

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

# The Weekly Press

SERVING BAKER, CENTRAL, AND ZACHARY

THURSDAY, MAY 19-25, 2022

A PEOPLE'S PUBLICATION

VOL. 45 • NO.34 • FREE

## LDH reaffirms recommendation that all eligible children be vaccinated now, given recent COVID case increase



According to the latest data from the Kaiser Family Foundation, COVID-19 was the fourth leading cause of death among children ages 5-14 and young people ages 15-24 in January 2022.

BATON ROUGE, La. — The Louisiana Department of Health today reaffirms its official recommendation that all eligible children receive the COVID-19 vaccine to protect themselves and their families. This public health recommendation has not changed; in fact, it is more urgent now given the recent increases in COVID cases, percent positivity, and emergency department visits for COVID-like illness throughout the state.

As the COVID-19 vaccine for younger children continues down its FDA full approval pathway, LDH is adjusting its plans and will not add the COVID-19 vaccine to the school immunization schedule ahead of the upcoming school year. While we strongly recommend all eligible children be vaccinated against COVID-19 now, if they have not already been so, we are making this decision to give families and schools the time they need to prepare accordingly.

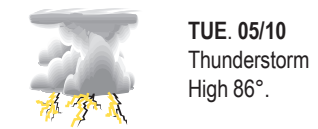
When LDH began the standard

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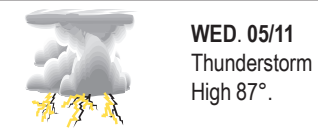
### WEATHER



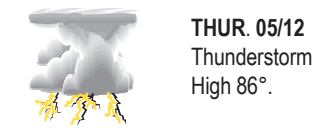
MON. 05/09  
Thunderstorm  
High 82°.



TUE. 05/10  
Thunderstorm  
High 86°.



WED. 05/11  
Thunderstorm  
High 87°.



THUR. 05/12  
Thunderstorm  
High 86°.

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# OVER 500 STUDENTS

## graduates in the SU F.G. Clark Activity Center during the Spring 2022 Commencement Ceremonies

Babineaux-Fontenot shared in her raw and personal speech that the graduates should prepare for the journey ahead and that although they've gone through so much already, they should keep climbing towards their goals.

On Friday, May 13, two chief student marshals ushered in more than 550 graduates into the F.G. Clark Activity Center during the Spring 2022 Commencement Ceremonies. Candace Chatman and Rason Irvin, both graduates of the College of Sciences and Engineering, received the respective honors of being chief student marshals by earning a cumulative 4.0 GPA. Both students will be relocating to the East Coast post-graduation to put their Bachelor of Science degrees in computer science to great use at Microsoft and Adobe, respectively.

"Usually, I set outlandish goals that I don't genuinely think I'll obtain, but serve as markers to strive toward," said Irvin, a native of Houston. "I feel proud, honored, and humbled

to the greatest degree, and most importantly thankful for every single person that assisted me in obtaining this accolade of chief student marshal."

Chatman, a native of Baton Rouge, shared similar sentiments.

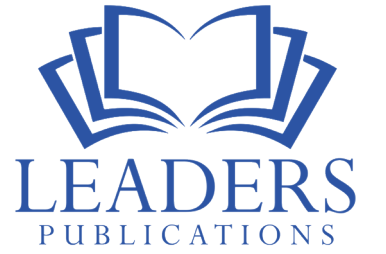
"This achievement culminates all my years of sacrifice, in the pursuit of academic excellence since grade school," she said. "I do attribute my desire to always want to be better and do better, thanks to my parents; they never forced me to be this way but instead encouraged me to go for things I was interested in."

Chatman and fellow degree candidates were further encour-

See **SU STUDENTS**, on page 3



ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY



## Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome to pen Louisiana Leading Ladies 2022

Coffee-table style book that exposes children to Positive Role Models

BATON ROUGE, LA.— Leaders Publications and the Baton Rouge Weekly Press is proud to announce Sharon Weston Broome, Mayor-President of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, as the foreword writer for its inaugural edition of Louisiana.



Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome

Mayor Broome is the first female Mayor-President of the City of Baton Rouge and East Baton Rouge Parish. She previously served as a Baton Rouge Metro City Council Member, a Louisiana State Representative, and a Louisiana State Senator.

While serving in the legislature, Broome became the first woman to hold the leadership positions of Speaker Pro Tempore in the House and President Pro Tempore in the Senate.

Mayor Broome has been recog-

See **BROOME**, on page 2

## Proposal would shield Louisiana's state employees who use medical marijuana

BY: PIPER HUTCHINSON  
*Louisiana Illuminator*

The House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations unanimously advanced a bill Thursday that would protect Louisiana's state employees who are legally treated with medical marijuana.

House Bill 988, sponsored by Rep. Mandie Landry, D-New Orleans, protects state employees from negative consequences if they are diagnosed with a condition for which their doctor recommends medical marijuana that is used in accordance with state law.

The law would protect employees from being fired and would protect prospective employees from being discriminated against for their use of medical marijuana.

The bill would not apply to law enforcement, firefighters or other public safety officials.

The Louisiana Board of Pharmacy reported that there are over 43,000 medical marijuana users in the state. The first medical marijuana dispensaries in the state began operating in 2019.

"There are a lot of people who don't want to take opioids for their long-term PTSD and pain management because of the high possibility of addiction to opioids," Landry said. "This has proved to be a better option than them."

Rep. Larry Frieman, R-Abita Springs, raised concerns that the issue should be addressed by state agencies,

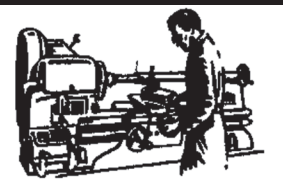
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# LOCAL & STATE

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 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  
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 Baton Rouge, La. 70814

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## Mayor Broome Announces Summer of Hope



BATON ROUGE, La. — Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome announced the Summer of Hope initiative, an 8-week boots-on-the-ground activation led by Safe Hopeful Healthy Baton Rouge, a program dedicated to treating violence as a public health epidemic. The summer initiative includes programs, activities, and events set to kick off the first week of June. Mayor Broome announced the initiative Wednesday evening at the monthly Community-Based Public Safety Ecosystem Convening. Watch Mayor Broome's announcement at <https://fb.watch/d5ikbCr80C/>

The Summer of Hope activation will focus on violence reduction, amplify positive activities during the summer, and provide proactive mitigation and intervention in our most vulnerable neighborhoods. The goal is to engage Baton Rouge residents through various street engagements and programs and celebrations, and conversations through partnerships



with community organizations. "It has been a priority of my administration to keep meeting people where they are. I believe that our efforts of consistent on-the-ground outreach will amplify and connect

residents to available community resources while providing opportunities for all to engage in meaningful conversations and celebrations. This See **HOPE**, on page 3

## CROWN Act to end natural hairstyle discrimination fails again in Louisiana



A dozen states have approved versions of the CROWN Act, which outlaws discrimination against people for natural hairstyles. (Shutterstock photo)

The campaign maintains that people ought to be allowed to wear their hair the texture it naturally grows out of their heads.

BY: JC CANICOSA  
 Louisiana Illuminator

Legislation to protect Louisiana students and workers from discrimination based on their natural or protective hairstyles failed to make it through the Louisiana Legislature for the second year in a row. House Bill 667, authored by Rep. Tammy Phelps, D-Shreveport, failed Monday in the House Civil Law and Procedure Committee by a 6-8 vote. Phelps' legislation is modeled after the CROWN Act (Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair), a national legislative effort that began in 2019 as a collaboration between the soapmaker Dove and three nonprofits: the National Urban League, Color Of Change, and Western Center on Law and Poverty. The campaign maintains

that people ought to be allowed to wear their hair the texture it naturally grows out of their heads. More specifically, it argues that Black women should not be forced by their employers to use chemicals to straighten their hair. So far, 15 states and more than 40 municipalities have enacted their versions of the CROWN Act. Last month, the Democratic-led U.S. House passed a federal version of the CROWN Act in a 235-189 vote, with 14 Republicans joining with Democrats to approve the bill. "As an elected official, I am able to perform my duties with my hair as it is or if it was in braids or twist," Phelps, who is Black, said. "It's what it is in my head that matters." Critics of the bill argued the legislation was duplicative of race-based discrimination that is already in law. "(Natural hairstyles) are already immutable characteristics associated with race, and we already have a cause of action to sue based on race. Then why do we need

See **CROWN**, on page 3

## BROOME from page 1

nized for her service and leadership by several organizations. She was selected for the inaugural class of the Bloomberg-Harvard City Leadership Initiative. Mayor Broome was recently appointed co-chair for the Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative and served on the advisory board for the U.S. Conference of Mayors. She has been recognized for her service and dedication to Baton Rouge. Mayor Broome was recognized by the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the American Heart Association, Every Child Matters, and the National Congress of Black Women. "I am pleased and honored to be included in the inaugural edition of Louisiana Leading Ladies," said Broome. "It gives me great satisfaction to work with a publication that truly values and recognizes the positive achievements of African Americans who are making outstanding contributions to the community they serve." "We are extremely privileged to have the support of Mayor Broome," says Ivory D. Payne, CEO and Publisher of Leaders Publications and the Baton Rouge Weekly Press newspaper. Her impressive career and commitment to her city and community make her the perfect role model to the youth of the Baton Rouge area and an honored addition in the publishing of Louisiana Leading Ladies."

## LDH from page 1

process of adding the COVID-19 vaccine to the school immunization schedule, we expected more age groups would have full FDA approval in advance of the 2022-2023 school year. The FDA has not yet fully approved the COVID-19 vaccine for those under the age of 16; therefore, at the start of the 2022 school year, students in Louisiana will not be required to be vaccinated against COVID-19. We have the utmost confidence in the rigorous FDA processes; however, they do take time. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the LDH recommendation is clear: vaccinating your children ages 5-17 is the best way to protect them against COVID-19. According to the latest data from the Kaiser Family Foundation, COVID-19 was the fourth leading cause of death among children ages 5-14 and young people ages 15-24 in January 2022. Since March 2020, Louisiana has tragically lost 21 children to COVID, all of whom were not

up to date on their COVID-19 vaccinations. LDH also has confirmed 331 cases of Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C) — a condition where different body parts can become inflamed, including the heart, lungs, kidneys, brain, skin, eyes or gastrointestinal organs. MIS-C is strongly linked to COVID-19 infection and vaccination appears effective at reducing the likelihood of developing MIS-C. Unfortunately, COVID-19 continues to spread in Louisiana. The COVID-19 lull we enjoyed following the Omicron surge earlier this year is starting to reverse itself. While hospitalizations remain low at this time, cases, percent positivity, and emergency department visits for COVID-like illness are all increasing statewide. LDH is sharing this official guidance with sister state agencies, elected officials and community partners across the state, but also urges the general public to share this directly within their communities.



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# Louisiana's 2022 budget plan: 4 things you may have missed

The biggest jumps are seen in the Legislative Budgetary Control Council's budget, which is scheduled to go from \$8.6 million to \$11.8 million.

BY: JULIE O'DONOGHUE  
Courtesy of Louisiana Illuminator

The Louisiana Legislature is expected Thursday to finalize its budget plan for fiscal year 2022-23. It includes a \$1,500 annual pay raise for K-12 public school teachers, a 3% pay raise for state higher education faculty and wage increases for correctional officers and child welfare workers.

Here are some aspects of the budget plan that might have been overlooked:

## Tangipahoa flood victims will finally get paid

Approximately 1,200 people whose homes and businesses were damaged in massive flooding in 1983 may finally see some of the money courts repeatedly ruled Louisiana owes them. Judges ruled in favor of the victims who claimed the construction of Interstate 12 caused the flooding.

Lawmakers have included \$50 million in their spending plan to settle the Tangipahoa judgments. It's part of a total package to pay the group \$101 million overall.

The court ordered the state to pay the flood victims \$91.8 million, but the state has balked at that amount for decades. With accrued interest and other penalties, the judgment has grown to more than



The Louisiana Senate chamber, photographed on Feb. 2, 2022. (Greg LaRose/Louisiana Illuminator)

\$350 million, but victims' attorneys have been willing to settle for far less money in order to ensure some relief eventually reaches their clients.

Some people who were owed money have already died. Their share of the judgment will be passed along to family members.

## Lawmakers boost their own budget

The state budget proposal currently includes a hefty \$12.2 million increase in spending for the Legislature. Its total budget, which covers employee pay and legislators' compensation, is now \$109.6 million.

The biggest jumps are seen in

the Legislative Budgetary Control Council's budget, which is scheduled to go from \$8.6 million to \$11.8 million. The council handles, among other things, the Legislature's outside contracts and joint staff.

The Senate's budget is also going from \$21.8 million to \$25.7 million. The increases include an 8% pay boost for the Senate staff enacted last year and a proposal to build a 21-person security team for the Capitol that would cost \$2 million.

Lawmakers have also spent at least \$78,000 fighting a lawsuit over their recently approved politi-

cal maps.

## Louisiana's judges get another raise

State and city judges across Louisiana will get another pay raise this coming fiscal cycle totaling \$2.5 million under the proposal. The seven members of the Louisiana Supreme Court will collectively get a \$64,000 pay boost.

In 2019, legislators passed a new law that requires the state to raise judge's pay 12.5% annually until 2023.

## Attorney general staff pay increases \$1.7 million

When it approved the budget proposal this week, the Senate inserted \$1.7 million in "performance rate adjustments" for unclassified employees in the Louisiana Department of Justice that Attorney General Jeff Landry runs. They also added back six positions to Landry's agency that Gov. John Bel Edwards removed from the state budget proposal earlier this year.

## PROPOSAL from page 1

not by the Legislature.

Jacques Berry, communications director for the Louisiana Department of Administration, clarified that his department has policies protecting its workers from discrimination based on medical marijuana use and that the bill would create uniform policies across all state agencies.

Berry referred to the impact of a sexual-harassment law sponsored two years by the committee's chair-

woman, Rep. Barbara Carpenter, D-Baton Rouge.

"Every agency had a sexual harassment policy, but they were all over the place, and Dr. Carpenter wanted stricter, more consistent standards," Berry said. "She wrote a very good law, and it is working very well."

Frieman pushed back, arguing that the bill amounted to the Legislature doing the Department of Administration's job.

Berry pointed out that the next governor could change the policy.

## HOPE from page 2

will positively influence the reduction of violence within the Baton Rouge community and build sustainable opportunities to improve community health, wellness, and safety," said Mayor Broome.

To engage those with idle time, Summer of Hope aims to offer numerous opportunities for everyone. The goal is to address shootings and gun violence that impact youth and families, critical domestic violence incidents, and highly polarized altercations.

Starting the first week of June, a calendar of events for Summer of Hope will be posted at safehopeful-neighborhoods.com and healthybr.com.

Individuals and organizations interested in participating in Summer of Hope can email shhbr@brla.gov.

One of the planned activities is called Healing the Block, a series of dinners and conversations hosted by the Baton Rouge Community Street Team to allow residents to share their ideas and concerns about issues impacting their neighborhoods.

Another event will be the Unity Fest on June 18, coordinating with other pop-up community festivals to amplify cultural awareness and celebrations centered around joy and community pride.

Residents can also expect a messaging campaign called 'This is Your House' that will empower parents and guardians to reclaim control of their homes and open

communication with families to support them in uplifting youth.

Programs such as the Mayor's Youth Workforce Experience will employ 500 Baton Rouge youth ages 14-24 and engage local businesses and organizations beginning June 6.

Individuals and community organizations are encouraged to join Safe Hopeful Healthy Baton Rouge's Community-Based Public Safety Ecosystem Convening every 3rd Wednesday, which breaks down silos among community members and amplifies collaboration for collective impact. Email shhbr@brla.gov to get involved.

## CROWN from page 2

(this legislation)?" said Rep. Ray Garofolo, R-Chalmette.

Last year, multiple bills to prohibit discrimination based on natural or protective hairstyles failed in the

Louisiana Legislature. Senate Bill 61, sponsored by then-state Sen. Troy Carter, D-New Orleans, passed unanimously in the Louisiana Senate and advanced from the House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations. But after Carter left for Congress, his bill wasn't brought up for a vote on the House floor.

## SU STUDENTS from page 1

aged by Louisiana native Claire Babineaux-Fontenot, chief executive officer of Feeding America. She oversees the nation's largest domestic hunger-relief organization and second-largest U.S. charity, according to Forbes. Babineaux-Fontenot was named one of Time's 100 Most Influential People of 2020.

During her introduction, Southern University President-Chancellor Ray L. Belton welcomed her as "a daughter of Southern University."

Babineaux-Fontenot shared in her raw and personal speech that the graduates should prepare for the journey ahead and that although they've gone through so much already, they should keep climbing towards their goals. She referenced, "Mother to Son," the acclaimed poem by Langston Hughes.

"The mother is speaking to her son to prepare him for the journey ahead in his life," Babineaux-Fontenot said. "She uses a staircase to symbolize life. She explains that her life has had splinters, holes, and places and times where there was no carpet. She goes on to tell him that this may happen to him, too, but she pleads with her son to not fall down those stairs and if he does fall, don't sit there and to keep climbing."

Babineaux-Fontenot, an alumna of the Southern University Law Center, acknowledged the weights that these young adults have carried throughout their academic careers and stated that she is hopeful for the future because of them.

"As a class, you have been through so much," she said. "You graduate in the middle of a global pandemic along with the other issues on top of it. I want you to know that I am so hopeful because of you. Your generation is making way for differences and not acting like you don't

see it. Your generation is celebrating differences. I am learning to celebrate the ways I am different. A large part of your example makes me hopeful.

"I come to you with a grateful and hopeful heart. I don't come to lecture you but I come to celebrate you and I do know what struggle is and yet here I am in front of you living my best life as CEO of an organization that has already provided over 11 billion meals to people who need it the most. I hope you remember your life is likely to continue to struggle but you're tough. You got this. Just remember this one thing: you keep climbing."

Other highlights of the ceremony included:

Civil rights legend Jerome H. Smith was awarded the Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree. In 1961, Smith took part in two Freedom Rides intent on desegregating local bus stations — the first from Montgomery, Alabama to Jackson, Mississippi, on May 24, and the second from New Orleans to McComb, Mississippi, on November 29.

Belton, who presided over his last commencement before retirement, awarded posthumous degrees to Southern University students JoVonté Barber, who was killed in March, and Derrick Warren II, who died in September 2021.

Two cadets were commissioned as officers in the U.S. Armed Forces:

- Second Lieutenant Faith Placide
- Louisiana Army National Guard
- Quartermaster Corps
- Second Lieutenant Caleb Washington
- Louisiana National Guard
- Ordnance Corps

For the recap of the 2022 Spring Commencement, including photos and video, visit <https://jag-photo.exposure.co/southern-university-spring-2022-commencement>

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# RELIGION

## Tamela Mann gives her 'Overcomer' album the deluxe treatment



Tamela Mann

This summer, gospel powerhouse and actress Tamela Mann will be dropping a special mix of Overcomer, her Grammy Award-winning, less-than-year-old album still in rotation across the nation. Overcomer: Deluxe Edition will be available Friday, July 22 on all streaming platforms, released via Tillymann Music Group. The LP features new material, as well as live versions of select songs from its acclaimed original version, which was released last August and featured 12 tracks, including collaborations with Wyclef Jean, Kirk Franklin and Todd

See **MANN**, on page 5

## The plain sight option

God's original plan was that we would be in his presence and fellowship with him daily. The relationship was based on openness, honesty, and transparency.

BY PASTOR JEROME SMITH  
Brand New Life Christian Center

As a theory, hiding in plain sight relies more on the limits of human perception than outright trickery.

The paradox of the visible remaining unperceived is our need to filter information to navigate the world.

That being said, humanity has taken on the mindset of the most terrific liar ever; the Bible calls him the father of lies.

God's original plan was that we would be in his presence and fellowship with him daily. The relationship was based on openness, honesty, and transparency.

When there are disruptions in a relationship, trust is challenged; we tend to think that the burden of faith is only on the one whose trust has been violated, but the violator has the responsibility of believing that they can be trusted again.

When we are not sure or convinced that we won't be rejected or unworthy to be trusted, we tend to hide in plain sight, pretending that we are all right.

So we try to blend in and



camouflage our lives, refusing to be transparent.

God didn't know what Adam had hid. He just needed him to be transparent and honest. I think this is one of the most excellent, most significant problems for humanity, the idea of being perfect.

Christ died for imperfect people, so there's no need to hide because we are not perfect or without sin. All have sinned and come short of glory! There isn't a lot of transparency or honesty; it's not because we don't want to be, but we've bought into the religious idea of having a form of godliness and denying the power of love to be seen.

The power of God is shown

through his love we experience through grace; his love for us is more significant than our guilt, insecurities, self-judgment, or the judgment of others.

So there's no need to hide; true love casts out all fear; if we fall short or fail to live up to his standard, his grace is sufficient.

Let's be clear; grace isn't an opportunity to live ungodly or do what pleases you; we should live to bring glory to God.

There is a Godly standard but hiding behind a religious Façade isn't the answer to freedom if we miss the mark. Hiding behind a religious Façade isn't the answer to release if we miss the mark.

Adam and Eve had to take life to hide their lives; Cain killed his brother and buried him because Cain wasn't obedient.

God didn't condemn them. He just wanted transparency, Where are you?

Relationships are more vital

See **SIGHT**, on page 5



Pastor Jerome Smith, Sr.

## Remembering Joyce Marie Plummer

A Woman of Excellence, Fiercely Loyal, Fiercely Committed to Christ, Finished Her Course

December 5, 1953- May 1, 2022

BY DR. GAYLE YOUNG, JD

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." 2 Timothy 4:7



Bishop Dr. Joyce Marie Plummer

On May 13, 2022, friends and family gathered at the Bethany World Prayer Center and paused to celebrate the rich life and legacy of Bishop Dr. Joyce Marie Plummer. Joyce was the sixth child of the prominent, industrious Scotlandville family of David "Poucy" Plummer and Corean Johnson Plummer.

Joyce leaves a host of family and friends to cherish her legacy and love, including her only son and his family; Jason and Petrenia Jenkins of Jacksonville, Florida, and her four grandchildren, whom she adored, Jadon of Atlanta GA., Jaxon, Jagger, and Preslee Marie of Jacksonville, FL; two sisters, Ora Plummer and Irma Plummer and a brother Joseph (Lolita Renee) Plummer of Baton Rouge, LA and so many other nieces, nephews, family, and friends.

Joyce's well-manicured and well-used life was celebrated with more than 2-hours of praise, worship, and words of encouragement by her family, friends, and colleagues, both legal, clergy, professional, and social. The memories they shared are evidence that Joyce chose the path of service, lived a life submitted to God, and was filled with Worship because she utterly understood her assignment.

Mayor Sharon Weston Broome, with whom Joyce was

employed for 6-years, dubbed Joyce one of the "Originals" of her administration and spoke of Joyce's competency, loyalty, and trustworthiness.

She was destined to do remarkable things. She attended SU Laboratory School, where her teachers quickly recognized her keen mind and moved her from 2nd to 4th grade. With a solid educational foundation, in May of 1970, she graduated from SU Lab and attended the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, graduating with a BS in Psychology. In 2005 she earned an MDiv from the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary specializing in Psychology and Counseling and earned her J.D. from Regent University School of Law.

Her greatest earthly joys were her son and her grandchildren. The

See **PLUMMER**, on page 5

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CHURCH SCHEDULE

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Bible Study	Wed- @ 7:00 PM

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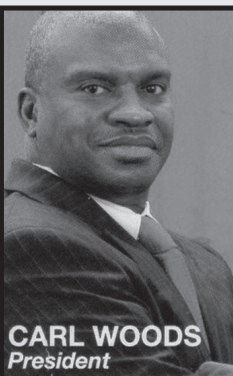


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# BUSINESS

## McDonald's is leaving Russia altogether

New York — McDonald's became the symbol of glasnost in action 30 years ago when it opened its first restaurant in Moscow. But after temporarily shutting down more than 800 restaurants following the invasion of Ukraine, McDonald's has decided to leave Russia altogether.

The burger chain will sell its Russia business, saying the "humanitarian crisis caused by the war in Ukraine, and the precipitating unpredictable operating environment, have led McDonald's to conclude that continued ownership of the business in Russia is no longer tenable, nor is it consistent with McDonald's values."

In March, shortly after the war began, McDonald's followed other Western companies and temporarily shut down its restaurants in Russia.

Once the sale is finalized, the Russian restaurants will be "de-arched," meaning the locations will no longer be allowed to use the McDonald's name, logo or menu. McDonald's (MCD) said its employees will still be paid until the transaction closes and that "employees have future employment with any potential buyer."

CEO Chris Kempczinski said he's proud of the more than 60,000 workers employed in Russia and said the decision was "extremely difficult."

"However, we have a commitment to our global community and must remain steadfast in our values. And our commitment to our values means that we can no longer keep the Arches shining there," he said.

### End of an era

The decision brings to a remarkable end McDonald's three-decade relationship with Russia. McDonald's opened the doors of its first restaurant in Moscow on January 31, 1990. More than 30,000 were served and the Pushkin Square location had to stay open hours later than planned because of the crowds.

Its arrival in Moscow was about more than just Big Macs and fries, noted Darra Goldstein, a Russia expert at Williams College.



The burger chain, which became a symbol of openness towards the West when it launched its first restaurant in Moscow in 1990, said it will sell all its restaurants in Russia due to the war in Ukraine.

It was the most prominent example of Soviet Union President Mikhail Gorbachev's attempt to open up his crumbling country to the outside world.

"There was a really visible crack in the Iron Curtain," she previously said. "It was very symbolic about the changes that were taking place." About two years later, the Soviet Union would collapse.

McDonald's exit "represents a new isolationism in Russia, which must now look inward for investment and consumer brand development," said Neil Saunders, managing director of GlobalData said in a note Monday. He added that other Western brands take "principled stance on the concepts of freedom and democracy" and revisit their businesses in Russia.

### A big cost to leaving

McDonald's will take a significant write-off from exiting Russia — between \$1.2 billion to \$1.4 billion. Shares were barely changed in early trading.

"The fact that McDonald's

owns most of its restaurants in Russia means there is an asset rich business to sell," said Saunders. "However, given the circumstances of the sale, the financial challenges faced by potential Russian buyers, and the fact that McDonald's will not license its brand name or identity, it is unlikely the sale price will be anywhere near the pre-invasion book value of the business."

In its most recent earnings report, McDonald's said closing its restaurants in Russia had cost it \$127 million last quarter. Nearly \$27 million came from staff costs, payments for leases and supplies. The other \$100 million was from food and other items it will have to dump.

McDonald's had 847 restaurants in Russia at the close of last year, according to an investor document. Together with another 108 in Ukraine, they accounted for 9% of the company's revenue in 2021.

MANN from page 4



Dulaney.

With *Overcomer*, Mann achieved her seventh No. 1 release on the Top Gospel Albums chart. The LP notched two No. 1 Billboard Gospel Airplay hits with "Touch From You" and "Help Me," featuring The Fellas.

This week, "He Did It for Me" will become Mann's ninth No. 1 single on the Billboard Gospel Airplay chart. She also becomes the first artist to have as many No. 1 hits on that chart, surpassing Franklin after breaking a tie with him.

With the original *Overcomer* making such an impact among its listeners nearly a year ago, Mann is unleashing a new version with some new tracks.

Among the additions is a new song, "Superheroes Prayer," a breath-taking ballad doubling as a duet with fellow gospel legend Yolanda Adams. With Mann's joyous collaboration with Jean and Franklin remaining intact, the produced renditions of four songs from the original edition get replaced with live ones.

One such track is a live delivery of "Help Me," which replaces Mann and Dulaney's "Finished Work" as the album's opener. Joining Mann and The Fellas on the live recording is Tim Rogers. Other songs to get first-rate live treatments are "He Did It for Me," "Final Answer" and "Finished."

SIGHT from page 4

when you can be transparent and not be afraid that you will lose someone or lose your place in their heart. True love removes the fear, this kind of love that keeps the emery at bay.

If we can't trust God in one another, we become vulnerable to the serpent's lies; God said, confess your faults to one another. That way, by leading the spirit, we can help each other.

PLUMMER from page 4

oldest of Joyce's grandchildren, Jadon tearfully and passionately strolled the congregation through poignant memories of his grandmother's love. His grief stole my oxygen; his passion for his Nana and their shared memories inspired me to love more.

"She knew all of my dreams

and would pray over them; she would anoint my forehead as she took me through the scriptures," he said.

Jadon fondly recalled and shared, "There was a time that I came back to town (BR) to visit, and all my cousins were busy, and I wanted to play basketball. I was by myself in front of my Aunt Ruth's house, and I looked to the right in the blazing Baton Rouge sun, I saw my Nana coming across the pasture in her

gardening shoes, and she grabbed the basketball and said, "Checkup."

Jadon made us all laugh! That moment of laughter was a brief reprieve from the piercing grief that engulfed us.

Jadon's memory of the call he received from his Nana before a very momentous moment in his life was grief-breaking for us. He said, "I remember my Nana called me before my first college (basketball) game,

and she told me to go do those boys as she did me that day."

On behalf of the Baton Rouge Weekly Press, 24/7 Praise Radio, and the Payne family, we thank the Plummer and Jenkins families for allowing us to share with the community a part of the life and legacy of Dr. Plummer. Please accept our deepest condolences; we will be praying for you.

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BATON ROUGE, LA – The Baton Rouge Weekly Press Publisher Ivory D. Payne is excited to announce the release of a new coffee-table-styled publication dedicated to celebrating African American Excellence in Louisiana past and present. This release is the inaugural edition of the recent publishing project of Leaders Publications. The inaugural edition of Louisiana Leading Ladies, will be held on August 26, 2022, from 6 pm – 8:30 pm, at the Official Networking and Unveiling Reception hosted by the East Baton Rouge Main Library 7711 Goodwood Blvd. in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Leading Ladies Louisiana will recognize and highlight the achievements and accomplishments of African American Women in Baton Rouge, New Orleans, and surrounding areas throughout Louisiana. Within the over 350 pages of this publication, readers will discover inspiring moments in Black History. It reminds them of African American Women within their communities who are trailblazers and have made significant contributions to our community.

Featuring a foreword from Louisiana Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome of Baton Rouge, Louisiana Leading Ladies celebrate those that exemplify excellence in corporate leadership, business, technology, entrepreneurship, community outreach, education, philanthropy, and government. In addition, corporate sponsors and community leaders' remarks and special award presentations will be on hand to celebrate the 2022 Honorees.

The deadline for sponsorship, advertising, and submission for inclusion in the Leading Ladies Louisiana Inaugural Edition is July 10, 2022. To nominate a 2022 Leading Ladies inductee, visit <https://www.leaderspublications.com/nominations>

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