

LOUISIANA CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS ON THE BALLOT - NOVEMBER 8, 2026	
AMENDMENT 1 - DOUBLE VOTING PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION Current Constitution: A person owning a home in a taxable jurisdiction is exempt from the payment of property taxes on the homesteaded portion of the property. Proposed Change: A person owning a home in a taxable jurisdiction is exempt from the payment of property taxes on the homesteaded portion of the property. The homesteaded portion shall be defined as the portion of the property that is used for residential purposes. What is at stake: The proposed amendment would allow a person to claim a homestead exemption on a property that is used for both residential and commercial purposes. Current Constitution: A person owning a home in a taxable jurisdiction is exempt from the payment of property taxes on the homesteaded portion of the property. Proposed Change: A person owning a home in a taxable jurisdiction is exempt from the payment of property taxes on the homesteaded portion of the property. The homesteaded portion shall be defined as the portion of the property that is used for residential purposes. What is at stake: The proposed amendment would allow a person to claim a homestead exemption on a property that is used for both residential and commercial purposes.	AMENDMENT 2 - PROPERTY TAX BREAK FOR SENIORS Current Constitution: A person 65 years of age or older who owns a home in a taxable jurisdiction is exempt from the payment of property taxes on the homesteaded portion of the property. Proposed Change: A person 65 years of age or older who owns a home in a taxable jurisdiction is exempt from the payment of property taxes on the homesteaded portion of the property. The homesteaded portion shall be defined as the portion of the property that is used for residential purposes. What is at stake: The proposed amendment would allow a person to claim a homestead exemption on a property that is used for both residential and commercial purposes.
AMENDMENT 3 - LOCAL PROPERTY TAX RISES Current Constitution: A local government may not increase the property tax rate on a property without the approval of the voters. Proposed Change: A local government may increase the property tax rate on a property without the approval of the voters. What is at stake: The proposed amendment would allow a local government to increase the property tax rate on a property without the approval of the voters.	AMENDMENT 4 - JUDICIAL RETIREMENT Current Constitution: A judge of the Louisiana Supreme Court may not be re-elected to a second term. Proposed Change: A judge of the Louisiana Supreme Court may be re-elected to a second term. What is at stake: The proposed amendment would allow a judge of the Louisiana Supreme Court to be re-elected to a second term.

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THE GRAMBLING CONNECTION

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BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

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

Grambling Native Alicia Williams Returns Home to Serve GSU in Government Affairs

GC Staff Report

GRAMBLING, La. —For Alicia Williams, Grambling State University's newest appointment is more than another step in a career that has spanned more than three decades in government and public service. It is also a homecoming.

Williams, a Grambling native and Grambling State University alumna, has returned home to serve her alma mater as **Special Assistant for Government Affairs**, bringing with her more than 35 years of experience working in Washington, D.C., Baton Rouge and Louisiana state government.

In her new role, Williams will focus on government relations, legislative engagement and public policy priorities, serving as a liaison between Grambling State and local, state and federal officials.



Alicia Williams

Her responsibilities will include helping advance the University's legislative priorities, strengthening public partnerships and identifying opportunities that support education, research, economic development and student success.

"Alicia Williams has spent her career building relationships that matter to Louisiana and to public higher education," said Grambling State University President Martin Lemelle Jr., D.B.A. "Her experience in Washington, D.C., Baton Rouge, and across state government will help Grambling State strengthen relationships with policymakers, agencies, and partners whose work can support our students, faculty, and communities. We are pleased to have her serving in this important role."

Williams will work within the Division of Research and Sponsored Programs. In addition to monitoring legislative developments, she will support government engagement efforts, facilitate partnerships and help identify funding and collaborative opportunities aligned with the University's priorities.

For Williams, the opportunity to bring her years of government experience back to the community and University that helped shape her makes the new position especially meaningful.

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2026 Distinguished 10 Honorees pose for picture with President Martin Lemelle

Grambling Honors the Distinguished Ten

By Joice M. Dunn

The Distinguished 10 award ceremony was not only a trip down memory lane, but an opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of Grambling State University alumni who have made significant contributions in their professions and communities.

The ballroom on the third floor of the GSU Student Success Center was filled to capacity as Mata Drain, anchor at KTAL NBC News, guided the crowd through the program. Following lunch, attendees heard the stories behind this year's Distinguished 10 honorees.

Dr. Ivory V. Nelson is a pioneering chemist, educator and higher education leader whose career has opened doors for generations of students. A Shreveport native, Nelson earned his bachelor's degree in chemistry and

education from Grambling in 1959 before becoming the first African American to earn a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Kansas.

His career included leadership positions at Prairie View A&M University and the Texas A&M University System. He later became the first African American chancellor of the Alamo Community College District and the first African American president of Central Washington University. Nelson also served as president of Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, where the Ivory V. Nelson Center for the Sciences was named in his honor.

Colonel (Ret.) Jeremy M. Martin is a public affairs executive and military leader who credits Grambling with giving him a strong foundation. He currently serves as director of global public affairs for Bell Textron.

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Grambling native and honoree, Terri Lee, speaks to attendees.

Anxiety Grows Over Possible Federal Disruption of Midterm Elections

GC Staff Report

With the Nov. 3 midterm elections approaching, election officials across the country are preparing for something they have rarely had to consider before: possible disruption involving the federal government.

The concerns have intensified following statements and actions by members of the Trump administration involving polling places, federal law enforcement, voting machines and election officials. While no widespread federal intervention has occurred and administration officials deny plans to target polling locations, state and local officials say they are preparing for possibilities they once would have

considered unthinkable.

The issue drew heightened attention in September when Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin said Immigration and Customs Enforcement could serve warrants on individuals at polling places.

Denver quickly filed suit.

"We just want residents to not be afraid to vote because that's ultimately what the president was after," Denver Mayor Mike Johnston, a Democrat, said.

The Department of Homeland Security has denied plans to specifically target polling locations. But election officials around the country are nevertheless preparing for scenarios ranging from federal agents appearing near voting sites to attempts to seize bal-

lots or challenge voting equipment.

Election administrators routinely prepare for emergencies such as severe weather, power outages, bomb threats and violence. This year, some are adding possible federal actions to the list.

Barb Byrum, county clerk in Ingham County, Michigan, said emergency planning has now expanded to include what she described as "federal misbehavior."

Memories of 2020

Much of the anxiety stems from President Donald Trump's efforts to overturn his 2020 election loss, which culminated in the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol.

The political stakes are again high.

Republicans are fighting to retain control of Congress. Losing either

the House or Senate could significantly weaken Trump's ability to advance his legislative agenda during his final two years in office and could expose his administration to congressional investigations.

Public confidence in the election process is already fragile. A national survey conducted in early September by the University of California San Diego Center for Transparent and Trusted Elections found only 49% of respondents expected the midterm elections to be free and fair.

Despite those concerns, election experts emphasize that the American election system is highly decentralized. Elections are primarily administered by state and local governments rather than Washington, making it

difficult for any president to directly control voting nationwide.

Courts would also likely become involved quickly if the federal government attempted to interfere with state-run elections.

Administration Leaves Questions Open

Trump and members of his administration have not always given definitive answers when questioned about possible federal involvement.

In an interview with TIME, Trump was asked about potentially declaring a national emergency surrounding the election.

"I don't rule anything out or in. We'll see," he said.

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has dismissed questions about deploying troops to polling locations as hypothetical,

while the Defense Department says it has no plans to send active-duty troops or federalized National Guard members to voting sites.

The administration has also raised questions about voting equipment.

Mullin requested that the Justice Department investigate whether ballot-tabulation machines using barcodes or QR codes comply with federal law. The Georgia State Election Board's executive director has also called for possible Justice Department intervention over QR-code-based tabulation.

Earlier this year, Mullin warned election officials who fail to "participate in securing the elections" that they could potentially face prosecution.

Courts and States Provide Roadblocks

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OPINION



Carloyn Elmore Cage

Letter to Editor: Grateful for the Opportunity to Continue Serving District One

Qualifying is over, and I am humbled and grateful to announce that I am unopposed for a fourth term as your District 1 Alderwoman. To God be the glory for the things He has done.

I am truly honored by the opportunity to continue serving as the voice for District 1 and to be a part of the continued progress and success of our great City of Ruston. I want to sincerely

thank my family, constituents, friends, and supporters who have encouraged, stood beside, and placed their trust in me throughout this journey. Your support means more to me than I can adequately express.

I remain fully committed to serving District 1 with the same energy, dedication, and purpose that I have brought to this role. I am excited about what lies ahead for our district and our city. Thank you again for

your trust, support, and the opportunity to serve. I look forward to continuing the work and moving District 1 and the great City of Ruston forward. Carloyn Elmore Cage District 1 Alderwoman

POTTER MOTIVATION

You Can't Chase Two Rabbits at the Same Time

By Rusty Potter

There is an old proverb that says, "If you chase two rabbits, you will catch neither one". Growing up in Louisiana, I find that proverb makes perfect sense to me because rabbit hunting was something I knew firsthand. When you're out in the woods, and two rabbits take off in different directions, you have a choice to make. You can't chase both. If you try, you will probably end up tired, frustrated, and empty-handed. That old proverb carries a powerful lesson about life.

Many of us are trying to chase too many rabbits at the same time. We want to start a business, lose weight, make more money, go back to school, spend more time with our families, work two jobs, and accomplish several other goals - all at once. There is nothing wrong with having multiple dreams. The problem comes when we allow ourselves to become distracted so much that we don't give any one goal our full attention. Sometimes you have to pick a rabbit. Decide what is most important right now. Set your



Rusty Potter

goal. Make your plan. Then give it your time, energy, and attention. That doesn't mean you have to give up on your other

dreams. It simply means you understand that everything doesn't have to happen at the same time. I have learned that focus is one of the greatest ingredients for success. When you know what you are trying to accomplish, you can stop allowing every distraction to pull you in a different direction. Think about how many opportunities we miss because we're constantly looking at what somebody else is doing. Your friend has a new car, so you want a new car. Someone buys a new house, so suddenly you want a new house.

Someone else reaches a goal, and you abandon yours to chase theirs. Stop chasing somebody else's rabbit. Your journey is your journey. So this week, ask yourself: What rabbit am I chasing? Pick your target. Stay focused. Keep moving. And when you finally catch that rabbit, celebrate your victory - then decide what you want to chase next. That old proverb taught me something growing up that I still believe today: You can't chase two rabbits at the same time.

D-10 Honors From Page 1

Martin previously served in the administration of President Barack Obama in several senior Pentagon public affairs positions, including Pentagon press secretary. A political science graduate of Grambling, Martin remains committed to service and mentorship, including continued support of GSU and its Tiger Battalion ROTC program. Chief Judge Yvette Mansfield Alexander, a Grambling native, has built a career defined by fairness, compassion and service. A GSU political science graduate, she earned her law degree from Louisiana State University. After more than 17 years practicing law, Alexander was elected in 1995 as the first African American woman to serve on the Baton Rouge City Court. She later made history again as the court's first African American female chief judge. Her leadership has extended nationally through organiza-

tions including the American Judges Association and National Bar Association. Terri M. Lee is a housing leader who says GSU educated her, but the Grambling community made her. She serves as president and CEO of Atlanta Housing, Georgia's largest public housing authority. With more than 25 years of experience in urban development, Lee has helped reshape affordable housing throughout Atlanta. Under her leadership, Atlanta Housing has secured major investments and created or preserved thousands of housing units. She previously made history as Atlanta's first chief housing officer and helped mobilize \$1 billion in public-private investments for affordable housing. Eric Washington is a veteran NFL coach and former Grambling football player who returned to GSU Homecoming for the first time in 35 years. A Shreveport native, Washington played tight end for the G-Men from 1989 to 1990 and earned

his degree from Grambling in 1993. During 18 years of NFL coaching, he has held major defensive leadership positions with the Chicago Bears, Carolina Panthers and Buffalo Bills. His career has been marked by developing players and helping build some of the NFL's strongest defensive units. Fred Payne, whose award was accepted by his niece and 2024 honoree Farrah Cambrice, has built a career around expanding opportunity and strengthening communities. As president and CEO of United Way of Central Indiana, Payne leads efforts to combat poverty and improve economic mobility. His accomplishments include helping eliminate \$239 million in medical debt for 112,000 Indiana residents. He previously served as commissioner of the Indiana Department of Workforce Development and was part of the leadership team that launched Honda's Indiana Auto Plant. Dr. James Gray is super-

intendent of Jefferson Parish Schools, Louisiana's largest and most diverse public school system, serving approximately 47,000 students across 74 schools. Since taking the helm in 2020, Gray has led the district through the COVID-19 pandemic, hurricane recovery and major academic and technological improvements. Under his leadership, Jefferson Parish Schools achieved its largest performance score growth in a decade and earned a historic B district rating in 2024. Gray has also been recognized as Superintendent of the Year by state and national education organizations. Toni R. Barton is an education leader, author and advocate for inclusive education. She serves as CEO of E.L. Haynes Public Charter School and is nationally recognized for her work in special education and school innovation. A Grambling graduate in computer information systems, Barton has worked as a professor, special educa-

tion teacher and education entrepreneur. Her work focuses on creating schools where all students experience academic rigor, belonging and opportunity. Brooke Cluse, Esq. is a civil rights attorney whose career has been shaped by faith, purpose and a commitment to justice. She joined Ben Crump Law in 2023 and serves as a civil rights attorney and chief of staff to nationally known attorney Ben Crump. Before joining the firm, Cluse worked as a public defender in Houston, representing hundreds of clients. She later became part of legal teams that secured significant civil rights verdicts. A Lafayette native, Cluse graduated magna cum laude from Grambling in mass communication before earning her law degree. Eric Moses is a finance executive and strategic leader who serves as finance director at Shell, where he leads financial strategy for New Entries and Emerging Ventures for global exploration.

A New Orleans native, Moses joined Shell in 2006 and has worked across trading, deepwater exploration, treasury, technology, mergers and acquisitions, and emerging ventures. His work has included transactions ranging from \$50 million to \$10 billion. A former GSU Student Government Association president, Moses continues to support his alma mater through mentorship and service. During the celebration, he announced a \$200,000 endowment to Grambling State University. Together, the Distinguished 10 represent generations of Grambling State graduates whose careers span education, law, government, business, athletics, housing, finance and public service. Their accomplishments also reflect a common thread celebrated throughout the ceremony: the foundation they received at Grambling and their continued commitment to opening doors for those who follow.

Anxiety From Page 1

So far, however, major administration efforts to reshape election procedures have encountered significant resistance. Congress did not pass the SAVE America Act, which would have required voters to provide proof of citizenship. The Supreme Court blocked new Postal Service rules affecting mail ballots, and the Justice Department has lost more than two dozen lawsuits seeking sensitive voter information from states. A Justice Department effort targeting noncitizen voting has resulted in only a few dozen prosecutions. Studies have repeatedly found voting by noncitizens to be extremely rare. The administration did win a Supreme Court decision allowing states to use an expanded Homeland Security computer system to identify possible noncitizen voters. However, its impact

on the midterms is expected to be limited because federal law restricts large-scale voter-roll purges close to Election Day. The White House rejects accusations that the administration is attempting to undermine elections. Spokeswoman Lauren Bis instead accused Democrats of weakening public confidence by opposing election-security measures supported by Trump. Could ICE Appear at Polling Places? Perhaps the most immediate concern involves federal immigration agents. Mullin said ICE would only appear at polling places if responding to a threat or serving a warrant on someone agents had already been pursuing. DHS later issued a statement saying there are no plans to target polling locations and accused news organizations of fueling unnecessary anxiety. Still, at least three law-

suits seek to prevent possible federal deployments at election sites. One lawsuit filed by Denver and voting-rights organizations alleges ICE agents have already conducted enforcement activity around polling locations this year, including an operation in a parking lot at an active San Antonio voting site. Preparing for Election Day Election officials are not waiting to see what happens. The Committee for Safe and Secure Elections, which helps election officials and law enforcement prepare for threats and intimidation, has about 138 training events scheduled this year — more than twice the 67 held in 2024. Some exercises specifically address what officials should do if ICE or other federal agents appear near polling locations and voters become afraid to enter. Officials are reviewing

legal options, communication plans and procedures designed to keep polling places operating. Despite the heightened concerns, election experts stress that voters should not assume Election Day will descend into chaos. Millions of Americans will vote by mail or before Election Day, further limiting the effect of any disruption at individual polling locations. More than one million ballots have already been cast. Los Angeles County Registrar Dean Logan said election officials there have conducted extensive scenario planning so that any unexpected situation can be handled calmly and with voter access as the priority. "Voters should know the behind-the-scenes work is thorough," Logan said, "and the fundamentals of a secure election are sound." (Based on reporting by the Louisiana Illuminator)

Grambling Native From Page 1

"I am honored to join the team and contribute to the continued advancement of Grambling State University," Williams said. "It is especially meaningful to continue doing the work I love on behalf of an institution that has given so much to me. I look forward to helping advance the University's priorities and supporting the important work taking place across campus." Williams brings considerable government experience to the position. Prior to joining Grambling State, she served for eight years as Senior Special Assistant to former Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards. She also spent nearly three decades in Washington, D.C., working for U.S. Senators J. Bennett Johnston and Mary Landrieu,

and previously worked for former Louisiana Lt. Gov. Melinda Schwegmann. Now, after a career that has taken her from Grambling to the halls of government in Baton Rouge and Washington, Williams is bringing that experience back home. Her appointment supports Grambling State University's ongoing efforts to expand public partnerships, strengthen government engagement and advocate for investments that advance teaching, research, innovation and economic development. For the Grambling community, Williams' appointment represents something more: a hometown daughter returning to use the experience and relationships she has built over decades of public service to help move Grambling State University forward.

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COMMUNITY

Rickey Burton: A man worthy of honor

By Joice M. Dunn

The HBCU Boosters gathered at Log Cabin in Ruston Tuesday, Sept. 29, to honor a quiet, hardworking and humble man, Rickey Burton. Gregory Ludley, executive director of Black Men in Purple, served as master of ceremony.

After the invocation by Troy Brooks, HBCU Booster supporter, Carl McCarter, Booster member, introduced Rickey Lee Burton, better known by his CB handle, “Chocolate Kool-Aid”. Rickey grew up in Ruston, on the Westside. He has one brother and three sisters. He attended school at Lincoln Elementary, I. A. Lewis Junior High and Ruston High School. He attended Grambling State University, graduating in 1978 and Louisiana Tech University.

Jeff Miller, a close friend of Burton, presented him with an award. Reminding the group that Rickey has a heart for people and the HBCU Boosters.

“I haven’t known him that long, but these last few years we’ve gotten closer and closer. He’s a good man, who will give you the shirt off his back,” Miller said.

As he accepted the award, Burton said, “I just like to see people happy. I owe a lot to

my two grandmothers who paid my way through college. I graduated from GSU with a B.S. degree in Health and Physical Education, with a minor in Driver’s Education. I received my M.S. degree in Sport Administration from GSU in 1982.”

Burton has been married to Philis Ann Lewis Burton for 45 years, who is also a Grambling graduate. She has worked at GSU for 33 years in the School Of Social Work. They have two sons: Rickey Lewis Burton II, a graduate of Grambling State University, who is a teacher at Ruston High School. Ryan O’Neal Burton, a graduate of Grambling State University, now is an Asst. Football and Basketball Coach at Cypress Creek High School in Houston, Texas.

“We are all GRAMBLING-NITES! GO BIG G! I thought U knew!” Burton proudly said.

He continued to say, “We have two grandchildren: Kameron Wright, a 11th grader and member of the Ruston High School Football Team. Aubree Edwards, a one-year-old that lives in Houston, Texas.

Burton worked 33 years in the Lincoln Parish School System teaching, coaching, and administrative duties. He taught Driver’s Education for 31 years and served as a School Truancy



Rickey Burton

Officer for 10 years at the Lincoln Parish District Attorney’s Office. He retired in 2012 as an Asst. Principal at Ruston Junior High School. Went back to work in 2012-2022 as a School Truancy Officer for the Lincoln Parish DA (District Attorney) under the Leadership of Bob Levy, John Belton, and Pasty Bullock.

“I became involved with the HBCU Boosters in 2025 by just attending their events and helping. I really enjoyed what the Boosters were doing and how they always worked with the students and the community. We have a good president in Jim “Bear” Maryland who keeps us doing GOOD and POSITIVE Things,” Burton explained.

“Out of all the people in the room, I feel like I’ve known the

honoree, Rickey Burton, the shortest time, but after spending time with him, I know everything people say about him is true. “What you see, is what you get. Consistent and God Loving,” said Ludley.

Jim “Bear” Maryland said that he first asked Rickey Burton to join the Boosters, he turned him down, but after two years, he said he was ready.

“When Rickey joined the Boosters, he has worked and you don’t have to push him. I really appreciate you Rickey,” said President Maryland.

Others in the room expressed the effect Burton’s work ethic and spirit of helping others have had on them.

NaKisha R. Evans, granddaughter of Rev. Allen Diamond and daughter of Gwendolyn, extended words of praise and honor to Burton for his example of putting his best foot forward and was always encouraging. He never took the lead but was always the slight leader.

John Brown, Grambling resident and City Councilman, recalled how men from the Grambling and Ruston area never liked each other. “I can remember that Rickey and I became friends when we attended Grambling State University, then our wives became friends. We both like fishing

and fast cars. When I took over the Juneteenth Fishing Contest three years ago, I needed help, so I called Rickey and Carl. If you are a good person, no matter what side of town you’re from, goodness knows how to meet goodness,” said Brown.

“When I started going back to church, Rickey was there to help me. He never complained, he was always there. Some people talked the talk, but Rickey also walked the walk and sometimes you need some help from someone else besides Jesus. I thank you Rickey for the help,” said Roosevelt Strong.

“We were very much competitors in school, but I’ve been back for six years, but I just want to say, thank you Rickey for helping and working with my brother Michael,” Brooks said. “He is always helping others, but one thing I can say, he always makes time for home. We call him Super Man, because he is going to get the job done. I want him to take some time for his self,” his wife, Philis said.

In closing out, Maryland extended a thank you to Troy Brooks, Patricia Mims Brooks, NaKisha R. Evans, John Brown, Dana Grant, Greg Ludley, Carl McCarter and Clara. We have so many groups, but if we come together, we can get some things done,” expressed Maryland.

Announcements

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 12. 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 October 15.

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 will be available starting 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.

Greater Grambling Chamber to sponsor banquet

The Annual Greater Grambling Chamber of Commerce will hold its banquet Thursday, Oct. 22, in the Black and Gold Room on the campus of Grambling State University. The Cocktail Hour will be from 6-7 p.m. and the banquet is scheduled at 7-9 p.m.

Honorees include W. D. Walker and Santoria Black, receiving the Dr. Rhonda Pruitt Special Recognition Award; DeVaria H. Ponton, receiving the L. D. Land Government Award; Lincoln United Community Coalition to receive the Thelma Smith Williams Community Service Award; Greg “Big Coach” Williams, receiving the R.W.E. Jones Education Award; Ray Winzer, receiving the Young Entrepreneur Award and Centric Federal Credit Union receiving the A.D. Smith Business Award.

For more Information about tickets contact a chamber member or go to INFO@GREATERGRAMBLINGCHAMBER.COM.

The Fall Festival to be held in Grambling

The Fall Festival in Grambling will be held Saturday, Oct. 31. The Festival will kickoff at 10 a.m. in Downtown (Main Street).

There will be a Car Show featuring the Monroe Drug Team, the annual Trick-A-Treat giveaway, Tailgating with Food Trucks and a Live D.J.

The event is sponsored by the Juneteenth Committee free and open to the public.

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 cityofgrambling.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.cityofgrambling.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 non-profit 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 or-

ganization, please contact us at autismnorthla@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 pre-paid 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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COMMUNITY



What’s on the ballot this November? BE INFORMED!

As Louisianians head to the polls in November, it is important that we are informed on what’s on the ballot and how our

votes will affect policies moving forward. Louisiana voters will consider proposed constitutional amendments in this election.

Here’s a helpful guide issue by the Louisiana House of Representatives outlining each amendment and what a vote “for” or “against”

would mean. Take a look through the amendments to learn more before heading to the polls.
Election Day: November 3,

2026. For official election information, visit the Louisiana Secretary of State’s website: www.sos.la.gov.

LOUISIANA CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS ON THE BALLOT • NOVEMBER 3, 2026

What Louisiana voters are being asked to change — in plain language

AMENDMENT 1 DISABLED VETERAN PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

CURRENT CONSTITUTION

A qualifying surviving spouse may continue receiving a deceased veteran’s additional property tax exemption on the homestead the spouse owns and occupies.

PROPOSED CHANGE

Allows an eligible surviving spouse to transfer that additional exemption one time to a new qualifying homestead. The transferred amount could not exceed the exemption claimed on the previous home.

WHAT IT MEANS

An eligible surviving spouse who moves could keep the additional veteran exemption by transferring it once to the new homestead.

AMENDMENT 2 LOCAL PROPERTY TAX RATES

CURRENT CONSTITUTION

After a statewide reassessment, a local taxing authority may raise its millage rate up to a previously authorized maximum. If it keeps the lower rate through the next reassessment, it can lose the ability to return to that maximum.

PROPOSED CHANGE

Allows a local taxing authority to keep a lower millage rate without losing its ability to later raise the rate to the previously authorized maximum, until that authorized millage expires.

WHAT IT MEANS

Local taxing bodies would have more flexibility to increase millage later, up to the already-authorized maximum, even after keeping a lower rate.

AMENDMENT 3 BAIL AFTER CONVICTION

CURRENT CONSTITUTION

Louisiana’s Constitution provides a right to bail, including under certain circumstances after a person has been convicted.

PROPOSED CHANGE

Prohibits post-conviction bail for anyone convicted of an aggravated offense against a minor, as defined by state law.

WHAT IT MEANS

People convicted of specified aggravated crimes involving minors would not be eligible for bail after conviction.

AMENDMENT 4 GOVERNOR TERM LIMITS

CURRENT CONSTITUTION

A governor who serves more than 1½ terms during two consecutive terms cannot be elected governor for the immediately following term, but may run again later.

PROPOSED CHANGE

Creates a lifetime limit: a person who has served more than 1½ terms as governor could never again be elected to the office.

WHAT IT MEANS

The current requirement to sit out before running again would become a permanent lifetime restriction after the service limit is reached.

AMENDMENT 5 STATE RETIREMENT DEBT

CURRENT CONSTITUTION

At least 25% of certain nonrecurring state money must go toward state retirement systems’ unfunded liabilities. A system receiving the money must apply it to its oldest unfunded liability first.

PROPOSED CHANGE

Removes the “oldest first” requirement and allows a state retirement system to apply the money to any of its unfunded accrued liabilities.

WHAT IT MEANS

State retirement systems would have more flexibility in deciding which outstanding pension liabilities to pay down first.

AMENDMENT 6 PROPERTY TAX BREAK FOR SENIORS

CURRENT CONSTITUTION

Louisiana provides a homestead exemption on the first \$75,000 of a home’s fair market value. Certain qualifying seniors may also receive an assessment freeze.

PROPOSED CHANGE

Allows parishes and municipalities, with voter approval, to offer an additional exemption to qualifying homeowners age 65+. The exemption rises with age: \$60,000 at 65–68; \$120,000 at 69–72; \$180,000 at 73–76; \$240,000 at 77–80; and \$300,000 at 81+.

WHAT IT MEANS

The additional senior exemption would not automatically take effect statewide. Voters in a parish or municipality would first have to approve it.

AMENDMENT 7 DRINKING WATER LINES

CURRENT CONSTITUTION

State and local governments generally cannot donate or use public money for the benefit of private persons or private property except for specifically authorized exceptions.

PROPOSED CHANGE

Creates an exception allowing local governments to use public funds on privately owned property to identify, inventory, remove or replace drinking-water service lines affected by materials covered by federal Lead and Copper Rule requirements.

WHAT IT MEANS

Local governments could spend public money to address qualifying water-service lines even when part of the line is located on private property.

AMENDMENT 8 FOREIGN ADVERSARIES & PROPERTY

CURRENT CONSTITUTION

Certain private entities may expropriate private property for a legally authorized public and necessary purpose, provided the owner receives just compensation.

PROPOSED CHANGE

Specifically prohibits a private entity that is a foreign adversary, or an agent of a foreign adversary, from using Louisiana’s expropriation process to acquire property.

WHAT IT MEANS

Foreign adversaries and their agents would be constitutionally barred from using Louisiana’s expropriation authority to obtain property.

AMENDMENT 9 PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT FREEZE

CURRENT CONSTITUTION

Certain qualifying homeowners—including people 65 and older, some disabled veterans and people who are permanently and totally disabled—may have their property assessment frozen. Eligibility includes an income limit.

PROPOSED CHANGE

Raises the qualifying income limit from \$100,000 to \$150,000. The new \$150,000 threshold would later be adjusted for inflation.

WHAT IT MEANS

More qualifying homeowners could become eligible for the special property-tax assessment freeze because of the higher income threshold.

AMENDMENT 10 BLIGHTED PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

CURRENT CONSTITUTION

The Constitution lists types of property eligible for property-tax exemptions, but there is no specific exemption for rehabilitated blighted or derelict property.

PROPOSED CHANGE

Allows an optional property-tax exemption for blighted or derelict property that has been rehabilitated. The Legislature would set definitions, eligibility, duration and procedures for local administration.

WHAT IT MEANS

Local governments could gain another tax incentive designed to encourage owners to rehabilitate blighted or derelict properties.



CHURCH NEWS

In Remembrance

Remembering Joseph Wilbert Capers Jr.

Joseph Wilbert Capers, Jr. was born on May 15, 1960, to Dr. Joseph Wilbert Capers, Sr. and Mary Capers of Grambling, Louisiana. He passed away on September 28, in the Dallas, Texas area. Raised in a community rooted in family, faith, and music, Joseph carried those influences with him throughout his life.

Joseph began his education at Alma J. Brown Elementary School and continued at Grambling Junior High School and Grambling High School, on the campus of Grambling State University. During high school, he shared his musical talent as a member of Leech and the Gang, a local band composed of Grambling

High School students. After graduating in 1978, he attended Grambling State University, where he was a member of the Grambling Tiger Marching Band. In 1981, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management.

Although he was offered a position at the university upon graduation, Joseph had his sights set on corporate America. He joined JCPenney immediately after graduation and built a career there that spanned 32 years. He served in several management positions, taking on significant responsibilities at a young age. His assignments brought him to Texas stores facing management challenges, where he helped strengthen their operations. He eventually

served as a district operations manager overseeing more than twenty stores in Texas.

Joseph never forgot the university that helped prepare him for his career. He gave back to Grambling State University by recruiting qualified minority students for opportunities with JCPenney. Working closely with the director of Career and Professional Development at Grambling State University, Joseph helped students secure internships and permanent positions at JCPenney locations across the country. He continued encouraging GSU stu-



Joseph W. Capers, Jr.

dents through campus visits and personal conversations, using his corporate connections to help many find other professional employment opportunities.

Following his career at JCPenney, Joseph joined Gap, where he spent more than 8 years helping to address management challenges in Texas. He also opened 2 other businesses in the Houston area.

He later chose to leave the corporate world and devote his experience to helping small business owners grow. He opened a pop-up shop business in an abandoned shopping mall in Victoria, Texas, creating

opportunities for entrepreneurs to develop their businesses. Through this work, Joseph assisted more than sixty small businesses with procurement, marketing, sales, and expansion. Many grew beyond the pop-up shop and established their own brick-and-mortar businesses throughout the Victoria area, where they continue to thrive. He took pride in helping others move forward and used what he had learned to open doors for those coming behind him.

Joseph built his life around helping others. His strong work ethic, kindness, and willingness to share his knowledge touched students, colleagues, entrepreneurs, family members, and friends. Whether offering encouragement, mak-

ing a connection, or helping someone take the next step, he gave generously of himself.

He leaves to cherish his memory his wife, children, grandchild, siblings, and a host of relatives and friends. His legacy lives on in the students he encouraged, the businesses he helped build, and the lives he touched. He will be lovingly remembered for his kindness, devotion, and commitment to giving back.

Services will be held for Joseph Wilbert Capers, Jr. will be held at the Golden Gate Funeral Home, 4155 S. R.L. Thornton Freeway in Dallas, Texas 75224 on Saturday, Oct. 10. The viewing is from 8-9 a.m. with funeral beginning at 9 a.m.

Church Announcements

Men's Fellowship group to celebrate Jesus

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

The next meeting will be held on Monday, October 12. The meeting is spearheaded by Patrick Jefferson, former state representative, along with invited speakers. Every man is invited to come and worship.

NAMI representative to talk on Faith Net

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Ruston representative will speak on several

subjects at the Old Rocky Valley Missionary Baptist Church on Saturday, October 17, from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. The subjects will include Faith Net, Trauma, Trauma and More Trauma, Intergenerational Trauma and Wholistic Living presented by Dr. Iylon Collins, Ed.D., PLPC.

The church is located at 133 Braswell, Simsboro, Louisiana, Pastored by Rev. Calvin Young. For more information, please Contact Antoinetta Denise Grigsby at 318-614-2623.

Love Chapel Church to hold Breast Cancer Awareness Day

The Love Chapel Baptist Church will hold its annual Breast Cancer Awareness Day Sunday, Oct. 18, during the 11 a.m. service. The church is located on 1525 Sikes St. Ruston and

pastored by Reverend Elliott Abney.

The guest speaker for the event will be Evangelist Kathryn Hargrove of the Countyline Baptist Church, pastored by Reverend Apostle Beckwith.

The theme is "For I know the plan I have for you..." Jeremiah 29:11. All area churches are invited to join in the service.

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 grambling-connection@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 Downsview
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

Stand On Business About YOU

By Charming Davis

There comes a point in your healing journey when you have to stop negotiating against yourself. We hear people say, “Stand on business,” all the time. Usually, it means handling what needs to be handled and not backing down from what you said. But what if we applied that same energy to ourselves? Stand on business about your peace. Your boundaries. Your healing. Your time. Your body. Your calling. Your relationship with God. Proverbs 4:23 (NLT) says, “Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.” Notice the word *guard*. Not abandon. Not harden. Guard. Protecting your peace does not mean becoming cold, cutting everybody off, or refusing accountability. Sometimes protecting your peace actually requires having the uncomfortable conversation. Sometimes it means admitting you were wrong.

Sometimes it means saying no without writing a five-paragraph explanation afterward. And sometimes the person disturbing your peace is you. We can pray for peace while repeatedly returning to environments that dysregulate us. We can ask God for clarity and then ignore what has already been revealed. We can ask for a new season while keeping emotional subscriptions to an old one. Energy healing teaches us to pay attention to what our bodies and spirits are communicating. Notice what happens inside you around certain conversations, people and environments. Does your breathing change?



Charming Davis

Does your chest tighten? Do you feel exhausted after every interaction? Does your mind become cloudy? Those signals aren’t always proof that another person is “bad.” Sometimes they are simply invitations to slow down, regulate your nervous system, pray, reflect and discern what needs attention. Jesus Himself understood boundaries. Luke 5:16 (NLT) says, “But Jesus often withdrew to the wilderness for prayer.” Even Jesus stepped away. So why do we sometimes feel guilty for needing space? You can love people without giving them unlimited access. You can for-

give without returning to the same dynamic. You can be compassionate and still require respect. Standing on business about yourself means your actions finally agree with what you say you deserve. If you say peace matters, build a peaceful life. If healing matters, make room for healing. If God gives you an instruction, stop asking everybody else to vote on it. Your peace isn’t something you find once and place on a shelf. It is something you practice, protect and participate in every day. Naturally Charming Universe Holistic Wellness Center offers spiritual counseling, clarity sessions, energy healing and distant healing sessions designed to support your journey toward balance, alignment and deeper self-awareness. You can also shop Naturally Charming Universe online for holistic and spiritual wellness products.

<https://linktr.ee/naturallycharminguniverse>



Beyond the Ribbon: The Importance of Breast Cancer Awareness



October marks Breast Cancer Awareness Month, a time to remind us about the importance of breast health and early detection. According to the American Cancer Society, White women are slightly more likely to

develop breast cancer, but Black women have the highest breast cancer death rate. Knowing your body and recognizing changes is an important place to start. Warning signs may include a new lump, swelling, changes in the skin or nipple, unusual

discharge, or breast or nipple pain. If something doesn’t feel or look normal, talk with your healthcare provider. And remember, you don’t have to navigate the journey alone. There are many organizations dedicated to educating, advocating for and sup-

porting Black women affected by breast cancer, including: African American Breast Cancer Alliance, Carrie’s Touch, Cierra Sisters, For the Breast of Us, Sisters Network Inc. TOUCH, The Black Breast

Cancer Alliance, Sisters by Choice. This October, make it a point to know your risk, pay attention to your body, talk with your healthcare provider about screening and share what you know with another Sista.

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10:00 AM

Downtown Grambling (Main St.)



CAR SHOW
Featuring the Monroe Drag Team



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Mayor Bradley extends a personal invitation for you to join us for Grambling's annual fall festival! "Festival on the Main" is a fun-filled night primarily for children and youth, but we've got something for the entire family... entertainment, music, food, vendors, treats, and most of all community. We'll be looking for you!

The City of Grambling



ARTS & CULTURE

Honoring two distinguished former band legacies

By Joice M. Dunn

When the clock struck 5 p.m., a whistle began to blow, bringing back an old Grambling Marching Band formation for many former GSU band members returning for homecoming. Some of the former members gathered in the Fellowship Hall of Lewis Temple C.M.E. Church in the Village to pay honor and respect to two distinguished former GSU band directors, William J. Wiley and Charles F. Turner.

Roderick Baptiste offered words of welcome and prayer as he reminded the 50 to 60 former band members of the reason for celebrating the band's 100 years.

"We pause to remember those who march, played, taught, encouraged and shared in the brotherhood and sisterhood of the band, though they are no longer with us, their music, memories, legacy continue to live on."

After giving opening remarks, Calvin Stemley

offered a couple of Saxophone selections such as "Every Praise Is To Our God" and "Open My Heart" for the group's enjoyment.

William Wiley was a native of Tuskegee, Ala., who received his musical training from the Boston Conservatory of Music. He was asked by Conrad Hutchinson to move to Grambling around 1954 as a music teacher and assist with the band. He later brought his wife down and two sons, Billy and Christopher.

Wiley taught applied wood winds such as the clarinet and saxophone.

The university didn't have a fight song, so Mr. Hutchinson arranged the music and Mr. Wiley wrote the lyrics of the Grambling Fight song.

In honor of William J. Wiley, the group presented his son Chris with a plaque that read:

We, former members of the "World Famed" Grambling Band, want to express the LOVE, APPRECIATION, and the RESPECT we had and have for your father, Mr.



Chris Wiley accepts father's plaque.

William J. A. Wiley. The road he traveled while working with the band was, at times, rocky. But, he forged ahead and kept his mind on what he was trying to accomplish. He was THE CREATOR of THE SOUND of the "World Famed Marching Band". That fact is known by ALL the young musicians that came through the Grambling Marching Band program during his tenure. He was hard on us, but it paid

off in the end. And the Product was 'WELL RECEIVED' by the fans!!!

The second plaque was to the Turner Family, which was accepted by Shelia Robinson Zimmelman from Monroe, who is now living in Manfield, Texas.

We, former members of the "World Famed" Grambling Band, want to express the LOVE, APPRECIATION, and the RESPECT we had and have for your relative,

Mr. Charles Turner. He was always there to help a student with any problems, no matter whether it was music-related or even personal, he would help us out. I don't know if he was much of a dancer or not, but he was a motivator and would try to pump you up to get the steps. Occasionally, he would work with students on the music if they were having difficulties. Mr. Turner was a Godsend for many of the members of The "World Famed" GRAMBLING BAND!!!

A third plaque was presented to Consuella Wiley-Lockheart, to her surprise, making her an honorary World Famed Grambling Tiger 4Life.

Many of former band members had their own stories to tell, reflecting on the things that made Mr. Wiley and Turner special to them. Members such as Roderick Baptiste, Jimmy Boyd, Craig O'Neal, Lord Hughes, Carl Frances, who wrote a book called "And The Band Play On" from zoom calls during Covid and many others.

Lonnie Smith, III, a band member from 1978 until 1982, closed with a few words of wisdom. A lot of times the one that gets the credit is the leader, but he is not the only one putting in the work. Smith reminded the group that it is the band's Centennial, but not The World Fame because it didn't come until the 60's.

Mr. Wiley was responsible for what people heard and Mr. Turner was responsible for what people saw. He loved their spirit because they were Conrad Hutinson's props for the band. He said that Mr. Wiley and Mr. Turner are no longer here, but as long as their stories are shared, they will be alive.

"A great band director does more than teach notes, rhythms and musical techniques. A great director teaches discipline, teamwork, confidence, perseverance, and pride. The true measure of their success is not simply the music they created, but the lives they touched and the legacy they left behind," was the consensus of the group.

Tisha Campbell Returns to Lifetime As Writer, Star and Executive Producer of One Last Shot

(Black PRWire) Los Angeles, CA – NAACP Image Award-winning actress Tisha Campbell returns to Lifetime as the star, executive producer, and writer of One Last Shot, an emotionally powerful original movie premiering Saturday, November 14 at 8/7c as part of the network's 2026 Love of a Lifetime slate. Campbell is joined by Charles Malik Whitfield, Jaden Lucas Miller and makes her film reunion with AJ Johnson – the two previously starred together in the cult classic House Party. Additional titles for the Love of a Lifetime slate will be forthcoming.

Joy Walker (Campbell) is a devoted, single mother who has spent her entire life taking care of everyone but herself, from her church, her community, and above all, her teenage basketball phenomenon Chaz (Miller). When tragedy strikes and Chaz is suddenly diagnosed with an aggressive brain tumor, Joy is faced with battling doctors, tackling bills, and forced to join forces with her ex, Royce (Whitfield) to navigate their new norm. As Chaz's health deteriorates, Joy begins to



Tisha Campbell

realize that a lifetime of living for others has left her with no idea who she is on her own. With Royce's unexpected support and a community determined to keep her from disappearing beneath the weight of her responsibilities, Joy begins the difficult journey of reclaiming her identity. In the midst of heartbreak, fear, and unimaginable sacrifice, she discovers that saving herself may be the first step toward saving the people she loves most.

One Last Shot is produced by FOX Entertainment

Studios. Adam Shepard, Larry Grimaldi, Hannah Pillemer and Fernando Szew executive produce for the studio. Mychael G. Chinn and Tisha Campbell also serve as executive producers along with co-executive producer, Dani Wright. Erica Sutherland (Kirk Franklin's A Gospel Christmas) directs from a script by Tisha Campbell and Dani Wright. FOX Entertainment Global will distribute the film internationally.



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- Realitees (Legends Square) (Grambling, LA)
- Superior Mart - Exxon Station (Grambling, LA)
- Superior Mart - Hwy 80 (Grambling, LA)
- Hill's Grocery Store (Grambling, LA)
- Big Bucks - Chevron - 1601 S. Vienna (Ruston, LA)
- Shell Station, 1433 Hazel St, (Arcadia)

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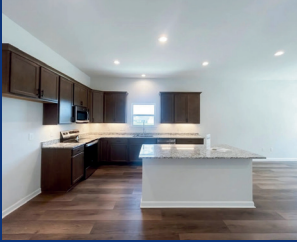
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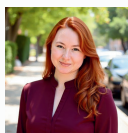
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SPORTS

Grambling State Rallies Past Alcorn State, in Homecoming Thriller

GRAMBLING, La. | Grambling State erased a 10-point fourth-quarter deficit and scored the game-winning touchdown with 19 seconds remaining, rallying past Alcorn State 63-59 in a wild Homecoming matchup Saturday at Eddie G. Robinson Memorial Stadium.

The Tigers improved to 3-2 overall and 1-1 in Southwestern Athletic Conference play with the victory, while Alcorn State fell to 3-3 overall and 2-1 in league play.

Grambling State trailed 45-35 early in the fourth quarter after Alcorn State took control following halftime. The Braves scored 17 points in the third quarter and added an early fourth-quarter touchdown to turn a 35-28 deficit into a 45-35 advantage.

But the Tigers responded with 28 fourth-quarter points, including three touchdowns in the final

6:11, to complete one of their most dramatic comebacks of the season.

Ashton Frye started the fourth-quarter rally with a 5-yard touchdown run at the 13:10 mark, cutting Alcorn State's lead to 45-42.

The Braves answered with a 40-yard touchdown pass from Jaylon Tolbert to Jamarr Ebron with 10:52 remaining, followed by Fredrick Robertson's 2-yard touchdown run 34 seconds later to give Alcorn State a 59-42 advantage.

Grambling State refused to go away.

Frye engineered a 68-yard scoring drive that ended with a 15-yard touchdown pass to Nae'Saan Dickerson with 6:11 remaining. The Tigers then pulled within 59-56 on D'Shaun Ford's 1-yard touchdown run with 3:20 left.

The Grambling State defense then delivered a critical play.



GSU vs Alcorn in head to head thriller

Photo by Tony Valentino

With Alcorn State attempting to run out the clock, Tolbert was pressured by Jon Horton and fumbled at the Alcorn 36-yard line. Horton forced the fumble, and Marcellius Johnson recovered for the Tigers at the Alcorn 25 with 4:31 remaining.

The takeaway gave Grambling State another opportunity, and the Tigers capitalized.

Frye moved the Tigers 25 yards on the ensuing possession, with Ford finishing

the drive with his second rushing touchdown of the afternoon to cut the deficit to three points.

After Alcorn State punted with 2:19 remaining, Grambling State took over at its own 24-yard line with one final opportunity.

Frye immediately connected with Jordan Bride for a 51-yard completion to move the Tigers to the Alcorn 25. After a sack and a short rush left Grambling State facing

third-and-20, Frye found Bride again for 24 yards to the Alcorn 11.

With the clock winding down, Frye found Tyson George in the end zone for an 11-yard touchdown with 19 seconds remaining, completing the comeback and giving Grambling State its first lead since the third quarter.

George finished with six receptions for a season-high 96 yards and three touchdowns, including the game-winning score. His other touchdowns came on a 54-yard reception and an 8-yard reception from Jacobe Robinson in the first half.

Frye completed 11 of 17 passes for 203 yards and two touchdowns while rushing for 61 yards and two touchdowns. Robinson added 167 passing yards and two touchdowns on 13-of-17 passing.

Bride led the Tigers

with seven receptions for 108 yards, while Byron Eaton Jr. added four catches for 97 yards. Jamarion Parker provided a spark on the ground with 98 rushing yards on six carries, including a 59-yard run.

Grambling State finished with 599 yards of total offense, including 370 passing yards and 229 rushing yards. The Tigers averaged 8.7 yards per play and converted 6 of 11 third-down opportunities.

Alcorn State finished with 566 total yards, led by Tolbert's 411 passing yards and five touchdowns. Damien Jones caught four passes for 140 yards and two touchdowns, while Ebron had three receptions for 121 yards and two touchdowns.

Saturday's game also marked the first time GSU scored at least 60 points in game since 2018.

Senate Passes Bill That Could Reshape College Athletics — and What It Could Mean for Grambling State

For a university like Grambling State, where athletics has long been an important part of the school's identity and national reputation, changes taking place in college sports are about much more than wins and losses.

They could affect how Grambling recruits athletes, how long those athletes remain at the university and how well the school can compete with larger, wealthier programs.

The U.S. Senate has passed a bipartisan bill that could significantly change the rules governing college athlete compensation, transfers and eligibility nationwide.

The Protect College Sports Act passed the Senate 77-22 and now heads to the House of Representatives. The legislation would establish federal standards for college athletics while giving the NCAA greater authority to enforce rules involving athlete compensation and transfers.

For Grambling State and other Historically Black Colleges and Universities, the legislation could be particularly significant as schools navigate a college sports landscape increasingly driven by money, Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) deals and the transfer portal.

A New Era of College Sports

College athletics has changed dramatically in just a few years.

Athletes can now earn money through NIL agreements, and a 2025 court settlement opened the door for universities to share revenue directly with their athletes.

The Protect College Sports Act would put federal rules around that new system.

Under the legislation, schools would continue operating under the current \$21.5 million annual revenue-sharing cap. Schools could also provide additional money through a retention fund designed to encourage athletes to remain at their institutions.

The bill also attempts to prevent schools from using outside NIL agreements to circumvent spending limits.

Those provisions could have major implications for schools that do not have the financial resources



of universities in conferences such as the SEC and Big Ten.

Grambling has built a nationally recognized athletic tradition despite operating on a much smaller financial scale than many major Division I programs. Today, however, smaller programs must increasingly compete not only to recruit talented athletes but also to keep them once they arrive.

Transfer Rules Could Matter to Grambling

One of the most significant provisions for programs such as Grambling involves the transfer portal.

Under the proposed law, athletes would generally receive one "free" transfer during a five-year period without losing or delaying eligibility. A second transfer could result in the loss of a year of eligibility, although exceptions would be available in certain circumstances.

For HBCUs and other smaller programs, the transfer portal can be a double-edged sword.

It allows Grambling to attract experienced players from other universities. At the same time, standout athletes at smaller programs can become attractive recruiting targets for larger schools with greater financial resources and NIL opportunities.

Rules making repeated transfers more difficult could potentially help schools retain players and build more stable programs from year to year.

The bill would also establish a five-year eligibility limit, with exceptions for circumstances including pregnancy, religious

missions and active-duty military service.

More Protections — But More Questions

The legislation includes several protections for college athletes, including caps on certain agent fees and guarantees involving health insurance and scholarships. Schools would also be required to maintain minimum numbers of sports and roster positions, provisions intended in part to protect women's and Olympic sports.

Supporters say federal legislation is necessary because college sports currently operate under a mixture of NCAA regulations, court decisions and state NIL laws.

"It would be nice if college sports could somehow magically fix itself, but this is a matter of law, federal law, and only Congress can fix it," Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, said.

The bill, however, remains controversial.

More than 30 states have enacted their own NIL regulations, and the federal legislation could override some state laws. It also does not fully resolve whether college athletes should eventually be considered employees of their universities — an issue that could determine whether athletes are able to collectively bargain over compensation and working conditions.

Several senators have also questioned whether athletes would have enough power to enforce protections contained in the legislation.

"Student-athletes often have limited time, resources, and legal expertise," Sen. Lisa Blunt Rochester

of Delaware said. "They should not bear primary responsibility" for enforcing those protections.

Blunt Rochester was among four Black Democratic senators opposing the legislation, along with Sens. Cory Booker of New Jersey, Raphael Warnock of Georgia and Angela Alsobrooks of Maryland.

What It Could Mean for Grambling

The Protect College Sports Act is not yet law. It must still pass the House

of Representatives before reaching the president's desk.

But the debate is especially worth watching in Grambling.

The university's athletic programs have helped introduce Grambling to generations of people around the country, from Coach Eddie Robinson and the football legends who went on to the NFL to the university's basketball, baseball, track and other programs.

College sports are now entering an era in which money can influence where athletes choose to play and whether they remain at a school.

Whatever final form the legislation takes, decisions now being made in Washington could ultimately influence who wears the Black and Gold, how long they remain at Grambling and how effectively the university can compete in the rapidly changing business of college sports.

PHILLIP ELLIS

FOR DISTRICT JUDGE DIVISION B

VOTE
NOVEMBER 3

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