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# THE GRAMBLING ★ CONNECTION

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## New Social Security Rules Could Leave Black Retirees Further Behind

By Stacy M. Brown,  
Black Press USA

The country's most dependable safety net is changing again, and this time, many fear it will fall hardest on the people who have always leaned on it the most. Across the nation, millions are bracing for the next wave of Social Security changes taking effect this fall and into 2026. What Washington calls modernization and reform, others see as a tightening noose around the necks of working people, especially Black Americans, who for generations have been shut out, shortchanged, and forced to survive on the margins of a promise that was never fully kept. For those born in 1960 or later, the age to receive full retirement benefits will rise to 67. Disability rules are being rewritten

to make it harder to qualify, and paper checks, the only reliable method of payment for many seniors and the unbanked, are being eliminated. All of this is happening under an administration that claims it is saving Social Security. The people who depend on it most say otherwise. Rutgers Law School professor Jon C. Dubin wrote in *The Color of Social Security: Race and Unequal Protection in the Crown Jewel of the American Welfare State* that the program was never colorblind to begin with. "The original Act's complete exclusion of disproportionately Black agricultural and domestic workers from old age insurance programs was grounded in the badges and incidents of slavery and a desire to preserve the plantation-sharecropping economy," he noted.

See *New Page 3*



## Grambling State names College of Business in honor of Thomas and Joyce Moorehead with \$10M partnership



**Transformational partnership marks the first named college and the largest individual investment in university history, driving a new era of academic excellence and opportunity.**

By GSU Office of Strategic Communications

**GRAMBLING, La.** — In a defining moment for Grambling State University, Thomas and Joyce Moorehead, through

the Moorehead Family Foundation, have made a transformational \$2 million anchor investment, catalyzing a total impact

valued at \$10 million, to establish the Thomas and Joyce Moorehead College of Business and Entrepreneurship—the first named degree-granting college in the University's 124-year history, building on the proud legacy of the Earl Lester Cole Honors College.

"This moment is about

honoring a proud legacy and building a launchpad for the next generation of leaders," said President Martin Lemelle, Jr. "The Mooreheads' generosity reflects the very best of what it means to be Grambling State—transforming vision into opportunity."

See *Grambling Page 2*

## Dr. Melva K. Wallace Inspires with 'Abracadabra' Message at GSU Founders Day Celebration

By GC Staff Report

**GRAMBLING, La.** — Huston-Tillotson University President and CEO Dr. Melva K. Wallace brought energy, humor, and heartfelt inspiration to Grambling State University's 124th Founders Day Observance, delivering a powerful keynote that blended faith, history, and a touch of "magic."

The day began with the university's traditional wreath-laying ceremony

honoring founder Charles P. Adams near Lee Hall. GSU President Dr. Martin Lemelle Jr. and Grambling Mayor Alvin Bradley joined together to sign a proclamation officially designating November 1 as Founders Day 2025. Later that morning, the celebration continued inside the Fredrick C. Hobdy Assembly Center, where Dr. Wallace—herself a two-time Grambling alumna—took the stage before a packed audience. Themed

"Honoring Our Legacy, Building Our Future," her address invited listeners to reflect on the enduring power of words and vision. "Abracadabra — The Grambling Way" Wallace opened with a childhood story about hearing the word *abracadabra* for the first time at a birthday party magic show in her hometown of Grambling. Years later, she discovered the word's deeper meaning: "I create as I speak."

"It's not about magic,"

Wallace said. "It's about manifestation—believing in what you speak until it becomes reality. And for those who know the Lord, that's a biblical principle. That, GramFam, is the Grambling way." She reminded the audience that she truly learned the meaning of *abracadabra* not from a magician, but on GSU's very campus—"the place where everybody is somebody."

See *Dr. Melva K. Wallace Page 3*



## Jasmine Felicia Crockett Immortalized in Bronze as Hometown Celebrates a Powerful Symbol of Justice and Hope.

In a moving ceremony filled with pride and celebration, U.S. Representative Jasmine Felicia Crockett unveiled a bronze statue dedicated to her achievements and service to the community. The event took place in her hometown, where hundreds gathered to witness the historic moment under a bright blue sky adorned with confetti and applause.

See *Jasmine Page 3*



Founder's Day Speaker, Dr. Melva K. Wallace





# OPINION

## THE LIE IS OVER: TRUMP AND PROJECT 2025

By: Roy Douglas Malonson

After months of pretending he knew little to nothing about “Project 2025,” President Donald Trump has now made his intentions crystal clear. This week, he openly confirmed he is meeting with Russ Vought, former Office of Management and Budget Director and one of the chief architects of the controversial conservative playbook. The two men are strategizing on where to slash federal spending while the government remains paralyzed by shutdown.

What Trump once brushed off as a distant plan is now front and center in his administration’s agenda. In his own words

on Truth Social, Trump bragged about the meeting, writing: “I have a meeting today with Russ Vought, he of PROJECT 2025 Fame, to determine which of the many Democrat Agencies, most of which are a political SCAM, he recommends to be cut, and whether or not those cuts will be temporary or permanent. I can’t believe the Radical Left Democrats gave me this unprecedented opportunity. They are not stupid people, so maybe this is their way of wanting to, quietly and quickly, MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!”

For critics who long warned that Trump was biding his time before embracing Project 2025, this is the proof they feared. The plan itself is not some minor policy suggestion—

it is a sweeping, nearly 900-page document outlining how to dismantle federal programs, strip agencies of independence, and consolidate power in the presidency. Civil rights protections, public education, housing, healthcare, and even environmental safeguards are all in the crosshairs. And now, with a government shutdown giving him the cover to act, Trump appears eager to treat federal agencies as pawns in a political game.

The implications for Black America cannot be overstated. Programs that serve as lifelines—Head Start, Title I education funding, housing and tran-

sit grants, health access for low-income communities—are at risk of being gutted under the guise of “cutting Democrat agencies.” If history has taught us anything, it is that when America catches a cold, Black America catches pneumonia. A sweeping slash to public programs will not fall evenly; it will hit hardest in the neighborhoods where resources are already scarce.

Observers are already raising alarm bells. Legal experts say Trump’s talk of firing federal workers during a shutdown may violate existing law, and unions are preparing lawsuits. But even as the

courts deliberate, damage could be done. When an administration begins labeling agencies as scams and plots their elimination, what does that mean for institutions charged with enforcing civil rights, monitoring discrimination, or funding historically Black schools and neighborhoods?

Trump’s defenders argue that the cuts are about efficiency and reducing waste. But the language of Project 2025 makes clear its deeper ambition: a radical reshaping of government that erases protections for marginalized communities and tilts power away from the people who rely on public services the most. Critics warn that this is not just about dollars and cents—it is about whose voices matter in America’s

democracy. For African Americans, the warning lights are flashing. The same playbook that Trump once dismissed is now the roadmap he is embracing. The same government programs that have provided pathways to stability and progress are now labeled as “political scams.” And the same communities that have always borne the brunt of economic experiments are the ones once again staring down the consequences.

The question is not whether Trump is serious about Project 2025. He has shown us that he is. The real question is whether Black America—and the nation as a whole—will recognize what is at stake before it’s too late.

(Reprint from Afranews.com)



Roy Douglas Malonson

## E. Faye Williams: Lessons From Africa

By E. Faye Williams

I don’t know if you have heard of President Ibrahim Traore’ of Burkina Faso. If you haven’t, make it a priority to read about the man. He’s got so much wisdom, and he’s lifting up so many of our people in Africa who said ENOUGH IS ENOUGH. President Traore’ is doing something different.

While many of our ancestors and people today in America helped to build this country, so many have worked to make America fair to all people, to recognize the genius of so many African Americans—some of whom were such geniuses that you can hardly find any important thing in America that was not discovered, built and still cared for [by African-Americans]. For a while some of our

people really thought they had it made in America. There were some hiccups on our way to equality, but each generation worked a bit more bit by bit, we began doing very important things in America that even some of the masters’ children began voting for us, welcoming us into their companies, their universities, many even turned a blind eye on so many interracial marriages.

We were able to convince many of them to elect our dearly beloved Barack Obama as President—not once, but twice. After that, all hell broke loose, but African American men and women began rising up in even more prestigious positions in an effort to make America truly great! Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson became a member of the

United States Supreme Court, as did an historic Hispanic Justice by the name of Sonia Sotomayor and Justice Elena Kagan. We women of all races really began to think America might be learning to take advantage of the contributions of all Americans., including we African Americans.

Wow, were we wrong! It seems the pushback (racism and sexism) began to operate in overtime! That might not have been so bad, but because a significant number of White women began to believe sexism didn’t refer to them. They also began to excuse color in big numbers and began marrying as many Black men as they

could find who were making a lot of money. That left a lot of Black women out in the cold, and what could have been used to build our community disappeared.

So, that left all but a few Black women with no where to turn, and had to begin fending for ourselves and the families some of the men had left behind.

That was painful, but a lot of us made it anyway. Fast forward to a time Black women became highly educated and began getting high level jobs through a lot of hard work. We became doctors, lawyers, reporters and heads of government agencies. Then along came a not-so-educated man (commonly called Orange



E. Faye Williams

Man) who began to see us as a threat until today more than 300,000 of us have been laid off or fired. Think about the damage that is doing to our community. So, wherever you see a Black woman, those who obviously scare Trump, he’s doing his best to destroy the best of us: Kamala Harris, Leticia James, Marilyn Mosby, Fani Willis, Katanji Brown Jackson, and others. Still, we rise, and my plea to other Black women is to support your sisters who are going through hell because I’ve seen too many instances where we turned our heads or even joined the enemy.

I mentioned Ibrahim Traore’ because I want you to look at the way sisters in Burkina Faso in Africa are working with President Traore’ to raise up all of Africa—our Motherland.

Never be fearful of going to the front of the line to do what we need to do to help our brothers and sisters who are working to make life better for all of us in this country and Africa. DO SOMETHING!

*E. Faye Williams is an accomplished attorney, businesswoman and teacher. She received her Bachelor of Science degree from GSU and was also a former Miss GSU. She earned her law degree from Howard University, and has worked as a former professor of international law at the Southern University Law Center. She is also a civil rights activist, President Emeritus of the National Congress of Black Women, a 3-time author, served as legal counsel to the United States Congress, and was appointed to the Presidential Scholars Commission by President Obama.*

Grambling From Page 1

Approved by the University of Louisiana System Board of Supervisors, the newly named college will be housed in the Jacob T. Stewart Academic Building and strengthened by a series of endowed initiatives made possible through the Moorehead pledge. These include the Joyce Moorehead Student Finish Line Scholarship to assist seniors facing financial hardship; the Thomas A. Moorehead Student Entrepreneur and Investment Fellows Program offering immersive learning in entrepreneurship, investment strategy, and venture-building; the Thomas A. Moorehead Endowed Dean of the College of Business to recruit nationally recognized leadership; and the Thomas and Joyce Moorehead Faculty Fellowship to expand research, innovation, and inclusive excellence in business education.

“Having the College of Business named in honor of Thomas and Joyce Moorehead is truly a blessing,” said Dr. Derrick Warren, Dean of the College of Business and Entrepreneurship. “Their legacy of excellence, resilience, and generosity will inspire our students and faculty to pursue greatness and innovation. This investment elevates our profile national-

ly and enhances the transformative experiences we provide.”

### A Legacy Powering Possibility

The naming of the College of Business in honor of Thomas and Joyce Moorehead recognizes not only Mr. Moorehead’s groundbreaking accomplishments as a luxury automotive and real estate entrepreneur, but also Mrs. Moorehead’s distinguished legal career and her lifelong commitment to civil rights, education, and public service. Together, the Mooreheads embody the ideals of leadership, integrity, and community empowerment—values that are central to the mission of the College of Business and that they have championed through both their professional endeavors and philanthropic efforts.

A proud Grambling State University alumnus, Thomas Moorehead’s rise from humble beginnings started in Monroe, Louisiana. He made history as the first African American franchise owner of BMW, Rolls Royce, McLaren, and Lamborghini dealerships, later expanding into hospitality and real estate ventures that built one of the most distinguished dealership portfolios in the country. He began in the Midwest, owning Buick and Isuzu in Omaha, Ne-

braska, followed by Buick, GMC Truck, and BMW in Decatur, Illinois. Relocating to Virginia, he went on to establish BMW of Sterling and MINI of Sterling and continued breaking barriers as the world’s first African American Rolls-Royce dealer with Rolls-Royce Motor Cars Sterling. His portfolio further expanded to include Lamborghini Sterling, McLaren Sterling, and Harley-Davidson of Washington, D.C. In recognition of his industry leadership and unmatched customer experience, Bugatti awarded him its exclusive franchise prior to his retirement. Moorehead not only represented these prestigious brands but elevated them—setting flagship standards for service, image, and customer experience that manufacturers later adopted nationwide. He is a testament to the power of education, vision, and determination.

Thomas and Joyce Moorehead expanded their business portfolio beyond automotive enterprises into the hospitality and wine industries. They were among the early pioneers behind the development of the National Harbor waterfront destination on the Potomac River, partnering with Marriott International and Integrated Capital to build and

open the Residence Inn at National Harbor. That successful venture evolved into ownership interests in more than 43 hotels across the United States.

In a later collaboration, the Mooreheads joined forces with Henry and Bilye Aaron and partnered with Baker Family Wines, owned by Dusty Baker, to produce and market premium red and white California wines now sold nationwide.

Joyce Moorehead, an accomplished attorney and civic leader, has advanced civil rights and social justice through her work with the NAACP, school boards, university boards, legal services organizations, and national advocacy groups—bringing legal expertise and strategic leadership to causes that uplift underrepresented communities.

“This honor is deeply personal to both of us,” said Thomas and Joyce Moorehead. “Grambling prepared Thomas for success in business and in life. As an attorney, Joyce knows the transformative power of education. Together, we want future generations of Gramblinites to graduate ready to lead, to build, and to serve. Our hope is that this pledge will open doors of opportunity for students who, like us, dare to achieve.”

### A Historic Investment that Drives Grambling State Forward

The Moorehead investment stands as a cornerstone of Grambling State’s mission to expand access and strengthen academic excellence. It affirms a broader commitment to ensure that each academic college—business, education, sciences, the arts, and graduate and professional studies—has the resources and support to thrive.

“This transformational investment from Mr. and Mrs. Moorehead represents a defining moment in Grambling State University’s history,” said Brandon A. Logan, Vice President for University Advancement and Innovation. “Their generosity not only sets a new standard for philanthropy but also reaffirms the enduring promise of what’s possible when vision and purpose align.”

Currently ranked #89 nationally and #1 in Louisiana for social mobility (CollegeNet, 2024), Grambling State continues to prepare students to graduate on time, with minimal debt, and ready to thrive as entrepreneurs, scholars, and global citizens.

“Strategic investments like this one ensure that our students, faculty, and staff have the resources needed to thrive,” said Vice

President of Administration and Business Affairs, Penny M. Moses. “The Mooreheads’ generosity strengthens our ability to deliver on our mission and sustain our momentum as we grow into the future.”

About Joyce and Thomas Moorehead

Joyce and Thomas Moorehead have built a distinguished legacy of philanthropy that began with the establishment of Mr. Moorehead’s first automobile dealership—an Isuzu, Buick, and GMC franchise in Omaha, Nebraska. As their business enterprises expanded, so too did their commitment to charitable giving. Over the course of their careers, the Mooreheads have contributed more than \$9 million to support students, working families, and non-profit organizations.

They also established the Joyce and Thomas Moorehead Foundation, which provides scholarships to high school students and emergency grants to college students pursuing their academic goals. Through their philanthropy and personal foundation, the Mooreheads continue to advance opportunities that diversify and strengthen today’s global workforce, pairing financial support with mentorship, networking, and community service to ensure lasting impact.

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# COMMUNITY

## Grambling to hold Veterans Appreciation Luncheon

By Joice M. Dunn

In honor of Veterans Day, the City of Grambling and Grambling State University will combine efforts to show appreciation to the community Veterans and their dependents, Monday, November 10, from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Grambling City Hall Community Room, 127 King Street.

The City of Grambling as well as Grambling State University has several Veterans and Veteran dependents in the area. Virginia Scott, La Vet Corps Campus Navigator, at the university reached out to Mayor Alvin Bradley.

The gathering will be an opportunity to draw university and commu-

nity together and allow them to meet and greet for future connections.

“Louisiana Department of Veteran’s Affairs and AmeriCorps are working together to support veterans transitioning into college life,” explained Scott, who has held the university position since August.

Scott said the organization’s mission is to help veterans, their families, and campus communities ensure a smooth return from active-duty service.

“Through LA Vet Corps, student veterans and dependents can access education, benefits, and support services directly on campus. As school navigator, I’ll mentor student veterans, help you access benefits,



and foster an active veteran community by developing a student veterans’ organization (SVO),” according to Scott.

She’s an adventurous and genuine soul, a wife, mother, sister, grandmother and great-grandmother. Scott has over

35 years of experience as a Licensed Cosmetology Instructor and Cosmetologist. She moved to Ruston a little over 11 years ago, from Houston Texas and enjoys working out, spending time with family and dancing!

“I think this program is an excellent effort to strengthen the bridge in our community and continue to make it stronger,” said Mayor Bradley.

Veterans Day is observed as a national holiday on November 11, honoring veterans of the armed forces and those killed in the country’s wars. The observance originated in 1919 on the first anniversary of the 1918 armistice that ended World War I and was known as Armistice Day. It was commemorated in

1921 with the burial of an unknown soldier from World War I at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia.

November 11 became an official national holiday in the United States in 1938. In 1954 the name was changed to Veterans Day to honor those who had served in all U.S. wars. Ceremonies are held each year at the Tomb of the Unknowns, and floral tributes are placed on the graves of service men and women and at memorials throughout the country.

For additional information concerning the program, contact the Mayor Bradly’s office or Scott at Email: [scottv@gram.edu](mailto:scottv@gram.edu) or call Office: 318-274-6264 | Cell: 318-232-2202.

## 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](http://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](mailto:jjones79aka@yahoo.com) or call 93180 (318) 614-1961 or [SJBurch57@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://cityofgrambling.org) ONLY. Once at the site, you will be directed to the payment page ([ncount.com](http://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](http://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.

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To subscribe, please go to: [www.gramblingconnection.com/subscribe](http://www.gramblingconnection.com/subscribe). Thank you from the Grambling Connection Staff.

Dr. Melva K. Wallace From Page 1

### Honoring the Visionaries

Wallace celebrated the humble beginnings of Grambling State University, which was founded through the determination of “farmers, preachers, mothers, and dreamers” who turned faith into a foundation for education.

“Those founders didn’t need a wand, a cape, or a top hat,” she said. “They used words, work, and willpower—and with a poof of perseverance, abracadabra—Grambling State University appeared, a light in North Louisiana that has never gone dim.”

### From Dirt Roads to Digital Impact

Reflecting on her own student experience, Wallace said she didn’t realize at first that she was “walking into destiny.” But Grambling did.

“Grambling knows that in every student there is brilliance waiting to be called forth,” she said. “From the dirt roads to the digital age, from chalkboards to global impact, Grambling has always created as she spoke.”

She cited Grambling’s legacy of overcoming barriers and redefining excellence. “When they said there was no room for Black teachers, Grambling said abracadabra and built a

teacher’s college. When they said we couldn’t build champions, Grambling said abracadabra and sent legends to the NFL, NBA, MLB, and Olympics. When they said excellence couldn’t come from the piney woods, Grambling said abracadabra and produced doctors, judges, journalists, and CEOs—and even two university presidents standing here today.”

### A Call to Create and Believe

Wallace urged students, alumni, and supporters to keep that same spirit alive. “Not sleight of hand, but strength of purpose,” she said. “Not illusion, but illumination. Keep speaking light into this place. Keep believing that what we declare with purpose will manifest with power. Keep creating as you speak, not for a cause, but for legacy.”

She celebrated GSU’s continued progress—its expanding programs in cybersecurity, nursing, and digital media, along with the “World-Famed Tiger Marching Band” that continues to “move to the beat of excellence.”

### Continuing the Legacy

Looking to the future, Wallace challenged the Grambling community to not only preserve its founders’ vision but expand it.

“When history is written, let it be said this gen-

eration didn’t just inherit the vision of Grambling’s founders—we expanded it,” she said. “We owe that to Booker T. Washington, who sent Charles P. Adams to start a school for African Americans right here in North Louisiana. We owe it to Adams himself, who led for 36 years. We owe it to Ralph Waldo Emerson Jones, to Coach Eddie Robinson, to Paul ‘Tank’ Younger, and to Thomas Moorehead, whose recent \$10 million partnership with the College of Business continues that legacy of building.”

Wallace even nodded to popular culture, invoking Grammy-nominated artist and former GSU student Erykah Badu and rapper Cardi B—both connected to Grambling through the university’s cultural footprint and the World-Famed Band’s unforgettable performances.

“And yes,” she added, “we owe it to my brother and our current president, Dr. Martin Lemelle Jr., for saying abracadabra and telling the world, ‘We are building.’”

As her speech drew to a close, Wallace left the audience with a final charge: “GramFam, I say to you—abracadabra. Keep using your words to build, to believe, and to bless this sacred ground. Because as long as there is a Grambling State University, there will always be a place where everybody is somebody.”

New Social Security From Page 1

### This Day in History

That exclusion, born of the Depression years, still echoes today. The data shows that Black retirees receive smaller checks and fewer years of benefits because their work lives are shorter, their wages are lower, and their health gives out earlier. Dubin warned that raising the retirement age again “will have a foreseeable racially disparate impact on Black workers due to shorter Black life expectancy and resulting shorter temporal benefit-receipt windows.” For those already close to retirement, the new rules are clear. Claim early, and your check shrinks for life. Wait longer, and you may die before you see the benefit of waiting. That is not reform. That is punishment by policy.

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities reported that the Trump administration is preparing what could become the largest cut to Social Security Disability Insurance in U.S. history,

Jasmine From Page 1

The statue, depicting Crockett raising her fist in a gesture of empowerment, symbolizes resilience, justice, and leadership.

Local officials, commu-

potentially slashing eligibility by 20 percent. The rule zeroes in on older workers, removing age as a major factor in assessing whether someone can still work. Kathleen Romig of the Center warned that rejecting older applicants “will cause more hardship for people who would be eligible for benefits under the existing rules.” Most of those workers are 50 or older, many living in the South and Midwest, where the jobs wear down bodies before minds, where the work is with the hands and on the feet. The cut will hit them the hardest.

The government says it is also saving money by ending paper checks. On September 30, Treasury stopped mailing Social Security payments. Officials call it a modernization effort. But to the five million Americans who still rely on those checks—many of them elderly, disabled, or without bank accounts—it feels like being cut off from the world. “Some people are just not going to be able to manage the steps,” Romig told The Washing-

ton Post. A 2024 report by the Center for Retirement Research found that Black retirees receive 19 percent less in Social Security benefits than white retirees. The reason is no mystery. Lower pay, fewer years in the workforce, and health disparities that shorten life all lead to smaller checks. The report concluded that “changing Social Security alone seems unlikely to narrow existing racial and ethnic gaps substantially” and that “achieving equity for Black and Hispanic retirees would have to start with expanding opportunity for workers and increasing pay equity.”

So, for Black America, this is not just about benefits. It is about justice. The check at the end of a lifetime of work should not depend on the color of the hands that earned it. Yet here we are again, watching the promise of fairness bend beneath the weight of policy. As Dubin put it, “Our fellow Americans deserve no less than a more equitable means for addressing the consequences of economic insecurity.”

nity leaders, and families attended the unveiling to honor her ongoing commitment to equality and social progress.

In her emotional speech, Crockett said, “This statue isn’t just about me — it’s about the

people who never stopped believing in change.” The moment marked a powerful tribute to her legacy as one of America’s most inspiring voices for justice and civic unity, solidifying her impact for generations to come.





# COMMUNITY



Photo Credit: T. Valentino

# A TRUNK & TREAT CELEBRATION



The City of Grambling held its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Trunk & Treat event last Wednesday evening (Oct. 29) on Main Street in Grambling. Citizens of the community lined the streets with their trunks open full of all kinds of candy and other treats. Plenty of parents with their kiddies in colorful Halloween costumes came out to enjoy the festivities. City officials were on hand as well including the Mayor and several City Council members. The event was co-hosted by Grambling's Juneteenth Committee.





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# CHURCH NEWS

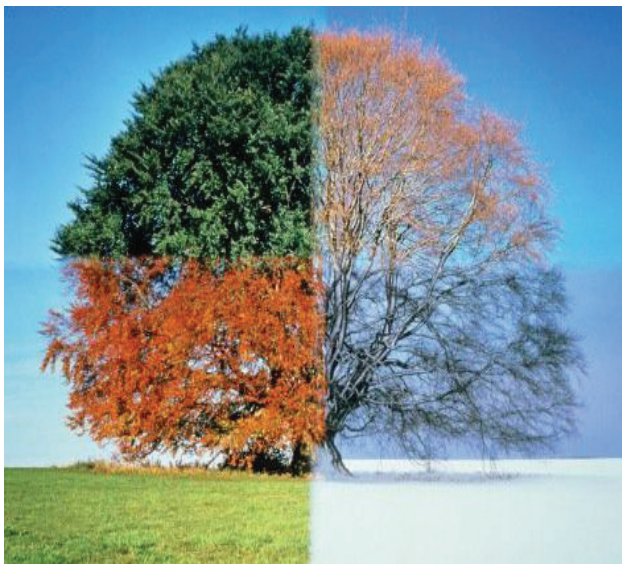
## A Season for Everything

Life is made up of seasons. Some are filled with sunshine and celebration, while others bring challenges that test our patience and faith. Just as the weather changes with time, so do the seasons of our lives — and each one has its purpose.

Ecclesiastes 3 reminds us, “To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven.” Those words are more than poetic; they’re a promise that no part of our journey is wasted. Every season, whether joyful or painful, is part of God’s divine design.

We all love the “spring” seasons of life — when doors open easily, blessings pour in, and everything feels new. It’s in those moments we can see God’s hand clearly. But then come the “winter” seasons — times when things feel quiet, cold, or uncertain. Those are the moments that stretch us, the ones that teach us how to trust even when we can’t trace what God is doing.

Sometimes, the hardest part of faith is learning to wait. We want in-



stant answers, quick fixes, and smooth paths. But God often works in the waiting. A seed doesn’t sprout the same day it’s planted. It takes time — time underground, unseen, while roots grow deep enough to sustain what’s coming next. The same is true for us. When it feels like nothing is happening, God is preparing us for what’s ahead.

Maybe you’re in a season of growth right now, stepping into new opportunities. Maybe you’re in a season of pruning, where some things or

people have fallen away. Or maybe you’re in a season of rest, where God is simply asking you to be still. Wherever you are, know that it’s not forever — it’s for a reason.

When we learn to embrace each season instead of fighting it, peace begins to settle in our hearts. We stop asking “Why me?” and start asking “What are You teaching me, Lord?” That shift in perspective changes everything.

If you’re in a joyful season, celebrate it fully. If you’re in a challenging one, hold on — because

spring always follows winter. The same God who brings the sunshine is the one who walks with us through the storm.

So take heart. Seasons change, but God’s love

remains constant. He is faithful in every chapter — the blooming, the pruning, the waiting, and the harvest.

As you go through this week, take a moment to

reflect on what season you’re in right now, and thank God for it. Because even if you can’t see it yet, He’s using this very moment to prepare you for the next one.



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## Church Announcements

### St. Peter to hold a Harvest program

Rev. Elliott Abney and the Love Chapel B.C. Family will serve as guest at the St. Peter B.C. Harvest Program Sunday, Nov. 9 during the 10:30 morning service. The Church is located on Long straw Road in Ruston, pastored by Rev. Trevor Barber.

### White Oak Grove Church to hold an anniversary program

The White Oak Grove Baptist Church of Homer, Louisiana, will hold its Church Anniversary program Sunday, Nov. 9 at 2 p.m.

Rev. Gregory DeLoach and the Blue Run B.C. Family of Minden will serve as guest for the event.

### Love Chapel Church to hold a Harvest program

Rev. A.K. Glosson and the Victory M.B.C. Family of Coushatta, Louisiana, will serve as guest for a Harvest program Sunday, Nov. 16 at Love Chapel M.B.C. during the morning service. The church is located at 1525 Sikes St. and pastored by Rev. Elliott Abney.

The program theme will come from Matthew 13: 37-38. “He answered and said unto them, he that soweth the good seed is the son of man; the field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom.”

## 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  
**Counthly**, 7426 Hwy. 146, Ruston  
**Dayspring Baptist Ministries**, 3191 South Vienna St, Ruston  
**Emmanuel**, 1200 Farmerville Hwy., Ruston  
**Fellowship**, 6476 Hwy 146, 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, 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. lifepointtruston.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

### Maintaining the Course: Faith Through Transition

By Charming Davis

Naturally Charming Universe  
Holistic Wellness Center

Transition isn’t easy. It’s uncomfortable, uncertain, and oftentimes feels like the ground is shifting right beneath your feet. But I’ve learned that sometimes God has to shake things up to set you free — even when it doesn’t feel like freedom in the moment.

In September of last year, I was released from my hospital job as a respiratory therapist. I remember sitting there wondering, “God, I know You gave me this dream, but my job is gone. How can I handle this?” Seven days later, I received the keys to my own holistic wellness center in Grambling — Naturally Charming Universe. I was overwhelmed with gratitude and confusion all at once. It was a blessing wrapped inside of a test.

A year later, I still have the center, and it continues to stand as a physical reminder of God’s promise. But the journey hasn’t been simple. I’m still in a period of transition, balancing my purpose

and my profession. I work travel assignments as a respiratory therapist — usually three months at a time — and then move on to the next. Sometimes there’s a gap between contracts, and in those spaces, I have to trust even more deeply.

When I was first released, I burned through my savings just trying to stay afloat. It’s humbling to go from stability to uncertainty. There have been moments when I questioned whether I could keep everything going — the business, the bills, my own peace. But somehow, God continues to make a way.

This season has tested my patience, my faith, my endurance — everything. Yet I’m learning that tests are not punishments; they are preparation. I’m being stretched for where I’m going.

Running a wellness center while traveling for work isn’t easy. There are days when I feel torn between two worlds — helping people breathe in the hospital and helping people heal at my center. But both are a part of who I am. My center is still standing, my purpose is still strong, and



Charming Davis

I’m still showing up — even when it’s hard.

Sometimes I wonder why more people haven’t found me yet, why the flow isn’t steady, or why fear stops people from walking through my doors. But I remind myself that everything unfolds in divine timing. Maybe this chapter is less about crowds and more about character — building me up for the abundance that’s coming.

To anyone reading this who’s also going through a transition — whether it’s losing a job, changing direction, or feeling uncertain about your purpose — I want you to know you’re

not alone. God hasn’t forgotten you. Sometimes He clears your path by removing what you thought you needed, just to make room for what you’re truly meant to have.

Here are a few things that have helped me through this transitional season:

- Stay rooted in faith. Even when nothing makes sense, trust that everything is aligning behind the scenes. Faith is the bridge between where you are and where you’re going.
- Give yourself grace. Transition can be messy. You’re learning, stretching, and growing all at once. Don’t rush the process.
- Keep showing up. Even if you can’t run, crawl. Keep moving toward your vision, no matter how small the steps may seem.
- Listen for divine direction. Spend quiet time in prayer or meditation. God still speaks — sometimes softly, through signs, numbers, dreams, or even fortune cookies. (I had one recently that said, “You will obtain your goal if you maintain your course.” That message couldn’t have come at a better time.)
- Surround yourself with

light. Lean on your ancestors, your loved ones, and your support system. Energy is contagious — protect yours.

This period of life is not the end of the story; it’s the preparation for your next chapter. And when the time comes for me to walk fully into being a full-time holistic practitioner, I know that’s when I’ll feel the true freedom of purpose — no limits, no boundaries, just service through spirit.

Until then, I’m maintaining the course and trusting that everything is working together for my good.

If you’re in your own season of transition and need a little support, Naturally Charming Universe Holistic Wellness Center is here for you. Whether in person or over the phone, I offer holistic consultations, energy healing, and spiritual guidance to help you find balance, clarity, and peace.

Naturally Charming Universe Holistic Wellness Center

- 311 Main Street, Grambling, La
- Phone & Virtual Sessions Available 318-537-5393
- naturallycharminguniverse.com

## Self-Diagnosis or Self-Awareness? Knowing When to Seek Help

GC Staff Report

If you’ve ever scrolled through social media and thought, “Wait, that sounds like me...” — you’re not alone. Whether it’s a TikTok about anxiety, a thread on trauma, or a meme about burnout, mental health is everywhere online right now. And for many people, especially in Black and marginalized communities, that visibility can feel like a lifeline. We’re finally putting words to feelings we’ve carried for a long time.

But here’s the thing: being more aware of your mental health is one thing — diagnosing yourself is another. It’s not wrong to ask questions or explore what might be going on. In fact, that’s often how healing starts. But at some point, many of us need more than just Google searches or Instagram infographics. We need support, confirmation, and clarity from someone trained to help.

How Social Media Has Changed Mental Health Awareness (For Better and Worse)

Social media has changed the game. You can find people talking about everything from ADHD to generational trauma to attachment styles. And for Black folks in particular — who’ve often been told to “just be strong,” “pray on it,” or “keep it moving” — this access to language, stories, and shared experiences can feel powerful. It’s a reminder: you’re not crazy, and you’re not alone.

That said, the constant stream of content can also be confusing. Algorithms push certain topics repeatedly, and before you know it, every other video is about anxiety, depression, or “high-functioning” disorders. This can make it hard to tell the difference between truly struggling and just having a tough day. And sometimes, we end up taking on labels that don’t really fit — or

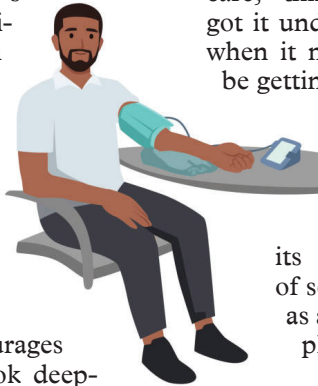
worse, we don’t get the help we need because we think we’ve already figured it out on our own.

Self-awareness is a great starting point. But real healing often needs real help.

Here’s when self-diagnosis can help:

- It helps you start naming what you’re feeling.
- It encourages you to look deeper into patterns or habits that don’t feel right.
- It can make you feel validated — especially if you’ve been brushed off or misunderstood in the past.
- It might even be the first step that leads you to therapy or talking with your doctor.

But here’s when it can hurt:



- You might misdiagnose yourself and miss the real issue (for example, confusing anxiety with a thyroid problem or burnout with depression).
- You could delay getting care, thinking you’ve got it under control — when it might actually be getting worse.
- You might over-identify with a diagnosis that limits you, instead of seeing yourself as a whole, complex person.

A survey by LifeStance Health found that nearly 29 percent of respondents had self-diagnosed mental-health conditions based on online information; among Gen Z, that number rose to 50 percent. Of those, less than half talked to a clinician.

Remember, there’s a difference between understanding your feelings

and labeling them without full support. It’s okay to say, “This might be depression,” but it’s just as important to follow that up with, “Let me talk to someone and find out for sure.”

Signs It’s Time to Talk to a Professional

You don’t need to wait until everything falls apart to ask for help. Therapy and mental health support aren’t just for crises — they’re for clarity, healing, growth, and maintenance. Just like you go to the doctor for a check-up, you can go to therapy to better understand your mind and emotions.

Here are some signs that it might be time to talk to a mental health provider:

- Your mood or stress levels are affecting your daily life. Maybe it’s hard to focus at work, you’re withdrawing from people, or your sleep is off.
- You’re having big emo-

tions that feel hard to manage. That might mean overwhelming anxiety, deep sadness, panic attacks, or numbness.

- You’re leaning on unhealthy coping habits. Things like over-drinking, overeating, avoiding people, lashing out, or shutting down completely.
- You’re having thoughts of hurting yourself or others. This is serious — and you deserve to be supported through it. Don’t try to handle it alone.
- You’re not sure what’s going on, but you know something’s off. You’ve tried rest, journaling, talking to friends — and it’s still not getting better.

If any of that sounds familiar, know this: getting support isn’t a sign of weakness. It’s a smart, strong move — and you don’t have to figure it all out by yourself.

Source: blackdoctor.org

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# ARTS & CULTURE



Misty Copeland performs in ballet Coppelia

## Misty Copeland Retires: The Legacy of a Trailblazer Who Redefined Ballet

By Lena W. Claybon

As Misty Copeland takes her final bow this week, the world of dance pauses to celebrate not only a remarkable career but a movement she helped ignite. Her farewell is more than the closing of a stage curtain — it's the continuation of a story that changed the face of ballet and broadened its possibilities for generations to come.

Copeland's journey began unconventionally. She didn't step into her first ballet class until age 13 — considered late for a dancer — yet within a few short years, her raw talent and relentless determination propelled her toward greatness. In 2015, she shattered a glass ceiling that had stood for the American Ballet Theatre's 75-year history by becoming its first African American female principal dancer. That milestone wasn't only about personal achievement; it was a moment of cultural

transformation, symbolizing what perseverance and representation can achieve in even the most exclusive spaces.

Throughout her career, Copeland has been much more than a captivating performer — she has been a symbol of resilience and possibility. In a discipline often defined by narrow ideals of beauty and body type, she stood out with strength, confidence, and authenticity. Her presence alone challenged conventions, forcing ballet to confront its long-standing biases and expand its definition of what a ballerina could look like. On stage, she was mesmerizing — powerful yet graceful, fiery yet delicate — breathing life into every role she embodied.

Her performances in classics like *Swan Lake*, *The Firebird*, and *Giselle* transcended the choreography. Each role became a declaration of belonging, a reclamation of space that had historically excluded dancers who looked like her. Through her artistry, Copeland invited audiences to see bal-

let anew — as a living, evolving art form capable of reflecting the diversity and richness of the world it exists in.

But perhaps her greatest legacy lies beyond the stage. Copeland used her visibility to amplify conversations about diversity, equity, and inclusion in the arts. She didn't simply open doors; she held them open for others. Through her work with the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, her involvement in ABT's Project Plié diversity initiative, and her numerous speaking engagements, she has become a mentor and advocate for young artists from underrepresented backgrounds.

Her memoir, *Life in Motion: An Unlikely Ballerina*, chronicles her extraordinary path — from a childhood marked by instability and financial

hardship to her emergence as one of the most celebrated dancers in the world. The book has inspired readers well beyond the dance community, offering lessons in perseverance, self-belief, and the power of purpose. Her subsequent children's books have done for young readers what her performances did for audiences — showing them what is possible when talent meets determination.

Copeland's retirement is a bittersweet moment for those who have followed her career. While the ballet world bids farewell to one of its brightest stars, it also celebrates a legacy that will continue to shape the art form for decades. Her influence has already sparked tangible change: ballet companies around the globe

are more conscious of inclusive casting and broader representation. Young dancers of color now have role models who look like them, and aspiring artists across all backgrounds have proof that greatness often begins where expectation ends.

Her impact also extends into the broader cultural landscape. Copeland has graced magazine covers, starred in documentaries, and become a voice for social change — proof that the reach of ballet can stretch far beyond the theater. She has shown that a ballerina can be both artist and activist, performer and pioneer, inspiring new dialogue about how art reflects and shapes the society around it.

As she transitions into this next chapter, Copeland's focus will undoubtedly remain on advocacy and mentorship. Retirement from performing doesn't mean retreat; it means evolution. She has expressed her desire to continue uplifting young dancers, championing diversity, and fos-

tering opportunities for those who might otherwise be overlooked. Her legacy will live on not just in the pirouettes and grand jetés she perfected but in the confidence of the dancers she inspired to step forward.

As the final spotlight fades on her performing career, it illuminates the countless paths she has cleared for others. The young ballerinas who once saw her on stage now see themselves in her journey — proof that dreams deferred can still take flight, that grace and grit can coexist, and that art, at its best, has the power to transform not just audiences but entire generations.

Misty Copeland's final bow is not an ending. It's a passing of the torch — a celebration of what she has built and a promise of what's yet to come. Her influence will echo in every plié, every leap, every child who dares to dream. The stage may grow quiet, but her legacy will continue to dance — strong, beautiful, and eternal.



Misty Copeland

## WEEKEND PRAISE PARTY COMING TO THE DIXIE THEATER!

A historic gospel concert is coming November 16th to the Dixie Center for the Arts. This is the first ever major Gospel Concert in the Dixie Center's History. The Spirit of Praise will feature James Fortune, Daryl Walls (from the Walls Group) LaSha Knox and the Unity Choir.

The concert will be the culmination of a canned food drive that is being sponsored by Red Peach Radio. The goal is to assist families and furloughed federal workers, who are in need because of the government shut down.

Group ticket prices are \$15 each when you buy 10. VIP tickets are \$35 and Ultra VIP which includes a pre-show



James Fortune

the Dixie to purchase tickets. The event starts at 4pm. The Dixie Center is located at 212 N. Vienna St, Ruston, LA.

The Weekend Praise Party is also sponsoring a trip to Rock City Church in Birmingham for January 24th-25th 2026. Last Summer, Pastor Mike had such an impact on the community during the Juneteenth celebration that there has been a demand in putting a trip together to his church. Bus seats are \$100 per person. To register online, go to: <https://form.jotform.com/252924491968068>

If your church or business wants to be a sponsor or in the souvenir book, please contact Santoria Black at (318) 235-9207.

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# SPORTS



## Grambling State Defense Racks Up Eight Sacks in 13-10 win over Alabama A&M

By GSU Athletics

GRAMBLING, La | The Grambling State University football earned a gritty 13-10 win over Alabama A&M on Saturday afternoon at Eddie G. Robinson Memorial Stadium.

GSU improved to 6-3 overall and 3-2 in the SWAC, while AAMU dropped to 4-5 and 1-4 in conference. The win also secured GSU's first season in which the Tigers will finish at .500 or better since 2019.

The victory was bolstered by stifling defense and big fourth quarter punt return.

GSU's defense held AAMU to just 175 yards of total offense while racking up a season-high eight sacks and forcing three turnovers. Defensive end Bryce Cage and Linebacker Jamal Jordan led the defensive effort with six total tackles each.

Both players registered a sack apiece.

Jalen Guillard and Blake Davis both made interceptions for the Tigers.

Offensively, the Tigers battled through adversity in the absence of starting quarterback C'zavian Teasett and backup Ashton Frye. Grambling State relied on true freshmen A'Myne Darenssbourg and Hayden Benoit to lead the effort under center.

Darenssbourg exited the



game in the first quarter with an injury after completing 2-of-3 passes and rushing for nine yards on two carries. Benoit was 9-of-13 for 91 yards.

Andre Crews led the Tigers' running game, rushing 15 times for 38 yards.

AAMU's David Faulk kicked a 27-yard field goal 10:02 on the clock. The Bulldogs made it 10-0 on a 43-yard TD

reception by Donovan Payne with 3:59 left in the opening quarter.

In the second quarter, with 10:38 to go until halftime, Guillard picked off an Alabama A&M pass at the Tigers 38-yard line, returning it to the AAMU 42-yard line. Grambling State converted that turnover into points when Josh McCormick drilled a 38-yard FG and trimming

the deficit to 10-3 with 6:12 left in the half.

McCormick made it a 10-6 game after hitting a 30-yard field goal just before halftime.

Midway through the third quarter, a muffed punt by the Bulldogs was recovered by the Tigers at the AAMU 23-yard line. Alabama A&M forced a 35-yard field goal attempt that was blocked.

Grambling State took

the lead with 7:39 remaining in the fourth quarter when Delano Franklin returned a punt 64 yards for a touchdown, putting the Tigers in front 13-10.

After GSU's defense forced a punt on AAMU's ensuing drive, the Tigers nearly fumbled the game away when Frankling muffed the kick. However, kick catch interference called on the

Bulldogs kept the ball in Grambling's possession. The Tigers picked up two first downs, draining the clock and preserving the win.

Alabama A&M quarterback JD Davis II went 12 of 18 passing for 123 yards, with two interceptions and one score.

Ryan Morrow led the Bulldog's ground game with 41 yards on 11 carries.

## 2025 Bayou Classic Schedule of Events

**52nd Annual Bayou Classic: Southern v Grambling Football pres. by P&G**

\* Please note that all events are subject to change.

WELCOME PRESS CONFERENCE
Presented by Exxon mobil
Monday, November 24
10:00 am
Caesars Superdome

ANNUAL BAYOU CLASSIC THANKSGIVING DAY PARADE
Thanksgiving day - Thursday, November 27
3:00 pm
Downtown New Orleans

BUSINESS AT BAYOU CLASSIC
A Black Business Showcase in partnership with the Louisiana Chamber of Commerce Foundation
Networking * Technical Assistance * Business Marketplace
Business at Bayou is a business expo that showcases nonprofit, corporate, and local businesses. Students, Alumni, and Visitors are invited to stop by the Business at Bayou to purchase items from small black businesses and learn more about networking opportunities.
Friday, November 28
10:30 am - 4:00 pm
Hyatt Regency New Orleans
free and open to the public

BAYOU CLASSIC COACHES LUNCHEON (INVITE ONLY)
FRIDAY, November 28
Noon
Hyatt Regency New Orleans

BEATS BEFORE BATTLE
Presented by Sprite
FRIDAY, November 28
3:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Caesars Superdome, Gate C Plaza Level
Please note: clear bag policy for entrance

GREEK SHOW & BATTLE OF THE BANDS
Greek Show Presented By Sprite
Battle Of The Bands Presented By The Louisiana Office Of Tourism
Featuring the 4th Annual Bayou Classic Invitational High School Battle Of The Bands
to open the event
Friday, November 28
Doors 5:00 pm; Event 6:00 pm
New Entrance -- Caesars Superdome Gate C
please note: clear bag policy for entrance
Southern University HUMAN JUKEBOX Marching Band -- South End Zone
Grambling State University World Famed Tiger Marching Band -- North End Zone
BAYOU CLASSIC / SPECIAL OLYMPICS Unified Rivalry Flag Football Game
Unified Rivalry Flag Football Game Presented by special olympics louisiana
Saturday, November 29
9:00 am
Free and open to all ages
Pan American Stadium, City Park



ANNUAL BAYOU CLASSIC FAN FESTIVAL
Saturday, November 29
9:00 am - Noon
Free and open to all ages
Champions Square at the Caesars Superdome
Please note: clear bag policy for entrance

52ND ANNUAL BAYOU CLASSIC FOOTBALL GAME
Presented by Procter & Gamble
Saturday, November 29 Kick off 1:00 pm.
Doors open at 11:30 am
Caesars Superdome
Please note: clear bag policy for entrance
Southern University Jaguars -- East Sideline near Sections 101-128
Grambling State University Tigers -- West Sideline near Sections 129-156

52ND ANNUAL BAYOU CLASSIC HALFTIME SHOW
Presented by Coca-Cola
Saturday, November 29. Caesars Superdome

52ND ANNUAL BAYOU CLASSIC POST GAME TROPHY PRESENTATION
Presented by Entergy
Saturday, November 29, Caesars Superdome
Important Event Info: Grambling University (HOME) - West Sideline near sections 129-156
Southern University (VISITOR) - East Side near sections 101-128
No Refunds! No Exchanges! No Alternate PickUps!
All tickets must be delivered by Ticketmaster Mobile or Ticketmaster Mobile Transfer functionality. Delivery of Mobile/electronic tickets by any other method will not work and we cannot assist with them. You would need to go to the place you purchased them from for assistance. Please note: Clear Bag Policy rules in effect.
Buy in advance. Limited Ticket Sales at Venue!

## Business Services Directory

**NAIL SALON**

**318-274-8600**

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