

COMMUNITY

Grambling Fall Festival Enjoyed By All

3



ARTS & CULTURE

Popular Gospel Artist Pastor Mike Jr Coming to Monroe

7

THE GRAMBLING CONNECTION

Volume 2, No. 28
Friday, November 6, 2026 •

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

$1.50
www.GramblingConnection.com

NEW FEATURE INSIDE: JOBS DIRECTORY



Bradley Victory Celebration

LOCAL ELECTIONS

Bradley Wins Second Term as Grambling Mayor

Mayor defeats former Mayor Edward Jones by a wide margin as Ruston Mayor Ronny Walker also wins reelection.

By Lena W. Claybon

GRAMBLING, La. — Grambling Mayor Alvin Bradley secured another four years in office Tuesday, November 3, defeating former Mayor Edward R. Jones by a decisive margin in one of Lincoln Parish's most closely watched local elections.

Bradley, a Democrat, received 536 votes, or 65 percent, compared to Jones' 286 votes, or 35 percent. The incumbent mayor won by 250 votes, with all five city precincts reporting. Voter turnout in the mayoral contest was 41.2 percent.

When speaking to the Mayor following his victory, he had this to say, "I'm excited about the victory. I'm excited about the community and where we are going to go from here." When asked what his plans are for the next four years, he said, "We're going to pick up where we left off. We have quite a few things left to do and we're going to move forward in getting them done."

The election marked a rematch between the city's two most recent mayors. Bradley first defeated Jones in a four-candidate race in 2022, ending Jones' three-term tenure as mayor. Tuesday's victory gives Bradley a second consecutive term leading the city.

Four Incumbents Returned to Grambling City Council

Grambling voters also returned four incumbent City Council members to office, while a possible run-off is pending (as of the publication of this article) between two others.

Incumbent John F. Brown Jr. led the field of eight candidates with 527 votes, followed by Delores Wilkerson Smith with 517 votes, DeVaria Hudson Ponton with 504 votes and Cathy Holmes with 465 votes.

Mary Goree Gipson (392 votes) and Jerry Lewis (378 votes) may be headed to a run-off.

Ruston Mayor Ronny Walker Wins Fourth Term

See Bradley Page 2

DEMOCRATS WIN HOUSE AND SENATE IN SWEEPING MIDTERM VICTORY

Historic victories across the country shift control of Congress as voters deliver a major setback to President Trump and the Republican Party.

By Lena W. Claybon

Democrats emerged victorious in Tuesday's midterm elections, November 3, with sweeping gains across the country that put them on course to take control of both the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate, ending Republican control of Congress and dramatically reshaping the political landscape in Washington.

The results marked a stunning turnaround for Democrats, who entered the election needing to flip several Republican-held seats to regain power. By early Wednesday morning, the party had captured Republican Senate seats in North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, Ohio, Kansas and Iowa, while also making significant gains in the House.

The victories represent a major political setback for President Donald Trump, whose party had controlled both chambers of Congress since he returned to the White House in January 2025.

With Democrats projected to control the House and their Senate victories placing a majority within reach, the election signals a major shift in the balance of power during the final two years of Trump's presidency.

Democrats Make Historic Senate Gains

Some of the night's biggest surprises came in states that have traditionally favored Republicans.

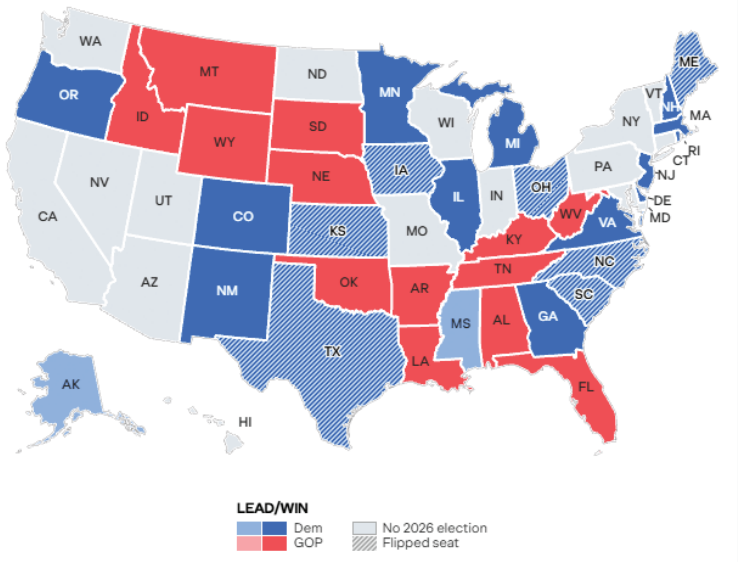
In Texas, Democrat James Talarico defeated Republican Attorney General Ken Paxton, marking a historic breakthrough in a state that had not elected a Democratic U.S. senator since 1988.

In South Carolina, Democrat Annie Andrews pulled off another major upset, defeating Republican Darline Graham and giving Democrats a rare Senate victory in one of the nation's most reliably Republican states.

Former North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper defeated Republican Michael Whatley, while Democrat Sherrod Brown reclaimed a Senate seat in Ohio, defeating Republican incumbent Jon Husted.

The Democratic surge continued with Adam Hamilton's victory in Kansas, making him the first Democrat elected to the Senate from that state in 94 years. In Iowa, Democrat Josh Turek defeated Republican Ashley Hinson, capturing another Republican-held seat.

See Democrats Page 2



Ruston Honors Annie Martin Brown's Legacy with Sports Complex Room Dedication



Annie Brown Tribute

The City of Ruston honored the life and legacy of longtime educator, civic leader and community advocate Annie Martin Brown on October 2, 2026, with the dedication of the Annie Martin Brown Multi-Purpose Room at the Ruston Sports Complex.

The ceremony brought together Brown's family, former students, church members and community residents to recognize a woman whose decades of service helped shape civic life in Ruston and Lincoln Parish.

Mayor Ronny Walker recalled meeting Brown while campaigning for mayor in 2014, after someone encouraged him to seek her advice. "So, I went and talked to Annie Brown, but she talked to me more than I talked to her," Walker said.

He remembered Brown as someone who spoke candidly and offered guidance about serving every part of the city. "She didn't hold back any punches," he recalled.

Brown served 19 years on the Ruston Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, a commitment Walker cited as a reason for naming the room in her honor. "I think it's only fitting that we name the multi-purpose room here in this incredible complex in honor and memory of Annie Brown," he said.

According to Walker, the approximately 5,000-square-foot room hosts exercise programs, classes, meetings, tournaments and celebrations. Brown's name appears above each of its three entrances. Walker said he wished the dedication had taken place during her lifetime.

A Lifetime of Community Service

Born October 23, 1928, Brown dedicated much of her life to education, civic engagement and public service before her death on July 5, 2017.

See Ruston Page 2

MOVE-IN READY!

The Goldston II G, 161 Clear Springs Drive, Grambling, Louisiana 71245
$254,522 3 Beds / 2 Baths 1,730 SQ FT





Free Refridgerator when using DSLD Mortgage

DSLD HOMES



Contact Anna Hodge
318-562-0476

Eligible for Quick Move In Incentive: 3.99 entry rate, up to 12k in closing costs, free fridge (when using DSLD Mortgage and Title) Must close by 12/31/26

OPINION

The Greatest Natural Athlete I Ever Saw

By Prentiss Smith

Every school has its legends. At Lincoln High School in Ruston, Louisiana, and Grambling College, where athletic excellence was woven into the fabric of the community, one name still stands above the rest in my mind: in Ruston and Grambling folklore, that person was Earl James Albritton.

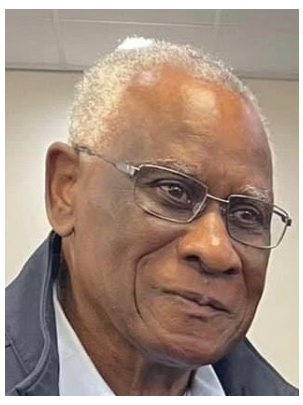
I've watched a lot of athletes over the years. I've seen gifted players, fierce competitors, and young men who worked tirelessly to become stars. But Earl James Albritton was something different. He was simply the greatest natural athlete I ever saw wear a Lincoln High School uniform.

He was also a mentor to many young aspiring athletes in the Ruston and Grambling area. Baseball was his best sport, and what he is best remembered for, having received a scholarship in Baseball to Grambling College.

In high school, he was a teammate of future Atlanta Braves great, Ralph "Scoonie" Garr, who once said that Earl James was the best all around player he had ever seen.

Some hitters are remembered for power, others for consistency. Earl had both. I don't believe I ever saw him strike out. Pitch after pitch, game after game, he put the ball in play and made pitchers work for every out.

He was a classic line-drive hitter who sprayed the ball all over the field, but he could also drive it when he needed to. He had the kind of natural hitting ability coaches dream about and rarely find.



Earl James Albritton

Basketball season only added to his legend.

No matter who was on the court, Earl usually looked like the best player in the gym or on the sandlot court. He had the instincts, athleticism, and confidence that set him apart.

When football season came around, he was just as impressive at quarterback. He could throw, run, and his leadership skills were top notch. He always seemed to make the right play at the right time. Long before athletes specialized in one sport, Earl excelled in all three. He didn't just play them well—he dominated them.

Looking back now, one question naturally comes to mind. How did someone with that much talent never make it to the professional ranks? The truth is, life doesn't always reward talent the way we think it should. Sometimes opportunity, timing, circumstance, or simple luck changes the course of a person's future.

That doesn't diminish what Earl James Albritton accomplished. For those of us fortunate enough to watch him play, we didn't need a professional career to recognize greatness. We saw it every weekend on the semi-pro football fields and basketball courts and baseball fields.

Lincoln High School and Grambling College produced many outstanding athletes, but every generation seems to have one player whose name becomes the standard by which everyone else is measured. For my generation, that player was Earl James Albritton.

Time has a way of fading scorebooks and statistics, but it cannot erase memories. Decades later, I can still see the smooth swing, the effortless athleticism, and the quiet confidence of a young man who seemed capable of excelling at anything he tried.

Some athletes earn fame. Others earn something even more enduring—respect. Earl James Albritton earned respect from everyone who had the privilege of watching him play ball. He loved ball and he loved competing.

In my book, he will always be the greatest natural athlete Lincoln High School ever produced. He was someone who inspired a whole generation of athletes in Ruston and Grambling. He was a greatest natural athlete I ever saw. He deserves to be recognized for his influence on the young boys who aspired to be like him one day. And that's my take.

POTTER MOTIVATION

Built Different

By Rusty Potter

An airplane uses the resistance of the wind to move higher. As the wind pushes against its wings, the airplane is designed to use those forces to generate lift and climb higher into the sky. What might appear to be an obstacle becomes part of the process that helps the plane rise.

Life works in the same way. Sometimes, the very thing that challenges us can help us grow stronger, wiser, and better prepared for what lies ahead.

We are all built different. We have different skills and talents, interests, and abilities. What brings you joy may be something someone else has no desire to do.

For example, I enjoy getting up on Saturday morning and going for a Sunrise run. I enjoy the quietness of the morning and knowing I am doing something positive for myself. However, someone else might prefer to sleep late, go fishing, or work in the garden.

And that's fine! We don't have to enjoy the same things to appreciate one another. Our differences are not necessarily weaknesses. They make each of us unique.

The same principle applies to how we handle life's challenges. Some people discover their strength through adversity. Others develop patience through disappointment or wisdom through mistakes. We may face similar circumstances, but we won't always respond in the same way.



Rusty Potter

The important thing is to discover what you have been given and learn how to use it. Stop comparing your abilities with someone else's. You may not have their talents, but you have your own gifts. Instead of wasting time wishing you were somebody else, invest that time in becoming the best version of yourself. Learn to hone your own skills.

An airplane doesn't rise by avoiding the wind. It is designed to use the forces acting upon it to rise. Likewise, we can learn valuable lessons from the resistance we encounter in life. Not every challenge will make us stronger automatically, but how we respond can help determine what we learn and how we move forward.

Philippians 4:13 reminds us, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

Being built different gives you something special to work with. Honing your skills helps you make the most of what you've been given.

You were not created to spend your life copying someone else's journey. Discover your strengths, develop your abilities, and keep moving forward. Don't let the wind convince you to stay on the ground. Learn, grow, and keep rising higher.

Democrats From Page 1

Democratic Senator Jon Ossoff also won reelection in Georgia, defeating Republican Congressman Mike Collins, while Chris Pappas kept New Hampshire's open Senate seat in Democratic hands.

Together, the victories gave Democrats an unexpected opportunity to reclaim a chamber that had appeared firmly within Republican reach just months earlier.

Democrats Reclaim the House

In the House of Representatives, Democrats also delivered major victories, flipping Republican-held districts and defeating incumbents in several closely watched races.

Democratic candidates won key contests in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, North Carolina and Kentucky, overcoming Republican efforts to maintain their narrow majority.

Among the notable victories, Democrat Rebecca Bennett defeated Republican Congressman Tom Kean in New Jersey, while Democratic challengers unseated several Republican incumbents in Pennsylvania. The House results were particularly significant because Republicans entered Election Day with only a narrow majority, leaving them vulnerable to even a modest Democratic shift.

With both chambers moving toward Democratic control, House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York could become the first Black speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives when the new Congress convenes in January, provided he secures the votes needed for the position.

Historic Wins in Governor's Races

Democrats also scored victories in several gubernatorial races, including historic wins that broke longstanding political barriers.

In Georgia, former Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms became the first Black woman elected governor of a U.S. state. In Texas, Democrat Gina Hinojosa defeated Republican incumbent Greg Abbott, becoming the state's first Latina governor. Ohio voters elected Democrat Amy Acton over Republican Vivek Ramaswamy, while Democrat Rob Sand won Iowa's gubernatorial race, giving Democrats their first victory for governor in that state since 2006.

In New Mexico, Democrat Deb Haaland won the governor's race, becoming the first Native American woman elected governor of a U.S. state.

The victories extended the Democratic gains beyond Washington and demonstrated the party's ability to win competitive races in traditionally Republican territory.

Voters Send a Message on the Economy

Political analysts and election surveys suggest that economic frustration played a significant role in Tuesday's results. According to the Associated Press, voters identified the cost of living and concerns about government corruption among their most important issues. Many also expressed dissatisfaction with the country's direction and the Trump administration's handling of the economy.

An Associated Press voter survey found that approximately three-quarters of voters were angry or dissatisfied with the direction of the country, while about eight in 10 said inflation had created at least moderate financial hardship for their households.

The results followed major Democratic victories in the 2025 off-year elections, when the party won governorships in Virginia and New Jersey and made substantial gains in state and local races. That momentum carried into the 2026 midterms, producing victories in states and congressional districts that Republicans had expected to hold.

What Democratic Control Means for Washington

The shift in congressional power could have far-reaching consequences for President Trump's remaining two years in office.

With control of the House, Democrats would gain leadership of congressional committees, giving them the authority to conduct investigations, hold hearings and issue subpoenas involving the Trump administration.

Control of the Senate would also give Democrats greater authority over presidential appointments, including federal judges and Cabinet officials.

However, a Democratic-controlled Congress would not mean the party could automatically enact its legislative agenda. Trump would retain presidential veto power, and most major Senate legislation would still face the chamber's 60-vote threshold to overcome a filibuster.

Nevertheless, the election would fundamentally change the relationship between Congress and the White House.

Although several races remained subject to final vote counts and official certification, the message from Tuesday's elections was unmistakable: voters delivered significant gains to Democrats and altered the balance of political power in the United States.

For Democrats, the election represents a remarkable political comeback. For Republicans, it signals a major challenge as both parties begin looking toward the 2028 presidential election.

Ruston From Page 1

In addition to her years on the Parks and Recreation Board, Brown served 12 years on the Lincoln Parish Police Jury and was a longtime president of the Ruston Voters League. Her community involvement included the NAACP, Habitat for Humanity, the North Central Louisiana Arts Council and other civic organizations. She was also a charter member of the Ivy Pearls Foundation.

As an educator, Brown influenced generations of students. Her contributions extended beyond official positions to mentoring others and encouraging civic participation.

A Daughter Reflects on Her Mother's Legacy

Brown's eldest daughter, Veda Brown Emerson, thanked attendees and reflected on the breadth of her mother's involvement. "We all know Mama's legacy. She was involved in a lot of things everywhere," Emerson said.

Emerson recalled that her mother stepped down from the Parks and Recreation Board when one of her daughters applied for a job, so that her board position would not interfere with the opportunity. Emerson also said Walker offered several possible spaces for the dedication and allowed her to choose the multi-purpose room.

Emerson was joined by her sisters, Dr. Lynda Brown-Wright and Adria Brown, as well as Brown's grandchildren, great-grandchildren and other relatives.

A Legacy That Reached Beyond One Community

Pastor Terrance Flucas of Mays Chapel Christian Methodist Episcopal Church recalled how Brown had repeatedly encouraged him to serve as pastor of Mays Chapel. He said he had not fully appreciated how widely her influence extended beyond the circle in which he knew her. "This speaks volumes to her character, her life, what she meant to everybody that she came in contact with," Flucas said.

A prayer during the ceremony asked that those using the room remember Brown's legacy and continue her spirit of service.

The family donated a canvas portrait of Brown, inscribed "A Legacy of Service," to be displayed in the room. An additional informational plaque is planned to help visitors learn about her life and contributions.

For Brown's family, the dedication celebrated not only a public figure but also the woman her daughters called "Mama," her grandchildren called "Momo," and her great-grandchildren called "Grammy." Her guiding principle was "Not for ourselves, but for others."

Near the end of the ceremony, Walker reflected on the many visitors who will encounter Brown's name. "There'll be a lot of folks that ask who's Annie Martin Brown," he said, expressing hope that people would learn about her legacy.

The Annie Martin Brown Multi-Purpose Room now stands as a lasting public tribute to a woman whose commitment to service continues to resonate across generations.

Bradley From Page 1

In neighboring Ruston, Republican Mayor Ronny Walker easily won reelection, defeating challenger William Faulkner, who ran without party affiliation.

Walker received 3,780 votes, or 76 percent, compared to Faulkner's 1,222 votes, or 24 percent.

The victory gives Walker a fourth term as Ruston's mayor. First elected in 2014, Walker had been unopposed in his previous two re-election campaigns. Voter turnout in Tuesday's mayoral race was 44.7 percent.

Lincoln Parish School Board

Three contested School Board races were decided.

District 2: Sandra Woods won with 302 votes (63 percent), defeating Greta Carter, who received 174 votes (37 percent).

District 11: Evelyn "Lewis" Cooper won with 465 votes (60 percent), defeating Richard Ray Anderson, who received 161 votes, and Marsha Davis, who received 144 votes.

District 12: Richard Bates narrowly defeated Aimee L. Blackham, receiving 297 votes (52 percent) to Blackham's 279 votes (48 percent).

Other Parish and Judicial Races

Police Jury, District 9: Troy Brooks Sr. won with 404 votes (67 percent), defeating Nakisha Evans with 201 votes (33 percent).

Ruston City Judge: Mike Smith led with 5,433 votes (41 percent), followed by Addison "Add" Goff with 4,424 votes (33 percent) and Gina Jones with 3,503 votes (26 percent). With no candidate receiving a majority, Smith and Goff are expected to face each other in a runoff.

Justice of the Peace, Ward 5: Matthew Gaston won with 2,058 votes (73 percent), defeating Terry Frazier, who received 773 votes (27 percent).

Grambling Connection Staff

Lena W. Claybon
Publisher / Editor-in-Chief
Joice M. Dunn
Senior Writer
Contributing Writers
Rusty Potter
Charming Davis
Jeanetta Stephens-Jones
Designed By Get Current Studios

THE GRAMBLING CONNECTION

Subscription Information:
- Print Subscription - $11.99/mo.
- Online Subscription - $6.99/mo
- Bundle - $13.99/mo

For Subscriptions, go to:
www.gramblingconnection.com/subscribe
To contact us by phone: Call 318-224-2676
Or by email: gramblingconnection@gmail.com

Published bi-weekly on Fridays except on Holidays by The Grambling Connection Media Group, LLC, Grambling, LA
SUBMISSIONS
Send a Letter To The Editor
We accept letters by email only. Submit to gramblingconnection@gmail.com
How to submit a press release
To submit press releases, announcements or opinions, please email us at gramblingconnection@gmail.com with details of your submission. The Grambling Connection reserves the right to refuse to print any submission and is not responsible for the content of submissions. Contact publication for submission deadlines.
Copyright © 2024. The Content of this publication cannot be reproduced or republished without the consent of The Grambling Connection.

COMMUNITY

Grambling Fall Festival Enjoyed By All

By Joice M. Dunn













Photos by Tony Valentino

Despite the promise of rain, the Grambling Fall Festival (Festival On The Main) was held Saturday, Oct. 31.

"We thought we might have to cancel after the 8:30 a.m. shower, but it cleared up and everything moved on except the food trucks," explained Mayor Alvin Bradley.

There were approximately 12 cars on display at the Car Show including two husband and wife teams. The teams had two cars each registered in the show. Edrene and John Frazier of Grambling. Both work on the GSU campus, John in Engineering Department and she works in Mass Communication. John was the chief engineer in a team that restored R.W.E. Jones' 1955 Dodge Royale. The other team was Debbie and Greg Bennett of Ruston.

All cars on display received a trophy, but the Wood Duck Truck (EGOR) placed first for the Most Unique or Best of the Show, owned by Ricky Young of Ruston. While other owners gave out candy, he gave pecans for treats.

The Truck-A-Treat giveaway tables and a last effort to seek election support lined both sides of the street.

David Furgeson, a City Council candidate, and his wife Marlyn gave treats, but also reminded voters that he was a voice for all the people.

City Council candidate Mary Gipson made a "Boots on the ground" appearance for action only and to support the Festival.

Nia Collins, owner of Purposeful Treasures of Ruston, brought her goods to sample and sale in support of the carnival.

Tony and Beatrice Lewis live in West Monroe but came to support Grambling because Tony is a 2002 Valedictorian of GSU. The Grambling Chamber had their table set up for support and to give their treats.

The Mt. Zion Mission Ministry of Grambling made an appearance for the year to spread a little cheer. The women said that they believe the set up was better and children seemed to be enjoying themselves.

Eric and Phaedra Blake made giving treaters fun by having them pick the nose to earn a treat. Sanda Woods, Lincoln Parish School Board Candidate for District 2, let the people know she is ready to Listen, Serve, and Lead as she gave her treats.

The Exodus Family Farms came out to support through treats and goat petting. Even though it was Sigma Gamma Rho's first time out, they wanted to support the community.

Zaneta Wagner, Mary Kay consultant, was out to support the community. City Council candidate Garnette Wagnor came to support the community and share some knowledge.

Reps of the National Alliance on Mental Illness came to support and give some treats. Jagger's Lemonade, which opened in June, was selling his lemonade and giving treats. He has lived in Ruston since 2022.

Skip Russell Insurance had representatives at the Festival for support and giving out treats. Richard Bates, Lincoln Parish School Board Candidate for District 12, was present for support and giving treats. Bates is a member of the Juneteenth committee. The Faithful Forever Order of Eastern Star #47 returned to the festival to spread some joy to the children.

Greggory Ludley served as the D.J. for event, giving the crowd something they could dance to. The event was sponsored by the Juneteenth Committee and the City of Grambling.

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, November 9. For more information, please contact Collins at 832 891-7488.

Sorority to sponsor Epilepsy Walk/Poodle Cookout

The Gamma Kappa Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc, will host an Epilepsy Walk/Poodle Cookout Saturday, November 14, at the R.L. Cook Park in Ruston.

The Walk will begin at 9 a.m. with onsite registration available. The Cookout will begin at 12 p.m., following The Epilepsy Walk.

The sorority will be celebrating 104 years of service.

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. Only members will be contacted by the National office to vote, but the public may attend the teleconference meeting from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. For additional information, contact Grace Tatem, secretary, at 318-680-7679.

Grambling NAACP Youth Council to sponsor raffle

The Grambling Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) #6094-B youth Council will sponsor a $200 gas Raffle card.

The raffle drawing will be held on Monday, Nov. 30 at noon. You do not have to be present to win.

Lincoln Parish NAACP Branch announce applications

The Lincoln Parish Branch of the NAACP (6064) are seeking scholarship applicants. The scholarship applications are available now with a submission application deadline on Tuesday, Dec. 1.

An applicant must be a recent (May 2026) graduate 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 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!

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 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.



COMMUNITY

Lincoln Prep Enters into Strategic Partnership with GSU to Expand College and Career Readiness

GRAMBLING, La. — Students at Lincoln Preparatory School will have greater access to college-level courses, career exploration, academic enrichment and other educational opportunities through a new three-year strategic partnership with Grambling State University (GSU).

The partnership, which also includes Grambling High Foundation, Inc., was announced following approval of a Memorandum of Understanding by the University of Louisiana System Board of Supervisors.

The collaboration is designed to strengthen academic achievement at Lincoln Prep while creating a pathway for students to transition from high school to college and careers. Through the agreement, Lincoln Prep students will have access to GSU's educational resources, faculty expertise and campus experiences, including dual enrollment courses, ACT preparation, college-readiness programs and workforce development opportunities.

"Lincoln Prep is focused on building a stronger academic and organizational foundation for our students," said Rashid Young, executive director of Lincoln Preparatory School. "This partnership connects our students and educators to the expertise and opportunities of Grambling State University—from college readiness and dual enrollment to professional development, enrichment, and workforce experiences. It is an investment in what our students can become and in the future of this community."

The partnership will also benefit Lincoln Prep's teachers and administrators through professional development, educator preparation programs and teacher residency opportunities designed to strengthen classroom instruction and student outcomes.

For GSU President Martin Lemelle, Jr., a graduate of the former Grambling Laboratory High School, the collaboration represents a continuation of a longstanding educational relationship between the university and the Grambling community.

"For me, this partnership is personal," Lemelle said. "I am a graduate of Grambling Laboratory High School, and I know what it means for young people in this community to grow up seeing Grambling State University as part of their own educational journey. Lincoln Prep carries forward that educational tradition. Together, we will honor that legacy by giving the next generation earlier access to college experiences, stronger academic support, and more opportunities to see what their futures can hold."



Lincoln Prep School

Lemelle also credited Dr. Kala Burrell-Craft, dean of GSU's College of Education, for her leadership in helping advance the partnership.

Lincoln Prep, an independent public charter school governed by Grambling High Foundation, Inc., continues the educational tradition of the former Grambling Laboratory Schools. The agreement provides a framework for renewed collaboration between the institutions while maintaining their separate governance and financial responsibilities.

"Our board's responsibility is to pair opportunity with accountability," said Kennedy Jones, president and board chair of the Grambling High Foundation Board of Directors. "This agreement establishes a thoughtful framework for collaboration while preserving the independence and responsibilities of each institution. We are excited about a partnership that is student-centered, measurable, and built for long-term community impact."

The initiative is supported in part by a $10,000 HBCU-K12 exploratory grant from UNCF and $350,000 in legislative appropriations identified to support implementation, subject to funding requirements and institutional approvals.

The UNCF grant will support planning, research, stakeholder engagement and other partnership-development activities. The institutions will also establish a shared performance system to monitor student participation and educational outcomes.

Among the initial priorities are improving college readiness and ACT performance, expanding dual enrollment opportunities, providing professional development for educators and introducing students to career and workforce experiences.

A community celebration and official signing ceremony are planned for the week of November 2, 2026. Lincoln Prep students are also expected to participate in GSU's High School Day on November 7, giving them an early opportunity to explore the university campus, academic programs and potential college pathways.

This version leads with the opportunities Lincoln Prep students stand to gain, rather than the university's announcement of the agreement. It also puts Lincoln Prep's leadership and educational priorities at the center of the story while preserving the important facts and direct quotes from the original release.

In Remembrance

Remembering Dr. Joseph Wilbert Capers Sr

Dr. Joseph W. Capers, Sr. lived a life that taught others the value of faith, discipline, education, and service. A beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, educator, Korean War veteran, and friend, he devoted his knowledge and gifts to helping others grow. His influence reached far beyond the classroom or church building, leaving a lasting imprint on his family, generations of students, colleagues, and countless others.

Born on August 30, 1930, in Princeton, Louisiana, he was the son of the late Reverend J. S. Capers and Pearline Capers. He spent his formative years in Shreveport, Louisiana. His father, a Methodist preacher who also served as a presiding elder, helped establish the foundation of faith that would guide his life. Dr. Capers accepted Christ at an early age and was very active in Lewis Temple CME Church, where he was a member for more than 50 years.

Dr. Capers married Mary Brim in 1956, and their union was blessed with four children: Lisa, Joseph Jr., Simone, and Dana. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Southern University, two master's degrees from Oklahoma State University and the University of Southern California, and a Ph.D. in Biological Science from the University of North Texas. He also completed theological training at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia. He was a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and was instrumental in helping to organize the Alpha Phi Alpha chapter at Southern University in Baton Rouge. He was the only sibling in his family to obtain a college degree.

His distinguished career in education began at Jasper Henderson High School in Chatham, Louisiana, before he joined Grambling State University, where he served for 35 years. Upon his retirement in 1994, he was honored with the title of Dean Emeritus. During his tenure at Grambling State University, he served in numerous capacities, including biology professor, laboratory instructor, director, Assistant to the Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Academic Dean. He helped strengthen the university's science resources, including efforts to secure its first electron microscope.


Joseph W. Capers, Sr

For Dr. Capers, teaching meant more than presenting a lesson. It meant recognizing potential and helping students envision possibilities for their futures. He recruited students, helped them obtain scholarships, and advised them through challenges. Former students remember both his kindness and his insistence on accountability. Some credit him with making college possible; others remember the timely encouragement or firm reminder that helped them cross the finish line and graduate and steer them into the major that would prove to change their lives and generations to follow. His impact extended well beyond the classroom, touching lives in ways that many would remember for decades.

His commitment to education continued at Wiley College in Marshall, Texas, where he served as Academic Dean during the presidency of Dr. Lamore Carter. It was also during that time that he met and married Rosie Jones.

Dr. Capers devoted extensive service to the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1979, Bishop Joseph A. Johnson, Jr., ordained him as a lay minister. At Lewis Temple CME Church in Grambling, he served eight years as Director of Christian Education, 15 years as Recording Steward, and 30 years as an Adult Sunday Church School teacher.

A writer as well as a teacher, Dr. Capers published articles on biology and religion, including contributions to the Monroe Dispatch and The Christian Index, the official publication of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. Through his writing, as through his teaching, he shared knowledge, encouraged reflection, and sought to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

His service extended into business and community life. He managed a car dealership and operated a bookstore in Grambling. He supported civic organizations, encouraged entrepreneurship, and served as president of the Birthday Fellowship Club and founded the Tiger Men Fellowship Club. Whether in education, the church, business, or the community, he consistently found ways to share his talents and contribute to the growth and well-being of others.

Among his many accomplishments, Dr. Capers took great pride in his role as a father. His family shares his legacy with the countless people who knew him as a teacher, mentor, church leader, and friend. The stories shared in his memory speak of a man who offered wisdom, opened doors, challenged others to reach their potential, and took a personal interest in the lives of those around him.

Dr. Joseph W. Capers, Sr. leaves a legacy measured not only in degrees earned, positions held, or years of service, but in the lives he strengthened, the doors he opened, and the futures he helped make possible. His lessons will continue through those he taught, his faith through those he encouraged, and his love through the family and community who will forever cherish his memory. His life stands as a testament to the enduring power of faith, education, service, and a genuine commitment to others.

LaTisha Fox makes high marks in military service

By Joice M. Dunn

Lieutenant Colonel Dr. LaTisha N. Fox has served in active duty of the United States Army division for over 25 years, beginning in 2001 as a Human Resources Specialist (42A).

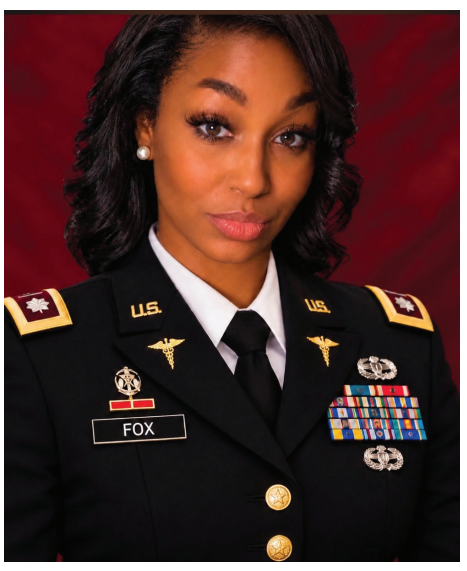
Lt. Col. Fox, a Ruston resident, is the daughter of Gary Chaney and Carolyn Roane. She has five other siblings, Garrious, Clayton, Dominic, Ahkeen and Quinita. She attended Ruston High School and Grambling State University. She is a proud mother of four children (including Jamescia, Mya, Edward III, and Christian).

Since beginning her active-duty service, Lt. Col. Fox is known to her staff or team as Nicole Chaney-Roane, who has dedicated over 20 years to advancing military healthcare and nursing leadership. As Director of Nursing Graduate Education and Education Branch Chief and for the Army Nurse Corps Continuing Nursing Education Program, she leads the American Nursing Credentialing Center's (ANCC) Accredited Approver Program and oversees graduate education across 12 distinct clinical specialties and two (2) Military Occupational Specialties.

Dr. Fox holds two (2) Bachelors, Masters, a doctoral degree with specialized certifications in Simulation, Wound Care, Ostomy Management, Psych-Mental Health. Her career is distinguished by a proven track record of executive leadership in nursing operations, inpatient care, and enterprise-wide health education standardization across the Military Health System and Department of Defense.

"I joined the US Army driven by a deep commitment to excellence, leadership, and serving those who defend the nation," explained Fox.

A daily schedule for her looks like a mixture of executive health governance, strategic educational administration, and budgeting with clinical oversight—managing graduate Long-Term Health Education programs across 12 Areas of Concentration, overseeing ANCC nursing continuing professional development, and collaborating with military leadership to standardize training and care delivery across treatment facilities.



Lt. Col. LaTisha Fox

Fox's special area is Certified Specialist in Simulation, Wound Care, Ostomy Management, Psych-Mental Health, alongside extensive leadership in military health education, nursing operations, clinic management, and inpatient services.

Although Fox enjoys what she does, there are some likes and dislikes about the Military.

"The profound camaraderie. Including the opportunity to mentor others including civilian counterparts, junior officers and future nursing leaders, and the constant pursuit of operational excellence and innovation in healthcare are my likes. My dislikes are frequent relocations away from family and navigating complex bureaucratic hurdles inherent in the military and large-scale healthcare systems," Fox admitted.

The advice Fox shares with others are to stay adaptable, commit to lifelong learning, and never underestimate the impact of strong relationships and mentorship—take care of your people, and the mission will take care of itself.

BFCU is coming to Ruston!
Join Us and Experience the Credit Union Difference!



Barksdale Federal Credit Union™
Your Financial Partner for Life™
bfcu.org
800-647-2328
Federally insured by NCUA. Membership eligibility required.

CHURCH NEWS

Celebrating 25 Years under Reverend Sumler's Pastoral Leadership

By Joice M. Dunn

The New Rocky Valley Baptist Church Family will celebrate the 25th Pastoral Anniversary of Reverend Dr. Julius R. Sumler on Saturday, November 14, at the Tiger House Plaza, 957 RWE Jones Street, Suite 4, Grambling.

Members of the church acknowledges the 25 years, Reverend Sumler has faithfully served through preaching, teaching, spiritual leadership, community service, and a steadfast commitment to God and His people. There have been innovative programs and activities that have originated as a result of the planning and execution of ideas proposed by Dr. Sumler. His belief in collaboration has resulted in several ecumenical initiatives in the community. The impact of his work has been local, regional and statewide.

Reverend Dr. Sumler is a devoted pastor, preacher, teacher, educator, and community servant whose ministry has been characterized by faithful leadership, biblical teaching, and a sincere commitment to serving God and His people.

His Christian foundation began at Macedonia Baptist Church, where he was baptized in June 1959. Answering God's call to the preaching ministry, he was licensed at Macedonia Baptist Church in Monroe, Louisiana, in May 1979 and ordained in May 1980.

Dr. Sumler's pastoral journey spans more than four decades. He served as Pastor and Teacher of St. Paul Baptist Church in Ward 9, West Monroe, Louisiana, from 1981 to 1983; St. Mark Baptist Church in Keithville, Louisiana, from 1983 to 1988; Zion Hill Baptist Church in Ruston, from 1988 to 1999 and St. John Missionary Baptist Church in East Palo Alto, California, from 1999 to 2002.

In May 2002, God led Dr. Sumler to New Rocky Valley Missionary Baptist Church in Grambling, where he has faithfully served as Pastor and Teacher. Throughout his tenure, his ministry has reflected his commitment to church administration, community outreach, family and marriage counseling, strategic ministry planning, organizational leadership, student ministry, Bible study, and Christian education.

Dr. Sumler has always valued education as an important companion to ministry. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Organization Management from Wiley College in Marshall, Texas; a Master of Arts in Religion from Baptist Missionary Association Seminary in Jacksonville, Texas; and, in May 2025, a Doctor of Theology from New Testament School of Theology in Jonesboro, Louisiana. His additional educational associations include American Baptist College in Nashville, Shreveport Bible School, Grambling State University, and Gary Job Corps.



Rev. Julius Sumler

His passion for teaching has also extended into higher education. Dr. Sumler served as an Adjunct Professor at Wiley University, teaching Religion and Ethics from 2018 to 2021. Since July 2025, he has served as an Adjunct Professor and Theology Instructor at New Testament School of Theology in Jonesboro, Louisiana.

Beyond the pulpit and classroom, Dr. Sumler has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to denominational leadership, civic engagement, and community service. His service has included Former Moderator of the Liberty Hill Baptist Association; Bible Teacher for the Inter-Denominational Alliance of Ministers, Inc.; Vice President of the Northeast Region of the Louisiana Missionary Baptist State Convention; NAACP Life Member; former Board Member of the Grambling State University Foundation; Trustee with the North Louisiana Civil Rights Coalition; Fire District Commissioner for Ward 1; former member of the City of Ruston Planning and Zoning Commission; Vice President of the Lincoln Parish Coalition; and member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.

His ministry has also reached the airwaves through "Sumler's Meditation" on KGRM 91.5, Grambling's Tiger Station, providing another avenue through which he has shared words of faith, encouragement, and biblical truth.

"Today, we pause with grateful hearts to thank God for the life, leadership, and enduring ministry of Reverend Dr. Julius R. Sumler. May the Lord continue to strengthen him, enlarge his territory, and bless the work of his hands as he continues to preach the Gospel, teach God's Word, develop leaders, and serve His people," expressed members.

Dr. Sumler has been married to Jacqueline Payne Sumler for 37 years. They have two daughters and three grandchildren.

Church Announcements

Nelda Williams Baisy celebration of life service to be held Saturday

A Celebration of life services will be held for Nelda Williams Baisy Saturday, Nov. 7, at 10 a.m. at New Rocky Valley Baptist Church, 2156 Martin Luther King, Junior Avenue in Grambling.

There will be a viewing at 8 a.m., followed by an Omega Omega service at 9:15. Baisy was born April 22, 1945and passed away Thursday, Oct 29.

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

Pilgrim Rest Church to hold Soup Kitchen/Clothing Give-Away

The Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church will hold a Soup Kitchen/ Clothing Give-Away on Saturday, Nov. 21, from 10 a.m. until 2p.m. The church is located on 622 W. Line Ave., Ruston.

For the spirit of Thanksgiving all are invited to shop and grab a bowl of soup or chili. The merchandise is gently used items such as clothes, jackets, coats, books and toys. There will be drop-off to the sick, shut-in and elderly.

For more information, please contact Fredda Winzer at 318-224-1043.

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 Downsville

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

Stop Giving Everyone Access to Your Entergy

By Charming Davis

Your phone has a password.

Your bank account has a password.

Your home has a lock.

So why does everybody have unlimited access to YOU?

Access to your time, emotions, attention and energy should not automatically be available simply because someone wants it.

Proverbs 25:28 (NLT) says, "A person without self-control is like a city with broken-down walls."

Walls served a purpose. They protected what was valuable.

Healthy boundaries do the same.

This doesn't mean building emotional walls so high that nobody can love you. Healthy boundaries have gates. You decide what enters, what leaves and what requires permission.

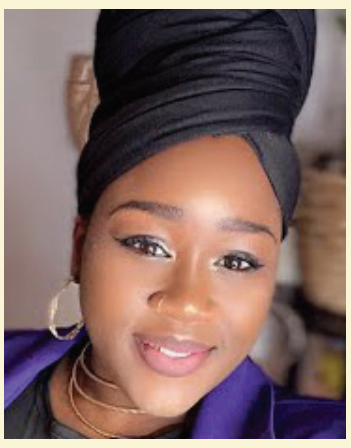
Energy healing encourages awareness of energetic exchange. Every conversation creates some type of internal response. Some interactions leave us feeling energized and supported. Others leave us depleted, irritated or emotionally scattered.

The goal isn't to become afraid of other people's "energy."

The goal is awareness.

Pay attention to what you continuously absorb.

If someone calls every day only to unload negativity, you can care about them without becoming their emotional dumping ground.



Charming Davis

If someone constantly demands immediate access to you, you can respond when you actually have the capacity.

Even Jesus didn't give everybody the same level of access. He ministered to crowds, traveled with disciples and maintained an even smaller inner circle.

Different relationships received different levels of intimacy.

That's wisdom.

In 2026, access is easier than ever. Phones allow people to walk into our emotional space without physically entering the room.

Sometimes protecting your energy is as simple as putting your phone on Do Not Disturb.

Pray.

Breathe.

Clear your space.

Take a spiritual bath.

Sit quietly.

Listen to healing sounds.

Journal.

Reconnect with your own thoughts before absorbing everybody else's.

You don't have to become unavailable.

Become intentional.

Peace grows differently when everybody doesn't have a key.

Naturally Charming Universe Holistic Wellness Center offers energy healing, spiritual counseling, clarity sessions and distant healing sessions for those seeking deeper balance, intentional boundaries and spiritual alignment. Holistic wellness products are also available to shop online.

https://linktr.ee/naturallycharminguniverse

Don't wait for a lump: Routine screening, knowing your body and family conversations save lives

By Dr. Maesha Twyner

Every October, pink ribbons go up on storefronts, jerseys and coffee cups across America. By the end of this week, most of them will come down. But breast cancer does not take the rest of the year off, and neither should we.

Dr. Maesha Twyner urges women and men to prioritize breast cancer awareness year-round through routine screenings, recognizing physical changes and discussing family cancer histories. She emphasizes that early detection and equitable access to care are critical to reducing breast cancer deaths, particularly among Black women.

Dr. Maesha Twyner urges women and men to prioritize breast cancer awareness year-round through routine screenings, recognizing physical changes and discussing family cancer histories. She emphasizes that early detection and equitable access to care are critical to reducing breast cancer deaths, particularly among Black women. Unsplash/National Cancer Institute

As a board-certified OB-GYN, I spend much of my day talking with patients about their health. One common misconception I hear is a lump being the only warning sign of breast cancer. A lump matters, absolutely. It is not the whole story, however, and waiting for one to appear is no plan.

The best way to lower your risk of dying from breast cancer is detecting it long before you ever feel a symptom. Routine screening makes this possible. The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommends women at average risk get a mammogram every other year starting at age 40 and continuing through age 74. Many women choose annual screening, and most insurers must cover annual mammograms beginning at 40. Your doctor can help choose a schedule fitting your personal health history.

Screening also happens in the exam room. Many women think of their annual visit strictly as "the Pap smear," but a well-woman exam includes a comprehensive clinical breast exam. Examining a patient involves looking at skin texture and symmetry, checking for nipple changes, and feeling lymph nodes under the arms. Crucially, each visit offers an opportunity to show patients what normal feels like for them.



You can also take action at home without medical expertise by simply knowing your baseline. Every so often, stand in front of a mirror and look closely. Notice if one breast appears larger or different in shape than before. Pay attention to skin dimpling, thickening, altered texture, unexplained itching, redness or tenderness along the sides of your breasts and under your arms.

Notice a change? You do not have to diagnose it. Finding answers is my job. Come in for an evaluation, even with a normal mammogram result from a month or two ago. A negative screening result should never cause us to ignore a new physical change, regardless of age, size or shape.

This rule applies to men, too. Male breast cancer is rare, often linked to an inherited genetic variation, but men have breast tissue and can develop the disease. Any man noticing a lump, skin change or nipple discharge should alert his primary care doctor immediately.

Urgency around this work remains personal for many families I serve. The American Cancer Society estimates about 42,140 women in the United States will die of breast cancer this year. Burden varies significantly across communities. Black women face the highest breast cancer mortality rate of any racial or ethnic group, roughly 40 percent more likely to die from the disease than white women despite a slightly lower overall incidence. Prioritizing early detection and equitable care remains one of our most powerful tools to close this gap.

Dr. Maesha Twyner, MPH, is a board-certified OB-GYN dedicated to patient-centered women's healthcare at The Healthy Woman OB-GYN in Conyers.

Dr. Maesha Twyner, MPH, is a board-certified OB-GYN dedicated to patient-centered women's healthcare at The Healthy Woman OB-GYN in Conyers. Courtesy photo

Finally, consider a conversation many families avoid: sharing a cancer diagnosis. Keeping medical news private is an understandable instinct, yet your diagnosis offers vital health information for sisters, daughters, sons, parents and cousins.

Hereditary cancer testing becomes more accessible every day, making knowledge of your family tree vital. A relative carrying an inherited gene variant or receiving a breast cancer diagnosis may qualify family members for earlier screenings, specialized diagnostics or genetic counseling. Documented family history helps ensure insurance coverage for higher-level tests. Speaking openly gives loved ones a fair chance to catch cancer early or prevent it altogether.

As Breast Cancer Awareness Month ends, please make three simple commitments: schedule your well-woman exam and stay current on mammograms, pay attention to your body to notice subtle changes early and talk openly with your family about cancer history across generations.

The ribbons will come down this week. Habits saving lives must stay.

Dr. Maesha Twyner, MPH, is a board-certified OB-GYN dedicated to patient-centered women's healthcare at The Healthy Woman OB-GYN in Conyers.

Xavier University – First HBCU in 50 Years to Open a College of Medicine

Recruitment will begin in the coming weeks for the inaugural class of medical students at Xavier Ochsner College of Medicine as the new Historically Black College and University (HBCU) medical school is set to open in August. The College of Medicine officially received its preliminary accreditation from the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) on October 14. The new accreditation makes the New Orleans-based Xavier Ochsner College of Medicine the first HBCU medical school to open in five decades — and the only one located in the Gulf South region.

"This is a historic moment for Xavier University of Louisiana, for New Orleans and for the future of medicine in this nation," said Reynold Verret, Ph.D., president of Xavier University of Louisiana, in a press release. "For a century, Xavier has demonstrated what is possible when academic excellence is joined with a profound commitment to human dignity and service. The Xavier Ochsner College of Medicine is a bold extension of that legacy. We are not simply opening the doors of a new medical school; we are expanding who will have the opportunity to become a physician, strengthening the communities those physicians will serve and helping to shape the future of healthcare for generations to come."



Xavier University of Louisiana, a top HCBU for sending Black students to medical school, and Ochsner Health, named the Best Hospital in Louisiana and the No. 1 hospital in the New Orleans metro area for the 15th year in a row, created this partnership in 2024. The College of Medicine, located in downtown New Orleans, will be an allopathic medical school.

The collaboration comes at a time when, across the U.S. — particularly in New Orleans and Gulf South areas — there is a staggering predicted shortage of physicians. According to the National Health Resources and Services Administration and the Cicero Institute, the U.S. is projected to face shortages of 120,000 physicians by 2030, and over 140,000 physicians by 2038. Of Louisiana's 64 parishes, 60 are named health professional shortage areas, or HPSAs.

This shortage hits hardest for Black communities, as, despite making up 14 percent of the U.S. population, only 6 percent of doctors in the U.S. are Black. Meanwhile, HBCU medical schools, of which there are only four others in the country, train nearly 70 percent of the country's Black physicians. The last HBCU medical school to open was the Morehouse School of Medicine in 1975.

Access to Black physicians has been shown to improve both mortality and life expectancy among Black patients, according to a 2023 report from JAMA Network Open. A critical strategy for increasing racial health equity and improving the delivery of clinical care among minorities is to increase "the number of physicians who are racial and ethnic minority individuals," the report stated.

In 2024, Valerie Montgomery Rice, MD, FACOG, president and CEO of Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia, told CBS News that increasing the number of Black doctors is important.

"Having a healthcare professional is important in the community, but also having a Black healthcare professional raises all the boats," Dr. Rice said. "First of all, it's going to allow us to educate and train more Black and Brown physicians, and it's going to allow those students to have more choice in where they want to practice and to be less burdened with debt."

Leonardo Seoane, M.D., FACP, is the president and founding dean of the Xavier Ochsner College of Medicine. In the press release, Dr. Seoane emphasized the importance of a college of medicine that prepares future physicians to "be prepared to pursue excellence with purpose, embrace innovation, and respond to the evolving needs of patients and our communities."

"This milestone builds on Xavier University of Louisiana's incredible legacy of preparing leaders who serve and a history of academic and clinical excellence at Ochsner Health," Seoane said. "By bringing together the strengths of two mission-driven institutions, we are creating opportunities for future physicians to make a lasting difference across Louisiana and beyond."



ARTS & CULTURE



GSU's VAPA Department Presents, "TARTUFFE: BORN AGAIN"

The Grambling State University Visual and Performing Arts Theatre Department is proud to present a new play production, "TARTUFFE: BORN AGAIN ", directed by Dr. Neal Hebert.

Set in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Tartuffe: Born Again is a hilarious satire of religious hypocrisy, greed, and deception. When a disgraced televangelist named Tartuffe charms his way into the home of the wealthy and gullible Orgon, he quickly gains control over the family's finances, property, and future. While Orgon remains convinced of Tartuffe's holiness, the rest of his family sees through the preacher's schemes and desperately tries to expose him as a fraud. As Tartuffe attempts to seduce Orgon's wife, marry his daughter, and steal his fortune, the family must find a way to unmask the con man before he destroys everything they hold dear. Filled with outrageous comedy and sharp social commentary, Tartuffe: Born Again reminds us that those who preach the loudest about virtue may have the most to hide.

The play will run November 11-13 at 7pm with Matinees on Nov. 11-12 at 10am at the Floyd L. Sandle Theater on GSU's campus.

Please be advised that beginning with this production, the Department of Visual and Performing Arts will be completely CASHLESS. All ticket purchases must be made using electronic payment methods. A ticket purchase link for tickets is: secure.qgiv.com

ASC
ALBRITTON SERVICE CO.
ELECTRICAL • HEATING • COOLING
GENERATORS • PLUMBING
3303 McDonald Ave
Ruston, LA
albrittonservice.com
318-251-0885
Electrical
Air Conditioning
Heating
Generac generators
Plumbing

Popular Gospel Artist Pastor Mike Jr. Set to Bring Powerful Worship Experience to Monroe on Nov. 14

MONROE, LA — Preacher, entrepreneur, and eleven-time Stellar Award-winning gospel artist Pastor Mike Jr. is bringing his signature brand of high-energy praise and urban contemporary gospel to the W.L. Jack Howard Theatre in Monroe on Saturday, November 14, 2026.

Affectionately dubbed "The Prince of Gospel," Pastor Mike Jr. (born Mike McClure Jr.) has taken the music industry and the ministry world by storm. As the visionary leader of Rock City Church in Birmingham, Alabama—one of the fastest-growing ministries in the South—he has earned a reputation for breaking traditional boundaries to reach people from all walks of life. His massive hits like "BIG," "I Got It," and "Impossible" have earned him consecutive "Artist of the Year" honors at the Stellar Gospel Music Awards, cementing his status as a leading voice in modern worship.

The upcoming Monroe performance promises to deliver the core message that defines Pastor Mike's global ministry: an uncompromising stance on faith, resilience, and personal victory. Known for his infectious enthusiasm and transparent preaching style, his message focuses on empowering individuals to overcome life's obstacles through real, practical faith. Rather than a traditional concert, attendees can expect an interactive, soul-stirring worship experience designed to inspire hope and community unity.

The event kicks off at 3:00 PM, with doors opening at 2:00 PM at the Monroe Civic Center's W.L. Jack Howard Theatre. Tickets range from $30 to $60 and are available online through Ticketmaster or at the arena box office. Local organizers encourage early booking, as seating is limited for this highly anticipated afternoon of inspiration.



THE GRAMBLING CONNECTION
The Grambling Connection Is
On Sale Now
in Stores
Where To Find Us
Rogers Mini Mart (Next to J&J Express) (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)
(We will continue to add locations monthly)
Or Subscribe
www.gramblingconnection.com/subscribe



SPORTS

FOUR FORMER G-MEN BASKETBALL PLAYERS GO PRO OVERSEAS

Former Tigers Rod Coffee, Derrius Ward, Jamil Muttilib and Devyn Franklin represent Grambling State on the international professional basketball stage



GRAMBLING, La. – Four former Grambling State University men's basketball student athletes are continuing their basketball careers professionally, representing the Tigers across Europe and Latin America.

Roderick Coffee, III, Derrius Ward, Jamil Muttilib and Devyn Franklin have each earned opportunities to compete internationally, showcasing their talents while representing Grambling State University on the professional basketball stage.

From Portugal and Montenegro to Germany and Mexico, the former Tigers are embracing new experiences, competing at the highest levels of their respective leagues and continuing to build their professional careers.

RODERICK COFFEE, III

Vitória Sport Clube | Guimarães, Portugal

Portuguese Basketball League | Top Division

Coffee is competing with Vitória Sport Clube in Guimarães, Portugal, where he continues his professional basketball journey in the country's top division.

"It's been a great experience to see the world with my family and to continue being blessed with the opportunity to play basketball. Coach Pat and the coaching staff at Grambling prepared me well for this next chapter. We utilize many of the same offensive and defensive concepts, which has helped make the transition to professional basketball a great experience."

DERRIUS WARD

Basketball Club Kotor | Kotor, Montenegro

Erste Liga | Top Division

Ward is continuing his professional career with Basketball Club Kotor in Montenegro, competing in the country's top division.

"Sometimes you have to leave everything familiar behind to chase the dream you've been working for. Montenegro isn't just an opportunity to play basketball—it's an opportunity to grow, represent where I come from and prove that hard work can take you anywhere."

"Grambling helped prepare me for this journey in so many ways. It taught me discipline, resilience, accountability, and what it means to compete at a high level. The lessons, experiences, coaches, teammates and challenges I faced at Grambling helped prepare me for this next chapter."

JAMIL MUTTILIB

SC Rist Wedel | Wedel, Germany

German Professional Basketball League | Pro B

Muttilib is continuing his professional basketball career with SC Rist Wedel in Germany, competing in the Pro B division.

"Playing professionally in Germany is an exciting opportunity to continue growing as a player and as a person. My time at Grambling helped me develop the discipline, work ethic and confidence needed to compete at this level. I'm grateful for the coaches and teammates who pushed me throughout my career and helped prepare me for opportunities like this."

DEVYN FRANKLIN

Brujos de Izalco | Izalco, El Salvador

Liga Mayor de Baloncesto (LMB) | Division I

Franklin is continuing his professional basketball career with Brujos de Izalco in El Salvador, competing in the country's top basketball league.

"Being able to continue playing basketball professionally is a blessing, and I'm excited for the opportunity to compete internationally. Grambling played a major role in my development, teaching me how to stay focused, work through adversity, and compete with confidence. I'm proud to represent Grambling State wherever basketball takes me and look forward to continuing to grow in this journey."

REPRESENTING THE G

The professional success of Coffee, Ward, Muttilib and Franklin reflects the continued development of Grambling State men's basketball student athletes and the opportunities available to them beyond their collegiate careers.

As they compete internationally, the former Tigers continue to represent Grambling State University, their teammates, coaches and the GramFam community.

THE GRAMBLING CONNECTION

JOBS DIRECTORY

NOVEMBER 2026

GRAMBLING | RUSTON | SIMSBORO | DUBACH | CHOUDRANT | ARCADIA

To apply for positions, please refer to employer's website.
For in-person opportunities, visit business location.

Updated Nov. 1, 2026 | Listings may close or fill before publication.

GRAMBLING / RUSTON

01 Teacher - Elementary
Lincoln Preparatory School
Deadline not listed

02 Planning Technician
City of Ruston
Open until filled

03 Information Technology Technician 1
City of Ruston
Open until filled

04 Lineman A
City of Ruston
$33.44/hr | Open until filled

05 Collections Specialist
Northern Louisiana Medical Ctr.
Deadline not listed

06 Phlebotomist
Northern Louisiana Medical Ctr.
Deadline not listed

07 Medical Assistant - Certified
Northern Louisiana Medical Ctr.
Deadline not listed

08 Customer Service Representative
Circle K
Deadline not listed

09 Barista - I-20 & Cooktown
Starbucks
$15.25-$17.31/hr | No deadline listed

10 Car Wash Attendant
RocketFast! Car Wash
$12-$14/hr | No deadline listed

11 Administrative Support Worker Lead
Aramark / LA Tech
Deadline not listed

RUSTON

12 RN - Labor & Delivery
Northern Louisiana Medical Ctr.
Deadline not listed

13 CNA - Inpatient Rehab
Northern Louisiana Medical Ctr.
Deadline not listed

14 Housekeeping (Part-Time)
Northern Louisiana Medical Ctr.
Deadline not listed

15 340B Program Assistant
Northern Louisiana Medical Ctr.
Deadline not listed

16 Pharmacy Tech - Lead / Buyer
Northern Louisiana Medical Ctr.
Deadline not listed

17 Director of Case Management
Northern Louisiana Medical Ctr.
Deadline not listed

18 Unit Manager (LPN/RN)
Ruston Nursing & Rehab
Deadline not listed

19 Laundry Aide
Ruston Nursing & Rehab
Deadline not listed

20 Certified Nursing Assistant
Ruston Nursing & Rehab
Deadline not listed

21 Floor Technician
Ruston Nursing & Rehab
Deadline not listed

22 Transportation Driver
Ruston Nursing & Rehab
Deadline not listed

23 HVAC/Refrigeration Technician
Walmart
$29-$58/hr | No deadline listed

RUSTON (CONTINUED)

24 HVAC/R Developmental Technician
Walmart
$26-$51/hr | No deadline listed

25 Assistant General Manager
Buc-ee's
$125,000/yr | No deadline listed

26 Assistant Deli / Food Manager
Buc-ee's
$37/hr | No deadline listed

27 Deli / Food Service Team Lead
Buc-ee's
$28/hr | No deadline listed

28 Cafeteria Technician
Ruston Elementary / LPS
Deadline not listed

29 Elementary Teacher (Grades 1-5)
Ruston Elementary / LPS
Deadline not listed

30 High-Dosage Tutor
Hillcrest Elementary / LPS
Deadline not listed

SIMSBORO

31 Production Associate - OSB Mill
Weyerhaeuser
From $19.54/hr | No deadline listed

32 Planner / Scheduler
Weyerhaeuser
$62,884-$94,256/yr | No deadline listed

33 Special Education Paraprofessional
Simsboro Elementary / LPS
Deadline not listed

DUBACH

34 School Secretary / Bookkeeper
Dubach Elementary / LPS
Deadline not listed

35 Instructional Aide
Dubach Elementary / LPS
Deadline not listed

CHOUDRANT

36 School Custodian (Hourly)
Choudrant Elementary / LPS
Deadline not listed

37 Special Ed Paraprofessional
Choudrant Elementary / LPS
Deadline not listed

ARCADIA

38 Lineworker Helper
Entergy
Deadline not listed

39 Field Coordinator - Distribution
Entergy
Deadline not listed

40 Engineering / Tooling Manager
Staffmark
$110K-$120K/yr | No deadline listed

41 Cost Accountant
Staffmark
$50K-$70K/yr | No deadline listed

42 Tooling Engineer
Staffmark
$75K-$100K/yr | No deadline listed

43 Medical Records Coder
Bienville Medical Center
Deadline not listed

FIND THE FULL POSTING AND APPLY THROUGH THE EMPLOYER.

The Grambling Connection | www.gramblingconnection.com

43 OPPORTUNITIES