



THE REAL NEWS

Louisiana

"A Community With a Voice Shall Be Heard" ®

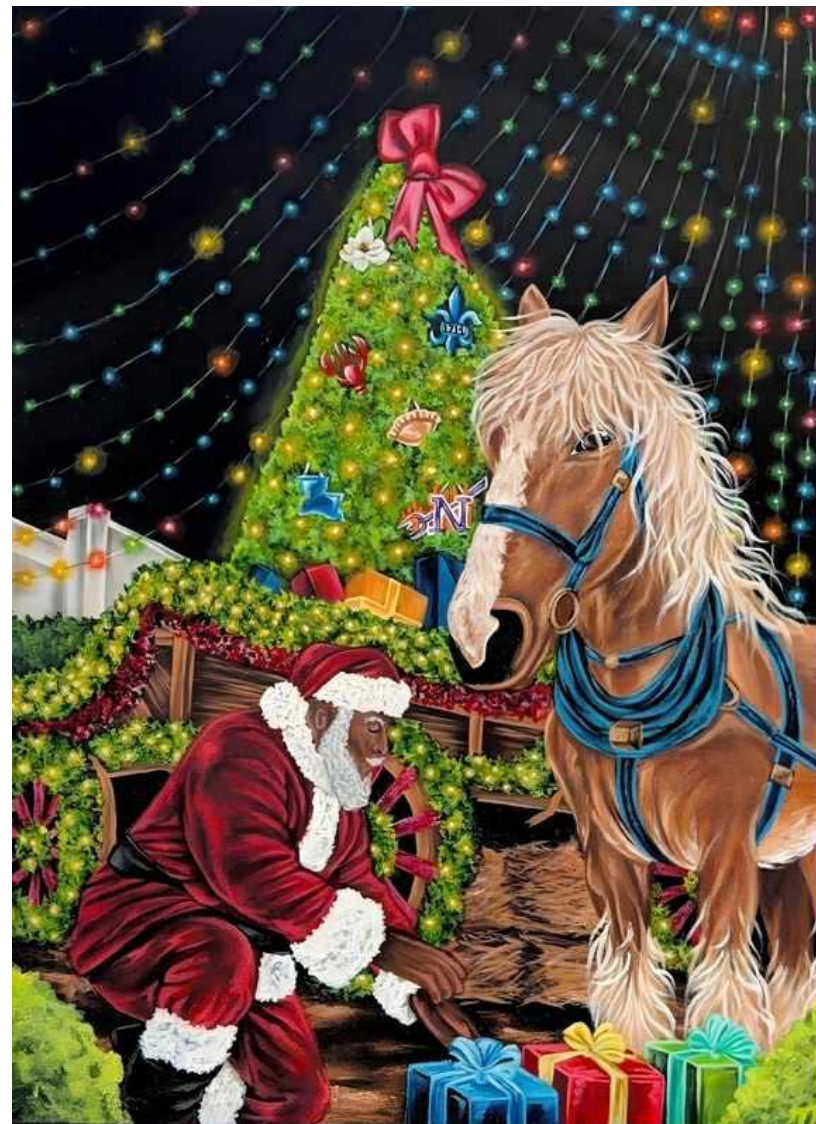
Publisher: Latorria Freeman

A Decade of Artistry: Takerria Kahey's Journey to the Christmas Poster Competition

Natchitoches: Takerria Kahey, owner of Tailored Kind, is celebrating a decade of artistic growth and achievement. For nearly ten years, Kahey has poured her passion into art, but this year marked a turning point—she finally entered the Christmas poster competition after three years of consideration.

As a member of the Natchitoches Art Guild and Gallery, Kahey has experienced several monumental moments in her art career this year. Despite a general dislike of competitions, she decided this would be her year to take the leap. Inspired by cherished family memories, Kahey knew her poster would feature Santa and highlight horses, celebrating the bond her family shares with these animals.

Having once lived in Campti and commuted daily to Natchitoches, Kahey often passed a memorable spot in front of the Natchitoches Sports Center.



Takerria Kahey
\$TailoredKind

TaKerria Kahey



Scan to pay TaKerria Kahey

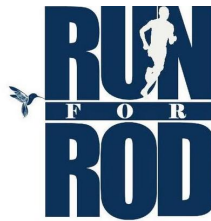
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This location became the focal point of her poster, which she recreated with care and dedication. After 84 hours of work in her garage, Kahey finally felt satisfied with the result, capturing not only her own family but many others by portraying the Santa who graces her home.

Kahey credits her artistic development to the guidance of mentors Rebecca Roy, Eryn Spears, and Anna Rachal, as well as the unwavering support of her parents. The community is proud of Kahey's bravery in stepping out of her comfort zone, seeing her as an inspiration. Her achievement demonstrates that anyone can be a winner by believing in themselves and taking bold steps. Grateful and proud, she is thrilled to have brought her vision to life and to share it with the community.

Order deadline: Friday, October 31.

- The weekend before Thanksgiving weekend (Nov 22/23): limited pickup times and locations. Minimal drop-offs available.
- **RAFFLE:** Each t-shirt purchased = 1 entry. Winner 1: \$100 credit, \$50 Visa gift card, Christmas Festival wristband, and 1 free shirt. Winner 2: \$50 credit and 1 free shirt.
- Winners announced live on November 1.
- A donation will be made to the Youth Teen Center of Natchitoches.
- Order: 318-471-7662 or Facebook/IG.
- Shipping: \$6 for LA and TX. Message for other areas. Send address to phone number above.
- Include name and shirt sizes in payment memos.

* If any local businesses would allow a print to hang, please contact me !



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PRINTS**

11x14 Print not framed: \$25
16x20 Print not framed: \$45
16x20 Print FRAMED: \$65
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Shop now >>>

@ TaKerria Kahey



**CHRISTMAS
FEST
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Adult Short Sleeve: \$25
Adult Long sleeve: \$30
Adult Hoodie: \$40
Youth: \$15
(+\$4 for sizes 2x and up)

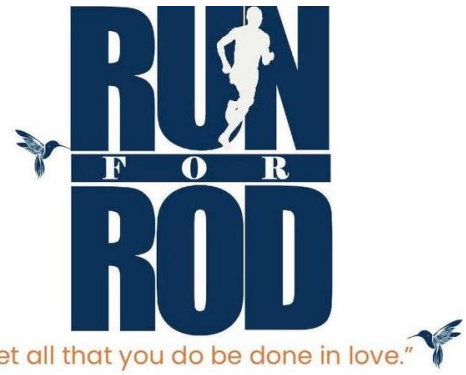
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Shop now >>>

@ TaKerria Kahey

2nd Annual Run for Rod Event

Photo Credits: Friends and family members



Concerned Citizens Have Questions for the Natchitoches Community Improvement Foundation

Dear Editor,



Several concerned citizens are seeking answers from the Natchitoches Community Improvement Foundation (NCIF). Established in 2003, NCIF manages a settlement fund from a Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company lawsuit over a late-1990s PCBs spill in Sibley Lake. The foundation was ordered by the court to distribute the funds to Natchitoches citizens through grants and scholarships for education, housing, recreation, and economic development.

In 2014, a lawsuit sought to open NCIF's election process. Although the suit failed, it prompted NCIF to hold elections for new board members. That year, a court-supervised audit found \$19,500 in unaccounted funds, increasing pressure for transparency.

NCIF became a 501(c)(3) nonprofit in 2014, requiring annual IRS financial disclosures. Public pressure also led to increased annual disbursements to citizens. In October 2023, Harold Bayonne, board member Helen Obioha, and Citizens for Democratic Action sued NCIF to force six board members to relinquish their seats for exceeding term limits. During his decision, Judge Peters also noted that while the foundation had been a great opportunity for the community, it needed to improve its financial management. He commended the foundation for growing its fund but stressed that oversight was still necessary.

The court order removed board members who violated term limits, paving the way for new elections and greater transparency. The lawsuit and court order led to greater public oversight and accountability for NCIF's actions and finances. After the ruling, Harold Bayonne became NCIF president and focused on youth projects, such as a free STEAM summer camp. He aimed to direct the Sibley Lake settlement fund toward improving the lives of Natchitoches residents.

Board members have accused Chairperson Harold Bayonne of not following Robert's Rules of Order and of lacking financial transparency. Concerned citizens want to ensure community funds are used fairly and honestly. The court warned that the community could lose these funds to another organization if NCIF does not comply with requirements. According to Chairperson Bayonne, no public meetings will be held until the judge approves the amended by-laws. Citizens remain deeply concerned about losing funding and seek answers.

Continued next page...

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Concerned Citizens Have Questions for the Natchitoches Community Improvement Foundation



What is the status of the amended bylaws?

When is the annual audit scheduled, and will the public be able to review all records?

When is the next court date? Is the current NCIF board in good standing with the IRS?

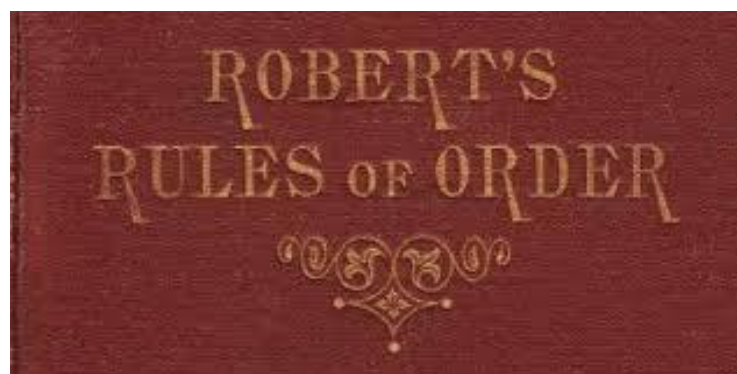
Is the board managing and dispensing funds according to the bylaws?

Is all spending on hold until the bylaws are amended? If not, why?

Why hasn't there been a public meeting in a year?

Summary of Robert's Rules of Order

Robert's Rules of Order is a comprehensive manual used to guide the conduct of meetings and organizational decision-making. Developed by Henry Martyn Robert in the 19th century, the rules are designed to ensure meetings are orderly, fair, and democratic. The system provides a framework for proposing motions, debating ideas, amending proposals, and voting on decisions.



Key principles include protecting the rights of all members, ensuring the majority's will is carried out, and respecting the opinions of the minority. The rules outline the roles and responsibilities of officers (such as the chairperson), establish an agenda, and detail the proper procedures for handling motions, points of order, and amendments. They also prescribe how to manage debates, call for votes, and keep accurate meeting records (minutes).

By following Robert's Rules, organizations can prevent confusion, resolve disagreements effectively, and promote active participation among members. The structure provided by these rules is widely adopted by nonprofit groups, boards, clubs, and other associations to facilitate transparent and efficient governance.

Performers invited to take part in annual Multicultural Christmas Concert

NATCHITOCHES –Area performers are invited to participate in the 17th annual Natchitoches-NSU Multicultural Christmas Concert on Dec. 2 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame & Northwest Louisiana History Museum located at 800 Front Street in Natchitoches.

Singers, musicians, dancers or readers are welcome to help celebrate with the Natchitoches community during this joyous time of the year. All songs, readings and instrumental performances, sacred or secular, which address Christmas or the Christmas season, are welcome. All participants will perform without monetary compensation. Those interested can sign up to perform by calling (318) 357-4332 or emailing folklife@nsula.edu by Nov. 21.

The Multicultural Christmas Concert is a benefit concert for Cane River Children's Services. The concert is free and open to the public. This year's festivities are sponsored by the Louisiana Folklife Center and the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame & Northwest Louisiana History Museum.



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



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Natchitoches, La 71457
assistant@howardcondaylaw.com



Photo Credits: BOM, Engage, FAUNA & NPSO



Photo Credits: FAUNA



Healing and Hope: Starting Over After Divorce

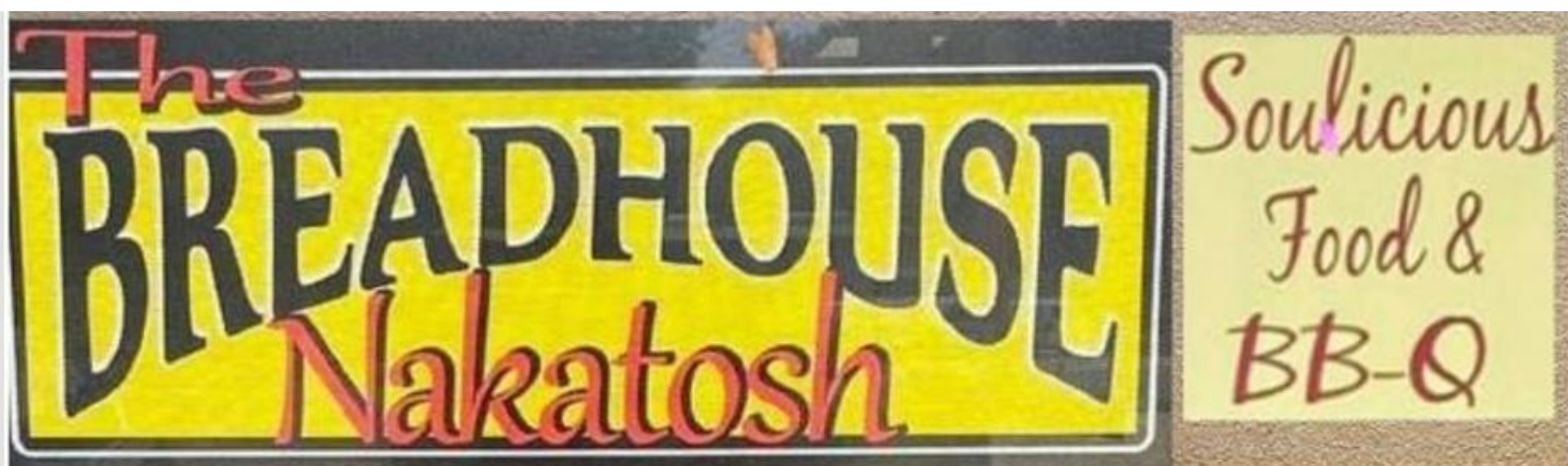
By: Nikki Queen



Divorce marks the end of a long, painful road, but it is also the first step toward rebuilding and rediscovering yourself. Life after divorce is not easy, but it is not the end. Emotional healing, adjusting to being alone, and personal growth are part of a newfound sense of being. Embrace this new life with intention, and seek your purpose, strength, and happiness.

The period following divorce is often an emotional rollercoaster—grief, anger, confusion, and even relief are common. All your feelings are valid and are part of the healing process, much like grieving a death. Take time to process your emotions; this is crucial for moving forward. You once planned a future with this person, so it's natural to feel pain without judgment. Ensure you have a solid support system. You're grieving the loss of a partner, a future you envisioned, and a shared way of life. Divorce can affect every aspect of your life, from finances to daily routines. Rebuilding requires strength and determination. Establishing a daily routine can help restore a sense of normalcy. Set boundaries and give yourself time and space to heal; this will help manage stress.

One of the most powerful lessons divorce offers is the chance to rediscover yourself. This is a time for self-reflection and learning who you are outside your former marriage. Take care of yourself physically and mentally. Don't be afraid to spend time alone and focus on new possibilities. Move at your own pace—there's no need to rush into anything before you're ready. Healing and building a stable foundation are essential. Life after divorce is a journey of transition and transformation. With patience, self-compassion, and intentional growth, you can create a stable, purposeful, and authentic future.



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Vickie Johnson Named Grand Marshall of the 99th Annual Natchitoches Christmas Festival Parade



NATCHITOCHES, LA — October 21, 2025 — The Natchitoches Christmas Festival Committee is proud to announce that Vickie Johnson, a recent Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame inductee, former WNBA All-Star, and respected professional coach, will serve as Grand Marshal of the 99th Annual Natchitoches Christmas Festival of Lights Parade on Saturday, December 6, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. in historic downtown Natchitoches.

A native of nearby Coushatta, where she was one of the country's most sought-after high school girls' basketball recruits, Johnson has built a remarkable resume as a player and a coach. Following a standout collegiate career at Louisiana Tech University, where she twice earned All-American honors and led the Lady Techsters to the 1994 NCAA national championship game, Johnson went on to become one of the most accomplished players in WNBA history.

Johnson's continuing involvement with professional basketball spans more than 40 years as a player and later as a coach in the WNBA, in addition to playing 15 seasons overseas in France, Israel, Italy, Hungary, and Turkey.

Her professional career began when she was drafted 12th overall by the New York Liberty in the inaugural WNBA Elite Draft in 1997, making her one of the original 32 players to compete in the WNBA and marking the beginning of a 13-year playing career. During her tenure, she earned two WNBA All-Star selections (1999 and 2001) and received the Kim Perrot Sportsmanship Award in 2008. Johnson became the first Liberty player to reach 2,000 career points and later concluded her playing career with the San Antonio Silver Stars, where she played her final four seasons.

Her impact on the game extended well beyond her playing days. Johnson has served as a coach and mentor at the highest levels of the sport, including leadership roles with the San Antonio Stars, Las Vegas Aces, Dallas Wings, and the Atlanta Dream.

In recognition of her achievements, Johnson was inducted this summer into the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame, located in downtown Natchitoches, a fitting connection as she returns to the community to lead this year's parade.

"I am honored to serve as Grand Marshal of the Natchitoches Christmas Festival Parade," said Johnson. "Louisiana has always been home for me, and to celebrate this incredible tradition in such a historic and welcoming community is truly special."

"We are honored to welcome Vickie Johnson as our Grand Marshal," said Sandra Dickens, HDBA President. "Her leadership, excellence, and Louisiana pride perfectly reflect the spirit of the Natchitoches Christmas Festival and our celebration of homegrown achievement."

As Grand Marshal, Johnson will lead the Festival of Lights Parade, greeting thousands of visitors gathered along the historic Natchitoches riverbank. She will also participate in special events throughout the weekend as part of the city's beloved holiday tradition.

About the Natchitoches Christmas Festival

Established in 1927, the Natchitoches Christmas Festival is one of the oldest and most celebrated holiday festivals in the nation. Each year, the festival draws tens of thousands of visitors to Louisiana's oldest city to enjoy the parade, live entertainment, fireworks, and more than 300,000 twinkling lights along the Cane River.

About Vickie Johnson

- Born April 15, 1972, in Coushatta, Louisiana
- Two-time All-American at Louisiana Tech University; Sun Belt Player of the Year (1995)
- Two-time WNBA All-Star and first New York Liberty player to score 3,000 career points
- Former head coach of the Dallas Wings; current assistant coach for the Atlanta Dream
- 2025 Inductee, Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame

Parade Participation Information

Individuals, organizations, and businesses interested in participating in the 99th Annual Natchitoches Christmas Festival of Lights Parade may register online at www.NatchitochesChristmas.com/parade-entry-form. The deadline to apply is November 15, 2025.

Mayor Ronnie Williams Jr. Celebrates his 40th birthday with an informal dinner with family and friends.



Unbreakable Bonds: Honoring Mothers Who Endure the Loss of Children to Violence.

By: Nette Zeno

To Us — The Strong Mothers Who Have Lost Our Children to Senseless Violence. There are no words deep enough to ease the pain we carry, no sentence strong enough to measure our strength. Yet every single day, we wake up, breathe, and face the world again — and that alone is courage beyond measure. Our love for our children lives on in the stories we tell, the tears we shed, and the light we continue to shine in their honor. Though this world may have taken their physical presence, it can never take the unbreakable bond that ties our souls together. We are not alone. Our collective strength speaks for every mother who has ever mourned. Our resilience stands as living proof that love is stronger than hate, hope is louder than grief, and faith endures even through the darkest nights. May peace find us gently and may our children's memories forever guide our steps.



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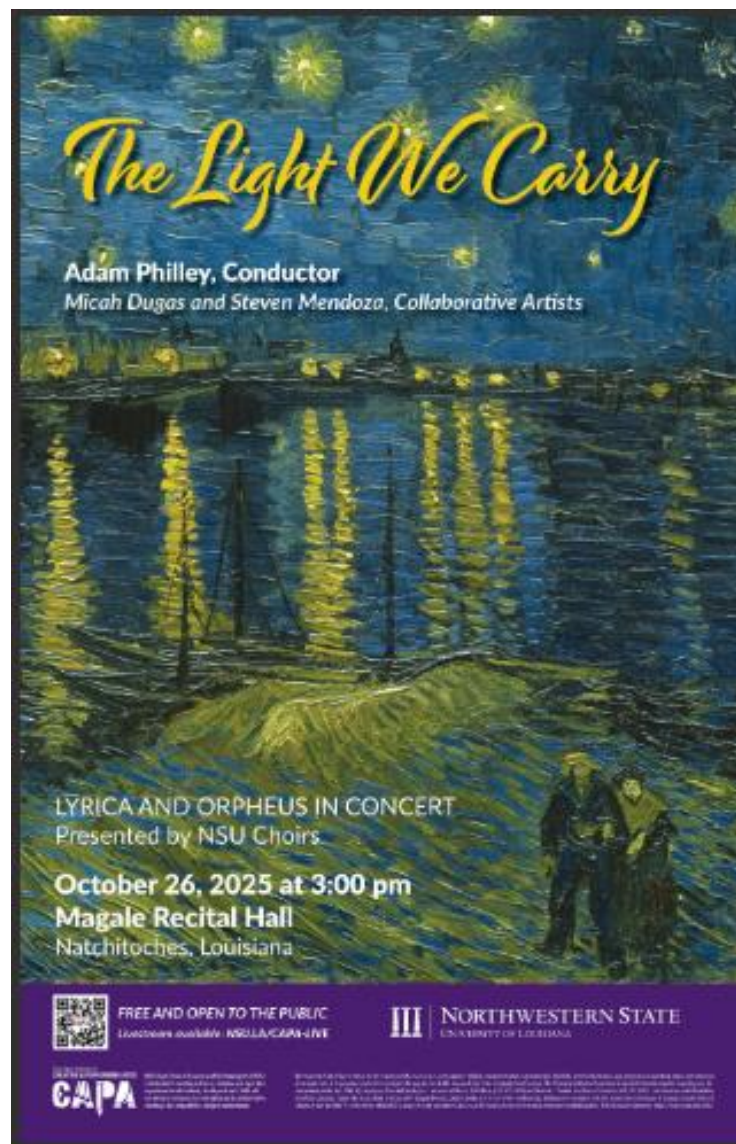
MEMBER
FDIC

Northwestern Lyrica and Orpheus to perform fall concert Sunday

NATCHITOCHES - Northwestern Lyrica and Orpheus will present a concert "The Light We Carry" on Sunday, Oct. 26 at 3 p.m. in Magale Recital Hall. Adam Philley, associate director of Choral Activities, will conduct this fall choral performance, and Micah Dugas and Steven Mendoza will serve as collaborative artists.

"Our program traces the seasons of our lives, moments when the light feels bright and confident, and moments when it's softer, flickering or hard to find," says Philley. "Through every chapter, we discover strength, comfort and joy in community, standing beside one another in song."

With more than 150 singers across five choral and vocal ensembles, NSU's School of Creative and Performing Arts vocal area offers a vibrant place for majors and non-majors to grow. Our students explore diverse repertoire, collaborate with guest artists, and gain experiences that prepare them to perform in today's world.



TEAS Test Boot Camp to be taught Nov. 1

NATCHITOCHES – A TEAS Test Boot Camp will be offered through Northwestern State University's Office of Electronic Learning and Global Education on Saturday, Nov. 1 beginning at 1 p.m. in the second-floor classroom of South Hall on NSU's Natchitoches campus.

Registration is \$40 if completed by Oct. 25 and \$50 after that date.

The boot camp provides study tips for test success and a review of the TEAS sections on reading, math, science and English.

The recommended text for the course is Mometrix Test Preparation (2016). ATI TEAS Secrets Study Guide, ISBN: 978-1-5167-0383-8.

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.

Supporting Students, Seniors, and Sickle Cell Awareness: Zeta Phi Beta's Busy Season

Mu Omega Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Delivers Essential Service to Natchitoches Community

The ladies of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, Mu Omega Zeta Chapter, have begun their sororal year with an exceptional flurry of community service, impacting multiple vital areas of Natchitoches life. Their recent efforts demonstrate a strong commitment to service across all generations, from elementary students to the area's elderly residents.

Adopt-a-School Initiative Kicks Off

On **August 14th**, the Mu Omega Zeta Chapter and the Amicae of Natchitoches delivered a variety of school supplies to **Weaver Elementary**. This donation signals the start of the sorority's year-long commitment to the school, which they will support for the 2025-2026 Academic School year as part of their Adopt-a-School Initiative.

Keeping Seniors Safe in the Heat

Service to the community's elders followed quickly on **August 20th**. Recognizing the dangers of the sweltering summer heat, the members donated **20 fans** to the **Council on Aging (COA)**. This effort was an immediate and practical way to assist the elderly in keeping cool and safe as the summer continued.

Raising Awareness for Critical Health Causes

The chapter's focus shifted to health awareness in September with two major community programs. *Continued next page...*



Fan Drive Council on Aging



(L to R) Josephine Winder, Linda Howard, Doryce Polk (Amicae President), Belinda Turner, Patrica Parker, (Outreach Coordinator), Candance Grayson (Mu Omega Zeta, President) Carletta Jones, Linda Franklin, (NPCOA)

(L to R) Belinda Turner, Carletta Jones, Yalaunda T. Taylor, Candance Grayson (President), Linda Howard, Josephine Winder, Doryce Polk, (Amicae President)



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Supporting Students, Seniors, and Sickle Cell Awareness: Zeta Phi Beta's Busy Season

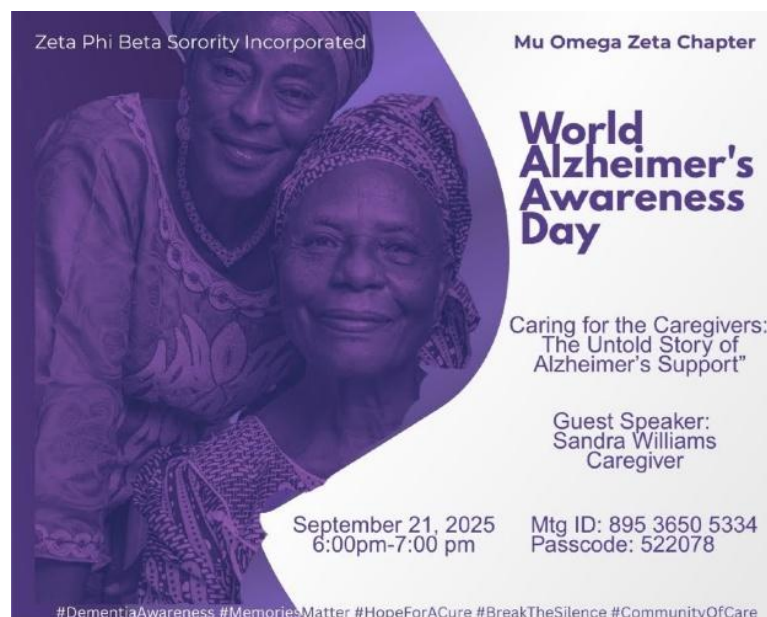
On **September 13th**, Mu Omega Zeta partnered with the Natchitoches Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Outpatient Medical Center, Life Share Blood Center, and Sickle Cell Anemia Resource Foundation (SCARF) for the **2nd Annual Sickle Cell Awareness Walk**. The event successfully raised awareness and rallied participants to walk for a cause that profoundly affects both babies and adults.

Later in the month, on **September 21st**, the sorority hosted a public forum titled **“Caring for Caregivers: The Untold Story of Alzheimer’s Support”** to observe World Alzheimer’s Awareness Day. The event shined a light on the unsung heroes—the caregivers—and invited the public for an open discussion on the challenges, triumphs, and resources available for those caring for loved ones with Alzheimer’s. Guest speaker **Sandra Williams** shared vital information on the role of being a caregiver. The program was coordinated by committee members Sandy Irchirl, Carletta Jones, Cheryl Jackson, Yalaunda Toliver-Taylor, and Alisa Raggio.

The Mu Omega Zeta Chapter’s robust start to the year promises continued dedicated service to the Natchitoches community.

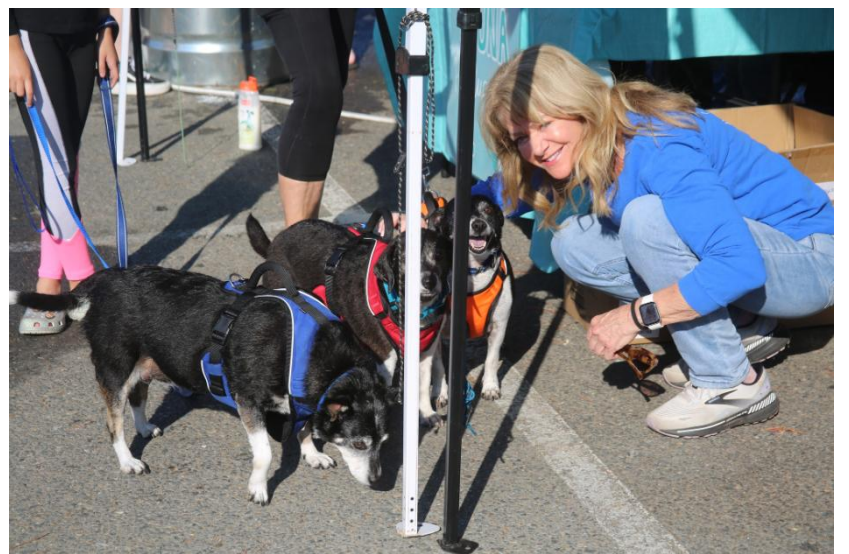
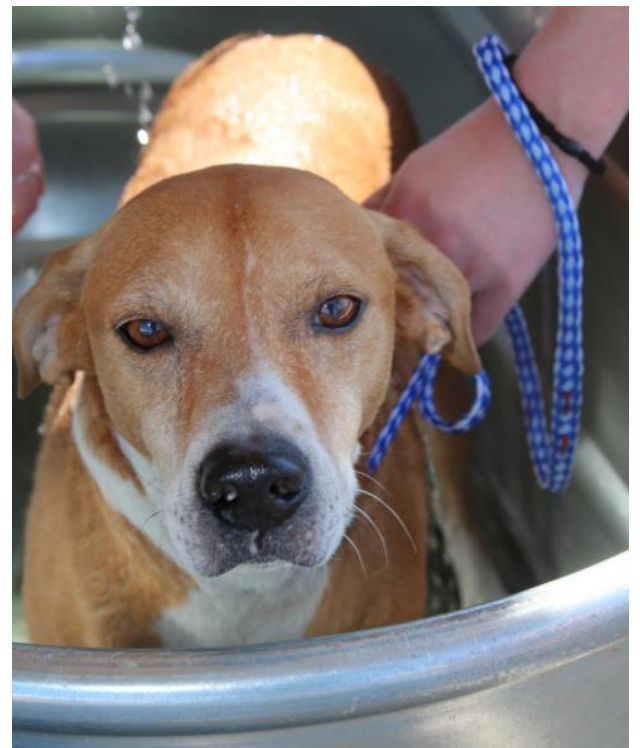
Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated is an international, historically Black Greek-letter organization founded on January 16, 1920, at Howard University in Washington, D.C. It is built upon the principles of Scholarship, Service, Sisterhood, and Finer Womanhood. The sorority's motto is: "A community-conscious, action-oriented organization."

Sickle Cell Awareness Event



FAUNA Bath & Nail Clipping Days

Photo Credits: Friends All United for Natchitoches Animals



OPINION**Manipulating the Ballot: Tactics Corrupt Politicians Use to Sway Voters**

By: Ava Black

Corrupt politicians often try to win people over by taking advantage of their needs and struggles. They employ various tactics to secure votes, typically by targeting the most vulnerable individuals.

Here are some of the common ways they do it:

- Cash Handouts:** Sometimes, politicians simply give people money before elections. This usually happens in poorer neighborhoods, where even a small amount of cash can make a big difference in someone's daily life.



- Free Stuff:** Politicians may hand out things like food, clothes, or even appliances. You might hear stories about people getting boxes of fried chicken, malt liquor, watermelon, and/or free medical checkups around election time, all in hopes they'll vote a certain way.

- Job Offers:** When jobs are scarce, some politicians promise people or their family members a job in exchange for their vote. These promises often sound appealing, especially to those struggling to find work.

- Big Promises for the Neighborhood:** Politicians might show up and say they'll fix roads, job shortages, or make the communities safe again. These promises are often made during campaign season, but sometimes nothing happens afterward.

- Special Favors for the Powerful:** Some politicians do favors for local leaders or influential people in the community, like giving them special treatment or contracts, hoping these people will convince others to vote for them.

- Threats and Pressure:** In more serious cases, there are stories about people being threatened or told there will be trouble if they don't vote a certain way. Sometimes, it's about offering 'protection'—but only if you cooperate.

- Spreading False Information:** Politicians might use social media, radio ads, or local rumors to spread lies or make fake promises, trying to trick people into supporting them.

DO NOT SELL YOUR VOTE!**NO TO VOTE BUYING**

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

BREAST cancer

AWARENESS MONTH

Breast cancer is the most common cancer found in women, regardless of race or ethnicity.

Early detection saves lives!



1 IN 8 WOMEN

in the United States will Develop
breast cancer in her lifetime.

No One Fights Alone

1 in 8 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime, and when detected early the 5-year survival rate is 99%.

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OCTOBER **BREAST** CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

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
throughout the Parish

CLOSED PARTY RACE

April 2026

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

BOM Gives Back

Natchitoches: Alexis Phillips



We're excited to congratulate Alexis Phillips on her one-year anniversary! Alexis is a Teller II at our downtown location in Natchitoches. Alexis was raised in Tioga, Louisiana, and graduated from University View Academy in 2020. When she's not assisting customers with a smile, she enjoys reading, shopping, traveling, and spending time with her friends and family. She's also a proud pet mom to three dogs — Forrest, Timber, and Marley — and one cat named Stella! We're thrilled to have Alexis on the team!

Rapides: Jessica Brunson



BOM Bank would like to welcome Jessica Brunson as the new Branch Manager of our Kingsville branch in Pineville, LA! Jessica has lived in Dry Prong all her life and attended Georgetown High School. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family doing things such as hunting, traveling, and watching her kids play sports. A fun fact about Jessica is that she loves everything Halloween! Perhaps her favorite part of the season is dressing her family up in themed costumes and doing fun Halloween makeup with her daughter.

Bossier/Caddo: Ireland Slocum



Congratulations to Ireland Slocum on her promotion to Head Teller at BOM Bank's Fern Avenue location in Shreveport! We're so proud of her hard work, dedication, and commitment to serving our customers. Join us in celebrating this exciting milestone in her career!

Sabine



BOM Bank is proud to support the Zwolle Tamale Fiesta Educational Day! Each year, all parish 3rd graders spend the day learning through fun, hands-on activities. This year's Educational Day was hosted by SciPort Discovery Center, making it an unforgettable experience for the students. Pictured left to right: Linda Guay, Robin Meshell, and BOM's Tiffany Miller.

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*Annual Percentage Yield



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NSU Scholars' College preview day is Nov. 15

NATCHITOCHES – The Louisiana Scholars' College at Northwestern State University invites high achieving high school students and their families to a college preview day Saturday, Nov. 15. Those who attend will get an engaging overview of the Scholars' College, Louisiana's selective-admission honors college of the liberal arts and sciences. During Scholars' Day, prospective students can participate in sample classes, explore academic and social opportunities, tour the campus and meet faculty and current students.



The Scholars' College features small seminar-style classes, personalized faculty mentoring, priority registration and exclusive Scholars' housing. Information on scholarships, fee waivers and the Scholars' College research-rich curriculum will also be available.

Scholars' Day registration is available at <https://nsula.formstack.com/forms/scholarsday25>.

To learn more about what sets Scholars' College apart, visit <https://www.nsula.edu/academics/the-louisiana-scholars-college/>.



 NORTHWESTERN STATE

**TAKE THE
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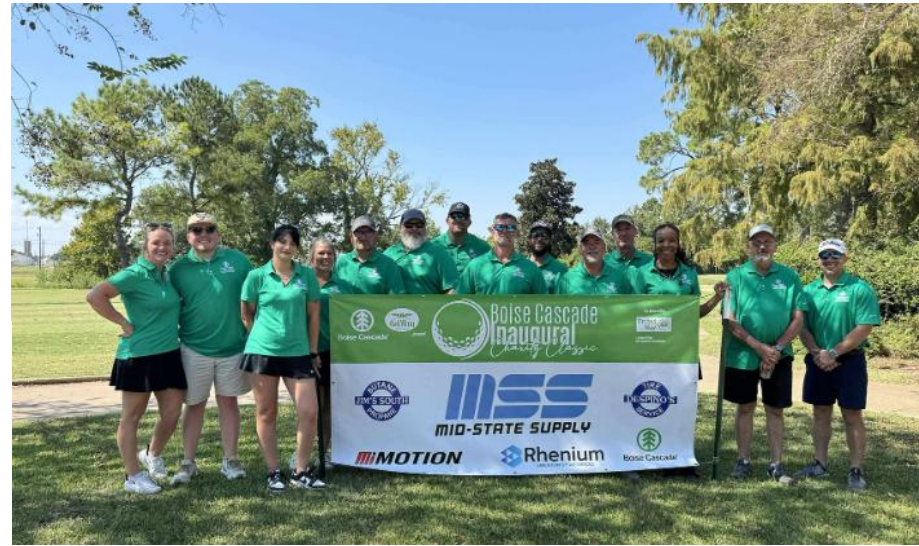
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Celebrates Manufacturing Month



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FOR AS LITTLE AS

\$25

A MONTH

Contact Morgan Green
morgan@gonatchitoches.com





Natchitoches:

Trinity Hayes

Please extend a warm welcome to Trinity Hayes! She lives in Coushatta, LA, and attends NSU as an Accounting major. After graduation she plans to earn her CPA and “let the Lord lead me to where I’ll go next.” Her hobbies include playing piano, spending time with friends and family, playing board games/card games, playing video games, and serving her church as a strong Baptist believer. A fun fact about Trinity is that she is very involved in her church and loves spreading the love of God! Welcome, Trinity!



Sabine:

BOM Bank is proud to support the Pleasant Hill High School Baseball Program! Our donation will help with equipment, travel expenses, and uniforms—and we’re excited to have a sign on the field cheering the team on all season long.

Pictured left to right: BOM’s Kim Wilkerson, Coach JC Hendrickson, and BOM’s Tiffany Miller.



Bossier/Caddo:

BOM Bank is a proud supporter of Benton High School Project Graduation for the Class of 2026! This event provides a safe and fun environment for seniors to celebrate their graduation together.

Pictured left to right: Cole Snell, Beckett Moore, Claire Allen, and BOM’s Tiffany Spillman.



Rapides:

BOM Bank enjoyed meeting future leaders at the Grant Parish High School Career Day! Our team had a great time-sharing information about banking careers, products, and services — and connecting with students who are already planning for bright futures ahead.

Pictured left to right: BOM’s Jessica Brunson, Kristina Bagwell, Gracelyn Jones, and Mandy Futrell.

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Owner
Jason Brock

76

Tire Shop

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FINANCING AVAILABLE

PITSTOP76

Hours Monday- Friday 8 am- 5 pm

Saturday 9 am- 1 pm

Sunday Closed

Forty Years Strong: Natchitoches Central Class of 1985 Reunion Recap

Photo Credits: Star Studio Photography, Curtisha Anderson & 1985 classmates

The Natchitoches Central Class of 1985 reunited in town for their 40th reunion, making unforgettable memories together.

The weekend began with a bench dedication at NCHS. That evening, classmates joined a police-escorted motorcade to the homecoming game, cheering their alma mater to victory.

Afterward, they gathered at a classmate's home for a mixer.

Saturday included another bench dedication downtown.

A Western-themed celebration capped off the festivities, complete with dinner, dancing, and a live auction.

The event featured a BBQ dinner from Sweetie's BBQ on a lighted patio, an interactive photo booth from Geaux 360, and a live auction with prizes like cozy blankets, Bluetooth speakers, tool sets, and other electronics.

The Planning Committee wowed the crowd with their rendition of "Midnight Train to Georgia," while DJ Roy Woodard kept the dance floor lively late into the night.

Guests enjoyed themed swag bags and special appearances by former teachers and the class photographer.

Special guests included Mrs. Theresa Demery, a former teacher to many classmates, and Adrian Demery, the class's former school photographer.

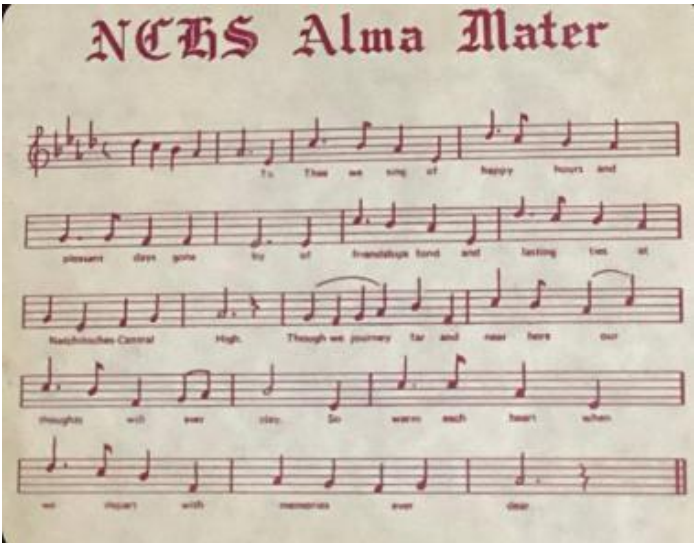
The weekend ended with group worship services.

Forty years later, the Class of 1985 showed they could still celebrate in style.



Forty Years Strong: Natchitoches Central Class of 1985 Reunion Recap

Photo Credits: Star Studio Photography, Curtisha Anderson & 1985 classmates



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NRMC Earns ACR Accreditation

NATCHITOCHES, LA — Natchitoches Regional Medical Center Imaging Center has been awarded a three-year term of accreditation in magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) as the result of a recent review by the American College of Radiology® (ACR®). MRI is a noninvasive medical test that utilizes magnetic fields to produce anatomical images of internal body parts to help physicians diagnose and treat medical conditions.



The ACR gold seal of accreditation represents the highest level of image quality and patient safety. It is awarded only to facilities meeting specific requirements based on ACR Practice Parameters and Technical Standards after a peer-review evaluation by board-certified physicians and medical physicists who are experts in the field. Image quality, personnel qualifications, adequacy of facility equipment, quality control procedures and quality assurance programs are assessed. The findings are reported back to the facility and provide the practice with a comprehensive report that can be used for continuous practice improvement.

“Natchitoches Regional Medical Center is committed to providing the highest quality imaging services to our patients,” said Kirk Soileau, NRMC Chief Executive Officer. “This accreditation from the American College of Radiology reflects the expertise of our imaging team, their dedication to patient safety, and our ongoing investment in advanced technology to better serve our community.”

For more information about MRI services or to schedule an appointment, visit www.nrmchospital.org or call (318) 214-4518.

Welcome

Dr. Julian F. Naranjo, Pain Medicine Specialist

NRMC is pleased to welcome Julian F. Naranjo, MD, to its active medical staff as an independent physician.

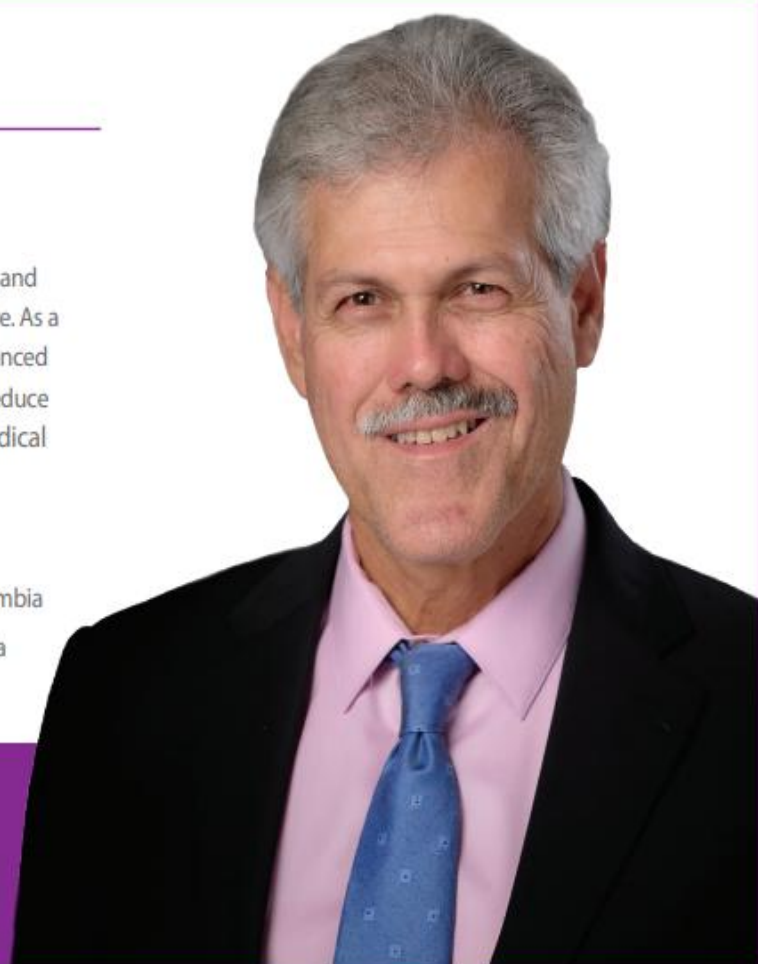
Board certified in both anesthesiology and pain medicine, Dr. Naranjo specializes in the diagnosis, treatment, and management of acute and chronic pain, offering patients a comprehensive, multidisciplinary approach to care. As a fellowship-trained interventional pain medicine specialist, he utilizes minimally invasive procedures and advanced imaging technologies to accurately target and treat sources of chronic pain. Dr. Naranjo's goal is not only to reduce pain, but also to enhance patients' functionality and restore their quality of life. He will lead our team of medical specialists at NRMC Pain Institute.

Education:

- Received his medical degree from Universidad Libre de Cali Facultad de Ciencias de la Salud in Cali, Colombia
- Completed his residency in Internal Medicine and Anesthesiology at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Florida
- Completed an Interventional Pain Medicine Fellowship Program at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Florida

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 318.214.4153. NRMC Pain Institute is located on the first floor of NRMC.

NRMC
Pain Institute



Nineteen bands to take part in Classic on the Cane Marching Contest Saturday

Classic on the Cane Marching Contest to be held Saturday, Nov. 1

NATCHITOCHES - The 36th Annual Classic on the Cane Marching Contest will be held Saturday, Nov. 1 at Turpin Stadium beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Nineteen high school bands from around the region will compete. The Spirit of Northwestern Marching Band will perform at 4:15 p.m. The awards ceremony will begin at 4:30 p.m.

General admission tickets are \$15 and \$10 for senior citizens, military personnel and current NSU students. Children under five are admitted free. Ticket sales are cash only.

A Spectator's Guidebook with more information is available at

https://www.canva.com/design/DAFPC_vtTKo/KG87u-sWTdE3itTCNiQQWA/edit?utm_content=DAFPC_vtTKo&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=sharebutton

Participating bands include Many, North DeSoto, Buckeye, Pine Prairie, Comeaux, Delcambre, Natchitoches Central, Neville, El Dorado (Arkansas) and Central. Also participating are Ouachita Parish, Acadiana, Southside, Haughton, West Monroe, Airline, Benton, Lafayette and Parkway.



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
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● + Much More!

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AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD NOW!

Northwestern State alum LTC Calvin Hoover honored during Demon football game

By Sid Hall

Military Affairs Coordinator / ROTC Program Manager

NATCHITOCHEs – In continuing its tradition of honoring those who serve in the nation's Armed Forces, Northwestern State University recognized the military service of Lieutenant Colonel Calvin Hoover Jr., US Army Retired, during its football game on October 25.

A proud NSU alumnus, LTC Hoover began his military career in 1998 as a Cavalry Scout in the Louisiana Army National Guard. He commissioned through NSU's ROTC program in 2003 and holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from NSU and a Master of Arts in Management from Webster University.



Calvin Hoover:

Lieutenant Colonel Calvin Hoover Jr. was recognized as guest captain of Demon football game Oct. 25. From left are LTC(R) Arthur Smalley, chief of staff, Northwestern Demon Regiment; Hoover and MSG Mike Blakely, ROTC Senior Military Science instructor

His military education includes Aviation Officer Basic Course, Ranger School, Pathfinder, Airborne, Command and General Staff College (ILE), Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape (SERE-C) (High Risk), Joint/Multinational Security Cooperation Courses, Aviation Safety Course, Lean Six Sigma Black Belt, PMP Course, Dunker / Helicopter Emergency Egress Devise System (HEEDS), Joint Fire Power Course, Maneuver Captain Career Course, Mountain Leader Orientation Course, Air Defense Artillery (ADA) Airspace Coordination Cell Course, Special Operations Military Assistance (MA) Course, Special Operations Air Integration Course (SOAIC), Special Operations Joint Task Force (SOJTF-A) Orientation Course, Joint Humanitarian Operations Course (JHOC), State Department's Foreign Affairs Counter Threat (FACT) Course, and OSHA 511 Certification.

An abbreviated listing of LTC Hoover's assignments include Cavalry Scout for Troop A, 1st Squadron, 108 Cavalry Regiment, Louisiana Army National Guard; Platoon Leader and Executive Officer for 3rd Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, Fort Drum, NY; Troop Commander for 4th Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment and Brigade Aviation Officer for 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA; Security Force Assistance Observer/Coach-Trainer, Fort Polk, LA; Brigade Aviation Officer for 173rd Airborne Brigade & Future Operations Plans Lead at U.S. Army Europe and Africa; Executive Officer for 1-353rd Aviation, 166th Aviation Brigade, Fort Hood, TX; Executive Officer for Special Operations Advisory Group, Afghanistan; and Security Assistance Training Management Organization Brigade Executive Officer & Regional Commander, US Army Central Command, Fort Bragg, NC.

LTC Hoover's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Medal with Combat Device, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Achievement Medal, Combat Action Badge, Senior Aviator Badge, Pathfinder Badge, Airborne Badge, and Ranger Tab. He also holds the Order of Saint Michael (Bronze and Silver), German Proficiency Badge (Gold), Italian Jump Wings, and Gold and Silver Spurs.

LTC Hoover hails from the Melrose area. He was escorted on-field by NSU President James Genovese and LTC(R) Arthur Smalley, Northwestern Demon Regiment Chief of Staff. Joining LTC Hoover to cheer on the Demons were his wife, Christy (Armstrong), and their children, Jermaine, Marcel and Anaïs.

Dr. Tarkisha Wallace helps individuals SOAR through teaching, counseling

NATCHITOCHEs – Dr. Tarkisha M. Wallace, Ph.D., LPC-S, NCC, is a Licensed Professional Counselor-Supervisor and National Certified Counselor based in Baton Rouge and an assistant professor of counselor education at Northwestern State University. As the founder of Soar Counseling and Consulting Services, LLC, she is dedicated to helping individuals and families navigate life's challenges, heal emotional wounds and achieve personal growth.



Wallace is a proud alumna of NSU, having earned her Bachelor of Science in Psychology in 2005 and Master of Arts in Student Personnel Services – Counseling in 2008. She has over a decade of experience providing compassionate, evidence-based care to children, adolescents and adults. Her therapeutic approach blends Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Person-Centered Counseling and Solution-Focused Brief Therapy (SFBT) to empower clients to build resilience and rediscover hope.

Wallace's personal journey through adversity inspired her mission to help others Soar -- finding strength, optimism, awareness and renewal through the counseling process. In addition to her clinical practice, she serves as a mentor and supervisor for provisional LPCs, supporting the next generation of mental health professionals.

Wallace's work spans a wide range of focus areas, including anxiety, depression, anger management, family dynamics, life transitions and grief recovery. Known for her authenticity, empathy, and practical wisdom, Wallace has become a trusted advocate for mental wellness across Louisiana communities.

Wallace visited with a colleague recently to talk about her passion for helping others, her private practice Soar and her transition from counseling to academia. The conversation has been edited and condensed for clarity.

Can you tell me about your background and education? When did you becoming interested in counseling?

I grew up in Baton Rouge and began attending NSU in the fall of 2001, majoring in Psychology with a minor in Speech. While at NSU, I was active in several student organizations, serving as president of the NSU Angels, a basketball auxiliary organization, and as a proud member of the Iota Mu Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. I completed my Bachelor of Science in Psychology in 2005.

Following a very personal loss, I returned to Northwestern to pursue a Master of Arts in Student Personnel Services, Counseling track and completed the program in 2008. I was drawn to counseling during that time of grief; it was in my own season of healing that I recognized how vital it was for others to have access to the same kind of support I so deeply needed. That experience became the foundation for my passion for helping others through loss and emotional recovery.



Continued from Page 20...

Dr. Tarkisha Wallace helps individuals SOAR through teaching, counseling



What drew you to enroll at NSU as an undergrad?

Initially, I wasn't sure where I wanted to attend college, but not going wasn't an option in my household. My mother had a friend whose daughter attended NSU and spoke very highly of her experience, so we decided to visit.

For my parents, NSU was close enough to reach me if needed but far enough to allow me to gain independence and grow. By the end of my first semester in fall 2001, I had fallen in love with the campus culture, student life, and the community that makes Northwestern so special.

Did you have any special mentors or outstanding experiences that impacted you as a student?

Graduate school brought two individuals who left a lasting impression on my life. Dr. Danny Seymour became a mentor and has continued to be a source of support and encouragement even 17 years later. I also had Mrs. Frances Conine as my Counseling Skills instructor, and her compassion and understanding during my time of grief made a profound impact. The kindness and guidance both provided still influence the way I teach, counsel and mentor others today.

What drew you from the counseling practice to the university/academic setting?

I often say that while I am a great counselor, I'm an even better trainer. I have a deep love for training and professional development, and teaching allows me to merge those passions. Educating and preparing future counselors to serve in the field is one of the most fulfilling aspects of my career. I view this season of my life as one focused on imparting knowledge, compassion and practical skill to the next generation of counselors, helping them develop the confidence and competence to carry the profession forward.

Can you talk about Soar?

Soar Counseling and Consulting Services is my private practice, which I founded in 2015. At the time, I had stepped into a leadership role that involved more administrative oversight than direct counseling. Soar allowed me to continue doing the clinical work I loved while also mentoring and developing professionals in leadership and mental health settings. It represents both my commitment to helping individuals heal and my dedication to empowering professionals to grow.

What would you say to an individual interested in the field of counseling?

Counseling is truly "heart work." While we learn techniques and theory, at its core, counseling begins with empathy, compassion and the desire to help others. The counselor's role often leaves a lifelong impression; people may forget what we say, but they rarely forget how we made them feel. It's a field that requires both skill and heart, and it's an incredible privilege to walk alongside others as they navigate their healing journey.

Information on NSU's Bachelor of Arts in Psychology is available at <https://www.nsula.edu/program/bachelor-of-science-in-psychology/>. Information on the Master of Science in Psychology-Clinical is available at <https://www.nsula.edu/program/master-of-science-in-psychology-clinical/>

NATCHITOCHES

WHERE HISTORY LIVES

Natchitoches City Council Updates Residents on Low Lighting Issues



While multiple water main replacement projects are currently underway, City council members Rosemary Elie, Eddie Harrington, Dale Nielsen, Chris Petite and Councilwoman at Large Betty Smith-Kirkendoll also expressed their concerns for their constituents due to the inadequate lighting and lack thereof in certain areas of the City. Since assuming the role as the Director of Utilities, Tim Tousek and the electric utility crews have been working with the City Council members to aggressively address the low lighting conditions around the city by adding in multiple LED street lights and replacing the older HPS lights with the newer and much brighter LEDs also. With these additions and replacements, overall safety of pedestrians and residents will be greatly increased.

Halloween Festival Events



Saturday, October 28

- 🏡 Natchitoches Farmers Market
- 👻 Witch Way to Main Street
- 🎵 Flying Heart Live Halloween Party
- 👤 Dark Woods Haunted Attraction

Sunday, October 29

- 🎃 Pumpkins, Painting, and Treats Oh My!

Tuesday, October 31

- 🎵 Halloween Pops Concert



9 **TAILGATING & TRUNKS**

Family-friendly Halloween event for everyone!

Ben Johnson Auditorium Parking Lot
400 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr.
October 30, 2025
5:00 p.m.

A Krewe of The 9 event
joined by
BRIDGES by Gabrielle.

ST. DENIS PRESENTS

HALLOWEEN
COME ON DOWN TO ST. DENIS FOR A SPOOKY GOOD TIME!
VENDORS, MUSIC, CANDY, COSTUME CONTEST, FOOD TRUCKS, AND SO MORE!!

OCTOBER 31, 2025
6-10PM
ST. DENIS, NATCHITOCHES LOUISIANA

VGAUGHN
NATCHITOCHES
CHEVROLET BUICK

HALLOWEEN
TRUNK or TREAT

Games, Food, Plenty of candy,
Raffles, & more!

October 31, 2025
3:30PM-6:30PM
1742 LA-504, Natchitoches, LA 71457

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF
SAFE, FREE, FAMILY FUN

TRUNK or Treat

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26
4:30 - 6:30

4:30-5:00 IS RESERVED ESPECIALLY FOR FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

5:00-6:30 IS OPEN TO EVERYONE!

FOOD, GAMES, PRIZES, AND MORE!

WESTSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH
6834 HIGHWAY 1 BYPASS
NATCHITOCHES, LA 71457

HISTORIC DISTRICT CLEANUP

Let's make downtown shine!

NOVEMBER 7TH, 2025
12PM | RIVERBANK STAGE

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

Community Events



Sensory Night

Bring the little ones by for a night of sensory fun! There will be multiple stations set up for sensory play!

**Tuesday, November 11
6-7pm**

Main Branch--Children's Dept.

Ages 2-7



Sign Up Required!!

Parents may sign up in person or by calling 238-9222.



Children must be accompanied by an adult in order to stay for the program.

Snacks Provided!!

1st Annual **NOVEMBER 23, 2025**

Natchitoches

FOOD
DRINKS

HERITAGE CHRISTMAS Festival

NATCHITOCHES HERITAGE CHRISTMAS PARADE
BATTLE OF THE BANDS
PERFORMANCES & AWARDS
ENTERTAINMENT FOOD & DRINKS
PHOTOS WITH SANTA
PARADE STARTS 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
LOCATION DOWNTOWN FRONT ST TO 2ND ST

ARTWORK BY TWILITE AT ROUNDTABLE STUDIOS SOUTH 318-581-1083

SCAN ME



Explore, taste, and learn about the importance of eating fresh, local food

Ages 3-12

**Thursday, November 13
6pm**

**Main Branch -
Children's Floor**



Sign Up Required!!

Parents may sign up in person or by calling 238-9222.



Children must be accompanied by an adult in order to stay for the program.

Snacks Provided!!

Finger Painting Fun

Ages 2-7

**Tuesday, November 25
6-7PM**

**Main Branch - Children's Floor
SIGN UP ONLY!!**



Sign Up Required!!

Parents may sign up in person or by calling 238-9222.



Children must be accompanied by an adult in order to stay for the program.

2025 CWC FALL FEST

WEDNESDAY

**OCTOBER 29TH
5:30-7:30**

CWC OF NATCHITOCHES

FOOD, GAMES, FACE PAINTING, HAY RIDE
COSTUME CONTEST (NO SCARY COSTUMES)

EVERYONE WELCOME!

ADMISSION FREE! TICKETS ARE .25 EACH

1st Hot Dog is FREE! Call for Info at 318.352.4593

1513 HWY. 494 NATCHITOCHES, LA.

**COME JOIN
US FOR A FUN
TIME!**

Community Events

November 2nd - 8th



KING'S WEEK Events

JOIN US FOR ANY OR ALL OF THE EVENTS!

 SUN 2 "KLUB" NIGHT WITH THE KING TOKAY'S - 6PM START KING'S WEEK OFF WITH BOOTS ON THE GROUND! CLUB TOKAY'S 7244 HWY. 1 BYPASS 6PM - 10PM	 MON 3 THE RAGING BULL RAGIN' BULL RAGING BULL - 6PM KING'S CONTINUES AT RAGING BULL SPORTS BAR 302 SOUTH DRIVE 6PM - 10PM	 TUES 4 GAME NIGHT ONYX ENJOY GAMES, LIBATIONS AND FUN! ONYX CIGAR LOUNGE 312 TEXAS STREET 6PM - 10PM	 WED 5 "KOCKTAILS" WITH THE KING THE COMMISSARY "IT'S BETTER BY THE RIVER" CANE RIVER COMMISSARY 4191 HWY 494 - NATCHEZ 6PM - 9PM DRINK SPECIALS!!
 THU 6 KARAOKE WITH THE KING THE LOFT KARAOKE THE LOFT AT 530 PERFORM YOUR FAVORITE TUNES! 530 FRONT STREET 6:30PM - 11PM	 FRI 7 "KRUISIN" WITH THE KING CANE RIVER QUEEN SECOND LINE FROM CITY PARK TO THE RIVER FRONT, THEN CRUISE ON THE CANE RIVER QUEEN MUSIC BY PAT HARRIS 6:30PM - UNTIL \$25 / EA.	 SAT 8 KICKBACK WITH THE KING FUNK & SOUL END THE WEEK WITH A KICKBACK HOSTED BY QUEEN EXCELLENCE XI LORIE WOODARD 1162 HWY. 484, NATCHEZ "NET'S PLACE" 2PM - UNTIL	

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church Fair 🏰 Annual Poker Run 🚲



Start & finish at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church Hall
161 Highway 491 Cloutiersville, LA 71416

November 1, 2025

- Registration time - 11:30 - 12:45 (kick stands up at 1 PM)
- Registration fee - \$25 first rider/\$10 second rider - price includes one meat pie or hamburger.
- Prizes - Best & worst hand 🏆



Donations welcome 🍷
Contact: Catrell Sanders 318-318-0064
or Donald Rashed Sr. 318-665-2094

ALL BIKES WELCOME
NEUTRAL TERRITORY



VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION

NOVEMBER 11TH

8:00-10:00am

Mariner's Lakefront Restaurant
5948 Highway 1 Byp, Natchitoches

FREE BREAKFAST

HONORING ALL VETERANS



SPONSORED BY

NRMC
Inspiring Excellence Everyday



DT Midstream



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

KELLIE CEDARS 318-471-2712

CONTACT US

Phone: (318) 354-7712

Email:

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