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Juneteenth: You Know the Truth, Now the Rest of the Story

Juneteenth Members Continued



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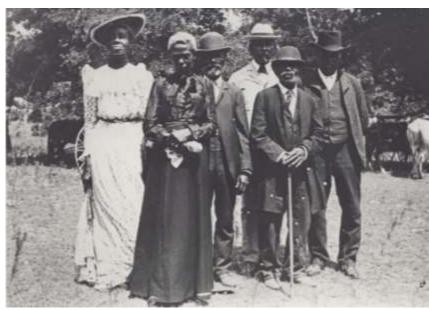
SWLA Juneteenth Committee ~ Specialty License Plate

The Specialty License Plate should ready for sale this year!

SWLA Juneteenth Committee Board Members traveled to Louisiana State Capitol on June 7, 2023. Present from the SWLA Juneteenth Committee: Abram Freeman, Past President Brenda Andrus, Vice President, Natalie Spencer, Secretary, Twana Benoit and Susannah Johnson Malbreaux, President. Also present was Rep. Jason Hughes and Representative Vincent Pierre, who was very instrumental in getting this Bill passed and Governor John Bel Edwards.



The Historical Legacy of Juneteenth



Emancipation Day celebration, June 19, 1900 held in "East Woods" on East 24th Street in Austin. Credit: Austin History Center

On "Freedom's Eve," or the eve of January 1, 1863, the first Watch Night services took place. On that night, enslaved and free African Americans gathered in churches and private homes all across the country awaiting news that the Emancipation Proclamation had taken effect. At the stroke of midnight, prayers were answered as all enslaved people in Confederate States were declared legally free. Union soldiers, many of whom were black, marched onto plantations and across cities in the south reading small copies of the Emancipation Proclamation

spreading the news of freedom in Confederate States. Only through the <u>Thirteenth</u> Amendment did emancipation end slavery throughout the United States.

But not everyone in Confederate territory would immediately be free. Even though the Emancipation Proclamation was made effective in 1863, it could not be implemented in places still under Confederate control. As a result, in the westernmost Confederate state of Texas, enslaved people would not be free until much later. Freedom finally came on June 19, 1865, when some 2,000 Union troops arrived in Galveston Bay, Texas. The army announced that the more than 250,000 enslaved black people in the state, were free by executive decree. This day came to be known as "Juneteenth," by the newly freed people in Texas.

The post-emancipation period known as Reconstruction (1865-1877) marked an era of great hope, uncertainty, and struggle for the nation as a whole. Formerly enslaved people immediately sought to reunify families, establish schools, run for political office, push radical legislation and even sue slaveholders for compensation. Given the 200+ years of enslavement, such changes were nothing short of amazing. Not even a generation out of slavery, African Americans were inspired and empowered to transform their lives and their country.

Juneteenth marks our country's second independence day. Although it has long celebrated in the African American community, this monumental event remains largely unknown to most Americans.

The historical legacy of Juneteenth shows the value of never giving up hope in uncertain times. The National Museum of African American History and Culture is a community space where this spirit of hope lives on. A place where historical events like Juneteenth are shared and new stories with equal urgency are told.

Programme

Welcome	Ms. Susannah Johnson Malbreaux SWLA Juneteenth President
I nvocation	
	SWLA Juneteenth Past President
History of Juneteenth	
Welcome to Pageant	Ms. Brenda Andrus SWLA Juneteenth Vice President
I ntroductions	Ms. Elizabeth Richard SWLA Juneteenth Member
Mistress & Master of Ceremony	ls. Empress Wilson & Mr. Dalfred Jones, Jr.
"The Black National Anthem," Lift Every Voice and Sing	Ms. Teka Briscoe
I ntroduction of Judges	
Introduction of Pageant Contestants	
Introduction of Pageant Contestants	
	Leigha F. Porter
Dance Selection	
Dance Selection Pageant Contestants	
Dance Selection Pageant Contestants Pageant Contestants	
Dance Selection Pageant Contestants Pageant Contestants Pageant Contestants (16 - 19 yrs. old)	
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Dance Selection Pageant Contestants Pageant Contestants Pageant Contestants (16 - 19 yrs. old) Dance Selection Dinner is Served	
Dance Selection Pageant Contestants Pageant Contestants (16 - 19 yrs. old) Dance Selection Dinner is Served Sutroduction of Guest Speaker	

Award Presentations

Winners of Poster and Essay Contests

Pageant Contestant Winners

Special Recognition

Benediction / Closing

Juneteenth: You Know the Truth, Now the Rest of the Story swlajuneteenth.org



Monique B. Boulet

Mayor-President / Maire-President



June 21, 2024

I am thrilled to extend my heartfelt support to the organizers, participants, and community members involved in the 2024 SWLA Juneteenth Banquet & Scholarship Pageant. This event stands as a beacon of celebration, reflecting both the rich history and the vibrant future of our community in Lafayette and in Acadiana.

Juneteenth is not only a time to commemorate the end of slavery in the United States but also an opportunity to celebrate the continued pursuit of equality and justice. The annual SWLA Juneteenth Banquet & Scholarship Pageant plays a crucial role in this celebration, educating our youth about our shared history and inspiring them with stories of resilience and courage.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to preserving and promoting our history. I look forward to the continued success of the SWLA Juneteenth Banquet & Scholarship Pageant and to the opportunities it provides for our young people.

Sincerely,

Monique B. Boulet

Lafayette Mayor-President



Senator Gerald Boudreaux District - 24

Lafayette District Office P.O. Box 91245 Lafayette, LA 70509

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Office Hours Monday - Friday 9:00am-4:30pm

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District Phone (337) 267-7520 Toll Free: (844) 885-6578

Fax: (337) 267-7522

Office Hours Monday-Tuesday 9:00am - 11:30pm

Thursday-Friday 1:00pm-3:30pm

"The Black National Anthem," Lift Every Voice and Sing

[Verse 1]

Lift every voice and sing Till earth and heaven ring Ring with the harmonies of Liberty

Let our rejoicing rise

High as the listening skies

Let it resound loud as the rolling sea

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us

Facing the rising sun of our new day begun

Let us march on till victory is won

[Verse 2]

God of our weary years

God of our silent tears

Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way

Thou who hast by Thy might

Led us into the light

Keep us forever in the path, we pray

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee Shadowed beneath Thy hand, may we forever stand

True to our God, true to our native land

Goodness of God

I love You, Lord For Your mercy never fails me All my days, I've been held in Your hands From the moment that I wake up Until I lay my head Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God And all my life You have been faithful And all my life You have been so, so good With every breath that I am able Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God I love Your voice You have led me through the fire In the darkest night You are close like no other

I've known You as a Father I've known You as a Friend

And I have lived in the goodness of God (yeah) And all my life You have been faithful (oh) And all my life You have been so, so good With every breath that I am able Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God (yeah

'Cause Your goodness is running after It's running after me

Your goodness is running after

It's running after me With my life laid down I'm surrendered now

I give You everything

'Cause Your goodness is running after It's running after me (oh-oh)

'Cause Your goodness is running after

It's running after me

Your goodness is running after

It's running after me

With my life laid down

I'm surrendered now

I give You everything

'Cause Your goodness is running after It keeps running after me

And all my life You have been faithful And all my life You have been so, so good

With every breath that I am able

Oh, I'm gonna sing of the goodness of God (I'm gonna sing, I'm gonna sing)

'Cause all my life You have been faithful And all my life You have been so, so good

With every breath that I am able

Oh, I'm gonna sing of the goodness of God Oh, I'm gonna sing of the goodness of God

Teka Briscoe

Born and raised on the Northside of Lafayette, Teka Briscoe started singing in the church choir at age of seven. Over the years, her love of all musical genres and vocal performance provided her with opportunities to work with artists throughout the country and abroad.

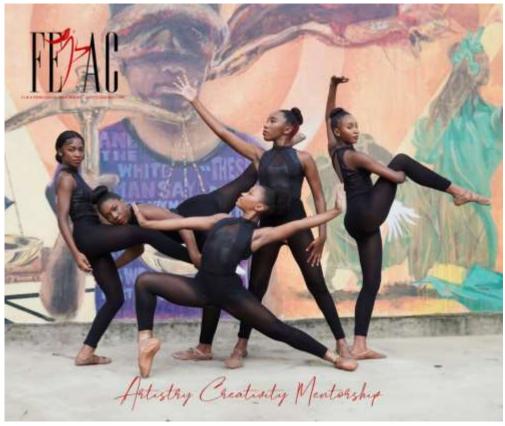
Her theater involvement accolades include Muse #2 in Little Shop of Horrors, Nell Carter in Ain't Misbehavin, Sara Vaughn in the American Songbook, Still Ain't Misbehavin, the Reprisal as the Artistic Director. Most recently she played Fannie Lou Hame in a short film, The Chamber Room" written by Natalie Spencer, a member of the Ensemble cast for Shelby Have's adaptation of the Broadway Musical, Rent and Queen Mama in the Juneteenth Story written by Twana Benoit.

Teka Briscoe is a mother of three incredibly gifted children, a graduate of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and is employed by Lafayette Consolidated

Government. She's a member of Destiny of Faith Church's praise team and on the Board of Directors for Love of People, a non-profit organization.

Leigha T. Porter, M,E

As a choreographer, entrepreneur, and dance educator, I'm always on the MOVE. Making boss moves and actual dance moves is my super power. I'm a trained dancer who turned my God-given



talent into a business. Everyday, I'm blessed to wake up and work with some of the most amazing and talented people in the world— from companies and organizations, to artist: women, men and youth—creating choreography, spearheading programs, writing stage productions, and mentoring the next generation of entrepreneurs and leaders. That's right, I'm MOVING hunny! Tell me how can we collaborate. Let's Make MOVES.

2023 Little Miss Juneteenth Carli Laine LeBlanc



2023 Miss Juneteenth Jania E'Lise Cormier



Congratulations

SWLA Juneteenth Pageant Contestants

The Southern View Magazine P. L. A. C. E. S. of the South

Susannah Johnson Malbreaux thesouthernview@gmail.com www.thesouthernview.wordpress.com

Little Miss Juneteenth Pageant Contestants



Xoe Alexandra Briggs ~ 7

She is the daughter of Michelle and Dillon Briggs and attends Green T Linden Elementary. The person she admires the most is "My Mom because we paint together". Her favorite color is "Blue". She enjoys Painting and Riding Bikes.



Emery Reign Savoy ~ 7

She is the daughter of Brandie Gallien and the late Rodney Savoy, Jr., she attends Ossun Elementary. The person she admires the most is "My Gammie & my Mommy". I admire my Gammie because she cares for both my brother and I. I admire my mommy because she's like our guardian angel, always watching over me and my brother with a lot of love and care. Her favorite color is "Blue". She enjoys Playing Roblox, playing with my cousins, playing softball.

Mali White ~ 9

She is the daughter of Tawanna White, she attends Alice Boucher Elementary. The person she admires the most is "My Mother". Her favorite color is "Pink and Purple". She enjoys Dance. Swimming, Karate, Tumbling, Acro, Track and Field, and Reading

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Miss Pre-teen Juneteenth Pageant Contestants



Xyonna Briggs ~ 11

She is the daughter of Michelle and Dillon Briggs and attends Youngsville Middle School. The person she admires the most is "My Mom, because she is resilient". Her favorite color is "Sage Green". She enjoys Arts & Crafts.



Melodie Spencer ~ 13

She is the daughter of Mary Spencer and attends David Thibodeaux Stem Magnet Academy. The person she admires the most is "My Mom". She is a great role model. Her favorite color is "Blue". She enjoys Art, Soccer, Writing Club called Bulldog Ink.

A Queen

it's not about upstaging anyone and dominating the conversation it's being a part of the conversation.

Character of a Queen

The character of National Miss Juneteenth is a young woman of faith, courage, patriotism, being dutiful to her family, her church and community. There must be a distinct charm in her aspect and manner since, "She obtained favor in the sight of all of them that looked upon her." ~ Esther 2:15

Talent Competition

Talent performances are the single aspect of the competition that where each queen has her moment to shine. Our judges score based on interpretive ability, technical skill, and stage presence. The scores will be measured within the framework of each individual presentation, no comparative judging.

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Miss Juneteenth Pageant Contestants



Zoey Francis ~ 18

She is the daughter of Tawana Ransonnet and Tony Francis, she is a 2024 graduate from Comeaux High School. The person she admires the is "my sister the most, she is always the most devoted & dedicated person when it comes to anything, she taught me that dance wasn't just an activity but a blessing & an absolute privilege. She has taught me to fight & that I don't need to settle, cause life moves on with or without the past and making something good out of the bad is possible"! . Her favorite color are "pink and yellow". She enjoys hobbies and what I likes to do on my free time is dance, workout and coloring!



Alexandra Gramby ~ 17

She is the daughter of Stacie and Frankie Brooks she attends North Vermillion High School. The person she admires the most is Lize Dzjabrailova because she inspires me to do better for myself and live up to better expectations. Her favorite color is "Purple". She enjoys Tennis, Band, Choir, Student Council, Musical Theatre.



Miracle Omri Willis ~ 15

She is the daughter of Melovi Jacob and she attends South Louisiana Community College of College of Lafayette LA.

. The person she admires the most is Sojourner Truth. I admire Sojourner Truth for her unwavering courage and powerful voice in the fight for justice and equality. Despite facing unimaginable adversity, she escaped slavery and dedicated her life to advocating for Black people and Women's rights. Her favorite color is "Pink & Blue". She enjoys Dancing, crocheting, making TikTok videos, painting, reading, baking & making birthday pins. She also creates logos and fliers for businesses & she specializes in braiding hair!

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Pageant Escorts



Noah Alexander ~ 17

He attends Carencro High School. He loves fixing on cars and enjoys helping his grandfather build things around the house. He is looking forward to attending culinary school after graduation.



Abram J. Freeman II ~ 16

A Senior and attends Lafayette Christian Academy. He is on the path to 10 University of Louisiana at Lafayette to study Art and Architecture for the fall of 2025. He is the son of Pastor Abrams J, Freeman.



Xavier James Alexander ~ 14

Attends Youngsville Middle School, I love to play basketball, football, and run track. My hobbies are playing video games and listening to music. When I grow up I want to be a professional athlete and a business owner.



Breon Gabriel Thibeaux ~ 12

Born to Jerika Lynn Berry and Breon Thibeaux. While homeschooled, he connects with peers through sports like boxing, football, and basketball, aspiring to compete at the collegiate and professional levels.



Celebrating 44 Years SWLA Juneteenth Committee, Inc.





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FB: Laura's 2 NEXT Generation





Juneteenth: You Know the Truth, Now the Rest of the Story

CONGRATULATIONS



You are smart, beautiful and talented!
Follow your dreams and stay focused on what you are passionate about.
You have a bright future ahead!
I am incredibly proud of YOU!

Evangelist Gwendolyn Edwards

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES, EMERY REIGN!

YOUR UNWAVERING STRENGTH, COMPASSION, AND REMARKABLE TALENTS ILLUMINATE THE SPIRIT OF JUNETEENTH. YOUR INTELLIGENCE, BEAUTY, AND RESPECTFUL NATURE EMBODY THE ESSENCE OF THIS CELEBRATION. MAY YOUR JOURNEY AHEAD BE FILLED WITH CONTINUED SUCCESS, HAPPINESS, AND EMPOWERMENT.





TO MY BEAUTIFUL EMMIE!



THE SIGN OF A TRUE QUEEN IS THAT SHE HOLDS RESPECT FOR OTHERS AS HIGHLY AS HER CROWN!



I AM SO PROUD OF YOU!
THIS IS YOUR STORY, CONTINUE TO USE YOUR KNOWLEDGE, CONFIDENCE AND GOD-GIVEN TALENTS...
EVERY CHAPTER IS AN ENTRY TO REACHING EVERY SINGLE ONE OF YOUR DREAMS!
I LOVE YOU, GAMMIE



Congratulations

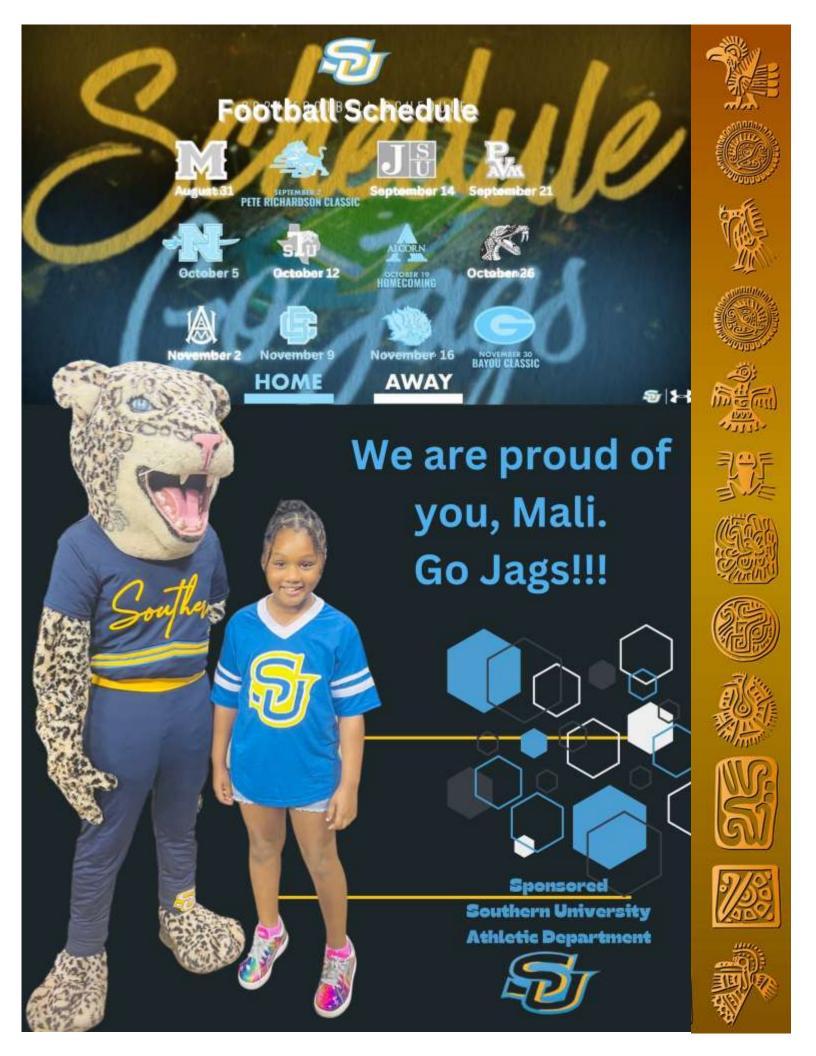
EMERY

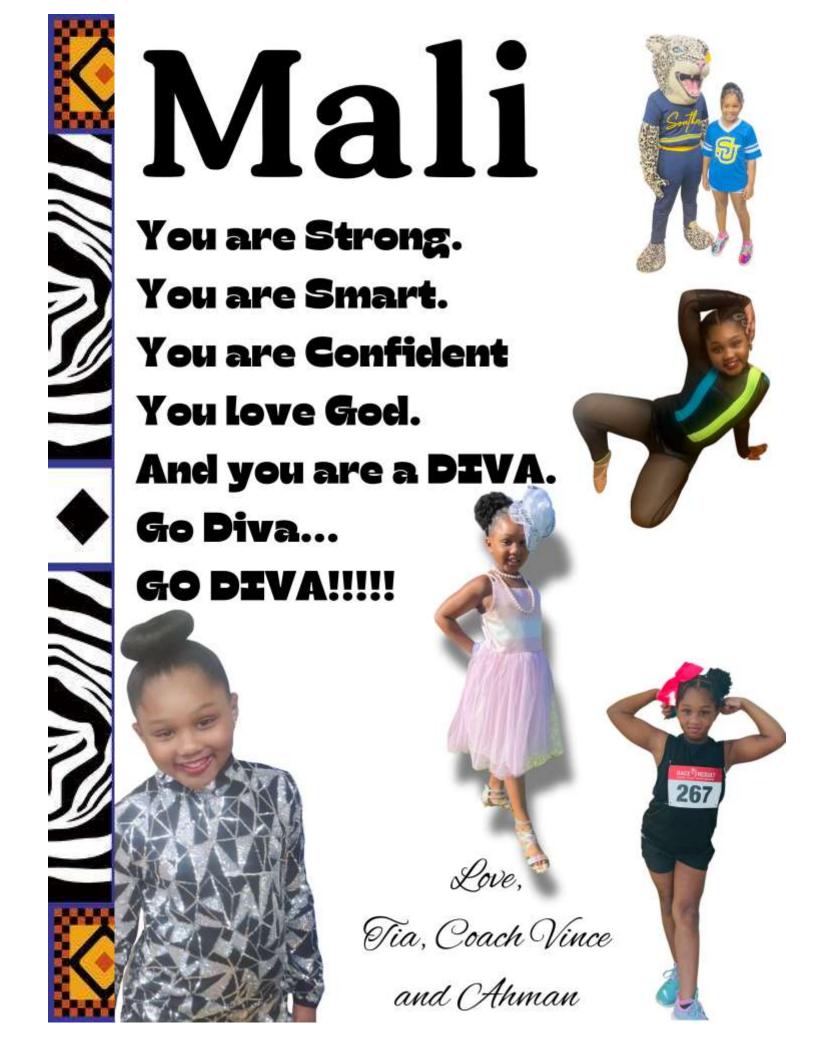


HAROLD &
CASSANDRA
WILLIAMS
& FAMILY



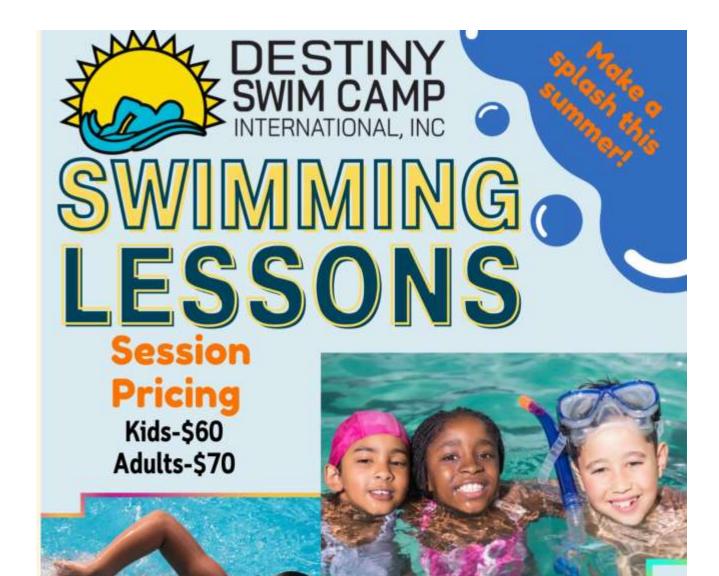
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Mali!



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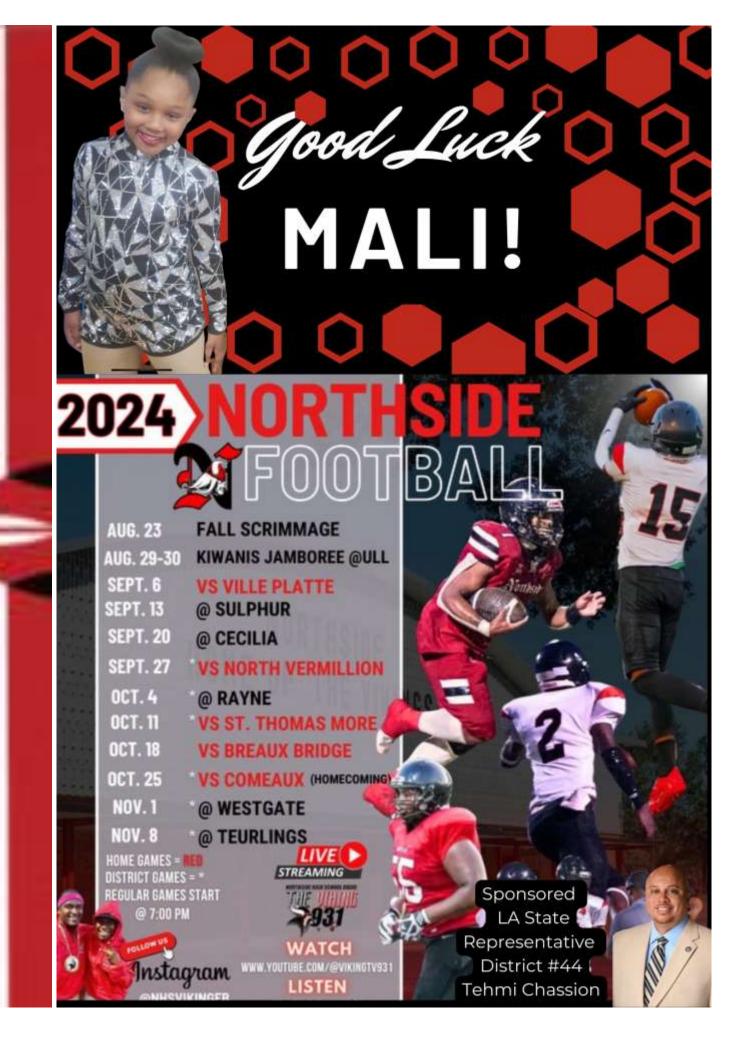
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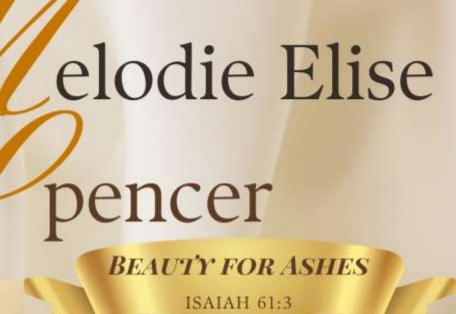
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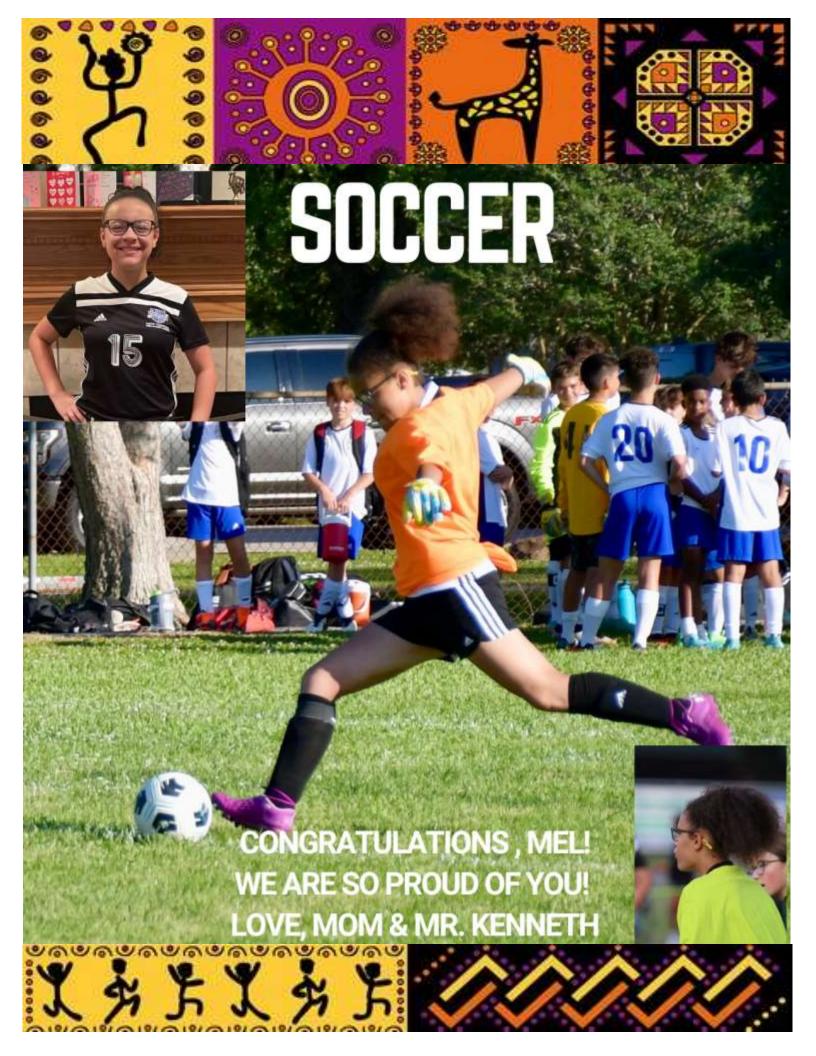


"For all the things my hands have held, the best by far has been you." -unknown

"You will always be the miracle that makes my life complete." -unknown

I adore the connection of love that we share. I adore your tenacity to grow. I adore the gift that has been given me. I ADORE Y-O-U!

-Mom





To our awesome Niece and Cousin, Melodie

We are so proud of all the wonderful things that you participate in and all the wonderful things that you do! Proverbs 3:5-6 (New Living

Translation)
says, "Trust in
the Lord with all
your heart, do
not depend on
your own understanding. Seek
his will in all you
do, and he will
show you which
path to take"

Love Always,
Uncle Adam,
Aunt Edna,
Cousins; Tara,
AJ, Dana, Noah
and Isabella



Melodie,

We are so very proud of you and all that you have

ないという。

accomplished in your life thus far. You are truly God's gift to us. We know your Father would be very proud of you. May God continue to bless and keep you as you as you continue to soar.



300 C

Love, Uncle Paul, Aunt Natalie and Kayla

We are so proud of you Melodie:)

 ∞

We have enjoyed watching you grow into the beautiful young lady you are today. We can't wait to see all that you accomplish. Good luck Mel!

Love Uncle David, Aunt Marylen, Megan, John Jr., and Ava







Keep up the good work. You can achieve anything you set your mind to. We are so incredibly proud of you. We love you very much!

Love Uncle Scottie, Fay, Caley, Lucy, and Ishmael





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Empress Wilson, Mistress of Ceremony



Empress Wilson currently a student at Loyola University where she's a Theater Arts Major and Business Administration Minor. When she's not busy with school, she likes to keep her creative ideas flowing.

In her free time, she loves to engage in modeling. It's a creative outlet that lets her express herself through fashion and poses. Whether in front of the camera or planning a new photoshoot, modeling gives Empress a sense of confidence and joy. It's not just about the clothes or the makeup; it's about telling a story and capturing a moment. Every shoot is a new adventure, and she enjoys every bit of it. Also, Em-

press has done many Black student made short films. It's an amazing experience that allows her to collaborate with creative minds and bring stories to life. Each project is unique, offering new challenges and opportunities to learn and grow. She loves the excitement on set, the good energy with other students, and the satisfaction of seeing the final product. Being part of these films not only strengthens her acting skills but, also gives her a sense of accomplishment.

Dalfred Jones, Jr., Master of Ceremony

He attended Grambling State University where he played football and majored in Broadcasting.

He began his journey with KLFY TV10 in 2011 as an intern while home on summer break from GSU. In 2013, after receiving his Bachelor's degree in Broadcast Journalism, he was hired as a General Assignment Reporter.

With his commitment to the job and unbiased storytelling, he was called on to fill-in on the anchor desk. In 2015, his news director noticed his passion for the people of Acadiana and willingness to find answers to their problems. With that, Dial Dalfred was born! With these in-depth investigative reports, he hears people's concerns in their workplaces or communities and finds the root of the problem, or consumer alert stories where he advises people on how to go about handling a situation.



His work garnered the attention of the community and he began receiving recognition and several awards for his work on air and in the community. Most recently he was honored as one of Acadiana's Top 20 under 40 in 2021, and selected to be a part of Leadership Lafayette's XXXV class, and now a graduate.

For years, he has served as substitute teacher at the same middle and high school he attended growing up.

When not working to serve his community, Dalfred enjoys sports, music, traveling and trying new things with his wife and three sons.



Marina Zeno, MBA Owner of Marina Zeno Derouen Services LLC

Pageant Judges



Sylvia Masters
News Anchor at KLFY-TV,
Crowned Miss Louisiana USA 2023



Jerika Lyn Berry Currently working on a book focused on feminine energy for women

Pageant Tabulators



Judge Royale Colbert 15th Judicial District Judge





Leanne GilesCNA, Private Home Care

Congratulations 2024 Juneteenth Pageant Contestants



Emilie Lewis Duhon

DIRECTOR / OWNER

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TOLL FREE: 855-516-5211

No one is born hating another person because of the color of their skin, background or his religion. People must learn/taught to hate, and if they learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite.

Nelson Mandela

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We believe in you Melodie!

You bring so much joy to our family. May all the love you give to those around you come back to you 3 fold. We are so proud of you.

Love Aunt Barbara, Aunt Lisa, Uncle Nilton, Nilton Jr, Alisha, Nyla & Spencer

Melodie,

Congratulations on your outstanding achievement in the Juneteenth pageant! Your hard work, dedication, and grace have truly paid off. It takes a lot of courage and confidence to participate in such events, and you have demonstrated remarkable poise and talent. We are all incredibly proud of you and can't wait to see what amazing things you will accomplish in the future. Keep shining and continue to pursue your dreams with the same passion and enthusiasm.

With Lots of Love Uncle Alton, Aunt Jackie, A.J., Jovan and J-Girls (Janae, Jacqui & Jaime)

Dr. Quentin M. Briscoe, D.C.

Congratulations

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Christopher George

Thanks for your Contributions to SWLA
Juneteenth
Committee, Inc.

Congratulations SWLA Juneteenth ~ Celebrating 44 Years



Let us help You make Meaningful Selections!

2 Locations:

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SWLA Juneteenth
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Celebrating 44 Yrs.

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Congratulations on another successful Juneteenth Celebration

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We Are Proud of You

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Mr. & Mrs. "Vinnie" Thomas

Best Wishes to Emery R. Savoy

Embrace your uniqueness and let it shine on stage.

Steven Elliott, Class of 1981

You Can Do It, Emery!

This Is Your Moment. Own It!

Carlton & Paula Celestine

Emery Reign Savoy

Remember to always leave your trail of glitter-

It will never be forgotten!

Uncle Jeff, Aunt Toni, Maranda, Avery & Dacen

Good Luck Emery

Continue to share the beauty inside of you!

Mr. Jerry Red, Sr.

To A Beautiful Princess,

Emery Reign Savoy

"Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ.."

Cousin Sandra Roberts

Shine On Emery Savoy!

"Don't ever let anyone ever dull your sparkle."

Mary Boutte, Class of 1980

To My Sweet Cousin Em

You are enough just as you are!

Continue to BELIEVE in yourself and KNOW that God has already purposed your future.

Alexia Gallien (Future Attorney)

God Bless You, Emery!

Be yourself and shine amongst those who believe you can't; for you can do ALL things through Christ!

From across the miles in Maryland

Aunt Debra, Uncle Allen, Jeremiah & Ameeyah

Wishing You Success

Miss Emery Reign

DeBorah Isaac,

Mary Kay Independent Beauty Consultant Eunice, Louisiana

Good Luck

Emery Reign Savoy

From All of Us

Donavon & Selena Frank & The Boys

Nathalie Manual

Donald Malbrough

Byran & Tammy Charles

Lakeisha Moore

Wishing You the Best

Miss Emery Reign Savoy

Remember the future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.

WALK INTO YOUR PURPOSE!

Lashunda Young Texas Connection)



Juneteenth: You Know the Truth, Now the Rest of the Story swlajuneteenth.org

Emery,

Sparkle and dance, glitter and sing...

Your fantasy awaits you and the beauty you bring!

Greg & Lakeisha Lewis (Lake Charles, LA)

Good luck Emery

Every moment is a great **Beginning...**

God's mercy is new every morning.

Lee, Monique & Samuel Scott

Go *Emery Savoy*

WE ARE PROUD OF YOU!

JUSTIN, CHASSIDY &
AVERY

Emery Reign Savoy

TODAY IS YOUR DAY

Raoul Sr. & Donna Manuel



Go Emery!

Royalty Runs in Your Blood!

JoAnn Thibodeaux Savoy

To Our Beautiful Emery

Keep Smiling, Keep Shining!

Bryan & Tammy Charles

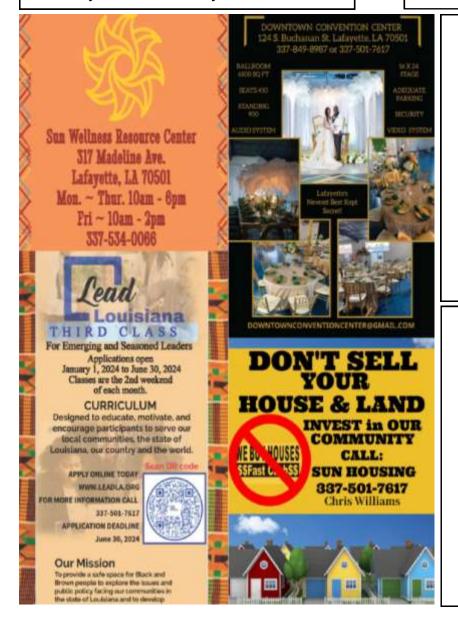
We Love You Em!

Confidence is Your crown, wear it like a queen ...

"Cal" & Phyllis Batiste -Houston TX

Go Get It Em!

Aunt Deloris Guillory (Missouri City, TX)



Go Emmie!!!

We Love You!

Desiree, Claudrick, Ky, Aniya & Stylez

Congratulations

Emery Reign!

Here's yo your bright future!

Lance & Alicia Bernard & Girls





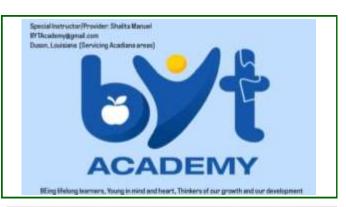


CONGRATULATIONS

Xyonna Love, Queenie & Bump

A-Bear's Kids Only Preschool

Xoe & Xyonna Marietta Hebert





Good Luck! Xy & Xop

Mary Monroe

Congratulations

Xoe Love, Queenie & Bump

Juneteenth: You Know the Truth, Now the Rest of the Story swlajuneteenth.org

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