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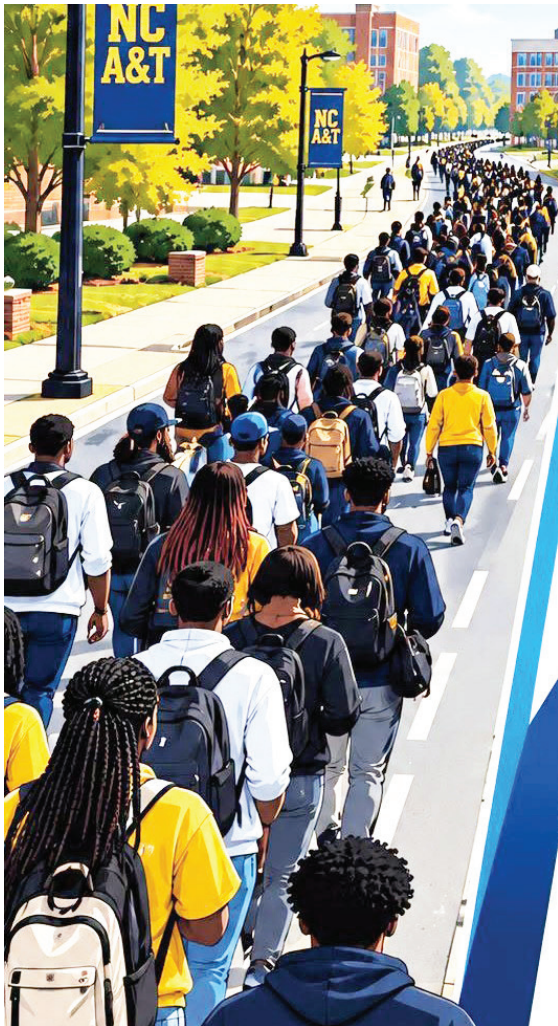
Volume 2, No. 27
Friday, October 23, 2026 •

CHECK OUT NEW **JOBS DIRECTORY** INSIDE

"Keeping Our Citizens Informed on the Issues That Matter"
Grambling, LA

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North Carolina HBCU Students Refuse to be Denied Voting Privileges After Campus Polling Locations Are Removed by Republicans



North Carolina A&T students march 45 minutes to new polling location.

(Greensboro, NC) After losing their on-campus polling locations, students at several North Carolina institutions, including North Carolina A&T and UNC Greensboro, marched to their new polling location by the hundreds.

On the first day of early voting in North Carolina, students at UNC Greensboro, Bennett College and North Carolina A&T took to the streets.

Students walked about 45 minutes to cast ballots on the first day of North Carolina's early voting, which runs through Oct. 31.

In videos shared to social media, hundreds of students could be seen marching for hours to and from their new polling location. North Carolina Supreme Court candidate Anita Earls, state Sen. Gladys Robinson and state House Minority Leader Robert Reives encouraged students to take a friend to go and head to the polls.

"You turned out when they took your voting site away," Reives said.

See North Carolina Page 2



Dems Vow Action

Democrats vow action on healthcare, cost of living, and Iran war

By Shauneen Miranda, Ariana Figueroa, Ashley Murray and Jonathan Shorman

WASHINGTON — Democrats are touting an ambitious legislative agenda centered on affordability and accountability if they take back the U.S. House or Senate — or both — in November.

A slew of pressing policy debates are on tap for Democrats, including healthcare, immigration,

voting rights, the war in Iran, oversight, education and beyond, as they aim to reverse many of President Donald Trump and congressional Republicans' actions since January 2025.

Some issues, while surging to the forefront, likely will provoke internal divisions, such as "Medicare for All," a movement popular among progressives to extend single-payer national health care to all Americans.

"Healthcare costs have consistently been at or above other concerns on the public's affordability worries," said Liz Hamel, a senior vice president and director of public opinion and survey research at KFF who oversees the nonpartisan health organization's polling program.

Democrats also are poised to conduct tougher oversight of the Trump administration.

See Democrats Page 2

Turner Construction Awards \$70,000 in Scholarships to Grambling State University Students

GRAMBLING, La. — Turner Construction Company has awarded \$70,000 in scholarships to seven Grambling State University students, providing \$10,000 to each recipient as part of its continued investment in student success and career development.

Company representatives visited campus Sept. 30 to present the scholarships, which support students pursuing degrees in business and engineering technology. The contribution builds on a longstanding partnership that has provided financial assistance, professional development opportunities and connections to careers in the construction industry.

The 2026 scholarship recipients are:

- Ashari Claybrooks, Junior, Marketing
 - Samuel Draper III, Sophomore, Construction Engineering Technology
 - Emmanuel Oladele, Junior, Electronics Engineering Technology
 - Enoch Owoade, Junior, Electronics Engineering Technology
 - Sa'Myah Perkins, Sophomore, Accounting
 - Hampton Phillips, Junior, Construction Engineering Technology
 - Omarion Rushing, Junior, Accounting
- The awards build on Turner's \$73,000 contribution in 2023, which funded six student scholarships and provided support for engineering



President Martin Lemelle pose with Scholarship recipients

student organizations.

Turner Scholarships 2"Turner Construction's continued investment is making a meaningful difference for our

students across multiple academic disciplines," said Brandon A. Logan, Vice President for University Advancement and Innovation. "Beyond the

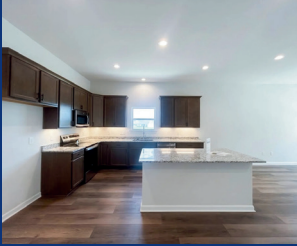
financial support, this partnership connects our students with industry professionals and opportunities to build successful careers. We are grateful for Turner's confidence in our students and its longstanding commitment to Grambling State University."

The partnership has also created professional connections through Grambling State alumni employed by Turner Construction. Seven University graduates currently work for the company, including Chris Compton Jr., a 2005 Engineering Technology graduate and procurement director who helped establish Turner's scholarship partnership with the University.

See Turner Page 2

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OPINION

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

By Veda Emerson

Lincoln Parish, I ask you, are the people of Lincoln Parish choosing our candidates, or are people with money and political interests choosing them for us? Concerns have been raised about individuals outside our community becoming involved in identifying, recruiting, or financially supporting certain candidates, including potentially paying qualifying fees, financing advertisements, or providing other campaign assistance. There are also questions about whether some individuals within the community may be receiving money or other compensation to support particular candidates or influ-

ence voters. If these concerns are true, Lincoln Parish voters deserve to know. This is not about race. It is about power, money, transparency, and political control. When someone provides substantial financial support to a candidate, voters have a right to ask: Who is providing the money? Why are they supporting this candidate? What interests do they represent? And who will the candidate be accountable to after Election Day? Local elections determine who will make decisions about our schools, taxes, public services, infrastructure, neighborhoods, and the future of Lincoln Parish. That makes campaign financing more than campaign issues;

it is a public-interest issue. Look beyond the signs, advertisements, endorsements, and campaign events. Examine campaign finance reports. Know who is contributing. Know who is paying expenses. Know who is providing campaign support. Money can buy advertising. It cannot buy character. We also need to look within our own community. If individuals are accepting money or other benefits to promote particular candidates, voters deserve to know. Political support should come from conviction, not compensation. Our communities have fought too hard for political representation to allow our voices to become someone's paycheck. Our ancestors fought

and died for the right to vote. We should never allow that right to become something that can be bought. We do not need anyone, Black or white, wealthy, or politically connected, to decide who we should support. We can examine candidates for ourselves. If claims are being made about someone paying qualifying fees, financing advertisements, or compensating people to support candidates, let the records and evidence establish what is true. Voters should not be discouraged from asking legitimate questions simply because those questions make some people uncomfortable. Transparency protects everyone. Lincoln Parish belongs to

the people who live here—not to political insiders, wealthy donors, outside interests, or anyone who believes our votes can be delivered on demand. Make your own decision. Do not sell your vote. Do not surrender your voice. Do not allow money or political pressure to determine your choice. Lincoln Parish—we have a voice. We have a vote. We have power. Let us use our power wisely, independently, and without fear. Let us follow the facts; ask the questions; know the candidates and vote for yourself. The political future of Lincoln Parish should be decided by its voters, not by whoever has the deepest pockets or the greatest influence.

POTTER MOTIVATION

You Are Not a Tree

By Rusty Potter

Think about it. A tree is rooted in one place. It cannot get up and move when the conditions around it change. It must withstand every storm, every drought, and every season exactly where it stands. But you are different. You can make choices. Every morning, you wake up with the opportunity to choose a new direction. If you don't like the path you're on, you have the power to change it. Yesterday's mistakes, last year's failures, or someone else's opinion of you do not trap you.

Growth requires change. The person you become tomorrow is shaped by the decisions you make today. If you've been making choices you're not proud of, make a different choice. If you've been hanging around people who pull you down instead of lifting you, find a new circle. If you're putting off your dreams, start taking one small step toward them today. Too many people stay in situations that rob them of their joy because they believe nothing can change. They settle for unhealthy habits, broken relationships, and negative thinking because they feel stuck.



Rusty Potter

But you're not stuck! You're not a tree!

You can learn a new skill. You can return to school. You can repair a relationship. You can improve your health. You can strengthen your faith. You can forgive. You can begin again. The road to a better life doesn't begin with a giant leap. It begins with one decision - a decision to move in a better direction than yesterday. Don't let your past become your permanent address. Let it become a lesson that points you toward a brighter future. Every sunrise is God's reminder that you have another opportunity to grow and to become wiser than you were

the day before. Today, choose progress over excuses and faith over fear. You are not a tree. If you don't like where you are, move. Change your choices, change your direction, and you just might change your life. If this message encouraged you, you'll find many more stories and practical life lessons in my book, Smarter Than Yesterday: Helping YOU to Enjoy YOUR Journey, available on Amazon. I hope that every chapter inspires you to grow, make better choices, and become a little wiser each day.

Democrats From Page 1

Any legislation from Democrats faces the threat of Trump's veto, making any legislation without broad bipartisan support almost certain to fail. In addition, Democrats would need a filibuster-proof majority of 60 votes to advance most measures in the Senate. Democrats remain heavily favored to regain the majority in the House, while Senate races continue to move in the party's favor, amid Trump's plummeting popularity, according to the Cook Political Report with Amy Walter, an elections forecaster. Democrats currently hold 47 Senate seats, including two independents who generally vote with the

party. "House Democrats are committed to fighting for an affordable America, lowering the high cost of living, lowering the cost of groceries, lowering the cost of gas, lowering the cost of housing and fighting to make healthcare affordable for every single American," House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries told reporters in September. The New York Democrat is in line to become the next speaker — the first Black person to hold that office — if the party clinches control of the lower chamber. Jeffries announced five working groups on affordability — housing, healthcare, gas and utilities, groceries and goods, and caregiving — which

House Democrats will concentrate on at the beginning of the new Congress. The Democratic Party's campaign apparatus for House races echoed an agenda centered on affordability. "House Democrats are going to win the majority because voters know we're focused on lowering costs, and that's exactly what we're going to do when we're in charge," Nebeyatt Betre, a Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee spokesperson, said in a statement shared with States Newsroom. "From ending the war in Iran to lower gas prices, restoring (Affordable Care Act) tax credits to lower health care prices, to rolling back reckless

tariffs to lower prices on everything in between, House Democrats' number one priority will be making life more affordable for working families," Betre said. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, chair of the corresponding campaign arm for Senate races, cited healthcare access and affordability as a top priority in a Democratic-led upper chamber. "I think the most important issues that I've heard from voters is restoring their healthcare, making sure that those cuts to Medicaid get re-

stored, making sure that people can afford healthcare and get access to good, high-quality healthcare," Gillibrand said in a September interview with States Newsroom and other members of the Regional Reporters Association. The New York Democrat, who leads the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, said other major priorities include "trying to fix the problems Trump has created, end the war in Iran" as well as getting "costs of groceries, housing, and healthcare

and other everyday costs down." While not a major part of the party's messaging in the general election, House Democrats are poised to take a harder line with Israel amid the country's war in Gaza. Jeffries said a measure meant to discourage violence in the West Bank, where Israeli settlements have inflamed tensions, "should be considered" next year, according to The Hill. (This article is a reprint from Louisiana Illuminator, Louisiana's state newsroom.)

North Carolina From Page 1

"You need to do your duty today, and then you need to make sure that any student that didn't get in their vote today, you get them there." NCA&T and UNC Greensboro both had early polling locations on their respective campuses for the 2024 general election. The Guilford County Board of Elections, however, denied both polling locations after-

ward, prompting students from both colleges to walk 45 minutes to their nearest early polling location. The vote against North Carolina A&T's polling location, home to the largest 4-year historically Black college in the country, occurred earlier this summer. In January, the state Board of Elections voted 3-2 along party lines to deny NCA&T its polling site. The GOP-led Election Board then again de-

nied NCA&T its polling location in August. "Can we identify a single voter who is better served by having fewer opportunities to cast a ballot?" Jeff Carmon, one of two Democrats on the state board, asked at the latest hearing. Early voting in North Carolina concludes on October 31. Among the races to watch are the U.S. Senate race between former Gov. Roy Cooper and Republican Michael Whatley.

Turner From Page 1

Dr. Edwin Thomas, Interim Head of the Department of Engineering Technology, said the scholarships have provided important support for students working toward their degrees. "The scholarships provide meaningful financial assistance to our students and can make a significant difference in their ability to remain enrolled, complete their degrees, and pursue careers in Engineering Technology," Thomas said. "This type of industry partnership strengthens the Engineering Technology program and contributes to

the continued success of our students." Turner representatives also participated in Grambling State University's Fall 2026 Lonnie B. Smith Career Fair on Oct. 1, meeting with students to discuss internship and employment opportunities. Among the representatives was Wymeko Williams, Jr., a 2026 Grambling State accounting graduate who now works in Turner's Dallas office. Williams welcomed the opportunity to return to campus, this time as a recruiter for his employer. "I like coming back here and being able to help the students here,"

Williams said. "Turner wants to give back to the university and I'm very proud of being a part in making that happen." Williams met with several students during the career fair and said information from those conversations would be shared with Turner's Dallas office for further consideration. Through scholarship support, alumni involvement and continued recruiting efforts, Turner Construction's partnership with Grambling State University is helping students pursue their degrees while gaining access to professional opportunities beyond graduation.

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Subscription Information:

- Print Subscription - \$11.99/mo.
- Online Subscription - \$6.99/mo
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For Subscriptions, go to:
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To contact us by phone: Call 318-224-2676
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Published bi-weekly on Fridays except on Holidays by The Grambling Connection Media Group, LLC, Grambling, LA

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COMMUNITY

Moore speaks encouraging words to retirees

By Joice M. Dunn

The Lincoln Parish Retired Educators (LPRE) assembled to honor the legacy of local retired educators during a reception in the Grambling City Hall Community Room, recently. The gathering allowed LPRE members as well as local officials the opportunity to celebrate the commitment of those who have invested in educating the young people throughout the community.

“Your work and commitment to excellence have made a positive impact on our community and the lives of many youth and adult citizens throughout Lincoln Parish,” said Grambling Mayor Alvin Bradley as he welcomed the group. “My mom taught school for 30 years, and she would be so very proud today because we have four generations of family that have gone to Grambling State

University. So, we understand your dedication and keep you in our prayers.”

McArthur Simmons, LPRE president, as he opened the program, drew from Mayor Bradley’s expressions noting the role each retiree played throughout their career. “You didn’t just work in a school system; you built them, you took them and gave them a soul. You were leaders who accepted the challenge and gave of yourselves to build a community of young people who would live a life of leadership by their moral character. And you have led by example. Retirement may have changed each individual’s official title, but it doesn’t mean it is the end. Your impact remains timeless, and retirement is merely a graduation into a new kind of influence,” Simmons explained.

The event’s guest speaker, Augustine Moore, an education veteran and retired teach-



Augustine Moore

er, was recognized as a highly effective teacher, mentor, and assessor, Moore continues to advocate for literacy and currently works part-time as a tutor for Lincoln Parish Schools through a program called “Get More with Mrs. Moore.” “She truly believes that all students can learn and has proven it for over 45 years and continues to do so,” said, Keshia Gayten-Powell, her daughter, as

she introduced her.

She serves as a personal tutor using her home as a classroom. She volunteers with the Dorothy Alexander Read Me a story Program. Her strong background in English Language Arts is used to help students develop critical thinking, writing, and communication skills.

During her keynote, Moore used her years of experience to highlight the LPRE theme for the year: “Encourage. Enhance. Enrich,” as she encouraged the group.

“Retirement doesn’t mean your purpose is done. Your purpose is still important. You may have retired from the classroom, the office, the meetings, the lesson plans, the grading papers, the early morning duty, and the long days. But you have not retired from making a difference. The world needs you. Your community needs you. We have entered

into a new chapter of our life,” explained Moore.

She encouraged by saying that many people need inspiration, a helping hand to keep going, and the benefit of a retiree’s wisdom. “It may seem small but never underestimate the power of encouraging words. Find where your experience can make a difference and then make that place better,” she said.

Moore reminded the group that each individual is still writing their story. “People may not have the same experiences, but whatever your experience is, you have a story, and you need to tell it. So, I need you to retire to encourage, retire to enhance, retire to enrich, and as you retire, remember this is not an end, it’s a transition,” she said.

Moore rewarded some members of the group gifts from Devine Cups & More by answering retirement questions.

‘We are Stronger, Better, Together’

By Joice M. Dunn

Troy Brooks, candidate for Lincoln Parish Police Jury, held a Community Cookout Saturday on Martin Luther King, Jr., in Ruston. Using his moto: We Are Stronger, Better, Together, Brooks reached out to the area community and fellow candidates.

Brooks had something for everyone: Food, a Jumper for the young at heart, and great conversation. The DJ for the event was Greg Ludley of Grambling, playing old hits to keep the crowd happy and relaxed.

“The event wasn’t just for me and my campaign. I invited other candidates and it was open to the community to eat, socialize as well as discuss the issues,” explained Brooks.

Brooks said, “I’m leadership you can trust, Results you can

see.” After talking about his priorities for district nine, he opened the mic to others.

Evelyn Lewis Cooper, a retired teacher, has put her hat in the ring as a School Board member for district 11. She let the group know that she was someone who would listen and could be trusted to get the job done.

Phillip Ellis said he was running for District Judge in Lincoln and Union Parishes because he loves the law and believes in the justice system. He also believes the communities deserve a court that protects public safety, applies the law fairly and consistently, respects the rights of victims and everyone who comes before it, and moves cases through the judicial system efficiently.

Mike Smith, City Court Judge candidate, believes his commitment and experience in the city court handling cer-



Troy Brooks and Guests

tain civil and criminal court cases has prepared him for the job.

Richard Bates, candidate for the Lincoln Parish School Board, made an appearance at

the community gathering to let it be known that “Failure Is Not An Option” for him. Bates said his priorities are to support the teachers, safe schools, fiscal responsibility,

community partnerships and student achievement.

“I’m not running for re-election this year, but my time will come for Police Jury next year,” explained Karen Ludley. She was only at the event to mix, mingle and support those in the race.

Although Bruce Hampton was unopposed in the election of District Judge, he made the time to attend the gathering to chat with friends and supporters.

LaTisha Fox, retired lieutenant colonel, also made an appearance for support of the candidates during the event.

The group was reminded that early voting will start on Tuesday, October 20 and end on Tuesday, October 27 from 8:30 a.m. until 6 p.m. (except Sunday, Oct. 25). Election Day is scheduled for Tuesday, November 3, from 6 a.m. until 8 p.m.

Announcements

Early voting ends Tuesday

Early voting began on Tuesday, Oct. 20 and will continue through Tuesday, Oct. 27, with the exclusion of Sunday, Oct. 25. The Poles will open at 8:30 a.m. and close at 6 p.m. Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 3 from 6 a.m. until 8 p.m.

Line Dance class open to 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. The next session is set for Monday, October 26. For more information, please contact Collins at 832 891-7488.

NAACP will hold monthly meetings on third Thursday

The Grambling Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) #6094-B will host its Executive Committee meeting at 5:30 p.m. and regular monthly meetings at 6 p.m. by teleconference on the 3rd Thursdays of the month. The next meeting is scheduled for November 19.

The Branch will hold election of its officers on Thursday, Nov. 19, from 6 p.m. until 10 p.m. electronically. Members are asked to make sure their contact information is current. If necessary, call

or text Grace Tatem at 318-680-7679.

Lincoln Parish NAACP Branch announce applications

The Lincoln Parish Branch of the NAACP (6064) are seeking scholarship applicants. The scholarship applications have been available since Sunday, Oct. 18, with a deadline for submitting applications by Tuesday, Dec. 1.

An applicant must be a recent (May 2026) graduated senior from a Lincoln Parish high school and the application must be typed not handwritten according to the committee.

For additional information, contact Rickey Burton or any Lincoln Parish Branch NAACP member.

Grambling Water Department sends out residential warning

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 cityof-grambling.org ONLY. Once at the site, you will be directed to the payment page 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 holds ‘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.

Sign Up Now for free CivicReady

The Civic Ready Messaging System is a mass notification system built for government communications. This is a free service for our citizens.

Please sign up so you can be notified of city-wide alerts and emergency notifications. Sign up by going to City of Grambling website (www.cityof-grambling.org) and clicking on CivicReady.

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 can grant volunteers hours and service-learning hours. Volunteers may

contact Ponton at 318 278-9892.

The North Louisiana Autism organization offers support

The Autism Society of North Louisiana is a nonprofit organization that provides support, resources, advocacy, and community programs for autistic individuals and their families while promoting autism acceptance and inclusion throughout North Louisiana. For more information or to connect with the organization, please contact us at autism-northla@gmail.com

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.



NAMI Ruston
National Alliance on Mental Illness

Seeks a

Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer (Volunteer positions)

Along with our CPAs, manage the finances of the organization. We are a 286-member/volunteer, 40-year-old nonprofit mental health organization with a modest budget. We provide education, support, advocacy, and public awareness to North and Central Louisiana communities.

If you have any questions or need more information or would like to apply or nominate someone else, please call or email:

Jeannetta Stephens-Jones, Ed.D., Board President
jjones79_aka@yahoo.com or (318) 614-1961

Jerrilene Washington, Ed.D., Executive Director
washington.jerrilene1922@gmail.com or (318) 247-3982



COMMUNITY

NAACP Arcadia-Bienville Announces Two Special Events to Honor Our Nation’s Veterans

ARCADIA, LA — The NAACP Arcadia-Bienville Branch invites the community to participate in two special events honoring the brave men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces. These events will provide opportunities for residents, families, youth, and community organizations to express appreciation for the courage, dedication, and sacrifices of

our nation’s veterans. The NAACP Veterans Walk will take place on Saturday, November 7, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon, at the Arcadia High School Track, located at 967 Daniel Street in Arcadia, Louisiana. Community members of all ages are encouraged to participate in the walk in honor of veterans who have served our country. Special emphasis is be-

ing placed on youth participation as an opportunity to promote awareness, respect, and appreciation for the contributions of veterans. Youth groups, churches, civic organizations, and families are encouraged to participate. Attendees are asked to bring lawn chairs. In recognition of Veterans Day, a Veterans Recognition Program will be held on Wednesday, November 11,

2026, at 11:00 a.m., at the Eugene Smith Event Center in 630 Factory Outlet Arcadia, Louisiana. This special program will provide an opportunity for the community to recognize and celebrate veterans for their unwavering commitment, courage, and sacrifices in service to our nation. The NAACP Arcadia-Bienville Branch encourages the entire community to partici-

pate in these meaningful events as a demonstration of gratitude and respect for those who have served and continue to serve our country. Come and honor our nation’s veterans as we celebrate their service, recognize their sacrifices, and express heartfelt appreciation for their contributions to our country. Both events are open to the public.

In Remembrance

A Tribute to Rosalind Coleman: A Life of Kindness Well-Lived

Mrs. Rosalind M. Coleman was born on December 17, 1957, in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, to the late George . Wesley Sr. and Nadine (Cornelius) Wesley. Her life was a beautiful journey marked by educational achievement, family, faith, service, creativity, and a commitment to enriching the lives of others. Rosalind received her early education at Grambling High in Grambling, Louisiana, where she graduated in 1975. With a desire to further her education, she continued her academic journey at the illustrious Grambling State University. During her collegiate years, she pledged Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. In 1978, Rosalind graduated from Grambling State University, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Journalism with a minor in Art. It was also during her time at Grambling State University that Rosalind met Bobby L. Coleman, the man who would become her beloved husband and lifelong companion of 47 years. Following graduation, Rosalind relocated to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, where she and Bobby were united in marriage and began building their life together. Their union was blessed with one daughter, Roshonda L.

Coleman, who brought an added measure of joy and love to their family. Rosalind went on to enjoy a fulfilling career with Oklahoma City Public Schools, where she served in various educational and administrative capacities. Throughout her years of service, she worked as a school librarian and later provided administrative support for the GED testing site. Through these roles, she contributed to the educational journeys of students and adults alike, supporting opportunities for learning, growth, and personal achievement. A gifted writer and storyteller, Rosalind was also a published author of Storm Damage, released in December 2014. Her creativity, insight, and love were reflected in her writing and in the many ways she preserved and shared the stories of people, places, and experiences that held special meaning to her. She was very active in the youth ministry at Greater Shiloh Baptist Church, where she devoted her time, energy, and care to encouraging and supporting young people. Through her involvement, she helped nurture their faith, growth, and development, leaving a meaningful impression on the lives of the youth she served. Her passion for history and preserving treasured



Rosalind Coleman

memories extended far beyond her professional and church involvement. Rosalind was highly active in establishing online communities connected to Grambling State University, particularly alumni Facebook groups. She was widely regarded as a wealth of knowledge concerning Grambling’s rich history, as well as her own family’s history, photographs, and cherished memories. Through her research, participation, and willingness to share, she helped connect generations and preserve important pieces of both institutional and family heritage. Beyond her many accomplishments, Rosalind will perhaps be remembered most for her kind spirit and the beautiful smile she so freely shared. Those who knew her often recall that she was always smiling. Her warm and welcoming nature was simply a part

of who she was, and her kindness left a lasting impression on those whose paths she crossed. Whether surrounded by family, friends, or members of her community, Rosalind carried a gentle warmth that made her presence special. Her smile was one of her most memorable gifts, a beautiful reflection of the kindness within her heart, and one of the many things those who loved her will forever hold dear. Rosalind’s life reflected the many meaningful roles she embraced throughout her journey — a devoted wife, loving mother, cherished daughter and sister, educator, author, historian, and colleague. Each role represented another expression of her dedication to family, education, service, and the preservation of memories and tra-

ditions. She leaves behind a story of lasting influence of a life that touched so many others. On October 7, Rosalind departed this earthly life, leaving behind a lifetime of treasured memories and a legacy of love, kindness, and service that will continue through those who knew and loved her. She was preceded in death by her loving parents, George L. Wesley Sr. and Nadine (Cornelius) Wesley. She leaves to cherish her precious memory her devoted husband of 47 years, Bobby L. Coleman; her beloved daughter, Roshonda L. Coleman; her stepmother, Jessie D. Wesley; her brother, George Wesley Jr.; along with a host of extended family members, and friends whose lives were enriched by knowing her. Though her earthly journey has come to an end, the memories of Rosalind M. Coleman will forever hold a special place in the hearts of those who loved her. Her legacy lives on through the family she nurtured, the youth she encouraged, the words she published, the history she preserved, and the countless lives she touched. NOTE: There will be two services held in honor of Rosalind Michelle Wesley Coleman. The first service will be held in Oklahoma City; the wake is scheduled Friday, Oct. 23, and the service is Saturday, Oct. 24, at 11a.m. The Louisiana Homegoing Celebration will be Wednesday, Oct. 28, at 11a.m., at the Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, 10267 LA-143, in Farmerville.

PHILLIP ELLIS

FOR DISTRICT JUDGE DIVISION B

Remembering Earlo Anderson’s Final Lesson

NOTE: Celebration of life services for Dr. Earlo Anderson will be held Saturday, October 24, at 10 a.m., at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, 2586 LA-Highway 150in Grambling. The Omega service will be from 8:30- 9 a.m., visitation will be held from 8 a.m. – 10 a.m.



Earlo Anderson

Earlo Anderson was born in Pineville, LA on June 25, 1941, to the union of Sam and Bessie Alex Anderson. He moved from Chambers, LA to Alexandria, LA at three years of age and lived in the Willow Glen Community until adulthood. He attended Peabody High School, Alexandria, and graduated in 1959. He attended Grambling State University and graduated in 1964 with a degree in Mathematics. He taught in the Rapides Parish School System for several years. He attended McNeese State University in Lake Charles and earned his master’s; and in 1983, he earned his Doctorate from the University of Kentucky. Earlo was baptized at Second Union Baptist Church in Alexandria, by the late Rev. G. C. Jacobs, where he served faithfully

on the Deacon Board and as Sunday School Superintendent. On April 19, 1969, Earlo married Marvis Pruitt. To this union one son was born. After moving to Grambling, he united with Mt. Zion Baptist Church, under the leadership of the late Rev. George Hood. He was a faithful member, Sunday School Teacher and served on the Deacon Board until his health began to fail. Dr. Anderson taught math at Grambling State University for over thirty years. He served as a Statistician for Academic Research and Head of Institutional Research. He also served as Assistant Head of the Academic Skill Center. Earlo was a lifetime member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and at one time served as Basileus of Pi Tau Chapter. He was a 33rd

degree Mason. Earlo also worked with the Boy Scouts and the City of Grambling Beautification Committee planting all of the ornamental pear trees in the City Park. After retirement, he taught at the Lincoln Parish Preparatory School in Grambling. His hobbies included fishing, gardening, bowling, and collecting antiques. He loved bar-b-que, which he did well, and at one time owned a bar-b-que restaurant in the city. Earlo was preceded in death by his parents; Sam and Bessie Anderson; five brothers; Sam Anderson, Jr.; Joe Lee Anderson, Sr.; O’Neal Anderson, Orange Lee Anderson, Sr., and Thomas Lester Anderson. He leaves to cherish his memory; his son Earlexico Feronne Anderson (Denise) and children, Earlexica Ferronia, Ellexciss Denise, and Earlexico Feronne, Jr.; his daughter, Shinetta Anderson, and her daughter, Chasity Manning, of Pineville, LLA; his sister, Girthrine A. Williams (Bert), of Alexandria, LA; a faithful and devoted friend of over thirty years, Martha B. Woodard Andrus, of Grambling, LA, and a host of cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

JUSTICE IS NOT A GAME.
“As coaches, we know that **rules matter** and **decisions have consequences**. We’ve seen how the justice system can affect the young men we coach—and sometimes the direction of their lives. We know that **young people are more than their worst mistake**, and sometimes they deserve a **second chance** tempered by a firm hand. Our justice system deserves fairness, accountability, and humanity. **Phillip Ellis** has those traits, and that’s why we support him.”

Antonio Hudson
State Champion Basketball Coach

Earl Griffin
State Champion Football Coach

#68

VOTE NOVEMBER 3

ENDORSED BY:

RUSTON VOTERS LEAGUE

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT PHILLIP ELLIS



CHURCH NEWS

[COMMENTARY] Fate, Destiny or Free Will: Is Our Life Already Written, or Do We Choose Our Own Path?

By Dee Carr

I recently heard this topic discussed on a radio program. It is a subject I've heard discussed many times over the years and I've grappled with myself. For centuries, theologians, philosophers and ordinary people have wrestled with this as one of life's greatest mysteries: Are we following a predetermined plan, or do our choices determine our future? Have you ever wondered whether certain events in your life were simply meant to happen? You met someone unexpectedly who changed your life, survived a situation against seemingly impossible odds, or found yourself on a path you never imagined. Was it fate? God's divine plan? Or the result of choices you made along the way that led you to that happening? The debate between destiny and free will has existed for centuries, particularly within Christianity,

where believers have long questioned how God's control over the universe fits with humanity's ability to make independent decisions. **The Case for Destiny** Those who believe in destiny often point to the biblical teaching of predestination—the belief that God has established certain outcomes according to His divine purpose. Romans 8:29-30 speaks of those God foreknew and predestined, while Jeremiah 29:11 describes God's plans for His people, offering hope for their future. Supporters of this perspective believe that God has a purpose for our lives, even when circumstances seem confusing or painful. Some Christian traditions, particularly those influenced by theologian John Calvin, emphasize God's sovereignty in determining salvation. However, predestination does not necessarily mean that every daily event is predetermined in the same way.

The Case for Free Will Others believe God created human beings with the freedom to make meaningful choices, including whether to follow His teachings. Deuteronomy 30:19 presents the Israelites with a choice between life and death, urging them to choose life. Joshua 24:15 similarly challenges people to decide whom they will serve. These passages suggest that personal decisions matter and that individuals bear responsibility for their actions. Christian traditions influenced by theologian Jacobus Arminius place greater emphasis on humanity's ability to respond freely to God's grace. Under this interpretation, God may know what choices people will make without necessarily forcing those decisions upon them.

Could Both Be True? Perhaps the most compelling possibility is that destiny and free will are not necessarily opposing

forces. Consider a person who believes God has called them to become a teacher, minister or community leader. That calling may represent their purpose, but pursuing it still requires decisions, sacrifices and action. In this view, God provides direction while individuals remain responsible for how they respond. There is no universal theological or philosophical consensus settling the debate. Christian traditions differ, and even scholars who agree that God has a divine plan disagree about how human freedom operates within it. Ultimately, the question may be less about whether our lives are already written and more about how we choose to live them. Whether one believes in destiny, free will or a combination of both, faith continues to challenge believers to live with purpose, make responsible choices and trust God through life's uncertainties.

Church Announcements

China Grove Church gathers for Harvest Drive/Homecoming service

A Harvest Drive/Homecoming will be held at China Grove Baptist Church on Sunday, Oct. 25, during the 10:30 a.m. service. The guest speaker and church will be Rev. Eric Caldwell and the Springhill Family. The church is located on 407 Vernon St., Ruston and Pastored by Rev. Damian E. Wilson, Sr.

Pilgrim Rest Church to hold Family and Friends Day

The Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church will hold its annual Family and Friends Day Sunday, Oct. 25, at 2 p.m. The church is located in Minden and pastored by Rev. Anthony Combs. The guest speaker for the event will be Rev. Elliott Abney and the Love Chapel Baptist family of Ruston. All area churches are invited to worship in the service.

New Rocky Valley to sponsor College Day

New Rocky Baptist Church will hold College Day on Sunday, Oct. 25, inviting students from Grambling State University and Louisiana Tech. The guest speaker will be Dr. Martin Lemelle Jr., president of Grambling State University. Sunday School will begin at

9:30 a.m., to be taught by Miss Grambling State University, Paris Robinson. Morning service will begin at 10:30. The church is located on 2155 Martin Luther King Jr Avenue in Grambling and Julius R. Sumler is the Pastor-Teacher, Th.D.

Mount Olive Church to hold Fall Carnival

The Mt. Olive Baptist Church will hold its annual Fall Carnival Friday, Oct. 30, from 5-8 p.m. The fun will include Face Painting, Hay Rides, Popcorn, Snow Cones, Water Slide, Bounce House, Trunk or Treat, Games, Prizes and much more. The church is located on 571 Mount Olive Road in Grambling and pastored by Rev. Donald Johnson.

Church choirs unite to support musician

A Unity Musical will be held at Mt. Harmony B.C., located at 210 Mount Harmony Church Road, Ruston, on Sunday, Nov. 8, at 2:30 p.m. Three churches, Galilee B.C. Hodge, Mt. Harmony B.C. Ruston and St. Peter B.C. Ruston, will host the musical in Support of Raphael Dade. Dade, a bass guitarist, at the three churches, residence was recently damaged by fire and lost most of his possessions to smoke damage. Please come out for an afternoon of uplifting music as these choirs

stand together in support of Dade.

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. 9. The meeting is spearheaded by Patrick Jefferson, former state representative, along with invited speakers. Every man is invited to come and worship.

Lewis Temple CME Church Food Distribution

Lewis Temple CME Church on 301 Main Street in Grambling distributes free bags of food every third Monday of the month from 1-3 p.m. To qualify you need identification and a utility bill. You must live in the Grambling or Simsboro area. For more information, please call Liz White at 318-299-7509.

China Grove Church opens 'China Closet'

The China Grove Baptist Church will open the 'China Closet' to the public each Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the church

on 407 Vernon St., Ruston. The Closet will be open to anyone in need of clothing or assistance. It is under the supervision of the matrons/mission department of the church. For additional information contact Evangelist Annie Wilson at 318-570-9134 or call Tonika Blake at 318-243-3295. The church is pastored by Rev. Damian E. Wilson, Sr.

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.

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
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. 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

Healing Doesn’t Always Look Pretty

By Charming Davis

Healing gets marketed beautifully. Candles. Journals. Crystals. Tea. Meditation. Soft music. And yes, healing can absolutely include those things. But sometimes healing looks like crying in your car before walking into work. Sometimes it’s realizing you owe somebody an apology. Sometimes it’s admitting that the pattern you keep complaining about has one common denominator: you. That’s not condemnation. That’s power. Because if you participated in creating a pattern, you may also have power to change it. Psalm 139:23-24 (NLT) says, “Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me

that offends you.” That’s a courageous prayer. Real healing requires us to look at ourselves without turning self-awareness into self-hatred. Energy healing can create intentional space for that process. Reiki, chakra work, sound healing, breathwork, meditation and prayer can help us slow down enough to notice what emotions, memories or patterns need our attention. But the tool isn’t the transformation. What you do with the awareness matters. If every disagreement triggers the same wound, investigate it.



Charming Davis

If rejection destroys your sense of worth, explore it. If you constantly rescue everybody and resent them afterward, examine why saying no feels dangerous. Healing asks better questions. Instead of, “Why does this always happen to me?” Try, “What is this revealing to me?” Romans 12:2 (NLT) says, “Let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.” Transformation isn’t pretending the past never happened. It’s refusing to let the past continue making every decision.

- So light your candle.
- Drink your tea.
- Pray.
- Book your healing session.
- Go to therapy if you need it.
- Journal.
- Cry.
- Rest.
- Forgive.
- Set the boundary.
- Have the conversation.
- Do whatever healthy work helps you return to yourself and God.
- Healing doesn’t have to look pretty.
- It just has to be real.

Naturally Charming Universe Holistic Wellness Center offers energy healing, spiritual counseling, clarity sessions and distant healing sessions for those ready to explore their healing journey with greater intention. Holistic and spiritual wellness products are also available online.

<https://linktr.ee/naturallycharminguniverse>

Popular Weight-Loss Drugs May Hold Promise for Slowing the Aging Process

GC Staff Report

New research suggests medications such as Ozempic and Mounjaro could offer benefits beyond weight loss and diabetes management, including the possibility of slowing biological aging. Medications that have already transformed the treatment of diabetes and obesity may have another surprising benefit: helping the body age more slowly. Preliminary research presented by pharmaceutical giants Novo Nordisk and Eli Lilly suggests that patients taking popular GLP-1 medications, including Ozempic, Wegovy, Mounjaro and Zepbound, may experience biological changes associated with being several years younger than their actual age. The findings, presented at the 13th annual Aging Research & Drug Discovery (ARDD) conference, have

generated interest among researchers exploring ways to improve health and potentially extend the number of years people live without serious illness. Unlike chronological age, which measures how many years a person has lived, biological age reflects how well the body’s cells, tissues and organs are functioning. Scientists use specialized tests known as aging clocks to estimate biological age by examining changes in proteins, DNA and other indicators associated with aging. Researchers at Novo Nordisk analyzed previous clinical trial data involving semaglutide, the active ingredient in Ozempic and Wegovy. Their analysis found that patients taking the medication appeared approximately two to three years biologically younger than participants receiving a placebo, depending on the aging clock used. One measurement, which focused on proteins associat-



ed with cardiovascular health, suggested a difference of approximately four years. Eli Lilly conducted a similar analysis involving tirzepatide, the active ingredient in Mounjaro and Zepbound. Unlike semaglutide, tirzepatide targets two hormones involved in regulating blood sugar and appetite: GLP-1 and GIP. Using tests that examine chemical modifications to DNA, researchers found that patients taking tirze-

patide also showed signs of reduced biological aging compared with those receiving a placebo. The results raise intriguing possibilities, particularly for older adults and individuals managing chronic conditions such as diabetes, obesity and cardiovascular disease. However, scientists caution that the findings are preliminary and should not be interpreted as proof that these medications actually reverse aging or extend human life.

Although the analyses drew on clinical trial data, the aging measurements themselves were exploratory. Different biological aging clocks produced different results, and researchers have not yet established whether improvements in those measurements translate into longer lives or fewer age-related diseases. Another important question is whether the apparent anti-aging effects result directly from the medications or indirectly from improvements in weight, blood sugar levels, inflammation and cardiovascular health. GLP-1 medications have already demonstrated significant benefits for certain patients beyond weight management, including reducing the risk of some cardiovascular complications. Researchers are continuing to investigate their potential effects on other age-related conditions. Still, these medications are not without risks. Com-

mon side effects include nausea, vomiting and other digestive problems, while more serious complications can occur in some patients. For now, experts emphasize that Ozempic, Mounjaro and similar drugs should be used for established medical indications under a healthcare professional’s supervision, not simply as treatments to prevent aging. While the prospect of slowing the biological clock is exciting, additional independent research and long-term studies will be necessary to determine whether these early findings represent a genuine breakthrough in healthy aging. The bottom line: These widely used medications may eventually offer benefits that extend beyond controlling diabetes and reducing weight. But whether they can actually help people live longer, healthier lives remains an important question that science has yet to answer.

The impact of Autism Spectrum Disorders on mental health

By Jeannetta S. Jones

It has been often reported that autism spectrum disorders (ASD) are linked to mental health issues also known as co-occurring mental health condition. According to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Illness (DSM-5) 70% of individuals with autism may have at least one comorbid mental disorder, and about 40% may have two or more comorbid disorders. What is autism spectrum disorder (ASD)? Autism spectrum disorder is a neurological and developmental disorder that affects how people interact with others, communicate, learn, and behave. What is mental illness? According to National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) mental illnesses are medical conditions that can disrupt a person’s thinking, feeling, mood, ability to relate to others and daily functioning. In other words, mental illnesses are brain-based conditions that often result in a variety of symptoms that can affect daily life. What are the most common mental health disorders in autism? Most autistic individuals experience co-occurring health conditions. Sometimes some of the traits can look like other mental health

conditions. Listed below are common co-occurring mental health conditions among autistic people:

- Depression: this mental health condition can cause severe symptoms that affect how you feel, think, and manage daily activities. Depression has been observed to co-occur at high rates in people with autism more often than in people without autism, according to the American Psychiatric Association and American Psychological Association. Some telltales’ signs of depression that you might notice in a person with autism may include poor hygiene. There are overlapping autistic traits that can also be signs of depression such as sleep disturbances, social withdrawal, and a reduced desire to communicate. Some other factors that may contribute to depression in individuals with autistic are social isolation, loneliness, bullying, and masking (also known as camouflaging).
- Schizophrenia: a mental illness that affects how a person thinks, feels, and behaves. Autism and schizophrenia can share overlapping symptoms such as withdrawal flat effect (reduction in emotional expression) and difficulties with communication.
- Bipolar: a chronic illness with recurring episodes of mania and



Dr. Jeannetta S. Jones

depression. Bipolar is a neurological disorder that causes unusual shifts in mood, energy, and thought patterns. There are some reports that suggest that individuals with autism have increased rates of bipolar disorder and the overlapping symptoms between autism and bipolar can make diagnosis and treatment more complex.

- Anxiety: a natural response to stress. Anxiety disorders involve more than the occasional worry or fear. For some, anxiety is constant and is felt in many situations. Anxiety can get worse over time if left untreated. Anxiety can intensify challenges with autism, such as social withdrawal, stronger rigidity, and insistence

upon routines. It can also lead to shutting down, self-injury and aggression. What are some challenges associated with mental health? Individuals with autism may face unique mental health challenges influenced by a range of contributing factors. Such factors can affect how an autistic person presents in front of diagnosis and treatment providers and can have an influence on diagnosis and treatment. Here are some familiar challenges as reported by autismspeaks.org:

Autistic burnout: autistic burnout is the experience of physical, mental, and emotional exhaustion associated with navigating a world that does not support individuals with autism. Autistic burnout may be associated with prolonged masking. If an individual is experiencing autistic burnout, it is important to seek the help of a mental healthcare professional, and this can lead to depression and suicidal ideation.

Bullying: evidence shows that over 60% of children and young adults with autism experience bullying and high school students are most likely to be bullied. Not only does bullying show up in schools, but autistic people of all ages can face bullying from the workplace to social situations. Bullying can

come in the form of verbal abuse, exclusion, or harassment and this can create feelings of anxiety, depression, and low self-esteem. It is important to note that bullying can take an emotional toll on anyone, however it is especially bad for autistic people. Some may not realize that they are being bullied or may be unable to communicate what is happening at school or in the community. Some other challenges that individuals with autism may experience include trauma, and sensory issues. Individuals living with autism may face complex mental health challenges; however, just like everyone, autistic individuals can have good mental health. More research is needed regarding how best to manage mental health conditions of individuals with autism. For more information, visit

- www.nami.org.
- www.webmd.org.
- MayoClinic.org
- www.helpguid.org
- www.autismspeaks.org/mental-health-conditions-autism

Jeannetta Stephens-Jones, Ed.D., Retired Educational Diagnostician/Speech Pathologist, and president of NAMI Ruston Board of Directors. Contact her at jjones_79aka@yahoo.com



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ARTS & CULTURE

Netflix's "A Different World" Reboot Picked Up for 2nd Season

GC Entertainment Report

More than three decades after *A Different World* ended its original television run, the beloved sitcom is proving that Hillman College still has plenty of stories to tell.

Netflix announced October 2 that its reboot of *A Different World* has officially been renewed for a second season, after the series premiered September 24, 2026.

The quick renewal is a major vote of confidence for a show that faced the difficult task of introducing a new generation of students while satisfying longtime fans of one of television's most influential Black sitcoms.

The 10-episode revival attracted 4.2 million views during its opening period, debuting at No. 4 on Netflix's global English-language television chart. It also reached the Top 10 in 15 countries.

Critics have generally welcomed the reboot, which earned an 85% critics' rating on Rotten Tomatoes, while audience reac-

tions have been somewhat more mixed, with a 69% audience score and a 6.8 out of 10 rating on IMDb.

A Long Road Back to Hillman

The original *A Different World* debuted on NBC in September 1987 as a spinoff of *The Cosby Show*. Initially centered on Denise Huxtable, played by Lisa Bonet, the series evolved into an ensemble comedy about students attending the fictional Hillman College.

Over six seasons, viewers followed Dwayne Wayne, Whitley Gilbert, Ron Johnson, Freddie Brooks and other memorable characters as they navigated college life, friendships, relationships and adulthood.

But the series became much more than a comedy. It addressed serious subjects including racism, HIV/AIDS, social justice and economic inequality, while introducing millions of viewers to the culture and traditions of historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs).

For many young African Americans, the show



helped inspire their interest in attending an HBCU.

Despite its cultural influence, bringing *A Different World* back to television proved challenging.

Debbie Allen, who helped shape the original series as a director and producer, has revealed that there were at least two previous attempts to revive

ally led to the Netflix production.

Allen returned as executive producer and director, joining showrunner Felicia Pride, whose television credits include *Grey's Anatomy* and *Bel-Air*.

A New Generation Takes Over

Rather than simply recreate the original sitcom, the new series centers on Deborah Wayne, played by Maleah Joi Moon, the youngest daughter of Dwayne Wayne and Whitley Gilbert, portrayed by returning stars Kadeem Hardison and Jasmine Guy.

Deborah arrives at Hillman hoping to establish her own identity while dealing with the expectations that come with being the daughter of two legendary alumni.

Joining her are roommate Rashida Duvall, played by Alijah Kai, and a new group of students confronting modern college challenges.

Original cast members Darryl M. Bell and Cree Summer also return, helping connect the show's past with its present.

The reboot tackles issues

including college funding, mental health, academic pressures and relationships, while attempting to preserve the humor and cultural authenticity that made the original so popular.

Critics Weigh In

While the show's early success has been encouraging, reviews have not been entirely positive.

Critics have praised the talented young cast, energetic campus atmosphere, contemporary soundtrack and continued celebration of Black culture.

However, some reviewers believe the series relies too heavily on nostalgia and takes several episodes to establish its own identity.

Others question whether the personal struggles of returning characters, particularly Dwayne and Whitley's marital difficulties, occasionally overshadow the younger students.

Nevertheless, Netflix's decision to renew the series suggests that the positive response and viewership have been strong enough to justify another season.

Remembering Freddie Jackson: The Voice That Defined a Generation of Love Songs

GC Entertainment Report

Legendary R&B crooner dies at 70, leaving behind decades of unforgettable music and memories.

For those who came of age during the 1980s and 1990s, there are certain voices that instantly take you back to a particular time, place, or person. For millions of R&B lovers, Freddie Jackson was one of those voices.

Whether it was the unforgettable opening notes of "You Are My Lady," the seductive rhythm of "Rock Me Tonight (For Old Times Sake)," or the heartfelt lyrics of "Have You Ever Loved Somebody," Jackson had a way of making listeners feel as though he were singing directly to them.

The legendary R&B singer died October 5, 2026, just days after celebrating his 70th birthday. His family confirmed his passing in a heartfelt social media announcement. No official cause of death was disclosed.

For nearly four decades, Jackson's smooth tenor voice and romantic ballads made him one of the most recognizable figures in contemporary R&B, earning him a permanent place in the hearts of music lovers, particularly within the African American community.

Born Frederick Anthony Jackson in Harlem, New York, in 1956, Jackson discovered his musical gifts singing gospel in church. He eventually moved into the New York nightclub scene before joining the funk group Mystic Merlin in the late 1970s. He later worked as a background singer for R&B star Mel-

ba Moore, who helped introduce him to a wider audience.

His big break came in 1985 with the release of his debut album, *Rock Me Tonight*. The title single became an immediate sensation, spending six weeks at No. 1 on Billboard's R&B chart. The album also produced "You Are My Lady," another chart-topping hit that became one of his signature songs.

Almost overnight, Jackson became one of R&B's leading romantic balladeers, joining the ranks of artists such as Luther Vandross, Jeffrey Osborne, and Peabo Bryson, whose soulful voices dominated Black radio during that era.

His follow-up album, *Just Like the First Time*, released in 1986, continued his remarkable success with hits including "Tasty Love," "Jam Tonight," and "Have You Ever Loved Somebody."

Throughout his career, Jackson scored 10 No. 1 singles on Billboard's R&B chart and four consecutive No. 1 R&B albums. He also earned two Grammy nominations and an American Music Award, establishing himself as one of the defining voices of his generation.

But Jackson's impact extended far beyond record sales and music charts.

For a generation of Black Americans, his songs became part of everyday life. They were played at school dances, college parties, wedding receptions, family gatherings, and on late-night



Freddie Jackson
1956-2026

was released in 2023.

In 2024, Jackson publicly revealed that he was living with kidney disease, speaking openly about the challenges of his health journey. Despite those difficulties, his love for music and his connection with audiences remained strong.

Following his death, Jackson's family remembered him not only for his musical accomplishments but also for his generosity and devotion to those he loved.

"For decades he gave us the songs that became the soundtrack to our love stories, our celebrations, and our most treasured memories," the family shared in its announcement.

And perhaps that is Freddie Jackson's greatest legacy.

For those who remember slow dancing to "You Are My Lady," singing along to "Rock Me Tonight," or hearing his voice drifting from the radio on a Saturday night,

his music represents more than entertainment. It represents a time in their lives that can never be repeated, but can always be remembered.

Freddie Jackson may be gone, but every time one of those familiar melodies begins to play, the memories—and the love—will come rushing back.

His voice was unmistakable. His music was timeless. And for a generation of R&B lovers, Freddie Jackson will never be forgotten.

radio programs dedicated to love and romance.

His music belonged to an era when R&B singers could build entire careers around heartfelt lyrics, memorable melodies, and the ability to tell a love story through song.

As musical tastes shifted toward hip-hop and new jack swing in the 1990s, Jackson's mainstream popularity gradually declined. Nevertheless, he continued recording and performing, maintaining a loyal following among fans who appreciated his timeless sound. His final studio album, *My First Love*,



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SPORTS



GSU Builds Early Lead, Falters in Second Half at Alabama A&M

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — Grambling State jumped out to an early 17-3 lead Saturday, but Alabama A&M rallied with 44 unanswered points to defeat the Tigers 61-31 at Louis Crews Stadium.

The loss dropped Grambling to 4-3 overall and 2-2 in Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) play, while Alabama A&M improved to 6-2 overall and 3-1 in conference action.

The Tigers got off to a strong start when Christen Williams intercepted Alabama A&M quarterback Cornelious Brown on the Bulldogs' first offensive play. Grambling capitalized on the turnover with a 10-yard

touchdown pass from Jacobe Robinson to Tyson George for a 7-0 lead.

After Alabama A&M answered with a field goal, Grambling's Diego Alfaro connected on a 35-yard field goal to extend the lead to 10-3.

Early in the second quarter, Andre Crews scored on an 11-yard run, giving the Tigers a commanding 17-3 advantage.

However, the momentum quickly shifted.

Brown scored on an 8-yard run and connected with Jaylan Bean on a 61-yard touchdown pass before David Faulk kicked a 56-yard field goal as time expired in the first half, putting Alabama A&M ahead 19-17.

The Bulldogs took



complete control in the third quarter, erupting for 35 points. Brown threw three touchdown passes to Bean, while Kolton Nero added a 14-yard scoring run.

Grambling briefly re-

sponded when Tony Phillips Jr. returned a kickoff 100 yards for a touchdown, followed by a successful two-point conversion that cut the deficit to 47-25. But Alabama A&M answered with a

46-yard touchdown pass from Brown to Jarel Williams.

The Bulldogs added a 52-yard touchdown run by Tyler Thomas in the fourth quarter before Grambling's Zerrick Jones scored on a 15-yard run with 22 seconds remaining to close out the scoring.

Brown finished with 417 passing yards and five touchdowns, while Bean caught 10 passes for 240 yards and four scores. Alabama A&M amassed 669 yards of total offense compared to Grambling's 241.

For the Tigers, Robinson completed 7 of 12 passes for 131 yards and a touchdown. George led Grambling's receiv-

ers with seven catches for 93 yards, while Crews rushed for 40 yards. Phillips finished with 178 kickoff return yards, including his 100-yard touchdown.

Defensively, Marcellius Johnson led Grambling with 14 tackles, followed by Demone Green with 12.

Despite its promising start, Grambling struggled offensively for much of the game, converting just two of 12 third-down opportunities and managing only 92 rushing yards.

The Tigers will look to rebound after a disappointing SWAC loss that saw an early two-touchdown advantage turn into a 30-point defeat.

Louisiana Tech Shuts Out ULM 24-0 in Historic Rivalry Showdown

Bulldogs dominate second half as longtime I-20 rivals meet on the football field for the first time in 26 years.

MONROE, La. — After more than two decades apart on the football field, Louisiana Tech University and the University of Louisiana at Monroe renewed one of North Louisiana's longstanding rivalries Saturday, October 17, with the Bulldogs delivering a commanding 24-0 shut-out victory over the Warhawks.

The highly anticipated matchup at FMOL Health | St. Francis Sta-

dium in Monroe marked the first meeting between the two programs since 2000 and their 44th contest overall.

The rivalry dates back to 1953, when Louisiana Tech defeated ULM 61-6 in their inaugural meeting. Entering Saturday's game, Tech held a 30-13 advantage in the series and had won eight consecutive matchups. ULM's last victory over the Bulldogs came in 1987.



LA Tech Athletics +1

Saturday's contest began as a defensive battle, with neither team managing to score during the first two quarters. However, Louisiana Tech

emerged from halftime with renewed energy and quickly took control.

On ULM's first offensive play of the third quarter, Tech's Taeden Rogers intercepted a pass, setting up a touch-

down drive capped by Sergio Snider's five-yard run.

The Bulldogs struck again later in the quarter when quarterback Blake Baker connected with tight end Brayden Bockler for a two-yard touchdown pass, extending the lead to 14-0.

In the fourth quarter, Baker found Bockler again for another short touchdown pass, pushing the advantage to 21-0. Kicker Kaegen Kent added a 21-yard field goal to complete the scoring.

Louisiana Tech's defense proved especially effective, intercepting two passes and keep-

ing the Warhawks off the scoreboard throughout the evening.

LA Tech Athletics +2

Wide receiver Marcus Calwise Jr. led the Bulldogs with eight receptions for 119 yards, while Baker threw for 178 yards. Andrew Burnette contributed 79 rushing yards.

The victory improved Louisiana Tech's record to 4-2 overall and 2-0 in Sun Belt Conference play, extending its winning streak to three games. ULM dropped to 0-6 overall and 0-2 in conference competition.

NEW FEATURE

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THE GRAMBLING CONNECTION | OCTOBER 23, 2026

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