

The Weekly Press

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THURSDAY, JUNE 24-29, 2021

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Gov. Edwards vetoes transgender sports Bill 156 from the 2021 regular session

Gov. John Bel Edwards has vetoed Senate Bill 156 authored by Sen. Beth Mizell during the 2021 Regular Legislative Session. The bill, known as the Fairness in Women's Sports Act, sought to prevent transgender girls and women from participating on athletic teams or in sporting events designated for girls or women at elementary, secondary and postsecondary schools. Gov. Edwards issued the following statement:



Gov. John Bel Edwards



House Speaker Clay Schexnayder

"As I have said repeatedly when asked about this bill, discrimination is not a Louisiana value, and this bill was a solution in search of a problem that simply does not exist in Louisiana. Even the author of the bill acknowledged throughout the legislative session that there wasn't a single case where this was an issue.

Further, it would make life more difficult for transgender children, who are some of the most vulnerable Louisianians when it comes to issues of mental health. We should be looking for more ways to unite rather than divide our citizens. And while there is no issue to be solved by this bill, it does present real problems in that it makes it more likely that NCAA and professional championships, like the 2022 Final Four, would not happen in our state. For these and for other reasons, I have vetoed the bill."

House Speaker Clay Schexnayder (R-Gonzales) said he supports a veto override session between July 20 and July 24 in an attempt to override the governor's veto of the bill. Under Louisiana's constitution, a veto session is au-

See BILL, on page 2

Senate Republicans Block Sweeping Voting Rights Bill



House Speaker Nancy Pelosi at a news conference on a voting-rights bill on June 15.

BY STACY M. BROWN
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

With Republican-backed voter suppression bills sweeping the country, the Democratic majority in the U.S. Senate has quickly lost its grip on protecting voters of color and others who are marginalized at the polls.

On Tuesday, a procedural vote on the House-passed "For the People Act" proved dead on arrival after falling well short of the 60-votes needed.

"Donald Trump, with his despicable lies, has lit a fire under Republican state legislatures, and they have launched the most sweeping effort at voter suppression in 80 years," declared Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-New York).

"The GOP doesn't even want to debate," Schumer asserted.



US Vice President Kamala Harris speaks to members of the media after presiding over a vote on a sweeping voting rights bill at the Capitol in Washington, DC.

Democrats hold the tie-breaking vote in the evenly divided Senate.

However, all its members had to vote favorably for the measure, and at least 10 Republicans would have to join.

Sen. Joe Manchin (D-West

Virginia) had preemptively broken ranks with the party and said he would vote against the "For the People Act."

Party leaders spent considerable time negotiating a com-

See VOTING, on page 2

Louisiana Sen. Cleo Fields, education leaders hail signing of mandatory kindergarten bill



en. Cleo Fields, requires parents to send their children to kindergarten at age 5 or offer a home-school equivalent in Louisiana.



Rep. Jason Hughes said amendments made a mandatory kindergarten bill easier for parents.

BY ADRIAN DUBOSE
LSU Manship School News
Service

BATON ROUGE--Lawmakers gave final approval Wednesday to a bill that would make kindergarten mandatory in Louisiana.

Senate Bill 10 by Sen. Cleo Fields, D-Baton Rouge, requires parents to send their children to kindergarten at age 5 or offer a home-school equivalent in Louisiana.

The final version of the bill passed the House 70-32 and the Senate 38-0.

SB 10 will now go to the governor's desk. Gov. John Bel Edwards has said he will sign it into law.

Under the bill, a child who is five years old on or before September 30 must be enrolled in kindergarten unless a parent feels they are ready. In that, the parent may put the child in pre-k

or home-school.

Rep. Jason Hughes, D-New Orleans brought the bill back to the House floor after a House-Senate conference committee made amendments.

Some lawmakers raised concerns about compulsory attendance laws and options for if a child is not ready for kindergarten in the parents' opinion.

"We addressed all the concerns that were raised," said Hughes. "I think that this bill is more parent friendly as amended than it's ever been."

The bill will protect any parents who decide to defer enrolling their child in kindergarten from possible jail time or losing their child.

The bill does not prevent children from bypassing kindergarten. A child may bypass kindergarten if they take a first-grade readiness screening test to advance to first grade.

EBR Metro Council approves \$20 million in drainage projects

BATON ROUGE, La. - The East Baton Rouge Metro Council has approved \$20 million in drainage projects to begin right away.

Work includes:

- Channel clearing and grubbing
- Roadside drainage cave-ins
- Roadside ditch cleaning
- Lined canal panel repairs
- Engineering/project management

The project is set to begin on Thursday, June 24.

The storm master plan presentation will also be talked about on Thursday, June, 24 and those interested in learning more about the plan can attend the virtual meeting by visiting <https://stormwater.brba.gov/>.

The first of its kind master plan provides a specific analysis of water, the moment it enters EBR to the moment it leaves.

See PROJECT, on page 2

Supreme Court Upholds Obamacare

BY STACY M. BROWN,
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

In a significant victory for the Biden-Harris administration and Americans who depend on affordable health care, the Supreme Court rejected the latest challenge to President Obama's signature legislation.

The challenge stemmed from whether the individual mandate could be cut from the rest of the



law or whether the justices should strike down the entire law.

Former President Trump made it his mission to get rid of the law, which has provided millions of Americans with access to affordable health care, particularly during the coronavirus pandemic.

The court ruled 7-2, with

Justice Stephen Breyer writing for the majority, striking down a lower court ruling and determining that the plaintiffs — Texas and 17 other GOP-led states — did not show that they have the standing to bring the initial suits.

"We conclude that the plaintiffs in this suit failed to show a concrete, particularized injury fairly traceable to the defendants' conduct in enforcing the specific

See OBAMACARE, on page 3

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WEATHER

	MON. 06/28 Sunny High 88°.
	TUE. 06/29 Partly Cloudy High 87°.
	WED. 06/30 Mostly Cloudy High 88°.
	THUR. 07/01 Scattered storms High 73°.

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CBC Statement on the Announcement of a Select Committee to investigate the January 6th Capitol Insurrection

WASHINGTON - The Congressional Black Caucus applauds Speaker Pelosi's announced plans to create a Select Committee to investigate the January 6th Capitol Insurrection.

Our Members, many of whom were in the House Chamber and others who were in their offices across the Capitol Complex, witnessed, first hand, the unprecedented attack on the seat of our Democracy by racist, white domestic terrorists.

The unwillingness of Republicans in the Senate to join us in seeking answers around this horrific event, sends a strong message to those who were involved and

those who may consider similar actions in the future. It sends a message of disregard for the institutions of our Democracy... it sends a message of disregard for their colleagues and the staff who support our Democracy, and it sends a message that violence driven by racism and white supremacy is somehow ok.

See CBC, on page 3

President Donald Trump supporters storm into the U.S. Capitol in Washington Jan. 6 during a rally to contest the certification of the 2020 presidential election.



STATE & LOCAL

BRPD chief attends White House meeting on crime prevention

BATON ROUGE, La. - Baton Rouge Police Chief Murphy Paul was one of the attendees for a meeting with President Joe Biden at the White House on reducing gun violence and violent crime on Wednesday, June 23.

Chief Paul and other officials from around the country met with Biden and US Attorney General Merrick Garland to discuss ways the current administration is working to keep cities and neighborhoods safe.

The Biden-Harris Administration announced a comprehensive strategy to combat gun violence and other violent crime. This strategy implements preventative measures that are proven to reduce violent crime and attacks the root causes - including by addressing the flow of firearms used to commit crimes.

The Administration's comprehensive strategy will:

- Stem the flow of firearms used to commit violence, holding rogue firearms dealers accountable
- Add federal tools and resources to local law enforcement to fight summer spike in violent crime
- Community violence intervention investments
- Expanding summer programs, jobs, services for teens, young adults.
- Help re-entry programs for formerly incarcerated individuals.



Baton Rouge Police Chief Murphy Paul

This strategy will use funding from the American Rescue Plan and clear guidance to help state, local, territorial, and tribal governments get the money they need to put more police officers on the beat.

President Biden announced that the administration will convene and support a CVI Collaborative of 14 jurisdictions.

Baton Rouge is one of the 14 committing to use a portion of its ARP funding or other public funding to increase investment in its CVI infrastructure, including to anticipate and respond to the potential rise in violence this summer.

The administration will meet with people from Baton Rouge and the 13 other jurisdictions over the next 18 months.

VOTING from page 1

promise with Sen. Manchin on amendments he proposed. "I think we put out an awful lot of good changes, I think, hopefully, the country would agree," Sen. Manchin said ahead of the vote. He said the changes "makes a lot of sense for a lot of voters."

Before Democrats accepted Sen. Manchin's amendments, he expressed a reticence to vote for the legislation.

"Some in my party have argued that now is the time to discard such bipartisan voting reforms and embrace election reforms and policies solely supported by one party. Respectfully, I do not agree," a defiant Sen. Manchin wrote in an op-ed in the Charleston Gazette-Mail newspaper in West Virginia.

Ironically, Republicans used the filibuster to torpedo the "For the People Act," but Sen. Manchin steadfastly has ignored cries to eliminate or modify the rule.

"I will not vote to weaken or eliminate the filibuster," the moderate Senator wrote.

With voter suppression bills passing in Florida, Georgia, Texas, and other GOP-led states, many Democrats in the Senate and President Joe Biden had hoped the "For the People Act" would override restrictive legislation.

The bill addresses voter ac-

cess, election integrity, election security, political spending, and ethics for the three branches of government.

It would expand voter registration and voting access and limit removing voters from voter rolls.

Among other provisions, the bill provides for states to establish independent, nonpartisan redistricting commissions.

It sets provisions related to election security, including sharing intelligence information with state election officials, protecting the safety of the voter rolls, and supporting states in securing their election systems.

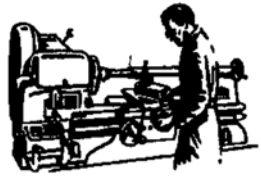
The "For the People Act" develops a national strategy to protect the security and integrity of U.S. democratic institutions, establishes in the legislative branch the National Commission to Protect United States Democratic Institutions, and other provisions to improve the cybersecurity of election systems.

Even former President Barack Obama jumped into the fray this week to criticize opponents of the "For the People Act."

"Think about this: In the aftermath of an insurrection, with our democracy on the line and many of the same Republican senators going along with the notion that somehow there were irregularities and problems with

See VOTING, on page 3

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McMeans testifies during U.S. House Agriculture Committee hearing

Chancellor-Dean Orlando McMeans of the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center on Wednesday participated in the U.S. House Agriculture Committee's hearing on 1890 Land Grant Universities.

The hearing, "1890 Land Grant Institutions: Investing for Agricultural Resiliency, Equity, and Global Impact," focused primarily on seeking solutions to continue better supporting the 1890 Universities, addressing historic inequalities in federal support, and ensuring the universities' continued success. 1890 University leaders are working with Congress on including HBCU infrastructure improvements in whatever package emerges this year.

"I say with confidence the 1890s are an indispensable resource," McMeans said. "It is projected that the world's population will continue to grow and will reach nearly 10 billion by 2050. We have to feed these people. The 1890 scholarship program is an investment in human capital for the food and agriculture industries. Supporting federal USDA capacity funding in an investment in addressing issues related to COVID-19, climate change and socially disadvantaged farmers. Investing in and supporting 1890s in an investment in not only the food security and sustainability of the U.S., but globally as well."

Other witness participants will Makola Abdullah, chair of the 1890 Council of Presidents and president of Virginia State University; Paul Jones, vice chair of the 1890 Council of Presidents and president of Fort Valley State University; Heidi Anderson, president of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore; and Tony Allen, president of Delaware State University.

Also as part of the hearing,



Chancellor-Dean Orlando McMeans of the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center on Wednesday participated in the U.S. House Agriculture Committee's hearing on 1890 Land Grant Universities.

several university presidents offered recorded appreciation of the committee and highlighted their respective campuses.

On behalf of our students, faculty, staff, alumni and communities, I would like to thank Chairman David Scott and members of Congress for your support of our 1890 Universities," said Ray L. Belton, president of the Southern University System and chancellor of Southern University and A&M College. "The investments in agriculture, scholarships and more have been critical for us as we maintain our first-class academic programs and community outreach. We are honored to be named as one of four Centers of Excellence, where we will address diet-related health disparities in African-Americans through nutrition research, teaching and extension. Again, thank you for your commitment to our institutions and to our great nation."

The 1890 land-grant institutions are Historically Black Colleges and Universities that were es-

tablished under the Second Morrill Act of 1890. The National Institute of Food and Agriculture's 1890 land-grant institutions programs are intended to strengthen research, extension and teaching in the food and agricultural sciences by building the institutional capacities of the 1890 Institutions.

Thanks to the efforts of various members of the Committee, the 2018 Farm Bill included mandatory funding for scholarships to 1890 institutions, established six Centers of Excellence to be led by 1890 universities, and corrected an inequity in the carryover of extension funds from year to year.

The 1890 land-grant system consists of the following 19 universities: Alabama A&M, Alcorn State University, Central State University, Delaware State University, Florida A&M University, Fort Valley State University, Kentucky State University, Langston University, Lincoln University, North Carolina A&T State University, Prairie View A&M University, South Carolina State University, Southern University, Tennessee State University, Tuskegee University, University of Arkansas Pine Bluff, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Virginia State University and West Virginia State University.

PROJECT from page 1

Every drainage structure, canal, and ditch in EBR was surveyed as part of the master plan. The master plan will provide critical data for future drainage projects in EBR.

BILL from page 1

tomatically scheduled when the governor shoots down legislation but the session is only held if there is a majority of the House and Senate agree to it.

According to the governor, another reason he used his veto power in this case is the NCAA would likely not allow the 2022 Final Four to be played in New Orleans if the bill became a law.

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New hospital to provide inpatient mental health treatment



BATON ROUGE, La. - Oceans Healthcare has opened a new behavioral health hospital. Oceans Behavioral Hospital Baton Rouge is Oceans' third location that expands access to behavioral health services.

It's located at 7855 Howell Boulevard in north Baton Rouge.

The new 40-bed hospital will provide treatment for mature adults who are managing challenges associated with post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, depression and other forms of mental illness.

The facility will provide inpatient care, including individual and group therapies, medication management, mental health education and treatment for co-occurring health issues, under the supervision of board-certified or board-eligible psychiatrists. Patients will also have access to Oceans' intensive outpatient program.

This comes with rising rates of depression, anxiety and substance abuse, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a negative effect on mental health and many seniors have been disproportionately affected. Louisiana ranks among the top five states in the

nation with the highest percentage of adults reporting symptoms of anxiety or depression, and more than 44% of Louisiana adults with a serious mental illness did not receive treatment in the past year.

The opening of a new hospital campus brings Oceans Baton Rouge's total bed count to 60.

The Oceans network also includes Oceans Behavioral Hospital Baton Rouge South, located at 11135 Florida Boulevard, and an intensive outpatient program that will relocate to the flagship campus in the coming months.

CBC from page 1

Despite the unwillingness of our Senate GOP colleagues to collaborate on this issue, Speaker Pelosi and House Democrats will aggressively lead the way in acting to defend our Democracy. The CBC joins Speaker Pelosi in hoping that Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy appoints responsible Members from his Conference to this Committee and we look forward to a Member of the CBC serving on this important body.

VOTING from page 2

legitimacy in our most recent election, they're suddenly afraid to even talk about these issues and figure out a solution on the floor of the Senate," Obama said during a tele-town hall with former Attorney General Eric Holder and grassroots activists about the bill. "That's not acceptable."

The 44th president continued:

See **VOTING**, on page 5

Southern among 14 HBCUs to 'travel' on Boeing spacecraft in NASA mission



Cargo has been placed inside the Orbital Flight Test-2 vehicle prior to launch to the International Space Station. Credit: John Proferes

The deep legacy of Southern University and 13 fellow Historically Black Colleges and Universities will be onboard Boeing's CST-100 Starliner as it embarks on its second mission to orbit for NASA's Commercial Crew Program. Flags, small pennants and other items representing select HBCUs from throughout the U.S. will be part of the hundreds of pounds of cargo inside the uncrewed spacecraft for Orbital Flight Test-2 (OFT-2).

"Closing representation gaps in our company and our industry is a priority for Boeing, and inspiring diverse students

to pursue careers in aerospace is an important part of that effort," said Boeing president and CEO David Calhoun. "By representing HBCUs on our Starliner mission, we are demonstrating our commitment to working with these institutions to advance equity and inclusion and help ensure a bright future for their students."

In addition to Southern, represented universities — with which Boeing also has a recruiting relationship — are Allen University in South Carolina, Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse College and Spelman College, part of the Atlanta

University Center Consortium; Alabama A&M University; Florida A&M University; Howard University in Washington, D.C.; Morgan State University in Maryland; North Carolina A&T; Prairie View A&M University in Texas; South Carolina State University; Tennessee State University and Tuskegee University in Alabama.

Southern and Boeing in September 2020 signed an 18-month NASA Mentor-Protégé agreement to work together on NASA's Space Launch System (SLS) program. Boeing will provide tactical business and technical support to Southern

University to improve its ability to win NASA contracts and subcontracts. The university already supplies alumni engineering skills to Boeing for SLS at NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans. The SLS is the world's most powerful rocket. It will launch NASA's Artemis missions to the moon, Mars and beyond.

For more on the Starliner launch, which is slated to occur in late July, visit <http://www.boeing.com/features/2021/06/flags-from-hbcus-part-of-precious-starliner-cargo-flying-to-space.page>

LSU offers vaccination incentives for students, staff

BATON ROUGE, La. - LSU has announced that students and staff who receive the COVID-19 vaccine will be eligible for weekly drawings.

The announcement was made on Tuesday, June 22 from the university.

To be eligible for the drawings students and staff need to receive at least one dose of the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, or the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

The first drawing will be on Wednesday, June 23.

Weekly prizes include: Apple products, LSU gear and other incentives.

For additional information visit <https://www.lsu.edu/roadmap/vaccines/incentives.php>

4th Annual Baton Rouge Soul Food Festival

BATON ROUGE, La. - The 4th Annual Baton Rouge Soul Food Festival is happening this weekend in Downtown, Baton Rouge.

The two-day festival will be held Saturday, June 26 from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, June 27 from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at River Front Plaza located at 300 River Road South.

The event is family friendly and free to the public and will feature arts, crafts, clothing sales, soul food vendors with tasty treats, and even a judged soul food cooking contest.

You can even look forward to a continuous serenade during a slew of soulful performances including gospel, contemporary Christian, jazz, soul, blues, R&B and reggae artists.

OBANACARE from page 1

statutory provision they attack as unconstitutional," wrote Justice Breyer.

"They have failed to show that they have the standing to attack as unconstitutional the Act's minimum essential coverage provision. Therefore, we reverse the Fifth Circuit's judgment in respect to standing, vacate the judgment, and remand the case with instructions to dismiss," the Justice continued.

"We do not reach these questions of the Act's validity ... for Texas and the other plaintiffs in this suit lack the standing neces-

sary to raise them.

Reportedly, 31 million Americans have health coverage connected to the Affordable Care Act — also known as Obamacare.

Also, a guarantee of access to continuous insurance coverage is protected for more than 54 million people with preexisting conditions because of the health care law's provisions that prevent insurance companies from canceling or refusing to establish policies because of pre-existing conditions.

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RELIGION

“Fear Not, For I Am With You”

BY CREFLO DOLLAR

Have you ever wanted more than anything else to say or do something that was weighing on your heart, but fear stopped you? At one time or another, we've all bumped up against fear's cold, icy grip. It can stop us from having the courage to do what we know is right, and from achieving our dreams. The good news is that God knows all about this force, and we can overcome it when we rely on Him.



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We can be tormented by fear of failure, fear of death, fear of financial trouble, fear of crime, or the fear of anything else; it can shut us down and paralyze us if we let it. Fear isn't just a feeling—it's actually a powerful spirit. It preys on our minds. This evil spirit isn't from God, and it can be defeated. “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind” (2 Timothy 1:7, NKJV).

God has blessed us with strong minds; we can trust Him to give us divine protection against the inevitable spiritual attacks that will come our way. What we receive from Him is a type of power that only those who rely on God in all areas of

their lives can understand. He is the essence of love itself; when we believe that living in safety against danger is His will for us, we find peace. “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love” (1 John 4:18).

God's reassuring message to us is that we don't have to live in fear; this is so important to Him that He repeats it multiple times throughout the Scriptures. He knows there will be situations in life that can frighten us, but He delivers us from every scary scenario. “I sought the Lord, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears” (Psalm 34:4). As God's children, we accept by faith

the promises He made to us. Our heavenly Father won't let the spirit of fear terrorize us. “For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, ‘Abba, Father.’ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God” (Romans 8:15, 16, NKJV).

We must be careful not to succumb to fear because often the thing we're most afraid of is what materializes in our life. This is not to say that we'll never feel fear. Even Jesus felt it from time to time, because He was fully human; however, He refused to let it control Him. The key is to entrust everything—even what we dread the most—to God.

“The fear of man brings a snare, but whoever leans on, trusts in, and puts his confidence in the Lord is safe and set on high” (Proverbs 29:25, AMP).

In the Old Testament, when God tested Job's faith, Job admitted that what he was most afraid of had come to pass. He cursed the day God gave him life and began to feel sorry for himself (Job 3:1-26). God had to remind Job that He was above everything, even the evil that can befall anyone. The next time fear jumps out at us, having confidence that God's hand is mightier than anything that comes at us helps us defeat it.

We Are Stronger Together, Lessons from a Football Field

BY DR. TONY EVANS

I live in Dallas so Super Bowl XLV was more exciting than most to me since it was held here in Dallas. Not only that but the Steelers invited me to come and deliver the chapel service message the night before the big game. The atmosphere was electric.

Anyone who knows me knows that I love football. One reason I love football is because football is pregnant with illustrations, and—as you know—preachers love illustrations. Another reason I love football is because it is a place unlike many others where a player's distinct attributes are able to be expressed displaying strength, determination, self-control, skill and power in concert with others forming a collective impact without the denial of individual contribution.

Football is oneness in action. When played well, it is unity on display. Players come from different races and different backgrounds. However, when they get on the field, they harmonize their differences toward a common goal. They do this because the goal is larger than their individual preferences. The moment that a player's individuality becomes more important than the team, he is of no use to his

team. But the moment that his individuality loses its unique skills and attributes, he is also of no use to his team.

God has a team. It's made up of African-American, Anglo, Hispanic, Asian, Middle Eastern, and a variety of other people and cultures. He never wants you to make your distinction, your history or your background so precious to you that it messes up His team. Nor does He want you to ignore or diminish your distinction, your history or your background, thus leaving little individuality with which to contribute to His team.

The reason is that God has a goal. He has an agenda—a kingdom agenda. He has given us the playbook for His kingdom agenda, and it is called the Bible. He has done this so that we, when executing His plays, will put His glory on display. One way this occurs is when the world looks on and sees brothers and sisters in Christ huddling together across racial, cultural, and generational lines.


See TOGETHER, on page 6



Dr. Tony Evans

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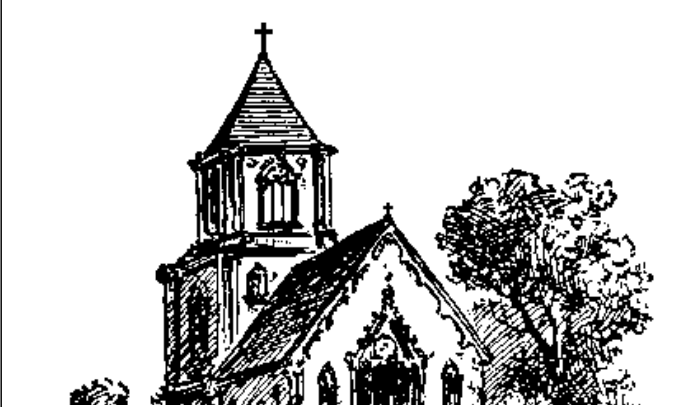
Hour of Power	12 Noon Each Wednesday
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Church Service	9:00am
Communion Service	2nd Sunday 9:00am
Bible Study Wednesday	7:00pm
Sister/Brotherhood Meeting	6:00pm



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Rev. Tiffanie C. Postell, Associate Pastor

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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.

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 HOLY COMMUNION Every 3rd Sunday at 11:30 A.M.	 HOURLY OF POWER Every Friday at 12 NOON


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

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Web Address: saintjohnbc.org



Dr. Donald Ruth, Pastor

Worship Times:
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Sunday Worship Experience: 11:00 AM
Uplift Training: Thursdays 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM



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Websites: www.newhopebr.com

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

BUSINESS

LCCF Announces Small Business Micro Loan & Grant Program

NEW ORLEANS – The Louisiana Chamber of Commerce Foundation Inc. (LCCF) announced today that it is accepting applications for a new micro loan and grant program.

The program is sponsored by BP and made possible through partnership with the U.S. Black Chambers, Inc. (USBC), LCCF, and Beaufort County Black Chamber

of Commerce. The USBC Small Business Micro Grant & Loan Program 2021 will help small businesses recover from the economic impact of recent storms.

“The USBC is proud to have BP’s commitment and support to help provide much needed capital to Black Owned Businesses as we navigate our way through the pandemic. We



are equally proud of our affiliate chambers such as the Louisiana Chamber of Commerce Foundation Inc. (LCCF) in their efforts to lead in their local markets.” Phillip W. Dunn, USBC Program

Manager Only businesses located in Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi are eligible to apply. The grant awards up to \$3,000 and loan amounts up to \$10,000. The

funds may be used for marketing promotion, machinery and equipment, operating capital for hiring or expanding offices, and/or leasehold improvements for current or new office/retail

space. Apply today at www.usblackchambers.org/usbc-micro-loan-grant-program or call the Louisiana Chamber of Commerce Foundation Inc. at 504-655-7572.

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VOTING from page 3

“Whatever else we may argue about, the one thing we should agree on the bedrock idea that we as Americans have been taught to take pride in, this is the fact that

we’re a democracy. “The issue of voting rights might not set off alarms for most of us. The violence that occurred in the U.S. Capitol on January 6

should remind us we can’t take our democracy for granted.”

Georgia Democratic Senator Raphael Warnock insisted that his colleagues on both sides of the aisle should protect democracy.

“Protecting the sacred right to vote doesn’t just help secure

our democracy. It helps ensure a future in which Americans can come together to solve our nation’s challenges,” Sen. Warnock stated.

“Congress cannot stand idly by as efforts to suppress voters’ voices are being enacted.”

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PUBLIC NOTICE Request or Proposal Baker Microtransit Pilot program Solicitation #2021-BakerMicrotransit-004

The Capital Area Transit System (CATS), a political subdivision of the State of Louisiana, operating the public transit system in EBR Parish is accepting Proposals for Baker Microtransit Pilot program. Sealed proposals are due to CATS Procurement Department by July 21, 2021 at 10:00 am (local time) at 2250 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70802. A copy of this RFP can be found on CATS website at: <http://www.brcats.com/page/procurement>.

Proposers may submit written questions to: catsprocurement@brcats.com until Wednesday, June 30, 2021. Proposers are reminded to check CATS website often for addendums issued to this RFP. CATS is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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SPORTS

Mike Hoss to become voice of the New Orleans Saints

Mike Hoss figured there wouldn't be a second chance.

He'd wanted to be "The Voice of the New Orleans Saints" – i.e., the play-by-play announcer for Saints games on WWL (WWL-AM/FM), the team's flagship station – when longtime play-by-play legend Jim Henderson retired after the 2017 season, having logged 31 seasons.

But when Saints offensive tackle Zach Strief entered the mix for the job, after having retired in 2017 following an 11-year career with New Orleans, even Hoss knew the fit was a good one.

"When Zach threw his name into the ring, I told WWL radio, 'You know what I'd do? I'd hire Zach,'" Hoss said. "Just let us (other applicants) get out of this thing."

"He was the right guy for the job at the time. It was perfect. I'm just wholly supportive of the Zach hire. So I kind of felt like, you know what, that was my one shot at the apple. Because these jobs are like judges – they don't come up very often."

This one came up again this year, when Strief joined the Saints' as assistant offensive line coach. This time, Hoss got the apple; he will join color analyst Deuce McAllister in the booth.

"I'm excited," McAllister said. "I'm excited about the opportunity, just to have someone as far as what Mike has done over his career. When you hear his voice, you know exactly who it is. So I think that's going to really resonate with the fans and connect with the fans."

"It's always a challenge to be able to paint the picture, so we have a lot of work to do even before gameday. But you're excited to be able to bring the game to the fans."

Hoss has been in New Orleans since 1989, when he joined WWL-TV. He spent 12 years in



Mike Hoss named play-by-play announcer for New Orleans Saints radio broadcasts

the sports department and in 2000, moved from sports to the news side at WWL-TV. In March 2017, he launched Hoss Communications and also was hired by the Saints to do sideline work for home games.

"When I first got into broadcasting, when you're in college and you're a sports anchor, (being a team's play-by-play announcer) is the dream job," Hoss said. "And so, you go around and around and you'd work and you'd do a lot of things, and you rarely get a shot at the apple. But I did in 2018 when Jim retired. So, I went through the process then."

"And so when Zach went back to the Saints, I was first stunned like everybody else. But since I had

just been through the process, we were able to reconnect and get a second chance. But it's been something that's been in my head since I got into broadcasting. It's what you kind of initially aspire to. The fact that I'm to do it so many years after graduation and getting into broadcasting, that's the remarkable part. It doesn't usually happen that way."

Now that it has, Hoss is ready to dive in. He understands the preparation process, having been a part of it during his time at WWL-TV. And he understands that he'll have to develop chemistry with McAllister, who will be working with his third play-by-play man in five years.

"The next two months will be me doing games in my closet," Hoss said. "You've just got to do it, do it, do it, do it, do it, do it. I've listened to a lot of the Zach and Deuce games on the radio from last year and years past. You get a feel of it."

"The play-by-play guy, there's a finite amount of time that you speak. You kind of lay out the play and paint the picture, and then it's Deuce, and then it's back to you. It's a dance. I can never be Jim Henderson. I can never be – I don't know the game like Zach knows it, he's forgotten more than I'll ever know."

SWAC mourns the passing of Grambling State's "The VOICE", Leon Thomas III.

GRAMBLING, La.- The Southwestern Athletic Conference is deeply saddened by the passing of Grambling State's Leon Thomas III, who was The VOICE of the World Famed Tiger Marching Band for many years.

Leon was a pioneer that made selfless and immeasurable contributions to not just Grambling State University, but specifically to the "World Famed". Whether he was announcing a G-Men football game, halftime for the World Famed Tiger Marching Band, Calendar Girl Pageant, or other Grambling events, you felt his love for Grambling State University.

He was a trailblazer in the industry of entertainment and announcing. His voice resonated in stadiums and arenas bouncing from beam to beam, scoreboard to scoreboard, and from the press box to the 50-yard line. Fans were always on the edge of their seats waiting to hear him

leap from language to language just to describe the "World Famed". His introduction became one of the most exhilarating introduction of all time.



Leon Thomas III

Leon served in many different capacities even during the national pandemic and NCAA dead period in 2020. He joined the forces of the GSU Sports Information Department in April 2020 and created a monumental masterpiece during the national pandemic.

The collaboration resulted in creating a weekly sports podcast on Instagram live called "Rollin' with the G" which highlighted recent alumni who achieved greatness not only in competition, but also those who were successful after college in their specific profession.

TOGETHER from page 4

But just like in an NFL football game, the huddle is not the play. The huddle accomplishes nothing on its own. In fact, if the huddle lasts much longer than twenty-five seconds, those watching will lose interest and complain, because that's not what they paid seventy-five dollars a ticket to come and see. Instead, they want to see what difference the huddle will make. They want to know, now that you've huddled, can you score? They want to witness what you are going to do as a team with the eleven other men on the other side of the ball daring you to go public with your private conversation.

Our nation doesn't need to

see any more huddles by the body of Christ. What people need to see is the church of Jesus Christ, made up of men and women from all backgrounds and cultures, scoring touchdowns for the kingdom of God. This can only be accomplished when embracing oneness enables us to make God's purposes and God's agenda more important than our own individuality and preferences while not negating the same.

What God wants is for us to live by His rules, resulting in the receiving of His blessing and power. When we as Christians, celebrating our differences, join together as the house of God representing the kingdom of God for the glory of God, we get to experience the power and impact of oneness.

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