

The Weekly Press

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 25-31, 2022

A PEOPLE'S PUBLICATION

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Mayor Broome Secures Pay Increase for Police, Fire, EMS and City-Parish Employees

BATON ROUGE, La. — Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome received the unanimous support of the Metropolitan Council this evening to increase pay for police, fire, EMS, DPW and other East Baton Rouge City-Parish employees. Beginning September 10, 2022, the City-Parish will increase municipal fire and regular classified/unclassified employees' pay by 5% and increase municipal police employees' pay by 7%.

In addition to the 7% across-the-board raise proposed for municipal police personnel, future entry-level police officers will be hired at a special recruiting rate of step 5. After one year, an entry level police officer,



Mayor Sharon Weston Broome

See **MAYOR**, on page 2

Biden administration asks state, local officials to boost monkeypox vaccine outreach



Health workers sit at a table at a pop-up monkeypox vaccination clinic on Aug. 3, 2022 in West Hollywood, California. (Photo by Mario Tama/Getty Images)

WASHINGTON — Federal public health officials said Thursday they are working with state and local health departments to boost messaging and vaccinations for those most likely to contract monkeypox, including at large-scale events.

But Biden administration officials at a press briefing also struggled to explain differing statements about how the vaccines should be administered, a crucial part of the White House strategy.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved an emergency use authorization earlier this month to switch from giving the vaccine subcutaneously, the way most people are used to receiving a vaccine, to intradermally, or just below the skin.

Bavarian Nordic, the only company that makes the Jynneos vaccine, has raised concerns about the FDA decision, as have some local and state health departments. There is also not much data available yet on which jurisdictions are using the new strategy.

CEO Paul Chaplin sent a

letter to U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra and FDA Commissioner Robert M. Califf about the plan, according to The Washington Post.

He wrote that the company has "some reservations" on the intradermal approach, "due to the very limited safety data available (200 people), the higher reactogenicity compared to the JYNNEOS standard dose and route (subcutaneous [SC]), and the fact that there was a relatively high percentage of subjects (20%) that failed to receive the second vaccination during a controlled clinical study."

Reactogenicity refers to the body's response to a vaccination, which can include pain or swelling at the injection site, as well as fever, muscle pain, or fatigue depending on the vaccine and the person receiving it.

But Biden administration officials during the press briefing defended their recommendation for a new way of administering shots, which is expected to provide up to five doses per vial instead of one, as safe and effective.

Peter Marks, director of the



Biden administration officials at a press briefing also struggled to explain differing statements about how the vaccines should be administered, a crucial part of the White House strategy.

FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, said the administration decided to switch the way health care providers administer the shot after some health departments began telling

residents they would give one shot instead of the complete two-dose regimen in order to stretch out the limited vaccine supply.

See **VACCINE**, on page 3

Early data show racial disparities in Louisiana monkeypox cases



The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) has started reporting additional demographic data for Louisiana monkeypox patients on the LDH monkeypox dashboard. These demographic data show striking racial disparities: Nearly 60% of monkeypox cases in Louisiana have occurred among Black Louisianians, and about 27% have occurred among white Louisianians.

Among the cases included in today's demographic analysis, approximately 95% have occurred in males.

Going forward, demographic data, including age, gender, race and ethnicity, among monkeypox patients will be updated weekly on Wednesdays.

New data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) show that the national monkeypox outbreak is disproportionately affecting minorities in America. The data, collected from 43 states, Washington D.C. and Puerto Rico between May 17 and July 22 show that Black people make up 12% of the population but 26% of all monkeypox cases, while Hispanic people accounted for 19% of the population and 28% of all cases.

So, while those groups make up about a third of the U.S. population, they account for more than half of the cases.

See **CASES**, on page 3

WEATHER

	MON. 06/06 Mostly Sunny High 91°
	TUE. 06/07 Partly Sunny High 93°
	WED. 06/08 Mostly Sunny High 94°
	THUR. 06/09 Mostly Sunny High 93°

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SHARON WESTON BROOME
Mayor President
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Lifetime Achievement
BERNETTE JOSHUA JOHNSON
Louisiana Supreme Court
Justice, Retired

Introduction By
SEN. REGINA ASHFORD BARROW
Louisiana State Senate
District 15

Official Greeting By
CONGRESSWOMAN JOYCE BEATTY
Congressional Black Caucus
Chairperson

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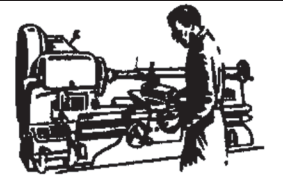
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Louisiana high court puts Shreveport mayor back on ballot



Shreveport Mayor Adrian Perkins, a Democrat, speaks after registering for the U.S. Senate race, on July 23, 2020, in Baton Rouge, La. Perkins can run for reelection, despite providing incorrect information about his voting address on his qualifying papers, a divided state Supreme Court ruled Friday, Aug. 19, 2022.

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A north Louisiana mayor can run for reelection, despite providing incorrect information about his address on his qualifying papers, a divided state Supreme Court ruled Friday.

A Shreveport resident had sued to knock Mayor Adrian Perkins off the Nov. 8 ballot because his qualifying papers falsely indicated that he is registered to vote in the same city precinct where he claims a state homestead property tax exemption.

Perkins, who moved from one of his residences in the city to another in 2019, said the assertion was made in error and shouldn't disqualify him from running.

In a 4-3 ruling, the majority of the state's highest court held that state law does not specifically provide for disqualification of a candidate who makes the false claim regarding the precinct where he is registered to vote.

"Thus, this court cannot manufacture a consequence of disqualification for Perkins' incorrect cer-

tification when the legislature has not specifically provided for such a consequence," Chief Justice John Weimer wrote on behalf of the majority. Justices William Crain, James Genovese and Piper Griffin voted with Weimer.

Justices Scott Crichton, Jay McCallum and Jefferson Hughes dissented.

Crichton zeroed in on a requirement in the statutes that candi-

See **BALLOT**, on page 5

Resources Available to Help Schools Kick-Off A Tobacco-Free School Year

Leading state health organizations partner on vape-free schools initiative



New Orleans, La. — (August 22, 2022) To address the rise in e-cigarette use, also known as vaping, among middle and high school students, The Louisiana Campaign for Tobacco-Free Living (TFL) and Well-Ahead Louisiana have teamed up to create a vape-free schools toolkit for Louisiana schools.

"Schools can play a key role in helping to keep young people tobacco-free. According to the Louisiana Youth Tobacco Survey, from 2017 to 2019, vaping use doubled among middle school students and tripled among high school students. And if schools across the state begin utilizing the vape-free schools toolkit, we're hopeful that Louisiana will start to see a decline in those numbers," said Chrishelle Stipe, TFL Cessation Manager.

The toolkit provides schools with resources to create proactive policies related to tobacco use, specifically vaping, among students on school grounds.

This comprehensive toolkit includes:

- A guide to creating a tobacco-free school environment
- Resources to educate school staff about the risks of

nicotine use specific to youth, including e-cigarettes
 • Quit resources tailored to teens

"By implementing the best practices shared in our vape-free schools toolkit, school staff can support in protecting our children from the future long-term and potentially cancer or death-causing effects of tobacco use," said Taylor Reine, Youth Prevention Manager at Well-Ahead Louisiana.

The Vape-Free Schools Toolkit can be found at www.wellaheadla.com/vape-free-schools/

Students that are currently trying to quit vaping are encouraged to text VAPEFREE to 873373.

TFL is a program of the Louisiana Cancer Research Center and Louisiana Public Health Institute.

MAYOR from page 1

with a bachelor's degree hired at step 5 that has received a 3% merit raise at six months of employment, and has become eligible for state supplemental pay, will have a base salary of approximately \$50,000. These additional pay increases, when added to the 6% granted in 2021, will bring salaries for Baton Rouge Police Officers comparable to other local law enforcement agencies in the surrounding area. All police officers that are currently

after step 5 will be increased to this step upon implementation of the amended pay plan.

This marks the first city-parish-wide pay raise since 2015. This is also the third and largest increase allotted to sworn Baton Rouge Police Department personnel under Mayor Broome's administration after a 6% increase last year.



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Louisiana tax refunds may be going to unclaimed property

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — Louisiana taxpayers have until Oct. 6 to claim millions in state income tax refunds before they become unclaimed property.

The Louisiana Department of Revenue sent letters to 20,400 people and business taxpayers advising them to claim their refunds before they are transferred by law to the Unclaimed Property Division of the state treasurer's office. More than \$36 million in unclaimed refunds is due for transfer if not claimed, the department said in a news release.

To claim a refund, complete and return to the revenue department the voucher in the Notice of Unclaimed Property letter dated Aug. 18. The department will issue paper checks to all taxpayers submitting completed vouchers by the October deadline.

Any refund not claimed by the deadline remains the property of the taxpayer, and can be retrieved from the Unclaimed Property Division.

CASES from page 1

"We felt it was critical to release this analysis so we could shine a light on these disparities and the need for sharpened attention," said LDH State Health Officer Dr. Joseph Kanter. "This requires an intentional, concerted effort. As our vaccine supply increases we will be able to offer protection to more at-risk individuals. This is a priority for the Department -- we must do all we can to protect our at-risk residents and communities."

With equity in mind, LDH has prioritized awareness-raising, targeted communications to at-risk groups, and partnerships with trusted local providers and community organizations to help identify and remove barriers, share critical information and organize vaccination events in trusted venues. The Department has developed and continues to update and build out its toolkit for partners, with communications assets in multiple languages; continues its advertising campaign on dating apps and social media platforms that serve LGBTQ people in Louisiana; and continues regular community partner calls and briefings.

While cases have been identified in six of Louisiana's nine public health regions, the vast majority

See **JUMP**, on page 6

The 2022 Inaugural Inductees of Louisiana Leading Ladies



- Jacqueline Allen Addison
- Deborah Alexander
- Doris Alexander
- Pastor Gretha C. Alexander
- Nette Julian Alexander
- Judge Yvette Alexander
- Deleso Alford
- Dr. Kathy Allen
- ReAzalia Zaneta Allen
- Ann Denise Anderson
- Candace Vaughn Bates Anderson
- Agnes Andrews
- Nayo Andrews
- Stephanie Anthony
- Joy "Tynae" Antoine
- Dr. Theresa Faye Armstead, DPC.
- Tonia Antoinette Askins
- Luverta August
- Annette Evans Austin
- Lacy Baaheth
- Jahanna Bailey
- Kimberly Marie Bainguel
- Geri Broussard Baloney
- Mary Clark Banks
- Mikayla Banks
- Regine Barlow, M.Ed.
- Dr. Kiki Baker Barnes
- Regina Ashford Barrow
- Judge Regina Bartholomew
- Mikayla J. Bates
- Carol Bebel
- Angela A. Allen Bell
- Ada Womack Bell
- Mia Bell
- Arianne Bellizaire
- Chance A. Bennett
- Chaney M. Bennett
- Wendy Wilkins Bergeron
- Alfreda Tillman Bester
- Avis Marie Bickham
- Cheryl M. Brandon
- Shonda Brooks
- Mayor Sharon Wester Broome
- Dr. Bertha Lee Brown
- Judge Paula A. Brown
- Judge Nanette Jolivet Brown
- Sonya Robinson Brown
- Lori A. Burgess
- Pastor Sherdren Burnside
- Pastor Chris Dawson Butler
- Minister JaVon Ophelia Butler, MPA
- Mayor LaToya Cantrell
- Barbara West Carpenter
- J. Ashley Mitchell Carter
- Cassandra Chaney
- Desiree M. Charbonnet
- Apostle Denise Chase
- Leah Chase
- Benita Nwokolo Chatman
- Dr. Brenda Cherry
- Judge Aisha S. Clark
- Andrea D. Clarks
- Mayda McDonald-Clark
- Dawn Chanet Collins
- Maxine Crump
- Helena R. Cunningham
- Chauna Banks Daniel
- Dr. Dorothy L. Stewart Daniel
- Judge June Berry Darendsburg
- Dr. Takeisha Davis
- Dr. Lisa Green Derry
- Dr. Toscha L. Dickerson
- Tiffany Dickerson
- Stephanie Green Dixon
- Jacalyn Dixon
- Angela Domingue
- DaKenya Vaughn Douglas
- Alsie R. Dunbar
- Dr. Evonne Michelle Dunn
- Kalisha Eackles
- Joyce Ann Edwards
- Tia Williams Edwards
- Ronne Edwards
- Mary Ellis
- Tonnisha Ellis
- Leslie Ellison
- Judge Ramona L. Emanuel
- Malaika Favorite
- Marcy Fisher, Minister
- Starr Daigne Flemming
- Candace Bostic-Ford
- Teiko Maria Foxx
- Nadia M. Francois
- Sharon Harris Franklin
- Lisa T. French
- Levette Fuller
- Liss L. Gates
- Kristie Y. Gauthreaux
- Pearl George
- Dr. So' Nia L. Gilkey
- Donna Glapion
- Maurya Glaude
- Norisha Kirts Glover
- Demetra Latrice Glover
- Mamie Pearl Goins
- Shalonda Wallace Golden
- Mary Mason Gordon
- Barbara W. Green
- Judge Erica L. Green
- Jane S. Green
- LaDonna Butler Green
- Evangelist Sharon Michelle Green
- Vanessa Olevia Green
- Letrece Roychelle Griffin
- Judge Piper Griffin
- Evangelist Rose Lynette Grigsby
- Camalla Kimbrough Guyton
- Ellen Lewis Hall
- KaNisha L. Hall
- Gisele Haralson
- Badreka Shaunte Harper
- Cheryl Jones Hart
- Eula Mae Hatter
- Dr. Deidre D. Hayes
- Zoalee H. Hayes
- LaShaunte S. Henry
- Judge Veronica E. Henry
- Isabelle Morgan Herson
- Simone O. Higgenbotham
- Dr. Jacqueline D. Hill
- Sherry D. Hill
- K. Rene Horton
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- Shanna Deaena Howard
- Christina Payne Hull
- Nina S. Hunter
- Nomzamo Iyanu
- Brenda G. Jackson
- Jennifer Hightower Jackson
- Kathe Hambrick Jackson
- Toni Marie Jackson
- Alice Marie James
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- Dr. Nichelle M. Landry
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- Frania Netter
- Tresslyn Nixon
- Ginger Northern
- Nicondra Norwood
- Dr. Josephine Allen Oubre
- Nancy Parker
- Dr. Cordell Parris
- Sandra Pate
- Dr. Dawn Mellion Patin
- Celeste Michelle Payne
- Martha Dunn-Jarrell Payne
- Autumn Marie Payton
- Dianna Renee Payton
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- Jacqueline A. Scott
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- Laci Monet Sherman
- Minister Carolyn D. Shield
- Judge Sheva M. Simms
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- Danielle L. Smith
- Patricia Haynes Smith
- Delores R Spikes
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- Danielle L. Smith
- Patricia Haynes Smith
- Delores R Spikes
- Dawn Marie Stanley

THIS MONTH
[AUGUST]
@ BREC

VACCINE from page 1

"Some of this was in response to seeing additional use of a one-dose delayed strategy, which was ... very concerning because of the absence of data and the emergence of some data to suggest that that might be a strategy that is not as effective as we would like it to be," Marks said.

The switch from subcutaneous vaccination administration to intradermal, Marks said, was "done very carefully, with a lot of thought."

"And we are working very actively to make sure the community has the information that we reviewed, and can see the thought process that we use to come to the conclusion that giving this intradermally provided the same kind of protection" as giving it by the subcutaneous route, Marks said.

The federal government so far has distributed 700,000 vials of Jynneos nationwide, according to Dawn O'Connell, assistant secretary for preparedness and response at HHS.

The federal government on Monday, she said, will make about 360,000 vials or up to 1.8 million more doses available for health departments to order.

The distribution of future vaccine doses will be contingent on local or state health departments adopting the new intradermal vaccine administration process and having used 90% of their previously allotted vaccines, according to Robert

Fenton, the White House's national monkeypox response coordinator.

The Biden administration doesn't have particularly strong data on that, however.

Fenton and Walensky both said the information about which jurisdictions have switched and which have not is just starting to come in.

Walensky noted that CDC is continuing to provide information

and training for health care providers who might not be experienced administering vaccines intradermally, adding that it's crucial given the doses available.

"Ultimately, this is a precious resource we want to be used efficiently and wisely and that's the purpose of this," Walensky said. "So we're really moving to get all jurisdictions to intradermal dosing."

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SUMMER SLAM
Perkins Road Community Park
Aug. 13 | 3-7 p.m.

FLOATS + FLICKS: LUCA
Anna T. Jordan
Community Park Pool
Aug. 19 | 6:30-9:30 p.m.

SENIOR DAY
Liberty Lagoon
Aug. 19 | 3-6 p.m.

**SUNSHINE SOCIAL:
GLOW IN THE DARK PARTY**
Jefferson Highway Park
Aug. 19 | 6-9 p.m.

WONDERS OF WILDLIFE
Bluebonnet Swamp Nature Center
Aug. 20 | 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

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Aug. 20 | 9 a.m.-noon

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Community Park
Aug. 27 | 9-10 a.m. + 10-11 a.m. +
11 a.m.-noon

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Games Begin Sept. 6

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RELIGION

Accept By Faith God's Promise of Protection

by Creflo Dollar



Creflo Dollar

In these end days in which we're living, our environment is taking on the eerie appearance of having a major meltdown. There's a devil loose in the world and he's hard at work; the news is constantly reporting new diseases, violent crimes, national threats, and anything else that's negative. It's intimidating at best, completely terrifying at worst. However, we've no reason to fear when we read in the Bible about God's promise of divine protection.

Violence and strife are nothing new; they've been around since the beginning of time. If it seems like it's intensifying, that's not just our imagination. Jesus, Himself, predicted worldwide troubles thousands of years ago, but He gave us a reassurance with that warning. "When reports come in of wars and rumored wars, keep your head and don't panic. This is routine history; this is no sign of the end. Nation will fight nation and ruler fight ruler, over and over. Famines and earthquakes will occur in various places" (Matthew 24:6, 7, MSG). The news confirms this daily.

Now for the good tidings. "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me" (Psalm 23:4). Studying the Scriptures, we read in multiples places that God keeps those who trust in Him safe from harm. "Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth



at noonday. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee... There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling" (Psalm 91:5-7, 10). David wrote these and many other psalms because of his great trust in God to keep him safe, despite repeated attempts by a jealous King Saul to kill him.

When we believe what's written in the Bible instead of what we see and hear, we begin to feel a great peace settling around us. God's Word is the wisdom and ultimate truth that doesn't change; listening to what He says brings us stability and calmness. "But whoever listens to me

will dwell safely, and will be secure, without fear of evil" (Proverbs 1:33, NKJV). Taking these promises to heart will eventually have outward manifestations. Others will look at us and wonder how we can remain so rock-steady in the midst of the turmoil around us.

Accepting God's reassurances by faith activates a supernatural level of protection not just for us, but also for our family and loved ones. For some, the world around them is so frightening that simply leaving the house is a major step for them. Thankfully, God, who created the earth, the heavens, and everything in them, ensures the safety of those who believe. "No weapon forged

against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and this is their vindication from me," declares the Lord" (Isaiah 54:17, NIV).

Whether the evil we see is halfway across the world, in our neighborhood, or lurking just outside our front door, God is bigger, stronger, and more powerful. When it seems like we're like young David fighting against the mighty Philistine giant, we can remember how it ultimately ended—he didn't just slay Goliath, he beheaded him. Our faith in God's promises brings us a victory just as major.

I Challenge You to Rest in the Finish Work of Christ!

by Pastor Jerome Smith

Hebrew 4:1-5

We are such a busy people fluttering about, like bees constantly moving, never slowing down, keeping up with the Joneses, multitasking, and marathoning.

We seem to have a hard time sitting still... until now, in order to battle this pandemic, we have to stay put and slow down and maybe, just maybe, rest.

Rest: is defined as "peace, ease or refreshment."

Genesis 1 and 2. We see that God created for six days straight and then he rested on the seventh.

He called the seventh day the Sabbath, the seventh day of the week observed from Friday evening to Saturday evening as a day of rest and worship by Jews and some Christians.

Sunday observed among Christians as a day of rest and worship, a time of rest.

God has planned every detail of our lives so that the work He has given us leads to rest. Just as God rested on the seventh day, there remains a rest for the people of God — enter His rest.

When we rest in Him, we tell the world — and remind ourselves — that God has provided everything for us, both in this world and in the world to come.

"There remains then a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from His."

"God's promise of entering his rest still stands, so we ought to tremble with fear that some of you might fail to experience it."

Hebrews 4:1 NLT

You see we love chasing shadows,* Hebrew 10:1-7 NLT

the traditions and laws of men. While the law is holy and good it couldn't within itself cleanse our conscious of sin, leaving us with Guilt.



Pastor Jerome Smith, Sr.

The law did it job of making us aware that we all are born in sin, Shaped in iniquity and or in need of a savior. But the law couldn't cleanse us, it is by the washing of the word that we are saved.

Understanding these few words IT IS FINISHED! allow us to enter into God's rest, not laziness or vacation, but a place of assurance.

God said that it is finished on the seventh day of his laboring. Jesus said it is finished after laboring on the cross, he finished the requirement or payment for our sins.

So by faith we have to declare that it's finished, Gods restoring, redemptive work through Christ has prepared us a place of rest!

As we journey through life, the place of rest doesn't mean no physical efforts, it means we are to totally depend on God in all our affairs. Proverbs 3:5,6

Psalm 37: 23,24

When we try to enter into God's rest through our human efforts, we make the death of Christ of non affect. We live our lives by the rules of men, having a form of Godliness denying the power thereof.

I challenge you to rest in the finish work of Christ!

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Bible Study	Wed- @ 7:00 PM

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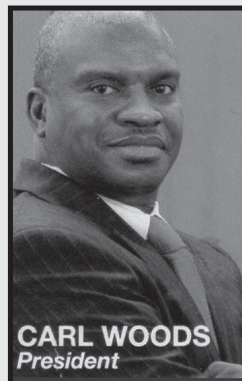


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BUSINESS

Young Black Americans Dominate the Cryptocurrency Market



When considering the current state of the cryptocurrency market, Dr. Tonya Evans couldn't help but recall the reception banks gave the then-fledgling assets in 2014.

"When I think back to 2013 or 2014, the second kind of big crypto was coming on the scene, and banks were really pushing back at the time on discussions surrounding regulating cryptocurrency," said Evans, a law professor and founder and CEO of Advantage Evans.

"Big banks feared [cryptocurrency] would become more legitimate. Back then, banks didn't have a customer service problem, but now they do, and they realized that they were going to start losing customers if they didn't shift," Evans insisted.

She noted that banks, especially Deutsche Bank and Bank of America, have begun to give added attention to the

cryptocurrency market.

"With Bitcoin and Ethereum leading the way, the cryptocurrency market is booming and growing," Evans stated.

She called cryptocurrency a "fast-paced, fast-moving, emerging asset class."

According to Terri Bradford, who researched Black crypto ownership for the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, cryptocurrency has gained popularity among African American consumers due to historical context and forward-looking views of young customers.

"Surveys show that Black consumers are more likely than white consumers to own cryptocurrencies," said Bradford, who penned the research article "The Cryptic Nature of Black Consumer Cryptocurrency Ownership."

Bradford noted a 2021 Pew

Research Center survey which found that 18 percent of Black adults had invested in, traded, or used a cryptocurrency compared to 13 percent of white adults.

"This difference between Black and white consumers' cryptocurrency ownership contrasts sharply with other traditional assets," Bradford asserted.

According to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System's 2019 Survey of Consumer Finances, 61 percent of white households owned equity investments compared with 34 percent of Black households — nearly a two-to-one margin.

"Unlike white consumers, Black consumers are, in fact, more likely to own cryptocurrencies than assets such as stocks and mutual funds," Bradford wrote.

"Leveraging the same technology is blockchain," Bradford

explained.

"Crypto is digital currency offered on Blockchain while NFTs and others are different ways to leverage that currency."

She continued:

"Younger ones are leveraging crypto as we see in research that 50 percent of Black consumers of crypto are millennials and younger, and when you think about the fact that this constituent is digital-native where they spend a lot of time, then we see why it's having a great influence on the adoption of cryptocurrency.

Click here to hear more from Dr. Evans and Bradford on Black America and cryptocurrency on the National Newspaper Publishers Association's Let It Be Known morning news program.

BALLOT from page 2

dates must qualify for the election "in a manner prescribed by law."

The majority held that Perkins did so by submitting his notice of candidacy and paying a

fee, and that the statute in question doesn't provide consequences if a statement on the notice is false.

"While I am cognizant of our jurisprudence favoring a liberal construction of candidacy, allowing a certification of proven material false information listed

on a notice of candidacy form, filed in the public record, belies the purpose of the form itself and is inconsistent with the integrity with which elections must be conducted," Crichton wrote.

Perkins, a Democrat who unsuccessfully challenged

Republican U.S. Sen. Bill Cassidy in 2020, is serving his first term as Shreveport's mayor.

Ten people have signed up for the Nov. 8 race, including state Democratic state Sen. Greg Tarver.

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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 CAD/AVL Software. Sealed proposals are due to CATS Procurement Department by September 30, 2022 at 10:00 am (local time) at 2250 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70802. A copy of this RFP can be found on CATS website at: <http://www.brcats.com/page/procurement>. Bidders may submit written questions to: catsprocurement@brcats.com until Wednesday, August 31, 2022. Bidders are reminded to check CATS website often for addendums issued to this RFP. CATS is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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Biden to wipe out \$10,000 in student loan debt for many borrowers

BY: ARIANA FIGUEROA
Louisiana Illuminator

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden announced Wednesday that he will cancel up to \$20,000 in federal student loan debt for Pell Grant borrowers and up to \$10,000 for all other borrowers with an income of less than \$125,000 for an individual and \$250,000 for a household.

Biden also announced his administration is extending a pause on student loan repayments until Dec. 31. The decision comes one week before the expiration of a pause of student loan repayments put in place at the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic.

"Here's the deal, the cost of education beyond high school has gone up exponentially," Biden said at the White House.

Biden stressed that the people who would benefit the most are low-income and middle class families and individuals.

"No high income household, will benefit from this action, period," Biden said.

Biden said that many Americans with student loan debt have put off starting families because of the cost and have been unable to qualify for mortgages to buy a home because of the student loan debt they carry.

"All this means is an entire generation is now saddled with unsustainable debt," Biden said.

Despite numerous reports in recent weeks that Biden would take action on student loans, the White House had remained silent, but on Wednesday the president tweeted out his decision, prior to his remarks.

The Biden administration is also directing the Department of Education to propose a rule to help current and future borrowers with their loan repayments.

The rule would eliminate monthly interest payments on loans, "so that unlike other existing income-driven repayment plans, no borrower's loan balance will grow as long as they make their monthly payments — even when that monthly payment is \$0 because their income is low," according to the department website.

The proposed rule would also forgive loan balances "after 10 years of payments, instead of 20 years, for borrowers with loan balances of \$12,000 or less." It would also require "borrowers to pay no more than 5% of their discretionary income monthly on undergraduate loans."



President Joe Biden

CASES from page 3

have been identified in southeast Louisiana. Nearly 1,000 people were vaccinated against monkeypox at initial community vaccination events LDH held at LGBTQ bars in New Orleans. LDH formally requested and received approval for technical assistance from CDC ahead of Southern Decadence in New Orleans; a team specializing in vaccines, communications, behavioral science, epidemiology and logistics has begun its remote deployment and is working closely with LDH and NOHD teams.

People most commonly get monkeypox through close and sustained skin-to-skin contact, including but not limited to intimate and sexual contact. The virus can also spread through contact with body fluids such as saliva or fluid from the lesions of infected individuals or by touching objects, fabrics (clothing, bedding, or towels), and surfaces that have been used by someone with monkeypox.

JYNNEOS is a safe and effective monkeypox vaccine. The vaccine requires two doses, and it takes 14 days after getting the second dose of JYNNEOS to reach maximum protection. People interested in receiving the vaccine can visit the LDH monkeypox webpage for information, including a list of locations in Louisiana that have received vaccine. People can also call 211 to get their monkeypox questions answered.

Vaccinations to protect against Louisianians against monkeypox are now available for:

Gay, bisexual, other (cis or trans) men who have sex with men OR transgender women and nonbinary persons assigned male at birth who have sex with men AND

Have had intimate or sexual contact with multiple or anonymous partners in last 14 days or

Have had intimate or sexual contact with other men in a social or sexual venue in the last 14 days

OR Individuals (of any sex/gender identity) who have given or received money or other goods/services in exchange for sex in the last 14 days

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