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Partly cloudy with continued heatwave



High this afternoon reaching 103.  
Low tonight in the mid to upper 70s.  
Chance of rain this afternoon 30%.  
Sunny on Saturday with highs near 100.  
Partly cloudy Sunday with a high of 101.

INSIDE



# Ruston Daily Leader

Friday, August 25, 2023

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75¢

## Cassidy: Ruston 'pivotal' in Louisiana's future

By Nancy Bergeron  
nancy@rustonleader.com

Ruston will be pivotal in Louisiana's climb to where it should be in 2050, U.S. Sen. Bill Cassidy said Wednesday.

The state's senior senator spoke at a Ruston-Lincoln Chamber of Commerce Capitol Chats event during a swing through North Louisiana. Cassidy recapped various projects around the state for which he obtained funding, including \$4.8 million for a new electrical substation in Ruston.

"This is going to be the year you look back and see Louisiana beginning to rise," he said.

Cassidy praised plans for the proposed Amtrak passenger rail connection through Ruston, and the ongoing partnerships between the city and Louisiana Tech University.

"You have tied in your university with your downtown. That makes this community an attractive community," Cassidy said. "This parish is a place where



Sen. Bill Cassidy, R-La., answered questions Wednesday during a Ruston-Lincoln Chamber of Commerce Capitol Chats forum. Cassidy said money coming to the state through the federal infrastructure will help Louisiana move to where it needs to be in 2050. At left is RLCC President Will Dearmon.

young people want to move."

He said allocations in the bipartisan infrastructure bill, including money for high-speed internet, will help build Louisiana's economy for 2050.

"Everyone in Louisiana, by 2028, will have

access to affordable high-speed internet," Cassidy said.

In June, the Republican lawmaker announced Louisiana is getting over \$1.4 billion to extend reliable internet statewide.

The funds come from the National Telecom-

munications and Information Administration's Broadband Equity and Development program, money for which originates in the infrastructure bill.

Cassidy also talked about his plan to fix

See CASSIDY, page 5



### 2023 Lincoln Parish Police Jury COMMUNITY MEET & GREET

## Leader to hold LPPJ candidate public forums

Election hopefuls will take stage Sept. 14, 19

By Caleb Daniel  
caleb@rustonleader.com

In anticipation of the Oct. 14 primary election, the Ruston Daily Leader will hold meet-and-greet and forum events featuring candidates for the Lincoln Parish Police Jury.

Free and open to the public, these events will take place Sept. 14 and 19 at the Lincoln Parish Library Events Center. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

The Sept. 14 event will feature candidates from Districts 1, 2, 3 and 6, and candidates from Districts 9, 10 and 11 will take the stage on Sept. 19.

Constituents who attend these events will have the chance to hear from candidates in each race on the ballot and submit written questions for the forum.

"As a dedicated source of local news, our aim during elections is to help voters

be as informed as possible before making their choices at the polls," Leader Publisher Celeste Holley said. "These events are the perfect opportunity for citizens to have their questions answered and grow more confident in their votes."

A half-hour meet-and-greet in the Events Center lobby will kick off the event. Attendees can mingle with candidates and submit written questions for the forum to Leader staff.

At 6 p.m. the forum will begin in the adjacent auditorium. Seated on the stage, each candidate will answer the same questions. The moderator will ask as many of the submitted questions as possible until the event concludes between 7:30 and 8 p.m.

Seventeen candidates are vying for seven seats on the

See FORUMS, page 5

## Voter registration events planned

Leader Staff Report

The Lincoln Parish Registrar of Voters Office kicks off a week of outreach events Monday, allowing people to register to vote at various community locations.

"This is an opportunity for eligible citizens to register to vote, update or make changes to their current registration, or enroll in the Senior Absentee Mail Ballot Program," Registrar of Voters Sharon Parnell said.

The community sign-ups are being held in conjunction with National Voter Registration Week.

Here's the week's schedule:  
Monday: 9 a.m.-10:30 a.m. at the Lincoln Parish Health Unit, 405 East Georgia Ave., Ruston; 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., second floor of the Lincoln Parish Police Jury Complex, 307 North Homer Street, also in Ruston.

Tuesday: 8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m., Choudrant Mini Mart, 3741 Elm Street in Choudrant; 10 a.m. - noon, Northern Louisiana Medical Center Senior Circle, 401 East Vaughn Ave., Ruston.

Wednesday: 9 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Louisiana Delta Community College, 1010 James Street, Ruston;

11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Grambling State University cafeteria on the GSU campus.

Thursday: 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Dubach Council on Aging, 177 Main Street, Dubach; 2 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Green Clinic, 1200 South Farmerville Street, Ruston.

Friday - 10 a.m. - noon, Rollings Hills Thrift Store, 3487 Hwy. 33, Ruston.

Registrants should bring a photo ID, such as a valid Louisiana driver's license, and proof of address. For more information, call the registrar's office at 251-5110 or email lincolnrov@sos.la.gov.

## Upcoming events slated in Dubach

Leader staff report

The town of Dubach is holding a clean-up day for the Dubach Ballpark Saturday starting at 7:30 a.m.

The event is part of ongoing restoration efforts to bring the historic town fixture back into use. Supplies will be provided. Volunteers can call Town Hall at (318) 777-3321 or Councilwoman Evelyn Graham at (318) 953-0964.

Also, the 34th annual Louisiana Chicken Festival is fast approaching in Dubach.

Organizers are currently on the lookout for folks to participate in the festival parade on Sept. 30.

Floats in the form of cars, trucks, wagons, bicycles, tractors and motorcycles are all welcome, as are walking groups or individual walkers. Participants may bring their pets to take part in the procession as well.

Prizes will be awarded for the top three

## Champions Plaza statue unveiling tonight

Louisiana Tech Sports

Louisiana Tech Athletics' ribbon-cutting and statue unveiling for the Sarah and A.L. Williams Champions Plaza is scheduled for tonight.

The five living recipients—Terry Bradshaw, Karl Malone, Kim Mulkey, Willie Roaf, and Teresa Weatherspoon—will all be in attendance, along with the family of Fred Dean.

Fans can join in the recognition of the most highly decorated student-athletes



An artist's rendering was developed earlier this summer to give an idea of what Champions Plaza will look like. Tonight is the unveiling.

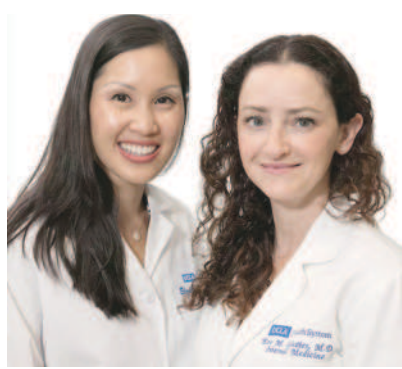
See PLAZA, page 5

See EVENTS, page 5



## Cardiac rehab helps people recover physically, emotionally

**Dear Doctors:** My dad is recovering from a heart attack. He wants to get back to living his life, but I can tell he's worried. His doctors have suggested that he start doing a program called cardiac rehab. Will that help him? My mom and I have never heard of cardiac rehab and wonder what it involves.



### ASK THE DOCTORS

**Elizabeth Ko MD & Eve Glazier MD, MBA**

**Dear Reader:** Cardiac rehabilitation refers to a supervised program that combines exercise, diet, counseling and education to support one's recovery from a heart attack or other type of heart problem. It's a team approach, and the specifics are tailored to each patient's individual needs.

For most people, a heart attack is a life-changing event. There's the risk of lasting physical damage to the heart, which affects how someone feels. There are also often mental and emotional repercussions, which can be significant. Following a heart attack, it's common for the person to feel overwhelmed and confused, to experience a loss of confidence and to become fearful.

Many patients also begin to struggle with anxiety, depression and grief. The goal of cardiac rehab is to help the person recover from both the physical and emotional effects of a heart attack. The program also focuses on learning behaviors that can help reduce the risk of future problems.

If your father decides

to move forward, the first step will be a complete medical and physical assessment. This includes a medical history, a physical exam, imaging tests of the heart and surrounding blood vessels and blood tests to set baseline levels for a number of indicators, including blood sugar and blood lipid levels. A stress test to evaluate heart function and blood flow will also be performed.

The information and data that has been collected will be analyzed, and a rehab program to meet his specific needs will be created. The length of a rehab program varies depending on the facility that offers it, but the duration is typically three months.

The specialists involved include cardiologists, exercise specialists, dietitians, nurse educators, mental health specialists and occupational and physical therapists. The program will offer supervised exercise sessions to get your father safely active again, dietary education and lifestyle guidance.

This last category often includes strategies for quitting smoking or losing weight, dealing

with stress and anxiety and help in managing chronic health conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure and unhealthy blood lipid levels. Mental health and emotional support are also important elements of a cardiac rehab program. This typically includes access to counseling and mental health therapy, and to medications, if those are needed.

Some programs offer support groups, where heart attack survivors can share their experiences and support one another's recovery. Once the structured program concludes, patients continue on their own. This includes regular exercise, a healthy diet, not smoking and maintaining a healthful weight.

Studies have found that cardiac rehab can contribute to improved outcomes and lead to a better quality of life.

*Elizabeth Ko, M.D., is an internist and assistant professor of medicine at UCLA Health. Eve Glazier, M.D., MBA, is an internist and associate professor of medicine at UCLA Health. Send your questions to askthedoctors@mednet.ucla.edu.*

## From Your Kitchen

*Editor's Note: The Ruston Daily Leader's feature on our Friday Community page shares recipes from "The Collection," a cookbook developed by the Lincoln Parish Museum and Historical Society.*

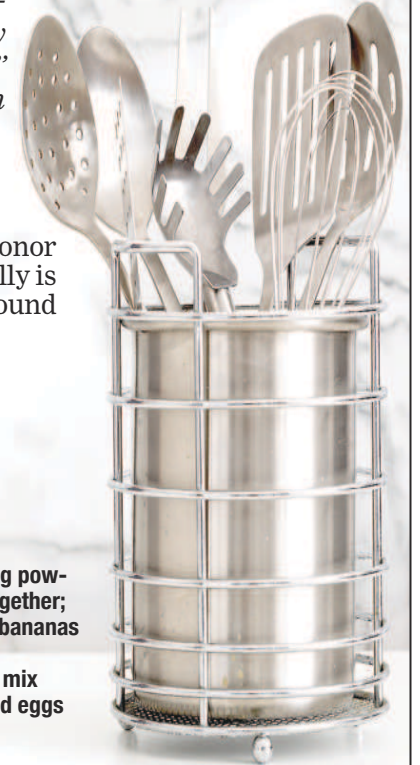
### National Banana Split Day

It's National Banana Split Day so in honor of the elongated, edible fruit that botanically is actually a berry, give these dishes built around bananas a whirl!

#### Julie's Banana Nut Bread – Jo Ann Barham

3 1/2 cups sifted flour  
3 teaspoons baking powder  
1 teaspoon soda  
1 teaspoon salt  
2 cups mashed bananas (4-6)  
2 teaspoons lemon juice  
3/4 cup butter  
1 1/2 cups sugar

3 eggs  
3/4 cups milk  
3/4 cup nuts  
1. Sift flour, baking powder, soda and salt together; in a small bowl mix bananas and lemon juice.  
2. In a large bowl mix sugar and butter; add eggs one at a time.



#### Frozen Banana Salad – Susan Murphy

2 8-ounce cartons sour cream  
1 20-ounce can crushed pineapple  
2-3 mashed bananas  
3/4 cup sugar  
1/2 cup nuts

2 T chopped cherries  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
1. Mix and put into casserole then freeze; serves 8.

#### Cream Cheese Sandwich – The Cookbook Committee

8-ounces cream cheese  
1 ripe banana, mashed  
1/2 teaspoon lime or lemon juice  
1/2 cup raisins  
1/2 cup toasted nuts  
4 slices pineapple

1. Mix cream cheese, banana, juice, raisins, and nuts; spread on favorite bread slices.  
2. Top with slice of pineapple; close sandwich and enjoy.

— Compiled by Cathi Cox-Boniol



## LOOKING FOR A NEW CAREER?

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Leader photo by Cathi Cox-Boniol

## Landers honored as Dispatcher of the Year

VFW Post 3615 Commander Tom Boniol stopped by the Lincoln Parish Public Safety Complex to recognize Lincoln Parish Sheriff's Office employee Franke Landers with an additional honor as Dispatcher of the Year. Already named the local Post winner, Landers (left) is seen holding the award commemorating her taking top honors for District 11 while Boniol is holding the plaque representing her third-place award in the state competition.



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## OBITUARIES *(Paid Announcements)*

### Lavon Edward Chandler

Lavon Edward Chandler, age 100, beloved dad, paw-paw and friend passed away and joined the Lord on August 21, 2023.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, August 23, 2023, at Kilpatrick Funeral Home Chapel of Ruston. The service was officiated by Rev. Richard Crow, and Rev. Dale Oden. Visitation was Wednesday, August 23, 2023, from 10-11 a.m., prior to the service with graveside Military honors at Douglas Cemetery, in Choudrant.

Lavon was born July 18, 1923, in Ruston, to Edmund Howard and Cora (Hauver) Chandler. Lavon lived in Ruston until he attended LSU after graduating from Choudrant High School.

World War II interrupted Lavon's education and he willingly enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corp in 1943. Lavon served gallantly for our country in Germany, Italy, and France. He is regarded as a hero among veterans, friends, and family.

Lavon married his high school sweetheart, Martha, in 1944. After the war, Lavon spent his working years devoted to Sears Roebuck and Co. His career required much travel and Lavon and Martha made new homes across the southeast where they lived for the next 37 years. Lavon retired in 1984 and moved back to his beloved old Chandler home place in Ruston.

Lavon was not only a devoted husband, father, and grandfather but also a devoted friend to many across his life experiences.

He loved to give a helping hand and to give what he thought much needed advice on the finances of the day.

Lavon especially had a heart for widows and was an immense help to so many that had lost their husbands. Working on the old home place gave Lavon much joy.

The trails he created in the woods were each named after a grandchild. Martha and Lavon had the gift of hospitality and they made sure you always felt welcomed and loved. Many days you would find Martha and Lavon sitting on their big coun-



try porch with iced tea and a welcoming smile.

They loved life! Lavon served as a deacon for New Hope Baptist church in Spearsville for many years. Lavon loved the Lord, and his life exemplified his closeness to the Lord and his unwavering faith.

He loved to sing old hymns and would sing to anyone that would listen, it didn't matter where he might be at the time. Lavon will be missed beyond measure but how glorious it is to think of him in Heaven with our Lord.

He is survived by his daughter, Deborah Baldwin and husband Bob, of Bentonville, Arkansas; son, Willis Edward and wife Lynette of the Villages, Florida; daughter in law, Juanita Chandler of Raleigh, North Carolina; and sister-in-law, Betty Tynes of Calhoun.

Lavon was also blessed with eight grandchildren, Nancy Walters, Mary Beth Johnson, Robert Baldwin, Jr., Martha Omeniski, Caroline Bivens, Ronald Chandler, Alex Chandler, and Alison Dethlefs. To complete the family there are 14 beautiful great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Lavon is preceded in death by his parents, Cora and Ed Chandler; son, Stephen Chandler; and beloved wife of 70 years, his beautiful Martha.

Pallbearers were Jeff Camp, Robert Joseph Baldwin, Jr., Wayne Pateron, Bruce Painter, Bobby J. Conville, and Robert Joseph Baldwin, Sr.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries ([www.lbch.org](http://www.lbch.org)).

Online condolences may be extended to the family at [www.kilpatrickfuneralhomes.com](http://www.kilpatrickfuneralhomes.com).

### Janice Ruth 'Jan' Williamson

Funeral services for Mrs. Janice Ruth "Jan" Williamson, age 80, of Kingwood, Texas, will be held at 2 p.m., Saturday, August 26, 2023, at Owens Memorial Chapel in Ruston, with Kim Long officiating.

Burial will be held in the Forest Lawn Cemetery in Ruston under the direction of Owens Memorial Chapel Funeral Home of Ruston.

Jan was born May 1, 1943, in New Orleans, to Cincinnattis Powell and Lelia Ruth Simmons and passed away August 17, 2023, in Spring, Texas. She grew up in Delhi, and attended Delhi High School where she participated in cheerleading, basketball and the homecoming court.

Jan attended Louisiana Tech University and later attended Kingwood College before graduating in 1995 with a BA in Marketing.

During her husband's professional football career, she was a proud Raider and Patriots wife. Jan taught fourth grade Sunday School at First United Methodist Church and led the United Methodist Women, including their annual bazaar, at the First United Methodist Church in Bossier City. She was co-leader and "Mrs. W" to Bossier City's Girl Scout Troop 197. More than anything else, Jan devoted her life to her family. She was a strong, sassy, fun and loving woman who will be missed by many.

Janice was preceded



in death by her infant daughter, Sherrie Robin; husband of 58 years, John Robert Williamson; parents; and brother, Charles Edward Simmons, Sr.

Jan is survived by her son, John Michael "Mike" (Cheryl) Williamson; daughters, Angela (Carl) Potter and Melissa (Mitch) Chailand; grandchildren who she was "Mimi" to, Michael (Sabrina) Williamson,

Christopher (Honora) Williamson, Robin (Blake) Bourgoyne, Will Potter and Sophie Chailand; great-grandchildren, Brigg, Kanon, Madeline and Ashley; and a host of other family and many friends.

The family would like to express many thanks to The Village at Gleannloch Farms in Spring, Texas for their loving care of Janice. As she would say, "Ciao Baby!"

Serving as pallbearers will be Will Potter, Michael Williamson, Chris Williamson, Blake Bourgoyne, Chad Simmons, Thad Simmons and Brigg Williamson.

## GOP candidates finish first debate without Trump

(AP) — Former President Donald Trump and Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis have dominated the Republican presidential nomination fight for much of the year. Neither dominated the debate stage Wednesday night.

Trump, of course, decided to skip the GOP's opening presidential primary debate given his overwhelming lead in the polls. DeSantis showed up, but he was overshadowed for much of the night by political newcomer Vivek Ramaswamy.

And there was no shortage of aggressive performances from the others on stage either. Former United Nations ambassador Nikki Haley, former Vice President Mike Pence and former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie were aggressive when given the opportunity.

It took more than an hour for moderators to ask about Trump's legal battles, a discussion previewed with a video of the Atlanta jail where he will surrender on charges Thursday.

The former president scheduled counter-programming with an interview aired on X, formerly known as Twitter, while his team suggested that the debate was essentially an audience to see who's best positioned to serve as his running mate.

It took more than an hour for the candidates to confront the elephant not in the room.

And when they did, most of the participants raised their hands to say they'd support Trump even if he was convicted. That's after the moderators noted that Trump is facing more than 90 criminal counts in separate cases across four jurisdictions.

Ramaswamy vowed to pardon Trump if given the chance.

Christie, a former U.S. attorney and frequent Trump antagonist, pushed back aggressively despite being drowned out at times by the audience's boos.

Even if people disagree with the criminal charges, Christie said, "The conduct is beneath the office of the president of the United States."



Photo by Eddie Barnes, Jr.

## Ruston Rotary sponsors two students at RYLA Camp

Each summer, the Rotary RYLA Camp is held at the Outdoor Wilderness Learning Center in Dubach the last week of June. Ruston Rotary and Rotary District 6190 offer incoming high school juniors the opportunity to participate free of charge for the one-week camp. This year, Ruston Rotary provided scholarships for two students to attend: Paige Gipson from Ruston High and Ella Eagles from Cedar Creek School. RYLA, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, is a great opportunity for high performing students to hone their leadership and teamwork skills. Guest speakers show up during the week-long camp, and Coach Wilbert Ellis (center) was one of the promotional speakers for the event. Pictured with Coach Ellis are Gipson (left) and Eagles at a recent Ruston Rotary meeting.

## Deadly heat wave strains infrastructure, transportation

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Deadly heat that has gripped Texas for much of the summer has spread into other parts of the central U.S. this week where it is forecast to stay for days, with triple-digit temperatures buckling roads, straining water systems and threatening the power grid of the nation's energy capitol.

With heat warnings and advisories stretching from New Orleans to Minneapolis, the unyielding weather is stressing the systems put in place to keep resources moving and people safe. Just this week, a 1-year-old left in a hot van in Nebraska died, and Louisiana reported 25 heat-related deaths this summer—more than twice the average number in recent years.

The heat is expected to become "dangerous to the average person" if they don't have air conditioning, said Alex Lamers, a warning coordination meteorologist at the National Weather Service's Weather Prediction Center.

It has felt hotter than 110 degrees (43.3 C) in cities in Texas and Louisiana more often than at any time since World War II, Lamers said. The brunt of the enduring heat has hit states from Florida to New Mexico, he said.

Texas' grid — which failed during a deadly winter storm in 2021 — has so far held up with no outages in the face of unrelenting heat.

The Electric Reliability Council of Texas, which oversees the grid, asked residents twice last week to conserve energy because of high demand and low reserves. The agency issued a weather watch that's in place through Aug. 27.

But there are risks the longer this drags on, said Alison Silverstein, a Texas-based independent energy analyst and former adviser to the state's energy regulator. She compared it to a car overheating as the system tries to keep up with weeks of record-breaking demand.

## PET OF THE WEEK

SIMPLY SOUTHERN RESCUE

♥ adopt ♥ adopt ♥ adopt

### WINSTON

Winston is 4 years, a pug lab mix and weighs about 45 pounds. This canine is heartworm negative and is dog, kid, and cat friendly. He plays endlessly with toys and gets a workout with fetch. He will love his human fiercely and snuggle every opportunity he gets.

**Come out to meet him today!**

[www.simplysouthernrescue.com](http://www.simplysouthernrescue.com) | Text us at 318-614-0285 | Hours: 7:30 am - 3 pm

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## THE GRAIN OF SALT

# Come out to police jury candidate forums

It's that time again. With police jury elections on the horizon, today we announced we will once again be holding forum events for the community to meet candidates and hear them answer questions.

If you didn't see the story on the front page, we will be hosting candidates from Districts 1, 2, 3, and 6 on Sept. 14, and Districts 9-11 on Sept. 19. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. at the Lincoln Parish Library Events Center both nights.

If, like me, you live in one of these districts that will have a race on the Oct. 14 ballot, then I encourage you to take the time to come out.

If you've been following the police jury this term, then this will be your chance to ask candidates about the issues that have affected you, or that most stood out to you.

If you don't know all that much about the police jury and the topics they've been tackling of late, then this can be your primer of sorts for what the jury does and what the issues are this time around.

You'll have about half an hour of free time at the start to mingle with the candidates and ask them whatever you like face to face. During that time, we'll also be taking written questions for the main event.

If there's anything you'd like to see candidates answer on the main stage, please come out and write it down.

This is our third election season doing these, and we usually get more questions than we can actually fit into a 90-minute forum session. But that's a good thing, and we do our best to hit as many of the topics as we can.

This time around, we have seven of 12 jury seats up for grabs come Election Day. Six of those seven feature incumbents hoping to keep their positions for another four years.

I took some time the other day to look back through the recent history of our police jury elections for comparison's sake.

Of course, 2019 featured a fair amount of turnover on the jury, as six seats changed hands and four incumbents were defeated at the polls.

It's worth noting that of those four, three of them didn't attend our forums. In fact, no one who skipped those events won a race at the polls that year.

Obviously, you can't prove any causality there. There are myriad factors that play into election results.

But I think it's safe to say the winning challengers benefited from getting their names, faces and platforms out there in such a public way, especially in the cases where their opponents weren't there to counter them.

Regardless, it was a year of change in the jury makeup, but it certainly was not the worst year incumbents have ever had at the polls.

No, that honor goes to 2004, at least as far back as I could find in online records.

When the dust settled after a rare springtime jury election in '04, seven of the 12 jury seats had new occupants. Incumbents won three races and lost six.

This year's election cycle could, in theory, exceed that level of turnover if every single incumbent loses in October. But that's quite the tall order.

Conventional wisdom goes that incumbents are hard to unseat in local elections, unless there are major issues that get constituents riled up.

To be sure, some folks have been riled up over the last couple years of this jury term, but it remains to be seen whether that dissatisfaction is spread out over all the districts on the ballot or just clustered in one or two areas.

Plus, that dissatisfaction has to actually be enough to inspire folks to get off their Saturday couches and go vote. Complacency typically leads to fewer flipped seats.

And as flip-heavy as 2019 and 2004 were, that's not the norm. Eight jurors kept their seats in 2011, 10 jurors did so in 1999, and 11 remained the same in 2015.

There are whispers of change this time around, and plenty of opportunities to see it happen, but will it? Should it?

That's up to you, the voters, to decide. And if you want to make a more informed decision, consider our forums on Sept. 14 and 19.

*Caleb Daniel is the Ruston Daily Leader's Digital News Editor. Caleb is a Louisiana Tech University graduate who covers the Lincoln Parish Police Jury and schools for the Ruston Leader.*



By Caleb Daniel

BillDay FloridaPolitics.com © digleccartoons.com



## WASHINGTON POLITICS

# Latino vote may be the wildcard

Latinos are already Republicans, Ronald Reagan used to say, they just don't know it yet.

That ancient but insightful cliché hovers over the 2024 election. True, Joe Biden has already beaten Donald Trump once, and since then, the apparently inevitable Republican nominee has been indicted on 91 criminal charges in four different cases.

Still, alarm bells keep ringing. And one of the loudest warns that Latino voters, the nation's fastest-growing ethnic group, are moving steadily away from the Democrats and toward the Republicans. If the next election is as close as the last two — and it probably will be — those voters could play a pivotal role, particularly in swing states like Arizona and Nevada.

"There are some indications, at this early stage of the cycle, that the GOP or Trump would do better with Latino voters in 2024 than they did in 2020," writes Equis, a research consortium that studies the demographic. "They remain one of the great wildcards in U.S. elections."

In 2016, Latinos favored Hillary Clinton over Trump by 38 points, 66 to 28, according to exit polls. In 2020, the Democrats' advantage shrank to 32 points, 65 to 33. In last year's congressional elections, their margin plunged to 21 points, 60 to 39.

There are many complex reasons for this shift, but one is pretty simple: Democrats have often taken Latinos for granted, lumping them in with Blacks as "people of color" and assuming their loyalty. But in fact, Latinos often resemble other immigrant groups — like, say, Italians or Koreans — more than Black Americans. Moreover, Latinos come from many different coun-

tries and cultures, and some have been here for several generations, integrating and assimilating.

"The idea of 'unidad' — Latin unity — not all Latinos buy into that," Sergio Garcia-Rios, a Cornell University political scientist, tells CNN. "People have multiple identities. ... (And) we're starting to see a lot more later-generation Latinos, who are just farther away from an immigrant's arrival."

Indeed, as time passes, Latinos don't necessarily identify as "people of color" as a racial minority. Justin Gest, the author of several books on ethnicity, writes for CNN: "As Latinos settle and integrate ... (they) increasingly embrace an expanded sense of white identity in the way earlier light-skinned ethnic groups have over the course of U.S. history. Already, 60% of U.S.-born Latinos self-identify as white — white Hispanics — on U.S. census surveys."

Many Latinos use the word "values" to explain their drift to the Republicans, and one example is a deep antipathy to the idea of defunding the police advanced by some liberal Democrats, a concept that is particularly resented in border areas where an influx of undocumented immigrants has disrupted communities.

Ruy Teixeira, a political demographer, tells NPR that when "the ultra-progressive wing of the Democratic Party (starts) privileging criminal justice reform over public safety," it alienates many Latinos. "People want to be safe from crime, and that includes a lot of nonwhite voters."

Texas State Rep. Ryan Guillen, a former Democrat from the Rio Grande Valley, recently joined the Repub-

lican Party and explained, "Something is happening in south Texas, and many of us are waking up to the fact that the values of those in Washington, D.C., are not our values, not the values of most Texans. The ideology of defunding the police, of destroying the oil and gas industry and the chaos at our border is disastrous for those of us who live here in south Texas."

Like many immigrants before them, Latinos prize the virtues of hard work and self-reliance and see those values reflected in the Republican Party. Many are also small business owners and respond to the GOP message of less regulation and lower taxes.

"Democrats have lots of real reasons they should be worried," Joshua Ulibarri, a Democratic strategist who has researched Latino men, said to the Times. "They look at us and say: We believe we work harder, we want the opportunity to build something of our own, and why should we punish people who do well?"

As Roman Catholics or Evangelical Protestants, Latinos often differ from liberal orthodoxy on social issues like abortion and same-sex marriage. "We're very faith-based, family-oriented down here in south Texas," Cassy Garcia, who ran unsuccessfully for Congress, said to the Christian Science Monitor. "I don't think people realized that (Republican) values are their values. ... They've just always voted Democrat — but it's not your 'abuela's' party anymore."

As more Latinos share her grievances, and discover Reagan's adage, this "wildcard" vote could make life increasingly perilous for Democrats.

*Steven Roberts teaches politics and journalism at George Washington University. He can be contacted by email at stevecokie@gmail.com.*



By Steven Roberts

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**TODAY AT A GLANCE**

Today is the 237th day of 2023 and the 66th day of summer.

**TODAY'S HISTORY:** In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson signed legislation establishing the National Park Service.  
In 1944, Allied troops liberated Paris after four years of German occupation.  
In 1950, President Harry Truman ordered the Army to take control of U.S. railroads in order to prevent strikes.  
In 1967, American Nazi Party leader George Lincoln Rockwell was shot dead by a former aide in Arlington, Virginia.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS:** Allan Pinkerton (1819-1884), detective; Walt Kelly (1913-1973), cartoonist; Van Johnson (1916-2008), actor; Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990), conductor/composer; Monty Hall (1921-2017), TV personality; Althea Gibson (1927-2003), tennis player; Sean Connery (1930-2020), actor; Regis Philbin (1931-2020), TV personality; Tom Skerritt (1933- ), actor; Elvis Costello (1954- ), singer-songwriter/musician; Tim Burton (1958- ), filmmaker; Rachael Ray (1968- ), TV personality; Alexander Skarsgard (1976- ), actor; Blake Lively (1987- ), actress.

**TODAY'S FACT:** The Voyager 2 spacecraft, which made its closest approach to Neptune on this day in 1989, continues to receive and transmit data — 44 years since its launch in August 1977.

**TODAY'S SPORTS:** In 1985, 20-year-old pitching phenom Dwight Gooden of the New York Mets became the youngest 20-game winner in major league history.

**TODAY'S QUOTE:** "We're all just animals. That's all we are, and everything else is just an elaborate justification of our instincts. That's where music comes from. And romantic poetry. And bad novels." — Elvis Costello

## Stock Market Today



## Wall Street wilts as yields rise ahead of speech by Powell

NEW YORK (AP) — Wall Street closed lower, despite a blowout profit report from Nvidia, as bond yields rose ahead of a highly anticipated speech from Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell.

The S&P 500 fell 1.3% Thursday after erasing an earlier gain. The index is still a touch higher for the week. The Dow fell 373 points, and the Nasdaq lost 1.9%.

Nvidia ended slightly higher after its profit report topped high expectations and raised hopes that this year's frenzy around artificial-intelligence technology isn't just hype.

But the rest of the stock market was weaker as rising Treasury yields cranked up the pressure. Conditions were weaker across the rest of Wall

Street, as yields in the bond market steadied themselves following a tumble the day before.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury rose to 4.22% from 4.20% late Wednesday. It fell there from 4.33% a day before, which was close to its highest level since 2007. Higher yields mean bonds pay more in interest, which also causes investors to feel less need to pay high prices for stocks and other investments.

Yields found some traction following a couple mixed reports on the U.S. economy. One showed that fewer U.S. workers applied for unemployment benefits last week. It's the latest sign that the job market remains remarkably resilient despite high interest rates.

Another report said orders for long-lasting manufactured goods slumped by more last month than economists expected. That could be a signal that conditions are worsening for the struggling manufacturing industry, but orders actually rose more than expected for the month after ignoring airplanes and other transportation equipment.

For now, weaker-than-expected reports on the economy may counterintuitively be more welcome in financial markets. The economy has managed to avoid a long-predicted recession, but the fear is that it's so solid that it will keep upward pressure on inflation.

The Federal Reserve has already raised its main interest rate to the highest level since 2001 in hopes of

grinding down high inflation. High rates work to do that by slowing the entire economy and hurting prices for investments.

Hope had built that the Fed's latest rate hike in July may prove to be the last of this cycle, as inflation has cooled considerably since peaking above 9% last summer. Traders also have made bets for the Fed to begin cutting rates early next year.

But a series of stronger-than-expected reports on the economy has diminished those hopes. That's why a speech coming Friday by Fed Chair Jerome Powell is so highly anticipated. He'll be speaking at an event in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, that has been the site of major policy announcements in the past by the Fed.

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## Biden policy allowing migrants from four countries into U.S. on trial in Texas

HOUSTON (AP) — A key portion of President Joe Biden's immigration policy that allows a limited number of people from Central America and the Caribbean to enter the U.S. on humanitarian grounds was being debated in a Texas federal courtroom on Thursday.

Under the humanitarian parole program, up to 30,000 people are being allowed each month to enter the U.S. from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela.

Texas is leading a lawsuit filed by 21 Republican-leaning states to stop the program, arguing the Biden administration has overreached its authority. Other programs the administration has

implemented to reduce illegal immigration have also faced legal challenges.

But immigration law has for over 70 years granted presidents the authority to grant such parole, a lawyer with the UCLA Center for Immigration Law and Policy said during opening statements in the trial. The center is one of the immigrant rights groups arguing on behalf of seven people sponsoring migrants. One of the sponsors was expected to testify during the trial.

The parole program was started for Venezuelans in fall 2022 and then expanded in January. People taking part must apply online, arrive at an

airport and have a financial sponsor in the U.S. If approved, they can stay for two years and get a work permit.

The program has "been tremendously successful at reducing migration to the southwest border," attorneys for the U.S. Justice Department, which is representing the federal government in the lawsuit, wrote in court documents.

A trial on the states' lawsuit is being presided over by U.S. District Judge Drew Tipton in Victoria, Texas. Tipton, a Donald Trump appointee, has previously ruled against the Biden administration on who to prioritize for deportation.

The trial was being livestreamed from Victoria to a federal courtroom in Houston, and was expected to last two days. Tipton was expected to issue a ruling at a later date.

In court documents, Texas and the other states have called the Biden administration's program an "extreme example" of not enforcing immigration laws that require it to "grant parole only on a case-by-case basis for significant public benefit or urgent humanitarian reasons."

While the Republican states' lawsuit is objecting to the use of humanitarian parole for migrants from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua

and Venezuela, it hasn't raised any concerns for its use to grant entry to tens of thousands of Ukrainians when Russia invaded.

Texas has also argued the parole program causes financial harm because it has to provide services, including detention, educational, social services, and driver's license programs, to the paroled migrants.

The immigrant rights groups have defended the humanitarian parole program, saying it's a safe pathway to the U.S. for desperate migrants who would otherwise be paying human smugglers and bogging down border agents. The program is also helping reduce the humanitarian crisis along the U.S.-Mexico border, the groups said.

### CASSIDY continued from page 1

Social Security by creating a separate investment fund he contends will eventually compound enough to offset whatever borrowing is needed to maintain current benefits.

The Congressional Budget Office, as well as other groups, has predicted the current Social Security Trust Fund will go insolvent in eight to nine years.

Under current law, if that happens Social Security recipients will receive a 24% benefit cut. Cassidy said that cut would double the poverty rate among the elderly.

### PLAZA continued from page 1

in Tech history as the event is free and open to the public.

The ceremony will start inside the Thomas Assembly Center as doors open at 5:45 p.m. with the program beginning on the east side of the court at 6 p.m. with speakers including Louisiana Tech University President Les Guice, Director of Athlet-

ics/Vice President Eric A. Wood, and soon-to-be Tech Athletics Hall of Famer and philanthropic gift provider Chris Richardson.

Statue recipients will also take part in a 10-12 minute Q&A session with the emcee.

Following the conclusion of the program, everyone will make his

or her way to the north end zone of Joe Aillet Stadium for a few brief remarks by Wood and the official ribbon-cutting, statue unveilings.

Once the statues are unveiled, the public will be welcome to walk through Champions Plaza.

The plaza, named in honor of former Tech student-athlete and football coach A.L. Williams and his wife, Sarah, had its groundbreaking back on April 22.

"It will be exciting

to have the Champions Plaza unveiling going on," Cumbie said at his preseason press conference Tuesday. "I am really excited what that brings to our community and highlighting six individuals who have made such an impact at Louisiana Tech and far beyond Louisiana Tech in the world of athletics. To have them honored on Friday night with the unveiling of their statues is going to be incredible and it gives us momentum for this home opener also."

### FORUMS continued from page 1

police jury, the parish's top governing authority. Early voting begins Sept. 30. Here's the candidate list.

District 1: Will Edwards, Independent; Greg "Big Coach" Williams, Democrat; Theresa Wyatt, Democrat, incumbent.

District 2: Karen Ludley, Democrat; Tommie Woods, Republican

District 3: Richard I. Durrett, no party, incumbent; Dan Lord, Republican

District 6: John C. Cole, Republican; Glenn Scriber, Republican, incumbent

District 9: Nakisha R. Evans, Democrat; Joe Henderson, no party, incumbent

District 10: Gary Wayne Baldwin, Democrat; Milton Melton, Democrat, incumbent; Morris "Mo Love" Winters, no party

District 11: Patsy Candler, Democrat; Sharyon Mayfield, Democrat, incumbent; Diane Heard Richards, Democrat

### EVENTS continued from page 1

floats.

Call Graham or Renee Vowles at (318) 224-1126 to sign up or for more information.

Lastly, the Dubach Legends group dedicated to restoring and enhancing Dubach's image is accepting donations.

The group has already implemented several improvements around James Lake and in the downtown area. Its own private funds have largely been exhausted on existing projects, so future efforts will depend on donations.

Those interested can contact Chairman Randy Rogers at (318) 268-0312 or by email at plaorandy@yahoo.com.

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## Clash of District 2-5A rivals

### Bearcats meet West Monroe again in Bayou Jamb action

By Matt Belinson  
sports@rustonleader.com

Jerrod Baugh is making no promises ahead of tonight's matchup with the West Monroe Rebels in the 2023 Bayou Jamb.

For as fun as last season was for the Bearcats — a 12-2 record, a trip to the state championship, and the slaying of the District 2-5A dragon in West Monroe — Ruston's head coach doesn't want his team walking into tonight's 8 p.m. matchup with the Rebels like anything is given to them.

Ruston may have beaten West Monroe 27-6 in last year's Bayou Jamb, an eventual precursor to a historic 35-17 regular season win, the Bearcats' first win in the series since 1990, but that's in the past for Baugh.

"Hopefully we can get out and compete against West Monroe," Baugh said at Media Day.

"We overcame some things last year that hadn't been done at Ruston in a long period of time, being able to beat those guys, and Coach (Jerry) Arledge was a part of that for

**BAYOU JAMB**



**RUSTON BEARCATS**



**VS WEST MONROE REBELS**



**Friday, August 25  
West Monroe HS  
Game Time: 8 p.m.**



Photo by Josh McDaniel

**West Monroe running back Ryder DeJean is tackled by a pair of Ruston defenders in last season's 35-17 regular season win for the Bearcats.**

so many years. Everybody wanted to call that ballgame a rivalry and I always said, 'It isn't a rivalry if somebody's kicking somebody's butt all the time' and that's the way it had been for a long time."

The Bearcats had a strong showing in a 20-0 win over Byrd in the team's annual pre-season scrimmage on

Aug. 17, with returners on both sides of the ball having highlights.

Junior running back Jordan Hayes rushed for over 150 yards to go with 2 touchdowns while Peyton Bell racked up over seven tackles on the defensive line.

Baugh said tonight will be best for the younger Bearcats who haven't been thrown

into many live quarters of football yet. With a packed house on hand on the Rebels' home turf at West Monroe High, Baugh expects Ruston to be welcomed to a game-like environment.

"I just want to make sure we can get 11 guys out there on the kickoff team, kickoff return and get into the game flow," Baugh

said. "Most of these guys, they're returning, they're seasoned, and for the young guys it's an opportunity to experience the game flow."

"We'll treat it pretty much like we did last week," he added. "We don't game plan for this, and it's a situation where we'll get into the game flow, play in two live quarters and it's

really the game atmosphere and we'll get some good reps against a good football team."

New West Monroe head coach Todd Garvin praised the Bearcats for the success they had last season as he previewed the matchup.

And while he didn't come right out and say he expects a one-sided affair, he has a feeling the Rebels might not be quite ready to line up against their longtime district foe.

"We just look forward to the opportunity," Garvin said at Media Day. "I don't know if we'll be ready. It's a good thing that it won't count against us. But we're excited about the challenge and I know they're going to give us all we want and they're going to certainly make us better before we get kicked off versus Sterlinglington week one."

Baugh said Ruston's starters will play as long as the score dictates and will allow the game flow to take shape.

"It depends on how it lines up," Baugh said. "We'll go into it in that form just like a regular football game so we'll see what happens and how it plays out."

## Panthers geared up for Apache Jamboree

By Matt Belinson  
sports@rustonleader.com

Lincoln Prep gets no cupcake for its jamboree opponent in the Glenbrook Academy Apaches, and head coach Glen Hall knows it.

The Panthers square off with the Apaches tonight in the Minden Medical Center Apache Jamboree, facing a Glenbrook team that went 11-1 last season and lost in Division IV Select quarterfinals.

Game two will get easier against a Ringgold squad that went 1-9 last season. The second contest will start 10 minutes after the conclusion of Glenbrook and Lincoln Prep matchup.

Hall knows Glenbrook will be the real test for his young group to take the most away from as the season opener draws near.

"When you face a good team and tough elements and you've got a young team trying to run in the right direction, it's going to be a challenge for us," Hall said. "It's going to be tough with a good team like that."

Hall expects Glenbrook to be pass-heavy and bring formidable athletes for the Panthers

**JAMBOREE**

**LINCOLN PREP PANTHERS**



**AT APACHE JAMBOREE**



**vs. Glenbrook vs. Ringgold  
Glenbrook High School  
Minden, 6 p.m.  
Friday, August 25**



Leader photo by Matt Belinson

**Lincoln Prep will head to the Minden Medical Center Apache Jamboree today, as the young squad takes on Glenbrook at 6 p.m.**

to line up against. But there's no better way for a young team to learn than go right into the fire.

"I want to see some discipline first of all," Hall said. "I want to see them stay disciplined because it's going to be hot, and if you don't stay focused and don't stay disciplined then you're going to have to catch up, and that burns even more energy. We want to see if we handle a good passing attack that's got a lot of short

passes, and they've got a quarterback that will get the ball out and not get sacked a lot. It's going to be a challenge."

Junior quarterback Jordan Brown will start, but Hall wants to give Michael Lewis some reps as well to give each player one last shot to grab the starting job before Thursday's opener against Madison. Brown handled the first-team reps in the group's intrasquad scrimmage

last week.

"Jordan is going to start, but I want to play both of them because I want to play both of them during the season," Hall said. "But by next week, I want to have a starter named."

Jaylin Huntley, Prep's starting running back, will get plenty of action tonight against the Apaches according to Hall, who hopes the sophomore continues his impressive spring

and give the Panthers' a true weapon to keep Glenbrook honest on defense.

"I want to be able to run the ball and set up the play action pass," Hall said. "If we can run the ball and try and make them come up more, then we can try and pass behind their linebackers with the short game and do some things with the sprint out passes."

Admission is \$10, but kids under 6 get in free.

## Ruston volleyball excited for home action

By Matt Belinson  
sports@rustonleader.com

Ruston High volleyball will play host to one final weekend of preseason action at the Ruston Sports Complex, with the regular season opener approaching.

The Bearcats' last day of live competition before then comes at its home jamboree at the Ruston Sports Complex, facing off against district rivals Neville at 9 a.m. and Natchitoches Central at 10:30 a.m. Saturday.

West Monroe, West Ouachita, ASH, and Pineville will also attend the jamboree.

Ruston interim head coach Amanda Cauley knows her squad is looking forward to one last day to fine-tune their skills before the wins and losses become official.

"We're looking forward to another chance to play on what's going to be our home court this year, because the more acclimated we can get, the stronger we will be and more confident we will be later in the season," Cauley said after practice

See VOLLEYBALL, page 7



## Tech receives approval for new videoboard

By Matt Belinson  
sports@rustonleader.com

Joe Aillet Stadium will receive a modern makeover starting next season.

After receiving official approval from the UL Board System of Supervisors on Thursday, Louisiana Tech will move forward with plans to install a new videoboard within the structure of the new Academic Center in the north end zone of Joe

Aillet Stadium.

The value of the videoboard upgrade is estimated to cost \$5.2 million and is expected to be one of the biggest additions to an athletic complex in the state.

Tech Athletic Director Eric Wood told the Leader, "It's our going to have a huge impact on our campus and the student-athlete experience as we continue to try and

See VIDEOBOARD, page 7

## Season kickoff at the Joe

### Bulldogs open Cumbie's second year at home against FIU

By Matt Belinson  
sports@rustonleader.com

When Louisiana Tech takes the field Saturday against Florida International University (FIU), don't expect to see the Bulldogs of last season.

Unfocused. Lost. Guessing. All words cast on the 3-9 season to begin the Sonny Cumbie era from players and coaches alike. For many, "culture" was more of a buzzword than a felt standard.

But after more than 40 transfer additions and an offseason built on a turnaround, the Bulldogs kick off the 2023 season with more than faint optimism. They believe they're going to respond after back-to-back 3-9 seasons and contend for a Conference USA title.

"I think it's been a long time since we've last played, and I think our football team is much improved," Tech head coach Sonny Cumbie said. "Our guys have put a lot of work in over the course of the summer. A lot of the new transfers have done a great job and integrating themselves into what we've already established from last year and the foundation that we've built since we were here in January."

Asking the man in charge is one thing, but what about sixth-year wide receiver Smoke Harris, someone who's been in the program longer than just about anyone?

Harris saw firsthand last fall the makeup of Tech's locker room and remembered how it felt to face a pair of three-game losing streaks, including a 42-34 double overtime loss to FIU last season. In short, Harris

**GAME 1**

**LOUISIANA TECH**  
(0-0)



**VS. FIU (0-0)**



**Saturday, August 26**  
**Joe Aillet Stadium**  
**Ruston**  
**8 p.m. on CBS Sports**

is walking into Saturday with more confidence than ever in the guys beside him.

"I feel like now we have a lot of guys that have bought into the system and know the system now and we're able to make decisions, not just guess," Harris said Tuesday. "We're in a better space than where we were last year around this time. I feel like it'll make us a lot better."

The redshirt senior returns in the slot after 66 catches, 640 yards and 5 touchdowns last season, along with a dangerous special teams return skillset that ranked top-10 nationally. He's no stranger to going fast and told reporters Tuesday that's the exact message coming from Cumbie and the coaching staff.

"We talk about it a lot," Harris said. "Coach Cumbie said it today as practice started, 'We gotta start fast,' and so we just gotta start off on the right foot and face a little adversity, keep going and get a (win)."

That hasn't been a



Photo by Hunter Corneliusen

Louisiana Tech opens the 2023 season Saturday against FIU, led by new quarterback Hank Bachmeier.

problem for the program over the decades, as the Bulldogs have a 44-9-1 record in openers at Joe Aillet Stadium.

Opening at home and against a C-USA opponent adds to the need to get out of the gates fast if the Bulldogs want to position themselves to reach their postseason goals.

Harris will be catching passes from a new quarterback on Saturday as Boise State transfer Hank Bachmeier is set to make his Tech debut.

Bachmeier, who's won 20 of his 29 career starts, will lead the Tech air-raid offense after throwing for 6,605 yards, 41 touchdowns and 19 interceptions at the Mountain West powerhouse.

For as experienced as he comes, Saturday will be his first game for another program after four years in Boise. But Bachmeier isn't

nervous.

"Excited," Bachmeier said. "It's my fifth year, third team from Florida for a season debut, so I'm excited about that. New journey for me, so excited to go out there and go play."

After watching FIU on film, Bachmeier sees a defense that will allow for layup throws — easy completions — to create an early rhythm, so he'll work to not force anything dangerous.

After all, the Panthers had the fifth worst scoring defense in the country last season (37 points per game) and lost their top tackler in linebacker Gaethan Bernadel to Stanford among many transfer losses.

Set to make his first collegiate start in over a calendar year, Bachmeier said he isn't afraid to slowly play his way into the game.

"Take what they give you and they give you the game, that's kind of my

mentality," Bachmeier said.

Tech's new quarterback will have more on his plate than usual in leading the offense as returning starter and leading rusher Marquis Crosby is out due to injury and second-string running back Tyre Shelton is questionable.

"It'll be a game-time decision with Tyre," Cumbie said Tuesday. "I think it'll be how it goes this week, and we'll just see the rest of the practice and how he feels."

Shelton, a transfer from Miami-Ohio, joined the Bulldogs after 32 career games in the MAC, where he rushed for 1,153 yards and 7 career touchdowns. If Shelton is a no-go, Charvis Thornton and true freshman Keith Willis Jr. will take over.

The Bulldogs face FIU on Saturday at 8 p.m. in Joe Aillet Stadium. The game will be broadcast on CBS Sports Network.

## VIDEOBOARD

continued from page 6

position ourselves as the most sought after G5 program in the country."

As for the size of the board, Wood said, "The goal is to have it be the largest videoboard in the state of Louisiana."

The current videoboard, installed in 2009, continues to face operational issues and needs repair components that are no longer available, according to Louisiana Tech University President Les Guice's written request to the UL Board Supervisors.

"The manufacturer no longer supports the videoboard, and we are using parts from video boards at other locations that have been decommissioned," Guice said. "Through donations and sponsorship agreement revenue to Louisiana Tech University Foundation, funding has been secured to replace the videoboard."

The new videoboard will be constructed on the same site as the new Athletic Academic Center and will be integrated into the facility.

The goal is to have the new board completed by next spring and be operational by the Bulldogs' annual spring game.

"We need to have the product on our playing fields start to win, particularly football, but we have to look the part too, and this north end zone project just elevates Louisiana Tech athletes and elevates the football experience," Wood said.

## VOLLEYBALL continued from page 6

Wednesday. "And any chance you can get to play your district competition is a learning opportunity, and I'm hoping the girls can come in and execute and play to a high level."

The Bearcats already scrimmaged Airline and Haughton earlier this week, with both proving to be worthwhile and competitive matches to learn from, according to Cauley.

Senior Allie Richardson, an honorable mention all-district selection last season, wants Ruston to focus on improving communication during the jamboree and complement each other's talent.

If the Bearcats can put all the pieces together, including another opportunity Saturday, she's confident a big season can happen.

"I feel like we have a lot of potential, and if we all come together and put it together, we know how to do it, we're going to suc-

ceed," Richardson said.

Cala Wilson, a fellow senior, said Saturday's jamboree fits a theme of a summer built on hard work and additional scrimmages and drills than the Bearcats have had in the past.

But like Richardson, she believes it's given the Bearcats more to work from and improve and wants Saturday to be a time to clean up remaining miscues.

"We want to just fix our mistakes that we had against Airline because it was a pretty competitive match," Wilson said.

Playing habits aren't the only areas that have changed over the summer for Ruston, with Cauley adding that the Bearcats will now play on Court 2 instead of Court 1 this season, including Saturday, due to the exposure to the sun on Court 1.

"That may seem silly, but if you had to deal with that in a



Photo courtesy of Amanda Cauley

The Ruston High volleyball team will host a jamboree on Saturday in the team's final set of competition before the regular season opener on Thursday.

match — you can't see, you can't see at all," Cauley said. "I'm glad that we learned that before the season started and we're making some adjustments. I'm just looking forward to seeing the girls put forward all their effort and hopefully execute everything we've been working on the past few weeks."

Ruston's JV team

will also play in the jamboree with a matchup against West Ouachita at 9 a.m. and West Monroe at 9:45 a.m. on Court 3.

Admission is \$5 at the door for spectators but students with a valid ID get in for free.

The regular season for Ruston begins Thursday at 6 p.m. against Parkway at the Sports Complex.

## Tech, Origin Bank agree on naming rights for Academic Center

In conjunction with the Louisiana Tech University Foundation and premier partner Origin Bank, Louisiana Tech Athletics announced a naming rights agreement for the Center for Student-Athlete Success. Origin Bank, the official bank of Louisiana Tech Athletics, will be recognized as the naming partner for the state-of-the-art facility after making the largest corporate gift ever to Louisiana Tech University.

"Origin Bank has been a highly valued and integral partner for Louisiana Tech in the past, and they continue to be for our present and our future," said Tech Vice President and Director of Athletics Eric A. Wood. "The opportunity to have their name directly tied to our upcoming Center for Student-Athlete Success only strengthens our deep connection with them."

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# LINCOLN PARISH ARRESTS

**Name:** Kenneth Bolton, Jr.  
**Age:** 44  
**Address:** 523 Cook Road, Lillie  
**Arrested for:** Fugitive from another jurisdiction, headlamps on motor vehicles, no license plate light  
**Date of arrest:** Aug. 15  
**Time of arrest:** 11:06 p.m.  
**Place of arrest:** Hwy. 33 at Life Church  
**Arresting agency:** LPSO  
**Bond amount:** None listed

**Name:** Ladrena Leola Monet Robinson  
**Age:** 22  
**Address:** 1812 West Alabama Ave., Ruston  
**Arrested for:** Possession with intent to distribute Schedule I (marijuana), no tail lamp  
**Date of arrest:** Aug. 16  
**Time of arrest:** 2:39 a.m.  
**Place of arrest:** Hwy. 80 at Hwy. 818  
**Arresting agency:** LPSO  
**Bond amount:** TBO, ROR

**Name:** Draper Demond Jackson  
**Age:** 43  
**Address:** 905 Fisher Lane, Ruston  
**Arrested for:** No seatbelt, driving under suspension, resisting an officer by flight  
**Date of arrest:** Aug. 16  
**Time of arrest:** 9:40 a.m.  
**Place of arrest:** I-20 E/B MP 88  
**Arresting agency:** LSP  
**Bond amount:** None listed

**Name:** Brad Anthony Woods Jr.  
**Age:** 29  
**Address:** 124 Hickory Ridge Circle, Leesville  
**Arrested for:** Carrying of a firearm on a school campus  
**Date of arrest:** Aug. 16  
**Time of arrest:** 11:39 a.m.  
**Place of arrest:** Grambling State University Police Department  
**Arresting agency:** GSUPD  
**Bond amount:** TBS

**Name:** Sharonda Buffett  
**Age:** 48  
**Address:** 713 McDonald Ave., Apt. K56, Ruston  
**Arrested for:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Judicial warrant - fugitive from another jurisdiction  
**Date of arrest:** Aug. 16  
**Time of arrest:** 11:49 a.m.  
**Place of arrest:** Zaxbys  
**Arresting agency:** RPD  
**Bond amount:** None listed

**Name:** Keleisha Renee Pea  
**Age:** 22  
**Address:** 509 W. Line Ave., #A222, Ruston  
**Arrested for:** Ruston city bench warrant – speeding 11-24, reckless operation of a vehicle  
**Date of arrest:** Aug. 16  
**Time of arrest:** 10:56 p.m.  
**Place of arrest:** Annex Apartments #A222  
**Arresting agency:** RPD  
**Bond amount:** None listed

**Name:** Ramaya Tyann Wright  
**Age:** 20  
**Address:** 509 W. Line Ave., #A222, Ruston  
**Arrested for:** Ruston city bench warrants – speeding 11 to 24, fail to signal; reckless operation of a vehicle  
**Date of arrest:** Aug. 16  
**Time of arrest:** 10:56 p.m.  
**Place of arrest:** Annex Apartments #A222  
**Arresting agency:** RPD  
**Bond amount:** None listed

**Name:** Danny Wayne Jordan  
**Age:** Unknown  
**Address:** 148 Eubanks, Simsboro  
**Arrested for:** Driving under suspension prior offenses  
**Date of arrest:** Aug. 17  
**Time of arrest:** 9:30 a.m.

**Place of arrest:** 401 North Trenton St.  
**Arresting agency:** Ruston City Marshal's Office  
**Bond amount:** Sentenced to 15 days in jail

**Name:** James Chrysogonus Williams  
**Age:** 32  
**Address:** 4341 Horizon North Pkwy., Apt. 423, Dallas  
**Arrested for:** Disturbing the peace (3 counts), criminal mischief  
**Date of arrest:** Aug. 17  
**Time of arrest:** 11 p.m.  
**Place of arrest:** GSUPD  
**Arresting agency:** GSUPD  
**Bond amount:** None listed

**Name:** Michael M. Urbina  
**Age:** 20  
**Address:** 403 Main St., Grambling  
**Arrested for:** DWI 1<sup>st</sup>, traveling wrong way down a one-way, open container  
**Date of arrest:** Aug. 18  
**Time of arrest:** Unknown  
**Place of arrest:** U.S. 167 southbound  
**Arresting agency:** LSP  
**Bond amount:** None listed

**Name:** Tahj Anderson  
**Age:** 20  
**Address:** 1913 West Alabama Ave., #C207, Ruston  
**Arrested for:** DWI 1<sup>st</sup> offense, driving wrong way on a one way, open container of alcohol  
**Date of arrest:** Aug. 18  
**Time of arrest:** 12:30 a.m.  
**Place of arrest:** West Park Avenue  
**Arresting agency:** RPD  
**Bond amount:** None listed

**Name:** Antonio D. Williams  
**Age:** 38  
**Address:** 570 College Ave., Grambling  
**Arrested for:** Fugitive of another jurisdiction (agg. assault with a firearm 5 counts), fugitive of another jurisdiction (illegal discharge of a firearm), fugitive of another jurisdiction (illegal carrying of weapons)  
**Date of arrest:** Aug. 18  
**Time of arrest:** 9:50 a.m.  
**Place of arrest:** 8388 Hwy. 80  
**Arresting agency:** LPSO  
**Bond amount:** None listed

**Name:** Yolanda Torbor  
**Age:** 39  
**Address:** 513 Everett St., Ruston  
**Arrested for:** Violation of a protective order, resisting an officer, resisting an officer  
**Date of arrest:** Aug. 18  
**Time of arrest:** 12:07 p.m.  
**Place of arrest:** 1013 James St.,  
**Arresting agency:** RPD  
**Bond amount:** TBS, TBS

**Name:** Jeremy Guilliams  
**Age:** 45  
**Address:** 4801 Hwy. 165 South, Monroe  
**Arrested for:** Obstruction of roadway, reckless operation, driving under suspension, driving while smoking marijuana (Schedule I)  
**Date of arrest:** Aug. 18  
**Time of arrest:** 1:25 p.m.  
**Place of arrest:** Crocker Road/Campbell Road  
**Arresting agency:** LPSO  
**Bond amount:** ROR, ROR, ROR, ROR

**Name:** Tyress Kelly  
**Age:** 18  
**Address:** 2536 Barnett Springs Ave., Ruston  
**Arrested for:** Warrants – simple burglary – theft from a motor vehicle; contributing to the delinquency of a minor  
**Date of arrest:** Aug. 18  
**Time of arrest:** 3:52 p.m.  
**Place of arrest:** 1604 S.

Vienna St.  
**Arresting agency:** RPD  
**Bond amount:** \$20,000, \$2,500

**Name:** Keyzarious Jones  
**Age:** 18  
**Address:** 1604 S. Vienna St., Ruston  
**Arrested for:** Warrant – agg. assault with a firearm  
**Date of arrest:** Aug. 18  
**Time of arrest:** 3:52 p.m.  
**Place of arrest:** 1604 S. Vienna  
**Arresting agency:** RPD  
**Bond amount:** None listed

**Name:** Rashad Newton  
**Age:** 22  
**Address:** Unknown  
**Arrested for:** Possession of stolen property  
**Date of arrest:** Aug. 18  
**Time of arrest:** 6 p.m.  
**Place of arrest:** Vaughn Avenue  
**Arresting agency:** RPD  
**Bond amount:** TBS

**Name:** Kevon Dewon Martin, Jr.  
**Age:** 24  
**Address:** 696 Main St., Grambling  
**Arrested for:** Contributing to the delinquency of juveniles  
**Date of arrest:** Aug. 18  
**Time of arrest:** 8:07 p.m.  
**Place of arrest:** 1400 block of Cardinal Street  
**Arresting agency:** RPD  
**Bond amount:** None listed

**Name:** Ruhen Briggs  
**Age:** 31  
**Address:** 222 Harris St., Grambling  
**Arrested for:** RPD bench warrants – resisting an office – false information, speeding 11 to 24, driver's license suspended (2 warrants)  
**Date of arrest:** Aug. 18  
**Time of arrest:** 8:46 p.m.  
**Place of arrest:** South Farmerville Street  
**Arresting agency:** RPD  
**Bond amount:** \$9,000

**Name:** Rachael Michelle Williams  
**Age:** 22  
**Address:** 1468 Danville Road, Jonesboro  
**Arrested for:** FTA – expired MVI, FTA – fail to maintain liability insurance  
**Date of arrest:** Aug. 18  
**Time of arrest:** 11:15 p.m.  
**Place of arrest:** North Trenton Street at West Georgia Avenue  
**Arresting agency:** RPD  
**Bond amount:** \$6,000

**Name:** Kalmond Dewilford Ja'Marrens Stewart  
**Age:** 20  
**Address:** 509 West Line Ave., Apt. B-152, Ruston  
**Arrested for:** Fugitive from other jurisdiction (LPSO) warrant – simple battery  
**Date of arrest:** Aug. 19  
**Time of arrest:** 1:13 a.m.  
**Place of arrest:** West California Avenue at Bond Street  
**Arresting agency:** RPD  
**Bond amount:** \$2,500

**Name:** Angel Logan Lowery  
**Age:** 32  
**Address:** 610 Area 4 Road, West Monroe  
**Arrested for:** LPSO warrants – possession

of a firearm during commission of a CDS felony, possession of Schedule II methamphetamine, possession of Schedule III buprenorphine hydrochloride, possession of drug paraphernalia  
**Date of arrest:** Aug. 19  
**Time of arrest:** 9:22 a.m.  
**Place of arrest:** Madison Parish LTCW  
**Arresting agency:** LPSO  
**Bond amount:** None listed

**Name:** Shakaylia Shayene Johnson  
**Age:** 23  
**Address:** 549 C St., Waterproof  
**Arrested for:** RPD warrants – FTA – driver's license none issued, no tail lights  
**Date of arrest:** Aug. 19  
**Time of arrest:** 10:48 p.m.  
**Place of arrest:** South Trenton Street at West Texas Avenue  
**Arresting agency:** RPD  
**Bond amount:** \$4,000

**Name:** Katrina R. West  
**Age:** 33  
**Address:** 119 Sherman Loop, Homer  
**Arrested for:** DWI 1<sup>st</sup>, careless operation  
**Date of arrest:** Aug. 20  
**Time of arrest:** 12:28 a.m.  
**Place of arrest:** U. S. 167 Vienna Street at West Alabama Ave.  
**Arresting agency:** LSP  
**Bond amount:** \$1,500

**Name:** Randall R. Smith  
**Age:** 26  
**Address:** 2122 Buchannon Dr., Apt. 8, Arlington, Texas  
**Arrested for:** DWI 2<sup>nd</sup> offense, possession of Schedule II - oxycodone  
**Date of arrest:** Aug. 20  
**Time of arrest:** 2:48 a.m.  
**Place of arrest:** McAllister Street at Second Avenue  
**Arresting agency:** RPD  
**Bond amount:** \$2000, TBS

**Name:** Tydalonzieo Tyquan Abney  
**Age:** 24  
**Address:** 250 Jackson Road, Lot #5, Simsboro  
**Arrested for:** Violation of a protective order, bench warrant – no seat belt, bench warrant – domestic abuse battery, unauthorized use of MV, damage to property  
**Date of arrest:** Aug. 20  
**Time of arrest:** 9:22 a.m.  
**Place of arrest:** 723 Braswell Lane, Simsboro  
**Arresting agency:** LPSO  
**Bond amount:** None listed

**Name:** Sonnier Keeshawn  
**Age:** 19  
**Address:** 222 Hanstrom Drive, Hutto, Texas  
**Arrested for:** RPD bench warrant – reckless operation  
**Date of arrest:** Aug. 20  
**Time of arrest:** 6:55 p.m.  
**Place of arrest:** West Line Avenue  
**Arresting agency:** RPD  
**Bond amount:** Unknown

**Name:** Kevin Mercedes Sevilla Ballesteros  
**Age:** 23  
**Address:** 2210 North Tremont St., Indianapolis, Indiana  
**Arrested for:** Simple kidnapping, contributing

to the delinquency of a juvenile  
**Date of arrest:** Aug. 20  
**Time of arrest:** 10:25 p.m.  
**Place of arrest:** West Park Avenue  
**Arresting agency:** RPD  
**Bond amount:** TBS, TBS

**Name:** Agilia Wimberly  
**Age:** 38  
**Address:** 122 Slaughter St., Grambling  
**Arrested for:** Domestic abuse w/strangulation  
**Date of arrest:** Aug. 20  
**Time of arrest:** 10:38 p.m.  
**Place of arrest:** 122 Slaughter St.,  
**Arresting agency:** GPD  
**Bond amount:** TBS

**Name:** Trendon Drayton  
**Age:** 22  
**Address:** 137 Murline, Grambling  
**Arrested for:** Theft, simple criminal damage to property, battery of a dating partner  
**Date of arrest:** Aug. 21  
**Time of arrest:** 1:25 a.m.  
**Place of arrest:** 439 Heard Road  
**Arresting agency:** LPSO  
**Bond amount:** ROR, TBS, TBS

**Name:** Alfonzoe Ivory, Jr.  
**Age:** 19  
**Address:** 154 McDaniel St., Dubach  
**Arrested for:** Domestic abuse battery  
**Date of arrest:** Aug. 21  
**Time of arrest:** 7:30 p.m.  
**Place of arrest:** 154 McDaniel St.  
**Arresting agency:** LPSO  
**Bond amount:** None listed

**Name:** Jordan Shelton  
**Age:** 22  
**Address:** 451 Abercrombie Road, Athens  
**Arrested for:** Theft less than \$1,000 – shoplifting, Ruston city court warrant – FTA no proof of liability insurance  
**Date of arrest:** Aug. 21  
**Time of arrest:** 10:26 p.m.  
**Place of arrest:** Walmart Supercenter  
**Arresting agency:** RPD  
**Bond amount:** None listed

**Name:** Rodtravious Washington  
**Age:** 21  
**Address:** 1812 W. Alabama Ave., Ruston  
**Arrested for:** Ruston City Court FTA speeding 11-24  
**Date of arrest:** Aug. 22  
**Time of arrest:** 12:08 a.m.  
**Place of arrest:** I-20 EB MM 83  
**Arresting agency:** RPD  
**Bond amount:** \$2,000

**Name:** Coutne Nicole Nation  
**Age:** 23  
**Address:** 904 Marion Hwy., Farmerville  
**Arrested for:** Ruston PD FTA warrants – misuse of license plate, no proof of insurance  
**Date of arrest:** Aug. 22  
**Time of arrest:** 8:14 a.m.  
**Place of arrest:** La. 33 at Dub Road  
**Arresting agency:** LSP  
**Bond amount:** \$4,000

**Name:** Haywood Lamont Harris  
**Age:** 22  
**Address:** College Avenue, Grambling

**Arrested for:** Improper lane use, possession of Schedule I, fugitive from another jurisdiction (3 counts)  
**Date of arrest:** Aug. 22  
**Time of arrest:** 9:50 a.m.  
**Place of arrest:** La. Hwy. 33 at Fairgrounds Road  
**Arresting agency:** LPSO  
**Bond amount:** ROR, ROR, \$6,000

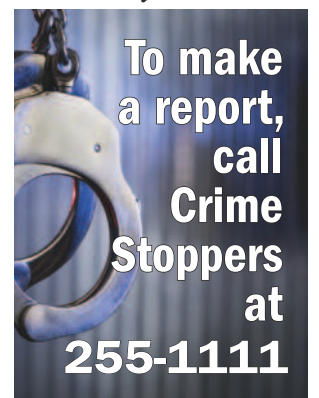
**Name:** Joseph Craft  
**Age:** 35  
**Address:** 604 Spell St., West Monroe  
**Arrested for:** LPSO warrants – possession of drug paraphernalia, operating a vehicle while license suspended/revoked, operating a vehicle without proper required equipment; OPSO warrant – felony theft, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle  
**Date of arrest:** Aug. 22  
**Time of arrest:** 7:01 p.m.  
**Place of arrest:** Crocker at Haney Smith  
**Arresting agency:** LPSO  
**Bond amount:** None listed

**Name:** Jyearin Buggs  
**Age:** 28  
**Address:** 125 Pete Road, Bernice  
**Arrested for:** DL suspended, fugitive from another jurisdiction – 3<sup>rd</sup> JDC bench warrant Union Parish  
**Date of arrest:** Aug. 22  
**Time of arrest:** 11:35 p.m.  
**Place of arrest:** USA Travel Plaza Hwy. 33  
**Arresting agency:** RPD  
**Bond amount:** None listed

**Name:** David Albritton  
**Age:** 57  
**Address:** 200 Riser Road #20, Ruston  
**Arrested for:** Ruston City Court warrants criminal trespass, theft less than \$1,000  
**Date of arrest:** Aug. 22  
**Time of arrest:** 9:35 p.m.  
**Place of arrest:** 601 Martin Luther King Drive  
**Arresting agency:** RPD  
**Bond amount:** \$6,000

**Name:** Elizabeth Burlew Nelson  
**Age:** 33  
**Address:** 128 Joey Ln., Choudrant  
**Arrested for:** Domestic abuse battery  
**Date of arrest:** Aug.22  
**Time of arrest:** 11:13 p.m.  
**Place of arrest:** 128 Joey Ln.  
**Arresting agency:** LPSP  
**Bond amount:** None listed

*This listing reflects a record of those persons booked into the Lincoln Parish Detention Center. An arrest is one of the initial steps in the legal process and does not indicate guilt or innocence. Such a verdict is usually decided in a court of law.*



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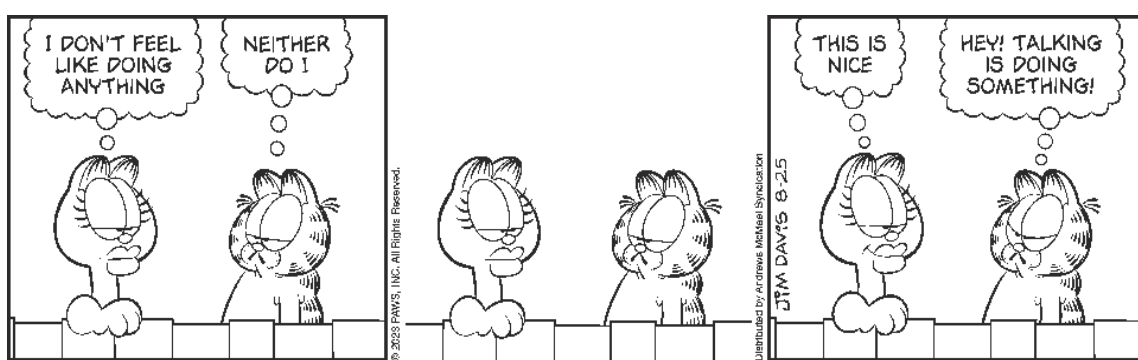
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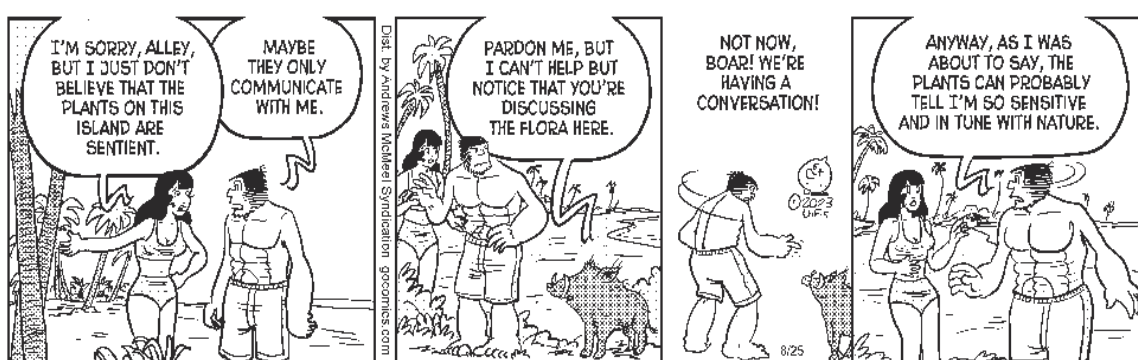

## Garfield



## Peanuts



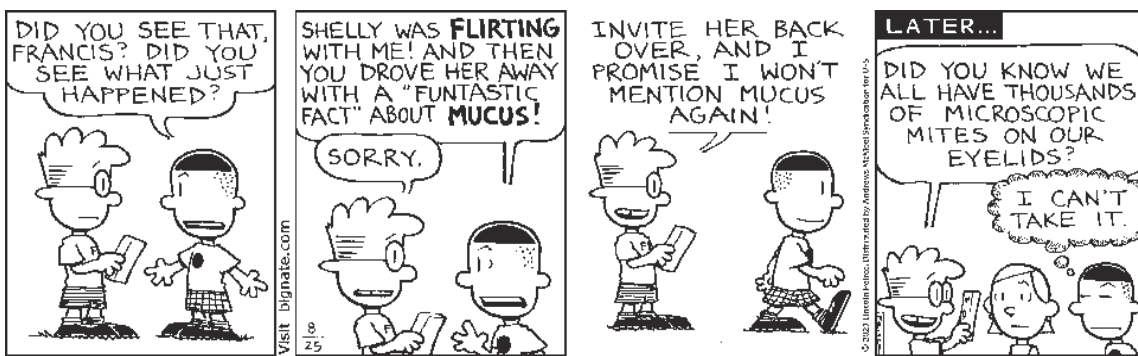
## Alley Oop



## The Born Loser



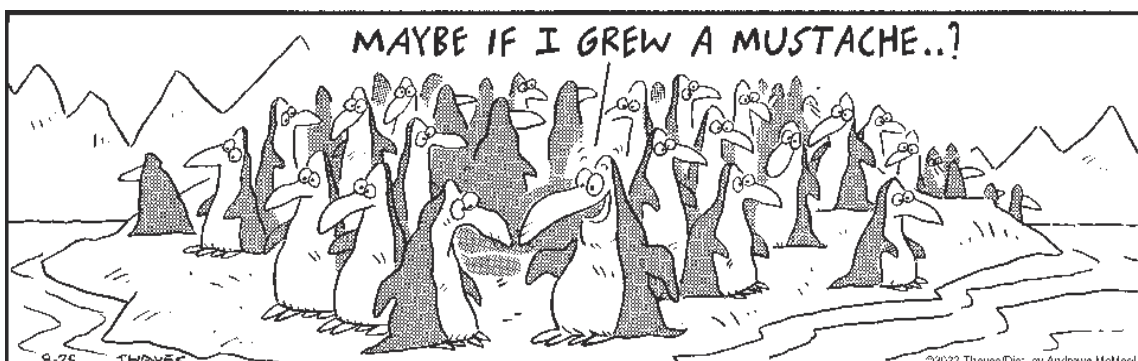
## Big Nate



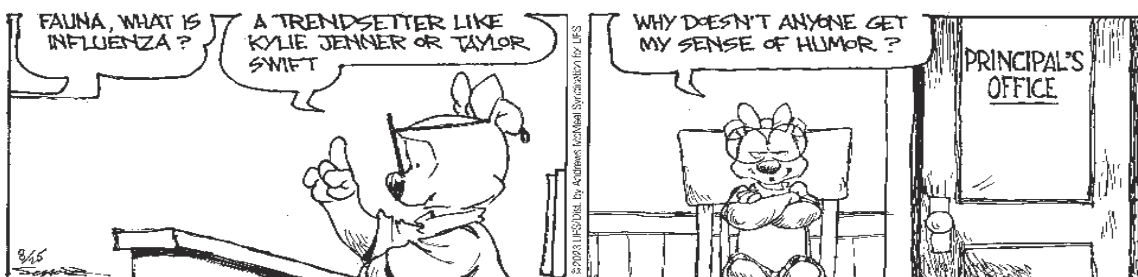
## Cul De Sac



## Frank n Ernest



## Grizzwells



## Crossword Puzzle

### ACROSS

- 1 Fleecy farm animal
- 4 Cumberbund
- 6 Sheepish look
- 12 Salmon, smoked
- 13 "Waiting for the Robert —"
- 14 Took a trolley
- 15 "Be- — -A-Lula"
- 16 "— Enchanted"
- 17 Norway's capital
- 18 Bulletin
- 20 Top off a drink
- 22 Japanese dance drama
- 23 "— your funeral!"
- 24 Matter at hand
- 26 "CSI" evidence
- 27 Newt
- 30 Dismounted

### DOWN

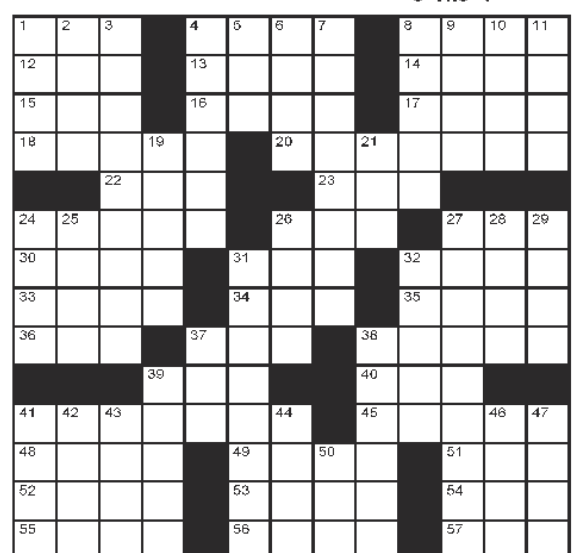
- 31 Clown around for the camera
- 32 Wheel shaft
- 33 Budge
- 34 — and outs
- 35 Render senseless
- 36 Buzzing insect
- 37 Inquire
- 38 Pane of stamps
- 39 "Gross!"
- 40 Farm bird
- 41 Unparalleled
- 45 Commencement
- 48 Home to billions
- 49 "There ought to be —!"
- 51 Ore — frozen foods
- 52 Sense
- 53 Trig function
- 54 Animal doc
- 55 Goes wrong
- 56 Full house, e.g.
- 57 Opposite of WSW

### TODAY'S ANSWERS

E	N	E	D	N	V	H	S	R	S	R	E
L	O	A	E	N	I	S	T	E	E	F	
V	O	I	M	V	T	V	I	S	V		
L	E	S	N	O	X	W	E	R	P	U	S
	N	E	H		H	G	U				
N	E	H	S	S	N	S	A	S	A	O	M
N	O	I	S	K	I	N	I	A	O	M	
E	T	X	V	G	U	M	I	T	V	A	
L	E	F	T		V	N	D	I	S	S	I
	N	E	H	S	E	I	H	O	N		
N	E	H	S	E	F	R	E	T	A	V	
O	T	S	O	V	T	L	E	X	P	O	B
L	E	F	T		R	O	D	E			
N	I	G	L	S	A	S	A	S	O	W	E

### DOWN

- 1 Napoleon's place of exile
- 2 Mohair
- 3 Far-reaching
- 4 Be in a rage
- 5 "— I want for Christmas ..."
- 6 The "I"
- 7 Courtroom events
- 8 12 dozen
- 9 — Hashana
- 10 Lazy
- 11 Elemental gas
- 19 Itinerary
- 21 Between zeta and theta
- 24 Metrical foot
- 25 Gin flavoring
- 26 Submerge in liquid
- 27 Dear
- 28 Chimney
- 29 Pup or Sibley
- 31 Hodgepodge
- 32 Not at all ruddy
- 37 Period
- 38 Demonstrated
- 39 Range in Russia
- 41 Ump's cry
- 42 Consumer
- 43 Landing place
- 44 Director — Kazan
- 46 Paradise
- 47 London gallery
- 50 Landers or Reinking



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## HOROSCOPES

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 2023

Pay more attention to the people you love. If you recognize what others expect from you, you'll decide what you want. Maintaining equilibrium in all aspects of life will encourage peace of mind. Love yourself first, and everything else will fall into place.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** -- Don't offer false hope. Honesty is the best policy when dealing with friends and family. Ask questions and offer solutions, but don't let your temper take control. Keep a positive attitude.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)** -- Anger won't solve anything, but a step in a positive direction will alleviate any problem. Establish what you want and make it happen. Do what makes you look and feel good.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)** -- Know your limitations, set boundaries and don't take risks that can affect your health or well-being. Pay attention to detail when dealing with investments, legalities or medical issues.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)** -- Keep busy; movement will help ease stress and encourage fitness. Don't give up hope because someone is misleading or discouraging you from doing what brings you joy. Accentuate your finer qualities.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** -- Save money, get your affairs in order, and enjoy life more. A social gathering, trip or seminar will change how you think, feel and respond to others.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb.**

19) -- Don't change anything prematurely. Refuse to let anyone pressure you or make you feel inadequate or insecure. Rise above controversy and pour your energy into life, love and happiness.

**PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)** -- Set high standards and goals, then get moving. Refuse to let money and jealousy be the driving forces in your life. Strive for peace and happiness, and help people in need.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)** -- Rethink your plan and consider what you want to achieve. Trust your instincts and carry on without making a fuss. You'll hit your objective and get to celebrate your victory.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)** -- You don't stand alone. Speak on behalf of the voiceless. Lead the way and make a difference. Think big, pinpoint problems, adjust what's not working and enjoy your accomplishments.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)** -- Research will pay off. Don't expect others to do things to your specifications or give an honest assessment of a situation. Anger won't solve a problem, but kindness might.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)** -- Do your part and enjoy family and friends. Take on a new challenge that stimulates your mind and encourages you to follow your heart. Don't fear being unique or taking the road less traveled.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)** -- Social events will lead to temptation. Have an open mind, but don't let anyone lead you down a path you shouldn't take. Overindulgence, overspending and unverified information will cost you.

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## PUBLIC NOTICES

PublicNoticeAds.com

### LINCOLN PARISH

**BID NOTICE**  
Lincoln Total Community Action, Inc. will accept sealed bids until WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2023 - 3:00 PM for the purchase of a van as listed:  
7-Passenger Mini Van  
Bid forms can be provided via mail or picked up from the office of the Executive Director - 421 West Vaughn Avenue, Ruston, LA. All bids must be returned in a sealed envelope by the deadline date.  
Bids will be opened and read on Monday, September 1, 2023 - 1:00 PM in the Office of the Executive Director. The Board reserves the right to waive any informality in any or all bids or to reject any or all bids. For additional information contact at 318.255.5401 or 255.2319.  
/s/Clotill Smith  
/s/ Run Dates - August 16, 18, 20, 23 & 25  
Published in the Ruston Daily Leader, Ruston, LA, on Aug. 16, 18, 20, 23, 25, 2023

**JOB OPENING**  
Lincoln Total Community Action, Inc. will be accepting applications for the position of Food Service Manager until THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 2023 - 3:00 PM. This position requires a BS Degree in Dietetics or related field, and must clear a background check. A resume must be submitted with application. Benefits include -Health, Dental, and Life Insurance, 403b Retirement, and holidays are the same as local school system. For additional information contact - Pamela Harris or Clotill Smith at - 255.2319 or 255.5401.  
THE AGENCY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER  
S/Clotill Smith  
Published in the Ruston Daily Leader, Ruston, LA, on Aug. 11, 16, 18, 25, 27, 2023

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS**  
ELECTRONIC SEALED BIDS will be received by Grambling State University, until 2:00 PM CST, on Thursday, August 31, 2023 for: VARIOUS MUSIC STUDIO EQUIPMENT/SUPPLIES  
Complete Bid Documents may be obtained from Grambling State University Purchasing Office, Grambling, Louisiana - by email to [miles@gram.edu](mailto:miles@gram.edu). Bid Documents can also be obtained via LaPAC, the Office of State Procurement Website at the following address: <https://www.cfpd.louisiana.gov/osp/lapac/pubMain.cfm>. Click on "Bids by Department" then scroll down to: University - Grambling State University - then click on Bid #50018-240005.  
GSU RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND TO WAIVE ANY INFORMALITIES INCIDENTALS THERETO. NO BID MAY BE WITHDRAWN FOR A PERIOD OF THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER ACTUAL DATE OF THE OPENING THEREOF.  
SIGNED Halana Miles  
Halana Miles  
Purchasing Officer  
Published in the Ruston Daily Leader, Ruston, LA, on Aug. 23, 25, 27, 2023

**NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC**  
IN THIRD DISTRICT COURT, PARISH OF LINCOLN STATE OF LOUISIANA Vs. No. 63158  
THE UNOPENED SUCCESSION OF BILLY R. HERBERT, ET AL  
Notice is hereby given that by virtue of a WRIT OF SEIZURE AND SALE issued out of the Honorable Third Judicial District Court in the above entitled and numbered cause, and to me directed, I have seized and taken into my possession and will offer for sale at public auction, at the principal front door of the Court House in Ruston, Lincoln Parish, LA, between the hours governing judicial sales on WEDNESDAY, 30 August, 2023, beginning at 10:00 A.M., the following described property situated in Lincoln Parish, LA, to wit:  
ALL THAT CERTAIN PARCEL OF LAND IN TOWN OF DUBACH, LINCOLN PARISH, STATE OF LA, AS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED

IN BOOK 1336 PAGE 385 ID# 15260, BEING KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS LOT 10 BARROW CIRCLE ADDITION  
Seized as the property of defendant THE UNOPENED SUCCESSION OF BILLY R. HERBERT, ET AL and will be sold to satisfy said writ and all cost. Terms of sale cash WITHOUT benefit of appraisal. This 21 days of August, 2023.  
JSTEPHEN WILLIAMS, SHERIFF  
1st 07/21/2023  
08/25/2023  
Published in the Ruston Daily Leader, Ruston, LA, on Aug. 25, 2023

**PEOPLES BANK**  
IN THIRD DISTRICT COURT, PARISH OF LINCOLN STATE OF LOUISIANA Vs. No. 63152  
2HIGH, LLC ET-AL  
Notice is hereby given that by virtue of a WRIT OF SEIZURE AND SALE issued out of the Honorable Third Judicial District Court in the above entitled and numbered cause, and to me directed, I have seized and taken into my possession and will offer for sale at public auction, at the principal front door of the Court House in Ruston, Lincoln Parish, LA, between the hours governing judicial sales on WEDNESDAY, 30 August, 2023, beginning at 10:00 A.M., the following described property situated in Lincoln Parish, LA, to wit:  
IMMOVABLE  
4.879-ACRE TRACT OF LAND LOCATED IN LINCOLN PARISH, LOUISIANA, AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 5, TOWNSHIP 18 NORTH, RANGE 2 WEST, LINCOLN PARISH, LOUISIANA, THENCE RUN NORTH FOR A DISTANCE OF 590.11 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE RUN EAST A DISTANCE OF 210.06 FEET TO AN EXISTING 5/8 INCH RE-BAR AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE CHRISTIAN REVIVAL CENTER LOT AS PER DEED RECORDED IN CONVEYANCE BOOK 819, PAGE, PAGE 232, RECORDS OF LINCOLN PARISH, LOUISIANA; THENCE RUN S89 DEGREES-38-31" E ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID LOT FOR A DISTANCE OF 201.89 FEET TO A 1 3/4 INCH METAL PIPE (PAINTED WHITE) FROM SAID STARTING POINT, THENCE RUN S89 DEGREES-36-33" E ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID LOT FOR A DISTANCE OF 463.61 FEET TO A 5/8 INCH RE-BAR (PAINTED GREEN) ON THE WEST RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF STATE HIGHWAY NO.33; THENCE RUN N26 DEGREES-14-53" E ALONG SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE FOR A DISTANCE OF 307.54 TO AN EXISTING D.O.T.D. RIGHT-OF-WAY MARKER (PAINTED BLUE); THENCE RUN N26 DEGREES-11-39" E ALONG SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE FOR A DISTANCE OF 39.89 FEET TO A 1/2 INCH RE-BAR (PAINTED WHITE) AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE CATHEDRAL OF PRAISE ASSEMBLY OF GOD LOT; THENCE, LEAVING SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE, RUNS S69 DEGREES-27-04" W ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID CATHEDRAL OF PRAISE ASSEMBLY OF GOD LOT FOR A DISTANCE OF 287.80 FEET TO AN EXISTING IRON ROD; THENCE RUN S70 DEGREES-28-38" W ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID LOT FOR A DISTANCE OF 136.78 FEET TO AN EXISTING IRON PIPE; THENCE RUN N20 DEGREE-32-56" W ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID LOT FOR A DISTANCE OF 474.12 FEET TO AN EXISTING PIPE ON THE EAST RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF FRAZIER ROAD; THENCE RUN S57 DEGREES-49-52" W ALONG SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE FOR A DISTANCE OF 19.10 FEET TO AN EXISTING IRON ROD; THENCE RUN S53 DEGREES-37-15" W ALONG SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY

LINE FOR A DISTANCE OF 124.27 FEET TO AN EXISTING IRON ROD; THENCE, LEAVING SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE, RUN S20 DEGREES-21'-17" E FOR A DISTANCE OF 400.15 FEET TO AN EXISTING IRON ROD; THENCE CONTINUE TO RUN S20 DEGREES-21'-17" E FOR A DISTANCE OF 75.95 FEET BACK TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; CONTAINING 4.879 ACRES AND BEING SUBJECT TO ALL EASEMENTS AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY OF RECORD OR USE; ALL AS PER MAP OF SURVEY BY WILLIAM T. LOWE, P.L.S DATED MAY 26, 2016, SHOWING A REVISED DATE OF JUNE 2, 2016, ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART OF HEREOF.  
MOVABLE  
ALL INVENTORY, EQUIPMENT, AND ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE IN THE NAME OF 2HIGH, LLC.  
Seized as the property of defendant 2HIGH, LLC ET-AL and will be sold to satisfy said writ and all cost. Terms of sale cash WITH benefit of appraisal. This 21 day of August, 2023.  
JSTEPHEN WILLIAMS, SHERIFF  
1st 07/21/2023  
2nd 08/25/2023  
Published in the Ruston Daily Leader, Ruston, LA, on Aug. 25, 2023

**J.P. MORGAN MORTGAGE ACQUISITION CORP.**  
IN THIRD DISTRICT COURT, PARISH OF LINCOLN STATE OF LOUISIANA Vs. No. 62911  
DANNY JOHNSON, (A/K/A DANNY FLORI JOHNSON AND LORI JOHNSON  
Notice is hereby given that by virtue of a WRIT OF SEIZURE AND SALE issued out of the Honorable Third Judicial District Court in the above entitled and numbered cause, and to me directed, I have seized and taken into my possession and will offer for sale at public auction, at the principal front door of the Court House in Ruston, Lincoln Parish, LA, between the hours governing judicial sales on WEDNESDAY, 4 October, 2023, beginning at 10:00 A.M., the following described property situated in Lincoln Parish, LA, to wit:  
A CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LOCATED IN SECTION 34, TOWNSHIP 18 NORTH, RANGE 2 WEST, LINCOLN PARISH, LOUISIANA, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGIN AT THE SW CORNER OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF NORTHWEST QUARTER (SE 1/4 OF NW 1/4) AND FROM SAID POINT OF BEGINNING, THENCE RUN NORTH 00 DEGREE 12 MINUTES 44 SECONDS EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 741.81 FEET, AND TO A RAILROAD SPIKE SET IN THE CENTERLINE OF LONG STRAW ROAD (FORMERLY LINCOLN PARISH ROAD NO. 404); THENCE RUN SOUTH 66 DEGREES 38 MINUTES 56 SECONDS EAST ALONG CENTERLINE OF SAID ROAD FOR A DISTANCE OF 270.28 FEET, AND TO A COTTON PICKER SPINDLE; THENCE LEAVING THE CENTERLINE OF SAID ROAD, RUN SOUTH 21 DEGREES 34 MINUTES 09 SECONDS WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 682.47 FEET, AND BACK TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING 2.116 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; SUBJECT TO RESTRICTIONS, SERVITUDES, RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND OUTSTANDING MINERAL RIGHTS OF RECORD AFFECTING THE PROPERTY.  
Seized as the property of defendant DANNY JOHNSON, (A/K/A DANNY FLORI JOHNSON AND LORI JOHNSON and will be sold to satisfy said writ and all cost. Terms of sale cash WITH benefit of appraisal. This 21 day of August, 2023.  
JSTEPHEN WILLIAMS, SHERIFF  
1st 08/25/2023  
Published in the Ruston Daily Leader, Ruston, LA, on Aug. 25, 2023

### JACKSON PARISH

The Jackson Parish School Board is advertising to declare a public hearing for the inspection and adoption of the Original Budgets for the 2023-2024 fiscal year of the General Fund and Special Revenue Funds. Proposed budgets may be viewed at the Jackson Parish School Board Central Office 315 Pershing Highway Jonesboro, Louisiana between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The hearing will be held on September 5, 2023, in the Jackson Parish School Board Central Office Board Room at 315 Pershing Highway, Jonesboro, LA 71251 at 10:45 a.m. Approved Original Budgets will be adopted at the regular meeting on September 5, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. Published in the Ruston Daily Leader, Ruston, LA, on Aug. 11, 18, 25, Sept. 1, 2023

August 15, 2023  
Jonesboro, Louisiana  
[www.jacksonparishpolicejury.org](http://www.jacksonparishpolicejury.org)  
The Jackson Parish Police Jury met in regular session on Tuesday, July 18, 2023, at 5:30 PM in the Dr. Charles H. Garrett Community Center, 182 Industrial Drive, Jonesboro, Louisiana. Members Present: Mr. Todd Culpepper, Mr. Lewis Chatham, Ms. Amy Magee, Mr. John McCarty, Ms. Regina Rowe, and Mr. Keith Burris. Absent: Ms. Tarneshala Cowans. Also present: Mr. Brad Roller, Operations Manager; Mr. Jody Stuckey, Road Superintendent; Mr. Wayne Anderson, Interim Road Superintendent; and Mr. Robin Sessions, Solid Waste Superintendent. The President, Mr. Culpepper, called the meeting to order. Ms. Magee

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS**  
SEALED BID # 2023-021  
SEALED BIDS will be received until the hour of 3:00 p.m. WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2023 in the Purchasing Office

of the city of Ruston located at the Public Works Complex, 701 East Tennessee Avenue, Ruston, LA 71270, at which time all bids received will be publicly opened and read aloud, for furnishing the city of Ruston with the PURCHASE OF ONE (1) PREVIOUSLY OWNED 2021 OR NEWER MODEL MINI REAR-LOAD REFUSE TRUCK (NON-CDL) As per specifications on file:  
The city of Ruston Purchasing Office 701 East Tennessee Avenue Ruston, Louisiana 71270 (318) 251-8631  
Each bid must be sealed and plainly marked with the bid number and the company's return address.  
Bidders may elect to submit bids electronically via the internet. Electronic bids for the city are available for submission at [www.bidexpress.com](http://www.bidexpress.com).  
Evidence of Authority to submit the bid shall be required in accordance with LA RS 38:2212(A) (1)(c).  
NO LATE BIDS WILL BE ACCEPTED. The city of Ruston reserves the right to reject any and all bids for just cause and reserves the right to waive any and all informalities.  
C. Michelle Colvin, CPPB  
Purchasing Director/ Contract Administrator  
City of Ruston  
Published in the Ruston Daily Leader, Ruston, LA, on Aug. 25, 2023



I, Michael Ezell Mitchner, have been convicted of 750.520B2B; CRIMINAL SEXUAL CONDUCT-FIRST DEGREE (PERSONS UNDER THIRTEEN, DEFENDANT 17 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER) on July 13, 1998. My address is: 2907 Lafourche Avenue, Ruston, Louisiana 71270.  
Race: Black  
Sex: Male  
Date of Birth: 12/10/1966  
Height: 5'5  
Weight: 180 lbs  
Hair Color: Brown  
Eye Color: Green  
Published in the Ruston Daily Leader, Ruston, LA, on August 25, 2023

### JACKSON PARISH

The Jackson Parish School Board is advertising to declare a public hearing for the inspection and adoption of the Original Budgets for the 2023-2024 fiscal year of the General Fund and Special Revenue Funds. Proposed budgets may be viewed at the Jackson Parish School Board Central Office 315 Pershing Highway Jonesboro, Louisiana between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The hearing will be held on September 5, 2023, in the Jackson Parish School Board Central Office Board Room at 315 Pershing Highway, Jonesboro, LA 71251 at 10:45 a.m. Approved Original Budgets will be adopted at the regular meeting on September 5, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. Published in the Ruston Daily Leader, Ruston, LA, on Aug. 11, 18, 25, Sept. 1, 2023

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Jonesboro, Louisiana  
[www.jacksonparishpolicejury.org](http://www.jacksonparishpolicejury.org)  
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gave the invocation and Ms. Rowe led in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.  
The President opened the floor for public comments. There were no public comments.  
Motion by Ms. Magee, second by Mr. Burris to enter executive session to conduct interviews of applicants for the Accounts Payable Clerk position. Motion carried.  
Motion by Ms. Magee, second by Mr. Rowe to end the executive session noting that no action had been taken. Motion carried.  
Motion by Ms. Magee, second by Mr. McCarty to approve the hiring of Ms. Sherrill LaRuth Malone for the Accounts Payable Clerk position. Motion carried.  
The President moved to the approval of minutes. Motion by Ms. Rowe, second by Mr. Chatham to adopt the minutes of the July 18, 2023, July 27, 2023, and August 8, 2023, Special Called Police Jury Meetings, monthly purchase orders, and the payment of all bills. Motion carried.  
The President moved to Committee Reports. Motion by Ms. Magee, second by Mr. Burris to adopt the following minutes from the July 31, 2023, Personnel Committee meeting. Motion carried.  
Personnel Committee July 31, 2023  
The Personnel Committee met Monday, July 31, 2023, at 5:00 PM in the Nathaniel Zeno, Jr. Meeting Room, Jackson Parish Administrative Building, 160 Industrial Drive, Jonesboro, Louisiana. Members Present: Mr. Lewis Chatham, Mr. John McCarty, and Mr. Keith Burris. Absent: none. Also present: Mr. Brad Roller, Operations Manager  
The Chairman, Mr. McCarty, called the meeting to order. Mr. Burris gave the invocation and Mr. Chatham led in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.  
Mr. McCarty called for public comments and there were none.  
Motion by Mr. Chatham, second by Mr. Burris to recommend to the Police Jury the posting for the vacant position of General Laborer - Grounds Keeper in the Maintenance Department. Motion carried.  
Motion by Mr. Chatham, second by Mr. Burris to approve posting for the vacant position of General Laborer - Grounds Keeper in the Maintenance Department. Motion carried.  
The President called for monthly management reports.  
Mr. Brad Roller, Operations Manager presented the July 2023 Operations Manager Report.  
Mr. Wayne Anderson, Interim Road Superintendent, presented the July 2023 Road report noting that \$1,460.60 had been spent on emergency callouts/off-schedule work. Motion by Ms. Magee, second by Mr. Rowe to accept the July 2023 emergency callouts/off-schedule report. Motion carried.  
Mr. Robin Sessions, Solid Waste Superintendent presented the July 2023 Solid Waste report. The President moved on to Other Business.  
Mr. Paul Riley, Parish Engineer gave an update on the anticipated start date of the 2023 Road Program Projects.  
Motion by Ms. Rowe, second by Mr. Burris to adopt the tax millage rates for 2023.  
BE IT RESOLVED, that the following millage(s) are hereby levied on the 2023 tax roll on all property subject to taxation by the Jackson Parish Police Jury:  
General Alimony 5.1  
Roads & Bridges 5.23  
Roads, Asphalt, Paving 4.55  
Recreation District 4.73  
Health Unit 0.82  
Library & Bookmobile 4.90  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proper administrative officials of the Parish of Jackson, State of Louisiana, be and they are hereby empowered, authorized, and directed to spread said taxes, as hereinabove set forth, upon the assessment of roll of said Parish for the year 2023, and to make the collection of the taxes imposed for and on behalf of the taxing authority, according to law, and that the taxes herein levied shall become a permanent lien and privilege on all property subject to taxation as herein set forth,

and collection thereof shall be enforceable in the manner provided by law.  
The foregoing resolution was read in full, the roll was called on the adoption thereof, and the resolution was adopted by the following votes:  
District 1 - Yea, District 2 - Yea, District 3 - Yea, District 4 - Yea, District 5 - Absent, District 6 - Yea, District 7 - Yea.  
Yeas: 6  
Nays: 0  
Absent: 1  
Abstention: 0  
Motion carried.  
The President opened the floor for Juror comments.  
Motion by Ms. Rowe, second by Mr. Burris to adjourn. Motion carried.  
Published in the Ruston Daily Leader, Ruston, LA, on Aug. 23, 2023

**THE JACKSON PARISH COMMUNICATION DISTRICT IS HIRING FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITION. PLEASE SUBMIT ALL RESUMES TO THE JACKSON PARISH COMMUNICATION DISTRICT, 319 JIMMIE DAVIS BLVD, JONESBORO, LA 71251 OR MAIL TO P.O. BOX 636, JONESBORO, LA 71251. APPLICATIONS WILL BE RECEIVED UNTIL 4:00 P.M., TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 5TH, 2023. TO REQUEST MORE INFORMATION ON POSITION, PLEASE CALL JACKSON PARISH COMMUNICATION DISTRICT OFFICE AT (318) 259-2103. POSITION: JACKSON PARISH COMMUNICATION DISTRICT E-911 DIRECTOR  
AGENCY: JACKSON PARISH COMMUNICATION DISTRICT  
GENERAL DUTIES:  
1.SET-UP AND MAINTAIN OFFICE RECORDS TO INCLUDE HANDLING DISTRICT PAYMENTS AND MAKING MONTHLY DEPOSITS.  
2.MAINTAIN AND UPDATE MAP FILE OF JACKSON PARISH ADDRESSES.  
3.ASSIST THE BOARD SECRETARY IN PREPARING BOARD MINUTES AND OTHER RECORDS.  
4.MAINTAIN COMPUTER WITH UPDATES OF NEW ADDRESSES.  
5.HANDLE TELEPHONE CALLS AND CORRESPONDENCE FOR DISTRICT.  
6.ASSIGN A PHYSICAL ADDRESS TO NEW AND EXISTING RESIDENCES, BUSINESSES, OR OTHER LOCATIONS AS REQUIRED.  
7.WORK WITH OTHER AGENCIES IN THE PARISH TO ASSIST THEM WITH THEIR NEEDS RELATED TO 911 ADDRESSES.  
8.HANDLE ANY STATE OR FEDERAL REQUESTS CONCERNING 911 ADDRESSES IN JACKSON PARISH.  
9.PUT UP YARD 911 SIGNS OR STREET SIGNS AS NEEDED.  
REQUIREMENTS  
1.MUST HAVE VALID LOUISIANA DRIVERS LICENSE.  
2.MUST BE AMERICAN CITIZEN.  
3.MUST BE BONDABLE.  
4.MUST PASS DRUG TEST.  
5.MUST BE COMPUTER LITERATE IN WORD AND EXCELL PROGRAMS.  
6.GIS EXPERIENCE IS PREFERRED.  
OTHER:  
1.POSITION IS CONSIDERED PART-TIME AND SALARY ONLY. NO OTHER BENEFITS.  
2.SALARY WILL BE ON A MONTHLY BASIS. THE SALARY WILL BE DEPENDING ON EXPERIENCE, QUALIFICATIONS, AND HOURS EXPECTED TO BE IN OFFICE.  
3.THREE TO SIX MONTH PROBATIONARY PERIOD. RESUMES WILL BE REVIEWED BY THE COMMUNICATION DISTRICT BOARD AT A SPECIAL CALL MEETING ON THURSDAY NOON, SEPTEMBER 7, 2023, AT THE 911 DIRECTORS OFFICE AT 319 JIMMIE DAVIS BLVD, JONESBORO, LA 71251. THE COMMUNICATION DISTRICT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ALL APPLICATIONS.  
Published in the Ruston Daily Leader, Ruston, LA, on Aug. 20, 23, 25, 27, 2023**

AND ROLL CALL:  
Mr. Berry called the meeting to order at 18:09 pm the following members were present and the Board achieved a quorum.  
Invocation by: Mrs. Hall  
Roll Call:  
Board Members Present: Mr. Berry Dodson  
Mr. Terrance Blankeship  
Mrs. Wendy Hall  
Board Members Absent: Mr. Wayne Anderson  
Mrs. Conchita Doyle  
B. Public Comments: NONE  
C. Recognize Visitors: Fire Chief Aaron Blalock  
Pg. 2 Meeting of August 16, 2023  
D. Approve Minutes  
Mr. Berry called for a motion to approve the minutes for the July 19, 2023 meeting, Motion by Mrs. Hall, 2nd by Mr. Blankenship, all in favor, motion carried.  
E. Approval payment of Bills  
Mr. Berry called for a motion to approve payment of bills for July and August.  
Motion by Mr. Blankenship, 2nd by Mrs. Hall, all in favor, motion carried.  
F. New Business:

1. The Board was given an update on parcel fees paid and still owed to date for 22/23. 641 have paid, 171 still owe. No action needed.  
2. None  
3. None  
F. Old Business  
1. Mr. Berry called for a motion to approve amending the lease purchase finance agreement with Welch State Bank to have Ladder Truck repaired. Motion by Mrs. Hall, 2nd by Mr. Blankenship, all in favor, motion carried.  
Pg. 3 Meeting of August 16, 2023  
G. NEXT MEETING DATE & TIME:  
The next regular meeting is scheduled for September 20, 2023 at 6:00pm at the Jonesboro Fire Department, 104th Street, Jonesboro LA 71251  
H. BOARD COMMENTS  
None  
I. ADJOURN:  
Mr. Berry called for a motion to adjourn at 18:18 pm: Motion by Mr. Blankenship, 2nd by Mrs. Hall, all in favor, motion carried.  
I hereby certify the above stated minutes to be true and correct.  
Mr. Berry Dodson

Minutes of the Regular Called meeting held: August 16, 2023  
At: Jonesboro Fire District # 1  
104 4th Street  
Jonesboro, La. 71251  
A. CALL TO ORDER

Board President  
Published in the Ruston Daily Leader, Ruston, LA, on Aug. 25, 2023

### BIENVILLE PARISH

Bienville Fire District 7 is seeking applicants for the position of Part Time Fire Chief. The position will be responsible for administrative duties as well as incident command on scenes. Qualifications: Officer 1, Instructor 1, Incident Safety Officer, EMR but EMT is preferred. Officer 2 is preferred but not necessary. The deadline for applications is September 13, 2023. Resume must be mailed to Bienville Fire District 7, P.O. Box 309, Saline, LA 71070. Please place the resume in a sealed envelope marked Fire Chief Applicant. Note: Qualifications listed are preferred but the Board will consider negotiating.  
Published in the Ruston Daily Leader, Ruston, LA, on Aug. 25, 27, 30 and Sept. 1, 3, 6, 8, 10, 2023

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**RUSTON DAILY LEADER**

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**SLEEP INN & Suites**

is now accepting applications for Housekeepers and Front-Desk. Offering TOP PAY. Apply in person. Ask for Michael. 106 S Service Rd. E, Ruston.

**056 GARAGE SALE**

Estate sale Fri, & Sat 8/25&26 household goods, Furniture, shop full of tools, jon Boat, yard items, book cases, misc 8am until gone 3923 Hwy 80, Ruston

**Sell it in the classifieds.**  
Ruston Daily Leader  
255-4353

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*your Ruston Daily Leader family*

**\* SEE PAGE TOWARDS BACK OF PAPER \***



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## Wanted

### GRAPHIC DESIGNER/COMPOSITOR

The Ruston Daily Leader seeks a talented, artistic, experienced Graphic Designer/Composer with experience in print and digital advertising layouts using Adobe Creative Suites (InDesign) products and with familiarity in Microsoft Office products as well. We work in a predominantly Macintosh computer environment and so will you. Must be deeply computer literate and willing to learn and grow as we work together to produce quality newspapers, magazines, websites and specialty products both digitally and in print formats. Creativity and attention to details are musts. Apply now for this full time position by emailing your resume with references to publisher Celeste Holley at [publisher@rustonleader.com](mailto:publisher@rustonleader.com). EOE.

YOUR LIFE. YOUR COMMUNITY. YOUR NEWSPAPER.  
**RUSTON DAILY LEADER**

## Sudoku

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

			8		9			
4			3	2			5	8
5			1	4				
8	9			7		1		
				9			7	
		4		1			3	9
				3	1			7
9	7			6	8			3
		3		5				

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### TODAY'S ANSWERS

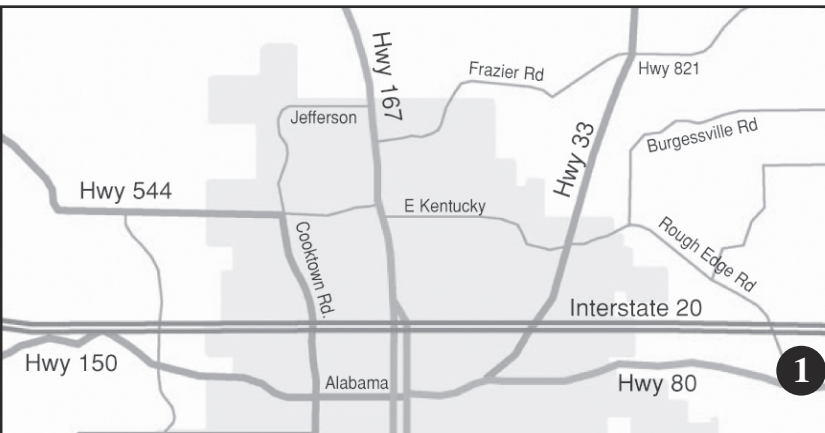
2	8	9	7	5	6	3	4	1
3	1	4	8	9	2	5	7	6
7	6	5	1	3	4	8	2	9
6	3	8	2	1	9	4	5	7
5	7	2	4	6	8	1	9	3
4	9	1	3	7	5	2	6	8
9	2	3	6	4	1	7	8	5
8	5	7	9	2	3	6	1	4
1	4	6	5	8	7	9	3	2

**HOW TO PLAY:**  
Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

# GARAGE SALES

Ruston Daily Leader

1 Estate sale Fri, & Sat 8/25&26. 8am until gone, 3923 Hwy 80, Ruston. Household goods, Furniture, shop full of tools, jon Boat, yard items, book cases, misc.



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## Celebrity Cipher

by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

"FPJJBDZZ BZO'I P CMTIYOD BO P EMMVBD. BI'Z NDDJDT, LBNDT, CYOBDT PON XMTD ITPOZJMTIBOW IFPO IFPI." — DUGBZ EMZIDUUM

funnier and more transporting than that" — Elvis Costello

TODAY'S CLUE: "Happiness isn't a fortune in a cookie. It's deeper, wider."

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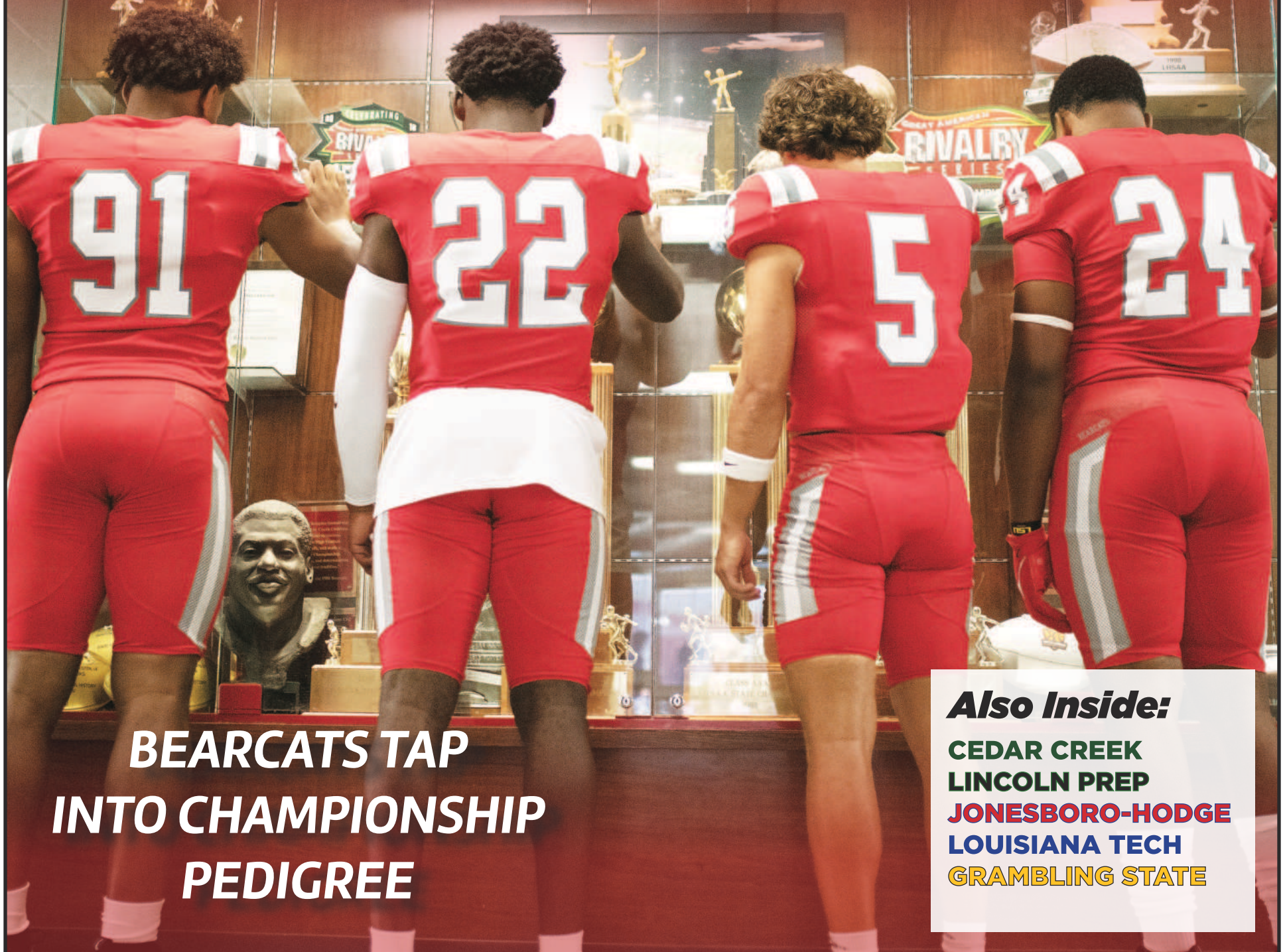
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*Photo by: Portraits Plus*



# Rebuilding the offense in Ruston?

## With talent stepping up for RHS, it's more of a reload in 2023

By Matt Belinson  
sports@rustonleader.com

Ruston's offensive backfield may feature different faces than what fans were used to last season, but don't expect a talent drop-off this fall.

Gone is Jaden Osborne at quarterback, Dyson Fields and his 1,000-yard seasons at running back, and 900-yard receiver Aaron Jackson. On the offensive line, Josh Colvin, Ashton Jerro, and Mason Skipper are gone as well.

Who fills a void like that – a unit that averaged 350 yards per game last year? Ruston's got the bodies.

It starts at quarterback, with 6-3, 212-pound junior Josh Brantley leading the Bearcats' offense with a powerful arm to make downfield throws. With a big frame at his disposal, Brantley's legs could be just as deadly as his passing, with the new quarterback bursting for designed runs and read options throughout practice in the preseason.

Baugh knows a learning curve will come for his new quarterback, but with raw talent like that, sometimes it's best to just let a player loose.

"We talk a lot in our staff meetings about developing a football program where it's not a guy's turn necessarily but it should be his to lose," Baugh said. "Josh was absolutely in a position where we knew Jaden (Osborne) should have been in front of him. Not that we pass out any positions but we need to have another guy that can have another we ask athletically and Josh fits that role. I thought the second half of the season last year



Photo by Bret McCormick

**After rushing for more than 1,000 yards as a sophomore last season, Jordan Hayes is back to lead the RHS offense at tailback.**

and he was doing scout team stuff he really came on and I think it hit him, 'Jaden's gone, and I'm fixing to be the next quarterback, and I need to dig in.' He's settling in, and you've got to get comfortable."

Osborne was listed at 6-0, 165 pounds last season, and Baugh and the rest of the staff know they'll need to let their new quarterback's physical tools, more than they had

at their disposal a year ago, take off.

"Josh is a heavy runner. He runs like a running back, and I imagine we'll intertwine some more quarterback running game," Baugh said. "And Jaden could run, but his was breakaway speed. Josh's lends itself to being a little more physical that you can probably put on him that adds another dimension to the offense."

When the ball isn't in Brantley's hands, the Bearcats won't mind who takes off running at tailback with a two-headed threat of juniors Jordan Hayes and Dylone Brooks.

Hayes, who played Robin to Fields' Batman last season, flashed in his opportunities, particularly after Fields went down with injury in the middle of the season.

It will be hard to replace Fields' physicality and ability to carry the ball 30 times a game. In his junior season, Fields rushed for more than 2,000 yards and 30 touchdowns while averaging more than 25 carries.

Hayes, donning the number 0 this season, had 130 carries for 1,082 yards and 9 touchdowns last season, including a season-high 188 yards against Pineville. Hayes had four-straight games over 120 yards and became a Second Team All District selection.

Ruston won't be able to count on Hayes to be the bruising back Fields was, but he presents a different issue for defenses with his speed.

"I think Jordan Hayes, obviously he had some big runs last year and had a good season for us," Baugh said. "Dylone is going to absolutely be an integral part of what we're trying to do, and I think he's going to have a really good year to be honest between him and Jordan."

Brooks, a fellow junior, bulked up 20 pounds since last season to 210 and will be a capable home-run threat alongside Hayes this fall. While he didn't get many touches last season, waiting behind Fields, Hayes and



# Bearcat defense = domination

## Ruston can lean on talented, experienced group for success

By **Matt Belinson**  
sports@rustonleader.com

If you're going to talk about Ruston football's chances to get back to the Caesars Superdome, the defense will play a large role.

The Bearcats walk into this season with one of the top defenses in Division I Non-select and the state at large with playmakers at every level of the unit.

Coaches recognize expectations are high for the team overall, but the defense in particular, to lead the program on another deep playoff run.

Seven first-team All-District selections. Over 500 tackles. Twenty-two sacks. It's all back.

It starts up front, with senior defensive linemen Ahmad Breaux, an LSU commit, and Geordan Guidry, a Tulane commit. The duo terrorized quarterbacks last season by combining for 13.5 sacks and 136 tackles — 16 for loss — and are in their final year in a Bearcat uniform ready to do it all over again. They're joined by junior Peyton Bell, a fellow All-District selection, with 33 tackles, 1.5 sacks, and 3 tackles for loss last season.

Behind them stands one of the most productive linebacker corps in the state with senior Jadon Mayfield and junior Zheric Hill. Mayfield, a Louisiana Tech commit, is a two-time first-team All-State selection after leading the team in tackles (119) while putting up 4.5 sacks, 2 fumble recoveries and 2 interceptions last year. He'd end up being an All-District selection as well, including being named Defensive MVP of

District 2-5A.

His running mate isn't too shabby either.

Hill finished second on the team with 117 tackles along with 2.5 sacks, 4 tackles for loss, 2 interceptions, and 3 fumble recoveries as an All-District pick and has already received multiple college offers before his junior year even begins.

Ruston head coach Jerrod Baugh knows those five will grab most of the headlines on the defense but can tell the supporting cast feeds off the spotlight of playing next to future Division I players and perhaps taking perceived disrespect or an overlooked recruitment to make the unit stronger.

"I think there's probably still a player or two that has some college offers that are committed to some places that maybe feel slighted by some other teams that might have for some reason or another not offered them a scholarship," Baugh said. "I think, personally, for those guys, I think they play with a chip on their shoulder anyway but whenever you give them something that's an external drive, they want to show people they're the best at their position. And it's not a selfish deal with those guys. They want to play well individually, but it's to make each other better, and that's the best thing about it."

Ruston's opponents converted 30% of their third down attempts last season, all while averaging 17.8 points per game, but losing All State defensive lineman Christian Davis



Photo by Bret McCormick

The Ruston defense returns several stars from 2022's state championship runner-up squad, including (from left) defensive end Geordan Guidry, linebacker Zheric Hill and safety Nate Johnson.

See **DOMINATION**, page 9

# The 5th Quarter

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**LA TECH 34 Out of Gas in double OT 42**

Lack of execution plagues Bulldogs against Panthers in another road loss

**By Matt Bellison**  
mbellison@rustonleader.com

The road boogymen continue to haunt the Bulldogs. In a back and forth Cotton Bowl USA battle at Midway Park on Friday night, Louisiana Tech came up short against the Florida International University (FIU) Panthers as a 42-34 double-overtime loss in two weeks.

The loss also extended Tech's road losing streak to 12 games. Tech has not won a true road game since beating North Texas on Dec. 4, 2010.

The Bulldogs are now 2-4 overall and 1-1 in USA play. "There's a lot of opportunities in a game like this and where you look back and think what could have been if we executed," Louisiana Tech head coach Sonny Cumbie said postgame. "That's the kind of game we had far too many times in our games."

The natural fear that comes with Halloween wasn't evident for true freshman Landry Lyddy, with the former Louisiana High School Football Player of the Year getting his first career start in place of redshirt senior Parker McNeill.

Lyddy started red hot, completing his first 10 passes for 111 yards and a rushing score all within the first quarter of play. On his first two series, Lyddy had two completions over 40 yards and worked through the game and tempo of the air-raid system effectively to begin his night.

It appeared as though he had a seamless transition from a similar offense he ran at Calvary Baptist Academy in Sherwood.

The offense gave Lyddy his fair share of opportunities the rest of the night, but the story came on the ground for Robbitt freshman Marquis Crosby finished his night with 21 carries for 115 yards and 2 touchdowns.

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**Louisiana Tech freshman quarterback Landry Lyddy (18) dumps a pass off to Charvis Thornton (22) during Friday night's 42-34 double-overtime loss to Florida International. Lyddy passed for 250 yards in his first collegiate start.**

and had the missed field goal to close the second quarter after the night's promising 17-7 lead.

The Bulldogs wasted little time in jumping out to a quick lead to open the game. Tech led 17-0 on its first possession. Lyddy marched 75 yards in 8 plays on that initial drive and scored from 10 yards out to give the Dogs an early 17-0 lead.

A punt gave the ball back to Tech and Barber kicked a 20-yarder to increase the lead to 24-0.

The Bulldogs opted to attempt a 28-yard field goal by Jacob Barnes to try and cut into the Panther lead. But the kick was blocked and returned for a modest five yards in front of the Louisiana Tech sideline.

The Bulldogs punted twice in the first half to take a 21-17 lead heading into halftime. Lyddy allowed them to stay in the football game by out of execution in special teams.

Cumbie said, "The special teams game continued just before the break, as Tech brought a game plan to the field to get the ball inside the 10."

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**Louisiana Tech running back Marquis Crosby (33) darts through an open hole against FIU Friday night. Crosby led Tech with 115 yards on 21 carries and 2 touchdowns.**

# Reload in 2023:

Continued from page 3

Lajaveon Ellis on the depth chart, Brooks showed flashes.

Against Pineville, the then-sophomore rushed 13 times for 90 yards and a score while punching it in a week prior against ASH.

Brooks' talent was evident so early in the process last season, Baugh admitted he should have found a way to get the young back his time to shine and heard from fellow coaches to do so.

"He had a really good season in JV last year, and his work ethic picked up during the playoffs. He really got after it," Baugh said of Brooks. "There were several games where Coach (Broderick) Fobbs would come here and say, 'I really want to get him in the game, but I just can't do it in the third round of the playoffs.' And I was like, 'Yeah, we probably don't need to do a tryout in the third round of the playoffs.'"

"But I knew exactly what he was talking about because I'm watching him in practice and felt like he could do some really good things for us," he continued. "And we brought Dylone in and talked to him about it and may have should have seen him in some games leading up to that, but with Dyson and Jordan, what snaps are you going to take

from them?"

To round out the ground game, Lander Smith, a sophomore, will play fullback this season as another physical presence to throw at opponents.

"All three of those guys will have a good year," Baugh said.

The group paving the way for the running game will have new faces as well, but it also has veterans back to shore up developmental hurdles.

Sam Nations is back on the line and will move to center this season, while senior Kylon Bradley and junior Cedric Rhone fill in key positions. Overall, the group doesn't boast a lot of game experience but offers versatility to try players at different spots.

"I think they stand to be a really good group, as long as we can get them to gel and play together," Baugh said. "I feel like the more they work together, the better they're going to get."

As for pass catchers, senior wide receiver Logan Malone and senior tight end Zhy Scott will lead the room this season.

Malone, a Second Team All-District selection last season, had 19 catches for 250 yards and 1 touchdown, but he proved to be a big-play threat when he had the ball in his hands,

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**1951 1982**

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• RHS has also finished as runner-up four times in the history of the program.

**1944 1984 1998**  
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averaging 13.2 yards per catch.

Scott had 12 catches, 208 yards, and 4 touchdowns as a First Team All-District selection in 2022.

Ruston will lean on the run game once again this season, but will take shots when it needs to and allow Brantley to build chemistry with his targets. Semaj Jones, Preston Gray, Joran Parker, and Darius James round out the rest of the group of viable receivers.

Ruston could have a secret weapon in red zone situations with the emergence

of freshman phenom Ahmad Hudson, a 6-5, 200-pound basketball standout who also plays backup quarterback.

"Logan brings back the most experience," Baugh said. "He made some plays last year for us, and we'll need him to make some more. Jamar got a little bit of playing time, not a ton, but he's shown some flashes.

"Preston Gray has been good. Joran Parker (Jr.), who also came from basketball, is a really good athlete. I think the competition has been good," he added.


		
<b>BEARCATS</b> RUSTON HIGH SCHOOL		
<b>Head Coach: Jerrod Baugh</b> <b>District 2-5A</b> <b>2022 Record: 12-2</b> <b>Playoffs: Div. I Non-select</b> <b>State Runner-up</b> <b>Returning Starters: 10</b>		
September 1	Warren Easton	Home
September 8	New Orleans Jesuit	Away
September 15	Cabot (Arkansas)	Away
September 22	Lafayette Christian	Home
September 29	Neville	Away
October 6	Alexandria Sr. High (D)	Home
October 13	Pineville (D)	Home
October 20	West Ouachita (D)	Away
October 27	Ouachita (D)	Home
November 3	West Monroe (D)	Away
D — District		



Photo by Bret McCormick

**Ruston junior quarterback Josh Brantley takes over the reins of the Bearcat offense in 2023.**



# RUSTON BEARCATS R

## Recruiters making their way to Ruston these days

By Matt Belinson  
sports@rustonleader.com

There's no shortage of talent on Ruston's football team this fall, and some of it has been good enough to earn attention from the next level.

After leading the charge toward the state championship game last season, Ruston's defense features multiple players with premium recruiting profiles and commitments.

Ahmad Breaux, a senior defensive lineman, has verbally committed to LSU, joining the Tigers' top-10 Class of 2024. Geordan Guidry, lining up alongside Breaux on the defensive front, is verbally committed to Tu-

lane.

Jadon Mayfield, a senior linebacker, is verbally committed to Louisiana Tech to continue his playing career as well.

Ruston head coach Jerrod Baugh knows anytime a high school roster can boast multiple prospects with Division I prospects, it shines an even bigger spotlight on a program ready for success.

"I think it's absolutely something where if you find yourself playing with somebody that has some college offers that college coaches are already coming to watch, if you're out

See RECRUITERS TO RUSTON, page 10



Photo by Bret McCormick

Defensive lineman Ahmad Breaux (93) will be playing his college football at LSU, one of three defensive stars already committed for the Class of 2024.

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# CEDAR CREEK COUGARS



## Flex-bone offense under Parkerson

Cedar Creek welcomes new coach, new era in Ruston

By **Matt Belinson**  
sports@rustonleader.com

With a new head coach leading the charge comes a new offensive scheme.

Cedar Creek will turn toward the flex-bone triple option system this season, a turn away from the spread offense with four receivers that the Cougars have seen in recent memory.

New Cougars head coach William Parkerson, who previously worked as the program's

offensive coordinator from 2017-18, is back in the mix and ready to turn the program back into a more physical team with a focus on dominating opponents at the line of scrimmage with multiple options on offense.

But after losing the team's starting quarterback Caden Middleton and workhorse running back Lane Thomas, Parkerson expects a learning curve when it comes to learning the new system.

But that's OK.

Ladd Thompson will move from trusted receiver to starting quarterback this fall, taking the lead of the new offense. Parkerson, like any coach, would prefer to not have missteps but won't panic if adversity comes the Cougars' way as they learn.

After all, Thompson had only four pass attempts last season and hasn't had a full-time quarterback role since junior high.

"It'll be learning on the fly,"

See **FLEX-BONE OFFENSE**, page 12



Head Coach: William Parkerson  
District 2-1A  
2022 Record: 7-5  
Playoffs: Division IV Select Regionals  
Returning Starters: 8

September 1	Glenbrook Academy	Home
September 8	Vidalia	Home
September 15	Winnfield	Away
September 22	Delhi	Home
September 29	Tensas	Home
October 6	Open Date	
October 12	Lafayette Renaissance	Away
October 20	Ouachita Christian (D)	Home
October 27	Lincoln Prep (D)	Away
November 2	St. Frederick (D)	Home
D — District game		

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# Domination: Continued from page 4

(76 tackles, 5 sacks, 9 tackles for loss) and four starter-caliber defensive backs in Jordan McWain, Kyran McConnell, Kendrick Jones, and Ray Owens left a mark.

Early on it looks like Davis' replacement on the inside is going to be Ka'Varion Key (6-0, 280). Defensive coordinator Kyle Williams has also tinkered with sliding Breaux inside to tackle to get more speed in the middle.

If the pass rush is as good as advertised and the linebackers clean up the mess and get a rush in when they can, the secondary will inevitably have opportunities to make plays on the ball.

So, who fills the void of the starters from a year ago?

Senior strong safety Nate Johnson (89 tackles, 12 tackles for loss, 6 pass break ups) leads the defensive back room as an All-District selection a year ago, paired alongside Jacoryian

Crowe at safety (25 tackles, 2 picks). At cornerback, newcomer Aidan Anding — a junior — has turned heads throughout the offseason and will start for the Bearcats this fall. After taking time away from football to focus on his basketball game, where he's started for Ruston the last two seasons, the rangy corner picked up an offer from Tech before he even played a down this season.

Baugh is high on the defensive backs, particularly Anding's role this season.

"We always felt like Aidan could have been a good football player," Baugh said. "Everybody got a chance to see why he wanted to play basketball because he's great at that too, but I think he wanted to see if he could do football. And just like I said in the spring, very seldom do you see a guy who can sit out for

some years playing football, that jumps right in and it's like he's been out there the whole time. He absolutely did that. He's turned into a team leader and earned his way on our player council."

Darius James and Semaj Jones will also see time at defensive back, according to Baugh. Toss in there free safety Ronald Findley (6-1, 180) to complete the secondary. Findley has already flashed in the pre-season scrimmages.

"They are kind of like returning starters for us, and it's not like putting somebody brand new out there," Baugh said. "And anytime you're playing next to those guys that have that experience in Nate, Zheric, Jadon, I think that gives them some confidence in how those guys play. And the guys up front make the quarterback get it out of his hands in a hurry too, and that helps in coverage."



Photo by Bret McCormick

**Ruston defensive coordinator Kyle Williams discusses strategy with linebacker Jadon Mayfield during a road game in 2022.**

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# Recruiters to Ruston: Continued from page 7

there playing with those guys, and you're doing some things that are outstanding, that absolutely is a way to garner some interest," Baugh said.

Outside of the committed names, senior wide receiver Logan Malone has received college offers (Rochester Community College, Centenary) and attended camps at the University of Houston and Prairie View A&M.

And if safety Nate Johnson, tight end Zhy Scott and wide receiver Semaj Jones have breakout seasons, college coaches could come calling.

But what happens after that group graduates? Don't worry. Going into the 2024 season, running backs Dylone Brooks and Jordan Hayes, along with linebacker Zheric Hill, quarterback Josh Brantley and offensive lineman Sam Nations, will lead another talented group of athletes already gaining interest from FCS recruiters.

To surmise, the Bearcats have people worth watching this fall.

As fun as it is to project these high school stars to the next level, Baugh wants fans and his own players to remember they still have one last season to play before making that jump.

But he's happy to report he hasn't had to remind his top players of that reality.

"They have handled that really well. It's something I never had to talk to them about and had hoped I wouldn't, and they've ironed it out on their own," Baugh said. "They've gone ahead and made some commitments about things or put things off until later on where it doesn't interfere with what we're trying to do with what's in front of them. And they still have a football season to play at Ruston High School, and we want them to be absolutely engaged in that and we'll be happy for them whenever they go on somewhere else. And they understand that."

Baugh knows it's not just quality

tape that college coaches find enticing when setting their eyes on Ruston prospects. Based on the feedback Baugh has gotten from interested teams, academic success matters just as much.

"The thing about this group we've got that's gaining all this interest, and they've earned it playing, but they also deserve it for what they're doing across the street at school," Baugh said. "That's an easy sell whenever you talk to coaches and you're able to hand them a transcript that's got A's and B's on it and you know they take care of their business in the classroom. They can watch their video and see they take care of business playing ball. But whenever you're able to show them this and they've done this on their ACT and here's that GPA and you can put that package together, it's pretty impressive to coaches, and I think that's how this group has stood out."



Photo by Bret McCormick

**Senior safety Nate Johnson is expected to draw interest from several colleges.**

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# Panthers looking to receiving corps for explosiveness

By Jason Grant  
Special to the Leader

Out with the old, in with the new, is the outlook for the Lincoln Prep Panthers beginning a rebuilding era for the 2023 season.

Over the past two years, the Panthers have had the luxury of explosive offenses led by dynamic quarterback and running back duos.

In 2021, Ty'Rell Simmons and Dmitry "Big Gain" Payne come to mind as that duo led the offense in averaging 32 points in all seven wins that season. Then in 2022, the one-two punch of Bralyn Mayfield and Chauncey Harper kept the train rolling as the seniors led the Panthers to another playoff berth.

Heading into the 2023 season, head coach Glen Hall is looking for answers to his questions of who will lead the offense and needs them rather quickly as the season opener looms.

"We have three guys in Jordan Brown, Michael Lewis, and Masir Hicks competing for the quarterback position. Two are 11th graders and one a 10th grader," Hall said. "To start the season, we may have to do quarterback by committee until one guy separates and wins the



Photo by Tony Valentino

**The 2023 version of the Lincoln Prep Panthers will have new faces in some places, but head coach Glen Hall is counting on another positive season.**

position."

Brown is the odds-on favorite to take first snaps in week one.

Football is a game of adjustments, and the traditional shotgun and single back set of the pistol offense has worked well in the past, but Hall has to call an audible this season and use a different offense from the past to cater to

his young quarterbacks.

"We don't have just the true passer this year to run the pistol," said Hall. "So we will have to go to more a run-based play action pass option offense."

The trio of running backs of Harper, Brandon Heard, and Jamarius Buggs formed a formidable rushing attack for the Panthers

last year, but each of them is gone. Even with new names like Jaylin Huntley and D'Tavion Wright, Hall is sticking with the same script this year.

"I have more running backs this season, the most I've ever had, so I still will use a running back by committee approach this year," said Hall. "The only differ-

ence is we'll run the fullback more, trapping and diving and quick hitters from what we've done in the past."

Hall is excited about his playmakers at the receiver corps this year; he needs one of his young quarterbacks to step up, win the job, and give them the football.

"This year is arguably my strongest wide-

out group I've had," he said. "I have a new guy named Cenario Wilson, one of the fastest guys on the team, about 6-1, 175, who's a playmaker and a great athlete.

"Then I have Tre Spann, a sophomore around 6-0, 180, and he's coming into his own,"

See RECEIVING CORPS, page 16

# Flex-bone offense: Continued from page 8

Parkerson said. “He’s picked it up schematically and now we gotta get on the field and get the reads. We’re going to make mistakes. But if he can read it right 70% of the time, I’ll be ecstatic. Nobody’s going to do it right every time. If we can be right seven out of 10 times, I’ll be ecstatic with it.”

The offense works on making quick reads and protecting the football, opting to have variations of play calls off similarly styled branches of the offense’s core tree. Ideally, the scheme’s blocking angles make for efficient run production while putting the defense in conflict. Parkerson described the scheme like a fast break offense, with plans to try and no-huddle and go quick.

And unlike last season’s offense, Creek will have to use a true running back by committee approach with Lawson Lillo, Grey Worthey, and Alex Simpson.

“Those three guys will be the three guys that we count on right there,” Parkerson said. “In a perfect world we’d have one of them, but those three guys will all start on defense, and we’ll just let them rotate in on offense where they can get some breaks and keep them fresh. Alex is the big bruiser. Lawson’s the shifter guy, and Grey’s kind of a combination of the two. We’ll find out what they each do well and try to figure out what fits them.”

Worthey had 15 rushes for 111 yards and 1 touchdown last season, working behind multiple backs on the depth chart, but will now have a chance to stand out.

When he’s not leading the Creek defense, Lawson Lillo will be a top pass catcher for Thompson after the departure of tight end Brian Osborne. Lillo caught 15 passes last season for 178 yards and 3 touchdowns.

With just 27 kids on the roster this season, Parkerson knows finding skill talent will take live game reps to find out who can step in alongside Lillo.

Upfront, Brett Johnson will be the



Photo by Darrell James

**Ladd Thompson will be operating the flex-bone offense at quarterback in 2023.**

Cougars’ starting center, while the four other spots are up for grabs for the young roster. Sophomore lineman Joseph Luffey was vying for a spot but suffered a season-ending injury in fall camp.

With a young roster trying to learn and mostly unproven weapons on offense, where does the first-year head coach of the Cougars see the potential trip ups as the season gets underway?

“In the triple option, we’re going to leave two guys unblocked, so making sure we’re identifying those guys pre-snap to know we’re reading a guy the offensive line knows they’re not blocking,” Parkerson said. “Quarterback and fullback working in tandem to where there’s not a whole lot of fumbles in that mesh point. Fumbles are going to happen in this offense because the ball is being yanked out, but we need to try and limit that as much as we can.”



Photo by Darrell James

**Cedar Creek veteran two-way star Lawson Lillo will be heavily depended on not only on offense, but on defense, this season.**



# CEDAR CREEK COUGARS



## Cougars can hang their hats on defense

By Matt Belinson  
sports@rustonleader.com

After effectively shutting down opponents last season, Cedar Creek's defense has kept continuity and looks to lead the team once again this fall.

Despite the head coaching change, the Cougars' defensive coordinator remains the same in Mark Ware, who's helped get the Creek defense to a stable position over the last three seasons. Last season, the Cougars gave up an average of 13.3 points per game and kept opponents under 15 points in seven of the team's 12 contests.

Now, the Cougars will try to recreate that production without Quincy Lewis, the school's all-time leading tackler, along with defensive backs Austin Webb, Carter Hill, Jed Stephens, and other key playmakers.

For Parkerson, the fact that nothing on the scheme front is changing is a positive and should help the Cougars get off to a faster start than most.

But any new head coach will bring some sort of new wrinkle or identity to the mix, and for Parkerson it's all about speed and aggression.

"In my mind, speed is king," Parkerson said. "If you can maximize your speed, it gives you chances to make plays, run down people or score long touch-

downs. It's still a physical game. The team who's more physical and will break the other team's will seems to win nine out of 10 times. And I want our kids to have an aggressive mindset, not be scared to mess up.

"If we make a mistake, make it aggressive. I want them to be free and just to play. I don't want them to play scared, and we don't want to coach scared, so let's be aggressive," he said.

The defensive front is where the most proven production returns, led by sophomore defensive ends Blake Robinson and Alex Simpson after standout seasons as freshmen. Robinson totaled 32 tackles, 4 sacks, 1 fumble recovery, and 1 defensive touchdown, while Simpson had 13 tackles and 2 sacks.

Parkerson expects the duo to take another step forward this season.

"They've been great," Parkerson said of the sophomores. "They've been here all summer working hard. Those two guys put in the work and they're going to be good players for us."

At linebacker, Lawson Lillo and Grey Worthey will lead the defense this season. Lillo was a first-team All-District selection last season as he put up 86 tackles, 3 sacks, 1 interception and 2 fumble recoveries. Worthey managed 47 tackles a year ago.



Photo by Darrell James

**Cedar Creek defensive end Blake Robinson (50) returns this season after registering 32 tackles and 4 sacks as a freshman in 2022.**

But even with returners coming back in the fold, should fans expect the Cougars to be as good as they were last season and still contend for a playoff spot? Parkerson won't allow for year-one caveats. He's heard from his defense and team

overall and believes if the pieces come together, the Cougars shouldn't miss a beat.

Parkerson describes his coaching style as "demanding but fair" and can see his roster wants to believe in someone again and scrap

tooth and nail for each other.

"I think they think we can be pretty good. If they think we can be good, then we can be good," Parkerson said. "We want to be good right away. We want to send these seniors out right, and we expect to be good this year."



# Can Jonesboro-Hodge bounce back from 3-8?

By Matt Belinson  
sports@rustonleader.com

JONESBORO — When you spend 11 seasons at one place, the ebbs and flows of success are expected.

For Terrance Blankenship, head coach of the Jonesboro-Hodge football team, last season could be best described as an ebb, to put it kindly. The Tigers finished 3-8 overall and went 1-4 district, ending the season as a one-and-done playoff team after reaching the state semifinals in 2021.

Now, as he returns for his school record 11th season at the helm, joined by familiar staff, the mission is simple: get the program back on track and back into a competing form.

“It’s home, and I’m glad to be here,” Blankenship said. “We’re just trying to get things turned back around. We fell off last year after 2021 and hopefully we can pick it back up. I think now, I’ve been here long enough where I’ve got my feet wet and I’m rooted now. I’ve got coaches that have been here with me a while, and that’s a good thing. Coaches are just cycling a lot of places, but the



Photo by Rob Musemeche/Musemeche Photography

**Jonesboro-Hodge football will look to reload after a down year in 2022. As recently as 2021 the Tigers played in the state semifinals.**

ones I’ve got now have been here with me. Kids get to know them, and coaches get to know the kids and the community and everything.”

The bounce back will need to come off the backs of plenty of newcomers, as the Tigers rebuild from the departure of 16 seniors, along with star All-State linebacker Xavier

Atkins, who transferred to Summer Creek High School in Texas in the offseason.

Atkins, a two-time All-State linebacker and Texas A&M commit, is gone after putting up a team-high 121 tackles and 20 tackles for loss last season. For good measure, he was also the team’s leading receiver with 369 yards

and 4 touchdowns.

Zion Gray, the Tigers’ second leading receiver (117 yards, 2 TD), is gone. Third receiver Raynald Bolds is gone. Veteran playmakers Cameron Leonard and Savantez Phillips, too.

Every player who caught a touchdown last season is gone. J-Hodge’s returning leading receiver is Ja-

son Blackburn with 2 catches for 22 yards.

Linemen Dominick Strickland, Cartavious Waters, Joshua Tatum, and Austin Knotts are out of the picture as well.

That’s a lot to replace, but Blankenship said it doesn’t have to be apples to apples. That would be impossible. Instead, he hopes to throw young,

raw talent onto the field and get them familiar with live football more than ever and develop as the season goes along.

At quarterback, it’s a competition between Dakota Knox and Symeon Malone.

But after the offense averaged 14.4 points and only 12 per game in

See **BOUNCE BACK**, page 17



# LINCOLN PREP PANTHERS



## Prep defense armed with more athletes

**By Jalon Grant**  
Special to the Leader

In Class 1A football, it can come down to a numbers game as, more than likely, you'll have to have guys playing two ways on offense and defense, but head coach Glen Hall wants to base this year's defense on blitzing and quick alignment to help keep players fresh.

"This year, we'll run a 30-front package on defense because I have more athletes, and that sets us up with more blitzing and quick alignment," Hall said. "That way, we won't have to play our linemen both ways."

Veteran leadership is important on defense, especially at linebackers, as they control the pace helping everyone to get in position at the right spots, and there are three difference makers right in the middle of the Panthers' defense.

"You look at a guy like Jaylin Huntley, who played linebacker last year. He'll be back, along with pairing him with D'Tavion Wright," Hall said. "Then I have Marvin Johnson, who's been starting three years, so hopefully, his senior year will be his breakout year."

From last year's squad, the Panthers had several seniors roaming in the secondary, but this year a young group will look to hold down the fort in the backend.

"For my safeties, I'll have (Tre) Spann at free and Tyler Wimberley at strong," said Hall. "At one cornerback position, I'll have (Cenario) Wilson. Then I'll have Emmanuel Seals, who will return to corner for his senior year, where he started as a sophomore. Also, Chauncey Davidson, Jr. will play some corner for us."

Hall sees this year's defense as one that doesn't have a solidified playmaker but should play well together, which will pay great dividends.

"This year's defense will be more of a team defense," Hall said. "In spring practices, we ran to the ball as a group; we don't have that one guy who's just going to dominate, but everyone's focused and doing their job, so this year, you'll see a great team defensive effort."

Last year the Panthers made the jump to District 2-1A, finishing fourth. With one year under their



Photo by  
Darrell James

**The Lincoln Prep defense will be the strength of the 2023 squad with more athletes for the 30-front package.**

See **MORE ATHLETES**, page 17

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# Receiving Corps: Continued from page 11



Leader photo by Matt Belinson

The Lincoln Prep receiving corps will be the explosive part of the offense in 2023. Head coach Glen Hall is looking for a quarterback who can get the ball to the playmakers.

Hall continued. "The receivers will be decent. One of our quarterbacks must step up and give them the ball."

The game is won and lost in the trenches, and even though the offensive line will be a young group, Hall is gaining a valuable piece who's returning to lead the way for the youngsters.

"Jamion James broke his foot two years ago and hasn't played since," Hall said. "He started for me as a freshman center, and he's back and will be a huge key for us. Ryan Randolph, who played guard last year, will be back as a

freshman, and then we have sophomore Jakob Jones, 6-5, 330, who will be at the other guard position," added Hall. "The way things are going now, I'll have two freshmen starting at the tackles for me."

When asked who's that one guy on offense he sees having a breakout year, Hall answered with no hesitation.

"I see Cenario Wilson having a breakout year. Once he gets his hands on the ball, he's scoring many of them," said Hall. "He's fast, catches the ball well, and has flexibility in the hips, so he'll make many defenders miss."



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## More athletes: Continued from page 15

belt in a new district and knowing what to expect, Hall knows his team has to be ready to compete against teams like Ouachita Christian, St. Frederick, and Cedar Creek.

“OCS is tough, and probably one of the most talented teams we’ll meet all year, along with St. Frederick, who is loaded this year with most of their team being juniors,” said Hall. “In addition, Cedar Creek always has a good crew. To compete with those teams, we will have to shorten the clock by running the ball and playing good defense, and at the end, we will

have an opportunity to be in those games, and then anything can happen.”

Over three years, the Panthers have been road warriors and have not been able to host a home game due to construction, but this year the tide will turn in their favor as they look to get acquainted with their new home. Lincoln Prep will debut its new football stadium this season on the school’s new campus.

“Having a home game for the first time in three years will be great, and not having to travel will get us in a rhythm of being at home sometimes and will help

us mentally,” Hall said. “Then it will allow our fans in the town to come to support their favorite team.”

The names and faces have changed, but Hall is counting on the same effort and fight from his defense in 2023.

The first half of the schedule favors the Panthers in 2023, with the first four games of the season at home in the new stadium. Prep will square off with Arcadia in week three in a highly anticipated rivalry matchup, as is also the case in week four with a home game against neighboring Jonesboro-Hodge.



Head Coach: Glen Hall  
District 2-1A  
2022 Record: 3-8  
Playoffs: Division IV Select  
first round  
Returning Starters: 11

August 31	Madison	Home
September 8	Plain Dealing	Home
September 15	Arcadia	Home
September 22	Jonesboro-Hodge	Home
September 29	Lakeside	Away
October 6	Richwood	Away
October 13	St. Frederick (D)	Home
October 20	Open Date	
October 27	Cedar Creek (D)	Home
November 2	Ouachita Christian (D)	Away
D — District game		

## Bounce Back: Continued from page 14

district, Blankenship said he isn’t afraid to go back and forth until one of his options brings consistent play to the position.

“We got two quarterbacks right now and trying to see which one can separate himself,” Blankenship said. “We’re just trying to get the offense together and figure out which one and go from there. We’ve some good skill guys but we’re pretty short on our line depth. I think the number one thing, and this is the problem with kids today, is they watch highlights. They don’t really watch why a quarterback does this or why the defense does this. They have to understand football, because both of them are good kids, but we just have to teach stuff to them over again. You gotta become

a student of the game. Because right now, it’s about as simple as we can get it.”

With the quarterback position up in the air, expect J-Hodge to continue to be the ground-and-pound offense like years past.

The Tigers will be without their leading rusher from a year ago in Ed’Tavious Drayton (784 yards, 7 TD) but expect to have Chance Leonard fill as the main back. Landon Boston, a sophomore, is also in the mix.

The key on offense will be limiting turnovers, an area that held back the Tigers last season. In 2022, J-Hodge had 20 turnovers to its 18 offensive touchdowns.

Over on defense, Blankenship is more optimistic.

Demirrious Jones is back as

the team’s second leading tackler from a season ago with 65 tackles, along with 3 sacks and 16 tackles for loss, and he should be primed for even more production.

“He’s one of the standouts we have,” Blankenship said.

He’s also intrigued by new pieces in the secondary but won’t know specific names until the season gets underway. Until the talent shakes out, Blankenship expects the defensive line to be the engine of the team early on.

“Until we get that back end sorted out, we’re going to lean on those guys up front and see what we can accomplish,” Blankenship said.

Jonesboro-Hodge opens the season on Sept. 1 against General Trass.



Coach: Terrance Blankenship  
2022 Record: 3-8  
District: 3-2A  
Playoffs: First round  
Returning Starters: 6

September 1	General Trass	Home
September 8	West Ouachita	Away
September 15	Bunkie	Home
September 22	Lincoln Prep	Away
September 29	Pineville	Away
October 6	Red River (D)	Home
October 13	Mansfield (D)	Home
October 29	Many (D)	Home
October 27	Lakeview (D)	Away
November 3	Winnfield (D)	Away
D — District		

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# ROAD TO

# 2022

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## Non-select Playoffs

### DIVISION I REGIONALS

Ruston 37, Ouachita Parish 16  
 Denham Springs 29, Benton 28  
 Zachary 20, West Monroe 10  
 Southside 35, Northshore 14  
 Destrehan 35, Dutchtown 14  
 East St. John 35, Haughton 21  
 Westgate 28, Slidell 7  
 Neville 31, East Ascension 9

### QUARTERFINALS

Ruston 49, Denham Springs 31  
 Zachary 48, Southside 37  
 Destrehan 21, East St. John 20  
 Westgate 21, Neville 10

### SEMFINALS

Ruston 37, Zachary 22  
 Destrehan 21, Westgate 6

### CHAMPIONSHIP

Destrehan 17, Ruston 10

### DIVISION II REGIONALS

Iowa 17, Abbeville 14  
 Leesville 21, Jennings 7  
 Breaux Bridge 33, Iota 18  
 North DeSoto 33, Cecilia 14  
 Lakeshore 35, Opelousas 34  
 Lutchter 49, St. Martinville 33  
 North Vermilion 41, Church Point 30  
 West Feliciana 55, Erath 21

### QUARTERFINALS

Iowa 31, Leesville 14  
 North DeSoto 42, Breaux Bridge 13  
 Lutchter 45, Lakeshore 8  
 West Feliciana 30, North Vermilion 0

### SEMFINALS

North DeSoto 38, Iowa 9  
 Lutchter 35, West Feliciana 21

### CHAMPIONSHIP

Lutchter 28, North DeSoto 25

### DIVISION III REGIONALS

Many 21, Monroe-Richwood 0  
 Rosepine 20, Westlake 13  
 Avoyelles 52, St. Helena Academy 8  
 St. James 41, Loreauville 14  
 Union Parish 34, Sterlington 14  
 Patterson 36, Winnfield 12  
 Amite 46, Jena 12  
 Berwick 33, Bogalusa 30

### QUARTERFINALS

Many 14, Rosepine 7  
 St. James 48, Avoyelles 24  
 Union Parish 38, Patterson 14  
 Amite 42, Berwick 14

### SEMFINALS

Many 32, St. James 13  
 Union Parish 28, Amite 8

### CHAMPIONSHIP

Many 35, Union Parish 13

### DIVISION IV REGIONALS

Kentwood 53, General Trass 8  
 Oak Grove 35, Welsh 14  
 Haynesville 36, Oakdale 16  
 Basile 19, Oberlin 8  
 Mangham 60, Grand Lake 12  
 Arcadia 18, White Castle 12  
 Logansport 46, East Feliciana 16  
 Homer 52, Delhi High 6

### QUARTERFINALS

Oak Grove 2, Kentwood 14  
 Haynesville 31, Basile 7  
 Mangham 48, Arcadia 0  
 Homer 47, Logansport 6

### SEMFINALS

Oak Grove 48, Haynesville 7  
 Homer 38, Mangham 18

### CHAMPIONSHIP

Oak Grove 17, Homer 0



# ROAD TO

# 2022

# THE DOME

## Select Playoffs

### DIVISION I REGIONALS

Warren Easton 48, Captain Shreve 7  
Carencro 27, Acadiana 17  
Northwood-SHV 35, St. Paul's 9  
Brother Martin 27, St. Augustine 24  
John Curtis 35, Jesuit 7  
C.E. Byrd 49, Alexandria Sr. High 10  
Edna Karr 34, Scotlandville 26  
Catholic-BR 24, Archbishop Rummel 0

### QUARTERFINALS

Carencro 29, Warren Easton 26  
Brother Martin 28, Northwood-SHV 14  
John Curtis 35, C.E. Byrd 14  
Catholic-BR 32, Edna Karr 24

### SEMFINALS

Brother Martin 55, Carencro 24  
John Curtis 24, Catholic-BR 21

### CHAMPIONSHIP

John Curtis 23, Brother Martin 0

### DIVISION II REGIONALS

St. Thomas More 55, Helen Cox 0  
Madison Prep 6, St. Louis Catholic 0  
John F. Kennedy 30, Hannan 0  
E.D. White 32, Evangel Christian 29  
De La Salle 53, Vanderbilt Catholic 7  
Lafayette Christian 46, McDonough-35 8  
Archbishop Shaw 42, Livingston 6  
Teurlings Catholic 51, G.W. Carver 27

### QUARTERFINALS

St. Thomas More 56, Madison Prep 34  
E.D. White 42, John F. Kennedy 20  
Lafayette Christian 70, De La Salle 49  
Teurlings Cath 27, Archbishop Shaw 21

### SEMFINALS

St. Thomas More 38, E.D. White 7  
Lafayette Christian 68, Teurlings 46

### CHAMPIONSHIP

St. Thomas More 52, Lafayette Chr. 48

### DIVISION III REGIONALS

Newman 57, Sophie B. Wright 19  
University Lab 43, Country Day 0  
Calvary Baptist 52, Northlake Chr. 0  
Dunham 56, M.L. King Charter 21  
Notre Dame 41, Lake Charles Prep 40  
Episcopal-BR 10, Loyola Prep 7  
Parkview Baptist 28, North Caddo 24  
St. Charles 49, Ascension Episcopal 17

### QUARTERFINALS

University Lab 49, Newman 13  
Dunham School 50, Calvary Bapt 35  
Notre Dame 47, Episcopal-BR 0  
St. Charles Cath 40, Parkview Bapt 21

### SEMFINALS

Dunham School 35, University 28  
St. Charles Cath. 17, Notre Dame 10

### CHAMPIONSHIP

St. Charles Cath. 32, Dunham School 28.

### DIVISION IV REGIONALS

Vermilion Catholic 31, Cedar Creek 7  
Southern Lab 12, St. Frederick 6  
St. Mary's 45, Hanson Memorial 0  
St. Martin's 48, Delhi Charter 12  
Ouachita Christian 49, Sacred Heart 0  
Glenbrook Academy 42, Catholic-PC 21  
Ascension Catholic 38, Riverside 31  
Opelousas Catholic 52, Central Catholic 12

### QUARTERFINALS

Vermilion Catholic 17, Southern Lab 7  
St. Martin's Episcopal 29, St. Mary's 25  
Ouachita Christian 28, Glenbrook 27  
Ascension Cath 28, Opelousas Cath 12

### SEMFINALS

Vermilion Cath. 41, St. Martin's 7  
Ouachita Chr. 42, Ascension Cath. 14

### CHAMPIONSHIP

Ouachita Chr. 28, Vermilion Cath. 14



# LSU TIGERS



## For No. 5 LSU, expectations are soaring

BATON ROUGE (AP) — At least Brian Kelly had one season at LSU where expectations were easier than usual to exceed.

No one is overlooking the defending SEC West champions now.

The Tigers enter this season ranked No. 5 in the AP Top 25 pre-season poll, have one of the top dual-threat quarterbacks in the country in Jayden Daniels and an All-America candidate at linebacker in Harold Perkins.

Unlike last year, LSU also has a slew of returning players who've demonstrated they know what it takes to compete in what has been the toughest conference in college football for most of the past two decades.

"Playing in this league requires more than athleticism," Kelly said. "You need experience and I think we have experience and I think that's going to be a strength of this football team."

Knowing the process their coach wants them to follow helps, too.

"There should be a realistic expectation that everything we do, we're going to do a little bit better," Kelly added.



AP photo by Matthew Hinton

**LSU quarterback Jayden Daniels (5) celebrates a touchdown with wide receiver Malik Nabers (8) during the first half of a game against Ole Miss in Baton Rouge in 2022.**

The Tigers went 6-7 in 2021, the year before Kelly came down to the bayou from Notre Dame, where he'd spent 12 seasons. Last year, the Tigers went 10-4, highlighted by their dramatic upset victory over longtime nemesis Alabama on a risky, 2-point conversion in overtime.

Tight end Mason Taylor was a true freshman when he caught Daniels' quick pass

toward the sideline and dove for the pylon to clinch the season-defining victory over the Crimson Tide. Now he's the leader of a position group.

"It definitely is different. I think everything everyone's kind of more experienced," Taylor said. "The offense was new last year. So, everyone was kind of like iffy about the playbook."

Now, Taylor sur-

mised, "everyone just knows what they're doing," and the Tigers "definitely are a better team than last year."

### UP FRONT

Kelly has far more confidence in his offensive line now than he did a year ago.

Led by left tackle Will Campbell, who started as a freshman last year, "you have four guys who have started SEC games as opposed to



### 2023 LSU Tigers Schedule

September 3	Florida State #	Neutral
September 9	Grambling State	Home
September 16	Mississippi State @	Away
September 23	Arkansas @	Home
September 30	Ole Miss @	Away
October 7	Missouri @	Away
October 14	Auburn @	Home
October 21	Army (H)	Home
November 4	Alabama @	Away
November 11	Florida @	Home
November 18	Georgia State	Home
November 25	Texas A&M @ *	Home

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last year where you're like, 'I have no idea,'" Kelly said.

On the defensive side, LSU welcomes back 6-foot-6, 315-pound Maason Smith, a top defensive tackle who went out for the year with a fluky, non-contact knee injury while celebrating a teammate's tackle in a season-opening loss to Florida State.

"I'm sure there's going to be some feeling his way out when it's his first game in over a year," Kelly said. "I think a lot of that hesi-

tation has diminished because of what he did throughout the summer. He looks pretty darn good."

### DOWNFIELD THREATS

Malik Nabers returns from his 2022 breakout season as a candidate for the Biletnikoff Award.

But if defenses shade coverage toward Nabers — "He's going to be a featured player for us," Kelly says — that

See EXPECTATIONS, page 21

# Expectations: Continued from page 20

could open opportunities for Kyren Lacy and Alabama transfer Aaron Anderson.

Anderson is a New Orleans native who spent one redshirt season in Tuscaloosa before moving back to his native state.

“There’s going to be a lot more to see from him as we continue to build the offense,” Kelly said, noting that Anderson also could get the ball in the running and return game. “He’s got speed, explosiveness. He’s kind of what we thought he would be. ...

We’ve just scratched the surface in terms of what we can do with him.”

## CROWDED BACKFIELD

Logan Diggs, a player Kelly once recruited from Louisiana to Notre Dame, is back in his home state where

he joins a running back room that already features John Emery Jr. and Noah Cain. Included in the mix are Armoni Goodwin and a pair of freshmen who were four-star recruits: Trey Holly and Kaleb Jackson.

“We got one football. That hasn’t changed so we’ll figure it out as it goes,” Kelly said, adding that in his experience “the guys with the most experience end up rising to the top and taking it over.”

## SCHEDULE

LSU opens the season with a chance to avenge its mistake-prone, season-opening, 1-point loss to the Seminoles last season with a game against No. 8 Florida State in Orlando on Sept. 3. A highlight of every LSU season is its clash with Alabama, this time in Tuscaloosa on Nov. 4. The Tigers visit Mississippi on Sept. 30 and close the regular season at home against Texas A&M on Nov. 25.



Photo by Kristen Young

Pre-season All-American Harold Perkins (40) registers one of four sacks against Arkansas in 2022 during a stellar freshman season.

## Pre-Season AP Top 25

1. Georgia (60)	1572	10. Washington	977	19. Wisconsin	386	UCLA 66, UTSA 64, Arkansas 22,
2. Michigan (2)	1490	11. Texas	882	20. Oklahoma	296	Boise State 17, Pittsburgh 16,
3. Ohio State (1)	1400	12. Tennessee	868	21. UNC	292	Kentucky 14, Troy 10, Kansas
4. Alabama	1398	13. Notre Dame	863	22. Ole Miss	281	10, Louisville 10, Auburn 7, Min-
5. LSU	1276	14. Utah	811	23. Texas A&M	227	nesota 6, Toledo 4, Mississippi
6. USC	1245	15. Oregon	732	24. Tulane	224	State 4, Duke 4, Florida 4, Illinois
7. Penn State	1177	16. Kansas State	501	25. Iowa	131	3, Coastal Carolina 3, Baylor 3,
8. Florida State	1147	17. TCU	416	Others receiving votes: Texas		Liberty 1, James Madison 1, NC
9. Clemson	1032	18. Oregon State	406	Tech 101, South Carolina 73,		State 1, South Alabama 1.

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# With super conferences on horizon, 2023 is the end of an era

(AP) — Welcome to the final season of college football as we know it. Extreme? Maybe, but 2023 has an end-of-an-era feel.

Texas and Oklahoma are taking their last lap in the Big 12. The Pac-12 is still a Power Five conference. Will it even be a conference in 2024 after the Big Ten opens its West Wing and the Big 12 expands yet again? The College Football Playoff is a four-team event for the last time this year before tripling in size.

Everything about the collegiate sports model seems ripe for radical changes. But not quite yet.

"It does seem like it will feel like a lame-duck year at some point in time," former Big 12 Commissioner Bob Bowlsby said.

Before the maps are redrawn (again) and the stakes are remade (again), there is one more season to left to appreciate what is being lost—or long for what's being gained.

"I'm resigned to it," said ESPN's Rece Davis on The AP Top 25 College Football Podcast. "There are parts of it I will miss very much because I consider myself, at heart, a traditionalist. I love the nostalgia of the sport. Maybe, save, baseball, I don't think there is another sport that conjures up that type of deep emotional connection that college football does. And we're losing some of that."

## CONFERENCE REALIGNMENT

Fourteen schools will be playing in new leagues this season: four in the Big 12, four in Conference USA and six in the American Athletic Conference. Next season, super conferences arrive as the Big Ten grows to 18 and the Southeastern Conference and Big 12 bulk up to 16 schools.

The Big 12 is where the past and future collide this fall. While newcomers BYU, Cincinnati, Houston and UCF celebrate their arrival in the Power Five — that term is going away, too — Texas and Oklahoma are going on a farewell tour before heading to an SEC that will be anything but hospitable.

The Longhorns are favorites to the win the Big 12 — something they have not done since 2009 — and happy to wear the black suit. "They've kind of adopted the John Wick mentality," coach Steve Sarkisian told reporters. "I think that they've kind of assumed this mentality of, 'Embrace the hate.'"

Say goodbye to Bedlam. The 110th meeting of the Oklahoma-Oklahoma State series will be the last, at least for now.

"I think that sadness for me is around the rivalries that will fall by the wayside," Bowlsby said. "And I think it's extraordinarily difficult with the larger (conference) formats to keep traditional rivalries together. And a lot of that is what puts fans in the



AP Photo by Marcio Jose Sanchez

**Southern California players and coaches celebrate after defeating Stanford 31-28 in the Pac-12 Conference championship game in 2017. USC will be joining the Big Ten next year.**

stands."

Realignment takes away, but it can also give. After a decade apart, and insisting they don't care about each other, Texas and Texas A&M will play again in 2024.

When it comes to last-go-rounds, the saddest will be in the Pac-12, which is simultaneously on the brink of extinction while also primed to be maybe the most competitive and entertaining conference in college football this year.

Heisman Trophy winner Caleb Williams and coach Lincoln Riley have No. 6 Southern California swaggering again.

"I think coaching or playing at USC is one of the great responsibilities in our sport," Riley said during Pac-12 media day. "This is the program that is so important to

the sport, to the success of football on the West Coast in general, and has such a great history."

USC along with No. 10 Washington, No. 15 Oregon and UCLA, coming off consecutive winning seasons under Chip Kelly, are moving to the Big Ten in 2024. Arizona, Arizona State, Colorado and Utah are bound for the Big 12.

The Big Ten's poaching of the Pac-12 to create a bicoastal conference has many in college sports questioning if what's good for television networks that pay billions for the rights to broadcast football is in line with what's good for the athletes. Especially those who don't play football.

"This thing was driven by money and by football and to say these decisions benefit the

student-athletes, in most cases, I'm not sure I believe that," said Brian Polian, a longtime major college football coach who left LSU this offseason to become athletic director at Division III John Carroll University in Ohio.

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF

For more than a century, major college football vigorously resisted using a playoff to decide a champion.

Then it took less than a decade for the first playoff to expand. Year 10 of the CFP will be the final one with only four teams competing for a title before the 12-team format is implemented in 2024. The days of one bad game potentially ruining a team's title hopes are going away. There will be fewer winner-

take-all moments, but some see upside.

"I felt like there was much to be gained in the regular season because there were going to be more schools at the midpoint in the year that had a legitimate chance to say they were in the playoff hunt," said Bowlsby, one of the architects of the new playoff format.

Do you love classic rivalries such as Michigan-Ohio State and Alabama-Auburn? Will you like them as much when they can be played two or even three times in a season? Maybe in back-to-back weeks?

In division-less super conferences, the odds of that happening go way up starting in 2024.

## COLLEGIATE MODEL

NCAA and college sports leaders continue to push for congressional help with regulating the way athletes can be compensated for use of their names, images and likenesses.

There has been at least some momentum toward action on Capitol Hill in recent months. The NCAA is also working on its own NIL rules in case the politicians don't come through.

One way or another, there will likely be some attempt to regulate NIL and booster-funded collectives next year.

Managing NIL could be nothing compared to having major college football players, whose sport generates billions that fuel all of college athletics, legally deemed employees.



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# Bachmeier and Associates

## Tech turns to Boise State transfer, other weapons to lead Air Raid

By Matt Belinson  
sports@rustonleader.com

There's a new sheriff in town to lead the Louisiana Tech football team, and he hails from southern California.

It's no exaggeration to say the pickup of quarterback Hank Bachmeier from Boise State in the offseason was the highest profile transfer win for head coach Sonny Cumbie and the Bulldogs, with the former four-year starter's news dropping with an ESPN story the same hour and national publications alerting on the addition.

When you throw for 6,605 career yards, go 20-9 as a starter and have a 41 to 19 touchdown to interception ratio like Bachmeier has, there's reason to have eyes fixated on his move.

But now, he's here in Ruston and paired with Cumbie and the air-raid offense, trying to pull the Bulldogs out of their rut and back into Conference USA contention.

Pressure? Maybe.

But Cumbie has done

nothing but heap praise on his new starter since he arrived in town and expects fans to gravitate toward him this season.

"You feel really strong about the experience of a quarterback like Hank Bachmeier, who's 20-9 as a starter," Cumbie said. "He's come into the football program, and the only thing he's done since he's been here is learn and immerse himself in our team and in our locker room and has been a great teammate, and excited to see his development from June and July. I think he's done a phenomenal job with the other quarterbacks in the room with Jack Turner and being a great leader and a great teammate."

If the Bulldogs are going to win this season, they'll need Bachmeier to be as good as advertised, especially after the quarterback instability they got last season with three players starting at least four games in 2022.

Despite the shaky play at quarterback, the Bulldogs still finished No. 32 in passing of-



Photo by Emerald McIntyre

**Louisiana Tech head coach Sonny Cumbie (left) is entering his second season at the helm in Ruston.**

fense (267.2) yards per game, No. 61 in scoring offense with 29 points per game, and No. 63 in total offense (392 yards per game) last season.

The excitement from players and coaches comes from the idea of Bachmeier taking the offense to a new level and helping the collection of talent already in place become even better.

That's been his goal since he arrived on campus in the spring.

"I got here in March when the quarter had started and spring ball started and I had just gotten here and learned the playbook and system," Bachmeier said. "Now, I'm familiar with it, so I can play a little bit more free, and you're not thinking as much

2023 Louisiana Tech Schedule	
August 26	Florida International @ Home
September 2	SMU Away
September 9	Northwestern State Home
September 16	North Texas Home
September 23	Nebraska Away
September 29	UTEP @ Away
October 5	Western Kentucky @ Home
October 10	Middle Tennessee @# Away
October 24	New Mexico State @# Home
November 4	Liberty @ Away
November 11	Sam Houston @* Home
November 28	Jacksonville State @ Away
@ Conference USA	
# Tuesday game	
* Denotes Homecoming	

and you can just go out there."

Bachmeier is seen as the ideal quarterback for the air-raid, someone with experience who can process information quickly and make reads through each play, while adding a powerful arm to help with playmaking.

He'll be without Tech's top two pass catchers from a year ago in Tre Harris and Griffin Hebert with Harris leaving for Ole

Miss and Hebert making his way on to the Seattle Seahawks roster as an undrafted free agent signing.

Tech isn't too worried about a lack of offensive skill talent, though.

Sophomore wide receiver Cyrus Allen is back after his 22 catches, 500 yards and 4 touchdowns last season – finishing second in the country in yards per reception (22.7). Allen

See BACHMEIER, page 25

# Bachmeier: Continued from page 24

has been asked by coaches to expand from being the deep-threat burner he was a year ago and become a more well-rounded target. Joining Allen is sixth-year slot receiver Smoke Harris, who led Tech with 66 catches in 2022 to go with his 640 yards and 5 touchdown grabs.

Beyond the top returning targets, look for Julien Lewis, Tru Edwards and Nebraska transfer DeColdest Crawford to see action in games.

At tight end, returner Nate Jones will lead the room after filling in briefly for Hebert last season with 16 catches, 173 yards and 1 touchdown. Jones, a junior, will work with Cal Poly transfer Ryan Rivera, a big-body tight end in his final year of eligibility. Rivera played in 30 career games at Cal Poly with 155 yards and 2 touchdowns.

When the passing game has a break, the running game looks to be strong as well with the return of All-Conference USA running back Marquis Crosby. However, Crosby, who rushed for 918 yards and 9 touchdowns last year, did not get much live, on-field work during fall camp due to a leg injury. In his place stands Miami-Ohio transfer Tyre Shelton after 32 career games and 1,153 yards in the MAC. Shelton will work alongside Tech returner Charvis Thornton (464 yards, 3 TD) until Crosby returns to full health.

Tech saw an increase in run production over the final month of the 2022 season as Crosby and others averaged 4.5 yards per carry as a unit over the last four games of the year.

Paving the way for the ground game and giving Bachmeier time to work is an experienced offensive line that returns four of its five starters from last season. Outside of right guard, which will be filled by Jerren Gilbert this season, every other spot will have a returning starter with Dakota White at left tackle, Bert Hale at left guard, Abe Delfin back for a seventh season at center, and Carson Bruno at right tackle.

Bruno, a redshirt sophomore who started all 12 games last season, had high praise for Bachmeier and the offense's trajectory this season.

"You can tell that he's been doing this for a long time," Bruno said of Bachmeier. "So, it's nice to know you got somebody back there that knows what he's doing and has done it for a while. Just being able to know that I'm blocking and I'm gonna see a ball just fly 40 yards downfield for a touchdown. It's a good feeling knowing that's gonna happen."

With excitement building in and outside the building for what the Bulldogs will be in 2023, Cumbie wanted to let fans know he expects better results this season just like anyone else.

"In year two, obviously we want to win a lot more football games than we did," Cumbie said. "I think the way that we play and the way that we practice has really increased. Our coaching staff has done a nice job with our roster bringing in quality talent in addition to the talent we've already retained on our roster."



Photo by Darrell James

**Louisiana Tech wide receiver and kick returner Smoke Harris (6) returns after an All-Conference USA season in 2022. Harris had 66 catches a year ago for 640 yards and 5 touchdowns. He will be on the receiving end of Hank Bachmeier passes in 2023.**



# GRAMBLING STATE TIGERS



## Tigers have playmakers, need stronger QB play

By Matt Belinson  
sports@rustonleader.com

GRAMBLING — Hue Jackson has said it since he first arrived at Grambling State, and it won't change as he enters year two leading the Tigers.

GSU needs a consistent quarterback to win at the level coaches and fans expect.

That proved to be easier said than done last year as Jackson called the offense and watched as the Tigers fell to the bottom of the SWAC in passing and overall offense in the process as GSU went through multiple quarterbacks to try to right the ship.

Entering this season, it's on the shoulders of returning quarterback Julian Calvez and newcomer Myles Crawley as the duo battle for the starting job.

How can one take control of the QB1 role? Jackson, again, kept his criteria simple.

"Winning. A guy that can win," Jackson said. "A guy that can lead us to winning on a consistent basis week in and week out. I think that's what we're looking for. Obviously Julian Calvez is the returning guy who started some. And here comes Myles Crawley, a big guy from Alabama State, who can throw it."

Crawley threw for 785 yards, 4 touchdowns and 5 interceptions last season at

Alabama State.

Calvez had his fair share of ups and downs as a true freshman last season, going 69-for-168 for 767 yards, 5 touchdowns and 7 interceptions. Between him and former GSU quarterback Quaterius Hawkins, the Tigers were one of two SWAC schools without a 1,000-yard passer last season.

Jackson knew that had to change if GSU was going to change the script from the 3-8 finish last season.

His answer? Bringing in Tony Hull from Louisiana-Monroe as the new co-offensive coordinator, quarterbacks coach and passing game coordinator.

Hull, who spent two seasons at ULM prior to coming to Grambling State, is expected to lead play calling duties and make the Tigers into an explosive offense that they certainly weren't last year. When asked how to describe his offense, Hull said, "I would describe it with a letter and a number: G5. We're going to play as fast as we can. We're going to try and snap it as fast as we can, play as fast as we can and make the defense make decisions that they're not used to."

The turnaround, if it comes, will be noticeable after GSU ranked No. 6 in the SWAC in scoring offense (23 points per game), No. 10 total offense in the SWAC

(311 yards per game) and the 11th passing offense in the SWAC (143 yards per game) last season.

And the Tigers believe they've upgraded at their playmaker positions where needed while also staying optimistic to see returning talents with another year under their belt.

Wide receiver Lyndon Rash, nicknamed "Mr. Professional" by Jackson, returns for his seventh season at GSU after leading the team in receiving yards (517) and touchdowns (5) and will be leaned on once again for whoever takes the snaps at quarterback.

Throughout the rest of the receiving corps, JR Waters (156 yards, 1 TD) is the only GSU target who caught at least three passes from last season besides Rash.

Nigel Lanier transferred in from Tennessee after a stint as a preferred walk-on in Knoxville along with South Alabama transfer Nae'saan Dickerson.

Tony Forrest Jr. is a breakout candidate at tight end as well.

At running back, leading rusher Maurice Washington (589 yards, 7 TD) is gone, but Bayou Jamb MVP Floyd Chalk and Chance Williams are ready to take control of the carries this season.

Chalk rushed for 374 yards and 1 touchdown last season in his limited carries behind



Photo courtesy of GSU

**Returning quarterback Julian Calvez (left) is battling for the starting position in 2023.**

Washington.

At offensive line, the G-Men have to find plenty of new faces after the departure of the team's starting center and multiple starting/rotational pieces.

But perhaps that's a good thing for the offense after the Tigers gave up the second most sacks in the SWAC (38) last season and converted just 29.5% of their third down attempts.

In general, Jackson feels

good about the direction of the offense and believes results will match that feeling in 2023.

"I thought we needed to become bigger, stronger, and faster. I thought it was really important that we created a profile for what we want to be when we went out and recruited G-Men. And that's exactly what we did. We feel like we have a chance to be really dynamic on offense this year."



# GRAMBLING STATE TIGERS



## Matthews, Anderson lead testy defensive unit

By Matt Belinson  
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The two highest profile players in 2023 reside on defense for the Grambling State football team and look to close out their college careers with one last dominant season.

Defensive end Sundiata Anderson, the SWAC Preseason Player of the Year, is back after setting career highs in sacks (8) and tackles for loss (15.5) in 2022, while fellow All-SWAC selection in linebacker Lewis Matthews returns as well after 102 total tackles and 12 tackles for loss. Matthews ranked 14th in the nation and first in the SWAC in solo tackles (61), while also second in the SWAC in total tackles and 27th in the FCS.

It all starts with them, and Hue Jackson knows it.

“It’s so important that they do lead because we’re going to go as they go because those guys are All-SWAC players, and they know how to play the game at a high level, and they gotta continue push everybody else to get there, and I think they will,” Jackson said.

At the start of fall



Photo courtesy of GSU

**Pre-season SWAC Player of the Year Sundiata Anderson (9) is coming off an All-American season at defensive end.**

camp, just days after he was named Preseason SWACDPOY, Anderson agreed with his head coach’s outlook and knows his domination has to lead others.

“I view it as domination,” Anderson said. “Every day at practice, I come with the same mentality and detail. I treated it like it was like my last first day

of school. It’s my first day but it’s my last one. I come to dominate but I got to get my team up. It’s going to take all of us to win a championship.”

Anderson and Matthews grab most of the headlines for a reason, but the Tigers dipped into the transfer portal and grabbed some suitable names at line-backer to help Matthews

out after the departure of Joshua Reed.

Redshirt sophomore Andrew Jones comes to GSU after playing 14 career games at the University of Memphis with 4 tackles, 1 tackle for loss, and 1 forced fumble. Jacksonville State transfer Osiris Smith is another expected contributor in the defensive front. Fourth-year



### 2023 Grambling State Schedule

September 2	Hampton	Away
September 9	LSU	Away
September 16	Florida Memorial	Home
September 23	Texas Southern	Home
September 30	Prairie View A&M #	Away
October 7	Alcorn State	Away
October 14	Alabama A&M *	Home
October 28	Bethune-Cookman	Home
November 4	Alabama State	Away
November 10	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	Away
November 25	Southern U @	Away
# State Fair Classic, Cotton Bowl		
* Denotes Homecoming		
@ Bayou Classic in New Orleans		

junior Jaylon Turner is back after 14 career tackles, 2 tackles for loss, and 2 sacks.

“Those are a few names, and there are others like Josh Darling in there too,” Jackson said. “There’s a group of guys that are going to vie to play opposite him and we’re going to work at it and we’ve got a lot some candidates and we’ll make that decision as we move forward, but we think we got some guys that can be playing there.”

In the secondary, the Tigers will lean on Quincy Mitchell and Kevin Thomas as veteran playmakers to take advantage of the chaos

created up front. Mitchell, a redshirt senior and preseason All-SWAC selection, is back after producing 29 tackles and 1.5 tackles for loss last season. Thomas, another preseason All-SWAC player, totaled 52 tackles, 1 interception and 1 forced fumble in 2022.

Chris Daigre is another name that could breakout in the defensive backfield after his 39 tackles, 4 passes defended and 1 forced fumble last season.

The Tigers will trust in all these playmakers and more to improve the unit after allowing 31.1 points per game and 384 yards per game last year.



# Important season for Bulldogs

## Tech betting on transfer talent for defensive turnaround

By Matt Belinson  
sports@rustonleader.com

It's no secret the defense for Louisiana Tech was not a strength last season.

Ask players and coaches, and they'll say as much.

The Bulldogs ranked in the bottom eight in the entire country in total defense (allowing 471 yards per game), scoring defense (allowing 37.9 points per game), and run defense (2nd worst in the country, allowing 243 yards per game).

But in today's college football with the transfer portal at the ready, Sonny Cumbie and his staff figured it was better to face the problem head-on and retool the unit, rather than point fingers.

And after a busy offseason building up depth at key positions and bringing in competitive players to mix with returners, the Bulldogs believe the defense is ready for a major turnaround from where they last were.

"I think if you look at our roster and you watch us practice, I think our guys will tell you our defensive side of our football team is much improved from an athletic standpoint," Cumbie said. "I want us to be able to create takeaways, and I want us to keep people out of the redzone. I think Coach (Scott) Power and his staff did a really nice job in the offseason in terms of studying us and studying the personnel that we have coming back, and I think they did a good job in terms of bringing in players at



Photo by Josh McDaniel

**Willie Roberts returns to the Louisiana Tech secondary and one of the few experienced members of the defensive unit in 2023.**

linebacker and bringing in additions to defensive line and a couple safeties and corners."

The linebacker position has been touted by Cumbie and current players as the spot most improved on the 2023 Bulldogs, led by returner Hugh Davis (79 tackles, 1.5 sacks, 4 tackles for loss), to go with a slew of transfer

pickups that appear ready to make an impact.

Akron transfer Jeslord Boateng is primed to start alongside Davis to open the season after putting up a total of 107 tackles and 8 tackles for loss over the previous two seasons. Joining him among the additions is Arkansas transfer Zach Zimos and

LSU transfer Kolbe Fields.

The unit is expected to shore up tackling deficiencies from last season that led to the porous run defense and bring a playmaking element that was lost after former Tech linebacker Tyler Grubbs transferred out of the program.

Rushing the passer was also a struggle last season for Tech, with the team tying for fourth fewest in the entire country with 16 team sacks—5.5 of which came from defensive backs.

The Bulldogs are counting on returners like Deshon Hall (29 tackles, 4 tackles for loss) and Mykol Clark (14 tackles, 1 tackle for loss) to pick up their production on the edge while Iowa State transfer Jayden Gray serves as an additional body in the room with pass rush skills that have impressed coaches.

Clark, who played in 11 games last season, isn't shy about how much he believes the Tech defense will get back on track this year.

"I feel like, without a doubt, wholeheartedly, with what I've seen throughout the summer with the strength program with Coach (Dave) Scholz, the way we've been flying around, I feel like we have the potential to be a top-25 defense in the nation," Clark said. "No question. If we all stick together and stay healthy, I feel like no one can stop us."

At defensive tackle, J'Dan Burnett (19 tackles, 3.5 tackles for loss, 1 sack), Zion Nason (3 tackles for loss, 2 sacks), lead the room while Stephen

# Transfer talent:

 Continued from page 28

F. Austin transfer Rason Williams and freshman Delvin Whitaker serve as capable bodies.

But maybe outside of linebacker, the secondary has garnered the most praise on the defense leading up to the season.

With returners at safety like Cecil Singleton (56 tackles, 6 tackles for loss, 3 forced fumbles) and corner in Willie Roberts (29 tackles, 4 interceptions) to lead their respective units, the transfer additions have only excited coaches about the defensive backfield's potential.

Stephen F. Austin transfer Myles Heard will start at strong safety this season after four seasons with the Lumberjacks, where he totaled 225 tackles, 7 tackles for loss, 4 interceptions, 4 PBU, and 7 forced fumbles. Along with Heard, expect to hear Houston transfer Demarcus Griffin-Taylor throughout the season at safety.

Other names to keep an eye on in the secondary are Zion Hopes (Tulsa), Roderick Roberson (SMU), and Keyshawn Paul (Temple).

The defensive backs are expected to pick up where the defense left off last season in terms of forcing takeaways, where Tech finished in the top 30 last season with 22 turnovers forced — 12 coming off interceptions.

Second-year defensive coordinator Scott Power isn't one to hide from last season's disappointment but expects that with another year of teaching and understanding his players better that the unit will rise to the occasion this fall.

"I think year one's are challenge. There's a lot of change and there's a lot of differences," Power said. "There's new players and coaches and as we head into year two, I think everybody's a little bit more comfortable."



Photo courtesy of Louisiana Tech

**Bulldog fans are looking for more to cheer about in 2023 after a couple of down seasons in Ruston.**



Photo by Darrell James

**Louisiana Tech defensive Back Cedric Woods (11) will be counted on to provide experience and depth to the Bulldogs' secondary in 2023. Louisiana Tech is coming off back-to-back 3-9 seasons and is looking to return to bowl status for the first time since 2019.**



# NEW ORLEANS SAINTS



## New quarterback, new hope in New Orleans

By **Brian Trahan**  
 editor@rustonleader.com

These aren't your father's New Orleans Saints. They're not even your brother's New Orleans Saints.

With Drew Brees long gone in the rearview mirror, nobody remains from the 2009 Super Bowl championship roster. Cam Jordan, who is now the old man on the block, didn't join the Saints until 2011.

Sean Payton is in his first season as the head coach in Denver.

If there is one suggestion for Saints fans attending games in the Caesars Superdome this season, buy a game program. You'll need it.

The Saints are coming off a 7-10 season in which they finished third in the NFC south. They played just about the entire season with a quarterback who had become a journeyman backup in the league.

Give Andy Dalton credit for doing what he was capable of in keeping the Saints in the playoff hunt after Jameis Winston went down with a back injury in week 3. He was never fully healthy and couldn't regain the starting job.



AP Photo by Gerald Herbert

**New Orleans Saints quarterback Derek Carr (4) looks to pass the ball in the first half of a preseason NFL football game against the Kansas City Chiefs.**

Dalton did pass for 2,781 yards and 18 touchdowns with only 9 interceptions. The problem became apparent that the Saints lost all big-play ability.

That was then ... this is now.

It's steps strong-armed gunslinger Derek Carr.

The Saints signed Carr in the off-season after several successful seasons as the starter for the Raiders in Oakland and then in Las Vegas.

By all accounts, Carr has become comfortable in the Saints offense as shown by his only

pre-season action in leading New Orleans to a touchdown drive against Kansas City.

"Obviously, with a few new pieces it was good to see Derek (Carr) out there," head coach Dennis Allen said. "It was good to see Mike (Thomas) get a catch

 <b>2023 New Orleans Saints Schedule</b>		
September 10	Tennessee Titans	Home
September 18	Carolina Panthers (Mo)	Away
September 24	Green Bay Packers	Away
October 1	Tampa Bay Bucs	Home
October 8	New England Patriots	Away
October 15	Houston Texans	Away
October 19	Jacksonville Jaguars (Th)	Home
October 29	Indianapolis Colts	Away
November 5	Chicago Bears	Home
November 12	Minnesota Vikings	Away
November 19	BYE week	
November 26	Atlanta Falcons	Away
December 3	Detroit Lions	Home
December 10	Carolina Panthers	Home
December 17	New York Giants	Home
December 21	Los Angeles Rams (Th)	Away
December 31	Tampa Bay Bucs	Home
January TBD	Atlanta Falcons	Home

Mo — Monday Night Football  
 Th — Thursday Night Football

across the middle, so there were some good things that happened there."

Oh, the Mike he referred to happens to be former Pro Bowl receiver Michael Thomas, who has played sparingly in the last three seasons with various injuries after setting an NFL record in 2019 with 149 receptions for 1,725 yards and 9 TDs.

Back to Carr. He gives the Saints something the team was desperately missing a season ago: a big-play quarterback with experience. Not since Brees hung up the cleats in his Superdome locker have expectations been as high for the offense.

"Everything was new. For me to get out there

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# New hope: Continued from page 30

more importantly and play football in the stadium, this time when it wasn't loud, we can operate and do those kinds of things," Carr said after his action against the Chiefs in pre-season. "It was important to me to do that no matter how old I am and how many years I've played the NFL, to do it with a new group, all new receivers and for everyone to be in there and playing, I think is a mark of this team that any chance we can get to go out there and Coach (Allen) will let us, we just want to compete and play."

If the Saints are going to compete for a playoff berth—and they should in a very weak NFC South—they will need all hands on deck. Hands as in the guys who will be catching balls from Carr.

It starts with keeping Thomas healthy. Nobody knows yet how much Thomas has left in the tank when he's healthy. He doesn't need to be WR1 on this team.

That title could very well go to sophomore speedster Chris Olave. All he did as a rookie was haul in 72 passes for 1,042 yards and 4 touchdowns in an offense that clearly wasn't going to light up any scoreboard. If he increases his production as he gains more seasoning, he could very well elevate himself into elite NFL status. The third guy in line will be diminutive speedster

Rashid Shaheed.

If there is another target that is expected to shine with Carr running the offense, it could very well be veteran tight end Juwan Johnson. In Vegas, Darren Waller became Carr's favorite receiver as one of the best tight ends in the league. He's building that trust with Johnson through pre-season. If Johnson can't step up, the Saints signed another former Raider tight end in Foster Moreau. Now cleared from a bout with cancer, Moreau is expected to be the backup, but he should get plenty of run on third down situations when they bring in two tight ends.

Who's going to be protecting Carr?

Nobody is better at his position in the league than Ryan Ramczyk at right tackle. Former first round pick Trevor Penning is healthy again and will man the valuable left tackle position. Penning is a nasty competitor on the offensive line, which should bode well for protecting Carr's blindside.

Erik McCoy will line up at center with Cesar Ruiz next to him at right guard. Andrus Peat was penciled in as the starter at left guard but has been banged up all through camp. If he can't go you can elevate James Hurst without much drop-off.

One position Saints fans haven't had to be concerned about in recent years is running

back. Alvin Kamara is entering his seventh season in New Orleans and is coming off a trying year in which he totaled 1,300 yards from scrimmage despite having legal issues and a possible suspension hanging over his head.

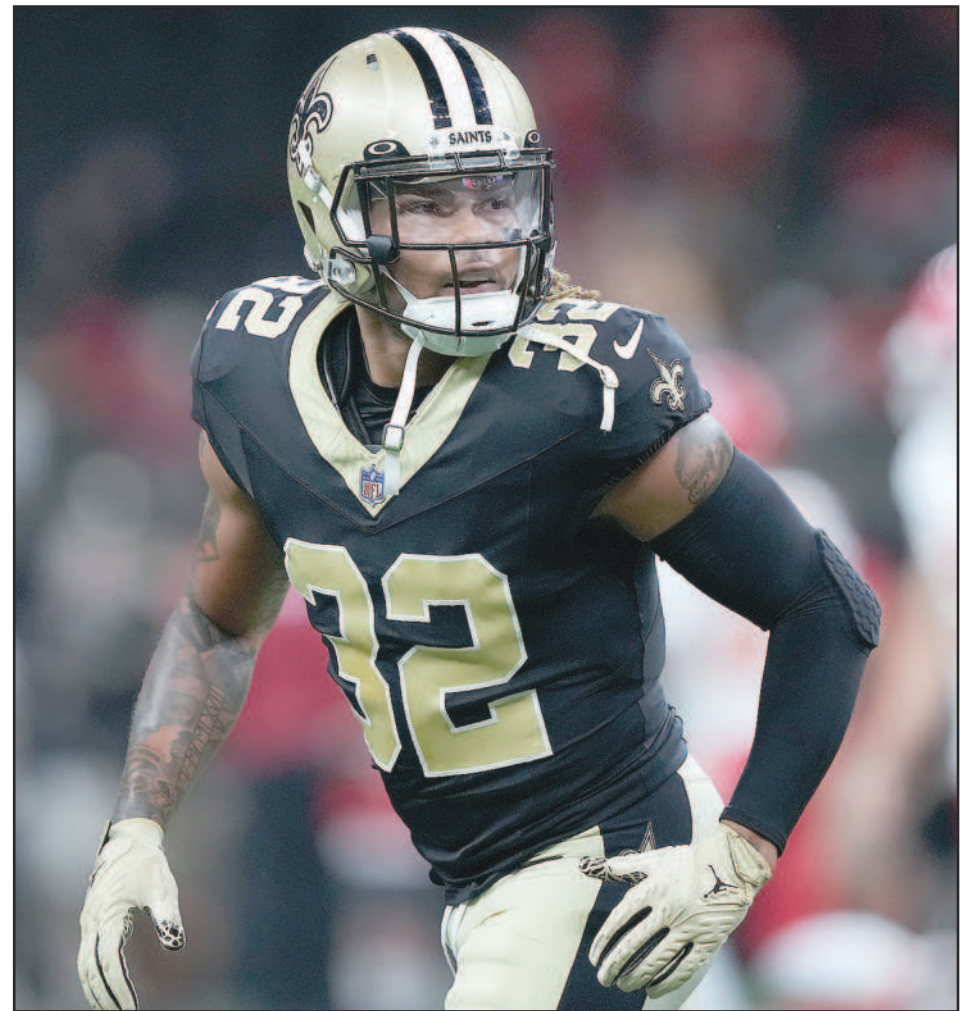
The NFL handed down a rather light three-game suspension, which will be served the first three weeks of the season. In his place will be Jamaal Williams, who comes over to the Saints after piling up 1,000 yards and an incredible 17 touchdowns in Detroit last season.

Look for rookie back Kendre Miller to have an effect on the offense. He can affect a game in similar ways as Kamara and flashed in the second pre-season game against the Chargers.

"He's definitely getting better at all that stuff. He had a nice pass protection play the other day of the practices, too. Each day he continues to get a little bit better," Allen said about Miller. "Obviously, we've got to keep him healthy and out there getting those reps. You can see the talent level. He's a talented player and we're excited about him."

Allen made his bones in the NFL as one of the league's best defensive coordinators. In recent seasons the defense has had to pack their lunches and become the blue collar part of the team.

The 2023 version



AP photo by Gerald Herbert

**New Orleans Saints safety Tyrann Mathieu (32) warms up before a game in New Orleans against the Kansas City Chief.**

could very well be as effective as Allen's units in the past five seasons—if everyone can remain in the lineup. Depth is going to be a little sketchy.

One of the most important moves was signing Jordan to a two-year, \$27.5 million extension. Jordan has totaled 115.5 sacks in his career and is showing no signs of slowing down.

Who'll be lined up next to him?

Nathan Shepard and Khalen Saunders are expected to play inside with

Carl Grandson playing opposite Jordan. Expect Malcolm Roach to log playing time, and don't be surprised if promising rookies Bryan Bresee and Payton Turner make their way into the rotation as the seasons progress.

Demario Davis, Zack Baun and Pete Werner could be one of the best groups in the NFC, especially if you add former Dallas standout Jaylon Smith into the formula.

On paper the secondary is one of the best in

the NFC, when it stays on the field together. Marshon Lattimore, Alontae Taylor and Paulson Adebode give the Saints a top-shelf trio with Marcus Maye and Tyrann Mathieu rounding out the secondary at their safety positions.

The back half of the schedule should prove favorable for a playoff run once the new pieces begin to gel with the old guard. An NFC South title and playoff berth is certainly well within reach.

*Nobody Who Ever Gave His Best Regretted It!*

- George S. Halas




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