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Latorria Freeman, Publisher

"Moving Forward Together! Women Educating & Inspiring Generations"

The National Women's History Alliance (NWHHA) has selected the theme "Moving Forward Together! Women Educating & Inspiring Generations" for Women's History Month 2025. This theme highlights the powerful influence of women who have dedicated their lives to education, mentorship, and leadership, shaping the minds and futures of all generations. Women's History Month is a time to recognize the historical achievements of women and celebrate their contributions to society, including in tech, fashion, medicine, science, activism, and more. March’s issue of The Real News is dedicated to local women who have made history or continue to make history in Natchitoches.

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"Moving Forward Together! Women Educating & Inspiring Generations"



Betty Sawyer-Smith, Councilwoman at Large

The first black secretary in the office of a judge later became the first African American and female to hold office as councilwoman at large. Betty Sawyer Smith has been a beacon to the Natchitoches Community since *** and continues to fight for equality and unity within all communities.



Mayor Patsy Ward Hoover, Civil Rights Activist

Was the first African American female to serve as the president of the Natchitoches Parish Council before being elected as Mayor of the Village of Natchez. Was one of the front runners in standing up for the African American community...



Sylvia Morrow, Civil Rights Activist

The first Black and female to be elected to the Natchitoches City Council. She served as Councilwoman for 20 years. She was a pioneer for The City of Natchitoches and considered herself a voice for the people.

"Moving Forward Together! Women Educating & Inspiring Generations"



Elnora Roberson, Civil Rights Activist

Filed lawsuit to end segregation of schools in Natchitoches Parish. Her hope is for the community to continue to thrive and work together.



Captain Susan Oliphant Johnson

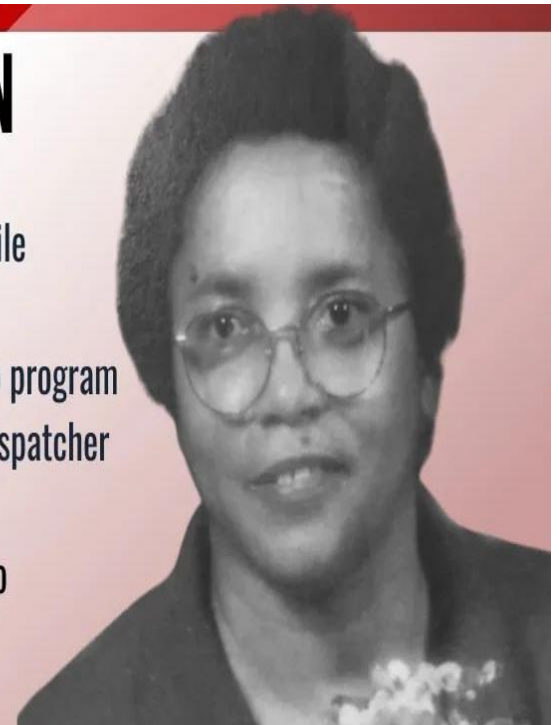
Made history as the first black and female to serve as captain of the Natchitoches Police Department.

Kathy Berryman

First Black female to serve as patrolman & sergeant for the Natchitoches Police Department. First P.O.S.T (Peace Officer Standards Training Council) Juvenile Officer.

KATHY BERRYMAN

- Past President of Louisiana Juvenile Officer's Association 1996-1997
- Helped start the LJOA scholarship program
- Natchitoches City Police Radio Dispatcher July 15, 1975 - April 1981
- Mother of Leon Berryman, Lorenzo Berryman, and LaShannon Smith

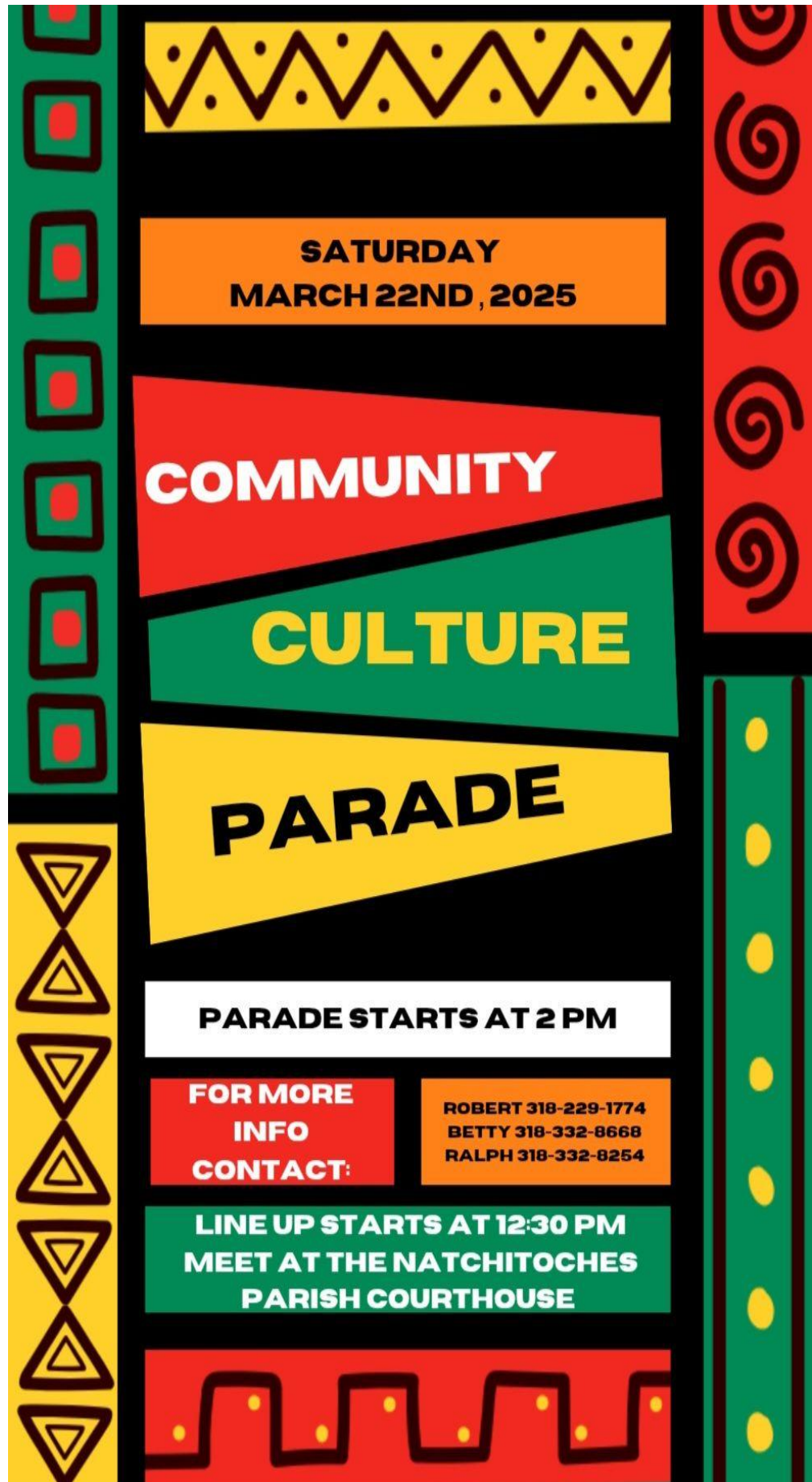


Significance of the Community Culture Parade March 22, 2025!

By: La'Quinta Scott-Favors



The Community Culture Parade will be held on Saturday, March 22, 2025, rolling out at 2 pm! Our very own Latorria Pier Freeman has the honor of being the Grand Marshal leading the parade!! That's a huge congratulations and very well deserved! The Community Culture Parade isn't something that we should take lightly or take for granted! It's a public celebration for the African American culture filled with history, achievements, honors, and what our future may hold! The parade highlights the presence and the importance of the Black community! The parade will showcase the music, the dance, costumes, floats, cars, and valuable information that can educate many for years to come! The parade is a way of saying, hey, WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER!! Hey, it's okay to STICK TOGETHER!!



**SATURDAY
MARCH 22ND, 2025**

**COMMUNITY
CULTURE
PARADE**

PARADE STARTS AT 2 PM

**FOR MORE
INFO
CONTACT:**

**ROBERT 318-229-1774
BETTY 318-332-8668
RALPH 318-332-8254**

**LINE UP STARTS AT 12:30 PM
MEET AT THE NATCHITOCHES
PARISH COURTHOUSE**

LNC AWARD RECIPIENT

The Lincoln Institute, Natchitoches Parish Training School, and Central High School (LNC) Foundation Corporation Board and the Planning Committee would like to introduce their 2022 scholarship recipient, Samara Anissa Bayonne. Samara is the daughter of Kimberly Miles and Quentin Bayonne, and the granddaughter of Jackie and Hattie Miles, both natives of Natchitoches, Louisiana.

Samara, a former graduate of Heritage High School in Newport News, Virginia, currently attends Hampton University. Following the footsteps of her grandfather, Samara is majoring in Flight Aviation and studying to become a Licensed Pilot.

Samara is a member of the Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals (OBAP), a nonprofit organization dedicated to the education and advancement of minorities in all aviation and aerospace careers. This summer, Samara plans to volunteer at the Norfolk International Airport. Between college courses, extracurricular activities, and work, Samara is a very busy young lady! We are proud to hear how well she is doing!

The LNC Foundation Corporation Board and the 2022 Planning Committee is honored to present Samara with the scholarship that helps her strive toward her future career.

Congratulations Samara Bayonne! We wish you success in your career endeavors!

From the LNC Foundation Corporation Board President Gwendolyn Williams and the LNC 2022 Planning Committee President Gloria Wilson.



Remembering Creole Musician Lynn August

Joseph Leonard August, Jr. (1948-2025)

Born Joseph Leonard August Jr. on Aug. 7, 1948, in Lafayette, LA, Lynn August started out playing drums at age 11 before learning organ and piano in the 1960s. Recognizing the increasing popularity of zydeco, he bought an accordion and in the 1980s formed his own band, the Hot August Knights.

His first recorded album, “Zydeco Groove” from 1988, as well as others like “Creole Cruiser,” “Creole People,” and “Sauce Piquante” from the 1990s, expressed August’s deep pride of his Creole identity and its cultural traditions. Through his albums and multi-decade performance career as a zydeco accordionist, keyboardist, and singer he helped introduce Creole culture to new audiences while keeping its traditional roots alive. This included a performance at the 1998 Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival which celebrated all things Creole and the newly established Creole Heritage Center at NSULA.

Beyond his musical career, August was an entrepreneur and innovator. Drawing from his reality of being blind from an early age, in the 1990s he founded Touch Tech, a company dedicated to designing and selling computers for visually impaired individuals.

August was buried at Evangeline Memorial Gardens in Carencro, LA in late February, but his music will continue to empower Louisiana Creoles for generations to come.



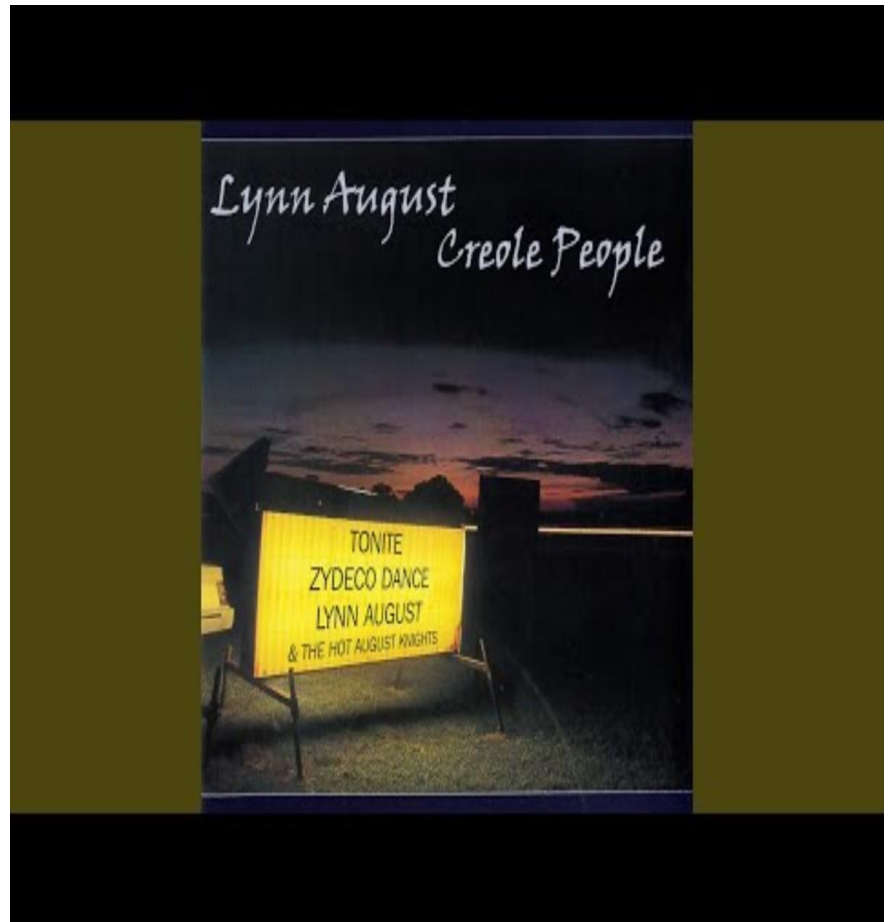
LYNN AUGUST

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Publicity photo utilized for the 1998 Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival.



YouTube video “Lynn August, “Creole People” on his 1999 album of the same title (Aim Records).

Eternal Peace Funeral Home Welcomes Insurance Agent Raven Birdon



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My hands extend further because my bonding service has way more to offer. I am an insurance producer/sales associate and offer whole life, accidental & dismemberment, critical illness & renter's insurance. There is great need for the services I provide. I can't stress enough to each person I encounter, the importance of life's security. I wear a button everyday that says "Ask me what I do" which gives me opportunity to meet new people as well as help them & their families. Each night I lay down, I am happy to know I made a difference by helping someone. So if you need Bail Bond Services, are interested in securing you & your family with life insurance, or if you're renting a new home give me a call. I would love to talk business with you!

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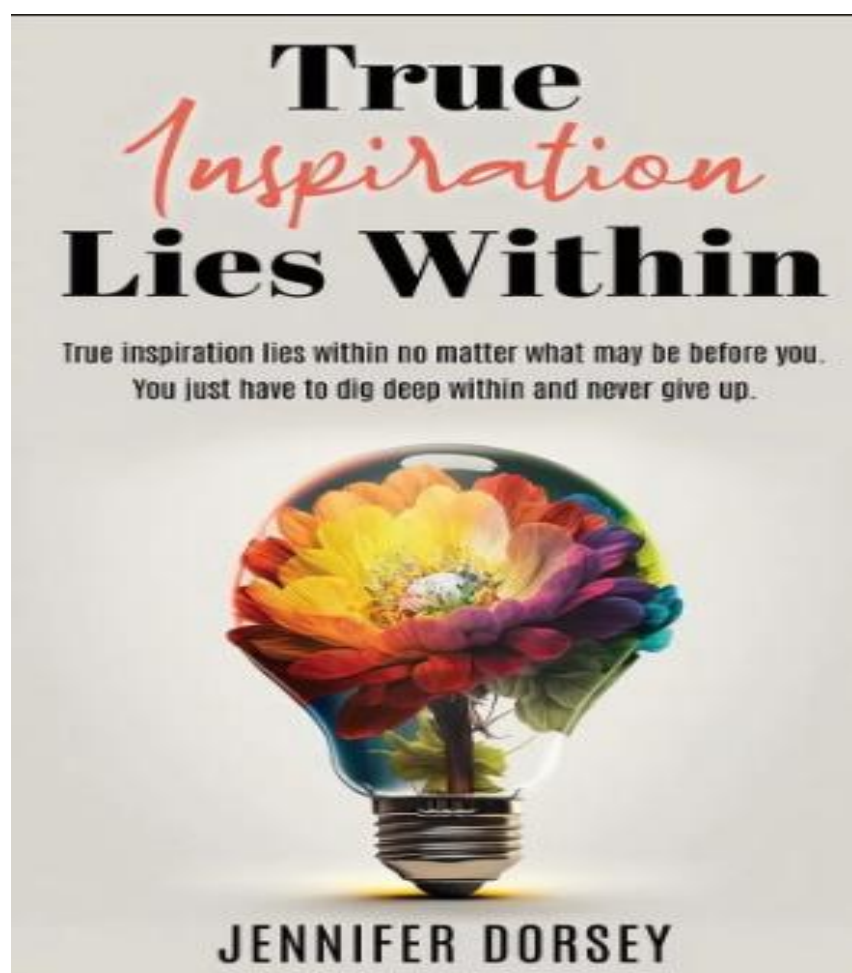
Author Spotlight Jennifer Dorsey

My name is Jennifer Dorsey, I was born and raised in Natchitoches, Louisiana, to Sandra and Bubba Dorsey. I am the mother of three handsome boys, a loving wife to an awesome husband, and an inspiring inspiration to all. I was raised in the Church of God in Christ. As a young child I used to write poems and songs to express myself and the way I felt about God. I think back to when my teachers were shocked at what I had written. Writing has always been a way of escape and a safe place for me. I remember encouraging others around me and bringing food to school to feed those in need. Inspiring and encouraging others has always been a part of my life. Throughout life there may be difficult challenges, but we must always keep God within our hearts. God's word encourages us to stay strong, encouraged, inspired and to never give up on life. God gave me the inspiration for this book to encourage you to never give up no matter what life may bring. No matter your situation, problems, background, lifestyle, or mental health status, God is there and will love you unconditionally. Please allow these inspirational quotes to encourage and inspire your life daily.

Many times, in life, people may take you for granted or we may allow their words and actions to discourage us.



Remember to never let what others say about you discourage you or destroy the inspiration that lies within you. You must encourage yourself, stay positive, keep moving forward, and lean on God's word. On my life's journey, I have learned that God will always keep you strong no matter what people say, do, or think of you. The only one who truly matters in the end is God. This book will fill you with inspiration that's waiting for you to release into the atmosphere. This book of inspirations will assist you in becoming the best version of yourself.



Department of Biology and Microbiology to sponsor Venomous Handling course in May

NATCHITOCHES - The Department of Biology and Microbiology at Northwestern State University will sponsor a certification course in Level 1 Venomous Handling for the general public on May 24-25 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Room 122 of Bienvenu Hall. The course will be taught by the Rattlesnake Conservancy, a non-profit organization committed to the long-term preservation of imperiled rattlesnake species. The fee for the course is \$349.

This course is designed for a land manager, environmental consultant, first responder, homeowner, zookeeper, veterinary professional, biologist, herpetology enthusiast, photographer or anyone looking to learn how to safely handle venomous reptiles while receiving a professional certification.

This two-day course combines classroom instruction in topics including native venomous snake species, ecology, snake anatomy and physiology, reproductive behavior, venom toxicology, emergency snakebite management, captive husbandry, and more. It will include hands-on techniques like single hooking, double hooking, bagging, and containing venomous snakes.

These courses have been taught to thousands of students across the United States and set the industry standard in safe handling practices.

For more information, go to <https://www.savethebuzztails.org/events/level-1-venomous-handling-certification-course-northwestern-state-university-louisiana>.



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Mu Omega Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated will host Autism Day in the Park

Come and be part of a Day in the Park dedicated to raising awareness and support for individuals and families affected by Autism. The Autism Awareness Day In the Park hosted by Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated- Mu Omega Zeta Chapter of in partnership with Healthy Blue Louisiana, promises a day full of meaningful activities. Event Highlights: Refreshing Walk: Start your day with a rejuvenating walk. Food: Savor a variety of tasty treats. Games: Games for all ages. Inspiring Speakers: Listen to guest speakers who are passionate advocates for Autism awareness. By attending, you'll help spread awareness about Autism and show your support for the community. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with others who share your passion, deepen your understanding of Autism, and make a positive impact on the lives of those affected by the condition. Save the Date! Join us for a day filled with fun, education, and support at the Autism Awareness Fun Day. Together, we can create a more inclusive and understanding environment for all.



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Shiloh Baptist Church Celebrates the First Year Pastoral Anniversary
Pastor Carlos & Lady Rosie Donaway

Photographer: RTSS Photography



Shiloh Baptist Church Celebrates the First Year Pastoral Anniversary Pastor Carlos & Lady Rosie Donaway

Photographer: RTSS Photography



BOM Gives Back

BOM Bank is proud to announce Brittany Barton as a recipient of the 4 Under 40 Award at the Natchitoches Area of Commerce Go Natchitoches Awards Luncheon. Brittany is a member of our Operations Department in Natchitoches. She was recognized as BOM's Volunteer of the Year at the 2024 BOM Bank Christmas Party. She is also the Kiwanis Club of Natchitoches President, Natchitoches Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassador, and a member of the Natchitoches Young Professionals. Congratulations Brittany.



Happy
St. Patrick's
Day



BOM

Member
FDIC



What Now?

By: Evangelist Bonita Moses Arnold



We'll like to believe that lately it has been more deaths than ever. But that's not necessarily the case, just as babies are being born daily, so are people dying daily. We aren't here to stay, and although any separation from a loved one causes much pain and grief. If we were to reference Joshua 1:9 we will see that it's no need to be in dismay. For it tells us that: "Have I not commanded you be strong and of good courage be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee wherever thou go." What now? Trust God!



Mama Shug always would always say...

"It's not by anything that you've done that the Lord has spared your life and has allowed your time to roll on a little longer. He is no respecter of a person. He rains on the just as well as the unjust. Everyone's date to be born and to die is already written in the Book of Life, you just pray to be ready".

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2024-25 Category Winners

- Excellence in Start-Up: Rolling Hills Ministries Thrift Store
- Excellence in Non-Profit: Ben D. Johnson Educational Center
- Excellence in Online Presence: NSU Marketing & Branding
- Excellence in Health & Wellness: Trinity Integrated Health & Wellness
- Excellence in Medical Services: Natchitoches Regional Medical Center
- Excellence in Food & Beverage: Sweetie's Bar-B-Q
- Excellence in Entertainment: NSU Creative & Performing Arts Department (CAPA)
- Excellence in Professional Services: Archie's Paint & Body Shop
- Excellence in Public Services: Natchitoches Parish Library
- Excellence in Retail: Cane River Kitchenware
- Excellence in Lodging: Andrew Morris House
- Excellence in Financial Services: First Federal Bank of Louisiana
- Excellence in Industrial Production: Lott Oil Company

2024-25 Individual Honorees

- Lifetime Achievement: Dr. Otis Barnum
- Go Natchitoches Award: Henry & Debbie Taylor
- Ambassador of the Year: Barbara Leech
- NYP 4 Under 40: Alexa Bernard-Conday, Brittany Barton, Holly Guillory, Tiffany Woods
- Outgoing Chamber Chairman: David Clary
- Outgoing Ambassador Chair: India Rhodes



Go Natchitoches Awards: A Showcase in Excellence



Photo Credit: RTSS Photography

Go Natchitoches Awards: A Showcase in Excellence




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The Concerned Citizens Association of Natchitoches honored six individuals for their contributions to the community of Natchitoches.

Mr. Oswald Taylor Jr.

Recognized by Yvette Garrett Ceasar-Williams

Oswald Taylor, Jr. is a retired City of Natchitoches Fire Captain. Mr. Taylor began working at the Natchitoches Fire Department in 1969. He was one of two blacks working there at the time. He acquired all the necessary skills of a dependable and capable fire fighter. In 1975, he passed the Captain exam and became the first black Captain for the Natchitoches Fire Department. He was proud to be a fire fighter for the city. Mr. Taylor retired from the Natchitoches Fire Department in 1998. Mr. Taylor has been married to Mrs. Genevieve Taylor for 55 years. He has three sons – Michael Smith, Dion Barber, and Oswald Taylor III; two daughters – Melissa Robinson and Yvette Ceasar-Williams; and multiple grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



Mr. Antavious Roberson

Recognized by Pastor Steve Harris Sr.



Roberson, a native of Bienville Parish, has a proven track record of educational leadership. He began his teaching career in Bienville Parish, quickly distinguishing himself as an exceptional classroom leader. His commitment to student achievement was recognized with the TP Chaplin Outstanding Educator award in 2019 and Teacher of the Year award in 2020.

With a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and a master's in educational leadership, both from Northwestern State University, Roberson possesses a strong academic foundation. During his tenure at Northwestern, Antavious was named Homecoming King 2017, Mr. NSU 2018; served as a senator, student affairs commissioner, and secretary of the student government association. Additionally, Roberson participated in the Capstone Leadership Program, taking an international business course and studying abroad in Cartagena Colombia in 2016 and 2017.

In 2022, he transitioned to Natchitoches Parish to serve as Assistant Principal of Instruction at L.P. Vaughn Elementary School. Currently, Roberson serves as the Principal of Natchitoches Magnet School and is pursuing a doctoral degree in curriculum and instruction at the University of Louisiana at Monroe.

Mrs. Helen Love Obioha

Recognized by Betty Sawyer-Smith

Helen was born in Natchitoches, Louisiana. She was educated in the Natchitoches Parish school system. She is the third sibling of the late Ms. Rose M. Ward and Freddie R. Ward of Natchitoches as well as the third half sibling to Ms. Earline Lewis Iyere of Shreveport, Louisiana; the late Larry D. Johnson of Sparks, Nevada; and the late Ms. Annette Johnson of Natchitoches, Louisiana.

She is the mother of three children: Paula Shields of Wayne, Michigan; Tim Love of Houston, Texas; and Patrick Ward of Charlotte, North Carolina. She has six grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

She was baptized at Shiloh Baptist Church in Natchitoches, joined Temple of Faith Baptist Church in Detroit, and is currently a member of Abundant Life International Ministry; Reverend Steven Harris, Pastor.

She moved to Inkster, Michigan in 1972 where she worked for the City of Inkster before moving to Detroit, Michigan where she attended Wayne County Community College. She graduated with an Associate of Art degree in 1988 and was hired by the Michigan College Book Company to manage the bookstore on the northwest campus of Wayne County Community College. The company was later sold to Nebraska Book Company. She retired after 22 years and a total of 32 years in Michigan.

Upon retirement in 2011 she returned home to Natchitoches.

She was in conversation with two ladies and the topic of homeless people came up. She has been the director of the Natchitoches Coalition on Homelessness since 2015 and has been on a journey to establish a homeless shelter in Natchitoches Parish.

Helen has served on the Board of Directors for the Greater Grandale Development Corporation of Detroit, Michigan; the Board of Directors for the Natchitoches Community Improvement Foundation; is currently the Treasurer for the Natchitoches Parish NAACP and a member of the Community Façade and Economic Enhancement Committee, Texas/Washington Street Business Corridor Façade Improvement Program.

She enjoys reading inspirational books and sometimes crocheting, and doing whatever is asked of her in her church and letting people know how the goodness of God has guided her life.



Mr. Kevin Lewis

Recognized by Renee Lewis



Kevin M. Lewis, Sr. is the son of the late G. Stanley Lewis, a retired educator and pastor and the late Edwina Lewis, a retired educator, both of Natchitoches. He is married to Rene Crosby Lewis, a retired school nurse from Natchitoches Parish School system and they are the proud parents of Kevin Jr. and Kristopher Lewis.

As a graduate of Natchitoches Central High School he joined the United States Army 1979 where he was stationed in Germany, California, Hawaii, South America, New York, and his final

duty assignment was Ft. Polk (Johnson), Louisiana. His military experience included serving as a Forward Observer, Airborne Ranger and Air Assault qualified combat veteran.

After retiring from the military, Kevin and Rene settled in Natchitoches, where he joined the Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Office. His tenure as a sheriff's deputy afforded him many roles- he was a detective, a juvenile detective, member of the multijurisdictional drug task force and SWAT team, a patrol shift supervisor and his last assignment as a deputy was a school resource officer at Lakeview High School in Campti. As an SRO he influenced many young people and adults alike and gave of himself above and beyond the requirements to perform his job.

Kevin has lived a life of service and recognized at a early age that his ministry in life was to assist and mentor young people, as he had many mentors along his path to help him get to where he is today. He realizes that he has a blessed existence and knows that it is his obligation to his fellow man to help those who need help. Kevin currently volunteers to assist veterans and continues to mentor the youth of Natchitoches parish.

He is most thankful and proud of being a grandfather to three grandsons, Kristopher Jr., Kevin III and Konstantine and is blessed to have his two amazing daughters in law, Zacchea and Charity.

The Concerned Citizens Association of Natchitoches honored six individuals for their contributions to the community of Natchitoches.

Mrs. Nora Chapman Lee

Recognized by Carisa Davis-Conday

Mrs. Nora Chapman Lee was born August 10, 1933, on Tausin Island Road in the city of Natchitoches, LA.

Later in life she married the Late Oliva Lee, Sr. They reared seven children; and raised one granddaughter as their own.

Mrs. Nora Chapman Lee, A devoted wife, a loving mother, a caring grandmother, a fierce leader, and an honored role model, in every way. One of many respected voices and trailblazers of the Breda Town Community; so much so that the Honorable Mayor Ronnie Williams officially declared her birthday (August 10th) as "Nora Lee Day" in the City of Natchitoches.

Mrs. Lee has been a faithful member of Emmanuel Chapel Methodist Church for 78 years where she currently serves as the Church's Treasurer.

Mrs. Lee had her own method of teaching, beginning in her home teaching her children and grandchildren through repetition and learning through songs.

Mrs. Lee served and worked in the Natchitoches Parish School System as a Paraprofessional and noteworthy leader for 39 years. She implemented her style and skill at the LP Vaughn school, formerly known as North Natchitoches. She quickly became known for her stern, yet loving ability to teach and correct at the same time, with her Nora Leeisms. She was one who could get things straight quickly!

Her loud voice resounded in the classrooms and Hallways, and you would often hear from students and Teachers "Here comes Ms. Lee" It was understood by all, that Mrs. Lee meant business and she earned much respect from the Administration. She carried true love for the students and embraced them as her own. Even to this very day, students are always thanking and remembering her wherever she goes.

Many may know her from basketball or baseball games. You could always hear her clear objective on which balls not to swing at, or how to shoot correctly.

Even in her golden years and after retiring, Ms. Lee worked many years at Park Recreation for the City of Natchitoches. She continued to display her love for children and helping students with after school tutoring at the Breda Town Community Center. The bible declares in Proverbs 31:10. Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is above rubies. We don't have enough paper to record just what she means to so many, especially her family. She loves her family and often speaks and keeps count of her 7 children, 16 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren and 3 great-great grandchildren.

She's unique, she's straightforward, she's sassy, she's real, she's simply "Her" At 91 years old, she still dances and can be found at family gatherings running a spades card game. In her leisure time, Mrs. Lee enjoys reading her bible, doing crossword puzzles, watching wrestling, football and basketball, along with spending time with her family.



Mr. MJ Brown

Recognized by Shericka Wallace-Clark



My name is Michael D. Brown and I was born and raised in Natchitoches, Louisiana. I am fifteen years old and a sophomore at Natchitoches Central High School. Sports have always been a big part of my life; I play basketball, football, and run track for NCHS, and I plan to keep playing throughout high school.

Looking ahead, my goal is to earn a scholarship, whether for academics or athletics, and go to college to study engineering. In the summer, I play travel

basketball with my teammates and close friends to sharpen my skills and stay active during the break.

Over the past few years, my life has mostly been about school and sports, but there's a deeper side to my journey. When I was five, my mother passed away, and since then, my father has been raising me. It hasn't always been easy, but through it all, God has been my strength. I truly believe that with Him, all things are possible. My uncles and aunts have been there for me, no matter how far away they were, and their love and support, along with my faith, helped me through the hardest time of my life.

I also realize that not every child my age has made it this far. Some have faced hardships that held them back, but I'm thankful that I am one of the ones who did. My family is like a village: We look out for each other, lift each other up, and stay strong together. That's what makes us who we are. I know that as long as I keep God first, trust in His plan, and work hard, there's nothing I can't achieve. I'm thankful every day for my village and my faith, and I know that no matter where life takes me, I'll carry both with me always.

Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Office

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Scenes from The Concerned Citizens Association of Natchitoches Event



Scenes from The Concerned Citizens Association of Natchitoches Event



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Peace, Love, and Special Olympics! NSU hosts Red River Area Games

NATCHITOCHES – A parade of athletes with the hearts of champions competed in the Special Olympics Louisiana Red River Area Games on March 18th.

Athletes, coaches and supporters from East Natchitoches Elementary, Fairview Alpha, Goldonna, Lakeview, Marthaville, Natchitoches Central, NSU Middle Lab, Provencal, Weaver Elementary, Cenla, Red River, Castor and Natchitoches ARC took part in track and field contests, arts and crafts, a cornhole tournament and free play activities at Northwestern State University's Walter Ledet Track and Field Complex.

NSU's President's Leadership Program hosted the event, one of the organization's community impact projects, with student, faculty, and staff volunteers from St. Mary's, Natchitoches Central, NSU First Year Experience, Alpha Lambda Delta, Blue Key Honor Society, NSU Athletics, Student Services, Recruiting, Residential Life and several other campus offices. Special Olympics was also supported by BOM Bank, Natchitoches Area Jaycees, and the Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Office, which provided lunches for competitors/artists and coaches.



100 Meter Run:

Athletes bolted from the starting line of the 100-meter run Tuesday during the Special Olympics Louisiana Red River Area Games.

Torch Run:

Area athletes opened the Special Olympics Red River Games with the traditional torch run.



Engage Credit Union 50th Anniversary Celebration



Black Owned Business Spotlight



Natchitoches natives Daryl and Letrisha Walker have opened Sweetie's Bar-B-Q & Blues House, a dine-in restaurant recognized as the 2024 Go Natchitoches recipient of the Excellence in Food and Beverage Award. Sweetie's Bar-B-Q and Blues House is another example of how important businesses are to a growing community. Black-owned businesses reveal their vital role in fostering culture, resilience, and community impact. Each business, from lively barbershops to inviting cafes and lounges, tells a unique story and provides essential goods and services while building community pride and helps foster a sense of belonging within the community. By supporting local entrepreneurs, residents contribute to economic vitality, create jobs, and encourage the growth of future generations. Additionally, Black-owned businesses often champion social causes and engage in initiatives to uplift underrepresented voices. These businesses often advocate for social causes, weaving together community solidarity and cultural heritage. Their success serves as a beacon of hope and empowerment, reminding everyone of the strength found in diversity and shared purpose.

Congratulations to the Walker Family on this great accomplishment!



Tuesday-Saturday 11:00am-9pm

Sunday 11:00am-4pm

203 Keyser Ave Natchitoches, LA

Dine In & Pick Up Window Available

Pre Order 318-228-8592 or Online

Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Program at Bossier Parish Community College Natchitoches Location

Bossier Parish Community College officially launched their new Commercial Driver's License (CDL) training program in Natchitoches. The program will offer hands on training along with classroom instruction and practical training in a fully equipped tractor-trailer.

Enrollment is now open!

The first cohort group starts on April 14th.

For more details, visit: <https://bit.ly/3FEJB1l>

If you have any questions please contact Sherie Moore, CDL Program Coordinator, at smoore@bpcc.edu.

Don't miss this chance to get started on a rewarding career path!



Photo Credit: BPCC

Jesus Calls Us to Come to Him by Francis Day

By: Francis Day

Jesus kept things simple. His message was often simply, "Come!"

Are we curious? Are we looking for something more in life? Two of John's disciples heard John refer to Jesus, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" They were curious and followed Jesus. Jesus asked them, "What are you looking for?" Perhaps unsure what to say, they answered, "Rabbi, where are you staying?" Jesus answered, "Come and see" (John 1:36-39).

Perhaps we are busy with our work and daily lives. Like the fishermen at Lake Galilee, we are busily fishing or fixing our nets. And Jesus suddenly says, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:18-22).

Sometimes Jesus speaks to our hearts in moments of quiet prayer. At other times, it is in our busy daily lives that we hear his call, "Come!"

Perhaps we are struggling. Perhaps we are weighed down with burdens. Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28-30).

But if Jesus invites us to come to him, we may need to leave other things behind. In Matthew 19:16-30, we read of a rich young man who felt drawn to Jesus. He sensed a need for something deeper to fulfill his life. In response to his persistent questioning, Jesus said to him, "Go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

Especially, we long to hear Jesus tell us to come to him at the Last Judgment, as we read in Matthew 25:31-46. To those on his right Jesus says, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father." To those on his left Jesus says, "Depart from me." This passage speaks of feeding the hungry, welcoming the stranger, and caring for the ill and those in prison. Jesus explains that whatever we do for these least ones, we do for him. Mother Teresa of Calcutta often reflected on these words of Jesus, "You did it for me."

In John 6:35 Jesus says, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst." In John 6:37 Jesus says, "Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and I will not reject anyone who comes to me." In John 6:44 Jesus explains, "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draw him, and I will raise him on the last day."

In John 11 we read of the death and raising of Lazarus. Perhaps we are spiritually dead in sin. Perhaps we feel empty and dead inside. But Jesus can call us to new life. In the death of our sin, may we hear Jesus call us by name, even as he said to his friend, "Lazarus, come forth!"

As it says in Psalm 95, "If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts." As Samuel said, "Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening" (1 Samuel 3:1-10).

Jesus is looking at you and at me. He is repeating to you and me what he said to others. "Come, follow me!" "Come to me, you who are weary and find life burdensome." We may not know what our future holds for us. We do not know what God has planned for us (1 Corinthians 2:9). But Jesus invites us to take his hand and go with him. "Come and see!"

COMMUNITY EVENTS

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - NORTH STREET
REV. J'REL WEST, PASTOR

6PM

2 CORINTHIANS 8:12
THEME: "A Willing Mind"

**SPRING
REVIVAL**
NIGHTLY

MT. PILGRIM-MBC | HOUSTON, TX

GUEST SPEAKER
Dr. Jearon D. Chew

NATCHITOCHES, LA 71457

HOST
DR. ALTORIO HOLDEN SR.

REV. ALTORIO HOLDEN JR.

REV. TYRIS HALL

A Time of
REFRESHING

APRIL 3RD & 4TH
@6:30PM

LIVING WORD MINISTRIES OF NATCHITOCHES
1401 WELCH STREET NATCHITOCHES, LA 71457

ZETA PHI BETA
SORORITY, INCORPORATED
Mu Omega Zeta Chapter

*Finer
Womanhood Month*

**Zumba with
the Zetas**

12 NOON
March 22, 2025

FREE/All Ages
Welcome

Weaver Elementary
520 St Maurice
Natchitoches, LA

Save the Date

Second Annual Emma Robinson Williams
Education Foundation Fundraiser

*Hats, Wine,
& Cigars*

March 21, 2025
5:30 to 8:30

Onyx Wine &
Cigar Lounge

More information is coming soon!

Emma Robinson
WILLIAMS EDUCATION FOUNDATION INC.
"CHANGING ONE CHILD AT A TIME"

JOIN US SATURDAY, MARCH 22ND

BATTER'S BOX MOVIE SCREENING

SPOTLIGHTING INGRID DAVIS FIELDS
A NATCHITOCHES NATIVE

MAGALE HALL
NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY
PERFORMING ARTS THEATER

DOORS OPEN AT 1:15PM
MOVIE STARTS AT 2:00PM



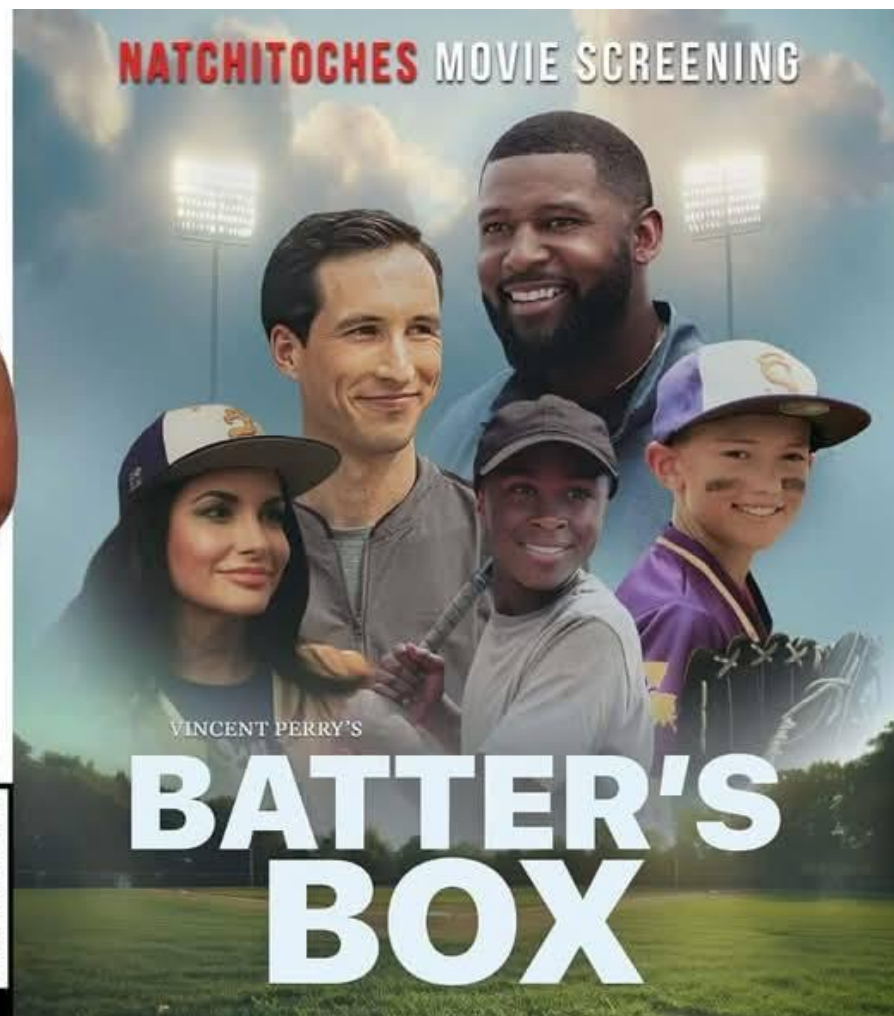
GENERAL ADMISSION: \$10 ADULT \$8 CHILD

PERRYPRODUCTIONSLLC.COM

FOR DETAILS



SCAN ME



JOIN US FRIDAY, APRIL 11TH 7:00 PM

MOVIE SCREENING OF

BATTER'S BOX

AN INSPIRATIONAL STORY INSPIRED BY TRUE EVENTS FILMED IN LOUISIANA

FOLLOWED BY

Q&A SESSION

TALK WITH THE DIRECTOR AND PRODUCER ABOUT THE INDIE FILM AND INDUSTRY

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT
THEPARKTHEATRE.COM



BREC'S INDEPENDENCE
PARK THEATRE



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EDUCATIONAL CENTER**
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CRAWFISH BOIL BLOCK PARTY

MAR. 29, 2 - 5 PM

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FACEPAINT,
AND MORE!

MUSIC BY
GODJROYAL

COMMUNITY EVENTS

8TH ANNUAL CRFF
CANE RIVER FILM FESTIVAL
MARCH 22, 2025

FILMS START @11:30AM

FILM TITLE	FILM TIME LENGTH	DIRECTOR Q & A PANEL
JAN BEAUBOEUF THE CREATIVE SPIRIT	24:13	- CLOSE -
THE ESTEEMED PRIORITY	6:44	
ENGAGED-ISH	6:34	
A GROWING PAIN	32:48	
ILLUSION	14:03	

APPROX. TIME
1:00PM - 4:00PM
AWARD CEREMONY

PARKWAY CINEMA 6
1011 KEYSER AVE.
FREE OPEN TO PUBLIC

HOST SPONSORS
 Acadiana Cinemas, RIVERSIDE RESERVE

FESTIVAL EXCLUSIVE STAGE NAMING SPONSORS
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 NATCHITOCHES, NATCHITOCHES LOUISIANA, LAW OFFICES OF HOWARD E. CONDAY, EPC, NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY

FESTIVAL FRIEND SPONSORS
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FESTIVAL SUPPORTER SPONSORS
 CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, 1, PLATINUM SIGNS, GOOD GUYS PROMOS, CITY BANK

SOME FILMS MAY CONTAIN
R RESTRICTED
 PERVASIVE LANGUAGE, SEXUAL CONTENT, INCLUDING NUDITY AND SOME DRUG MATERIAL

BREAK - 10mins

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 2025 CRFF SPONSORS
 RSVP, VIP TICKETS www.CANERIVERfilmfestival.com

Fill out the Survey Now at GoNatchitoches.com/AI-Survey

THE CHAMBER BREAKFAST CLUB

QUARTERLY MEMBERSHIP BREAKFASTS
AI IMPACT ON BUSINESS

ORHAN MCMILLAN

DEZINSINTERACTIVE & ORHAN MCMILLAN OM

Don't miss this chance to dive deep into how AI can shape the future of your business. We look forward to a dynamic conversation and valuable takeaways!



Potential Topics for Discussion

AI for Beginners
 AI Powered Content Creation
 AI Improving Efficiency
 AI in Customer Service
 AI Driven Sales & Strategies
 Ethical Considerations of AI
 Hands on Training

WEDNESDAY, May 7TH
 EVENTS CENTER • 8:15 AM - 9:30 AM

NEXTERA
 ENERGY
 RESOURCES

LAMAR

WE ARE KING DAVID
BASKETBALL TRAINING

PERSONAL & GROUP SESSIONS AVAILABLE

Campti, Louisiana

EXPERIENCE:

- PLAYED D3 @ CENTENARY COLLEGE (SHREVEPORT, LA) – SCAC SCORING TITLE WITH 1920 POINTS
- D3 ALL-AMERICAN
- 3 YEARS COLLEGE COACHING EXPERIENCE, INCLUDING SCAC CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE AS A COACH AT CENTENARY
- PLAYED PROFESSIONALLY IN SAUDI ARABIA FOR AL HILAL CLUB
- FOUNDER OF WE ARE KING DAVID – HOSTED CAMPS DOMESTICALLY & INTERNATIONALLY.

travionkirkendoll | **318-663-1938** | **@WeAreKingDavid**
 (personal) (Training page)

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