Natchitoches Parish
911
Emergency Information

City/ Town | Fire     | Sheriff/ Police
---|----------|------------------
All emergencies | 911      | 911
Ashland  | 352-6432 | 352-6432
Campti   | 476-2200 | 476-2141
Creston  | 476-2200 | 476-2141

General Emergency Numbers
Ambulance  | 214-4364
Child Protection | 357-3128
DOVES      | 352-9394
Poison Control | 800-222-1222
Humane Society | 352-8018
Hope for Paws | 356-9934

Quick Facts about Natchitoches/ Parish
- The chief industries are education, food processing, wood and paper products, government, agriculture and tourism.
- Principal manufactured products are scroll compressor, gas, lumber, plywood, paper, cement products, laminated wood products and linerboard.
- The city is served by one railroad, Texas and Pacific; Kansas City Southern runs within 7 miles of the city.
- The Natchitoches Parish Port is a major freight stop for the state.
- Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts is the only one of its kind in the United States.
- Natchitoches Parish population is 19,419. Parish population is 39,777.

City Department Heads
City of Natchitoches department heads are, on front row from left, Director of Finance Pat Jones, Director of Planning and Zoning Juanita Fowler, Mayor Wayne McCullen and Director of Programming and Promotions Courtney Hornsby. On back row are Director of Public Works Mike Braxton, Fire Chief Dennie Boyt, Director of Utilities Bryan Wimerly, Police Chief Micky Dove, Director of Purchasing and Human Resources Edd Lee and Director of Community Development Randy LaCaze.

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About the Cover - The aerial photo was taken by lifestyle editor Rae Anne Firmin in January while accompanying award winning pilot Clifford Rice on a solo venture.

For more information on local history and events contact:
Natchitoches Parish Tourist Commission
781 Front Street; Natchitoches, LA 71457
(318) 352-8072 or 1-800-259-1714
Web site: www.natchitoches.net
Government in Natchitoches/Parish

Government in Natchitoches as of June 2009

Federal
Post Office, 240 St. Denis St., 727 Keyser Ave., 350 Sam Sibley Dr., 1689 Hwy. 120

Forest Service
The name Kisatchie was derived from a tribe of Kichai Indians of the Creek Confederacy who called themselves “Kisatchie.” Designated in 1930, the forest now covers more than 604,000 acres in seven parishes and consists of five districts. It is headquartered in Pineville.

• Local USDA Service Center located at 6949 Hwy. 1 Bypass, 352-7100

• Farm Service Agency

• Natural Resources Conservation Service

• Rural Development - large municipal project grants, housing loans and guaranteed loans

Interior
• National Center for Preservation Training and Technology, 645 University Pkwy., 356-7444, http://www.ncptt.nps.gov/
NCPTT advances the application of science and technology to historic preservation.

National Park Service
• Can River Creole National Historical Park, http://www.nps.gov/cari/

• Headquarters - 402 Rapides Drive, 352-0383

• Park Headquarters, 6354 Hwy 485, Lake Arthur, 357-3122

• National Historical Park, 452 Hwy. 120, 352-0383

• Visitor Center located at 6949 Hwy. 1 Bypass, 352-7100

• Can River National Heritage Area, 452 Jefferson, Suite 150, 357-1839

• Natchitoches National Fish Hatchery, 615 South Drive, 352-5324, http://www.fws.gov/natchitoches/

• Director is Karen Kilpatrick. It was established in 1930. It has 98 acres with 53 ponds. Current production programs can be grouped into three categories:
  • Recovery (pallid sturgeon, Louisiana pearlshell mussels)
  • Restoration (striped bass, paddlefish, alligator snapper, turtles)
  • Recreation (largemouth bass, bluegill, channel catfish). The hatchery added alligator gar as a restoration species in 2009.

Legislative

• Northwest Louisiana office, 920 Pierremont Road, Suite 113, Shreveport 71106, 318-861-0437


• U.S. Courthouse, 300 Fannin St., Room 2240, Shreveport 71101, 318-676-1085


• State Office, 6425 Youree Dr., Suite 350, Shreveport 71105, 318-798-2254

State Civil Service
• Transportation and Development: District 8, 3300 McArthur Dr., Alexandria, 318-561-5100

• Veterans Affairs

Wildlife and Fisheries
• Agriculture and Forestry

• Forestry - 4089 University Parkway, 357-3122 assists timber landowners with development of plans to implement best management practices

• LSU Extension Service - 625 Bienville, 357-3135

• Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts, www.lsmsa.edu

Insurance
• J. Justin Carney, (Attorney General)

• Public Service - regulates utilities

Museums
• Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame, under construction on Front Street in Natchitoches

• Retire in Louisiana - www.retirenatchitoches.com

• Economic Development

• Environmental Quality

• Health and Hospitals

• Natchitoches Mental Health and Substance Abuse - 210 Medical, 357-3122

• Workforce Commission

• Natural Resources

• Public Safety

• State Police, Troop E Headquarters, Alexandria 800-256-4160

• Sex offenders, http://www.lsp.org/socpr/default.html

• Revenue

• Social Services

• Council on Aging 1016 Keyser Ave., 357-3250

• Medicaid, Medicare, 430 Dixie Plaza

• Natchitoches Parish Health Unit, 625 Bienville, 357-3135

• Medicare, 725 Sisson Road

• Social Security Administration

• District Office, 6425 Youree Dr., Suite 350, Shreveport 71105, 318-798-2254

Judicial
• L.A. Supreme Court

• 1st Circuit Court of Appeals

• 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals

• Judicial District 2

• Judge Eric “Rick” Harrington

• Judge Dee Ann Hawthorne

• City Court Judge Fred Geohagan

Natchitoches Parish

• Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, 200 Church St, Natchitoches, 352-2714, 11 elected police jurors

• Staff

• Catherine Hamilton, Director (appointed)

• Debbie Milley, Treasurer (appointed)

• Corrine Young, Planning Director

• Planning Commission Chairman is George Minturn

• Earl Townsend, Director of Public Works

• Roads - The Police Jury currently maintains 972 roads and streets, totaling approximately 825 miles and 119 bridges. Of these 800-plus miles of parish roads, approximately 325 miles are hard surfaced with 500 miles of dirt/gravel.

Natchitoches Parish Police Jury

District 1 Juror Gerald Longlois, president
165 Ann Street
Natchitoches 357-8570

District 2 Juror Chris Paige
345 Pavie St.
Natchitoches 357-1339

District 3 Juror J.D. Garrett
1109 Collins St.
Natchitoches 357-1839

District 4 Juror David Dollar
725 Sisson Road
Natchitoches 357-8852

District 5 Juror William Hymes
217 Piermont Place
Natchitoches 357-9527

Continued
Government in Natchitoches

Goldonna
727-9509
District 8 juror Tom Collier Jr., 364 Collier Hill Rd., Campti
Home: 476-2239
Work: 352-3528

District 9 juror Jessie Hoffpaur
P.O. Box 327
Robeline, 71469
472-9291

District 10 juror Mimi Stoker
5810 Hwy. 6
Natchitoches
352-7005
mefstoker@yahoo.com

District 11 juror Fred Jacobs
338 Riverview Drive
Natchez
354-0202

Parish Elected Officials

Natchitoches Parish Clerk of Court, Louie Bernard
Natchitoches Parish Tax Assessor, Rick Hargis
Natchitoches Parish Sheriff, Victor Jones
http://www.npsheriff.org/index.asp?z=23

Natchitoches Parish School Board
http://www.np.k12.la.us/

City of Natchitoches
http://www.ci.natchitoches.la.us/

Fire
Chief Jennie Boyt, City of Natchitoches Fire Dept., dcboyt@ci.natchitoches.la.us, 578 Second St., Natchitoches, LA 71457
Chief Charlie Prothro, Fire District 1, 3175 Marco Road, Lena, LA 71447
Chief Kenneth Martin, Fire District 2, kmartin@npsheriff.net, 241 Savell Road, Goldonna, LA 71031
Chief Sammy Ragan, Fire District 3, sragan@npsheriff.net, POB 138, Clarence, LA 71444
Chief J.D. Bonds, Fire District 4, j.bonds@npsheriff.net, POB 1906 Hwy. 120, Robeline, LA 71469
Chief John Nicholas, Fire District 5, POB 340, Natchez, LA 71456
Chief Bryan Wimberly, Fire District 6, bwimberly@ci.natchitoches.la.us, 114 Magnolia Ave., Natchitoches, LA 71457
Chief Doug Birdwell, Fire District 7, dbirdwell@ci.natchitoches.la.us, 100 Hwy. 1221, Marthaville, LA 71450
Chief Johnny Wooley, Fire District 8, 181 William Wooley Road, Ashland, LA 71002
Chief Doug Rachal, Fire District 9, drachal@npsheriff.net, POB 287, Campti, LA 71414-7146
Chief Joseph N. Henry Jr., Fire District 10, 935 Hwy 1, Coushatta, LA 71019
Chief Micky Dove, City of Natchitoches Police Dept., mdove@NatchitochesLA.gov, POB 928, Natchitoches, LA 71457
Chief Greg Eldridge, Town of Campi, chiefg@cop-tel.net, POB 966, Campi, LA 71411
Chief Fred Holland, Village of Ashland, POB 430, Ashland, LA 71002
Chief Darrell Freidieu, Village of Clarence, villoclarence@cop-tel.net, POB 32, Clarence, LA 71414
Chief Rodney Bedgood, Village of Goldonna, POB 263, Goldonna, LA 71031
Chief McKinley Hoover, Village of Natchez, hoover@bellsouth.net, POB 252, Natchez, LA 71456
Chief Raymond Hymes, Village of Powhatan, 159 Tennessee, Powhatan, LA 71066
Chief Harry Voight, Village of Provencal, 1578 Hwy. 117, Provencal, LA 71488
Chief Gordon O’Con, Village of Robeline, POB 263, Robeline, LA 71469
Chief Mayor W. Gahagan Lee, Village of Ashland, POB 327, Ashland, LA 71402

Mayor
Mayor Oneary Bobb, Town of Campi, POB 216, Campi, LA 71411
Mayor Bobby Braxton, Village of Clarence, villoclarence@cp-tel.net, POB 309, Clarence, LA 71414
Mayor Verna M. Bedgood, Village of Goldonna, POB 216, Goldonna, LA 71031
Mayor Edna Jones, Village of Natchez, VillageofNatchez@att.net, POB 229, Natchez, LA 71456
Mayor Margie Davenport, Village of Powhatan, POB 126, Powhatan, LA 71066
Mayor Randy Dupree, Village of Provencal, POB 400, Provencal, LA 71468
Mayor Tommy O’Con, Village of Robeline, mayor-tommy@aol.com, POB 217, Robeline, LA 71469

On front row from left are Councilman-at-Large Don Mims Jr., Mayor Wayne McCullen, Councilman Jack McCain Jr. and Councilwoman Sylvia Morrow. On back row are Councilmen Larry Payne and Dale Nielsen.

Quick List...People you need to know

Fire

Chief Mayor W. Gahagan Lee, Village of Ashland, POB 327, Ashland, LA 71402

Constable

Chief Mayor W. Gahagan Lee, Village of Ashland, POB 327, Ashland, LA 71402

Mayor

Mayor Oneary Bobb, Town of Campi, POB 216, Campi, LA 71411
Mayor Bobby Braxton, Village of Clarence, villoclarence@cp-tel.net, POB 309, Clarence, LA 71414
Mayor Verna M. Bedgood, Village of Goldonna, POB 216, Goldonna, LA 71031
Mayor Edna Jones, Village of Natchez, VillageofNatchez@att.net, POB 229, Natchez, LA 71456
Mayor Margie Davenport, Village of Powhatan, POB 126, Powhatan, LA 71066
Mayor Randy Dupree, Village of Provencal, POB 400, Provencal, LA 71468
Mayor Tommy O’Con, Village of Robeline, mayor-tommy@aol.com, POB 217, Robeline, LA 71469
By Leigh Guidry

New construction abounds in Natchitoches with progress being made on the La. Sports Hall of Fame and Museum, the Virginia Baker Park Riverbank Project and a new branch for Bank of Montgomery.

The City is one step closer to the La. Sports Hall of Fame and Museum, now that the large steel framing is complete.

"It is the realization of years of planning and decades of dreaming," said Doug Ireland, NSU Sports Information director and liaison for the project.

Although progress is being made, there is still much to be done before Dec. 21, the projected completion date.

The structural steel is complete with some miscellaneous detailing remaining. The next major activity will be pouring the second floor slab within next two weeks and the ground floor slab also in the next two weeks, weather permitting.

Once the ground floor slab is down, exterior metal stud framing will be visible as the crew works to close in the shell.

Gravel has been placed in the mechanical yard and equipment pads will soon be formed and poured to allow the chiller, transformer and standby generator to be installed.

"It's exciting every day to drive past the site, look up and see continual progress," Ireland said.

What isn't visible from the road is that cast stone design and fabrication has made good progress. Sequence one of five has been released for production of shop tickets. Mold fabrication and casting come next. Building materials, products and systems are being submitted for approval and coordination with the architect. Ireland said Trahan Architects have been very vigilant.

Ireland said it's clear that Natchitoches residents are beginning to grasp the excitement, which he hears is shared throughout the state. He said sports leaders government officials and other leaders are aware of the project and are getting excited about it. He expects the Sports Hall of Fame to strengthen the bond between Natchitoches and the rest of the state through tourism.

Ireland and others involved with the project will meet with THINC, a design firm in New York City, within the next few weeks to finalize exhibit plans for the sports section of the museum. Contractor for the project is VCC.

The Virginia Baker Park Riverbank Project is moving forward despite recent weather setbacks. Workers have started on the stream bed for the water feature, which goes up embankment. The project is located behind the Roque House on the downtown riverbank.

They plan to start this week laying stone if the weather allows. It would have been laid last week, but the rain and cold temperatures made the area too messy and cold to lay the stone.

Another big part of the project that the weather delayed is drainage. Workers will lay the drainage boxes this week as well, weather permitting.

"We're not behind schedule but certainly not ahead of schedule," Director of Community Development Randy LaCaze said.

The City hopes to have all but the finishing touches of the project completed by early to mid-March. All that will remain will be landscaping and other details. Mayor Wayne McCullen said many have inquired about having weddings at the park as early as April. He is happy with the way it's shaping up.

"I'm very proud of that project," he told the Historic District Development Commission Thursday. "I think y'all are going to be proud of it as investors."

Other upcoming construction in town is a new branch of Bank of Montgomery located at 4147 Hwy 6 near Nicky's Restaurant.

The large steel frame of the La. Sports Hall of Fame and Museum was completed in January and construction continues. As of January, the next major activity was pouring the second floor slab and the ground floor slab. Once the ground floor slab is down, exterior metal stud framing will be visible as the crew works to close in the shell. Gravel has been placed in the mechanical yard and equipment pads will be formed and poured to allow the chiller, transformer and standby generator to be installed.

Workers have started on the stream bed for the water feature of the Virginia Baker Park. The project is located behind the Roque House on the downtown riverbank. The City hopes to have all but the finishing touches of the project completed by early to mid-March. All that will remain will be landscaping and other details.
Asst. Vice President Lyn Christophe will be the branch manager at the new branch, which will be the fifth Bank of Montgomery branch in the parish and the only one on that side of Natchitoches. The branch will be a full-service bank, offering loans, insurance, investments and an ATM. It will allow the bank to reach more customers and will be more convenient for current customers who live in that area because they won’t have to drive into town just for an ATM.

“We’re excited to be expanding and reaching more customers,” Christophe said. “I’m excited and very anxious to begin the process of building.”

Although expansion is always in the works, the new branch’s process began when the land was purchased about five months ago. The bank hopes to have the nearly 5,000-square foot branch open in early 2012. Christophe is working with the architect on floor plans and is in the very first stages. They are not at the point of enlisting a contractor yet, but she plans to use local workers in all areas from contracting to landscaping.

She will be in charge of details that go into the project, such as flooring and wall colors.

Her bachelor’s degree in family and consumer science and consumer services from NSU will come in handy in that process, as will help she is receiving from others.

Christophe has been with Bank of Montgomery eight years and will graduate in May from the Graduate School of Banking at LSU in Baton Rouge.

The new Hwy. 6 branch will be staffed mostly by transfers from other Bank of Montgomery branches at first, so that experienced workers can get it up and running. New employees will also be hired.

Local producer Daniel Graves released a DVD tour of Natchitoches, available at the Book Merchant, Cane Brake Café, Georgia’s Gifts and Kaffie-Frederick Hardware.

Graves explains why he chose to focus on the oldest settlement in the Louisiana Purchase.

“I’ve studied the area’s history for over 20 years and still come across stories that are amazing. Basically everything about the town, from the colonial days to the present, is a very unique and unusual story of American history.”

A veteran documentary maker, his productions have depicted Louisiana history during prehistoric times, the Civil War, the eras of the Long brothers, 20th century plantation life and numerous short works on individual incidents. He calls the new DVD a “meet-and-greet” production.

“There’s history. You can’t talk about Natchitoches without getting into its history, but there’s also some beautiful aerial footage and interviews covering questions visitors and potential future residents ask most often.”

Produced in cooperation with City of Natchitoches, the program begins with a welcome by Mayor Wayne McCullin and shows the city from both sides of Cane River.

It includes interviews with tourism director Iris Harper and Main Street manager Leslie Smith. Also featured is an interview with Dr. Randall Webb about NSU, an explanation of the National Historic Landmark District by chairwoman Sharon Gahagen and a look at why the area is enticing to retirees by businessman Ed Dranguet.

A tour of most of the sites on the Cane River Heritage area’s map points out the historical importance of the Cane River culture. There is also a segment on the Natchitoches Christmas lights, which depicts the oldest program of its kind in the state.

Graves plans to spotlight Natchitoches in the future as well. He says, “Right now a friend of mine and I are developing a travel show for cable networks, but the city will be back on the agenda in time for its 300th birthday in 2014. I’m looking forward to not only telling the stories of 18th and 19th century Natchitoches, but also examining the 20th century of this incredible area.”

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Natchitoches Parish
School Board members are:

**District 1:** George C. Rhymes, 144 Starlight Point Road, Natchitoches, 357-2329

**District 2:** Harry Graham, 842 Pavie, Natchitoches, 652011535

**District 3:** Ralph Wilson, POB 423, Natchitoches, 352-7202

**District 4:** Michael Hilton, 436 Mr. Ed Lane, Natchitoches, 352-1834

**District 5:** Joella Wilson, 621 Genti, Natchitoches, 352-8411

**District 6:** Thomas Melder, 601 Marion, Natchitoches, 352-6851

**District 7:** Cecil Walker, POB 56, Clarence, 71414, 357-0532

**District 8:** The Rev. Carl Means, 212 Michelle Dr., Natchitoches, 352-9102

**District 9:** Carroll Daniels, POB 283, Robeline, 71469, 472-6778

**District 10:** Russell E. Danzy, POB 481, Provencal, 71468, 357-0113

**District 11:** There is a vacancy created with the resignation of Pat Jones. The school board is scheduled to name an interim Feb. 28.

New Board Members attended an inservice Jan. 8. From left are Thomas Melder, Pat Jones, George Rhymes, the Rev. Carl Means and Joella Wilson.

From left are Superintendent Dr. Derwood Duke, Ralph Wilson, Michael Hilton, Russ Danzy, Harry Graham and Cecil Walker.

From left are vice president, the Rev. Carl Means; superintendent, Dr. Derwood Duke and president, Carroll Daniels.
DEAR NATCHITOCHES AREA RESIDENTS:

IN BUSINESS FOR MORE THAN 75 YEARS, CP-TEL IS PROUD TO BE A LOCAL PROVIDER OF DIGITAL TELEVISION, HIGH SPEED INTERNET, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES. WE KNOW TELECOMMUNICATIONS, AND WE KNOW THE NATCHITOCHES AREA, AND WE ARE COMMITTED TO BOTH.

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- Highest quality and most reliable connection
- Increases the productivity of businesses
- Increases home values

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- More than 200 channels
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- DVR service
- On Demand movies & TV shows

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CP-TEL provides local telephone along with all of the calling features you want including Caller ID and Call Waiting. We also offer long distance services including Unlimited Calling and Toll Free Service.

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Get two services for as low as $49.95 per month and three services for as low as $99.95 per month.

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PROGRESS FOR NATCHITOCHES

Your dollars stay in the communities we serve. Our employees are your friends, family and neighbors. CP-TEL supports a number of non-profit organizations and schools. Some of our recent donations include the American Cancer Society (Relay for Life) and the Natchitoches Jazz/R&B Festival.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

If you have any questions about CP-TEL, please give us a call!

Sincerely,

Philip Fernbaugh
CEO / President
352-0006
Education

Natchitoches Parish Schools

Natchitoches Parish School Board: 310 Royal St., Box 16, Natchitoches, LA 71457-0016
Phone: 352-2358
Fax: 352-8136
Website: www.nat.k12.la.us

Cloutierville Elem./Jr. High: 155 School House Road, Cloutierville
Phone: 379-2577 or 379-2663
Fax: 379-1117
Principal: Kerry Braden, kbraden@nat.k12.la.us

East Natchitoches Elem./Middle School: 1001 E. Fifth St., Natchitoches
Phone: 352-4516 or 352-4502
Fax: 352-4515
Principal: Carolyn Benefield, cbenefield@nat.k12.la.us

Fairview Alpha Elem./Jr. High: 1439 Hwy. 71, Campti
Phone: 476-4616
Fax: 476-4588
Principal: Mona Bamburg, mbamburg@nat.k12.la.us

Goldonna Elem./Jr. High: 248 Ash St. Box 231, Goldonna
Phone: 727-9449
Fax: 727-9449
Principal: Kendria Sanders, ksanders@nat.k12.la.us

L.P. Vaughn Elem./Jr. High: 1500 Gold, Natchitoches
Phone: 352-2369
Fax: 357-0565
Principal Cynthia Cole, infant/toddler-third grade, ccole0@nat.k12.la.us

Lakeview High School: 7305 Hwy. 9 Box 200, Campti
Phone: 476-3360
Fax: 476-2851
Principal: Clinton Sampson, csampson@nat.k12.la.us

Marthaville Elem./Jr. High: 10800 Hwy. 20 Box 148, Marthaville
Phone: 472-6141
Fax: 472-6692
Principal: Terry Williams twilliams@nat.k12.la.us

Frankie Ray Jackson Sr. Technical Center, 1621 Welch, Natchitoches
Phone: 357-9410
Fax: 357-8677
Principal: Alvin Leon aleon@nat.k12.la.us

Natchitoches Central High School: 6513 Hwy. 1 South Bypass, Natchitoches
Phone: 352-2211 or 352-4315
Fax: 357-8837
Principal: Dale Skinner jskinner@nat.k12.la.us

Natchitoches Magnet School: 3707 University Pkwy, Natchitoches
Phone: 357-1252
Fax: 354-1122
Principal Julee’ Wright, jwright@nat.k12.la.us

See Schools Page 10C

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W. Dustin Cross - Certified Financial Planner™
Tracy W. Maxey - Registered Representative*
William H. Cross - Financial Advisor*

148 Touline Street
Natchitoches, LA 71457
(318) 238-7700

Securities and investment advisory services offered through FSC Securities Corporation, member FINRA/SIPC and a registered investment advisor. *Cross Financial Group, LLC is not affiliated with FSC Securities or registered as a broker-dealer or investment advisor.
Daniel Whatley, a sixth grade student at Natchitoches Magnet School, visited with a llama while on a safari trip.

Principal: Willa Freeman
wfreeman@nat.k12.la.us

SMS seventh grade students Meradith Maxey, Nicholas Messenger and Josh Lucky, from left, use calculator based labs and graphing calculators in a cross curricular project to investigate the melting temperature of ice and the effects of various amounts of salt added. Technology is an important tool in the teaching and learning of mathematics at St. Mary's.

SMS principal@cp-tel.net
Website: smstigers.com

Oasis of Love Christian Academy: 7681 Hwy 1 Bypass, 357-9473
The Adai are Native American people who, at the time of first contact with Europeans, inhabited an area from the Red River westward into Texas. At that time, the Adai were hunters, fishermen and farmers, cultivating a variety of fruits and vegetables. Their settlements consisted of family farms, usually spread out along rivers and streams. As traders, they were ideally situated to become a conduit for trade between the Plains Indians west of the Sabine River and the tribes of the Southeast.

When horses and cattle, first introduced by the Spanish, ran wild across the plains of Texas, the Adai became excellent horsemen and some of the region's finest cowboys, rounding up mustangs and wild cattle for trade, thus enhancing their commerce. With horses, they were also able to hunt buffalo further from home.

When the French founded Natchitoches in 1714, they found the Adai very adept at trade and with their assistance, set up trading partnerships with tribes beyond the Sabine. To counter French influence, the Spanish built the mission San Miguel de los Adaes near the principal Adai village in 1717. The Adai also quickly became a political buffer between the French and Spanish. When war broke out between Spain and France, the mission was destroyed. But the Spanish returned in 1721, rebuilding the mission and building a fort, Presidio Nuestra Senora de los Adaes, which served as the capitol of Texas for almost 50 years.

Some of the Adai held individual land grants from the Spanish government for thousands of acres in Texas and Louisiana and became some of the first ranchers and cowboys in the region. The benefits of Europeans brought to the Adai came with a heavy price. Diseases unknown before European contact reduced the native population by perhaps as much as 80 percent. By the early 19th century, pressures from the Spanish and French governments made it more difficult to maintain traditional tribal lifestyles. The declining importance of the Adai as a political buffer after 1773 had such a marked effect that few Adai still lived in a traditional lifestyle by the time the Americans acquired Louisiana. They dressed in European styles, spoke French and Spanish in addition to their own language and many were baptized Christians.

When controversy between Spain and the United States over the western boundary of Louisiana was settled and control of the Neutral Strip passed to the American government, the Adai people were recognized as established citizens of the area through individual land titles. Many of these deeds had been granted by the Spanish government, and were later upheld by the United States. Within their own community, they maintained many of the traditions of their ancestors, but to the Americans, they posed no threat as Indian people and thus were not affected when the last of the tribes were moved west.

When Europeans first came to the area, the principal Adai village was located on a small creek near what is now Robeline. At this political and ceremonial center, the Adai practiced traditional dances, music, crafts, stories and beliefs that had been handed down through the generations.
Available for free in January through Apple iTunes, the Explore Louisiana Crossroads Visitor Guide Application (APP) will allow users to take advantage of the advanced capabilities of the iPhone, iPad and iPod Touch user interface.

“The Explore Louisiana Crossroads APP will be an easy-to-navigate tool for both pre-trip planning and to get information while onsite at a variety of recreational sites in the area,” said Brandi Bradford lead park ranger with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. “It is intended both for visitors to the Natchitoches area, as well as local residents who may want to explore more of the historic, natural, and recreational treasures that the Crossroads offers.”

Features of the Explore Louisiana Crossroads application include:
- Quick access and Google map locations for all recreation sites, historic sites, dining, shopping, lodging, camping, boating, fishing and other activities available to visitors coming to the La. Crossroads Region.
- Directions, details of what to find at each site, hours of operation, fees and other important info to get visitors to any site they want to find.
- Historical and heritage information about one of the richest historic areas of the state.
- Auto and walking tour guides for the historic and natural resource sites in the area.
- Quick access to Northwestern State University, the City of Natchitoches along with safety information, emergency contacts and more.
- Quick dial from your iPhone to contact all listings and links to area Web sites.
- Links within each visitors’ guide to other information and interesting sites you may also want to see during your trip.
- Safety information for all types of recreation activities you may want to try during your visit.
- Emergency contacts and other services that you may have need of during your trip, such as post offices, banks, hospitals and other services.
- History and significance of the Natchitoches region.
- Directions, details and Google map locations for area sites.
- Auto and walking tour ideas.
- Safety, service and emergency contact information.

A consortium of Natchitoches organizations joined together to provide content for this APP. Project partners include:
- Natchitoches Area Convention and Visitors Bureau
- City of Natchitoches
- Association for Preservation of Historic Natchitoches
- Melrose Plantation
- Cane River Waterway Commission
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Cane River Creole National Historical Park
- Cane River National Heritage Area
- Natchitoches Area Chamber of Commerce

The APP is powered by Nomad Mobile Guides(TM). For more information, contact Bradford at 318-354-8770.
Tourism

The Cane River National Heritage Area is a 116,000-acre (470 km²) area which includes many sites such as Oakland Plantation, Melrose Plantation, Badin-Roque House, Magnolia Plantation, Kate Chopin House, Cherokee Plantation, Cane River Heritage Scenic Byway, Fort St. Jean Baptiste State Historic Site, National Historic Landmark District (Old Courthouse Museum, Bishop Martin Museum, Landmarks in Time Exhibit) and the Los Adaes State Historic Site. Because of this richness of culture, the area is one of the destinations on the Louisiana African American Heritage Trail newly designated by the state.

Natchitoches, a popular tourism area of the state, is equipped to serve visitors with eleven national chain hotels, and nearly 50 bed and breakfast inns, including the Steel Magnolia House.

Natchitoches attracts over one million visitors annually. The city is known as a retiree-friendly city. In 2006 Natchitoches was awarded the Great American Main Street Award for the effort the community has put into revitalizing and restoring much of the historic district.

The Natchitoches meat pie is a regional dish from northern Louisiana. It is one of the official state foods of Louisiana.

The city’s tourism center is the downtown river walk. This includes Front Street, which becomes Jefferson at the NSU end. Front Street is the jewel of the city.

It overlooks the river walk and is bordered by an assortment of shops and boutiques. The city has identified this area as the Historical District. The Historical Society maintains the area through regulations on changes and restorations. Natchitoches has a mini “Walk of Fame” located in the Historical District of the city.

While visiting the area, tourists may notice many unusual structures; these are many of the Natchitoches Christmas Festival lights.

The city recently built a small Convention center located on Second Street, which holds many city events.

The Bayou Pierre Alligator Park is a major tourist attraction where tourists may feed the alligators, and dine and shop. The park also teaches school children how to respect nature and the conservation of nature through its many habitats.

Natchitoches is also home to a branch of the Kisatchie National Forest, a project promoted by the naturalist Caroline Dormon to preserve regional natural wonders.

Opened December 2005, the Natchitoches Events Center is in the Natchitoches National Historic Landmark District. Located at 750 Second Street.

The facility boasts a 40,000-square-foot meeting facility, a 15,000-square-foot exhibit hall with three meeting rooms, a board room and full-size catering kitchen.

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The Krewe of Wag-ums pet parade will be Saturday, March 5 on Front Street. Registration will be from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. with lineup at the Bank of Montgomery.

Some facts about Mardi Gras, or Fat Tuesday:
WHAT: A final day of feasting and celebration ending the Gulf Coast’s Carnival season and preceding the solemnity of Lent.
WHEN: Carnival season begins Jan. 6, also known as the Feast of the Epiphany or Twelfth Night (12 days after Christmas) and King’s Day, marking the arrival of the three wise men at the birthplace of the Christ child. The season ends on Mardi Gras, or Fat Tuesday, always the day before Ash Wednesday. Parades and street parties are prevalent during the final 12 days of the season in small towns and cities throughout Louisiana.
WHERE: Perhaps the most famous American Mardi Gras events take place in New Orleans, but Mobile, Ala., and other Gulf Coast communities also have long Mardi Gras traditions. Mardi Gras celebrations have popped up in regions of north Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, even Kentucky and Washington state.
HISTORY: Historians say the celebration’s roots go back to various pagan celebrations of spring. But Pope Gregory XIII made it a Christian celebration when he put it on his calendar in 1582 on the day before Lent. The customs moved to North America with French explorers, who settled the Gulf Coast in the 17th century. The modern New Orleans tradition of parades and costumes dates back to at least 1838.
THE NUMBERS: Various estimates put the number of tourists and locals who jam the streets in New Orleans and the surrounding area at well over 1 million. The economic impact on New Orleans topped $1 billion for the first time in 2000, according to a University of New Orleans economist.
WHAT IT’S LIKE: Mardi Gras is a family affair in most places, marked by elaborate parades, parties and pageantry. In the historic New Orleans French Quarter, however, it gets increasingly rowdy and raunchy as the day progresses, characterized by heavy drinking and near nudity.
The City of Natchitoches is the seat of Natchitoches Parish. Major cities within a day’s drive of Natchitoches are New Orleans, 256 miles; Houston, 243 miles; Dallas, 259 miles, and Atlanta, 603 miles.

The population of Natchitoches Parish was 38,173 in 1996. Parish population in 1995 was 17,318 in Natchez and 429 in Goldonna. The area population, which includes Natchitoches and all contiguous parishes, is 335,163.

The estimated parish labor force is 16,900 with estimated area labor force of 129,700.

The latest unemployment rate available was 6.1 percent in December 1997.

Natchitoches Parish has 11 elementary schools, two junior high schools, two high schools and two private schools for students of all grade levels.

The school system employs 360 elementary faculty, 48 junior high faculty, 158 high school faculty and 32 private school faculty.

There are 3,494 students at the elementary level, 1,289 in junior high, 2,144 in high school and 285 in private education.

Natchitoches Parish has one vocational-technical school, Louisiana Technical College-Natchitoches Campus, with an enrollment of 723.

Colleges and universities within a one-hour commute of Natchitoches are Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, with an enrollment of 9,040; Louisiana State University in Alexandria with an enrollment of 2,546 and Louisiana College in Pineville with 1,024 students.

The parish has one public library with 350,000 volumes.

The average annual temperature is 63 degrees. The average monthly temperature in January is 51 degrees and in July is 82 degrees. Average annual rainfall is 53.2 inches. Average elevation is 130 feet. The area in square miles is 1,256.4 miles.

Transportation routes include Interstate 49 and U.S. Highways 71 and 84; state highways 1, 6, 9, 117, 118, 119, 120, 153, 156, 479, 480 and 487.

Railroads that serve the parish are Kansas City Southern and Union Pacific.

There are seven motor terminals that are open seven days a week.

The City of Natchitoches has one regional airport, Natchitoches Regional Airport, with two runways, one 4,000 feet and the other 5,000 feet.

The nearest deepwater channel is the Natchitoches Parish Port facility with a nine-foot channel depth.

The city has four banks with total deposit of $209,126 and one credit union with total assets of $2,884,043.

State sales tax is charged at a rate of 4 percent, parish tax is 2 percent. The parish millage rate was 100.6 percent in 1995.

Natchitoches has a mayor/council type of government with zoning regulations governed by a planning commission.

Recreation facilities include ball parks, a bowling alley, a cinema, a country club, family center, fishing, Folk Festival, golf courses, theater, Natchitoches Christmas Festival, parks, plantations, shooting range, skating rink, swimming pools, tennis courts and water sports.

There is one general hospital with 1223 beds and three nursing homes with 372 beds.

There is one daily newspaper and one weekly newspaper.

There are 25 hotels, motels and bed and breakfast inns in Natchitoches Parish with 452 total rooms.

Electricity is provided to the parish by Cajun Electric Power Cooperative, Central Louisiana Electric Company (CLECO), City of Natchitoches, Entergy and Valley Electric Membership Corporation (VEMCO).

Telephone service is provided by AT&T, BellSouth, Camppt-Pleasant Hill Telephone Company, LDDS, LDS, MCI and US Spring.

The city of Natchitoches supplies water in the city limits.

Gas suppliers are Louisiana Gas Services and Trans-Louisiana Gas Company.

Banking... Just right.

Just walk down Front Street and you get the feeling that there’s something special about our town. It’s Cane River history, LSU, The Christmas Festival, and home of the Parish Library. At Exchange Bank, we love everything about our Natchitoches community, including the heart and soul of the people that live here—warm and helpful, like family and friends. Just what you’d expect from the first settlement in Louisiana and the bank that’s ‘Just Right’.

Exchange Bank

Natchitoches has one regional airport, Natchitoches Regional Airport, with two runways, one 4,000 feet and the other 5,000 feet. The City installed an interpretive plaque highlighting the musical career of singer/songwriter Jim Croce inside the terminal building at the airport in 2010. Croce’s last performance was at Northwestern State University. He died in a plane crash at Natchitoches Regional Airport Sept. 20, 1973. The public can see the plaque, which was funded in part by the Historic District Development Commission, at the terminal that is open seven days a week.
Locally owned and operated insurance and financial services firm, Cunningham Financial group, was one of the fastest growing small businesses in the state of Louisiana last year. With offices in Natchitoches and Mansfield and clients in six southern states and four foreign countries, CFG is poised to keep that growth going.

“We have two different divisions,” CFG President Joe Cunningham Jr. said, “Our insurance agencies are writing virtually any kind of property and liability insurance that you can think of in Louisiana, from about Avoyelles Parish north to the Arkansas state line and we are writing a lot of offices, contractors, including oil and gas, workers compensation, trucking lines, churches, and small business property and liability at very good prices.”

“We grew significantly in DeSoto parish and we purchased an agency in Avoyelles Parish late in the year. Our Natchitoches office continues to add customers and our website; www.cunningham-financialgroup.com has brought in additional business from other areas in central and north Louisiana.”

Some of the business insurance companies that they write with include Travelers, Hanover, EMC, and GuideOne (churches). CFG has access to dozens more companies through their relationships in the industry.

On the personal lines side of the insurance business, the insurance agencies offer huge discounts to their customers who combine their home and auto insurance on one policy and also offer big discounts on mobile homes, motorcycles, ATV’s, and boats.

As independent insurance agencies they write most of their business through Hanover, MetLife, Kemper, Farmers, Foremost, American Modern, Republic, Safeco and Progressive insurance companies.

“The biggest thing we have for us is our people. Beth Eller and Anita Vlk on the business insurance side have over 40 years combined experience in the insurance industry. On the personal lines side Michelle Maurer and Judy Knippers are also both experienced and know the markets well. We have a dedicated on-site claims department that my brother John handles and Donna Dykes is our office manager. My father, Joe Sr., is active in the business and is still our largest producer of outside new business.”

CFG also has relationships with group health insurance markets for businesses looking to add employee benefits to their insurance plan. Additionally, Joe Cunningham Jr. is a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER (tm) offering securities and investment advisory services through Sagepoint Financial, a member of FINRA and SIPC. He offers investment and financial planning services to individuals, families, and small business retirement plans. His client list includes government agencies and subdivisions as well as University endowments (CFG and Sagepoint are not affiliated).

In 2011 CFG is looking to grow through additional internal growth as well as acquisitions. “We are going to be an active participant in the acquisition market in central and north Louisiana over the next several years,” Cunningham said. “We have a good operating plan, we provide a good profit sharing and incentive compensation plan for our employees and we think that one of the best things we can do for the communities we are active in is to help people save on their insurance costs, protect what they have, and try to help them achieve their retirement goals with prudent investment advice. When we accomplish those things for our customers our business will grow and we will continue to support local organizations through our giving and we will support the local economy by hiring additional people for our company.”

“Our commitment to our employees, our customers and our community is that we will continue to reinvest our profits in the communities we live in and we will continue to actively support our non-profit charities through annual giving and participation in those organizations.”

One of the area’s fastest growing small businesses

For more information, visit www.natchitoches-jaycees.com

Natchitoches Area Jaycees Year in Review

*Handed out Carnations to seniors on Valentine’s Day
*Supported local troop’s families through Hero of the Month, which was able to pay over $2,500 for utility bills, as well as hundreds in local gift cards and toys for kids
*Held the Third Annual Natchitoches Area Jaycees Golf Classic, which raised over $5,000 to support a new scoreboard at the Dixie Youth Complex
*Held the Inaugural Cookin’ on the Cane BBQ Competition June 45 and can look forward to another great crowd and competition for 2011
*Hosted a One-Club Golf Tournament at the Natchitoches Country Club
*Participated regularly at Northwestern State University tailgating events

Back Row from Left: Joe Cunningham Jr., Beth Eller, John Cunningham, Joe Cunningham Sr.
Front Row from Left: Michelle Maurer, Anita Vlk, Donna Dykes, Judy Knippers

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2011 Calendar of Events

January
Creole Heritage Festival
NSU Basketball
Fifth Saturday Fly-in at Natchitoches Regional Airport
NSU Chili Cookoff
NSU Pow Wow
Louisiana Piano Series International

February
Dionysos Mardi Gras Parade (February or March)
Cloutierville Mardi Gras Parade (February or March)

March
5-Dionysos Mardi Gras Parade (February or March)
Cloutierville Mardi Gras Parade (February or March)
26-Blooming on the Bricks Festival
Art Along the Bricks Festival
Ashland Spring Festival - Ashland
Sacred Places Tour
Steak & Burger-benefiting local Boys & Girls Club

April
15-16 Jazz/R&B Festival
Rebel State Spring Festival
American Cemetery Tour
State Historic Area
Brown Bag Concerts

Earth Day Celebration and “Great American Cleanup"

May
Cane River Green Market every Saturday

June
3-4-Cookin’ on the Cane BBQ festival and Cane River Green Market
11-12-Melrose Arts and Crafts Festival
Cane River Green Market every Saturday
Natchez Heritage Festival

July
Cane River Green Market Celebration on the Cane July 4
15-16-Natchitoches/NSU Folk Festival

August

September
2-3-Cane River Zydeco Festival
Marthaville Good Ole Days
16-17-Meat Pie Festival & Triathlon
Boogie on the Bricks - Follows every NSU home game
River Run- Motorcycle poker run sponsored by Independent Motorcycle Riders Association benefiting local Boys & Girls Club

October
1-Return to the 50s Classic Car Show
7-9 Fall Tour of Homes
Natchitoches Pilgrimage
Smokin’ on the Red in Campti
31-Witch Way to Main

November
Marathon Rowing Championship
19-Turn on the Holidays (kick off to Festival of Lights)
26-Snow Fest
Natchitoches Foundation Holiday Open House

December
Fireworks every Saturday night
3-Christmas Festival
Barge parade
Holiday Tour of Homes
"Fete Hiver" at Fort St. Jean Baptiste
Christmas in the Park - Rebel State Historic Area
New Year’s Eve Fireworks

The Melrose Arts and Crafts Festival is staged on the grounds of Melrose Plantation, a National Historic Landmark. It draws over 125 artists and craftsmen from throughout Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, Mississippi and beyond who display their handcrafted work.

Street
Boogie on the Bricks
Celebrity Chef featuring native cuisine, local eateries and chefs, benefits Boys & Girls Club

Classic cars will line front street at the Return to the 50s Classic Car Show, Oct. 1.

The Cane River Green Market features fresh produce and canned goodies as well as crafts and live entertainment.
The opportunities available in the market today are as plentiful as ever, but so is the need for individual investors to work with a qualified financial-services professional, according to Shawn Daily, an Edward Jones Financial Advisor in Natchitoches.

"At Edward Jones, we take time to understand our clients' unique financial needs and risk tolerance levels so that we can implement solutions that will put them on track to achieve their long-term financial goals," said Daily. "The firm's focus on serving only individual investors is one of the most attractive things Edward Jones offers job seekers is serious, long-term individual investors throughout our branch.

Edward Jones' partnership structure results in associates sharing in good times and sacrificing in bad," said Daily. "Associates here understand that our success, as a firm and individuals, is directly related to how effective we are at helping clients solve their financial needs. As a partnership, there is a clear incentive to collaborate and help one another succeed to benefit clients - it's a motivating environment in which to work.

Many financial advisors mirror Shawn Daily's enthusiasm for Edward Jones. For the third time, Edward Jones financial advisors ranked the firm Highest in Employee Advisor Satisfaction among Financial Investment Firms, according to a study released by J.D. Power and Associates this fall. The firm was ranked No. 2 by FORTUNE Magazine in its 11th year on the Best Companies to Work For List. This year marked the firm's eighth year among the top 10, including consecutive No. 1 rankings in 2002 and 2003. It is the firm's second consecutive year at No. 2.

"I think people here realize how important our work is and feel good about their contribution," said Daily. "Being able to help individual investors retire with dignity, send their children to college or accomplish other financial goals makes a real difference in clients' lives. Consistently, the past few years of volatile markets, the work our financial advisors do today is more valuable than ever. It is an honor and a privilege when investors become clients and trust us to help them identify their financial goals and implement solutions to achieve them. We work hard each day to earn that trust."

In addition to its reputation as a leading employer, Edward Jones also has earned a reputation from its clients for delivering excellent client service.


We are honored to have earned these accolades because they reflect the strong personal relationships with clients that are key to our success," said Daily. "We know our clients by name - not by number - and that relationships help us better tailor clients' financial solutions."

With every aspect of the firm aligned around the needs of the client, it should not be surprising that associates enjoy the work they do and that clients value the excellent service they receive.

"Associates and clients alike appreciate that the focus of our efforts each day is unwavering - we are here to serve the long-term financial needs of individual investors," said Daily. "In our 88-year history, throughout bull or bear markets, we are a constant in the industry due to our partnership structure, our investment philosophy and our unique focus on serving only individual investors."

While the past two years brought upheaval to the financial services industry as firms shifted their focus, their products and even their ownership, Edward Jones did not.

"With nearly nine decades in the financial services industry as firms shifted their focus, their products and even their ownership, Edward Jones continued to grow. The firm opened 260 branch offices throughout 2010 to help the firm succeed as the markets rebound.

"Our view of the business has not changed," Daily said. "Clients appreciate this level of personal service and, having an office in the community in which they live, makes it convenient to do business with us."

"Our focus is on serving individual investors through a one-financial-advisor branch office network enables Edward Jones to deliver personal service in convenient office locations. The Edward Jones business model allows me to get to know my clients, educate them about appropriate investments and then make recommendations based on their individual needs," Daily said. "Clients appreciate this level of personal service and, having an office in the community in which they live, makes it convenient to do business with us."

"The Edward Jones business model allows me to get to know my clients, educate them about appropriate investments and then make recommendations based on their individual needs," Daily said. "Clients appreciate this level of personal service and, having an office in the community in which they live, makes it convenient to do business with us."

"Our view of the business has not changed," Daily said. "Our clients come first and everything springs from that concept."

In 2011, Edward Jones remains committed to helping individual investors stay focused on their long-term financial goals, despite market swings and disparaging headlines.

"With nearly nine decades in the financial services industry, Edward Jones relies on tried and true principals and a long-term view for investing," said Daily. "We help our clients understand that, despite short-term events, it's important to realize that achieving financial goals requires a long-term investing strategy."

Daily also received some accolades worth noting in 2010. He is one of only three of the firm’s more than 12,000 financial advisors to have been invited to all 30 of the Managing Partner’s conferences. Those invitations are reserved for the top three percent of the firm's financial advisors.

Edward Jones opened the first Edward Jones office in Louisiana in 1975 and over the next three decades, helped the firm grow its state and Mississippi to more than 400 offices. Today, there are two offices in Natchitoches.

Fortunately, for the local community, Daily continues to serve in several volunteer capacities. Because of his appreciation for the history of Natchitoches and the surrounding area, Daily has a passion for historical preservation. He is the president of the American Cemetery Association, which preserves the oldest cemetery in the entire Louisiana Purchase.

In remaining loyal to the U.S. Navy - a branch he served as a young man - Daily donates his time as a candidate guidance officer for the U.S. Naval Academy. He has held this position for more than 25 years, which allows him to help young people who want to attend the academy navigate through the interview and application process.

Daily is also an underwriter for the Natchitoches Northwestern Symphony Society, a life sponsor for Ducks Unlimited and a member of the international intellectual association, MENS.

Shawn Daily’s office is located at 443 Second Street in Natchitoches. His phone number is (318) 352-5891.

Edward Jones provides financial services for individual investors in the United States and, through its affiliate, in Canada. Every aspect of the firm’s business, from the types of investment options offered to the location of branch offices, is designed to cater to individual investors in the communities in which they live and work. The firm’s 12,000-plus financial advisors work directly with nearly 7 million clients to understand their personal goals – from college savings to retirement – and create long-term investment solutions that emphasize a well-balanced portfolio and a buy-and-hold strategy. Edward Jones embraces the importance of building long-term, face-to-face relationships with clients, helping them to understand and make sense of the investment options available today.

Edward Jones, which ranked No. 11 on FORTUNE magazine’s “100 Best Companies to Work For” in 2011, is headquartered in St. Louis. The Edward Jones web site is located at www.edwardjones.com, and its recruiting web site is www.careers.edwardjones.com. Member SIPC.
Walk of Honor

The St. Denis Walk of Honor began in 1988 to honor individuals or groups who have contributed significantly to the Natchitoches through their work or talents and have brought positive local, state or national recognition to the community. The granite squares are embedded in the sidewalk on the north side of Rue St. Denis, beginning at its intersection with Second Street. Inscribed on each plate is the name and profession of the honoree. The markers extend toward Cane River in front of the City Bank and Trust Company, the firm that proposed and financed the beginning of "The Walk."

Honorees are Clementine Hunter, John Ford, John Wayne, Robert Harling, Ray Stark, Herbert Ross, Shirley MacLaine, Olympia Dukakis, Julia Roberts, Sally Field, Daryl Hannah, Dolly Parton, Joe Dumars, Gene Callahan, Gary Reasons, Caroline Dormon, Pat Listach, Kate Chopin, Jackie Smith, Natchitoches Dixie Debs, Carmelite "Cammie" Garrett Henry, Stan Humphries, Bobby Hebert, Grits Gresham, Louis Juchereau De St. Denis and Nettles Brown.

The St. Denis Walk of Honor, sponsored by City Bank and Trust, honors groups and individuals who brought positive recognition to Natchitoches. Among the honorees are the stars of "Steel Magnolias."
Refill Your Prescriptions ONLINE or via iPhone

COUPONS on Your Prescription Medication also available on our website.
The St. Denis Garden Club has made wreaths for local nursing homes and the Cane River Children's Services for over 20 years. Displaying their creations on front row, from left, are Charlotte Cross, Lanell Causey, Karen Townend, San Brown and Juanita Murphy. On back row are Sarah Luster, Betty Hertzog, Marian Keator, Cynthia Brown, Sandra McCullen, Sarah Katherine Ahrens, Lola Dunahoe, Pat Cunningham, Sharon Galahan and Margaret Berry.

Natchitoches Genealogical and Historical Association recognized recipients of their Pioneer Settler Certificate Program. In front is Diane Gunter. On middle row, from left, are Billie Gibson, Glen Armont, Adele Scott, Claire Harrington, Ginny Tobin, Carol Gregorek, Oneta Morgan, Shirley Porter and Arnetta Hyams. On back row are Joe Darby and Drake Harrington.
The Modern Woodmen Youth Service Club visited the National Fish Hatchery. Tony Brady shows them a tank filled with baby Alligator Snapping Turtles.

The Sons of the Confederate Veterans, the Col. Samuel D. Russell Camp members visited Rebel State Commemorative Park in Marthaville. During a skirmish at Crump's Corner in 1864, a Confederate soldier was separated from his unit and asked the Barnhill family for water. While he was at the spring, three cavalrymen shot him, then rode away. The Barnhill family buried him and cared for his grave for the next 100 years, until the site was made into a State Historic Site, which also houses the Country Music Hall of Fame. From left are Lt. Commander Tommy Custis, Surgeon Joe Darby, Adjutant Robert Porter, Commander Robert M. Peters, Chaplain Glynn Howard, compatriot Greg Womack and 1st Lt. Commander Jim McCrory.

Located in the heart of the Historic District at 434 Second Street, this luxurious bed & breakfast is an outstanding example of Victorian architecture. Built in 1892, it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980 and is appointed with many of the original antique furnishings and other Victorian pieces. Of notable interest are the magnificent 1833 Empire table, chairs and sideboard by Francois Seignouret, original to the home, which were purchased by Jan and John Levy Frederick when they acquired Chaplin House. Other elegant furnishings that grace the home came from the Couvillion and Frederick families.

Blanchard St. Denis Funeral Home
Service with Dignified and Sympathetic Understanding
848 Keyser Avenue
Natchitoches, LA 71457
318-357-8271
www.blanchardstdenisfuneralhome.com
The commandant’s quarters are foggy with smoke that trails from the fireplace. 
Next door, well-worn leather shoes wait next to a soldier’s bed and rumpled bedcovers in another belue straw mattress beneath. If this place looks as though the garrison has just stepped out of history, then the staff at Fort St. Jean Baptiste have succeeded.

Named for a French patron saint, the fort’s original location is unknown, though it is believed to have stood where the Old American Cemetery is today.

The fort that visitors tour today is a reconstruction based on historical records.

Nothing inside its walls is a genuine artifact from the 18th century—except, perhaps, the weathering mud that is mixed with moss and grasses to seal the walls with what the French called bousillage.

The goal of this State Historic Site is to interact with visitors, letting them experience the culture of everyday life.

Rangers keep fires going in the houses, bake bread and try to make the fort look alive.

Natchitoches was a booming community in the 1770s. The French garrison stationed at Fort St. Jean Baptiste had a double purpose: keeping a close eye on the Spanish at Los Adaeas to the west and being a center for trade. The later boosted the economy of the French colonists and became the main business of the garrison.

Good relations with the Native American tribes also encouraged the soldiers to assimilate their clothing styles and habits. The soldiers adapted to Louisiana woods. They adapted to Native American dress and wore their style clothing, such as leggings.

The staff at the fort authenticates their costumes by skinning, tanning and making their own deer skin coverings.

The fort is open daily from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., except for holidays. Group reservations are available and can be made by contacting the site at 318-357-3101.
High School Sports

Lakeview High School

Baseball
Andrew Ravaglia

Basketball
G - Ken McLaren
B - DeVoderick Ridley

Track and Field
G - Ken McLaren

Football
Dedric Smith (Interim)

Softball
Chris Boyd

To contact the school, call 318-476-3360

St. Mary’s High School

Baseball
Jeramie Hale

Basketball
G - Stan Humphries
B - Todd Matney

Track and Field
Charlie Cryer

Softball
Clyde Vienne

Tennis
Connie Humphries

To contact the school, call 318-352-8394

Dixie Youth

Team Practice
First day - March 1

Preseason Tournament
April 1-3

Opening Ceremonies
April 2

Season Play
April 4

End of Season Play
May 21-June 17

All-Star Tournaments
TBA - follow regular season

Upward Basketball

*Signups begin in October
*Practices start late Nov.
*Season begins first Saturday in Jan.
*Each team practices once per week
*Play six games
*All coaches, referees are volunteer
*Entry fee $65 before deadline
                      $80 after deadline
*Games played primarily in FBC gym
*Used First United Methodist Church also for convenience
*Upward just completed its seventh year Feb. 20

NCHS

Baseball
Rickey McAlister

Basketball
G - Emma Boozman
B - Micah Coleman

Cross Country
Jessica Sims

Football
Brandon Helms

Power Lifting
Bob Ralston

Soccer
G - Rusty Stultz
B - Nate Middleton

Softball
Sherry Helms

Swimming
Mark Begnaud

Tennis
Akilah Givens

Track and Field
Kenneth Bates

Head Trainer
Lennis Watson

To contact the school, call 318-352-2211

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Northwestern State Sports

NSU’s million-dollar man

An anonymous alumnus has pledged over $1 million, split between academics and athletics, to support NSU - the largest gift in the institution’s 126-year history.

The $1,070,000 pledge will be made through the donor’s estate to the NSU Foundation, which supports academic and other university endeavors, and to the NSU Athletic Association, which supports the university’s NCAA Division I intercollegiate sports program. The donation will be designated for scholarships, faculty enhancements and improvements to facilities, university officials said.

“It is extremely gratifying when a Northwestern graduate expresses such a love for the institution of higher education that launched that person on a path of lifetime success,” said NSU President Dr. Randall J. Webb. “This is a person appreciative of the value that Northwestern added to their own significant talents and abilities and one who is committed to the enhancement of the future of this fine university. It should serve as a model for giving to all of us who cherish this university that has meant so much to the lives of its people as well as to our state, nation, and world.”

The pledge is a major boost to Northwestern’s “Excellence: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow” Capital Campaign. The campaign is ahead of schedule in meeting its goal of $25 million by June 2012.

“Shock, surprise and pride were my first emotions over the news. I must say that this proves that what we are doing at NSU is moving in the right direction,” said Capital Campaign chair John A. Manno Jr. of Bossier City. “Northwestern is continuing to do great things. From the leadership of Dr. Webb on down to the volunteer work being done, we all can be proud of our many accomplishments.”

The pledge is an example of how alumni and friends can help Northwestern, according to Drake Owens, executive director of the NSU Foundation.

“This gift was done through our program of planned giving, which allows an individual to use estate planning to create a lasting donation to Northwestern,” said Owens. “Support from alumni and friends keeps the university moving forward. I hope others will realize the impact of such an investment and follow the lead of this gracious benefactor.”

Northwestern’s athletic program has received two six-figure deferred gifts in the past five years.

“It is humbling that someone thinks so highly of our university and athletic program to make a deferred gift of this magnitude,” said Greg Burke, Director of Athletics. “I am optimistic that gifts of this nature will encourage others to also consider the future of NSU Athletics in planning their estates.”

The mission of the NSU Foundation is to serve the university, its students and its faculty, primarily through financial resources raised and distributed by the corporation. The primary objectives and purposes of the NSU Foundation are to promote the educational and cultural welfare of NSU, to aid any student in continuing his or her studies at the university, to solicit and accept funds of all kinds for the purpose of providing scholarships and activities in research or other benefits for the University, its faculty and students and to exercise all powers and authority for the accomplishments of the objectives and purposes of the corporation.

Northwestern stands on ground that has been dedicated to learning since 1884. Although primarily known as a regional institution, Northwestern also offers an opportunity for education online and at other satellite locations.

Life outside the classroom is also an important part of the University.

Northwestern offers its students more than 100 student organizations ranging from fraternities and sororities to honor societies and clubs for different majors as well as a Division I athletic program that is one of the region’s most successful.

The NSU Athletic Association is the official tax-deductible, development arm of Northwestern State intercollegiate athletics. The primary purpose of the NSU Athletic Association is to benefit the student-athlete scholarship fund, also known as the 'Demon Victory Fund,' and also to secure funding for facility enhancement projects, marketing and promotion of Northwestern sporting events and endowed scholarships. There are nearly 350 student-athletes on 14 Division I teams at Northwestern.

“I’m a former student-athlete and so is my wife, so we have a very personal appreciation for what all of the support given to the Demon Victory Fund means to the young men and women representing Northwestern State University,” said Dr. William Broussard, Associate Director of Athletics and Executive Director of the Demon Victory Fund. “The value of a gift of this magnitude goes far beyond the dollar value. It inspires the student-athletes, coaches and staff who work so hard to represent our university with distinction, and to engender a great sense of pride while creating excitement around NSU.”

NSU Athletics has a great track record of athletic excellence, academic achievement by student-athletes, and community service...

See Donation page 25C
The Demons and Lady Demons have won 32 Southland Conference regular-season or tournament championships, with 17 teams taking part in NCAA or WNIT postseason action, since Burke became director of athletics 14 years ago. There have been 51 All-American and Academic All-American student-athletes at NSU, and three USA Olympic competitors.

Northwestern has consistently been a pacesetter statewide and within the three-state, 12-member Southland Conference in results from the NCAA’s Academic Progress Rate and Graduation Success Rate reports since those studies began five years ago. Lady Demon soccer and Demon basketball have received national commendations from the NCAA for their APR performance and NSU is one of the few Division I institutions regionally to never have been penalized for substandard APR results in any sport.

Midway through the 2010-11 athletic year, Northwestern student-athletes, coaches and staff are striving to surpass last year’s milestone of more than 5,000 hours of community service to a wide array of worthy causes. NSU Athletics community service endeavors include school, hospital and nursing home visits, trash pick-ups, mentoring programs for youth, supporting U.S. Military troops serving overseas, and fundraising and participating with causes such as Special Olympics, the American Heart Association and the American Cancer Society.

For information about donating to the NSU Foundation, contact Owens at 357-4414 or owensd@nsula.edu. To learn how to support the NSU Athletic Association, contact Broussard at 357-4295 or broussardw@nsula.edu.

**Country Lanes Bowling Opportunities**

**Natchitoches Men’s Merchant League**
*Monday night, 7:15*
*4 members per team*
*Championship money and point money*
*Bowlers pay $14 weekly*
*League begins in August, ends in November*

**Cane Country Mixed League**
*Officers - Carol Holland, President - 318-256-5320*
*Barbie Neuhauser, Sec./Treas. - 318-357-0935*
*6 teams, playing strength of three members*
*Begin Dec. and ends in February*
*Bowling begins at 7:15 p.m.*

**Youth League**
*Rebels and Lil’uns*
*Saturdays at 2 p.m.*
*Up to age 20*
*Participant must be in school.*

**RoadRunners**
*For women only*
*Begin August, ends November*

**Goodtimer’s League**
*Runs 13 weeks*
*$13 weekly fee*
*Any combination players*
*Playing strength of four members*

**Doubles Tournament**
*Teams can be men, women or mixed*
*Entry fee - $15*
*Must be on active league team*
*Bowl from Nov. 1-Nov. 30*

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**City Recreation Opportunities**

**Year-Round Events**
*Pickleball.............................Monday & Thursday 9 a.m.-11 a.m.*
*Open Basketball......................Monday & Thursday 12 p.m.-2 p.m.*
*Youth Girls Dance.....................Monday - Thursday 6 p.m.-7 p.m.*
*Youth Cheer/Tumbling.............Monday-Thursday 7 p.m.-8 p.m.*

**Special Events**
*NFL Punt, Pass and Kick............Sept. 24*
*Aquafina Pitch, Hit & Run.........May date TBD*
*Hershey Track and Field..........June date TBD*
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Who to Call/ Where to Go

2010 Busy, Successful for Red River

The J. Bennett Johnston Waterway project, authorized by Congress in 1968, is responsible for a multitude of improvements along the Red River making it a powerhouse for dependable industrial transportation and recreation. This mariner resource is so valuable that it has been able to withstand the effects from the recent downturn of our nation’s economy. In fact, activity along the Red River is moving in the opposite direction.

Year-end reports from the five public ports show tonnage at an all-time high. A total of 1.8M tons was shipped through the public ports which is double the amount from 2009 making it the highest total to date. This follows a positive finding from the U.S. Corps of Engineers who reported a 34% tonnage increase at any waterway in the United States. Major commodities being transported include aggregate, petroleum, and fertilizer.

Recreation on the Red

The Red River’s recreation division includes 20 recreation areas that are available to the public. The sites include access to boat launches, picnic areas, campsites, RV parks and hiking trails. The Red River Waterway continues to enhance its recreational assets and recently completed development of Poland Recreation Area located in south Rapides Parish. This facility has a 2-lane boat launch, picnic units and large parking lot with site lighting. But, perhaps what the Red River is best known for is its quality fishery.

The 2009 Bassmaster Classic, which was held on the Red River in Shreveport and Bossier City, is an excellent example. Known as the most prestigious event in bass fishing, the Classic was a huge success generating more than $92M in economic impact and attracting a record-breaking crowd of over 137,000 people. But, it gets even better. 2009 Champion Skeet Reese brought in the 2nd highest weigh-in total in the Classic’s history. It was the perfect opportunity to experience the river’s quality fishery and highlight the Red River as a prime fishing destination.

The Bassmaster Classic is set to return to the Red River in February 2012 in Shreveport and Bossier City. For updates about the 2012 Classic or more information about the Red River Waterway Commission, visit www.redriverwaterway.com or call (800) 874-9431.
The J. Bennett Johnston Waterway Grand Ecore Visitor Center is open.

The center offers extraordinary views of Red River from a bluff high above the water. The grounds are host to wildlife, cultural and historical displays of the area and waterway exploration and navigation information. A walking trail is available for visitors to get a firsthand glance at Civil War entrenchments.

The 4,800 square foot center is situated at the highest point of the Grand Ecore bluffs overlooking Red River. It includes a reception area, exhibition hall, office and work room along with restrooms, storage and mechanical/electrical systems.

Visitors will learn about the waterway and the role of the Corps of Engineers in the development, preservation and enhancement of water resources in the region.

Nine interior exhibits cover the history, present and future of the waterway. The theme is “Navigation on the Red River: A Study In Time.”

Of particular interest is an extensive exhibit of information planned on Civil War activities on the Red River with ties to the Civil War features on the site.

A Union fort was situated on the bluff that included several large gun placements. These emplacements and trench work are still visible. A pathway takes visitors to the emplacements where interpretive signs and benches are placed.

The Visitor's Center is located off La. Hwy 6 at 106 Tauzin Island Road, just west of the Grand Ecore Bridge. For more information, call 354-8770.
The park located on University Drive off Airport Road was named for and dedicated to former Natchitoches Parks and Recreation employee Raevon Waldrup, who was killed in a car wreck Oct. 18, 2009. It is the newest of City parks. At the dedication were, on front row from left, Raevon’s sister Annette Sykes, Raevon’s mother Rosalyn Waldrup, Regina Layton and Otis Snead. On back row are NPRD Athletic Director, NPRD Director Kendrick Llorens, Shoneika Helaire, Rosetta Garrett, Regina Layton, Ricky Berry, Jack Edwards and Dennis West.

Airport Park - “Raevon Waldrup Park”
130 University Drive
Playground equipment

Ben Johnson Foundation Basketball Courts
616 MLK Drive
Two full-court basketball courts with bleachers, six half-court basketball courts, playground equipment, walking trails

504 Boat Landing
986 Highway 504

Covered pavilion with one picnic table, four barbecue pits, boat launch, boat pier, paved parking lot

Texas Street Boat Landing
2020 Texas Street
Covered pavilion with three picnic tables, boat launch, boat pier, gravel parking lot

Washington Street Boat Landing
365 Washington Street

Picnic tables, two piers, asphalt parking lot

Breda Town
1320 Dixie Street
John Below Community Center, benches, basketball court with bleachers, playground equipment

City Park
300 Amulet Street
Covered pavilion with picnic tables, two tennis courts, baseball field, playground equipment, paved parking lot

Garrett Spray Park
616 MLK Drive
Spray water park, pool room with men’s and women’s dressing rooms and restrooms, water fountain, paved parking lot

Highland Park
1117 Highland Park Drive
Two baseball/softball fields, concession stand, playground equipment, men’s and women’s restrooms, asphalt parking lot

Johm Below Community Center
1430 Dixie Street
6,500 square foot facility with a capacity to hold 200 people
The building consists of one small meeting room (25-50 people), one large meeting room (50-100 people), kitchen equipped with stove and refrigerator, men/women bathrooms.

Richard R. Manning Park - “Manning Park”
341 Shoreline Drive
Benches, playground equipment, half-court basketball court, covered pavilion, walking trail

Mc Cain Children’s Park
1536 Salter Street
Volleyball net, water fountain, batting cage, covered pavilion with picnic tables, T-ball practice field, asphalt walking track, benches, playground equipment

MLK Memorial Park
1000 MLK Drive
Park area, benches, monument of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Pierson Mallet Children’s Park
701 East Fifth Street
Picnic tables, half-court basketball court, playground equipment

Professor Frederick M. Richardson Park - “Richardson Park”
1717 Lake Street
Pavilion with picnic tables, barbecue pits, water fountain, baseball field, men’s and women’s restrooms

H.J. Sudbury Recreational Park - “Sudbury Park”
201 Flora Street
Two baseball practice fields, playground equipment, half-court basketball court

Todd Memorial Park
112 Hampton Drive
Picnic tables, playground equipment, basketball court

Ross Williams Park
1401 Dean Street
Playground equipment

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986 Highway 504

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2020 Texas Street
Covered pavilion with three picnic tables, boat launch, boat pier, gravel parking lot

Washington Street Boat Landing
365 Washington Street

Picnic tables, two piers, asphalt parking lot

Breda Town
1320 Dixie Street
John Below Community Center, benches, basketball court with bleachers, playground equipment

City Park
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Covered pavilion with picnic tables, two tennis courts, baseball field, playground equipment, paved parking lot

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Clementine Hunter

Over a period of 50 years, the late Clementine Reuben Hunter of Melrose created several thousand paintings of early 20th century Louisiana plantation life. She painted obsessively, consuming reams of paper and working by oil lamp late into the night, often after a long day’s work as cook and domestic servant at Melrose Plantation.

Hunter could neither read nor write, yet her body of work is a remarkable record of plantation life seen from the black perspective. Paintings, cotton picking, hog killings, wakes, fig gathering, fishing and wash day are all depicted. Earlier works were painted on scraps of paper, cardboard, paper shopping bags, using discarded tubes of paint from visiting artists and any materials available.

Later, patrons supplied her with materials such as canvas board and canvas, oil paints and water colors. Although recognized primarily for her paintings, she also made a few appliqued quilts. The earlier works have the most interesting perspectives and contain the most intriguing distortions and show the artist’s sense of humor. These paintings show an attempt to represent three dimensional space which the later paintings decidedly disregard.

In 1943, Hunter’s artistic work brought recognition from the Rosenwald Foundation with a financial grant.

Later paintings, executed from about 1950 on, are opaque, flat and decorative. Thick with paint, they shout color - primaries, vibrant oranges, intense blue. Stylistically, they resemble Haitian painting. Their strongly horizontal compositions with figures, most in profile, stacked on top of one another reminds us of the African heritage shared by Louisiana and the Caribbean islands.

The later work recalls African textile designs with strong linear patterns and stylized figures. By 1954, Hunter was featured with a full page of color in LOOK magazine. In 1955, Delgado Museum in New Orleans accorded her a one-man show. In her native Natchitoches Parish, her paintings were exhibited in the Fine Arts Building of Northwestern State College.

The press acclaimed the quality of her work. Radio and television stations broadcast the story of Hunter over national networks.

During the summer months of 1955, Hunter, through the sponsorship of J.H. Henry, decorated the upper story of one of the original African houses with a series of mural panels depicting scenes of Cane River plantation life. Leading newspapers carried accounts of Hunter’s African house murals: “A 20th Century Woman of Color Finishes a Story Begun 200 Years Ago by an 18th Century Congo-born Slave Girl, Marie Terese, the original grantee of Melrose Plantation.”

Holiday, the magazine of leisure for richer living, in its 10th anniversary issue, March 1956, honored Hunter with a page of color accompanying the article: “The Living Joy of Pictures.”

The design for the Clementine Hunter zinnia was submitted by Natchitoches resident Larry Richards. It was added to the Christmas riverbank display for the 2010 festival.

Clementine Hunter (1886-1988) is recognized as one of the most important black folk artists of the 20th century. A descendant of slaves, she was born Clemence Reuben in late December 1886 or early January 1887 on Hidden Hill Plantation, a few miles south of Cloutierville. She is considered not just a folk artist, but also a cultural historian of early Southern plantation life.

Hunter moved to nearby Melrose Plantation in Cane River Country at age 14 or 15. She worked first in the fields picking cotton and later performed domestic duties in the Big House during the late 1920s.

A common law marriage with Charlie Dupree ended with his demise around 1914; she married Emanuel Hunter in January 1924 and gave birth to seven children.

By the 1940s, Melrose Plantation was owned by Cammie Henry and had become a center for visiting artists. Around 1940, Clementine created her first work, probably a panoramic Cane River baptism scene painted on an old window shade. This was shown to Francois Mignon, a writer and guest at the plantation, and later curator of the Melrose Plantation. Mignon is considered the single most important influence on Hunter's artistic career as he supplied materials, purchased paintings, arranged exhibitions of her work, wrote newspaper columns and provided general encouragement to the developing artist.

In 1970, Melrose Plantation was sold; however eight buildings and six acres of the original 2,500 acres were donated to the Association of Natchitoches Women for the Preservation of Historic Natchitoches. Melrose Plantation was placed on the National Registry of Historic Places in 1972 and was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1974.

Through this period, Hunter continued to live in a rented cabin near the Big House. In the 1970s, other local Natchitoches art patrons supported her work including Dr. Mildred Hart Bailey, Thomas N. Whitehead and Ann Williams Brittain. Hunter died of old age near Melrose Plantation on Jan. 1, 1988.

Biography

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Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception

According to available records, the history of Immaculate Conception Church began in 1717, or perhaps 1716, when the Franciscan, Fr. Antonio Margil de Jesus, walked the 21 miles from the Spanish Mission at Los Adaes to say Mass at the French military post in Natchitoches. Services were also held in the home of Louis Juchereau de St. Denis, commandant of the post, and his wife, Dona Manuela.

The present church was built in 1857; however, it was not entirely completed until 1892 when Bishop Durier added the dome on the tower, constructed the present sanctuary and sacristies, added the altar and tile floor. The church was restored and redecorated in 1955-56 when the front vestibule and entrance were added.

On the south corner of the church is a plaque commemorating the first public religious service held in Natchitoches. The date is given as 1716; however, records now available give 1717 as the date.

The Rt. Rev. Msgr. A. Piegay, Vicar General, and Fr. A. Andries are buried in front of the church.

All fittings and furnishings, except the pews, were imported from France: the main altar, the hand-painted Stations of the Cross, the Statue of Blessed Virgin Mary over the main altar, the chandeliers and the ladder located in the choir.

The spiral staircase leading to the choir is unique in that it has no center support. The wooden Baptismal Font, beneath the staircase, was handcarved in France.

Bishop Augustin Martin, the first bishop of the Natchitoches Diocese and his Vicar General Pierre F. Diharry, are buried in the church near the side altars.

Across the street are the Rectory and the Old Seminary built in 1855 to house and educate seminarians.

The Bishop Martin Museum is now located there and is the depository for early records, dating from 1724, and for church artifacts including a silver bell dated 1836.

Back of the Seminary on Trudeau Street is the bishop’s residence erected by Bishop Martin. At one time a similar but larger edifice was directly across from the residence on the corner of Second and Trudeau streets, with a wide brick walk between the two. This latter one is no longer standing.

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church gained Minor Basilica status in January 2010.

The Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception is located at the corner of Second and Church Streets.
Church Directory

Abundant Life Church
P.O. Box 78
318-357-8893

Agape Love Center
1515 Texas St.
318-357-8160

Anglican Catholic Church-Diocese of New Orleans
831 Second St.
318-352-6333

Asbury United Methodist Church
704 Fifth St.
318-2752

Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM)
NSU Campus
318-352-5464

Baptist Student Center
816 University Pkwy
318-352-3161

Bay Springs Baptist Church
140 Hwy.
318-379-0239

Bethesda Apostolic Church
851-856 Third St.
318-356-7327

Bible Missionary Church
4356 Hwy 3278
318-352-3986

Calvary Assembly of God Church
723 Highway 71/84
318-932-4775

Calvary Baptist Church
312 Hwy 391
318-352-5017

Catholic Student Organization
129 Second St.
318-352-2615

Choctaw Island Baptist Church
877 Hwy. 1225
318-352-8038

Christ of King Lutheran Church
305 East Royal St.
318-352-8708

Christian Baptist Church
1132 Dixie St.
318-354-8258

Christian Harmony Baptist Church
2019 Hwy 1226

Christian Outreach Center
106 Brickyard Road
318-352-2027

Christian Worship Center
1513 Hwy 494
318-352-4593

Church of Christ
(Grand Ecore Road)
1509 Washington St.
318-352-9764

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
2010 Texas St.
318-357-0357

Church of the Nazarene
145 Alexandria St.
318-352-3217

Coldwater Baptist Church
6558 Hwy 6
318-354-1777

College Ave. United Methodist Church
1110 University Pkwy
318-356-0787

Covenant Presbyterian Church
100 Jefferson St.
318-356-0787

Davis Springs Southern Methodist Church
203 Davis Springs Road
318-352-9820

Eastside Church of God in Christ
720 Fifth St.
318-352-0511

Emmanuel Baptist Church
4473 Hwy 3278
318-352-4052

Evergreen Baptist Church
3999 Hwy. 486
318-352-8038

Evergreen Community Home
100 Des Negis St.
356-5800

Fairview Baptist Church
104 Highway 71/84
318-352-4593

Freedom Life Church
1530 Keyser Ave.
318-357-1315

Faith Family Church
131 Sorgee Rd.
318-357-1315

Faith, Hope & Charity Ministries
1401 Welch St.
318-352-9295

Fellowship of Christian Athletes
322 Monroe Drive
318-354-2879

First Baptist Church - Second St.
508 Second St.
318-352-3737

First Baptist Church-Amulet
1116 Aumulet St.
318-352-3314

First Baptist-Marthaville
1054 Hwy. 20
318-352-4652

First Presbyterian Church
114 Bienville
318-352-3106

First United Methodist Church
411 Second St.
318-357-0298

Fountain of Life United Pentecostal Church
5769 Hwy 1 Bypass
318-352-6009

Fulton Road Community Home
174 Fulton Road
318-352-8989

Fulton United Methodist Church
145 Alexandria St.
318-352-3711

Goodwill Baptist Church
1312 Holmes St.
318-352-7357

Goodwill Friendships Center
1312-A Holmes St.
318-352-7751

Greenville Baptist Church
143 Taylor Road
318-352-1800

Greenville Baptist Church
315 Clark Rd.
318-357-8899

Heart After God's Ministries
9369 Hwy 1
318-352-4555

Heartland Assembly of God
2019 Hwy 1226
318-352-2983

Heartland Church
1700 Washington St.
318-352-6325

Heartland Community Church
350 Harmony Church
318-472-8630

Holy Cross Catholic Church
129 Second St.
318-352-2615

Holy Family Catholic Church
701 Abraham Road on Cane River
318-379-8999

Holy Family Catholic Church
1700 Washington St.
318-352-8985

House of Faith Church of God in Christ
1620 Hwy 485
318-357-8824

Jabez Missionary Baptist Church
Continued Page 34C

Jabez Missionary Baptist Church
Continued Page 34C

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318-238-2501
d20 South Williams Ave.
Natchitoches, LA 7457

318-356.5533
311-B South Drive, Natchitoches, LA
Church Directory

Church
1706 Texas St.
318-352-0089

Jehovah’s Witnesses
Natchitoches Congregation
1645 Breazeale Springs
318-352-9396

Jennings Chapel
Congregational Methodist
Church
8673 Hwy 6
Robeline, LA 71469
318-472-6488

Lake Street Church of Christ
1307 Lake St.
318-352-6474

Lena United Pentecostal Church
495 Merrill Road
Lena, LA 71447
318-379-0014

Living Faith Assembly of God
P.O. Box 245
Campti, LA 71411
318-476-2133

Mallard Hill COGIC
269 Mallard Hill Road
Robeline, LA 71469
318-472-9139

Marthaville Seventh-Day Adventist Church
181 S. Main St.
Marthaville, LA 71456
318-354-8199

Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception
Catholic Church
145 Church St.
318-352-3422

Morning Star Baptist Church
170 Main St.
Natchez, LA 71456
318-357-3024

Natchitoches First Seventh-Day Adventists Church
825 Koonce St.
318-357-8717

New Birth Baptist Church
108 Church St.
Natchez
318-354-9427

New Life Evangelism Center
4819 Hwy 3278
318-357-1911

New Nazarene Baptist Church
877 Hwy. 1220
318-356-5396

New Testament Church of God
2095 Eight Mile Loop
318-356-0802

North Star Baptist Church
734 Hwy. 485
318-352-9565

Oak Grove Community Home
106 New Town Road
318-357-0920

Oak Grove United Methodist Church
C/o 713 St. Claire
318-8113

Oasis of Love Fellowship
7691 Hwy 1 Bypass
318-357-0487

Old Bethel Baptist Church
504 Old Bethel Church Road
Robeline, LA 71469
318-472-9698

Oasis of Love Fellowship
7681 Hwy 1 Bypass
318-357-0487

Prayer Ministry
912 Hwy 1
318-357-0920

Prayer Ministry
912 Hwy 1
318-357-0920

Providence Free Methodist Church
4406 North Blvd.
318-472-9007

Providence United Methodist Church
140 Bellwood St.
318-472-9116

Providence United Pentecostal Church
134 Laurel St.
318-472-6334

Rivers of Living Water Interdenominational Ministries
908 MLK Dr.
318-354-8207

Rockford Baptist Church
669 Old River Rd.
318-352-1306

Rock Island Baptist Church
635 Dixie St.
318-357-0435

Robeline First Baptist Church
7730 Oak St.
Robeline, LA 71469
318-472-8993

Robeline United Pentecostal Church
9006 Texas St.
Robeline, LA 71469
318-472-6406

Rose of Sharon Church of Natchez
197 Rose of Sharon Church Rd.
Natchez
318-356-9006

Shady Grove Missionary Baptist Church
361 Shady Grove Rd.
Robeline, LA 71469
318-472-9211

Shekinah Glory Church of God in Christ
725 Amulet St.
318-354-1390

Shiloh Baptist Church
410 Sixth St.
318-357-7932

St. Andrew Baptist Church
717 Cat Island Rd.
Derry
318-379-0350

St. Anthony Catholic Church
911 Fifth St.
318-352-2528

St. Augustine Catholic Church
2262 Hwy 484
318-379-2521

St. Francis of Assisi Church
179 Hwy. 486
Powhatan
318-352-8819

St. Hilda of Whitby
717 Cat Island Rd.
Derry
318-379-0350

St. John’s Catholic Church
428 Hwy 486
318-357-2888

St. Mark Baptist Church
200 Allen/Beaulah Rd.
Robeline, LA 71469
318-352-1887

St. Mary Baptist Church
Cane River
1451 Keyser Ave.
318-352-2301

St. Matthew Baptist Church
130 Nolan Jones Rd.
Cane River
318-379-2333

St. Thomas Chapel
527 Howard St.
318-352-6322

St. Victor Baptist Church
533 Second St.
318-352-3113

United Baptist Church
7687 Hwy 9
POB 8
Campi, LA 71411
318-476-3739

United Missionary Baptist Church of Natchez
9167 Hwy 1
Natchez
318-352-5659

Victory Assembly of God Church
131 Sorgee Road
318-357-1315

We Care Ministries
750 Ouida Drive
318-352-2041
318-352-9902

Wesley - Westminster Foundation
520 University Pkwy
318-357-2888

Westside Baptist Church
698 Hwy 1 Bypass
318-352-3283

Zion Baptist Church
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Coushatta, LA 71019-4150
318-932-5400

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St. Anne Catholic Church

The Church of St. Anne, a Catholic church located just off La. Hwy 485, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1994.

Instrumental in helping the church to acquire this status was Chief Rufus Davis of the Caddo Adai Indians, who became interested in the church while studying the history of his tribe. He was given a copy of the church's history that was printed by Fr. Patrick A. Scully in 1975. Davis said that the church's long, continuous history is closely involved in the history of his people and he felt that it deserved the recognition for having historical significance.

“I didn’t realize there was so much documentation on the history of the church and my people,” said Davis, who began working towards the church's history of the church while he was a student at the University of Southern Mississippi.

In 1975, Davis began working towards the church's history of the church while he was a student at the University of Southern Mississippi. Davis said that the church's history was not well-known until recently, and that it is important to preserve this history for future generations.

According to a letter written by Father Isidro Felis de Espinosa, the missionaries were sent to the area by the viceroys, Duque de Linares, to establish for and name after the Caddo Adai Indian tribe. He was given a copy of the church's history that was written by Fr. Patrick A. Scully in 1975.

The church's history began in 1717, when San Miguel de Los Adais was founded by the Spaniards about two miles above the present-day Robeline, which was then part of Texas. The church was originally established for and named after the Caddo Adai Indian tribe which the Capuchin Fathers spent about 150 years converting to Catholicism.

According to a letter written by Father Isidro Felis de Espinosa, the missionaries were sent to the area by the viceroys, Duque de Linares, after two Frenchmen from Mobile had approached the Presidio of San Juan Bautista under the pretense of seeking stock and provisions. The viceroys consulted their council and decided that the entry of the Frenchmen could cause problems later and arranged for missionaries to go immediately into Texas under the protection of 25 soldiers. The viceroys hoped that by converting the Indians, their loyalty would be drawn to the Spanish and the tribes would help prevent further French exploration and commerce.

The tribes apparently welcomed the missionaries, who brought them gifts of chocolate, hats, blankets, tobacco and trinkets, and returned the favor with corn, muskmelons, nuts, tamales and other food items.

Four years after the mission was established in 1721, the Fort Los Adais was founded for the purpose of protecting the mission and strengthening Spain's position against the French who had founded Natchitoches in 1714. Los Adais was the capital of the Spanish Province of Texas for 50 years. Around 1767, the church was moved to Shamrock near Allen and Spanish Lake, and from there, to the site of the church's present cemetery. At that time, the church was named for St. Anne. That church was destroyed by fire and the present St. Anne's Church was built in 1916.

A late vernacular example of the Gothic Revival style, the Church of St. Anne is one of only three buildings of this type that are over 50 years old in Natchitoches Parish. There have been few alterations of the original structure. The replacement of a wooden porch with a concrete one and replaced pier bases of damaged wooden columns occurred before 1950. More recently a concrete handicap ramp was attached to the porch. In the 1970s, a portion of the porch was enclosed and expanded and vinyl siding was installed. At some time, a wooden staircase that provided access to a door was lost.

The church's interior remains very much in the original except for the installation of linoleum, carpet, modern globe lighting and air conditioning.

The church's original communion rail has been preserved and plans are being made to re-erect it in its original location. None of the alterations affected the church's eligibility for National Register candidacy.

St. Augustine Catholic Church

St. Augustine Catholic Church was founded in 1803 by Nicholas Augustin Metoyer. Although it was built for his family's use, he extended an invitation to the community to attend mass there.

The original church was built by Metoyer and his brother, Louis Metoyer, who was called the builder by members of the community. The church was one of only three churches in northwest Louisiana until the Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin at Campi was built in 1842.

On March 11, 1856, the Mission of St. Augustine on Isle Brevelle was decreed by Bishop Auguste Martin of the Diocese of Natchitoches to be a parish in its own right.

Bishop Martin assigned his own brother, Father Francois Martin, to be its first resident pastor.

The first church was the only church to have open galleries extending along its sides. Its roof, surmounted with a small tower, extended beyond the walls to cover the galleries running along the sides of the church.

St. Augustine was built on a one-quarter acre of land donated by Metoyer at Isle Brevelle, a river island between Cane and Old rivers and Bayou Brevelle, which connected other rivers at the present Lake. Plantation in Bermuda.

Bayou Brevelle has since been cut off from Cane River at that plantation.

The church parish was historically called St. Augustine's at Isle Brevelle, though the parish limits extend far beyond the island itself. The name, Isle Brevelle, was practically restricted to the parish, for the broader community was referred to as Cane River.

In 1816, the present church was built at the site of the original church. The graveyard directly behind the church dates back to the original church and contains the graves of Augustin and other members of his family and the descendants. The cemetery contains wrought iron crosses and many of the grave markers are inscribed in French.

St. Augustine Catholic Church is on the west bank of Cane River across from Melrose plantation complex at the intersections of Louisiana Highways 493 and 493.
Natchitoches Parish: At a Glance


2. International Paper Red River Mill on La. Hwy. 480 in Campti is one of the largest employers in the parish.

3. Powhatan is a quiet community with a population of 139 according to the 2009 census.

4. The Robeline Heritage Festival is the first weekend in October. It features food, musical entertainment, contests and plenty of small town hospitality.
Goldonna community is centered around its elementary/jr. high school. Students display their wristbands, rewards identifying them for their good behavior.

Clarence is famous for Grayson’s Barbeque. They offer smoked hams, barbeque dinners and sliced and chipped sandwiches on homemade buns. For dessert there is homemade cake and gingerbread.

Natchez residents come together to celebrate National Night Out in November.

Participants in the hula hoop contest at Provencal’s National Night Out were, from left, Rosemary Danzy, Sheila Warner, Selena Wester, Abbie Gandy, Nathan Rachal, Megan Boles, Dewayne Poe, Renee Rivers and Hope Rachal. Provencal is home to the panthers.

Natchitoches Festival of Lights begins in mid-November with the turning on of hundreds of thousands of Christmas lights. Lights remain on every night through the first week of January. New events include Natchitoches’ first-ever “Snow Fest.” Visitors can experience Frosty’s Avalanche Slide by tubing down 110 feet of winter fun on the downtown riverbank. A junior parade and main parade with celebrity grand marshal roll Christmas festival day. Arts and crafts and food vendors line Front Street and Second Street throughout the day. The celebration culminates with a professional fireworks and laser light show. For more information about the Natchitoches Christmas Festival, visit www.christmasfestival.com.
Northwestern State University

Northwestern State University stands on ground that has been dedicated to learning for more than 125 years.

Prior to the Civil War a portion of the present campus was the property of the Bullard family of Natchitoches. As early as 1856, the Bullard mansion was in use as a convent by the Religious of the Society of the Sacred Heart.

The following year, a school building was erected at the convent, and in 1884 the property was purchased by the town and parish of Natchitoches. Three of the four great white columns that once supported the east gable of the Bullard mansion still stand on "The Hill" and often serve as the unofficial symbol of the University.

The State Legislature by Act 51 of 1884 created a Louisiana State Normal School for the preparation of teachers. A member of the Legislature, Leopold Caspari, offered the convent site as a campus for the school with the anticipated approval of the citizens of Natchitoches. The offer was accepted, and from 1885-1918, the Normal School offered two years of study for the training of teachers. Baccalaureate programs were then inaugurated, and the State Constitution adopted in 1921 changed the name of the school to Louisiana State Normal College.

The resources and curricula of "Normal" grew steadily to meet the increasingly diverse requirements of Louisiana's expanding population. In 1944 the institution's excellent service in its broader role was accorded formal recognition in Act 326 of the Legislature, which changed its name to Northwestern State College of Louisiana.

In 1954, the institution maintained and strengthened its long tradition of leadership in public service and academic endeavor and became, in 1954, the first college under the jurisdiction of the Louisiana State Board of Education to offer the master's degree. The Educational Specialist degree was first offered in 1966.

On June 18, 1970, Gov. John J. McKeithen signed the legislative act that brought the old school its greatest distinction by changing its title to Northwestern State University of Louisiana.

In 1980 the old campus quadrangle where the columns stand was entered into the National Register of Historic Places under the title "Normal Hill Historic District."

In 1984 Northwestern State University celebrated its Centennial with lectures, concerts, social events, and an effective fund raising effort that established the Centennial Development Fund.

In addition to the main campus in Natchitoches, the university maintains full-service campus centers in Shreveport, Leesville and Alexandria and offers instruction at eight continuing education sites in the central and northwest areas of the state.

NSU's mascot Vic the Demon waves from the bed of a truck during a parade.
Famous Natchitoches Meat Pies

Famous Natchitoches Meat Pies Inc. (better known as Natchitoches Meat Pies) has been in business over 25 years; 20 of those at its current location in Coushatta. Our manufacturing facility is at 1414 Industrial Drive and has 18,000 square feet. Our retail outlet and corporate office is located at 620 Rush Street.

Natchitoches Meat Pie is a USDA inspected facility and, as such, has a HACCP program in place. Our company produces bulk product, for the service industry and retail products for the end-user market. And now we are opening up our “internet” market with our new online shopping.

For those who do not know how to pronounce our name it is “NAH-kuh-tush.” And why Natchitoches Meat Pies is in Coushatta, Louisiana? It is simple. The origin of the ingredients (seasonings) of the pie comes from the quaint town of Natchitoches. Almost every household has a family recipe that has been handed down from generations. Just as one of our owners had, it is his mother’s recipe that our company has used for years.

Of course, there are two stories about the origination of the Natchitoches Meat Pie. One is that women would make these pies for the husbands to go to the fields, a flaky dough surrounding a filling of meat and seasonings was easy to transport and easy to eat. The other is more colorful and one that we particularly like. It is said young lads on the streets of Natchitoches would sell the pies. Little street vendors. We pay homage to their memory by using a young lad holding up a pie as our logo.

As the years went by, we added different varieties and flavors to our line. Crawfish meat pies, shrimp meat pies, taco meat pies, chorizo seasoned pork meat pies, fruit pies, a child nutrition product and a TVP product that has no pork.

We realized that once we left our market area, most people did not understand what type of “meat pie” we sold. Many thought it must be a “pot” pie. It isn’t. So we added a new description: “Empanada.” This description made explaining our product much easier once you left Louisiana. An empanada-filling in a fold over crescent shaped crust. Now you know what our pie is - empanada!

Meat pies can be made on an assembly line.

Celebrating Meat Pies

Natchitoches celebrates meat pies with events like the Meat Pie Festival and Meat Pie Triathlon, usually in September. They take place on the downtown riverbank in Natchitoches. Vendors and entertainers turn the riverbank into the place to go for festival fun yummy meat pies.

This will be the ninth year for the Meat Pie Tri. It consists of a half-mile swim in Cane River Lake, a 20-mile bike and 3-mile run.

Last year’s race, which was produced by Run Wild Event Management, L.L.C., will serve as the Regional Sprint Championship for Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas. More than 400 triathletes are expected to compete in this year’s race.

The general public is encouraged to watch the triathlon kick off.
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