

The Weekly Press

SERVING BAKER, CENTRAL, AND ZACHARY

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11-17, 2021

A PEOPLE'S PUBLICATION

VOL. 43 • NO.41 • FREE

STATE/LOCAL PG 2

'WE TOLD YOU SO. RICHMOND OUT'

STATE/LOCAL PG 3

56 WALMART LOCATIONS TO RECEIVE COVID-19 VACCINE

RELIGION PG 6

OH, THE DAZE OF MY LIFE

Statement by Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome



Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome

BATON ROUGE, La. — I am pleased our metro council was able to find a consensus and approve an offer of settlement in the Alton Sterling civil case. After nearly five years, the people of Baton Rouge are finally one step closer to getting much needed closure in this traumatic episode of our history. Now we must continue the work of building a more fair and equitable community, where every citizen is treated justly, no matter their race or ethnicity.

BLACK HISTORY

- January 12**
 - Congressional Black Caucus organized in 1971
 - Mordecai W Johnson, educator, born (1890 - 1976)
- January 13**
 - Convention of the Colored National Labor Union, the first Black labor convention, 1869
- January 14**
 - John Oliver Killens, novelist, born 1916
 - Ernest Just, a Black biologist, served as V.P. of American Zoologists, 1930
- January 15**
 - Martin Luther King, Jr., civil rights leader, born, 1929 - 1968

WEATHER

- MON. 02/15**
Rain
High 33°.
- TUE. 02/16**
Partly Sunny
High 37°.
- WED. 02/17**
Rainy
High 51°.
- THUR. 02/18**
Mostly Cloudy
High 44°.

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BR City Council Passes \$4.5M in Sterling Settlement

Family to decide whether to accept settlement

BATON ROUGE, La. — The East Baton Rouge Metro Council in Louisiana voted on a \$4.5 million settlement Wednesday for the family of Alton Sterling, a Black man shot and killed by police in 2016.

The council voted 7-4 in favor of offering the settlement to Sterling's family after they filed a wrongful death lawsuit against

the city and the Baton Rouge Police Department.

On Wednesday, Baton Rouge Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome tweeted, "I am pleased our metro council was able to find a consensus and approve an offer of settlement in the Alton Sterling civil case. After nearly five years, the people of Baton Rouge

are finally one step closer to getting much needed closure in this traumatic episode in our history."

The news comes after the governing council rejected a proposed \$5 million settlement for the family in November 2020. At the time, the 12-member East Baton Rouge Metro Council fell one vote short of the seven needed for approval.

"Now we must continue the work of building a more fair and equitable community, where every citizen is treated justly, no matter their race or ethnicity," Broome added.

The trial begins March 1. Sterling, 37, was shot and

See **STERLING** on page 3



Alton Sterling

Governor At Odds With Biden Over Oil, Gas Policy



President Joe Biden signs a series of executive orders on climate change, in the State Dining Room of the White House, Wednesday, Jan. 27, 2021, in Washington. From left, Vice President Kamala Harris, Biden, White House science adviser Dr. Eric Lander, and National Climate Adviser Gina McCarthy.

BATON ROUGE, La. — Gov. John Bel Edwards disagrees with President Joe Biden's targeting of fossil fuel industries and wants the White House to reconsider its decision to pause new oil and gas drilling leases in the Gulf of Mexico, the Louisiana governor's administration said

Wednesday.

Biden's approach to oil and gas strikes at one of Louisiana's economic engines and an industry that is a chief financial backer of the state's coastal restoration work, putting the Democratic governor at odds with a president within his own party.

The governor's top lawyer, coastal adviser and natural resources secretary told state lawmakers that Edwards thinks Biden's moratorium on new oil and gas drilling leases on federal land and waters is the wrong approach to combat climate change.

Environmental groups

have lauded Biden's approach, arguing that it is the kind of bold, urgent action needed to slow climate change, which has been linked to droughts, devastating wildfires and a rising number of hurricanes that have pummeled the region.

See **POLICY**, on page 3



Statement on Mardi Gras Season and COVID-19 Compliance

Baton Rouge, La. — Mardi Gras season is here and we are all excited to celebrate in safe ways as we continue to navigate the coronavirus pandemic. Baton Rouge remains in a dangerous place now that the more contagious UK variant is present in Louisiana.

Our main concern is another unnecessary resurgence of COVID-19 due to people gathering with others with whom they do not live or are not part of their quarantine group. We saw this after Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years — and are just now recovering from that surge.

I encourage our residents to celebrate this season safely while wearing masks and practicing social distancing. Please consider decorating your home or driving through a reverse parade like the Mid City Gras.

While we have yet to see an influx of revelers like other communities, we are taking compliance very seriously and heightened enforcement will be in effect all over the city. Venues that do not comply could face losing their license under current Phase 2 restrictions as we actively share information with the Louisiana State Fire Marshal and

See **MARDI GRAS**, on page 2

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BLACK HISTORY

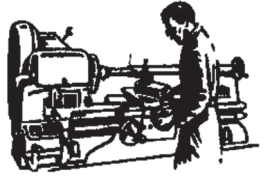
January 16

• Lucius D. Amerson sworn in as first Black sheriff of the South in the 20th century (Macon County, Ala.)

January 17

• Paul Cuffee, merchant, ship-builder and Black nationalist, born 1759

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

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4910 Montecello Blvd.
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Phone: (225) 775-2002
E-Mail brweeklypress@yahoo.com
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STATE & LOCAL

Southern Laboratory School Unveils First Dedicated Esports Lab in Louisiana



Southern University Laboratory School on Jan. 28 held its ribbon-cutting for its state-of-the-art Esports and Media Lab. This particular lab is the first of its kind in Louisiana.

“We are providing inclusive competition, where skill is the great equalizer,” said Christopher Turner, founder of Southern University Baton Rouge and Southern Lab esports programs. “This lab is not just for our competitive esports teams. The new space will offer all students the best in science, technology, entertainment, math, and esports education.”

The Esports and Media Lab consists of RIG gaming headsets, Bloody Hands Light

See LAB, on page 3



SCASL Hires New Executive Director

On behalf of the SCASL Board of Directors, it is with great pleasure to announce that Erin Fulbright has been named the new Executive Director for the Sickle Cell Association of South Louisiana. Erin has been serving as the interim Executive Director for the past six months.

When Erin was originally selected back on July 14, 2020, as interim Executive Director, she showed a desire to lead and make a significant impact on the organization. During her time, she has continued to demonstrate that desire, and the Board has noticed that she has accomplished a lot in her short tenure as Interim Director. The implementation of programs for our participants has continued. She has provided leadership during these current times of uncertainties due to the global pandemic and engaged in best practices to keep staff and participants safe.

We are grateful that Erin has chosen to share her talents and skills with our organization. She stands on the shoulders of legends, dating back to 1974, such as our great founder, the late Mrs. Jessie Douglas, RN, and our esteemed recent past Executive Director, Ms. Lori A. Burgess. We hope Erin continues to be reminded of the great legacy to which she has now been entrusted.

Welcome, Erin Fulbright. We look forward to working with you toward continuing this great legacy and the work SCASL provides individuals living with sickle cell disease.

MARDI GRAS from page 1

The Louisiana Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control.

Residents, we know what to do and we can protect ourselves and small businesses. Please celebrate this Mardi Gras season safely and do not gather in large crowds. We will continue to enforce current COVID-19 restrictions for the safety of our community.



SLEEVES UP

to help heal our communities

To end the pandemic and its toll on our communities, we all need to work together. And that begins with everyone getting the two-dose COVID-19 vaccine. We know you have concerns like if the vaccine is safe and if it will be distributed fairly. We hear you and are committed to giving you the facts and making sure you have equal access to the vaccine. To find out when and where you can go sleeves up and get the vaccine, visit our website or call 211.

STRELING from page 1

killed on July 5, 2016, after being confronted by two white police officers outside Baton Rouge's Triple S Convenience Store following a 911 call about a man selling compact discs in front of the food mart.

Officer Blane Salamoni, who fatally shot Sterling at the scene, was fired from the police department two years after the incident, in 2018.

Sterling's death prompted protests across the United States over police brutality, four years before George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and many other people of color were also killed by police.

POLICY from page 1

Edwards this week, however, voiced concerns about the moratorium to Biden's energy secretary pick, Jennifer Granholm, according to Louisiana Natural Resources Secretary Thomas Harris.

"I know he's arguing. He's working it every day. He's constantly calling me looking for new ammunition" to make his case to the Biden administration, Harris said.

But lawmakers on the state House and Senate natural resources committees pushed Edwards to make a direct appeal to Biden, noting that as the only Democratic governor in the Deep South he could have more sway with the president.

"We've got to do something, talk to somebody and make some moves," said Sen. Mike Fesi, a Houma Republican who owns an oil and gas pipeline construction and maintenance company.

While the Edwards administration talked of trying to negotiate with the White House, Republican Attorney General Jeff Landry intends more direct challenges to the Biden administration's regulatory and executive actions.

"In cases where we can, we will litigate," said Bill Stiles, Landry's chief deputy.

States have little control or say in the management of federal lands and waters, however, leaving political pressure, appeals to Congress and suggestions for alternate policies among their options to reverse Biden's policies.

**CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY:
Black History in Science: Remembering Dr. George Carruthers**

He built his first telescope at the age of 10, and by age 25, George Carruthers earned a Ph.D. in aeronautical and astronautical engineering.

Upon graduating from the University of Illinois, Dr. Carruthers started work at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory.

His telescope and image converter identified molecular hydrogen in space, and his ultraviolet spectrograph was used by the Apollo 16 crew in their flight to the moon.

"In March 1610, Galileo Galilei reported the first use of a telescope to view mountains and maria on the moon," Dr. Carruthers wrote in 1972. Many reported that his project collaborator, Thornton Page, a White man, acknowledged Carruthers' brilliance and allowed him to lead on the project.

After all, just three years earlier, Dr. Carruthers was awarded a patent for his groundbreaking "Image Converter for Detecting Electromagnetic Radiation Especially in Short Wave Lengths."

Following that, the scientist's UV telescope and image converter provided the first proof of molecular hydrogen in interstellar space.

His invention was used on Apr. 21, 1972, during the first lunar walk of the Apollo 16 mission.

It marked the first-time scientists examined the Earth's atmosphere for concentrations of pollutants and see UV images of more than 550 stars, nebulae, and galaxies.

Dr. Carruthers earned NASA's Exceptional Scientific Achievement Medal for his work on the project.

"On Apr. 21, 1972, the Apollo 16 commander positioned a somewhat more complex opti-



Dr. Carruthers receives the National Medal of Technology and Innovation from U.S. President Barack Obama on Feb. 1, 2013. / Department of the Navy's Information Technology Magazine

cal instrument at the Earth from the moon and obtained several remarkable photographs showing atmospheric rather than surface features," Dr. Carruthers wrote.

One of the first and few Black scientists of his time, Dr. Carruthers died on Dec. 26, 2020, in Washington. He was 81.

Born Oct. 1, 1939, in Cincinnati, Ohio, Dr. Carruthers had three siblings. His father, George Sr., was a civil engineer with the U.S. Army Air Corps, and reportedly encouraged his son's interest in science.

According to his biography, the elder Carruthers died when Dr. Carruthers was just 12. After his death, the family moved to Chicago, where Dr. Carruthers' mother, Sophia, went to work for the U.S. Postal Service.

But Dr. Carruthers continued pursuing his interest in science.

george-carruthers-featured-web-810x422 "As one of only a handful of African-Americans competing in Chicago's high school science fairs, he won three awards, including first prize for a telescope that he designed and built," his biographers wrote.

In 1957, Carruthers graduated from Chicago's Englewood High School and entered the engineering program at the University of Illinois' Champaign-Urbana campus.

While an undergraduate, Carruthers focused on aerospace engineering and astronomy.

After earning a bachelor's degree in physics in 1961, Carruthers remained at the University of Illinois, where he earned a master's in nuclear engineering in 1962.

In 1964, he earned a Ph.D. in aeronautical and astronautical

BRCC Vice Chancellor Appointed to National Workforce Panel to advise Biden Administration on Economic Recovery Policies

BATON ROUGE, LA – Baton Rouge Community College (BRCC) Vice Chancellor for Workforce Solutions, Girard Melancon, Ph.D., has been appointed by the National Skills Coalition (NSC) and Business Leaders United for Workforce Partnerships (BLU) to a national Industry Recovery Panel that will influence federal recovery policies for the Biden Administration and new Congress in the coming months.

Different industries have experienced the COVID-19 pandemic in different ways. Recognizing this, the Biden Administration and new Congress are poised to make significant investments in industry-specific economic recovery policies. Between March and July, Melancon will join other business leaders, labor leaders, college leaders and industry training providers to shape policies and ensure they include investments in workforce training and support, so that workers and businesses can adapt to structural shifts within their industries.

"I'm honored to be invited to join the Industry Recovery Panel by the National Skills Coalition and Business Leaders United for Workforce Partnerships," said Melancon. "COVID-19 has impacted so many of our business and industry partners. I look forward to participating in these critical conversations as we develop and shape policies that will ensure we are supporting our workforce and their recovery efforts, and also providing a voice and lending support for the petrochemical jobs and industries in our region."

NSC and BLU are convening four Industry Recovery Panels, which include a Healthcare Panel, Manufacturing Panel, Infrastructure Panel, and Retail/Hospitality Panel. Melancon will participate on the Manufacturing Panel, which will shape the Biden Administration's Made in All of America initiative.

Each Industry Recovery Panel will provide specific



Girard Melancon, Ph.D

feedback to NSC and BLU for an Inclusive Economic Recovery federal policy agenda and will meet with White House advisors, agency leaders and congressional leaders on industry specific recovery efforts. Descriptions of the four Industry Recovery Panels are below:

Healthcare Panel: Will help shape the Biden Administration's caregiving workforce initiative and related policies through meetings with the Department of Health and Human Services and Congressional leadership.

Manufacturing Panel: Will help shape the Biden Administration's Made in All of America initiative and related policies through meetings with the Department of Commerce and Congressional leadership.

Infrastructure Panel: Will shape the Biden Administration's Build Back Better initiative and other major infrastructure proposals through meetings with White House advisors, the Departments of Energy and Transportation, and Congressional leadership.

Retail/Hospitality Panel: As two of the hardest hit industries, this taskforce will inform the Biden Administration's recovery taskforce through meetings with White House advisors, Department of Labor, and Congressional leadership.

LAB from page 2

Strike keyboards, Vertagear gaming chairs, Playstation 4's, 65" smart TV'S, and more. South-

ern Lab has been a leader in the state in regard to esports education with student Troy Murphy winning the High School Esports League's Spring Majors National Championship in 2020, along with a \$1,000 scholarship.

The Esports Club is open to gamers on campus, both in competitive and non-competitive natures. Addice Inc., Bloody Hands, RIG, and Vertagear sponsored the lab.

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**BLACK HISTORY MONTH
DR. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

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BUSINESS

Southern Chosen to Partner With Hope Enterprise, Goldman Sachs to Assist Small, Minority-Owned Businesses

Southern University was chosen as a partner with Hope Enterprise Corporation, with a commitment from Goldman Sachs' 10,000 Small Businesses of up to \$130 million, to launch the Deep South Economic Mobility Collaborative (DSEMC). Southern joins seven cities and eight fellow Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the historic collaboration. Formed to stabilize and strengthen businesses and communities devastated by the economic crisis, DSEMC is an innovative collaborative that invests in the power of small businesses and entrepreneurs in the Deep South, particularly those from underserved and under-resourced communities.

"Southern University and

A&M College is excited for the opportunity to partner with national leaders to advance small business opportunities for Black entrepreneurs in our community," said Ray Belton, Southern University president-chancellor. "As an anchor institution, and with the support of HOPE and Goldman Sachs, we are poised to assist thousands of Black- and women-owned businesses."

DSEMC taps the expertise and capabilities of Hope Enterprise Corporation, Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses, institutions of higher learning and cities in a unique way to provide access to financing, business education classes, and business support services, leveraging support from the

private, public and nonprofit sectors. This comprehensive support focuses on stabilizing and strengthening small businesses, and bolstering employment in a region characterized by deep, entrenched poverty and racial disparities.

"For centuries, racism and economic inequality has thwarted human and economic potential in the Deep South, but our story doesn't end there," said Bill Bynum, HOPE CEO. "Equipped with opportunity and the right tools, people of this region can accomplish anything. Fueled by their resilience, and harnessing the collective resources of DSEMC, together we will knock down the barriers facing underserved businesses and communities in a way



that has never been done before. The collaborative will help build a more inclusive economy that will yield benefits now and for future generations."

While the DSEMC is open to all small businesses, the impact of the pandemic and economic crisis has disproportionately harmed communities of color. Recent research shows that between February and mid-April of 2020, 41 percent of Black businesses had permanently closed due to the impact of COVID-19, compared to 17 percent of white-owned businesses. Furthermore, the value of Black businesses in the Deep South is lower than in any other part of the country, underscoring the urgent need for solutions in a region with the highest percentage of Black residents.

"Given the crucial role Black small businesses play in their communities, it is incredibly important that we act urgently to narrow capital gaps they face," said Margaret Anadu, Goldman Sachs managing director and head of the Urban Investment Group. "By expanding our long-standing partnership with Hope and working alongside such important institutions as our public sector and HBCU partners, we can collectively create stronger, more inclusive communities while creating a model that can be replicated across the country."

Through the collaborative, each partner brings unique capabilities and years of experience, and all are passionate about promoting economic opportunity in their communities.

Participating municipalities

are Birmingham and Montgomery in Alabama; Little Rock, Arkansas; Baton Rouge and New Orleans in Louisiana; Jackson, Mississippi; Memphis, Tennessee. Participating HBCUs, along with Southern, are Alabama State University, Miles College, Philander Smith College, Xavier University, Dillard University, Jackson State University, Tougaloo College, and LeMoyne-Owen College.

Projections call for the DSEMC to serve 4,000-5,000 businesses and support 30,000 employees and their family members while improving conditions in Deep South communities to further Black economic mobility.

To learn more about the Deep South Economic Mobility Collaborative, visit www.hopecu.org/mobility.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

BBR Schools, Inc.
Meeting of the Board of Directors

Notice is hereby given that a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of BBR Schools, Inc. will be held at 11:00 AM CT on February 15, 2021 by video/teleconference.

Pursuant to emergency proclamation 30 JCE 2020 and Act No. 302 of the 2020 Legislative Session, BBR Schools, Inc., certifies that it must conduct the meeting scheduled for February 15, 2021 via video conference/conference call or the Board will otherwise be unable to operate due to quorum requirements. The meeting agenda is limited to one or more of the following:

- (a) Matters that are directly related to the charter school's response to the disaster or emergency and are critical to the health, safety, or welfare of the public.
- (b) Matters that if they are delayed will cause curtailment of vital public services or severe economic dislocation and hardship.
- (c) Matters that are critical to continuation of the business of the charter school and that are not able to be postponed to a meeting held in accordance with the other provisions of this Chapter due to a legal requirement or other deadline that cannot be postponed or delayed by the public body.

C. Barrett
Craig Barrett, Chairman
BBR Schools, Inc.

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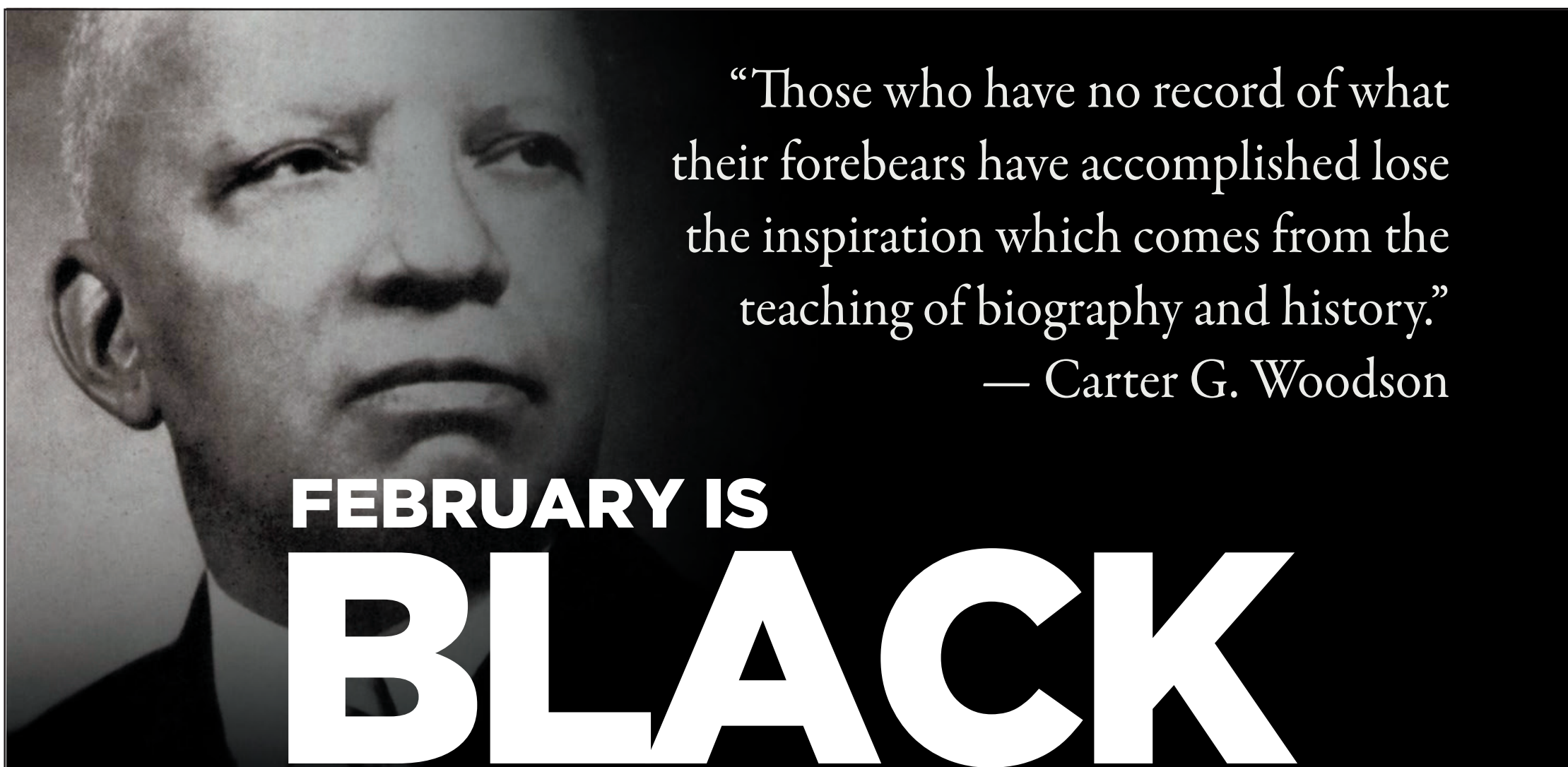
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“Those who have no record of what their forebears have accomplished lose the inspiration which comes from the teaching of biography and history.”

— Carter G. Woodson

FEBRUARY IS

BLACK

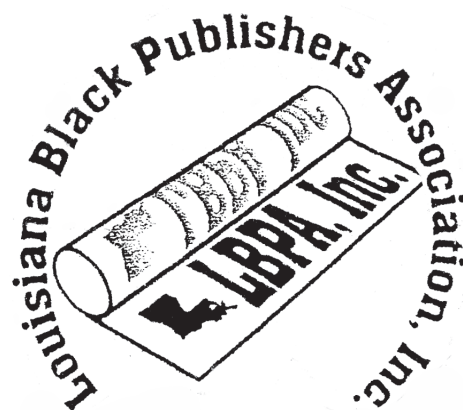
HISTORY MONTH



Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by black Americans. The event stems from Negro History Week, the brainchild of noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans, according to history.com. Every United States president since 1976 has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month.

Louisiana

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RELIGION

Righteous By Faith, Not By Works

by Creflo Dollar

Most of us have been taught to believe that to be righteous means to do all the right things in the eyes of others. This is a widely-held way of thinking, but it's the wrong approach to life. Righteousness is defined as being morally upstanding, virtuous, and ethical; many people think they can achieve this status on their own. Even with the best of intentions, we can never achieve these high standards through self-effort; we need God for this.

Without Christ, we're all imperfect people. We have days when we think we can do everything perfectly all by ourselves, and days when we realize we just can't get it together to live right. We'd be sunk if we didn't have a Savior to make us righteous by our faith in Him. "Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace



Dr. Creflo Dollar

through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God" (Romans 3:22-25). We're righteous because God said so, not because of our actions.

In the Old Testament, the people had to perform perfectly to be righteous before God. The harder they tried to do right according to the Law

of Moses, the more they sinned and felt guilty and condemned about it. When Jesus came, He freed us from this requirement. Having faith in what He did through His death and resurrection, instead of what we do, replaces guilt with peace and joy. "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1).

Religion teaches us to hold on to the law and do our best to follow the Ten Commandments, but it's unrealistic to think that we can keep all of them all the time. Jesus was the only one who could do this. Our good deeds can never make us righteous—only our faith in Christ. "For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth" (Romans 10:4). Letting this sink down into our souls and spirits liberates us from feeling like we're constantly running on a proverbial treadmill to please others.

The fact that we don't have to rely on ourselves to be in right-standing with God takes a tremendous burden off of us. We don't have to

work anymore to please Him; He's already pleased with us when we believe in Jesus. Our faith positions us to receive the same promise of righteousness that Abraham received. "If his good deeds had made him acceptable to God, he would have had something to boast about. But that was not God's way. For the Scriptures tell us, 'Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith'" (Romans 4:2, 3, NLT).

No longer having to perform enables us to focus on deepening our relationship with Jesus instead of on constantly having to correct our behavior. Our faith matters more to God than our works. "Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent" (John 6:29). Accepting this liberates us from the bondage that the rest of the world struggles with.

Our Inseparable Relationship

Romans 8:31-39

Far too many relationships in today's world are uncertain. Disunity is found in marriages, churches, and international alliances. Yet there's one relationship that is sure and permanent.

The Lord designed people for intimate fellowship with Him. His love toward each of us is evident throughout the Bible. In fact, there is nothing tangible, intangible, past, present, or future that can separate believers from the Father's love. John 10:14 draws a comparison between Jesus and a good shepherd—a man whose ultimate task is providing for and protecting the flock. Christ's character is one of passionate care for His people. First John 4:16 clearly states, "God is love." If we believe the Bible, then we cannot deny this fact about His nature.

We also see evidence of divine love through the Lord's gifts and actions. For example, He created us in His image (Gen. 1:26). He sent His only Son to die in our place, and He forgives us of our sin debt (1 Cor. 15:3). John 15:15 tells us that Christ calls us His friends—and what's more, when we trust in Jesus, God adopts us and considers

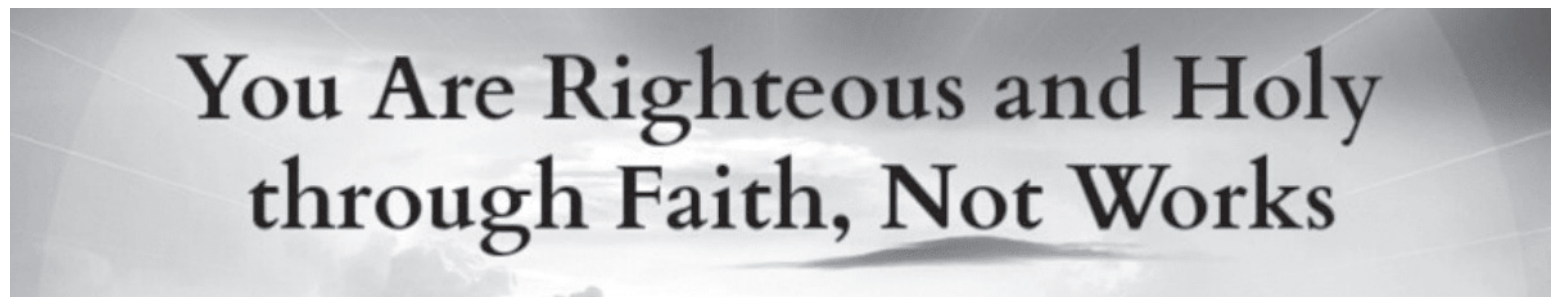


Dr. Charles Stanley

us His children (Rom. 8:15). He even blesses us with an Intercessor and Helper—the Holy Spirit (John 14:26). The Word is clear: God loves us passionately.

The affection we experience in our families is only a glimpse of the great compassion and care that God has for you. Think about the people you treasure most. Imagine what you would be willing to do if they experienced a need. How much more will our heavenly Father be devoted to you!

For more biblical teaching and resources from Dr. Charles Stanley, please visit www.intouch.org.



CHURCH DIRECTORY

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. - Hebrews 10:25

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Bishop H. Hayes, Pastor

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Church Service	9:00am
Communion Service	2nd Sunday 9:00am
Bible Study Wednesday	7:00pm
Sister/Brotherhood Meeting	6:00pm

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We believe the Bible to be the inspired and only infallible written Word of God. We believe that there is One God, eternally existent in Three Persons; God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

PASTOR DONALD A. MONTGOMERY

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www.ocbr.org
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BISHOP CHARLES E. WALLACE, PASTOR

CAMPBOR MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

8742 Scenic Highway – Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70807
Telephone: (225) 775-4106 - Fax: (225) 615-8359
Rev. Elenora Mackey Cushenberry, Th.D., Senior Pastor
Rev. Tiffanie C. Postell, Associate Pastor

Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
Worship Service	10:55 a.m.
Youth Sunday & Contemporary Worship	2nd Sun. 8:00 a.m.
Bible Study	Wed. 12:00 Noon and 5:00 p.m.
Prayer Ministry	Tues 6:00 p.m.

DISCIPLES OUTREACH MINISTRY

2032 Gore Rd. • Baton Rouge, LA 70807

Sunday Service	9:00 am
Sunday School	8:00 am
Bible Study	Mon.7:00 pm
Saturday Sabbath	Sat. 11:00 am

Bishop Thelma Pearl Senior Pastor
Bishop Michael Pearl, Assistant Pastor

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Kingdom Life Family Center

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'THE NEW LIFE' Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. — 2 Corinthians 5:17

SUNDAY WORSHIP	Every Sunday at 11:30 A.M.
SUNDAY SCHOOL	Every Sunday at 9:30 A.M.
HOLY COMMUNION	Every 3rd Sunday at 11:30 A.M.
OUR HOUR OF POWER	Every Friday at 12 NOON

Radio Broadcast 1st and 3rd Sunday WXOK at 8:00am

ST. JOHN BAPTIST CHURCH

Dr. Donald R. Ruth, Pastor
820 New Rafe Mayer Road
Baton Rouge, LA 70807
Phone: 225-775-9756
Web Address: saintjohnbc.org

Dr. Donald Ruth, Pastor

Worship Times:
CrossWalk Classes: Sundays 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM
Sunday Worship Experience: 11:00 AM
Uplift Training: Thursdays 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH

5856 Greenwell Springs Road • Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806
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Rev. Leo Cyrus Sr., Pastor

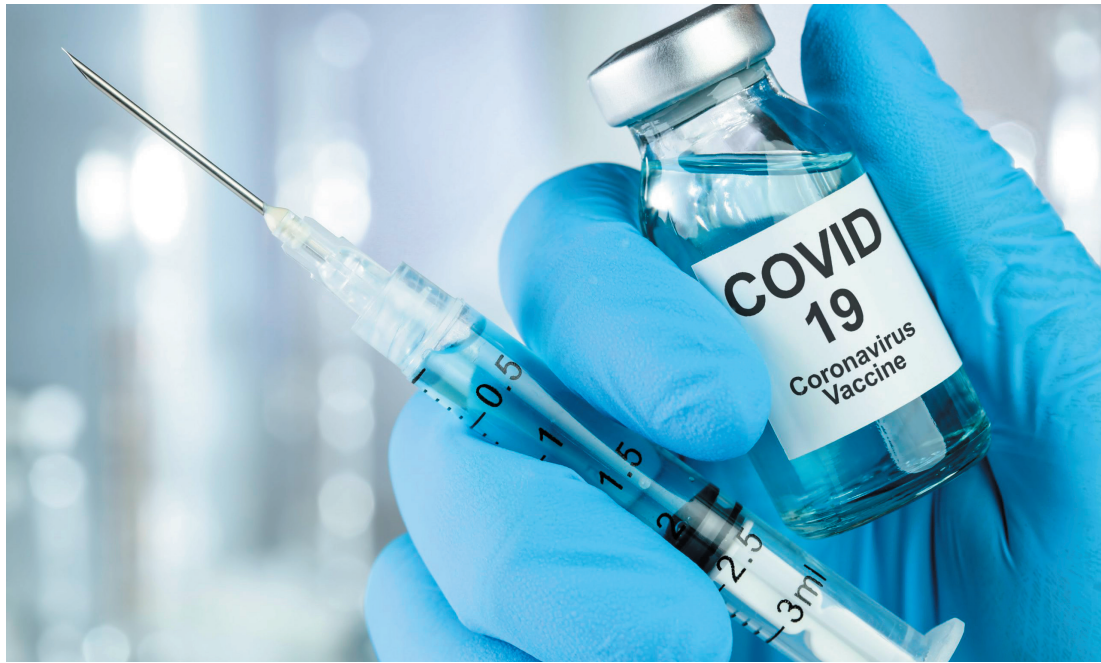
CHURCH SCHEDULE

Sunday Morning Worship	10:45 AM
Lord's Supper	3rd Sundays
Sunday School	9:30 AM
Prayer Service	Wed. @ 6:00 PM
Bible Study	Wed- @ 7:00 PM

Mission Statement: New Hope Baptist Church is a family of baptized believers who worship the Lord our God in spirit and in truth, teach the saved to reach the lost and minister to the needs of others, while encouraging one another through acts of love and living in obedience to Gods Word

HEALTH

Walmart, Sam's Club Pharmacies in La to Administer COVID-19 Vaccines



Walmart is a preferred retail pharmacy partner in 22 states, including Louisiana

NEW ORLEANS – Walmart and Sam's Club pharmacies will begin administering COVID-19 vaccines in Louisiana through the U.S. Federal Retail Pharmacy Program on Feb 12, 2021. Eligible customers can schedule a vaccine appointment via the Walmart and Sam's Club websites once appointments are available, making it convenient to get vaccinated while allocation lasts. Vaccines will be available to those who meet the current phase of vaccine eligibility in Louisiana which can be found at the Louisiana Department of Health website. More than 1,000 Walmart and Sam's Club pharmacies in 22 states are receiving federal vaccine allocations this week, with an emphasis on locations that reach customers in underserved communities with limited access to healthcare. While initial vaccine supply is limited, Walmart and Sam's Club pharmacists and technicians stand ready to help expand vaccine access across the country.

In consultation with Center for Disease Control (CDC) and states, we took into account the population density, customer demographics, infection rates and availability of local healthcare resources among other factors to identify many of the participating locations, including pharmacies located in a Medically Underserved Areas, as designated by the Health Resources and Services Administration.

"Ninety percent of the country lives within ten miles of a Walmart. We're committed to helping people live better – and healthier lives – in Louisiana, and we take that role very seriously," said Dr. Cheryl Pegus, Executive Vice President, Health & Wellness. "We want to help the country re-open, but we can only achieve that through widespread COVID-19 vaccination. We're proud to work together with the federal government, states, communities, customers and associates to expand access to the vaccine and reach that goal."

Walmart is partnering with the CDC and states to move as quickly as possible to help administer vaccines to eligible populations in participating states. For a list of stores in each state administering the vaccine under the federal agreement,

visit www.corporate.walmart.com/covid-vaccine.

In addition to the 22 states where Walmart will support the vaccination efforts as part of the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program, the retailer is also currently administering vaccinations under the jurisdiction allocation in 11 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Vaccine supply and eligibility will vary based on state and local guidelines. In addition to appointments, the scheduler will provide a digital reminder when it is time to return for the second vaccine, which is why customers are asked to create a profile, helping to ensure customers receive the second dose of the vaccine in the timeframe required. You do not have to be a member of Sam's Club to sign-up for an appointment. Appointments are available seven days a week, but exact timing will vary based on local availability of the vaccine.

Walmart and Sam's Club pharmacies will continue to support states and the federal government to help increase the accessibility and availability of COVID-19 vaccines. To stay up to date on how Walmart and Sam's Club are supporting the vaccine rollout, visit <https://corporate.walmart.com/covid-vaccine>.

East Baton Rouge Parish Officials and Advocates Address Opioid Epidemic



BATON ROUGE, La. – With only one month into the New Year, East Baton Rouge Parish is already on track to match the number of overdose deaths in 2020, which had almost doubled the highest number on record in 2019. The data provided by the East Baton Rouge Parish Coroner's Office reports 21 overdose deaths so far in 2021, 245 deaths during 2020, and 126 deaths in 2019.

The office of the Coroner of East Baton Rouge Parish has a duty to investigate, track and report trends that lead to preventable deaths. Since 2013, when heroin began making a significant impact on the loss of life related to overdoses in East Baton Rouge Parish, EBR Coroner Dr. Beau Clark reported those rapidly increasing drug trends to our law enforcement partners and the public.

East Baton Rouge Parish suffered the worst year on record for overdose deaths in 2020, with 2020 doubling our previous records. That trend continues into 2021 with fentanyl related overdose being responsible for the vast majority of these tragic deaths.

For this reason, parish officials continue to partner with advocates, healthcare providers and residents to provide resources to those struggling with addiction.

Peer Support Specialist Tonja Myles is scheduled to launch three new initiatives at the end of February aimed at helping those in need. The "Whenever You Are Ready" initiative will provide push cards with information for individuals seeking substance abuse treatment. "The Ride or Die" initiative will

provide transportation to individuals seeking treatment. Finally, the "Sober Saturdays" initiative will deploy outreach teams beginning February 27 to directly connect individuals with treatment information and resources. All three initiatives are privately funded with support from parish officials.

"Covid-19 has changed how we should address opioids and other addiction prevention outreach efforts," said Tonja Myles. "With us working together and adjusting to how we serve those with Opioid Use Disorder, we will save lives."

Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome has also worked to increase access to behavioral and mental health resources in East Baton Rouge Parish through initiatives like Healthy BR and ReCast. "Our government cannot do this work alone, so we must work hand in hand with our community and partners as we address this epidemic and save the lives of our fellow residents," said Mayor Broome.

In an effort to save lives and help disrupt criminal networks in the parish, East Baton Rouge District Attorney's Office was awarded a top-performing federal grant in 2018. This continued grant allows the DA's Office to partner with various partners including LSU's Social Research & Evaluation Center to analyze data connected to this crisis.

Last summer, the DA's Office produced the "Criminal Justice Response to the Opioid Crisis in East Baton Rouge Parish" report, recommending life-saving, best practices which include: conducting more thorough investigations at overdose scenes; coordinating with

multiple agencies more cohesively; and identifying indicators connected to the abuse and delivery of drugs.

"We want to identify those selling to our most vulnerable population as much as possible so we can get them help before it's too late," DA Hillar Moore said. "These are bright people with great families in unfortunate situations. By using the data and uniting our efforts, we can reduce these numbers and give people their lives back."

The Baton Rouge Police Department is supporting initiatives like "Sober Saturdays" by providing the outreach teams with data that pinpoints locations with high incidents of overdoses. BRPD officers will be among those early responders carrying the group's push cards.

"The uniquely personal nature of this canvassing effort is an opportunity to provide some of our most vulnerable citizens with support, help, and counseling services that could potentially change their lives," said Baton Rouge Police Chief Murphy Paul. "Based on the data we're seeing, this is clearly an area of grave concern for us all. And if this effort gives people hope and changes the life of even one individual, this initiative will be a success."

When law enforcement officers encounter citizens who demonstrate signs that they may be in need of rehabilitation services, the officer will now have helpful information to share with these individuals, their family members, or friends. The BRPD will also be providing the canvassing group with security and other support services during its



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are gonna take
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***Mayor-President
Sharon Weston Broome***

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