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Kinion Bankston - Tangipahoa Tourism

Kinion Bankston is the owner of Southern Boyz Store in Ponchatoula and a renowned social media broadcaster with millions of followers. Southern Boyz Outdoors sells a variety of hunting and cooking equipment. Recognized as a top retailer on Amazon.com, Kinion shares insights on how he achieved this success. As the face of Southern Boyz Outdoors, he leads a team of outdoor enthusiasts from Southeast Louisiana who document their adventures and promote the region's vibrant outdoor culture. Through their television, internet, and social media content, they showcase Southern Louisiana's lifestyle, from hunting to fishing and more.



Damian Chapman - Visit Shreveport-Bossier

Selected as a 2023 Louisianian of the Year, 2024 Restaurantier of the Year and a Chef to Watch in 2024, Damien R.L. Chapman is a proud citizen of Shreveport, Louisiana. He is the 5th generation chef and owner of the historic Orlandeaux's Café, a 103 year old Creole restaurant on Cross Lake in Caddo Parish. He currently reigns as the King XXV of the Krewe of Harambee, as he strives to spread the Carnival cheer while supporting charitable organizations. HOrlandeaux's Café is recognized as the continued legacy of the oldest continuously operating African-American family owned restaurant in the United States.



Mark Falgout - Lafayette Travel

Mark Falgout is an entrepreneur in the world of entertainment and cultural events. Falgout co-founded the Blue Moon Saloon & Guesthouse in 2001, and became its sole owner in 2005. The Blue Moon Saloon has become one of Lafayette's premier roots music venues. This world famous honky tonk is a home-grown place where all kinds and sizes are welcome, the Saloon is more than a venue or a gig. It has become a meeting place where world travelers, community organizations, families, artists and politicians rub elbows, dance, drink a few and thank their lucky stars they have the good fortune to spend an evening together in Lafayette, Louisiana.



Eddie Kennison, III - Visit Baton Rouge

A native of Lake Charles, Louisiana, Eddie Kennison has had an outstanding football career as a wide receiver. Starting at LSU, Kennison was a first round draft pick by the St. Louis Rams in 1996. Later he went to play with the New Orleans Saints, Chicago Bears and Kansas City Chiefs where he retired after 13 years in 2010. Kennison was also noted sprinter in college, where he was a six-time All-America selection. He led the LSU Tigers track and field 4x100-meter relay team to the 1994 NCAA Outdoor Championship. Kennison is the former director of player development for LSU Football and now serves as senior account executive for LSU Sports Properties.

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Christian Serpas - Visit The Northshore

Christian Serpas is the charismatic frontman of Christian Serpas & Ghost Town, a band that mixes honky tonk lyrics with scorching rock 'n' roll guitars to create their unique brand of Americana music. For 25 years, Ghost Town has been rocking the Gulf South with their high-energy, boot-stomping performances, earning a reputation as one of the region's best live acts. With eight albums of original, memorable songs and rip-roaring takes on country and rock classics, the band has played nearly 2,000 shows across iconic venues from Austin to Nashville. Christian Serpas & Ghost Town have graced the stages of major festivals across Louisiana.



Waylon Thibodeaux - Explore Houma

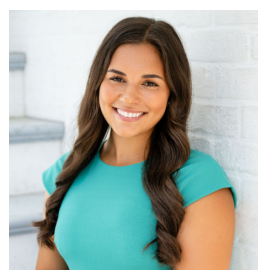
Houma native Waylon Thibodeaux, known as "Louisiana's Rockin' Fiddler," is a master of Cajun music and a proud native of Houma, Louisiana. With a career spanning decades, Waylon has become a beloved figure in the world of Cajun and zydeco music, captivating audiences with his energetic performances and masterful fiddling. His talent has earned him a spot in the Louisiana Music Hall of Fame, and he continues to share the rich musical traditions of Louisiana's Bayou Country with audiences around the world. On his albums, Thibodeaux performs in both English and French.

Louisiana Riders



Emmie Addamus - Louisiana Office of the First Lady

Emmie Addamus is a seasoned communications professional currently serving as the Director of Communications & Outreach at the Office of the First Lady, Louisiana Governor's Mansion. A proud graduate of Mississippi College with a policy certification from Harvard, she has held prominent roles with the Louisiana Travel Association and the Louisiana Department of Justice. Outside of work, Emmie is a newlywed and runs a digital art company, Flights of Fancy, and teaches 5th grade Sunday school at her church.



Leiton LeBlanc - Former Breaux Bridge Crawfish Festival Queen, Fiddler

Leiton LeBlanc is the Director of Media Relations at Lafayette Travel. She is a graduate from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and is a proud resident of Breaux Bridge. In the third grade, she began playing the fiddle and singing and dancing to Cajun music. Her deep appreciation for Cajun culture got her into pageantry. She reigned most recently as the 2022 Breaux Bridge Crawfish Queen and 2023 Louisiana Association of Fairs and Festivals Queen. When she isn't promoting Lafayette Parish, she enjoys practicing & playing music with her band "The Jo-Genes."

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Catherine Elizabeth Owen - 74th Ozone Camellia Festival Queen

Catherine Elizabeth Owen is a senior at Northshore High School and has maintained a 4.5 GPA while taking all honors and advanced placement classes. She is a fourth-year member serving as senior lieutenant on her high school dance team, The Silverbelles, and a United Dance Association All American. Catherine is a leader at her school serving as an officer on Ambassadors, an officer on National Beta Club, and an officer on National Honor Society. She is also a member of Mu Alpha Theta Honor Society, the Semester Plus Club, and the Thirty Plus Club.

For more information about Louisiana's participation in the Rose Parade, visit ExploreLouisiana.com/Rose-Parade or contact Louisiana Office of Tourism Director of Communications Jennifer Berthelot at jberthelot@crt.la.gov.

