

The Weekly Press

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THURSDAY, JAN. 26 FEB -1, 2023

A PEOPLE'S PUBLICATION

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Judge John Guidry inducted as the 15th Chief Judge of the Louisiana First Circuit Court of Appeal



The Honorable John Michael Guidry

The Honorable John Michael Guidry, a lifelong resident of East Baton Rouge Parish, was inducted as the 15th Chief Judge of the Louisiana First Circuit Court of Appeal at an investiture ceremony on January 19, 2023. Judge Guidry will serve as the first African American Chief Judge in the more than century-long history of the First Circuit Court of Appeal. The ceremony occurred at the courthouse at 1600 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

The First Circuit, one of Louisiana's five intermediate appellate courts, is domiciled in East Baton Rouge Parish and serves the following sixteen parishes: Ascension, Assumption, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Lafourche, Livingston, Pointe Coupee, St. Helena, St. Mary, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne, Washington, West Baton Rouge, and West Feliciana.

Judge Guidry is a distinguished graduate of McKinley Senior High School, class of 1980. He attained a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Louisiana State University in 1983, and in 1987, he graduated cum laude from the Southern University Law Center.

Before his judicial tenure, Judge Guidry served in the Louisiana Legislature. He began his career as a legislative assistant to the Honorable Joseph A. Delpit. He served as the Assistant Clerk of the Louisiana House of Representatives and an assistant parish attorney. In 1991, he was elected to represent House District 67 in the House of Representatives. Two years later, in 1993, he was elected to represent Senate District 14 in the State Senate.

In 1997, Judge Guidry was

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WEATHER



MON. 01/30
Partly Cloudy
High 57°.



TUE. 01/31
Rain
High 55°.



WED. 02/01
Cloudy
High 73°.



THUR. 01/03
Rain
High 61°.

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Mayor Broome's State of the City addresses crime, public safety after mass shooting

Mayor Broome highlighted that the city has seen some progress in addressing crime

Baton Rouge, La. — The city of Baton Rouge was shaken to its core when a mass shooting occurred at The Dior Bar and Lounge early Sunday morning. In response to this tragic event, Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome delivered a powerful state-of-the-city speech, addressing both crime and public safety concerns as well as progress that has been made to combat them.

According to the Baton Rouge Police Department, the shooting left 12 people hospitalized, with nine of the victims suffering injuries that are not considered life-threatening, and three with injuries that are life-threatening in nature. Detectives have determined that this was a 'targeted attack,' and Mayor Broome has called for the arrests of everyone involved.

"Once again, someone decides that they're going to pick up a gun and go after someone they have a beef within a nightclub filled with young people," Mayor Broome said. "This senseless act of violence, and no act of violence will go unchecked in the city of Baton Rouge."

Despite this devastating incident, Mayor Broome highlighted that the city has seen some progress in addressing crime. According to BRPD, there has been a 21% decrease in city-limit homicides as of



Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome urged that we cannot allow isolated events to become the city's narrative. "We should not let individuals put us into a box of fear," Broome said.

December 22, 2022. However, some citizens still feel indifferent about how safe the city might be.

Mayor Broome urged that we cannot allow isolated events to become the city's narrative. "We should not let individuals put us into a box of fear," Broome said.

In addition to calling for swift justice for those involved in the mass shooting, Mayor Broome also called for a thorough investigation by the Alcohol Beverage and Control Board into the incident. She

emphasized that any person or business promoting this type of activity throughout the city should be held accountable. "If we have establishments that are promulgating this type of behavior or are not in compliance with ABC, they need to be called to the carpet," Mayor Broome said.

Mayor Broome also discussed improvements around infrastructure and plans to fix the city's drainage system in her speech. She said several projects are underway to address those issues, and the city is committed

to making Baton Rouge a safer and more prosperous place for all its citizens.

The mass shooting at The Dior Bar and Lounge was a tragic and horrific event that left the city of Baton Rouge reeling. However, Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome's state of the city speech was a powerful reminder that the city is progressing in addressing crime and public safety concerns and

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American Airlines to begin nonstop flights from Baton Rouge to Washington, D.C.



American Airlines will begin offering daily nonstop flights this summer between Baton Rouge and Washington, D.C., providing officials and other travelers from both capitals an alternative option to flying out of New Orleans.

The direct flights between Baton Rouge Metro Airport and Reagan National Airport will begin on June 1 with a 76-passenger Embraer 175 jet with first-class, premium economy and economy seating.

Baton Rouge Mayor Sharon Broome announced the deal Thursday, saying the new flight was made possible through many years of negotiations with American Airlines and a \$2 million economic incentive package.

"A nonstop flight from Baton Rouge to Washington, D.C., is monumental for our city and region," Broome said in a press release. "Connecting the capital of Louisiana with our nation's capital will bring tourists and businesses directly into Baton Rouge without having to travel through the New Orleans area. This nonstop flight has been a decade in the making, and the Baton Rouge community is ready to take advantage of this incredible opportunity. It will elevate our economic development at home and enhance our impact in the nation's capital."

The Baton Rouge airport was one of 25 applicants selected for a \$1 million U.S. Department of Transportation grant. Its Small Community Air Service Development Program (SCASDP) is a federal grant designed for small community airports.

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Monument honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King unveiled in Boston

The city of Boston recently unveiled a new sculpture, crafted by the conceptual artist Hank Willis Thomas, in honor of the iconic civil rights figures Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King. The artist, who was chosen from a pool of 125 applicants, was initially surprised by his selection, stating, "When I submitted the proposal, I didn't even think that we really had a chance."

The bronze structure, entitled "The Embrace," depicts the Kings in a moment of affection, captured in a famous photograph taken after Martin received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. Measuring 20 feet in length and 26 feet in width, the monument is situated at Boston Common, the oldest city park



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. hugs his wife Coretta during a news conference following the announcement that he had been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize on Oct. 14, 1964. (Betmann Archive)



The Embrace, the new memorial sculpture in Boston made in tribute to Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King, was unveiled on Friday. Lane Turner/Boston Globe via Getty Images

in America. It aims to inspire visitors and pay tribute to the legacy of the Kings.

The unveiling ceremony, which took place on Friday, was attended by several notable figures, including Martin Luther King III, the son of the civil rights leaders, and Yolanda Renee King, the 14-year-old granddaughter of the Kings, who delivered a speech on racial equality at the Lincoln Memorial in 2020.

The monument, which took five years to create, is intended to reflect the deep love and connection shared by the Kings and highlight the power of a single, iconic moment in their lives. The artist, Thomas, noted that the sculpture also serves as a metaphor for Martin's legacy, which Coretta carried on for decades after his assassination in 1968. Coretta, who was not only the wife of Martin but also a civil rights activist in her own right,

continued to promote peace and equality and advocate for marginalized communities, including LGBTQ individuals, women, children, and the poor. She even led a protest for better living wages with more than 40,000 people shortly after her husband's death. Despite being King's wife, Thomas noted that Coretta's gender often marginalized her role in the civil rights movement

Katie Bernhardt committed to uniting behind one candidate' for governor

Louisiana Democratic Party chair, Katie Bernhardt, left the door open for a potential run for governor but also stated her commitment to supporting a united Democratic candidate. She expressed her willingness to back Louisiana Transportation Secretary Shawn Wilson if he enters the governor's race. Bernhardt spoke about the issue while at the Washington Hilton, where the political Washington Mardi Gras is taking place. She revealed she had recent talks with both Governor John Bel Edwards and Wilson, and said she would back Wilson if the Democratic Party decides to support him. Bernhardt didn't dismiss the possibility of her own run when asked. Earlier in the week, a state-wide political TV ad spotlighting her began airing.

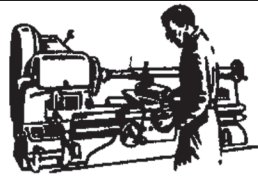
Bernhardt stated that she is dedicated to bringing the Democratic Party together to support a single candidate. She believes

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LOCAL & STATE

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How to Reach Us
 General Information..... 225-775-2002
 Email brweeklypress@yahoo.com

The office is open 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday - Friday and located at 4910 Monticello Blvd. Baton Rouge, LA 70814

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Phone: (225) 775-2002
 E-Mail brweeklypress@yahoo.com
 Office Hours: Monday-Friday
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City plans to roll out Florida Boulevard revitalization over the next 15 years



BATON ROUGE - As Baton Rouge continues to grow and evolve, the need for infrastructure improvements becomes increasingly apparent. One area that has been identified as requiring attention is Florida Boulevard, a major city corridor connecting North and South Baton Rouge. Despite the recent growth and development in the area, many residents and business owners believe there is still much room for improvement.

"We could definitely use some roadwork around here, some better lights put up," said Brian Davis, owner of Rita and Albert's Boutique, who has been in business on Florida Boulevard for 12 years. "It's improving, but a lot still needs to be done."



Recognizing the need for improvement, the local organization Build Baton Rouge has taken the initiative to develop a comprehensive master plan to revitalize Florida Boulevard. The plan will focus on transportation, economic development, and people services and will be developed over the course of 18 months, beginning in April.

"The real idea behind this master plan is to connect and unite those two areas so that this becomes a center for economic activity," said Mark Armstrong, spokesman for Mayor Broome. "We want to create a pathway to success for our city, and this plan will help to do just that."

While Florida Boulevard is often viewed as a dividing line between North and South Baton Rouge, the master plan aims to bridge that divide and promote unity within the city. The plan aims

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that we should not allow isolated events to define our narrative. With swift justice for those involved in the shooting, a thorough investigation by the Alcohol Beverage and Control Board, and ongoing infrastructure improvements, Baton Rouge will continue to move forward and emerge stronger than ever before.

An increase in electric vehicle charging stations coming to Baton Rouge



Baton Rouge, La. — As the electric vehicle (EV) market continues to expand, the demand for charging stations in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, is also rising. New charging stations are being constructed in various locations throughout the city to meet this demand. From apartment complexes to gas stations and schools, Baton Rouge EV owners find it easier to charge their vehicles.

One of the newest charging stations being built is located near Albertson's on Airline Highway and Old Hammond Highway. This charging station, like many others, is designed to be convenient and easily accessible for EV owners.

Brady Wilson, an EV owner, is pleased with the new charging stations around the city. He says, "I go to Southeastern, and there are chargers on campus, so I just charge there."

There are two types of charging stations: Level 2 and Level 3. The charging stations found downtown are considered Level 2 chargers, which take about eight hours to charge an EV. These chargers are often installed at homes, businesses, and public charging stations, with a

typical power output between 7kW and 19kW.

On the other hand, Level 3 chargers, also known as "superchargers," have a much higher power output, between 50kW and 350kW. These chargers can charge an EV to 80% complete in just 20-30 minutes. One example of a Level 3 charger in Baton Rouge is the one on Perkins Road.

Despite the increasing number of charging stations in the city, EV owner Melvin Corney notes that at peak operating times, there can be a long wait at charging stations. However, he also points out that charging stations can be easily located through a car's mapping system or an app.

As demand for EV charging stations continues to grow, East Baton Rouge Parish is proactively working to stay ahead of the curve by having conversations with downtown partners and private businesses to bring more EV stations to the area. This effort will benefit current EV owners and encourage more individuals to switch to electric transportation, ultimately leading to a cleaner and more sustainable future for Baton Rouge.

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elected to the First Circuit Court of Appeal.

In addition to his judicial and legislative career, Judge Guidry served as a commissioner of the Greater Baton Rouge Port Commission and the Greater Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport Commission. Since 1988, Judge Guidry has served as an adjunct professor at the Southern University Law Center, where he has imparted knowledge to governors, district attorneys, legislators, and even fellow judiciary members. He also served as an adjunct professor in the Nelson Mandela School of Public Policy at Southern University for over 25 years.

Judge Guidry is a frequent lecturer at continuing legal education seminars and a member of several professional organizations, including the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society and the Baton Rouge, Louisiana, National and American Bar Associations. As a judge, he held memberships in the American Judges Association, the Louisiana Conference Court of Appeal Judges, and the Louisiana Judicial Council of the National Bar Association. Judge Guidry was elected as the Louisiana Conference of Court of Appeal Judges' representative to the Louisiana Judicial Council for two, three-year terms in 2009 and 2012 and was twice appointed by the Louisiana Supreme Court, on the recommendation of its Chief Justice, to serve on the governing body of the Louisiana Judicial College. In 2014, Judge Guidry served as President of the Louisiana Judicial College Board of Governors. He was also a member of the Louisiana Domestic Violence Judicial Curriculum Advisory Committee and a member of the Baton Rouge Bar Association Pro Bono Committee.

Judge Guidry is an ordained deacon and formerly served as the Sunday School Superintendent at Fairview Baptist Church in Baton Rouge.

He is married to Carol Fowler Guidry, with whom he has two children, John Morgan Guidry and Kennedy Michelle Guidry.



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BATON ROUGE MARDI GRAS



2023 PARADE DATES:

Krewe of Oshun - Saturday, Feb. 4, 2023
 CAAWS Mystic Krewe of Mutts - Sunday, Feb. 5, 2023
 Krewe of Artemis - Friday, Feb. 10, 2023
 Krewe Mystique de la Capitale - Saturday, Feb. 11, 2023
 Krewe of Orion - Saturday, Feb. 11, 2023
 Mid City Gras - Sunday, Feb. 12, 2023
 Krewe of Southdowns - Friday, Feb. 17, 2023
 Spanish Town - Saturday, Feb. 18, 2023

Mardi Gras in Baton Rouge is an annual celebration attended by thousands each year who join in and experience the exciting activities hosted in the Red Stick. Baton Rouge offers a variety of parades, and it has become a favorite place for families looking to celebrate Mardi Gras.

Start planning your trip now to indulge in all of the Mardi Gras festivities, Baton Rouge restaurants, attractions and more! The family-friendly Baton Rouge Mardi Gras kicks off with traditional floats, fancy balls, excitement and entertainment for everyone. The annual parades include everything from beautifully designed floats, marching bands, costumed canines, lawn mower-pushing krewes and dancing for all to enjoy! Get here early so you don't miss out on any of the fun and snag a front-row seat to a fun-filled Baton Rouge Mardi Gras parade.

And once Mardi Gras season rolls around, every bakery, restaurant and food store in Baton Rouge will create their own spin on Louisiana's traditional king cake – including king cake bread pudding, martinis, cake balls, cupcakes, popsicles, ice cream, donuts and many more creative desserts. However, Baton Rouge's dessert scene goes far beyond that, so come down and satisfy your sweet tooth, or bake this king cake at home! Don't forget to check out our king cake blog on where you can find the best treats in town!

Southern University enlists Togetherall to put student mental health first



BATON ROUGE, La. — In continued efforts to provide students with accessible mental health care, the Southern University System recently announced its partnership with Togetherall to offer all students free 24/7 online peer-to-peer mental health support. The Togetherall portfolio of services will soon be available to students at all five campuses of the System: Southern University and A&M College, Southern University Law Center, and Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Baton Rouge; Southern University at New Orleans; and Southern University at Shreveport.

"Anxiety, depression, stress, suicidal ideation, loneliness and relationship issues were all challenges experienced by our students before the pandemic," said Dr. ValaRay Irvin, executive director of the University Counseling Center at Southern's Baton Rouge campus. "However, after the pandemic, we saw a sharp rise in the number of students seeking assistance for these challenges. We learned that students found comfort in supporting one another, rather than turning to traditional counseling services. It gives us peace of mind to know that our students will receive accurate and effective assistance from Togetherall, and that the community will be monitored by licensed professionals, rather than having students turn to disreputable social media platforms or websites for answers."

Although students and their mental health concerns have not necessarily changed since the pandemic, the noticeable increase in the need for services prompted Southern University to engage

in this unique partnership with Togetherall. The added support of the online peer-to-peer service demonstrates the university's ongoing commitment to prioritizing student wellness and employing strategic solutions to best meet changing needs.

"Concerns about the mental health of students in higher education have grown significantly over the past few years," said Matthew McEvoy, president of Togetherall North America. "Between classes, studying, extracurricular activities and social lives, students need support that is accessible to them when they need it. By partnering with Togetherall, the Southern University System ensures that its students have access to mental health resources they can trust to be safe, anonymous, nonjudgmental and all-inclusive."

Togetherall works closely with college communities to offer a 24/7 online platform that embraces the importance of anonymous peer-to-peer engagement, while also maintaining a regulated method with professional monitoring. Across the United States, Togetherall has partnered with more than 350 colleges and universities seeking to advance their mental health resources. In a recent survey of Togetherall members, 93% self-reported an improvement in their well-being after using the platform, 80% reported feeling less isolated, and 64% indicated they share thoughts and feelings on the platform because it is anonymous.

381,000 Louisianians approved for Biden's student debt forgiveness

According to a fact sheet the Biden administration, released 26 million borrowers



381,000 Louisianians applied for and were approved for Biden's student debt forgiveness in the four week's application was open last Fall (Photo by Anna Moneymaker/Getty Images)

BY: PIPER HUTCHINSON

Out of more than 600,000 Louisianians identified as qualified for Biden's student loan forgiveness, 381,000 applied and were approved before a federal court case forced the administration to take the application down.

"These borrowers could be benefiting from the Administration's program right now were

it not for lawsuits brought by elected officials and special interests," a White House press release said.

Of those Louisiana applications approved, 242,000 were sent to loan servicers to discharge the debt.

To be eligible for debt forgiveness, borrowers need to earn less than \$125,000 per year, or \$250,000 for a couple. According to the U.S. Census

Bureau, the median household income in Louisiana is about \$50,000.

According to a fact sheet the Biden administration, released 26 million borrowers were approved for forgiveness nationwide in the four weeks the application was live last fall. Nearly 90% of approved borrowers who have left school earn less than \$75,000.

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that this unity is crucial for the party's success in the upcoming governor's race. Bernhardt's

comments come as a political advertisement featuring her began airing across Louisiana this week. While she didn't completely rule out a run for governor herself, she emphasized her commitment to

supporting the Democratic Party's chosen candidate. The Washington Mardi Gras event is ongoing at the Washington Hilton, providing a platform for political discussions and exchanges.

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to create a thriving and connected community for all residents by improving transportation and promoting economic development.

However, implementing the master plan will not be a quick or easy process. It is estimated that it will take more than a decade to implement fully and will cost around \$900,000. Nevertheless, many in the community are excited about the potential benefits and are eager to see the plan come to fruition.

"This is a great step forward for our city," said Davis. "I'm excited to see the changes that will come with this master plan and how it will benefit both residents and businesses on Florida Boulevard."

In conclusion, Florida Boulevard is an important corridor in Baton Rouge that requires improvements to meet the needs of a growing city. The master plan developed by Build Baton Rouge aims to improve transportation, promote economic development, and unite North and South Baton Rouge. Although the implementation process will take time and resources, the potential benefits make it a worthwhile investment for the future of Baton Rouge.

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The remaining \$1 million came from renewed incentives in a bill authored by former state Rep. Ted James. The Baton Rouge Area Chamber of Commerce (BRAC) will administer that funding.

"BRAC has partnered with the Baton Rouge Airport for several years on the project and is happy we could support it crossing the finish line," BRAC CEO Adam Knapp said. "As Louisiana's Capital Region, having nonstop service to the U.S. capital just makes sense. Not only will this new flight allow for better business travel, but it is a huge step for connecting our region to another major metro area."

Despite being the second most populous metropolis in the state, Baton Rouge has a relatively small airport. BTR attracts just over 800,000 passengers per year, compared with New Orleans' Armstrong International Airport that sees more than that in a single month and more than 11 million passengers a year.

Tickets for the new daily flights will go on sale beginning Saturday, Jan. 28.

BRAC Celebrates First Anniversary of BR Works

BATON ROUGE, La. — The Baton Rouge Area Chamber (BRAC)'s BR Works jobs portal recently celebrated its first anniversary since its 2022 launch, and the results have been impressive. With over 81,500 page views and 13,900 users, the platform has proven to be a valuable resource for job seekers in the Capital Region. BRAC Director of Talent Development, Maggi Spurlock, said, "The first year of the BR Works site has been incredible to witness. We have over 10,800 jobs listed and over 7,900 skills added to users' profiles, and we have seen the platform evolve and introduce upskilling opportunities."

BR Works was created in response to the drastic changes in the job market caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The site started as a simplified platform in 2020 and was later transformed into a full-scale job, training, and resource hub for workers in the Capital Region, as well as a tool for increased talent attraction efforts. The site is powered by Cox Communications and has several regional partners, including local colleges and universities.

Visitors to the BR Works site can complete a skills assessment or upload their resume to be matched with open jobs in the region, ranked by compatibility. Job seekers can also browse available regional jobs and sort by job title or industry sector. The platform lists the median salary for a given job and, if available, the posted salary. To have the best experience on the site, BRAC suggests creating a profile.

The BR Works site has received page views from across the country, with the majority located in Baton Rouge, but also significant views in the Chicago and Dallas regions. This aligns with previous research conducted by BRAC's Business Intelligence team showing that these areas are among the top ten counties that see an influx of high-income households into the Capital Region.

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Sign up on Eventbrite!

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH

850-B Olive St. Shreveport, LA 71104

RELIGION

You Never Walk Alone

By Dr. Tony Evans

God longs for a deep and abiding relationship with you. Because He is dependable, He wants you to depend on Him.

Sometimes God allows troubles or trials in your life to get your focus back onto Him. He sees how you may have drifted from Him, and He desires to bring you back into close intimacy with Him. God knows how much you need Him in order to live a victorious life, and He doesn't want you to walk this road alone. He is with you, even when you forget that He is. He longs to be close to you—not only because He loves you and desires a relationship with you, but also because He knows that without Him you will face an enemy who will be able to defeat you. God's presence and proximity are your protection.

Are you in a situation that wants to eat you alive? Are you

finding yourself with less hope every day? Do you feel anxious, worried or emotional turmoil—or even just alone? If so, then I want to remind you that Jesus is with you right now. And therefore, His power and grace are too. And what His power and grace will do is comfort you.

Friend, sometimes God calls us to walk through valleys. I can't promise you a life without wind, clouds and turmoil. But I can promise you that you don't have to walk through the valley alone. So, keep walking. Don't say that you can't make it, because God will make it with you. You don't walk this road alone.



Dr. Tony Evans

Disciples Outreach Ministries Celebrates 23 Years of Service

On Sunday, February 12th, Disciples Outreach Ministries in Baton Rouge, LA will be celebrating its 23rd church anniversary. The community is cordially invited to join in the celebration, which promises to be an inspiring and uplifting event filled with worship, prayer, and a special message from a guest speaker.

The event will be led by

Senior Pastors and Overseers, Bishop Thelma Pearl and Michael Pearl, and will feature a special guest appearance by Bishop Vincent Mayweather, the pastor of Abundant Life Ministries in Fairfield, California. Bishop Mayweather's message is sure to be both thought-provoking and motivational, as he

See 23 YEARS, on page 5

Good Health: God's Will For His People

by Creflo Dollar

Growing up, we may have watched family members or loved ones struggle with sickness or disease. They may have died an early death, leading us to believe that illness was simply a part of life we all have to put up with. However, this isn't what God wants for us. Finding out what His Word says about being healthy and living a long life gives us a new perspective.

God wants us strong and vigorous. Openly confessing this forces our minds to focus on what we just said and start meditating on it. "Dear friend, I hope all is well with you and that you are as healthy in body as you are strong in spirit" (3 John 1:2, NLT). Our thoughts naturally follow along the path that our speech establishes. There's great power in confessing our good health; it reminds us that we have authority over sickness and disease, and the ability to cast it out by speaking the Word.

There's nothing wrong with doctors and medicine, but they have their limitations. By comparison, God has no limitations. When the physicians have done everything they can but still can't change the outcome, we can speak to our bodies and command health to return. "And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith" (Mark 11:22, 23). Health



issues may seem like a mountain to us in the natural but confessing the supernatural causes them to shrink and melt away.

Whatever we believe and have confidence in is the thing we should say; this is how we release our faith in God's Word. Disease and sickness are one way the devil comes against us; speaking our faith turns it into a powerful weapon against the enemy. Deliberately patterning our speech after what God has already said about our healing and good health distills all the power of heaven and puts it in our mouth. "It will be health to your flesh. And strength to your bones" (Proverbs 3:8, NKJV).

The world knows nothing of God's healing power, and therefore routinely contradicts His Word in this area. As believers, it's essential that we resist this doubt-filled way of thinking if we are to receive the healing that has already been made available to us. Genuine faith in what God said gives us rest and peace of mind; conversely, letting unbelief creep in blocks what our faith can bring about. "Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith

in them that heard it" (Hebrews 4:1, 2).

There's no reason to tolerate anything less than God's best; illness isn't in the overall picture He has for us. God isn't sick and there's no sickness in heaven; we can enjoy the same perfect health that He has. "...Because as he is, so are we in this world" (1 John 4:17). Confessing His Word of grace reminds us of the authority we've been given by God, Himself, to command strength and vitality on our bodies. We're anything but helpless when it comes to our health.

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

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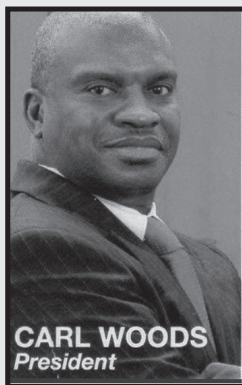
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BUSINESS

Offshore wind will need major investments in transmission, supply chain, reports say



A rendering of Dominion Energy's offshore wind installation vessel, which is expected to be completed this year. (Dominion Energy)

BY: ROBERT ZULLO

Achieving the aggressive offshore wind power goals of the federal government and individual states will require billions of dollars in spending on transmission infrastructure, "unprecedented" cooperation between grid operators and federal and state agencies, and would be aided by major buildout of a domestic supply chain, per a pair of reports released this week.

Coastal states across the country, from California to Louisiana to Maine, are pushing for offshore wind projects, but the reports see potential bottlenecks looming, both in the supply chain to build and install turbines as well as in the ability to bring the electricity ashore.

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory, along with the Business Network for Offshore Wind and Tufts University, among other partners, released a report Monday that found that creating an American supply chain for the offshore wind industry, including manufacturing facilities, ports and vessels, would

make hitting the Biden administration's 30-gigawatts-by-2030 target, roughly the equivalent of 30 nuclear reactors, more likely.

"Ambitious global offshore wind energy deployment targets will create substantial demand for the components needed to build these wind turbines and balance-of-system components such as foundations and cables," says the report.

"The limited global manufacturing capacity for these components creates a risk for U.S. projects that choose to import their components from Europe. Therefore, developing a domestic supply chain would reduce reliance on global manufacturers and create jobs and economic benefits in the United States."

The report's authors envision a supply chain buildout scenario that includes 34 new major U.S. wind turbine component manufacturing facilities, eight East Coast "marshaling ports," four to six dedicated turbine installation vessels (there is currently just one being built now for Virginia's Dominion Energy) another four to six dedicated heavy lift vessels

and four to six feeder barges and a workforce about 45,000 strong. The price tag? About \$22.4 billion. And it would take between six and nine years to develop, the report says, but would be worth the investment.

"If individual states leverage their existing manufacturing capabilities to contribute to the offshore wind energy sector, this conceptual supply chain would generate significant workforce and economic benefits throughout the United States, not just in coastal locations with active offshore wind energy programs," the authors wrote.

Uncertainty around potential construction delays, cost overruns, legal complications, or possible changes in government support for offshore wind make it hard to get financing for factories, vessels and port investments that would build the supply chain, the report says.

While the 2022 U.S. Inflation Reduction Act, which extended existing tax credits for clean energy projects and cre-

See **OFFSHORE**, on page 6

Blacks Are Much More Likely to Face Tax Audits, Study Finds

Black taxpayers are at least three times as likely to be audited by the Internal Revenue Service as other taxpayers, even after accounting for the differences in the types of returns each group is most likely to file, a team of economists has concluded in one of the most detailed studies yet on race and the nation's tax system.

The findings do not suggest bias from individual tax enforcement agents, who do not know the race of the people they are auditing. They also do not suggest any valid reason for the I.R.S. to target Black Americans at such high rates; there is no evidence that group engages in more tax evasion than others.

Instead, the findings document discrimination in the computer algorithms the agency uses to determine who is selected for an audit, according to the study by economists from Stanford University, the University of Michigan, the University of Chicago and the Treasury Department.

Some of that discrimination appears to be rooted in decisions that I.R.S. officials made over the past decade as they sought to maintain tax enforcement in the face of budget cuts, by relying on automated systems to select returns for audit.

23 YEARS from page 4

shares his insight and wisdom with the congregation.

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SPORTS

Augustus is 1st female athlete with a statue on the LSU campus

BATON ROUGE, La. — Baton Rouge, Louisiana, saw history in the making on Sunday as Seimone Augustus became the first female student-athlete to have a statue erected in her honor on the LSU campus. Augustus, a former basketball player for the Tigers, led the team to three women's Final Four appearances before going on to star in the WNBA and international play.

The statue, which stands alongside those of other LSU basketball greats such as Bob Pettit, Shaquille O'Neal, and Pete Maravich, was unveiled in a plaza packed with fans and supporters. Augustus, emotional at the sight of her bronze likeness, couldn't hold back her tears.

"I'm still trying to process this," Augustus said as she addressed the crowd shortly before fifth-ranked LSU hosted Auburn in the nearby Pete Maravich Assembly Center. "It looks like the whole of Baton Rouge is out here. But this feels good."

Augustus acknowledged that she didn't achieve this monumental accomplishment alone and thanked everyone who supported and helped her throughout her career. "I needed everyone one's support and love and protection ... and I just wanted to say thank you," she said. "Thank you for everything that you've done. Thank you to Baton Rouge, thank you to LSU, thank you to Louisiana. You've always been my motivation and driving force in ensuring that I excelled."

The statue of Augustus serves as a reminder of the incredible accomplishments and impact that female athletes can have, not just on the court or field but also in shaping the culture and history of a community. Augustus' statue is not only a symbol of her success



Statue of Seimone Augustus (Photo by Sonya Goss)



Seimone Augustus, a former LSU player who led her team to multiple final fours and a Minnesota Lynx player who won four WNBA Championships, with a young fan out of the crowd before her statue unveiling at the LSU campus on Sunday.

but also a symbol of the progress and representation of women in sports. It's a powerful message to young girls and women everywhere that they can excel in sports and be recognized and celebrated for their achievements.

It's an honor for the LSU com-

munity to have such an inspiring figure immortalized on campus and a reminder for current and future student-athletes that with hard work and determination, they, too, can achieve greatness. Congratulations to Seimone Augustus on this historic achievement.

OFFSHORE from page 5

ated new advanced manufacturing credits applicable to offshore wind turbine components, among other incentives, will help American-made offshore wind components compete with imports, "additional incentives may be required to encourage domestic manufacturing of components or supply chain assets that are either not considered in the IRA or receive credits that

are smaller than the cost premium for domestic manufacturing," the report says.

The authors encourage the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, which leases federal waters for offshore wind, to consistently open new lease areas to encourage a steady stream of development and they note that states and utilities setting new offshore wind procurement targets will help provide



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