



THE REAL NEWS

Louisiana

" A Community with a Voice Shall Be Heard" ®

Ongoing Garbage Management Dispute in Natchitoches Parish

Latorria Freeman, Publisher

Natchitoches Parish is facing a significant dispute over garbage management between Parish President John Salter and the Parish Council, regarding whether to continue outsourcing waste disposal to Waste Connections Bayou, Inc., or to bring operations in-house. Salter argues that internalizing waste services could save taxpayer money and improve local road infrastructure. However, on August 19, 2024, the Parish Council voted to extend Waste Connections' contract for three more years, a decision Salter did not endorse, resulting in a halt to waste services on August 31, 2024. Natchitoches Parish is facing a significant dispute over garbage management between Parish President John Salter and the Parish Council, regarding whether to continue outsourcing waste disposal to Waste Connections Bayou, Inc., or to bring operations in-house. Salter argues that internalizing waste services could save taxpayer money and improve local road infrastructure.

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Ongoing Garbage Management Dispute in Natchitoches Parish

However, on August 19, 2024, the Parish Council voted to extend Waste Connections' contract for three more years, a decision Salter did not endorse, resulting in a halt to waste services on August 31, 2024. The City of Natchitoches also has a contract with Waste Connections Bayou, Inc., that is tied to the parish's disposal site. If the parish changes its disposal site, it could lead to increased costs for the city, which would be passed on to city residents. Salter has reassured residents that his plans would not affect City of Natchitoches garbage services and called for public engagement at council meetings. The situation has been compounded by frequent quorum issues within the council, notably during a failed special meeting on July 1, 2025, where insufficient attendance hindered decision-making. Councilman Braxton, Cheatwood, and Allen state that a special meeting was called for July 1, 2025, on the holiday weekend, and Allen was currently in California. Other council members had already made plans and were unable to attend. Braxton states that this was a ploy to have two council members who consistently agree with all of Salter's requests call a special meeting, in hopes that one member would be available. He would then be able to approve and pass his requested agenda items. Some council members have raised questions about the financial details justifying the contract renewal with Waste Connections and whether proper bidding procedures were followed in past purchases. Agenda items included awarding bids for solid waste equipment and granting the President the authority to sign all necessary documents. According to Chairperson William "Bill" Allen, Salter has sent bids to purchase garbage containers that he has already purchased on May 8. He states, "Why vote to allow Salter to do what he had already done?" He states that Salter does what he wants, regardless of the vote, and then refuses to sign the contracts. He further states that Salter wants to go back to the police jury form of government and continues to bully his way through to get what he wants. Cheatwood stated, "Although at the monthly meeting held on June 16, 2025, the requests to purchase equipment were voted down, Salter called a special session to revote." Residents are encouraged to attend and voice their concerns at parish council meetings.



WASTE CONNECTIONS



Photo Credit: Natchitoches Parish Journal

Exciting News: Dr. Knatt Joins Our Team!

WELCOMING DR. THEODORE KNATT TO NRMCMC ORTHOPEDIC ASSOCIATES AND NRMCMC ACTIVE MEDICAL STAFF

NRMCMC is pleased to welcome another outstanding orthopedic surgeon and sports medicine specialist to its team, Dr. Theodore “Teddy” Knatt. Dr. Knatt joins Dr. Ted Jordan at NRMCMC Orthopedic Associates.

Board-Certified in both Orthopedic Surgery and Sports Medicine, Dr. Knatt specializes in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of disorders of the musculoskeletal system including degenerative diseases, tumors, infections and congenital disorders. His expertise includes arthroscopic hip, knee, and shoulder procedures and total joint replacement of knees and hips, as well as rotator cuff repairs and carpal tunnel releases. With an extensive background in sports medicine, he is highly skilled in the management of athletic injuries including fractures and trauma while focusing on the prevention of future injuries.

A graduate of Nicholls State University in Biology, Dr. Knatt received his medical degree from Meharry Medical College in Nashville Tennessee. He then completed an Orthopedic Surgery Residency at LSU Health School of Medicine in New Orleans. He is a member of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgery and the American College of Sports Medicine.

“Expertly trained and experienced, including an extensive background in sports medicine, Dr. Knatt is highly skilled in arthroscopic procedures, total joint replacements and everything in between,” explained Kirk Soileau, NRMCMC Chief Executive Officer. “He understands the uniqueness of each patient and is committed to improving mobility and reducing pain whether it is for competitive athletes, individuals seeking to maintain an active lifestyle, or those struggling with everyday movement. Teaming up with Dr. Jordan at NRMCMC Orthopedic Associates, Dr. Knatt will help patients better understand their injuries or orthopedic issues, offer treatment options, and provide expert care. We are excited to have Dr. Knatt join us and are confident that his expertise and dedication to patient care will be a tremendous asset to our community.” NRMCMC Orthopedic Associates is located in the Multispecialty Clinic on Keyser Avenue. To schedule an appointment with Dr. Knatt or for more information on the services he provides, please call 318.214.5770 or visit nrmcmchospital.org.



We've Added to Our Team

Dr. Theodore Knatt - Orthopedic Specialist

NRMCMC is proud to welcome Dr. Theodore “Teddy” Knatt to NRMCMC Orthopedic Associates. Board Certified in both Orthopedic Surgery and Sports Medicine, Dr. Knatt has extensive training and experience in diagnosing and treating a broad spectrum of conditions affecting the bones, joints and muscles and specializes in minimally invasive joint repair and replacement surgeries. As a former semi-professional athlete, he has a deep personal understanding of athletic performance and recovery, and is here to help get you back in the game of life.

We are excited to have Dr. Knatt joining Dr. Ted Jordan at NRMCMC Orthopedic Associates and look forward to the outstanding care he will provide to our community.

To schedule an appointment,
please call 318.269.7919.

Scan to learn
more



NRMCMC

BOM Gives Back

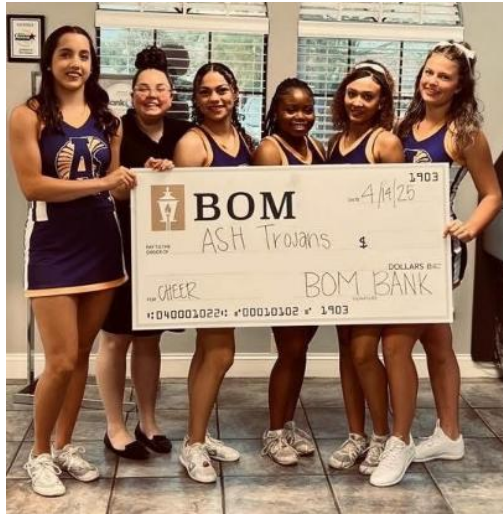
NATCHITOCHES:

BOM is proud to sponsor barrel racer Brenley Metoyer, who has qualified for the NBHA Teen World Championship in Perry, GA. Pictured left to right: BOM's Erin Anderson and Brenley Metoyer.



RAPIDES:

BOM is a sponsor of the Alexandria Senior High School Cheer Team. The ASH Varsity Cheer program participates in their school football games, school events, and competes in the NCA Regional & National Competitions. Pictured left to right: Kiersten Kinder, BOM's Emily Gintz, Brie Boney, Zyniah White, Diamond Johnson, and Ava Grace Mitchell.



CADDO/BOSSIER:

BOM was a proud sponsor of Benton High School's Project Graduation 2025! Project Graduation is a parent- and community-sponsored event that gives graduating seniors a safe, fun, and memorable way to celebrate together. Pictured left to right: Jamie Krefeld and Ana Gomez.



SABINE:

BOM was a proud supporter of the Zwolle Loggers Festival. The festival paid tribute to all of the logging and forestry families and industries in the town and parish. Pictured left to right: Lela Malay and Brittany Sepulvado.



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Nominations Open for Hall of Distinguished Educators

NATCHITOCHES – Northwestern State University’s College of Education and Human Development is seeking nominations for the 2025 Hall of Distinguished Educators and Outstanding Young Professionals.

The Hall of Distinguished Educators is the highest honor bestowed by the School of Education. Nominees must have earned an education degree from Northwestern State University, must have a minimum of 30 years of service in the field of education and must have made significant contributions to the field of education and/or the larger community at a local, state, national or international level. Nominees may be living or deceased.

Outstanding Young Professionals in Education must have earned an education degree from NSU and have a minimum of 10 years of service in the field of education. Nominees must have made significant contributions to the field of education and/or the larger community. Nominees must be age 45 or younger.

More than 100 educators have been honored with the Hall of Distinguished Educators award since 2000.

Applications are due by Aug. 5 and are available at www.nsu.la/HODEapplications.

For more information, contact Dr. April Jessup Giddens at giddensa@nsula.edu.



From One Suit to 12 Doors: This Baton Rouge couple buys the block with faith, integrity

By Jozef Syndicate

In the heat of a Baton Rouge afternoon, a group of boys—third, maybe fourth graders—gravitate toward the front windows of ***The Master's Touch***, a men's clothing store. Inside, suits hang in perfect rows: bold plaids, sharp pinstripes, deep navies and maroons under spotlight beams. Pocket squares in regal folds, monk strap shoes in polished repose. The boys take it all in: the way the light catches cufflinks; the way Mr. William Bates, the owner, wears style like it's stitched into his skin; his car; and his beautiful wife, Mrs. Maria. The boys return throughout the month to see what's happening in the store.

For the Bates's, their business is a kind of ministry. William is an executive pastor at **Living Faith Christian Center** and a businessman. Maria is a nurse and an uncompromising believer in Divine instruction. Together, they are the founders of ***The Master's Touch***, a thriving haberdashery, and its sister real estate enterprise, Bates Real Estate Inc.

Their journey began with a single suit—and a \$499 dilemma—that unlocked the beginning of their faith-filled mission to follow God's instructions.

Within a conference room at their newly renovated commercial complex, Maria Bates recalled Christmas 2007, when she wanted to buy an exquisite suit William desired. "As his wife, I always want to spoil him, so I started looking and asking God to help me find it. We had two young children. He was a new pastor, and I was new in nursing. We just couldn't afford a \$499 suit," Maria said. ***Continued on page 7...***



Maria and William Bates of Bates Real Estate.

Photo by: Yusef Davis

What began as a prayer for a single suit has led to a national brand, a 13,000-square-foot business complex, and a model for Black ownership and stewardship.



Continued from Page 6...

From One Suit to 12 Doors: This Baton Rouge couple buys the block with faith, integrity

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A Suit, A Store, A Whisper from God

Maria searched department stores for the suit to no avail. Ultimately she took the SKU number, scoured the Internet, and found the seller who had the suit at a steep discount, but couldn't sell it to her without a wholesale license.

"I asked God why did He bring me to this suit and I could not purchase it," Maria said. Her voice charged with the memory. God instructed her to get a business license and to buy suits and accessories from the manufacturers. "He told me everything to do," she said, and she wrote the vision in detail, put it in an envelop, and packaged it with a different suit from JCPenney. Christmas Day, William opened the envelop, but never wore the suit.

They agreed to obey God and days later, while driving, William was given ***The Master's Touch*** as the name for the men's store: "It wasn't Kingdom. It wasn't secular," said William, "but it was still Kingdom."

Between work, family time, and ministry, William sold suits, ties, shoes, and handkerchiefs from their home until it became inundated with inventory, late night fittings, and customer pickups. It was the start of the Great Recession of 2008 and ***The Master's Touch*** needed to move.



*William Bates of The Master's Touch
Photo By: Yusef Davis*

While driving down Monterrey Drive, Maria had an unmistakable feeling that a shuttered photography studio in a vacant business complex was meant to be theirs. "God told me that was our store," she admitted. With that conviction she hunted the internet until she found the landlord: Mr. Larry K. Sullivan. The space was dilapidated and, although he agreed to rent it, he would not make renovations. The Bateses cleaned the place with their own hands. Gutted floors. Painted the walls. William studied build-outs, lighting, and store layouts. They purchased racks, lighting, and moved inventory. They used \$50,000 personal credit cards and their income; then, Maria found an online bank who offered a \$25,000 unsecured line of credit which they repaid just before that bank closed under the weight of the recession. They redesigned the store with the kind of excellence that made people stop mid-step. ***Continued on Page 8...***

Continued from Page 6, 7...

From One Suit to 12 Doors: This Baton Rouge couple buys the block with faith, integrity

By Jozef Syndicate

Buying the Block

Fast forward to December 2022. Bates Real Estate Inc. purchased the business plaza: 12,989 square feet, 1.2 acres of land, five existing tenants, and seven empty commercial units. With a half a million dollar commercial loan and owner-financing, the Park Forest Business Plaza was their first real estate deal and their first commercial holding. They invested another \$80,000 in electrical rewiring and infrastructure upgrades across the entire complex, including new AC systems, doors, windows, ceilings, floors, and outdoor lighting.

Between structural upgrades, environmental surveys, architectural plans, and city board approvals (including a 10-year property tax lock), every technical hurdle was met—often with the help of business development programs. They leveraged a city grant for underground surveys and environmental panels—saving what would’ve been tens of thousands of dollars.

“Most folks start with a house. Maybe a duplex,” William said. “We started with 12 doors...” “We felt like God would fill this space up.”

Today, 31 months later, those 12 units are full. Not with predatory lenders, but with community-facing businesses: Vina Nail Salon, AA Tax Services, House of Fades Barbershop, Bluebird Massage Studio, Beautiful Music Productions, Sophisto ladies boutique, a Chosen Financial--a Prudential firm offering investments and insurance, Knot Just Hair Beauty Parlor, The Blooming Aesthetics Bar, even a late-night comfort food spot, Midnight Munchies. And of course, the flagship: *The Master’s Touch*.

The plaza itself is a case study in quiet transformation. They replaced desolation with development. Maria explained how businesses like payday loans, predatory lenders, and liquor stores suppress the community, especially one that is 77% Black like Park Forest. “The beautiful thing is that because we live in this community, we are concerned about the value that we bring,” William said.

“When you own the block, you get to decide what goes in it. That’s power. That’s stewardship.” Williams said, and he has turned down prospective tenants who didn’t align with the vision. On one occasion a representative from a white-owned property firm scouted a unit. On a phone call, she referred to men working nearby as “thugs.” William said he interrupted her call, saying, “Those people are not thugs...Those are men. Those are Black men. They’re not thugs. You nor your (partners) cannot rent here.”

From One Suit to 12 Doors: This Baton Rouge couple buys the block with faith, integrity

By Jozef Syndicate



William and Maria Bates stand in front of the new House of Fades Barbershop in the Park Forest Business Plaza in Baton Rouge

Photo By: Yusef Davis



New air conditioning units installed at the business plaza



Park Forest Business Plaza on Monterrey Drive in Baton Rouge



National Brand under the Bates' private label Stitch by Stiche

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Grandparents on the Move

By: Author Shelia Pierre

In September 2025, I became aware of a program that seemed interesting, so I contacted the Office of Community Service. There were two programs (Foster Grandparents and Senior Companion). Since I had worked with children for many years, my choice was to go into the classrooms. Orientation day arrived, and there were about five more ladies there. Mr. Irchirl, Ms. Telsee, Ms. Sharon Harris (from OCS), and Ms. Wynder from NPSB were of great help to us from day one. One of the ladies left the program, but three more joined. What started as helping children in classrooms has now shifted into something much bigger, a ministry. God is at the center because everything has flowed together so smoothly.

The eight of us —Barbara Helaire, Brenda Pack, Sandra Patterson, Sheila Lodridge, Mamie Jones, yours truly, Barbara Samuels, and Veoria Neal —were welcomed into the school with open arms. We took the children under our wing, not only helping them academically, but also giving them love, attention, motivation, and encouragement. We made a difference in their lives during those eight months. The hugs, conversations, and hearing "I love you" reassured us that we were making an impact on them. The teachers also expressed their appreciation for our tie and help. We would say that we needed to keep everyone in our prayers, so we started a prayer group. We would all meet in a room at 9 a.m., joining hands as we prayed for those dealing with life's struggles and for our entire country. ***Continued next Page...***



Grandparents on the Move

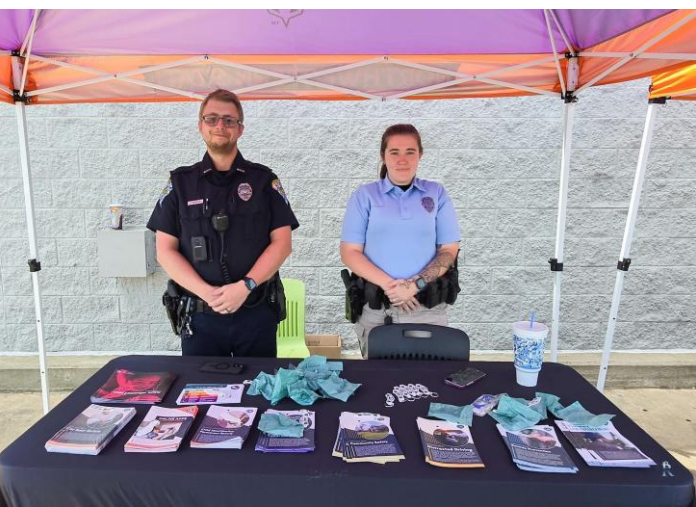
Grandmothers On The Move is a movement and a ministry that focuses on giving to those in the community. We started within the public schools, so naturally, we wanted to do something to continue helping children. In one of our in-service meetings on May 27th, one of our "grandparents," Mrs. Barbara Helaire, mentioned preparing sack lunches during summer break. She also mentioned a name we could use for our event. We all agreed, and "Grandparents On The Move" came to life. We needed T-shirts, and Mrs. Helaire informed us that we were blessed with them (at no cost to us)! I thought about the sun, so bright, and chose the color (Yellow), and Brenda Pack chose Khaki for the bottoms. All of us work and play a vital role in making this movement/ministry everything God had already planned.

Finally, June 8th was here! We had our very first community service event. We were at MLK park, bagging up sandwiches, chips, pies, juice, and a colorful bookmark (made by one of our foster grandparents, Sheila Lodridge). I posted a short video on Facebook that received over 3,000 views! The first day was a success! I will be creating a Facebook page to provide a glimpse into future events, share inspirational posts, and showcase pictures, among other things. STAY TUNED!



The Natchitoches Fire Department, NPSO, and NPD participated in a community-based Public Safety Awareness Campaign hosted by Walmart.

Photo Credits: Erick Wilson RTSS Photography



Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Office

INTRODUCING OUR NEW APP

Instant access to essential information at your fingertips.

- NPSO Directory
- Submit A Tip
- Sex Offenders
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- School Resource Officers
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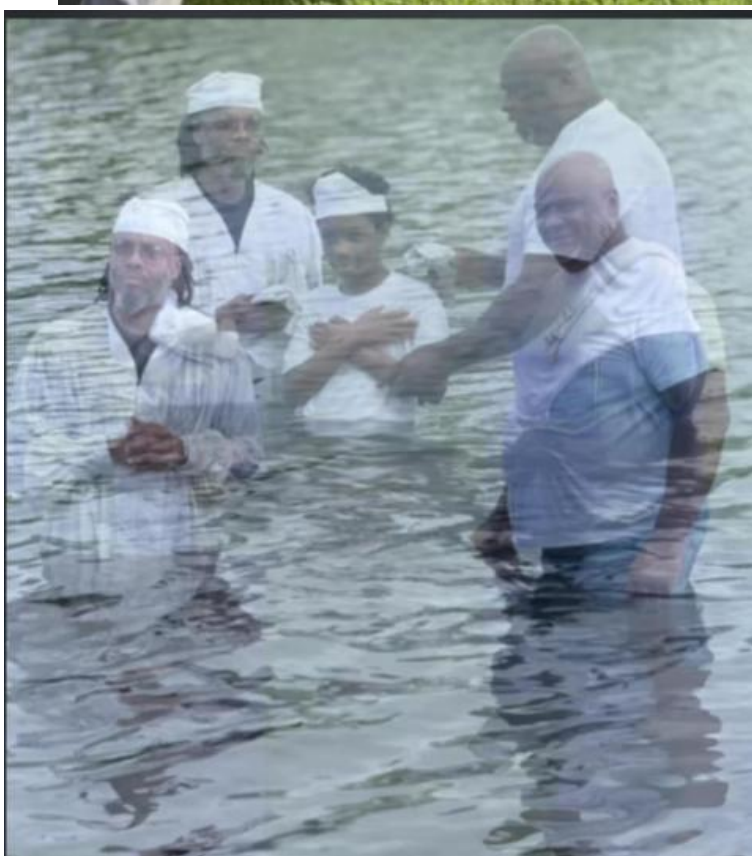
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Red Beans and Rice Cookoff to be part of Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival July 19

NATCHITOCHES – This year’s Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival on July 19 will include a Red Beans and Rice Cookoff. Professionals and hobbyists alike can compete to demonstrate their cooking skills. Registration and the cooks’ meeting will take place at 8 a.m. in the N-Club Room inside Prather Coliseum. Cooking officially begins at 8:45 a.m. The Festival will be held in the air-conditioned Prather Coliseum located at 220 South Jefferson Street on the Northwestern State University campus in Natchitoches.

Tasting and judging will begin at 12:30 p.m. with winners to be announced at 2:15 p.m. First place will be awarded to the categories Pork Sausage, Other Protein Sausage and People’s Choice. The category Other Protein Sausage may include sausage made from chicken, beef, duck, turkey, wild game, etc. There is no fee to compete in the Cookoff. Red beans must be cooked on-site outside of Prather Coliseum, although beans may come pre-soaked.



Competitors are provided a 10’ x 20’ cooking space outside Prather Coliseum where they will make their temporary kitchens using either propane burners or contained cookfires in order to prepare a minimum of two gallons of their finest red beans and rice. Cooking with charcoal is allowed. Running water is available to competitors, but all ingredients and supplies must be brought on site by the head cook. Chefs are not allowed to use any pre-made mixes or roux, though proteins and broth/stock may be prepared in advance, with all proteins being kept on ice until use. Red beans and rice must be cooked on site and contestants are responsible for all serving and sampling dishes and utensils, as well as all items needed to prepare their dishes and workstations. For a complete list of rules and entry form, please visit <https://www.nsula.edu/folklife/>.

“A Buck A Cup” red beans and rice sale to the public for the People’s Choice category will begin at 1 p.m. Festival attendees will be invited to purchase the red beans and vote on which red beans and rice they most enjoyed. Chefs participating in “A Buck A Cup” must provide their own bowls, spoons and napkins.

In addition to the cook-off, this year’s Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival will include the Louisiana State Fiddle Championship, three stages of live music, over 75 crafts people, Louisiana cuisine food vendors, dance lessons, informances, narrative sessions, on-site demonstrations, and much more. Admission to this family friendly event is only \$10 for an all-day all event pass, after 5 p.m. passes are only \$6, and children 12 and under are admitted free all day.

For a full schedule of events, as well as registration forms to participate in the Louisiana State Fiddle Championship and the Red Beans and Rice Cookoff contact the Louisiana Folklife Center at (318) 357-4332 or email folklife@nsula.edu or go to louisianafolklife.nsula.edu.

Support for the festival is provided by grants from the Cane River National Heritage Area, Inc., the City of Natchitoches, the Louisiana Division of the Arts Decentralized Arts Fund Program, the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, the Louisiana Office of Tourism, the Natchitoches Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Natchitoches Historic District Development Commission, the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Foundation, the Shreveport Regional Arts Council, and the State of Louisiana. The festival is sponsored by Atmos Energy, C&H Precision Machining, City Bank, Cleco, Evans Family, LLC, Exchange Bank, the Family Doctors of Natchitoches, the Harrington Law Firm, Natchitoches Wood Preserving Company and Young Estate, LLC.

3rd Annual Natchitoches Showdown Basketball Tournament on July 12th and 13th



Date: July 12th-13th

Guaranteed three games for all teams

1st Place Champions: Champion Rings

2nd Place Teams: Trophies

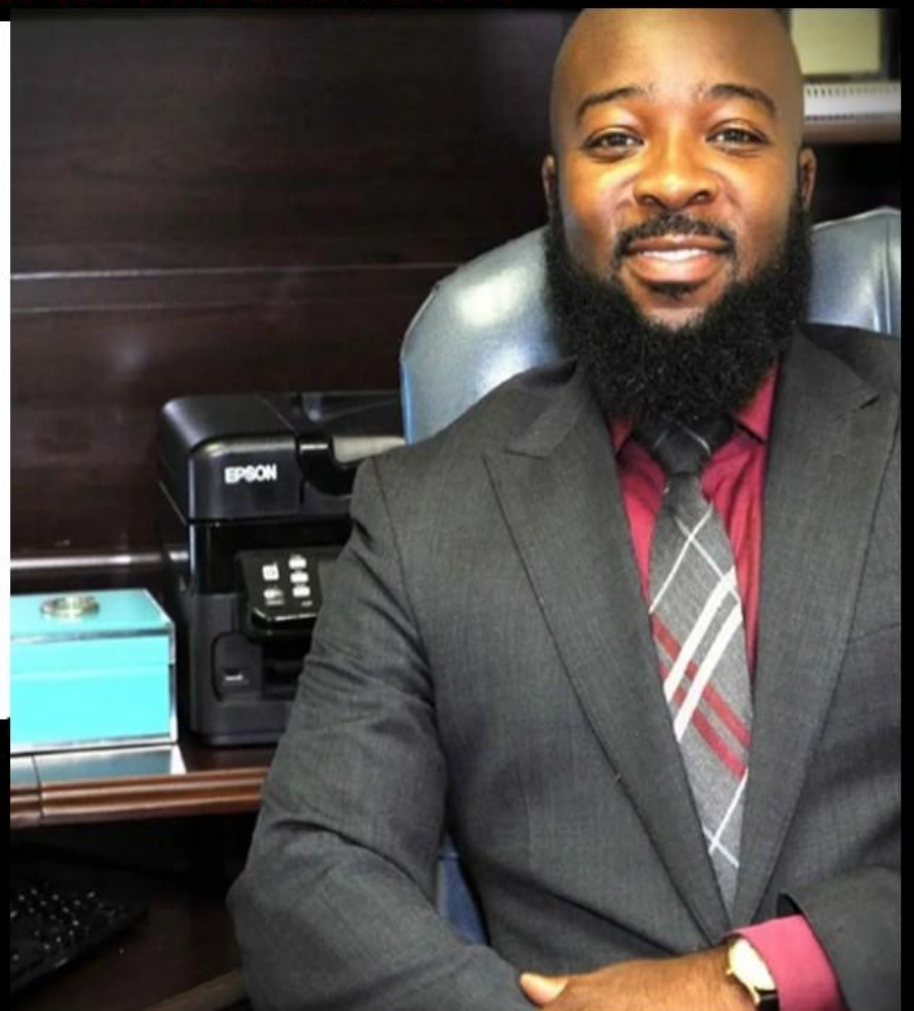
Don't miss your chance to compete in this thrilling tournament and showcase your skills on the court!

Contact us for registration details and secure your team's spot today! Let's make this tournament an unforgettable showdown!

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I Tried 2025 Rising Young Professional Spotlight

Please join us in celebrating **Matt Craig**, Student Media Coordinator at NSU, for his dedication to empowering student voices and cultivating the next generation of thriving young adults. Matthew is being recognized for his leadership, mentorship, and impact on the Natchitoches landscape. We're proud to honor him as this year's Rising Young Professional at the I Tried 2025 fundraiser!

Get a chance to catch Matt outside of his office and connect with him at the I Tried event, August 26th at Riverside Reserve. To purchase tickets or to become a sponsor, visit the website www.bdjcenter.org/i-tried




THE BEN JOHNSON EDUCATIONAL CENTER'S 2025
"I TRIED"
From Trying to Thriving

Rising Young Professional

Join us in honoring
Matthew Craig

In recognition of his commitment to student success and serving as a mentor to young adults, Matt Craig exemplifies what it means to lead with passion, purpose, and most of all professionalism.

 Riverside Reserve
August 26, 2025 | 5PM

From Trying to Thriving

I Tried is more than an event — it's a celebration of progress. Every story we honor is proof that effort, when met with opportunity, creates real change.

Join us as we uplift the graduates, partners, and community members who remind us what's possible when someone chooses to try.

THE BEN JOHNSON EDUCATIONAL CENTER'S 2025



"I TRIED"
From Trying to Thriving

Natchitoches-NSU
Folk Festival
July 19, 2025
Prather Coliseum- NSU Campus
www.nsula.edu/folklife/folkfest/

blues artist
D.K. Harrell



Jon Naugle Photography



Krewe of Excellence Royal Court Coronation

The Krewe of Excellence Royal Court Coronation was celebrated with the theme "Coming to America: Down on the Bayou," beautifully inspired by the movie. The royal attire worn by King XI Chad Nelson and Queen XI Lorie Woodard, along with the Royal Court members, showcased this theme. The Royal Court included Duchess of Perfection Betty Smith Kirkendoll and Duke Dr. Eleyae Oghale, as well as Duchess of Superiority Matreka Moses and Duke Korey Davis.



Duke Dr. Eleyae Oghale, Duchess of Perfection Betty Smith Kirkendoll, King XI Chad Nelson and Queen XI Lorie Woodard, Duke Korey Davis, Duchess of Superiority Matreka Moses

Krewe of Excellence Royal Court supporting Krewe de Khulu



Queen XI Lorie Woodard & Duchess of Perfection Betty Smith Kirkendoll

Krewe of Excellence Royal Court Coronation



Krewe of Excellence Royal Court Coronation



Face Behind the Business

By: Natchitoches Area Chamber of Commerce



Meet Erick Wilson (aka DJ Twilite), the creative force behind the lens of **RTSS Photography**—and so much more!

Erick wears many hats, working as a photographer, videographer, DJ, live sound engineer, recording studio owner, computer technician, and custom T-shirt designer. Whether he's capturing a special moment, spinning tracks at an event, or helping you bring your vision to life on a shirt or screen, he's all about supporting local and making memories that last!

Independent, multi-talented, and always creating, RTSS Photography is a one-stop shop for creativity in Natchitoches.

Follow him on Facebook to learn more @RTSSPhotography!

A blue promotional graphic with a gradient background. At the top is the Natchitoches Area Chamber of Commerce logo. Below it, the text "JOIN TODAY" is written in white. A large white banner across the middle says "FOR AS LITTLE AS \$25 A MONTH". At the bottom, it says "Contact Morgan Green" and "morgan@gonatchitoches.com". There is a QR code in the bottom right corner.

JOIN
TODAY

FOR AS LITTLE AS
\$25
A MONTH

Contact Morgan Green
morgan@gonatchitoches.com

A business card for RTSS Photography. The top left features the RTSS logo and the text "ROUNDTABLE STUDIOS SOUTH LLC". Below this is a list of services: "Portraiture | Event | Wedding | Corporate | Commercial", "Mini sessions | Home going services | Sports". The main text lists "Photography", "Videography", "DJ & Live Sound", "Recording Studio", "Computer Technician", and "Crafts & T-shirt Design". The phone number "(318) 228-1079" is at the bottom left. On the right, there is a QR code with the text "SCAN ME" above it.

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Mini sessions | Home going services | Sports

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(318) 228-1079

SCAN ME

Photo Tribute to Dr. Johnny Davis
A True Leader and Man of God

Sunrise: July 28, 1962- June 18, 2025

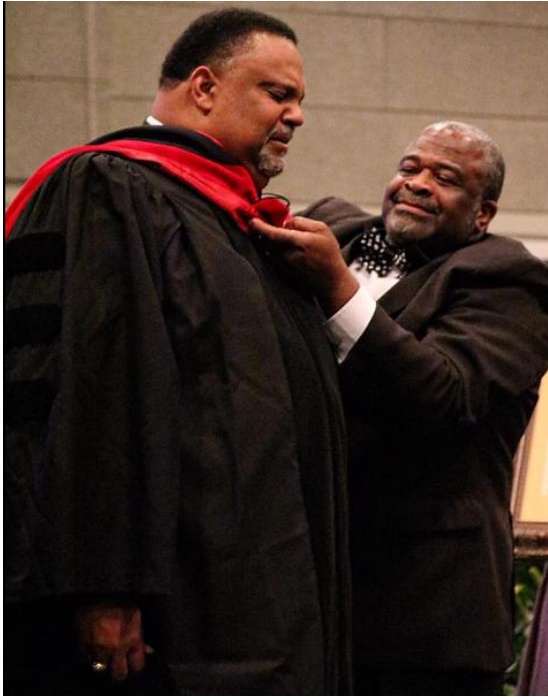


Photo Tribute to Dr. Johnny Davis
A True Leader and Man of God

Sunrise: July 28, 1962- June 18, 2025



“Still missing u man this sat go be tuff everyone no we joked a lot we had a 100 bond u wasn’t just my family u was my pastor.” Joat Paige



“God, I will be still and know... I know that you’ve caused this disruption to grow us, shake us up, and reveal what is critical. So God, reveal, revive, reform, and release whatever you have for us at Agape Love Center.” Katrina Braden



“You were like a second dad. When I wanted to get married your approval was just as important to me as my dad’s. You did our marriage counseling and boyyy you opened my eyes to what it really takes to have a lasting marriage. I will forever cherish all the memories. I will miss you and I love you. And this isn’t goodbye, it’s see you later.” Jasmine Franklin



“Anytime we wanted fish, he made sure we had it .. We will never forget you.” Jeniqua Seastrunk



Scenes from the Village of Natchez Juneteenth Parade

Photo Credits: Erick Wilson RTSS Photography



Scenes from the Village of Natchez Juneteenth Parade

Photo Credits: Erick Wilson RTSS Photography



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Photo Credits: Erick Wilson RTSS Photography



Scenes from the Village of Natchez Juneteenth Parade

Photo Credits: Erick Wilson RTSS Photography





I Wouldn't Take Nothing for my Journey Now

By: Evangelist Bonita Moses Arnold

As a young child, I often heard the gospel song "I wouldn't take nothing for my journey now," which meant absolutely nothing to me. As I matured in Christ, it now means everything to me. No matter what comes my way, I am certainly confident that the Lord will never put any more on me than I can bear. With that being said, we can't please God without faith. But when we surrender all to him and seek his face, he is a rewarder to those who diligently seek him. The Apostle Paul encourages us about that in Hebrews 11:6. And I wouldn't take nothing for my journey now.



Mama Shug Always Would Say...

"Lord, I sure thank you for waking me up this morning and keeping me in my right mind. I thank you for not letting my bed, on which I slept last night, be my cooling bed, and to let my time roll on just a little while longer."

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Announcements



Morning Star Baptist Church of Natchez, LA, will be hosting CPR training on July 26, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Light lunch will be provided, and there is a small donation fee of \$5.00 per person. For more information, please email: morningstarbaptistchurch170@gmail.com or contact Cynthia Robinson at 318-471-5782.



Welcome Coach Kendrick Golatt, the new Head Coach of the Lakeview Lady Gators Basketball Team!



STEAM Explorer Summer Camp

The STEAM Explorers Summer Camp in Natchitoches is a hands-on engineering camp for students in grades 4-8. It's a collaborative effort between the Natchitoches Community Improvement Foundation (NCIF) and the Emma Robinson Williams Education Foundation, taking place at L.P. Vaughn Elementary School. The camp aims to provide students with practical experience in science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM) through interactive activities like coding and drone flying. It focuses on developing skills and sparking interest in these fields. The camp is running from July 8th to July 24th.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

26th Cane River ZYDECO FESTIVAL & POKER RUN

FOOD & BEVERAGE VENDORS

Food, Fun & Music

Sponsored by the Magnolia State Peace Officers Association Cane River Branch



Schedule:

FRIDAY, AUGUST 29—FREE ADMISSION

6:00-10:30 PM Gates Open
Poker Run Registration
Zydeco Dance Contest
6:00-10:30 PM DJ Rob Real
7:00-8:00 PM Line Dancing
8:00-9:00 PM Swing Dancing



SATURDAY, AUGUST 30
ADMISSION \$20

9:00 AM—Poker Run Registration
12:00 PM—Ride Begins
2:00 PM—Gates Open
4:00-6:30 PM—MARCUS ARDOIN
& DA ZYDECO LEGENDZ
7:00-9:30 PM—LIL NATHAN
& ZYDECO BIG TIMERS
9:30-10:30 PM DJ ROB REAL



SATURDAY
7:00-9:30 PM
LIL NATHAN
& Zydeco
Big Timers

Ticket & Event Information:- Melvin Holmes 318-332-7455
Billy Meziere 318-471-9920 & Sandra Williams Vendor Info: 318-527-6959

Labor Day Weekend - Downtown Riverbank
August 29—30, 2025

Natchitoches, LA

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Cane River Waterway Commission



For more information
800-259-1714

visit www.natchitoches.com

The Cane River Zydeco Festival began in 1999 by members of the Magnolia State Police Officers Association, Cane River Branch. The Magnolia State Peace Officer's Association is the state wide organization that started the Toys for Tots program. They also help the community through other various programs such as community service, Shop with a Cop, food baskets and preparing Thanksgiving dinners for underprivileged families. Proceeds from this event assist in funding various community functions around Natchitoches Parish.

AGE 9-14
YEARS



JULY 8-24

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY,
& THURSDAY
**STEAM EXPLORERS
SUMMER
CAMP**

8:00AM -1:00PM

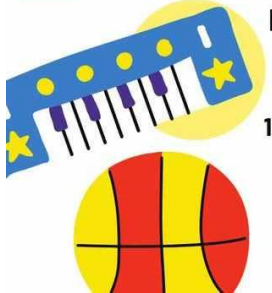
REGISTRATION
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ACTIVITIES

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 - ROBOTICS: DIVE INTO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND ROBOTICS.
 - INNOVATION CHALLENGE: WORK WITH A TEAM TO DEVELOP AN INNOVATIVE PROJECT.



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SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, JUNE 28TH

NATCHITOCHES, LA