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COMMUNITY

The Real Views



CHURCH

The Premiere Multicultural Newspaper of Louisiana

February 24, 2023

Volume 21: Issue 1

The Significance of Black History Month in the United States

Author: Latorria Freeman, Publisher

Black History Month has become an important cornerstone of cultural celebration for black people not just in the United States but also in countries such as the United Kingdom, Ireland, and beyond. Over the years, more and more people from all races have begun to pay their respect to the struggles and triumphs of black people in the Western world. What makes Black History Month truly significant is that it not only brings the world's attention to the atrocities committed against black people in the form of slavery in the 17th Century and onwards, but it also pays homage to the black excellence present all across the world.

History has witnessed Afri-

can Americans who have risen above extreme adversity and proven that they can accomplish greatness. While the history books often forget many of these icons and unsung heroes of the Black community, Black History Month shines a bright light on the effort, hard work, and bravery of these strong people who have brought the African American community to where it is today. From Harriet Tubman and Rosa Parks to Frederick Douglas and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, the list of remarkable black people who have made a global impact is endless.

While the African American community has continuously

fought for its rights and has come a long way in the United States, the drive still continues as a lot of work still needs to be done to eliminate racism from its roots and promote equality on all levels. African American history contains often forgotten stories of marginalized slaves and their successors who went on to become doctors, lawyers, activists, scientists, and much more. For African American youth, Black History Month should remind them to appreciate their cultural heritage and work hard to accomplish greatness, just like their ancestors did.

As Nelson Mandela perfectly



said, "I have walked that long road to freedom. I have tried not to falter; I have made missteps along the way. But I

have discovered the secret that after climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb."



BLACK HISTORY MONTH: Honoring African American Community Leaders

What Celebrating Black History Month Means to Me

Author: Betty Sawyer-Smith, Councilwoman at Large

Black history month is an opportunity to celebrate and honor those who paved the way and made grave sacrifices, putting their life on the line for other African Americans and me so that we can enjoy the freedoms that we have today. For so long, we were made to feel ashamed of our past. Still, I feel we, as blacks, should always embrace our past because it shows we are strong, resilient people who have endured many adversities. Still, we should continue to stand on the shoulders of our forefathers, rise up and move forward in a positive way, pushing for more equity, diversity, and equality. Black history month allows us to tell our story as it was lived and to educate our black youth about the hardships and struggles that our ancestors endured, giving them a better insight and understanding of the opportunities they freely enjoy today. Black history month is a time to celebrate past pioneers and honor black men and women throughout our communities who have made great strides and impacted change for a

better today. I also enjoy learning about the many accomplishments of African Americans. Celebrating Black history month is a chance for all races to understand the struggles of African Americans and their contribution to building this country. It's a historical legacy we can leave our children, grandchildren, and those coming after us. It allows me to learn more about the struggles and resilience of our forefathers.

We have gone from celebrating one week of black history to one month, but I feel it should be celebrated 365. There should not be a day that goes by that the contributions and accomplishments made by blacks to the building of this country go unrecognized.

On July 11, 2020, history was made in Natchitoches. After 300-plus years, the first African American and first woman was elected to hold the seat of the councilman at large/mayor pro tem. To quote Martin Luther King Jr.: "I am proud to be a part of history and will continue the struggle to bring about positive change.



cilman at large/mayor pro tem. To quote Martin Luther King Jr.: "I am proud to be a part of history and will continue the struggle to bring about positive change.

The Real Views
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 Natchitoches, La 71458
 1-866-434-4321
 www.trvnatchitoches.com

Publisher:
 Latorria Freeman

Founder, J.R. "Randy" Stelly
 First Publication 1996



BLACK HISTORY MONTH PARADE

25 FEB @ 2pm

"Expressions of a Culture"
 Featuring:
GRAND MARSHAL Alex Washington, Jr., Esq.

Line up is 1:00pm at 1300 Texas Street (Corner of Texas Street and Dixie Street parking lot of the Caspians Store)
 Parade will begin at 1300 Texas Street and continue to M.L.K., Jr. Drive, right onto Amulet Street, right onto North Street. The route will end at the Ben D. Johnson Auditorium parking lot.
 **Breathalyzer tests will be administered to ALL drivers prior to beginning the parade route.

For more information or registration for the parade, please call (318) 332-8668 or (318) 471-8105. You may email registrations to bsmith108@hotmail.com. Registration deadline is Friday, February 17, 2023 at 5pm.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

BLACK HISTORY MONTH: Honoring African American Community Leaders



Mayor Ronnie Williams Jr. was inaugurated as Natchitoches's first African American mayor in 2020. He is Rockford Baptist Church's senior pastor and is a graduate of Northwestern State University.



James W. Scarborough successfully won a lawsuit against Natchitoches Parish Public Schools to integrate those schools in the 1970s. See words from Mr. Scarborough on page 16.



Mike Lewis has been the only black licensed gunsmith in Natchitoches since 1991.



Clementine Hunter is a noted African American painter born in 1887 in Natchitoches, La.



Dollie Charles Mahoney is the first African American Tax Assessor of Natchitoches Parish.



City of Natchitoches Chief of Police, Nikeo Collins



1st Black Sheriff Victor Jones



Crawford Ficklin Jr. was the first African American Chief of Police for Northwestern State University



Andrew Vallien was the first black Assistant District Attorney

EARL HARDISON JR.

- 1st Black fireman 4/14/1970
- 1st Black Assistant Fire Chief
- Retired 5/1/1996
- Married to Alice Davis Hardison
- 5 children
- Chairman of Northstar Baptist Church Deacon Board

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BLACK HISTORY

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The Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Office is a leader in our area by maintaining a well trained and diverse workforce that is reflective of our communities.

This message brought to you by Sheriff R. Stuart Wright and the Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Office

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

God's Grace and the Undeniable Contributions of African Americans

Author: Reverend Richard Davis

As we celebrate Black History Month, let us take a moment to reflect on God's grace and mercy. God has been with us since the beginning of time, and it is because of His grace and mercy that we have been able to preserve our culture and our people through years of hardship and oppression. Black history is not just American history; it is the history of the world. And without Black history, America would not be the same.

Can You Imagine Life Without Your Cell Phone?

I do everything on my phone! I sleep with it; I cook with it. I watch TV on it and read and listen to books on it. As a matter of fact, I'm sure you feel the same. Cellular phones are so common that it's hard to think of a time when they didn't exist. Thanks to Henry

Thomas Sampson, who invented the first working cell phone in 1971, "can you hear me now?" Just think about it. Without his invention, how would we be able to keep in touch with our friends and family?

What About Traffic Lights?

How would people know when to stop, go, and when to yield? We'd be stuck in a never-ending sea of cars, all honking their horns and trying to get through the intersection. It's a good thing Garrett Morgan invented the traffic light in 1923!

No Elevators? Yep, You'd Have To Take The Stairs

Although elevators make life so convenient, there was a time they were nonexistent. Elevators have become essential, and we have Alexander Miles

to thank for that. He was granted a patent for the elevator in 1887, allowing us to move between floors in high rises quickly. Thank you, my brother.

Wait, What, No Ice Cream Cones or Potato Chips?

You have to be kidding me. What do you mean I can't have my bag of Lays at 2:30 am? Yes, potato chips and ice cream – two of the world's most beloved snacks – owe their existence to African Americans. George Crum invented the potato chip in 1853, and Ernest Hamwi invented the ice cream cone in 1904.

These are just a few of the many pivotal contributions to American history and culture. From inventors and musicians (jazz, rhythm, and blues) to athletes and activists, arts and sciences, theater and entertainment, not to mention fighting in critical wars, labor, and construction, African Americans have played a significant role in the development of the United States.



A TIME TO HEAL: AS A COMMUNITY AND AS A COUNTRY, LET'S PUT AN END TO HATE

As we celebrate the many accomplishments of African Americans and the strides made in civil rights and self-determination, it is crucial that we also embrace the values of forgiveness, love, and self-respect. With God, all things are possible, and it is time to heal. We must end police brutality, black-on-black crime, and violence. We must take a stand for those who cannot speak up for themselves and those who are not represented.

We can make God and our ancestors proud by working together and uniting. As Moses led the Israelites out of bondage and oppression, we, too, can let go of any emotional baggage hindering our progress. We must look to the future and continue to work together to create a better tomorrow. It is time to heal and come together, showing love and acceptance for one another.

"Each of us can make a difference, and together, we can create a world that is more accepting, more loving, and more equitable for all. Let us make God and our ancestors proud by standing together and working towards a better future." - L. Richard Davis

LEARNING FROM THE PAST BUT NOT GETTING STUCK IN THE PAST

The human mind is an incredible thing. It can easily remember experiences, facts, and figures from the past. But this same propensity to remember can also be a hindrance. How often have we found ourselves stuck in patterns of behavior, clinging to our past instead of embracing the freedom God has promised us?

Moses had a powerful message to the Israelites in Deuteronomy: "**Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?**" (Deuteronomy 5:15). Moses reminded the Israelites that they had a choice: to remain in the bondage of their past or to embrace the freedom of God's love. And how do we move past our past? By realizing our past doesn't define us.

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BLACK AFRICAN HISTORY

"The cost of liberty is less than the price of repression."

-W.E.B. Du Bois

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Don't let tax time intimidate you. We can help you with your return and provide helpful tips for the next year. Call today for an appointment.

The Impact of Black History

Authors: Howard E Conday Jr., Attorney, and Alexa Bernard-Conday, Principal

"The impact of Black History and the African Diaspora stretches along timelines past, present, and future. It exists and will continue to exist. Twenty-eight days is only an iota of time, not nearly enough to fill us with the stories and histories of the people that have come before us. While Black History is celebrated all year round, Black History Month is especially dedicated to those of the African and Black Diaspora who have paved a path for their living descendants. Today, their descendants continue paving their paths and building new ones for those who will come after. It is important to remember the work that we do is continuous and is for the many, not the individual.

Further, we attempt to embody the essence of Black History by giving our time and resources in hopes of making a positive impact in our community. We believe that the true celebration of black history is realized through acts of service that help facilitate the dreams and aspirations of those who came before us and will inspire those who come after us."



Friday,
February 24,
2023

THE REAL VIEWS

A Community with a Voice Shall be Heard®

Public Notice

**REAL VIEWS
REAL NEWS**

Words from the Publisher, Latorria Freeman

The Real Views is a free newspaper that went out of commission in 2016. The newspaper is now back in circulation with a mission to create immense benefits for the community.

The Real Views Newspaper was a renowned syndication in the Natchitoches Parish and the multi-cultural communities. With a mission to uplift the community and offer exciting opportunities, the newspaper is now back in circulation with a new look and feel. Now revamped under the direction of a new publisher, the newspaper's motto is: "A community with a voice shall be heard." From news and community discussions to job tips and money-making guides, The Real Views Natchitoches Newspaper aims to raise the bar

high in 2023 and become a powerful platform for community members to engage, share information and reap benefits.

The spokesperson added, "Aiming to highlight the positive developments in the community, the newspaper will also work to bridge the gap between the public and our community leaders. While leaders will be encouraged to write articles to address the public, the average citizens will also be allowed to sound off about their expectations for local leaders."

Being completely free, The Real



Views Natchitoches Newspaper, with its riveting journalism and educational content, will bring the community together in 2023 to create a truly positive change. With a mission to highlight the hard work of community police officers, firefighters/fire service workers, business owners, church members, and community leaders, the newspaper will also be working to empower the community by inspiring entrepreneurs and offering vital life skills/advice to the community youth and native residents.

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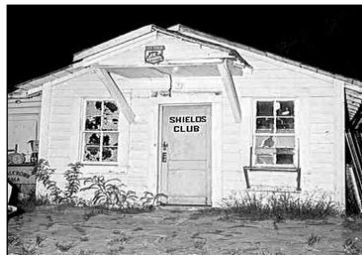
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Having Trouble with Math?

By Herbert de Launay

Do you or your child have trouble with math? Perhaps you have trouble with basic arithmetic, addition, subtraction, and multiplication. Some people have trouble telling time on a traditional round clockface, they prefer a digital clock.

In some cases, there is a special name for this. It is a learning disorder known as dyscalculia. The prefix "dys" means "not" and "calculia" refers to calculating. Someone with dyscalculia has trouble with basic calculating. It is similar to the word dyslexia which means trouble reading.

Dyscalculia or trouble with numbers can affect children as well as adults. Unfortunately, many who suffer from dyscalculia have never been diagnosed or given sufficient help to work with this problem.

Fifty years ago, I taught several sections of freshman math at McNeese State University in Lake Charles, Louisiana. Out of each class of forty, I noticed a couple of students I thought did not know their times tables. Looking back, I now realize that they probably had dyscalculia. Unfortunately, at that time, I did not know enough to recognize the problem and how to help those students.

I am giving you this word, "dyscalculia," meaning trouble with math and numbers, so you can look it up and learn more about it. We suspect that dyscalculia is present when a person's ability with numbers does not correspond to their level of education, intelligence, and speaking ability. Similarly, we suspect dyslexia when a person's reading ability is noticeably lower than their speaking ability and understanding. Dyscalculia or dyslexia does not mean a lack of intelligence.

Interestingly, in some cases, one common example is difficulty telling time on an old-fashioned round clock face. Someone with dyscalculia might prefer a digital readout of time.

Dyscalculia, like dyslexia, has been around for a long time. One source said three to seven percent of people have this problem. However, while I saw the symptoms in my students fifty years ago, I did not recognize the problem. I only learned about this five years ago. Many people, including some teachers, may not know the symptoms or how to work with these students.

It can run in families. Research has suggested a genetic component in some cases. This can mean that a parent can be helped at the same time they are helping their child.

You can look up "dyscalculia" on your

phone or computer. A Google search on "dyscalculia" can give you definitions, signs of dyscalculia, videos, websites, and publications.

If you look up "dyscalculia" on Amazon, you will find numerous books available, some for parents and teachers and some for students of various grade levels. You might look for some names: Ronit Bird, Jane Emerson, Patricia Babbie, Brian Butterworth, and Steve Chinn.

Teachers and educators might want to go to eric.ed.gov. ERIC is a government website for the Institute of Education Sciences. You can type in "dyscalculia" and find a listing of numerous articles and books, some of which can be downloaded or read online.

If you are interested in research articles, perhaps as a graduate student, go to scholar.google.com and search for articles on "dyscalculia". Some articles can be downloaded or read online. Others will be references to books or journals.

A person who has dyscalculia is not being lazy or stubborn. They need basic instruction designed for their particular needs and learning styles. A person with dyslexia may need extra work with phonics and phonological awareness. Similarly, a person with dyscalculia may need extra work to develop a sense of numbers.

Some games may be useful to help children recognize numbers and patterns. Play games with them using dominoes, dice, or cards. Use physical objects like counters or blocks. Perhaps an abacus or other devices can be useful to help students visualize math processes. A ruler or tape measure can help them to visualize the number line and how addition and subtraction can work.

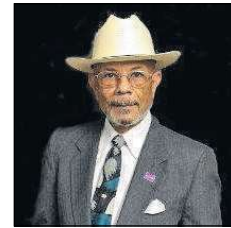
There are various websites such as understood.org that can give information on dyscalculia and other learning problems. There are also groups on Facebook.

For some students, math is like a foreign language. It helps to try to explain things using concrete objects and using different words. For example, instead of just saying, "5-3=2", take some blocks or coins and put them in front of the child. Line up five of them. Then pull two aside and ask, "How many are left?" To explain fractions, you might cut up a pie. The denominator or bottom number is the number of equal pieces you cut the pie into. The numerator or top number is the number of pieces I get to eat.

Another useful resource is YouTube videos. Go to YouTube videos and search for "dyscalculia."

The Resurrection of the Real Views Newspaper

Author: J.R. "Randy Stelly"



As most of you know, I founded and published "The Real Views" newspaper for 20 years, between 1996 and 2016. Since then, I have been a caretaker for a relative in California and my late wife, who died from a stroke a year ago. She was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease three years before she died. Since the death of my wife, I have been doing consulting and volunteer work at the Ben Johnson Educational Center.

A businesswoman, Mrs. Latorria Freeman, recently approached me

with a proposition to restart The Real Views! She made me a serious business offer, and I accepted it. Mrs. Freeman asked if I would contribute and help her with the marketing of the newspaper, and I agreed.

I am going to cut my response short. Since the

passing of my beloved wife, I have had much free time on my hand. However, I am excited to get back in the game and help resurrect The Real Views with a new publisher. I am looking forward to working for Mrs. Freeman and helping her take the Real Views to another level, including having a presence online and on social media.

I leave the audience with this quote from an article I wrote and published on February 21, 2003 "Today's events are tomorrow's history. How are you contributing?"



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Black History

Tristen Jefferson, Junior Council President

Black history is a time where we not only celebrate the great work of those who came before us but also recognize what other black people in our present time have and are achieving. Black Americans have historically been excluded from societal associations and faced wavering instability in their households, forcing them to work together for their individual and collective well-being. In past research, more than half of Black American students enrolled in school opted to pursue social or educational careers. Findings suggest that Black Americans' occupational development is influenced by their family and community ties. In this conceptual paper, the foundation of the development of identity in African American culture is presented as it relates to occupational decision-

making. First, we discuss the influences of general identity development on occupational decision-making. Second, we argue that Black cultural identity is multidimensional, with strong community and family factors that play a special role in the occupational choice. Third, we suggest future research paradigms to link racial identity, culture, and occupational choice among Black American students. By exploring the fundamental beliefs of Black cultural identity and how they buffer against each other, Black American students will be better able to make occupational decisions. "One small positive thought in the morning can change your day." A leader is best when people barely know he exists. When his work is done and his aim fulfilled, they will say: we did it ourselves.



Village of Natchez Mayor's Notes

To residents of Natchez,

The community cleaning process will begin in March 2023.

The office drop box will be closed from Monday, Feb. 20 to Monday, March 6. All payments are to be mailed. Please make all checks and money orders payable to:

Village of Natchez
P.O. Box 229
Natchez, La 71456

If anyone would like a receipt of their payment, kindly include a note requesting a receipt be mailed. You may also stop by Town Hall on commodity day, Wednesday, Feb. 22, and Thursday, Feb. 23, between 9 am – 1 pm to pick up your receipt.

There will be a gigantic giveaway Friday, March 3, in front of the town hall. There will be a limited number of recliners for seniors. The giveaway will be canceled if raining.

Sincerely,
Mayor Patsy Hoover

Three Ingredients Biscuits

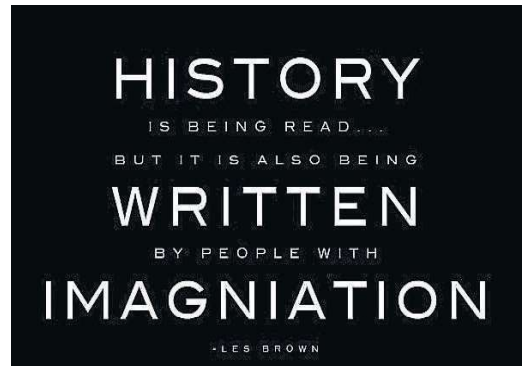
Recipe by: Betty Queen



Biscuit Ingredients

The one thing I love about making homemade biscuits is that this recipe only requires two ingredients! Serving size 10-12

- 2 cups of self-rising flour
- 2 cups of heavy cream
- Butter
- Pre-heat oven to 350F
- Combine 2 cups of self-rising flour and 2 cups of heavy cream in a bowl.
- Use your hands (do not use a rolling pin) to knead the dough. If the batter is too sticky, add a small amount of flour.
- Once the dough is cohesive, fold it in half and use your hands to flatten the layers together gently. Rotate the dough 90 degrees and fold it in half again, repeating this step 5-6 times. Be careful not to overwork the dough.
- Make close cuts, press your biscuit cutter straight into the dough, and then add each biscuit to a buttered pan.
- Bake at 350F for 10-15 minutes or until golden brown.



Accomplishments and Highlights of the League

History of the Natchitoches Parish Voters & Civic League, Inc.

Article Provided by James Scarborough

During the days of desperation for Blacks in this country, a young medical doctor of Black parentage, Dr. E.A Johnson, who had experienced days more bitter than the present generation lived and practiced medicating in the Natchitoches Parish Community. His initial thrust was to provide the most modern and effective medical services to Blacks in the area, a race of people who had been for the large part, deprived of such care taken for granted by many of their White counterparts. His widespread contact with individuals of African heritage brought him to the realization that having good physical health and being held back from the rights and privileges of first-class citizenships was a deplorable state of affairs, one about which he would give his life trying to change.

One of the tangible outgrowths of this state of awareness was his spearheading the organization of the Young Men's Business club and the establishment of the area's first chapter of the NAACP, movements designed to get Blacks registered and voting in civic elections.

Dr. Johnson's brave affirmative action lit a flame that projected sparks into the air. These splinters of light did not just fall onto obscure places but a number of them settled upon the heart and the mind of Mr. ben D. Johnson who nourished the ideals for which Dr. Johnson lived and died. Johnson was in a like manner courageous and steadfast in giving his all to continue the voter registration drive among Blacks in this area. After he had carried this noble torch for a number of years he advanced the idea of incorporat-













ing the movement that would (1) promote and encourage full and complete participation in the political processes of the parish, state and nation in which the corporation do business (2) that would protect and defend through education and public concern, those principles enunciated in the Constitution of the United States (3) that would participate in political elections and campaigns and (4) would enter into contracts, to give commitments and to do any and all things necessary in connection with business and/or purposes for which the organization would be formed.

With all of these thoughts in mind, Mr. ben D. Johnson called together a group of citizens in December of 1966 to meet with Attorney Jesse Stone to have the just mentioned ideas brought closer to reality by way of his composing the Articles of Incorporation of a movement which came to be known as the Natchitoches Parish Voters & Civic League, Inc.























Officers were elected and Board Members were appointed representing the various organizations of the entire parish. The first slate of officers was as follows: Ben D. Johnson, President, Mrs. Alberta B. Harrison, Recording and Finance Secretary, Mrs. Odile C. Ward, Corresponding Secretary and Mr. Frederick M. Richardson, Treasurer.

Various committees were named, and committee chairpersons were appointed.

Activities and accomplishments which have been sponsored by the League since 1966 follows in the pages of this souvenir booklet under the heading of "HIGHLIGHTS".

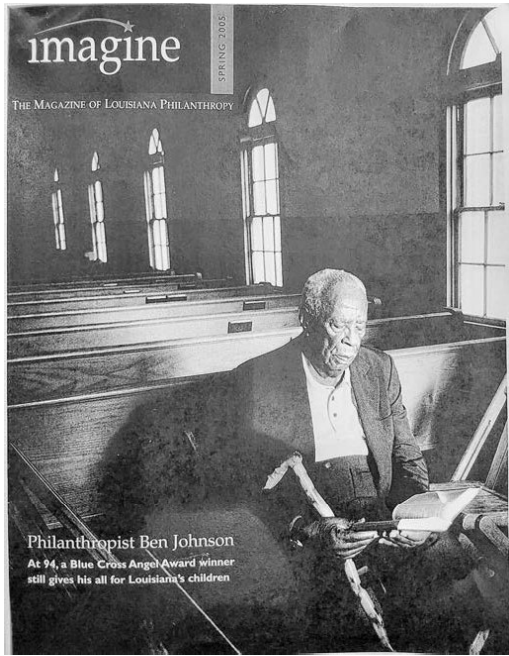
<p>The Honorable Sheriff Sam James' Administration 1st Black Sheriff's Deputy</p>  <p>Terrill Delphin, Jr.</p>  <p>Bobby Breda</p> <p>Victor Jones, Jr. John Below, Sr. Lonnie Shields Walter Dewitt Braxton, Jr.</p> <p>Jackson Jones (Deceased) Lloyd Benjamin Marvin Blake (Resigned)</p>	<p>Black City Policemen Under Acting Chief Burl Lee Leonard Jones (Resigned) Lillie Rachal, Receptionist Clerk</p> <hr/> <p>Black City Policemen Under Chief James Reichel's Administration</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Leon Dean</td> <td>Julius Armstrong</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Walter Meziere</td> <td>David Matthews (School Crossing Guard)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Walter Delphin</td> <td>Siggie Silvie, Jr.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thelma Lean Morris,</td> <td>Lillie Rachal,</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Radio Operator</td> <td>Receptionist Clerk</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ronald C. Spencer</td> <td>Brenda Wesmoreland,</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kathy Berryman</td> <td>Radio Operator</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Melvin Holmes</td> <td>Alice Madison,</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Susan Oliphant</td> <td>Radio Operator</td> </tr> </table>	Leon Dean	Julius Armstrong	Walter Meziere	David Matthews (School Crossing Guard)	Walter Delphin	Siggie Silvie, Jr.	Thelma Lean Morris,	Lillie Rachal,	Radio Operator	Receptionist Clerk	Ronald C. Spencer	Brenda Wesmoreland,	Kathy Berryman	Radio Operator	Melvin Holmes	Alice Madison,	Susan Oliphant	Radio Operator						
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<p>Chief Harry Hyams' Administration</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Thelma Jean Morris</td> <td>Susie Oliphant Johnson</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ambrose Lacaze Jr.</td> <td>Radio Operator</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Glendora Conant</td> <td>Julius Armstrong</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ronald C. Spencer</td> <td>Bobble Lee Jackson</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kathy Berryman</td> <td>(Resigned)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Melvin Holmes</td> <td>David Matthews</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lee Edgar Jones (Resigned)</td> <td>(School Crossing Guard)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Harry J. Hymes (Resigned)</td> <td>Fred Perot (School Crossing Guard)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Eddie Lee Ross (Resigned)</td> <td>(Resigned)</td> </tr> </table>	Thelma Jean Morris	Susie Oliphant Johnson	Ambrose Lacaze Jr.	Radio Operator	Glendora Conant	Julius Armstrong	Ronald C. Spencer	Bobble Lee Jackson	Kathy Berryman	(Resigned)	Melvin Holmes	David Matthews	Lee Edgar Jones (Resigned)	(School Crossing Guard)	Harry J. Hymes (Resigned)	Fred Perot (School Crossing Guard)	Eddie Lee Ross (Resigned)	(Resigned)	<p>1st Black Justice of the Peace — Joseph Delphin</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>1st Assistant Voter Registrar</td> <td>1st Black Stenographer in D.A.'s Office</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mrs. Isabella LaCour</td> <td>Mrs. Alice Hardison</td> </tr> </table>	1st Assistant Voter Registrar	1st Black Stenographer in D.A.'s Office			Mrs. Isabella LaCour	Mrs. Alice Hardison
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Accomplishments and Highlights of the League

<p>1st Black Clerk in Assessor's Office</p>  <p>Shirley Delphin</p>	<p>1st Black Secretary in Clerk of Court's Office</p> <p>Mrs. Gloria Peace (Resigned) Mrs. Debra Seymore (Resigned) Mrs. Evelyn Moses Miss Debra Dennis</p>	<p>1st Black Bookkeeper in Exchange Bank</p>  <p>Mrs. Priscilla Rachal</p>	<p>1st Black Secretary in Office of Judge</p>  <p>Mrs. Betty Sawyer</p>	<p>Mrs. Hazel H. Batiste</p>  <p>1st Black Poll Commissioner 1st Black Woman on School Board 1st Black Instructor at NSU</p>	<p>1st Black School Board Member</p>  <p>Lewis E. "Sonny" Jones</p> <p>Mrs. Hazel H. Batiste Edward Ward, Jr. Mrs. Crittie C. Johnson Cloyd Benjamin</p>
<p>Roster of Black Employees in Police Jury Office</p> <p>Mrs. Sadie Metoyer Miss Monique Cobb (Resigned) Miss Janice Ceasar</p>	<p>1st Black Assistant District Attorney</p>  <p>Andrew Vallien</p>	<p>Roster of Black Assistant District Attorneys</p> <p>Andrew Vallien Michael Bonnette</p>	<p>1st Black Elected Democratic Committee Person</p>  <p>Mrs. Evelyn G. Jones</p>	<p>Roster of Black Elected Democratic Committee Persons</p> <p>Mrs. Evelyn G. Jones Rev. H. B. Barnum Clifford Blake</p>	<p>1st Black City Councilmen</p>  <p>John E. Winston</p>  <p>John Below, Sr.</p>
<p>1st Black Secretary in Planning Commission Office</p> <p>Mrs. Wanda J. Benjamin</p>	<p>1st Black Assistant Superintendent of Schools</p>  <p>Melvin Johnson</p>	<p>Roster of Black Employees in Planning Com. Office</p> <p>Mrs. Wanda J. Benjamin Miss Corean Jones</p>	<p>1st Black Welfare Office Employees</p> <p>Ms. Emma J. Lewis Mrs. Joyce J. Washington Mrs. Carolyn S. Essex (Resigned) Mrs. Marjorie Blackston John Metoyer (Resigned) Mrs. Frankie Williams Mrs. Elnora Robertson Mrs. Kate Lee (Resigned) Mrs. Mayanna B. Westmoreland (Resigned) Ms. Bertha Cooper Ms. Cassandra Evans</p>	<p>1st Black Police Jurors</p>  <p>J. W. Scarborough</p>  <p>Earl Roque</p>  <p>Lemis Paige</p>	<p>1st Black State Trooper from Natchitoches Parish</p>  <p>Henderson Sprawls</p>  <p>Sammie Kitchen</p>
<p>1st Black employed by State Highway Department.</p>	<p>1st Black Honored as "Man of the Year" by Natchitoches Parish Chamber of Commerce</p>  <p>Ben D. Johnson, Sr.</p>	<p>1st Black Teller in City Bank</p>  <p>Preston Conant, Jr.</p>	<p>1st Black Mayor of Natchez</p>  <p>Lloyd Benjamin</p>	<p>Black Employees of Natchitoches Parish Health Unit</p> <p>Mrs. Judy Rachal (Resigned) Mrs. Rhonda Braden Mrs. Lucille Metoyer Ms. Debra Sowell</p> <p>Mrs. Victorine Coutee Mrs. Helen Sawyer Mrs. Mary Roque</p>	<p>1st Black Mayor of Campiti</p>  <p>Clemon Nora</p>
<p>1st Black employed by Employment Security Office</p> <p>Mrs. Juanita Gordon</p>	<p>1st Black Director of Federal Program in Public Schools in Natchitoches Parish</p>  <p>Mrs. Alberta Harrison</p>	<p>1st Black Teller in Exchange Bank</p>  <p>E. Micheal Roque</p>	<p>Present Mayor of Natchez</p> <p>Lloyd Benjamin</p>	<p>1st Black Mayor of Powhattan</p>  <p>Henderson Sprawls</p>	<p>1st Black City Marshall of Natchez—Willie Hamilton 1st Black City Marshall of Clarence Mack Henry Jackson</p>



The Ben D. Johnson Educational Center



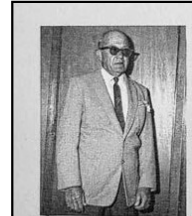
Mr. Ben D. Johnson

Successor of Dr. E. A. Johnson in the founding and leading of registration and voting in Natchitoches Parish. A highly successful businessman known throughout the nation, Mr. Johnson yet provides the League with the benefit of his wise council. He is founder and President of the Natchitoches Parish Voters & Civic League which was incorporated late in 1966.



JAMES GRAYSON, Mortician

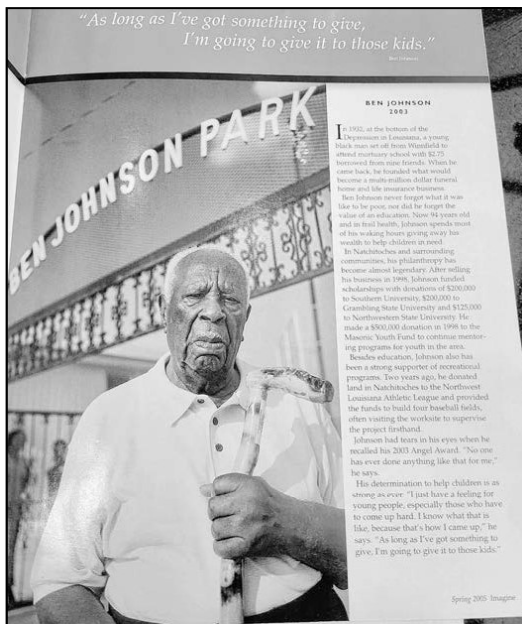
J. W. SCARBOROUGH



JOE DODD, Custodian



ALTON BURTON



A Dream Realized . . .

A little extra determination, a little extra work, a little extra concern for people, a little extra faith, and a little extra love - those put together in a single living combination have been the 36-year history of the ever-growing Winfield Funeral System and the Winfield Life Insurance Company.

This combination has proved successful as evident from the fact that, truly beginning with nothing, the Founder has almost, single-handedly put together a large, multi-faceted organization which is one of the most constructive to be found anywhere. An organization whose total assets in 1969 are approaching the \$12,000,000.00 mark.

An organization giving employment to approximately 200 persons, its growth such number by a single, privately-owned minority group enterprise in the State of Louisiana.

An organization which pays out \$300,000.00 annually in agent's commissions alone.

An organization with an annual premium income of approximately \$800,000.00.

An organization providing nearly \$1,000,000.00 in mortgage support to various homeowners, business and religious and fraternal groups.

But if the mere ad to the story Winfield Life would consider it just another perhaps revealing and interesting but rather cold-blooded business success story, I would like to say it has always considered itself a part of, one with, and becoming, so real sense to the people it serves.

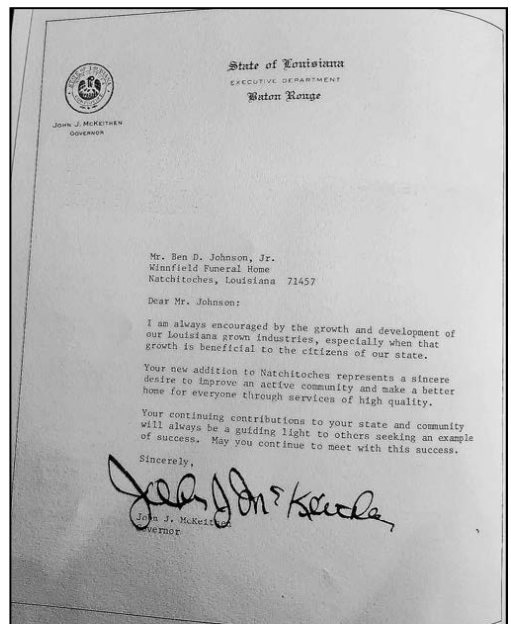
Hence, it has not left unattended in its area of operation any worthwhile youth activity, civic cause, humanitarian movement, and its direct concern and involvement with many individual lives. The President-Founder is well known for his constant ready seventy-five percent of his time to outside affairs, and an unwritten but outspoken rate among all of the firm's executive officers and the staff is the people first.

Founded in Winfield, La. in April, 1933 and then known as the Winfield Okonowil Rural Association, Winfield Life began simply as a common to organizers, primarily to meet a crucial need resulting from the lack of adequate service in its field, from fraternal organizations. No thought of expansion was in mind at that time.

BEN D. JOHNSON, SR.

MRS. GLADYS JOHNSON

BEN D. JOHNSON, JR.



National Signing Day for Local Natchitoches Central High School Students

TREDARIUS BROWN

Tredarius Brown shared with The Real Views that his biggest inspiration is God, his family, Mr. Young, Mr. Anding, Mrs. Kaylee Kaufman, and his tutors. Tredarius worked extremely hard and faced some adversity during his journey of making his dream come true. Texas Tech Red Raiders never gave up on him. Texas Tech gave him a chance before any other teams. He is now committed to them and is looking forward to his bright future.

He wants the readers to know that when others tell you no, don't give up. Tredarius has learned that by having faith, working hard, and having the right support system, you can accomplish anything! Your path may be different but keep fighting.



National Signing Day for Local Natchitoches Central High School Students

BRIAN YOUNG JR.

Brian Young Jr. shared with The Real Views that his biggest inspiration has been Jalen Hurts. Watching him go through all the adversity he has been through, & the way he handled it was very relatable & inspirational.

Brian's motivation comes from his little brothers & sister. Because he's the oldest sibling, he knows they look up to him. That keeps him motivated to keep going & not give up. He wants to continue to

set a great example.

The reason Brian chose Northwestern State University (NSU) is so he can continue to play in his hometown, & in front of his community that loves him. Also, NSU's coaching staff welcomes him with open arms & is allowing him to further his football career while also pursuing his college degree.

Inspiring words he wants to share with the readers are to never give up on your journey. No matter what you encour-

ter along the way or how many hardships you may face, remember that GOD is always with you. Also, I would like to encourage my readers to spread love & positivity to everyone. You never know what someone may be going through & how just a few kind words or actions can brighten someone's day.

With that being said, I would like to say I LOVE YOU ALL! I hope you all continue to support me as I enter this next chapter in my life.



Scenes from The Black History Honoring event



Scenes from The Black History Honoring event



Educational Information for All

Author: James W. Scarborough

In my opinion, Republicans are against ALL that is good for the American people. Republicans are driving on the wrong side of the road. This is about America in reverse. We have made a GREAT DEAL of Progress, but WE have a LONG way to go, and WE are facing a lot of DARK DAYS COMING. First, we must unite and join together. We must stand together. We must fight together at the same time; we must continue to educate each other. We must know our history from the slave days from the past to the present and for the FUTURE. We must support our LEADERS and elected officials and STAND TALL. We must speak up to be heard and not speak down on each other. We, blacks, and people of color must build or start- A LEGAL DEFENSE FUND- to help fight our battles and our rights- should we need it or help to fight for what is right for Blacks and people of color.



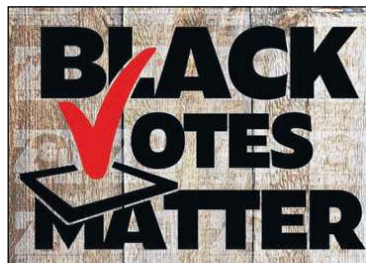
YOUNG people and parents- The states of Florida, Alabama, and Arkansas are passing laws to take Black History out of the public schools. As far as I know, Louisiana doesn't have any laws stating such... BUT I THINK IT IS COMING!

Republicans are in charge in Baton Rouge, Louisiana- The House of Representatives and the Senate are controlled by Republicans. We are facing difficult times right now.

We know the sun will not shine on us every day, so I say in my conclusion,

WE MUST ACT NOW!

- BECOME A REGISTERED VOTER
- REGISTER AS A DEMOCRAT
- GET EDUCATED BEFORE YOU VOTE ON ALL THE ISSUES
- VOTE IN ALL ELECTIONS
- ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO DO LIKEWISE- GET EDUCATED AND VOTE
- REMEMBER YOUR VOTE COUNTS
- VOTING TOGETHER IS POWER (NOT WITH YOUR FIST)
- REMEMBER: STAND UP- STAND TALL- FOR JUSTICE FOR ALL!



Sweetie's BarBQ Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



Natchitoches City Council Meetings

Natchitoches City Council will have a pre-council meeting beginning at 5:00 pm and ending at 5:30 pm to discuss non-agenda items. The City Council meeting will begin promptly at 5:30 pm on the second and fourth Monday of each month and will be reserved to only items on the agenda. The public is invited to both the pre-council meetings and council meetings with the understanding that items not on the agenda will not be discussed at the scheduled council meetings, but the public is welcome to discuss any topic at the pre-council meetings. The City Council Meetings are held at the Natchitoches City Council Chambers located at 716 Second Street, Natchitoches, Louisiana.



Pictured Left to Right: Councilman Eddie Harrington, Councilman Dale Nielsen, Councilwoman-at-Large Betty Sawyer-Smith, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., Councilman Christopher Petite, and Councilwoman Rosemary Elie

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NATCHITOCHEES CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

**FEBRUARY 13, 2023
ORDINANCES: FINAL
#005 Smith**

Ordinance, Upon the recommendations of the Finance department that the City of Natchitoches enter into a lease of a 29.7-acre tract in The Industrial Park **for Hay Operations with M&M Farms of Cane River, L.L.C** and authorizing the Mayor Ronnie Williams Jr., to execute said lease on behalf of the City of Natchitoches and to provide for advertising.

#007 Petite

Ordinance, Upon the recommendations of the Finance department that the City of Natchitoches enter into a lease of a

25-acre tract in The Industrial Park **for Hay Operations with James R. Stacy** and authorizing the Mayor Ronnie Williams Jr., to execute said lease on behalf of the City of Natchitoches and to provide for advertising.

#008 Elie

Ordinance, Upon the recommendations of the Finance department and The Airport Commission that the City Council of The City of Natchitoches authorize a lease of that area **Under Fence** at The **Natchitoches Regional Airport for Hay Operations with James Russell Stacy**, and authorizing The Mayor, Ronnie Williams Jr., to execute said lease

on behalf of the City of Natchitoches and to provide for advertising.

#009 HARRINGTON

Ordinance authorizing The Mayor of The City of Natchitoches, Ronnie Williams Jr., to execute an **Agricultural Lease** from The City of Natchitoches in favor of **John Danley and Sally Danley** of that property located between The South Louisiana Highway 1 By-Pass and Waterwell Road being Tracts "B" and "D" as shown on a survey by Glen I. Cannon, dated October 2005 and recorded at Map Slide 569B of the records of Natchitoches, Parish, Louisiana and further consenting to a sublease from **Pilgrim's Pride** to Russell

Stacy of Tract "B" as shown on a survey by Glen L. Cannon, dated October 2005 and recorded at Map Slide 569-B of the records of Natchitoches parish, Louisiana and further providing for advertising of the lease, a public hearing and an effective date.

#010 Smith

Ordinance to designate funds from **The American Rescue Plan** to assist with the **Water Treatment Project** in the City of Natchitoches that are essential to Public Health and Welfare and to otherwise provide with respect thereto.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The next scheduled City Council meeting will be **February 27, 2023.**

UPCOMING EVENT AT BEN D. JOHNSON EDUCATIONAL CENTER

We have an Expungement Initiative Event coming up on March 7th from 10am-3pm. This is an intake of information event, meaning attorneys from SULC will meet with individuals trying to get their record expunged, discuss the expungement process, and accept their documentation. After the event, the attorneys will determine if the individual is eligible for expungement in the state of Louisiana given the information they gathered. They will respond by letter to the individual telling them if they are eligible for expungement. If eligible, the individual will be taken on as SULC clients where their expungement papers will be prepared, filed, and paid for by SULC.

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF INNOVATION AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND EDUCATION

JOIN US FOR OUR EXPUNGEMENT INITIATIVE EVENT

TUESDAY, MARCH 7TH
10 A.M. – 3 P.M.

BEN JOHNSON EDUCATIONAL CENTER
400 MARTIN LUTHER KING DR., SUITE A
NATCHITOCHEES, LA 71457

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE EMAIL EXPUNGEMENT@SULC.EDU

THE FOLLOWING IS NEEDED:

- DRIVER'S LICENSE
- CERTIFIED COPY OF MINUTES
- CERTIFIED COPY OF BILL OF INFORMATION
- BACKGROUND CHECK FROM LOUISIANA STATE POLICE HEADQUARTERS

ELIGIBILITY WILL BE DETERMINED AT A LATER DATE.

HOW TO GUIDE: DOCUMENTS FOR EXPUNGEMENT

- DRIVER'S LICENSE/STATE ID**
Residential address must be in Natchitoches, Winn, or Sabine Parishes. (If photo ID has different address bring proof of residency.)
- CERTIFIED COPY OF MINUTES (\$15 FEE)**
Obtain from Clerk of Court in Parish of your arrest/conviction
- CERTIFIED COPY OF BILL OF INFORMATION (\$7 FEE)**
Obtain from Clerk of Court in Parish of your arrest/conviction
- BACKGROUND CHECK (\$26 + \$10 FEE)**
1. Obtain from LA State Police Headquarters at 7979 Independence Blvd. in Baton Rouge (takes 1 day)
OR
2. Submit Right to Review Form, found at the BDJ Center or printable, to local Sheriff's Department (takes 6-8 weeks to process)

Expungement Event Information Sessions
Feb. 14th, Feb. 21st, Feb. 28th (12pm-1pm)
For any questions before the event

400 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Suite A
Natchitoches, LA 71457
(337) 460-7460
info@bdjcenter.org



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