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CHRIS ARDOIN

JUNE 2 NATCHITOCHES RIVERBANK















Honoring Fathers This Father's Day

Latorria Freeman, Publisher

As Father's Day approaches on June 15, 2025, it's a perfect time to celebrate the significant role fathers play in our lives. This day encourages us to reflect on the love, guidance, and strength they provide, shaping families and communities with their unwavering support. Fathers come in many forms—biological dads, stepfathers, grandfathers, uncles, or mentors—each making a profound impact through their teachings and support. Whether through stories or celebrating achievements, their presence creates a lasting legacy. This Father's Day, let's honor these heroes with simple gestures like heartfelt conversations, handwritten notes, or quality time together. For those whose fathers are no longer with us, cherishing memories keeps their spirit alive. Thank you to all fathers for your sacrifices, laughter, and love. Here's to celebrating you every day. Happy Father's Day!

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

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Celebrating the Legacy of Black Fathers:

Pillars of Family, Community, and Civil Rights

Black fathers have significantly shaped history through their dedication to families, communities, and civil rights.

Key examples include:

Oliver Brown: His challenge to segregation in schools led to the landmark Brown v. Board of Education case, motivated by a desire for quality education for his daughter, Linda.

Malcolm X: As a civil rights advocate and father, he emphasized education and self-awareness, teaching Black children about their history and identity.

Muhammad Ali: A boxing legend and global icon, he exemplified pride and resilience, inspiring youth to challenge societal norms.

Highlighting the often-overlooked role of Black fathers in civil rights is essential for recognition. Sharing positive narratives can counter harmful stereotypes about Black fatherhood. These stories are powerful examples of resilience and courage, motivating future generations. In conclusion, the stories of Black fathers deserve celebration for their profound impact on history through love and advocacy.



Protest against the segregation of U.S. schools Brown v. Board of Education, 347 U.S. 483 (1954)



Malcolm X relaxing with two of his daughters just before he was assassinated.
X, Malcolm. The Autobiography of Malcolm X. Grove Press, 1965.



Ali, Muhammad
"The Soul of a
Butterfly:
Reflections on
Life's Journey."
Simon & Schuster,
2004.
Photo Credit: Getty
Images

Strength in His Eyes

By Nathaniel B.

Beneath the stars, he stands so tall,

Through nights that seem unending, His strength, a beacon, never falls, A father's love, unbending.

With hands worn rough from toil and care,

He builds our dreams, unwavering, His spirit strong, beyond compare, His heart forever savoring.

Through every storm, through every strife,

His eyes, they gleam with knowing, A guide through every step of life, His love, forever showing.

On Father's Day, we honor him, A black man standing proud, In his eyes, no light grows dim, His strength forever vowed.



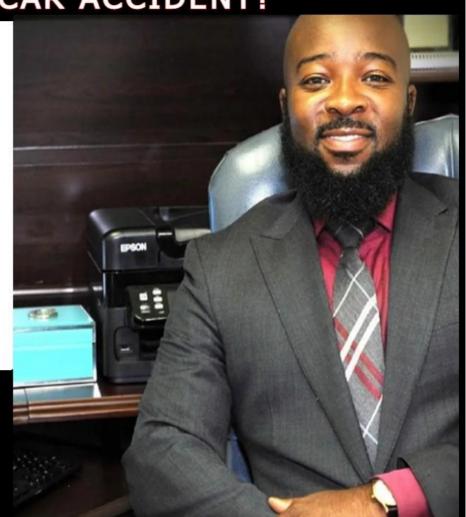
This poem is a tribute to the resilience and unwavering love of a father, celebrating his strength and dedication through life's challenges. It honors the steadfast guidance and care that defines fatherhood.

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



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

assistant@howardcondaylaw.com



Krewe of the 9 Announces the 2026 Royal Court

Natchitoches – The Krewe of the 9 recently held its coronation celebration for the 2026 season. The theme for this inaugural event was "School Daze – Celebrating Culture and Landmark Achievements." Ross Williams and Tan'Keia Palmer were crowned King and Queen for the 2026 season. Additionally, the Krewe named Albert Middleton and Yolanda Bobb as Duke and Duchess of Philanthropy, and Matthew Craig and Kenesha Coats as Duke and Duchess of Scholarship.



Krewe of the 9 Royal Court



King Ross Williams



Queen Tan'Keia Palmer



1730 Texas St, Natchitoches, LA 71457

Krewe of the 9 Announces the 2026 Royal Court



Duke and Duchess of Philanthropy Albert Middleton and Yolanda Bobb



Duchess of Scholarship Kenesha Coats



Duke of Scholarship Matthew Craig



1202 Texas St, Natchitoches, LA 71457 (318) 214-2400

Open 7 Days a Week Hours 11 am to 7 pm

Evergreen Baptist Church Celebrates Juneteenth and Father's Day











For the 8th consecutive year, NRMC Wound Center has been recognized by Healogics, the nation's largest provider of advanced wound care, for providing high quality care and achieving outstanding clinical outcomes. Using the latest technology, we are healing problem and chronic wounds so our patients

can get back to living life!

For more information or to see if you can benefit

from specialized care, please call 318.214.4822.

Wound Center

Mr. and Mrs. Roosevelt Kirkendoll's Blessing and Dedication of their Marriage at Asbury United Methodist Church

Photographer: Erick Wilson/ RTSS Photography

















Mr. and Mrs. Roosevelt Kirkendoll's Blessing and Dedication of their **Marriage at Asbury United Methodist Church**

Photographer: Erick Wilson/ RTSS Photography

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Roosevelt Kirkendoll on the beautiful blessing and dedication of their marriage, which took place at Asbury United Methodist Church. Surrounded by family and friends, the ceremony was a heartfelt celebration of their love and commitment.





















Mr. and Mrs. Roosevelt Kirkendoll's Blessing and Dedication of their Marriage at Asbury United Methodist Church

Photographer: Erick Wilson/ RTSS Photography











45th Annual Natchitoches- NSU Folk Festival

NATCHITOCHES – The 45th Annual Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival will be held on Saturday July 19, 2025, in air-conditioned Prather Coliseum located at 220 South Jefferson Street at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches. The festival's curated showcase of Louisiana folk musicians, food vendors, and traditional crafts persons will open at 9 am, with live entertainment scheduled for 9:30 AM to 9:30 PM. The family-oriented festival is fully wheelchair accessible. Children 12 and under are admitted free. Tickets are \$10 at the door for all events, or \$6 for an evening pass to all events after 5 PM.

The festival features three stages of music. Music headliners include Cajun band Amis du Teche, zydeco band Chubby Carrier and the Bayou Swamp Band, blues artist D.K. Harrell, western swing artist the Kristyn Harris Band, roots band Smithfield Fair, gospel group the Amazing! Rhythm Disciples, and swamp pop dance band the Has Beans. The festival also includes numerous food vendors offering traditional Louisiana cuisine. Outdoor activities feature demonstrations of traditional blacksmithing, Dutch oven cooking, and a child-friendly hands-on demonstration of a 19th century wash day.

In honor of this year's theme, Crafting Louisiana, more than 80 crafts vendors have been invited to display and discuss their traditional work with festival patrons. Craftspeople are expected to display beadwork, baskets, cowhide chair covers, alligator jewelry, Pysanky eggs, Native American crafts, and pottery. Other expected craftspeople will display needlework, wood carvings, handmade toys and dolls, paintings, sculpture, homemade soap, spinning & weaving, handcrafted knives, handmade brooms, walking sticks, folk art quilts, and more. The Festival will include a Red Beans & Rice Cookoff, in which professionals and hobbyists alike can compete in one of multiple categories and demonstrate their cooking skills. Registration and the Cooks' Meeting will take place at 8:00 AM. Tasting and judging will begin at 12:30 PM, with winners be announced at 3:30 PM. There is no fee to compete in the Cookoff. Red beans & rice must be cooked on-site outside of Prather Coliseum, but beans may be pre-soaked.

The Annual Louisiana State Fiddle Championship will be held at 1 PM in the Magale Recital Hall. There will be a non-championship class and a championship class. A twin fiddle category will also be held. Registration is at noon in the first-floor foyer outside Magale Recital Hall. The Fiddle Championship winner will perform on the main stage in Prather Coliseum at 5:00 PM. The festival includes several opportunities for patrons to engage directly with Louisiana folk culture. Free dance lessons include line dancing taught by the Classy Steppers, Celtic dance taught by the Thistle Dancers and Pipers, and Cajun and zydeco dancing taught by the Cajun French Music Association Dance Troupe. Interactive activities include a yodeling demonstration by Kristyn Harris, dancing with the Louisiana Czech Heritage Dancers, a son jarocho fandango dance by the Armadillos Tejanos, and a musical spoons workshop taught by folk musician Clancey Stewart, with 50 free musical spoons given to workshop attendees.

45th Annual Natchitoches- NSU Folk Festival

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For a full schedule of events, as well as registration forms to participate in the Louisiana State Fiddle Championship and the Red Beans & Rice Cookoff contact the Louisiana Folklife Center at (318) 357-4332 or email folklife@nsula.edu or go to louisianafolklife.nsula.edu. Support for the festival is 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. The festival is sponsored by C&H Precision Machining, City Bank, Cleco, Evans Family, LLC, Exchange Bank, the Family Doctors of Natchitoches, the Harrington Law Firm, Natchitoches Wood Preserving Company, and Young Estate, LLC.



Gmmon

Smithfield Fair by T.J. Shuflin

Kristyn Harris Photo Credit: Crystal Clear Photography



Festival T-shirt with "Cookin' in the Yard" Painting by Clementine Hunter

45th Annual Natchitoches- NSU Folk Festival



Carrie Miller



Brandon Cagle



Kristyn Harris







The Battle Isn't Yours

By: Evangelist Bonita Moses Arnold

There is no need to worry, feel defeated, or even feel like it's best not to try. If we are born-again believers and truly abiding by his Holy words as written in the Holy Bible, 2 Chronicles 20:15 tells us how the Lord defeated King Jehoshaphat's battle and the people of Judah. If he did it back then, so be it now, in Jesus' name. I want to encourage your hearts with, "The battle has already been fought, and the victory is won."



Mama Shug would always say:

" If you think you're making it on your on you best to sit down and think again. Without God, I can't do nothing, but fail".



WHAT IS JUNETEENTH?



In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which stated that all persons held as slaves in rebellious states shall be set free.

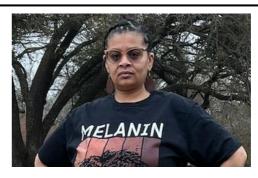
Two years later in 1865, the enslaved people of Galveston, Texas finally learned that they had been set free from slavery.

Juneteenth is an important celebration of black liberation.

PAID FOR BY THE NATCHITOCHES PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE

What Juneteenth Means to Me

By: Nikki Madison



Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated ceremony of ending slavery in America by African Americans. We have done this since the 1800s. As history states, this was the day troops arrived in Galveston to take control of the state and ensure that the slaves were freed. We would sing, pray, and come together and celebrate in the only way we knew how. Today these celebrations still take place. Over the years other things have been incorporated such as programs and parades. Juneteenth is a day for reflecting on our culture and celebrating the fact that we are free and able to do all the things that our ancestors weren't allowed to do. And for that, I am forever grateful. On Juneteenth, we get to acknowledge our past. I love to see how it's embraced by the Black community throughout the country. Yes, our culture had it extremely hard in the past and some of the struggle is still present today. But what I can appreciate is that instead of dwelling on our struggles on this day we can embrace ourselves with love and show how far we have come. The purpose of Juneteenth is to uplift our community. I love being black and I am thankful for all our achievements. Juneteenth isn't a day to dwell on the hurt that we endured. Participating in all the activities that are celebrated on that day doesn't change our history, but it gives a sense of pride, love, and a way to rejoice by being African American. So, take this day to embrace our culture and be grateful that we are here and that we are free to do all the things our ancestors fought for us to be able to do.



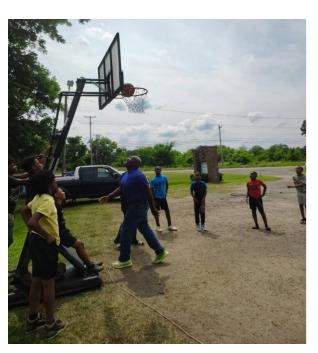
United Missionary Baptist Church sponsored a training session for boys aged 8 to 18. The objective was to equip young men with the skills needed to become future leaders. The boot camp was not just educational, but also a fun-filled 5 days, with several community leaders speaking and sharing skills with the young men. There was also a lucky winner of a pair of Air Jordans sponsored by Preston Durr to boot camp participant Brandon Lerone Chancy Garrett. There are current discussions on expanding the camp. More details on this as it develops.







































































"We Rose"

By: Kristina Kay



From Africa's heart, we rose Already a people, our faces ebon, our bodies lean,

We rose

Skills of art, life, beauty and family

Crushed by forces we knew nothing of, we rose
Survive we must, we did,
We rose

We rose to be you, we rose to be me,

Above everything expected, we rose

To become the knowledge we never knew,

We rose

Dream, we did

Act, we must









BOM Gives Back

NATCHITOCHES:

BOM was a sponsor of the LA-6-8U travel baseball program. Pictured left to right: BOM's Erin Anderson and Blake Graves.



RAPIDES:

BOM made a donation to The Broom Tree to support their new indoor special needs play area for children with disabilities to play freely. Pictured left to right: BOM's Anna Lee and Challie Mercer.



CADDO/BOSSIER:

BOM was a sponsor of the LifePath Hospice Care Community Butterfly Release. The event took place at the Pioneer Heritage Center – LSU Shreveport Campus this past weekend. Pictured left to right: Don Francis and BOM's Breanne George.



SABINE:

BOM's Kim Wilkerson presented a check to Saphe Jackson and Scarlett Remedies for the Many Sweetees Rookies.



A Father's Heart: Honoring the Strength, Sacrifice, and Love of Fathers!

By: La' Quinta Scott-Favors

"Like a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him."

—Psalm 103:13 (KJV)



Being a Father is not just a title; it's a divine calling. In a world full of noise, chaos, and distraction, fathers stand as steady anchors in their families, guiding with wisdom, loving with strength, and leading with integrity. This Father's Day, we stop to honor the men who carry this sacred responsibility with courage and grace. When the Bible speaks of God as our Father, it speaks of compassion, discipline, protection, and unconditional love. Earthly fathers, though imperfect, are called to mirror that same character in their homes. Whether biological, spiritual, or father figures by choice, these men sow deeply into lives with every word of encouragement, every hard decision made, and every prayer whispered in the quiet. Fathers are often the ones who carry the unseen weight, working long hours, making silent sacrifices, and standing strong even when life feels uncertain. Their love is often unspoken but deeply felt. From teaching us how to ride a bike to holding our hands through life's toughest trials, their impact is lasting. The legacy of a father is not built on what he leaves for his children but what he leaves for them. Wisdom, faith, patience, humility, and strength—these are the spiritual inheritances that outlive a man. A godly father is a man of prayer, principle, and purpose. His life is a sermon, his love a covering, and his presence a gift. To every father, stepfather, grandfather, uncle, spiritual dad, and father figure, thank you. Thank you for showing up. For loving deeply. For standing tall. For being a reflection of the Father's love. We honor you today not just for what you do, but for who you are. Your value cannot be measured in words alone. You are appreciated, you are respected, and you are deeply loved.

A Prayer for Fathers:

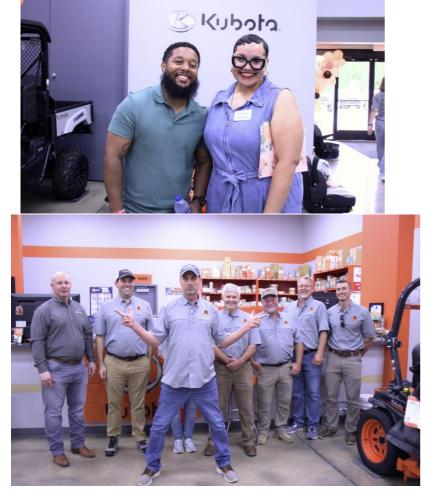
Lord, I thank You for the men you've placed in the lives of many to lead, nurture, and protect. Lord, we thank you for strengthening every father today, this weekend, and every day. Fill them with Your wisdom, cover them with Your peace, and remind them of the purpose they carry! Bless their hands, their hearts, and their households. Thank you for encamping you angels around wherever their feet carry them in Jesus mighty name I pray Amen!

MidSouth Tractor Company Acquires Local Patrick-Miller Kubota Facility, Brings Expanded Equipment Line and Local Leadership

Photo Credits: Natchitoches Area Chamber of Commerce













Prosper Day Fundraiser

Cerebral Palsy Awareness



















Prosper Day Fundraiser

Cerebral Palsy Awareness



















Prosper Day Fundraiser

Cerebral Palsy Awareness

















Pick Up Your Brush Painting class to be held in June

NATCHITOCHES -- Northwestern State University's Office of Electronic Learning and Global Education will offer a Pick Up Your Brush painting class on June 12, 19 and 26 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on the second floor of South Hall. The fee is \$45.

In the class, participants will learn the art of painting using step-by-step instructions to create a masterpiece. Students will take home a completed painting at the end of the class. On June 12, the painting will be titled "Summer Daisies." Those in the June 19 class will paint "Dockside Pelican." On June 26, the painting will be titled "Camp Couture." No special or prior skills are required. Children ages 7 – 12 years old are allowed to enroll, but a parent must accompany the child the entire class. Parents do not have to enroll unless they take part. All supplies are included.

For more information or to register for classes, go to <u>checkout.nsula.edu</u> 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.







Mu Omega Zeta, Xi Epsilon and Zeta Amicae Activities

Mu Omega Zeta and Xi Epsilon Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated and Zeta Amicae of Natchitoches celebrate end of year activities.

On April 12, 2025, Mu Omega Zeta Chapter in collaboration with Healthy Blue, hosted a fantastic day filled with education, awareness, and enjoyment. Soror Frita Brisco was chair of this event. Free snow cones and hot dogs were provided sponsored by Healthy Blue. A heartfelt thank you goes out to the City of Natchitoches, the Natchitoches Police and Fire Departments, as well as all the vendors, advocates, Amica friends, Amicettes and resource providers who contributed to this wonderful event. Together we can create a world where everyone belongs. A special thank you to Mayor Ronnie Williams for the Autism Proclamation presented to the sorority.

On April 28, 2025, members of Mu Omega Zeta and Zeta Amicae brought doughnuts and juice to the faculty and staff of Weaver Elementary to honor and celebrate the educators as they inspire and empower our leaders of tomorrow.

May 7, 2025, members along with Zeta Amicae joined the Council on Aging as they celebrated Older American's month to show our seniors how much they are valued and appreciated. Members of Mu Omega Zeta and Zeta Amicae served a delicious hamburger lunch to participants.

May 12, 2025, members held a Mental Health Awareness program entitled "Embrace Your Mind-Be Kind". Soror Sandy Irchirl was chair of the program committee. The event was held at Walking by Faith Church on Bossier Street. Guest speakers were, Pastor Rodney Irchirl, a licensed social worker and educator, and Alisa Raggio a licensed Mental Health Therapist and member Mu Omega Zeta. Entertainment was provided by Zeta Amicae of Natchitoches. Leading up to the Mental Health Awareness program Mu Omega Zeta used their social media page to bring awareness to Mental Health and gave tips to readers on how to protect your mental health.





Mu Omega Zeta, Xi Epsilon and Zeta Amicae Activities

There was a different topic everyday:

Sunday Self Care Sunday, know that next week is a chance to be amazing.

Monday Mindfulness Monday take 5 deep breaths, close your eyes and clear your mind.

Tuesday Take Care Tuesday-try box breathing it is used to reduce stress.

Wednesday Wellness Wednesday-catch up on your sleep and relax your mind.

Thursday Meditation Thursday-pay attention to the present moment without judgement, which can help quiet racing thoughts.

Friday Feel Good-spend 10 minutes journaling, write down whatever is on your mind.

May 25, 2025, Mu Omega Zeta hosted their annual scholarship reception to present scholarships to deserving high school students. The event was held at Walking by Faith Ministries on Bossier Street. Soror Carletta Jones was the scholarship chairperson and Soror Sandy Irchirl was the guest speaker. Soror Irchirl shared tips with the students on how to embrace the opportunity to learn and grow both academically and personally. Scholarship recipients were:

Kellis Powell-Natchitoches Central High School

Ce'Lecia Vercher-Natchitoches Central High School

Timberlyn Washington-Lakeview High School

Cayleigh Addison-Natchitoches Central High School

Members of Mu Omega Zeta, Xi Epsilon and Zeta Amica of Natchitoches would like to thank our community for their continued support and enthusiasm for our events. A special thank you to Latorria Freeman and The Real View for covering these events.









Mu Omega Zeta, Xi Epsilon and Zeta Amicae Activities

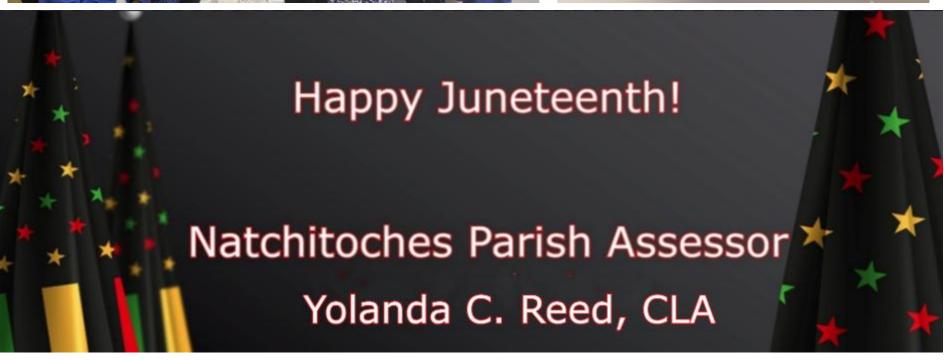










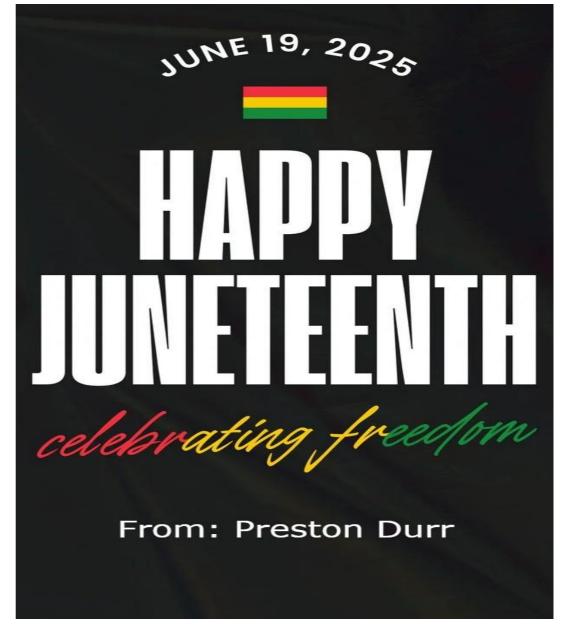


Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame sets 2025 induction Celebration for June 26-28



The 2025 Induction Celebration kicks off Thursday, June 26 with the free Welcome Reception from 5-7 p.m. at the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and Northwest Louisiana History Museum at 800 Front Street in downtown Natchitoches.

For information on sponsorship opportunities, contact Foundation President/CEO Ronnie Rantz at 225-802-6040 or RonnieRantz@LaSportsHall.com, or Foundation Director of Business Development and Public Relations Greg Burke at 318-663-5459 or GregBurke@LaSportsHall.com. Standard and customized sponsorships are available.



Father's Day Gift Ideas

- Personalized leather wallet
- Custom engraved watch
- BBQ grill tool set
- Subscription to his favorite magazine
- · Handmade photo album
- High-quality coffee maker
- Golf accessories
- Tool kit for DIY projects
- Comfortable slippers
- Outdoor adventure gear



Gift Baskets



Glass Etched Mug Bouquet

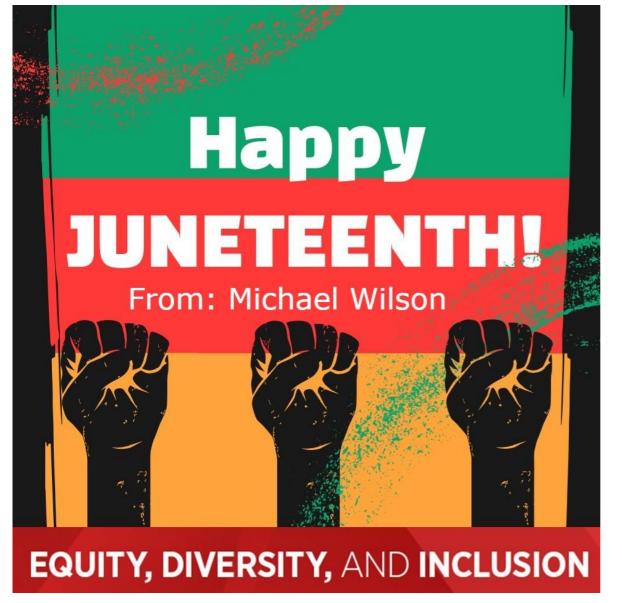


Printable Root Beer Gift Idea

Photo Credit: www.thirtyhandmadedays.com



DIY Wood Picture Frame Desktop Organizer





Zeta Day on the Hill

Members of Mu Omega Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Attended Zeta Day on the Hill at the Louisiana State Capitol in Baton Rouge, LA. Sorors gather at their capitol to advocate for policy changes that impact communities of color. It is a day for education and action, focused on promoting Social, Health and Economic (S.H.E.) justice. The day also includes educational components to inform members about current social and political issues. The group was invited to the Louisiana State Capitol by Louisiana State Representative Barbara West Carpenter who was also the 21st International Grand Basileus of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated.







COMMUNITY EVENTS







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COMMUNITY EVENTS







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