

The Weekly Press

SERVING BAKER, CENTRAL, AND ZACHARY

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16-22, 2023

A PEOPLE'S PUBLICATION

VOL. 45 • NO.51 • FREE

EBR Mayor to Seek Metro Council Approval for Additional ACAO Positions, Other Proposals

BATON ROUGE, La. — Glenn Curtis, the top administrator of East Baton Rouge Parish Mayor Sharon Weston Broome, announced that the mayor would ask the Metro Council for \$178,320 to hire an additional assistant chief administrative officer. The new ACAO will serve as a liaison between the mayor's office and all offices under the Metro Council. The proposed amount includes salary and benefits, with all ACAOs earning \$129,404 annually. Currently, there are three ACAOs on Broome's staff. The proposal will be introduced at the next meeting scheduled in two weeks.



Mayor Sharon Weston Broome

Additionally, other proposals to be introduced this week include appropriating \$1.1 million and authorizing Broome's office to spend up to \$1.35 million with Beveridge & Diamond for legal representation in federal Clean Water Act claims and Darryl Hurst's proposal to add a council member to the board that selects engineers and surveyors for public projects.

The council will vote on apply-

See **PROPOSAL**, on page 3

Baker Mayor Waite Elected as New Chairman of Capital Region Planning Commission (CRPC)

BATON ROUGE, La. — The Capital Region Planning Commission (CRPC) is proud to announce the election of Mayor Darnell Waite as its new Chairman during the February 8, 2023, meeting. Mayor Waite, who has served as the Mayor of Baker for the past eight years, has been elected by a majority vote of the commissioners present and voting at the first regular meeting of the calendar year.



Mayor Darnell Waite

The CRPC, established in 1967, is the Metropolitan Planning Organization that serves the eleven-parish Metropolitan Statistical Area and provides comprehensive planning services for the Capital Region, including transportation and drainage. As the new Chairman of the Commission, Mayor Waite will play a crucial role in shaping the future of the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Area.

Mayor Waite is honored to be elected as the Chairman of the CRPC and is committed to working with fellow board members and staff to ensure the best use of taxpayer funds. He stated, "I am honored to be chosen as Chairman of CRPC. I look forward to working with fellow board members and staff to ensure the best use of taxpayer funds as we strive to meet

See **WAITES**, on page 2

K-12 teacher, college faculty pay raises proposed in next Louisiana budget

Governor, lawmakers will determine how to spend billions in additional revenue

BY: JULIE O'DONOGHUE
Louisiana Illuminator

Gov. John Bel Edwards wants to put a portion of Louisiana's \$2.2 billion in better-than-expected revenue toward K-12 teacher and higher education faculty pay raises that would take effect July 1. The governor is also proposing to use the extra money for transportation projects, higher education initiatives, paying off disaster-related federal debt and state building projects.

Edwards unveiled his spending proposal Friday for the 2023-2024 budget cycle. Legislators will weigh in with their financial priorities over the next several months, with the two parties expected to settle on a compromise budget plan by the end of June.

Since he took office in 2015, the governor has promised to prioritize K-12 teachers salaries. This year, Edwards proposes increasing teacher pay by at least \$2,000 annually and school support staff pay by \$1,000 a year. The governor has also said if the state is still experiencing higher-than-expected revenue collections by May, the teacher pay increase should be bumped up to \$3,000.

Teachers have seen several



Gov. John Bel Edwards has proposed increasing K-12 teacher and faculty pay in his budget proposal for the 2023-2024 budget cycle. (Greg LaRose/Louisiana Illuminator)

modest increases in pay during Edwards' seven years as governor, though their total pay bump has only amounted to \$3,300. Another \$3,000 increase would nearly double their total pay increase during Edwards' two terms in office.

Outside of pay increases, Edwards is also proposing an ongoing increase in higher education's general funding of \$28 million, a hike for LSU's medical school in Shreveport (\$12 million) and the Pennington Biomedical Research Center in Baton Rouge

(\$2 million). He also wants to put more ongoing money into the state scholarship program for low-income college students called GO Grants (\$15 million).

On top of that spending, the governor wants to allocate a one-time \$100 million infusion of

cash into higher education. This money would go toward nursing programs, community college training for "high demand" jobs and university campus security needs.

See **BUDGET**, on page 2

Southern University Advances US Agricultural Economy, Vilsack Says



From left to right, Congressman Troy Carter, Southern President-Chancellor Dennis Shields, Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards, SBA Administrator Isabella Casillas Guzman, and USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack gather at Southern University's Donald C. Wade House to discuss federal programs promoting economic equity and agricultural innovation. (Photo by Agnes Andrews)

BATON ROUGE, La. — Southern University is leading the way in research and development programs propelling the U.S. agricultural economy forward, U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said during his visit to Southern's campus on Tuesday. Vilsack, accompanied by Isabella Casillas Guzman, administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration, visited

the university to promote federal programs to advance economic equity in underserved areas. Congressman Troy Carter, whose sprawling district covers the university, and Southern President-Chancellor Dennis Shields helped organize the trip.

Vilsack and Guzman had a campus tour and interacted with students, faculty, and small business leaders to discuss their ideas

and initiatives. Following their visit, Vilsack, Guzman, and Carter joined Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards at Southern's Donald C. Wade House for a news conference to discuss the federal programs. Vilsack praised Louisiana for taking part in the USDA's Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities program, which finances research and production initiatives that minimize the agricultural and

environmental impact.

Louisiana is part of 19 projects funded by the \$3.1 billion federal program, including two involving Southern University, Vilsack said. Southern is participating in a \$90 million effort to reduce methane emissions and water consumption by rice farms and a \$20 million "industrial hemp" initiative that will develop

See **SOUTHERN**, on page 3

Former US Ambassador, SU Alumnus James Joseph Dies at 88

BATON ROUGE, La. — Southern University is mourning the loss of alumnus and former U.S. ambassador to South Africa James A. Joseph, who died on Friday, Feb. 17, at the age of 88.



James A. Joseph

University officials confirmed Joseph's passing and said he had dedicated his life to service.

"Ambassador Joseph's life of service has been a gift to this nation and the world," said Dennis J. Shields, president-chancellor of the Southern University System. "His commitment and contributions to the academy and leadership development were immeasurable."

According to Southern Uni-

See **JOSEPH**, on page 3

WEATHER



MON. 02/20
Mostly Cloudy
High 76°.



WED. 02/22
Partly Cloudy
High 85°.



TUE. 02/21
Mostly Cloudy
High 78°.



THUR. 02/23
Mostly Cloudy
High 89°.

INDEX

State & Local	2
State & Local	3
Religion	4
Church Directory	4
Business	5
Business Directory	5
Health	6
Other News	7
Sports	8

Weekly Press
The eEdition TODAY

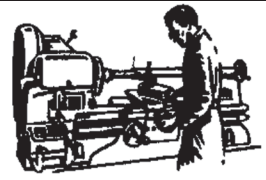
Get on the List

Join over 750,000 others to get your news plus special offer! Visit www.brweeklypress.com and sign up to get the eEdition TODAY delivered straight to you inbox. It's FREE



LOCAL & STATE

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 Monticello 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 225-775-200

Weekly Press

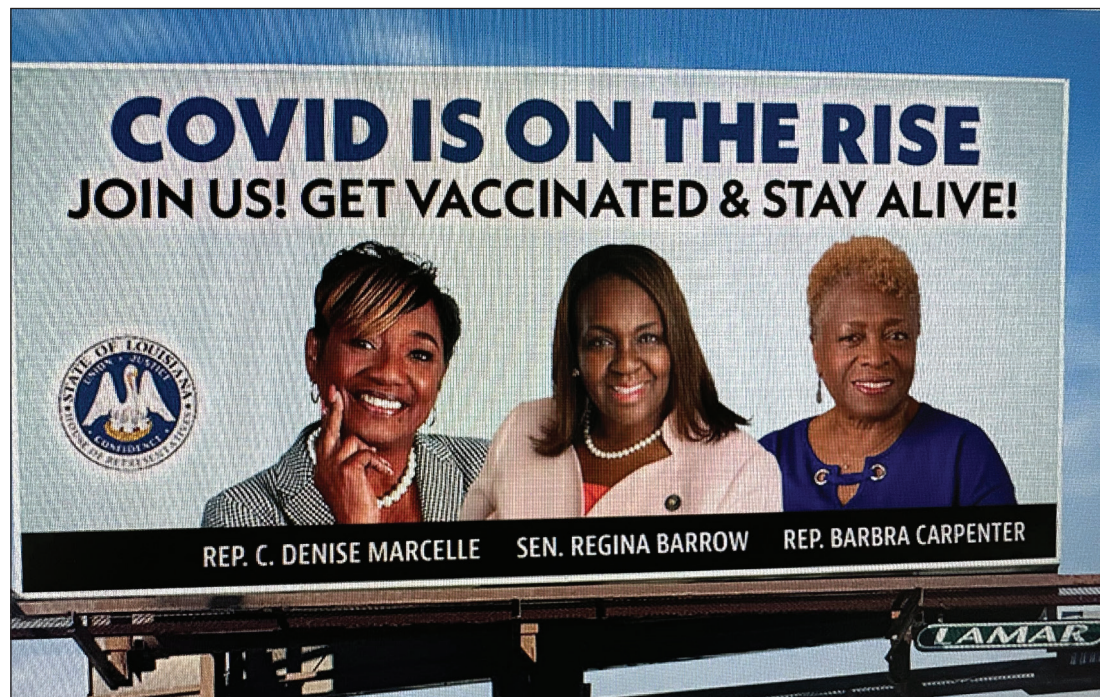
Newspaper is published weekly in Baton Rouge and distributed every Thursday with a circulation of 7,500. Subscription rates are \$65.00 per year for Louisiana residents; \$72.00 for one year for out-of-state residents; half price for six months subscription; and \$1.00 per single copy.

All money orders or checks should be made payable to The Baton Rouge Weekly Press 4910 Monticello 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

**VISIT US
 ONLINE @**
 brweeklypress.com

BR Legislators Unite to Launch "Join Us! Get Vaccinated and Stay Alive!" Billboard Campaign



Billboard featuring Baton Rouge Legislators, Representatives C. Denise Marcelle, Barbara W. Carpenter, and Louisiana State Senator Regina Barrow have teamed up to launch a new billboard campaign to stop the spread of COVID-19 in the area.

BATON ROUGE, La. - Baton Rouge Legislators, Representatives C. Denise Marcelle, Barbara W. Carpenter, and Louisiana State Senator Regina Barrow have teamed up to launch a new billboard campaign to stop the spread of COVID-19 in the area.

"I have witnessed first-hand the devastating effects of COVID," said Representative Marcelle. "It's crucial that we take all necessary steps to protect ourselves and our loved ones. Our new campaign aims to promote vaccinations and encourage residents to follow the guidelines recommended by the Louisiana Department of Health to reduce the spread of the virus."

The "Join Us! Get Vaccinated and Stay Alive!" billboards will feature the three legislators and

will be displayed throughout Baton Rouge for several weeks. The campaign is designed to inspire residents to take necessary precautions and vaccinations, which will help minimize the spread of COVID-19.

Representative Carpenter emphasized the importance of community involvement in the fight against COVID-19, "We all have a role to play in slowing down the spread of COVID-19. This means adhering to public health guidelines, vaccinating, wearing masks, and encouraging others to do the same. This campaign is vital in our efforts to protect our community and end this pandemic."

Senator Barrow added, "The pandemic has affected our community significantly, and we must

work together to protect one another."

With COVID-19 cases on the rise, the legislators' campaign comes at a critical time. The highly contagious Omicron variant is present, and it's vital for Baton Rouge residents to follow all necessary precautions to keep themselves and others safe.

The campaign aims to inspire Baton Rouge residents to act and do their part in the fight against COVID-19. "Together, we can make a real difference in the fight against this virus," said Representative Marcelle.

The campaign is a vital step in the legislators' efforts to protect the Baton Rouge community from COVID-19 and prevent further devastation. The message of the billboards is clear: "Join Us! Get Vaccinated and Stay Alive!"

Information about the "Join Us! Get Vaccinated and Stay Alive!" campaign can be found in local barber shops, beauty shops, and churches across Baton Rouge.

WAITES from page 1

our current and future goals surrounding planning for the needs of the Metro Area."

Jamie Setze, CRPC Executive Director, expressed his excitement about Mayor Waites' election as Chairman of the Commission. He said, "I have enjoyed working with Mayor Waites during his last eight (8) years as mayor, and I am excited to have his leadership at a time of great opportunity in the Baton Rouge Metro Area."

The Capital Region Planning Commission is thrilled to welcome Mayor Darnell Waites as its new Chairman and looks forward to working with him to promote comprehensive planning and development in the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Area. With his leadership and guidance, the CRPC will continue to provide the best services to the residents of the Capital Region.

Redwood Baptist Church hosts Black history classes in Zachary

In an effort to promote Black history education, Redwood Baptist Church in Zachary has organized a series of classes facilitated by church leaders and ministers. The classes, which began on Feb. 4 and will continue every Saturday in the month, delve into the lost highs and lows of Black people in America. Emmitt Glynn teaches the course at Baton Rouge Magnet High, and Malcolm Reed at St. Amant High School.

Led by Rev. Angela Robertson, the first class started with an interactive game of trivia featuring prominent Black figures. Participants realized that they often only knew these figures' names and notable accomplishments but didn't know the struggles and victories that made them more impressive.

After discussing the roots of Black history, the class looked at the start of the slave trade and the countries and regions with enslaved populations. Robertson, a minister, and mental health counselor, also examined the psychological trauma involved in slavery and how it helped slav-

ery continue for centuries and generations. She concluded her lesson with the infamous "Willie Lynch Letter and the Making of a Slave."

A husband-and-wife team, Deunta and Kimberly Hickman led the second class. Deunta discussed successful abolitionists like Harriet Tubman and slave revolt leaders, while Kimberly looked at the economic effects of slavery and how it gave birth to modern capitalism.

Redwood Baptist Church, located at 20912 MacHost Road in Zachary, Louisiana, has organized the Black history program, which will be held at 2 p.m. after the Feb. 18 class, and will include a refreshment break. The program will feature guest speaker Malcolm Reed, a graduate of McKinley High School.

The class series comes at a time when Florida Governor Ron DeSantis is opposing Black history and AP African American Studies. Flowers noted that the collaborative effort of area pastors and congregations had planned the class series before the move by DeSantis.

BUDGET from page 1

The governor is also pushing a permanent increase in pay for local law enforcement and first responders, costing the state \$23.4 million. Last year, Edwards and lawmakers agreed to give police and first responders a one-time pay bump of \$1,200. This would make that pay hike - likely doled out in \$100 monthly increments - perpetual.

Edwards has also proposed putting more money into early childhood education programs (\$51.7 million), cyber attack prevention (\$53.2 million), a new voting system (\$10 million), K-12 school safety initiatives (\$9 million), and special education classroom camera maintenance (\$800,000).

Louisiana's \$2.2 billion in extra money to spend comes from three different pots. Approximately \$725 million is surplus funding unused in the previous budget cycle, which closed out last June. An additional \$928 million comes from higher-than-expected revenue collections in the current budget year. The state anticipates receiving the remaining \$605 million in unprojected revenue next year.

The governor also wants to settle disaster-related debt owed to the federal government with the extra money. He proposed putting \$100 million toward closing out bills with the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Under the governor's plan, another \$20.5 million from the state's new money will be used to help close out the Road Home program that was setup to help homeowners with significant damages from Hurricane Katrina. Approximately \$36 million would be used to settle emergency shelter expenses related to Hurricane Ida.

Edwards has also proposed setting aside \$84 million in funding for state building repair and major purchases. Most of this money will go toward fixing up the prison system, which has several facilities with structural repair needs. Some of the money will also be used to purchase vehicles for the Department of Children and Family Services and to build security towers at juvenile justice facilities.

Legislators face restrictions on some of that extra funding, particularly the \$725 million surplus from last year. By law, the money can only be used for certain state government functions, including paying down retirement debt, coast restoration and increasing the state's reserve account - often called the "rainy day fund" - that will help prop up state government during future economic downturns.

The governor and lawmakers also agree that a large chunk of the additional funding should be voluntarily used to deal with one-time projects instead of recurring state expenses. If elected officials build too much more ongoing spending into the state's financial plan, they put Louisiana at risk of having bigger budget problems when the state's economy falters.

In that vein, Edwards has proposed using a large amount of the additional revenue, \$340 million, for transportation projects. Approximately \$140 million of that funding is expected to be used as a matching resource to attract more federal transportation dollars. About \$195 million would be used to cover existing project cost overruns.

The governor also hopes it would help Louisiana surpass the southern states' regional average for teacher pay, which is just over \$55,000. Louisiana's current average is \$53,000.



WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED

I can help you protect more than you'd expect. I also have lots of ways to help you save when you bundle your policies. Get the savings you deserve. Call or stop by my office for a free quote.



AGNES SMITH ANDREWS



Insurance Agent/Owner
 214 S. Acadian Thruway
 Baton Rouge LA 70806
 Phone: 225.383.0877
 Fax: 225.383.0877
 Claims: 225.383.0877



Allstate
 You're in good hands.

Email: AgnesAndrews@Allstate.com
 www.allstateagencies.com/agnesandrews

**INJURED IN A CAR WRECK?
 INJURED BY AN 18 WHEELER OR TRUCK?
 INJURED IN A MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENT?**

CHARLES C. McMANUS
 ATTORNEY AT LAW
 LA-21-436

**CALL ME, ATTORNEY MCMANUS, AND
 WE WILL GO AFTER ALL YOU DESERVE!**

8520 Scotland Avenue, Suite C
 Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70807 **225.774.5771**

charlesmcmamus@mcmamuslawoffice.brcoxmail.com • www.charlesmcmamus.com

Laci Sherman Joins the Louisiana Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (LACCE)

BATON ROUGE, LA - The Louisiana Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (LACCE) is proud to announce the addition of Laci Sherman to its statewide chamber professional development association.

As the President of the North Baton Rouge Chamber and the founder and CEO of Elite Circle Solutions, Laci brings a wealth of experience and expertise to LACCE. With a background in professional project management, Laci has extensive experience in large-scale projects, process development, training development, and facilitation, as well as implementation projects and programs within the public sector.

In addition to her professional achievements, Laci is a passionate advocate for small businesses and co-founder of Making Her Deposits. This professional network supports women in business through seminars, virtual workshops, and community engagement.

Laci received her bachelor's degree in Kinesiology from South-



Laci Sherman

eastern Louisiana University and her Master of Healthcare Administration degree from the University of North Texas Health Science Center. In her spare time, she volunteers with organizations such as Young Entrepreneur Academy (YEA)-LSU, Business Network International, and Professional

See **SHERMAN**, on page 7

Zachary Residents to Receive Advanced Metering Upgrades for Water and Gas Services

Zachary, Louisiana, is proud to announce a major upgrade to its water and gas metering systems in partnership with Sensus, Equipment Controls Company, and Compass Metering Solutions. The city will replace its existing meters with a state-of-the-art advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) system.

Starting February 27, the installation of the new AMI meters will begin and is expected to take 12-18 months to complete for all customers. This innovative system leverages wireless technology to send usage data directly to the billing department and utility maintenance supervisors, providing real-time information and improved customer service.

The AMI system will also allow for better leak detection and increased billing accuracy as it replaces monthly drive-by readings with multiple remote readings per day. The pilot program, which has already seen successful implementation with over 300 meters,

has proven to be a valuable tool for the city.

Gas customers can expect a quick and convenient 15-minute retrofit installation with no service interruption. For water customers, the installation process will take an average of 30 minutes and result in no more than 15 minutes of water disruption. After the water meter is installed, crews will conduct a 10-gallon test and leave door hangers to inform residents of the visit.

City staff will supervise contractors during the installation and ensure they carry proper identification and have undergone a comprehensive background check. All contractor vehicles will be clearly marked for added peace of mind.

For more information on this exciting project, don't hesitate to contact the Zachary Utility Office at (225) 654-6566 or visit www.cityofzachary.org/images/uploads/files/Water_Gas_Meter_Upgrade_Project.pdf for a list of frequently asked questions.

Delta Sigma Theta Celebrates Founders Day with Mayor Waites

Mayor Waites and the City of Baker deeply appreciate the ladies of the Baker-Zachary Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority! Their dedication to the community through volunteering; their generosity means the world to the people we serve.



Left to right: Mayor Darnell Waites, Cynthia M. A. Bulter-McIntyre -- Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.'s 24th National President, and Malissa Drake -- President, Baker-Zachary Alumnae Chapter -- Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

JOSEPH from page 1

Joseph was appointed by former President Bill Clinton to serve as ambassador to South Africa, a post he held from 1996 to 2000. He became the first ambassador to present credentials to South African President Nelson Mandela.

Joseph graduated from Southern University and A&M College in 1956 with a bachelor's degree in political science. He then earned a divinity degree from Yale University.

Southern University officials said that Joseph's contributions to the academy and leadership development were immeasurable. In addition to serving as the U.S. ambassador to South Africa, he also served as undersecretary for the U.S. Department of the Interior and was appointed chairman of the Louisiana Disaster Recovery Foundation following Hurricane Katrina.

The loss of Joseph, a distinguished public servant and leader, is deeply felt by the Southern University community and the nation as a whole.

La. State Police Offer Tips to Prevent Vehicle Burglaries During Mardi Gras Parades

Louisiana State Police are offering tips to help prevent vehicle burglaries during Mardi Gras parades.



According to authorities, there are simple steps that drivers can take to avoid becoming a victim of such a crime. The first step is to lock all vehicle doors and ensure that all windows are completely rolled up.

In addition, drivers should not leave any valuables in plain sight, which can make a vehicle a prime target for thieves. To avoid this problem, Louisiana State Police recommend placing important valuables in the trunk of the car.

Installing a car alarm can also help to deter potential thieves, as can having cameras installed in the vehicle, which can capture the identity of a thief.

If a car is burglarized, law enforcement officials advise victims to contact the authorities immediately and to avoid touching the surface of the vehicle, which may contain fingerprints. Members of the public are also advised to maintain identifying information about their valuables at home.

By following these tips, drivers can help to ensure that their vehicles remain safe and secure during Mardi Gras parades. Remember to lock all doors and windows, avoid leaving valuables in plain sight, and consider installing a car alarm or cameras to deter potential thieves.

PROPOSAL from page 1

ing for an \$11.1 million grant for the Airport Passenger Loading Bridges Project and authorizing Broome's office to enter a \$900,000 professional services agreement with Build Baton Rouge for an economic development program to eliminate blight and promote economic development throughout East Baton Rouge Parish.

The council will also hear reports about traffic mitigation measures during the Interstate 10 widening construction and potential city-parish liability regarding law enforcement pursuits and executing arrest warrants. The council will meet at 4 p.m. on Wednesday at City Hall.

SOUTHERN from page 1

and market hemp as a "high-efficiency carbon sequestration and a climate-smart commodity crop." Vilsack also highlighted Southern's cafeteria program that uses beef from cattle grown on campus.

During the news conference, Guzman and Vilsack underscored the need to extend capital access programs to underserved entrepreneurs and farmers. Guzman said the SBA usually spends more than \$50 billion yearly to support small businesses, of which about \$300 million goes to Louisiana entrepreneurs. She noted a surge in small business applications nationwide

over the last few years, including 180,000 in Louisiana alone.

"We want to see more of that funding go to all of our diverse and small businesses across the state so that they can deliver ... for their communities," she said. Guzman added that they have networks across the country, including at Southern University, to help entrepreneurs figure out how to pursue contracts and funding to expand their businesses.

After the news conference, Guzman and Congressman Carter held other town hall meetings across the region to hear from small business owners on how they could better serve them. Peter Williams, a tree farmer from Lettsworth in

Pointe Coupee Parish, questioned Vilsack on a \$2.2 billion provision of the Inflation Reduction Act that aids farmers who have previously faced discrimination when trying to pursue USDA loans.

Vilsack said Congress set the \$500,000 cap, but the federal funding programs aim to keep farmers on their land instead of forcing them into foreclosure. He added that the USDA has diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts underway at all regional offices to address capital access needs. "We're very serious about this. We're very intent on making it happen," Vilsack said. "Frankly, it's in the long-term best interest of the department to do this."

LACY BAAHETH & ASSOCIATES

YOUR BATON ROUGE REAL ESTATE PROS
TRUSTED • RESPECTED • RECOMMENDED

LACY BAAHETH
2226 WOODDALE BLVD,
BATON ROUGE, LA 70806
PH: (225) 906-9350 • FAX (225) 906-9658
LACY@SELLSWITHLACY.COM
WWW.VIEWHOMESWITHLACY.NET

Young Marines
Strengthening the lives of America's youth

GET INVOLVED!
Adventure • Friends • Fun

youngmarines.org

A national youth program for boys and girls, ages eight through high school, focused on leadership, citizenship through community service, self-discipline, and living a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.

Youth Members and Adult Volunteers needed!

batonrougeyoungmarines@gmail.com
(225) 273-1700

RELIGION

Lucinda Moore Tops at #1 on Mediabase Radio Chart With "Lord, I Hear You"

Lucinda Moore, a Stellar Award-winning artist, has become one of the greatest women in Gospel music. She has an exceptional and anointed vocal delivery that has taken her to the top of the charts, from traditional Gospel to Praise and Worship. Her fan-favorite status in the genre has been solidified by consistently delivering chart-topping hits that have impacted the global charts.



Lucinda Moore

One of her latest singles, "Lord, I Hear You," has become a standout hit in the music industry. It debuted in the Top 30 on the iTunes Top 200 Christian/Gospel Digital Songs chart and snagged the #1 spot on the BDS Gospel Indicator Radio Chart in October. It has also reached #1 on the Mediabase Gospel Radio Chart, a significant milestone for any artist. The single, written and released on her independent label Nalah Music Group, is produced and co-written by Grammy-nominated musician Cedric Thompson.

Lucinda expressed her gratitude for the success of the song, stating, "I am very excited about hitting #1 on the Mediabase Chart. This has been an incredible ride and journey. Thank you to my entire team, Damon Stewart, New Day Distributors, The Orchard, my producer and co-writer Cedric Thompson,

Telisa Stinson, Ike Owens, and all of the program directors and radio announcers for adding this song. I am so overwhelmed and can't wait for the next venture!"

Moore's next venture is to complete her forthcoming EP, "LORD, I HEAR YOU," with her all-star production team of Cedric Thompson and her son, musician Trey Moore. The EP will not only feature Lucinda's powerful and commanding vocals but will also include collaborations with iconic Gospel artists. "Lord, I Hear You" is available now on all digital music outlets. Fans can also connect with Lucinda on her website, LucindaMoore.com, and watch and share the "Lord, I Hear You" official music video on her YouTube channel.

The Link Between Praying And Healing

BY CREFLO DOLLAR



Creflo Dollar

From time to time, people need help getting out of the tailspin we can go into after a scary medical diagnosis. The world has a backward view about health and wholeness; when we receive a bad report from the doctor, religious thinking kicks in and we beg God to heal us. There's nothing wrong with praying, as long as we have the correct perspective on it. Compared to the Old-Testament prayers in which the people begged God to do something, New-Testament prayer acknowledges that God has already provided healing, and thanks Him for it.

When fear pops us, we can give thanks in the midst of the situation. We don't give thanks for what's happening, but in spite of it. "Rejoice in the Lord always; and again I say, Rejoice" (Philippians 4:4). This is a commandment, not a suggestion.

"Rejoice" is defined as to be glad at heart because of a triumph. This triumph is one over sickness, ill health, and death. Jesus obtained it for us through His death on the cross and resurrection. When we fully believe this, we share in the same victory.

Rejoicing over something is having joy in the knowledge that it has already occurred. Un-



like happiness, which is based on a momentary situation, joy comes from what we know. Our healing has already taken place, regardless of what it may look or feel like at the moment. Choosing to rejoice because of this, and refusing to let our physical senses fool us, puts us in a strong position. "Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation" (Habakkuk 3:17, 18).

A thankful heart puts us in the right frame of mind to ap-

proach God and come into His presence. It stirs up the joy in us and lightens our spirits. Our healing is cause for celebration and thanksgiving in our prayer lives. "Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

God has done His part by making healing and wholeness available to us; our part is to take possession of it by faith. We do this by believing that strength and vitality are His will for us. Jesus chose to undergo a severe beating before being nailed to the cross to fulfill God's prophecy. "But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins.

He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed" (Isaiah 53:5, NLT). There's nothing wrong with seeing a doctor when we're sick, as long as we remember who the original source of healing is.

Our prayers of faith bring healing from the heavenly realm to the physical realm. As God's beloved children, we can enjoy perfect health; we have the authority to open our mouth and speak it into being. "The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results" (James 5:16, NLT). Never again will we need to pray for healing when we realize it's already ours.

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.occhr.org
See Website for Service and Streaming Live Times

BISHOP CHARLES E. WALLACE, PASTOR

YOUR ADVERTISEMENT COULD BE HERE

CALL 225.775.2002 TO RESERVE YOUR SPACE

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

24/7 PRAISE RADIO
YOUR GLOBAL INSPIRATION STATION
LISTEN LIVE! WWW.247PRAISERADIO.COM

LET US HELP YOU REACH THOSANDS IN THE 247 PRAISE RADIO COMMUNITY AND BEYOND

These special rates are exclusive to the BR Weekly Press advertising partner. The BR Weekly Press is an official representative and media partner of 247 Praise Radio.com

Stellar Awards NOMINATED
GOSPEL INTERNET RADIO STATION OF THE YEAR

MILLIONS OF LISTENERS PER HOUR

Broadcast Rates

• 15 min	\$25.00	4 broadcast per month	\$100
• 30 min	\$35.00	4 broadcast per month	\$140
• 60 min	\$43.75	4 broadcast per month	\$175

CALL FOR MORE DETAILS **225.775.2002**

ALWAYS CRYSTAL CLEAR 24/7 NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE IN THE CITY, STATE, COUNTRY OR IN THE WORLD

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.	HOURLY POWER Every Friday at 12 NOON

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

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

BRWEEKLYPRESS BUSINESS/SERVICE DIRECTORY



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

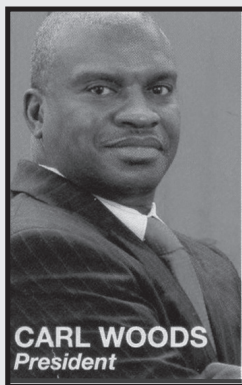
4910 Monticello Blvd., Ste C
Baton Rouge, LA 70814



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

12027 Malbec Ave.
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



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

Sonya's Creations LLC
Portraits / Weddings / Events



Photography & Custom Design
225-286-9377 sonyacreations@gmail.com
<https://linktr.ee/sonyacreations>



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



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

BUSINESS

Analysts' Expectations Exceeded as Entergy Reports Q4 Earnings of \$97.7 Million

Entergy Corp., an energy company based in New Orleans, recently released its fourth-quarter earnings report, revealing a profit of \$97.7 million, or 51 cents per share. These results exceeded the average estimate of five analysts surveyed by Zacks Investment Research, who had predicted earnings of only 45 cents per share. The company also posted revenue of \$3.27 billion during the period, surpassing the expectations of three analysts surveyed by Zacks, who had projected revenue of only \$2.65 billion.

These impressive financial results are a testament to Entergy Corp.'s continued growth and success in the energy industry. The company's focus on innovation and efficiency has enabled them to achieve sustainable development, even amid an increasingly competitive market. As a result, Entergy Corp. reported a profit of \$1.1 billion for the year, with revenue totaling \$13.76 billion.



Looking forward, Entergy Corp. remains optimistic about its financial prospects for the upcoming year, expecting full-year

earnings to be in the range of \$6.55 to \$6.85 per share. This forecast reinforces the company's strong financial outlook and demonstrates

its commitment to providing value to shareholders through its continued success.

Entergy Corp.'s strong financial performance reflects its business strategy and is a testament to its dedication to sustainability and corporate responsibility. As a leading energy company, Entergy Corp. understands the importance of protecting the environment and serving the communities in which they operate. By prioritizing sustainability, they can promote long-term growth while maintaining a commitment to their social and environmental responsibilities.

In conclusion, Entergy Corp.'s fourth-quarter earnings report reflects its commitment to sustainable growth, innovation, and corporate responsibility. As they continue to grow and evolve as a company, they remain committed to providing value to its shareholders while also serving the needs of the communities they serve.

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!

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

SCHEDULE YOUR FREE ESTIMATE TODAY!
CONTACT MR. DAVID (225) 235-4281

Consumer Cellular

SWITCH & GET \$25

Off First Month of New Service!
USE PROMO CODE: **GZ590**

CALL CONSUMER CELLULAR 866-561-1550

© 2023 Consumer Cellular Inc. Terms and Conditions subject to change. New service activation on approved credit. Cellular service is not available in all areas and is subject to system limitations. For promo details please call 866-561-1550.

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

Classifieds

PLACE AN AD

Sell your stuff, advertise jobs or a place to rent. **You can do it ALL here!**

For legal, please call the
Classified Department at (225) 225.775.2002
or email brweeklypress@yahoo.com

SELL YOUR CAR - 1 month for \$80

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS - 1 month for \$150

ADVERTISE ON 247praiseradio.com

FIND IT ALL IN THE CLASSIFIEDS • 225.775.2002

Get on the List

Weekly Press
The eEdition TODAY

Join over 750,000
others to get your news plus special offer!

Visit www.brweeklypress.com
and sign up to get the eEdition TODAY
delivered straight to you inbox. It's FREE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Invitation to Bid (REBID) North Transfer Center Construction
Solicitation #2023-NorthtransitCenter-003

The Capital Area Transit System (CATS), a political subdivision of the State of Louisiana, operating the public transit system in EBR Parish is accepting Proposals for North Transfer Center Construction. Sealed bids are due to CATS Procurement Department by April 10, 2023 at 10:00 am (local time) at 2250 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70802. Acopy of this ITB can be found on CATS and State Procurement websites at: <http://www.brcats.com/page/procurement> and <https://www.cfrpr.doa.louisiana.gov/osp/lapac/deptbids.cfm>

Bidders may submit written questions to: catsprocurement@brcats.com until Friday, March 10, 2023. Bidders are reminded to check CATS website and State Procurement websites often for addendums issued to this ITB. CATS is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

A mandatory pre bid conference and job site visit will be held 9:00 am, February 24, 2023 at 350 N. Donmoor St, Baton Rouge, La. 70806.

HEALTH

Take Control of Your Heart Health: Tips for Women to Prevent Heart Disease

As we come to the end of February, it's important to remember that heart disease remains the leading cause of death for women in the United States. The "Go Red for Women" campaign has brought much-needed attention to this issue, but it's up to each and every one of us to take proactive steps to protect our heart health. Here are four key points to keep in mind as we move forward, along with additional tips and strategies for preventing heart disease:

Know your numbers: Regular check-ups with your healthcare provider can help you stay on top of your blood pressure, cholesterol levels, and body mass index (BMI). Knowing these numbers is an important first step in protecting your heart health, as it can help you identify any potential issues early on. In addition to these standard metrics, it's also a good idea to



track other heart health indicators like your resting heart rate and heart rate variability.

Follow a heart-healthy diet: A diet that's rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins, and healthy fats can help reduce your risk of heart disease. Try to limit your intake of saturated and trans fats, added sugars, and sodium. Eating a variety of colorful fruits and vegetables can help ensure that you're getting a wide range of vitamins and minerals. It's also a good idea to focus on foods that are high in fiber, as this can help lower your cholesterol levels and improve your heart health.

Stay physically active: Regular exercise is one of the best things you can do for your heart health. Aim for at least 30 minutes of moderate-intensity exercise, such as brisk walking or cycling, most days of the week. If you're new to exercise, start

slowly and gradually increase your activity level over time. Try to incorporate a variety of different types of exercise, including cardio, strength training, and stretching.

Don't smoke: Smoking is a major risk factor for heart disease, and quitting smoking is one of the most important things you can do to protect your heart. If you need help quitting, talk to your healthcare provider about resources that can help, such as nicotine replacement therapy or counseling. It's also a good idea to avoid exposure to secondhand smoke, as this can also increase your risk of heart disease.

In addition to these four key points, there are many other things you can do to protect your heart health. Here are a few additional tips and strategies:

See **TIPS**, on page 7

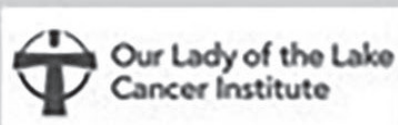
Breakfast and lunch will be provided!

SENIOR BLACK AMERICAN HEALTH FAIR 2023

DATE AND PLACE

Saturday, March 25, 2023
9:00am – 1:00pm

Conference Center Building at
Pennington Biomedical Research Center
6400 Perkins Road
Baton Rouge, LA 70808



ABOUT THIS EVENT

We're focusing on healthy living and screenings for health conditions that are common within the African American community.

The Senior Black American Health Fair will offer:

- health screenings
- fun fitness stations
- health talks
- and more!



225-763-2869



Floyd.Hodoh@pbrc.edu



www.pbrc.edu/SBAHF

SHERMAN from page 3

Women of St. Tammany Parish. "We are thrilled to welcome Laci Sherman to LACCE," said Melissa Bordelon, Tangipahoa Chamber Chair of LACCE. "Her experience, passion, and dedication to professional development and community engagement make her an invaluable addition to our organization and a role model for women in business."

TIPS from page 6

Manage stress: Chronic stress can increase your risk of heart disease, so it's important to find healthy ways to manage stress in your life. This may include activities like meditation, yoga, deep breathing exercises, or spending time with friends and loved ones.

Get enough sleep: Getting enough sleep is essential for maintaining heart health. Aim for 7-8 hours of sleep each night, and try to establish a regular sleep routine to help regulate your body's natural sleep-wake cycle.

Watch your alcohol intake: Drinking too much alcohol can increase your blood pressure and raise your risk of heart disease. If you choose to drink, do so in moderation - no more than one drink per day for women.

Stay up to date on screening tests: Regular screening tests like mammograms, Pap smears, and colonoscopies can help identify any potential health issues early on. Talk to your healthcare provider about which screening tests are recommended for you based on your age and other risk factors.

By making these lifestyle changes and staying vigilant about our heart health, we can all do our part to prevent heart disease and live longer, healthier lives. Remember that even small changes can make a big difference, and it's never too late to start taking care of your heart. Together, we can continue to spread awareness about this important issue

Solar-Powered 'Lighthouses' Provide Safe Haven During Natural Disasters



Rows of solar modules generate electricity at UL-Lafayette's Photovoltaic Applied Research and Testing (PART) Lab — Aug. 9, 2021. (Wes Muller/La. Illuminator)

A nonprofit coalition called Together Louisiana has launched the Community Lighthouse Project, which involves building solar-powered microgrids across the state. These microgrids are installed in central locations in underserved neighborhoods, including community centers, health clinics, and churches. The lighthouses are meant to serve as places of refuge during natural disasters, providing access to electricity, refrigeration, shelter, and other basic needs. They are equipped with user-friendly load management systems that allow occupants to control the flow of power.

As Pierre Moses, who is working with Together Louisiana on the project, told commis-

sioners, "The 'lighthouses' serve as places of refuge for nearby residents to access electricity, refrigeration, shelter and other basic needs during storms and other disasters."

The solar-powered lighthouses can provide electricity virtually indefinitely, unlike fossil fuel backup generators that rely on fuels often unavailable during disasters. The load management systems allow them to disconnect from the main power grid and go into backup mode, regulating power to non-essential devices on cloudy days and ensuring the batteries maintain adequate charge levels for nighttime use.

The project was inspired by the failure of backup genera-

tors after Hurricane Ida, and is funded through donations and public grants. Together Louisiana has already completed three lighthouses and is currently constructing two more. The long-term goal is to have about 300 lighthouses across the state, with the ultimate vision of having a lighthouse within 15 minutes of anyone in Louisiana who needs shelter.

As Commissioner Craig Greene, R-Baton Rouge, lauded the Community Lighthouse Project as a novel solution to Louisiana's fragile energy grid, saying, "The people closest to the problem are usually the ones that come up with the best solutions."

Baton Rouge High Showcases African American Studies Course Amid Nationwide Controversy

BATON ROUGE, La.— Baton Rouge Magnet High opened its doors to showcase its new African American Studies course, which is part of the College Board's Advanced Placement program. The course has drawn nationwide attention after the state of Florida recently rejected it, attacking it as "woke indoctrination masquerading as education."

Baton Rouge Magnet is one of 60 schools across the country piloting this course this year. The school leads the state when it comes to AP, with more students taking more AP exams than any other school in Louisiana.

The controversy in Florida has sparked protests, talk of litigation, as well as pushback from scholars who have come to the

course's defense.

Emmitt Glynn III, who teaches the course, and three of his Baton Rouge Magnet students took a break from the class Friday to answer questions for reporters about the course and offer their perspectives on the controversy. The students said Glynn helps them understand the events of the past, but doesn't impose upon them his personal views.

Glynn said he sees the recent changes as modest adjustments that do not limit what he can teach. Elevating the course to Advanced Placement level has helped raise the course's profile. Glynn said that only 16 students took his class last year but more than 60 are enrolled now.

Get on the List

Weekly Press
The eEdition TODAY

Join over 750,000 others to get your news plus special offer!

Visit www.brweeklypress.com and sign up to get the eEdition TODAY delivered straight to you inbox. It's FREE



Free, professional tax return help

Powered by Entergy

Saturday, February 25
East Baton Rouge Main Library Goodwood
8 AM - 3 PM

You deserve every dollar of your tax refund. Our team of IRS-certified volunteers will help with the entire process — from identifying all available credits to submitting your paperwork.

Find out what documents to bring and more details at entergy.com/freetaxhelp.



VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) is an IRS program that offers free tax preparation services for low-to-moderate income individuals, persons with disabilities, the elderly and limited English speakers through various partner organizations. Learn more at irs.gov/individuals/free-tax-return-preparation-for-you-by-volunteers.

A message from Entergy Corporation ©2023 Entergy Services, LLC. All Rights Reserved. • E-122201



CARE IS

AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana

Getting rewards for doing things that help you stay healthy!

All images are used under license for illustrative purposes only. Any individual depicted is a model.



With our CARE Card program, you can earn rewards for doing things like getting health screenings and seeing your primary care provider for wellness visits. Use the CARE Card to save money when you buy selected health and everyday items.*

Find out more by visiting www.careforla.com.



*Conditions apply. See website.

NBA HBCU Classic
Classic
20 23
SOUTHERN VS. GRAMBLING

PRESENTED BY AT&T

ALL-STAR 2023
UTAH

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

SATURDAY 2.18.23 | 2PM MT
JON M. HUNTSMAN CENTER
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

SWAG

AT&T to Present NBA HBCU Classic with \$100k Donation to Grambling and Southern Universities

NBA Commits Over \$1M to HBCUs During All-Star 2023

The NBA has announced that AT&T will be the presenting partner of the NBA HBCU Classic for the second year. AT&T and the

NBA will donate \$100,000 each to Classic opponents Grambling State University and Southern University to support academic resources, athletics, and wellness services. Google and Adidas will serve as associate partners of the game. The NBA will continue its ongoing commitment to HBCUs with over \$1 million contributed

to organizations providing scholarships, economic empowerment, and career development opportunities to HBCU students and institutions during NBA All-Star 2023. Coverage of the Bayou rivalry will begin at 4:00 p.m. ET on TNT, ESPN2, NBA TV. Prior to tipoff, the Bonner Family will sing the U.S. national anthem and

the Black national anthem, "Lift Every Voice." New events in 2023 will include a pep rally hosted at Google's Pixel Playground and a pregame fan fest ahead of the game. The NBA, Grambling State, and Southern partnered with Pensole Lewis College of Business and Design to add official NCAA basketball court markings on the

NBA All-Star court in the University of Utah's Jon M. Huntsman Center. As part of the NBA's All-Star HBCU impact, the NBA Foundation will donate \$500,000 to various organizations to expand programming and critical resources for HBCU students and alumni. Grambling State Tigers

and Southern Jaguars will have the opportunity to engage with NBA league and team executives, current and former NBA players, and take part in the NBA Cares All-Star Day of Service. There will also be additional opportunities for HBCU students focused on professional development and exposure.