

The Weekly Press

SERVING BAKER, CENTRAL, AND ZACHARY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1-7, 2022

A PEOPLE'S PUBLICATION

VOL. 45 • NO.41 • FREE

Congressman Troy Carter Elected Congressional Black Caucus Second Vice-Chair



Congressman Troy Carter

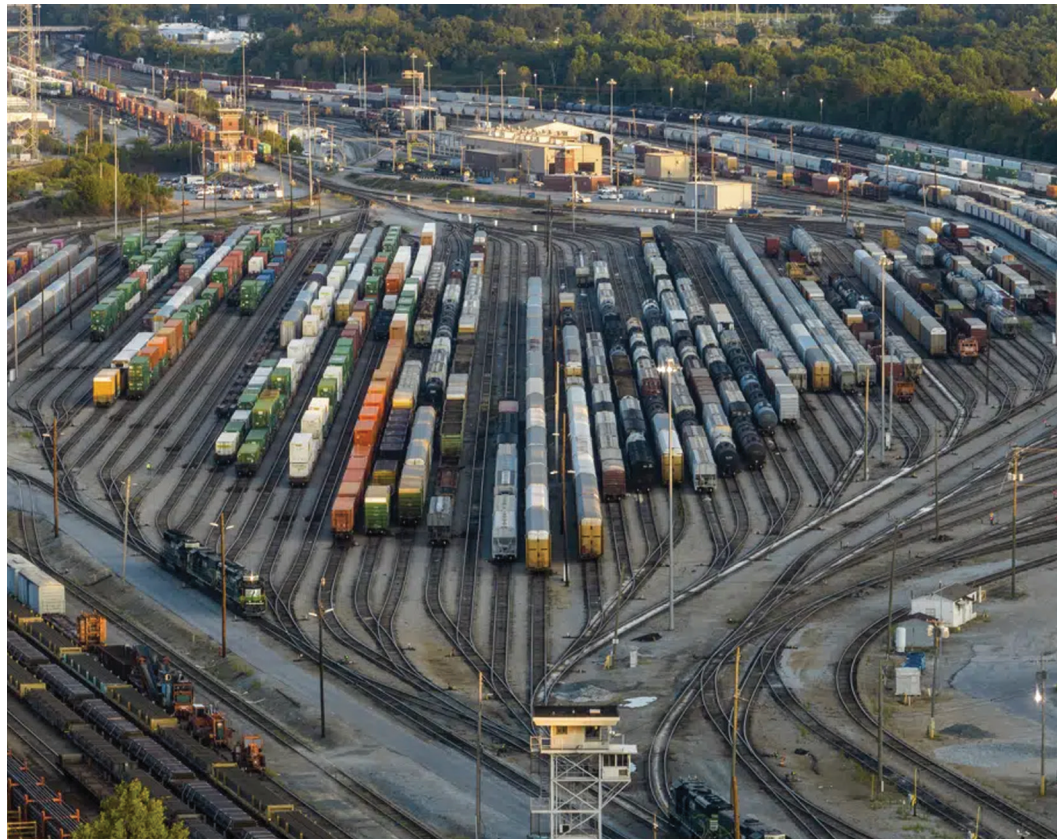
WASHINGTON, D.C. – Last night, Congressman Troy A. Carter, Sr. (D-La.) was elected to serve as the Congressional Black Caucus' (CBC) Second Vice-Chair in the 118th Congress.

"I am humbled and grateful for the opportunity to serve as Second Vice-Chair in the powerhouse institution that is the Congressional Black Caucus, and I thank my colleagues for entrusting me with this leadership position"

Since its establishment in 1971, the Congressional Black Caucus has been committed to using the full Constitutional power, statutory authority, and financial resources of the federal government to ensure that African Americans and other marginalized communities have a

See CARTER, on page 2

Congress votes to avert rail strike amid dire warnings



FILE - Freight train cars sit in a Norfolk Southern rail yard on Sept. 14, 2022, in Atlanta. The Biden administration is saying the U.S. economy would face a severe economic shock if senators don't pass legislation this week to avert a rail worker strike.

By KEVIN FREKING and JOSH FUNK

WASHINGTON (AP) — Legislation to avert what could have been an economically ruinous freight rail strike won final approval in Congress on Thursday as lawmakers responded quickly to President Joe Biden's call for federal intervention in a long-running labor dispute.

The Senate passed a bill to bind rail companies and workers to a proposed settlement that was reached between the rail companies and union leaders in September. That settlement had been rejected by four of the 12 unions involved, creating the possibility of a strike beginning Dec. 9.

It came one day after the House voted to impose the agreement. The measure now goes to Biden's desk for his signature.

"Communities will maintain access to clean drinking water.



President Joe Biden speaks during a news conference with French President Emmanuel Macron in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Thursday, Dec. 1, 2022.

Farmers and ranchers will continue to be able to bring food to market and feed their livestock. And hundreds of thousands of Americans in a number of industries will keep their jobs," Biden

said after the vote. "I will sign the bill into law as soon as Congress sends it to my desk."

The Senate voted shortly

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Mayor Broome Appoints Major General Glenn Curtis as Chief Administrative Officer

BATON ROUGE, La – November 30, 2022 – Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome proudly announced today a leadership transition with the naming of a new Chief Administrative Officer effective December 1, 2022.

The General, who has vast managerial and leadership expertise, joins the Administration after Gissel's five years of devoted service. Gissel oversaw operations during some of the most trying times in our local government – from the post pandemic recovery in EBR to the passage of the massive \$1 Billion MOVEBR infrastructure package.

"Darryl has shared in my

love for this community and leadership responsibility. We have improved governmental efficiency and streamlined operations under his tenure. I am proud of the honesty, dignity, and service he brought to our government and our residents he loved and served," explained Mayor Broome.

"Now we enter a new era with new challenges and I truly believe we are on the precipice of growth and promise. I am delighted and

See CURTIS, on page 2



Major General Glenn Curtis

Legislators begin review of Louisiana Constitution with eye toward partial overhaul

BY: GREG LAROSE Louisiana Illuminator

It comes as no surprise to voters who've been asked to decipher proposed amendments that the Louisiana Constitution is one of the most confusing documents around. Since it went into effect on Jan. 1, 1975, the size of the document could double depending on upcoming election results—exceeding 72,000 words.

Three more amendments are on the Dec. 10 ballot, the latest of more than 300 proposed changes to its constitution over the past 47 years – more than all but two states, according to the Council of State Governments (CSG).

Such frequent updates to what's supposed to be a mostly static document led state Rep. Barry Ivey, R-Baton Rouge, to call for a review of the state charter from his colleagues with an eye toward needed revisions. He chairs a subgroup of the House and Governmental Affairs Committee that started the process Wednesday.

"We're doing something

wrong," Ivey told the subcommittee after noting the high number of amendments and total rewrites. No other state has rewritten its constitution more than Louisiana, which is on its 11th version.

Massachusetts, by comparison, is still using the first version it approved in 1778. It has amended it a relatively low 120 times since then, CSG records show.

Ivey tasked members of the subcommittee with a review of the state constitution, focusing on "language that is unusual," outdated and redundant, as well as measures that most states would handle with new laws their legislature creates rather than voter referenda.

Steven Procopio, president

See OVERHAUL, on page 2



Rep. Barry Ivey

U.S. House Democrats make history electing first Black party leader in Congress

BY: JENNIFER SHUTT Louisiana Illuminator

WASHINGTON — The three U.S. House Democrats who have led their party through four presidencies and thousands of floor votes formally passed the torch to the next generation Wednesday, when the party gathered behind closed doors to elect its top leaders for the 118th Congress.

House Democrats named Hakeem Jeffries, of New York, as their leader. Jeffries, 52, will make history as the first Black lawmaker to lead any party in Congress.

Katherine Clark, 59, of Massachusetts, was elected as whip, and Pete Aguilar, 43, of California, a member of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, as caucus chair. The trio will take over in January when Congress convenes for the next session and Democrats move into the minority.

All three leaders-elect ran unopposed, solidifying a smooth transition that's been on the horizon for years, but didn't move forward until Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced she'd step aside from leadership earlier this month. Pelosi, 82, will remain in Congress under the honorific title "Speaker Emerita."

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, a New York Democrat, congratulated Jeffries, his fellow New Yorker.



The new U.S. House Democratic leadership team in the next Congress takes questions from reporters at a press conference at the Capitol. From left: Rep. Katherine Clark of Massachusetts, elected as whip; Rep. Hakeem Jeffries of New York, elected as Democratic leader; and Rep. Pete Aguilar of California, elected as conference chair. Nov. 30, 2022. (Photo by Jennifer Shutt/States Newsroom)

"Hakeem Jeffries' elevation as House Democratic leader is a turning point in the history of the United States Congress," Schumer said from the Senate floor.

"Never before has an African American leader, or any leader of color, held

a top position for either party in either chamber."

Schumer, who lives in Brooklyn, said he was excited to work with Jeffries, who represents part of Brooklyn in the House, on Democratic priorities during the

next Congress.

"He is someone who I know will both hold the line on our Democratic values while being ready to listen and keep an open mind," Schumer said. "I know he can work with the other side

whenever it's necessary."

Schumer said he looks forward to talking with "my neighbor from Brooklyn, four or six times a day, like I did with Speaker Pelosi."

WEATHER

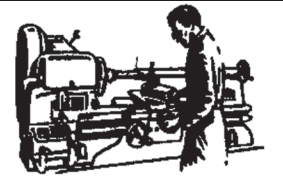
Table with weather forecasts for Mon 12/05, Tue 12/06, Wed 12/07, and Thur 12/08.

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LOCAL & STATE

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Weekly Press

Newspaper is a 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.

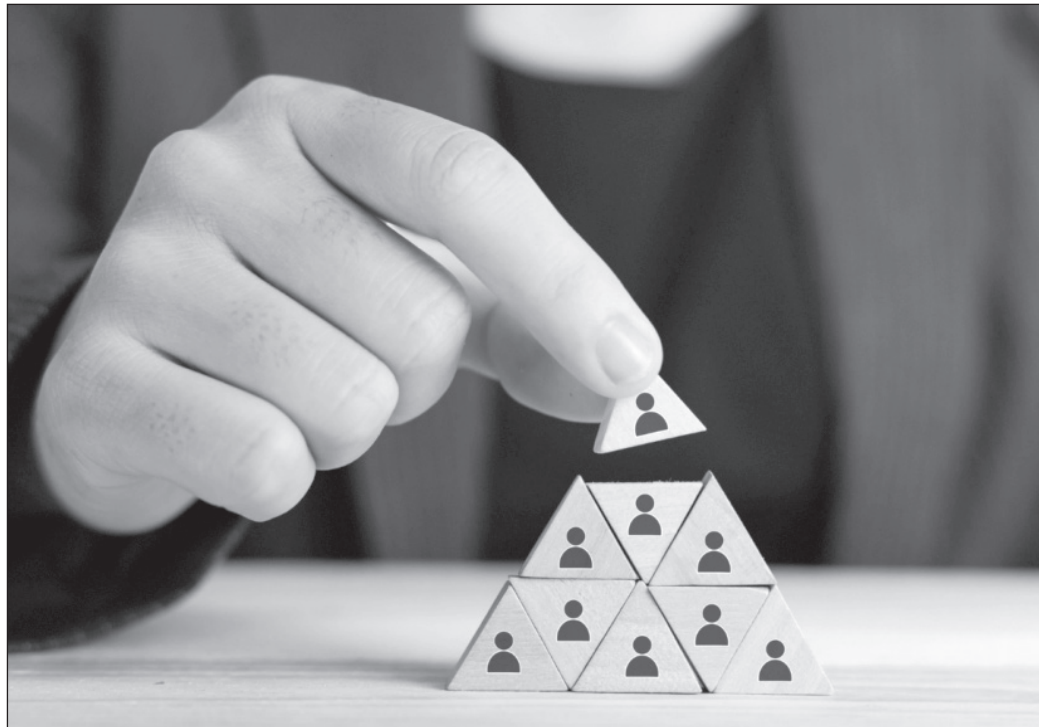
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Several obstacles challenge human trafficking crackdown in Louisiana



Despite widespread condemnation, human trafficking persists globally—an estimated 25 million people are trafficked worldwide, producing \$150 billion annually for perpetrators—and the threat is only growing due to the COVID-19 crisis.

Lack of manpower, accurate data, cooperation limit successful convictions

BY: GREG LAROSE
 Louisiana Illuminator

A 2019 police sweep that targeted illegal prostitution at massage parlors in Calcasieu Parish shut down about a dozen of the businesses, according to Benjamin White, who worked undercover for the sheriff's office. It resulted in about 35 arrests, including some of the key people

involved in trafficking the women forced to work there.

A day later, all of the locations had reopened, according to White.

"Up and running the next day, like we didn't do anything," he said. "So for law enforcement — after the work hours we put in — when we see that, we're like, 'Hmm, OK.'"

White shared his experience Monday at the State Capitol with fellow members of the new state Task Force on Human Trafficking Arrests. Sen. Beth Mizell, R-Franklinton, created the panel through a resolution earlier this year and chairs it.

The task force has been directed to look at the disparity between the high number of

reported trafficking incidents and the low number of related arrests.

The accuracy of data on human trafficking in Louisiana was called into question at Monday's meeting. Capt. Belinda Murphy, head of the Louisiana State Police Special Victims Unit, referenced a survey from the state Department of Children and Family Services last year that placed the number of incidents between 700 and 900.

"Our first question for them is where are you getting those numbers because we're not seeing those numbers," Murphy said, stressing that the reported totals could vary well beyond.

She explained that while some reports from family members and service providers could be redundant, the actual number could be higher because there is still a lack of training for law enforcement officers to recognize and relay instances of trafficking.

Dana Hunter, who leads Gov. John Bel Edwards' Office of Human Trafficking, said incidents are most likely underreported because the only data her staff collects so far comes from service agencies, primarily children's advocacy centers. That's highly likely why statistics reflect two-thirds of trafficking in Louisiana involve children, she said. Law enforcement agencies are not yet providing trafficking data to the office, Hunter said.

Members of the task force shared various reasons for the low number of trafficking arrests. They ranged from difficulty getting survivors to testify against their captors in court to police manpower shortages that limit the number of officers assigned to what are often lengthy investigations.

"That kind of long-term, slow-to-develop investigation is hard to incentivize," said Clay Walker, Caddo Parish juvenile services director. He contrasted low-profile trafficking busts to narcotics operations, where police can display the drugs, cash and weapons seized to grab the attention of news media.

Another revelation from the task force meeting involved the De-

See **CRACKDOWN**, on page 3

City of Baker, community partners come together to feed neighbors

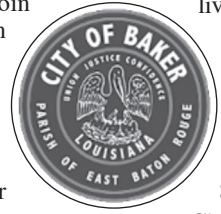
BAKER, La. - Join the City of Baker in collaboration with the East Baton Rouge Council on Aging, Baker Chamber of Commerce, Baker Police Department, Baker Fire Department, Army National Guard Youth Challenge Program, Area Churches and Food Pantries as we come together to feed our neighbors!

The City of Baker is working with our partners to meet the immediate and longer term needs of our community by distributing 7500 boxes of groceries, supplied by the USDA, on Saturday, December 10, 2022 to community members, area food pantries, area churches and via direct home de-

livery complements of the EBR Council on Aging.

If you or anyone you know is in need of groceries this holiday season please join us at 8 a.m. in the Advantage Charter School parking lot, located at 14740 Plank Road in Baker, LA for food distribution. We ask that all persons coming individually line up in the car lines that will be established for drive through service.

If you are interested in volunteering to load cars, unload pallets or provide other services please contact Ashley Williams at 225.778.0300.



CURTIS from page 1

honored to bring General Glenn Curtis on board with our team. He has committed to me to sustain the integrity and service all my leaders offer. He likewise brings the ability to mobilize community efforts, hold folks accountable for his quality programs and services, and offers strong vision and management skills to this government — your government," said Mayor Broome.

"I am honored to bring the best experiences of my past in in-

frastructure development, teamwork, streamlined management, and business acumen to City Hall. Mayor Broome left an impression on me when she said her administration would be committed to peace, prosperity, and progress for our community," outlined General Curtis. "Now I will help her carry that torch forward and I will stand by her side to further strengthen citizen service and introduce strategic solutions to this community's greatest challenges."

Attached is a detailed resume

See **CURTIS**, on page 3

OVERHAUL from page 1

of the nonpartisan Public Affairs Research Council (PAR), told the subcommittee the large majority of changes to the Louisiana Constitution have involved property taxes. For example, four amendments last month's ballot involved property millages and related homestead exemptions.

While stressing PAR doesn't recommend lawmakers convene a constitutional convention, Procopio said they strongly consider a major update. For about 70 years, his group has published guides to proposed amendments that have become a go-to educational primer for Louisiana voters. PAR does not support or oppose individual amendments.

The legislature has come together just once since 1974 to propose a constitutional rewrite. In 1992, a dozen versions were floated, and voters ultimately rejected the finalized version. However, several proposals from that effort — including budget restrictions — eventually gained approval when put in amendment form in subsequent years.

PAR reviewed legislative committee meetings and debate for the four proposed constitutional amendments put before voters in 2019. The average hearing time for each piece of legislation was six minutes, according to Procopio.

"That is something that doesn't scream 'fundamental change,'" he said.

A suggestion Procopio offered to the subcommittee was

that any proposed constitutional amendment receive legislative approval in two successive annual sessions before being placed on the ballot. Concerns about not being able to make an urgent change to the constitution are unwarranted, he said, based on his review of ballot proposals since 1974.

"If you need an emergency constitutional amendment, then your constitution isn't working in the first place," Procopio said.

The subcommittee also discussed the often confusing ballot language of proposed amendments. Procopio said the technical language is often the result of the legislature's lawyers wanting to make sure the change will hold up if challenged in court.

Rep. Foy Gadberry, R-West Monroe, who sits on the subcommittee, said he learned firsthand last month at his polling place that voters are rejecting any proposal they can't grasp.

"Probably 80% of the people within hearing distance of me said they were voting no on every one of (the amendments) because they didn't understand them," Gadberry said.

All standing House committees have been asked to review the sections of the Louisiana Constitution that apply to their subject-area focus. For example, the House Ways and Means Committee will cover all tax-related portions of the state charter. Reports from each committee's analysis are due March 15, 2023, according to the resolution Ivey authored that set up the review process

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shot at the American Dream. The CBC is often referred to as the "Conscience of the Congress."

While the CBC has predominantly been made up of members of the Democratic Party, the founding members of the caucus envisioned a non-partisan organization. Consequently, the CBC has a long

history of bipartisan collaboration and members who are both Democrat and Republican.

The full results of the 118th Congressional Black Caucus leadership election will be shared by the Congressional Black Caucus here.



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Call and get your unclaimed property with the Louisiana Department of Treasury

BATON ROUGE, La. - Did you know that there is \$1,000,000,000 in unclaimed property at the Louisiana Department of Treasury? Officials are trying to help you reconnect with lost or forgotten money in time for Christmas. One in six people have unclaimed property or cash owed back to you. The largest claim ever in La. is \$2.3 million, which was a few years ago.

More than 1,500 calls came last year when WAFB did this story.

So how can you check to see if you have something?

Call 888-925-4127 starting at 5 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 1. You can also go to LaCashClaim.org.

CURTIS from page 2

of Major General Glenn Curtis and his long and distinguished career in the military, public and private sectors.

General Curtis served two Louisiana governors (Governors Bobby Jindal and John Bel Edwards) as commander of the Louisiana National Guard. He has 30 years of disaster response and leadership experience, leading responses to every major disaster in the Southeastern United States since Hurricane Andrew in 1992. He has business experience in the fields of business development and financial growth; renewable energy and sustainable infrastructure; and operational efficiency.

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partment of Children and Family Services, which Murphy said does not share information with State Police about who refers trafficking cases to them. The agency cites state law that makes it illegal to divulge referral sources, she said. Mizell added she "had no idea" that law existed.

The task force has a Feb. 1, 2023, deadline to compile recommendations and suggest proposals to the Louisiana Legislature.

North Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce 3rd Annual Giveback Thanksgiving Community Drive a Great Success!



North Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce

BATON ROUGE, LA— The North Baton Rouge Chamber's Thanksgiving Community Drive was hosted at the "Times of Refreshing Ministry (aka The Fresh Church); by volunteers from the church on Sunday, November 20, 2022.

After a soulful, stirring message by Bishop Calvin Emery and thankful worship and praise, the church members joined the members of NBRCC and served Fifty-Five Baton Rouge residents with a turkey and a basket of trimmings.

The community was on deck to distribute The North Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce's 3rd Annual Giveback, "THANKSGIVING COMMUNITY DRIVE."

The Chamber thanks our host church, "Times of Refreshing Ministry (aka The Fresh Church), its Leaders Bishop Calvin Emery and Pastor Shawne L. Emer.

About the North Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce (NBRCC) Our mission is to advocate for creating and growing competitive, profitable, and sustainable business enterprises in North Baton Rouge.

We are committed to providing access to business networks, education workshops, and collaborative training programs to promote best-practice solutions emphasizing economic development, ownership, and wealth-building practices.



OPINION

OP-ED: The Time is Now for Increasing Diversity in American Media Ownership

By Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.



Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.

Several months ago, I co-wrote an op-ed with my long-term friend and national media colleague, Jim Winston. Our commentary emphasized why "Diversifying American Media Ownership Must Become a National Priority."

Now after the results of the high turnout of communities of color and young voters in the recent Mid-Term Elections across the United States, it is time once again to reiterate the relevance and importance of ensuring an increase in the multiracial diversification of ownership of radio and TV broadcast stations as well as all other media platforms including print and social media.

The multimedia publishing and communications industry is a trillion-dollar business sector in America. Yet the disparities and inequities of ownership of media industry businesses by persons of color remain glaring.

I know some of you would ask me why I am speaking up and out about other persons of color to own media businesses in America in addition to African American ownership of media businesses. There is, I assert, only one clear answer. If you are, as I am, for equality, equity, and believe in the oneness of all humanity, then we must practice what we preach.

This is why I am publicly and forthrightly supporting the efforts and leadership of Soo Kim, founder and managing partner of Standard General. Kim is an effective and outstanding Korean American business leader, and he is on record supporting greater Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) in our nation's media ownership landscape.

As the racial demographics of our nation continue to diversify, American media must intentionally become more representative of that growth. One reason is because diversity is simply good for business. Another reason is because it is right, and it is just to include the very people on which one's business success depends.

But perhaps the ultimate reason is because the greatest issues of our day – economic inequity, health disparities and systemic racism – pure and simple – will be best impacted when addressed by a multiplicity of people of all races.

Kim has announced an application for a \$8.6 billion major media merger by acquiring TEGNA, a company owning 64 television stations coast to coast. Kim turned many heads with his description of a "new partnership models to get diverse viewpoints and perspectives on the air and to make sure people have the resources to do it."

One need only to review the leadership of major media networks in America to see that there are far too few that are owned or led by people of color. This makes Soo Kim's vision and leadership timely, inclusive, and progressive. This is the kind of media ownership that is exactly what our nation needs at this "transformational" moment.

Current TV broadcast industry ownership stats reveal a pattern that favors incumbent owners who are primarily White males – less than 2% of U.S. TV stations are owned by minorities – if the FCC and the DOJ block this deal, it would signal that the broadcast industry continues to be exclusively reserved for White male incumbent players.

I support and join with Congresswoman Marilyn Strickland (D-WA) in her letter to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) that commends and endorses the proposed merger between Standard General and TEGNA. Strickland stated to FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel, "I share your longstanding goal of expanding voices and minority ownership in this sector, and the merger would be a critical step in that direction."

We also note with appreciation that FCC Commissioner Geoffrey Starks, a strong advocate for equity in the communications industry, observed last year, "Majority ownership of full power TV stations significantly worsened for Asian American owners (from 9 full power TV stations in 2017 to four stations in 2019). The numbers don't lie – we must ensure that ownership at broadcast stations better reflects the rich diversity of the communities that they serve. We still have work to do, and we have to do better."

Congresswoman Strickland concluded, "This is why the Standard General-TEGNA acquisition is especially important. If the transaction goes through, Soo Kim, a Korean American naturalized citizen, would be the first Asian American to own and operate a major broadcast station group. Additionally, it is my understanding that if this deal is approved, the new entity would be the largest minority-owned broadcast station group in America today. It would also be managed by a leading female broadcast executive with a history of investing in local news and in her employee base. I understand further that...at least half of the proposed board of directors will be of minority composition and a majority will be women."

Lastly, as has been widely publicized, access to capital also continues to be a big barrier for minority broadcast owners – from getting a mortgage to being able to obtain financing to conduct business deals, like the one with TEGNA. Again, that is why the proposed Soo Kim deal will be a real game-changing move, if approved, that will overcome some of the past significant barriers that minorities have faced to get access to financing in general, but especially for the FCC-regulated broadcast and media space.

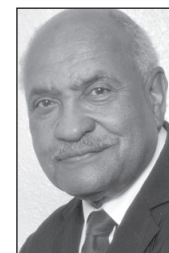
The U.S. Justice Department and the FCC should therefore move forward expeditiously to approve the merger, and to reaffirm the importance of serving the greater public good and the issue of equity for all minority-owned media businesses in America. Now is the time.

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. is President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) representing the Black Press

OUR VOICES

What Must Be Done with White Reconstruction

By Dr. John E. Warren



Dr. John E. Warren

While many are watching 47 out of the 50 States propose and enact Voter Suppression Laws, the question becomes one of what can we as individuals do to counter such attacks against us?

First, we must acknowledge the real agenda of those hiding behind the Republican Party's control of state legislatures, embracing Donald Trump's lie that the election was stolen.

The reality is that conservative white republicans are engaged in attempts to recreate the conditions that existed by 1901 when all Black elected officials were removed from office at both the national and state level. This was the result of the deal made with the South to have no national interference with State's Rights. The result was there were no Blacks elected to Congress between 1901 (John Roy Lynch from Mississippi) and 1928 (Oscar De Priest from Chicago).

Today in 2022, it is the Republican Party (GOP), under the out-of-office leadership of Donald Trump, that is using voter suppression laws in 47 states and the soon-to-be redistricting of congressional districts under the 2020 Census, as required by the U.S. Constitution every ten years, that will seek to usher in a modern day "Reconstruction."

This modern-day reconstruction will once again have limited voting by people of color and election officials in state offices that can change voting results and select Electoral College delegates when they don't like voter's choices. With state courts and the U.S. Supreme Court stacked with judges appointed by a Republican Senate, clearly the stage has been set for court decisions that will further solidify the suppression of civil rights decisions at all levels.

Unlike one hundred years ago, we know what's coming and what we can do to stop such actions. We know that from the increase in hate crimes and racism, much of it fueled by the actions of our former President, that

See RECONSTRUCTION, on page 5

The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views or position of the Baton Rouge Weekly Press Newspaper or its Staff.

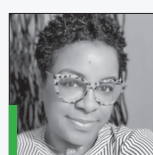


HOST

DECEMBER 10TH
2022 11:00 AM TO 02:00 PM

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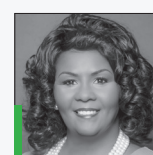
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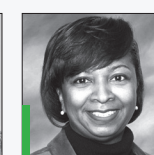
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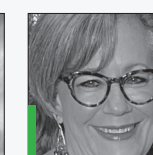
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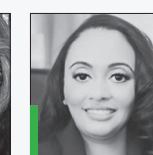
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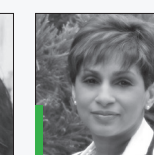
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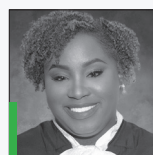
Ruth Collins



Dr. Leah Cullins



Tia Edwards



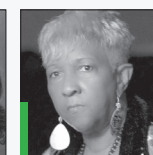
Judge Erika Green



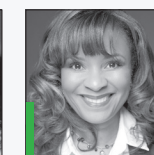
Dr. Eva Kleinpeter



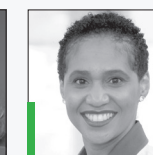
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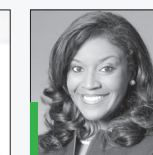
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Dr. Katara Williams



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RELIGION

Nothing Missing, Nothing Broken

By Creflo Dollar

Most people think of healing from a physical standpoint, in terms of the body recovering from an injury. That's certainly one facet of it, but there are other aspects of healing as well. Our enemy, the devil, delights in stealing from us; some of the things he tries to take away are our peace of mind and the sense of emotional stability and security that comes from trusting in Christ. However, he's no match for Jesus, who heals our emotions with one touch.



Creflo Dollar

that was possessed with the devil, and had the legion, sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid" (Mark 5:15). The enemy has no chance when he encounters Christ.

Healing also took place with the woman who asked Jesus to heal her daughter (Matthew 15:28), and the boy from whom Jesus cast out demons before delivering him back to his father (Luke 9:42, AMPC). This kind of deliverance and complete recovery comes only from God. Jesus' coming to restore everything that was missing or broken was prophesied in the Old Testament. "And nothing of theirs was lacking, either small or great, sons or daughters, spoil or anything which they had taken from them; David recovered all" (1 Samuel 30:19, NKJV). This was fulfilled in Jesus' death and resurrection.

Wholeness, with nothing missing and nothing broken, is God's will for us. The enemy tries to steal our joy and everything else we value in our lives. God restores it. "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).

A thorough knowledge of God's Word concerning healing, and a willingness to stand on it whenever the devil shows up, is an effective weapon against his attacks. He uses every situation he can to highlight the negative aspects of things that happen in our lives in hopes of crumbling our trust in Jesus. Satan is a liar and a thief, but when this thief tries to steal what God wants us to have, we're empowered to stop him. "People do not despise a thief if he steals to satisfy himself when he is starving. Yet when he is found, he must restore sevenfold; he may have to give

During His ministry, Jesus healed and restored to perfect wholeness people who had faith in Him. This didn't just pertain to physical healing, but mental and emotional healing as well. Once, He healed a man who had been possessed by evil spirits. "And they come to Jesus, and see him

See **JUMP**, on page 5

Aligning With God's Will



By Tony Evans

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." - (Genesis 1:26)

A number of people think that there is a battle going on between God and the devil. There is no battle going on between God and the devil. If there was, it wouldn't last long. That's like saying, "Tony Evans and Mike Tyson are fighting." Sure, we might both climb into the ring together to duke it out, but I would be no match for Mike, even at his age now.

Satan, a created being, is no match for the omnipotent Creator.

That's not even a fight. But what

God did do was create an inferior creature—humanity—you, who are not even competition with Satan or his demons on our own, to demonstrate that in this spiritual battle, even the inferior creature can win when he or she operates according to God's governance, authority, and kingdom agenda.

You and I were cast in a cosmic conflict to manifest God's rule in history for the advancement of His kingdom and the reflection

of His glory. And one way this is done is through the Dominion Covenant—your ability and commission to rule through decisions that are made in alignment with God's sovereign rule.

Reflection: What does it mean to be made in God's image? Why does a Christian not need to fear Satan? What authority do you have under the Dominion Covenant? How is your authority limited?

God, I'm excited to see what You are going to do in and through me. You have created me to carry out Your influence on earth. You have also embodied me with Your Holy Spirit so that when Satan seeks to disrupt me somehow, You can defeat him. I look forward to all that You have planned as I learn to place myself under Your comprehensive rule in my life.



Tony Evans

VaShawn Mitchell Hosts Epic 10th Album Live Recording In Detroit

Gospel legendary singer, VaShawn Mitchell hosted an incredible live recording at the Sound Board in Detroit Motor City Casino. Fans were lined up hours in advance full of anticipation of what was to come. The show was hosted by Detroit native actor, songwriter and social media influencer Jor'el Quinn with special performing guests including Donnie McClurkin, Jekalyn Carr, Lisa Page Brooks and Shana Wilson. Ron Poindexter directed the heavenly chorus of twelve singers and continued to raise the bar on his own solo feature. Other special guests in attendance include Grammy Award-winning singer/songwriter Bebe Winans, actor Darius McCrary, BET 'Sunday Best' alum Clifton Ross III, and Grammy-nominated producer J. Drew Sheard II.

Throughout the concert, audience members were enthralled in a trance of praise and worship, ballads, as well as praise breaks that had everyone on their feet. When speaking to concertgoers, people referred to the experience as "the best record so far" and "the best time I've had in a long time". One person even claimed, "This record is going to take over the industry next year!" All in all, no one left disappointed. The concert also concluded with a call for salvation where individuals were lead to Christ.



VaShawn Mitchell

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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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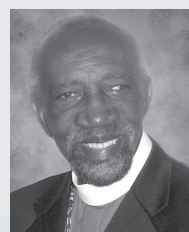
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CHURCH SCHEDULE

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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

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WARNINGS from page 1

after Labor Secretary Marty Walsh and Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg emphasized to Democratic senators at a Capitol meeting that rail companies would begin shutting down operations well before a potential strike would begin. The administration wanted the bill on Biden's desk by the weekend.

Shortly before Thursday's votes, Biden defended the contract that four of the unions had rejected, noting the wage increases it contains.

"I negotiated a contract no one else could negotiate," Biden said at a news briefing with French President Emmanuel Macron. "What was negotiated was so much better than anything they ever had."

Critics say the contract that did not receive backing from enough union members lacked sufficient levels of paid sick leave for rail workers. Biden said he wants paid leave for "everybody" so that it wouldn't have to be negotiated in employment contracts, but Republican lawmakers have blocked measures to require time off work for medical and family reasons. The president said Congress should impose the contract now to avoid a strike that he said could cause 750,000 job losses and a recession.

Railways say halting rail service would cause a devastating \$2 billion-per-day hit to the economy. A freight rail strike also would have a big potential impact on passenger rail, with Amtrak and many commuter railroads relying on tracks owned by the freight railroads.

BUSINESS

Home sales could plunge in 2023, These cities may see the worst



Home sales could plunge in 2023. These cities may see the worst.

By Christopher J. Brooks

Home sellers should brace themselves for a tough year ahead, with one real estate group forecasting that property sales could tumble in 2023 as more buyers are sidelined by rising mortgage rates and out-of-reach home prices.

The number of homes sold will likely plunge 14.1% to 4.53 million homes, representing the lowest number of property transactions since 2012, when the U.S. was still recovering from the housing crash and Great Recession, according to according to Realtor.com's 2023 Housing Forecast.

The pandemic triggered a massive boom in real estate sales, bolstered by a combination of record-low mortgage rates and work-from-home-orders from

many employers. Since early 2020, home prices have surged almost 40%, while mortgage rates have more than doubled since year-start, a double-whammy that has priced many buyers out of the market.

Sellers may feel the brunt of that impact next year, according to the new Realtor.com forecast.

"High home prices and mortgage rates [will] limit the pool of eligible home buyers" in 2023, it said.

Home sales are expected to dip the most in California and Florida. The biggest decline in sales volume Home sales could plunge in 2023. These cities may see the worst will be in these cities, Realtor.com forecasted:

Ventura, California: A decline of -29.1% San Jose, California: -28.8% Bradenton,

Florida: -28.7% San Diego, California: -27.3% Palm Bay, Florida: -18.3% Los Angeles, California: -15.8% Tampa, Florida: -15.6% Tucson, Arizona: -14.7% Fresno, California: -13.7% San Francisco: -13.3% Possible bright side for sellers

If there's a bright side for sellers, it's that the average sales price in the nation's top 100 markets is likely to increase next year by an average 5.4%, according to Realtor.com's 2023 Housing Forecast.

Not everyone's outlook on home prices in 2023 is as sunny. Some economists are predicting that real estate values could plunge by as much as 20% next year due to the surge in mortgage rates and economic uncertainty.

CONSUMER REPORTS: Most reliable cars of 2023

BATON ROUGE, La. - Shopping for a new car can be tricky and nerve-racking in the best of times. No one wants to waste money—or time—on an unreliable model. With supply chain issues and inflation, it's even more important now to make a good choice. Here's the good news: Consumer Reports is here to help with its just released exclusive car reliability report.

We've got its list of brands and models that owners consider the most reliable and the ones that are regulars at the repair shop.

Every year Consumer Reports surveys hundreds of thousands of its members asking them a simple but important question: What problems have they had with their vehicles in the past year? The survey asks about everything from the en-

gine, transmission, and brakes to electrical systems, noise, leaks, paint, and trim.

With reports on more than 300,000 vehicles, Consumer Reports calculated predicted reliability ratings.

This year, Toyota, Lexus, and BMW were the top brands, with BMW moving up 10 spots from last year.

NOTHING BROKEN from page 4

up all the substance of his house" (Proverbs 6:30, 31, NKJV). When we realize what he's up to, we have the authority to make him return everything he stole, and then some.

This authority is one of the results of the finished works of Jesus, the God of restoration. When Satan stole from Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden, Christ later came and restored the balance of power back to God's original plan. He also restored everything that the enemy stole or destroyed. "And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you" (Joel 2:25). We claim this restoration by faith.

Believers don't have to tolerate brokenness. The word "shalom" not only means peace, but also complete, intact, and in good health. Jesus is our peace, our healing, and our wholeness. For true healing and restoration on every level, He's our shalom.

RECONSTRUCTION from page 3

racism on the part of conservative and right-wing whites is fear of the "browning" of America.

This "browning" exists in an America in which Whites are a minority among other ethnic groups such as Blacks, Latinos and Asians. Blacks,

Whites and all people of color who believe in our democratic form of government for what it does mean under a Constitution that guarantees human and civil rights, must come together to help each other.

We can do this by registering to vote, selecting and funding people to run for office against the Republican "Reconstruction" program described

here. We must replicate the state of Georgia's experience in both voter turnout and election of the right people at all levels of government. We must not lose sight of the real plan behind voter suppression and the Republican Party. Let's call the Republican Party's agenda for what it is, The New Reconstruction 2022, and let's get busy dealing with it at all levels.

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SPORTS

Southern Headed To The SWAC Championship After Defeating

BY: LYNWOOD ALBERT JR.
BR Weekly Press Sports

NEW ORLEANS, La. – Southern beat Grambling 34-17 in the 49th Bayou Classic.

Slow and steady wins the race and despite Southern starting off slow offensively, the Jaguars picked up the pace in the second quarter and continued to get more and more aggressive as the game progressed.

Grambling got off to a quick offensive flow but couldn't take advantage of their first possession as Garrett Urban missed a 47-yard field goal.

However, on Grambling's second possession of the game senior wide receiver Lyndon Rash scored a 4-yard passing touchdown to give Grambling an early 7-0 lead.

Midway through the second quarter running back Karl Ligon scored a 2-yard rushing touchdown for Southern to tie the game at 7-7.

Garrett Urban made a 44-yard field goal near the end of the second quarter to put Grambling back in front 10-7.

With 25 seconds remaining, freshman running back Kendrick Rhymes scored a 5-yard rushing touchdown to give Southern a 14-10 halftime lead.

In the opening possession of the second half, Grambling took a 17-14 lead after quarterback Julian Calvez scored a 1-yard rushing touchdown.

That would be the only scoring drive for the remainder of the third quarter, but in the beginning of the fourth quarter, the Jaguars recaptured the lead and never relinquished it when BeSean McCray scored a 22-yard rushing touchdown putting Southern ahead 21-17 with 13:30 remaining.

Later in the fourth, Calvez



Photo by Sonya Goss

fumbled the football which was scooped up by free safety Jordan Carter who ran it back for a 48-yard touchdown increasing the Jaguars lead to 28-17.

The Jaguars fierce defensive plays wasn't over with just yet and with 2:58 left in the game

defensive back Kriston Davis intercepted Calvez and ran it back 42 yards for a pick 6.

Joshua Griffin missed the extra point field goal attempt, thus giving the game a final score of 34-17.

McCray finished the game by

completing 7-of-17 passes for 75 yards and rushing for 93 yards. McCray's performance for the Jaguars helped him win his first Bayou Classic MVP award.

Southern dominated Grambling and now takes the lead 25-24 in the all-time Bayou

Classic series. With the win the Jaguars clinched the SWAC Western Division Title and will head back to Mississippi for the SWAC Championship game.

On October 29th Southern lost to the invincible and undefeated 11-0 Jackson State Univer-

sity by a score of 35-0, but this time both teams will be playing for something much bigger.

The SWAC championship game will be held on Saturday, December 3rd at 3 p.m. at Mississippi Veterans Memorial Stadium. The game will be televised on ESPN2.



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