

The Weekly Press

SERVING BAKER, CENTRAL, AND ZACHARY

THURSDAY, APRIL 7-13, 2022

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House bill back smoking marijuana in a vehicle illegal

The bill makes smoking marijuana in a moving vehicle a primary offense, which means police could pull over anyone suspected of a violation.

BY: GREG LAROSE
Louisiana Illuminator

You're not allowed to possess non-medical marijuana while in a car in Louisiana, and it's illegal to be under its influence while driving. But there's no actual prohibition against smoking weed behind the wheel, something that would change under a bill the Louisiana House of Representatives approved Wednesday.

Rep. Laurie Schlegel, R-Metairie, said she authored House Bill 234 as a highway safety measure, given that more forms of medical marijuana are now legal in Louisiana. Her proposal would also apply to passengers

in a vehicle.

The bill makes smoking marijuana in a moving vehicle a primary offense, which means police could pull over anyone suspected of a violation. Rep. Edmond Jordan, D-Baton Rouge, told Schegel during House floor debate he was concerned her bill would lead to more unwarranted police stops.

Opponents also noted that cops could mistake a cigarette or vaping device for marijuana and could still rightfully pull over a vehicle.

In committee testimony last week, Louisiana State Police Capt. Robert Burns told

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A proposal that would outlaw marijuana smoking in a moving car for drivers and passengers advanced from the state House of Representatives in a 66-31 vote Wednesday, April 6, 2022. (Canva image)

Louisiana House votes to prohibit release of most mug shots before conviction



Rep. Royce Duplessis, D-New Orleans (Madeline Meyer/LSU Manship School News Service)

The Louisiana House of Representatives voted 75-21 Tuesday to ban the release of almost all police mug shots until a person is convicted of a crime. If approved, the proposed restriction could impact the way media reports on arrests throughout the state.

House Bill 729, sponsored by Rep. Royce Duplessis, D-New Orleans, would remove most photographs law enforcement takes after a person is arrested and during their booking into a correctional facility from the public record. This would mean mug shots would typically no longer accompany news stories about arrests.

The Senate will now take up the legislation, which the Louisiana Press Association opposes. Utah and Illinois have already enacted similar laws.

Duplessis said mug shots have historically been used to shame people who get arrested. They leave the public with the impression that a

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WEATHER

MON. 04/11
Mostly Cloudy
High 87°.

TUE. 04/12
Partly Cloudy
High 85°.

WED. 04/13
Partly Cloudy
High 83°.

THUR. 04/14
Partly Cloudy
High 79°.

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Ketanji Brown Jackson Confirmed



Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson's confirmation makes her the first Black woman to be elevated to the nation's highest court. Three Republicans joined Democrats in supporting her.

The 53-47 vote elevated the first Black woman to the pinnacle of the judicial branch as senators erupted in cheers. Three Republicans joined Democrats in supporting President Biden's nominee.

The Senate on Thursday confirmed Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court, making her the first Black woman to be elevated to the pinnacle of the judicial branch in what her supporters hailed as a needed step toward bringing new diversity and life experience to the court.

Overcoming a concerted effort by conservative Republicans to derail her nomination, Judge Jackson was confirmed on a 53-to-47 vote, with three Republicans joining all 50 members of the Democratic caucus in backing her. The vote was a rejection of Republican attempts to paint her as a liberal extremist who has coddled criminals. Dismissing those portrayals as distorted and offensive, Judge Jackson's backers saw the confirmation as an uplifting occasion, one where a representative

of a group often pushed into the background instead moved to the forefront.

The vote put her in line to replace Justice Stephen G. Breyer when he retires at the end of the court's session this summer.

"Even in the darkest times, there are bright lights," Senator Chuck Schumer of New York, the majority leader, said on the Senate floor. "Today is one of the brightest lights. Let us hope it's a metaphor, an indication of many bright lights to come."

Sen. Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., Tuesday, April 5, 2022. Earlier, three Republican senators broke from their party to support Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson's historic nomination to the Supreme Court.



Sen. Minority Leader Mitch McConnell

He added, "How many millions of kids in generations past could have benefited from such a role model?" At the Capitol, the galleries to witness the historic vote, closed for much of the pandemic, were full of supporters. The chamber erupted in cheers, with senators, staff and visitors all jumping up for a lengthy standing ovation, after the vote was announced.

Not everyone shared in the joy of the

See JACKSON, on page 2

Gov. Edwards, DOTD Discuss Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

Gov. John Bel Edwards was joined by DOTD Secretary Shawn D. Wilson, Ph.D., and representatives from Louisiana Clean Fuels at the outdoor electric vehicle expo held at DOTD Headquarters to discuss electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure.



Gov. John Bel Edwards

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), passed by Congress in late 2021, will allocate \$75 million over five years to electric vehicle charging infrastructure in Louisiana, with \$14.1 million allocated this fiscal year. This is part of President Biden's bipartisan infrastructure law to deploy chargers along highways and in rural areas to support domestic manufacturing jobs and make EVs more accessible and affordable for working families.

"To address climate change, I have established the goal for Louisiana to be at net zero for greenhouse gas emissions by 2050," said Gov. Edwards. "To help accomplish this, the Louisiana Climate Action Plan calls for transitioning the public fleet to low- and zero-emission vehicles. Therefore, we will need to begin the transition as we replace state vehicles across all agencies. With leadership from our state agencies, and cooperation from local government and the private sector, I am confident we can meet our GHG emission reductions goals and become a leader in renewable energy."

"This federal funding is a critical to helping Louisiana do its part to reduce carbon emissions in order to provide a more sustainable future for generations to come," said Wilson. "Overall, we want to convert gas stations into fuel stations where a variety of fuel options, including electric charging, are available. In order to become a competitor in green energy, Louisiana must make changes, and this starts with our transportation industry."

"Louisiana Clean Fuels is committed to working with the

See DOTD, on page 5



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LOCAL & STATE

Friendly Neighbor Keeper Initiative to #KeepBakerBeautiful a Big Success on March 19

BAKER, La. — On March 19, 2022, the City of Baker held the Annual City-wide Clean-up event in conjunction with Councilman Vincent's Friendly Neighbor Keeper Initiative. The initiative he has been championing since 2016 was a great success, with many volunteers participating across multiple districts in both residential and commercial areas.

Alongside Councilman, Charles Vincent was Mayor Darnell Waites, Police Chief Carl Dunn, Councilman Robert Young, City of Baker Public Works Director Timmie Sept and staff, and City of Baker Buildings and Grounds staff supporting the clean-up efforts. The Baker Chamber of Commerce sponsored the event, which was an excellent opportunity for members of the community and leaders to come together to work toward the goal of a litter-free Baker. Mayor Waites said, "Residents of Baker take pride in how their city looks and ensuring that we Keep Baker Beautiful is of the utmost importance to my administration. Dr. Vincent has been a key player and champion of litter abatement. I appreciate his long-term efforts and plan to make the City-wide clean-up a quarterly event."

Community clean-ups are essential for supporting the local economy and promoting tourism. As we all know, litter impacts the image and perception of an area, making it unwelcoming and unattractive. Historically, the City of Baker was considered the cleanest community in the Baton Rouge metropolitan area. When a community is clean, both in public and private spaces, it increases its value and contributes to building a safe and welcoming environment.

These efforts also ensure that wildlife is protected by helping to eliminate harmful pollution. There are many instances of il-

legal dumping happening around the city, and it is paramount to understand that illegally dumped trash is destructive. It harms the water quality of local streams and rivers and can impede the drainage of runoff, which creates a blockage of streams, culverts, and drainage basins which can and does lead, leading to flooding. Economically, property values decrease due to illegal dumping, which affects all residents and businesses in the city and the local tax base, affecting the provincial government's ability to address the community's needs. Ultimately, if you see someone illegally dumping, say something. You can contact the Baker Police Department to report illegal dumping at 225.775.6000.

The Department of Justice notes that crime is less likely to occur in areas that are "clean, well-lighted, and used frequently by residents and their friends. By reclaiming an abandoned park or playground, eliminating tall weeds and debris from a vacant lot, or sprucing up sidewalks and public spaces along the street, you'll be making the territory less attractive to criminals and more attractive to the community, which makes the community safer."

If you have garbage you need to dispose of and are unsure of how to approach the disposal, contact Republic Services directly at (225)778-3800 or Baker City Hall at 225.778.0300 to make a request. The garbage and recycling vendor provides large extensive item pick-up services each week on the second regular pick-up day. In addition, residents can call for a scheduled pick-up. In addition, if your regular standard garbage exceeds the waste bin capacity you currently have, you can get an additional container (charges apply). This also is handled with a phone call.

JACKSON from page 1

day. As applause echoed from the marbled walls, Senator Mitch McConnell, Republican of Kentucky and the minority leader, turned his back and slowly walked out, as did most of the few Republicans remaining on the floor, leaving half of the chamber empty as the other half celebrated in a stark reflection of the partisan divide.

"When it came to one of the most consequential decisions a president can make, a lifetime appointment to our highest court, the Biden administration let the radicals run the show," Mr. McConnell had said earlier, making one last argument against the judge, whose nomination he framed as an example of extremists taking control of the Democratic Party. "The far left got the reckless inflationary spending they wanted. The far left has gotten the insecure border they wanted. And today, the far left will get the Supreme Court justice they wanted."

Three Republicans — Senators Susan Collins of Maine, Lisa Murkowski of Alaska and Mitt Romney of Utah — crossed party lines to support Judge Jackson,

lending a modicum of bipartisanship to an otherwise bitterly polarized process.

Vice President Kamala Harris, the first Black woman to hold the position and one of just 11 Black senators in American history, presided over the vote — one historic figure presiding over the elevation of another — as senators stated their positions from their desks in a reflection of the magnitude of the moment. More than a dozen members of the Congressional Black Caucus, including Representatives Hakeem Jeffries of New York and Joyce Beatty of Ohio, clustered on the Senate floor to mark the occasion.

At the White House, Mr. Biden and Judge Jackson watched the vote together from the Roosevelt Room. Officials said the two would appear at an event on Friday to mark Judge Jackson's confirmation, though she will not be sworn in for months.

"I'm overjoyed, deeply moved," Ms. Harris told reporters after the vote. "There's so much about what's happening in the world now that is presenting some of the worst of this moment and human behaviors. And then we have a moment like this."

Prosecutor considering charges for troopers in Ronald Greene's death



Ronald Greene, a 49-year-old Black man from Monroe, died in 2019 after a car crash and being beaten by State Police troopers.

BY PIPER HUTCHINSON
LSU Manship School News Service

BATON ROUGE--Third District Attorney John Belton told a House committee Thursday that he will convene a grand jury to consider charges against the state troopers involved in the death of Ronald Greene.

Greene, a black motorist, died after a violent encounter with State Police in which he was beaten, tased and dragged while shackled after a high-speed chase that ended in a crash outside Monroe.

"It was the worst thing I've ever seen," Belton told the special committee investigating the Greene case. "I believe state and federal crimes were committed, including federal civil rights violations."

Belton said he is moving forward with charges because he has been giving approval to do so by federal authorities, who had previously asked him to wait until their investigation was complete.

"I can't promise an indictment or conviction, but I did promise to Ms. Hardin that I will continue to

seek justice for Mr. Greene and his family," Belton said, referring to Greene's mother Mona Hardin.

Belton said he was told by Alexander Van Hook, then the acting U.S. attorney for the region, that indictments would come by fall 2021. That never happened. Belton said that Brandon Brown, who was recently named to the position, gave him the go-ahead to move forward with charges.

Belton told the committee that federal officials have promised to share information with him.

"I did not recuse my office," Belton said. "In fact, I have maintained prosecutorial power to prosecute state crimes that occurred in my district."

"I believe some of the officers' actions were above the law," he added. "They committed criminal acts, including violating Mr. Greene's civil rights."

The Greene case came back to public attention earlier this year, three years after his death, after the Associated Press released a report alleging that Gov. John Bel Edwards knew about the circum-

stances of Greene's death earlier than he publicly admitted.

The committee is tasked with investigating Greene's death and whether a police coverup occurred.

Leaked videos depicting the troopers' violent actions led to widespread public condemnation of their actions, but only one trooper, Kory York, ever faced punishment. York was suspended for 50 hours.

Belton did not specify which troopers might face charges. But he did tell legislators that former State Police Superintendent Kevin Reeves and current Superintendent Lamar Davis are not under investigation.

Belton also did not specify what charges he will seek, only telling lawmakers he will "look at everything."

"I will never, and I repeat, I will never make prosecutorial decisions due to political pressure or public opinion...No one is above the law — no one," Belton said.

of a crime yet.

"We are entitled to a presumption of innocence," Duplessis said Tuesday. "Many people are arrested. Not everyone is convicted."

Under the legislation, police would have some discretion to release mug shots of arrestees or suspects if they are fugitives or present an "imminent threat" to the public. A court

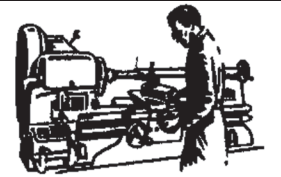
could also order the release of a mug shot photo.

The bill also has some specific restrictions aimed at websites that require someone to pay to have their mug shot removed. The sites have cropped up around the country and often publish hundreds of mug shots. Critics liken the practice to extortion.

Duplessis' legislation has drawn support from several civil rights organizations, including the American Civil Liberties Union of Louisiana, and groups that work with formerly incarcerated people.

Some media organizations have already moved away from using mug shots. Newspapers across the country have announced in recent years that they will no longer run mug shots alongside stories about arrests.

READER INFORMATION



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lawmakers Schlegel's bill would present challenges for law enforcement. In response to a question from Rep. Aimee Freeman, D-New Orleans, Schlegel said police did not ask her to file her bill, which she said has support from district attorneys.

Rep. Richard Nelson, R-Mandeville, challenged Schlegel's claims that her measure would make highways safer. Without citing a source, he said there are 50% more auto accidents in Louisiana than California and Colorado, two states that have legalized recreational marijuana. Nelson unsuccessfully sponsored a bill last year to sanction and tax recreational marijuana in Louisiana.

The House voted 66-31 to approve Schegel's bill, advancing it to the Senate.

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person featured is a criminal, even though they haven't been convicted

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NATIONAL

Civilian Death toll in Mariupol tops 5,000



A Ukrainian soldier stands near an apartment building destroyed by Russian shelling.

ANDRIIVKA, Ukraine — The mayor of the besieged port city of Mariupol put the number of civilians killed there at more than 5,000 Wednesday, as Ukraine collected evidence of Russian atrocities on the ruined outskirts of Kyiv and braced for what could become a climactic battle for control of the country's industrial east.

Ukrainian authorities continued gathering up the dead in shattered towns outside the capital amid tell-tale signs Moscow's troops killed civilians indiscriminately before retreating over the past several days.

In other developments, the U.S. and its Western allies moved to impose new sanctions against the Kremlin over what they branded war crimes.

In reaction to the alleged atrocities outside Kyiv, the U.S. announced sanctions against Russian President Vladimir Putin's two adult

daughters and said it is toughening penalties against Russian banks. Britain banned investment in Russia and pledged to end its dependence on Russian coal and oil by the end of the year.

The European Union is also expected to take additional punitive measures, including an embargo on coal.

Russia on Wednesday completed the pullout of all of its estimated 24,000 or more troops from the Kyiv and Chernihiv areas in the north, sending them into Belarus or Russia to resupply and reorganize, a U.S. defense official speaking on condition of anonymity said.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy warned that Moscow is now marshaling reinforcements and trying to push deeper into the country's east, where the Kremlin has said its goal is to "liberate" the Donbas, Ukraine's mostly Russian-speaking

industrial heartland.

"The fate of our land and of our people is being decided. We know what we are fighting for. And we will do everything to win," Mr. Zelenskyy said, six weeks into the war.

Ukrainian authorities urged people living in the Donbas to evacuate now, ahead of an impending Russian offensive, while there is still time.

"Later, people will come under fire," Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk said, "and we won't be able to do anything to help them."

A Western official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss intelligence estimates, said it will take Russia's battle-damaged forces as much as a month to regroup for a major push on eastern Ukraine.

Mariupol Mayor Vadym Boichenko said that of the more than

See DEATH, on page 5

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THIS MONTH [APRIL]

@ BREC

ART UNWIND: STILL LIFE BLUES
Milton J. Womack Park
April 1 | 6:30-8:30 p.m.

YOUTH GIRLS BASKETBALL: SPRING DEVELOPMENTAL LEAGUE
Sports Academy
April 1-30 | 9 a.m.-noon

ZIPPITY ZOO FEST
BREC's Baton Rouge Zoo
April 2-3 | 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

CAMP-IN': WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE
Lovett Rd. Park
April 2 | 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

CAMP-IN': MINUTE TO WIN IT MANIA
Lovett Rd. Park + Church Street Park
April 15 | 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

NEIGHBORHOOD MOVIE IN THE PARK
Saia Park April 8 | 5:30 p.m.
Maplewood Park + Highland Road Community Park April 22 | 5:30 p.m.

BIOBLITZ 2022 Forest Community Park
April 8 + April 9

CONTINUOUS EGG HUNT
Forest Community Park
April 9 | 3-5 p.m.

E-SPORTS TOURNAMENT: MARIO KART 8
Red Oaks Park
April 9 | 12:30 p.m.

SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!
brec.org/summercamp

BR BIKE FEST
Perkins Road Community Park
April 9 | 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

10 + UNDER TENNIS TOURNAMENT
Highland Road Community Park Tennis Center
April 9 | 8:30 a.m.-noon

SATURDAY MORNING STUDIO: GNOME HOME
Milton J. Womack Park
April 9 | 10:30 a.m.-noon

SUNSHINE SOCIAL: CANDY LAND
Jefferson Hwy. Park
April 14 | 6-9 p.m.

PARTY FOR THE PLANET
BREC's Baton Rouge Zoo
April 16 | 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

PETS + PADDLE
Milford Wampold Memorial Park
April 23 | 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL: PITCH, HIT + RUN
Plank Road Park
April 30 | 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

BREC

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RELIGION

BMI Congratulates its 2022 GRAMMY Winners

BMI is extremely proud to salute our incredible affiliates who won the music industry's most prestigious accolades last night at the 64th Annual GRAMMY Awards, which were presented at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas. At both an untelevised ceremony earlier in the evening and on CBS' live broadcast, BMI songwriters, producers and composers made another strong showing across the board.

Some of the evening's biggest winners included BMI Icon CeCe Winans, who took home three awards, namely Best Gospel Performance/Song for "Never Lost," Best Contemporary Christian Music Performance/Song for "Believe for It" and Best Gospel Album for Believe for It. Producer Dernst "D'Mile" Emile II was also a multiple winner, collecting the Best R&B Song and Song of the Year awards for "Leave the Door Open" by Silk Sonic*. Lady Gaga won the GRAMMY for Best Pop Vocal Album for Love for Sale, her project with Tony Bennett* an album that also won the award for Best Engineered Album, Non-Classical. Prior to the broadcast, Foo Fighters won three awards for Best Rock Performance, Best Rock Song and Best Rock Album. While they'd originally been slated to perform, the band cancelled their appearance in the wake of the passing of their drummer, Taylor Hawkins*. Other notable wins included newcomer Baby Keem, who won the Best Rap Performance award for "Family Ties" and Doja Cat and Sza claiming the Best Pop Duo/Group Performance award for "Kiss Me More." This was the first GRAMMY win for both BMI songwriters.

The forgiveness option



Psalms 103:10-11

Good relationships require giving and receiving forgiveness.

Because we are human we will mess up in one way or another. And those failures impact our relationship with others at times.

That's why forgiveness is an essential part of Our faith. Jesus did not come to create perfect people. He came to restore broken relationships.

The amazing plan of God was to restore relationships through the power of forgiveness. Jesus said I did not come into the world to condemn the world but that the world through me might be saved. (John 3:17)

Forgive is a compound word For is ownership Give is to release, you have the power to release others as well as yourself.

Forgiveness is an important component of our faith, the power of forgiveness is the willingness to do so! without requiring someone to behave in the way you want them to.

When you forgive someone without them working for it, it produces true repentance and

freedom.

As a teenager I experienced the loss of my dog that I raised from a puppy because of a miss understanding, my father took her life.

I held that Against him for years, I was fifty nine years old and he was deceased before I addressed the condition of my heart. God help me to realize that the people you look up to as your heroes are human first.

God reminded me of how this same man when I fell on a heater severely burning my arm he nurtured me back to health, times when I was sick he would pray until I fell asleep or the pain was gone, he was my protector, my earthly Provider.

But he was just a human like all of us making mistakes, God said to me do to him what I have done for you, he said to his father

forgive them for they know not what they do!

My father has been deceased since 2005 forgiveness is not for the dead, I am free because of my willingness to forgive.

My life is better and those that are in my life today, get the benefit of my willingness to yield to the will of God when it come to forgiveness.

All of us are recipients of forgiveness, Jesus mentions it when he taught his disciples to pray Forgive us our debts that we forgive our debtors.

We can't limit or determine Gods level of forgiveness, but if we don't forgive others the way he forgives us it reveals that we don't understand his level of love.

You see God's way of loving is matchless, no one can compare to it, he will leave the ninety nine looking for you, to forgive you without judgment.

"He does not punish us for all our sins; he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve. For his unfailing love toward those who fear him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth.



Pastor Jerome Smith, Sr.



HEALTH AND BUSINESS: AN IMPACTFUL DUO

Dr. Gayle Young, HHP, MA, JD
Holistic Health Executive
and Practitioner



Dr. Gayle Young

Have you ever tried to run a business unhealthy and unhappy? How did that work out for you? Have you ever worked for a company with an ailing workforce, or whose leadership was sick?

Not only have I worked for those types of companies, but I was also once a business owner who was sick and dying. I made money, and my business was successful and prosperous, but in the end, it shuttered. I didn't have a health success plan. I did not know that I needed one.

My business plan did not even include a health component other than insurance. So, was my business successful? Through the lens of the impact that businesses are supposed to make in a community, I think I soared – I gave back to non-profits, churches, and schools through financial donations and volunteerism. So that was good. But, not great.

Many of those organizations relied on my donations. I know my church certainly relied on my title and offerings. My family relied on me being able to contribute to the welfare of my mother and extended family. My failed health impacted more than me, it impacted the bottom line of my employees and vendors that I worked with and supported.

I was more grieved by what I could no longer do for others than over being so ill. I spent a few years bedridden, always hopeful, envisioning a new day, a new season, and a new opportunity. And I got just what I envisioned and more... a new life and a chance to help others soar.

Even after healing, I was sometimes haunted by the idea that just three years before I became too ill to work, prosper and care for myself properly. I was the only African American woman chosen as the Baton Rouge Business Report's 2006 Influential

Woman in Business. And, in less than two years, I was not influencing anyone, not even myself.

But that all changed when I began engaging in holistic health care. Eating foods that nourished, rather than depleted my body, mind, and spirit. I rapidly healed and began to flourish again.

For other families and business owners, I created, Laughter in Your Belly Wellness, a brick-and-mortar Holistic Health Clinic, executive coaching, and training business. I am doing things differently this time. Very different! I learned through my years of being bedridden on 22 meds, being treated by 15 doctors, and having everything from a brain tumor to lupus, fibromyalgia, and more, that my Health is my best business tool. For an employer, especially a small business owner, it is key to have well-balanced emotional and mental health. I can teach you how to excel in business and health.

Please join me on Tuesday, April 12, 2022, at the SBA Virtual Business Development and Procurement Conference, as I present "Mental Health Wellness, Taking Care of Yourself While Taking Care of Business." You will hear my story and leave with ready to implement tools to use your health to build long-term wealth and impact. I am looking forward to seeing you there.

Register Here: www.sba.gov/la

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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

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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

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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.

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Wednesday Inspirational Service 7pm

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'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

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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

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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

BUSINESS

DOTD from page 1

Governor and our state agencies to help us attain our climate action goals of transitioning 50% of public fleets to zero emission vehicles and fuels by 2035 and 100% by 2050 and to install 250 electric charging stations per 100,000 residents by 2050," said Ann Vail, Executive Director of Louisiana Clean Fuels. She added that her coalition has been working to improve Louisiana's alternative and electric vehicle fueling infrastructure for over 20 years. "Louisiana already has complete Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and Propane (LPG) corridors on most of our interstate highways. I'm thrilled to get the opportunity to support our state's efforts to nominate our critical interest corridors for Electric vehicles and hydrogen as well."

DOTD will begin to develop the grant programs and aims to solicit applications over the next year. In the second year, the department will make awards, monitor and inspect installations, and identify and correct weaknesses in the grant programs for use in future rounds of solicitations and awards.

DEATH from page 3

5,000 civilians killed during weeks of Russian bombardment and street fighting, 210 were children. He said Russian forces bombed hospitals, including one where 50 people burned to death.

Mr. Boichenko said more than 90% of the city's infrastructure has been destroyed. The attacks on the strategic southern city on the Sea of Azov have cut off food, water, fuel and medicine and pulverized homes and businesses.

British defense officials said 160,000 people remained trapped in the city, which had a prewar population of 430,000. A humanitarian relief convoy accompanied by the Red Cross has been trying for days without success to get into the city.

Capturing Mariupol would allow Russia to secure a continuous land corridor to the Crimean Peninsula, which Moscow seized from Ukraine in 2014.

In the north, Ukrainian authorities said the bodies of least 410 civilians have been found in towns around Kyiv, victims of what Mr. Zelenskyy has portrayed as a Russian campaign of murder, rape, dismemberment and torture. Some victims had apparently been shot at

Democrats accuse oil companies of 'rip off' on gas prices



Oil executives, testifying before Congress for the second time in six months, responded that oil is a global market and that oil companies don't dictate prices.

Big Oil executives defended their record profits against accusations of price gouging in a contentious hearing before the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee Wednesday, as record high prices at the gas pump continue to crimp drivers across the country.

In testimony that lasted nearly three hours, executives from six fossil fuel companies, including Exxon Mobil (XOM) and Chevron (CVX) repeatedly denied assertions that their firms are holding back production, to keep prices elevated, even as Committee Chairman Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ) publicly called out oil producers for "ripping off" American consumers, instead of providing relief.

"They're buying back their stock at an estimated cost of \$40 billion this year," Pallone said. "Big oil is lining

their profits with one hand and taking billions in taxpayer subsidies with the other. Meanwhile, American people are getting ripped off as companies choose to keep production low so their own profits stay high."

Supply shortages brought on by the pandemic and the Russian invasion of Ukraine have pushed gas prices to new highs, with the national average price per gallon hitting a record \$4.33 last month, according to AAA. Year-over-year prices have increased more than 40%.

While prices have moderated slightly in recent weeks, they haven't fallen as steeply as international crude prices, which have declined 23% from \$139 per barrel in early March to \$103 on Wednesday. That has driven allegations of price gouging by Democratic lawmakers.

"If the price of gas is driven by the local market, why is the price of oil coming down but the price at the pump is still near record highs?" said Rep. Diane DeGette (D-CO).

'No single company sets the price'

In testimony, Exxon Chairman and CEO Darren Woods said gas prices are simply the function of supply and demand, calling for a shift in government policy that encourages an increase in the supply of oil and natural gas.

"No single company sets the price of oil or gasoline," he said. "The market establishes the price based on available supply, and the demand for that supply. Continued investment in new production to offset depletion and meet growing demand is the only way to achieve balanced markets and more affordable prices, bringing real relief at the pump."

'Empower the Change' Growth Fund Aims to Close the Racial Wealth Gap

ST. LOUIS & NEW ORLEANS & AUSTIN, Texas & WASHINGTON-- The Empower the Change growth equity fund is entirely dedicated to providing access to capital to minority-owned businesses, empowering and enabling entrepreneurs of color who are advancing innovation in America. "As we announced during Black History Month, we are responding to the injustices and inequities we see for small businesses

owned and operated by people of color by doing what we - as a venture capital firm and impact investor - do best: deploy capital to underserved and overlooked areas and entrepreneurs," said Sandra M. Moore, Chief Impact Officer and Managing Director, Advantage Capital. "Last month, we shared our intentions. This month, we are thrilled to launch our brand: The Empower the Change Fund." Advantage Capital and the

NMSDC Business Consortium Fund have partnered with like-minded investors interested in advancing opportunity for minority-owned businesses, adding two, new limited partners since the initial announcement. These established and authentic investors recognize a step-change is required and that appropriate access to capital can empower entrepreneurs with the resources needed to grow their businesses and build their communities.



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