

WLAE-TV is a trusted multi-media resource offering quality, values-based content and outreach increasing awareness of inspirational, cultural and educational services that positively impact the lives of the people of Southeast Louisiana.



WE WERE THERE

In the overnight hours of January 1, 2025, a terrorist attack on Bourbon Street took place killing 14 people and injuring many others. That morning, a Mass at St. Louis Cathedral was held to pray for the victims, and **WLAE Was There**.

Four days later, the Archdiocese of New Orleans held an Interfaith Prayer Service at St. Louis Cathedral with President Joe Biden and Dr. Jill Biden in attendance along with clergy and leaders of other faiths to come together and pray for peace and hope in our city. Once again, **We Were There**, live on the air and streaming online serving as the production team and pool feed for all of the commercial stations broadcasting the event.



"WLAE had a significant role in sharing this important interfaith service with the New Orleans community, and viewers must surely appreciate having had access to this special event."

Katherine Arno

Vice President, Community Service Grants and Station Initiatives
Corporation for Public Broadcasting

And when the call came to offer resources in the community for citizens struggling with fear and anxiety stemming from the attack, **WLAE Was There** with a special episode of the Coping Today series offering safety tips and security measures for protection during acts of terrorism.

WLAE... We Were There and We Are There when the community needs us most!



LET IT SNOW!

I was too young to remember the snowfall in New Orleans from December of 1963, but I will never forget the record-breaking snow event from this past January.

Who would have believed over a foot of snow in places like Metairie and Chalmette? It was a winter wonderland on the Northshore and on the beaches of the Gulf Coast. The historic buildings of the French Quarter and St. Louis Cathedral were covered with fresh white powder. The city was filled with young and old alike snowboarding and sledding down the levees by Lake Pontchartrain and the Mississippi River. There was even an ex-hockey player skating on the frozen roads of Canal Street.

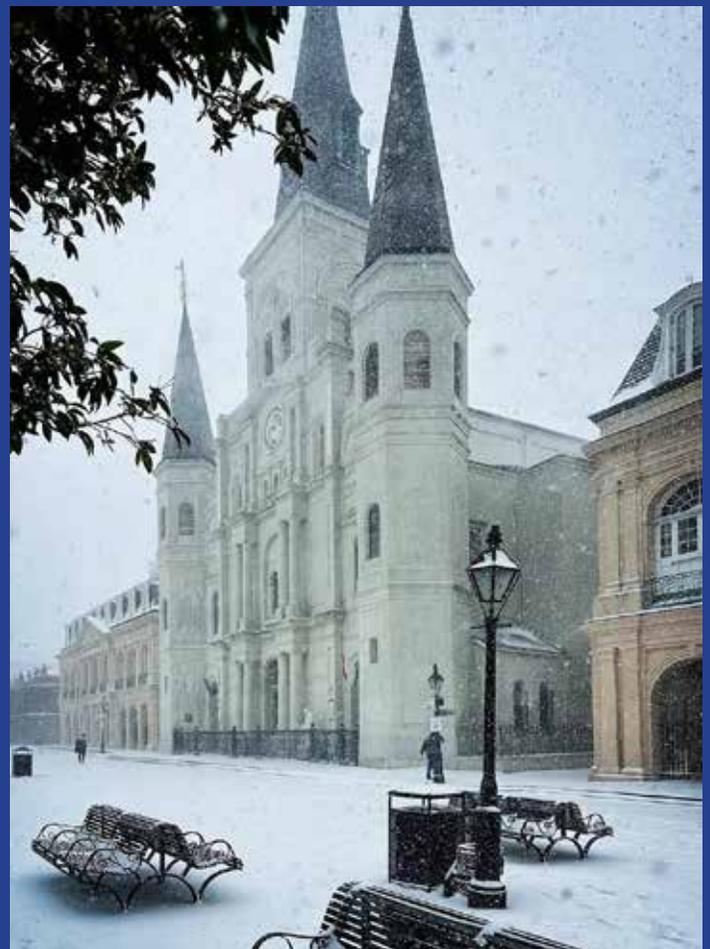
For an entire day, it was magical! Then it wasn't.

As the snow began to melt, roadways turned to ice. Interstates and bridges over waterways were closed. Schools and businesses remained shut down for days and traffic was a mess.

This once-in-a-lifetime snowstorm was more than the city could handle. There is a reason that we all live in the South. And I certainly won't be dreaming of a White Christmas anytime soon.

Please, Mother Nature, bring back the heat and humidity, and I promise that I won't complain! But for that one day, the NOLA snow day sure was fun!

**by Ron Yager, President,
WLAE-TV**





MORGIANE

Once again in 2025, WLAE partnered with the Historic New Orleans Collection and the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra to live stream and broadcast this year's edition of "Musical Louisiana," presenting the long-awaited world premiere of New Orleanian Edmond Dédé's **Morgiane** (1887).

This historic composition remains the earliest known surviving full-length opera written by a Black American composer. Lauded for works that transformed some of France's most popular stages, Dédé packed a variety of musical genres into **Morgiane**, which has remained a hidden gem for over a century and yet to be heard—until now.

Morgiane tells a tale of vengeance, truth, and reconciliation that begins when a young couple's wedding day is disrupted by the sultan's desire for the bride. When the bride's family seeks revenge, a shocking revelation comes to light, leading to a path of forgiveness.

"Morgiane is the most important piece of American music that no one has ever heard.... The American musical community has been deprived of this masterpiece for over 130 years; it is high time that Dédé and his music take their rightful place in the American musical canon."

Patrick Dupre Quigley
NBC Nightly News





The George Rodrigue Foundation of the Arts has created a limited edition of 225 silkscreen Blue Dog prints titled *I'm A Movie Star*. The image, printed on chrome paper, measures 21 by 26 inches and is estate stamped, numbered and comes with a certificate of authenticity.

TO ORDER YOUR PRINT, VISIT
wlae.com/rodriguebluedogfilm.

I'M A MOVIE STAR!

Blue: The Life and Art of George Rodrigue continues to garner worldwide recognition. The program won awards in 16 international film festivals, received a national 2025 Telly Award for Best Documentary, and a Suncoast Emmy Award for Best Cultural Documentary. In May, the film was featured in an article published in The Wall Street Journal and in June, **Blue** was distributed by American Public Television to 97% of stations nationwide.

The film is currently being shopped for international distribution in countries where George Rodrigue was popular, including Canada, France, Germany and Japan.

"Through never-before-seen visuals, candid interviews with family and admirers like Emeril Lagasse and Drew Brees, the film showcases how Dad elevated Cajun culture and Southern life for audiences worldwide. I believe it beautifully illustrates the unique spirit of Louisiana."

Jacques Rodrigue

Son of George Rodrigue

wlae

BLUE

THE LIFE AND ART OF GEORGE RODRIGUE

2025 Suncoast Emmy Award
 Best Documentary-Cultural

2025
 SUNCOAST EMMYS®

48TH ANNUAL
 SILVER
 WINNER
 The Arts Awards

2025 Caravel International Film Festival
 New Orleans Film Festival
 Amsterdam New Cinema Fest
 IndiaX Film Fest
 Asian Talent Film Fest
 Bangkok Movie Awards
 Cannes World Film Festival
 Niagara Canada International Film Festival



Al Scramuzza THE CRAWFISH KING

In May 2025, WLAE's documentary, **Al Scramuzza: The Crawfish King**, received national recognition in The Wall Street Journal when the iconic 97 year-old died.

The film tells the fascinating story of the popular New Orleans businessman's journey from rags to riches, to bankruptcy, and ultimate salvation as a spiritual mentor and lifesaver to thousands of lost souls.

Scramuzza also gave back to the community by coaching and mentoring thousands of youngsters at New Orleans neighborhood parks and youth sports programs, inspiring young athletes to win countless championship trophies over more than three decades.

Al Scramuzza: The Crawfish King can be viewed on WLAE's YouTube channel @wlaetv.

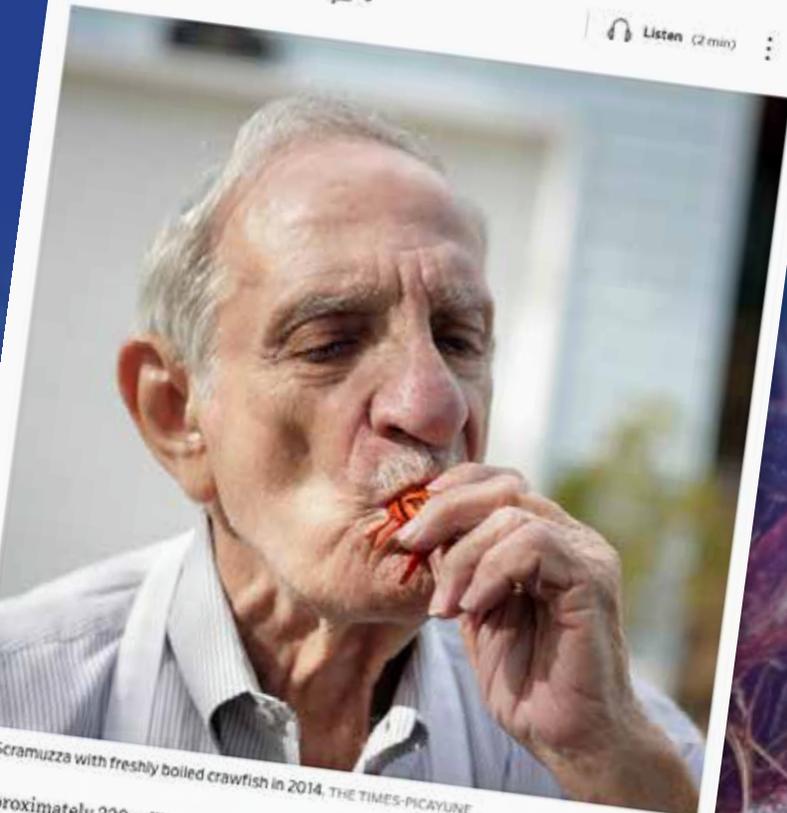
Al Scramuzza, the 'Crawfish King' and a New Orleans Folk Hero, Dies at 97

After retiring from the seafood business at 66, he threw himself into mentoring children and rescuing addicts

By Jon Moadlem [Follow](#)
May 21, 2025 10:00 am ET

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[Listen](#) (2 min)



"This is a great story about crawfish, trials, tribulations, and redemption. It's a tale seasoned to perfection about New Orleans' own, Al Scramuzza."

Rene Michel

Establishing Shot Productions

"I watched last night. It was great! Al coached my kids at Bright Playground and is quite a character. Thank you for recognizing him with this show!"

Barbara Roll Storms

WLAE Viewer

Scramuzza with freshly boiled crawfish in 2014, THE TIMES-PICAYUNE

approximately 330 million years ago, a creature completely devoid of charisma called
crawfish evolved to live inconspicuously in the mud at the bottom of the bay
approximately 329,999 million years ago





Michalopoulos

THE ART OF CELEBRATION

A New Documentary Film
from WLAE & 6th Street Studios

PREMIERING ON PUBLIC TELEVISION
NATIONWIDE IN SPRING 2026

wlae.com/Michalopoulos



CELEBRATING ART

By Jim Dotson, 6th Street Studios

The competition was fierce to get into the Oscar-qualifying 2025 New Orleans Film Festival, one of the largest in the United States. Of 3,700 submissions from 125 countries, only 133 films were selected: 27 feature films (16 documentaries, 11 narrative features) and 106 short films, so it is a major accomplishment to be accepted. But wait—there's more!

WLAE & 6th Street Studios is proud to announce that ***Michalopoulos: The Art of Celebration*** was named the **official opening night film** for the 2025 New Orleans Film Festival.

Our red carpet premiere was held at the Mahalia Jackson Theatre for the Performing Arts on Thursday, October 23, and the film was streamed by thousands of patrons as part of the virtual Film Festival. The WLAE and LPB broadcast premieres were simulcast in December with nationwide public television premieres beginning in Spring 2026.

To learn more about the film, view the brochure, photos, the film trailer and press coverage, visit:

wlae.com/Michalopoulos or contact jim@wlae.com or **504-415-0952**.



Sean O'Malley, director, Jim Dotson, executive producer, artist James Michalopoulos and Ron Yager, executive producer, celebrating the premiere of WLAE's documentary film, "Michalopoulos: The Art of Celebration" at the 2025 New Orleans Film Festival.



Willwoods Board Chair Kenny Martinez and Peter Finney, Jr., 2025 Servus Fidelis Recipient



Anthony Prados, Olivia Fried

RECOGNIZING SERVICE, ACHIEVEMENT AND DEDICATION

WLAE-TV and our parent company, The Willwoods Community gathered for our annual gala at Metairie Country Club on a balmy April evening. Peter Finney, Jr., executive editor and general manager of the Clarion Herald, was honored and received the Servus Fidelis Award for his many years of excellence in journalism and service to others within the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

WLAE chief engineer, Tom O'Connor, was honored for his leadership and dedication to the station as he retired after a 38-year career, and Olivia Fried and Anthony Prados, both graduating seniors from De La Salle High School, were recognized for their academic achievements, leadership and service to others.



Tom O'Connor



Tasteful Texan

The station had a celebrity stop by the studio when country music star Lyle Lovett visited **Let's Talk with Keith Spera**. Lovett is an always-dapper Grammy-winning singer, songwriter and actor who was in town for a concert at Tipitina's. He was a gracious guest and stayed after the show to tell stories and take pictures with the crew.

A Well-Earned Retirement

Since 1987, WLAE engineer Tom O'Connor has been a staple at the television station. Over his 38 year career, he has worked on literally thousands of productions including the papal visit of Pope John Paul II, Endymion Parades, Tuition Auctions, Daily Mass at St. Louis Cathedral and too many studio productions to mention.



Tom has also been instrumental in keeping the station on the air with his many responsibilities at the transmitter and tower site in Chalmette. He also helped guide the station through the FCC Re-Pack and our recent transition to the ATSC 3.0 frequency. This spring, Tom is retiring from WLAE after a successful broadcasting career. They don't make engineers like Tom anymore and he will surely be missed. Congrats Tom on your well-earned retirement!



ST. LOUIS CATHEDRAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

For the holiday season, WLAE partnered with the Archdiocese of New Orleans to live stream and broadcast the annual Christmas Concert from historic St. Louis Cathedral. The concert featured a full orchestra and the Concert Choir of the Cathedral-Basilica of St. Louis King of France. The concert was free and open to the public.

Under the musical direction of Sarah Jane McMahon Briscoe and Jesse Reeks, the program tells the story of the Nativity through traditional Christmas carols such as "O Come, All Ye Faithful," "O Holy Night," "Ave Maria," "What Child Is This?," "Silent Night," "Joy to the World," and Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus," among others.

"We look forward to this concert all year," said Sarah Jane McMahon Briscoe, director of Sacred Music at St. Louis Cathedral. "Sharing these beloved and familiar songs with both parishioners and visitors from around the world is a beautiful reminder of the hope and joy of the season."



Throughout each month WLAE produces several local programs with content educating viewers on topics including health, crime, housing, sports, faith and local news & events.



Inside New Orleans Sports

A weekly live sports show covering Saints, Pelicans, LSU, Tulane & Prep Sports with members of the local media.



Affordable Housing Matters

Hosted by award-winning journalist Norman Robinson, this program offers viewers discussion and resources on all aspects of Affordable Housing in the metro New Orleans area.



Coping Today

This program offers viewers weekly tips on how to cope in this ever-changing world and features interviews with various University of Holy Cross counseling experts across a wide scope of mental health issues. This program celebrated its 100th episode in August of 2023.



Daily Mass

Live from Historic St. Louis Cathedral on weekdays & Sundays and from the Basilica of St. Stephen on Saturdays.



Faith & Marriage Today

Jason Angelette and Lisa Flood highlight the latest in local Catholic news with interviews and discussion topics.



Let's Talk with Keith Spera

Weekly program where the NOLA.com and Times-Picayune journalist invites viewers to sit in on his conversations. His more casual approach – you'll never see him in a coat and tie – is substantive, not stuffy, which allows subjects to relax and open up about themselves, what they do and why. It's fresh talk with insights, attributes and anecdotes.

Thanks To Our Partners

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(Msgr. Christopher Nalty)

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