



COMMUNITY
Community Shines at
the 14th Annual Greater
Grambling Chamber of
Commerce Banquet
| 3



ARTS & CULTURE
Small Town 2 Big
Dreamz: Making the
Leap- Herbert
Bernard Lee
| 7

THE GRAMBLING CONNECTION

Volume 2, No. 3 Friday, October 24, 2025 • “Keeping Our Citizens Informed on the Issues That Matter” • Grambling, LA www.GramblingConnection.com

Supreme Fight Over Voting Rights With Louisiana At The Forefront

By April Ryan

BLACKPRESSUSA — Janai Nelson, President of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and Head of Counsel for the organization, argued before the U.S. Supreme Court on Wednesday for

the civil rights stance of leaving Section 2 of the 1965 Voting Rights Act untouched. Spencer Overton, a professor at George Washington University, was

in the High Court when the arguments took place over Louisiana v Callais. Overton proudly emphasized that “Jaina [Nel-

son] was basically like Bruce Lee taking on everybody.” Overton, an expert on redistricting, said, “Six of the nine justices were coming for Jaina.” She was taking on many arguments, “she’s got three different parties, the state of Louisiana

(https://www.instagram.com/reel/DP1b5c7iD-q_/?igsh=aTV1aWtrbn15c-2Mz), the Trump administration, and the so-called non-Black plaintiffs, the Callais plaintiffs.”

The core of the argument is that race is a factor in the second Black district in Louisiana out of its six districts. White residents have claimed it is unconstitutional and reverse racism to have that second district.

See **Supreme** Page 2

The U.S. Supreme Court is pictured Oct. 9, 2024. (Jane Norman/States Newsroom)



Huston-Tillotson President Dr. Melva K. Wallace Tapped for 124th Founder’s Day Convocation

By GSU Office of Strategic Communications

GRAMBLING, La. – Grambling State University will commemorate 124 years of legacy, leadership, and learning with its annual Founder’s Celebration on Thursday, October 30, at 10 a.m. in the Fredrick C. Hobdy Assembly Center. The keynote address will be delivered by Dr. Melva K. Wallace, seventh president and chief executive officer of Huston-Tillotson University in Austin, Texas.

The morning will begin with the Founder’s Bust Ceremony at 8 a.m. outside Lee Hall, honoring the visionary whose faith and fortitude gave rise to one of the nation’s most storied HBCUs.

A native of Shreveport, Louisiana, and proud Grambling State alumna, Dr. Wallace leads Huston-Tillotson with a bold and innovative approach that has redefined what’s possible for

HBCUs in the 21st century. Since her appointment in 2022, she has strengthened academic programs, expanded online learning opportunities, and secured record philanthropic support, including a historic gift from the Moody Foundation—the largest single donation ever awarded to a historically Black college or university. Under her leadership, Huston-Tillotson has been ranked among the top three HBCUs in the nation by Niche.com and recognized as Texas’s highest-ranked private HBCU.

Dr. Wallace’s dynamic career includes leadership roles within the Southern University System and Centenary College of Louisiana, as well as national recognition for her work in innovation and impact. She was recently named the 2025 Austin Executive Leader of the Year and Most Innovative President of the Year by the National College Resources Foundation.

See **Huston** Page 2



Dr. Melva K. Wallace



Buc-ees Travel Center

Buc-ee’s moves forward with new Louisiana travel center after delays

Residents of Ruston won’t have to travel far for their brisket sandwiches.

By Ineye Komonibo,

According to The Chron news outlet, after complications delayed a previously-announced travel

center three hours away, a Louisiana city will get its beaver nuggets and brisket sandwiches very soon.

After complications delayed a previously-announced travel center three hours away, a Louisiana city will get its beaver nuggets and brisket sandwiches very soon.

Six years into its multi-state expansion plan, Buc-ee’s is making good on its promise to spread throughout the country. Residents and travelers of this Southern state will soon get their hands on the travel center’s famous brisket sandwich.

See **Buc-ee’s** Page 2



SUPERIOR MART #4
Grambling Junction

We offer various daily menus with hamburgers, steak, lasagna, beef tips, meatloaf, baked chicken, pork chops, spaghetti, and rice plus sides like beans & yams. Also, **Hunt Brothers Pizza Anytime.** Call for order.

(318) 247-8705 **7576 Hwy. 80, Grambling, LA 71245**





OPINION

By Stacy M. Brown
Black Press USA Senior National Correspondent

Former President Barack Obama has stepped back into the political arena, delivering some of his sharpest critiques yet of President Donald Trump as the Democratic Party struggles through one of its weakest moments in modern history. With the party’s leadership approval at historic lows and its ties to Black-owned media nearly nonexistent, Obama’s renewed visibility has exposed both the vacuum and the disillusionment threatening to fracture the Democratic coalition.

In recent weeks, Obama has spoken out against Trump’s authoritarian-style intimidation of universities and the administration’s crackdown on the press, declaring that America must “resist being intimidated” and warning that protecting democratic values may require “sacrifice.”

At Hamilton College, he admonished Trump’s White House for suspending security clearances and canceling con-

tracts with law firms and schools tied to perceived political rivals. “That kind of behavior is contrary to the basic compact we have as Americans,” Obama said. “Imagine if I had done any of this.” Days later, he took to social media to denounce media companies for capitulating to Trump’s threats. “After years of complaining about cancel culture, the current administration has taken it to a new and dangerous level,” Obama wrote, urging journalists and networks to “get a spine” and stand up for free speech.

This Day in History
Late in September at London’s O2 Arena, Obama expanded his message beyond immediate politics, telling a packed crowd that true leadership means constant vigilance and the courage to “show up and speak out even when it’s uncomfortable.” He cautioned against complacency, arguing that progressives had grown “smug” and unprepared for the rise of authoritarianism. “True democracy is a project much bigger than any one of us,” he said. “It’s a job for all of



Barack Obama

us.” Obama’s renewed activism comes at a time when his party’s base has grown increasingly restless.

A Pew Research survey found that 59 percent of Democrats disapprove of their party’s leadership—the highest level of dissatisfaction since the question was first asked more than a decade ago. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer’s approval among Democrats has collapsed to 35 percent, while House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries remains little known to nearly four in ten Democratic voters.

Obama’s reemergence has not gone unnoticed by voters—or by Trump. During a recent Navy celebration in Virginia, Trump attempted to incite the crowd to boo Obama, but the attempt backfired. As he invoked “Barack Hussein Obama,” the crowd met him with dead silence. Meanwhile, polls show that Obama remains the most admired living president.

A Marquette Law School survey found Obama with a +17 net favorability, compared with Trump’s -15 and Joe Biden’s -24. Even so, Obama’s return to the spotlight underscores a sobering truth: the Democratic Party, battered by infighting and a failure to connect with its own base, still lacks a clear, trusted voice. Obama’s critiques of Trump’s policies—whether over healthcare rollbacks or media suppression—stand in contrast to the muted response from current Democratic leaders, who have failed to mobilize voters around issues that once defined their moral compass.

Trump’s efforts to dismantle the Affordable Care Act have revived Obama’s signa-

ture policy as the centerpiece of a national political showdown. Democrats, scrambling to extend ACA subsidies that prevent premiums from skyrocketing, have tried to make healthcare their rallying cry again—but without strong, unified leadership, the message has struggled to resonate.

For all his measured tone, Obama’s message has sharpened into something closer to alarm. He warns that complacency, even within his own party, has opened the door to authoritarianism. “Progressives assumed our trajectory would bend inevitably toward progress,” he told the audience at the O2. “That complacency left us unprepared.” As Trump wields federal power to punish dissent, the former president’s words carry the weight of both warning and legacy. But even as Obama reasserts his influence, the party he once led remains uncertain and divided—still searching for leadership that matches the gravity of this moment. Obama may have left office eight years ago, but in 2025, he appears to be the last Democrat still leading.

POTTER MOTIVATION

A Cow and a New Gate

By Rusty Potter

I spent many of my teenage years helping my dad, Mr. Earnest Potter, raise cattle. The early mornings and long evenings taught me more about life than I ever realized at the time. One lesson, in particular, still sticks with me today—and it came from watching how cows react to change.

Whenever we built a new fence or added a new gate, we could always count on the same reaction from the cows. They would walk up to that new gate, stop, and stare at it. They wouldn’t walk through. They wouldn’t turn away. They would simply stand

there, wide-eyed and uncertain, as if the new gate was some mysterious invention from out of space.

But as funny as that sight was, it taught me something important. Cows don’t like change. They get comfortable with their routine - the same pasture, the same water trough, the same path every day. When something changes, even something small, it throws them off balance. They have to take time to adjust before they move forward. Eventually, they’ll go through the gate and learn it’s okay, but that first moment of change always stops them cold.

Life isn’t much different



Rusty Potter

for us. Change is constant - whether it’s a new job, a move to a new city, a change in relationships, or just the changing seasons of life. Many

times, we stand at the “new gates” in our lives, staring at them, unsure of what to do next. We’re hesitant, afraid to take the first step because the old way felt familiar and safe.

But here’s the truth: success belongs to those who learn to adapt quickly. The faster you can adjust to change, the faster you can grow. Life doesn’t wait for anyone to get comfortable - it keeps moving. Just like those cows eventually learn that the new gate leads to a fresh pasture, we must trust that change can lead to new opportunities.

Change is part of progress. It’s the doorway to new beginnings. The next time life puts

you in front of a “new gate”, don’t just stand there staring. Take a breath, trust the process, and walk through. The other side might just hold your next big breakthrough.

Remember: life rewards the adaptable. Whether you’re a student, a business owner, or someone just trying to find your way, learn to move forward - even when things look unfamiliar.

Because in the end, the only difference between a cow and a person is this - the cow stands and stares, but the successful person walks through the gate. Leaders don’t just stare at new gates - they open them, walk through, and lead others to follow.

Supreme From Page 1

Opponents of Voting Rights questioned whether creating the second Black Louisiana district violates the 14th or 15th Amendment.

They also wondered whether the affirmative action ban justifies striking down Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act.

“They’re all arguing against her [Janai Nelson], so she’s there, and you know she did a great job. I can’t see anyone doing a better job with what she had to work with,” added Overton. She argued that the nation should “stay with the current doctrine, which has been working for 40 years.”

Former head of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, Mary Frances Berry, gave her analysis on the court session stating, “From the justices responses to the oral arguments, looks like Chief Justices Roberts will win his crusade to get rid of efforts to use the law to provide equal justice for Blacks- meaning the conservative majority gets rid of districts created by states to govern Black voters the right to vote for the candidates of their choice.”

This Day in History
Blunt in her assessment, Berry added, “It also means that Republicans can draw maps in

such a way to create more congressional districts to stay in power for the foreseeable future.” The expectation is that the Supreme Court will decide on redistricting Louisiana in January or February to give states time to make changes before the 2026 elections.

Civil Rights organizations believe that this type of decision could have a crippling effect on the 2026 midterm election process. If Republicans win, it will affect about 20 members of the Congressional Black Caucus and lawmakers representing Hispanic districts.

Eric Holder, the Obama administration’s Attorney General, issued a written statement on the severity of this attack on the right to vote: “In the midst of the greatest attack on the right to vote since Jim Crow, our nation’s highest tribunal and other courts must protect this most vital of rights.

The Court must make it clear that violating the voting rights of American citizens will not be tolerated, and it must do so by permanently reinstating Louisiana’s Voting Rights Act-compliant map.”

In 2013, a Supreme Court case bearing Eric Holder’s name, Shelby V. Holder, was the first significant attack to begin gutting the landmark 1965 Voting Rights Act.

Buc-ee’s From Page 1

Ruston, Louisiana is among the latest cities to be welcomed into the Buc-ee’s portfolio, marking the travel brand’s first foray into the state. Located on Tarbuton Road near I-20, just east of neighboring Shreveport, Ruston will be the home of a sprawling 74,000-square-foot store complete with 120 fueling spots for drivers.

“Ruston is a smart-growth town with a big attitude and the perfect location for us in NW Louisiana,” said Stan Beard, Buc-ee’s director of real estate and development, in a press release. “That is a great combination for us, and we are honored to be here.”

Work will soon begin on the

Huston From Page 1

Founded on November 1, 1901, as the Colored Industrial and Agricultural School, Grambling State University began as a vision of the North Louisiana Colored Agriculture Relief Association—a group of African-American farmers determined to create educational opportunity in their region.

With support from Tuske-

Ruston location as soon as this month. An Oct. 24 groundbreaking ceremony attended by Mayor Ronny Walker and city council members has already been scheduled, with an anticipated early 2027 opening.

It’s an exciting update for Buc-ee’s and Louisianians alike, specifically after plans for a previous Louisiana Buc-ee’s were met with some challenges that led to delays. A travel center three hours away in Lafayette was announced late last year, expected to cost \$82 million and bring in \$1.5 million in local sales tax. However, the Lafayette location’s opening was pushed back to 2028 when unforeseen issues including heavy summer rains stalled construction on the

store significantly.

Still, there has been some movement on the construction; recent drone footage captured and shared in a Facebook group called Discover Lafayette showed that land clearing on the property has been initiated.

Despite slow starts and a number of controversies complicating some of its expansion plans, Buc-ee’s is juggling several other fast approaching groundbreakings, including one in Murfreesboro, Tennessee (Oct. 14) and another in Kansas City, Kansas (Oct. 16). The travel center now boasts 54 active locations in the U.S, with more than a dozen new locations in various stages of planning, permitting, or construction.

gee Institute founder Booker T. Washington, educator Charles P. Adams was sent to help organize the school, later becoming its first president.

What began with three teachers and 125 students has grown into a global brand that has produced more than 40,000 graduates worldwide. Today, Grambling State stands as a globally recognized institution of higher learning—home to more than 5,000 stu-

dents representing 42 states and 32 countries.

Rooted in its founding principles of access, equity, and excellence, the university continues to build on a legacy of transformation and impact.

This year’s celebration serves as both tribute and charge—a reminder that the same determination that built Grambling State continues to propel it forward.

Grambling Connection Staff

Lena W. Claybon
Publisher / Editor-in-Chief

Joice M. Dunn
Contributing Writer

Prentiss Smith
Contributing Writer

Designed by Get Current Studio
CEO, Michael Grant
Creative Director, Kenyon Shafer

THE GRAMBLING CONNECTION

Subscription Information:

Print Subscription - 11.99/mo.
Online Subscription - 6.99/mo.

For Subscriptions, go to:

www.gramblingconnection.com/subscribe

To contact us by phone: Call 318-224-2676

Or by email: gramblingconnection@gmail.com

Published bi-weekly on Fridays except on Holidays by The Grambling Connection Media Group, LLC, Grambling, LA

SUBMISSIONS

Send a Letter To The Editor

We accept letters by email only. Submit to gramblingconnection@gmail.com

How to submit a press release

To submit press releases, announcements or opinions, please email us at gramblingconnection@gmail.com with details of your submission. The Grambling Connection reserves the right to refuse to print any submission and is not responsible for the content of submissions. Contact publication for submission deadlines.

Copyright © 2024. The Content of this publication cannot be reproduced or republished without the consent of The Grambling Connection.



COMMUNITY

Community Shines at the 14th Annual Greater Grambling Chamber of Commerce Banquet

By Sharice Beavers

GRAMBLING, LA – The Greater Grambling Chamber of Commerce hosted its 14th Annual Community Contributions Banquet on Thursday, October 16, 2025, at Grambling State University’s Black and Gold Room. The event brought together city officials, community leaders, business professionals, and residents for an evening of celebration, reflection, and recognition.

Councilwoman Mrs. Devaria Hudson Ponton served as Mistress of Ceremony, guiding the program with grace and warmth. She opened the evening by welcoming guests and emphasizing the Chamber’s ongoing commitment to honoring those who uplift and strengthen Grambling and the surrounding communities.

Among the distinguished guests in attendance were Dr. Martin Lemelle, Jr., President of Grambling State University; Mr. Alvin Bradley, Mayor of the City of Grambling; and Cary Brown, Candidate for District Attorney, as well as members of the



Honorees (LtoR): Veda Emerson, Deidra Scott, Lena Claybon (Grambling Connection), Karen Ludley, Lawrence Rogers, Cathy Holmes Giles, Aleane Barnes Hayes

Grambling City Council and Chamber of Commerce.

Following an inspiring invocation by Reverend McArthur Simmons, guests enjoyed greetings from community leaders. Dr. Lemelle highlighted the continued partnership between the university and the Chamber in promoting education and innovation, while Mayor Bradley shared updates on city progress and praised the Chamber for its leadership and collaboration. Chamber President Jeffery Sims expressed gratitude to members, sponsors, and volunteers for their dedication to advancing Grambling’s economic and community develop-

ment.

Dinner, catered by Sodexo, was accompanied by a video presentation featuring sponsors, upcoming Chamber events, and honoree highlights — setting the stage for the evening’s most anticipated moment: the award presentations.

This year’s honorees exemplified excellence across education, business, service, and leadership:

- R.W.E. Jones Education Award – Mrs. Aleane Barnes Hayes
- L.D. Land Government Award – Mrs. Cathy Holmes Giles
- A.D. Smith Business Award – Mr. Lawrence Rogers
- Thelma Smith Wil-

liams Community Service Award – Ms. Karen Ludley

- Dr. Rhonda R. Pruitt Special Recognition Award – The Grambling Connection
- Young Entrepreneur Award – Ms. Deidra Scott
- Annie Brown Social Justice Award – Ms. Veda Emerson
- Chamber President’s Award – Dr. Mynette Mayo

Each honoree received thunderous applause as presenters shared heartfelt remarks about their contributions and character.

Sponsors played a pivotal role in the event’s success, including Ti-

tle Sponsor True Dental Care – “Dentistry from the Heart,” and Silver Sponsors Origin Bank, Louisiana National Bank, The Signature Touch Barber Gallery, Centric Federal Credit Union, and Century Next Bank. Special thanks were also extended to Perfect Shot Media, Regal Event Company, Copy Cat Printing, Supreme Visionz, Lincoln Preparatory School and Grambling State University students volunteers, Sodexo, Divine Wine & Keg Package, and DJ Rodney Terrell for their invaluable support.

The Chamber Banquet Committee was recognized for their exceptional effort and attention to detail:

Bernadette Huey (Catering Chair), Susan Wiley (Sponsorship Chair), Augustine Moore & Barbara McIntyre (Ads & Sales), and Co-Chairs Sharice Beavers & Fanese Cowan.

The evening concluded with group photos of honorees, Chamber members, and sponsors — a fitting end to a night celebrating unity, excellence, and service.

In his closing remarks, Chamber President Jeffery Sims reflected on the organization’s mission to build bridges between local businesses, educational institutions, and the broader community. “Tonight reminds us that Grambling thrives when we lift one another,” Sims said.

Reverend Simmons delivered the benediction, closing the evening on a note of gratitude and hope.

As guests departed, the spirit of collaboration and pride echoed throughout the Black and Gold Room — a true testament to Grambling’s heart, history, and bright future. The Chamber invites you to checkout their website for future events. greatergrambling-cc.org

Announcements

Line Dance class available for the Grambling area

A Line Dance Class with Yatta at Board & Bottle is now available for the Grambling area each Monday at 130 W. Park Ave. in Ruston and doors open at 5:30 p.m. The free class is being instructed by Kenyatta Collins.

For additional information please contact Collins at 832-891-7488 or WWW.REAL-LYGREATSITE.COM.

NAMI Family support group holds meeting

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) holds a support group meeting each third Thursday of the month until December. It is held in the Lincoln Parish Library, George Byrnside Conference Room, 910 North Trenton St., Ruston. Anyone at least 18 years old may RSVP to jjones79aka@yahoo.com or call 93180 (318) 614-1961 or SJBurch57@gmail.com or call (318) 350-1612. The meetings are free to the public and all are invited to attend.

GSU Football Nutritional Program seeks help

Looking for donations from committed and supportive friends of the Grambling State University (GSU) Football Coach Mickey Joseph and the GSU Football Nutritional Program. At This Time, All Donations are being made to: HBCU Boosters, Earmarked for the GSU Nutritional Program. Checks or Money Orders should be mailed to: P. O. Box 82, Grambling, La. 71245.

City of Grambling Water Department Issues Warning of ‘Wrong’ Sites for Paying Bills

The Water Department of Grambling wants Citizens to beware of paying their bills on the wrong sites online. Citizens should pay their water bills, property taxes and tickets at cityofgrambling.org ONLY. Once at the site, you will be directed to the payment page (ncount.com) where you can pay your bills. Several of these ‘wrong’ sites have cropped up lately according to the Water Department. One such site is doxo.com. DO NOT pay your bills on this site. Once your money is gone, the City has no way to retrieve it so BEWARE!

Councilwoman Continues ‘Listening Post’ for Grambling citizens

Grambling City Councilwoman Delores Smith/Mayor Pro tem is available on the first Monday of each month, noon at Grambling’s City Hall for what she calls a “Listening Post.” Smith is available to listen to, or answer city-related issues citizens may have. The listening post is a designated place and time to visit with Smith to get questions or concerns heard.

Free food distribution set for Saturdays

The Lincoln United Community Coalition will be distributing free food for those who qualify each Saturday from 10 a.m. until noon. Food is distributed on first, third and fourth Saturdays from the Walmart retail store; second Saturday from the Northeast Louisiana Food Bank out of Monroe. Persons can come to the office at 407 N. Hazel in Ruston on distribution day at 9:30 to qualify. Plates are also sold for \$10 to help support the organization.

For more information, please contact Patricia Mims Brooks

318-265-2011 (office) or 214-662-5407.

Grambling Community Garden seek volunteers

Volunteers are needed for the Grambling Community Garden. If you are interested in lending a hand, contact DeVaria Ponton, master gardener. The garden is managed by Grow Grambling, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Ponton has the ability to grant volunteers hours and service-learning hours. Volunteers may contact Ponton at 318-278-9892.

‘No Limit’ accepting registration for 2025-2026

The No Limit Soldiers Program is accepting registration and sign-ups. All area youth are encouraged to come out and participate. For additional information please contact Howard Kirkpatrick, 318-497-2978, Montez Moss, 318-243-7451 or Kelli Granger at 318-664-5435.

Parish public transportation available to Grambling

The Lincoln Parish Public Transportation System (LPPTS) is available to the public, including the Grambling area. The system currently provides demand-response, curb to curb, non-emergency service and operates on a first call/come first serve reservation schedule. The service is handicap accessible.

Reservations are required 24 hours in advance unless prepaid and cancellations must be made two hours prior to pick-up time. For additional information please contact Samantha Dimmer, transportation coordinator 318-251-5138.

Subscribe to the Grambling Connection Newspaper

The Grambling Connection is offering print subscriptions for those who would like the paper mailed to them, as well as online subscriptions for those who would like to receive the paper in their email inbox.

To subscribe, please go to: www.gramblingconnection.com/subscribe. Thank you from the Grambling Connection Staff.

Reali-Tees Holds Grand Re-Opening

Reali-Tees held their Grand Re-Opening on Thursday, October 9 at their new location at 120 Legends Ave in Grambling. On hand were friends, family and supporters. Photo credit by T. Valentino



Group representing Reali-Tees, Davis Premier Estates, and Divas Escape Boutique presents check to GSU’s College of Business for \$5,000. (LtoR) Dr Derrick Warren Attorney Brian Smith Clifford Davis Oscar Davis Marvin Gator Davis Russell Leday



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. (LtoR) Clifford Davis, Oscar Davis, Mary J Davis, Marvin Davis, Cody Davis



Patrons shopping in store



**104 Clear Springs Dr.
Grambling, LA 71245**

\$230,990 3 Beds 2 Baths 1,490 SQ FT



**Contact Nikki Murphy
318-401-5773**

MOVE-IN READY!

Reduced financing rates available for limited-time + special offers for qualified buyers.



COMMUNITY

LPRE combines business with a celebration

By Joice M. Dunn

The Lincoln Parish Retired Educators (LPRE) opened the 2025-26 session with a dual agenda. Dr. Liz White, LPRE president opened the meeting with an exciting welcome and congratulations to other members besides herself whose birthday was held during the summer break.

The combination of business and a birthday celebration was key. Dr. White introduced the guest speaker to be someone she knew well, Capt. Adrian Todd White, her younger son. Capt. White, a graduate of Louisiana Tech University, was born and raised in Jonesboro and is now a military retiree. He holds an LPN degree from Bossier Parish Community and has worked in several medical community facilities.



Dr. Liz White, LPRE president, stands with Mary Wilks-Kilgore, Cypress Springs principal, who receives donation.

White is self-employed, running his own show as a contractor with T&I Construction in Shreveport. He is part soldier, part storyteller and all heart, said Dr. White.

Although he acknowledged

his military background, Capt. White entertained the group with his storytelling skills under the name of “Captain of Happiness.” He shared stories that brought laughter to those assembled.



Capt. Adrian Todd White uses storytelling skills under the name of “Captain of Happiness.”

Dr. White acknowledged the partnership with Cypress Springs Elementary where the members of LPRE serve as the Adopt-A-School partner. Members of the school’s staff was present for a special presentation of a \$100 gift.

“Whether used for supplies or student enrichment, we want to encourage your dedi-

cated staff and the exceptional students they serve in your special education program,” White said. “Your work reflects a spirit of inclusion and joy. And we are proud to stand beside you in that mission and thank you for all you do.”

Mary Wilks-Kilgore, principal, said the school was grateful for the organization’s partnership. “You could have gone to any school, but you chose Cypress Springs. We didn’t come to you; instead, you came to us to become one of our partners. It takes all of us, and we appreciate you and all you do.”

After the business section, the group relaxed to chat and chew with ice cream, cake and other goodies.

For additional information on how to join the Lincoln Parish Retired Educators group, contact Liz White at whiteliz318@bellsouth.net.

NAMI Ruston Hosts Its 2025 Mental Health Fair

On Wednesday, October 15, 2025, NAMI Ruston hosted its 2025 Mental Health Fair at the Jack Beard Community Room in the Lincoln Parish Library in Ruston.

All Photos Taken by T. Valentino



Vendor explains to attendees about services



NAMI Members at Table



Attendees visit with Vendor



Da Soulfood Express

NOW ACCEPTING TIGER 1 CARDS

302 College Ave, Grambling, LA 71246
(318) 596-3045

It's Soul Good!

BREAKFAST MENU

Cheese Omelet \$4.99
All Meat Omelet \$8.59
Bacon-Egg-Cheese Biscuit \$2.99
Sausage-Egg-Cheese Biscuit \$2.99
Sausage Biscuit \$1.99
Smoked Sausage Link W/Bread \$2.99
Smoked Sausage-Egg-Cheese \$4.59
3 Pancakes \$3.59
Breakfast Burrito W/Egg \$3.59
Breakfast Platter \$7.99

FISH MENU

1 Piece Fish - \$2.59
2 Pieces Fish W/1 Side - \$7.99
Fish Sandwich - \$5.99
Butterfly Shrimp, 5 Shrimp - \$4.99

PORK CHOPS

1 Pork Chop \$2.99
Pork Chop Sandwich \$5.49
Pork Chop Basket \$7.49
Includes French Fries & Small Drink

BURGERS

Hamburger, Single Patty \$5.99
Hamburger Basket, Single Patty & French Fries \$8.99
Cheeseburger, Single Patty \$6.99
Cheeseburger Basket, Single Patty & French Fries \$9.49
Hamburger, Double Meat \$7.99
Cheeseburger, Double Meat \$8.99

CHICKEN MENU

3 Wings \$8.69
2 Piece Dark Meat \$7.69
-1 Leg & 1 Thigh
3 Piece Dark Meat \$9.49
-1 Thigh & 2 Legs
2 Piece White Meat \$7.69
-1 Breast & 1 Wing
3 Piece White Meat \$10.59
-1 Breast & 2 Wings
(*All Combos Include French Fries And A Small Drink)

SANDWICHES

Chicken Sandwich, Grilled Or Fried \$5.99
Bacon, Lettuce & Tomato Sandwich \$4.49
Tuna Salad Sandwich \$3.49
Chicken Salad Sandwich \$3.49
Philly Cheese Steak Sandwich \$6.99

SNACK MENU

Frito Pie \$3.59
Corn Dog \$1.59
Boudin Link \$3.79
Boudin Ball \$4.49
Meat Pie \$2.79
Nachos W/Cheese \$4.59
Rotel \$5.59
Egg Roll \$2.49
Crispitos \$2.49
Hot Dog \$1.89
Chili Dog \$2.49
Potato Log \$.35
Jalapeno Pepper, Each \$.59
French Fries \$2.49
Reddy Fries \$7.49
-Grilled Chicken, Bacon Bits & Shredded Cheese Onion Rings \$3.29
Chicken Salad, Large \$7.99
Taco Salad \$6.49

Friday & Saturday
BAR-BE-QUE PLATES Available

HOURS: Mon - Closed, Tu-Thu - 7am-8pm, Fri-Sat - 7am-10pm, Sun - 11am-4pm



CHURCH NEWS

Inspirational Corner

Lessons from the Storm

If there's one thing we know well here in Louisiana, it's storms. We've seen skies turn dark in an instant, rain fall so hard you can't see what's in front of you, and winds that make even the strongest trees bend low. But when the storm finally passes, the sun always seems to shine a little brighter.

Life has its storms, too. They come in the form of unexpected challenges—illness, loss, financial struggle, broken relationships, or times when nothing seems to go right. And just like with the weather, we can't always predict when those storms will come or how long they'll last. But we can decide how we'll face them.

Every storm carries a lesson if we're willing to listen. Sometimes it's about strength—realizing we're stronger than we thought we were. Other times it's about faith—learning to trust God even when the winds of life are howling. And often, it's about renewal—understanding that what looks like destruction might actually be clearing the way for something new to grow.

Think about the aftermath of a real storm. The ground is soaked,

the air feels fresh, and what was dry and lifeless starts to come alive again. In the same way, the storms of life can water our souls. They push us to pray more, reflect more deeply, and lean on one another in ways we might not have before.

If you're going through a storm right now, remember this: The same God who controls the wind and the rain also controls the outcome. What feels chaotic to you is not chaotic to Him. He sees the whole picture—even when all you can see are the clouds.

The book of Nahum 1:7 says, "The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and He knows those who trust in Him." That's a reminder that no matter how fierce the storm gets, you're never forgotten or forsaken. The sun will shine again, and when it does, you'll see things more clearly—your purpose, your strength, your blessings.

So hold on through the storm. Take shelter in faith. And when the clouds finally part, don't just move on as if nothing happened. Take a moment to thank God for what you learned in the rain.



Church Announcements

Men's Fellowship group to celebrate Jesus

The area Men's Fellowship group will meet every second Monday of each month at the Memorial Funeral Home Chapel in Arcadia, Louisiana, located on 128680 LA-9 71001 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. The men only group gathers for strength, courage and knowledge.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, Nov. 10. The meeting is spearheaded by Patrick Jefferson, former state representative, along with invited speakers. Every man is invited to come and worship.

Church of Christ in Grambling Extends invitation

The Church of Christ in Grambling invites all to worship. Bible Study is held Sunday at 10 a.m. and morning worship at 11 a.m. Listeners may join online services by tuning into the YouTube channel, 146 King St. Church of Christ. Wednesday night Bible study begins at 7 p.m. The Zoom ID is 9744743562 and the church may be contact at ChurchofChristatGrambling@gmail.com or 318- 596-1038. The Church is located at 146 King St., Grambling.

New Hope Church to hold community-wide Bible Study

The New Hope Baptist Church of Ruston will hold a noon community-wide Bible Study each Wednesday. The church is located at 301 W. Vaughn Ave., Ruston.

Editor's Note: If you have a church announcement, please email the information to the 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
Gum Spring, 3117 Hwy 151, Farmerville
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, 571 Mt. Olive Rd. Grambling, Louisiana.
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

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
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.
Lifechurch.LA, 3000 S. Vienna St., Ruston
LifePoint Church of Ruston, 1018 S. Vienna St., Ruston
Living Water Full Gospel Church, 149 Fairgrounds Rd., Ruston
Miracle Temple COGIC, 1405 S. Farmerville, Ruston
New Living Word Ministry, 1900 Barnett Springs Rd. Ruston
New Testament Church at Grambling Inc., 508 Main St., Grambling
Praise Temple, Ramada Inn, 107 Love Ave., Ruston
St. Paul Lutheran, 504 Tech Drive, Ruston
The Bridge Community Church, North Campus, 2301 N. Trenton, Ruston
Triumph The Church and Kingdom of God in Christ, Hwy. 3061 E. Tenn. Rd., Ruston
United Faith Tabernacle Ministries & Prayer Center, 303 Cherry St., Bernice,
Upon the Rock Outreach Center, 513 E. Texas Ave., Ruston



HEALTH & WELLNESS

CHARMING’S CORNER

Boundaries: The Highest Form of Self-Love

By Charming Davis

In today’s world, “self-care” has become a trendy buzzword. We often see it portrayed as spa days, fresh nails, or a new hairstyle. While those things can help us feel good on the outside, true self-care and self-love go much deeper—they live in our boundaries. Boundaries are the invisible lines that protect our peace, energy, time, and emotional well-being. When we fail to set or uphold them, we often experience exhaustion, resentment, confusion, and even burnout. Loose boundaries are a silent form of self-neglect and self-abandonment. When we say “yes” to things that go against our spirit just to keep the peace or be liked, we’re quietly telling ourselves that our needs don’t matter.

There are several types of boundaries—each equally important:

- Physical Boundaries: Respecting your personal space and comfort levels.
- Emotional Boundaries: Protecting your feelings from manipulation or emotional dumping.
- Mental Boundaries: Guarding your thoughts and beliefs without letting others control how you think.
- Time Boundaries: Managing how and where you spend your time.
- Energetic Boundaries: Keeping your spiritual and emotional energy sacred by not letting negativity or chaos disturb your peace.

People will test or try to break your boundaries—sometimes intentionally, sometimes unknowingly. They may guilt-trip you, label



Charming Davis

you as “selfish,” or act distant when you begin to prioritize yourself. But remember, setting boundaries isn’t about creating distance; it’s about creating clarity. It’s how you teach others to honor and respect you. It’s also important to understand that you can set bound-

aries with love. You don’t have to be harsh, cold, or defensive. You can say, “I love you, but this doesn’t work for me,” or “I need space right now to honor my peace.” Setting boundaries is not a rejection of others—it’s a reflection of self-respect. Standing firm in your boundaries is what I like to call “standing on business.” It means holding your ground even when it’s uncomfortable. Boundaries are not walls—they’re doors. You decide who and what comes through them. When we enforce them with love and consistency, we build trust with ourselves and attract healthier relationships, opportunities, and environments. So yes, get your hair done, treat yourself, and enjoy life’s pleasures—but don’t forget that self-care also means protecting your time, your energy,

and your peace. Because that’s what real self-love looks like. If you’re ready to strengthen your boundaries, heal from self-abandonment, and deepen your spiritual self-awareness, I invite you to visit me at Naturally Charming Universe Holistic Wellness Center, located at 311 Main Street, Grambling, LA. I offer spiritual counseling, energy healing, and holistic wellness services designed to help you reconnect with yourself and live in alignment. We’re open:

- Tuesday–Friday: 8:30 AM – 1:30 PM
- Saturday: 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM
- (Closed Sunday & Monday)
- Because protecting your peace is more than self-care—it’s self-love in action.

October is mental health awareness month

By Jeannetta Stephens-Jones

Mental health includes our emotional, psychological, and social well-being. It affects how we think, feel and act. October is Mental Health Awareness Month, a time to raise awareness while promoting the importance of Mental Health care and to spread understanding regarding mental health challenges, on the one hand. On the other hand, mental health awareness Month is important because it provides an opportunity for individuals to assess their own mental health. Mental health is a difficult topic to talk about for most; however, we have to remember that mental health is a normal part of life and everyone should be aware of it. During this awareness month, we can become more knowledgeable about the different types of mental health conditions, signs and symptoms and become cognizant of various resources for individuals who may be seeking help for their mental health.

There are several ways to participate in Mental Health Awareness Month which may include the following:

- Reach out to those who may be struggling with mental health issues. This can help individuals feel less alone and more supported.
- Learn more about mental health. Taking time to learn more about mental health can help individuals understand their own mental health and encourage them to take steps to care for it.

Mental Health Awareness is crucial for the following reasons:

- Reducing stigma Stigma can prevent individuals from seeking help and can lead to discrimination.
- Promoting early intervention: When people are educated about the signs and symptoms of mental health disorder, they are more likely to seek help at the first signs of trouble.
- Improving access to resources: Many individuals may not know where to go for help with mental health issues. Raising awareness can help



Dr. Jeannetta Stephens-Jones

connect people to various resources and support services. What are Some Effective Strategies to Raise Mental Health Awareness?

- Organize Community Events: hosting workshops, seminars, or panel discussions can create safe spaces for individuals to share their experiences and learn about mental health.
- Organize Community Events: this can be done by hosting seminars, workshops and panel discussions. Events such as these can create safe spaces for individu-

als to share their experiences while learning about mental health.

- Educate Yourself and Others: it is essential to gain understanding about various mental health conditions, symptoms and treatments. This knowledge should be shared through conversations, educational events or online resources to promote empathy and support.
- Discuss Mental Health Openly: open discussions about mental health can decrease stigma and help others to feel less isolated.
- Utilize Social Media: social media platforms are great tools to use for spreading awareness.

What Are Some Ways to Support Mental Health Awareness Month?

- Participate in events and activities that promote mental health awareness
- Reach out and offer support to those with mental health issues
- Spread awareness about the importance of mental health. This can help individuals become more aware of mental

health issues and take steps to improve their own mental wellbeing

Mental Health Awareness Month is a great opportunity to reach out and support those who are struggling with mental health issues. It is important to keep in mind that mental health is a normal part of life and something that everyone should be aware of and take seriously, according to Mark Halsey. Please remember that raising awareness about mental health is a collective effort that requires education, open dialogue and community involvement. Let us join together to make a powerful impact on mental health awareness and help those in need.

Resources

- www.webmd.org
- www.nami.org
- www.nimh.gov
- www.mayoclinic.org
- www.helpguide.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 jjones79_aka@yahoo.com.



True Care Dental LLC.

Dr. Rhonda Pruitt

7412 HWY.80 RUSTON, LA 71270

318.247.1111

Dentistry from the Heart!



ARTS & CULTURE

Small Town 2 Big Dreamz: Making the Leap- Herbert Bernard Lee

By Lena W. Claybon

Welcome to the 2nd installment of “Small Town 2 Big Dreamz: Making the Leap”, a new on-going series of articles we’ve started in The Grambling Connection where we interview people who grew up in small towns and went on to turn their biggest dreams into reality. We created this series to inspire others who may be living in small towns (or anywhere) that may have big dreams and may not know where to start in making them happen or may not even believe they can make them happen. These individuals are here to show what’s possible.

Herbert Bernard Lee (“Bernard” as he’s referred to these days) is the epitome of a “hometown boy made good”. Growing up in Ruston and going to schools in both Ruston and Grambling, Bernard’s beginnings were very humble but now he works with music superstars throughout the country producing events and tours and selling out packed houses via his event management and production company, Infinity Productions Worldwide.

The Grambling Connection recently sat down with Bernard on his recent visit to Grambling during homecoming week where he was responsible for bringing in DC Young Fly, Coco Jones, Lloyd and JJ Hairston for the entertainment. We wanted to find out how he got started in the concert production business and see if he could give any advice to those who might want to follow in his footsteps.

GC: So, before we get into the meat and potatoes, tell [our readers] about your background so they’ll know a little about you.

Bernard: I’m originally from the area. Lived in Ruston but went to high school in Grambling where I played basketball [under Coach Bratton]. Gra-



(LtoR) Team Members: Jerry McCuse, Lajuan Law, Kim Porter, Connie B. Williams, Bernard Lee (seated)
Photo credit: Tony Valentino

duated in ’76 and went to Kansas State on a basketball scholarship. After that, I moved to Houston and ended up getting a job selling cars. So, one day, I sold a couple of vans to a guy who worked at a radio station in Houston. When I went to deliver the vans, the guy, basically, asked me if I’d be interested in working in radio. I told him I wasn’t a disc jockey but he said no I would be selling air time. Not only that, but it was a commission job. So, I hesitated.

I told him I was already working a commission job so I’d have to talk it over with my wife and he said, and I’ll never forget, he said, “If you got to go home and talk to your wife about a career, I don’t need you.” That broke me. The next week I went to work in radio and then I found out who I was working for. My boss was Don Rosette who, at the time, was the Southern University Alumni President and the Owner of the station was Willie Davis, who was a Grambling graduate and a Superbowl champion. He played for the Green Bay Packers and went on to own All Pro Broadcasting and had stations all over the country.

GC: Yes, I definitely know who he is! So, is that how you got interested in doing concerts and working with artists, once you started working in radio?

Bernard: Actually no. My interest started way before that. When I was still

in high school, both my parents worked and I’d have to wait on them to pick me up after school so I’d walk up on campus, and I’d often see Eddie Henderson (Director of Student Activities) unloading trucks that were bringing in the gear for concerts and events that was happening on campus. I was fascinated so I started hanging around him. So, he saw I was interested and he took me up under his wings and started teaching me how it all worked. So, over time, I saw everybody that came through Grambling. I saw The O’Jays, The Commodores, Gladys Knight, James Brown, everybody.

GC: Wow, that’s great. So, that’s where the spark started?

Bernard: Yes, and when I went off to college, every summer I’d return and put on gospel events at my church. I would get choirs from all over and bring them in to do concerts at New Hope Baptist Church in Ruston.

GC: Ok, so that was your initial foray into putting together your own events?

Bernard: Right, and after I started working in radio, we would hold events all the time. Big events. So, I learned more and more. Then, I got a call from Dr. Gerald Peoples who was Vice President of Students Affairs at Southern who asked me if I could put together their homecoming concert. So, I did.

GC: So, that was your first HBCU

concert but how did you get involved in doing all the other schools?

Bernard: Dr. Peoples ‘gifted’ me with a company. [By that I mean] he’d call and say, “Call this person over at Alcorn, “Call this person over at Mississippi Valley”, etc. and before long, I was doing all these concerts at HBCU’s and bringing in all kinds of artists.

GC: Who all have you worked with?

Bernard: Oh my God, [almost too many to name], but I’ve worked with Lil Wayne, Drake, Patti, Gladys, Charlie Wilson, Oleta Adams, Layla Hathaway, Regina Bell [just to name a few]. Then on the gospel side, Tamala and David Mann, the Winans, JJ Hairston... just some of everybody.

GC: So where do you see your company evolving to from here?

Bernard: Our goal is to develop Infinity Productions into a full-fledged national touring company that tours at least 40 to 52 weeks out of a year.

GC: So, what advice would you give to young people who might be interested in doing what you do?

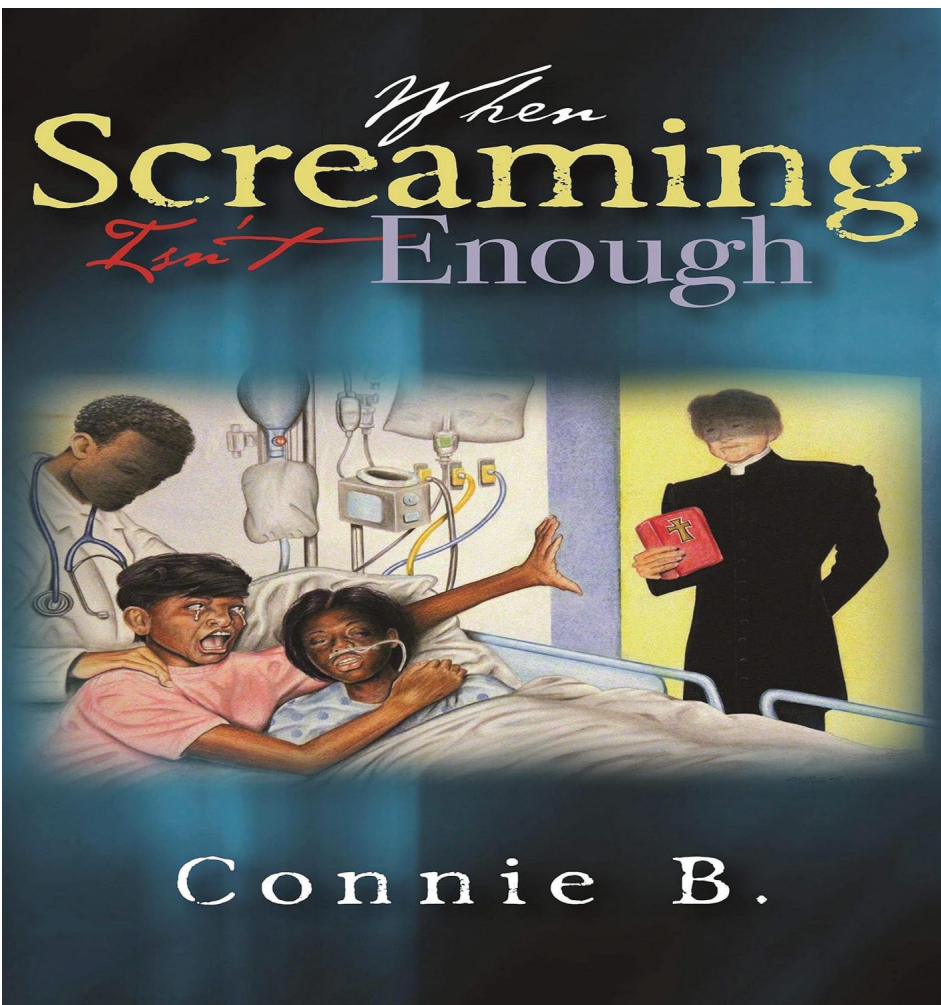
Bernard: Well, I always suggest that if you are looking to get into the business, look to find an internship with somebody so that you can start growing and learning the business from. You’ve got to have people who can mentor you and you got to be able to listen. That’s one thing. You don’t know it all and you can’t do it by yourself. You may think you can, but you cannot.

GC: Alright, any parting words you’d like to leave us with?

Bernard: Yes, I want to thank Grambling State University for the tremendous opportunity they have given us to come in here and be a part of the homecoming activities because there is deep history here. So, we want to thank Dean Marcus Kennedy, Craig [Johnson], Dr. Ellis, and the President, for giving us this opportunity.

GC: Well, thank you for taking time out to talk with us today and we wish you continued success with your business!

Bernard: Thank you.



Book Review: When Screaming Isn’t Enough

By Connie B. Williams

After being bitten by a mosquito, my daughter went from being 14 to 2 years old in a week

From tragedy to trust, propelled into the core of all understanding when your daughter goes from being 14 to two years old in a week. This book is so real. It unveils what everyone, at some time or space, will go through. Helplessness, loneliness, hope, unreal friendship, love, pain, wishing, trusting, perseverance, and fearless faith.

Native Houstonian, Connie B. believes that everything happens for a reason. The publishing of her first book has been a personal victory that speaks to the tenac-

ity of her heart and passion to persevere through the hurdles of life, “When Screaming Isn’t Enough”.

Her journey began in the radio and television industry, first at WYLD-FM 98 Radio Station, as a radio announcer and news reporter and then behind the camera at WGNO-TV Channel 26 in New Orleans, LA. Connie’s on-air television personality opportunity came when she joined the COX Cable Television Station. From there she worked in the news departments at both ABC and NBC affiliate broadcast networks.

She was driven by her love of the industry and knew that radio and television is where she belonged.

Then came two pink

bundled blessings into her life, which ignited a new direction, a formidable passion with a purpose; being a great mom. Everything that she had done since their birth was for the sheer unadulterated love of her girls. Suddenly without warning, one of the most seemingly insurmountable crisis of her life happened to her youngest daughter, and eminent death was the prognosis.

Connie tells the horrific story of the shadow perpetrators whose actions almost placed her daughter

In the file of collateral damage for the greater good. It is a true story of faith in God, victory through hardship, and the demand for truth.

Available on Amazon

THE GRAMBLING CONNECTION

HAVE THE GRAMBLING CONNECTION DELIVERED TO YOUR HOME!

You don't have to miss another issue!

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!



www.gramblingconnection.com/subscribe

THE DEPARTMENT OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS PRESENT

A RAISIN IN THE SUN

BY LORRAINE HANSBERRY
DIRECTED BY DR. PRINCE DUREN

NOVEMBER 12-14 • 7 PM NIGHTLY
NOVEMBER 13-14 • 10 AM MATINEE

FLOYD L. SANDLE THEATRE
CONRAD HUTCHINSON JR. PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

\$10 GENERAL ADMISSION
\$5 12 YEARS AND UNDER
FREE GSU STUDENTS WITH VALID STUDENT ID

FEATURING GSU ALUMNUS ADARIAN WILLIAMS AS WALTER LEE YOUNGER
KATHERINE LADAY AS LENA "MAMA" YOUNGER KINNIDY LUCAS AS RUTH YOUNGER
AREONA RICHARDSON AS BENEATHA YOUNGER LEGEND JONES AS TRAVIS YOUNGER
ETORIA DAVIS AS MRS. JOHNSON CHRISTOTES NARTLEY-TETTER AS JOSEPH ASAGAI
DEDRICK BUTLER AS GEORGE MURCHISON JAMES HOWARD PHEONIX AS KARL LINDNER
REMINGTON DETIEGE AS BOBO

GRAMBLING STATE UNIVERSITY

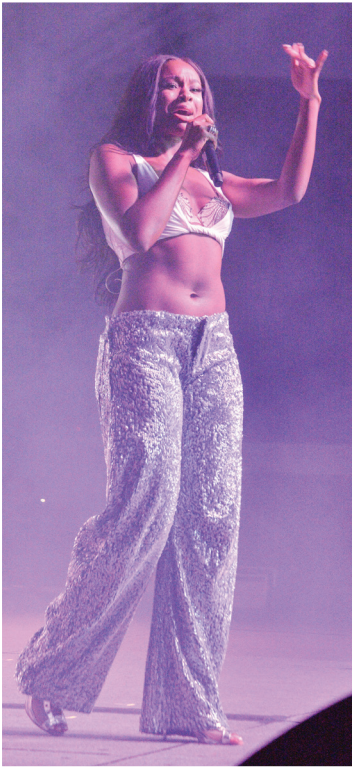
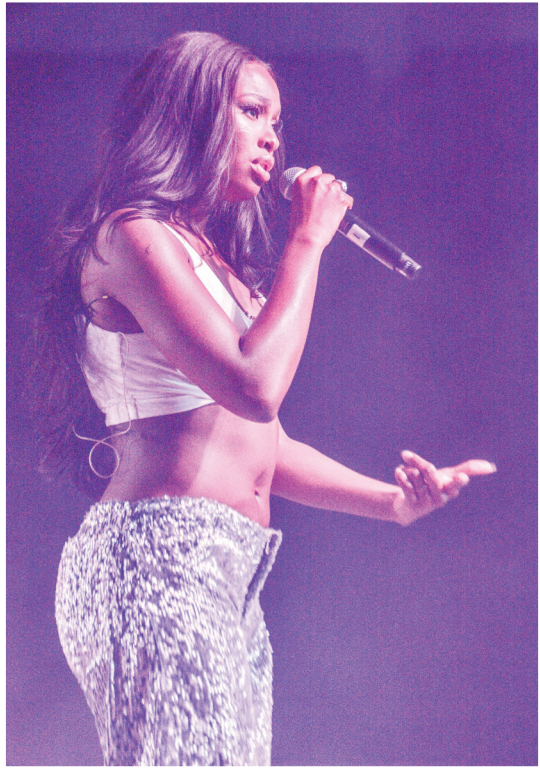
HOME COMING 2025

A PICTORAL REVIEW

All Photos Taken by T. Valentino

THE CONCERT

THE COMEDY SHOW



Coco Jones



DC Young Fly



Jordan Harris



Coco Jones interviewed by KGRM



The Grambling Connection interviews DC Young Fly

THE PARADE

THE ALL WHITE GOSPEL BRUNCH



Parade Participants



GSU's Praise Team



JJ Hairston



Zackery Thomas

Business Services Directory

NAIL SALON

318-274-8600

302 College Ave, Ste. B
Grambling, LA 71245

MON-FRI 8AM-6PM
SAT. 8AM-5PM
SUN. CLOSED

OWNER, HANH THUY
TAKE CASH APP \$THUYYY7

Electrical

Air Conditioning

Heating

Generators

www.albrittonservice.com

318-251-0885

1009 E. Georgia Ave. Ruston, LA

Add
Your logo
here

**PUT
YOUR
BUSINESS
CARD HERE
FOR ONLY
\$25**

**THE CITY OF GRAMBLING'S
3RD ANNUAL
TRUNK & TREAT**

MUSIC - FOOD - GAMES

10-28-2025

6PM - 8PM

MAIN STREET (DOWNTOWN GRAMBLING)

Bring your decorated trunks, lawn chairs, and games as we line Main Street to provide a fun, family-friendly, and safe place for our community to enjoy trick-or-treating together!

FREE VENDING
SCAN TO BE A VENDOR

FREE PARTICIPATION
SCAN TO PARTICIPATE/ VOLUNTEER