

GRAMBLING CONNECTION

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Kamala Harris Concedes. Photo credit: AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite

Kamala Harris **Concedes Graciously**

Vows to Continue the Fight for Justice and Freedom

By Lena Wilson Claybon

a heartfelt concession speech delivered last Wednesday afternoon, Vice President Kamala Harris acknowledged the defeat in the recent election while reaffirming her unwavering commitment to the ideals that have guided her political career. Surrounded by emotional supporters, Harris expressed her deep gratitude for the trust placed in her by voters and her continued resolve to fight for the future of the country.

'My heart is full today," Harris began, addressing a crowd that included tearful volunteers and staff. "Full of gratitude for the trust you have placed in me, full of love for our country, and full of resolve." Despite the outcome of the election, she stressed that the promise of America's ideals remains strong. "The light of America's promise will always burn bright, as long as we never give up and keep fighting," she declared.

Harris, whose campaign was marked by a message of unity and progressive change, acknowledged the wide range of emotions felt by her supporters, but called on the nation to respect the outcome of the election. "We must accept the results of this election," she said. "Earlier today, I spoke with President-elect Trump and congratulated him on his victory. We will help with the transition and ensure a peaceful transfer of power."

Though she conceded the race, Harris made it clear that her commitment to the values she campaigned on was unshaken. "I do not concede the fight that fueled this campaign," she said. "The fight for freedom, for opportunity, for fairness and the dignity of all people. A fight for

the ideals at the heart of our nation." Harris emphasized her dedication to ongoing struggles, including protecting women's rights, combating gun violence, and safeguarding democracy.

The Vice President also turned to the future, encouraging young people to remain engaged in the political process. "It's OK to feel sad and disappointed, but please know it's going to be OK," Harris said. "Don't ever give up. Don't ever stop trying to make the world a better place. You have the power." She urged the next generation to continue pushing for justice, regardless of setbacks, reminding them that "sometimes the fight takes a

In closing, Harris referenced the words of an historian who once said, "Only when it is dark enough can you see the stars." The sentiment, she explained, echoed her belief that even in challenging times, the American people can find hope and strength. "Let us fill the sky with the light of a brilliant, billion of stars," she urged, invoking the image of optimism, truth, and service guiding the nation through uncertain times.

Harris ended her speech with gratitude and a renewed call to action. "This is a time to roll up our sleeves. This is a time to organize, to mobilize, and to stay engaged for the sake of freedom and justice," she concluded, her voice steady and resolute. "May God bless you, and may God bless the United States of America."

As the crowd cheered and emotional supporters wiped away tears, it was clear that while the election had ended, Harris's call to action had just begun.

City Council Moves Full Steam Ahead

By Joice M. Dunn

The Grambling City Council had all systems go as they approved several agenda items during its monthly meeting.

The Shuler Consulting Company represented by Henry Shuler recommended the Water Distribution System Renovation LCDBG FY 2022 SCC project number 3427 go to the Benchmark Construction group of Louisiana LLC of Sterlington. The company was approved for the \$1.4 million contract rebid by the City Council for the pending water meter replacement project.

The first bid was over budget. The bid included replacing the city's approximately 1,200 residential and commercial water meters, but by lowering the number of first round meter replacements and choosing a different meter reader, brought the second bid more within the budget.

"We do not have enough money to replace all the meters at once," said Shuler.

The meters will be read from a vehicle rather than a meter that would funnel data directly to the city hall water department. The meter would also be able to detect a leak at the residence.

The project will be funded from three sources: a Louisiana Block Grant, \$600,000 appropriation, from the state and Grambling's federal American Rescue Plan Act allocation

Shuler said the city will need to use at least \$50,000 of its ARPA money to complete the project. Part of the approximately \$2 million ARPA allocation is being used for sewer system upgrades. It was agreed by the council to direct whatever money is left to the meter project since the ARPA funds must be obligated by the end of the year.

Police Chief Tommy Clark, Jr., informed the council that the fishpond will be closed until Tuesday, Nov. 19 to allow the fish to spurn. He also informed those present residents with streetlights in front of their property to call the electric company when the lights are out because they now respond to addresses rather than poll numbers. Lastly the chief reported a successful and safe homecoming with the presence of about 40,000 people, only around five minor incidents were reported.

The Planning and Zoning chairperson Mary Gipson, announced the opening of a new business owned by Charming Davis and the coming of Jimmy Johns at the TA truck

Before ending the meeting, the council made a few other approvals that were on the agenda. Terrell Owens was moved from parttime to full-time in the fire department. The mayor was authorized to sign all documents required for the "Act 776" of the 2024 RLS-Bus Cover project. An approval was made to introduce an ordinance providing the date, time, and place of regular meetings of the Board of Council members of the City of Grambling for the 2025 calendar year.

An ordinance to amend the 2024 budget and the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire for Fiscal Year ending 2024 was approved. The holiday schedule and Ordinance to adopt the 2025 proposed budget was approved.

Celebrating Our Veterans

Towns and cities across Louisiana will join other states to honor and celebrate November as Veterans Month. It was first declared Military Family Month in 1996; since then, November has been a time to acknowledge the sacrifices military families make and have made.

The Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs will celebrate Veterans Day by participating in and supporting events across the state honoring Louisiana's veterans. Celebrations have kicked off as early as November 1, but no matter what date is chosen to honor veterans, they still deserve the recognition.

There was a Memorial Walk with flowers and flags to the monuments or tombstones of 21 veterans on Monday, Nov. 11, sponsored by the Grambling Pi Gama Mu honor society. Kids for the Environment was initiated in memory of Larry Holston, a veteran and retired professor of GSU. Mr. Holston worked with children of the Black Empowerment Apprenticeship Program (BEAP).

The approximately 39 members of the Grambling American Legion Order 593 planned to acknowledge Veteran's day in various ways. Some reflected on their experience and the affect on their lives.



W. Rutledge



E. McIntyre

D.C. He retired in April of 1975 at the rank of Segreant First Class (SFC E-7). Ervin McIntyre, born in Hampton, Va., was an outstanding basketball player at Phoenix High where he

first developed leadership skills, then volunteered to serve in the Navy in 1971. He served tours in Charleston, S.C, Yokosuka, Japan; Naples, Italy, and Hampton, Va.

McIntyre retired after 24 years as a Chief Postal Clerk and moved to Grambling. He has been a member of the American Legion for over 25 years and is currently the finance officer.

Bobby Rabon refused to be drafted, so when Uncle Sam called, he chose to volunteer to have a minimal choice of specialties.



(From I to r) Dr. Lemmy Akoma, Mario Lewis, Brielle Smart, Steve Burgess, Elijah Neal, Dr. Frances Staten, Courtney Bradley, Jasmine Thomas and Dr. Lurie Thomason.

Consequently, Rabon was investigated by the FBI and selected for top Secret Service in the Army Security Agency (ASA) branch of the military.

"Many enlisted due to a sense of duty or patriotism, but I was drafted. Some saw it as a career opportunity or a way to gain skills and education. Some felt a moral obligation to support their country or believed in the cause," said Ronnie Lyons, a veteran from the Vietnam war.

He was chosen as an outstanding soldier in the battalion at Fort Monmouth, Missouri. He was also an expert rifleman.

Lyons said soldiers, in the Vietnam War faced numerous challenges, both on and off the battlefield. He listed some key difficulties that was encountered: "Harsh Environmental Conditions: The dense jungles, extreme heat, and monsoon rains made the terrain difficult to navigate and live in. These conditions also contributed to diseases like malaria and trench foot. **Guerrilla Warfare**: The Viet Cong used guerrilla tactics, including ambushes, booby traps, and tunnels, which made it hard

See **VETERANS**, page 4

Recognizing the Courage and Sacrifice of America's Veterans: A Call to Action

am reminded of the need for all Americans to acknowledge and honor the courage, sacrifices, and contributions of our warriors and the families that support them. I speak as one of millions of veterans who have served this country with pride. Yet, my concern grows daily for the plight of veterans who continue to struggle.

Many suffer from the lasting effects of war, facing battles with mental illness, addiction, and even homelessness. These are individuals who, at one point, stood as the best our country had to offer. Now, in too many cases, they face harsh conditions upon returning home, and it is nothing short of a national failing.

For those who have served, the journey does not end once they leave the battlefield. They carry the weight of their experiences in a way few civilians can understand. Many come home physically unscathed yet deeply scarred

s Veterans Day approaches, I mentally, often haunted by traumatic memories.

> The mental health crisis among veterans is staggering, with high rates of depression, PTSD, and substance abuse. I am not speaking about what I have heard, I am speaking about what I know because I have been one of those veterans treated for mental illness.

Tragically, the specter of suicide looms over too many veterans. Veterans face higher rates of suicide than virtually every group. Despite their resilience and dedication, these individuals are frequently left to navigate these struggles with minimal support. I had support, but so many veterans don't have the capacity to navigate a sometimes-challenging process.

The crisis of homelessness among veterans compounds this issue, leaving far too many without the stability of a safe home. Veterans make up a significant portion of the homeless population in the United States. This is more than

unacceptable; it is an outrage.

After sacrificing so much for our safety and freedoms, no veteran should ever find themselves without a roof over their head or without access to the care they need to heal. These men and women answered the call to serve, to protect, and to defend. They did their part for our country; now, it is our turn to do ours for them.

In every community, we must ask: How can we support our veterans better? Federal funding for mental health programs, substance abuse treatment, and housing support is essential, but it's only part of the solution.

The community's role—our role—is just as crucial. We need to foster awareness of veterans' struggles and look for ways to bridge the gaps left by public services. From supporting local veterans' organizations to volunteering and advocating for stronger veterans' services, there is something each of us can do.

This Veterans Day let's go beyond the

customary thanks and honor our veterans with action. Let's push for policies that prioritize mental health treatment and housing for every veteran.

Let's commit to reducing the stigma around mental health care and encourage our veterans to seek help without fear of judgment or shame. If we truly value the sacrifices made by these individuals, we must make sure they're able to live lives of dignity and peace.

I am proud of my service to the country, and our veterans represent the best of this country, and their well-being should be a priority for all Americans. To the men and women who have served and the families who have supported them through it all: thank you.

You are the backbone of this nation, and we owe you a debt far greater than we can ever repay. Let's work together to ensure that no veteran is left behind and that each one receives the care, support, and appreciation they deserve. And that's my take. *smithpren@aol.com*

The Soap Box... My Point of View!

"Another Way of Life" (Part 2)

By Brenda Danie

(continued from Nov. 1 issue) After our briefing and everyone safely crossed the river, we discovered to our advantage that some of their youth who were privileged to attend school in a nearby town, had learned some English. This proved to be a great asset to us, although their understanding of the English language was greater than their ability to speak, it worked for us all! The best way for me to describe what we experienced that first day with the people, is to use single words like "resilience," "vision," "courage," "dignity," "community," "innovation," leadership," "creativity," "defiance," and most of all "resolve" and "acumen."

What stood out for me most about the people was that they would be the ones considered disadvantaged, underdeveloped, and left behind by our more sophisticated and modern lifestyles and technology. However, the more the Elders and Leaders shared with us their stories, the ones they experienced and of those that had been passed down to them, it was clear that they possessed a coveted decorum that most "developed" societies had either lost or never had. One of the biggest advantages for them was that in their isolation, they were able to a greater degree maintain their identity, pass on and interpret their own story. Who they were as a people had not been lost.

As for everyday living, the community was well organized and overseen by the Elders and Leaders. With great pride they showed us around their community, the art and culture displays, the way they built their houses and made their furniture; and introduced us to the various plants used for healing ailments and diseases... it was pretty amazing to witness the resourcefulness of the people



Group in Brazil.

considering the basic amenities such as running water, heat, refrigeration, medical facilities, phones, or even electricity was sparse if existed at all. They tilled and farmed the land, dug wells for clean water, and attended the only edifice of a church, which the Catholic Church was allowed to build in later years.

With progression of technology, and a

realization as to how commerce could add value to their natural resources and skills; and exposure afforded to children who received education, influence from outside their world was inevitable as we witnessed from our visits over the years. My biggest takeaway and admiration is that they were able to protect who they were as a people, maintain their culture, and consequently,

still telling their own story... a lot to be said and learned from this!

If you would like to have more details of how this once "closed" village has progressed and opened to the world, google "Ivaporunduva Quilombo"

Feel free to share your thoughts or comments with me... brendadaniel.bdm@ gmail.com

Intro to Financial Fitness

Building Financial Fitness: Small Steps to Big Results

By Detorian Gibson

Are your finances fit? Just like physical health, financial health requires attention and effort. Fortunately, getting financially fit doesn't mean making big changes all at once. Small, consistent steps can make a significant difference over time.

Financial fitness begins with understanding your current situation-where you stand with income, expenses, debts, and assets. This knowledge helps guide your next steps, whether it's paying off a credit card or saving for a vacation. Just as tracking steps on a fitness tracker can motivate you to walk more, tracking your finances can inspire smarter choices.

1. Assess Your Financial Health Start by taking an honest look at your financial "vitals." What's your monthly income after taxes? How much do you spend? What assets (like a car, home, or retirement fund) do you have? And finally, what debts or obligations are in place? Understanding these basics provide a foundation for future decisions.

2. Set a Small, Achievable Goal. Many people want to overhaul their finances immediately, but small goals are more manageable and help build confidence. A first goal could be as simple as saving \$10 a week or eating out one less time each month. Over time, these small changes

3. Build Financial Habits. Just like staying fit requires consistent exercise, financial fitness depends on habits. Try setting up automatic transfers to savings or scheduling regular check-ins with your budget. Habits may start small, but they build momentum and lead to a healthier financial future.

Building financial fitness is about progress, not perfection. By focusing on where you are and setting small, manageable goals, you're already on the path to stronger finances.

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Member in Spotlight

Bobby Rabon: A man of many ambitions

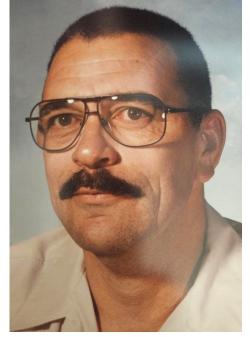
Bobby Rabon's parents moved to Grambling from Bienville when he was seven years old to enhance their children's educational opportunities. In high school, Bobby was active in many activities including band, choir, all sports (football, basketball & baseball), national honor society and class salutatorian.

After graduating from high school, Rabon accepted an athletic scholarship to play football at Grambling College and majored in mathematics and chemistry. His preference was to be an engineer, but couldn't enroll at Louisiana Tech, so he became a teacher of math and science in high school.

He was an honor graduate with a BS degree in secondary education in 1960 and accepted a teaching position at Webster High School in Minden.

After returning home from the service, Rabon married Youlia Delafosse and they had one child. He worked for one year at Pinecrest High School in Winnfield Louisiana. The following year he and his wife were hired to teach in Vermilion Parish. He was assigned to teach a variety of subjects including Physics, Chemistry, Biology, General Science and basic math. In an effort to be more proficient in the varied subjects, Rabon pursued studies at various schools in the state amassing many undergraduate hours. He accumulated more hours than many people with graduate degrees, but he was not compensated as they were so he decided to seek a graduate degree and was awarded the Master's Plus 30 from McNeese State. As a consequence, he proposed the idea for the program that was known as the drop program to State Senator Picard. He wrote the legislation with his modifications, and it was adopt-

"In the 1969-70 school year, all schools were integrated, and we were transferred to integrated schools with the inherent problems therewith. Tensions were high because of the culture of the times. Black students felt disenfranchised, ignored and excluded and existed in a tense environment. At prom time [at the school where I was teaching], when plans for an exclusive prom were disclosed, the Black pal decided to run for state senate, the



Bobby Rabon

students began to become unruly, to their detriment, by destructive and rebellious acts at school. I counseled the students and counseled that their actions were untenable, but before they would become destructive, we should air their grievances, and if not resolved, I would join them in their destructive and obstructive actions, Consequently, we arranged for a meeting with the City Council, School Board members and parents to resolve the issue. The parents wanted to hold a prom in the name of the school off the school's campus and exclude the Black kids," explained Rabon.

He continued to say that the results of the meeting were that the Board and City Council would not sanction the parents' actions, and the prom could not be held in the name of the school. The prom was held at school and all who wished to at-

"The students at another parish school rioted that same year. I was asked if I would consider a transfer to that school as a vice principal. 'If we appoint you, will you go?' [I said] Yes. I was transferred," Rabon said.

Three years later, when the princi-

daily operations were our responsibility, but we had direct contact via telephone, with him if we encountered an unusual problem. The racial problems and bad behavior diminished, and student behavior improved because of the effort of change that was initiated. However, a persistent problem persisted. The problem was curriculum and scheduling of students. We had 120 course offerings. It seemed that one was for minority students (Blacks) and one was for the other students (Mosty White), with the black curriculum the inferior. The curriculum was well intended, but ill-advised because they assumed that the Black students had received an inferior education and could not survive in a regular curriculum. They were not totally racist but were cultural racist. That curriculum was the root cause of some of the problems. Some of the Black counselors complained, but never proposed a solution.

Senator Picard ran for and won the race for State Superintendent of Education and resigned as principal of Abbev-

He became principal of the school, the first Black high school principal in the parish and was instrumental in improving race relations in the school.

"My first act was to eliminate the 60 second class curricular courses and have kids schedule grade level courses. The consequences were that our ACT scores increased, and student animosities decreased. Discipline problems diminished and Black students became more involved in school activities. After eight vears and lack of the support I requested in an effort to make Abbeville High into a top tiered school in the state, I resigned my position conditionally. The condition was that my pay was not to be diminished. I resigned eight years later."

The Board did not respond positively to any of Rabon's requests and he resigned and returned to the classroom and became active in the local teacher organization VAE (Vermilion Association of Education). "I was vice president. The president and I spearheaded a class action against the School Board for failure to address teacher grievances. Their inaction caused a teacher strike that was resolved with a collective bargaining agreement between the Board and the VAE," Rabon said.

Rabon was elected as a board member of the LAE and served on the board of directors until he was asked to return to Abbeville High as an assistant principal.

"I accepted because I was still receiving Principals' pay and did not wish to give them the option of reducing my pay. I resigned from the LAE Board of Directors and returned to Abbeville High until retirement. After retirement, I was recruited as an instructor at the new alternative school, where I created a curriculum that encompassed grades seventh - 12 for students who were suspended from school," he explained.

When Rabon's father needed help, he moved back to Grambling to aid and care for him.

Rabon served as vice president of the Grambling University National Alumni Association (GUNAA) for several years with James Bradford as president. He noted three notable accomplishments of their tenure in office: purchase of the alumni house in Grambling, purchase and donation to Grambling State of Charles P. Adam's home and the purchase of two endowments for Grambling State. "James Bradford was the spear header, and I was part of the shaft to the spear," he said.

After returning to Grambling, Rabon rejoined the local alumni chapter and helped to form and manage the local Bingo games for the local chapter. Funds raised were used for aid to students who were recommended by staff people who had knowledge of the students' needs. Bingo sessions lasted nine years before they ended. Funds were used to pay for employment of workers, student aid, bingo prizes and city taxes. "I, as manager, have not been reimbursed for any of my expenses, everybody got paid except me," remembered Rabon.

"I completely retired and proceeded to write a book about math and possible methods of improving instruction. It was stored on my computer, until I decided to print it and let the president of Grambling State University read it," Rabon

History of Grambling (Part 3 of 3)

By Reginald Owens

(Continued from Nov. 1 issue)

AS THE SCHOOL GREW...

The growth of the Grambling community paralleled that of the school. Because there were so few schools for African- Americans in the region, the Allen Greene School became the education center for Blacks in the area. African-American farmers in the region sent their children to Grambling to study at the school that taught basic reading, writing and arithmetic.

In 1905, Adams split with the local farmers and ministers over the philosophical direction of the school. Adams wanted an industrial school patterned after Tuskegee Institute while the ministers preferred an institution grounded in the classics to train ministers. The dispute culminated in a lawsuit, which Adams won. Still, Adams, with the help of Lafayette Richmond, moved the school to its present site, 11/2 miles southeast of the Allen Greene location.

For more than 20 years, two schools operated in Grambling -one run by Charles P. Adams and the other by the local ministers and farmers. Eventually, the farmer / minister group closed its school. The school headed by Adams flourished and eventually received financial support from private donors, the Lincoln Parish school board and the Louisiana legisla-

The area that would eventually be the initially incorporated Grambling developed around Adams' school. Most of those who lived in this new area had moved to Grambling to work at the university. A larger group of people, however, who comprised the Grambling community and who contributed to its vitality, were from church communities contiguous to the city.

Adams' dream of a school became real, and the dispute with the local ministers and farmers diminished over the years. Many African-Americans moved to the Grambling area so their children could attend school.

"These migrants made up the nucleus of the town of Grambling," wrote Mildred Gallot. "Zack Jackson built the first store in 1904, locating it on the north side of the rail- road tracks. Others who lived near Zack in the settlement were the families of Dennis Comwell, L. F. Richmond, George Hall, Dave Williams and Bill Nicholson. The Charles P. Adams



President R.W.E. Jones with students

family lived on campus."

Grambling was basically a rural area with dirt trails as streets. "Few people, businesses, and roads were found in the town," wrote Gallot. "Grambling itself, was not thought of as a town or even as a village. The population increased as people moved into the area in order to send their children to school and to either work or teach at the school... There was only one road through Grambling -the old Grambling Road from Ruston to Simsboro. This road intersected at the railroad tracks with a dirt road winding south to Highway 80."

During this period of the 1930s, there were about six other businesses in Grambling, a barber and beauty shop, a cafe, three stores selling general/grocery goods, a pressing shop and a "post office in a small room of an old dilapidated building on the main street," Gallot noted.

The pressing shop was owned by B. T .Woodard, who would later become Grambling's first mayor, according to Martha Bennette Woodard Andrus, Woodard's daughter.

In the book Grambling's First Mayor B. T. Woodard: The Man -The Movement, Andrus noted how her grandfather Elbert had moved the Woodard clan to Grambling from the Mt. Harmony community outside Ruston so the children could go to school. Many families had moved to Grambling like this. This demonstrated the importance of education to African-Americans in the area.

During this period, because of the school, more families began moving into the fledgling village. The school was growing, and in the early 1940's, citizens began to see the need for basic municipal services. Andrus noted that as a result of a community meeting call by Rev. P.L. Harris, the Advisory Council was formed to address the concerns of the local citizens. Members of the council, which met monthly, were Harris, chairman, Woodard, vice chairman, Dr. Earl Lester Cole; Wallace E. Downs and Sylvester Brown. Because of Harris' duties as minister of a local church, Woodard later assumed chairmanship of the council.

This group was responsible for spearheading efforts to get such community conveniences as street lights and sidewalks in the downtown area from the school to the rail period, because of the road tracks, Andrus school, more families wrote.

Both Andrus and Gallot noted the efforts of this council led to the move to become an official municipality, because there were some needs of the settlement (such as utilities) that only an incorporated village could get.

As Woodard and the council worked to get the village incorporated, they ran into another obstacle -there were no registered voters in Grambling. Few Blacks in the area had even voted since the Reconstruction days. There was some local opposition to both incorporation and registering to vote, but that was overcome, according to Andrus.

On September 9, 1953, the village of Grambling became the first all-Black municipality in the state to be officially

incorporated.

Woodard was appointed mayor with the following citizens serving on the village council: W. E. Downs, Mike C. Osbome and Sylvester Brown. Earl Maxie was appointed village marshal. The population of this modest village at the time was about 700.

In the 1950s and 1960s, Grambling saw tremendous growth and improvements came at the same time that the university also was growing and being upgraded. There was a building boom in Louisiana at the two state-supported Black colleges -Grambling and Southern, in Baton Rouge. Like other southern states, Louisiana was pouring money into Black schools so "Blacks might decide not to apply for admission to the White colleges in the state," Gallot wrote.

Grambling was officially declared a town in 1959 when the population surpassed 1,400. In the meantime, the council was busy annexing for growth and developing the town's infrastructure -building utilities, streets and other ne-

In 1993 when the population surpassed 5,000, Grambling was officially declared a city. Since its incorporation as a village in 1953, Grambling has more than quadrupled in size from the area immediately surrounding the university to one less than a mile from the official city limits of Ruston.

A town is more than a place on a map. A town is more than a set of census bureau statistics. It is more than a location from whence someone came or to where someone is going. It is more than houses and roads and institutions. A town is people-people, human beings, living, working, learning and playing.

Grambling has a noteworthy record of being a people-centered town. The efforts of its leaders in the past were so directed, and all current plans are geared to making and keeping Grambling a good place for people to live.

(Reprint from egrambling.com, "The City of Grambling: Historical Information", 2005)

Reginald Owens is the retired chairman of the Department of Journalism at Louisiana Tech University where he was the inaugural holder of the F. Jay Taylor Endowed Chair of Journalism. He also served as director of the former Tech news bureau and associate director of university communication. He also taught at Grambling State University, where he was also publication director for The Gramblinite.

Communit

Business In Spotlight

The Attitude Salon Boutique, Teresa Austin, Owner

By Lena Claybon

he Attitude Salon Boutique, located in Grambling, is s a combination of hair salon and clothing boutique. This unique set up is the brainchild of Teresa Austin, a serial entrepreneur, who moved to the area from Kansas City almost 19 years ago. Teresa has been in business 12 years at her current location but has been an entrepreneur her whole adult life. She credits her parents with getting her started in business.

"Both of my parents are entrepreneurs. My dad worked for himself. He owned a plumbing and construction company and my mother owned a hair salon." She credits her Mother with getting her interested in fashion.

"I really got started in fashion due to my mother, who thought I needed to have some etiquette and charm [growing up]. I was a tomboy, so she signed me up for the charm classes at the YMCA at the time, which got me interested in fashion." Teresa said she started participating in fashion shows, and her Mother started taking her to the Ebony Fair fashion show every year. Also, because her mother did hair, they also went to a lot of hair shows.

"I was exposed to a lot of things in the beauty field and the fashion field. In high school, I was one of eight, the only Black person that was a member of the Sears team board. We went around to Sears [stores] and we did in-store fashion shows.

She went on to attend college in Kansas City where she majored in fashion design and merchandising. When she finished college, she was having trouble finding a job in the fashion industry so her mother encouraged her to get her cosmetology license which she did.

Teresa said she then moved to Dallas and ended up working at the Glimby's salon at Dillard's. "All I did was haircuts all day working at Glimby's. I did that for about a year and a half." When it came time for her Mom to expand her business, she invited Teresa and her younger sister, also a cosmetologist, to join her.

"We found a building and we expand-



Fashion Photo

ed her out of the home into a commercial building. We stayed at that location for about six years. At that location, I still had fashion in my mind so I ended up getting a rack [of clothes] and a showcase [of jewelry] that I put in the salon.'

Teresa said when they moved to a second location, the space was bigger, so because it had a break room, she was able to have a small boutique inside the salon. "I bought more [clothes to sell and more jewelry]".

Teresa said they stayed at that second location almost six years, and moved to an even bigger location. "[Right next door [to that location] was a smaller space. I opened up a boutique next door. It was a full boutique by itself." Teresa remained in that location until she married James Austin of Ruston and moved here.

She said when she first got here, she didn't know anyone and had to start all over from scratch. Eventually, she was able



to work at a couple of salons and started building up her clientele. She tells a funny story of how she started off working in the salon at Walmart and over time had accrued a mix of loyal clients, both black and white. But when she moved to The Hairport in East End, not being from the area, she didn't understand why half of her clients didn't follow her over. But she didn't let it faze her and continued building her clientele from there.

Eventually, the location she's in now in Grambling became available and it was big enough to include her clothes and jewelry, as well as a hair salon, so she took it.

When asked where she gets her clothes, she said she orders from Madrid, France and Italy because she likes to have unique pieces. She also carries sizes Small to 3X.

In terms of the type of clothing she carries, she said, "I have dresses, tops, pants, and jumpsuits. I'm just starting to get in



Teresa Austin

some formal wear... And, of course, jewelry, accessories, hats, belts, a little bit of everything.'

In addition to the boutique and salon, she also makes jewelry and wigs. This year marks 40 years in business for the talented entrepreneur and when asked what words of wisdom would she give to people who are thinking about becoming an entrepreneur or maybe young entrepreneurs who are just starting out, she said, "Don't be scared to try it. Take the lead. Trust. Trust in yourself, your abilities and what you can do. Also, always put God first in it though, because God has been my main source of everything in everything I decided to do. When I first came here [and didn't know anyone], I said, Lord, help me do this. And then when I decided to do it, I said, I'm going to give myself a year and I prayed on it and said, Lord, if it's meant for me to do this, I'll do it. And that whole year I met all kinds of people, people I wouldn't have ever thought I would meet, and the clientele just came."

The Attitude Salon and Boutique is located at 302 College Ave in Grambling and is open M-Sat. To reach Teresa, you can call 318-596-3222 or email her at: theattitude1@gmail.com.

Announcements

Turkey giveaway scheduled for Tuesday

A Turkey giveaway will be held at the New Rocky Valley Baptist Church Tuesday, Nov. 19, at 10 a.m. until all is gone. The church is located at 2155 Martin Luther King Jr., Ave. The giveaway is sponsored by Statewide Health Advisors and the church is pastored by Rev. Julius

Miss GSU partners with food distribution

The Annual Christmas Parade

Scheduled The annual Grambling Christmas Parade is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 7, by the Juneteenth Committee. Please call Cathy Holmes Giles and Derida Dunton at 318-957-1390 for more information.

Who To Contact for Street Light Outtages

According to the Chief of Police & Superintendent of Safety Services, Mr. Tommy Clark, do not contact the City when street lights are out. You must contact your power company with the

the service. Personally,

I was just looking for a

better job opportunity

after college," explained

drafting skills paid off

and I was placed in a

Headquarters Battery

plotting targets on a

map. Cannon Fire Di-

partment of Veterans

Fortunately,

following information:

For Entergy Louisiana online or 1(800) 368-3749 - provide the address of the property nearest to street light; provide vour address & phone number; Tie a vellow tape or dollar general bag around the pole; Be patient & polite

For Caliborne Electric Co-op, online or 1 (800)900-9406. Follow the same steps as listed above.

VETERANS from page 1

for U.S. soldiers to engage in traditional combat. This type of warfare was psychologically taxing and unpredictable. Psy**chological Stress**: The constant threat of ambushes and the difficulty in distinguishing between friend and foe led to high levels of stress and anxiety. Many of us soldiers experienced PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder) as a result.

Moral and Ethical Dilemmas: Soldiers often faced complex moral situations, such as distinguishing between combatants and civilians, which could lead to difficult decisions and actions that weighed heavily on our consciences. Political and Public Opinion: The war was highly controversial back home in the United States. We often felt unsupported or even vilified by the public, which affected our morale and mental health. Physical Injuries: The war saw a high number of casualties and injuries, with many of our soldiers suffering from severe wounds that required long-term medical care. These challenges made the Vietnam War a particularly difficult and traumatic experience for many of us who served. Especially, if you were drafted and did not want to leave your family and life behind."

Theron J. Dunn, retired as an E8 Senior Master Sergeant after 26 years in the Air Force. "I was drafted to the Army in January of 1967, once drafted, you can choose any branch of the service, so I choose the Air Force and I was tired of plowing the

Jess'Lyn Sanders, Miss Grambling State University, is partnering with Jada Plunt for a food distribution Friday, Nov. 22.

at 4 p.m. The parade will be sponsored

mule," he said. He also served in the Vietnam War. The experience was eye opening, and it was

better than working

for the local economy.

"I was able to travel,

see the world and I received three degrees," said Dunn. He said he learned of things that he didn't know and received truths about things he had been lied about all his life. Dunn said he is a lifetime member of the American Legion 593.

Carl McCarter was drafted into the Army in 1970 and received basic training at Fort Polk. He was part of the 87 Air Born Division. McCarter said he didn't go overseas but the unit was on a 24-hour alert to go anywhere needed. He was stationed at Fort Braggs, N.C. for 18 months."It was a great experience, I grew from meeting and interacting with a great deal of people," McCarter said. He returned to school at Grambling State University, majoring in business management, completing his degree in 1978. McCarter served as a Ruston fire fighter for 29 years and served as Grambling's fire chief from 2007-2009.

Gregory Ludley said, "Ironically, I joined the US Army because I was looking for a job. I graduated with a bachelor's degree in drafting. The job market for drafting in the Lincoln Parish area was slim and none. I worked odd constructions for a while until my parents decided I should join





rection Specialist (13E) was my job description. "As I fast-forward the tape to the present, I am grateful for the experience because it allowed me to work for the Louisiana De-

Ludley.

Affairs. It was here where I learned how to help so many Black veterans who had experienced some of the hardships I had experienced. Ultimately gaining the skills to help veterans get their much-deserved benefits, including myself. All I can say, GOD had a bigger and better plan for my life," Ludley

Retired in 2016, Lieutentant Colonel Gordan D. Ford is now the director of Lincoln Preparatory School in Grambling. He served 25 years in the United States Air Force and Air Force Reserve. Ford was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant through Air Force ROTC upon receiving his bachelor's degree from Grambling State University in 1991. He earned his basic pilot wings in 1993 and served in active duty from 1992 to 2000 before joining the Air Force Reserve.

He has more than 3,600 flying hours in the B-54 Stratofortress, C-5 Galaxy, C-130 Hercules, the WC-130 Hurricane Hunter and several other military and civilian aircraft.

In addition to the brave men who have served our country, women comprise 15 percent of the active-duty military and 18 percent of the Guard and Reserve. With the steady increase of women wearing the nation's uniform and their increased role in military operations, it has never been more important that women veterans are [acknowledged] and ensured that the Veteran's Administration is ready and able to care for them when they transition back to civilian life as well.

CORRECTION

Jonetta's Locs story

On the Community Page 4, in the Nov. 1 issue, the information should have read as follows: Pricilla Butler started at Grambling in 1981 and withdrew in 1983 to pursue her cosmetologist degree in 1984. She graduated from beauty school in

We are sorry for the error.



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Lifestyle & Wellness

THANKSGIVING SURVIVAL GUIDE: How to Gobble without the Wobble

By Candace McLaughlin, RN

hanksgiving time is around the corner! It's the time of year when family gathers, the kitchen smells heavenly, and we have decided that the calories don't count while taking big bites of turkey and sweet potato pie. But let's be real, while the holiday may fill our hearts (and stomachs), it can also put extra pounds on our waistlines. As a registered nurse, I'm here to offer you a few healthy tips on how to get back on track after chowing down on that third helping of dressing.

1. Walk It Like I Talk It

Listen, the goal here isn't to turn into Symone Biles overnight, but getting active is one of the best ways to bounce back from that holiday dinner. You don't need a fancy gym or special equipment, just your

own two legs and a little motivation. Head out for a brisk walk, turn on some music and dance while cleaning up, or invite family and friends over for a game of basketball or volleyball. You'd be surprised how those sweat sessions add up.

2. Eyes Bigger than the Stomach? Here's How to Eat Less

It's a known fact that Thanksgiving tables have a gravitational pull, especially the dessert section. But here's a trick from the health side of things: grab a smaller plate. Research shows that we tend to eat less when using smaller plates. Fill it with your favorites, but don't stack it like a mountain. You'll still enjoy all of the flavors without overloading your plate.

Another tip? Try to be mindful of what you're eating. Slow down, savor each bite, and don't be afraid to skip a dish that you

don't particularly like. Grandma's pea salad? Maybe not this year.

3. Hydrate, Hydrate, Hydrate

Sometimes we mistake thirst for hunger. That extra dinner roll you grabbed? It might be your body's way of saying, "Hey, could I get some water down here?" Make it a habit to sip water throughout the day,

especially before meals. Staying hydrated keeps you feeling full, and it's great for your energy and digestion, too. Plus, it balances out the extra sodium that we consume during the holidays.

4. Remember, Balance is Key

The holidays are meant to be enjoyed, so don't stress yourself out. The truth is, a few extra holiday treats won't undo all your progress if you don't let them. Focus on maintaining a balanced mindset: enjoy your favorite foods, but also add in a few healthier choices like veggies and

So this Thanksgiving, let's eat, laugh, and celebrate, then work it off and get back to feeling our best! Whether you're dancing off those extra bites or hydrating like a pro, it's all about balance.

Happy Thanksgiving, Grambling!

LEARN ABOUT BORDERLINE PERSONALITY DISORDER

By Jeannetta Stephens-Jones

Borderline personality disorder (BPD) is an illness marked by an ongoing pattern of varying moods, self-image, and behavior. These symptoms often result in impulsive actions and problems in relationships with others, causing problems functioning in everyday life. It includes self-image issues, difficulty managing emotions and behavior, as well as pattern of unstable re-

Millions of Americans live with various types of mental illness and mental health problems, such as personality disorders. It is estimated that 1.4% of the adult American population experiences BPD. If you have BPD, you may experience episodes of anger, depression, and anxiety that may last from a few hours to days. Everything feels unstable: your relationships, moods, thinking, behavior, and even your identity. You tend to be extremely sensitive. Small things can trigger intense reactions. Once upset, you have trouble calming down.

What causes borderline personality disorder?

The origin of borderline personality

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disorder is currently unknown, according to scientists. However, some researchers on the matter indicate that the disorder could be due to genetic, environment, and

Family History- People who have a close relative with the disorder may be at a higher risk of developing the disorder.

Brain Factors- Studies show that people with borderline personality disorder can have structural and functional changes in the brain in the areas that control impulses and emotional regulation.

Environmental, /Cultural and **Social Factors** – Many with borderline personality disorder report experiencing traumatic life events.

What are signs and symptoms of **Borderline Personality Disorder?**

Borderline personality disorder manifests itself in different ways. According to some mental health professionals, symptoms are grouped into nine major categories, and individuals must show five of the symptoms in order to be diagnosed with the disorder. Individuals diagnosed with borderline personality disorder may exhibit mood swings along with lacking the understanding regarding the role they play in the world, which can have a negative effect on their interests and values. Other signs and symptoms of borderline personality disorder may include the following:

- · Frantic efforts to avoid feeling aban-
- · Problems managing anger and unpleasant emotions
- · Unclear or poor self-image
- · History of unstable, intense relation-
- · Impulsiveness, self-destructive behaviors
- · Self-harm, Suicidal behavior
- · Extreme mood swings
- · Chronic feelings of emptiness
- · Feeling suspicious or out of touch with

How borderline personality disorder is treated?

Historically, borderline personality disorder has been difficult to treat. However; the disorder is treatable. A mental health professional is needed to make an accurate diagnosis. There are effective BPD treatments and coping skills that can help you feel better and back in control of your thoughts, feelings, and actions.

This disorder is mainly treated using psychotherapy which is also called talk therapy with added medication. Treatment can help you learn skills to manage and cope with the condition.

Weekly therapy involving education about the disorder, group, peer, and family support; and social and emotional skills training can treat most BPD cases. Psvchotherapy, such as dialectical behavioral therapy (DBT), cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT), and psychodynamic psychotherapy, is the first line of choice for BPD.

Medications may be instrumental to a treatment plan, but there is no one medication specifically designed to treat the core symptoms of BPD. Rather several medications may be used off-label to treat various symptoms.

Related Conditions

Many with BPD also experience additional conditions, such as anxiety disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), attention-deficit/hyperactivity (ADHD), bipolar disorder, depression, eating disorder, and other personality disorders.

New research and treatment ideas have improved the outlook for people living with BPD. With treatment you can feel better about yourself and proceed to live a more stable and rewarding life.

For more information, visit www.nami. org, www.webmd.org, MayoClinic.org and www.helpguid.org.

This article was written by Jeannetta Stephens-Jones, Ed.D., Retired Educational Diagnostician|Speech Pathologist and president of NAMI Ruston Board of Directors. Contact her at jjones_79aka@yahoo.com

Things a deer hunter should know

By David W. Ferguson

I have been a successful deer hunter for the past 50 years, never had an accident nor have I had any reason not to feel safe in the woods.

The practice of gun safety is the most important aspect of hunting. Treat each firearm as if it is loaded, keep your finger away from the trigger unless you are ready to fire. You should always point the muzzle of the gun in a safe direction, never drive with a loaded firearm in your vehicle and once you reach the hunting destination, load the firearm.

Target identification: Be sure of your target and what is in front of and behind it.

Clothing: Wear bright, highly visible clothing such as hunter orange, fluorescent red or green. Avoid wearing white, tan, earth tones or animal colored

Don't run, jump or climb with a loaded firearm. You should unload the firearm before climbing a fence or tree or jump a ditch. You should pull the firearm toward you with the butt, not the

Precheck deer stands for possible damage caused by the weather rotten steps or other materials that might need replacing for safety.

Check the deer stand for critters like wasps, ants, bees, snakes or any other pest that might have set up home in your stand.

Tips for new deer hunters: • Go hunting with a friend that has

- hunted before. • Attend a hunting mentorship pro-
- Study the behavior of the whitetail deer you are hunting.

Deer attractants for a successful hunting season

Rice brands come in many flavors: strawberry, persimmon, apple crush, pile driver, acorn, rage, sugar beets, crushed and peanut butter. I buy plain rice band and add high fragrant addi-



David Ferguson stands with a few deer horns captured.

tives because deer have a keen sense of smell and they love sweets.

This is my formula for mixing the rice brand mixture: Take a five-gallon bucket, add two gallons of rice brand. One cup of sugar. Add your favorite attractant using only two teaspoons to rice brand, mix thoroughly and pour next to the feeder. The more you pour on the ground, the more the deer will eat. I use the following attractant myself: jello -

- a. Strawberry
- b. Watermelon
- c. Peach
- d. Green Apple e. Cherry

f. Kool-aid (strawberry-fruit punch)

The old faithful, deer attractant is corn. I add a sweet attractant to the feeder barrel so the deer are able to smell the fragrance of the powdered attractant called C'mere Deer. If you are looking for a big buck you must leave the does, small bucks and baby deer alone. If the deer are comfortable in the area you hunt, he will come during the

David Wayne Ferguson is a native of Grambling and a retired educator.

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Quincy Delight Jones II leaves music impression through the ages

By Jaron Clark

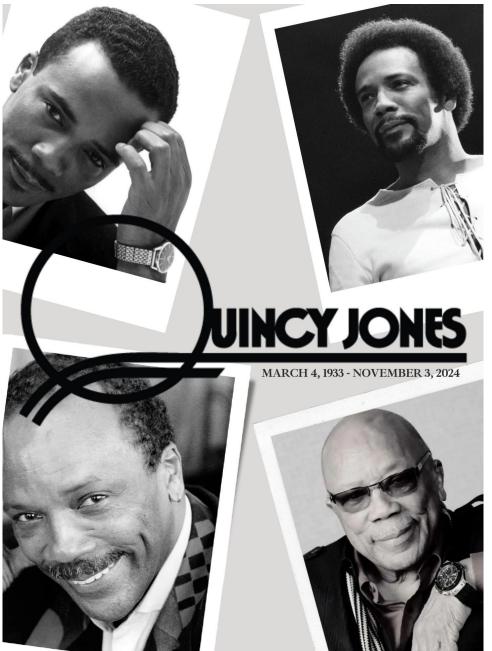
ost of us are thoroughly aware of the many accolades and global influence made by Quincy Delight Jones II in culture and media, but we all must always remember that it was always about music!

Quincy grew up as an adolescent in the middle of The Great Depression, this is what built his determination to not only survive but thrive! It was by chance of hearing a piano that inspired him to learn how to play every instrument he could get his hands on. The big band sound and seeing black men in a different light where they were masters of their craft and free pushed him to do whatever it took to become a part of that family! As a teen he was discovered by Count Basie for his trumpet playing then later traveled the world as a member of Lionel Hampton's big band. This experience sparked his interest in becoming a band leader and composer himself. This desire led him to into intense study in orchestral arrangement abroad and soon accomplishing this goal soon after. This was the origin of Quincy Jones that gave us his all and what a delight it has been.

From Frank Sinatra to The Weekend and just about anyone you could possibly think of, his 70-plus year career span throughout every media form there is.

Now, my first exposure to his talents was from my childhood with the song 'Street Beater' aka The Sanford & Son tv show theme song. Then, there was this album my father had where Quincy was on the cover dressed in a black jumpsuit sporting a perfect medium afro! This, of course, was the "You Got It Bad Girl" album and when I learned that 'Street Beater' was on this album, I had to give it a listen. I was hooked immediately, because it also included the tracks, 'Superstition' and 'Summer In The City.' The title track 'You Got It Bad Girl' was also a standout track, but my personal favorite was 'Manteca!'

There are 3 other key albums from Quincy that stood out to me over the years. The next was "The Dude" that



Quincy Delight Jones II

dawned the key tracks, 'Ai No Corrida' and 'Velas.' This album also gave us a proper introduction to two classic soul ballads from James Ingram, 'Just Once' and 'One Hundred Ways'. Furthermore, it's been said that this album was inspired by a statue he was given in Africa which there is an image of for the album cover.

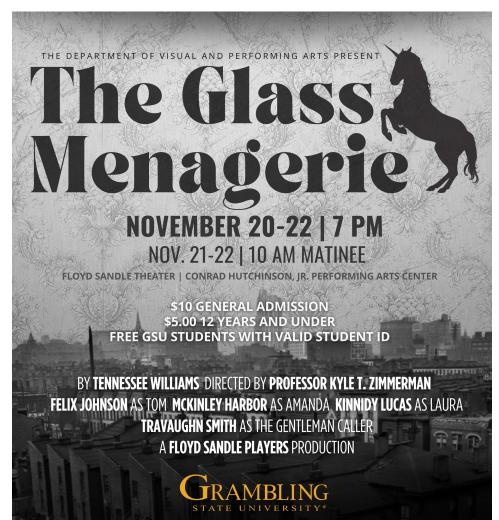
For a while, after Quincy was off

my radar with his self-titled releases, mostly because he was wrapped up in tv and movie projects and what he is mostly known for, and that's the making of the maturation of Michael Jackson! Then while I was in high school, he put himself back out there and dropped the classic album, "Back On The Block!" This album was hard-core by letting you know that Quincy

would never limit himself to any genre as he always did! This album was a full document of black culture at the time by embracing hip-hop, modern R&B, Quiet Storm and fresh renditions of classic jazz and modern jazz in acapella, instrumental and gospel influence. Everybody was on this album to say the least, Ice-T, Big Daddy Kane, Take6, Tevin Campbell, Chaka Khan, Bobby McFerrin, Ray Charles, Ella Fitzgerald & Sarah Vaughn! Track for track this album was just dope, but probably the most famous song from this album is the quintessential quiet storm slow jam "The Secret Garden" that featured Al B. Sure, El DeBarge, Barry White & James Ingram putting it down on where every black woman deserved to be by their side!

Finally, the last album that resonated with me was released while I was in college where we were all invited to have a time inside of, "Q's Jook Joint!" This album did not miss either with renditions of Quincy produced classics like Michael Jackson's 'Rock with You' with Brandy and Heavy D and The Brothers Johnson's 'Stomp' with Coolio, Yo-Yo and, believe it or not, Shaq, as well as 'Stuff Like That' from Quincy's "Sounds" album that featured Ray Charles and Charlie Wilson. Most notably, once again it was the mellow moods that hit this album such as, 'Slow Jams' with Tamia, Babyface, Barry White and Portrait and 'Heaven's Girl' with Aaron Hall, R. Kelly, Charlie Wilson and Ron Isley! Let's not forget that we were introduced to Tamia as a solo diva with 'You Put A Move On My Heart' on this joint as well.

The culmination of these significant albums combined with him working on groundbreaking projects like "We Are The World", "The Color Purple", Qwest Records, Vibe Magazine, etc. there is no denying that he will not be remembered as one of the greatest American composer/producers of all time a defined popular culture in his own way for the world to see and was awarded and recognized for his accomplishments through all his adversity to be an inspiration to us all going forward! Rest In Power Sir, you left us the blueprint with your gifts, and we thank you for it!



The Glass Menagerie Production Comes to GSU

[Gramblng, LA] A production of The Glass Menagerie, a drama by Tennessee Williams, about a struggling family in St. Louis during the 1930s will run from Nov. 20-22 at 7pm at the Floyd Sandle Theater. The play focuses on Amanda Wingfield, a faded southern belle, her son Tom, who dreams of escape, and her daughter Laura, who is shy and lives in her own world with her collection of glass animals.

imals. al & Performing Arts, Amanda urges Tom to find a suitor for hendersonst@gram.edu.

Laura, and he invites a "gentleman caller," fim, to dinner. What happens that evening changes everything for the family, revealing their hopes, dreams, and deep disappointments.

It's a moving story about family, memory, and the challenges of facing reality.

For more information, contact Stacy Henderson, Administrative Assistant, Grambling State University Visual & Performing Arts, 318-274-2201, hendersonst@gram.edu.

Candy Cane Lane is Open for the Holiday Season

Candy Cane Lane in Calhoun is now open for the Holidays. Candy Cane Park is a wooded path over a mile long, decorated with over 1 Million Christmas lights. Visitors can enjoy four lighted tunnels, a 33 ft-tall lighted Christmas tree, a fantastic section of the park set to blink and dance to music, and countless lighted displays. Guests can choose to enjoy the lights from the comfort of their vehicle or tour the park in one of the tractor-driven hayrides offered.

Drive Through admission is \$25/vehicle for a family vehicle and \$50/vehicle for a commercial vehicle (passenger van, limo, etc).

Drive through admission can be paid online or at the gate with cash or card. Hayride admission is \$12.50/person,

children 2 and under ride free.

The drive through will be open every night, rain or shine, from Nov 8-Jan 4

from 6-10pm. Hayrides will run on se-

lect nights from Nov 22-Dec 28. Hay-

ride tickets must be purchased online in advance as seating is limited. Candy

in advance as seating is limited. Candy Cane Lane is located at 170 Hwy 151 N in Calhoun, LA. Visit their Facebook page or candy-

Visit their Facebook page or candycanelane.net for all information or to book tickets online.

Ends Nov.1. 2025



Grambling State Legend Doug Williams Selected as the 2024 AFCA Trailblazer **Award Recipient**

By Grambling State Athletics

egendary former Grambling State football star and championship winning head coach Doug Williams, has been selected as the American Football Coaches Association's recipient of the 2024 Trailblazer Award. The award will be presented to Williams during the 2025 AFCA Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Williams is one of the most storied G-Men in the history of the program, playing quarterback under the great Eddie Robinson. As a four-year starter, Williams led the Tigers to 36-7 record, winning three SWAC championships from 1974-1977. He was also named the Black College Football Player of the Year twice.

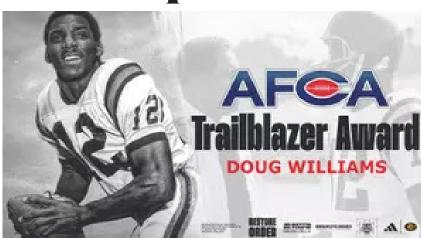
His stellar play helped him become a Heisman candidate, finishing fourth in the voting following the 1977 campaign.

Williams was drafted by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers with the 17th pick of the first round of the 1978 NFL Draft, becoming the first African American quarterback to be drafted in the opening round. He led the Buccaneers to the playoffs three times in the first five seasons, including a trip to the 1979 NFC Championship Game.

The Zachary, La. native reached the zenith of his career when he led Washington to a 42-10 victory over the Denver Broncos in Super Bowl XXII, becoming the first Black quarterback to be named Super Bowl MVP. He set records for most touchdown passes (four), most passing yards (340), longest pass completion (80 yards) and longest touchdown pass (80 yards).

In 1995, Williams was the offensive coordinator for the Scottish Claymores in the World League, then became a college scout for the Jacksonville Jaguars for two seasons. Following his stint with Jaguars, he served as head of Morehouse for the 1997 season.

In 1998, upon the retirement of Robinson as the head coach of GSU, Williams was named the new



He won his first SWAC title as head coach in 2000, with a 10-2 overall record. The following year he led the Tigers to Black College Football National Title with a 10-1 record. He completed a SWAC championship three-peat in 2002, leading the G-Men to an 11-2 mark.

Following the 2003 season, which saw GSU claim a SWAC Western Division crown, he returned to the NFL to serve as an executive with Tampa Bay. After serving as general manager of the Virginia Destroyers in the United Football League during the 2010 season, Williams returned as head coach of Grambling State, immediately winning his fourth SWAC title as head coach

Since 2014, he's served as an executive for the Washington Commanders.

Williams is member of the College Football Hall of Fame, the Black College Football Hall of Fame, the Grambling Legends Hall of Fame, the SWAC Hall of Fame, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers Ring of Honor, the Tampa Stadium Krewe of Honor, and the Washington Commanders Ring of Honor.

In 2009, Harris and Williams collaborated to create the Black College Football Hall of Fame to preserve the history and honor the greatest football players, coaches and contributors from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

The AFCA Trailblazer Award was created to honor leaders in leader of Grambling State football. the football coaching profession who coached at historically black colleges and universities. Past Trailblazer Award winners include Charles Williams, Hampton (2004); Cleve Abbott, Tuskegee (2005); Arnett Mumford, Southern (2006); Billy Nicks, Prairie View A&M (2007); Alonzo "Jake" Gaither, Florida A&M (2008); Fred "Pops" Long, Wiley (2009); Harry R. "Big Jeff" Jefferson, Bluefield State (2010); Edward P. Hurt, Morgan State (2011); Vernon "Skip" McCain, Maryland-Eastern Shore (2012); Marino Casem, Alcorn State (2013); Gideon Smith, Hampton (2014); Eddie Robinson, Grambling State (2015); Oree Banks, South Carolina State and West Virginia State (2016); John Merritt, Jackson State and Tennessee State (2017); Earl Banks, Morgan State (2018); Bill Hayes, Winston-Salem State and North Carolina A&T (2019); Edward Jackson, Delaware State, Johnson C. Smith and Howard (2021); Henry Kean, Kentucky State and Tennessee State (2022); and Edward Clemons, Edward Waters, Lane, Morris Brown and Jackson State (2023).

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For complete coverage of Grambling State Athletics, please follow the Tigers on social media at @ GSU_Tigers (Twitter), /GramblingStateTigers1901 (Facebook), @gramblingathletics (Instagram) or visit the official home of Grambling State Athletics at gsutigers.com.

Grambling State Rallies Past Alabama State for Senior Day Win

By Grambling State Athletics

GRAMBLING, La. | Grambling State used a 14-point fourth quarter to sprint past Alabama State 24-23 on Saturday afternoon at Eddie G. Robinson Memorial Stadium.

GSU (5-5 overall, 2-4 SWAC) trailed 23-10 heading into the final period but outscored the Hornets 14-0 in the fourth quarter to secure the win. Alabama State had a chance to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat, but kicker Brandon Gilliam missed a 28-yard field goal in the closing moments of regulation.

Grambling State gave ASU (5-4, 4-2) a heavy dose of its run game, racking up a season-high 171 yards with three touchdowns. Senior Keilon Elder stepped up big in his final game at Robinson Stadium, sprinting for 104 yards and a touchdown on 17 carries.

Starting quarterback Deljay Bailey went 6-for-12 for 76 yards with

an interception. Defensively, Andrew Jones led the charge racking up 14 total tackles with seven solo stops and 2.0 tackles for loss. Freshman linebacker Jamal Jordan also came up big, making eight total tackles with one forced fumble and a fumble recov-

The first points of the afternoon came via the big leg of Reed Harradine. Harradine drilled a 50-yard field, tied for his longest of the season, with 7:56 left in the first quarter to give the Tigers a 3-0 lead.

Alabama State responded with a 45-yard field goal by Gilliam with five seconds left in the opening pe-

Grambling State drove 72 yards in 10 plays on the ensuing drive with Elder finishing it off with a 9-yard touchdown run to give the



GSU Player Dives For Touchdown. Photo Credit: T. Valentino

Tigers a 10-3 lead with 11:14 to go until halftime.

The Hornets tied the game once again with a 4-yard QB keeper by Kareem Keye, making it 10-10 with 7:39 until halftime. Grambling State seemingly regained the lead on a kickoff returned for a touchdown by Elder, but a holding call nullified the

After forcing GSU to punt, ASU took its first lead of the game, 17-10, with 3:21 remaining in the half on a 1-yard run by Keye. The Hornets added a field goal just before the half to carry a 20-10 lead into the

Gilliam extended ASU's advantage to 23-10 with a 22-yard field goal with 6:22 left in the third quar-

With Grambling State facing 4th and 2 at the Alabama State 6-yard line with 13:47 to go in the fourth quarter, Tre Bradford burst through the middle of the Hornets defense for a touchdown to make it a 23-17

Rhoody Alabama State's

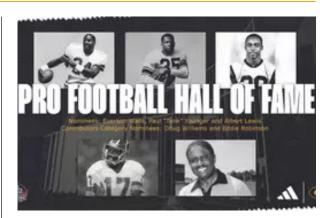
Jean-Louis came up with an interception at the GSU 47-yard line with 9:13 left in regulation, but freshman linebacker Jamal Jordan gave immediately gave the Tigers the ball back after strip sacking Keye an recovering the ball at the Alabama State 43-yard line.

After moving the ball to the Hornets 14-yard line, running back Dedrick Talbert toted the ball 14 yards to the end zone for the go-ahead TD, giving the Tigers a 24-23 lead with 6:19 to play.

Alabama State's began its final drive of the day at its own 20-yard line. The Hornets quickly marched down the field, setting up the potential game-winning field goal. Gilliam wasn't able to knock his fourth field goal of the day through the uprights, missing the 28-yard attempt wide right with 53 seconds remaining.

Keye completed 16-of-28 passes for 280 yards. He added six rushing yards and two rushing touchdowns.

Marcus Harris II led the Hornets on the ground, running for 68 yards on 16 carries.



Grambling State Has Four in Consideration for 2025 Pro Football Hall of Fame Class

CANTON, Ohio | Former Grambling State and NFL stars Paul "Tank" Younger, Everson Walls, Albert Lewis and Doug Williams have moved one step closer to entering the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Younger, Walls, and Lewis have made it to the final 31 former NFL players in the Seniors category from a nomination pool of 182, while Williams made it to the semifinals of a pool of contributors.

Also under consideration to join the Pro Football Hall of Fame was legendary GSU head coach Eddie Robinson. Robinson is one of the most successful college football coaches of all-time, winning 408 games, 17 SWAC Titles and nine HBCU Championships as head coach of the Grambling State football program. He sent nearly 200 players to the NFL with four of his former players currently in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Younger was the first NFL player to come from an HBCU and was the first African American to to become an NFL front office administrator. He played under Robinson from 1945 to 1948 where he was a standout running back and quarterback.

Younger signed with the Los Angeles Rams as a free agent in 1949, where he remained until 1957. He wrapped his playing career up in 1958 after spending a season with the Pittsburgh Steelers. While in the NFL, Younger four-time Pro Bowl selection, three-time All-Pro and NFL Champion

Walls, who was also a Division I-AA (FCS) All-American at Grambling State, played 13 seasons in the NFL, including his first nine with the Dallas Cowboys (1981-89). He was selected to four Pro Bowls and was named first-team All-Pro once and second-team twice in his career. Walls led the league in interceptions three times (1981, 1982 and 1985) and finished his career with 57, tied for 13th-most in NFL history.

While a member of the New York Giants, Walls won Super Bowl XXV. He is considered to be one of the most decorated and prolific defensive backs to ever play the game.

Lewis, a defensive back, had a prolific college and professional career. The Mansfield, Louisiana native played for Eddie Robinson at Grambling State from 1979 to 1982 and recorded 11 interceptions in his final two seasons for the Tigers. After a stellar collegiate career, Lewis was picked in the third round of the 1983 NFL Draft, with the 61st selection, by the Kansas City Chiefs.

Lewis spent 16 season in there NFL, playing for the Chiefs and Las Angeles/Oakland Raiders, where he recorded 42 interceptions, 12.5 sacks, 13 forced fumbles, 13 fumble recoveries and two touchdowns. In addition, he blocked a stunning 11 kicks in 11 seasons in Kansas City. He also was selected to four Pro Bowls and was a two-time First-Team All-Pro.

A member of the Kansas City Chiefs Hall of Fame, Lewis was named the Chiefs MVP during the 1986 season after he recorded 69 tackles (61 solos), four interceptions, two fumble recoveries, one sack and one blocked punt. During his time in Kansas City, Lewis made the playoffs five times, including an appearance in the 1993 AFC Championship game.

Williams is one of the most storied G-Men in the history of the program, playing quarterback under the great Eddie Robinson. As a four-year starter, Williams led the Tigers to 36-7 record, winning three SWAC championships from 1974-1977. He was also named the Black College Football Player of the Year twice.

His stellar play helped him become a Heisman candidate, finishing fourth in the voting following the 1977 campaign.

Williams was drafted by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers with the 17th pick of the first round of the 1978 NFL Draft, becoming the first African American quarterback to be drafted in the opening round. He led the Buccaneers to the playoffs three times in the first five seasons, including a trip to the 1979 NFC Championship Game.

The Zachary, La. native reached the zenith of his career when he led Washington to a 42-10 victory over the Denver Broncos in Super Bowl XXII, becoming the first Black quarterback to be named Super Bowl MVP. He set records for most touchdown passes (four), most passing yards (340), longest pass completion (80 yards) and longest touchdown pass (80 yards).

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