

The Weekly Press

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THURSDAY, MAY 20-26, 2021

A PEOPLE'S PUBLICATION

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STATE & LOCAL PG 2

SCHOLARSHIPS TO FIVE NORTH BR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

NATIONAL PG 3

FEDERAL GRAND JURY INDICTS CHAUVIN, OTHER OFFICERS IN GEORGE FLOYD DEATH

Former Louisiana Gov. Buddy Roemer has died at 77

NEW ORLEANS — Buddy Roemer, a Harvard-educated reform-minded politician whose one tumultuous term as Louisiana's governor was marked by bruising political battles over taxes, budgets and abortion, died Monday at age 77.



Buddy Roemer

His son, Chas Roemer, said the former governor died peacefully at his home in Baton Rouge after a long battle with diabetes. He was surrounded by his wife, children and grandchildren, Chas Roemer said.

Gov. John Bel Edwards ordered flags at the Capitol and state office buildings lowered to half staff and said Roemer "proudly represented the state he so dearly loved."

Roemer, a congressman before he was elected governor in 1987, never held office again after he finished third in the 1991 race, having switched from the Democratic to the Republican party that year. He came in behind populist Democrat Edwin Edwards, who was making a comeback bid after losing the governorship to Roemer four years earlier, and Republican David Duke, the ex-Ku Klux Klan leader. Edwards trounced Duke in the ensuing runoff, winning a fourth term.

Roemer, who became a banker in private life, ran unsuccessfully for governor again in 1995. He also briefly ran a campaign for the presidency in 2012, railing against special interest politics. Though the effort drew little notice, it kept alive Roemer's reputation as a reform-minded maverick.

"Buddy's election as governor signaled a turning point in Louisiana's history," Sen. Bill Cassidy, a Republican, said in a news release. "He loved Louisiana, contributing to it through the public and private sector. He leaves a great legacy. My condolences to his family."

"He was immeasurably talented," said U.S. Sen. John Ken-

See ROEMER, on page 2

BRCC Confers Degrees for More Than 700 students During Spring Commencement Ceremony



East Baton Rouge Parish Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome delivers the commencement address at Baton Rouge Community College's 25th commencement ceremony on Thursday, May 20.

BATON ROUGE, LA — Baton Rouge Community College conferred degrees for more than 700 students who completed their studies at the Spring 2021 Commencement Ceremony held Thursday, May 20 at 9 a.m. in the Bonne Sante Wellness Center on the Mid City Campus. The graduates represented students who had completed their degrees in spring 2021, fall 2020, and summer 2020.

"Today was a wonderful celebration of our remarkable students and the tremendous strength and dedication they have shown in completing their studies this past year, and earning their degrees," said BRCC Chancellor Dr. Willie E. Smith. "The entire BRCC community is extremely proud of them, and we wish them the best as they enter this next phase in their journeys."

East Baton Rouge Parish Mayor-President Sharon

See BRCC, on page 3



Baton Rouge Community College Chancellor Dr. Willie E. Smith congratulates a graduate during BRCC's 25th commencement ceremony held on Thursday, May 20.

Gov. Edwards Announces \$30 Million Buyout Program to Reduce Flood Risk

Gov. John Bel Edwards announced the state is funding a \$30 million program to offer voluntary residential buyouts in the Greinwich Terrace neighborhood of Lake Charles, an area that has flooded three times over the past four years, including during this week's heavy rain event.



Gov. John Bel Edwards

The buyout program furthers the Louisiana Watershed Initiative's long-term resilience objectives and is funded through a \$1.2 billion federal mitigation grant the state received access to last September. The program is part of the state projects and programs criteria in the CDBG-MIT Action Plan for these funds.

"This week's floods are a painful reminder of the devastation water continues to inflict on our state—something the people of Southwest Louisiana know all too well—and how urgent it is that we continue making investments to create more resilient, sustainable communities," Gov. Edwards said. "As we continue to press the federal government for additional recovery funds following hurricanes Laura and Delta, we have been working with impacted communities to provide immediate relief to our residents and fund projects that align with federal grant requirements and our state's long-term resilience objectives. Through the Louisiana Watershed Initiative, we are working to address the needs of communities throughout the state with projects like buyouts, where the long-term flood risk reduction benefits are unquestionable."

Today's announcement is the result of ongoing discussions with city and parish leaders who prioritized the Greinwich Terrace neighborhood as a top candidate for buyouts. The state's coastal master plan also highlights the need for this program, leveraging science

See FLOOD RISK, on page 2

READ OUR DIGITAL INTERACTIVE EDITION ONLINE @ BRWEEKLYPRESS.COM

WEATHER

MON. 05/24
Partly Cloudy
High 66°.

TUE. 05/25
Thunderstorms
High 84°.

WED. 05/26
Thunderstorms
High 87°.

THUR. 05/27
Partly Cloudy
High 87°.

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NOLA's Liberty Bank among chosen for Wells Fargo Investment in 13 Black-Owned Banks, Fulfilling \$50 Million Pledge Made in 2020

SAN FRANCISCO - Wells Fargo & Company announced it has finalized investments in two additional African American Minority Depository Institutions (MDIs): The Harbor Bank of Maryland and Industrial Bank of Washington, D.C. By making these last two equity capital investments, the company has made investments in a total of 13 MDIs and has fulfilled the bank's March 10, 2020, announcement to commit \$50 million to Black-owned banks in communities across the country.

"We are pleased to announce our investments in the Harbor Bank of Maryland and Industrial Bank,



B. Doyle Mitchell, Jr.



Gigi Dixon



Robert James

bringing the total number of MDIs in which we've made an investment to 13. We are a proud partner to all these banks as each serves as a cornerstone to the communities they serve," said Gigi Dixon, head of External Engagement for Diverse Segments, Representation and Inclusion at Wells Fargo. "The way we've structured this program goes beyond a simple capital investment; we've worked to understand these MDIs, their needs, their strategic aspirations, and their challenges. We want to help them grow so they can continue to be

See BANK, on page 5



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Celebrating 43 Years Of Service To The Baton Rouge Community | 225.775.2002

STATE & LOCAL

Mayor-President Broome Announces Parish-wide Resources for Excessive Rainfall Damage Assessments

BATON ROUGE, LA — Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome is providing an online resource for residents to report any damages associated with Severe Weather in which affected East Baton Rouge Parish beginning on May 17. Those who experienced any storm-related damages are encouraged to complete the Damage Assessment Survey at brla.gov/emergency.

and around our Parish because emergency crews are working expeditiously, while maintaining personal safety."

Local emergency responders and public work crews are diligently conducting preliminary damage assessments and clearing roadways for safe travel.

Damage Assessment Tips Insured Property:

- Remember, flooding is generally not a covered hazard under homeowners' policies. Flood insurance is a separate policy offered through the National Flood Insurance Protection Program (NFIP) or through private insurers.

- Notify your claims process.

- Document the damage by taking pictures of your property and the contents. Coordinate with your insurance adjuster in filing a Proof of Loss within 60 days of the disaster.

Uninsured Property:

- Document the damage by taking pictures of your property and the contents.

- If your property is flood damaged and you do not have flood insurance, help may be available from the federal government through small grants and larger low-cost loans.

Renters:

- If you have renter's insurance, storm damage may be covered.

- Your personal property damaged by the storm may also be covered; please refer to your policy limits.

- A deductible may be due before your losses can be paid.

- If you are unable to occupy your rented house or apartment, due to storm damage, your renters insurance may help pay additional costs you incur such as hotel bills.

Vehicles:

- Notify your automobile insurer to start the claims process.

- If you only have liability coverage, storm damages to your vehicle may not be covered; please refer to your policy limits for details.

See **JUMP**, on page 3

The survey will gather information about the extent of damages incurred and document the impact of this event on individuals, families, businesses and public infrastructure (vehicles do not apply). This information will identify specific recovery needs and continued efforts for debris removal around the City-Parish.

The East Baton Rouge Parish Mayor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (MOHSEP), the City of Baton Rouge Information Services (IS) Department and Public Works are proactively engaged in this process of collecting preliminary damage assessments. The data will be provided to the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness in support of any further requests for assistance, such as determination of eligibility for recovery assistance in accordance with federal regulations.

While assistance is not automatic nor guaranteed, East Baton Rouge Parish is committed to exploring all available resources for recovery and future mitigation projects.

Citizens may report any storm-related damages to their property via brla.gov/emergency or by calling the Permits and Inspections Division at 225-389-3205. The survey is designed to be user-friendly and should only take a few short minutes to complete.

"My prayers are with all of our residents who were affected by this historic rainfall event. I understand that many in our community are focusing on recovery efforts around their homes and businesses; however, I encourage everyone to take a moment and report their damages so that officials can adequately prepare crews and resources for recovery," said Mayor Broome. "Please be mindful while traveling in

ROEMER from page 1

nedy, another Democrat-turned-Republican, who got his political start as Roemer's executive counsel. "All he ever wanted to do was make Louisiana better, and he did. That meant making the right people mad, but he understood that. When I count my blessings, I count Buddy twice."

Married three times (his second marriage ended while he was governor) Roemer kept a lower public profile after suffering a stroke in 2014.

He was born Charles Elson Roemer III, and grew up on his family's cotton plantation, Scopena, in north Louisiana's Bossier Parish. He learned politics from his father, Charles E. Roemer II,

who served as Edwards' chief budget officer in the 1970s.

Elected to the U.S. House in 1980, Roemer forged a reputation as one of the "Boll Weevils" — conservative Southern Democrats who helped President Ronald Reagan pass legislation.

But no political label quite fit Roemer, whose north-Louisiana drawl belied his Ivy league education. Although he was reared in a politically active family and elected to four congressional terms, he ran for governor in 1987 as an outsider, crusading against special interests and bureaucracy.

His campaign, dubbed the "Roemer Revolution," was perhaps best remembered for his vows to "scrub the budget" and

See **ROEMER**, on page 3

ExxonMobil and the Baton Rouge Alliance for Students Award Scholarships to Five North Baton Rouge High School Graduates



Baton Rouge, LA — ExxonMobil and the Baton Rouge Alliance for Students have awarded five \$2,000 scholarships to North Baton Rouge graduating seniors planning to pursue post-secondary education. As part of the application process, students submitted essays offering suggestions to policymakers in ways to improve their educational experience and participated in interviews with community leaders. Winning students demonstrated academic success, leadership, and a passion to use their education to make a difference in Baton Rouge.

The five scholarship recipients are:

- Destiny Caldwell — Scotlandville Magnet High School
- Jamie C. Link, Jr. — Scotlandville Magnet

High School

- Trinity Quinn — Madison Preparatory Academy
- Kezia Scott — Collegiate Baton Rouge
- Zariel Lael Woods — Broadmoor High School

"These dynamic students have already proven themselves as leaders in our community. We are proud to support their continued success and we look forward to the positive impact they will have on our state in the years to come," said ExxonMobil Baton Rouge Plastics Plant Manager Angela Zeringue.

Scholarship winners will attend Southern University and A&M College, Louisiana State University, Alabama State University, and the University of California, Los Angeles.

FLOOD RISK from page 1

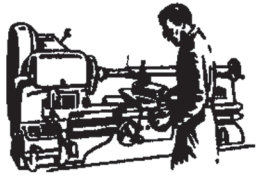
and data to reinforce the benefits these nonstructural risk reduction measures will offer to the area.

"We've been working with the Louisiana Watershed Initiative to identify solutions that address the impacts of recent storms, and recently zeroed in on the Greinwich Terrace neighborhood as a community best suited for this program," Calcasieu Parish Police Jury President Brian Abshire said. "These buyouts will not only deliver immediate relief to the residents of this area who want to relocate out of harm's way but also provide greater capacity to store water and benefit many more throughout the floodplain and beyond. It is exactly the type of investment we need to help our residents, propel our recovery efforts and give hope to southwest Louisiana that solutions are on the way."

"Lake Charles has been devastated by storms, flooding and other disasters in just the past year alone, demanding quick action and

See **FLOOD RISK**, on page 5

READER INFORMATION



How to Reach Us
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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

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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The Bridge Center for Hope Bridging the Gap community event postponed

BATON ROUGE, La. — The Bridge Center for Hope has announced today that their Bridging the Gap to Mental Health Awareness community event will be postponed to a later date. The event was scheduled to take place on Wednesday, May 19, at the East Baton Rouge Parish Main Library.

Recent storms have brought damaging rain and water to our area, and with the possibility of inclement weather in the coming days, it is out of consideration for citizens and participants that the organization has decided to postpone the event.

The Bridge Center for Hope is in close contact with the library for rescheduling the event to ensure it can continue to offer this opportunity to the citizens of East Baton Rouge. For more information, please visit brbridge.org and follow The Bridge Center on social media.

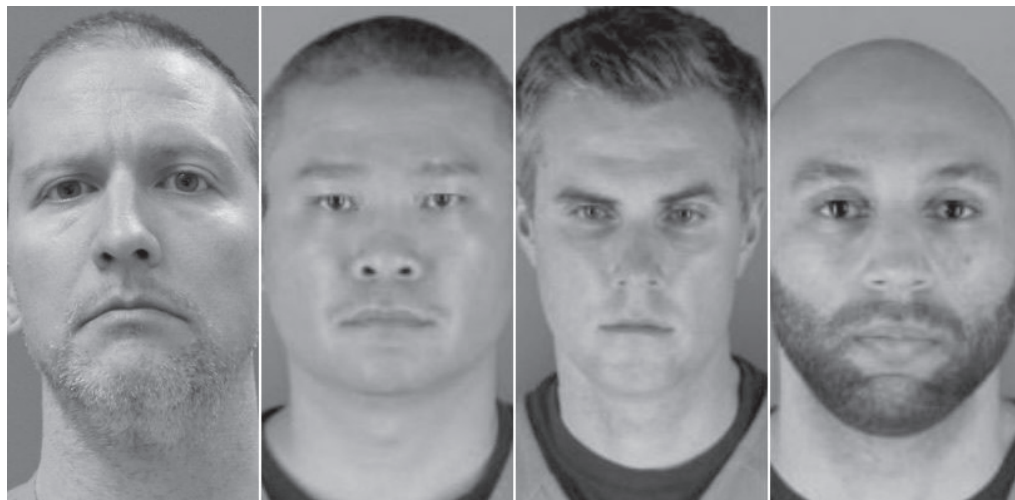
Serving East Baton Rouge Parish residents, The Bridge Center for Hope is designed as a short-term crisis stabilization center to treat individuals experiencing a mental health crisis and/or substance use challenge. The facility is located at 3455 Florida Blvd, across from the Baton Rouge General Mid City campus. The center is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week for anyone 18 years or older regardless of income or insurance residing in East Baton Rouge Parish. For more information and to stay informed of news about The Bridge Center for Hope, please visit brbridge.org.

ROEMER from page 2

“brick up the top three floors” of the Department of Education building.

He defeated Edwards, whose third term was marred by a sinking economy and federal trials in which he was acquitted but politically damaged.

NATIONAL Federal Grand Jury Indicts Chauvin, Other Officers in George Floyd Death



Chauvin, Thao, Kueng, and the fourth officer, Thomas Lane, all face a charge for failing to give Floyd medical aid.

By STACY M. BROWN,
NPPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

Civil Rights Attorney Ben Crump and members of his team who won a \$27 million civil judgment in favor of George Floyd’s family and whose relentless work in the case helped lead to a rare conviction of a police officer in the death of a Black person, applauded new federal indictments in the case on Friday, May 7.

“Today’s federal indictment for criminal, civil rights violations associated with the murder of George Floyd reinforces the strength and wisdom of the United States Constitution,” Crump said in a combined statement with attorneys Antonio Romanucci and L. Chris Stewart.

A federal grand jury handed down indictments against four former Minneapolis police officers at the scene of Floyd’s 2020 death.

The indictment charges the officers with violating Floyd’s constitutional rights.

It alleges that Derek Chauvin, the former cop convicted in April on state murder charges, deprived Floyd of the

right to be free from unreasonable seizure by a police officer.

Tou Thao and J. Alexander Kueng also were hit with federal indictments after failing to stop Chauvin from fatally wounding Floyd.

Chauvin pressed his knee into Floyd’s neck and back for 9 minutes and 29 seconds, continuing even after EMT workers who arrived at the scene could not detect a pulse.

Chauvin, Thao, Kueng, and the fourth officer, Thomas Lane, all face a charge for failing to give Floyd medical aid.

“The defendants saw George Floyd lying on the ground in clear need of medical care and willfully failed to aid Floyd, thereby acting with deliberate indifference to a substantial risk of harm to Floyd,” the grand jury charged.

Additional charges were lodged against Chauvin related to his use of “unreasonable force” on a 14-year-old in September 2017.

The indictment noted that Chauvin “held the teenager by the throat and struck the teenager multiple times in the head with a flashlight.” Chauvin further “held his knee on the neck and

the upper back of the teenager even after the teenager was lying prone, handcuffed, and unresisting, also resulting in bodily injury.”

While Chauvin faces as much as 40 years in prison after his conviction on state charges, Thao, Kueng, and Lane are scheduled to stand trial in August on charges of aiding and abetting second-degree murder and aiding and abetting second-degree manslaughter.

Each has pleaded not guilty.

“The Constitution claims to be committed to life, liberty, and justice, and we are seeing this realized in the justice George Floyd continues to receive,” Crump stated.

“This comes after hundreds of years of American history in which Black Americans, unfortunately, did not receive equal justice. The constitutional violations

See JURY, on page 5

Louisiana House snubs back-to-work bonus, unemployment hike

BATON ROUGE, La. — House lawmakers Thursday rejected a modest increase in Louisiana’s jobless benefits and a return-to-work incentive payment aimed at driving people to exit unemployment and go back to work.

Only 44 legislators voted for the bill by Rep. Rodney Lyons, while 54 House members voted against it.

Lyons, a Democrat from Harvey, initially proposed to raise the state’s maximum weekly unemployment benefits — which are currently set at \$247 — by \$28. That was a deal struck by some business and labor associations to

raise benefits that are the second-lowest in the nation.

But Republicans on the House labor committee also added a provision by GOP Rep. Mike Echols into the bill that would have given Louisiana residents receiving unemployment a lump sum payment of \$500 or \$1,000 to go back to work, if they gave up their right to claim jobless benefits for six months.

Some opponents objected to raising unemployment benefits. Others objected to giving a bonus payment to jobless people who are required to search for work in order to receive unemployment.

BRCC from page 1

Weston Broome delivered the commencement address at BRCC’s 25th commencement ceremony. Mayor Broome applauded the graduates for persevering through challenges and adversity, to reach significant triumph. She encouraged the graduates to continue pushing themselves beyond the bounds of their dreams to achieve new heights.

“You are all connected through one common thread, your accomplishments here at BRCC,” Broome said to the graduates. “You have all put forth the time and effort, and you have shown the dedication and the perseverance

needed to reach this milestone. You have crossed the finish line today.”

Today’s commencement was the first in-person ceremony that BRCC has held since December 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic. In May 2020, the college held a virtual commencement ceremony to recognize and celebrate graduates, along with a drive-thru diploma distribution. The College has also held several drive-thru pinning ceremonies during the past year to recognize graduates from the Nursing and Allied Health Division.

The ceremony was live-streamed and is available on the College’s Facebook page: [Facebook.com/mybrcc](https://www.facebook.com/mybrcc).

ASSESSMENTS from page 2

- Keep in mind you may have to pay a deductible.
- If your vehicle is declared a total loss because of flooding, you cannot buy it back.
- Louisiana law states that the

insurance company has to send the certificate of title to the Office of Motor Vehicles along with the application for a Certificate of Destruction.

For additional tips on claiming damage please visit the Louisiana Department of Insurance’s website at: www.lidi.state.la.us or by phone at (225) 342-5900.



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RELIGION

Tyscot Records Earns 14 Nominations In 36th Annual Stellar Gospel Music Awards Announcement

The nominees in the 36th annual Stellar Gospel Music Awards have been announced. Anthony Brown & group therAPy earned eight nominations. Their album, 2econd Wind: Ready (Key of A / Tyscot / FairTrade), pulled seven of them – including Album of the Year and Producer of the Year. The best-selling project features the Billboard No. 1 Gospel Airplay chart hits, “This Week” and “Blessings on Blessings.” The group’s digital EP, Stuck in the House: The Pandemic Project (Key of A / Tyscot / FairTrade), which features their current Top 20 hit “Help,” snagged a nod for graphic designer, Brik Liam, in the category of Recorded Music Packaging of the Year.



PJ Morton

R&B star PJ Morton’s all-star inspirational album, Gospel According to PJ (Morton Inspiration / Tyscot), earned five nominations, including Special Event Album of the Year. The set’s Billboard Gospel Airplay No. 1 single, “All in His Plan,” which features Le’Andria Johnson and Mary Mary, earned a Song of the Year nomination.

Finally, VaShawn Mitchell locked down recognition for his first holiday album, Home for Christmas (V Man / Tyscot / FairTrade). The collection of songs includes the all-year round track, “He Got Up,” which is currently No. 11 on Billboard’s

Gospel Airplay chart. The Stellar Gospel Music Awards ceremony will take place in Nashville, TN in the summer of 2021.

ARTIST OF THE YEAR
• Anthony Brown & group therAPy – 2econd Wind: Ready

SONG OF THE YEAR
• All in His Plan ft. Le’Andria Johnson & Mary Mary – PJ Morton

MALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR
• Anthony Brown – 2econd Wind: Ready



Anthony Brown

DUO/CHORUS OF THE YEAR
• Anthony Brown & group therAPy – 2econd Wind: Ready

PRODUCER OF THE YEAR
• Anthony Brown & Justin Savage – 2econd Wind: Ready

CONTEMPORARY DUO/CHORUS GROUP OF THE YEAR
• Anthony Brown & group therAPy – 2econd Wind: Ready

TRADITIONAL DUO/CHORUS GROUP OF THE YEAR
• The Clark Sisters – Gospel According to PJ

According to PJ

TRADITIONAL MALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR

• VaShawn Mitchell – Home for Christmas

TRADITIONAL FEMALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR

• Kim Burrell – Gospel According to PJ
• Le’Andria Johnson – Gospel According to PJ

CONTEMPORARY ALBUM OF THE YEAR

• 2econd Wind: Ready – Anthony Brown & group therAPy

SPECIAL EVENT ALBUM OF THE YEAR

• 2econd Wind: Ready – Anthony Brown & group therAPy

• Gospel According to PJ – PJ Morton

The First Ladies of Gospel: The Clark Sisters Biopic Soundtrack – Various Artists

RECORDED MUSIC PACKAGING OF THE YEAR

• Stuck in the House: The Pandemic Project – Brik Liam

The Impact of Prayer

Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. — 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18

Prayer is the lifeblood of an intimate relationship with the Father. But believers often have questions about its power and effectiveness. Don’t hesitate to take your queries to the Lord, dig into Scripture for answers, and seek the counsel of a trusted spiritual mentor. Prayer is too important to neglect.

Will God’s plans fail if I don’t pray? God is not subservient to believers or dependent upon their prayers. The time we invest in speaking with Him involves us in the work that He is doing in our lives and in the world, but He will carry on without us. Laboring alongside the Lord is our privilege.

Does my prayer (or lack thereof) impact God’s work? I believe that Scripture indicates the answer to this question is both yes and no, depending upon the situation. There are times when God’s purpose is set. He is in control and has determined the best course. In the Old Testament, the Lord often prophesied what He would do and then brought those events to pass.

In other cases, “you do not have because you do not ask” (James 4:2). There are some good things that He holds back until we

put out prayerful hands to receive them. But because God is a loving Father, He also pours our blessings that we wouldn’t even think to request.

Believer’s prayers have tremendous impact, particularly on their own faith and life. Do you understand what an awesome privilege it is to kneel before the all-powerful Father and know that He listens and will respond? God loves to be good to His children and answer their prayers.

Dr. Charles F. Stanley is the founder of In Touch Ministries and Pastor Emeritus of First Baptist Church of Atlanta, Georgia, where he served more than 50 years. Dr. Stanley’s heart’s desire is to get the gospel to “as many people as possible, as quickly as possible, as clearly as possible, as irresistibly as possible, through the power of the Holy Spirit to the glory of God.”

Because of this goal, Dr. Stanley’s teachings are transmitted as widely and effectively as possible. His teachings can be heard daily on “In Touch with Dr.

See IMPACT, on page 5



Dr. Charles F. Stanley

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

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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

BANK from page 1

important drivers of economic vitality for years to come.”

As part of the investment, Wells Fargo is offering access to a dedicated relationship team that can work with each MDI on financial, technological, and product development strategies to help each institution strengthen and grow. In addition, Wells Fargo will be making its nationwide ATM network available for customers of these 13 MDIs to use without incurring fees.

“Honoring our 86+ year commitment of educating and helping our communities build generational wealth, Industrial Bank is excited to partner with Wells Fargo in expanding these efforts,” said B. Doyle Mitchell, Jr., president and CEO of Industrial Bank. “Being one of only 20 African American banks in the country, this partnership will enhance our ability to grow and create more opportunities to provide capital to those communities we support. We appreciate Wells Fargo for its commitment to invest in minority institutions and partnering to alleviate the negative impact of financial inequalities on communities of color and closing the racial wealth gap.”

Wells Fargo has made investments in the following MDIs:

- City First Bank, in Los Angeles, California
- Carver Federal Savings Bank, in New York, New York
- Carver State Bank, in Savannah, Georgia
- Citizens Trust Bank, in Atlanta, Georgia
- Citizens Savings Bank & Trust, in Nashville, Tennessee
- Commonwealth National Bank, in Mobile, Alabama
- First Independence Bank, in Detroit, Michigan
- The Harbor Bank of Maryland, in Baltimore, Maryland
- Industrial Bank, in Washington, D.C.

- Liberty Bank, in New Orleans, Louisiana
- M&F Bank, in Durham, North Carolina
- Optus Bank, in Columbia, South Carolina
- Unity National Bank, in Houston, Texas

“Wells Fargo has honored their commitment to make meaningful capital investments in Black banks, and they have further extended their resources to help the banks effectively deploy this new capital to the benefit of historically underserved communities. As the National Bankers Association and our members pursue our vision to eliminate the racial wealth gap in America, we look forward to building on this relationship,” said Robert E. James, II, chairman of National Bankers Association.

The structure of Wells Fargo’s investment is in the form of critical equity capital, which is foundational to the MDIs’ ability to expand lending and deposit-taking capacity in their communities. The investments, primarily non-voting positions, are designed to enable the banks to maintain their MDI status. Wells Fargo is also supporting each MDI’s development through a banking relationship in the form of a single touchpoint coverage model that will help them access Wells Fargo’s expertise and pursue strategic priorities like entering new markets, expanding locations, developing new products, and hiring staff to support loan growth.

External partners that assisted Wells Fargo include the National Bankers Association and Sullivan & Cromwell. External advisory committee members are Kim D. Saunders, president and CEO of NBA; Aron Betru, managing director of the Center for Financial Markets at Milken Institute; and John W. Rogers Jr., chairman, co-CEO, and CIO of Ariel Investments.

BUSINESS

Southern University alums announce \$1M gift to Southern University College of Business

BATON ROUGE, La — Southern University alumni Mark and Dawn Malveaux today announced a \$1 million gift to the Southern University College of Business. The gift will establish an endowed scholarship and name the Master of Business program in honor of the benefactors.

“Dawn and I owe so much not only to Southern University but also to the communities that nurtured us,” Mark Malveaux said. “This gift is a tribute to a great university and the people who have committed themselves to uplift, including my amazing economics professor, the late Dr. Fred Temple. The gift is also a recognition of our parents and those aunts and uncles who did not have the opportunity to complete high school. They sacrificed much for my generation and set an example of humble dignity.”

Mark Malveaux graduated magna cum laude from Southern with a Bachelor of Science degree in economics in 1989. While at Southern, Malveaux was the first student in the University’s history awarded the Harry S. Truman Scholarship. He was also named the “Outstanding Student in the College of Business.” He then attended the University of Virginia School of Law, where he received his Juris Doctor in 1992. While in law school, Malveaux was also awarded the Bracewell and Patterson Oral Advocacy Award.



Mark and Dawn Malveaux

Upon graduation, he began his law practice at an international law firm. At the public finance firm of McCall, Parkhurst and Horton, he became the first Black partner at a nationally recognized public finance firm in Texas. An active

angel investor, Malveaux is currently on the advisory board of technology firm Filtari and a significant investor in specialty pizza company Zalat Pizza. He is also on the board of directors for the \$2 billion Dallas Police and Fire

Pension Fund.

Dawn Dillion Malveaux graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in computer science in 1984. Dawn Malveaux is a third-generation Southern University alum with her late grandfather graduating in 1935. Upon graduation, she enjoyed a nearly 20-year career in computer science before devoting her time and energy to her two children, Jordan and Dillon. She is an active member of her sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, and enjoyed her time as an active member of Jack and Jill of America.

“We are extremely grateful to the Malveaux family for this sizable gift to our College of Business and the students it continues to serve,” said Ray L. Belton, president-chancellor of the Southern University System. “This intentional gift is a shining example of how our alumni have a consistent appreciation and love for the university that shaped them. It is also a deep commitment to seeing that Southern can offer boundless opportunities to students for years to come.”

Alfred Harrell, Southern University System Foundation CEO, echoed Belton’s sentiments. “Mark and Dawn’s gift to their alma mater provides strategic investment in an area of great need, directing sizable resources to talented students in our College of Business in perpetuity,” Harrell said.

FLOOD RISK from page 2

innovative solutions to help our residents recover and position our community to thrive for years to come,” Lake Charles Mayor Nic Hunter said. “This program gives our residents a reason to be optimistic about the future, no matter how painful the present, and demonstrates our collective commitment to enacting real change in the flood-prone areas

of our state that need it the most.”

The state will continue to partner with local leaders and agencies as they engage area residents, understand their specific needs and review the buyout options available to them.

LWI is working with watershed regions throughout the state to identify and fund other projects that mitigate future flood risk.

For more information about LWI, visit the website or email watershed@la.gov.

JURY from page 3

that George suffered are clear and were also detailed by our civil litigation team last July.”

Crump continued: “Further, the additional in-

dictment of Derek Chauvin shows a pattern and practice of behavior. We are encouraged by these charges and eager to see continued justice in this historic case that will impact Black citizens and all Americans for generations to come.”

IMPACT from page 4

Charles Stanley” broadcasts on more than 3,600 television, radio, and satellite networks and stations around the world; on the Internet

at touch.org; and through the In Touch Messenger Lab. Dr. Stanley’s inspiring messages are also published in the award-winning In Touch devotional magazine and in the more than seventy books he’s authored.

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HEALTH

BR Community College launches Workforce Healthcare Training Initiative

BATON ROUGE, LA – Due to last week's inclement weather, Baton Rouge Community College's Workforce Solutions Division rescheduled the launch of its new initiative to serve the expanding medical corridor in Louisiana. The BRCC Workforce Healthcare Training Initiative will provide community and healthcare providers with qualified, trained allied health professionals. Healthcare providers will assemble for the rescheduled Workforce Healthcare Training Initiative meeting on Tuesday, June 8 at 10 a.m. at the BRCC Acadian Site, 3250 N. Acadian Thwy., Baton Rouge.

To date, medical executives from six local healthcare providers have signed on and joined the initiative, including: Ochsner Health System, Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center, Baton Rouge General, CareSouth Medical and Dental, Pointe Coupee General Hospital, and Eastern Louisiana Mental Health System.

BRCC invites additional healthcare organizations to join the initiative as the college works hand-in-hand with them to continue addressing regional and state healthcare needs. For more information on joining the initiative, please call (225) 216-8239.

Healthcare organizations and the media are invited to attend the meeting. Interested individuals can email Toni Myer at myert@mybrcc.edu or call 225-216-8199.

WHEN ENOUGH IS ENOUGH – Take a Mental Health Break!

By Sharon S. Gordon

This past year has had a tremendous impact on our country. The senseless police murder of George Floyd and others by the hands of police have had Black America on edge. To add to this, the COVID-19 Pandemic, loss of jobs, income, homes, and more importantly, family members and loved ones. For many, the numbers are too many to imagine in their worst nightmare.

You may find that processing this information, working through anxiety, and bearing the grief of it all too much at one time. You can begin to take control of your mental health and wellness.

To remain cool, calm, and collected during a crisis, we must have the right tools, tips, and resources available and on deck.

Here are a few self-care tips to help improve and protect your mental health and keep your emotions in check!

Take frequent breaks from social media and the news - Disconnect from your news feed when you feel overwhelmed. It can be a lot to take in, so make sure you're allowing yourself time to relax.

Make time for self-care - Taking care of yourself during this time is so important. Whether it's a nice long bath, some quiet time to read or cooking a nice



meal, try to do something every day that you find calming and therapeutic.

Speak to a therapist or trusted mentor - If you're able to, speak to a professional or someone you really trust about how you're feeling. Saying your thoughts out loud can make you feel more relaxed and comforted.

Exercise - Even if it's just a short walk outside to get some fresh air, exercise is a great way to help improve both your mental and physical health.

Eat well - Your mind and body both need nutrients to stay healthy and function properly, so make sure you're regularly eating wholesome, tasty food.

Reach out to friends and loved ones - Surround yourself

with people who make you feel safe and understood. Speak to them about how you're feeling when things become overwhelming.

Write things down - Putting pen to paper and making a physical note of how you're feeling is a great way to release your thoughts and prevents you from bottling things up.

Listen to music and podcasts - Lose yourself in your favorite song or find comfort in conversations from your favorite podcasts.

Practice meditation - The act of meditation can help make you feel more relaxed and peaceful. Try to carve out some time in your day to really unwind.

When COVID-19 Symptoms Linger: What You Need To Know

Before he got sick with COVID-19 last spring, Baton Rouge resident Harold Touchstone enjoyed an active semi-retirement that included playing golf, skiing, reading and doing occasional consulting work in plant manufacturing.

What he thought was the flu in late March 2020 turned out to be the novel coronavirus. By the time he went home after two lengthy hospital stays, he was consumed by side effects and symptoms much worse than his original illness.

For example, walking just a few steps left him gasping for breath. He also had to re-learn how to keep his balance, including using a walker for five months.

"I have no sense of balance, I wobble back and forth," Touchstone said.

He also suffered damage to multiple organs, along with hearing loss and a recurring brain fog so bewildering it's impossible to focus enough to read a book or have a conversation.

"I have 11 doctors now," Touchstone said.

Harold Touchstone is what's known as a "long hauler," someone who recovered from their original COVID-19 infection but now faces a bewildering wave of side effects and complications that can come and go or persist for months.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the most common complications include fatigue, shortness of breath, persistent cough, joint pain, chest pain, difficulty think-

ing and concentration (brain fog), depression, muscle pain, headache, intermittent fever and fast-beating or pounding heart.

Although less common, long haulers can also experience more serious complications such as heart muscle inflammation, lung function abnormalities, acute kidney injury, loss of smell and taste, difficulty sleeping, depression, anxiety and changes in mood.

COVID-19 is so new that doctors and researchers are still trying to figure out causes for these complications, as well as how long they will persist. Many studies are ongoing.

What is known is that even patients who had mild initial symptoms and did not require medical treatment can experience debilitating complications.

Our Lady of the Lake Physician Group now offers support for long-haul patients through the COVID-19 Recovery Resources Program, led by Brittany Roussel, FNP-C.

For Touchstone, the recovery continues. He hopes one day to be able drive a car again and resume playing golf and other activities he enjoyed before the pandemic.

If you've recovered from COVID-19 but are still experiencing symptoms, visit the COVID-19 Recovery Resources Program website or call 1-888-905-8765 toll-free Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. - 4 p.m. to be connected to appropriate follow-up medical care based on your specific symptoms.

GET YOUR COVID-19 VACCINATION HERE!

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