

The Weekly Press

SERVING BAKER, CENTRAL, AND ZACHARY

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20-26, 2022

A PEOPLE'S PUBLICATION

VOL. 45 • NO.20 • FREE

NEWS PAGE 3

CONGRESSMAN TROY CARTER ANNOUNCES \$2.6 BILLION IN FUNDING FOR LOUISIANA

NEWS PAGE 5

BRCC, EXXONMOBIL PARTNERING TO TACKLE LABOR SHORTAGE

BR community activist Gary Chambers says he'll challenge Kennedy for Senate



Gary Chambers

BATON ROUGE, La. — Baton Rouge community activist Gary Chambers says he'll enter this year's Senate race in Louisiana against first-term incumbent John Kennedy, becoming the second Democrat to announce a challenge to the Republican.

Luke Mixon, a former Navy pilot, announced plans to run against Kennedy in October.

Chambers ran for Congress in 2021, campaigning to replace Cedric Richmond, who left his 2nd District seat to join the Biden administration. With a campaign making use of social media, and with less money than his opponents, Chambers had a strong third-place showing but just missed a runoff that was eventually won by Democrat Troy Carter of New Orleans.

In announcing his candidacy this week, Chambers outlined policies including support for President Joe Biden's Build Back Better plan, advocacy for voting rights and for a "Medicare for all" national health plan.

In Kennedy, the two Democrats face someone who has proven popular with voters, a former elected state treasurer endorsed by former President Donald Trump in a state Trump carried with 58% of the vote in 2020. Kennedy had \$9.7 million in campaign cash as of last fall, according to

See CHAMBERS, on page 3

OTHER STORIES ONLINE



WEATHER

MON. 01/24
PM Pain
High 55°.

TUE. 01/25
Partly Cloudy
High 61°.

WED. 01/26
Mostly Sunny
High 52°.

THUR. 01/27
Mostly Sunny
High 51°.

INDEX

State & Local	2 & 3
Religion	4
Church Ditory	4
Business	5
Business Directory	5
Classifieds	5
Other News	6

Gov. Edwards announces taskforce to tackle growing litter problems

"Simple things like always bagging your trash, reducing your reliance on single use plastics, and picking up trash you see near your home or business or in your community will go a long way towards improving our state."

— Gov. John Bel Edwards

BATON ROUGE, La. — Nearly a year after 81 tons of trash were exposed in a wetland behind LSU's Burden Garden, Gov. John Bel Edwards used it as a backdrop to highlight the litter problem plaguing Louisiana.

Gov. Edwards, Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser, East Baton Rouge Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome, and several other government officials visited the litter swamp for the first time Tuesday, Jan. 18. The governor announced he was creating a task force to try and curb the amount of litter landing on the streets and in the state's waterways.

"This is government, this is local government, this is the private sector, this is nonprofits, it's all of us coming together to identify problems, so that we can get a report by July 1, 2022," said Edwards.

The taskforce, made up of



Gov. Edwards, Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser, East Baton Rouge Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome, and several other government officials visited the litter swamp for the first time Tuesday.

"This is government, this is local government, this is the private sector, this is nonprofits, it's all of us coming together to identify problems, so that we can get a report by July 1, 2022," said Edwards.

— Gov. John Bel Edwards

on education to teach folks how to properly dispose of trash.

"We as individuals also have the power to reduce the amount of garbage that makes its way into Louisiana's waterways, storm drains, and streets," said Edwards. "Simple things like always bagging your trash, reducing your reliance on single use plastics, and picking up trash you see near your home or business or in your community will go a long way towards improving our state. When it comes to eradicating our litter problem and keeping Louisiana clean and beautiful, we all have a role to play."

The 81 tons of litter behind the Burden Gardens will also be a topic of discussion.

Constantin and Mayor Broome said the funding is on the way to clean the wetlands, but they could not offer a firm timeline. Clean up is estimated to be in the millions of dollars.



Constantin and Mayor Broome said the funding is on the way to clean the wetlands, but they could not offer a firm timeline. Clean up is estimated to be in the millions of dollars.

26 members, will make recommendations directly to the governor. They will look at plans like Marie Constantin's. Constantin is a founding member of the Louisiana Stormwater Coalition and will serve on the task force. She is proposing a statewide stormwater fee to fund equipment like booms to stop trash from entering waterways.

"Storm water management programs take care of litter on the streets, we call it A, and litter in the watershed, we call that B," said Constantin. "It gives you money to advocate permanent funding. We've never had permanent funding to deal with litter on the streets."

The taskforce will also focus



Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser

Baton Rouge district judge found dead in Baker home

BAKER, La. — Known for his ability to unify those in his community, the sudden death of 19th Judicial District Judge Christopher R. Dassau took everyone he knew by surprise.

"It's just a great loss to the city of Baker," said Baker Police Chief Carl Dunn.

Baker Police Department officers found Judge Christopher Dassau dead inside his home on Sunday, Jan. 16.

Dunn said after several failed attempts to get in touch with their loved one, Dassau's family asked Baker police to do a welfare check on his home.

"We got here and didn't get any answers at the door. So, we

contacted the fire department and asked them to assist us in gaining entry into the house. And, we found the judge inside unresponsive," added Dunn.

Police said foul play is not suspected at this time.

His alma mater, Southern University Law School, put out a statement honoring his legacy on Sunday night, Jan. 16, followed by others including the mayors of Baker and East Baton Rouge Parish.

But as a judge for the 19th JDC, Judge Dassau leaves a vacant seat for several important cases, and questions about what will happen to those and who will take his seat remain in the air.

"It won't be a quick process;



19th Judicial District Judge Christopher R. Dassau

it'll be months and months... I mean who knows," said District Attorney

It is with great regret and sadness that I learned today of the passing of Judge Christopher R. Dassau. His honorable service and dedication throughout his career to the City of Baker, East Baton Rouge Parish and the State of Louisiana will be deeply missed. He was not only a respected colleague but a true friend. My deepest sympathies are with his family and loved ones today. — Baker Mayor Damell Waites



Baker Mayor Damell Waites

Hillar Moore.

Moore said Dassau had already made arrangements to have his seat filled temporarily this week.

"He had already planned to be off this week, and a magistrate judge is taking his place. So, things

will run as normally as they can, and I know that the judges at the 19th, as difficult as the situation is, they're going to probably fill in as they need to," continued Moore.

See JUDGE, on page 3



WE HAVE THE TOOLS TO FIGHT OMICRON

As the Omicron variant continues to spread, we must remember that we have more tools than ever to slow the spread of COVID-19.

If you are not yet vaccinated, you are unprotected. Vaccines protect you against severe outcomes from COVID-19, like hospitalization and death. According to data from the CDC, unvaccinated people are 10 times more likely to be infected and 20 times more likely to die due to COVID compared to a fully vaccinated person with a booster shot.

- ✓ **Get vaccinated** and, if eligible, get boosted.
- ✓ **Wear a mask** in all public indoor settings, all indoor private spaces with people who are not in your immediate household, and outdoors when not able to social distance.
- ✓ **Limit exposure** to those outside your household.
- ✓ **Practice social distancing.**
- ✓ **Stay home** if you are not feeling well.
- ✓ **Wash your hands** with soap and water.
- ✓ **Get tested** if you're experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or if you have been recently exposed to someone with COVID-19.

**LET'S GIVE
COVID THE
BOOT IN 2022!**



BRING BACK
LOUISIANA

LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH

LOCAL & STATE

SU students, employees must submit COVID-19 vaccination or negative test before returning to campus



BATON ROUGE, La. (WAFB) - Officials with Southern University say Friday, Jan. 21 is the last day for all students and employees to comply with their Spring 2022 COVID-19 vaccination protocols.

All students and employees submit proof of full COVID-19 vaccination or an exemption request by 5 p.m. on Friday.

Students who fail to submit proof of vaccination, medical or religious exemption, or a letter of dissent, will have their Spring 2022 classes removed.

Additionally, all Southern University's residential students must submit a negative COVID-19 test, regardless of vaccination status, prior to moving into on-

campus housing.

Officials say free COVID-19 testing and vaccinations are available on campus at the Horace W. Moody Intramural Sports Complex, which is open to the public Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. No appointment is necessary.

Students can also make an appointment with the Student Health Center.

Spring 2022 classes begin on Wednesday, Jan. 26. A mask mandate will remain effect across the Southern University campus.

For more details on Southern's COVID-19 mitigation efforts and protocols, go to subr.edu/covid19.

about \$400,000 in the House race. The FEC did not have data from Mixon's campaign committee as of Wednesday.

The U.S. Senate election is scheduled for Nov. 8, 2022.

Dassau assumed his role in January 2021 after working as a city prosecutor in Baker for nearly a decade.

Following news of his death, Baton Rouge area leaders and his colleagues released statements reflecting on Dassau's impact and offering their condolences to those closest to him.

Congressman Troy Carter Announces \$2.6 Billion in Funding for Louisiana

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Troy A. Carter Sr. announced over \$2.6 billion in funding for projects in Louisiana to repair damage caused by storms and start new projects to protect communities from future disasters. This funding comes from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the 2021 Disaster Supplemental. Congressman Carter was the only member of the Louisiana House delegation that supported passage of both of these laws.

This funding will go to vital projects in Louisiana's Second District and across the state. Important projects receiving funding include: Morganza to the Gulf - \$378

million for construction of levees to protect communities in Louisiana

New Orleans to Venice Hurricane Protection - \$783 million for construction of levee on the east and west banks of Plaquemines Parish

West Shore Lake Pontchartrain - \$450 million for a resiliency assessment to improve the ability of the vital



Congressman Troy A. Carter

West Shore project to withstand future natural disasters. This project protects communities in the River Parishes from flooding and storm damage.

Southeast Louisiana (SELA) - \$94.3 million to complete more features of the important drainage projects in the Algiers sub-basin

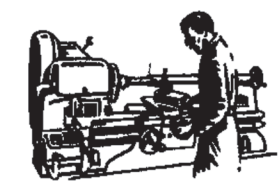
Comite River Diversion Project - \$125 million for reinforcement and armoring to better protect it from future natural disasters. This project helps protect the people of Central and nearby communities from flooding.

"These projects all have one thing in common—they protect people in Louisiana from flooding," said Congressman Carter. "Many other projects being funded today repair damage caused by previous storms. Providing better protection from storms and flooding is one of the most important thing government can do for our communities. For decades, these projects have sat without any, or sufficient funding. I was proud to vote for the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act so that communities from Algiers to LaPlace to Baker can get the protection and investment they deserve."

The Biden Administration announced today that the Army Corps of Engineers will invest \$14 billion in 500 projects across the nation to focus on strengthening critical supply chains. Due to decades of underinvestment, accelerating climate threats and pandemic interruptions, supply chains have struggled to keep pace. This has slowed the nation's economic recovery and burdened families and businesses with added costs and delay. These new investments will create jobs and economic opportunity, while strengthening key water infrastructure projects, improving resiliency to the climate crisis and restoring the environment.

The bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act was signed by President Biden on November 15, 2021. The Disaster Relief Supplemental was signed by President Biden on September 30, 2021.

READER INFORMATION



How to Reach Us

General Information.....225-775-2002
Email brweeklypress@yahoo.com

The office is open 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday - Friday and located at 4910 Montecello Blvd. Baton Rouge, LA 70814

Correction Policy

The Baton Rouge Weekly Press strives to be fair and accurate. The newspaper corrects any significant errors of fact brought to the attention of the editor. If you think an error has been made, call 225-775-2000

Weekly Press

Newspaper is published weekly in Baton Rouge and distributed every Thursday with a circulation of 7,500. Subscription rates are \$65.00 per year for Louisiana residents; \$72.00 for one year for out-of-state residents; half price for six months subscription; and \$1.00 per single copy.

All money orders or checks should be made payable to The Baton Rouge Weekly Press
4910 Montecello Blvd., Suite C
Baton Rouge, La. 70814

Phone: (225) 775-2002
E-Mail brweeklypress@yahoo.com
Office Hours: Monday-Friday
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Closed Saturday, Sunday

GERARD FLOORING

COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL FLOORING INSTALLATION SPECIALISTS

For over 20 years Gerard Flooring has served Baton Rouge and surrounding areas. Let us transform your existing flooring into something you can be proud to show your neighbors, friends or business associates. After all, first impressions are lasting so why not make a good one? We can help!

GERAMIC TILE • MARBLE • HARDWOOD FLOORS
COUNTER TOPS • STRIPING AND REFINISHING
MEXICAN AND BRICK FLOORS

SCHEDULE YOUR FREE ESTIMATE TODAY!

CONTACT DAVID G. PAYNE (225) 235-4281

CHAMBERS from page 1

the Federal Election Commission. Chambers' Sept. 30 report showed about \$170 on hand after spending

JUDGE from page 1

Ultimately, the judges will likely consult the state Supreme Court to appoint an ad hoc judge until an election is called. No official date for an election has been determined yet.

ARE YOU AN AFRICAN AMERICAN 60 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER?

The RAATE study will evaluate the effects of two health programs on memory and brain function.

To qualify for the study, participants should:

- Be an African American
- Be 60 years of age or older
- Be capable of regular physical activity

Compensation of up to \$300 is offered for participation

TO LEARN MORE:

Call: 225-763-3000
Visit: www.pbrc.edu/RAATE
or Scan the QR Code:

pb Pennington Biomedical Research Center
Louisiana State University

Stay Connected with What is Happening in Baker!

*text message rates apply

Text: LABAKER UPDATES To 468311

RELIGION

THE BLESSING OF FAMILY

by Creflo Dollar

God wants the best for us and wants to bless us in every area of our lives. One of the ways He does this is by surrounding us with people who love and care for us. We've been created to be in relationship with one another, and loving families are one of the ways God tells us how He feels about us. These relationships can greatly strengthen and encourage us when we put Him in the center of our family circle.

From God's perspective, a family isn't just a group of people haphazardly thrown together. He

has a specific reason for choosing certain individuals as family members. This doesn't mean that all family members will be perfect; we're all human and we each have our own flaws. However, His presence makes a family more than just the sum of each individual person. "For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them" (Matthew 18:20, NLT).

God expresses His love through the family unit. He can bless the parents through the children, and the children through the parents. He can, and will, do amazing things if we just let Him do His work. "The Lord bless

thee, and keep thee: The Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace" (Numbers 6:24-26).

The world doesn't know God, and therefore has no idea what healthy family relationships look like. Families formed according to worldly standards can get caught up in strife and torn apart by negativity and bad influences. By contrast, the godly family has its origins in heaven. "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named" (Ephesians 3:14, 15).

Families who put Jesus first position themselves to receive abundant blessings; they stand out like a bright light in a dark room.

Being part of the family of God sets us apart from the world. It gives us access to His supernatural love, which is the most powerful force in the universe. As His children, we must be prepared to live in a spiritually dark environment that doesn't recognize us. "Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him" (1 John 3:1, NKJV). In spite of that, we still have the ability—and the responsibility—to share that love with others.

One of the characteristics of membership in God's family is that everyone is united in love. We don't have to be perfect, just willing to let God work through us to reach others. "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!... It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore" (Psalm 133:1, 3, NIV). This is something we desperately need in a divided world.

To bless is to empower to succeed. In the Old Testament, Joseph succeeded and prospered greatly because God blessed him. Joseph flourished because God was with him; it's the same way with families today. "Before you do anything, put your trust totally in God and not in yourself. Then every plan you make will succeed" (Proverbs 16:3, TPT). We succeed and prosper, both on an individual level and as a family, when we welcome God's presence.



Creflo Dollar

Simply because I said yes

Life is precious! A Purpose Forward Life is pivotal! When I think of a purpose forward life, being pivotal, I say it as being very important. One's life must mean something, stand for something, and be beneficial for something. My life is a drink offering for others. As I look back over my life's journey, it was not until I understood my purpose and calling which then allowed me to able the voice of God to walk out my purpose.

We are all born with ideas, thoughts, and hopes of what we think our life is going to be like. The challenge in that is if we don't submit and surrender to the Lordship of Jesus Christ every thought and idea for His direction and leading, we'll end up going on our own path which eventually leads to the pursue of what we think instead of what God says.

Now that I think about it, it wasn't really until I hit rock bottom that I realized I wouldn't, I couldn't and I didn't understand what, why I wasn't living or experiencing a Purpose Forward Life.

These 2 verses summarize my life and my ministry...

In Him also we have received an inheritance [a destiny—we were claimed by God as His own], having been predestined (chosen, appointed beforehand) according to the purpose of Him who works everything in agreement with the counsel and design of His will, Eph 1:11 AMP

For I know the plans and thoughts that I have for you,' says the Lord, 'plans for peace and well-being and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. Jer 29:11 AMP

There's a statement in the same that says and I quote; "The will of God is not automatic, you have to agree to participate in it".

For me, I had to get in alignment for what God wanted to do in me, through me, and with me. Before I understood this I would always do it my way. I always believed there was a calling on my life because there was something different about me, but until I surrendered EVERYTHING and did

it God's way I would always feel flat on my face. I wrestled with a lot of things. Being a preacher's kid/ Pastor's daughter, I didn't always understand the mantle and the responsibility of what it meant to be Purposeful and to have a Purposeful Life.

Before now, I lived beneath my privileges. I lived beneath the promises of God. I didn't take the word of God as the final and last authority over my life. I lived a defeated life. Now that I have discovered my purpose I can do it, live it and share it.

I was an alcoholic and a very promiscuous teenager. Many times, if not most, I didn't shield, cover, nor guard the anointing that was on my life. Instead, that lifestyle became more dominant than pursuing Purpose and walking in what I had been called to do.

Struggles, hardships depression and overweight just to name a few are many things I pursued and wore as garments.

My purpose forward life is now a drink offering for others. A submitted and accountable life to the Lord, my Pastor, Dr. Mark Ellis and 1st Lady Mary Ellis. You ask how do I know and why do I now walk with purpose? Simply because I said yes I surrendered. You know you are in purpose on purpose when you are no longer outside the will of God. It was not until I understood why I was created and what I was created to do which made it easier for me to submit and pursue. My life as it is today has completely turned 180. I wrestled with totally obeying God when He said to obey. Remember delayed disobedience is still disobedience. I understand now my life is not my own. When you surrender to God, the Lordship of Jesus Christ, He is now in total control of your life but also I know that my desires and will for has now become God's will for my life.

In my book entitled Transparent From the Heart of A Worshipper, I share and talk about how my

See YES, on page 5

NOTHING LIKE KICKING THE NEW YEAR OFF RIGHT • GET YO TICKETS NOW

IPLY INC. PRESENTS
ITS POWER IN YOURSELF TOUR
 FEATURING X PASTOR TIM ROGERS & FELLAS

COMING TO YOUR CITY AMITE, LA
 GREATER REFUGE TEMPLE 1005 NW CENTRAL AVENUE AMITE, LA 70422

#amite (225) 202-8519 MONTH 01 DAY 22 YEAR 22 #amite (225) 202-8519

GREATER REFUGE TEMPLE • 1005 NW CENTRAL AVENUE • AMITE, LA 70422

BRWEEKLYPRESS CHURCH & PLACES TO WORSHIP

DIRECTORY

Reach Thousands Weekly. Call 225-775-2002 to take advantage of our special rates

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. - Hebrews 10:25

Good Shepherd Full Gospel B.C.
The People's Church
 2865 Mission Drive • Baton Rouge, 70805 • Telephone (225) 356-5873
 Bishop H. Hayes, Pastor

Hour of Power 12 Noon Each Wednesday
 Sunday School 8:00am
 Church Service 9:00am
 Communion Service 2nd Sunday 9:00am
 Bible Study Wednesday 7:00pm
 Sister/Brotherhood Meeting 6:00pm

OASIS CHRISTIAN CHURCH
 4524 East Brookstone Drive
 Baton Rouge, LA 70805
 www.ocbr.org
 See Website for Service and Streaming Live Times

BISHOP CHARLES E. WALLACE, PASTOR

THE BRWEEKLY PRESS CHURCH DIRECTORY ADVERTISE YOUR

- Church Services and programs
- Streaming Live URL
- FREE first priority announcement place

STARTING AT ONLY \$1000 per week

For details call 225.775.2002

CAMPBOR MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 8742 Scenic Highway - Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70807
 Telephone: (225) 775-4106 • Fax: (225) 615-8359
 Rev. Kermit Curtis "KC" Roberson, M.Div., MPA Senior Pastor

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
 Worship Service 1st, 3rd, & 4th Sundays 10:55 a.m.
 Contemporary Worship 2nd & 5th Sunday 8:00 a.m.
 (And any Sunday that falls on a Holiday)
 Bible Study Wednesday, Men's Mid-Day Study 12:00 p.m.
 Disciple Bible Study Wednesday 5:30 p.m.
 Prayer Ministry Tuesday 6:00 p.m.

Kingdom Life Family Center

Sundays at 10am
 Wednesday Inspirational Service 7pm

- Youth ministry every Sunday and Wednesday
- Women's Ministry 2nd Saturday's

BISHOP DESIGNATE DOROTHY DANIEL SENIOR PASTOR

8894 AIRLINE HWY. BATON ROUGE, LA 70815
 www.kingdomlifebr.com

NEW BIRTH FULL GOSPEL MINISTRIES
 1283 Rosenwald Road
 Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70807
 Bishop I. J. Payne, Pastor

'THE NEW LIFE' Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. — 2 Corinthians 5:17

SUNDAY WORSHIP Every Sunday at 11:30 A.M.
SUNDAY SCHOOL Every Sunday at 9:30 A.M.
HOLY COMMUNION Every 3rd Sunday at 11:30 A.M.
HOOR OF POWER Every Friday at 12 NOON

Radio Broadcast 1st and 3rd Sunday WXOK at 8:00am

ST. JOHN BAPTIST CHURCH
Dr. Donald R. Ruth, Pastor
 820 New Rafe Mayer Road
 Baton Rouge, LA 70807
 Phone: 225-775-9756
 Web Address: saintjohnbc.org

Dr. Donald Ruth, Pastor

Worship Times:
 CrossWalk Classes: Sundays 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM
 Sunday Worship Experience: 11:00 AM
 Uplift Training: Thursdays 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH
 5856 Greenwell Springs Road • Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806
 Telephone: (225) 926-0246 • Facsimile: (225) 925-8022
 Toll Free: 888-700-6174
 Websites: www.newhopebr.com

Rev. Leo Cyrus Sr., Pastor
CHURCH SCHEDULE

Sunday Morning Worship 10:45 AM
 Lord's Supper 3rd Sundays
 Sunday School 9:30 AM
 Prayer Service Wed. @ 6:00 PM
 Bible Study Wed. @ 7:00 PM

Mission Statement: New Hope Baptist Church is a family of baptized believers who worship the Lord our God in spirit and in truth, teach the saved to reach the lost and minister to the needs of others, while encouraging one another through acts of love and living in obedience to Gods Word

BR WEEKLY PRESS BUSINESS/SERVICE DIRECTORY

*We're
Open!*

FOR BUSINESS

**PANDEMIC AND HURRICANE RECOVERY
SPECIALS CALL TO RESERVE YOUR SPACE
IN THE BRWEEKLYPRESS
BUSINESS DIRECTORY 225.775.2002 TODAY!**

BRIDGET MONTGOMERY
Certified Tax Accountant



Cell PH: 407.630.2947

4910 Monticello Blvd., Ste C
Baton Rouge, LA 70814



WTAA ENGINEERS
ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS AND CONSTRUCTION SUPPORT SERVICES

"Team Working For Success Through Quality Performance"

Civil Engineers Needed
W.T. Winfield, Manager

2622 North Street, Baton Rouge, LA
222-383-0822 or 1-866-324-WTAA Toll Free



CJW Distributors, LLC
CHURCH FURNITURE • FLOORING

13937 Malbec Ave.
Baton Rouge, LA 70816

Ph: 225-292-0305
Cell: 225-405-3427
Fax: 225-292-0307

Email: cjw7@att.net
www.cjwdistributors.com

Young Man's Lawn Service, LLC

A professional job, for a reasonable price
Free estimates. Commercial and Residential

Jeremiah Sadler
Owner

225-400-3862

Tayla Hickman

Tayla Maids
Cleaning Service

Residential & Commercial * General and Full Service
FREE ESTIMATE

225.572.7677 • taylahickman@gmail.com

Lordes Insurance Group

Gloria Brandon
Independent Insurance Agent
Multi-State

Cell: 225.247.6216 | Fax: 985.259.8848
gbrandon@lordesig.com
www.lordesig.com

Life Health Annuities Medicare Options



CYNTHIA M. DUNN,
REALTOR

**STEP
BY STEP
IT'S
DUNN**

2900 Westford Dr, #401
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70827
Cell: 225.302.4598 • Hm: 225.752.5440
Email: cynthiadunn@innerspacebr.com



BUSINESS

BRCC, ExxonMobil partnering to tackle nationwide skilled trades labor shortage



BATON ROUGE, La. - There's a nationwide shortage of skilled trade workers, and the demand is growing by the minute.

On Wednesday, Jan. 19, Baton Rouge Community College and ExxonMobil hosted an open house to help people break into the field and address the increasing need.

The open house introduced people to BRCC's North Baton Rouge Industrial Training Initiative (NBRIT). NBRIT provides training courses in welding, electrical, millwright, and pipefitting crafts at no cost to qualifying participants. Students participate in a fast-tracked classroom and hands-on training, which also includes a life-skills and workforce preparation component.

"Where I come from, being in the environment that I was in, going through what I been through, to come out here and see this, we didn't have this back then," said Quentin Ransom, a job seeker.

Ransom was one of almost

100 people who attended the open house. Ransom said he just finished serving more than 16 years in prison and is working temporary jobs just to make ends meet.

He said the opportunity BRCC has created could change his life.

"Right now, I've been sleeping in my car for the past 6 months, so I could be able to get an apartment for the first time in my life," said Ransom.

"In the industrial community, the demand has never slowed up," said Connie Fabre, President & CEO of the Greater Baton Rouge Industry Alliance.

Organizers said the goal is to get people trained as soon as possible.

"We're trying to get people aware about these opportunities, get them trained at BRCC, we have a free training program in those crafts, and get people paid," said BRCC Vice Chancellor for Workforce Solutions Dr. Girard Melancon.

Experts said one of the reasons behind the shortage is that people simply don't know about the opportunities that are available.

"People are not aware about the pathway into the occupation, so that's just another reason why we wanted to have an in-person event, the companies are here to talk about that pathway so it's no longer a mystery," said Melancon.

According to companies like ExxonMobil, the benefits of the open house are endless.

"It's a win for the community, it's a win for the individuals involved, and it's a win for us," said ExxonMobil Baton Rouge Refinery Manager David Oldreive.

"It'll be a game changer. For real," said Ransom.

You can visit www.mybrcc.edu/nbrit for more information or to register.

Gov. Edwards Announces launch of Mortgage Relief Program for Homeowners Impacted by COVID-19

Gov. John Bel Edwards is announcing the launch of the Louisiana Homeowner Assistance Fund, a federally funded relief program for homeowners financially impacted by COVID-19 who are behind on their mortgages and at risk of foreclosure. The program is funded through the American Rescue Plan Act, which provides \$10 billion in federal relief for vulnerable homeowners. Louisiana is set to receive \$146.7 million in funding to provide up to \$25,000 per eligible homeowner.



Gov. John Bel Edwards

The program is available statewide to homeowners experiencing financial hardship after Jan. 21, 2020, and earning less than 150 percent of the area median income or 100 percent of the national median income, whichever is greater, based on U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development income data. The Louisiana Office of Community Development is administering the program.

"We know that many Louisiana homeowners are struggling financially during the pandemic and, in many cases, have fallen behind on their mortgages and are facing foreclosure," Gov. Edwards said. "This program provides an avenue for resources and assistance that has not been available before, and this is an important step to help ensure that low- and moderate-income homeowners and their families are able to stay in their homes. I encourage everyone who may be eligible to apply."

Eligible homeowners include those who meet the following criteria:

- Own and occupy a home in Louisiana as their primary residence
- Meet income qualifications
- Experienced a financial hardship associated with the COVID-19 pandemic

The state will work closely with lenders and mortgage providers to ensure the availability of funds is communicated to homeowners who would benefit from the program.

To learn more about the program or to apply, visit haf.lacovid-housing.com or call 833-88-LAHAF.

YES from page 4

heart had to be changed and purified. And in doing so I had to be completely honest with myself 1st and then to God. God-created me so why would I need to be honest with him? Simply, because by acknowledging my stuff, I was able to find freedom, forgiveness and faith to really pursue My Purpose Forward Life.

I am now walking in a life filled with faith and a life filled with God's promises on and over my life. Purpose it's not found, it's discovered. Once you discover what it is you have been put on this Earth to do, pursue it with all your might and do it. The last thing you want to live with are regrets of could've should've or would've....but I didn't....

"Disciple your disciplines as you passionately pursue Purpose so your life's offering will be an enjoyable fragrance and a delightful encouragement to and for someone else"

GOSPEL ENTERTAINMENT PRODUCTION PRESENTS
GOSPEL CELEBRATION EXPLOSION

Live In
CONCERT

TASHA COBB LEONARD
FRED HAMMOND MARVIN SAPP
FULL SHOW LIVE WITH BAND
UNO LAKEFRONT ARENA
Fri. FEB 4 | Doors 6pm Show starts at 7

VIP Tickets available with access to Club Spotlights inside arena for meet and greet

DEITRICK HADDON
KEYLA RICHARDSON

UNO LAKEFRONT ARENA | FRI. FEB 4 | DOORS 6PM SHOW STARTS AT 7

JOSH KAGLER
& the Harmonistic Praise Crusade

LAKEFRONT ARENA
ALL TICKETS AVAILABLE AT
TICKETMASTER.COM AND THE
UNO LAKEFRONT ARENA BOX OFFICE
Artist Lineup Subject To Change

SUITS • HATS • SHOES • SHIRTS • FASHION ACCESSORIES

EVERYDAY SALE

SUPER COOL *fashions*

A BRAND OF STYLE AND SOPHISTICATION

Visit The Syle Master
"Mr. Super Cool
Keith B. O'Connor"

6180 Airline Hwy
Baton Rouge, La. 70805
225.357.5796

TO ADVERTISE HERE, CALL THE BATON ROUGE WEEKLY PRESS AT 225.775.2002

Well Now

Ochsner Community Health Brees Family Center believes that everyone deserves world-class healthcare.

Get the care you need when you need it.

Services Offered:

- Primary Care
- Pediatrics
- Women's Services
- Behavioral Health Services
- Smoking Cessation
- Lab
- X-Ray



For an appointment call **866-977-3523** or go to **ochsner.org/communitybr**

**Committed to your health –
regardless of your ability to pay.**

**Ochsner Community Health
Brees Family Center**
7855 Howell Boulevard
Suite 320
Baton Rouge, LA 70807



BREES FAMILY CENTER