



THE REAL NEWS Louisiana

"A Community With a Voice Shall Be Heard" ®

Publisher: Latorria Freeman

Breda Town: A Cornerstone of Natchitoches' African American Heritage

Breda Town is a historic African American community in Natchitoches, Louisiana. It developed on the former Breda Plantation site after the Civil War, when formerly enslaved people chose to remain on the land they had worked. The community was built on self-help and a commitment to establishing social and economic institutions for freed people, making it a vital part of Natchitoches' African American history. Breda Town is one of the area's earliest post-emancipation settlements for freed people.

The community originated from the 19th-century Breda Plantation, which was owned by Dr. Jean P. Breda. After the Civil War, the neighborhood took shape adjacent to the plantation. Formerly enslaved individuals formed the core of this self-sustaining area, where they established homes, institutions, and a cemetery that served Black residents. The Breda Town Cemetery, dating back to the 1800s, is a key feature and highlights the enduring legacy of African American self-determination in Natchitoches Parish during Reconstruction.



Breda Plantation, Photographed by Arthur Babb, ca. 1926. Arthur Babb Sketchbook, Melrose Collection, CHRC; Dirt street in Breda Town, Guillet Collection, #5773, CHRC



Breda Town reflects broader regional patterns: after emancipation, freed African Americans built their own churches, schools, and social networks. They also contributed to the rich Creole and multicultural heritage of Natchitoches, one of Louisiana's oldest European settlements, founded in 1714.

Today, Breda Town remains part of the city's northwest section, near addresses such as 1320 Dixie Street. The community is closely tied to ongoing efforts to preserve African American history in the Cane River region.

Lakeview High School Introduces the 2025 Homecoming Court

Congratulations to Lakeview's Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, and Senior Maids!

The official presentation will take place on Friday, September 19th, during halftime of the Homecoming game.

Come out, pack the stands, and cheer on the Gators and the 2025 Homecoming Court!



Natchitoches Central announces its 2025 Homecoming Court

Jade Barfield, Reghan Davis, Trinity Dixon, Tatum Kay, Caitlyn Martin, Tiya Moses, Kamorie Newton, Zion Prelow, and Annalice Romero.

The court will be presented during the Pep Rally at Natchitoches Central on Thursday, October 2nd, at 6:00 p.m., and the 2025 Homecoming Queen will be crowned at the Friday night football game on October 3rd. The public is invited to join in the Homecoming festivities.



Demons for Recovery offers extra support for college students healing from addiction

NATCHITOCHES – Northwestern State University students seeking support while navigating addiction recovery have an extra resource starting this semester. Demons for Recovery is one of Louisiana's newest collegiate recovery programs (CRPs), a growing student resource that can be a lifesaver for students making the transition from a home environment to a college environment.

NSU's Department of Psychology and Addiction Studies received a grant from the Louisiana Board of Regents, in partnership with the Louisiana Department of Health, to establish Demons for Recovery, joining several other public and private institutions with such programs. Nationwide, there are nearly 200 college recovery programs. The grant will fund the initiative over a three-year period.

Dr. Charles R. King, department chair; Sarah Ebarb, program coordinator, and Hillary Bennett, peer support specialist, will play key roles in the development and implementation of the program.

"Combining academic achievement with recovery support allows students to thrive without sacrificing one for the other," King said.

"The transition to college often includes increased stress, social pressures and a new level of independence," Ebarb said. "For students in recovery, these challenges can be triggering. The party culture, availability of substances and lack of familiar support systems can make it difficult to maintain sobriety. Without adequate support, students may relapse or feel isolated, which can negatively impact their mental health and academic performance."

NSU identified the need for a collegiate recovery program through national data, campus mental health trends, and direct feedback from students and faculty.

Continued next page...

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Demons for Recovery offers extra support for college students healing from addiction

Supported by the grant, Demons for Recovery will offer weekly peer support group meetings, educational seminars, sober social and outreach events, scholarships and a designated lounge in Student Union Room 313 for students to gather for meetings, quiet study or connection. Funds will be allocated to training staff and student leaders on how to support individuals in recovery effectively and compassionately. Staff also plan to launch an awareness campaign with informational sessions, class presentations, digital outreach and collaboration with student organizations.

“Our projected outcomes include increased retention rates among students in recovery, reduced relapse rates and improved overall well-being and academic performance,” Ebarb said.

While substance abuse recovery is a core focus, recovery can extend to many other behavioral addictions. Administrators plan to take an “All Recovery” approach.

“Recovery is a sign of strength, not weakness. Choosing recovery shows courage, self-awareness and a commitment to personal growth. By normalizing conversations around substance use, we can create a healthier, more inclusive campus culture. Recovery should be supported and celebrated, just like any other journey of self-improvement,” Ebarb said.

Anyone interested in the program can contact Ebarb at CRPP@nsula.edu, or visit the office located in 313 Bienvenu Hall. The webpage <https://www.nsula.edu/crpp/> will roll out soon.



Demons for Recovery:

Demons for Recovery team members from NSU’s Department of Psychology and Addition Studies are, from left, faculty Dr. Susan Barnett, Dr. Billie Myers, Interim Department Chair Dr. Charles King and Sarah Ebarb. Hillary Bennett, a student and peer support specialist, is not pictured.



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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



Natchitoches Fire Prevention

Join us for the 7th Annual Fire Prevention Open House on Thursday, October 9, 2025, from 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM at the Fire Training Center, 6587 Hwy 1 Bypass, Natchitoches, LA!

Enjoy live fire demonstrations, meet Sparky the Fire Dog, Ash the Alligator, Smokey Bear, play games, grab some food, and learn essential fire safety tips! Perfect for families and community members. Bring your friends and help us spread the word about fire prevention!



OCTOBER 9, 2025
5:30PM - 8:00PM

ASH | SPARKY | SMOKEY
& OTHER FRIENDS | LIVE FIRE
DEMOS | FOOD, GAMES,
& GIVEAWAYS

FIRE TRAINING CENTER
6587 HWY 1 BYPASS
NATCHITOCHES, LA. 71457

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Scenes from Karen's Fabulous 60th Birthday Celebration



Scenes from Karen's Fabulous 60th Birthday Celebration



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NRMC
Cancer Center



Stay in the Game. Know Your Risk. Get Screened.

In Louisiana, prostate cancer is on the rise, but with early detection and treatment, we are saving lives. Dr. Kenneth Perego and Dr. Erik Castle with NRMC Urology Associates urge all men aged 45 and older to schedule an annual prostate screening. Prostate cancer often shows no symptoms in early stages – but early detection is key to successful outcomes. If you have a family history, your father or grandfather had prostate cancer, or your mother or grandmother had breast or ovarian cancer, you may carry a hereditary gene that increases your risk.

**Your best defense is early detection -
schedule your appointment today!
Call 318.214.5810.**

NRMC
Urology
Associates



Welcoming Dr. Carter V. Schwartz to the NRMCM Active Medical Staff

NRMCM is pleased to welcome nephrologist, Dr. Carter V. Schwartz, to its active medical staff as an independent physician.

Board-certified in both Internal Medicine and Nephrology, Dr. Schwartz specializes in the diagnosis and management of acute and chronic kidney disease and is experienced in medication management of kidney disease, management of hypertension, dialysis, and renal biopsy. He works closely with patients to address conditions that affect the kidneys' ability to properly filter waste and remove excess fluids from the blood. His patient-centered approach focuses on optimizing kidney function and improving overall health.

Dr. Schwartz received a Master of Science from the University of South Florida and went on to receive his medical degree from Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine in Bradenton, Florida. He completed an Internal Medicine Residency at Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences in Tulsa and a Fellowship in Nephrology at University of Mississippi Medical Center & School of Medicine in Jackson.

"The kidneys play a major role in a person's overall health," stated Dr. Schwartz. "As a nephrologist, I find it extremely rewarding to help my patients not only achieve optimal kidney function but also understand the importance of early detection. Early kidney disease often presents no symptoms, which is why regular checks-ups are essential for effective diagnosis and long-term health management."

"Nephrologists play a critical role in the hospital setting and as part of our continued commitment to providing comprehensive, high-quality care to our community, we are excited to add Dr. Schwartz to our active medical staff," explained Kirk Soileau, NRMCM Chief Executive Officer. "Kidney dysfunction is common in critically ill patients and having an additional nephrologist on our active medical staff enhances our ability to diagnose, treat, and manage kidney-related conditions more effectively, and ensure our patients have access to specialized renal care."

Dr. Schwartz's office is located at 617A Bienville Street in Natchitoches. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 318.238.4604.

Welcome

Dr. Carter V. Schwartz, Nephrologist

NRMCM is pleased to welcome Carter V. Schwartz, D.O., to its active medical staff as an independent physician. Board certified in both nephrology and internal medicine, Dr. Schwartz specializes in the diagnosis and management of acute and chronic kidney disease. He works closely with patients to address conditions that affect the kidneys' ability to properly filter waste and remove excess fluids from the blood, and his patient-centered approach focuses on optimizing kidney function and improving overall health.

Education:

- Received his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine at Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine in Bradenton, FL
- Completed his residency in Internal Medicine at Oklahoma State University Medical Center in Tulsa
- Completed a Nephrology Fellowship at University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call **318.238.4604**. Dr. Schwartz's office is located at 617A Bienville Street in Natchitoches.

NRMCM
Inspiring Excellence Everyday

BEN D. JOHNSON EDUCATIONAL CENTER ADVANCES TO PUBLIC VOTING PHASE FOR UP TO \$120K MULTI-YEAR GRANT FOR A FREE, OUTDOOR MUSIC SERIES IN NATCHITOCHES

September 5, 2025 – Ben D. Johnson Educational Center, in partnership with the City of Natchitoches, is now in the running to bring a free outdoor music series to Natchitoches starting in 2026.

The Levitt Foundation, a national social impact funder at the intersection of music, public space, and community building, supports the largest free outdoor concert series in America. Natchitoches hopes to qualify as a finalist to receive a Levitt Music Series Grant. The public is urged to support Ben D. Johnson Educational Center's proposal by participating in the public voting process, via online or text to vote, taking place from September 5-15, 2025, at levitt.org/vote.

Levitt Music Series Grants are an exciting, multi-year matching grant created by the Levitt Foundation to bring the joy of free outdoor concerts to towns and cities across the country. For the 2026–2028 grant cycle, the Levitt Foundation will award U.S.-based 501(c)(3) nonprofits up to \$120,000 over three years (up to \$40,000 per year), to produce their own Levitt Music Series, with 7-10 free outdoor concerts annually featuring a diverse lineup of music genres with professional musicians, activating an underused public space, creating a vibrant, inclusive community destination for people of all ages and backgrounds.

Ben D. Johnson Educational Center submitted the proposal for Natchitoches to present the free music series at Ben Johnson Baseball Park in historic Jackson Square.

LEVITT AMP NATCHITOCHES MUSIC SERIES

Sounds on the Square

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MARCH - OCTOBER 2026

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Ben D. Johnson Educational Center
NATCHITOCHES
WHERE HISTORY LIVES

T | C | B | T
THOMAS, CUNNINGHAM, BROADWAY & TODDES
Local Public Accountants

NATCHITOCHES
WHERE HISTORY LIVES

The Center's proposal is now posted on the Levitt Foundation website, where the public can vote and learn more about the proposals from across the country that have advanced to the voting phase. An individual may submit one vote for up to five proposals of their choosing. There are two easy ways for the public to cast their vote: online at levitt.org/vote or via text to 877-409-5525 with keyword NATCH.



Morning Star Baptist Church Fellowship Hall
170 Main Street Natchez, LA

Prime Time offers learning programs designed to strengthen families and communities by harnessing the humanities. Our programs seek to create lifelong learning pathways for children and families of all backgrounds. We rally educators and families to help children learn to share their ideas and think critically about the world around them. This Program is **FREE & OPEN** to the Public. Kids ages 6-14 & preschooler ages 3-5.

Dinner will be served & Door Prizes

Program Dates & Contact Information

September 16, 23, 30, October 7, & 14, 2025

Start time 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Contact Monique Sarpy @ 318-332-8264 or e-mail:

Morningstarbaptistchurch170@gmail.com

Transportation Pick is available



Morning Star Baptist Church has kicked off its "Prime Time Reading Program." **Prime Time** programs are designed to create communities where children and their families develop a love of learning. We use the power of stories, questions, and meaningful interactions to help children explore the world around them, pursue their interests, and become self-motivated learners. This Program is being funded by Shell and the support of LEH. Morning Star Baptist Church was awarded \$1,000.00 grant to help host this program and provide Free meals and door prizes to each child who participates.






1202 Texas St, Natchitoches, LA 71457

(318) 214-2400

Open 7 Days a Week Hours 11 am to 7 pm¹⁴

Construction Underway on New Pet Adoption & Welfare Center in Natchitoches

Community Facility Will Bring Compassion, Care, and Connection to the Region



Construction has begun on Hwy 1 Bypass for a pet adoption and welfare center that will expand resources for both animals in need and the families who care for them across Natchitoches Parish. The project is led by FAUNA (Friends All United for Natchitoches Animals), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to improving animal welfare. To honor a lifetime of advocacy and generosity, FAUNA's Board of Directors voted to name the facility the **Edwina & Sam Friedman Pet Adoption & Welfare Center**.

Made possible through both state and private contributions, the center reflects a parish-wide commitment to compassion. The largest contribution comes from Edwina Friedman, who is dedicating the facility to the memory of her late husband, Sam Friedman, founder of Dimension Hospitality. His career was built on service, dignity, and care—values that now guide the mission of this community resource.

When completed, the new center will not only provide safe housing and adoption services for animals, but will also serve families through affordable spay/neuter and vaccination clinics, education programs, and volunteer opportunities. More than a building, it is designed to be a place where neighbors, schools, and local organizations can come together to strengthen animal welfare across Natchitoches Parish.

Inside, a multipurpose meeting room will host workshops, civic meetings, and other community events. A surgery suite with exam, treatment, and X-ray rooms will provide medical care for animals housed at the center. Outdoors, play areas will give dogs spaces to thrive. Future plans include a nature-inspired walking trail where residents can enjoy the grounds while supporting animal care.

The vision for this center is rooted in a long tradition of animal advocacy in Natchitoches Parish. FAUNA was formed in 2022 when two animal rescue groups, Natchitoches Hope for Paws and Natchitoches Humane Society, combined forces. Collectively, the two organizations have been serving the community for more than 70 years. Today, FAUNA carries forward that legacy with multiple community programs:

Continued next page...

Construction Underway on New Pet Adoption & Welfare Center in Natchitoches Community Facility Will Bring Compassion, Care, and Connection to the Region

Continued from page 7...

- **Spay Natchitoches:** Provides a robust spay/neuter program to help families manage the care of their pets.
- **TNR (Trap/Neuter/Return):** Humanely manages community cats to prevent overpopulation, improve health, and reduce nuisance behaviors while supporting rodent control.
- **Pet Health Fairs:** Hosted several times each year, offering no- and low-cost vaccinations, microchipping, and education on the benefits of spaying and neutering.
- **PACT (Providing Animal Comfort Therapy):** Brings service animals to nursing homes, offering companionship and joy to residents and staff.
- **NSU Veterinary Technology Partnership:** Collaborates with Northwestern State University's Veterinary Technology Program, enhancing care for community animals while supporting student learning. As part of this commitment, FAUNA funds an endowed scholarship for NSU Vet Tech students, ensuring ongoing support for future professionals.

Details on volunteer training sessions, school programs, and other events will be announced closer to opening. For updates and opportunities, visit <https://www.npfauna.org> or email npfauna@gmail.com.



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Saturday - Sept 13th - 9am-1pm

FAUNA

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 John Torrent
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More info at: www.npfauna.org

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Construction Underway on New Pet Adoption & Welfare Center in Natchitoches *Community Facility Will Bring Compassion, Care, and Connection to the Region*

Continued from page 8...

[Get Involved with FAUNA Now](#)

These programs are only the beginning. FAUNA also engages the wider community through volunteer opportunities, education, and events. The new pet adoption and welfare center will open in late 2026, but you don't have to wait to make a difference.

- **Individuals & Organizations:** Volunteer your time and talents, from hands-on animal care to event planning and execution, transport, education, marketing, digital applications, administrative and clerical assistance, grant writing, and community outreach.
- **Teachers & Schools:** Inspire the next generation by partnering with FAUNA to create meaningful student learning opportunities.
- **Families & Individuals:** Open your heart and home by adopting or fostering pets in need of care and comfort.
- **Local Businesses:** Build stronger communities through sponsorships and partnerships that support programs benefiting families and animals alike.
- **Community Leaders & Institutions:** Be champions of progress by providing the partnerships, resources, and support needed to ensure this parish-wide effort thrives for families and animals throughout the city and parish.
- **Donations:** Invest in compassion and a stronger future for families and animals across our city and parish with a tax-deductible gift that expands FAUNA's programs and advances the new center.
- **Naming Opportunities:** Make a lasting impact—community members, organizations, and businesses can sponsor spaces such as kennels, adoption rooms, and gathering areas to sustain these vital resources for generations to come.
- **Contact:** <https://www.npfauna.org> | npfauna@gmail.com



How to Help Yourself or Someone Else

- **Call or text 988:** The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline offers free, confidential support 24/7 across the U.S. You can call, text, or chat with trained crisis counselors at any time.
- **Recognize warning signs:** Warning signs may include increased use of drugs or alcohol, expressing feelings of being a burden, withdrawing from friends and family, or experiencing extreme mood swings.
- **Communicate openly and honestly:** If you're concerned about someone, ask them directly if they are thinking about suicide. Don't avoid the word "suicide." Show your concern and reassure them that you're there to support them.
- **Encourage professional help:** People in crisis can benefit from speaking with mental health professionals who offer support and guidance. Ongoing therapy or clinical care may be helpful for continued support.
- **Remove potential hazards:** If there is an immediate risk, try to remove access to firearms, medications, or other items that might be used for self-harm.
- **Connect to resources:** Help link individuals to support systems and people who can help keep them safe. Many national and local resources are available to assist.



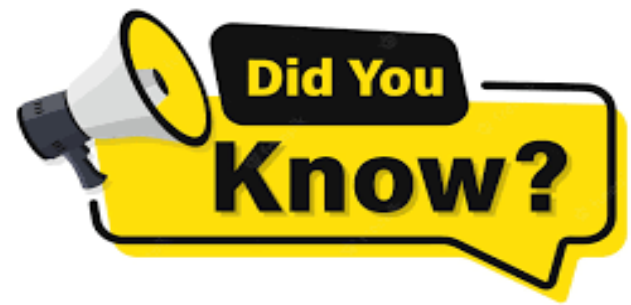
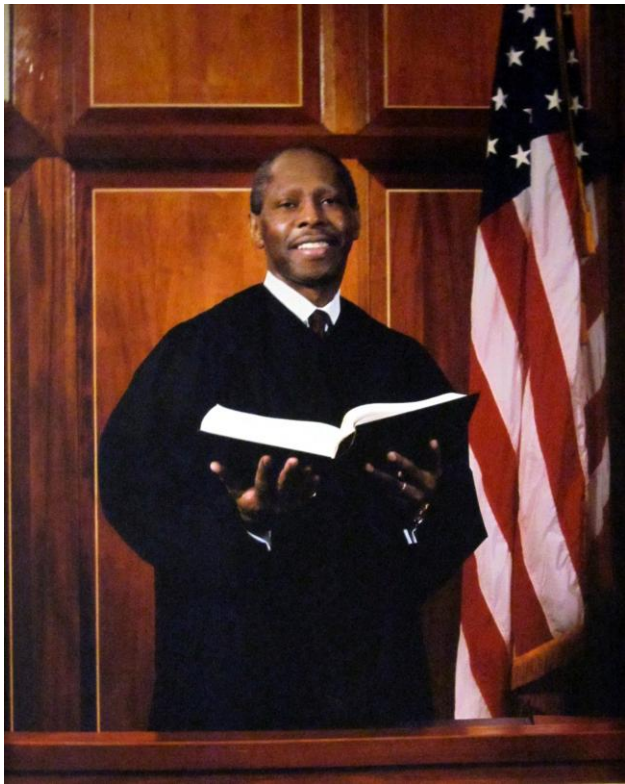
YOUR LIFE MATTERS



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988 FOR THE 988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE
(AVAILABLE 24/7)

The late Judge Oka Jones II was the first Black federal judge from Natchitoches, Louisiana.

Judge Jones was appointed as a federal judge by President Clinton in 1994. He served on the U.S. Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana.



The first Black Woman to run for judge in Natchitoches Parish was Carmella Parker.

Her career includes serving as an assistant attorney general and president of the Crime Stoppers Natchitoches chapter.



Current Mandatory Age Requirement for Louisiana Judges

Louisiana's current law requires judges to retire by age 70 but allows them to complete their term if they reach that age during their tenure.

Proposed Amendment (House Bill 63)

Louisiana's legislature approved a measure this year (House Bill 63) to place a constitutional amendment on the ballot for voters to decide if the retirement age should be increased from 70 to 75. Election date: April 18, 2026



2026 UPCOMING ELECTIONS

**OPEN CONGRESSIONAL
GENERAL AND OPEN
PRIMARY**
November 3, 2026

GENERAL ELECTION
December 12, 2026

QUALIFYING PERIOD
July 29-31, 2026

OFFICE TITLES	YEARS OF TERM	BEGINNING OF TERM	EXPIRATION OF TERM	DISTRICTS
OPEN GENERAL				
U.S. Senator*	6	1/3/2027	1/3/2033	—
U.S. Representative*	2	1/3/2027	1/3/2029	6
Associate Justice, Supreme Court*	10	1/1/2027	12/31/2036	3
Public Service Commissioner*	6	1/1/2027	12/31/2032	5
OPEN PRIMARY				
				3-1-B
Court of Appeal Judges*	10	1/1/2027	12/31/2036	3-1-C
District Judges	6	1/1/2027	12/31/2032	10th JDC
District Attorney	6	1/11/2027	1/9/2033	10th JDC
School Board Members	4	1/1/2027	12/31/2030	all
Justices of the Peace	6	1/1/2027	12/31/2032	all
Constables (Justice of the Peace Courts)	6	1/1/2027	12/31/2032	all

- Candidates qualify with Secretary of State.
- All other candidates qualify with Clerk of Court.

QUALIFYING PERIOD

JULY 29-31, 2026

2026 UPCOMING ELECTIONS

Important Dates

QUALIFYING PERIOD

July 29-31, 2026

- District Judges
- District Attorney
- School Board Members
- Justice of the Peace
- Constables
- City Court Marshal
- City Court Judge- Ward 1

ELECTION

April 2026

Village of Natchez

- Mayor
- Chief of Police
- Aldermen

QUALIFYING PERIOD

July 29-31, 2026

Mayors of
Natchitoches' Towns
and Villages through
the Parish

CLOSED PARTY RACE

April 2026

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



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7/10/23 - Bossier Parish Community College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award associate degrees. Bossier Parish Community College also may offer credentials such as certificates and diplomas at approved degree levels. Questions about the accreditation of Bossier Parish Community College may be directed in writing to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097, by calling (404) 679-4500, or by using information available on SACSCOC's website (www.sacscoc.org). • Bossier Parish Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, religion, qualified disability, marital status, veteran's status, or sexual orientation in admission to its programs, services, or activities, in access to them, in treatment of individuals, or in any aspect of its operations. Bossier Parish Community College does not discriminate in its hiring or employment practices. • Coordinator for Section 504 and ADA: Angie Cao, Student and Disability Services Specialist - Disability Services, 6220 East Texas Street, Bossier City, LA 71111 - (318) 678-6511 - acao@bpcc.edu - 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. M-F, excluding holidays and weekends. • Equity/Compliance Coordinator: Teri Bashara, Director of Human Resources - Human Resources Office, 6220 East Texas Street, Bossier City, LA 71111 - (318) 678-6056 - 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. M-F, excluding holidays and weekends.



"A Name Worth Remembering!" Romans 16:1-2



“A Name Worth Remembering!” Romans 16:1-2





"A Name Worth Remembering!" Romans 16:1-2



Provider Spotlight: Kimberly Hoover, Dental Hygienist

Kimberly Hoover, OMC's newest dental hygienist, has been a credentialed Dental Hygienist since 2023, with 10 years of Dental Assistant experience. Her healthcare philosophy is to "treat patients how I would want to be treated if I were a patient."

When asked about Ms. Hoover's biggest piece of healthcare advice, she expressed, "I want patients to check on their self whether that be physically and orally. It's very important to treat both very seriously."

One thing that you might not know about Ms. Hoover is that she is a licensed Cosmetologist! "I'm big about making people feel good about themselves and changing the way they view themselves for the better and nowadays that includes their smile as well. Overall, I'm a person who wants to boost everyone's self-esteem."



While gum disease is never something to make light of, Ms. Hoover enjoys seeing patients with gum disease as this an opportunity to educate patients. "It's important to show patients the conditions before having gum disease and the after once treated. Patients think it is normal for your gums to bleed, which is not the case at all. They often won't understand the difference until they see the after effect of treating their gum disease." For Ms. Hoover, treating and educating patients go hand-in-hand.

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NSU family remembers 9/11 with Patriot Day ceremony

NATCHITOCHES – The Northwestern State University family paid tribute to those who lost their lives in the 9/11 attacks with a Sept. 11 Patriot Day ceremony that began at precisely 7:46 a.m., the moment the first plane crashed into the World Trade Center 24 years ago.

With flags lowered to half-staff, Student Government Association President Madysen Morgan of Bossier City asked for a moment of silence. A choral ensemble sang the national anthem.

“Today as we gather to commemorate the day, we remember and honor those who lost their lives on that sober day in 2001, the courageous first responders and selfless heroes who risked their lives and pay tribute to the countless individuals who emerged in its chaos to save others during this dark hour in our history,” Morgan said.

“Many here today remember exactly where we were and what we were doing at 7:46 a.m. on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001. In fact, many of us were right here on this campus, and today we're together,” said Reatha Cox, vice president for the Student Experience and dean of Students. “On Patriot Day we honor every life that was taken too soon. We honor the first responders, firefighters, law enforcement officers, emergency workers and service members all who answered the call of duty. We also thank and recognize the everyday citizens who rushed into action to save lives that day. Truly, there were no strangers that day.”

For many students, the impact of 9/11 has resonated through their lives, even though it took place before they were born. Morgan said military members of her family were at Barksdale Air Force Base when President George W. Bush landed there in an emergency diversion the morning of Sept. 11, 2001. Later that day, Bush delivered a televised speech from Barksdale.

“My whole life I've known exactly what was happening, since they were so connected to it all. It's a really big deal for us coming from a military family,” Morgan said.

Abigail Petermann, also of Bossier City, has a similar experience.

“Both my parents are veterans. When we were in school, they made a point to educate people on 9/11 and why it happened, how it happened. We grew up never forgetting, even though we weren't there,” Petermann said.

The Patriot Day commemoration was sponsored by SGA, NSU ROTC and the Dear School of Creative and Performing Arts.



Patriot Day Ceremony 2025:

NSU's SGA, ROTC and CAPA led a 9/11 commemoration Thursday, Sept. 11 at the flagpoles between Caspari Hall and the Student Services Center.

The graphic features a dark blue background with a repeating geometric pattern. It displays nine circular portraits of inductees arranged in a 3x3 grid. To the right of the portraits is the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame logo, which includes a fleur-de-lis and the text 'LOUISIANA SPORTS HALL OF FAME' with three stars. Below the logo, the text '2026 INDUCTION CLASS' is written in large, bold, yellow letters. Further down, it says 'INDUCTION WEEKEND JUNE 25-27' and 'ORDER TICKETS LASPORTSHALL.COM'.

Category	Name	Image Description
BASKETBALL COACH	JOHN BRADY	Portrait of John Brady, a man in a suit and tie pointing forward.
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL	SYLVIA FOWLES	Portrait of Sylvia Fowles, a basketball player in a purple LSU jersey with number 34.
FOOTBALL	JOE HORN	Portrait of Joe Horn, a football player in a New Orleans Saints jersey with number 82.
BASEBALL	JONATHAN LUCROY	Portrait of Jonathan Lucroy, a baseball player in a St. Louis Cardinals uniform.
FOOTBALL	TODD MCCLURE	Portrait of Todd McClure, a football player in a white jersey with number 72.
BASKETBALL COACH	MIKE MCCONATHY	Portrait of Mike McConathy, a man in a suit and tie with arms crossed.
AMBASSADOR AWARD	WARREN MORRIS	Portrait of Warren Morris, a baseball player in a yellow jersey.
HIGH SCHOOL COACH	DEWAIN STROTHER	Portrait of Dewain Strother, a man in a white shirt and red tie.
FOOTBALL	PAT WILLIAMS	Portrait of Pat Williams, a football player in a purple and white jersey with number 94.

Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame Announces 2026 Induction Class

The 2026 Induction Celebration will be hosted by the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame Foundation, the support organization for the Hall of Fame. The LSHOF Foundation was established as a 501 (c) (3) non-profit entity in 1975 and is governed by a statewide board of directors. 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, or by calling the Foundation office at 318-238-4255 (HALL). Standard and customized sponsorships are available.

Online ticketing and event information for the 2026 Induction Celebration is available at this link:

www.LaSportsHall.com/Induction2026

@LaSportsHall on X (formerly Twitter)

Instagram: lasportshall

Facebook.com/LASHOF

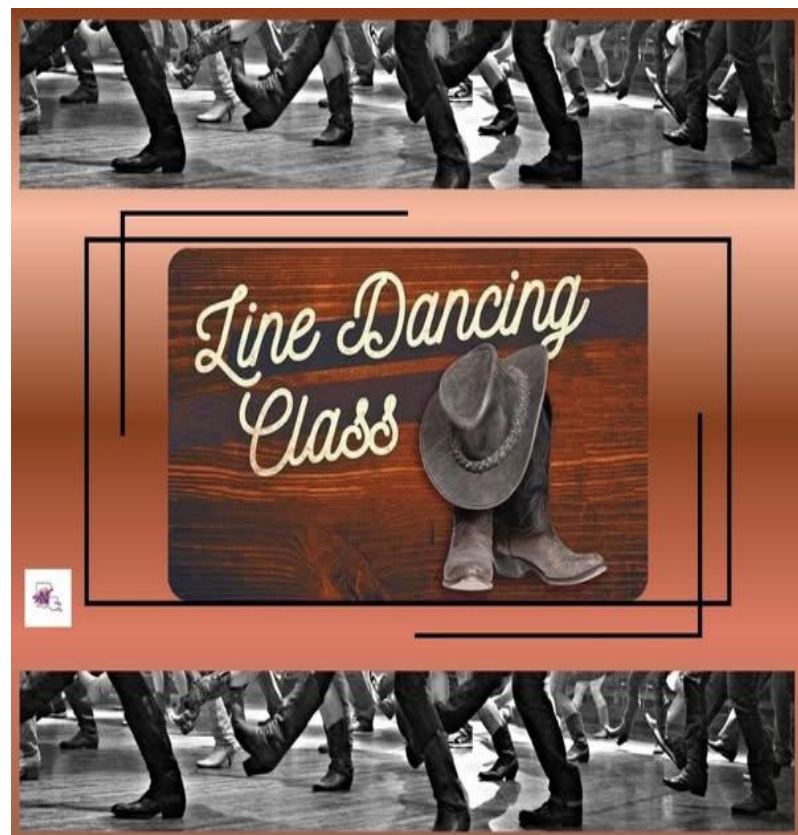
LaSportsHall.com

Line dancing class to begin Sept. 9

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

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

For more information or to register for classes, go to checkout.nsula.edu or call (800) 376-2422 or (318) 357-6355. Stay up to date with course offerings by following NSU Electronic Learning and Global Education on Facebook at facebook.com/NSULA.ece.



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
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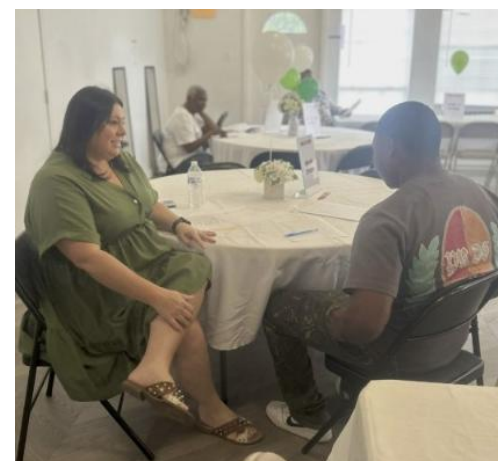


Natchitoches Chamber of Commerce Hosts Ready, Set, Work- Campti and Natchez

The Natchitoches Area Chamber of Commerce hosted "Ready, Set, Work!" Workforce Readiness Event in Natchez and Campti, equipping job seekers with practical skills and linking them to real job opportunities.

These events provided hands-on guidance on resume writing, interview preparation, and workplace success, and connected participants with valuable local workforce resources.

At these events, the Natchitoches Area Chamber of Commerce continued its mission by engaging with participants in Natchez and Campti.



NATCHITOCHES
AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

JOIN TODAY
FOR AS LITTLE AS \$25 A MONTH

Contact Morgan Green
morgan@gonatchitoches.com





Natchitoches, LA Meatpie Festival September 19 - 20, 2025

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

RESOLUTION NO. 068 OF 2025

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NATCHITOCHES MEAT PIE FESTIVAL DAY'S

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



26TH ANNUAL RIVER RUN

CHARITY MOTORCYCLE RIDE

Saturday 9/20

Natchitoches, LA



Hosted By:
Independent
Motorcycle Riders of
Natchitoches



Scan me!

Beginning ceramics class to start Sept. 25

NATCHITOCHES – A beginning ceramics class, “Playing in the Mud,” will be offered through Northwestern State University’s Office of Electronic Learning and Global Education starting Sept. 25. The class will be held on Thursday from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. through Oct. 30 in Room 113 of the Fine Arts Annex. The class was originally scheduled to start on Sept. 11.

The fee is \$150 plus a \$20 material fee paid directly to the instructor on the first night of class. Enrollment in the class is limited.



This course is an introduction to working with clay. The student will learn hand-building and sculptural techniques, as well as work on the potter’s wheel. There will also be room for intermediate and advanced students to take the class who want to use the facilities during class time. Those taking the class should wear clothes that can get dirty.

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.



929 Keyser Ave, Suite F, Natchitoches, LA (318) 380-9464

Natchitoches Community Rallies to Recover Stolen Bike for a Local Resident.

In a heartwarming display of community spirit, the Natchitoches Police Department, alongside dedicated residents, came together to ensure that Mr. Johnny, a beloved local, was reunited with his stolen bicycle and received two additional bikes as a gesture of goodwill. The incident, which began with the theft of Mr. Johnny's bike—originally donated by Calvin Braxton—sparked an outpouring of support from the Natchitoches community. Preston Durr shared, "When we heard about Mr. Johnny's bike, we knew we had to help. He means so much to everyone here." Misty Durr added, "It was moving to see so many people step up quickly." Their efforts paid off when the Natchitoches Police Department successfully recovered Mr. Johnny's original bike. Chief commented, "This is what community policing is all about – neighbors supporting neighbors." But the community's generosity didn't stop there. Determined to go above and beyond, a local resident also donated her late husband's bicycle for Mr. Johnny, ensuring he had both his recovered bike and a replacement. Mr. Johnny beamed, "I can't thank everyone enough. This means the world to me." This act of kindness highlights the strength and compassion of the Natchitoches community, where neighbors rallied to support one of their own in a time of need. The collaborative effort between local residents and law enforcement serves as a shining example of how unity and care can make a meaningful difference. The Natchitoches Police Department commended the community's involvement, noting that the collective response not only resolved the theft but also brought joy to Mr. Johnny. This story is a testament to the power of community action and the impact of small acts of kindness that ripple outward, strengthening the bonds of the Natchitoches community.



First Baptist Church Sign on North Street Unveiling

Photo Credits: Joshua Bush

The First Baptist Church North Street family gathered on Sunday to celebrate 158 years of faith and community. The day began with a sign dedication and unveiling, followed by a joyful anniversary service led by Pastor Doug Randle of Mt. Hermon Baptist Church. Members, friends, and community leaders gathered to honor the church's history and its enduring presence in Natchitoches.



Back to the 90s
A KREWE OF THE 9 JOINT

Photo credits: Ruby Ann Johnson- Braxton



Back to the 90s
A KREWE OF THE 9 JOINT

Photo credits: Ruby Ann Johnson- Braxton



BOM Gives Back

NATCHITOCHES:



Welcome! Jorian Dodd

BOM Bank is pleased to welcome Jorian Dodd to the BOM family. He will be joining our Operations Department as an HR Assistant! Jorian is originally from Dallas, Texas, and he graduated from Northwestern State University with a degree in Engineering Technology. He is a cheer coach at Natchitoches Flipping Athletics (NFA) as well as at Northwestern State, where he cheered during college. In his free time, Jorian enjoys coaching cheer and cooking!

Welcome, Jorian!



BOM



SABINE:

A huge thank you to our BOM customer, Sweet E's, for baking cupcakes for our staff to deliver to local schools in Sabine Parish. What a sweet way to support our community!

Pictured left to right: BOM's Ashley Parrie, Tonya Hall, Twyla Lovelady, Emalee Anthony, and Tiffany Miller.



CADDO/BOSSIER:

BOM was proud to donate door prizes to Benton Intermediate School and Legacy Elementary School for their staff Lock-In events to help kick off the new school year!

Pictured left to right: Eva Deeds, BOM's Jessica Jester, and Tiffany Spillman.



RAPIDES:

BOM presented a check to the YWCA of Alexandria-Pineville benefitting the Pineville Girls on the Run of Central Louisiana. Pictured left to right: Morgan Melder (Program Director), Anita Aghomi, Emmalyn Crocker, Brehiana Flores, BOM's Mandy Futrell, and Marle Chapman (Executive Director)

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On balances up to \$15,000 when conditions are met.

*Annual Percentage Yield



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Community Events

The Pantry *Fall Hours*

Monday - Thursday

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Friday

9:00 am to 11:00 am



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

Cane River Creole National Historical Park	
FREE	PAINTING WORKSHOP
	Image courtesy Betty Metoyer Roque and George H. Balthazer
Learn from Cane River Creole professional artist KELLY JACKSON	
Oakland Plantation	
Reservations required - Limited to 12 adults	
All supplies provided	
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4	
9:00AM-11:00AM	

For information and to reserve a spot email
CARI_Interp@nps.gov

BETA OMEGA SIGMA CHAPTER

NEW OR REACTIVATED MEMBERS

Referral & Win
CONTEST

NSU HOMECOMING WEEKEND
OCTOBER 4, 2025

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

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

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

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

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

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Phone: (318) 354-7712

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