

Davis Makes His Case for Louisiana

Senate candidate's June Natchitoches visit, endorsements and debate participation highlight campaign

By The Real News Louisiana Staff

NATCHITOCHES, La. — Democratic U.S. Senate candidate Jamie Davis brought his campaign to Natchitoches on June 11, sharing his platform with residents. Now, as the November 3 general election approaches, Davis is pointing to his priorities for Louisiana while drawing support from prominent Democratic leaders.

Davis faces Republican U.S. Rep. Julia Letlow in the statewide contest. A third-generation farmer from Tensas Parish, he has centered his campaign on affordability, education, health care and protecting constitutional rights. His proposals include raising the federal minimum wage, encouraging economic development and reducing diesel and fertilizer costs for farmers.

His appearance in Natchitoches gave residents an opportunity to hear his platform earlier in the campaign. The visit provides a local connection to a race that will determine who represents Louisiana in the United States Senate.

High-Profile Support

Davis has received endorsements from former Louisiana Democratic Gov. John Bel Edwards, U.S. Rep. Cleo Fields and the Collective PAC. He has also appeared on the campaign trail alongside U.S. Sen. Lisa Blunt Rochester of Delaware.



From left to right Jamie Davis, Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate, Sheriff Victor Jones, Attorney Cloyd Benjamin Jr.



*From left to right:
Councilwoman at Large, Betty
Sawyer-Kirkendoll, Jamie Davis,
Democratic candidate for U.S.
Senate, Pastor Carl Scott*



From left to right: Pastor Steven Harris Sr., Jamie Davis, Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate

Letlow Declines Joint Forum

The campaign's closing weeks have also brought attention to opportunities for voters to hear the candidates together.

According to the Press Club of Baton Rouge, Davis accepted an invitation to debate Letlow at its October 19 meeting. Letlow declined the invitation to participate, and Davis addressed the forum alone.

Earlier, Verite News reported October 1 that Letlow had not agreed to a separate invitation from a New Orleans television station to debate Davis. The absence of a shared stage at the Baton Rouge forum left voters without a direct exchange between the nominees at that event.

The November election brings the campaign from an early local visit to a statewide choice. Louisiana voters will cast their ballots for U.S. Senate in the November 3, 2026, general election.



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AND MORE...

More Local News • Community Stories • Education • Events

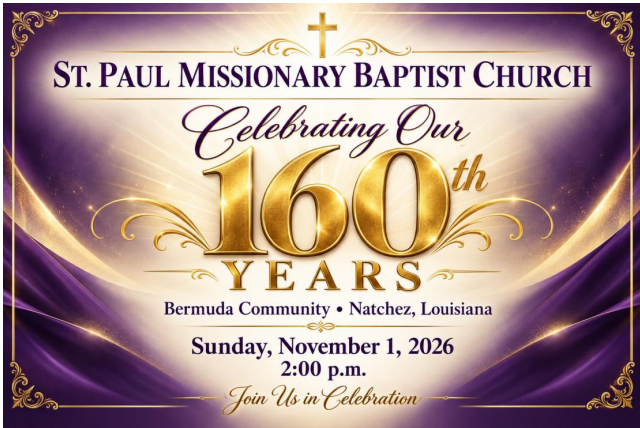
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FROM THE PUBLISHER

Let Life’s Lessons Lift You Higher

Life teaches us lessons through both triumphs and setbacks. What matters is how we use that wisdom to shape our next steps.

We cannot change yesterday, but we can take what it taught us and move forward with purpose. Give yourself room to grow, the courage to begin again and the determination to follow through. Progress may come slowly, but every step counts.

“Use your wisdom and life's lessons to take you higher. Give yourself no other choices but to move forward and to succeed.”

Latorria Freeman
Publisher, The Real News Louisiana

“A community with a voice shall be heard.”

“

Use your wisdom and life's lessons to take you higher. Give yourself no other choices but to move forward and to succeed.”

—

Latorria Freeman
Publisher | The Real News Louisiana

OPINION

“Look up Godel's Loophole! Apply it to today's political climate and it should give you serious concerns! Peace.”

Randy “The Editor” Stelly.

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Cane River Branch MSPOA Spreads Warmth Through Coat Donation to Local School

Cane River Branch of Magnolia State Peace Officers Association is proud to give back to the community through a coat and belt donation to students at Weaver Elementary School. This special outreach effort reflects the organization's commitment to serving others and helping meet the needs of children in the local community.

As the fall season brings cooler temperatures, having a warm coat becomes essential for students as they travel to and from school and participate in daily activities. Through the donation, the Cane River Branch of MSPOA hopes to provide comfort, warmth, and encouragement to students and their families.

The initiative is about more than donating coats; it is about showing children that their community cares about their well-being. Cane River Branch of MSPOA is honored to serve the community and help ensure that our students stay warm this season.



From left to right: Chief Nikeo Collins, LaQuita Collins, Carolyn Essex, John Robertson, Armetrice Williams, Principal of Weaver Elementary school, Sandra Williams and Captain Billy Meziere



COMMUNITY
RESOURCES

Lawson, Hanson to hold senior art exhibit Oct. 26-30.

NATCHITOCHES – Artists Cindy Lawson and Debbie Hanson will hold their senior exhibition at Northwestern State University on Oct. 26-30 in Hanchey Gallery 2. The exhibit, "Recycle, Repurpose, Reimagine," is free and open to the public.

A reception will be held in Gallery 2 on Friday, Oct. 30 from 4:30 p.m. until 6 p.m.

Lawson and Hanson will display a collaboration of two sisters where creativity meets sustainability. For more information, contact Lawson at clawson556@aol.com.



Cindy Lawson, left, and Debbie Hanson.

IMPORTANT VOTER DATES

Early voting: October 20–27, excluding Sunday, October 25, from **8:30 a.m.–6 p.m.**

Election Day, November 3: **6 a.m.–8 p.m.**

Absentee ballot request deadline: October 30 at **4:30 p.m.**

Absentee ballot receipt deadline: November 2 at **4:30 p.m.**, with exceptions for military and overseas voters.

WHAT TO BRING TO VOTE

- Louisiana driver's license
- Louisiana Special ID
- LA Wallet digital driver's license
- A recognized picture ID that contains your name and signature

*You must bring **ONE** of the above to vote.*

Crime Victims Deserve Support, Compassion and a Voice

Behind every crime report is a person, a family or a neighborhood left to deal with the consequences. For victims, the impact can continue long after the incident, affecting their sense of safety, daily routines and trust in others.

Supporting crime victims begins with listening without judgment. A compassionate response means taking their concerns seriously, respecting their privacy and avoiding blame. No one should feel ashamed for becoming a victim or asking for help.

Family, friends, churches and community organizations can offer meaningful support. Providing a meal, helping with transportation or simply checking in can remind someone that they do not have to face a difficult experience alone. Respecting a survivor's choices also matters; each person's needs and circumstances are different.

Community members can help by sharing information responsibly. Avoid spreading rumors, posting sensitive details online or circulating images that could cause victims and their families additional distress.

The accompanying community resource guide lists Natchitoches Crime Stoppers at **318-238-2388** and **P3Tips.com** for submitting tips.

For Louisiana crime victim resources, visit www.lcle.la.gov. **Call 911 for an emergency.**

Building a safer community includes standing beside those who have been harmed. Victims deserve to be heard, treated with dignity and supported as they move forward.

PROTECT OUR COMMUNITY.

SEE SOMETHING. SAY SOMETHING.

318-238-2388



P3TIPS.COM

FOR MORE INFO VISIT NATCHITOCHESCRIMESTOPPERS.COM



EMERGENCY
CALL 911

NATCHITOCHES CRIME STOPPERS
318-238-2388
P3TIPS.COM

LOUISIANA CRIME VICTIM SERVICES
For state resources visit:
www.lcle.la.gov



Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated Mu Omega Zeta Chapter Stands United Against Bullying



Zeta Phi Sorority, Incorporated
Mu Omega Zeta Chapter

Candance Grayson
Chapter President

OCTOBER 21, 2026 Bullying Stops with All of Us

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For Non-Emergency assistance, dial 352-6432

For Administration, dial 357-7800

For Investigations, dial 357-7830

For Civil Process and Property Tax Collection, dial 352-4104

For the Natchitoches Parish Detention Center, dial 357-9300

We are ALWAYS here for you.

CBC Q4 | Making the Ask: How Natchitoches Competes for State Funding

Join us for the 4th Quarterly Chamber Breakfast Club (CBC) meeting of 2026 for a panel discussion on state funding and the work that goes into bringing those dollars to Natchitoches Parish.

Hear from local leaders about how the state funding process works, how projects move through that process, and the role advocacy plays in securing investment for our community. The discussion will offer a closer look at what happens behind the scenes as local leaders work with state officials to support projects throughout Natchitoches Parish.



Ronnie Williams, Jr.

Mayor,
City of Natchitoches



Kirk Soileau

CEO,
Natchitoches Regional
Medical Center



Drake Owens

Executive Vice
President/Chief of Staff,
Northwestern State
University

Here's Why You Should Attend:

- **Understand the Process** - Get a clearer picture of how state funding for local projects works and how projects move through the process.
- **Follow the Funding** - Gain insight into what happens between seeking state support and seeing funding directed toward local projects.
- **Hear from Local Leaders** - Get firsthand perspectives from those involved in advocating for state investment in Natchitoches Parish.

Wednesday Oct 28, 2026

8:15 AM - 9:30 AM CDT

Location

NRMC - Listach Room

501 Keyser Avenue

Natchitoches, LA 71457

What is the Cost?

\$25 for members and \$30 for non-members. Just to remind you, members at the Grow (Preferred) level or higher have tickets included with their membership. You may use your member login to register and use your included tickets or email Morgan at Morgan@GoNatchitoches.com. No-shows will be billed.

Parking Information:

We ask that attendees avoid parking in the Sleep Center lot, so patients have space to park. Parking is available in the Bienville Circle parking lot or the Dixie Plaza parking lot behind Raising Cane's.

JOIN TODAY

FOR AS LITTLE AS

\$25

A MONTH

Contact Morgan Green

morgan@gonatchitoches.com



BOM
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GIVES BACK



NATCHITOCHES, La. — BOM Bank donated a gift basket for Northwestern State University's annual Employee Benefits Fair on Wednesday, October 14. As the Official Bank of NSU, BOM proudly supports the university and its employees.

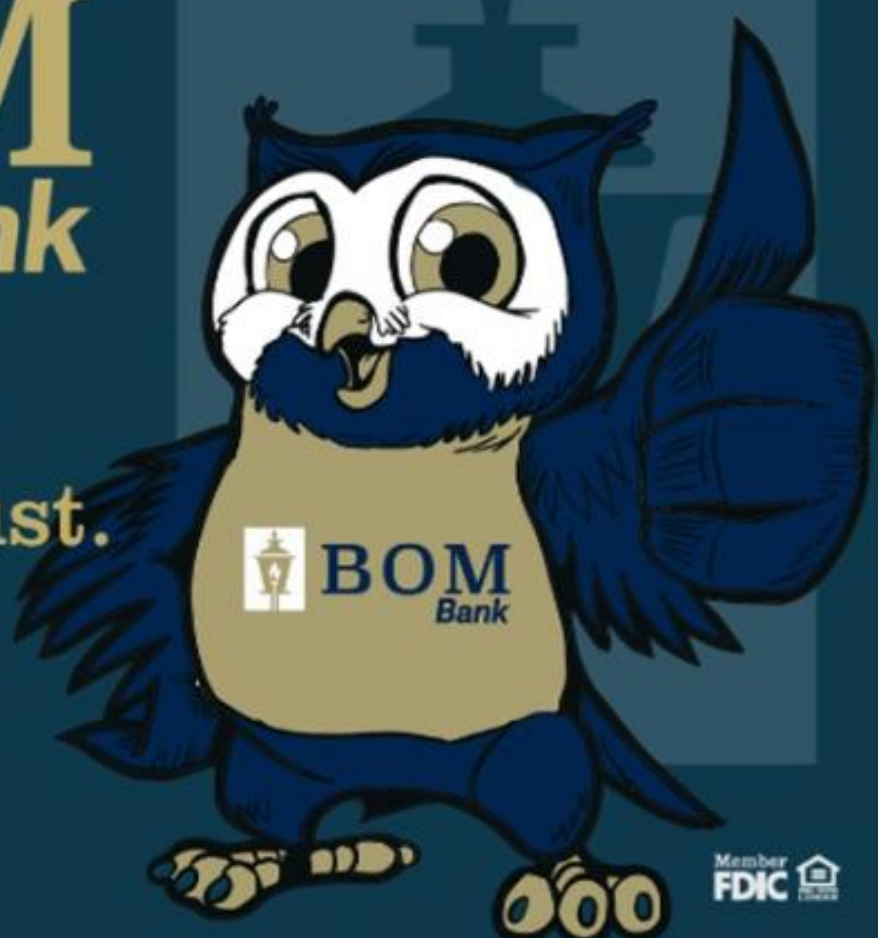
Pictured left to right: Tina Knueppel, Kira Raymond, BOM's Abby Williams, Ruth Chatman, Anitrecia Raymond, Christopher Jennings, and BOM's Tiffanie Mitchell.



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Halloween Safety Tips for Kids and Adults

HEALTH & SAFETY

Keep the fun going by making safety part of your Halloween plans.



For Kids and Families

- **Be seen:** Carry flashlights or glow sticks and add reflective tape to costumes and treat bags.
- **Stay together:** An adult should accompany children younger than 12. Older children should travel in groups with an agreed route and return time.
- **Cross carefully:** Use corners and crosswalks. Look both ways, put phones away, and never run between parked cars.
- **Choose safe costumes:** Avoid dragging fabric and masks that block vision. Wear comfortable shoes.
- **Check treats:** Wait until a trusted adult checks the candy before eating it. Discard anything unwrapped or with damaged packaging, check allergy labels, and remove choking hazards for young children.
- **Visit safely:** Stay with your group, visit well-lit homes, and never enter a stranger’s home or vehicle.

For Adults, Drivers, and Homeowners

- **Slow down:** Watch closely for children near roads, driveways, and parked cars.
- **Avoid distractions:** Put your phone away while driving and stay alert when backing up.
- **Plan a sober ride:** If drinking is part of your celebration, arrange a sober driver or rideshare before leaving.
- **Clear walkways:** Remove cords, clutter, and other tripping hazards. Keep entrances well lit.
- **Use battery-operated candles:** Keep decorations and costumes away from open flames.
- **Carve carefully:** Let adults handle pumpkin carving; children can decorate with paint or markers.

HALLOWEEN SAFETY

Tips for Kids & Adults

KIDS & FAMILIES

- Carry a flashlight or glow stick.
- Add reflective tape to costumes.
- Children under 12: go with an adult.
- Use crosswalks. Walk, don't run.
- Have an adult check treats first.

ADULTS & DRIVERS

- Slow down and watch for children.
- Put phones away while driving.
- Plan a sober ride before celebrating.
- Keep porches and walkways well lit.
- Use battery-operated candles.

BE SEEN. STAY TOGETHER. GET HOME SAFELY.

Sources: Safe Kids Worldwide • NHTSA • CPSC

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Paid for by the Reelect Randy Williams campaign

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8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

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COMMUNITY
RESOURCES

COMMUNITY RESOURCES & PAID ADVERTISEMENTS

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- Referrals to local community services



To complete the Louisiana Student Residency Questionnaire Form, Scan the QR code OR contact
Alexa Bernard-Conday, Ed.S.
Coordinator of Homeless Services and Federal Programs at
Alexa.Bernard@npsb.la or
(318) 238-0702



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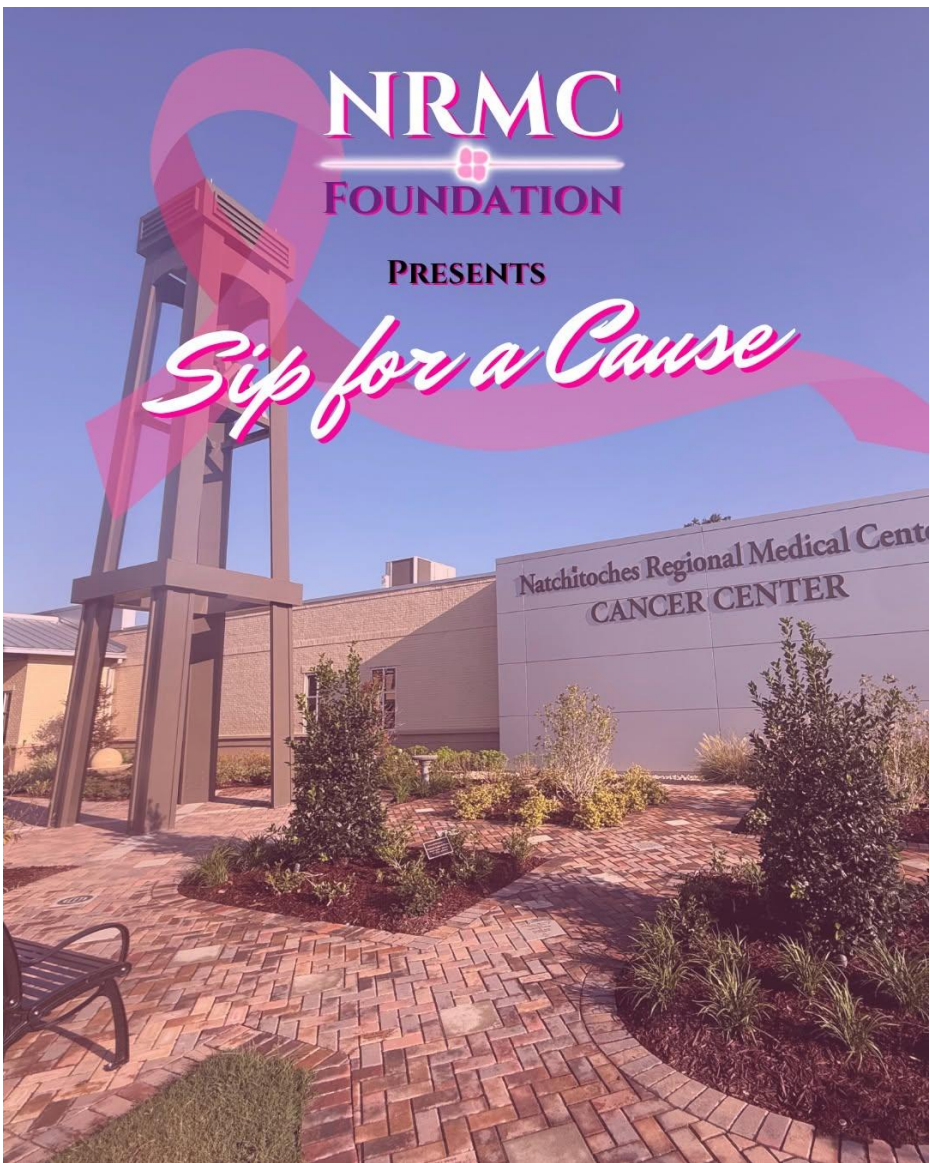
★ YOUR VOTE. YOUR VOICE. ★
Paid for by the Lee Waskom for District 1 campaign

HEALTH & SAFETY

Sip for a Cause Continues Through October 31, Supporting Local Cancer Patients

NATCHITOCHES — Residents still have time to support local cancer patients through Sip for a Cause, a community fundraiser continuing through October 31. While the campaign’s pink drinks reflect October’s focus on breast cancer awareness, its mission extends to patients facing all types of cancer. The NRMC Cancer Center treats breast, lung, colon, prostate, and other cancers, providing care close to home. For patients and their families, nearby treatment can mean less time traveling and more time with loved ones during a difficult season. Treatment may require repeated visits over weeks or months, making access to local care especially meaningful.

Through Sip for a Cause, purchases of designated pink drinks at participating local businesses help the NRMC Foundation provide comfort and care for patients at the NRMC Cancer Center, regardless of their diagnosis. The campaign brings local businesses and residents together around a shared purpose: supporting neighbors affected by cancer. Community members can participate by purchasing a featured drink, sharing the fundraiser, and encouraging others to get involved before the campaign ends.



To find participating businesses and begin a Sip for a Cause passport, visit <https://sipforacause.tiiny.site/>.

Make Time for Your Breast Health.

When it comes to breast cancer, time matters. So does having the right team beside you. At NRMC, our experienced mammography team works alongside our compassionate team of surgical and cancer specialists to provide coordinated care from diagnosis and treatment through recovery and remission.

Because your cancer journey is about more than treating a disease. It's about caring for you every step, every appointment and every moment along the way.

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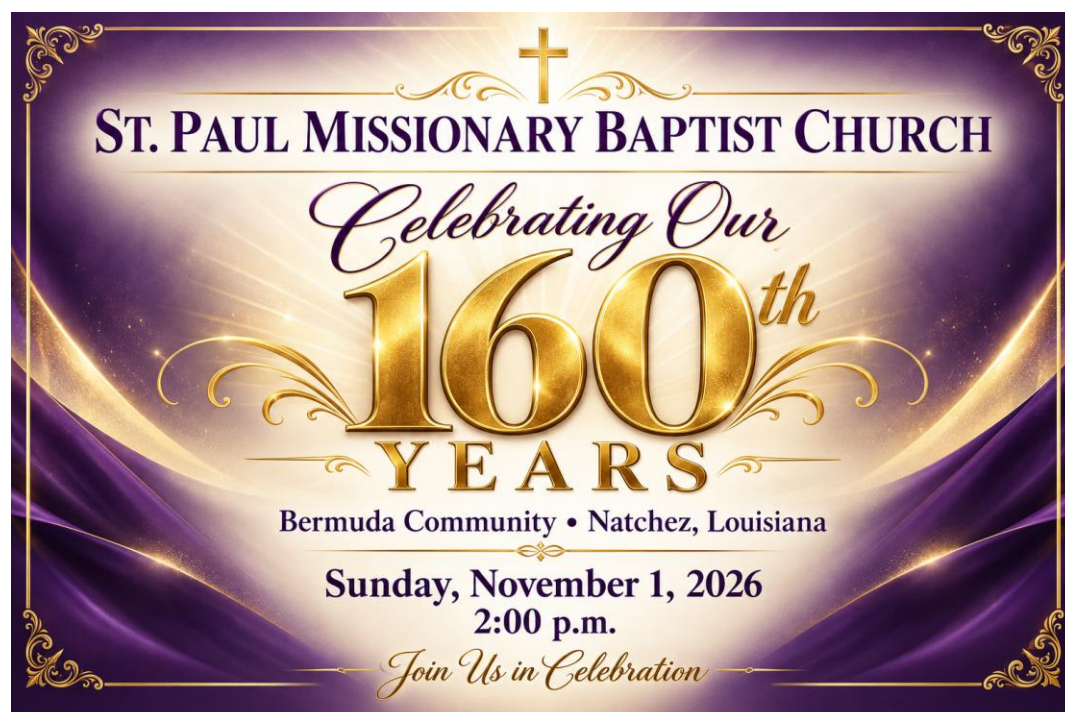
St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church to Celebrate 160th Anniversary

St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church in the Bermuda community of Natchez will celebrate its 160th church anniversary on Sunday, November 1, 2026, at 2 p.m.

The oldest Black Baptist church in Natchitoches Parish invites the community to join its officers and members for an afternoon of worship, fellowship and celebration.

The special guest will be the Rev. Andre Haynie, pastor of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Montgomery. He will be accompanied by the Pleasant Hill Baptist Church choir and church family.

This historic milestone honors 160 years of faith and the church's continuing presence in the community. Members welcome everyone's prayers and attendance as they gather for this joyful occasion.



For more information, contact Rosa Shields at (318) 652-0753 or rosa@cp-tel.net.



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Paid for by the Reelect Robert Owsley Campaign

Why Black Voices Matter at the Ballot Box

For Black Americans, voting carries a history of struggle, sacrifice and determination. Generations challenged discrimination and faced violence to secure equal access to the ballot. Participating today honors their courage while giving communities a voice in decisions that affect everyday life. Elections help determine who oversees schools, public safety, roads and public resources. Local races can directly affect neighborhoods, making it essential to learn about candidates, ask questions and examine their records. Black communities have diverse needs and opinions. Voting provides an opportunity to express those priorities and hold elected officials accountable. That responsibility continues after Election Day through attending meetings, raising concerns and following decisions.



**“Give us the ballot
and we shall no longer
have to worry
the Federal government
about our basic rights.”**

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COULD BE HERE!**

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across Natchitoches
and surrounding
communities.

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NSU Homecoming food drive turns school spirit into service

Northwestern State University’s Homecoming food drive gives student organizations an opportunity to support the NSU Food Pantry while competing for Homecoming points.

COMMUNITY

NATCHITOCHES – Northwestern State University students are turning Homecoming competition into service through a campus food drive benefiting the NSU Food Pantry. Student organizations participating in Homecoming can earn points toward the overall competition through opening ceremonies, lip sync, fun run, food drive, banner, flag and float competitions. Points earned through each activity contribute to an organization’s overall Homecoming score.

Ellie Hardy of Haughton, a senior and student coordinator of the NSU Food Pantry, said the competition encourages organizations to give back while celebrating Homecoming.

“They have an overall competition so they can compete in lip sync, banner, things like that and the homecoming food drive counts towards that,” Hardy said.

The NSU Food Pantry currently serves approximately 115 students per week, an increase from the 80 to 90 students it served weekly last semester.

Donations collected during the Homecoming food drive are placed directly on the pantry’s shelves, where students can access food and other necessities during weekly visits.

“It helps support our students who just need or want a little more help,” Hardy said. “They can come in once a week and they can get the stuff that’s been donated directly from the food drive and put on the shelves for them.”

“It is so easy to serve, and doing it during homecoming shows just how easy and how fun it can be,” Hardy said.

The Food Pantry is currently seeking donations of personal care products, canned meats, other protein sources and household items. Donations can be dropped off from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and from 9 a.m. to noon Friday. A gray drop box outside the pantry is also available for donations when the facility is closed.



Ellie Hardy



Homecoming food drive

Northwestern State University Homecoming Queen Reese Kennedy carries donated food items during NSU’s Homecoming food drive benefiting the NSU Food Pantry.



Brysan Rachal Graduates from Navy Basic Training
Continuing a Family Tradition of Service

Natchitoches natives Lillie Owens Jones and Alicia Rachal are celebrating a proud family milestone after their grandson and son, Brysan Rachal, graduated from U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command Great Lakes in Illinois on October 22, 2026.

His grandmother, Lillie Owens Jones, and parent, Alicia Rachal, congratulate the new Sailor on his accomplishment and the dedication it took to reach this moment.

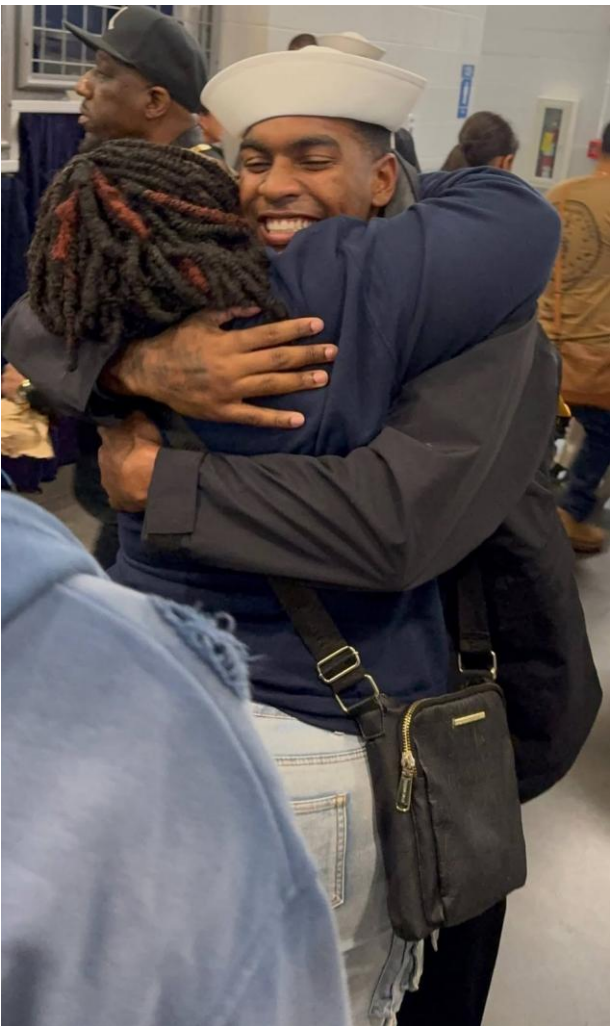
Rachal represents the **third generation of his family to serve in the U.S. Navy**, continuing a family tradition of military service. His graduation marks the beginning of his own chapter in that legacy.

As he moves forward in his Navy career, his family celebrates both his achievement and his commitment to serving his country.

Congratulations to United States Navy Sailor Brysan Rachal on this milestone!

THREE GENERATIONS. ONE PROUD LEGACY.

Celebrating U.S. Navy Sailor **Brysan Rachal**
Basic Training Graduate • October 22, 2026
RTC Great Lakes, Illinois



From left: brother Braylan Browder, Brysan Rachal and mother Alicia Rachal.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE FAMILY

Upcoming Louisiana Creole Community Events

3rd Tuesday of every month - CreoleLaLa French Table & Music Jam (Lafayette, LA)

3rd Saturday of every month - Zydeco Jam @ NUNU (Arnaudville, LA)

October 30 - June 19 - Life as Opportunity: Clementine Hunter from the Ann & Jack Brittain Family Collection (Alexandria, LA)

October 24 - Creole Rendezvous 2026 (Lafayette, LA)

October 27 - "If Bousillage Could Talk" Presentation (Natchitoches, LA)

October 27 - Butterfly Language School Halloween Party (Lake Charles, LA)

October 28-30 - "Creole Culture to the World" Presentation (New Orleans, LA)

Oct 29 - "The Life and Times of Marie Therese Coincoin" Documentary Showing (Lafayette, LA)

Oct 30 - "The Life and Times of Marie Therese CoinCoin" Documentary Showing (Houston, TX)

October 30-November 1 - St. John the Baptist Catholic Church Fall Fair (Cloutierville, LA)

October 31-November 1 - NOLA Zydeco Festival (Slidell, LA)

November 1- John Hall - Tribute Concert (Arnaudville, LA)

November 1-3 - 30th Annual Holy Ghost Catholic Church Creole Festival (Opelousas, LA)

November 7 - Clementine Hunter in the Archives (Alexandria, LA)

November 11 - "Ancestral Artistry" Documentary Film Showing (Alexandria, LA)

November 14 - International Creole Jam (Eunice, LA)

November 15-21 - 2026 Zydeco Cruise with Geno Delafosse

November 17 - Butterfly Language School Friendsgiving (Lake Charles, LA)

Upcoming Language Opportunities

Ongoing - Over 50 French & Louisiana Creole Tables throughout LA and Online

Oct 23-25 - Kouri-Vini Immersion Program (New Orleans, LA)

Open House - October 27 & 28

End your celebration of Creole Heritage Month with a visit to the Center!

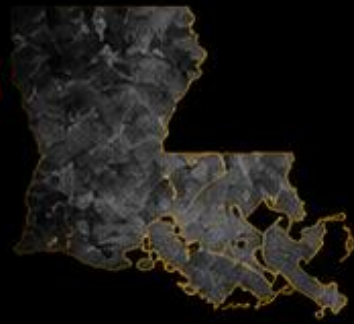
Center staff will be on hand between 9 am and 4 pm each day to welcome visitors and discuss the Center's efforts to preserve Louisiana Creole history and culture and educate the public. A special scavenger hunt will be available for all ages to explore the Center's photographs, material objects, and artwork about Louisiana Creole history and culture on display. Light refreshments will be served!

The Creole Heritage Center is located in [Room 118 of Kyser Hall on the campus of Northwestern State University](#). Parking is free and available in non-restricted lots on campus.



THE REAL NEWS LOUISIANA

LOCAL NEWS • COMMUNITY • LOUISIANA



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October 25, 2026