

The Weekly Press

SERVING BAKER, CENTRAL, AND ZACHARY

THURSDAY, MARCH 23-29, 2023

A PEOPLE'S PUBLICATION

VOL. 46 • NO.03 • FREE

CDC recommends all adults get tested for Hepatitis B

The U.S. Centers for Control and Prevention have issued a new recommendation urging all adults to receive screening for hepatitis B at least once in their lifetime.

The agency describes hepatitis B (HBV) as a liver infection caused by the HBV virus. It can progress to liver cancer and other serious illnesses.

CDC officials said as many as 2.4 million people live with HBV, and most might not know they have it.

A severe infection could lead to chronic HBV, which could increase a person's risk of getting cancer or cirrhosis.

Further, the CDC said those diagnosed with chronic or long-term HBV are up to 85% more likely to succumb to an early death.

"Chronic HBV infection can lead to substantial morbidity and mortality but is detectable before the development of severe liver disease using reliable and inexpensive screening tests," CDC officials stated.

Even though the number of people with HBV has decreased

significantly in the last 30 years, the Office of Minority Health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services says it is still a problem for African Americans.

That office reported that, in 2020, non-Hispanic blacks would be 1.4 times more likely to die from viral hepatitis than non-Hispanic whites.

Also, non-Hispanic blacks were almost twice as likely to die from hepatitis C as white individuals.

Further, while having comparable case rates for HBV in 2020, non-Hispanic blacks were 2.5 times more likely to die from HBV than non-Hispanic whites.

Medical officials noted that HBV spreads through contact with infected blood or bodily fluids, which can occur through sex, injecting drugs, or during pregnancy or delivery.

The CDC previously issued a recommendation in 2008, when it urged testing for high-risk individuals.

In its most recent recommendation, the agency said that adults



over 18 must be tested at least once. The agency declared that pregnant individuals should also

undergo screening during each pregnancy, regardless of whether they've received a vaccine or have

been previously tested. Additionally, incarcerated individuals, those with multiple sex

partners, or people with a history of hepatitis C should test periodically, the CDC said.

The agency warned that symptoms of acute HBV could include fever, fatigue, abdominal pain, dark urine, and jaundice.

Symptoms could take several months or longer to present and last for months.

The CDC's latest report further notes the following:

"Although a curative treatment is not yet available, early diagnosis and treatment of chronic HBV infections reduce the risk for cirrhosis, liver cancer, and death," CDC officials noted in the report.

"Along with vaccination strategies, universal screening of adults and appropriate testing of persons at increased risk for HBV infection will improve health outcomes, reduce the prevalence of HBV infection in the United States, and advance viral hepatitis elimination goals."

• It's estimated more than half of people who have the hepatitis B

See CDC, on page 2

La. voters head to polls for March 25 elections

BATON ROUGE, La. — Louisiana voters will head to the polls on Saturday, March 25, to decide on several races and proposals.

The polls open at 7 a.m. and will close at 8 p.m., according to the Louisiana Secretary of State's Office. Anyone in line by the time the polls close will still be allowed to vote.

Election officials said that seven parishes have races on the ballot, 12 parishes have propositions on the ballot, and nine parishes have both races and propositions on the ballot.

Many East Baton Rouge Parish voters will choose the next person to take on Baton Rouge's backed-up court system. Four candidates are on the ballot to replace retiring Judge Tim Kelley.

There are many additional races and propositions that are expected to appear on voters' ballots. Visit <https://voterportal.sos.la.gov/> to learn more about what you will be voting on.

Voters will need to bring a valid ID with them to vote. That can include a Louisiana driver's license, a Louisiana special ID card, a picture identification card with a person's name and signature such as a passport, or a digital license via LA Wallet.

NASA Sponsors Inaugural Magnolia Regional FIRST Robotics Competition



Teams are shown competing in the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics World Championship in Houston, Texas in April of 2022. Teams compete at events such as the Magnolia Regional in Laurel, Mississippi, and Bayou Regional in Kenner, Louisiana, for the chance to advance to the annual world championship, scheduled this year for April 19-23 in Houston. Credits: FIRST Robotics

Organizers are preparing to host 30-plus teams for an inaugural FIRST Robotics Magnolia Regional Competition in Laurel, Mississippi, on March 15-18, thanks, in large part, to NASA's Stennis Space Center, a lead sponsor for the event and a driving force in its launch.

Through the competition, NASA Stennis is joining with NASA's Robotics Alliance Project and co-sponsor Mississippi Power to bring to life all aspects of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) in the Magnolia state. It particularly hopes to

lead students from rural areas to pursue STEM studies and careers as NASA continues in its mission to inspire the world through discovery. The new regional event is a critical milestone to enhance engagement with robotics programs and the K-12 community across the southeast region of the U.S.

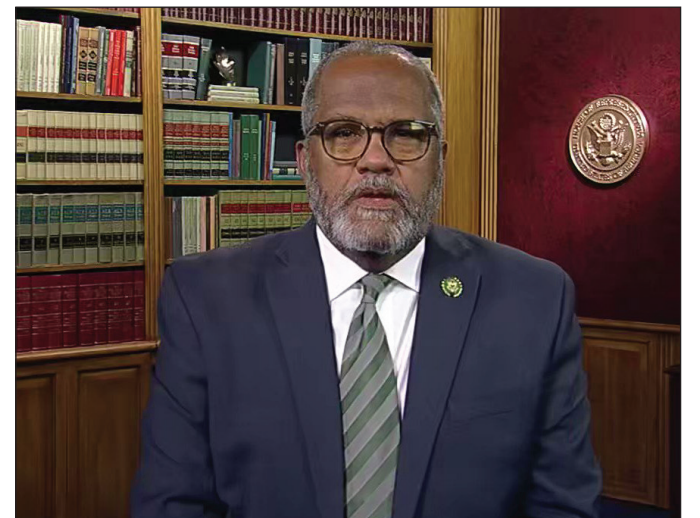
"It is important to be able to model and provide examples to students who geographically do not get exposed to STEM activities," said NASA Stennis Office of STEM Engagement Director Kelly Martin-Rivers. "If it is something that you do not see around you, it

is hard to understand how to get there. One importance of having a robotics regional and setting it in central Mississippi is to provide that access, opportunity, and visibility to an area of students that have not had a strong STEM connection."

The FIRST (For the Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Magnolia Regional Competition is scheduled at the Magnolia Center in Laurel, Mississippi. The event is free, open to the public, and

See NASA, on page 2

Rep. Carter Praises \$26 Million to Address Emerging Contaminants in Louisiana's Drinking Water



Congressman Troy A. Carter

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congressman Troy A. Carter, Sr. (D-La.) announced that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will grant \$26,300,000 from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to address emerging contaminants like Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in Louisiana's drinking water. This investment will be made available through EPA's Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities (EC-SDC) Grant Program and will promote access to safe and clean water in small, rural, and disadvantaged communities.

"The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is bringing critical investments in our water systems, roads, bridges, and broadband," said Rep. Carter. "Too many Louisianians are being harmed

by exposure to PFAS and other dangerous contaminants in their drinking water. The funding announced today will provide millions of dollars to strengthen our state's water infrastructure while protecting people's health and boosting local economies."

Congressman Carter advocated and voted for the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law which invests \$5 billion over five years to help communities that are on the frontlines of PFAS contamination reduce PFAS in drinking water. EPA announced the funds as part of an allotment of \$2 billion to states and territories that can be used to prioritize infrastructure and source water treatment for pollutants, like PFAS and other emerging contaminants, and to conduct water quality testing.

WEATHER



MON. 03/27
Mostly Cloudy
High 45°.



WED. 03/29
Partly Cloudy
High 74°.



TUE. 03/28
Mostly Cloudy
High 55°.



THUR. 03/30
Mostly Cloudy
High 62°.

INDEX

State & Local	2
State & Local	3
Religion	4
Church Directory	4
Business	5
Business Directory	5
Health	6

The 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 eEditionTODAY delivered straight to your inbox. It's FREE



LOCAL & STATE

BRAC and Visit Baton Rouge to Honor BREC Staff for National Gold Medal Win

BATON ROUGE, La. - The Baton Rouge Area Chamber (BRAC) and Visit Baton Rouge are set to host a celebration to honor the staff of the Baton Rouge Recreation and Park Commission (BREC) for their recent National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) Class 1 Gold Medal win. The event will take place on Monday, March 29th, from 4-7 p.m. at the Capitol Park Museum, located at 601 North 4th Street in Baton Rouge.

BREC's Gold Medal win, which was announced in 2022, makes them the number one large park system in the country for the third time in their history. The designation is awarded to park systems that demonstrate excellence in long-range planning, resource management, and innovative approaches to delivering superb park and recreation services to their communities.

The celebration will feature live music from The Michael Foster Project, as well as food and drinks provided by local businesses. Attendees will have the opportunity to tour the museum

and hear from representatives of BRAC, Visit Baton Rouge, and the BREC Foundation, who will all share their excitement and pride in BREC's Gold Medal win.

"We are honored to recognize the outstanding work of BREC's staff and leadership team," said Adam Knapp, President and CEO of BRAC. "Their commitment to excellence in providing high-quality parks and recreation services to the Baton Rouge community is second to none, and we are proud to have them as a vital part of our region's quality of life."

Paul Arrigo, CEO of Visit Baton Rouge, added, "BREC's Gold Medal win is a testament to their dedication and hard work. They are a vital component of our city's tourism industry, providing visitors with world-class outdoor recreational opportunities. We are grateful for their contributions to our city and excited to celebrate this achievement with them."

The celebration will conclude with a lively second-line parade to honor BREC's outstanding achievement.

Capital Area Human Services Extends Inpatient Addiction Recovery Program for Women

In response to the need for addictive disorders treatment for women in the Baton Rouge region, Capital Area Human Services (CAHS) has modified its residential facility to serve women over the age of 18.

The program, called Capital Area Recovery Program (CARP), located at 2455 Wooddale Blvd. in Baton Rouge, previously only served adult males, providing comprehensive treatment and recovery support services for individuals with substance use disorders. The 28-day program is open to all Louisiana residents.

CARP, licensed by the Louisiana Department of health and accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, offers screening, assessment, social detoxification, medication-assisted treatment, co-occurring treatment medication management, trauma informed care, and certified peer support specialist services.

CARP also provides discharge planning and links clients to community-based services for continuing after-care. Its recovery model is based on the disease concept model of addiction. Program participants learn skills for sobriety management through educational groups and attendance at Twelve Step Programs and Self-Management and Recovery Training meetings. Additional support and resources include pastoral care, job placement assistance, parenting classes, stress and anger management, and vocational and rehabilitation services. Uninsured clients are assessed on his/her ability to pay.

CARP services are available by appointment or referral at 225-922-3169. The program accepts Medicare, Medicaid, and most private insurance. More information is available at <https://cahsd.org/adult-mental-health-and-addiction>.

Mayor Waites Reads to children during the National Education Association's Read Across America Week

BAKER, La. — Mayor Waites spent time at Advantage Charter School on Thursday morning to read to the kids during the National Education Association's Read Across America Week, a part of National Reading Month. Read Across America Week is celebrated from March 2 to 6 and begins on the birthday of children's book author, Theodor Seuss Geisel, more commonly known as Dr. Seuss. The National Education Association (N.E.A.) aims to encourage reading and educate people about its benefits, especially children and young adults. Events are organized across the nation by schools and organizations to promote the same.

Mayor Waites said, "During our reading time, we enjoyed reading and talking about the Cat and the Hat and the lessons the story teaches us. This classic Dr. Seuss story can open up discussions about trust, responsibility, social expectations, and honesty with our children." He also said "Our children are important to me and to the future of Baker. Their families chose Baker and Baker Schools, and I want to recognize them and thank them for their decision to live and raise their families here. I am dedicated to working for all citizens, especially our youth, as I and my team strive to continuously improve the quality of life and place for our citizens. Receiving the best possible education is a crucial tool for the quality of life and place....Our schools, both public and charter, are important community partners to the city as they steward future generations and I want them to know



Mayor Waites promotes literacy and community partnerships during Read Across America Week at Advantage Charter School

that I am grateful for the teachers, leaders, and staff that devote their lives to helping our children achieve their greatest potential."

Early Childhood Development is a period of rapid and critical development for children. From birth to 8 years high-quality care is critical to children's physical, cognitive, linguistic, and social-emotional

development. During this period nutrition, health care, protection, play, and early education are of paramount importance. Reading, sharing stories, talking, and singing daily help your child develop in many ways. It helps your child get to know sounds, words, and language, develop early literacy skills, sparks children's imagination, and stimulate curiosity while helping to develop children's brains, which improves the ability to focus, concentrate, develop social skills, and communication skills. These and the many other skills being taught bring significant and long lasting benefits to children.

CDC from page 1

virus (HBV) don't know they're infected. Without treatment and monitoring, HBV infection can lead to deadly health outcomes, including liver damage and liver cancer.

- The report updates and expands previous guidelines for HBV screening and testing by recommending screening for all U.S. adults and expanding continual periodic risk-based testing to include more groups, activities, exposures, and conditions.

- Providers should implement the new CDC hepatitis B screening and testing recommendations to ensure all adults are screened for HBV infection with the triple-panel at least once in their lifetimes and that people who are not vaccinated for hepatitis B – but are at increased risk of HBV infection – receive periodic testing.

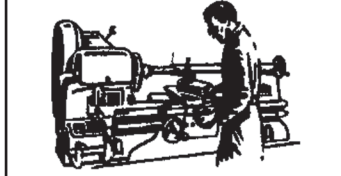
NASA from page 1

offers students the opportunity to use STEM skills through teamwork and the excitement of competition.

The regional competition will feature two teams from Mexico, along with more than 30 high school teams from states, including Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Texas, and Tennessee. It also will serve as a championship-qualifying event to send several teams to the world championship competition in Houston, Texas, in April.

The NASA Stennis workforce is helping to facilitate the Laurel event by providing judges and volunteers throughout the four days of activities.

READER INFORMATION



How to Reach Us
General Information 225-775-2002
Email brweeklypress@yahoo.com

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

Correction Policy
The Baton Rouge Weekly Press strives to be fair and accurate. The newspaper corrects any significant errors of fact brought to the attention of the editor. If you think an error has been made, call 225-775-200

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 Montecello Blvd., Suite C
Baton Rouge, La. 70814

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

VISIT US
ONLINE @
brweeklypress.com



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

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



Allstate
You're in good hands.

FREE INTERNET

Qualify today for the Government
Free Internet Program

YOU QUALIFY for
Free Internet if you
receive Medicaid,
SNAP, WIC,
Housing Assistance,
Veterans Pension,
Survivor Benefits,
Lifeline and Tribal.



CALL TODAY (844) 621-9931

**Bonus offer: 4G Android Tablet with
one time co-pay of \$20**

ACP program details can be found at www.fcc.gov/affordable-connectivity-program-consumer-faq

Lawsuit Filed Against Louisiana Parish to Stop Polluting Plants



Myrtle Felton, from left, Sharon Lavigne, Gail LeBoeuf and Rita Cooper conduct a live stream video on property owned by Formosa on March 11, 2020, in St. James Parish, La. Residents of a Louisiana parish located in the heart of a cluster of polluting petrochemical factories filed a federal lawsuit Tuesday, March 21, 2023, raising allegations of civil rights, environmental justice and religious liberty violations. LeBoeuf, a co-founder of Inclusive Louisiana, has liver cancer, which she acknowledged can't be traced back to petrochemical plant pollution with certainty, but said it can't be ruled out either. (AP Photo/Gerald Herbert, File)

A group of Louisiana parish residents have filed a federal lawsuit accusing St. James Parish of violating civil rights, environmental justice, and religious liberty by approving the construction of several petrochemical factories that emit toxic chemicals. The factories are located in two Black districts of the parish, and residents claim that the pollution is negatively impacting their health.

The lawsuit specifically targets the parish council, which approved the construction of a petrochemical plant built by Formosa Plastics in 2019. The plaintiffs are calling for a moratorium on the construction of similar plants, but the parish council has not yet issued a statement on the matter.

According to Shamyra Lavigne, a member of the local climate justice organization Rise St. James, Black residents of St. James Parish

have been ignored for several years as they've attempted to bring attention to the issue of toxic chemicals being emitted by petrochemical plants. "We will not be ignored. You will not sacrifice our lives. And we will not take any more industry in St. James's fourth or fifth district. Enough is enough," Lavigne said at a news conference announcing the lawsuit.

The plaintiffs, who live along the 85-mile Cancer Alley corridor between New Orleans and Baton Rouge, claim that the industrial plants in the region emit toxic chemicals that pose a health risk, including carcinogens. In 2022, the Environmental Protection Agency stated that Black residents in the area have an increased risk of cancer due to exposure to at least one nearby plant. Last month, they sued the plant in a separate case.

The lawsuit also claims that

some of the factories were built on burial grounds of deceased enslaved people, which makes it impossible for their descendants to visit their dead ancestors. Plaintiffs claim that some of these descendants are among those affected by toxic chemical releases.

Attorneys for the plaintiffs are seeking remedies for the environmental injustices suffered by the residents. They aim to invalidate permits for factories underway and land use regulations that allow for the placement of factories in black districts. They are also seeking independent environmental monitoring of air, water, and soil.

The lawsuit was filed in the U.S. District Court Eastern District of Louisiana, and the parish will be served and have the opportunity to respond in the coming weeks.

Mayor Broome announces the Office of Community Development's draft action plan for HOME ARP funding

BATON ROUGE, La. — After the public meeting at the River Center Branch Library downtown, Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome received a lot of feedback from the community regarding the proposed draft action plan for the HOME ARP funding. Many community members were grateful for the proposed \$5 million plan, which aimed to provide much-needed housing for those who are the most vulnerable in the community. However, some residents expressed their concerns about how the funds would be allocated and utilized.

Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome recognized the concerns of the residents and immediately ordered a review of the proposed action plan. The Office of Community Development conducted a comprehensive review of the plan, taking into consideration the feedback received from the community. After careful consideration, the plan was revised, and

the updated version was made available to the public.

The updated plan aimed to address the concerns of the community by ensuring that the funds were allocated and utilized in a transparent and effective manner. The plan also focused on providing housing solutions that meet the needs of all residents in East Baton Rouge Parish, including those who are homeless, very low income, domestic violence survivors, and veterans.

The revised plan was met with positive feedback from the community, and Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome announced that the plan would be implemented immediately. The \$5 million in HOME ARP funding was used to develop and implement various housing projects that aimed to provide affordable housing to



Mayor Sharon Weston Broome

the most vulnerable members of the community.

The YWCA's new housing development for domestic violence survivors was completed using \$1 million in HOME ARP funding, providing much-needed housing and support services for those in need. The URECs Foster Oaks project, which received a \$900,000 investment, was also completed, providing affordable housing to low-income families.

In addition to these projects, the Office of Community Development implemented several other initiatives using the HOME ARP funding. These initiatives included the renovation and rehabilitation of existing housing units, the development of new housing units, and the provision of support services for those in need.

As a result of these initiatives, the community saw a significant improvement in the availability of affordable housing options for those in need. The community also saw a decrease in homelessness, as more individuals and families were able to access safe and affordable housing.

NASA from page 2

and problem-solving skills that can be applied to the competition and real-world situations in the future. The teams each create an identity, raise funds to meet goals, and work to promote STEM in their community.

The 2023 season challenge, "Charged Up" challenges teams to reimagine the future of sustainable energy. The theme calls teams to explore ways to unlock the power of engineering to transform renewable energy and power a better future. For the regional competition, teams will build and program industrial-sized robots to play an action-packed game on a themed field.

The goal is to have the Magnolia Regional expose more students in rural areas to STEM and become an annual FIRST Robotics Competition, much like the Bayou Regional event in Louisiana, which NASA Stennis has supported since its inception. The Bayou Regional is scheduled for March 30-April 1 at the Pontchartrain Center in Kenner, Louisiana.

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

SSI HELPS WITH BASIC NEEDS



See if you qualify for Supplemental Security Income.



SSA.gov/SSI
1-800-772-1213



SSI is for people with low income and financial resources, who are either 65 or older, or an adult or child with a disability or blindness.

Produced at U.S. taxpayer expense.

Affordable pet INSURANCE

- Go to any vet
- 100% reimbursement on vet bills available
- No lifetime limit on benefits



1-866-367-4329

InsureBarkMeow.com/LApress



Physicians Mutual Insurance Company
For complete details, including costs and limitations, please contact us.
Product not available in all states.

6294

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!

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@innertimebr.com

CJW Distributors, LLC
CHURCH FURNITURE • FLOORING

13937 Malbec Ave.
Baton Rouge, LA 70816

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

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

CARL WOODS
President

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

BRIDGET MONTGOMERY
Certified Tax Accountant

LMG
Accounting & Finance Group LLC

4910 Monticello Blvd., Ste C
Baton Rouge, LA 70814
Cell PH: 407.630.2947

BUSINESS

Moderna plan COVID vaccine price hike to \$130

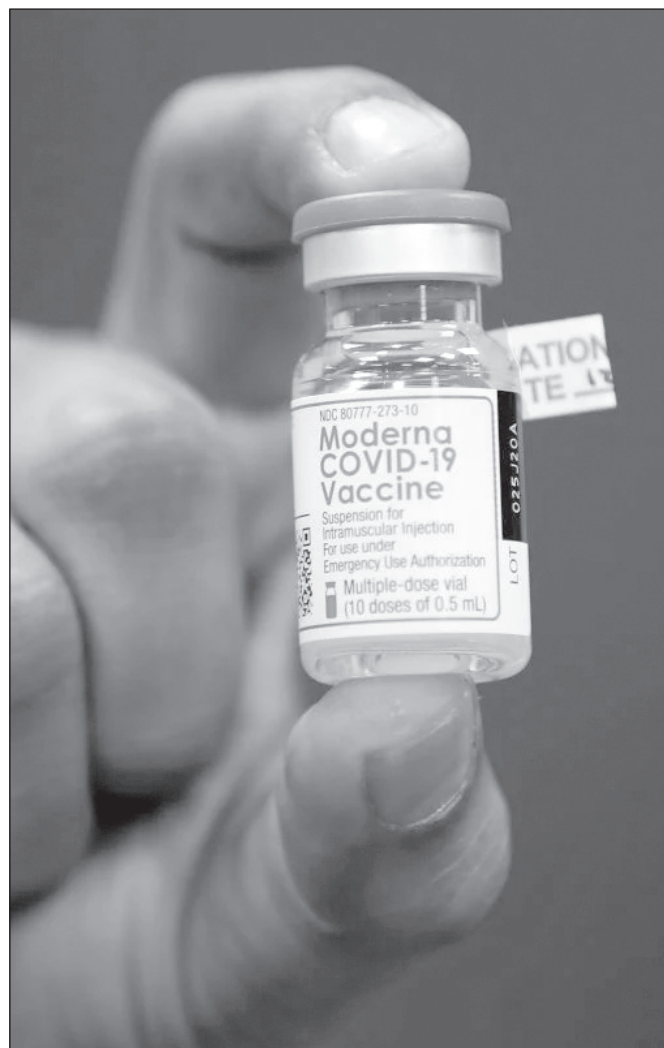
Senators Condemn and Probe Moderna's COVID-19 Vaccine Cost and Distribution

Moderna CEO, Stéphane Bancel, has defended the company's plan to increase the price of its COVID-19 vaccine. He justified the hike, arguing that the expected drop in demand, changes to the distribution process, and the overall benefits of the vaccine warrant the higher cost. Many members of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee criticized Moderna's decision, noting that the federal government invested nearly \$2bn in the vaccine's development and collaborated with the National Institutes of Health. The price will rise from less than \$30 to about \$130 a dose.

During the hearing, Bancel pledged that Moderna would develop a system to provide uninsured or underinsured Americans with the COVID-19 vaccine and boosters at no cost. However, he was unable to answer numerous questions from lawmakers about how the process would work, indicating that the company was still working on the broad parameters and details.

The CEO annoyed several panel members when he declined to say directly whether Moderna would negotiate the new price with the federal government to reduce the cost of COVID-19 vaccines provided through Medicare, Medicaid, or the Veterans Affairs health care system. He also declined to confirm whether people in the United States would pay less for the vaccine than those in other countries whose governments did not invest in its development.

Democratic Sen. Tammy Baldwin questioned whether Bancel's recent performance review, in which the board said he underperformed the company's



The CEO of Moderna on Wednesday defended the company's decision to drastically increase the price of its COVID-19 vaccine later this year, arguing that an expected drop in demand, changes to its distribution process and the overall benefit of the vaccine warrant the higher cost.

target for sales income generated by the COVID-19 vaccine, was linked to Moderna's decision to increase the vaccine's price. Bancel contended that the two were not linked and said that the price of the vaccine was determined by the value of the product and how much money could be saved in

the long term through reduced hospital stays.

Moderna believes that the price it charged the US government over the last couple of years represents a discount. This is partly

See MODERNA on page 6

Essence Festival announces 2023 lineup

NEW ORLEANS — The highly anticipated Essence Festival has released its lineup for the 2023 event, and it's filled with hip-hop royalty. Headlining the festival are music icons Lauryn Hill, Megan Thee Stallion, and Doug E. Fresh. Joining the star-studded lineup are Wizkid, Monica, and Coco Jones, among other talented artists.

The four-day event will kick off on June 29 and end on July 2, 2023, and it's expected to bring in thousands of visitors to New Orleans. The festival provides a platform to celebrate the rich history of hip-hop through various entertainment stages, panels, and experiences.

Tickets are already on sale, and festival-goers can expect an unforgettable experience filled with outstanding performances, interactive exhibits, and opportunities to connect with artists and other attendees. The Essence Festival has become a staple in the music industry and continues to be one of the most highly anticipated events of the year.

GRANT from page 4

Norwood, LA
April 6th: Rev. Jerry Dunbar from True Love Missionary Baptist Church in Natchez, MS

The Easter Revival promises to be a spiritually uplifting experience, with powerful sermons and music that celebrate the Easter season. The Program Committee, led by Rita Augustine, requests that all attendees wear face masks and follow recommended health guidelines to ensure everyone's safety.

For more information about the Easter Revival, please contact Sweet Home Baptist Church at (555) 123-4567 or visit the church's website at sweethomebaptistchurch.com. We hope to see you there!

LeafFilter
GUTTER PROTECTION

BACKED BY A YEAR-ROUND CLOG-FREE GUARANTEE

EXCLUSIVE LIMITED TIME OFFER!

20% OFF + 10% OFF
YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE* SENIORS & MILITARY!

FINANCING THAT FITS YOUR BUDGET!
Subject to credit approval. Call for details.
USA
Promo Code: 285
FREE GUTTER ALIGNMENT + FREE GUTTER CLEANING*

CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE
1-833-441-0565
Mon-Thurs: 8am-11pm, Fri-Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: 2pm-8pm EST

*For those who qualify. One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. **Offer valid at time of estimate only. †The leading consumer reporting agency conducted a 14-month outdoor test of gutter guards in 2019 and recognized LeafFilter as the "#1 rated professionally installed gutter guard system in America." Manufactured in Plainville, Michigan and processed at LMT Merrow Group in Ohio. See Representative for full warranty details. Registrations: 0369/02022 CSIR 102576 Registration# HIC 064905 License# C8C56478 License# RCE 01648 Registration# C177230 License# 059644 Suffolk HIC License# 02229-HI License# 2102212986 License# 26200022 License# 26200043 License# 2106212946 License# MHIC111225 Registration# 176467 License# 423330 Registration# 0071804 License# 50145 License# 408093 Registration# 130499557000 Registration# 191114 License# 218204 Registration# 19405983 License# 41354 License# 7056 DOP. #1078658-5501 License# 423330 License# 2705169445 License# LEAFFNW2222 License# W0556912

Speeds up to 100 Mbps with EarthLink Wireless Home Internet

Sign up today and get a \$100 gift card!*

*Terms and conditions apply

Reliable Internet NOW! **855-936-5998**

SUITS • HATS • SHOES • SHIRTS • FASHION ACCESSORIES

EVERYDAY SALE

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

6180 Airline Hwy
Baton Rouge, La. 70805
225.357.5796

SUPER COOL

A BRAND OF STYLE AND SOPHISTICATION

fashions

Senior Black American Health Fair to be Held at Pennington Biomedical on March 25

BATON ROUGE, La. — The second annual Senior Black American Health Fair is set to take place at Pennington Biomedical in Baton Rouge on Saturday, March 25th. The event, sponsored by Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center, Our Lady of the Lake Cancer Institute, and Aetna, will provide valuable information directly relating to African American seniors' health, nutrition, and wellness.

Pre-registration is recommended for the event, offering health screenings, educational discussions, exhibitors, food, fun fitness stations, chair exercises, gardening, and virtual reality experiences. The fair is designed to give back to the African American community by providing access to health screenings and other vital

information.

Experts will provide Q&A sessions about dementia, fall prevention, cancer, and cognitive impairment. Speakers will include Dr. Owen Carmichael, Director of Biomedical Imaging at Pennington Biomedical Research Center; Taylor Murphy, PA, Prostate Cancer at Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center; Dr. Pretty Singh, Family Medicine at Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center, and Dr. Asif Talukder, Colorectal Surgeon at Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center.

According to Dr. Robert L. Newton Jr., Associate Professor and Director of Pennington Biomedical's Physical Activity and Ethnic Minority Health Lab, the fair allows guests to learn more



about their health status, talk to experts, and participate in fun activities. Dr. Newton emphasized the importance of exercise and a healthy diet in preventing chronic diseases that are more prevalent among the African American community.

Pennington Biomedical Research Center conducts basic, clinical, and population research and is affiliated with LSU. The Center is at the forefront of medical discovery regarding understanding the triggers of obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cancer, and dementia. The Center also architected the national "Obesity, USA" awareness and advocacy campaign to help solve the obesity epidemic by 2040.

MODERNA from page 5

because the company wanted to return the investment it got from the US government to develop the vaccine, and partly because the federal government was purchasing in bulk. However, Christopher Morten, associate clinical professor of law at Columbia Law School, criticised Moderna's price increase decision, saying the vaccine costs just \$3 to make, and Moderna benefited significantly from US taxpayer investment.

Indiana Republican Sen. Mike Braun expressed frustration with some facets of the healthcare industry, which he feels operate like an unregulated utility by not embracing competition or transparency. He described Moderna's price increase as preposterous, particularly as the company had been given government largesse. Bancel testified that Moderna was trying to figure out how it could set up the new distribution network, noting that the company had never had a commercial product.

Breakfast and lunch will be provided!



pb



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