



# THE GRAMBLING★CONNECTION

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## EXPERT SAYS HE HAS PROOF 2024 ELECTION WAS RIGGED

Staff Report

Greg Palast, a former Forensic Economist, says he has absolute proof that the 2024 election was rigged through suppression tactics. He claims were it not for these tactics, Kamala Harris would have won 3,565,000 more votes giving her wins in Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Georgia. “These are pretty exacting calculations.” He said on a recent podcast of the Thom Hartmann Program. “She would have won 286 electoral votes.”

Palast, who is now a reporter for the Guardian and New York Times, said he received the numbers from the Elections Assistance Commission.

He went on to say that these votes were wrongfully purged from the voter rolls, or they were provisional ballots that were

thrown out across the States. He also said that people of color were disproportionately targeted.

“We found, for example, in Georgia, that 198,000 voters, we actually have their names and addresses, were wrongly removed from the voter rolls. And you’ll be shocked, overwhelmingly, voters of color in Wisconsin, almost every voter removed by the purge was either a Black voter in Milwaukee or a student in Madison.”

Another tactic the GOP used was a brand new one called “vigilante voter challenges”. “Where for the first time, an individual voter like Greg Palast can say, Tom Hartman does not live in Portland. He shouldn’t be allowed to vote. This is new. A third of a million, 317,000 voters were challenged by the beginning of August. The NAACP said it was over

200,000 in just Georgia alone by election day. We [also] had 2.12 million mail-in ballots rejected.”

Palast claims this sort of tactic has not been done since the Ku Klux Klan used this personal mass challenge business in 1946. “This is the Klan plan and Trump used this to massive effect, especially in Georgia, Arizona, and Pennsylvania. This was a massive attack on voters of color, especially.”

Palast also pointed out that according to the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, which did a study and found that the chance of a ballot being rejected, mail-in or in-precinct, is 900% higher if you’re Black than if you’re white.

“We have a supposed democracy, where you have this racial, basically Jim Crow apartheid voting system, where you

have massive, massive numbers of voters of color who lose their vote.”

Palast says young people are also targeted. “Young voters, especially young women, were targeted for the purges and sent provisional ballots, then had their registrations canceled or their votes disqualified, especially their mail-in ballots.”

And it doesn’t end there. NPR found that one in seven mail-in ballots were thrown out. Overwhelmingly, again, by the government numbers, 400% more likely if they were black voters than white. “So, this is how Trump won, by racial and other forms of vote suppression. That gave him the election.”

Palast also stated that unless we restart the voting rights movement in America, 2028 is already decided. “It’ll be decided by Jim Crow, not by the voters.”



Young head coach, Wilbert Ellis, shows players a proper swing.

## Ellis To Be Inducted in National College Baseball Hall of Fame

By Joice M. Dunn

Wilbert Ellis, who retired as head baseball coach at Grambling State University in 2003, will be among 11 standouts to be inducted as part of the 2024 class of the College Baseball Hall of Fame. The 17th induction class will be honored on the Night of Champions Thursday, Feb. 13, in Overland Park, Kan., the home of the College Baseball Hall of Fame. The event will serve as the ceremonial start to the 2025 college baseball season, which begins Friday, Feb. 14.

The College Baseball Foundation said this year’s class is comprised of seven players, three coaches and an umpire -- all who have contributed to college baseball history at the NCAA, NAIA and NJCAA levels.

Coach Ellis said, “I received the call from Dr. John Winters, my good friend, we talk all the time. He couldn’t get me to stop talking.”

“I was elated for Dr. Ellis, as I called him. I can’t say how excited I was. His name was on the list for a few years,” said Dr. Winters, a member of the board of trustees of the College Baseball Foundation.

Coach Ellis assumed the head baseball coaching position at Grambling State University in 1977 upon the retirement of Dr. Ralph Waldo Emerson Jones. Ellis accumulated a 701-478-2 career record in 26 seasons. He led GSU to three Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) Championships (1983, 1984, 1985) and guided the Tigers to three NCAA Tournament appearances. He spent a total of 43 years coaching the Tigers. Ellis’s No. 31 jersey was retired during a celebration in March of 2023.

“My whole life has been about guiding people, especially children and young people,” Ellis said. “For me, it was never about the wins and losses – instead, I wanted to



W. Ellis

see what I could teach them about the game of life through the game of baseball.

We now have youth camps in Grambling, Ruston, Lincoln Parish and Monroe where 200-300 kids come out.

“For most young kids, that early love for athletics means they want to play the game for the rest of their lives — that was never my path,” Ellis said. “I already knew when I was young, I wanted to be a coach, and since I was 9 years old, I’ve never stopped coaching.”

“I remember being on my high school baseball team, Lincoln High in Ruston, when our head coach, Jimmy Duncan, was called into a meeting and had to miss practice,” Ellis said. “We didn’t have any assistant coaches, so he asked me to take over the coaching duties.”

“The next day Coach Duncan asked me how it went, and I told him that because of that day, I was sure that I wanted to be a baseball coach one day.”

Ellis went on to play for GSU’s baseball team but admits that even as a college student, Jones saw Ellis as more of a coach than a player. Ellis went on to graduate school at Kansas State, but it wasn’t long before Ellis rejoined Jones in the GSU dugout as an assistant coach.

“Not only did I learn from Dr. Jones, but also being in the presence of legendary football coach, Eddie G. Robinson, and basketball coach, Fred Hobdy, at GSU was truly thrilling. I got to be around those legends for 17 years as an assistant coach, and when Dr. Jones retired from coaching, I truthfully didn’t know what I’d do next.”

“I was out on the road recruiting in Shreveport, when I stopped by the state fair to see a friend,” Ellis said. “That friend asked me if I’d seen the local newspaper, where

an article said I’d been named the second head coach of Grambling and right there in the middle of that state fair, I got down on my knees and thanked my Lord and savior Jesus Christ because I knew God had fulfilled my dream.”

The dream included assisting approximately 50 players he and Jones coached at Grambling to earn professional contracts.

Ellis helped coach greats like Tommie Agee, the 1966 American League Rookie of the Year who appeared in the 1966 and ’67 All-Star games as a Chicago White Sox player, then, going to New York and playing a key role in the Mets 1969 World Series win.

Assistant Coach Ellis also coached Ralph Garr, who led the National League in hitting in 1974, compiling a .353 average on his way to All-Star honors. The 1984 Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame inductee hit .300 or better five times during his career.

“He’s the reason I was at Grambling, and he deserves all the accolades and much more. He was a little league coach in the area before he arrived at Grambling, Coach Ellis has been successful everywhere he’s been,” explained Garr. “I think it is a great honor, one that he well deserves. I thank God that somebody else saw his greatness.”

As GSU’s head coach, Ellis guided the college careers of Matt Alexander, who won a World Series title in 1979; Lenny Webster, drafted by the Minnesota Twins in 1985 and appeared in the 1997 All Championship Series and Gerald Williams, selected by the New York Yankees in the 1987 amateur draft.

Ellis oversaw construction of Grambling’s baseball facility that houses Wilbert Ellis Field at Ralph Waldo Emerson Jones Park and serves as president of the Friends of the Eddie G. Robinson Museum organization.

See **ELLIS**, page 2

## Washington to serve as interim head at Lincoln Prep

By Joice M. Dunn

Dr. Crystal Washington, who currently serves as the school’s chief academic officer, has been named acting executive director of the Lincoln Prep school effective immediately. Dr. Washington is replacing Gordan Ford who tendered his resignation effective 2/28/25 in a special called meeting Tuesday, Jan. 21.

“I am pleased to have the support of the Board of Directors to serve as the Acting CEO/Executive Director of Lincoln Preparatory School. I am a career educator with 17 years of experience with four of those years as a classroom teacher. I have served in several capacities over the years and feel as though these experiences have prepared me for this role. I am honored to serve the community to ensure that Lincoln Prep maintains its charter by exceeding performance goals,” explained Dr. Washington.

The interim acting executive director is in her third year at the school. Washington is a career educator with experience as principal and teacher, she has also served with the state Department of Education as a specialist sent to assist struggling local school systems.



Dr. Crystal Washington

“The Board is greatly appreciative to Mr. Ford for not only re-establishing a community school in Grambling, but for guiding the Board through the process of constructing a new school including academic and sports facilities,” said Robert Wiley, the school’s board president.

Lincoln Prep opened as a K-12 public charter school in 2016 with Ford serving as executive director. He also held the position of an administrator and teacher at the school in 2015. It is a college preparatory school, which works to prepare students for post-secondary success. Lincoln Prep consists of students from seven parishes across north Louisiana (Bienville, Claiborne, Jackson, Lincoln, Ouachita, Webster, and Union).

Wiley said, “A search committee will be formed as soon as possible to conduct a search for a permanent executive director.”

The school’s charter contract with the Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education as a Type 2 charter school in Lincoln Parish was renewed for a term of three years on Dec. 18, 2024, according to Wiley.

“The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) has granted Lincoln Prep a three-year renewal contingent upon the implementation of transformational practices that will improve our academic performance.” Dr. Washington explained, “Our plan is to partner with state approved vendors to create a strategic plan to address academic performance indicators. We are also working to ensure that students are meeting adequate progress as measured by progress monitoring tools and curriculum-based assessments.”

Teachers are simultaneously engaged in regular professional learning opportunities that will improve their practice. Finally, we are working to ensure that scheduling and staffing are aligned with these priorities.

“Our 2024 school performance score was a 55.3 which is a letter grade of D. We are up 3.4 points from 2023, which is double the statewide rate of growth. Schools with high school are evaluated based on assessments, growth, interests and opportunities, ACT/Work Keys, strength of diploma, and graduation cohort rates. Next year, schools will be evaluated on how they are growing students, the percentage of students who achieve mastery, and students graduating on time and showing readiness on ACT or Work Keys (depending on their diploma track),” she said.

“While I do plan to apply for the position, my current focus is channeling my energy towards making quality decisions for the students and families we serve. They deserve our absolute best, every day!” Dr. Washington, responded.



Opinion

Thank You For Your Support!

By Lena Claybon

Before we get too far into the New Year, I wanted to take this time to thank the Grambling Community and our advertisers for your support. As we embark on our fifth month in publication, we are very grateful that we have been able to make it this far. As the “new kid on the block”, we definitely have had our challenges but your feedback and encouragement has kept us going.

Special shoutouts go out to our contributing writers and photographers from this past year: Prentiss Smith, Rusty Potter, Brenda Daniel, Detorian Gipson, Tony Valentino (Photographer) and Glen Lewis (Photographer). We also would like to thank our advertisers:



Lena Claybon

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free at pick up locations in the community, you’ve chosen to support us through paid mail-out and online subscriptions and we are so grateful for your support! And lastly, thank you to our community contributors who send us articles and keep us abreast of what’s going on. You recognize that we can’t be everywhere and you are doing a wonderful job keeping us informed so that we can keep the community informed. Keep up the great work! As we look forward to the New Year, we hope to keep bringing you the news and information that is important to you. We’re not trying to compete with the big boys like the New York Times or The Washington Post. We’re not interested in ‘who shot who’ yesterday or highlighting the worse ills of our society on every

page. We want to bring you information that will be useful to you in your everyday life and news that will help you keep up with what’s happening in your own community. If we can do that, we will feel that we have done our jobs. We look forward to adding new features and expanding our reach in the New Year. Also, we are constantly on the search for new contributors so if you have a point of view you’d like to share, please let us know. My favorite quote is “Be the change you wish to see in the world” so that is what we are striving to be and do. Thank you, once again, for all your support in helping us keep The Grambling Connection going. Until next time, Love and Peace, Lena Wilson Claybon, Managing Editor and Co-Publisher.

Coddling Young Violent Offenders Is not the Answer

By Prentiss Smith

Before he left office, Former Governor of Louisiana, John Bel Edwards proposed to send some of the hard cases and violent juvenile offenders to Angola, for which he was excoriated for by those who believe that his actions were too harsh. It was not too harsh if those violent juveniles were continuing to be bad actors, and frankly, it has only gotten worse. There are many people in the affected communities, including this writer, who believe that it is not too harsh, and maybe a stint in Angola is where some of them should be sent to learn what real prison is like. It just might encourage them to straighten up their acts. Coddling them and making all kinds of exceptions and treating them like they are babies who just need a good talking to, or a time out is not the answer. It is called “tough love,” and it needs to be considered if these young men are ever going to be productive citizens. Many of them will not, but maybe some of them can be saved, and that should be the goal. Save the ones that want to be saved.

The problem is that too many of these young violent offenders have been coddled and given too many chances to straighten up their acts, and they have taken advantage of the system. The operative word is “violent.”

No one that I know is proposing to just send young offenders who may have gotten off on the wrong track to Angola, but they are saying that there is a group of young violent offenders, who need to be put in check, and the only way to do it might be to show them what it is like to be in a real prison setting. It is called “scared straight,” and it has worked in other similar situations.

The governor was not advocating that they should be in the same facility or area of the older prison population, but he and others were saying that there is enough room at the Angola complex to build and house young violent offenders. There is a way to keep them separated from the overall prison population, and the time is now to make that happen.

The fact is that these young violent offenders are breaking out of the juvenile facilities they are being held in with a regularity that is hard for most citizens to understand. They are causing problems in the surrounding communities and terrorizing people who find themselves hostages in their own homes. It is unacceptable, and Angola might well be the place for

some of these individuals to be housed. Many of them are so bad that the officers in the facilities they are in, have no alternative but to treat them like they are harden criminals, and keep them shackled and in semi-solitary confinement. It is bad and getting worse, and the former governor was just trying to buy a little time to address this problem in a way that is both humane and acceptable. Now, there is a new governor, and he has to deal with this very real problem of young men committing horrible crimes, and the public is tired of the revolving door. It has really gotten out of control, and many of those who are incarcerated are not receptive to the help that people are offering them. They are wreaking havoc wherever they go. Over the last few months, there have been several escapes from juvenile facilities. They break out of the juvenile facilities and commit more crimes—violent crimes. It is unacceptable, and there has to be some way to get control of the situation, which is dire in some places. Over the last several months, there has been a precipitous rise in violent crime by young offenders, including murder and aggravated assaults. Sadly, many of these young offenders are between the ages of 14 and 20.

Many of the violent crimes committed in municipalities like Baton Rouge, Shreveport, and New Orleans have been done by young offenders. It is increasingly clear that many of these young men have certainly lost all respect for authority, and they are not afraid of anything or anyone. Many of these young men are repeat offenders who have been given slaps on the wrist because they were juveniles, and the justice system is designed to give them the benefit of the doubt and second chances. We all believe in second chances, but there comes a time when second chances turn into third chances, and third chances turn into fourth chances. Many citizens are saying enough is enough. And yes, there are many reasons why many of these young men find themselves caught up in the justice system, starting with the fact that many of them are without strong male figures to help them and guide them through their formative years. I know this has been talked about ad nauseum, but it is still the number one reason why this is going on. These young men need the counsel of real men in their lives, and that is a glaring problem for many of these young men. Yes, we know that mothers are vitally important, but young boys need fathers or male figures to mentor them, and show them how to be good citizens. Coddling them has not proved to be the answer. And that’s the way I see it. smithpren@aol.com

Small Steps Forward

By Rusty Potter

The journey to improve this year is not about making great leaps; it's about consistent, small steps forward. Each day offers us the chance to be better than we were yesterday, and when we have that mindset, we set ourselves on a path to success, and growth in 2025. In life, it's easy to fall into the trap of comparison, measuring our progress against someone else's achievements. But the truth is, you only need to compare yourself with the person you were yesterday. Getting better every day starts with having a mind to grow. This means seeing challenges as opportunities, not obstacles. Each mistake, setback, or failure is a lesson to learn 5 lessons from. Through these moments, we learn resilience and discover strength we didn't know we had. Too often, we overwhelm ourselves by setting big goals without breaking them into manageable steps. If you want to run a marathon, the first step is not to run 26.2 miles. The first step would be to get off the couch, lace up your running shoes, and take that first step out the door. Celebrate each small victory along the way, whether it's walking a mile or choosing healthier meals. Success is not about how fast you go; it's about your commitment to the process. You must learn to love the process. A small intentional step today is better than a promise to start "someday". Surround yourself with positive people this year. Your environment plays a huge role in your ability to grow. Surround yourself with people who inspire and challenge you to be your best. Seek out books, podcasts, YouTube videos, and conversations that fill your mind with encouragement and wisdom. Protect your mind from negativity, and remember: you become like the people you spend the most time with. We celebrate progress, not perfection. Sometimes, we focus too much on reaching the finish line that we forget to appreciate how far we have come. Maybe you did not accomplish everything you set out to do today, but you showed up. You tried. That is worth celebrating. Progress, no matter how small, is still progress. You must be a life-long learner. Every day brings a chance to learn something new. Whether it is learning a new skill or reading a new book. Growth happens when you stay curious. As the saying goes, "If you're not growing, you're standing still." Finally, remember this: getting better every day is not about perfection it's about persistence. It's about showing up for yourself, even on the hard days. It's about believing in your ability to improve one step, one choice, one day at a time. So readers, start today. Do one thing, big or small that brings you closer to your goals. And when the day is done, reflect on your progress and commit to doing just a little better tomorrow. With time, those small steps will add up to big results. You've got this - get better every day!



Rusty Potter

News

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Ellis also coached current Minor League manager James Cooper, who not only played for Ellis but also became Grambling’s fourth baseball coach before moving on to the New York Yankees’ organization as a coach. “After I was drafted by the Houston Astros, I often talked to Coach Ellis, who was a source of motivation for me,” Cooper said. “He helped me out spiritually, financially, and emotionally. He’s always been someone I can count

on when I need someone to talk to.” In 2015, the Ruston-Lincoln (Parish) Chamber of Commerce presented Ellis with the Robert E. Russ Award, the highest award given for community impact and in 2021, he received the Bill Best Humanitarian Award from the Ruston-Lincoln Chamber of Commerce. The award was to recognize a local citizen for their outstanding contributions to humanitarian interests, unselfish giving, and service to others. In 2022 Ellis was inducted into the Louisiana Justice Hall of Fame in Ba-

ton Rouge for his proactive approach in working with youth. Ellis was instrumental in the establishment of the Eddie G. Robinson Museum in Grambling, and the school’s Grambling Legends Sports Hall of Fame. Ellis was inducted into the American Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2006. He is the second recipient of the Hall’s Louisiana Sports Ambassador Award, established in 2020. He was inducted into the SWAC Hall of Fame in 2011 and American Base-

ball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2007. He is a member of the American Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame (ABCA), the SWAC Hall of Fame, the Grambling Legends Hall of Fame and the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame. Ellis also received the Louisiana Sports Ambassador Award, created by the Louisiana Sports Writers Association, for long-term exemplary contributions to the perception of Louisiana by an individual who has ties to the state's sports landscape.

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Community

CENTRIC CREDIT UNION IS COMING TO GRAMBLING

By Lena Claybon

At the recent City Council Meeting held on Thursday, January 16, 2025, Centric Credit Union Executives were on hand to announce that they will be opening a branch in Grambling, possibly, as soon as April. Matt Waldroup, SVP, Business Services, said that Centric has over 1500 customers within a 2 mile radius of the Grambling community so it just makes sense for them to have a presence here. Samantha Leonard will be heading up the branch here. Originally from the East Coast, she said she grew up watching Grambling's band on television and is very excited to soon be a part of the community. She said she is looking forward to meeting people in the community and serving their needs. Also, during the City Council meeting, The City of Grambling announced its new GEDC board members. They are Kenneth Koroma, Terrence Bradford, Jauna Creer, and two members from



Grambling's City Council appointed to the board were DeVaria Ponton and Delores Smith. The January 17, 2025 issue of the Grambling Connection reported that a settlement has been reached in the ongoing legal battle between the City of Grambling, its city council, and the troubled Grambling Economic Development Corporation (GEDC). As part of that agreement, the Board of Directors at that time, which consisted of Edward Jones (President), Phyllis Miller (Vice President), Linda Butler (Secretary/Treasurer), Eddie Robinson, III (Member), and Mary Gipson (Member) would tender their resignations, effective immediately. In addition to that, the City of Grambling, through its Mayor, Alvin Bradley, and present City Council, would appoint and ap-

prove whomever they deem as qualified candidates, as a new Board of Directors. The settlement agreement also stipulated that Edward Jones had to return a Chevrolet Malibu owned by the GEDC and all board members (including previous ones) had to turn over all keys, passwords, and any other data that gave them access to GEDC properties or records. In exchange for their resignations, the City of Grambling agreed to dismiss its motion for criminal contempt filed previously seeking to have Edward Jones and his Board held in criminal contempt stemming from the sale of the Legends Square shopping center. Jones sold the property in December 2024 for \$700,000 which violated a court order previously issued. Also, during the City Council meeting, one of the City Council members, Cathy Holmes, announced that Grambling will hold its first Black History Parade on February 15 followed by a Black History Program at City Hall. Festivities start at 12 pm.



Glen Hall, third from left, holds donation as he stands with Alpha Phi Alpha brothers.

Alpha Phi Alpha makes donation to Lincoln Prep

The Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. recently made donations to Lincoln Preparatory School. Dr. Gerald L. Ellis, Professor Emeritus of Chemistry (Grambling State University), and a member of Alpha Phi Alpha made a \$500 donation to the Science department. The fraternity made a financial donation to the school for general appreciation. The "Panther" family is most appreciative of these kind gestures.

New Rocky Valley Hosts "Remembering The Dreamer" Program

By Joice M. Dunn

The Inter-Denominational Alliance of Ministers, Inc. honored the dreamer, Martin Luther King Jr., Monday, Jan. 20 at the New Rocky Valley Baptist Church. Rev. Clee E. Lowe, pastor of the Greater Mt. Carmel B.C. in Scotlandville, Baton Rouge, spoke words of encouragement to the area congregation. Reminding the group that as a celebration of a dreamer was taking place, there was a man opposite being sworn in to the highest office as the 47<sup>th</sup> president. Rev. Lowe explained how very different the two men were in every since of the word. "I asked A.I. for a comparison of the two men," said the northern Louisiana native of Spearville. For those who don't know what AI means, it's Artificial Intelligence that allows you to ask any questions and receive a response. So, Lowe asked what was Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s ideology or what he stood for?



Rev. Julius Sumler, pastor of New Rocky Valley, gives Grambling gifts to Rev. Clee Lowe

AI said, "Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was a champion for non-violence resistance to achieve social justice. He believed in peaceful protests and civil disobedience to combat racial injustice and inequality. The response for Donald Trump was, "Often referred to as Trumpism with emphasis on nationalism and populism. He advocates for policy that prioritize American interests often summarized by the slogan, "America first". While Martin Luther King's ideology is rooted in nonviolence and social justice, Trump's is characterized by nationalism and economic conservatism. The Louisiana Tech graduate then challenged the AI app to its comparison of violence verse nonviolence. Donald Trump's rhetoric has often included violent language and threats, and in his speeches, have strongly and significantly increased. Lowe talked about the tax cut that Trump passed, one that clearly shows that it's not in favor of the working class,

"We all know who's included in the working class," he said. The tax favor the rich, the pastor said, "Sounds like Robinhood in reverse, taking from the poor and giving to the rich". Martin Luther King tolerated a great deal of suffering and injustice where the other man tolerates non. The group was reminded that darkness cannot drive out darkness, neither can wrong be made right. Dr. Martin Luther King's legacy should encourage us to make a choice to live out the King's justice. "We are living out a portion of his dream right now," said Rev. Lowe. There are signs placed in airports, bus and train stations that say: If you see something, say something. "We see things happening everyday and it is time that we say and do something. "I challenge you not to give up. The fight must continue for the sake of our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren," reminded the speaker.

Announcements

Pinkie C. Wilkerson Foundation to sponsor celebration

The Pinkie C. Wilkerson Foundation will present "Remembering Pinkie" celebration luncheon Saturday, Feb. 1 at 11 a.m. at the Arcadia Event Center. The tickets for the event are \$50. The event will honor citizens on a mission recognizing District 11 "Spirit of Pinkie Honorees". The 15 honorees will fall in various catalogues. Beyond the Scope honorees include Lafaye Jackson, Rhonda Pruitt

and Melinda Willis. Humanitarians being honored include Kadar Dennis & Edgar Hill, Tyrone Jacobs (posthumously) and Grace Tatum. Education honorees are President Martin Lemelle, Coach Michael Lyons (posthumously) and Donald White. Social Action/Civil Rights Advocacy honorees are William "Bill" Smith, Alicia Williams, Dr. Danielle Williams and Representative Rashid Young. For questions or additional information contact Valena Lane at (318) 243-6676.

Retired educators to hold Town Hall meeting

The Lincoln Parish Retired Educators (LPRE) will hold a Town Hall meeting on Thursday, Feb. 13, at 2 p.m. in the Community Room of the Grambling City Hall, 127 King Street in Grambling. The keynote speaker for the event will be State Senator W. Jay Luneau, District 29.

NAMI Family support group holds meeting

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) will hold a support group meeting Thursday, Feb. 20 at 2 p.m. in the Lincoln Parish Library, George Byrnside Conference Room, 910 North Trenton St., Ruston. The meetings will continue each third Thursday of each

month until December. Dr. Jeannetta Stephens-Jones, Ed.D and Dr. Shirley Burch, Ph.D., will be present as well as NAMI Certified Peer Facilitators. Other group meetings will be held March 20, April 17 and May 15. Anyone at least 18 years old may RSVP to jjones79aka@yahoo.com or call 93180 614-1961 or SJBurch57@gmail.com or call (318) 350-1612. The meetings are free to the public and all are invited to attend.

NAACP meetings are set for third Thursday

The Grambling Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) hosts its regular monthly meeting on teleconference every third Thursday at 6 p.m. The meeting will also include the installation of new officers. Meetings are on teleconference -717-908-1834; Access Code 621055# and annual dues are due for the year. Make checks payable to Grambling Branch NAACP (#6094) and mail to P.O. Box 521, Grambling, LA 71245. Memberships for adults are \$30 a year and presently, the \$10.00 dues for children have been waived. For additional information, please call or text 328-680-7679, Grace Tatem.

Grambling property tax receives extension

Due to the late mailing of the City of

Grambling, 2024 Property Tax Notices, Tax payments have been extended. The last day to pay the tax is Wednesday, Feb 5. The Lincoln Parish Property Tax Notices were mailed Monday, November 25, 2024. Tax payments were DUE DECEMBER 31 for Grambling residents. They can be paid in person, by mail, or online. In person payments via cash, personal check, money order or credit card can be made at the Tax Collector office on the ground floor of the courthouse located at 1000 West Texas Avenue in Ruston. Business hours are 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. On-line payments via credit card can be made by clicking the "pay your taxes" link on the Lincoln Parish Sheriff's Office website (www.lincolnparrishsheriff.com). Payments received after January 5, will be assessed interest and penalties. NAACP Youth to sponsor raffle The Youth Councils of District "G" of the LA State NAACP is sponsoring a raffle on a chance to win a 63"TV for \$2 per ticket. The drawing will be held Friday, February 28. The raffle is an effort to raise funds to visit the Civil Rights Museum in Washington D.C in July or August 2025. You do not have to be present to win. For information, contact Grace Tatem, 318-680-7679.

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Community

LPRE Speaker brings home reality about abuse

By Joice M. Dunn

Many Lincoln Parish Retired Educators (LPRE) eyes were opened during the monthly meeting as the group listened to Kris Barney, community advocate for the Domestic Abuse Resistance Team (DART) Thursday, Jan 16. Using the LPRE theme: Celebrating Lifelong Learning, Barney took the members on a journey of abuse.

“Today I’m going to share with you my story of domestic violence. Then I’m going to also share with you DART services, how DART has served me and how important this organization is,” she explained.

With unflinching details, she outlined her journey through an abusive relationship, one that claimed the life of her 3-year-old daughter Miranda. “I’m here to tell you that domestic abuse or narcissistic abuse doesn’t happen right away,” Barney said.

“Neither does physical violence. It’s a slow grooming process, which is what he did to me.” Barney said most people believe women and men get in these types of relationships because they are from the wrong side of the tracks, uneducated, a minority or they are drug addicts and alcoholics.



LPRE Speaker - K. Barney

“I grew up in an upper middle-class home with loving parents,” Barney said. “I went to Captain Shreve High School and Broadmoor Baptist Church. And still, domestic homicide found me.”

Barney realized the first sign of her reality showed itself in Dallas-Fort Worth Airport, returning from their honeymoon. He became outraged, yelling in

front of everyone.

“The mask came off as soon as I signed that marriage certificate,” she said. Her experience began with mental, emotional, and verbal abuse. While Barney confessed her husband never hit her, she was abused in every other way. When she asked him to leave, the stalking and harassing began. Even after he became involved with another woman and the same pattern began to surface, he was never held accountable for his actions. “We lived in constant fear,” Barney said. She escaped with her life intact, but her daughter would not be as lucky.

On Jan. 12, 1999, while Barney was working in New Orleans and her ex-husband had their daughter, he went to where his ex-girlfriend worked in Bossier City.

He killed her in the parking lot before taking his little girl to the woman’s dead body and killing her as well. He was killed in a police stand-off. Overcome with grief, Barney found a way to become whole again.

“In 1999, my mother was on the board at DART,” she explained. “And I was able to go to free counseling with Rose Daigle. She’s the one that put me on a path to healing. She gave me the tools I needed. If it weren’t for DART, I would not have met her and wouldn’t be here today.”

DART has been in business for 30 years. And it is a great resource. Barney acknowledged, “we’re here for the victim and provide free and confidential services that can include everything, the shelter and 24-hour crisis line to counseling and legal work.”

While Louisiana ranks fifth in the country for domestic homicide, the most recent statistics from DART indicate that in one year, Lincoln Parish had 155 arrests for domestic violence, a 20% increase since 2022. The organization served 295 women, 31 men and 379 children. On the crisis line, 484 calls came in.

“We do not discriminate and don’t care what side of town you’re from. We are here for you. If you are in danger of being abused, you can come to us, and we will help. No questions asked,” emphasized Barney.

The Faith Memorial Foundation, a non-profit organization that supports victims of domestic violence was established by Barney in memory of her daughter Miranda, who would have been 30 years old on the day of meeting with the group.

Barney, the 26-year DART advocate, said if by sharing the story of her precious child could save just one life, then she has honored her daughter while doing her job.



The Youth Council of the Grambling Branch of the NAACP stands in front of the museum. Courtesy photo

NAACP Youth Council visits the Civil Rights Museum

By Joice M. Dunn

Youth Council of the Grambling Branch of the NAACP recently boarded the J&T Motor Coach headed to Jackson, Miss.

Twenty-two members of the group visited the Mississippi Civil Rights and the Mississippi State History Museums to help increase the cultural and educational knowledge of all in attendance.

There were two tour guides to assist the group. One guide was a former principal of a high school in Jackson and the other was a Freedom Rider during the 1960 era.

There was a Question & Answer period, followed by a special afternoon session in the “church of the museum” to conclude the tour.

The children who attended were from Monroe, Lincoln, Jackson parishes and Texas. Their parents and or guardians accompanied them along with a Grambling State University (GSU) student from Africa.

Many of the reflections about the trip were enlightening. Chrishelle Hardyway, 10 years old

from Monroe, said “I liked the museum. It was fun. I enjoyed the black and white classroom, the desk, and sitting on the floor, listening and looking at different movies.”

This was Chrishelle’s first trip to the museum. “I learned about how Black people did not have the right to vote nor go to school with whites and that Black people were treated different from white people,” she said.

Deshanti Hardyway, 9 years old from Monroe, said “Even though I had never gone to a Civil Rights Museum, I liked it. I saw how Black people were treated as slaves and how people should treat one another right no matter the color of their skin. I also learned how Black people picked cotton and learned about the Civil War,” explained Deshanti.

Taylor Sumler, 17 years old senior from Texas, said “I enjoyed the museum, and it was an amazing experience.” Traveling with Taylor was her mother Danielle Sumler Chitman and father, Arthur. “We are both educators and attended the trip for support and context, so if there were ques-

tions, they could be answered,” she said.

Danielle explained, “It was very enriching, and all students should experience it. It was my first time going, as well as Taylor. She received the opportunity to see how much things have changed.”

Caleb, 16 said, “I was shocked to see how we were really treated back then. I took the information back to my friends and teachers to challenge them when their information was not quite right,” “I took it all end and some methods used to kill people then, are still here today. I did not know what the word lynch meant until I went to the museum,” said 12-year-old Jacob.

“We did enjoy the museum. We learned that it never mattered if you were a child, but only if you were Black. They would harm and even kill you, if presented the chance,” said Kingston and Kourtland Williams from Monroe.

The trip was sponsored by The Right Reverend Dr. Jacob W. Owensby, Ph.D. IV, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana.

Lincoln Parish NAACP sponsors celebration

By Joice M. Dunn

The Lincoln Parish NAACP (#6064) annual Freedom Fund/Scholarship Banquet in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was held Saturday, Jan. 11 at the Ruston Civic Center.

Keeping the theme: All in, Empowering Minds for Positive Change, Toast Master, Rev. Terrence Flucas allowed the festivities to flow smoothly by engaging the crowd with his many jokes.

Rev. Robby D. Williams, pastor of St. Rest Baptist Church in Minden, spoke words of encouragement to the audience.

Rev. Williams grew up in the Minden area, where he graduated from Minden High School in 1983. He attended Louisiana College in Pineville for his undergraduate degree in philosophy, later went to the United Seminary for his graduate in theology and received his doctorate from St. Thomas Christian College.

Rev. Williams, returned to the Minden area after 30 years to become the pastor of St. Rest Baptist Church in 2017. “I was saved in this church; I was led to the Lord in a backyard Bible study,” he continued. “I was called, licensed, and ordained to preach in this church. This is home double for me. Now to get to come back and serve the church and community is a real unique experience for me,” said Rev. Williams.

The speaker told of a message he received from Alex Haley, author of “Roots,” when he was merely a sophomore at Alcorn State University of Mississippi. Rev. Williams reminded the audience that where they are, they didn’t get there by themselves.

He explained to the crowd, “Wherever you go, somebody helped you to get you wherever you are. Some people who have come before, there names may not be known, but they pushed back to get us where we are.”

The closing words of the speaker were a reminder to the group not to forget that they are somebody.

Scholarship presentations were made to five graduates by Rickey Burton, committee chairman. Burton encouraged the recipients by saying, “Start where you are, use what you have and do what you can. To accomplish great things, you must not only act, but also dream, not only plan, but also believe. Take pride in how far you have come. Have faith in how far you can go, but don’t forget to enjoy the journey.”

Accepting scholarships included: Kamora Kimble, a graduate of Lincoln Prep, attending Northwestern State University as a nursing major; George T. Eccles, II, a graduate of Lincoln Prep, attending Alcorn State University as a biological science major; Shedreana Green, a graduate of Lincoln Prep, attending Southeastern University as a psychology major; Dezmon Moreland, a graduate of Ruston High School, attending Grambling State University as a mass communication major and Ontario L. Gaulden, III, a graduate of Ruston High School, attending Grambling State University in college of science engineering with a concentration in cybersecurity.

Other presentations were made to the speaker, Donald Brooks, Martin Lemelle, Jr., DeTorian and Marilynn Gipson Stephanie Matthews as well as Walker.

John Belton, district attorney; Judge Bruce Hampton; Linda Cook, clerk of court; Stephen Williams, Lincoln Parish sheriff and Lucious McGehee were thanked for their sponsorship.



DeTorian and Marilynn Gipson stands with Carl McCarter, NAACP first vice president, as they accept their award.



Youth Council of the Grambling Branch of the NAACP pose for photo inside museum. Courtesy photo



# Church News

## Know how to Pray To The Lord God

By Donald Lee

I want to share a little about knowing how to pray and knowing that God doesn't just hear the prayers that somebody else prays. He hears and responds to the prayers that *you* pray. And if you're unsure of how to pray, here's some food for thought.

The same way you'd piece together a letter and then mail it off to someone, you can say your prayer. For example: The person or persons will receive the letter if you write down on the envelope their address and stamp it.

When you write the letter, you say, "Dear Mark (or Mary): Thank you for coming to speak to my class. The students had a wonderful time and can't stop talking about the precious moments they had when you shared your presentation.

The upper-left part of the envelope



Donald Lee

will be your name and return address. Further down to the right and centered would be Mark's (or Mary's) address. And in the upper-right corner would be the postage stamp. You, see?

The example of the letter above represents a model of how you'd address your heavenly Father, God. Instead of saying, "Dear Mark" or "Dear Mary," you'd say, "Dear Father" or "Dear, Heavenly Father ... "The actual body of the letter would start with praise and thanks for all that He is to you and what He's already done in your life. The praise and thanksgiving get His attention.

The rest of the letter (or prayer) is where you make your request, let Him know what you want, what you desire. (Truth is, He knows already. Whatever

that desire is, [if it's not wicked, He responds to you.)

And as you bring your letter (or prayer, rather) to a close, say, "This thing (or "These things") I ask in the name of Jesus" (or " ... in the name of Your Son Jesus. Amen). (Also see Luke 11:1-4, the prayer model Jesus shares with His disciples.)

Ending your prayer with " ... in the name of Jesus" is equivalent to adding an address for the intended destination and including a stamp. Without either on the envelope, that letter will never make it to where you're trying to mail it. And without using the name Jesus as the "Stamp" and "Address" of the Father, your prayers will never make it to God the Father.

It's important for every Christian believer to understand, Jesus, Himself, says in John 16:23-24, "And in that day ye shall ask Me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in My name, He

will give it to you."

Also understand, too, that unforgiveness hidden in one's heart will stop a prayer from reaching God the Father's ear. So, if there's someone in your life that you haven't yet forgiven for any wrong they may have done to you, choose to forgive that person (or those persons).

Confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your Heart that God raised Him from the dead. Tell the Lord that you welcome Jesus into your heart. At that point, my friend, you become "saved" and a child of God by way of Jesus Christ. You are then, at that point, a "born-again" believer (Romans 10:8-11).

*Donald Lee is pastor of Kingdom Living Christian Center in Dallas. He's also a free-lance journalist and co-author of the Xulon Press-published book "Married to Commitment". To reach Pastor Lee, call (225) 773-2248 or e-mail him at [pastordonjlee@yahoo.com](mailto:pastordonjlee@yahoo.com).*

## Church Announcements

### Mt. Olive Church to honor pastor

The Mt. Olive Baptist Church will hold the fifth anniversary of Rev. Donald Young Sunday, Feb. 16 at 2:30 p.m. The speaker will be Rev. Maurice White, and the Zion Traveler Baptist Church Family of Ruston.

Pastor Jeffery Todd and the Macedonia Baptist Church family of Houston, will speak during the 10 a.m. morning service. The church is located at 571 Mt. Olive Rd. Grambling.

### Pastor Dyes to celebrate 25 years at St. Matthews

The St. Matthews Baptist Church will celebrate Rev. Johnnie and Marjorie Dyes's 25th pastoral anniversary Sunday, Feb. 16 at 2:30 p.m. The speaker will be Rev. Boris Braggs, pastor of Mt. Calm Baptist Church in Simsboro and Mt. Pleasant of West Monroe. The church is located in Athens.

### Ministerial alliance to host C.P. Payne Citywide musical, revival

The Interdenominational Alliance of Ministers will host the Annual C.P. Payne Citywide Musical and Revival starting Sunday, Feb. 23 through Wednesday, Feb. 26 at the Zion Travel Baptist Church, 1201 Martin Luther King, in Ruston.

The Mass Choir will kick off the musical at 6 p.m. and the revival will begin at 7 p.m. each night at Zion Travel, according to Rev. Alejandro Wise, pres., of the alliance and pastor of Zion Hill of Ruston.

The revival speaker will be Rev. Marcus Cosby of Houston and pastor of the Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church. The noonday speakers will include Rev. Clarence Hicks on Monday, Rev. Elliott Henderson on Tuesday and Rev. Maurice White, Wednesday. The services will be held at the Pilgrim Rest Baptist

Church, 622 W. Line Ave., Ruston.

### Pleasant Grove Church accepting applications

The Pleasant Grove Baptist Church is accepting resumes for a pastor until Friday, Feb. 28. 446 Bowden Road, Ruston (Clay), LA 71245 The ideal candidate will have good moral character and demonstrated leadership experience to shepherd the congregation, truthfully proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, provide administrative oversight and engage in the pastoral care ministries of the church and community.

Interested and qualified? Please send resume to Antono Braggs, 446 Bowden Road, Ruston (Clay), LA 71245 or [biloasis446@gmail.com](mailto:biloasis446@gmail.com).

### Mt. Olive Church to hold annual Scholarship Gala

The Mt. Olive Baptist Church will hold its Annual Scholarship Gala Saturday, March 29, at 6 p.m. This year's theme is "Giddy Up at Molta Bella" so grab your date and wear your best western attire! A table of eight is \$480 and tickets are \$60 each.

The Scholarship Gala Fundraiser is held to provide Academic Scholarships for graduating high school seniors and other youth ministry activities. This year the church members hope to expand the scholarships for other graduating seniors in the community.

The church is located at 571 Mt. Olive Rd. Grambling and Rev. Donald Young is the pastor.

**Editor's Note:** *If you have a church announcement, please email the information to the [gramblingconnection@gmail.com](mailto:gramblingconnection@gmail.com)*

## Area Church Directory

**ASSEMBLY OF GOD**  
**Cathedral of Praise Worship Center**  
- 2877 Highway 33, Ruston  
**First Assembly of God** - 1400 Woodward Ave., Ruston

**BAPTIST**  
**Alabama**, 16061 Hwy. 151, Arcadia  
**Barnett Springs**, 1601 S. Barnett Springs Rd., Ruston  
**China Grove Missionary**, 406 Vernon St., Ruston  
**Christ Temple**, 7349 Hwy 80, Ruston  
**Church of Restoration**, 285 Main St., Grambling  
**Cook**, 2000 Cooktown Rd, Ruston  
**Corinth**, 4327 Hw 545, Dubach  
**Countyline**, 7426 Hwy. 146, Ruston  
**Dayspring Baptist Ministries**, 3191 South Vienna St, Ruston  
**Emmanuel**, 1200 Farmerville Hwy., Ruston  
**Fellowship**, 6476 Hwy 151, Dubach  
**Fellowship**, 1572 Highway 507 South, Simsboro  
**First**, 117 Oak St., - One block south of Hwy. 80 in Choudrant  
**First**, Hico St., Dubach  
**First**, 200 S. Trenton St., Ruston  
**First**, Simsboro  
**Friendship**, 143 West Sixth Street, Bernice  
**Grace**, 2808 Trenton Ave. , Ruston  
**Grace Bible**, 216 Rough Edge Rd., Ruston  
**Greater Pleasant Grove**, 1270 Golf Course Rd., Unionville  
**Greater St. Luke**, 163 St. Luke Church Rd, Arcadia  
**Gumspring**, 3117 Hwy 151, Farmer-ville  
**Hebron, Love Chapel**, 1525 Sikes St, Ruston  
**Hico**, 653 Hwy. 152, Dubach  
**Hopewell**, 7657 Fellowship Rd., Hwy 151, Dubach  
**Lane Chapel**, 1016 McAllister, Ruston  
**Lanes Chapel**, Hwy. 151 Downs-ville  
**Liberty Hill**, Simsboro  
**Longstraw**, 1799 Styles, Ranch Rd.,  
**Love Chapel**, 1525 Sikes St, Ruston  
**Macedonia, No.1**, Rt. 2, Dubach  
**Macedonia, No. 2**, 489 E. Sibley Rd., Choudrant  
**Mineral Springs**, 4599 Hwy 822, Dubach  
**Mount Harmony**, 210 Mt. Harmony Church Rd, Ruston  
**Mount Calm**, 566 Mount Calm Rd., Simsboro  
**Mount Olive**, Grambling

**Mount Olive Outreach**, 2817 S. Service Road W., Ruston  
**Mount Pisgah**, Hwy. 3061, Ruston  
**Mount Sinai**, 2269 Hwy. 145, Choudrant  
**Mount Vernon**, 1356 Hwy. 167 N., Dubach  
**Mount Zion**, 2586 Hwy 150., Grambling  
**Mount Zion No. 2**, 113 California Plant Road, Dubach  
**New Hope**, Choudrant  
**New Hope**, 302 W. Vaughn, Ruston  
**New Liberty Hill**, Hwy. 544, Simsboro  
**New Living Word Ministries**, 1900 W. Barnett Springs, Ruston  
**New Pilgrim Rest, Inc.**, 2697 Elm St., Arcadia  
**New Prospect**, 3438 Hwy. 167 N., Dubach  
**New Prosperity**, 1378 Prosperity Church, Clay  
**New Rocky Valley**, 2155 Martin Luther King Ave., Grambling  
**Northview Missionary**, Highway 33, Ruston  
**Olive Grove**, 3138 Olive Grove Rd, Choudrant  
**Pilgrim Rest**, 622 W. Line Ave., Ruston  
**Pine Grove**, 470 Chandler Rd., Ruston  
**Pleasant Grove**, 1366 Pleasant Grove Road, Choudrant  
**Pleasant Grove**, "The Oasis in the Woods", 446 Bowden Rd., Ruston  
**Pleasant Hill**, 1127 Mondy Rd, Simsboro  
**Rock Corner & Garden of Prayer**, 824 Rock Corner Rd, Dubach, off Hwy.33, 14 miles north of Ruston  
**Rocky Valley**, Simsboro  
**Solid Rock**, 1511 West California Hwy 80, Ruston  
**Southside**, 3191 South Vienna St., Ruston  
**Springhill**, 727 Dicks Store Rd., Ruston  
**St. David**, Vienna.  
**St. John**, Old Grambling Rd., Ruston.  
**St. Mary**, 1114 Larson St., Ruston.  
**St. Peter**, 404 Longstraw Rd., Ruston  
**St. Rest**, 09 Walker Rd., Choudrant  
**St. Rest**, Hwy. 146 West, Dubach  
**Temple**, 1515 S. Service Rd. W. Ruston  
**True Believers**, 184 CCC Road, Ruston  
**The Springs**, (A ministry of Temple Baptist Church) 1601 S. Barnett Springs Ave., Ruston  
**The Springs.life The Word**, 504 S. Main St., Grambling University - 2856 W. California, Ruston

**Vernon**, 190 Vernon-Eros Road, Ruston  
**Woods Chapel**, 326 Hwy 454, Ruston  
**Zion Hill**, 505 Lee St., Ruston  
**Zion Traveler**, 1201 Martin Luther King Dr, Ruston

**CATHOLIC**  
**St. Benedict**, 471 Main St., Grambling  
**St. Thomas Aquinas**, 810 Carey Avenue, Ruston

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**Church of Christ**, 2902 Hwy. 80 West, Ruston  
**Church of Christ**, 146 King St., Grambling  
**Northside**, 1804 N. Trenton St., Ruston  
**Orleans Cir. Church of Christ**, 2103 Orleans Cir., Ruston  
**Ruston**, 2300 W. Woodward Ave., Ruston, [www.rustonchurchofchrist.org](http://www.rustonchurchofchrist.org)

**EPISCOPAL**  
Church of the Redeemer, 504 Tech Dr., Ruston  
St. Luke's, 538 Main St., Grambling

**METHODIST**  
**Ansley Union**, 328 Ansley Rd, Ruston, located 10 miles south of Ruston off Hwy 167  
**Antioch UMC**, Simsboro  
**Arcadia First UMC**, Arcadia  
**Choudrant UMC**, 125 Pecan St., Choudrant  
**Dubach UMC**, Dubach  
**First UMC**, Arcadia  
**Grace**, 3401 N. Trenton St., Ruston  
**Lewis Temple**, Main St., Grambling  
**Mays Chapel CME**, 615 W. Line Ave., Ruston  
**Memorial UMC**, 9325 Hwy 80, Simsboro.  
**Mt. Mariah UMC** - Salem UMC - 11793 Hwy. 151, Dubach  
**St. Peter AME**, 1104 Arlington St., Ruston.  
**Trinity Methodist**, 1000 Woodward Ave., Ruston  
**Wesley Chapel**, 4330 Hwy. 818, Ruston

**PENTECOSTAL**  
**Anchor Tabernacle**, Exit 93 from I-20 then South 1/2 mile, Choudrant  
**First Pentecostal**, Corner of Kentucky and Goodwin Ruston  
**King's Court UPC**, 2401 S. Service Rd. West, Ruston  
**LifePoint Church**, 1018 S. Vienna St.,

Ruston. [lifepointruston.com](http://lifepointruston.com)  
**The Pentecostals**, 2851 Hwy 33 North, Ruston  
**Powerhouse Temple of Christ Apostolic**, 101 Main St., Grambling  
**United Pentecostal**, Dubach  
**Zion Temple Apostolic Faith Deliverance** - Eastern Hills, off Beacon Light Rd., Ruston  
**Voice of Revival Ministry** - 304 W. California St., Ruston

**PRESBYTERIAN**  
**Alabama (USA)**, 2091 Hwy 145, Choudrant  
**Covenant Reformed**, 2106 Cooktown Rd., Ruston  
**Greenwood**, Lincoln Parish Rd. 181, between Mitcham's & Hwy. 146, Ruston  
**Ruston (USA)**, 212 N. Bonner St.

**OTHERS**  
**Abundant Grace Tabernacle**, 3092 Hwy 556, Choudrant  
**Campus Community Worship Center**, 1000 Saratoga St., Ruston  
**Christian L.I.F.E. Church**, 107 Love Ave., Ruston  
**Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints**, 205 Woodhaven Rd., Ruston  
**Church of the Living God**, 1438 Hwy. 167 W., Dubach  
**Church of the Nazarene**, 1101 Center St., Ruston  
**Douglas Church**, 1642 Hwy 821, Ruston  
**Church of God in Christ**, 256 Voss Street, Dubach  
**Faith Church**, 1507 Goodwin Road, Ruston  
**Focus Christian Ministries**, Martin Luther King Community Center, 901 Martin Luther King Dr., Ruston  
**Fountain of Praise United Worship Center**, 1394 Hazel St., Arcadia  
**The Gospel**, 108 Sanctuary Rd, Ruston  
**Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church**, 2508 Kavanaugh Road, Ruston  
**Impact Worship Center**, Greenwood Recreation Center, 1306 Cornell Ave, Ruston  
**Ruston Housing Authority Building** 901 Martin Luther King Dr. Ruston.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** *If you would like your church information listed, please email the Grambling Connection at [grambliniteconnection@gmail.com](mailto:grambliniteconnection@gmail.com)*



Arts & Culture

Daryl Triplett: Portrait of An Artist

By Lena Claybon

If you’ve wondered who the artist is that rendered the beautiful painting of the new Digital Library that sits in its lobby, look no further. It is none other than, the incredibly talented Daryl Triplett, a GSU alum (’86).

Daryl hails from New Orleans where he received his early inspiration as an artist. “[As a kid] we would take field trips down to the French quarters and I would see the sidewalk artists and all of these different paintings and the colors fascinated me. The street artists were always the ones who were tangible and available and you could talk to them [about art].” Also, his older brothers were artists as well which helped to sharpen his talent. “My two older brothers could draw very well and they were always having competitions around the house, so as I got older me and my brother, who was a year older than me, would have competitions as well.”

Daryl says one of his biggest influences came from his high school art teacher, another Grambling graduate, Mr. Larry Moody, who taught school in West Jefferson parish outside of New Orleans. “He taught us the basic elements we needed to become artists and he was very encouraging.”

After high school, Daryl received a football scholarship to come to Grambling and played for the legendary Coach Eddie Robinson. “He knew who I was before I even left high school.” But Darryl said he took a detour and went to Junior College first to beef up. He made All-American his first year there. However, in the beginning of his third season, he ended up sustaining an injury. “I broke my arm in the second game of the football season and I was out. So, while I was home [recovering], Coach Rob called my Mom’s house and he was inquiring about what I was going to do the next two years. I told him I didn't know but I was going to go to school somewhere. And he said, ‘Well, we got a spot for you in Grambling.’”

Daryl played for Coach Rob for the next two years, during which time



D. Triplett stands with painting in Digital Library



"Legends" paintings

he changed his major from business (which was his major at the Junior College) to Art.

After graduation, he decided to make northeast Louisiana his home.

He began his career teaching in the Art Department at GSU before moving on to the Monroe school district where he spent the last 33 years as a teacher. During this time, he also got a Masters

degree in Arts and Humanities.

When asked how did the painting of the Library come about, he said he received a call from Dean Adrienne Webber, Head of the Digital Library and Learning Commons, who is also a patron of the Arts. “She was familiar with my work and she got with her team and recommended that we do a painting that would be a historical icon that would be around a long time.” So, Daryl said he gladly took on the challenge and created what he calls, ‘Grambling’s Knoll of Knowledge’. (He names all his pieces.)

He also donated prints to the GSU Foundation to sell as a fundraiser. Daryl has also created other “Grambling-focused” paintings that each tell a unique story about Grambling State University’s rich history. He is now working on installations for other HBCU’s. Too see more of his work, go to [daryltriplettartwork.com](http://daryltriplettartwork.com). You can also find him on Facebook.

‘The Piano Lesson,’ GloRilla and Ayo Edebiri lead NAACP Image Award nominations

(Black PR Wire) The NAACP Image Award for Entertainer of the Year may determine which celebrity had the biggest year for Black audiences.

Was it rapper Kendrick Lamar, whose beef with Drake dominated headlines for weeks? Or Keke Palmer, the podcaster, actor and game show host who seemed to be everywhere? Was it side-splitting comedian Kevin Hart or Shannon Sharpe, whose podcast “Club Shay Shay” regularly sets social media ablaze with hot gossip? Perhaps it was Cynthia Erivo for whom



GloRilla

“Wicked” fans held space in order to defy gravity.

The winner will be announced on Feb. 22 during the NAACP Image Awards ceremony, which will be broadcast on BET and CBS.

“The Piano Lesson,” starring John David Washington in an adaptation of one of August Wilson’s revered plays, leads in the film categories with 14

nominations, while “Fight Night: The Million Dollar Heist” leads across the television categories with nine nominations.

(“Wicked” and “Fight Night” were released by units of NBC News’ parent company, NBCUniversal.)

Ayo Edebiri, of “The Bear,” leads among TV and film nominations with four nominations for her work on the FX show, a guest spot on “Saturday Night Live” and her voice role in “Inside Out 2.” She is followed closely behind by Palmer, with four nominations.

Rapper GloRilla leads the pack among musical artists with six nominations, followed by DoeChii, Kendrick Lamar and Usher, who each have four.

“We look forward to celebrating the brilliance of Black talent and creativity whose stories shape culture, ignite change, and inspire generations,” said Derrick Johnson, president and CEO of the NAACP. “Through film, music, literature, and more, their voices weave a rich tapestry that honors our heritage, celebrates our identity, and proves that storytelling is a powerful force for driving true progress.”

The full list of nominees is available at the NAACP Image Awards site, where the public can vote on many of the 102 categories up for grabs.

Lifestyle & Wellness

CHARMING'S CORNER

Holistic Healing for Congestion

By Charming Davis

Have you ever woke up from a long nights rest to only realize that you can’t breathe well and your nose and chest is stuffed full of mucus? Congestion can be the result of a common cold, sinus infection, bronchitis and many other illnesses.

There are a plethora of herbal holistic home remedies to help relieve congestion. One very important step is drink plenty of clear fluids to keep your body hydrated to thin the mucus. It’s also very important to avoid mucus-forming food like processed sugars, dairy, eggs, and meat if you can.

Steam therapy is a quick, affordable and effective way to help clear congestion. There are several ways in which you can achieve steam therapy. One simple way to achieve steam therapy is by creating a steam bath by filling a bowl of hot water and adding a few drops of essential oils that help clear phlegm like rosemary, sandalwood, peppermint, menthol, or eucalyptus.

Next place a towel over your head, lean over the bowl and breathe in the steam for 5 to 10 minutes. Another



CHARMING'S CORNER By Charming Davis

inexpensive and beneficial method is to take hot showers and breathe in the steam. You can add shower steamers to take the shower to the next level and have a spa like healing experience. Check out the recipe below. (You can also purchase these shower steamers at Naturally Charming Universe Holistic Wellness Center located at 311 Main St. Grambling, La for \$12 if you don’t feel crafty.)

HOLISTIC CONGESTION RELIEF

Just Breathe Shower Steamers  
Ingredients:

- 1 cup baking soda
- ½ cup citric acid
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 2 tablespoons menthol crystals
- 10-15 drops eucalyptus essential oil
- 10-15 drops peppermint essential oil
- 1 tablespoon water or witch hazel (in a spray bottle)

- Silicone mold (round or any desired shape)

Instructions:

1. In a mixing bowl, combine the baking soda, citric acid, and cornstarch. Stir well to ensure the dry ingredients are evenly mixed.
2. Place the menthol crystals in a heat-safe bowl and use a double boiler (or microwave in short bursts) to gently melt the crystals until they dissolve. Be cautious, as the vapors can be strong.
3. Mix the eucalyptus and peppermint essential oils into the melted menthol crystals.
4. Slowly pour the melted mixture into the dry ingredients, stirring continuously to prevent clumping.
5. Lightly spritz the mixture with water or witch hazel while stirring. The consistency should feel like damp sand and hold its shape when squeezed. Avoid over-saturating, as it can cause premature fizzing.
6. Pack the mixture firmly into the silicone molds. Compress it as much as possible for a solid final product.
7. Let the steamers dry in the mold for 24-48 hours. Once hardened, gently remove them from the molds.

STORAGE:

- Store the shower steamers in an

airtight container. Keep them in a cool, dry place.

How to Use:

- Place a shower steamer on the floor of your shower (away from the direct stream of water). As it dissolves, the steam will carry the refreshing aroma to help you breathe easier.

Increasing the humidity levels in your home will also help. All you need to do is add a humidifier in the room. I love to use my Pure Enrichment 3-in-1 Aroma Diffuser, Humidifier & Mood Light! I add essential oils into my diffuser to help me breathe easier. Try this recipe. This blend is great for opening up your airways and promoting easier breathing during congestion.

Congestion Relief Diffuser Blend

- 3 drops eucalyptus essential oil
- 2 drops peppermint essential oil
- 2 drops tea tree essential oil

Add more drops depending of the size of your diffuser. You can also use this blend for your steam bath above.

If you don’t have time for the steam therapy you can inhale the oils on your skin to help give you relief. You can find the Geaux Breathe Essential Oil Roller at Naturally Charming Universe Holistic Wellness Center for \$12.

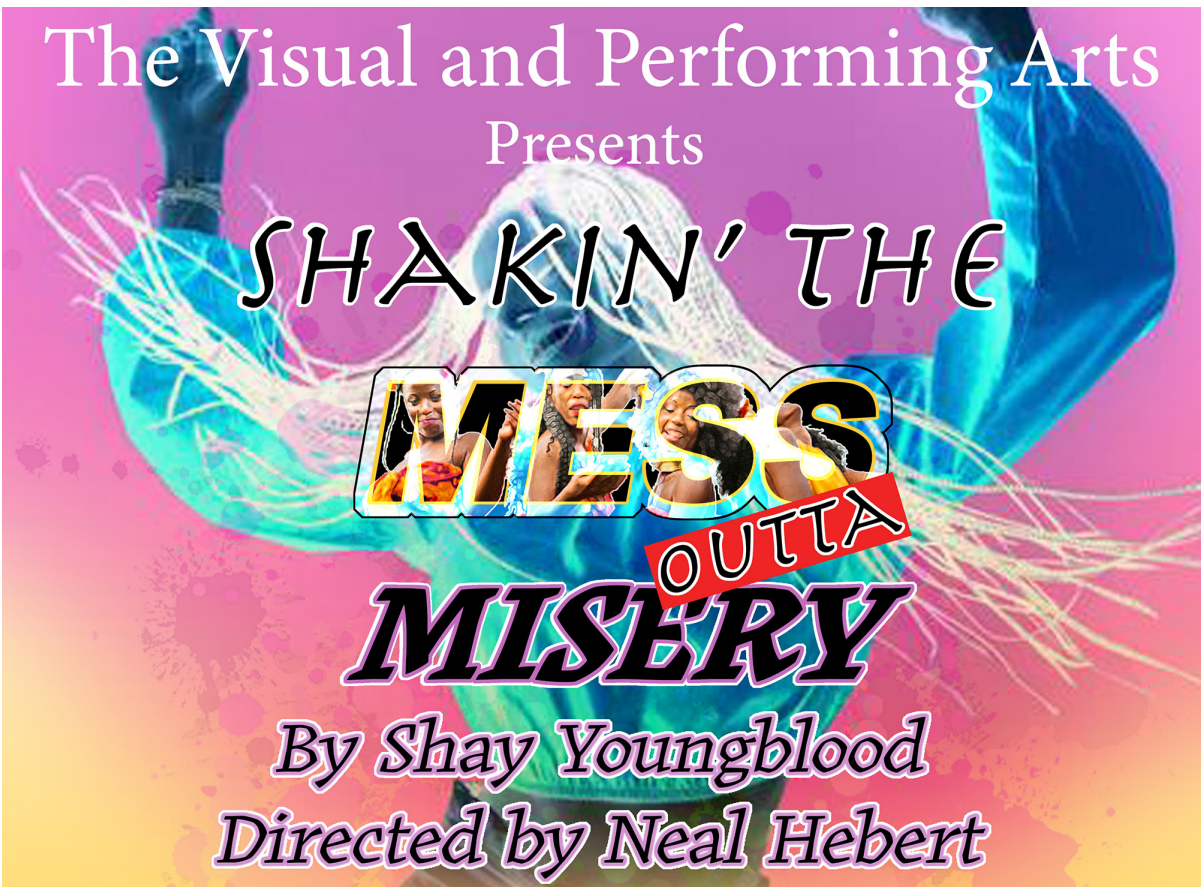


Campus Corner

Grambling State University Visual and Performing Arts Department Presents: ‘Shakin’ the Mess Outta Misery’

By Shay Youngblood

"Shakin' the Mess Outta Misery" is a new play coming to the Floyd L. Sandals Theatre in the Conrad Hutchinson Performing Arts Center on February 26-28, 2025. The play is written by Shay Youngblood and directed by Dr. Neal Hebert. Shay Youngblood's "Shakin' the Mess Outta Misery" tells the story of Daughter, a young black woman abandoned by her mother in the 1950s, and the community of women who adopted Daughter and taught her what it means to be a woman during the summer of her 13th birthday. Daughter looks back on the lives of all of her mothers - mothers by blood and mothers by love - after she buries the last of the women who raised her. Every one of her "Big Mamas" teaches Daughter a lesson about the resiliency required of black women in the United States during the age of Jim Crow, and these lessons resonate with audiences across time. Times are: 26th Wednesday, Opening 7pm; 27th Thursday, Matinee 10am, Opening 7pm; 28th Friday, Matinee 10am, Opening 7pm \$10 General Admission; \$5 for those 12 years and younger; \$5 for High School Students for Matinee; FREE for GSU Students with valid Student ID For Box Office questions please call 318-274-2201



Sports



GSU vs Miss. Valley

Tigers Blow by Delta Devils

Grambling Athletics

ITTA BENA, Miss. | The Grambling State University men's basketball team found its way back into the win column after defeating Mississippi Valley State 65-54 on Saturday night at the R.W. Harrison HPER Complex. GSU (5-14 overall, 2-4 SWAC) trailed at halftime, but breezed past MVSU (2-18, 0-7) with an early second half surge. The Tigers got a career-high 12-point effort out of junior guard Emareyon McDonald, who entered the game off the bench. Grambling State's reserves played a pivotal role in the victory, accounting 31 points. Antwan Burnett also added 12 points for GSU, while Mikale Stevenson contributed 11. With GSU trailing 16-14 with 6:17 remaining in the first period, McDonald knocked down a deep 3-point from the wing to give the Tigers a 17-16 lead. MVSU responded with an 8-0 run, highlighted by a pair of threes by Arthur

Tate, to grab a 24-17 lead 3:04 on the clock. Tate scored 16 of his 21 points in the opening period. Flippin scored GSU's next six points during a 6-1 spurt to make it a 25-23 game with 1:11 until halftime. The Delta Devils led 27-23 at the break. Grambling State came out of the locker room on fire, opening the half on an 18-4 run to grab its first double-double digit lead of the contest, 41-31, with 12:12 left. Another 3-point by McDonald gave the Tigers their largest lead of night, 51-34, with 9:45 to play. Mississippi Valley State battled its way back into the game, however, whittling GSU advantage down to 54-50 with 2:32 remaining. Chilaydrien Newton splashed a clutch three 2:13 on the clock to give the Tigers a bit more breathing room, making the score 57-50. The Tigers didn't allow MVSU to threaten them the rest of the way as GSU clinched the 65-54 win.



Yanise Days, left, Dr. Edward Holt, center, and Dr. Thavolia Glymph, right, president of the American Historical Association, are photographed at the association's award ceremony in New York City. (Marc Monaghan/2025)

Efforts Paving A Way

NEW YORK CITY – The History Department at Grambling State University has been honored with the American Historical Association’s (AHA) Equity Award, recognizing its outstanding efforts in recruiting and retaining underrepresented groups within the historical discipline. The award ceremony took place in New York City, celebrating the department’s commitment to promoting equity and inclusivity in the study of history. The AHA, the leading professional organization for historians, presents this award to institutions that have made significant contributions to creating diverse and equitable environments in historical scholarship. According to the AHA, recipients have demonstrated excellence in mentoring, program development, fundraising initiatives, civic engagement, and fostering supportive educational settings. Dr. Edward Holt, Head of the History Department, expressed gratitude for the recognition. “The History Department at Grambling State University employs the study of the past to prepare global citizens for the future,” said Dr. Holt. “It is humbling to see our efforts and student accomplishments recognized at the national level by the top organization in our field: the AHA.” The award committee commended their innovative approach, highlighting the department-wide program that integrates digital humanities with African American studies to engage

the broader community. “Due to extramural funding, Grambling [State] has secured equipment to teach its students archival, library, and oral history skills alongside digital technologies,” the committee said. This initiative has also led to the development of new secondary concentrations, addressing student demand for additional vocational skills and pathways that complement the history major. Since 2020, Grambling State University has experienced a remarkable 300 percent increase in history graduates, reflecting the success of its inclusive and forward-thinking educational strategies. The AHA’s recognition serves as a testament to the department’s achievements and an inspiration for continued efforts to promote diversity in the historical discipline. As the History Department at Grambling State University continues to break new ground, its award-winning initiatives not only reshape the educational landscape but also serve as a beacon of hope for aspiring historians from all backgrounds. By fostering an inclusive environment and equipping students with essential skills, Grambling is not just preserving the past but actively shaping a more equitable future in history. This recognition by the AHA underscores the vital role that diversity plays in enriching our understanding of history and ensuring that all voices are heard in the narrative of our collective past.

2025

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“Legends”

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