

The Weekly Press

SERVING BAKER, CENTRAL, AND ZACHARY

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24-30, 2020

A PEOPLE'S PUBLICATION

VOL. 43 • NO.27 • FREE

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Secretary of State Provides info on How to Use Absentee Ballots



BATON ROUGE, La.— In the last few days, Parish Registrars of Voters across the state began sending out absentee ballots. This year will see the highest number of absentee ballots ever cast in a Louisiana election. To ensure voters have their absentee ballot counted, view the instructional video shows step-by-step how to properly fill out and return an absentee ballot on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JzD8oKQUHas&feature=youtu.be>

The deadline to request an absentee ballot is October 30 by 4:30 p.m., and the deadline to return an

See **BALLOTS**, on page 2

Tributary Project Approved by Metro Council

BATON ROUGE, La. - The East Baton Rouge Parish Metro Council gave the green light Wednesday, Sept. 23 for the five tributary project to begin soon.

The \$255 million project aims to reduce flooding throughout the parish by cleaning out 66 miles of channels.

"It's pretty deep but when it rains, the water rises up pretty

See **PROJECT**, on page 2

RUTH BADER GINSBURG

First Woman to Lie in State at Capitol, Lie in Repose at Supreme Court



The flag-draped casket of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg lies in state in the US Capitol.

"She, first of all, made America see what leadership looks like -- in the law, in terms of public service -- and she broke so many barriers,"



Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg

WASHINGTON -- The late Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg lay in state Friday at the U.S. Capitol, the first woman so honored in America, making history again as she had throughout her extraordinary life.

The flag-draped casket of Ginsburg, who died last week at 87, in the Capitol's grand Statuary Hall drew members of Congress, military officials, friends and family, some with children in tow, paying respect to the liberal icon who changed American law, and perceptions of women's

power. Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden and his wife, Jill, sat quietly with other invited guests. His vice presidential running mate, Sen. Kamala Harris also attended.

Harris said RBG, as the late justice is known by many, "absolutely" and intentionally cleared a path for women like her in civic life.

"She, first of all, made America see what leadership looks like -- in the law, in terms

See **GINSBURG**, on page 3

Governor John Bel Edwards Endorses Mayor Broome for Reelection



Governor John Bel Edwards Mayor Sharon Weston Broome

BATON ROUGE, La.— Governor John Bel Edwards stated his endorsement for the current mayor of Baton Rouge for reelection in the upcoming election on Wednesday.

At the mayor's campaign headquarters, Governor Edwards told the media how proud he was of Mayor Sharon Weston Broome's work. He commented, "Thanks to Mayor Broome, Baton Rouge's best days are to come. I've seen first-hand how she tackles big problems, like traffic, crime, drainage, and the health of the people in the parish."

The longtime friends and allies confirmed their close relationship with the endorsement. Earlier this year, Governor Edwards praised Mayor Broome's \$1 billion road improvement plan. Mayor Broome has also shown appreciation of the governor, stating that her "friend" is "the best governor" who is also a partner in politics.

However, not everyone was thrilled with the news. Rep. C. Denise Marcelle, who is Mayor Sharon Weston Broome's opponent in the mayor race, stated her frustrations, "The admirable thing for him to do would have been to stay out of it until the run-off. But I'm sure she was begging him for an endorsement to try and get more votes."

Rep. Marcelle mentioned that she felt blindsided with the endorsement since she campaigned for Governor Edwards's reelection in her district. "I don't think he could have got my votes without me, but I'll keep running my race." She also said that she was not happy that she didn't receive the news of the endorsement in advance; she heard it through media outlets like everyone else. "This just shows me who people are." She said.

Marcelle wasn't the only person who thought Governor Edwards's endorsement was unnecessary. Baton Rouge pollster Bernie Pinsonat said that he didn't believe Governor Edwards's endorsement would improve Mayor Broome's chances of avoiding a run-off in the election. "His support will likely help her some with moderate Republicans in the LSU area," he said, "But it won't be the single thing that puts her over the top."

Mayor Broome and Rep. Marcelle are also running against Metro councilman Matt Watson for the mayor seat. Businessman Jordan Piazza, former state Rep. Steve Carter, Baton Rouge Attorney E. Eric Guirard, and Frank Smith III are also running.

Mayor Broome is focused on the campaign and focused on her

FIRST WARD VOTERS ASSOCIATION

A VOTE IS A POWERFUL FORCE FOR POSITIVE CHANGE AND PROGRESS • RECOMMENDING & LEADING SINCE 1952
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First Ward Voters Association Endorse Biden, Harris Democratic Presidential Ticket

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 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.

FIRST WARD VOTERS ASSOCIATION



W. T. Winfield, President
225-931-2765

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WEATHER

5 Day Forecast BR Area

- MON.** 09/28
Partly Cloudy
High 84°.
- TUE.** 09/29
Mostly Sunny
High 75°
- WED.** 09/30
Thunderstorms
High 91°.
- THUR.** 10/01
Sunny
High 78°.
- FRI.** 10/02
Sunny
High 73°.

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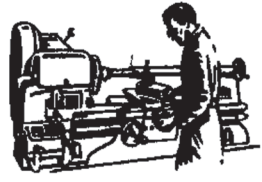
LOUISIANA

STOP COVID-19



STATE & LOCAL

READER INFORMATION



How to Reach Us

General Information 225-775-2002
Email brweeklypress@yahoo.com

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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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Gov. Edwards Requests \$175M Unspent Main Street Recovery Funds to be Reallocated

Money would go to the unemployment trust fund, local governments, and businesses closed during Phases 2 and 3

BATON ROUGE, La. - In a letter to the Senate President and the Speaker of the House, Gov. John Bel Edwards requested that the Louisiana Legislature, during its Special Session, reallocate \$175 million in money unspent in the Main Street Recovery Grant Program, which is being administered, at significant expense, by the Louisiana Department of Treasury.

The Governor's proposal is to allocate \$75 million in funding to the state's unemployment trust fund, \$75 million to local governments most impacted by the COVID-19 crisis and \$25 million in grants for businesses closed in Phase 2 and Phase 3 of Louisiana's COVID response, such as bars. The Governor's response has been credited by public health experts and officials from the White House Coronavirus Task Force as saving lives and slowing the spread of COVID-19 in the state.

"One of the most important things the Legislature can do in this upcoming session is to fix the Main Street program and to re-allocate the CARES Act funding to where it is needed," Gov. Edwards wrote. "While this reallocation will not meet all of the needs that we have for local governments and the Unemployment Trust Fund, it will go a long way towards providing for stability in the local governments



Governor Edwards is requesting for money from the Main Street Recovery Program be reallocated.

most affected by COVID-19 and helping to prevent crippling tax increases on businesses because of the likely insolvency of the trust fund."

In addition, under his executive authority, the Governor has amended his Public Health Emergency to suspend the solvency tax levied on employers under law when the Unemployment Trust Fund reaches a certain level, directing Louisiana Workforce Commission Secretary Ava Dejoie to not impose the solvency tax at this time. Currently, Louisiana's trust fund balance is \$49.4 million. Prior to the COVID-19 crisis, Louisiana had the 17th healthiest trust fund in the country, with a balance of over \$1 billion.

"While we will have to work together and with our Congress-

sional delegation to address the long-term need to replenish our trust fund balance, I am confident that we can all agree that we need additional time to recover from this emergency before there should be any consideration of the solvency tax." Gov. Edwards wrote.

BALLOTS from page 1

absentee ballot is November 2 by 4:30 p.m. As a reminder, to ensure all ballots are received in time to be counted, the United States Postal Service recommends that all absentee ballots be requested 15 days prior to the election and mailed back 7 days prior to the return deadline.

The list of reasons to apply for an absentee ballot can be found by visiting <https://www.sos.la.gov/ElectionsAndVoting/Vote/VoteByMail/Pages/default.aspx>

JUMP from page 1

work and bettering Baton Rouge. She said, "I have adopted a theme of transformative leadership in trying times. I'm ready to continue to do this work. I'm going to dig in and dig deeper than ever before."

Scotlandville Receives Cultural District Certification

BATON ROUGE, La. — Councilwoman Chauna Banks is pleased to announce that the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism has certified Scotlandville as a Cultural District. The Scotlandville Cultural District will open the door for new funding opportunities. Scotlandville businesses and other nonprofits located inside the district have the opportunity to apply for state historic tax credits for commercial revitalization projects and to conduct sales of

qualifying original art, exempt from local taxes.

"We're proud that Scotlandville is gaining recognition as a hub for creativity and growth," Byron Washington, NBRNOW, Inc. President said. "This community is filled with dreamers, artists, and risk-takers that deserve to be recognized and incentivized. We are so honored to have applied and received this support and validation."

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quick," said Mitchell Pea of Baton Rouge.

Pea lives on Major Oak Drive, his house sits on the edge of Jones Creek.

"This is my home, and I've been here about 11 years now," said Pea.

His home flooded back in 2016, and he says his family member's cars were completely lost.

"And when we opened the front door it was like a lake outside. And in a matter of maybe 15 minutes, we were walking in water," said Pea.

Those same fears from 2016 linger with him, every time a drop of rain falls from the sky.

"It's a scary feeling because that water rises up in that creek pretty quick, and when it rains real bad, it rises up in the road also," said Pea.

But now help could be on the way. As the Metro Council approved the Department of Public Works to basically start work soon on the five tributaries project.

"We have talked about this project for some time, actually since 1997," said Fred Raiford, Director of Transportation and Development of EBR Parish.

But now with federal dollars secured, the project will basically

cleanout and increase drainage capacity for huge bodies of water in the parish, so the water can flow better.

The project includes Bayou Fountain, Wards Creek, Jones Creek, Beaver Bayou, and Blackwater Bayou.

These tributaries drain three-quarters of East Baton Rouge Parish.

They ultimately end up into Amite River or the Comite River, which ultimately drains then down to Ascension Parish. It is critical from our standpoint to get these things clean, where they function the way they are supposed to," said Raiford.

Which is something Pea would greatly appreciate for his home and neighborhood.

"I'm hoping they come up with some sort of solution to make this water drain real quick because it's a scary feeling," said Pea.

"It may be not in your backyard, but ultimately that ditch that runs out of your backyard is going to drain into one of these 5 channels, there's no question about that," said Raiford.

Once bids are approved, Raiford says they hope to start work on most of these projects in February in 2021.

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Judge Orders Expanded Mail-in Voting in Louisiana for Presidential Election



NEW ORLEANS, La. - A federal judge has ordered the state of Louisiana to reinstate emergency coronavirus voting plans used for this summer's elections for the upcoming November 3 presidential election. Those plans allowed voters to give more reasons for seeking an absentee ballot.

Judge Shelley Dick said people with medical conditions that make COVID-19 more dangerous to them and their caretakers must be allowed to vote absentee if they desire to do so. Secretary of State Kyle Ardoin had earlier presented a plan for the November and December elections that only allowed people who test positive for COVID-19 close to the election to apply for a mail-in ballot. Of course, the state has other allowed reasons for seeking an absentee ballot that do not pertain to the pandemic, including being away at college, working offshore, being 65 or older, or being hospitalized.

Ardoin issued the following statement after the judge's ruling: Citizens and voting rights groups who sued the state over limitations on mail-in voting have argued for months that people that have concerns about going to a polling place amid the pandemic should not be forced to leave the safety of their homes to have their voices heard in the presidential election or any election.

This week a panel of experts assembled by SciLine and the EPI Center discussed the logistics of in-person voting this year,

the potential impacts of a surge in mail-in ballots, and maintaining the integrity of elections.

"In virtually every case where independent scientists have had access, we've found that it would be possible for attackers to install malicious software on voting machines and actually change the election totals that they report. That's virtually every case," said Halderman.

He said paper ballots are a safer bet.

"Our best defense against this is that many voting machines today produce a paper trail, a record of the voters' intent that can't later be changed in a cyber-attack," said Halderman. "With modern optical scan voting systems, we have a good defense against that which is that every ballot is initially counted by scanning it into a computer, so you have two records of each vote."

A spokesman for Secretary of State Ardoin said Louisiana's elections process is safe and secure and voting machines in Louisiana are never connected to the internet and have no capacity to do so. Also, he said machines are stored by the state and arrive at local polling places with tamper-proof seals.

However, the S.O.S. office spokesman said Louisiana does not yet have the so-called Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail. Further, he said the office was in the beginning phases of securing new voting machines earlier this year when the pandemic struck.

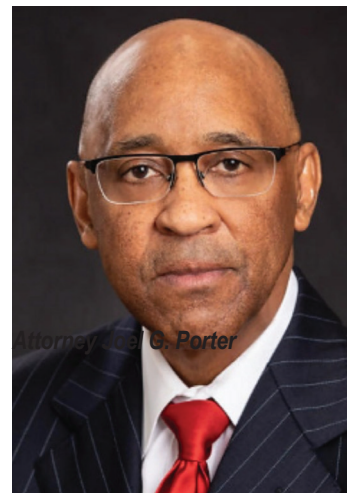
The Case to end The Habitual Offender Law

Many of my readers are familiar with the term "Habitual Offender". Unfortunately for far too many of us the terminology hits very close to home.

Though the phrase is the combination of two separate words that find their origin in 14th Century English language, the marriage of these two words took on a whole new life when President William "Bill" Jefferson Clinton signed the 1994 Crime Bill into law.

Though the marriage of the words "Habitual" and "Offender" may not have received a lot of fanfare from well wishers, the offspring of that union have surely proven to be noteworthy changers of history. This marriage has produced offspring like "Mass Incarceration" and "Family Disintegration". From this union entire African American neighborhoods and communities have felt stagnant, if not backwards, economic growth because the men in those communities have been sentenced to crushing exorbitant prison sentences.

Now, in fairness, that was not the foreseen outcome of the 1994 Crime Bill when it was signed into law. Honestly, at the time the bill was stamped into law, the country was caught up in the throes of excessive and numerous acts of violent crime. In its purist form, the Crime Bill was intended to stem the tidal wave of criminal activity which



Attorney Joel G. Porter

seemed to be taking America by storm. Never in his wildest dreams did President Clinton foresee the future of the Bill playing out in communities of color as it has in the 26 years since its birth. During one of President Barack Obama's stomps across the country to effect a change in the Federal Crime Bill, then former President Clinton joined him and issued an impassioned apology before the NAACP for his role in signing into law an instrument which played so well into the hands

of prejudice, hateful men.

After 26 years of living under such an oppressive law and after a 26 year build up that has our beloved State of Louisiana topping the worldwide list of highest incarceration rates and populations, it is time for likeminded men and women to dismantle such a law. It is what this Union, this Country, this America was founded upon. Its in our organizing declaration that we do such...

"...But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and provide new Guards for their future security..." The Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776

Attorney Joel G. Porter, Defense Attorney and lead Counsel at Porter & Porter wishes to defend the basic, God-given rights of the citizens of Baton Rouge and the State at large by ascending to the position of Judge, Division K, 19th JDC. As a 19th JDC Judge, Counselor Joel G. Porter, through what has become known as The Porter Plan, will support and promote legislative

changes designed to address (1). Unfairness in criminal sentencing (2). Eliminate all bails for nonviolent offenders, (3). Completely eradicate the Habitual Offender statute in Louisiana, and (4). Effectively dismantle the accepted practice of publicly naming someone a suspect and destroying their life without having substantial evidence to do so. These are just a few of the reforms and legislative initiatives the Porter Plan will address.

For nearly 30 years in the practice of Law, Porter has fought for civil rights, Women's rights, and the rights of those acutely affected by Police Brutality. Porter has successfully defended hundreds cases. If elected the next Division K Judge, Porter assures the voter that access to fairness in rulings and in sentencing will be the hallmark of his tenure on the bench.

The Porter candidacy is firmly rooted in an understanding that all people, regardless of race, creed, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation should be treated fairly and equitably in our Criminal Justice System. As such Porter has dedicated his life in the civil rights struggle for justice and equality in society because "Your Life Truly Does Matter!"

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GINSBURG from page 1

of public service -- and she broke so many barriers," Harris told reporters at the Capitol. "And I know that she did it intentionally knowing that people like me could follow."

She called Ginsburg "one of the greatest Americans."

Mourners gathered under coronavirus restrictions for the service for Ginsburg amid a Capitol in turmoil. President Donald Trump is prepared to announce a conservative nominee to replace the justice on Saturday, weeks before the election. A Senate confirmation vote is expected in late October.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said it was with "profound sorrow" that she welcomed the liberal icon and opened the private service.

She and Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer welcomed Ginsburg's casket her casket made the short procession from the court's steps where it had been on public view for several days to the East Front of the Capitol. A military honor guard carried it inside the Capitol's stately Statuary Hall. It departed a few hours later, female lawmakers on the

Capitol steps, waving goodbye.

Ginsburg, the second woman to serve on the Supreme Court, will be buried next week in Arlington National Cemetery beside her husband, Martin, who died in 2010.

The politics of the moment, in a tense election year, have rippled through the Ginsburg commemorations this week. But Friday's ceremony focused on her life and work, with musical selections from one of her favorite opera singers, mezzo-soprano Denyce Graves. She is the first Jewish American to lie in state at the Capitol.

Small in stature, large in history, the Brooklyn-born Ginsburg was remembered as a bright Columbia graduate who was passed over for jobs at a time when few women entered law, only to go on to reshape the nation's laws protecting women's rights and equality.

"Brick by brick, case by case," said Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt of the Adas Israel Congregation in Washington, she changed the course of American law.

"Today, she makes history again," the rabbi said.

CERTIFICATION from page 2

"To us, this designation is proof that Scotlandville is moving in the right direction," said Janel Washington, Director of Scotlandville Saturdays. "We're proud to see our creative community and unique Scotlandville culture to have an opportunity to flourish culturally with the support of this designation. We know the arts will be an important catalyst as we begin our next

chapter of growth."

To celebrate the Cultural District designation, the community is invited to join the formal announcement given to Scotlandville on Saturday, September 26 during the Scotlandville Saturdays Open Market with Healthy BR Tailgate, 3:00 P.M.-6:30 P.M.

For more information, contact Byron Washington, MBA-SCM, at (225) 963-0801.

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The 14th Annual McDonald's Inspiration Celebration Gospel Tour Returns with the Biggest Concert Series in Its History

September 14, 2020 — McDonald's USA, through its Black & Positively Golden movement, is excited to announce the virtual return of its 14th annual Inspiration Celebration® Gospel Tour. Benefitting Ronald McDonald House Charities® (RMHC®), the four-part concert series, themed "Gospel City Playlists," will begin September 27 and run weekly (every Sunday) through October 18 on BET.com and BET Network's YouTube channel at 8 p.m. EST / 7 p.m. CST.

This year's theme will come to life through the virtual showcase of the rich gospel legacies of Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas and Detroit, reviving the decades-long debate about which major U.S. city produces the greatest gospel music. Legendary and award-winning gospel music artists Kirk Franklin, Marvin Sapp, Fred Hammond, The Clark Sisters, Kierra Sheard, Smokie Norful, William Murphy, and many others, will sing fan favorites, while encouraging viewers to engage in friendly online banter about which city has the greatest gospel hits and artists.

"I'm excited to join this diverse lineup of talented artists who, like me, are proud to carry on the longstanding traditions of gospel music," said Kirk Franklin, an award-winning gospel music icon, choir director, singer, songwriter and author. "McDonald's is doing amazing work by hosting this top-notch tour for the community through its Black & Positively Golden movement. My fellow artists and I are hoping fans everywhere will be inspired to continue pressing forward during these trying times and be encouraged to give back to families in need through Ronald McDonald House Charities."

Franklin will be part of the tour for the third time, while renowned singer, songwriter and producer Donald Lawrence will return as tour co-producer and music supervisor. Multiple-award winning artist and syndicated radio host Lonnie Hunter will resume hosting duties.

The full 2020 artist lineup is



INSPIRATION CELEBRATION GOSPEL TOUR | MCDONALD'S

presents
GOSPEL CITY PLAYLISTS

<p>SEPT 27</p> <p>Anita Wilson Donald Lawrence Jonathan McReynolds Ricky Dillard Smokie Norful Todd Dulaney</p> <p>▶ CHICAGO</p>	<p>OCT 4</p> <p>Karen Clark Sheard Kierra Sheard Tasha Page-Lockhart The Clark Sisters</p> <p>▶ DETROIT</p>
<p>OCT 11</p> <p>Byron Cage Canton Jones Jekalyn Carr LeAndria Johnson VaShawn Mitchell William Murphy</p> <p>▶ ATLANTA</p>	<p>OCT 18</p> <p>Fred Hammond Kirk Franklin Marvin Sapp Myron Butler</p> <p>▶ DALLAS</p>

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Lonnie Hunter, Host

as follows:

- Anita Wilson
- Byron Cage
- Canton Jones
- Donald Lawrence and Company
- Fred Hammond
- Jekalyn Carr
- Jonathan McReynolds
- Karen Clark Sheard

- Kierra Sheard
- Kirk Franklin
- Le'Andria Johnson
- Marvin Sapp
- Myron Butler
- Ricky Dillard
- Smokie Norful
- Tasha Page-Lockhart
- The Clark Sisters
- Todd Dulaney

- VaShawn Mitchell
- William Murphy

"Every year, our Inspiration Celebration Gospel Tour is one of the most highly-anticipated community events. Recognizing its importance and rich legacy, we

See **TOUR**, on page 5

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

Church directory ads starting at \$10 per week call us for details 225.775.2002

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 Rev. Tiffanie C. Postell, Associate Pastor

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 Worship Service 10:55 a.m.
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ST. JOHN BAPTIST CHURCH
Dr. Donald R. Ruth, Pastor
 820 New Rafe Mayer Road
 Baton Rouge, LA 70807
 Phone: 225-775-9756
 Web Address: saintjohnbc.org



Dr. Donald Ruth, Pastor

Worship Times:

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

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Bishop Michael Pearl, Assistant Pastor





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 Bishop I. J. Payne, Pastor

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

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

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

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Sundays at 10am
 Wednesday Inspirational Service 7pm

- Youth ministry every Sunday and Wednesday
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PASTOR DONALD A. MONTGOMERY

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 5856 Greenwell Springs Road • Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806
 Telephone: (225) 926-0246 • Facsimile: (225) 925-8022
 Toll Free: 888-700-6174
 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

TOUR from page 4

are excited to bring the tour to life virtually, which is also allowing us to offer it to a larger audience at a time when these inspiring messages are needed most," said McDonald's Owner/Operator Harry Smith. "As we continue navigating these difficult times, we look forward to bringing people together from across the country through this safe and uplifting virtual concert series."

In addition to delivering inspiring music to fans nationwide, the concert series will continue to raise funds to support families served by RMHC Chapters in each of the four cities. People are encouraged to visit <http://www.rmhc.org/ICGT2020> now through October 18 to donate to the Charity's local Chapters.

Another first, the tour will feature a virtual pre-show red carpet lounge hosted by social media comedian, Not Karlton Banks. Fans are invited to view the virtual red carpet lounge via Karlton's Instagram Live approximately 20 minutes prior to each concert to hear from their favorite performers.

This signature concert series will represent gospel music playlists from each highlighted city on the following days:

- October 4 – Detroit, MI
- October 11 – Atlanta, GA
- October 18 – Dallas, TX

McDonald's Inspiration Celebration Gospel Tour is an extension of the company's Black & Positively Golden campaign, an initiative designed to uplift communities and inspire excellence. Visit www.blackandpositivelygolden.com to learn more. Follow @WeAreGolden on Instagram for tour updates and join the conversation using #blackandpositivelygolden.

BUSINESS

Tiger Stadium Goes Cashless, Here's How you Can Too



BATON ROUGE, La. — Don't forget your mask if you're stepping into Tiger Stadium this weekend, but there is one thing you can leave at home, cash. That's because the purple and gold are going without the green this season.

LSU athletics venues are going cashless at merchandise and concession stands this season.

Tiger Stadium will take most major credit cards, Apple and Android Pay as well as Tiger Cash.

However, personal finance expert Kimberly Palmer knows going cashless can be a challenge.

"It can feel less real than cash, so people can have a tendency to overspend," said the

expert from NerdWallet.

She says the good news here is there are many options to go cashless. The goal is to find a method that works best for you.

"The easiest one probably is to check to see if you already have a credit card that allows for contactless payments, which basically means you don't even have to touch anything."

AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana Donates \$20,000 to Aid Louisianans

BATON ROUGE, La. — Louisianans and their communities are still feeling the impact of Hurricane Laura. In an effort to support the state in its continued recovery, AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana donated \$20,000 to United Way of Southwest Louisiana to help local residents still recovering from the devastating effects of the storm.

The donation will help support victims with ongoing needs, including food, medicine, utilities, and housing assistance. United Way of Southwest Louisiana, a local partner of AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana, will assist in expediting the funds to local organizations working on the ground.

"Many of our neighbors were already struggling with the economic and health impacts of COVID-19, and Hurricane Laura has greatly compounded those challenges," said AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana Market President Kyle Viator. "We have not forgotten them and the communities in which they live and work. We hope this contribution to the state's ongoing recovery, in addition to the time and resources given by Care Crew, our national and statewide team of associate volunteers, will help our communities rebuild and come back even stronger."

Following Hurricane Laura's landfall, AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana staff have been working alongside United Way and other community volunteers in and around the Lake Charles area

to help deliver, sort and distribute meals and much-needed supplies including water, face masks and hygiene items. The health plan has also donated supplies to support evacuees from the region who are being sheltered in New Orleans.

"The road ahead will be long and marked with evolving challenges and goals. AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana's donation will help ensure that United Way of Southwest Louisiana is equipped to meet each milestone of recovery," said Denise Durel, United

Way of Southwest Louisiana president and CEO.

United Way of Southwest Louisiana is currently meeting the immediate needs of the community through its Hurricane Laura Relief Center which operates every day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Distributing meals, hygiene supplies, cleaning supplies and more, the relief center is in need of both volunteers to man the center as well as monetary and/or supply donations.

To volunteer or donate visit www.unitedwayswla.org/HurricaneLaura.

ricaneLaura.

"As Southwest Louisiana moves forward towards a complete recovery, United Way will be here keeping a pulse on the community's ever-changing needs. Donated funds will be distributed accordingly for each phase of recovery including immediate and long-term needs," Durel said. "We will see this thing through to the very end until every community and community member is completely restored."

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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 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. Offers are required to check CATS website often for addenda and other important dates in reference to this RFP. CATS is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

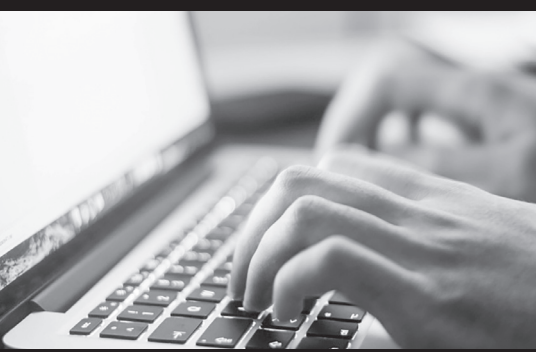
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 for COUNCIL 6

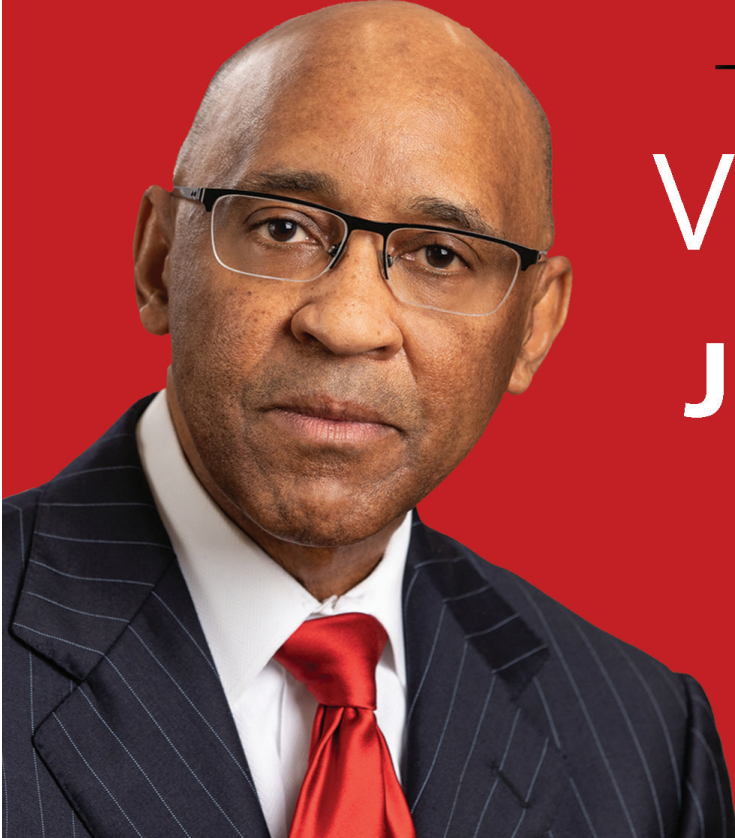


I am COREY SMITH, and I am working to serve the people of District 6, as your progressive candidate for change. I have met with residents and business owners and I hear your needs and concerns. I am a teacher, Community Organizer, and IDH Public Health Ambassador committed to increasing the quality of life for everyone. I love this city and this district. I live here, work here, worship here, and am **READY TO SERVE HERE**. I ask for your prayers, support, and most importantly **YOUR VOTE!**

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