

# The Weekly Press

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THURSDAY, MAY 28-JUNE 3, 2020

A PEOPLE'S PUBLICATION

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# Minneapolis Rioters Protest Death of George Floyd

## A Statement From Gov. Edwards on The Death of George Floyd:



Governor of the State of Louisiana John Bel Edwards

"Although I never knew George Floyd, I will never forget him or the fact that his death was both terribly wrong and completely and easily avoidable. No one who sees the video of his death can deny this, which is why it is important for all of us, regardless of the color of our skin, or ethnicity, to speak out against this great injustice. For too long, we have failed to fully address the lasting and insidious impacts that racism and racial inequality have had on our society. No one should fear violence or mistreatment because of the color of their skin. I share the outrage and my heart hurts along with everyone impacted by what is happening, but especially our African American brothers and sisters who throughout this difficult and heartbreaking week have had to again call into question their hope for justice and equality. Unfortunately, this hits home for Louisiana and many other communities across the country. As Dr. Martin Luther King has taught us, injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. Creating a better world for our children and grandchildren begins with each of us reflecting on the biases we hold, sometimes unconsciously, and how we can treat each other better. Hope deferred

See EDWARDS, on page 3



Screenshot of Facebook live incident capturing a Minneapolis police officer with his knee on the neck of George Floyd who is yelling he "can't breathe."



Masked vandals smashed windows, slashed police car tires and threw bricks in a standoff that lasted until 5:00 a.m. The Minneapolis Police Department fired four police officers who arrested Floyd. The 46-year-old died after an officer pinned him down by the neck with one knee.

BY CHRIS JUHN

MINNEAPOLIS—Protests turned violent on Tuesday as anti-police activists smashed windows and vandalized police cars in response to the death of an African American man at the hands of four law enforcement officers.

George Floyd died Monday after his arrest outside Cup Foods, a Minneapolis restaurant that reported a customer who paid for a meal with a counterfeit \$20 bill. Widely circulated videos of the incident show a handcuffed Floyd on the ground with a white officer's knee on the back of his neck, his pleas for help ignored.

"I can't breathe," Floyd told the officer. The 46-year-old man died later at the Hennepin County Medical Center.

Thousands of protesters descended on a police precinct a day later. Some spray-painted patrol cars, slashed tires and broke windows.

Police responded with tear gas canisters after the crowd broke through the gate that protected more vehicles. The standoff lasted until 5:00 a.m., with demonstrators hurl-



During a protest over the police killing of George Floyd, protesters gather in the back of the precinct where some of the protesters picked up rocks and medal objects to smash the windows of a squad car in the back on May 26, 2020. (Chris Juhn/Zenger)

ing bricks and other objects at police.

Protesters had walked more than 2 miles from Cup Foods, organized by activists who would later try to keep the march peaceful.

Minneapolis Police Chief Medaria Arradondo fired Officer Derek Chauvin and three other officers who were present.

"Being black in America should not be a death sentence.

This officer failed in the most basic human sense," Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey said in a press conference.

"Four responding MPD

See RIOTERS, on page 2

## Mayor Broome Statement About the Death of George Floyd



Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome

"I've had many conversations this week about the brutal death of George Floyd.

I mourn for George and grieve with the family he left behind. This tragedy has shaken the foundation of communities and hearts across America – including Baton Rouge.

Society is faced with an endless reiteration of appeals to humanity for justice and restoration of democratic principles.

Yet, we must never allow ourselves to be indifferent to tragedies like this. In solidarity we must find our ability to bring change to this world."

-Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome

## Department of Revenue Waives Penalties March, April State For Sales Tax Returns



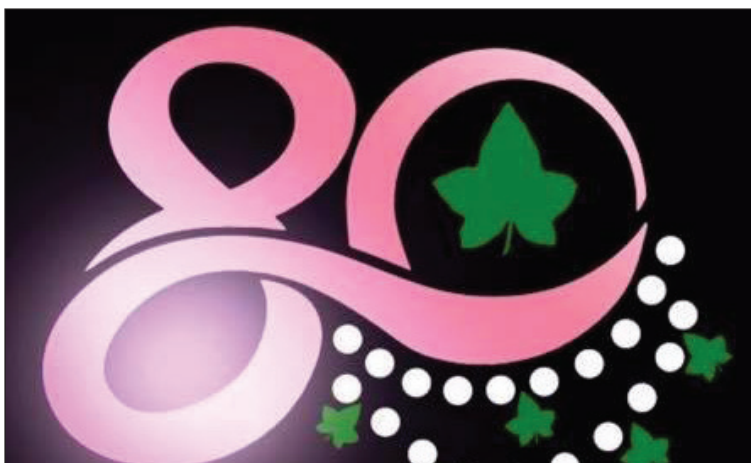
BATON ROUGE – Due to the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency, the Louisiana Department of Revenue (LDR) is waiving penalties for state sales tax returns due in April and May.

The penalty relief applies to state sales tax returns and remittances due April 20, 2020 (for the March tax period), and May 20, 2020 (for the April tax period).

See SALES TAX, on page 2

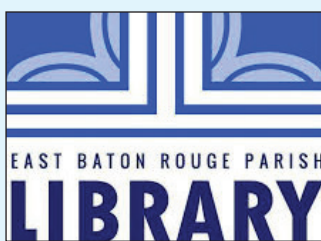
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### AKA SORORITY CELEBRATES 80 YEARS



Exactly 80 years ago this month seven women - Marcella Dumas Huggins, Estelle Anderson Hall, Mary Cornelia Clay Pinkston Torian, Bertha Elva Harrell Sims, Henri Etta Baranco, Jean Hamilton Walls, and Elsie Lewis Mackel, celebrated the chartering of the first graduate chapter in Baton Rouge, LA....See Page 3

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The East Baton Rouge Parish Library will move into Phase 2 of its phased re-opening process starting Monday, June 1...See Page 2

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### BILLBOARD TOP TEN SMASH

Grammy-nominated gospel singer Troy Sneed died last month due to complications from the new coronavirus and now his widow, Emily, is responding to the public's expressions...See Page 3

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### U.S. BANK OFFERS SUPPORT

Baton Rouge residents will celebrate the return of its beloved destination for hot, fresh doughnuts and premium coffee on Tuesday, May 26, when Krispy Kreme opens a new shop...See Page 5

### STATE & LOCAL NEWS

Send your news to the news department at the Baton Rouge Weekly Press by emailing it to: [brweeklypress@yahoo.com](mailto:brweeklypress@yahoo.com)

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#### CLASSIFIED

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# STATE & LOCAL

## EBRP Library To Enter Phase 2 of Re-Opening Plan June 1

The East Baton Rouge Parish Library will move into Phase 2 of its phased re-opening process starting Monday, June 1. "Although we were pleased to offer digital services over the past weeks, and then to expand access on May 20 with call ahead/pickup services and more extensive phone and online reference help, we are now ready to increase access by opening significant portions of the public service spaces in our buildings. We have successfully completed our first phase of preparations, which included reconfiguring furnishings, establishing appropriate social distancing provisions, and accepting and quarantining a large influx of returned library items. We also have secured sufficient special supplies and materials to help maintain an elevated level of preventive intervention. As the details of this phase of our reopening explain below, there are some changes and new procedures that will be necessary with the use of library public spaces. We appreciate that this will require a certain level of adjustment, but we hope that everyone can work with us to make their library experience as safe and rewarding as possible", said Library Director Spencer Watts.



Acrylic sneeze guards will be placed at service desks and visual reminders related to social distancing will be in use at each location

Hand sanitizer will be available at each location

PPE will be in use by staff at each location; masks are mandatory

Expanded cleaning protocols and an accelerated schedule for disinfecting and deep cleaning at each location

The Library collection will be considered "Closed Stacks" during this time period; this protective measure will help prevent exposure to the virus

Patrons may call ahead to locate materials, or reserve items as usual.

Patrons who come in person will need to request materials directly from Library staff. Library staff will then search the shelves for desired books or AV materials and bring them directly to patrons to minimize contact

Patrons will be able to check out their materials via Self Check Kiosks at all locations or receive assistance at Circulation Services

Call Ahead/ Drive Through/ Pick Up Service will continue at all locations, so that patrons who want to minimize contact may do so

Library materials may be returned to any location; items that are trapped to fulfill Reservations will be quarantined for 72 hours before becoming available to the patron who is "on Hold"

We encourage reserving the first hour of service for seniors and those with compromised immune systems; please consider arriving at or after 10 a.m. if you are not in that category

Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult or care-taker

We will monitor occupancy of the library and as necessary, limit the number of patrons who may be inside at any given time; occupancy limits will need to be strictly enforced

We will not accept money other than through the usual online credit card service

A detailed Phase Plan is available digitally in the June edition of the Library's The Source monthly newsletter at <https://www.ebrpl.com/Source/Source202006.pdf>.

If you would like to receive promotional email correspondence from the Library, send a request to Assistant Library Director Mary Stein at [mstein@ebrpl.com](mailto:mstein@ebrpl.com).

To find information on the coronavirus (COVID-19), visit the InfoGuide at <http://ebrpl.libguides.com/coronavirus>. More about the Library and any of its free programs, events and resources can be found online at [www.ebrpl.com](http://www.ebrpl.com).

In Phase 2 of the Library's Re-opening Plan, the following services will be available to our patrons:

- Libraries open doors to the public to provide use of PCs, Wi-Fi, and fresh checkouts of material
- Library locations will open to the public from 9 a.m. until 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 9 a.m. through 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday; and 2 p.m. through 6 p.m. on Sunday.
- The new River Center Branch will open later in June; its opening date has been pushed back due to delays in furniture and equipment installation.
- Telephone assistance is available as usual at all 14 locations during these hours.

**As required by City-Parish, all patrons entering Library buildings must wear a face mask or other personal protective equipment (PPE)**

Because of the need to increase distance between workstations, a reduced number of Public PCs will be available on a "reservations" basis:

- Please call the Reference Desk at your desired location to make a reservation
- Reservations for slots during the first hour the Library is opened may be placed the day before
- Headphones will not be available; please bring your own
- Keyboard and mice will be cleaned after each use
- Public PCs will be available until 15 minutes before closing
- Printing, copying and faxing will be available
- Computers and Wi-Fi are temporarily unavailable at the Delmont Gardens Branch due to connectivity issues

Wi-Fi will be available inside and outside from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. at all 14 locations

Seating will be limited; physical distance will be maintained between seating, tables and computers

Protective Measures:

## Gov. Edwards Orders Flags at Half-Staff in Honor of Trooper George Baker

BATON ROUGE — Gov. John Bel Edwards ordered flags to be flown at half-staff over the State Capitol and all public buildings until sunset on Thursday, May 28, 2020, as an expression of respect for Louisiana State Police Trooper George Baker who died from injuries sustained in the line of duty. Trooper Baker is survived by his wife Heather, daughter Harper, his parents, sisters, and extended family.



Gov. John Bel Edwards

Trooper Baker served in the United States Marine Corps for eight years, deploying on a combat tour in the Middle East, before serving with the Greensburg Police Department, St. Helena Parish Sheriff's Office and the

Louisiana State Police.

"As a United States Marine, Greensburg Police Officer, St. Helena Parish Sheriff's Deputy and Louisiana State Police Officer, Trooper Baker dedicated his life to serving and protecting others. Even after his passing, Trooper Baker continued to help those in need by donating his organs," Gov. Edwards said. "He lived the Louisiana State Police values of courtesy, loyalty, and service every day, and his integrity and bravery will long be remembered. I ask the people of Louisiana to continue to lift up Trooper Baker, his family, friends, and colleagues in prayer as we all mourn this great loss."

## Graves Announces Major Comite Diversion Canal Construction Project

WASHINGTON, DC — U.S. Congressman Garret Graves (South Louisiana) announced today that The Corps of Engineers has awarded the first Comite Diversion Canal construction contract in 15 years. The \$55,050,170 contract will include the construction of two new bridges, US 61 bridge and Kansas City Southern railroad bridge, and excavation and construction of the canal from US 61 to the Lilly Bayou Control Structure.

"This is the moment residents of East Baton Rouge, Livingston and Ascension Parishes have been waiting and paying for decades to happen. We are taking our first major step toward the completion of the Comite Diversion project. Under the current construction schedule, we will have better flood protection by the end of next year," Graves said.

During the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (BBA 2018), Graves was serving as the chairman in charge of the Corps of Engineers at the time and was able to break a decades-old logjam and secure a record \$1,400,000,000 (\$1.4 billion) on three key flood control and hurricane protection projects for South Louisiana. Graves also secured \$300 million through the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and \$50 million in USDA funding specifically for Livingston Parish flood mitigation — made possible due to a Graves' amendment in

the February 2018 federal funding bill.

"We've been able to secure \$3 billion in flood protection funding since the 2016 flood. The \$1.4 billion is paying for the 1980s protection on projects like Comite that should have been built decades ago. The \$1.2 billion and other additional funds are future protection, which will allow the Capital Region to be better prepared and more resilient for the natural events we expect to happen," Graves said. 31, 2021, which is the target completion date for the entire Comite River Diversion Canal.

### SALES TAX from page 1

State sales tax returns are due on the 20th day of the month following the applicable tax period.

LDR will waive penalties for state sales tax filers who submit their March 2020 and April 2020 returns, and remit the sales tax and any interest owed, by June 30, 2020. If a taxpayer cannot remit the sales tax and interest by June 30, they will still be eligible for penalty relief if they enter into a payment installment agreement by June 30.

### RIOTERS from page 1

officers involved in the death of George Floyd have been terminated. This is the right call," Frey tweeted.

Nekima Levy-Armstrong, a community organizer, first called for a protest on Facebook.

"Friends, Please wear your masks and join us if you can in demanding justice for the Black man who was unjustly killed by Minneapolis Police yesterday in broad daylight," she wrote.

"We can't escape police violence even in a global pandemic.

### 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 225-775-2002

### The 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.

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## BREC Announces Registration for Online and In-Person Summer Camps



BATON ROUGE, La. - This summer BREC will offer a variety of activities, experiences and camps to serve as many children as possible while following state and federal recommendations to ensure the safety of campers and camp staff. BREC will offer virtual-only camps from June 1-5, and both in-person summer camps and virtual experiences from June 8-31.

Registration will open Friday, May 22 at 9 a.m. for the first week of virtual camp. For weeks two through four, registration for virtual and in-person camps will open Tuesday, May 26 at 9 a.m. Available opportunities and registration details for the month of July are expected to be announced sometime in June as additional information becomes available from public health officials. BREC will host in-person camps and continue virtual experiences throughout the month of June. BREC's virtual camps will involve interactive streaming experiences with "Camp in a Bag" supplies that participants can retrieve at six different BREC park locations to provide accessibility across the parish. All of BREC camps are inclusive and welcome children of all abilities.

To meet the needs of our parish, BREC's recreation professionals consulted with peers across the nation, the CDC, state health officials and the American Camp Association to make informed, strategic decisions to create camps that balance safety while providing campers with fun, engaging experiences. In accordance with those recommendations, capacity will be limited with a ratio of nine children to one adult. BREC staff will conduct temperature checks, frequently sanitize supplies and facilities, encourage physical distancing, rotate camp experiences among small groups and wear masks while working with children and their parents.

"As the local economy continues to reopen, summer camps and summer experiences are more important than ever to allow parents to get back to work, and while the experience will be different, this year BREC will be even more accessible across

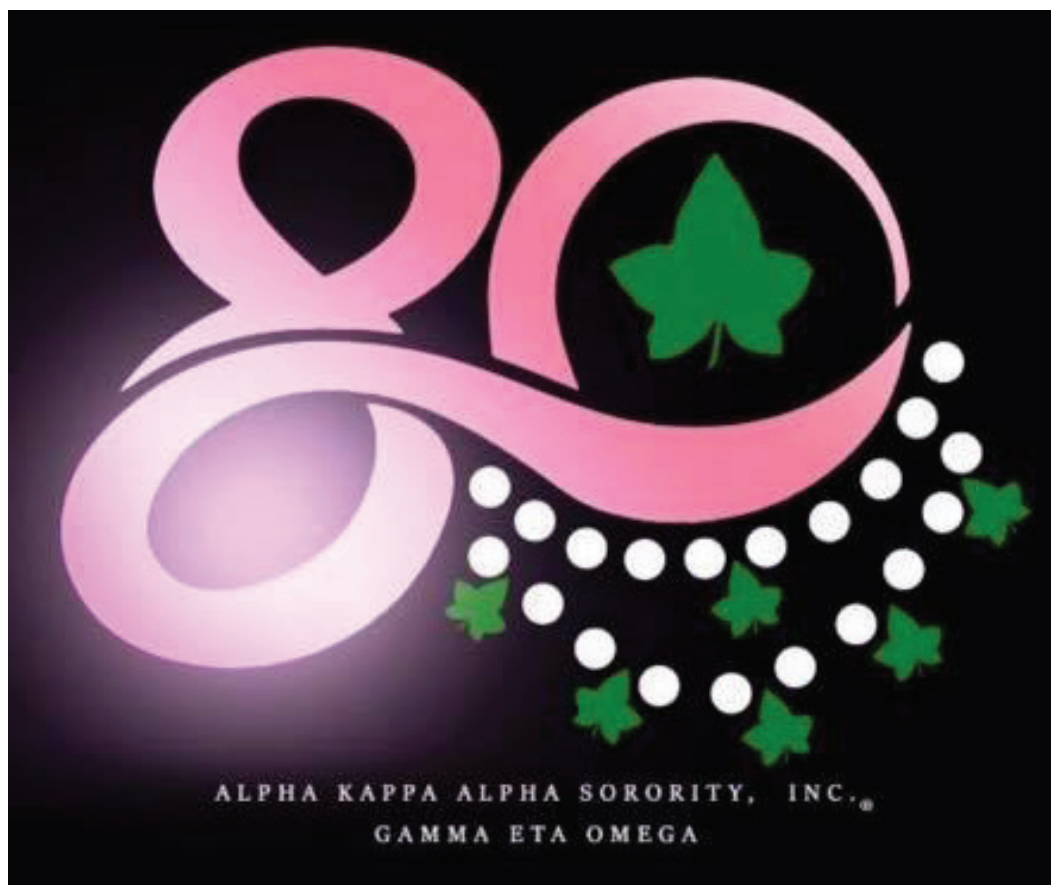
the parish with a combination of online and in-person experiences," said BREC Superintendent Corey Wilson. "We have carefully considered every aspect of these experiences down to the number of children that will be allowed to sit at a table, how to provide art experiences without anyone sharing materials, exciting guests who bring new experiences to campers to replace the traditional field trips as well as the creation of online experiences that are interactive and challenging for all ages. "Our top priority throughout the process has been to ensure the safety of the children and our staff, and we are prepared to adjust and adapt as necessary to ensure everyone's safety while also providing enjoyable experiences," said Wilson.

Parents or guardians must register online at [webtrac.brec.org](http://webtrac.brec.org) for all online and in-person locations this summer and may register for more than one camp or activity during a day. Each offering will vary in duration. Registration for individual camps will close the Thursday prior to the beginning of each session or once a session is full. From recreation and theatre to animals and science, there is a camp for children of all abilities and interests. Summer camp dates, times, ages and fees vary per camp.

BREC will offer virtual experiences through Independence Park Theatre, Magnolia Mound and Highland Road Park Observatory through week one and offer virtual experiences through Community Recreation, Conservation and BREC Art throughout the summer.

BREC will also offer traditional camps in general recreation at eight locations as well as special interest summer camps at the Bluebonnet Swamp Nature Center, Farr Park Equestrian Center, Highland Road Park Observatory and Magnolia Mound. Due to a lack of outdoor classroom space and recommendations for social distancing, the Baton Rouge Zoo will not be able to hold summer camp this year.

## Local Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated Celebrates 80 Years of "Service to All Mankind"



Exactly 80 years ago this month seven women - Marcella Dumas Huggins, Estelle Anderson Hall, Mary Cornelia Clay Pinkston Torian, Bertha Elva Harrell Sims, Henri Etta Baranco, Jean Hamilton Walls, and Elsie Lewis Mackel, celebrated the chartering of the first graduate chapter in Baton Rouge, La. Thirty-two years after the sorority was founded, on May 28, 1940, the Gamma Eta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® was born.

For 112 years, Alpha Kappa Alpha chapters have been dedicated to five basic tenets: to cultivate and encourage high scholastic and ethical standards, to promote unity and friendship among college women, to study and help alleviate problems concerning girls and women in order to improve their social stature, to maintain a progressive interest in college life, and to be of service to all mankind. Because of these seven women and their commitment to the Baton Rouge community, thousands of women have been able to continue their "service to all mankind" through their membership in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®.

Gamma Eta Omega has and continues to serve the Baton Rouge community through Signature Programs such as: Arts Camp for Kids (ages 5-12), to expose them to drama, music, and visual arts; Leadership Fellows, a mentoring program that focuses on life skills such as interviewing techniques, appropriate business communication, and dressing for success. In 2008, Gamma Eta



Omega, was recognized as the top ticket seller for the premiere Ebony Fashion Fair Show (sponsored by Johnson Publishing Company - then publishers of Ebony and Jet magazines) to raise funds for programs and scholarships. Over the years, young women attending college have been awarded nearly \$200,000 in scholarships and book awards.

So on this day, as we celebrate 80 years of exemplary service, we also speak the names of these women whose vision and tireless efforts will live on forever through the work that we

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makes the heart sick, but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life. We are all called by our Creator to be better: 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.' I pray for God's guidance and comfort for all of us."

continue to do in our community. Happy 80th Anniversary Gamma Eta Omega.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® is an international service organization founded on the campus of Howard University in Washington, DC in 1908. It is the oldest Greek-lettered organization established by African-American, college-educated women. Alpha Kappa Alpha is comprised of more than 300,000 members in approximately 1,012 graduate and undergraduate chapters in the United States, Liberia, Bahamas, US Virgin Islands, Germany, South Korea, Bermuda, Japan, Canada, South Africa and the Middle East.

## Mayor Broome Announces Expanded COVID-19 Testing in EBR Parish



BATON ROUGE, La. - Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome announced Thursday the expansion of COVID-19 community testing sites throughout East Baton Rouge Parish. The expansion will offer mobile testing at various sites, Monday through Friday, for the month of June. The initiative is a partnership with Ochsner Baton Rouge, Our Lady of the Lake Medical Center, East Baton Rouge Parish School System, BREC, and a number of area Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC), including: CareSouth Medical and Dental, Open Health Care Clinic, RKM, and Southeast Community Health Systems.

"As our community has now entered Phase One of reopening, receiving a COVID-19 nasal swab test is one the most important steps our residents should take to protect their health and the health of their loved ones," said Mayor Broome. "These testing sites do not require a doctor's order and are offered at no out-of-pocket cost to the patient. Everyone who believes they need a test, should take advantage of this valuable resource."

The mobile testing sites are in addition to about two dozen fixed testing sites in East Baton Rouge Parish. A list of mobile testing sites and fixed testing sites can be found here.

See TESTING, on page 4

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# NATIONAL

## Restaurants in America Hard Hit by COVID-19 Face Uphill Battle to Return to Normal

By Lauren Victoria Burke, NNPA Newswire Contributor

“There’s a lot of fear, will tourists come back, will people come out? Are the employees going to want to come back to work? How are we going to convince everybody it’s safe and healthy to eat in a restaurant again?”

This is what Melissa Fleischut, president of the New York State Restaurant Association, told a reporter last month.

The devastating economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic has been particularly divesting to the restaurant and service industry. One estimate proclaimed that 40 percent of restaurants in New York are unlikely to reopen after the pandemic is over. But even after it ends, there is fear that business won’t be the same until some months after cities officially re-open.

Over 660,000 people employed in restaurants in New York state alone have been furloughed. They are part of the over 30 million people in the U.S. who have likely filed for unemployment since the middle of March.

According to reservation app OpenTable, reservations in Seattle were down 31 percent by March 3 right as the coronavirus was reported to have caused a fatality in the city. San Francisco saw a 24 percent decline. Soon after the drop was close to 50 percent.

Social distancing rules are a huge challenge to the restaurant industry in a way that is likely to impact revenue for some time to come. Though Georgia Governor



Late on May 1st it was learned that 1,165 Georgians have died due to the outbreak. In the past 24 hours (as of this writing), the Georgia Department of Public Health has recorded 33 COVID-19 deaths for a total of 26,000 infected. (Photo: iStockphoto / NNPA)

Brian Kemp re-opened much of the state last week, over 120 restaurants in Atlanta are refusing to open their dining rooms until they believe it’s safe.

Prominent Georgia chefs have formed the “#GAHospitalityTogether” initiative. The group includes award-winning chefs Ford

Fry, Anne Quatrano, Hugh Acheson and Mashama Bailey.

Late on May 1st it was learned that 1,165 Georgians have died due to the outbreak. In the past 24 hours (as of this writing), the Georgia Department of Public Health has recorded 33 COVID-19 deaths for a total of 26,000 infected.

For African American businesses that are cash strapped the challenge is even tougher. A majority of Black-owned businesses have only one employee and many are contractors. Many elected of-

icials and civil rights groups are focused on Black owned businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lauren Victoria Burke is an independent journalist for

NNPA and the host of the podcast BURKEFILE. She is also a political strategist as Principal of Win Digital Media LLC. She may be contacted at L.Burke007@gmail.com and on twitter at @LVBurke

### TESTING from page 3

“Ochsner’s investment in community testing near local hot spots is a critical step towards a continued safe reopening,” said Eric McMillen, CEO, Ochsner Baton Rouge. “I’d like to thank Mayor Broome and her staff for their continued focus on COVID-19 testing. We’ll continue working to identify more community locations for widespread testing.”

The mobile testing locations do not require an appointment and operate on a first-come, first-served basis. Please check the schedule every week for updates.

“Our Lady of the Lake is proud to play a part in expanding access to COVID-19 testing by deploying mobile testing sites throughout our community. Increased testing is essential to managing COVID-19

and preventing a spike in cases,” said Coletta Barrett, VP of Mission, Our Lady of the Lake.

Also, patients using the Mayor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (MOHSEP) Community Testing Site at Baton Rouge General Mid City, will now be directed to the recently opened CareSouth testing site on Florida Boulevard, less than a half-mile away. Thus, the MOHSEP Community Testing Site at Mid City will begin to phase out over the next three weeks. Early on in the pandemic, a coalition of hospitals and clinics partnered with MOHSEP to stand up the Mid City site, taking the strain off area clinics and health centers.

Beginning Monday June 1st, the second MOHSEP Community Testing Site outside OLOL North Campus on Airline Highway will transition to testing inside the clinic.

Since March 16, 2,391 people have been tested at the MOHSEP sites. The initiative relied on local resources without aid from the state and federal government. Partners in the initiative include the Baton Rouge Clinic, Baton Rouge General, Ochsner Baton Rouge, Our Lady of the Lake Medical Center, and Woman’s Hospital.



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# RELIGION

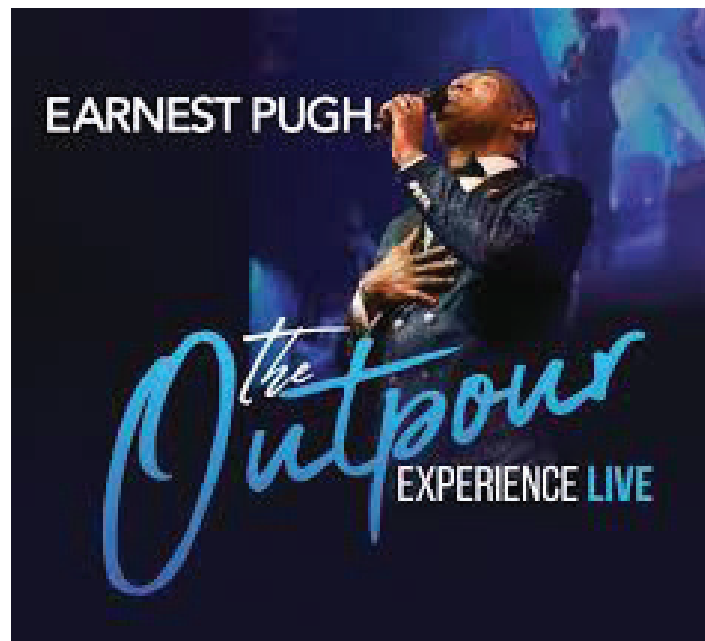
## Earnest Pugh, Kerry Douglas Reunite For Billboard Top Ten Smash "God Wants To Heal You"

The dynamic duo is back together again. Gospel star, Earnest Pugh, has reunited with Blacksmoke Music Worldwide CEO, Kerry Douglas, on the soul-stirring Billboard Top Ten Gospel Airplay chart radio smash, "God Wants To Heal You." Over a decade ago, they created a string of hits together such as "For My Good," "Every Promise" and the No. 1 smashes "Rain on Us" and "I Need Your Glory." Pugh's five-octave vocal range and Douglas' guerilla marketing tactics made them an unbeatable team. After years apart, they have picked up where they left off to release Pugh's tenth album, "The Outpour Experience Live" (Blacksmoke Music Worldwide), which is now available everywhere music is consumed. Listen link: <https://lnkfi.re/TheOutpourExperience>

The fourteen-track album was produced by Keith Williams, Michael Bereal and Marque Walker. It opens with the ballad "Your Glory" which begins as a jazzy conversation with God and morphs into a majestic worship anthem that shows off Pugh's 5-octave range on the climax. However, it's not all balladry. There are up-tempo sing-along tracks such as "Thank You So Much," "The Grace Dance," "Grateful," and the Go-Go rhythm, "Awesome God." It closes with the current, soul-stirring Top ten single, "God Wants to Heal You."



Gospel star, Earnest Pugh, has reunited with Blacksmoke Music Worldwide CEO, Kerry Douglas, on the soul-stirring Billboard Top Ten Gospel Airplay chart radio smash, "God Wants to Heal You."



"I think 'Outpour' will be my last full album," Pugh says. "In the future, I think I'll concentrate on singles and tracks because that's where the industry is right now. In addition, I want to broaden my horizons beyond merely singing. I want to expand my philanthropic endeavors to do more charity because the needs are so great right now. I also want to finally finish my doctorate in theology at the

Dallas Theological Seminary so that I can become a professor at a university. It's also my aim to begin to get film and television placements for my music." The film and television placements have already begun. Under the guidance of Pugh's manager, Vanzil Burke (of Burke Management), he's already bagged a couple of big looks. His 2009 recording "Praise Break 'The

Sundoe'" has been featured in CBS' "The Neighborhood" sitcom which stars Cedric the Entertainer. His 2017 hit "Trade It All" was recently featured in the BETHR movie premiere of director Coke Daniel's film, "His, Hers and The Truth," which stars Brad James and Ashley A. Williams. "After the movie made such a major impression at the Black Film Festival in Miami last year,

the producers called and asked me for a song that would go with a certain scene in the movie," Pugh recalls. "Because my repertoire is mostly gospel music, I felt that the only song I had that would be fitting and proper would be my remake of Joe Cocker's 'You Are So Beautiful.' They never replied to my email when I sent that song

See PUGH, on page 7

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- Oasis Christian Church:**  
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<https://livestream.com/accounts/27567249/events/8379840>
- Rose Hill Church:**  
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<https://www.facebook.com/rose-hillbatonrouge>
- Living Faith Christian Ctr.**  
 Bishop Raymond Johnson  
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 • Piksel: <https://campus.piksel.com/living-faith-cc>  
 • Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LivingFaithChristianCenterBR/>
- Mt. Carmel Baptist Church**  
 Rev., Dr. Andra Johnson  
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<https://www.mtcarmelbtr.com/?fbclid=IwAR2yeejE375iY6MvJarHBFfsg9uWpJc1ExvVjZnlhUv55f-C3OaiyTGow2k>

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CHURCH SCHEDULE

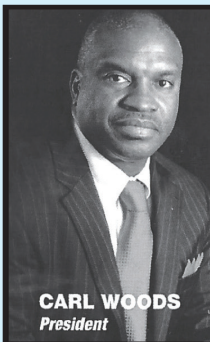
Sunday Morning Worship ..... 10:45 AM  
 Lord's Supper ..... 3rd Sundays  
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 Prayer Service ..... Wed. @ 6:00 PM  
 Bible Study ..... Wed- @ 7:00 PM

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# BUSINESS

## U.S. Bank Offers Financial Support, Demonstrates Commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Amid COVID-19 Pandemic

MINNEAPOLIS, MN – As we weather the COVID-19 pandemic together, U.S. Bank is here to help. We have developed a single site full of online resources where customers can go to find helpful information regarding their financial needs. Through this online resource and other partnerships, U.S. Bank aims to provide simple, clear information to help individuals and small businesses get through the pandemic and tangible financial assistance to support our communities.

"Our entire team has rallied around each other, our customers and our communities, and it is a tremendous honor to work with them as we fight this pandemic," said U.S. Bancorp Chairman, President and CEO Andy Cecere in a statement on the company's website. "We stand together, and we are focused on keeping people healthy and safe – personally, professionally and financially."

Here to help with your financial needs

At [usbank.com/covid-19](http://usbank.com/covid-19), customers will find helpful links to manage their finances, as well as information about the financial programs created under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act to help individuals and small businesses – including Economic Impact Payments (EIPs), mortgage assistance, new rules for IRAs and retirement accounts, and the SBA Paycheck Protection Program (PPP).

Commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion

As the global coronavirus pandemic upends all aspects of our lives, U.S. Bank is uniting with other corporations and longstanding partner organizations that are representing members of underserved and minority communities to advocate for inclusion among Pan-Asians and other cultural segments.

U.S. Bank joined Ascend, Catalyst, Executive Leadership Council (ELC), Hispanic Association on Corporate Responsibility (HACR), National Organization on Disability (NOD) and Out & Equal as a Supporting Company on a COVID-19 response Action Agenda. These organizations are leading champions, connectors and conveners for business leaders and professionals who are Pan-Asians, African American, Hispanic, women, LGBTQ and persons with disabilities.

These organizations are committed to redoubling on their mission to promote inclusion in these unprecedented times by addressing the adverse impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak. Many of the low wage earners in our communities are particularly impacted during this public health and economic crisis, while health officials indicate the pandemic has claimed disproportionate numbers of Black and Hispanic lives.

"We're proud to stand with our peers and these leading organizations to help maintain a sense of community and support at a time when we need to stay physically apart," said Greg Cunningham,



U.S. Bank anticipate 90 percent of this full \$30 million commitment will be invested in organizations serving people of color and low-to-moderate income communities. (Photo: iStockphoto / NNPA)

U.S. Bank Chief Diversity Officer.

U.S. Bank commits nearly \$60 million to employees and communities for COVID-19 relief and recovery efforts

U.S. Bank committed nearly \$60 million to employees and communities for COVID-19 relief and recovery efforts. It started with a new Pay Premium Program for front-line employees and a \$30 million investment in communities.

U.S. Bank transforms and expedites community investments in response to immediate COVID-19 needs

U.S. Bank has expedited its annual \$1 million Market Impact Fund grant program in April to provide funding for 30 local nonprofits that are working to respond to the most pressing needs in their communities.

From Los Angeles to Chicago, the grants are being used by non-

profits to support small businesses, maintain safe housing and ensure accessibility to critical human services by the communities' most economically vulnerable populations. The company is deploying these funds three months earlier than originally scheduled to ensure immediate relief.

"We know how many nonprofits are struggling and we wanted to make sure that our partners know that we trust them to use our grant dollars in whatever way is needed to sustain the life-changing work they do in our communities every day," said U.S. Bank Chief Social Responsibility Officer Reba Dominiski.

The move is part of a broader shift in how U.S. Bank is approaching community giving this year in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Last month, the company an-

nounced a \$30 million philanthropic commitment focused on short-term relief and long-term recovery and was intentionally focused on communities of color and low-to-moderate income communities. U.S. Bank donated \$4 million to three national nonprofits – United Way, LISC and Operation HOPE – and announced that its remaining \$25 million in grants planned for this year could be used by nonprofits for general operating expenses rather than for specific programming. We anticipate 90 percent of this full \$30 million commitment will be invested in organizations serving people of color and low-to-moderate income communities.

U.S. Bancorp Community Development Corporation Finances \$50 Million in Capital to Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) to help small businesses impacted by COVID-19

U.S. Bancorp Community Development Corporation (USBDC), the tax credit and community investment subsidiary of U.S. Bank, facilitated \$50 million in capital to seven community development financial institution (CDFI) customers, helping them provide loans through the Small Business Administration (SBA) Paycheck Protection Program.

Each of the CDFIs are receiving \$5-\$10 million in low interest rate loans to support their ability to fund small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. CDFIs play a critical role in bringing investment and resources to underserved communities, and those who may not be eligible for traditional small business financing, with a focus on women and minority-owned businesses and low-to-moderate income communities.

U.S. Bank has been a long-time partner working with CDFIs to provide funding to entrepreneurs in underserved communities. By the end of 2019, U.S. Bank helped ensure that more than \$400 million in capital was available for CDFIs and their customers.

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## America's Moms Grieve George Floyd, Demand Accountability and Justice for His Murder

Statement of Kristin Rowe-Finkbeiner, executive director and CEO of MomsRising, an online and on-the-ground organization of more than one million mothers and their families, on the brutal murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police:

"The moms of America are gutted that George Floyd was killed by four police officers earlier this week. No mother should have to worry about the loss of a loved one at the hands of those charged with protection. No one should lose their lives.

"MomsRising is calling for the police officers who killed George Floyd to be charged with murder and for the vicious and inflammatory attacks on protesters, including the inflammatory attacks by President Trump, to stop immediately.

"We grieve, we're angry, and we will not stop holding leaders accountable: This includes prosecutors, who hold more power in the criminal justice system than almost anyone else. It includes everyone from mayors and governors to the president of the United States.

"Sadly, it's not just George Floyd. It's Breona Taylor. It's Ahmaud Arbery and Atatiana Jefferson. It's a list of names too long to fit on this page. Each of whom was a person, with loved ones, dreams, and lives to be lived.

"It's a president who has encouraged police violence and is consistently and openly fueling white supremacy in our nation. A president who just last night Tweeted an implication that protesters could be shot, implying that he'd order the military to act as judge, jury, and executioner, using wording that has historically stoked anti-Black racism. A tweet so racist and incendiary that Twitter took the rare step of putting a warning label on it for "glorifying violence" and limited the public's interaction with it. And it's this same president who has also dog-whistled white supremacists, militias, and vigilantes time and again.

"It's a system that directly targets Black people and people of color through sanctioned acts of violence; and structurally targets people of color by intentionally cutting programs, diverting resources, and so much more.

"It's police brutality, it's an unjust criminal justice system, it's the wage gap that disproportionately harms moms of color the most, it's discrimination in the health care system that's leading to more people of color losing their lives to COVID-19 and to Black women dying three to four times as often as white women while giving birth. It's Amy Cooper, a white woman who called the police saying, 'I'm going to tell them there's an African American man threatening my life.'

"It's white supremacist groups with guns marching on state capitols protesting public health measures that scientists have prescribed to stop the pandemic -- and remaining unharmed and untouched by law enforcement; while protestors of color demanding an end to police brutality are met by tear gas and rubber bullets.

"All of this is why the moms of America demand full accountability for what happened to George Floyd. And why we will never give up demanding a system and a country in which everyone can live and thrive."

**PUGH** from page 5

but instead, they called and said they were going through my body of work and found 'Trade It All.' I called CEO of Blacksmoke Music, Mr. Kerry Douglas and he said by all means we should give clearance for the song to be on the soundtrack and the rest is history." With the release of "Outpour," we think Pugh has more history to make.



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