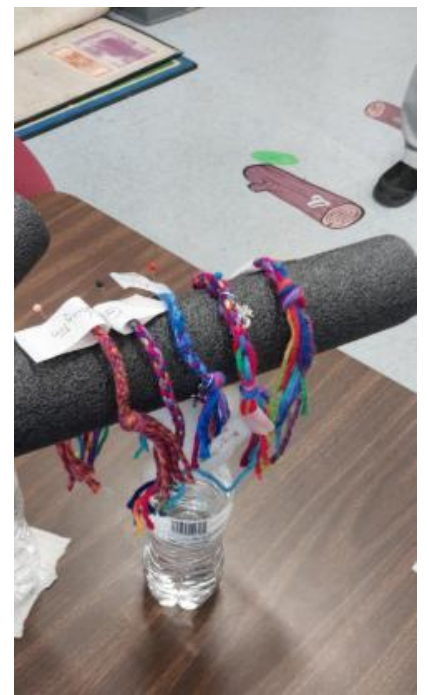
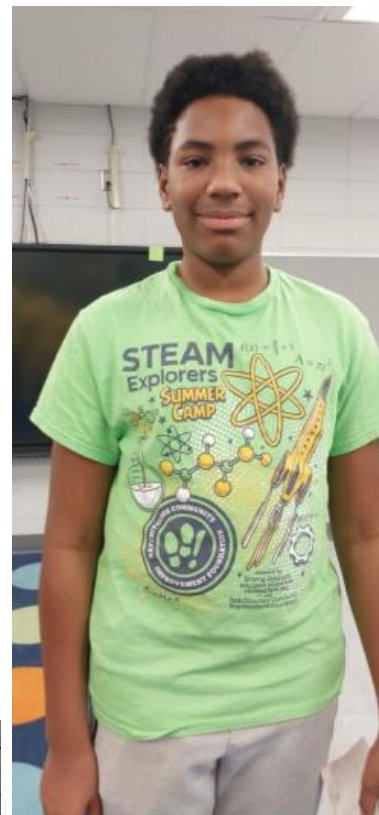
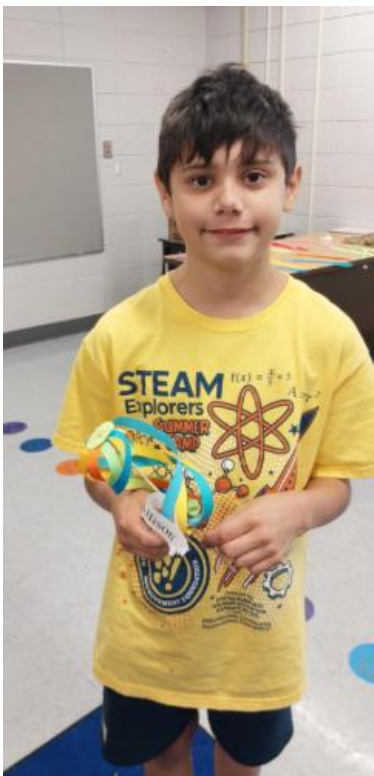
- Coding: Students learned basic programming skills, likely using platforms or tools designed for young learners.
- Drone Flying: Participants gained hands-on experience with operating drones, introducing concepts of aerodynamics and technology.
- Robotics: Activities included building and programming robots, fostering engineering skills, and problem-solving abilities.
- Financial Literacy: Students received lessons on budgeting, saving, and understanding money management.
- STEAM Challenges: Creative projects integrated science, technology, engineering, arts, and math, encouraging teamwork and innovation.
- Character-Building Activities: Sessions promoted anti-drug, anti-crime, and anti-violence values, emphasizing a positive impact on the community. These activities were designed to be both engaging and educational, aligning with the NCIF’s mission of “Making Footprints in the Community.”

For specific details about future camps, please contact Dr. Ross F. Williams Jr. at 214-734-2242 or Harold Bayonne at 318-413-2064.



STEAM EXPLORERS SUMMER CAMP

Coordinated by The Emma Robinson Williams Foundation (ERWEF) and proudly funded by the Natchitoches Community Improvement Foundation (NCIF)



Congratulations to the Natural Talent Basketball Development Team on becoming National Champions!

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Congratulations to The Natchitoches "WE ELITE AAU" Basketball Tournament!



City Spotlight: Community Initiative in Grambling

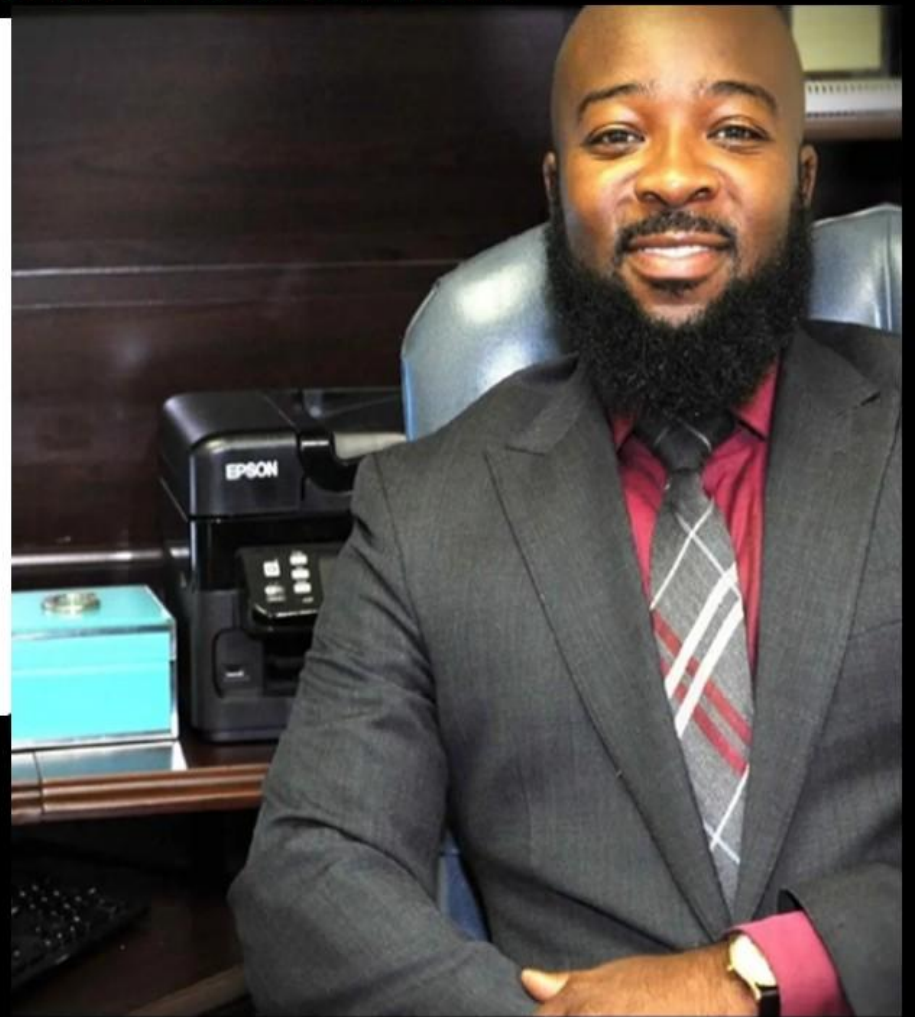
James “Big Brown” Joseph, a former Harlem Globetrotter, is making a difference in Grambling by providing air conditioners to the elderly through his nonprofit, the Big Brown Foundation. This initiative, in collaboration with Mayor Alvin Bradley and Councilwoman Delores Wilkerson-Smith, reinforces the city’s commitment to community care. Mayor Bradley, Joseph, and local volunteer Rodney Spears helped assemble and install the units, highlighting the importance of public-private partnerships. “This is more than just delivering air conditioners; it’s about delivering dignity, comfort, and compassion to those who have given so much,” Joseph stated. The foundation has extended its reach beyond Grambling, positively impacting many lives across Louisiana. As temperatures rise, so does the spirit of generosity in the community, thanks to the efforts of Joseph and the Big Brown Foundation.



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



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





To the citizens of Natchitoches,

We are deeply saddened and concerned about the tragic shooting that took place on July 6. Our thoughts are with those affected by this senseless act of violence.

As Mayor, I am asking for your help. If you have any video footage—such as cell phone recordings—or any information that could assist law enforcement, please come forward. Even the smallest detail may be crucial in helping bring justice and peace to our community.

You can share information confidentially through Natchitoches Crime Stoppers directly at <https://www.p3tips.com/tipform.aspx?ID=946#>. Also, you can secretly provide a tip by phone at 318-238-2388. Crime Stoppers has increased the award for this murder from \$3,000 to \$5,000.

Our strength as a city is in our unity. Let's stand together to make Natchitoches a safer place for everyone.

Thank you for your continued support, cooperation, and prayers.

All the Best,


Ronnie Williams, Jr.

Mayor of Natchitoches

Law enforcement, with the help of the community, have arrested several individuals connected with the shooting on the morning of July 6th. However, we believe more people were involved in this senseless act of violence. Crime Stoppers Natchitoches has increased the award amount for information leading to more arrests for this particular case click <https://www.p3tips.com/tipform.aspx?ID=946#> to help us keep our community safe.

SPEAK UP! IT'S ANONYMOUS

Call 318-238-2388 and share what you know. You can also download the **P3 Tips app** or visit [p3tips.com](https://www.p3tips.com) to submit your tip electronically. You'll receive an anonymous Tipster ID and we'll take it from there. Be sure to call periodically for status updates.



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**CITY OF NATCHITOCHES
FINAL PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The City of Natchitoches is hereby notifying its citizens that a public hearing will be held at **5:00 p.m. on July 28, 2025** at the Natchitoches City Council Chambers located at 716 2nd St., Natchitoches, Louisiana. The purpose of the public hearing will be to inform the public on the completed LCDBG-CV HVAC Program.

The City of Natchitoches will conduct a seminar during the public hearing to better inform its citizens of the Fair Housing program as a method of continually informing the public of Fair Housing in the City.

Those interested in submitting written comments, particularly those residents of slums and blighted areas, may do so to: Ronnie Williams, Jr., Mayor, City of Natchitoches, P.O. Box 37, Natchitoches, LA 71458-0037. Any negative comments received will be forwarded to the State of Louisiana, Division of Administration.

All residents, particularly low and moderate income persons and residents of slum and blighted areas of the City are encouraged to attend this meeting. Accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities and non-English speaking persons provided those persons request said accommodations 3 days prior to the public hearing by calling 318-352-2772. The City can be reached by telecommunications devices for the deaf through the Louisiana Relay Service at 1-800-367-8939 (TDD).

The City of Natchitoches is an equal opportunity employer.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Any Citizen that wishes to observe the City Council meeting live may do so at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6SIW7rZvyKYWd8HpNw2fhg>

Recordings for all city meeting videos will be posted to the City's website. To watch the video, the user can subscribe to the City's YouTube Channel @CityofNatchitoches LA or visit the city's website link <https://www.natchitochesla.gov/content/meeting-videos>

Natchitoches City Council will have a pre-council meeting beginning at 5:00 p.m. and ending at 5:30 p.m. to discuss non-agenda items. The City Council meeting will begin promptly at 5:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Monday of each month and will be reserved to only items on the Agenda. The public is invited to both the pre-council meetings and council meetings with the understanding that items not on the agenda will not be discussed at the scheduled council meetings, but the public is welcome to discuss any topic at the pre-council meetings. The City Council Meetings are held at the Natchitoches City Council Chambers located at 716 Second Street, Natchitoches, Louisiana.

NATCHITOCHES CITY COUNCIL MEETING**July 28, 2025****5:30 P.M.****A G E N D A**

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **INVOCATION**
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
4. **READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JULY 14, 2025.**
5. **EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH:** Kevin Morgan
6. **SPECIAL RECOGNITION:** Natural Talent - 2025 National Champions
7. **SPECIAL GUEST:** Paul Lohr
8. **ORDINANCES - FINAL:**
#026 Smith Ordinance Authorizing The Mayor Of The City Of Natchitoches To Award The Bid For (1) 2500 KVA 3 Phase Mount Transformer (Bid No. 0677)
9. **ORDINANCES - INTRODUCTION:**
#027 Harrington Ordinance Authorizing The Mayor Of The City Of Natchitoches To Award The Bid For Equipment Replacement, **Sludge Thickner No.1**, City Of Natchitoches Wastewater Treatment Plant (Bid No. 0674)
10. **RESOLUTIONS:**
#062 Nielsen Resolution Authorizing The Mayor Of The City Of Natchitoches, Louisiana, To Enter Into A Cooperative Agreement With **FAUNA** (Friends All United For Natchitoches Animals) To Support The Cost To Provide And Promote Humane Treatment For Homeless And Neglected Animals In Need.
11. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**
 - The next scheduled City Council meeting will be **August 11, 2025.**

ADJOURNMENT:**NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC**

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (318) 352-2772 describing the assistance that is necessary. If you wish to address the Council, please complete the "Request to Address City Council" form located on the entrance table.

Cane River National Heritage Area Launches Next Phase of Discovery Center Project with New Website and Fundraising Campaign

NATCHITOCHES, LA – Cane River National Heritage Area (CRNHA) is proud to announce the next stage in the development of the Cane River Discovery Center, a dynamic new children's museum and visitor center designed to inspire curiosity, exploration, and a deep connection to the region's rich cultural and natural heritage.

Following the successful completion of the initial planning and concept development phase, CRNHA is now launching its fundraising campaign to bring the Discovery Center to life. As part of this effort, CRNHA has unveiled a new website, www.caneriverdiscovery.org, where visitors can explore the center's vision, view early design concepts, and learn how to support the project.

Located within the Natchitoches Outdoor Recreation Corridor, the Cane River Discovery Center will serve as both an interactive learning space for children and a gateway for visitors to explore the heritage, landscape, and outdoor offerings of the Cane River region. The facility is thoughtfully designed to serve residents, school groups, and tourists alike, with a focus on hands-on exhibits and interpretive storytelling.

The Discovery Center's planning phase was made possible through support from the National Park Service. The project team includes Propel Consulting, leading project management and interpretive planning; Tipton Associates, a Baton Rouge-based architecture and design firm; Ashe Broussard Weinzettle Architects, a Louisiana architecture firm with experience across public and institutional projects; Carbo Landscape Architecture, specializing in immersive and context-sensitive outdoor spaces; and Taylor Studios, a nationally recognized firm for exhibit design and fabrication. Together, this team developed a phased master plan that will guide the Discovery Center's development, beginning with exhibit design and fundraising and continuing through construction, which is tentatively scheduled to begin in 2027.

The new center will feature the adaptive reuse of CRNHA's existing headquarters at 4115 University Parkway. Originally a bank building, the property was purchased in 2021 and will be transformed into a vibrant space for interpretation, education, and visitor services. Adaptive reuse is core to CRNHA's mission and reflects a long tradition on Cane River of reusing and repurposing what we have to build a stronger, more sustainable region.

"We see the Cane River Discovery Center as a meaningful addition to the region, one that supports both heritage tourism and hands-on learning," said Rebecca Blankenbaker, Executive Director of CRNHA. "This project has been thoughtfully developed over several years, and with the planning phase complete, we're ready to move into implementation alongside our partners and community. The Discovery Center will honor the region's cultural legacy while encouraging stewardship of the landscapes and waterways that define Cane River country. It's about helping the next generation understand how our land has shaped our story, and how we care for it going forward."

To kick off the fundraising campaign, CRNHA is excited to announce the Cane River Mini Golf Tournament, a family-friendly event hosted in partnership with Dark Woods Adventure Park. The event highlights CRNHA's commitment to collaborating with local partners and advancing the broader vision of the Natchitoches Outdoor Recreation Corridor, a growing initiative aimed at enhancing outdoor tourism and community wellness in the region.

The tournament will feature themed holes, local prizes, and special opportunities to learn more about the Discovery Center project. All proceeds will directly support the development of the facility and its exhibits.

To register for the Mini Golf Tournament or learn more, visit www.caneriverdiscovery.org or follow Cane River National Heritage Area on Facebook and Instagram.

"The Cane River Discovery Center is a natural next step in our mission to preserve, interpret, and promote the heritage of this nationally significant landscape," said Blankenbaker. "We invite the community to get involved — whether by attending our events, donating online, or simply helping us spread the word."



I Tried is back! And it's happening Tuesday, August 26th at 5 PM.

We're turning resilience into celebration — with good food, good people, and stories that stick with you.

Grab your ticket, bring a friend, and come see what happens when “I tried” turns into I made it.



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Riverside Reserve
www.bdjcenter.org/i-tried

Terrell wins Festival Red Beans & Rice cookoff

By: Dr. Shane Rasmussen

NATCHITOCHES – With his entry “Ashli’s Beans,” Dane Terrell of Natchitoches won first place in the Judges’ Choice Category in the 2025 Red Beans & Rice Cookoff held at Northwestern State University as part of the 45th Annual Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival. 3 Stooges, comprised of Jacob Carpenter of Belmont, Daniel Warren of Robeline, and C.J. Vercher of Provencal, took second place, and third place winners were Laurie and Merrill Smith of Ball.

Ashli’s Beans took first place in the Protein Sausage Category, with 3 Stooges winning first place in the Other Protein Sausage Category. 3 Stooges also took the People’s Choice Award.

Kristie Brown, Felicia Lawson, and Shirley Winslow managed the Cookoff. Judges were Donna Baker, University Archivist and Records Officer of the Cammie G. Henry Research Center at NSU; Eli Dyjack, NSU undergraduate; and Dr. Kent Peacock, assistant professor of history and director of the Creole Heritage Center at NSU.

“This year’s festival theme was Crafting Louisiana, and so it was fitting how each of the entries made for the cookoff highlighted the level of skilled craftsmanship and art there is in making great cuisine,” said Dr. Shane Rasmussen, director of the Festival, “All of the entrants made amazing food, and we thank them for sharing with us their culinary talents.”

When the Festival returns next July, it will host a Gumbo Cookoff. Updates will be posted on the Louisiana Folklife Center website in Spring 2026.

Support for the festival was provided by grants from the Cane River National Heritage Area, Inc., the City of Natchitoches, the Louisiana Division of the Arts Decentralized Arts Fund Program, the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, the Louisiana Office of Tourism, the Natchitoches Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Natchitoches Historic District Development Commission, the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Foundation, the Shreveport Regional Arts Council and the State of Louisiana.

Much-needed support also came from generous sponsorships from Atmos Energy, Bank of Montgomery, C&H Precision Machining, City Bank, Cleco, Evans Family, LLC, Exchange Bank, Family Doctors of Natchitoches, the Harrington Law Firm, Natchitoches Wood Preserving Company, and Young Estate, LLC. The views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in the program did not necessarily represent those of the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities.



Winners of the Natchitoches- NSU Folk Festival Red Beans & Rice Cookoff were, from left, second place and People’s Choice winners 3 Stooges, Jacob Carpenter of Belmont, Daniel Warren of Robeline, and C.J. Vercher of Provencal, and first place Judge’s Choice winner Dane Terrell of Natchitoches.

BOM Gives Back

NATCHITOCHES:



Congratulations! Ragan Hale

BOM Bank is proud to congratulate Ragan Hale on her promotion to Business Development Officer! Ragan graduated from Louisiana State University in May 2024. She majored in Mass Communication with a concentration in Political Communication and a minor in Psychology. Ragan has interned at BOM for the past four summers. She hopes to learn as much as she can and hopes to develop strong relationships with new and existing customers. Ragan stated, "I love the BOM family and how much we truly care for and give back to the community. BOM means so much to me and my family and I'm passionate about helping BOM continue to grow and succeed."

Congratulations, Ragan!



BOM



SABINE:

BOM continued our support of the Toledo Bend Lake Association 2025 Bass Unlimited Banquet. Pictured left to right: BOM's Lance Rivers, Carolyn Dove and BOM's Linda Guay

RAPIDES:

BOM continued our support of the Lauren Vaughn Memorial Foundation. Each year the organization hosts a 5K to honor the memory of Lauren Vaughn. The memorial scholarship benefits the NSU Accelerated BS to BSN program. Pictured left to right: Bridget Vaughn and BOM's Kristina Bagwell.



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Exciting News: Dr. Knatt Joins Our Team!**WELCOMING DR. THEODORE KNATT TO NRMCMC ORTHOPEDIC ASSOCIATES AND NRMCMC ACTIVE MEDICAL STAFF**

NRMCMC is pleased to welcome another outstanding orthopedic surgeon and sports medicine specialist to its team, Dr. Theodore “Teddy” Knatt. Dr. Knatt joins Dr. Ted Jordan at NRMCMC Orthopedic Associates.

Board-Certified in both Orthopedic Surgery and Sports Medicine, Dr. Knatt specializes in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of disorders of the musculoskeletal system including degenerative diseases, tumors, infections and congenital disorders. His expertise includes arthroscopic hip, knee, and shoulder procedures and total joint replacement of knees and hips, as well as rotator cuff repairs and carpal tunnel releases. With an extensive background in sports medicine, he is highly skilled in the management of athletic injuries including fractures and trauma while focusing on the prevention of future injuries.

A graduate of Nicholls State University in Biology, Dr. Knatt received his medical degree from Meharry Medical College in Nashville Tennessee. He then completed an Orthopedic Surgery Residency at LSU Health School of Medicine in New Orleans. He is a member of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgery and the American College of Sports Medicine.

“Expertly trained and experienced, including an extensive background in sports medicine, Dr. Knatt is highly skilled in arthroscopic procedures, total joint replacements and everything in between,” explained Kirk Soileau, NRMCMC Chief Executive Officer. “He understands the uniqueness of each patient and is committed to improving mobility and reducing pain whether it is for competitive athletes, individuals seeking to maintain an active lifestyle, or those struggling with everyday movement. Teaming up with Dr. Jordan at NRMCMC Orthopedic Associates, Dr. Knatt will help patients better understand their injuries or orthopedic issues, offer treatment options, and provide expert care. We are excited to have Dr. Knatt join us and are confident that his expertise and dedication to patient care will be a tremendous asset to our community.” NRMCMC Orthopedic Associates is located in the Multispecialty Clinic on Keyser Avenue. To schedule an appointment with Dr. Knatt or for more information on the services he provides, please call 318.214.5770 or visit nrmcmchospital.org.



We've Added to Our Team

Dr. Theodore Knatt - Orthopedic Specialist

NRMCMC is proud to welcome Dr. Theodore “Teddy” Knatt to NRMCMC Orthopedic Associates. Board Certified in both Orthopedic Surgery and Sports Medicine, Dr. Knatt has extensive training and experience in diagnosing and treating a broad spectrum of conditions affecting the bones, joints and muscles and specializes in minimally invasive joint repair and replacement surgeries. As a former semi-professional athlete, he has a deep personal understanding of athletic performance and recovery, and is here to help get you back in the game of life.

We are excited to have Dr. Knatt joining Dr. Ted Jordan at NRMCMC Orthopedic Associates and look forward to the outstanding care he will provide to our community.

To schedule an appointment,
please call 318.269.7919.

Scan to learn
more



NRMCMC

BOM Gives Back

CADDO/BOSSIER:

BIG BOM Bank Welcome!

We're thrilled to welcome Chad Burgess and Jessica Jester to our BOM family in Benton, Louisiana!

Chad Burgess comes aboard as Bossier Parish President and Commercial Lender. Also, a LA Tech alum, Chad is married with two kids and enjoys tennis, golf, and basketball.

Jessica Jester joins us as a Loan Assistant. A proud LA Tech grad, she's been married for 10 years and is a busy mom of two! She loves the great outdoors and spending time at the lake.

Come say hi to Chad and Jessica at our Benton branch at 4898 Palmetto Road – they can't wait to meet you!

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Proud to be Purple!

NSU encourages friends and supporters to show their NSU colors

NATCHITOCHES – The Northwestern State University family is proud to be purple and invites you to join the Proud to be Purple movement sweeping the community.

“This initiative is all about boosting school spirit and strengthening community partnerships through visual displays of support for NSU,” said Amy Lee, director of Marketing and Branding. “Our goal is to turn Natchitoches and beyond purple and celebrate our Demon pride in a way that engages students, faculty, alumni and the greater community.”

NSU has developed a variety of branded flags, window decals, yard signs and more that will be distributed to local businesses. Students, student-athletes and volunteers will distribute the items Wednesday, July 30 and hold giveaways through social media.

To sign up and view a message from NSU President James Genovese, visit www.nsu.la/purple.

Northwestern State Move-In Day is Saturday, Aug. 16, with classes starting Monday, Aug. 18. Administrators hope to see the city of Natchitoches decked out in purple to welcome students and their families back to Natchitoches for the semester.

Information on Northwestern State is available at www.nsula.edu. Information on NSU Athletics is available at <https://nsudemons.com/>.



Contact: Azizah Hamilton, City of Natchitoches
Phone: (318) 357-3772
Email: azizah.hamilton@natchitochesla.gov



07/25/25

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CITY OF NATCHITOCHES ANNOUNCES SAFE STREETS FOR ALL DEMONSTRATION GRANT PROJECT

Natchitoches Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., announces that a grant agreement has been executed with the Federal Highway Administration for the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Demonstration project that was awarded to the City in 2024.

This grant provides \$870,000 in Federal funding for the design and construction of temporary countermeasures to improve safety for road users. Including the City's required 20% match, a total of \$1,087,500 will be available for the installation of temporary safety features along Keyser Avenue, as well as construction of temporary speed tables on the following City streets: Dixie Street, East Fifth Street, Fairgrounds Road, Hill Avenue, Parkway Drive, Sanford Street, and South Williams Avenue.

These locations and safety improvements were identified as part of the SS4A Action Plan which was completed early last year, for which the City previously received \$270,000 in Federal grant funding.

The planned approach of installing temporary safety measures will provide for a post-construction evaluation period for monitoring of the operation of these temporary measures and their effectiveness at reducing crashes. This approach will allow future adjustments to be made at these locations if necessary, which would not be possible with more permanent types of construction.

Now that the grant agreement has been fully executed, the next step toward implementation of this project is procurement of a consultant engineering firm for preparation of plans and specifications for the project. Construction is anticipated to begin in mid-2026.

The City of Natchitoches also recently submitted an application for additional SS4A grant funding for implementation of the remaining High Priority safety improvements identified in the SS4A Action Plan, and is awaiting selection by the U.S. Department of Transportation for the 2025 grant awards.

For more information about this project, please contact the Office of the Mayor at (318) 352-2772.

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Continued from Page 18...

Belief in Angels in Islam: The Unseen World of Light and Obedience

One of the foundational pillars of Islamic faith is the belief in the unseen (*ghayb*), a principle underscored at the very beginning of the Qur'an. In **Surat al-Baqarah**, Allah praises those who are conscious of Him and describes the righteous as those who “**believe in the unseen, establish prayer, and spend out of what We have provided them**” (Qur'an 2:3). Among the unseen elements central to Islamic belief are the **angels**, or **al-malā'ikah**—creatures created from pure light who serve as Allah's messengers and agents across the cosmos.

The Nature and Creation of Angels

According to Islamic teachings, angels were created from **light** (*nūr*). The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said:

“The angels were created from light, the jinn were created from smokeless fire, and Adam was created from what has been described to you.”

(Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim, 2996)

Unlike humans or jinn, angels do not eat, drink, sleep, or reproduce. They do not possess free will as humans do; rather, they are in a constant state of obedience to Allah. Allah describes them as:

“...they do not disobey Allah in what He commands them but do what they are commanded.”

(Qur'an 66:6)

Their Form and Abilities

The Qur'an tells us that angels may have **multiple wings**, far beyond the typical human imagination.

“[All] praise is [due] to Allah, Creator of the heavens and the earth, [who] made the angels messengers having wings, two or three or four. He increases in creation what He wills...”

(Qur'an 35:1)

They are immense in size and can traverse vast realms with divine permission. Angel **Jibrīl (Gabriel)** was described as having **600 wings** (Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī, 4954), and his form could fill the entire horizon when revealed to the Prophet ﷺ.

Continued next page...

Belief in Angels in Islam: The Unseen World of Light and Obedience

By: Rasul K. Abdullah

However, angels can also take **human form** when sent to convey messages. This was seen when Angel Jibrīl visited Maryam (Mary), the mother of Isa (Jesus), and appeared as a man: **“...then We sent to her Our Spirit, and he appeared to her as a well-proportioned man.”**

(Qur'an 19:17)

Likewise, in the famous ḥadīth of Jibrīl, the angel came in the form of a man to teach the Companions about the fundamentals of Islam (Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim, 8).

Functions and Roles of Angels

The Qur'an and Sunnah describe numerous roles for the angels:

- **Delivering Revelation:** Jibrīl is the archangel responsible for conveying revelation to the prophets.

“Say, [O Muhammad], ‘Whoever is an enemy to Jibrīl—it is [none but] he who has brought it [the Qur'an] down upon your heart by permission of Allah...’”

(Qur'an 2:97)

- **Recording Deeds:** Every person is accompanied by two angels who record every word and action.

“When the two receivers receive [him], seated on the right and on the left. He utters no word except that with him is an observer prepared [to record].”

(Qur'an 50:17–18)

- **Guardian Angels:** There are also angels assigned to protect human beings by Allah's command.

“For each one are successive [angels] before and behind him who protect him by the decree of Allah...”

(Qur'an 13:11)

- **Taking Souls:** The angel 'Izrā'il (Malak al-Mawt) is responsible for removing souls at death.

“Say, ‘The Angel of Death who has been entrusted with you will take you. Then to your Lord you will be returned.’”

(Qur'an 32:11) *Continued next page...*

Belief in Angels in Islam: The Unseen World of Light and Obedience

By: Rasul K. Abdullah

- **Control of Elements:** Certain angels are appointed over **wind, rain, and nature**. These include **Mikā'il** (Michael), who is believed to oversee rain and provision.
- **Afterlife Duties:** Angels are the **gatekeepers of Paradise and Hell**, such as **Mālik**, the keeper of Hell (Qur'an 43:77), and others who welcome believers into Paradise (Qur'an 39:73).

Misconceptions: Was Satan an Angel?

A common misunderstanding, often influenced by **Biblical interpretations**, is that **Shayṭān (Satan)** was an angel who fell from grace. However, the Qur'an makes it clear:

“He was from the jinn, so he rebelled against the command of his Lord...”
(Qur'an 18:50)

Although Iblīs was in the company of angels and commanded alongside them to prostrate to Adam, he was **created from fire** and therefore **not an angel**.

“You created me from fire and him from clay.”
(Qur'an 7:12)

This distinction is important: angels are created from **light**, jinn from **smokeless fire**, and humans from **clay**—each with different roles and moral capacities.

Conclusion

Belief in angels is not a mystical side doctrine in Islam; it is a **core tenet of faith**. From guarding human beings to delivering divine revelation, the angels are ever-present and ever-obedient creations of Allah. They are reminders of the unseen order that governs existence, and believing in them is essential to understanding the vastness of Allah's creation.

In future articles, we will further explore their interactions with the prophets, their presence in the afterlife, and how understanding angels can deepen one's spirituality.

References (Selected Verses on Angels)

Continued next page...

Belief in Angels in Islam: The Unseen World of Light and Obedience

By: Rasul K. Abdullah

Topic	Verse Reference
Belief in the Unseen	Qur'an 2:3
Angels Created from Light	Muslim 2996 (Hadith)
Obedience of Angels	Qur'an 66:6
Wings of Angels	Qur'an 35:1
Appearance in Human Form	Qur'an 19:17, Hadith
Recording Angels	Qur'an 50:17-18
Guardian Angels	Qur'an 13:11
Angel of Death	Qur'an 32:11
Jibril's Role	Qur'an 2:97
Gatekeepers of Paradise/Hell	Qur'an 39:73, 43:77
<u>Iblis</u> is from Jinn	Qur'an 18:50



STAY SAFE LIKE FIREFIGHTER ASH! 🚒

HOT TIP
Drink Water Often!

🚫 Don't wait until you're thirsty – sip all day!

💧 Water is the best choice – skip the sugary drinks!

🧢 Wear a hat, find shade, and take breaks when playing outside.

Be a Hydration Hero like me – stay cool and stay safe!



Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Office

INTRODUCING OUR NEW APP

Instant access to essential information at your fingertips.

- NPSO Directory
- Submit A Tip
- Sex Offenders
- Inmate Information
- Extra Patrol Requests
- School Resource Officers
- Join Our Team
- Emergency Prep
- + Much More!



SCAN TO DOWNLOAD



AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD NOW!

The Coach De Foundation thanks sponsors for donating to their 6th Annual Back to School Bash!


Photo Credits: De' Andrea Sanders

Krewe of Excellence's Royal Court XI presented Coach D's Closet with a donation. This donation will be used to assist our community's children get the necessary items for the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year here in Natchitoches. Royal Court XI members are Chad Nelson, King, Lorie Woodard, Queen, Betty Smith, Duchess, Dr. Oghale Eleyae, Duke, Matreka Moses, Duchess and Korey Davis, Duke.

Pictured(L-R) Nelson, Coach D and Woodard.





PRESENTS THE 6TH ANNUAL
COACH DE'S CLOSET:
BACK TO SCHOOL BASH
 JULY 27, 2025
 3PM-6PM
 CITY PARK
 401 AMULET STREET
 NATCHITOCHES, LA
 FREE BACKPACKS, UNIFORMS, CLOTHING, SHOES,
 HYGIENE PRODUCTS, SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND ENTERTAINMENT.
 OPEN SWIM!
 MUSTACHE MIKE'S ITALIAN ICE
 FOOD CATERED BY BAYOU SOUL!



Magnolia Belle

Women's Addiction Wellness is an addiction and mental health treatment center exclusively for women.



MAGNOLIA BELLE
• WOMEN'S ADDICTION WELLNESS •

1907 South Dr, Natchitoches, LA, United States, Louisiana

(225) 310-0381

Brandy@addictionwellness.com

womensaddictionwellness.com



What Is Alcohol Detox? Understanding Safe and Effective Treatment

Alcohol detox removes alcohol from the body and begins healing. Learn what alcohol detox is, how long it takes, and how to begin recovery safely.



RTSS

ROUNDTABLE STUDIOS SOUTH LLC

Portraiture | Event | Wedding | Corporate | Commercial
Mini sessions | Home going services | Sports

- Photography
- Videography
- DJ & Live Sound
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SCAN ME





JOIN TODAY

FOR AS LITTLE AS

\$25

A MONTH

Contact Morgan Green
morgan@gonatchitoches.com



Are YOU the New Entrepreneur?



Kamela Gold
REGIONAL LEADER
1424 Metro Dr
Alexandria, LA 71301
Office: 318-625-7449
Cell: 318-663-3791
[Email me](#)



More than six in 10 U.S. adults (62%) say they would prefer to be their own boss.¹ If you've ever thought about taking the leap into working for yourself, here's why now is a great time:

You don't need special skills: People from all walks of life can succeed as entrepreneurs. For many kinds of entrepreneurial work, there are no requirements regarding levels of education, experience, financial resources, physical condition, age, or gender to venture out on one's own.

You're in good company: More than half of U.S. employees are actively seeking a new job.² With companies that extended flexible and hybrid work options during the pandemic now mandating employees return to the office, being your own boss is becoming an increasingly more attractive option.³

You make your own schedule: Being self-employed allows you to create your own schedule and decide when and how much you want to work. While it is certainly true that more time and effort is required at the front end of building a business, one major payoff once your business is established is the freedom to be able to take time off when you want without having to request or wait for approval.

You can keep your full-time job: In today's economy, you don't have to give up your full-time job to become an entrepreneur. Consider ventures that you can start as a sideline while keeping your full-time job. Many of today's entrepreneurs are service providers — like the Primerica Representative who gave you this newsletter. Reach out to them if you want to know how you can earn extra income by educating and helping families with their finances.

? DID YOU KNOW?

One in five Americans over age 50
doesn't have retirement savings,
leaving many living near poverty.

1 IN 5

BusinessInsider.com, "A Boomer Lives on \$1,768 Monthly Social Security and Says She's a Few Hundred Dollars Away from Losing Access to Necessities," September 15, 2024

GET OUT OF CREDIT CARD DEBT FOR GOOD

Here are five ways to
ditch your credit card debt:

1. Stop spending and pay more than the minimum.
2. Use the snowball or avalanche method.
3. Apply for a balance transfer card.
4. Simplify debts with a consolidation loan.
5. Get expert help.

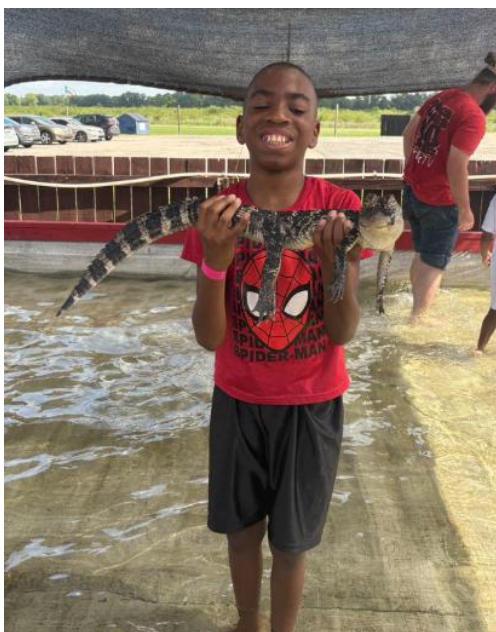
Money.com, "5 Ways to Ditch Your Credit Card Debt for Good," December 20, 2024



Natchitoches Club of Boys & Girls Clubs of Acadiana Visits the Natchitoches Alligator Park

Cane River National Heritage Area partially funded this field trip.

Photo Credits: De'Andrea Sanders



Natchitoches Club of Boys & Girls Clubs of Acadiana Visits the Natchitoches Alligator Park

Cane River National Heritage Area partially funded this field trip.

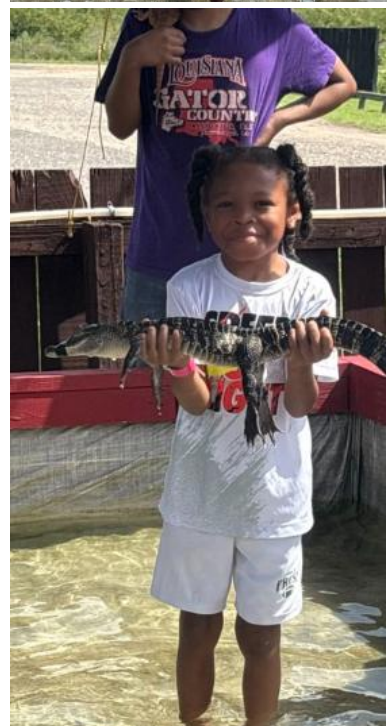
Photo Credits: De'Andrea Sanders



Natchitoches Club of Boys & Girls Clubs of Acadiana Visits the Natchitoches Alligator Park

Cane River National Heritage Area partially funded this field trip.

Photo Credits: De'Andrea Sanders



Community Events



AND



PRESENTS THE 6TH ANNUAL

COACH DE'S CLOSET:

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

JULY 27, 2025**3PM-6PM****CITY PARK****401 AMULET STREET
NATCHITOCHES, LA**FREE BACKPACKS, UNIFORMS, CLOTHING, SHOES,
HYGIENE PRODUCTS, SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND ENTERTAINMENT.**OPEN SWIM!****MUSTACHE MIKE'S ITALIAN ICE
FOOD CATERED BY BAYOU SOUL!**

SPONSORS:



SHADY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH



150TH CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

Sunday, July 27, 2025

2:00 PMTheme:
Hope for the Future
Jeremiah 29:11Guest Speaker
Pastor John Williams
and
Antioch #2 Baptist Church
Pleasant Hill, LA

Phone 318-763-8848 or shadygrovebc@yahoo.com/facebook. #thegrove



Book Signing Event

With Pastor Charity Wyatt

Join Pastor Charity Wyatt as she reads
from her newly published children's book
Shine Bright Little Light

Tuesday, July 29

10:30 am

Main Branch-
Children's Department450 Second Street
Natchitoches, LouisianaTogether, they discovered:
"Believing in your light
can change everything."

amazon BARNES&NOBLE

"Meet Leo and his
Forest Friends!"**Shine Bright,
Little Light!**

Community Events



FREE CUTS & HAIR STYLES

back to school BASH

FREE LUNCH • FREE SCHOOL SUPPLIES

LOCATION: TRANZFORMATIONZ HAIR STUDIO • 1551 TEXAS STREET
AUGUST 4, 2025
8:30AM-4:30PM



Includes:

- Boys Haircuts
- Shampoo
- Simple Braid Styles
- Crochet
- Loc Retwist
- Natural Styles

9TH ANNUAL BACK-TO-SCHOOL EXPO.

"GETTING THEM READY"

Sunday, August 3, 2025
2 PM until 5:30 PM

Ben D. Johnson Educational Center
400 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive
Natchitoches, LA.

"Sly Tha Barber" & K Kreations and Friends

FREE: HAIRCUTS, SCHOOL SUPPLIES (WHILE THEY LAST), HEALTH EXAMS, UNIFORMS, SNACKS/BEVERAGES, SCHOOL/COMMUNITY INFORMATION AND MUSIC/INFLATABLES.

THE PRESENTATION OF THE 2ND ANNUAL MARTHA E. DUMARS OUTSTANDING HUMANITARIAN AWARD.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

KREWE OF THE 9
 Ben D. Johnson Educational Center
 Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.-Theta Delta Chapter
 Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.-Rho Beta Omega Chapter
 Dumars Outreach Committee
 Foot and Ankle Specialists
 Raising Cane's Restaurant
 P.B. Wilson Memorial Scholarship/Education Fund
 National Park Service
 HOSA
 Cane River Food Pantry
 Greater Kingdom First Ministries
 Emanuel Temple Lodge #141
 T-Mobile Wireless
 Aetna
 Prep Fitness & Performance



"Sly Tha Barber"
 & K Kreations and Friends



Free Shoes
 Amyri Robinson
 Samaritans' Feet



FOR INFO.: (318) 663-6336, (618) 434-5293, OR (318) 332-6254



BACK² SCHOOL HAIRCUTS

SPONSORED BY SHADARIUS & OD

BRING YOUR KIDS OUT

MONDAY
AUGUST 4TH
8AM-6PM

FOR A FREE HAIRCUT BY

HAIR JORDAN

245 KEYSER AVE
NATHITOCHE, LA 71457
318-238-1522

Community Events

DiamondMade International Presents

Hostess
PROPHETESS CHRISTINE PIER

The set time

Natchitoches, Louisiana

SATURDAY JULY 26
10AM-UNTIL

GUEST SPEAKERS

PROPHETESS RASHAWANA SMITH
MAIN SPEAKER
PROPHET AUTHOR LAUMYN HARDY
PROPHET JALCOBY BRADLEY
APOSTLE SANDRA WILLIAM

NATCHITOCHES EVENTS CENTER
750 SECOND STREET
NATCHITOCHES, LA 71457

Genesis 7:21-22 (My Covenant) Genesis 21:1-2 (As Promised)

26th Cane River ZYDECO FESTIVAL & POKER RUN
Food, Fun & Music

FOOD & BEVERAGE VENDORS

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, 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

SATURDAY 7:00—9:30 PM
LIL NATHAN & Zydeco Big Timers

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

HDBA
Hatchers Development Bank Association
Natchitoches, Louisiana

BUD LIGHT

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 Police 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.



CONTACT US

Phone: (318) 354-7712

Email:

support@therealnewslouisiana.com

www.therealnewslouisiana.com

P.O. Box 1082 Natchitoches, La 71458

3RD ANNUAL ZYDECO FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL

SAVE THE DATE
SATURDAY, JUNE 28TH
NATCHITOCHES, LA