

# The Weekly Press

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 13-19, 2020

A PEOPLE'S PUBLICATION

VOL. 43 • NO.25 • FREE

LOCAL & STATE PG 2

SU AG CENTER TO HOST VIRTUAL TRAINING

LOCAL & STATE PG 3

TARA WICKER CANNOT RUN FOR MAYOR-PRESIDENT

BUSINESS PG 5

BR \$1 MILLION BUSINESS RECOVERY PROGRAM

## Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Foundation Elects Rose Hudson To Lead Board



Rose Hudson, president and CEO of Louisiana Lottery

BATON ROUGE, La. — Rose Hudson, president and CEO of Louisiana Lottery, was recently elected to serve as chair of the Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Foundation board. She will lead the group made up of community leaders elected to manage an endowment for improving the future of cancer care. Hudson has been on the Foundation board since 2019 and served on the Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center board for ten years.

Hudson is succeeding J. Gerard "Jerry" Jolly who will continue serving on the board as immediate past chair. Jolly, a retired partner of KPMG LLP, has served on the Foundation board since 2013. He has served as chair of the board since 2018.

"I want to thank Jerry for his many contributions to the Foundation board over the past several years," said Todd Stevens, president and CEO of Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center. "He has played an integral part in positioning and securing Mary Bird Perkins as the leading cancer care organization across the Gulf South. We are also excited for Rose Hudson to be stepping into the position as chair. She will

See HUDSON, on page 2

# Biden Announces Kamala Harris As Vice President Selection



Sen. Kamala Harris

Former Vice President Joe Biden

*Joe Biden, introducing Harris, says, 'I have no doubt that I picked the right person'*

WILMINGTON, Del. -- Presidential candidate Joe Biden picked US Senator Kamala Harris as his running mate on Tuesday after weeks of speculation.

Several candidates were vetted by Biden's team. Reported candidates include Susan Rice, Elizabeth Warren, Gretchen Whitmer, Karen Bass, Val Demings, Tammy Duckworth, Kaisha Lance Bottoms, Tammy Baldwin and Michelle Lujan Grisham.

Harris was an early candidate in the 2020 race for the White House. She dropped out of the

race last December.

She then endorsed Biden.

Harris previously held the office of California Attorney General from 2011 to 2017. Before that she was the district attorney of San Francisco.

Harris is married to attorney Douglas Emhoff and has two step-children.

Biden served as vice president of the United States under President Barack Obama. Before that, he was a senator representing Delaware for 36 years.

See SELECTION, on page 3

## FIRST WARD VOTERS ASSOC. Endorses Biden, Harris Democratic Presidential Ticket



Joseph A. Delpit

BATON ROUGE, La. — The Board of First Ward Voters Association reaffirms our commitment to serve for elections under the leadership of the first elected official from our community, the patriarch leader of our community, Joseph A. Delpit. He was elected to the City Parish Council in 1968 and has remained active in the development & progress of our city, state and nation. For decades, he has directly open doors of power and inclusiveness to all our elected & appointed officials.

He, along with other community leaders have welcomed First Ward Voters Association to join them, as they continue to be a voice for our people. We urge all our supporters to join us in electing the most capable persons to serve, and direct government toward our fullest community prosperity.

On this day we again join hands to wholeheartedly endorse the DEMOCRATIC PARTY TICKET OF BIDEN & HARRIS FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT!

First Ward Voters, since 1952

See TICKET, on page 3

## BR Chapter of the National Congress of Black Women Launch 2020 'Check The Box' Voter's Campaign

BATON ROUGE, La. — It is with great excitement that the Baton Rouge Chapter of the National Congress of Black Women, (NCBW) and its Chairwoman, Dr. Terri Byrd, announces its 2020 "CHECK THE BOX" VOTERS CAMPAIGN.

2020 will be an historic election and we are encouraging all register voters to get to the poll and CHECK THE BOX!

In honor of the 100 Years celebrating Women's Right to Vote, the NCBW will commemorate this historic event by launching a statewide media



Dr. Terri Byrd

CHECK THE BOX campaign. The community vibe video is a must see featuring personalities from the likes of hard working ordinary people, children, teenagers, and young adult to District Judges, Lawyers, Pas-tors, NAACP, Black Business Own-



ers, Fraternities, Sororities, and the list goes on and on and on!

The statewide CHECK THE BOX media campaign will kick off Wednesday, August 26th.

See CAMPAIGN, on page 2

### WEATHER

#### 5 Day Forecast BR Area

MON. 08/17  
Thunderstorms  
High 92°.

TUE. 08/18  
Mostly Sunny  
High 91°

WED. 08/19  
Mostly Sunny  
High 91°

THUR. 08/20  
Thunderstorms  
High 91°.

FRI. 08/21  
Thunderstorms  
High 89°.

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## ELECTION DAY REMINDERS

BATON ROUGE, La. — Secretary of State Kyle Ardoin is reminding everyone that Saturday, August 15 is Election Day. 38 parishes have parishwide and/or limited jurisdiction proposition elections, including: Acadia, Allen, Ascension, Avoyelles, Beauregard, Bossier, Calcasieu, Catahoula, Claiborne, Franklin, Grant, Iberia, Iberville, Jefferson Davis, Lafourche, LaSalle, Lincoln, Livingston, Madison, Morehouse, Plaquemines, Pointe Coupee,

Rapides, Red River, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne, Union, Vermilion, Washington, Webster, and West Baton Rouge. Six parishes have a run-off and parishwide/local proposition elections, including: Concordia, East Baton Rouge, Jefferson, Natchitoches, Ouachita, and St. Tammany. Three parishes have run-off elections only, including: East Feliciana, Evangeline, and Orleans.

In preparation for Saturday's Election, Secretary Ardoin encourages voters to remember:

■ Polls open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. Anyone in line at 8 p.m. will be allowed to vote.

■ Voters can find their polling location and sample ballot by downloading the GeauxVote Mobile app for smartphones or by visiting www.GeauxVote.com.

■ Voters can sign up for text alerts via GeauxVote Mobile.

■ Voters should bring an ID

with them to vote (Louisiana driver's license, Louisiana Special ID card, a generally recognized picture identification card with name and signature such as a passport or a digital license via LA Wallet). Voters without an ID will be required to fill out an affidavit but will be allowed to vote.

Election results can be viewed in real-time via GeauxVote Mobile or at www.sos.la.gov.

Due to COVID-19, some polling places located at nursing

homes, senior centers, or other senior-related locations have been moved in accordance with the Secretary of State's Emergency Election Plan. Parish registrars of voters have also notified affected voters by mail with their polling relocations. Parishes with polling location changes include Allen, Avoyelles, Beauregard, Catahoula, Jefferson, Madison, Natchitoches, Orleans, Ouachita, St. James, St.

See ELECTION, on page 3

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LOUISIANA MASK UP  
CORONAVIRUS.LA.GOV  
Get Serious LOUISIANA  
STOP COVID-19



# STATE & LOCAL

## Progress on City-Parish Drainage Improvement Programs

BATON ROUGE, La. – August 12, 2020 – The Department of Public Works announced Wednesday progress on two ongoing drainage improvement programs in East Baton Rouge Parish: the Total Spray Program and the Strategic Canal Cleaning Program.

**Total Spray Program**  
In May 2020, the Department of Maintenance finalized contracts to begin the Total Spray Program, which will use selective herbicide to reduce vegetation in 277 miles of canals across the parish. City-Parish owned canals will be sprayed three times per year, totaling 831 miles of canal maintenance annually, weather permitting.

“In East Baton Rouge Parish, we know we have to consider water management in everything we do. Our homes, our families, and our community depend on it,” said Mayor Broome. “The program will address 1,690 acres of City-Parish canals, so we can improve drainage and protect our community.”

The Total Spray Program includes 778 canal segments, which are separated into three major divisions – North, East, and South. The first round of spraying started on June 9, 2020. As of now, 182 canal segments have received their initial treatment. The goal is to complete the first round of spraying around Labor Day, weather permitting.

Track the Total Spray Program HERE.

**Strategic Canal Cleaning Program**

In addition to the Total Spray Program, the Department of Public Works is currently carrying out the Strategic Canal Cleaning Program. The City-Parish has identified critical canals across East Baton Rouge Parish, and is in the process of removing vegetation and sediment from these drainage ways.

Removing sediment and unnecessary vegetation will improve water flow and drainage capacity

throughout the parish. The Strategic Canal Cleaning Program includes the following drainage ways:

- Industriplex (Claycut Bayou) (Complete: see attached photos)
- Glenn Oaks (Roberts Canal)
- Badley Road (Monte Sano Bayou)
- Howell Park (Hurricane Creek)
- Catalina (Engineer Depot Canal)
- Florida Blvd @ Sam Dr (Jones Creek)
- Camelot & Percival (Jones Creek)
- Balis Dr (Dawson Creek)
- Burbank & Lee (Bayou Fountain)
- Bluebonnet & Jefferson (Claycut Bayou)
- Tiger Bend & Timberidge (Jacks Bayou)

The Strategic Canal Cleaning Program is estimated to last through the end of the year, weather permitting.

“The Department of Public Works is working to address drainage as quickly and as effectively as possible. Our goal is to address the problems that are facing the parish today, and create solutions that will improve our drainage infrastructure in the long run,” said Kelvin Hill, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer and Director of Public Works.

**Major Drainage Capital Projects**

Along with these two maintenance initiatives, there are also several capital projects underway to improve drainage in East Baton Rouge Parish including: The Stormwater Master Plan, The Comite River Diversion Canal, and The East Baton Rouge Flood Risk Reduction Project (5 Tributaries Project). These major projects will be in the works for the next few years, and will greatly reduce potential flood risk for many residents and businesses.

## SU Ag Center Set to Host Virtual Training Sessions on the Dangers of Tobacco Use



BATON ROUGE, La. – The Southern University Ag Center’s Communities of Color Network will host a “Conversation with Communities of Color Network... Tobacco and You,” a Facebook Live Series.

The series will be broadcasted on the Southern University Ag Center’s Facebook page at 11 a.m. on the following dates:

- August 13 - Did You Know...Your Smoke Can Make Me Sick?
- August 18 - What Do You Know About Tobacco?

• August 20 - Someone is talking about You: Real Quotes from Tobacco Executives, Part 2

• August 25 - What’s The Yellow Stain on Your Wall?

• August 27 - Smoking Breaks Your Heart!

“It is imperative that the Communities of Color Network continues to move forward in our efforts to educate and provide resources to the constituents of Louisiana especially during these unprecedented times,” said Linda Early Brown, Director of the Communities of Color Network.

“We will continue to bridge the gap, virtually as we fight to eradicate and/or reduce tobacco consumption within our communities,” added Brown.

The Communities of Color Network provides support and technical assistance to African-American communities to ensure they are well-informed about the dangers of tobacco, and understand how to protect themselves from unhealthy exposure.

Its mission is to eliminate health inequalities caused by or related to tobacco use among Louisiana communities of color by building coalitions, increasing awareness of the dangers of tobacco, and reducing tobacco consumption and secondhand smoke exposure.

## Appeals Court Rules Tara Wicker Cannot Run for EBR Mayor-President

BATON ROUGE, La. – The First Circuit Court of Appeals disqualified Councilwoman Tara Wicker from the race of East Baton Rouge mayor-president in a ruling Thursday, Aug. 13, citing a lack of evidence that she paid two years of state income tax returns before qualifying for the Nov. 3 election.

The appeals court’s decision overturns a district court judge’s Aug. 4 ruling that said she could run for mayor-president.

Wicker tells reporters that she will appeal the decision to the State Supreme Court.

Wicker will host a news conference to discuss the appeals court’s ruling at her campaign headquarters at approximately 3:30 p.m. Thursday, or after Governor John Bel Edwards finishes his COVID-19 response update. To read the court’s ruling visit



Councilwoman Tara Wicker

this link: [https://www.la-fcca.org/opiniongrid/opinionpdf/2020%20CE%200716%20Decision%20Appeal.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3E5pfPwXanqpDjNBHcEnArDO\\_bZngO\\_oSMJ5dOWv9E-wyO3fL-H8c16rY](https://www.la-fcca.org/opiniongrid/opinionpdf/2020%20CE%200716%20Decision%20Appeal.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3E5pfPwXanqpDjNBHcEnArDO_bZngO_oSMJ5dOWv9E-wyO3fL-H8c16rY)

### CAMPAIGN from page 1

We are asking the community to join us! We need everyone--both young and the young at heart--to help us make a mark on history by using your sphere of influence for good while creating sustainable changes that will go down in history! In addition, if a person has not registered to vote visit our website at [www.ncbwr.org](http://www.ncbwr.org) to access the link for online voters registration. Our goal is to register 800 voters!

NCBW was founded in 1984 by the late Hon. Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm and the late Hon. C. Delores Tucker with an enduring mission to “encourage women of color to seek elective office at all levels of government” the work

continues with over 100 NCBW chapters across the country led by National President, Dr. E. Faye Williams, with headquarters in Washington, D.C.

The NCBW Baton Rouge Chapter is committed to increasing the involvement of African American Women in spheres of education, politics, economics, health and social development. We are de-voted to developing 21st century youth leaders by educating, empowering and encouraging vivacious community involvement.

For more information, please visit our website [www.ncbwr.org](http://www.ncbwr.org) or contact Dr. Terri L Byrd, Chairwoman, National Congress of Black Women, Baton Rouge Chapter at [tlbyrd66@gmail.com](mailto:tlbyrd66@gmail.com).

### HUDSON from page 1

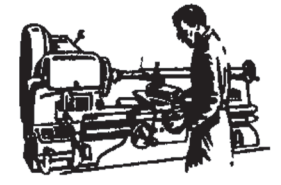
help us continue to build a firm foundation for the organization so that we can propel cancer care forward for generations to come.”

Steven J. Moore, Steven J. Moore, LLC, will continue to serve as vice chair and Paul R. Thompson, Morgan Stanley Wealth Management, will continue as secretary-treasurer.

Other board members include: Tee Brown, GMFS

Mortgage, LLC; Brett Furr, Taylor Porter Attorneys at Law; Jeanne James, community volunteer; Rolfe Miller, Miller Group Wealth Strategies of Raymond James; Rebecca Nelson, community volunteer; Joseph B. “Beau” Olinde, retired; David T. Perry, Arthur J. Gallaher Risk Management Services, Inc.; Donna Saurage, community volunteer; Todd D. Stevens, Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center; and Nathaniel Tannehill, Wampold Hospital-ity Collection.

### READER INFORMATION



**How to Reach Us**  
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#### 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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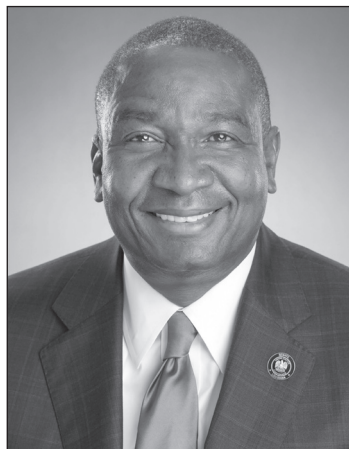
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## State Senator Fields Continues Work To Protect Louisiana's Student Athletes



State Senator Cleo Fields

State Senator Cleo Fields is urging the Louisiana High School Athletic Association (LHSAA) to adhere to their previously announced guidelines for the re-opening of fall student athletics.

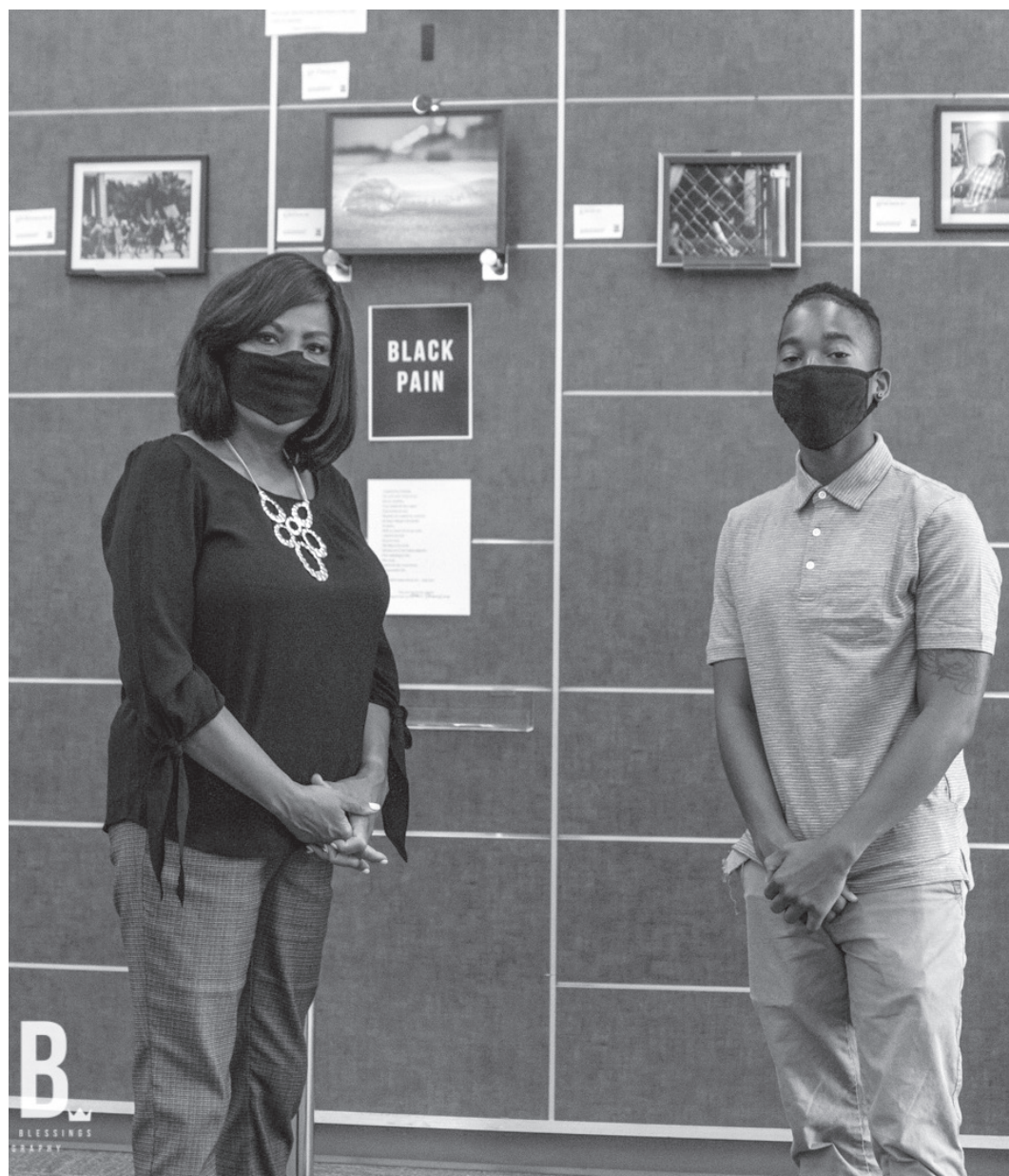
LHSAA Executive Director, Eddie Bonine, testified before the House Committee on Education on July 13, 2020, that high school football practice would not be allowed while the state was in Phase 2 of the governor's reopening plan. He also distributed the attached charts illustrating the association's plan. However, less than one month later, in a memo sent to member schools, LHSAA changed their policy. The attached LHSAA memo states that football practice will now be allowed for athletes wearing helmets and pads and could begin as early as August 3, 2020.

"LHSAA guidelines regarding fall football are irresponsible and are not in the best interest of our student athletes and their families," said Fields. "The reversal of their stated policy, while the state is still in Phase 2, is irresponsible and endangers the health and safety of our student athletes. In many parts of the state, students are still not in actual classrooms and are receiving virtual instruction, yet football practice is underway."

Fields says that, as evidenced by recent events and decisions regarding college football, there is simply no safe way to practice and play football while the state remains in Phase 2, especially as the COVID-19 case numbers continue to rise.

"From all available science and data, I see no justification for the LHSAA's decision to allow football practice at this time," stated Fields. "This underscores the reason why a private, nongovernmental entity with no public oversight should not serve as the final arbiter when making decisions regarding the health and safety of our children. These decisions should be made by local school boards in consultation with their medical experts."

## Discovering A Piece of Yourself in "Muse: Fade to Black"



Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome pose for picture with Antione Lacey

On July 21, 2020, Antione Lacey's photographic exhibit "Muse: Fade to Black" was honored by Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome at the Goodwood Library. From July 1st to July 31st, the exhibit was available for the general public to experience and "feel what the images express before their eyes." Nestled within the depth of Black life and culture, Antione segmented the pieces within his collection to represent "Black Love," "Black Pain," and "Black Joy."

Referring to his artistic inspiration, Antione mentioned that "I define my Blackness on

a deeply artistic and intensely spiritual level. Specifically, my journey as an African-American artist and all that I have overcome to get to where I am today. But, I first began exploring my identity through creative writing as a means to explore my Blackness in a very personal way through imagery, reflections, and observations. Yet, I created this photographic project to express the different levels of Blackness that resonate to me. Black culture is so vast in its nature. There are a plethora of layers, but I've only selected three of them to educate, enlighten, and engage viewers...

Black Pain, Black Joy, and Black Love."

For art lovers who missed the exhibit in July, it is now on display at the Bluebonnet Library until August 31st. Antione invites not only viewers from the African-American community to view his artwork, but anyone who wants to learn more about the multiplicity of the Black experience. He hopes that viewers will discover their own deeper meaning within each piece since, "It's not about what the camera sees in its lenses, rather it's about what your eye captures before I take the picture."

## SELECTION from page 1

After long-running speculation, Biden announced his candidacy for president on April 25. This was not the first time, however. This is Biden's third try, running unsuccessfully in 1988 and 2008.

Biden is running on the promise to rebuild the middle class. He wants to repeal Trump's tax cuts and push for a \$15/hr. minimum wage.

Biden has also proposed a new education plan that would help low-income area schools, assist teachers with student loans and add more health professionals to schools.

A healthcare plan that would expand Obamacare subsidies was

proposed by Biden last July. He said the plan would make private insurance policies available and more affordable. In addition, the plan would add a public option that people could buy into.

Both national conventions will be mostly virtual this year.

The Democratic convention is scheduled for four nights from August 17-20. Convention programming will air from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. CT.

Former first lady Michelle Obama is scheduled to speak at the opening of the convention. Others expected to speak include Barack

Obama, Sen. Bernie Sanders, Sen. Amy Klobachar, Sen. Chuck Schumer and many more.

The GOP convention - scheduled for Aug. 24 - 27 - has also been scaled back significantly. It will be a "business-only" convention with 336 delegates planning to attend.

President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence are expected to be re-nominated at the GOP convention.

If Biden and his VP pick are nominated at the Democratic National Convention as expected, they will face Trump and Pence in the Nov. 3 election.

## Secretary of State to Test Election Results for Aug. 15 Municipal General

BATON ROUGE, La. — Ahead of the upcoming August 15 election, Secretary of State Kyle Ardoin's office will test its electronic election results system today, August 11 at 2 p.m. During the test period, mock results will be displayed on the secretary of state's website. These election results are only for testing purposes and do not reflect any actual results.

Media outlets are strongly urged to test their election night broadcast systems, graphics and websites in conjunction with our testing so that any technical issues can be identified and remedied with assistance from the secretary of state's IT staff prior to election night. In an effort to combat misinformation, we urge outlets to put banners on their websites showing their readers/viewers that the results are only test results and not official.

In preparation for election night, media outlets should reserve their seat at the Secretary of State's Office if they are interested in watching results via our Elections Registration Information Network. This seat can also serve as a backup for your election night plans.

If any issues are encountered, to sign up for the XML feed or to reserve a seat at ERIN, please contact Tamisha Ashworth in the Communications Office at 225.362.5108 or tamisha.ashworth@sos.la.gov.

Finally, the Communications Office for Election Day will be staffed by Press Secretary Tyler Brey and Public Information Officer Tamisha Ashworth. Brey can be reached at 225.362.5086 (office), 443.605.7870 (cell) or tyler.brey@sos.la.gov. Ashworth can be reached at the information listed above.

## ELECTION from page 1

Mary, St. Tammany and Washington. The list of polling location changes can be viewed on the Secretary of State website here.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, our polling commissioners will be supplied with personal protective equipment and will regularly sanitize design-

ated areas and wipe down voting machines. Hand sanitizer will be provided to voters and masks are recommended, although not required.

For more information, contact our Elections Division at 800.883.2805 or elections@sos.la.gov.

## TICKET from page 1

has served as a clearing house for candidates and a voter recommendation organization serving the interest of citizens of this area in

particular, as well as Baton Rouge in general. FIRST WARD VOTERS has played a significant role in the creation of voter rights, equal employment, equal opportunity and shared economic benefits to all citizens in the community.

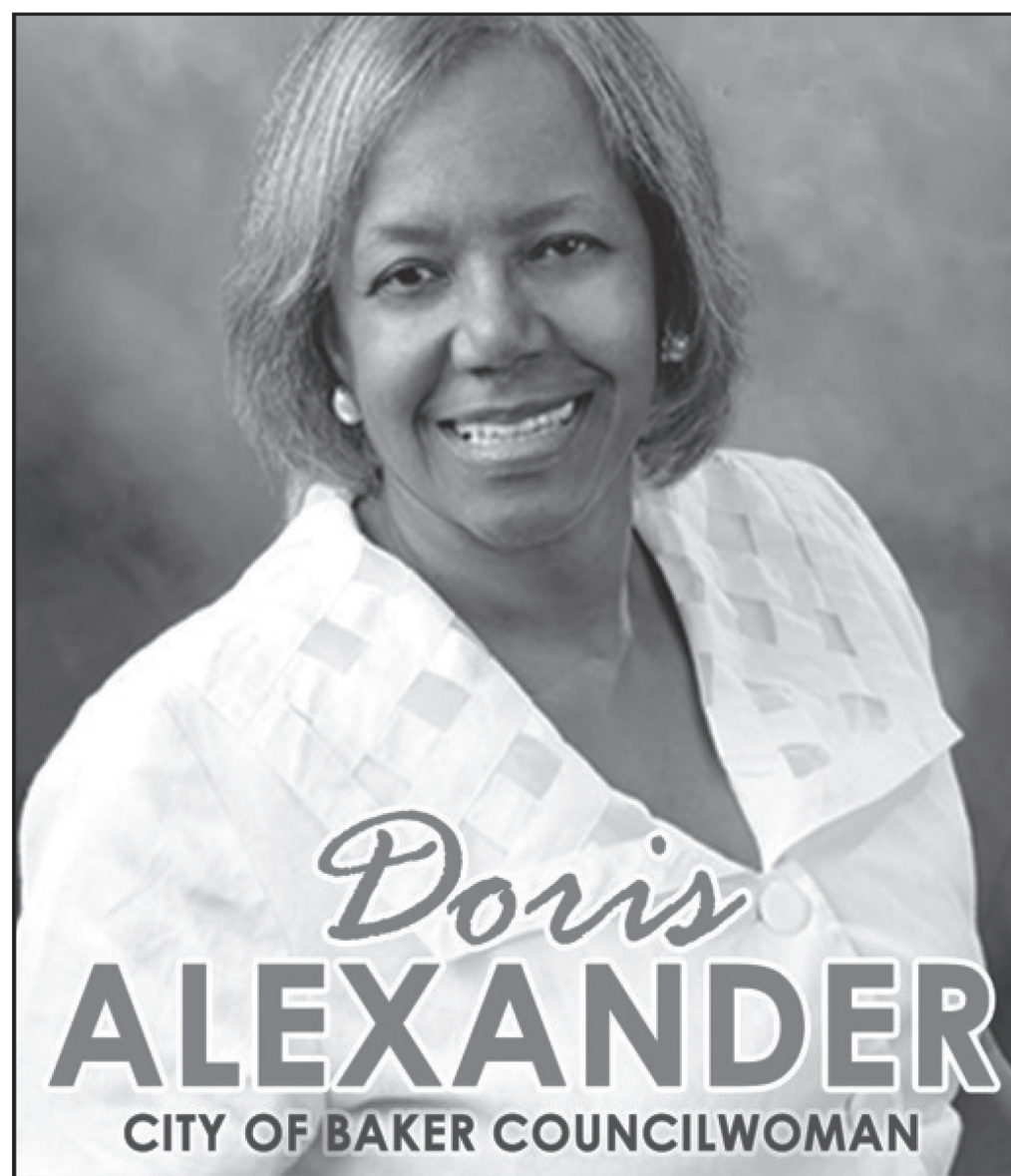
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# RELIGION

## Living By Faith In Today's World

by Creflo Dollar

Those of us who've been around awhile have most likely seen what the world can be like, and often, it's not pretty. Our parents did their best to instill a moral compass in us; however, when we grew up we often saw the exact opposite of what we knew was right. Confusion can come when we see society giving the nod to attitudes and behaviors we've been taught are wrong. Without a strong faith in God's Word, life can be discouraging.

Worldly morals and values are constantly changing, and basing our belief on them is like trying to walk on quicksand. When we consider marriage, personal relationships, gender identity, money, or anything else important to us, what was not okay yesterday is okay in the world today, but may change again tomorrow. Thankfully, biblical teachings on faith concerning God's eternal truths—something the world knows nothing about—keep us on track. "For we walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7).

People have a tendency to accept as real only what they can see and hear in the physical sense, disregarding anything that doesn't fit into the world's standards. However, there's more to reality than meets the eye. "Now faith is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality [faith



perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses]" (Hebrews 11:1, AMP). When we cling to the Word of God, our faith won't be shaken. The truth is the truth, no matter what lens the world uses to view what's going on around us.

Just because someone tells us something is true, no matter how authoritative they may seem, doesn't make it true. When we were growing up, our parents probably had to remind us occasionally that just because everyone else does something doesn't make it right. The world seems to have forgotten that, but God hasn't. His Word doesn't change. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines..." (Hebrews

13:8, 9, NKJV).

What establishes itself upmost in our minds is strongly influenced by what, or who, we focus our attention on. The devil is trying his hardest to get us to take our eyes off Jesus, and refocus on the turbulence going on all around us. He knows full well that if he can capture our attention, he can poison our thought process. We must resist what we know is wrong and sinful, no matter how much hostility this triggers from the world.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

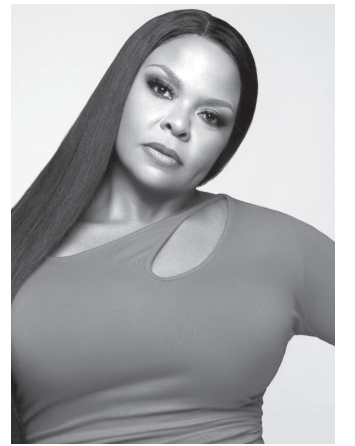
For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart (Hebrews 12:1-3, NIV).

Without faith in the Word, it's hard to endure life when we see perversions all around us. When everything seems backward, we know that Jesus will set it all right at the proper time. We can rest assured that God is still God.

For more on how standing in faith, regardless of what we see around us, keeps us strong and grounded in the truth, click on the link below for the four-message series, Resilient Faith.

## Tamela Mann Powerful New Single "Touch From You"

Award-Winning Artist, Accomplished Actress, Songwriter, Producer, and Businesswoman Tamela Mann is releasing her powerful new single, "Touch From You," today, Friday, August 7. The single, released by Tillymann Music and distributed by The Orchard, is impacting Gospel radio and available on streaming platforms and from digital retailers.



Tamela Mann

Propelled by the Grammy-Award winner's strong, passionate voice, the song, originally slated to release this fall, is meant to serve as healing for a hurting people left with fears, questions, and anxiety about what is happening in the world today. Tamela decided to release the song as a reminder that there is still love, hope and compassion in the world. BET Gospel, BET Her and BET Soul are premiering the new single's music video this Sunday, August 9.

"I hope this song will touch people, especially during the pandemic and civil unrest across the nation," Tamela says. "One part of the lyric goes, 'Can you hear

the voices of your people crying out?' People are crying out for so many different things. They're praying now more than ever. We need God's touch. We need the Lord to send a cleansing. We need a refreshing. We need to know the Lord is with us."

Tamela has always created art that encourages people and draws them closer to the Lord. Her hit-laden music career in-

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Pastor Patricia Hatch Haynes "A Woman Called By God With A Vision"

**Hope & Healing Outreach**  
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**CHURCH SCHEDULE**

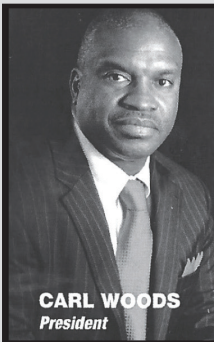
Sunday Morning Worship ..... 10:45 AM  
Lord's Supper ..... 3rd Sundays  
Sunday School ..... 9:30 AM  
Prayer Service ..... Wed. @ 6:00 PM  
Bible Study ..... Wed- @ 7:00 PM

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# BUSINESS

## Stein Mart Stores Are Closing

### See the Full List for Going-Out-of-Business Sales Online

Stein Mart is closing its entire brick-and-mortar fleet of stores.

The bankrupt discount chain announced today that it has authorized going-out-of-business sales by a joint venture made up of Gordon Brothers, Hilco Merchant Resources, Tiger Capital Group, B. Riley Financial's Great American Group and SB360 Capital Partners. The liquidation process, it said, is underway at all 279 locations across 30 states in the country.

Since Stein Mart is an off-price retailer, shoppers were already able to find apparel, footwear and accessories from popular labels including Anne Klein, Keds, Lucky Brand, New Balance and Skechers for men, women and children, as well as home decor and gifts, at up to 60% off department store prices. Now, as part of the liquidation sales, the company is offering savings of up to 30% off the lowest ticketed prices storewide, including back-to-school necessities and seasonal products.

Stein Mart's gift cards and loyalty rewards will be accepted



for a limited time. It added that store fixtures, furniture and equipment will also be sold at discounted prices as it undergoes liquidation.

"New merchandise arriving in stores, as well as customers' favorite familiar brands, are deeply discounted and will sell out quickly at these low prices," a spokesperson for the joint venture said in a statement. "We are encouraging shoppers to take advantage of Stein Mart's abundant assortment of merchandise at substantial price reductions before it's too late."

The 112-year-old retailer filed for Chapter 11 protection in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Florida, Jacksonville Division, on Wednesday. As part of proceed-

ings, it said it was evaluating strategic alternatives, including the potential sale of its e-commerce business and related intellectual property.

"The combined effects of a challenging retail environment coupled with the impact of the coronavirus pandemic have caused significant financial distress on our business," CEO and CFO Hunt Hawkins said in a statement accompanying the filing. "The company has determined that the best strategy to maximize value will be a liquidation of its assets pursuant to an organized going-out-of-business sale."



READ MORE of this story ONLINE at [www.brweeklypress.com](http://www.brweeklypress.com)

## BioLife Plasma Services Announces Opening of First Plasma Collection Center in Louisiana

BATON ROUGE, La. -- BioLife Plasma Services, part of the global biopharmaceutical company Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Limited, today announced the opening of a new plasma collection center in Baton Rouge to collect standard plasma from healthy donors.

"Now, more than ever, donors in the Baton Rouge area have a unique opportunity to make a difference in the community through plasma donation, and we are deeply committed to making treatment options available for patients who rely on plasma-derived medications," said Jason Kilpatrick, manager of the BioLife Plasma Services Baton Rouge center. "Plasma is a lifeline for thousands of people with rare, chronic and complex diseases, and we are excited to open the first BioLife plasma collection center in Louisiana."

Through a simple, low-risk process called plasmapheresis, plasma is separated from the blood and the blood elements are returned back into the donor's body. Screened plasma collected from healthy individuals is processed into a wide variety of therapeutics for people around the world with rare, life-threatening diseases, such as immunodeficiency dis-



orders, hemophilia and hereditary angioedema.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, BioLife Plasma Services has implemented additional screening and safety measures in line with public health guidance to help guarantee the safety and health of donors and employees, as well as the safety of the collected plasma. All donors will need to wear a mask or other cloth face covering inside a BioLife Plasma center.

Prospective donors can make online appointments to visit the Baton Rouge center (11620 Coursey Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70816), which opens on Saturday, August 8. They must pass a physi-

cal examination at their first visit and are screened at each visit to ensure they meet eligibility criteria. All donors are compensated for their time and commitment.

The Baton Rouge center is approximately 14,000 square feet, and the state-of-the-art facility provides access to free Wi-Fi and a clean, professional, smoke-free environment. The new center is the first BioLife center to open in Louisiana and expects to bring more than 60 new jobs to the community.

To learn more about BioLife Plasma Services, the donation process, and to schedule an appointment, please visit the BioLife website.

## Mayor Broome Launches \$1 Million Microgrant Program for Small Businesses

BATON ROUGE, La. – August 13, 2020 – Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome's Restart BR Task Force announced Thursday the launch of a \$1 million microgrant program for small businesses in East Baton Rouge Parish. The Resilient Restart EBR program is intended to help locally based small businesses who have been financially affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

The Resilient Restart EBR Program will support small businesses who are classified as low-to-moderate income individuals based on HUD guidelines, as well as, those who own and operate a business in a low-to-moderate income census tract in East Baton Rouge Parish.

Special consideration will be given to eligible minority-owned, women-owned, veteran-owned, and veteran service-disabled-owned firms.

"Small businesses and microenterprises account for nearly 80% of our local economy and employ many of our residents. The coronavirus pandemic placed an unprecedented financial burden on our businesses — many did not receive federal assistance from the Payroll Protection Program or SBA Loans," said Mayor Broome. "Through the collaboration of leaders in our community, we were able to join together and create a program to offer assistance to our small businesses when they need it most, and without the burden of repayment."

Qualifying microenterprises and small businesses who apply will receive one-time grants of \$2,500. The grant awards do not require repayment, and can be used for assisting with rent, utilities, inventory, accounts payable, fixed costs, employee wages, and benefits.

The \$1 million program's funding is derived from the CARES Act through the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant Program; the Louisiana Office of Community Development; Investar Bank; GMFS Mortgage; Urban League of Louisiana; ExxonMobil; and Postlethwaite & Netterville.

"The coronavirus pandemic presented unprecedented adversities to the State of Louisiana — especially the Baton Rouge community and its small business owners. Our community's recovery will take dedication and participation from both our state and our local government," said State Representative Ted James. "I am glad that the state could join Mayor Broome in her effort to provide support, and funding for our small businesses and microenterprises. This effort is helping us close the gap for our community."

"Investar Bank is proud to support Mayor-President Broome's new microgrant program to help small, minority-owned businesses. As part of the Mayor's Restart BR initiative, we hope other businesses join us and contribute so that the program can begin funding those businesses in need," said John D'Angelo, President and CEO of Investar Bank.

See PROGRAM, on page 6

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PUBLIC NOTICE  
Request for Proposals Drug and Alcohol Testing Services – Third Party Administrator Solicitation #2020-DrugAlcohol-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 Offers for Drug and Alcohol Testing Services. Sealed offers are due to CATS Procurement Department by September 8, 2020 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: <https://www.brcats.com/page/procurement>. Written questions will be accepted through August 21, 2020 via email at: [catsprocurement@brcats.com](mailto:catsprocurement@brcats.com). Offerors are reminded to check CATS website often for addenda and other important dates in reference to this RFP. CATS is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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## BRCC Prepares for Classes Starting on Aug. 17, Introducing Aggressive Safety Measures



BATON ROUGE, LA – Fall 2020 classes at Baton Rouge Community College begin on Monday, Aug. 17 with a variety of teaching formats in place, including online, in-person, and hybrid classes that will allow students to receive the necessary instruction in all available ways possible for their fields of study. This update comes after several months of planning course schedules and implementing aggressive safety measures, including masks/face covers and social distancing mandates, as well as smaller class sizes and access to professional grade cleaning supplies and proper PPE disposal.

“We couldn’t be more excited to welcome our students back for the fall semester. We are prepared and ready to assist all of our students with various offerings in different teaching formats. Remaining completely online just isn’t an option when you are educating the state’s next healthcare professionals, welders, and more,” said BRCC Chancellor Dr. Willie E. Smith. “Some classes must be taught in a hands-on format, while others like general education courses can properly function as online offerings. We also recognize some courses can be offered as a hybrid model that allows classroom instruction to take place virtually with labs happening in-person. Due to the variety of offerings and deliverance of them, our team has spent months crafting plans and opportunities for immeasurable growth to provide our students with the best accessibility possible during this very uncertain time.”

Students are invited to review BRCC’s back to campus plan at [www.mybrcc.edu](http://www.mybrcc.edu), and also view the Academic Calendar which highlights important dates for Fall 2020, including the various entry points for fall classes. Baton Rouge Community College offers a 15-week, 12-week, and two 7-week course options

### MANN from page 4

cludes such memorable songs as “Change Me,” “God Provides” and the unforgettable, platinum-selling classic, “Take Me to the King.” Tamela has earned numerous accolades for her music. In addition to scoring a Grammy, she is a BET-Award winner, Billboard Music-Award winner, Gospel Music Stellar-Award winner and multiple NAACP Image-Award and GMA Dove-Award recipient.

“Touch From You” is the centerpiece of a busy career that includes a new television show, Tyler Perry’s Assisted Living, which premieres September 2 on BET+ and finds Tamela and her husband, NAACP Image Award-Winning Actor/Comedian David Mann, reprising their roles as “Mr. Brown” and “Cora” originated in Perry’s successful “Madea” plays, films, and television series. The duo will also be seen in the broadcast adaptation of the wildly successful touring stage play, “Madea’s Farewell Tour Play,” set to debut on BET+ on August 27.

### PROGRAM from page 5

In addition to grant funds, the Resilient Restart EBR Program will offer access to entrepreneurial support services through The Urban League of Louisiana’s Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation at no cost to micro-grant recipients.

- Support services include:
- Small Business Education
  - One-On-One Business Counseling
  - Comprehensive Business Planning and Support
  - Loan Packaging
  - Business Certifications

Eligibility requirements and program applications are available at: [www.urbanleaguela.org/restartebr](http://www.urbanleaguela.org/restartebr)

## Gov. Edwards Releases New COVID-19 PSA by Award Winning Musician Jon Batiste

BATON ROUGE, La. -Gov. John Bel Edwards released a new COVID-19 PSA featuring Louisiana musician Jon Batiste, who serves as the bandleader on The Late Show with Stephen Colbert on CBS, encouraging everyone to wear a mask to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

“It is going to take every Louisianan to fight COVID-19. That’s why I’m grateful to Jon for doing his part and encouraging everyone to do theirs to help Louisiana slow the spread,” said Gov. Edwards. “Wearing a mask is one of the best things we can do to slow the spread. The new PSA can be found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h4NJKguA1qk>



Jon Batiste

# SPECIAL ELECTION AUGUST 15

## TIFFANY FOXWORTH #218 FOR JUDGE



19TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, DIVISION M

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