

2025/2026

ANNUAL MANUAL

THIS IS BOSSIER

presented by

TUBBS
HARDWARE SINCE 1922
Cajun Gifts

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MAKING NORTHWEST LOUISIANA A HUB FOR NATIONAL SECURITY

THE NATIONAL CYBER RESEARCH PARK, AND ITS ANCHOR, THE CYBER INNOVATION CENTER, ARE GROWING A HIGH-TECH INDUSTRY THROUGH **CYBER EDUCATION PROGRAMS, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, AND TECHNOLOGY ACCELERATION INITIATIVES** THAT STRENGTHEN NATIONAL DEFENSE AND PROMOTE ECONOMIC GROWTH, **RIGHT HERE AT HOME.**

1,538

total direct
jobs created

2,102

other jobs created
across the state

\$358M

estimated economic
impact in Louisiana

\$267M

estimated economic
impact in the region*



More Than Just Hardware at Tubb's Hardware and Gifts

Driving by Tubb's Hardware off Benton Road, first impressions would make you think you are just going to buy a lawnmower or a grill. However, once you walk into Tubb's and see all the unique Cajun souvenirs and gifts they have to offer to their customers, you will be pleasantly surprised! They have been in Bossier since 1922 and stock many fun and unique Cajun-style pieces right next to their handmade items. From food to trinkets and gifts, there is something for everyone who needs a little Louisiana in their life.

It all started when, long ago, Don Tubbs was advised on how to run a successful business.

"Listen to your customers," said Julian Holmes, who sold Holmes Hardware to Tubbs in 1979. "Don't run your business from your office. Let your shoes be your office. You meet those customers up front. You have a want-list in your front pocket, and you find out what customers want, and you fill their needs. You serve the community."

This advice made a huge impact on young Tubbs, as they have served the local community as Tubbs Hardware

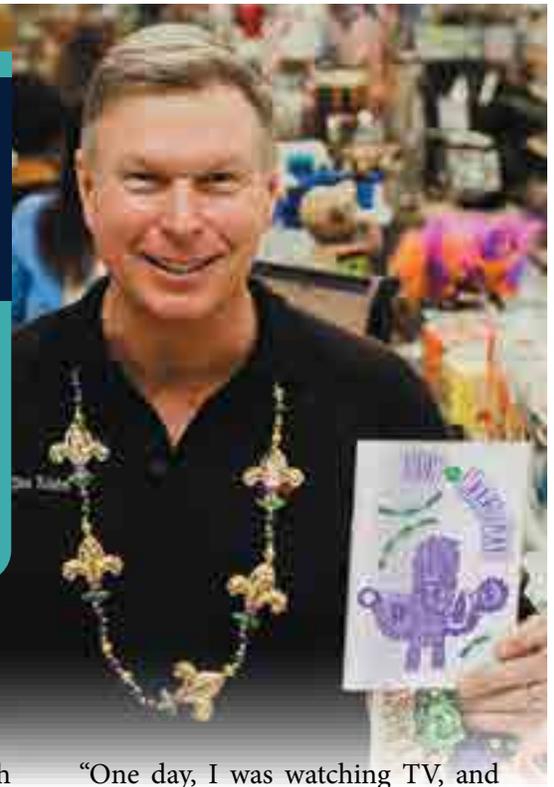
"I tell my staff all the time that we're in the service business... The success will follow if you're helping people."

for many decades and are thriving with two locations — in Bossier City and Benton.

"I tell my staff all the time that we're in the service business," Tubbs said. "We're in the business of helping people. The success will follow if you're helping people."

When the shop was known as Holmes Hardware, Tubbs worked there after school. He got a life-changing opportunity to buy the store when he was just 19 years old.

And the rest, as they say, is history. Now Tubbs Hardware has become a part of the Bossier culture. It has expanded into the Mardi Gras scene, becoming one of the key places for all things Mardi Gras and Louisiana souvenirs.



"One day, I was watching TV, and Emeril Lagasse was teaching how to make a freeze-thaw cake. You put all the ingredients in it – and you freeze it – but you haven't completed the recipe until you've thawed it. So, it's a freeze-thaw recipe. I started researching how to do king cakes that way. I started producing my own king cake about 25 years ago. Now, I sell many thousands in a 60-day period out of a hardware store."

Young people are the key to our future, and Don's son Kenneth is now very involved. This will assure the Tubbs tradition of being a fun place to shop will continue for many years to come.

Even after all these years, Tubbs doesn't plan on slowing down. 🌟

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6100 Hwy 3 in Benton
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SAT 8am-1pm • SUN Closed
(318) 965-0311



CITY STORE
615 Benton Road in Bossier City
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SAT 7:30am-6pm • SUN Closed
(318) 746-0311

TubbsHardware.com

[f](#) [@](#) [@tubbshardware](#)



This is Bossier Parish!

Our beautiful and fast-growing parish, located in northwest Louisiana, is filled with unique sights, delicious eats, and community fun. What makes Bossier (Boh-zher) such an amazing place to be? Sit back and enjoy reading about the city named Best Place to Live in Louisiana by Money Magazine. At 182 years old, the parish's legacy of commerce as well as Southern hospitality is still going strong. Whether you're a local looking to learn more about our parish or a visitor looking for all the best spots, we've got you covered. As always, we feature the best of Bossier on our blog. Check out longer versions of all of the stories in this guide by following the QR code at the end of each story.

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To advertise in the next 2026-2027 Annual Manual, email marketing@bossierchamber.com.



BOSSIER HISTORY

Do you know the history of Bossier?

Travel back in time with us as we take a look back at the history of Bossier! We celebrate 182 years of our amazing parish this year. Today, we are a thriving parish that has seen a continual growth in population, business, and innovative ideas. Test your knowledge of Bossier's history with these fun historical facts.

DID YOU KNOW? Bossier Parish was formed on February 24, 1843. That's right—182 years ago, the Louisiana Legislature formed Bossier Parish. Early residents fought to have their own government. In order to become a parish, they had to give the area law enforcement, court systems and infrastructure. General Pierre Evariste Jean Baptiste Bossier was a key player in delivering the petition to the legislature to create Bossier Parish, and it was eventually passed into law.

Benton

DID YOU KNOW? The town is named after U.S. Sen. Thomas Hart Benton. He served in the senate from 1821 to 1851. Benton had a hand in pushing for the intercontinental railway, supported expanded use of the telegraph, and authored the first Homestead Acts, which gave land

grants to anyone willing to farm it. He also pushed for the construction of the road between Arkansas and Louisiana, which ran through Plain Dealing and Benton.

DID YOU KNOW? The Bossier Courthouse was not always located in Benton. "The courthouse was originally in Bellevue. Supposedly, they voted on it one time because Benton wanted to move the courthouse," said former Benton Mayor Shelly Horton, Jr. According to Horton, Benton won that election, but Bellevue claimed the election was rigged. Naturally, the good townspeople of Benton retaliated by stealing the courthouse records from Bellevue, and Bellevue retaliated in kind by stealing them back. The whole affair was only settled when the courthouse in Bellevue burned, ceding the courthouse location to Benton.

Plain Dealing

DID YOU KNOW? The town took its name from an antebellum plantation. The Plain Dealing Plantation was settled by George Oglethorpe Gilmer, a man known for selling the products of his farm and using channels of trade for his needs, different from the bartering and trading of the day. The Plain

Dealing Plantation originally contained 5,000 acres.

Barksdale Air Force Base

DID YOU KNOW? The Base is named in honor of Lt. Eugene Hoy Barksdale. In August 1926, Lt. Eugene Hoy Barksdale, U.S. Army Air Corps, lost his life while flight testing Douglas O-2 observation airplane over McCook Field in Dayton, Ohio.

DID YOU KNOW? Barksdale Air Force Base is home to The 2nd Bomb Wing – the oldest in the entire Air Force. It hosts a dynamic and diverse military community, serving just over 5,000 Active-Duty Airmen, 1,600 Reservists, 5,000 Military Family Members, and 2,600 Civilian Employees.

Haughton

DID YOU KNOW? The area gets its name from early resident William Haughton. William was a farmer and a teacher. He, his wife Harriet and two children settled on some 2,000 acres of prime land that became known as "Haughton Place."

Check out BeBossier.com for more historical facts. ★

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WHERE YOU LIVE SHOULD BE MORE THAN A PLACE. IT SHOULD BE A COMMUNITY.
 FIND YOURS AT A HERITAGE PROPERTY IN LOUISIANA.



BOSSIER SCHOOLS



By the Numbers

- 2025-26 SY enrollment: **22,105**
- **4,035** student-athletes in 2024-25
- **13** State Champions (2024-25)
- **4** National Champions (2024-25)
- **28** Purple Star Schools
- **3,135** Industry-Based Certifications (IBCs) earned in 2024-25
- **10th** statewide in the High School Progress Index

Bossier Parish Schools is being nationally recognized for its visionary way to reach parents, teachers, and staff with important updates and topics.

Its video podcast “On the Record with Bossier Schools,” or OTR for short, has received the 2025 Publications and Digital Media Excellence Award from the National School Public Relations Association.

The brainchild of Superintendent Jason Rowland, OTR, recently wrapped

up year three of not only highlighting news and accomplishments within the district but also diving into broader issues facing public education.

“I envisioned OTR as a platform to share our story in a way that stands out,” said Rowland. “We’re blessed with the talent in our team to put something like this together. When you have someone like Communications and Media Officer Sonja Bailes, you can’t help but be pretty good.”

Beyond breaking news, OTR celebrates students and staff, often incorporating lighthearted and engaging content. Segments like “Rollin’ with Rowland” take the superintendent out of the studio to interact with sports teams, attend local events, or visit educational sites, such as nature centers.

“We explore stories that inspire and motivate, the ones that don’t always get told,” said Rowland. “For example, we told the story of bus driver Marcus McIlveen, who wanted to be a part of the school system so bad that he walked 30 miles every day for months to support the community of Plain Dealing.”



COMMUNITIES

for life and leisure

Plain Dealing

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Benton

North Bossier

Haughton

Bossier City

South Bossier

Caddo Parish

Bossier Parish

Webster Parish

Shreveport

DeSoto Parish

Bienville Parish

Caddo Parish

Red River Parish

(Detailed Inset)

#BossierProud

Bossier is full of amazing people with inspiring accomplishments. Their talents and skills help fuel our community and we are #BossierProud of them!

When LaShawn Harley-Hill lost her vision in 2017, she could have given up.



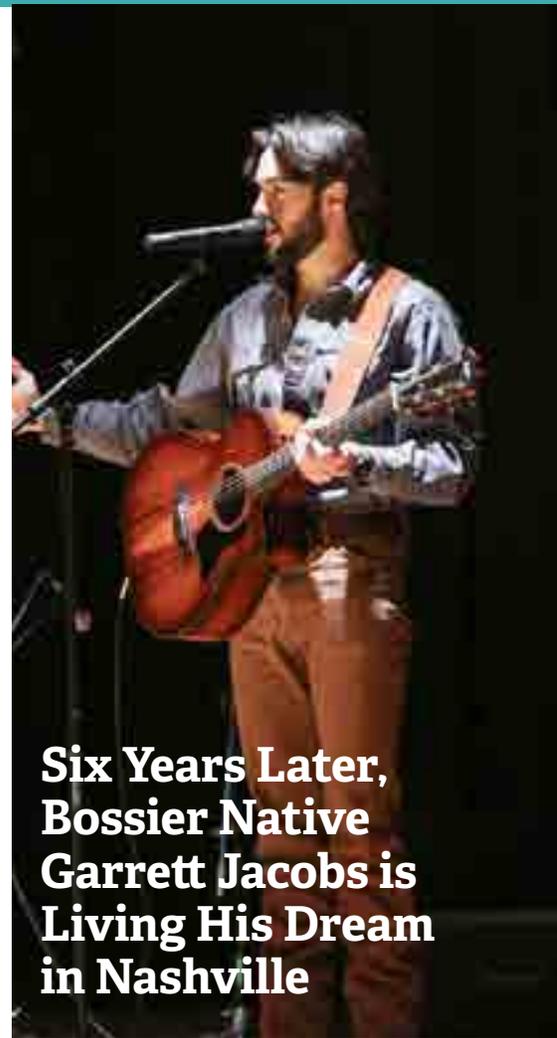
Instead, she found strength through faith, community, and a deep determination to reclaim her independence and ultimately earn a master's degree.

Born in Bennettsville, South Carolina, LaShawn has called Bossier home since 2003. She spent 14 years working at LSU Hospital until her vision began to decline due to diabetes.

"January 17, 2017, I totally lost my vision and I had a moment of deciding

what I was going to do. Depression kicked in," she recalled. "But then I went to Dr. Scott Cavanaugh, and he told me about the Louisiana Association for the Blind."

Encouraged by support, Harley-Hill applied to Louisiana State University at Shreveport and was accepted into the Master's in Counseling Program. She began in 2022 and proudly graduated in May 2025.



Six Years Later, Bossier Native Garrett Jacobs is Living His Dream in Nashville

It's been six years since Be Bossier has last spoken to bluesy Bossier Parish native Garrett Jacobs. When we last spoke, he was competing in American Idol and had made it to the Top 24. He went on to reach the Top 14 and has since relocated to Nashville, Tenn., where he is pursuing music full time!

Since making the big move to Music City, Jacobs has been honing his sound and perfecting his songwriting skills. He's also been hard at work on his first album, which he describes as his most creative project so far.



Benton High Schooler Represents Louisiana in Miss High School America Pageant



Baylor Bass began her pageant journey at a young age and hasn't quit since. Bass, daughter of Adam and Britney Bass, is now a senior at Benton High School and thanks to her hard work and determination, she's earned many titles, including her most recent one – Miss Louisiana High School America.

Through this experience, her director and fellow Collegiate and Junior High queens have become like close family. Though there were pre-pageant jitters, Baylor channeled her inner Sharpay Evans from Disney's High School Musical by doing her iconic vocal exercise to calm any nerves and rock the stage.

"I always do that before I go on stage or before I go in an interview because I honestly believe that she was on to something," she laughed.

Bass's participation with the Miss High School America Organization has been what she describes as phenomenal.

"This title has been unreal. It has been such an amazing opportunity and I'm really grateful," she said.

The experiences have allowed Bass to gain friends all over the United States, which she says, as a teenager, can be helpful. An impactful friendship that has left a lasting impression on Bass is with Kadance Fredericksen from Baker, Fla. Bass met her through the Princess America Organization and sparked a friendship.

"She was one of those friends where we wouldn't talk for a week and then we would talk and it's like we never left," she said. "She would always give me advice, she would coach me. She was a phenomenal friend."

Although Kadance's time on earth was cut short, Baylor is continuing to keep her legacy alive by supporting her non-profit organization Kada's Promise. Kada's Promise



aims to give comfort and support for children who are going through difficult times, whether that be hospitalization, temporary housing in homeless shelters, transitioning into foster care, or even recovering from abuse and trauma by providing comfort through teddy bears. One of her frequent philanthropic efforts is her teddy bear drives, where she delivers teddies to places like the Providence House to bring comfort to kids in our area.



YOUR WEEKEND GETAWAY, UPGRADED

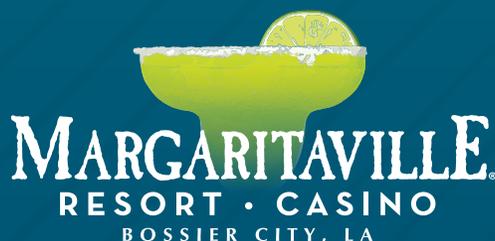
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DISTRICTS

for Work & Play

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EAST BANK



Sip. Play. Eat.

The East Bank District Has Something for Everyone

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 Red River Chevrolet | 10 Frozen Pirogue |
| 2 Bossier Arts Council | 11 Bayou Axe Throwing Co |
| 3 Flying Heart Brewing | 12 Chef's Table |
| 4 Magnolia Mudroom | 13 Sugar Sheaux |
| 5 Antiques Shops | 14 BeauJax Craffhouse |
| 6 El Patio Bar & Grill | 15 Streetcar Station |
| 7 L'Italiano | 16 Berkshire Hathaway Home Services |
| 8 The Plaza | 17 Bossier High School |
| 9 The Seventh Tap | |

The Bossier Innovates Foundation is partnering with the Bossier Chamber of Commerce’s Community Sustainability Committee to elevate the quality of life across Bossier Parish. Their current focus: identifying next steps in elevating and growing the East Bank District — something that can further position the district as a vibrant destination for residents and newcomers alike. Many new businesses have added to the East Bank District’s thriving scene.

A Sweet Tradition for the Whole Family

Streetcar Station has quickly become a favorite spot for snoball and ice cream lovers, and not just in the summer. When asked why the business serves cold treats year-round, owner Erica Gilliam simply says, why not?

“With the Eastbank District being known for a cajun Southern vibe, we think the product and location are a great fit to have year-round,” said Gilliam.

Inspired by the smooth, soft

texture of authentic New Orleans-style snoballs, Gilliam believes these desserts, much like soft serve or frozen yogurt, deserve a place in every season. Born and raised in New Orleans, she knows a true NOLA snoball when she tastes one.

“I’ve spent years perfecting my ice,” she said. “If the ice is shaved right, the flavor doesn’t sink to the bottom and every bite is delicious.”



New to the East Bank District

Magnolia Mudroom is a small, community-focused studio that recently moved to the East Bank District. They are dedicated to offering a space for everyone at all skill levels to be able to create art from clay. They encourage learning from each other without judgment or criticism.

“We want to create a welcoming and inspiring space for all the artists in our community to get together and support each other,” said owner Shera Finney.

Finney is a veteran of the Air Force and works part-time at the Shreveport Regional Airport. She wanted to open a business based on her passion and bringing people together, not focused on making money.

“We wanted to give [Bossier residents] something to do. We have a lot of places to eat up here, but not a lot of places to get together as a community.”



Bossier Arts Council Celebrates 45th Anniversary

For 45 years, the arts have been woven into the fabric of Bossier Parish life — thanks in large part to the Bossier Arts Council (BAC).

Founded to enrich and expand access to the arts, BAC has become a cornerstone of the local community. Its mission is simple yet far-reaching: to create artistic and cultural opportunities that support artists and engage the public. That mission comes to life through free gallery exhibits,

arts education for both hobbyists and professionals, performances at the East Bank Theatre, and shared creative spaces for local artists.

“We aim to connect with the community, the region, the state, and even the world, because art conveys experience, and we all connect with it in our own way,” said former BAC Director Brittainy Pope.



MUNICIPAL

Bossier City-Parish Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) Undertakes New Projects

Proposed Pocket Park Location

Bossier City has a variety of areas for residents to enjoy, but workers are stepping up to break down silos via beautification and innovative ways to unite neighborhoods and districts.

The Bossier City-Parish Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) is undertaking projects to increase green space and the connectivity of areas within the city.

One unique project underway is the city's first-ever pocket park. The MPC was introduced to this concept while attending a national urban planning conference in Minneapolis, Minn.

Creating a pocket park there would give those neighborhood residents a spot to take a break, eat a quick lunch, or play with their children.

Stay updated on these projects by following the Be Bossier Blog at BeBossier.com.

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- 2 Zaxby's
- 3 Bossier Parish Libraries
- 4 Freedom Fields
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- 9 Bossier Farmer's Market
- 10 Pierre Bossier Mall
- 11 Surge Entertainment
- 12 Starbucks





“This gets our students engaged, excited, and participating in the community more than anything else.”



CYBER

Cyber Research Park: Where Innovation Meets the Future

Bossier is the home of the Cyber Innovation Center (CIC), a pioneer in educating the next workforce.

The Cyber Innovation Center

is the anchor of the National Cyber Research Park in Bossier City. CIC serves as an economic engine for the region. Through its efforts, the CIC is diversifying our region's economy by attracting high-tech jobs and creating a knowledge-based economy through innovation.

Bossier Parish Community College

is cultivating the arts and equipping students with skills for the future. Bossier Parish Community College (BPCC) is consistently collaborating with local organizations and growing their award-winning arts programs. In 2024, they partnered with Prize Fest to serve as the Bossier-based screening site for the 2024 Film Prize, a tenant of the 2024 Prize Fest celebration.

“The Prize Fest team knows how to get a crowd motivated, so it makes that energy infectious,” said Jennifer Robison, assistant professor of photography for BPCC and champion of the Prize Fest partnership. “This gets our students engaged, excited, and participating in the community more than anything else.”



BARKSDALE

Powering History & Keeping Legacy Alive

The Barksdale Global Power Museum is home to one of the best collections of historic military aircraft and artifacts ranging from World War I to the modern age of aerial bombardment. In a sense, the museum and adjoining airpark are something of a “time machine” in that visiting the museum takes one back to the early days of the United States Army Air Corps, long before words like “shock and awe” became part of the military jargon for aerial bombardment.

“We are definitely a local gem for the Barksdale community, the local community of Shreveport and Bossier, which are intertwined in so many ways,” says Amy Russell, Director for the Barksdale Global Power Museum, which is one of only 12 official U.S. Air Force Field Museums in the country. “We love to bring people here to tell them a little bit of our history because our history is truly the American story. It’s not just the Air Force story, it’s your story, too.”



More Than a Duty Station— It’s a Community

Barksdale AFB, home of the oldest bomb wing in the Air Force, hosts a dynamic and diverse military community, serving just over 5,000 Active-Duty Airmen, 1,600 Reservists, 5,000 Military Family Members, and 2,600 Civilian Employees.



Living in Bossier

The Northwest Louisiana Military Support Foundation has many resources for Airmen moving to Barksdale.



WEBSITE

Former Barksdale Airmen Who Stay

Barksdale AFB is a vital resource for Bossier. Not only does it contribute to the community as an employer, but it is also a source of potential residents who can use their considerable skills to improve northwest Louisiana.

Aaron Finney is one Airmen who came to Barksdale AFB and decided to lay down roots when he could have gone anywhere.

A native of Minnesota, Aaron started his Air Force career as an aircraft maintainer at Mountain Home AFB, Idaho. He was stationed at Barksdale AFB in 2007 until he retired last year.

When the time came to separate from the military, Aaron wanted to

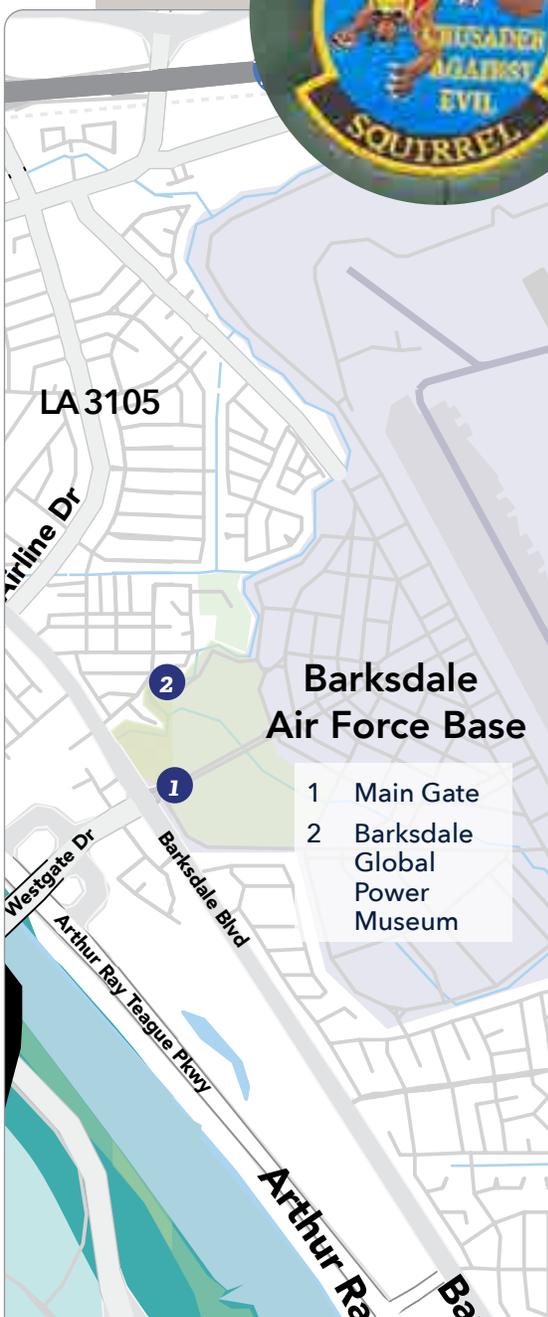
continue what he was doing with the innovation group at the 2nd Bomb Wing.

“I was basing my future around my degree in emergency management. I was looking at DHS, FEMA, the FBI or another government agency,” he said. “I got lucky that the Cyber Innovation Center (CIC), an innovation partner of Air Force Global Strike Command, offered a SkillBridge position that would give me a taste of working in an innovation field until my separation from the Air Force was complete.”

He said the stars aligned when CIC was establishing an Innovation Lab and needed a manager. This scratched his itch to keep finding innovative solutions for the Air Force.



“It not only set the stage for U.S. involvement in Desert Storm but set the template for the long-range strike capability that Air Force Global Strike Command (AFGSC) at Barksdale is tasked with today,”



THE LEGACY: Bossier Veterans Reflect on Operation Secret Squirrel

A drizzle fell one morning in early 1991 as the sound of freedom rumbled down the Barksdale Air Force Base runway. Inside two B-52 Stratofortresses, pilots Russ Mathers and Warren Ward felt the weight of what lay ahead.

“We were scared, but it was drilled into us that we had to do this to perfection,” said Ward. “You’re part of a crew and you function as a single body — it’s a well-oiled machine.”

For months, the pair had trained alongside five other aircrews, enduring endless rehearsals, false starts, and sleepless nights. Bound by secrecy, they balanced duty with family tension, waiting to make history.

“We’re literally standing on the shoulders of the giants who made this thing happen and have innovated today to make it even better,” said Ward.

That day arrived on January 16, 1991. Mathers and Ward — now Bossier City residents — were part of Operation Senior Surprise, better known by its nickname Secret Squirrel.

Their orders: fly halfway around the world, in total radio silence and complete darkness, to strike deep inside Iraq at the very outset of Operation Desert Storm.

The 35-hour flight would set a new world record for the longest combat mission in history, and mark the first combat use of a GPS-guided cruise missile.

“It not only set the stage for U.S. involvement in Desert Storm but set the template for the long-range strike capability that Air Force Global Strike Command (AFGSC) at Barksdale is tasked with today,” said Mathers.





BRIGHT LIGHTS. BIG NAMES. BOSSIER CITY!

From unforgettable shows of the past to the stars of today, Brookshire Grocery Arena has been home to some of the biggest names in entertainment. From icons like Prince and Elton John, to powerhouse voices like Taylor Swift, Reba McEntire, and Garth Brooks, our stage has hosted legends across every genre.

As we celebrate the incredible moments already made, we look forward to welcoming the next generation of unforgettable performances right here in Bossier City — the best is yet to come. With every show, we continue to create memories that bring the community together and inspire the next generation of stars.

TOP OF THE CHARTS

Since opening in 2000, Brookshire Grocery Arena has welcomed over 7 Million guests and has consistently ranked among Pollstar's top arenas, and in 2024 the region was ranked as Top 100 Concert Market in the US. From record-breaking shows in 2024 to continued success in 2025, Bossier City's arena is a proven destination for top tier entertainment.



RIVERFRONT



Brookshire Grocery Arena Celebrates 25 Years as a Premier Entertainment Destination

In 2025, Brookshire Grocery Arena celebrated its 25th anniversary.

They have led Bossier's entertainment scene since it opened in the fall of 2000. The 270,000-square-foot facility features 14,000 seats, 16 luxury suites, a club area with two full-service bars, two food court areas, an exterior deck, a glass concourse overlooking the Red River, and state-of-the-art media.

Standout events in 2025, including Lainey Wilson's Whirlwind Tour and 25th Anniversary Concert, Zach Top's Cold Beer & Country Music Tour, and other high-performing shows, contributed to a strong year of attendance and engagement.

The Arena's elevated standing enhances its visibility with national and international promoters, supporting continued growth and economic

impact for the Bossier City community.

"This arena put our city and region at the forefront of entertainment with 25 years of success," said Tyler Slanovec, general manager of Brookshire Grocery Arena.

Slanovec is leading the arena's team with more than 10 years in the business

across multiple cities. Working in several venues and markets similar to Bossier City, he is happy to be in his current role.

"This is a great venue. For a city the size of Bossier City to have an arena that seats 14,000 is an enormous asset," said Slanovec. "That's also a huge selling point because you can get

Comparing year-end 2024 to year-end 2025, Brookshire Grocery Arena experienced notable gains in ticket sales and overall performance, resulting in a **rise in the rankings to #95 among U.S. venues and #182 worldwide.** This advancement highlights the Arena's expanding impact within the Shreveport-Bossier DMA.

major city capacity in a much more affordable location."



RIVERFRONT

Bossier is full of beautiful wildlife and outdoor opportunities for nature lovers.

Red River National Wildlife Refuge

Tucked away in South Bossier is a literal oasis for outdoor enthusiasts. The Red River National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters lies in the Red River Valley, is rich in plant life, and offers a haven for waterfowl and songbirds. The property was acquired in 2002, and its Headquarters and Education Center opened in early 2012. Visitors can observe various birds, reptiles, and amphibians, and even white-tailed deer. More enthusiastic nature lovers can fish, take a hiking trail, pick pecans and plums, or engage with some of the center's exhibits. You can access the refuge at 150 Eagle Bend Point in Bossier City, just off the Arthur Ray Teague Parkway.

Arthur Ray Teague Running Trailhead

This walking/biking trail is located in South Bossier and spans over six miles alongside the Red River. This trailway first opened in Bossier City in 1999, and since then, many locals have taken advantage of the multi-use trails. If you want to test your endurance, you can begin your journey near Live! Casino and Hotel, and travel down to the Red River Wildlife National Wildlife Refuge. If you want to stop and take a break to enjoy the view, there are numerous covered tables throughout the duration of the trail. If you want to go boating down the Red River, there are a few boat ramps that are for public use for a small fee.



COMMUNITIES

for Life & Leisure

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North Bossier Continues to Flourish and Thrive With New Additions



XO Coffee Co.

Nestled right in the Lagniappe Plaza at 5450 Airline Drive is the latest local gem: XO Coffee Co. Owner Jennifer Hill-Dingler opened the shop with a simple mission: to create a cozy, welcoming space where the community can gather and connect over quality coffee.

“People love coffee, and it just brings people together.

I saw a need for something like this in our area,” Hill-Dingler said. “This area in North Bossier is growing, and after doing my research on different locations, I decided this location would be perfect.”

While XO Coffee Co. is first and foremost a coffee shop, its menu offers so much more than just coffee. Hill-Dingler believes in creating a little something for everyone.



“Being the Mayor of Bossier City is my greatest honor. As we move into a new year, I am excited about the things that lie ahead for our community. Bossier City/ Parish remains one of the fastest growing communities north of Alexandria...Our progress is intentional, team based and driven by passion. In Bossier, we are fortunate to have stakeholders who work together and are not only forward thinking but forward moving.”

- Bossier City Mayor Thomas H. Chandler



Tornado Coffee Company Adds to Bossier’s Growing Café Scene

Daniel Moore, co-owner of Tornado Coffee Company in Bossier City, has followed his passion from one “L.A.” to another “LA.” Having spent most of his life in Los Angeles, he moved to northwest Louisiana to open his own café.

“My mission is to bring specialty coffee to this area,” Moore said. “I know what good coffee tastes like, and I want to offer that to north Louisiana.”

Tornado Coffee Company is a new, vibrant addition to Bossier City’s café scene with an approach focused on quality and adding creativity to your daily coffee ritual. Serving handcrafted coffee, espresso drinks, teas, and a rotating menu of bites all made with quality ingredients and care, Tornado Coffee offers a new spot to fuel up for the workday, grab a snack, or unwind on the weekend.

A resident of Benton, Daniel loves the north Bossier area and Tornado Coffee’s location on

the new extension on Swan Lake Road. He said it works for them because as more drivers avoid traffic and congestion on major thoroughfares, more houses are being built with new businesses following.

“It’s a prime spot to be in with new rooftops going up,” Moore said.



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SoBo Breaks Barriers and Trailblazes

There's a new sports team in town, and it's a first for the South Bossier Community. The Black Widows are an all-girls flag football team of Elm Grove Middle School students.

With Head Coach Nekia Yeglic, Defensive Coordinator Latorya Green, and Assistant Coaches Adam Green and Kurvis Sharp, they aren't just teaching the game; they are offering up valuable life lessons, creating friendships, and helping young girls realize their potential.

When asked what her favorite part of coaching is, Yeglic shares that it's truly the team building and camaraderie

of it all. Each girl on the team tried something new with new people and have since then created a family. They are able to develop new skills, make a great play or catch all by putting in the hard work and practice with their team, but most importantly, care for their fellow player.



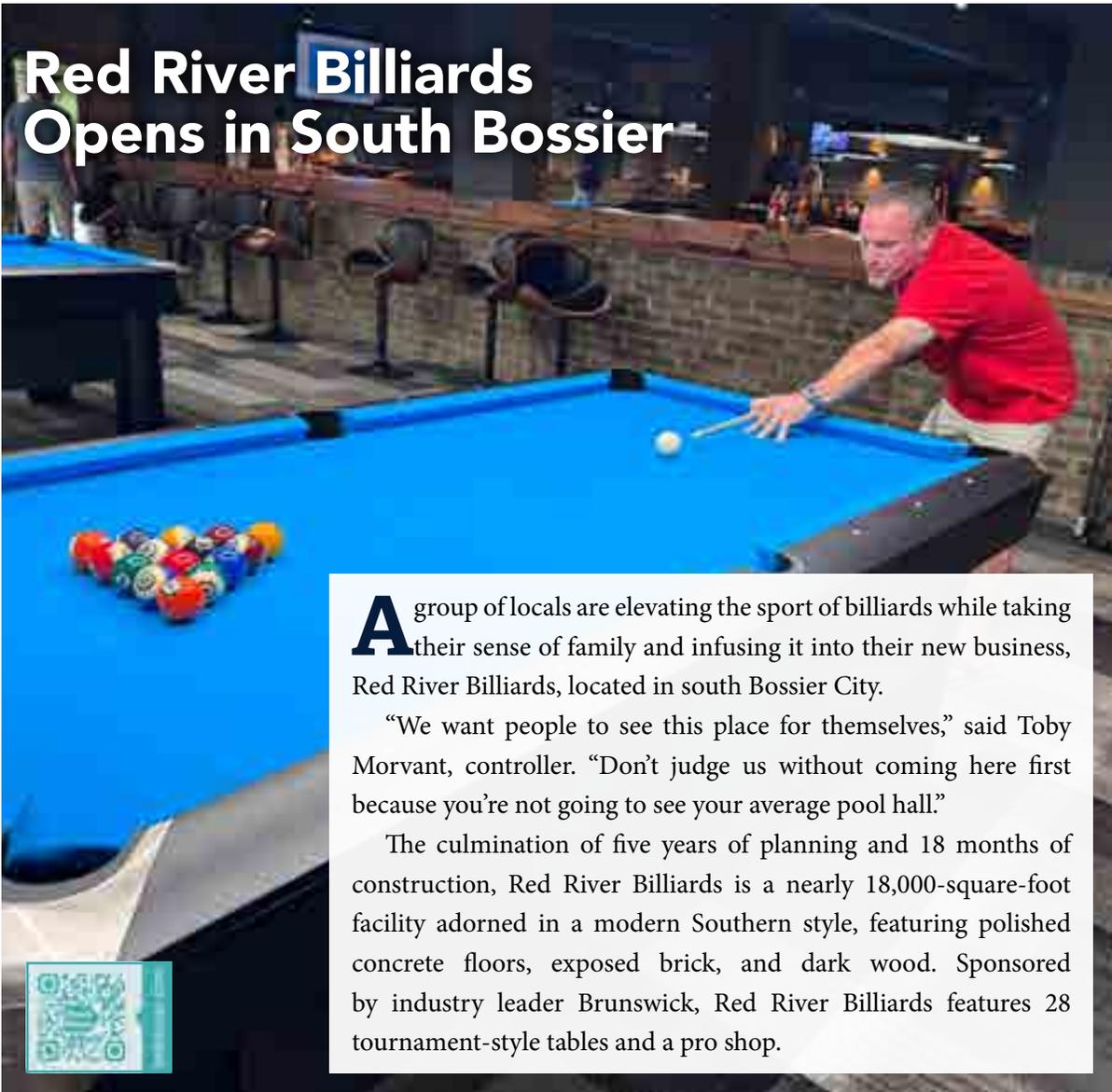


"As we commit to being 'business friendly' and welcome new businesses, we are committed to supporting our existing businesses as we build the new...It has been said that without investment there will be no growth, without growth there will be no employment. This is truly a great time to be in Bossier City. The best is yet to come and as we grow, we invite you to...

Come grow with us."

- Bossier City Mayor Thomas H. Chandler

Red River Billiards Opens in South Bossier



A group of locals are elevating the sport of billiards while taking their sense of family and infusing it into their new business, Red River Billiards, located in south Bossier City.

"We want people to see this place for themselves," said Toby Morvant, controller. "Don't judge us without coming here first because you're not going to see your average pool hall."

The culmination of five years of planning and 18 months of construction, Red River Billiards is a nearly 18,000-square-foot facility adorned in a modern Southern style, featuring polished concrete floors, exposed brick, and dark wood. Sponsored by industry leader Brunswick, Red River Billiards features 28 tournament-style tables and a pro shop.



Benton is the parish seat for Bossier and has become a hub for new businesses to establish roots and flourish.

The **Benton Boutique**, named after its host town, is a 3,000-square-foot boutique unique in the sense that not just one vendor sells their product, but rather over 30 local vendors sell various items from clothes to home decor and even homemade tasty treats. Duane Blake,



co-owner of Bagel Boss Lady, sells his products as a vendor at the Benton Boutique. He is thankful for this opportunity that allows people to shop local.

“Without those people to shop local, we wouldn’t be here,” Blake said.

“The fact that there’s an opportunity for people to shop local, for all of these people, all these

vendors, to be able to showcase their product, their work, their livelihood, and share them with the local community is amazing.”



Benton has brought many opportunities for local small business owners. A new supermarket has just launched in Benton, and it’s bringing all the flavors from East Asia to the local community.

Hong Kong Asian Market, a vision put together by two brothers, offers more than just groceries—it shares culture, purpose, and a personal passion.

After searching for different locations, Dong and his business partner settled on opening the Hong Kong Asian Market right in Bossier Parish when an opportunity came through for a market located in Benton.



The location for an Asian market in Bossier Parish also seemed to fill a need for the area as Dong explained, “Close to here, around here maybe there’s not a lot of Asian markets, so we opened it here...”





New Branding and Sweet Beginnings

The growth in Benton has inspired many, including Benton's newly rebranded **Sweetfern Coffee**, formerly known as SoBo Cold Brew. Kick off the morning with one of their comforting breakfast bites. Try a cold brew or a drink from the espresso bar, and indulge in their cookies and homemade cheesecake.



The best part is that when you support this small business, you can also support other local small businesses by exploring their Small Business Corner, which features a wide range of products, including jewelry, clothing, home decor, and more. They also have room for meetings and parties. This is one cozy spot in Benton where you can sit and stay a while.



“This is a good town with beautiful, historic homes. We have an excellent police department, so the town is safe. There are very few towns where you can take a walk at night and feel safe.”

- Benton Mayor James Friday

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Don't miss these Haughton highlights and places to visit

Haughton is one of the fastest-growing communities in Bossier Parish. As the mayor of Haughton, Hunter Timms has made it his priority to keep the community growing and thriving.

“The desire to affect positive change hasn’t left me, and I didn’t realize that until this opportunity to serve my community,” he said.

For visitors, Haughton offers a mix of outdoor beauty, local flavor, and small-town experiences such as outdoor escapes to enjoy a peaceful walk and watch the wildlife, local history and

architecture, unique flavors from local eateries, and fun for the whole family.

While these Haughton highlights are a great way to slow down, relax, and get back in touch with your family and yourself, it’s just a start. Haughton blends outdoor charm with Southern hospitality, offering small-town living with big-city conveniences just a short drive away. Its unique flair and history always leave something to explore.

Take a Trip Around Mahaffey Farms

This family-owned sustainable farm is known for grass-fed beef, pasture-raised pork, and fresh seasonal produce. Mahaffey Farms stocks its own store with meats, eggs, honey, and veggies for future meals, while offering the chance to see live farm animals up close and learn about how farming can be sustainable. Since it is a working farm, opening times may vary, so check their website/social media for hours.



End the Day with Dinner at H Latin

This is a unique food spot offering a mix of authentic Latin flavors with a modern twist, creating an experience that feels both familiar and fresh. Beyond the food, H Latin focuses heavily on atmosphere and hospitality — making sure people feel at home, whether they’re coming in for a quick lunch, a celebration, or just to unwind with friends.

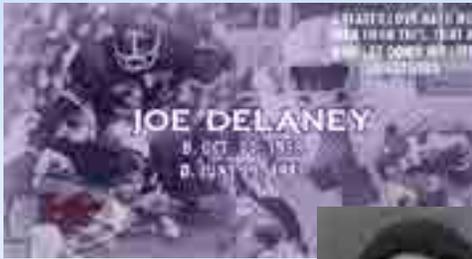
“It’s not just a meal, it’s an experience,” said Javier Ochoa, owner of restaurant H Latin. “H Latin is the community’s restaurant. We’re here to serve, celebrate, and grow with Haughton. Our goal is to always listen, give back, and make sure you feel the warmth of good food, good service, and good company.”



"People are so proud to live here because of the small-town values. Haughton is going to grow, and that's important, but it's equally important to keep the values that made Haughton what it is. We got something good going and everyone else sees that, too."

- Haughton Mayor Hunter Timms

Unwind in Joe Delaney Memorial Park



This community park is perfect for families with ample space to play catch, take a walk, and/or let the kids loose on the playground. Walking paths and shaded areas offer a nice place to let lunch settle and get some energy out before continuing your day. The park is a beautiful tribute to its namesake — Joe Delaney, a Haughton native and NFL player who tragically lost his life saving children from drowning. The park serves as a great way to serve the community and remember this local hero.





"I grew up here, I want the town to be what it used to be — bustling with multiple companies. But it's baby steps. The sooner we get new things in, the sooner it will pick up. We are getting new people coming in, thanks to the sawmill and new local businesses like a thrift store."

- Plain Dealing Mayor James Cook

Thrive with Lion Pride: Get to Know the Plain Dealing High Principal

When Jason Edwards took the reins as principal of Plain Dealing High School, it felt a little like home for him. The Doyline High School graduate may have spent many years at the Benton High School campus, but he grew up and graduated from a K-12 campus much like Plain Dealing, not too far away in Webster Parish.

"Thrive with Lion Pride," is his official motto for his new home school and he wears a smile every time he says it.

His vision is to create unparalleled education opportunities in Plain Dealing. And he's already implementing strategies ahead of the coming school year to get it done. Everything they do



will be geared to the student, from academics to athletics.

"I will listen to what they want us to bring," Edwards said. "I want to make sure every student feels they have something for them."

And each student, will be known by name and not as a number. That is a true benefit of having a smaller campus in Plain Dealing: an inherent ability to individualize the school experience.



Kelly Pharmacy - the Oldest Family-Owned Business in Plain Dealing

The Town of Plain Dealing has grown and changed over its 100-plus years, but one thing has remained constant: Its strong sense of community.

Residents take pride in the town's small-town charm and slower pace of life. Among them is Pat Boggs, owner of Kelly Pharmacy, who has spent his life in Plain Dealing and is grateful for the quality of life it offers.

"The community has been very good to me and my family," he said.

Boggs' grandfather purchased the pharmacy in the late 1940s, moving it from a small building across the street into the familiar two-story structure it occupies today — a classic pharmacy with the storefront downstairs and an office above.

Boggs, the youngest grandchild, was the only

one to follow in his grandfather's footsteps by attending pharmacy school. After graduating, he returned home and purchased the business in 1987. Since then, Kelly Pharmacy has grown substantially, with Boggs noting that the number of prescriptions filled has more than doubled since he took over.

Inspired by his grandfather's dedication to the community, Boggs was motivated to continue the family legacy.

"It's fulfilling to help people when they need it, and it's rewarding when people come back and let you know that you did help them," he said.

Kelly Pharmacy remains one of a small group of local businesses thriving in Plain Dealing. Boggs attributes their success to consistency and presence.





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