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THURSDAY, FEB 23 -MARCH 1, 2023

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Baton Rouge Joins Major Cities in The Coalition to Advance Public Safety

BATON ROUGE, La. — Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome joins four cities across the United States in a violence intervention cohort advised by the recently launched Coalition to Advance Public Safety (CAPS). The partnership includes four nationally recognized agencies (Community Based Public Safety Collective, Hospital AVI, NICJR, and Cities United) to advance best practices, strategies, and operational planning based on lessons learned in support of the Biden Administration's 18-month long White House Community Violence Intervention Collaborative (CVIC).
 "Over the last two years, my administration has worked together with the community to build a Community Violence Intervention ecosystem that approaches public safety from all views and strategies," says Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome. "CAPS will work hand in hand with my administration to implement a comprehensive slate of strategies that address all violence dynamics."
 In Phase II of Safe, Hopeful, Healthy BR, Broome's administra-



Mayor Sharon Weston Broome

See SAFETY, on page 2

Baton Rouge Council Examines Police Tactics in Warrants, Pursuits



Council member Darryl Hurst

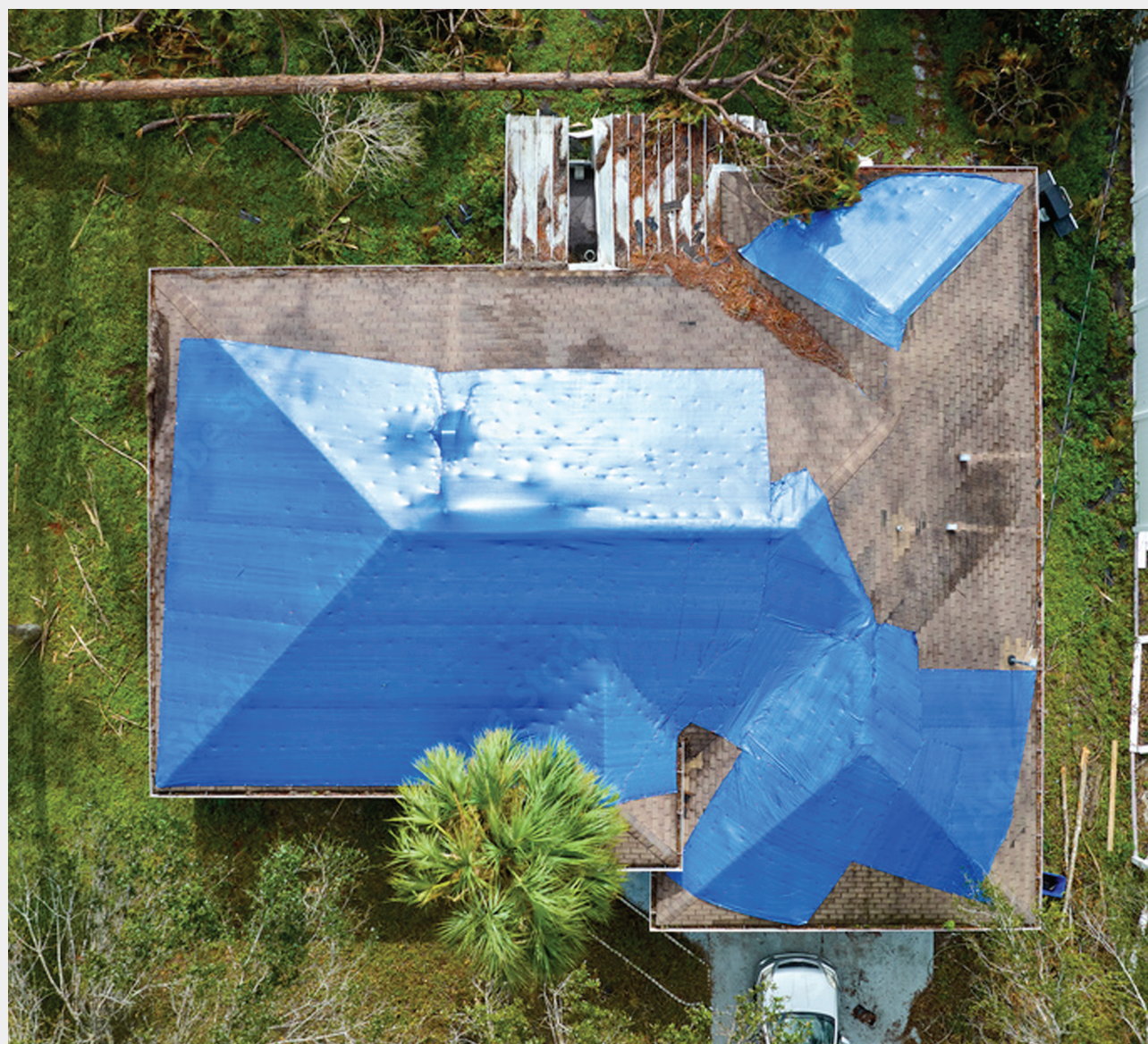


Council member Cleve Dunn, Jr.

BATON ROUGE, La. - The East Baton Rouge Metro Council is currently engaged in a comprehensive examination of the effectiveness of police pursuits and the execution of search warrants. In particular, council members Darryl Hurst and Cleve Dunn, Jr. have requested that both the Baton Rouge Police Department (BRPD) and the East Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office (EBRSO) provide a detailed report outlining the number of properties that have been damaged or destroyed during the execution of a search warrant, as well as the number of individuals who have sustained injuries during a police pursuit.
 The impetus for this investigation is the growing public concern surround-

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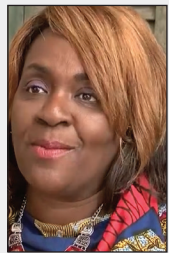
Louisiana Housing Corporation Launches 2023 Blue Tarp Fund Roofing Repair Program Initiative



Qualified applicants must also meet low-income requirements established by LHC Blue Tarp Fund Roofing Repair Program Grant guidelines of below eighty percent (80%) of the area median income.

Program to provide roofing repair to 300-500 qualified applicants on a first-come, first-serve basis

"I am thrilled that LHC is implementing this much-needed program to assist homeowners in our communities. We need to ensure that our constituents have safe and secure homes," said Regina Barrow.



Senator Regina Barrow

BATON ROUGE, La. - The Louisiana Housing Corporation (LHC) has launched the 2023 Blue Tarp Fund Roofing Repair Program, an initiative started by Senator Regina Barrow.

The grant program is designed to assist eligible homeowners in Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Iberville, Livingston, and West Baton Rouge Parishes with roofing repairs. The program was included in appropriation bills during the 2021 and 2022 regular legislative sessions.

LHC is now accepting applications for the program, which is open to homeowners who own and live in their home as their primary residence for at least one year prior to the assistance.

"We understand the devastating impact that natural disasters have had on homeowners in Louisiana," said LHC Executive Director Joshua G. Hollins. "The Blue Tarp Fund Roofing Repair



Program is one of the ways we are committed to helping our communities recover and rebuild after a disaster. We encourage eligible homeowners to apply for this program soon."

Qualified applicants must also meet low-income requirements established by LHC Blue Tarp Fund Roofing Repair Program Grant guidelines of below eighty percent (80%) of the area median income. Owners will be required to sub-

mit income documentation, such as a pay stub or a benefits summary sheet, as well as proof of home ownership.

The repair program will provide roofing repair assistance to 300-500 qualified applicants on a first-come, first-serve basis. Senator Regina Barrow, who spearheaded the program, said: "I am thrilled that LHC is implementing

See PROGRAM, on page 5

Senator Cleo Fields proposes AED mandate for schools, events

BATON ROUGE, La. — Louisiana State Senator Cleo Fields is introducing a bill that would mandate the availability of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) on all school campuses in the state, from pre-schools to colleges, as well as competitive athletic events sponsored by schools.



Senator Cleo Fields

The proposed legislation aims to make heart safety a top priority and to provide life-saving tools for students, teachers, parents, and visitors. During a life-or-death situation like cardiac arrest, seconds and even minutes can make a difference. Brad Harris, a paramedic with Baton Rouge EMS, emphasized that an AED can be a game-changer, and the sooner CPR is initiated and an AED is applied, the higher the patient's chance of survival.

Fields' bill would require that someone trained in how to use an AED be available at each school, though the training needed to operate one is not extensive. "If it says shock advised, it's going to charge and then a red flashing light will come on. You hit the button, and then it sends an electric shock to the heart," Harris said. "It may take responders 5 to 10, even 15 minutes to get to you. So, if someone is there doing CPR and an AED has delivered defibrillation before we get there, their chances of survival increase."

Dr. Carl Luikart, a sports cardiologist at Our Lady of the Lake, noted that while it is rare for children to suffer from cardiac arrest, having an AED available during major sports events or any situation could ultimately save someone's life. The bill would require AEDs at all competitive athletic events sponsored by schools, as well.

However, the bill may face funding hurdles, as school systems would need to find the funds to pay for the AEDs or work with community partners for donations.

Baton Rouge Leaders Divided on Crime Reduction

Baton Rouge's Safe, Hopeful, and Healthy BR program has reportedly reduced homicides by 23% and non-fatal shootings by 14% within the city limits, according to Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome. The program has partnered with four national organizations to develop plans based on lessons learned from the Community Violence Intervention Collaborative. Despite this progress, some members of the community believe that more needs to be done to combat crime in the city. One local expressed concern, stating "Not working... Not work-

See CRIME, on page 5

WEATHER



MON. 02/27
Mostly Cloudy
High 82°.



WED. 03/01
Partly Cloudy
High 82°.



TUE. 02/28
Mostly Cloudy
High 82°.



THUR. 03/02
Mostly Cloudy
High 85°.

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LOCAL & STATE

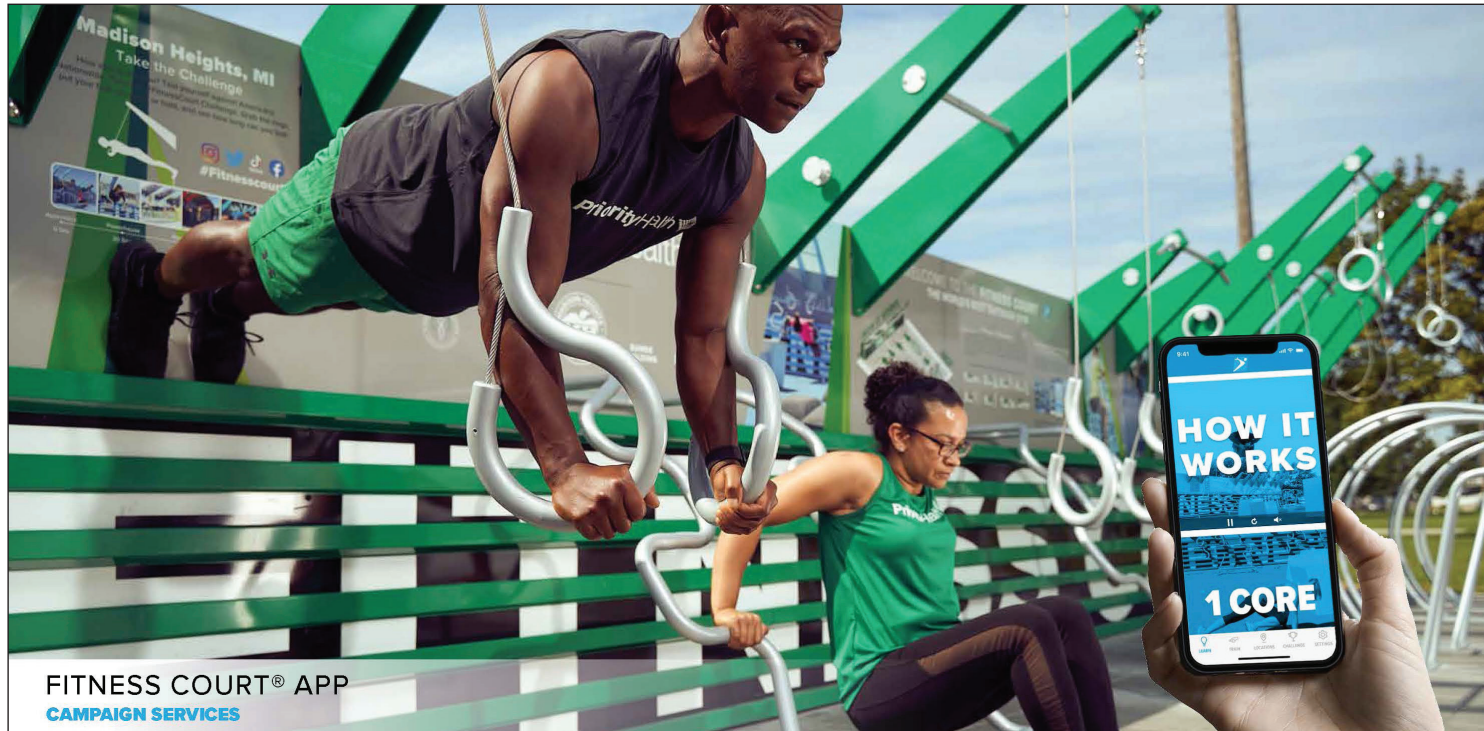
Baker Prepares Space for National Fitness Court in MLK Park

BAKER, La. — Baker has been selected as a recipient of the National Fitness Court grant, and Mayor Waites announced last week that work will soon begin to install this cutting-edge outdoor fitness court in MLK Park. As weather permits, the concrete pad for the court will be poured, followed by installation.

The National Fitness Court is manufactured in the USA and is designed for adults of all ages and abilities, providing premier outdoor fitness classes and training programs while being fully accessible. It is constructed to last for decades in any environment, utilizing best-in-class materials like dual-layer powder-coated carbon steel, tamper-resistant, galvanized & stainless steel bolts and fittings, and anti-graffiti laminate vinyl decals.

The National Fitness Campaign (NFC) offers free online guides to circuit training on the equipment and provides ample space on the open courtside for instructor-led classes in the fitness court studio. Users can access programming on YouTube or through the app, available for both iOS and Android, to maximize their fitness potential.

The National Fitness Campaign's core tenet is the 7 Movements for Everyday Health, which includes Core, Squat, Push, Lunge, Pull, Agility, and Bend. Beginner, intermediate, and advanced training videos demonstrate how users of any age or ability can utilize the Fitness Court at every station. Users can leverage their body weight at different angles and



FITNESS COURT® APP
CAMPAIGN SERVICES

levels of resistance to improve their performance over time. Additionally, the Fitness Court can be used in thousands of ways and variations, making the possibilities for unique movements and custom routines endless.

The Fitness Court offers a full-body workout in only seven minutes. Users can rotate through all seven zones on the Fitness Court for a circuit training workout that will have them sweating in just seven minutes. Guided step-by-step coaching from expert trainers like celebrity trainers Rob Riches and Mark Lauren are available to take workouts to the next

level. Workouts for every goal are available, from balance and mobility to strength and cardio. The Fitness Court Movement Library features international best-selling author and award-

winning trainer Mark Lauren as he walks users through beginner through advanced moves that can be done at each station.

The City of Baker is thrilled to partner with the National Fi-

tness Campaign to provide new fitness opportunities to the community. Stay tuned to LABAKER UPDATES for the latest progress on this exciting new resource coming to Baker in 2023!

SAFETY from page 1

tion aims to connect a city-based violence prevention infrastructure that prioritizes interagency department solutions for neighborhood safety, employment and education, and health and human services.

The goal is to provide adequate funding and coordination,

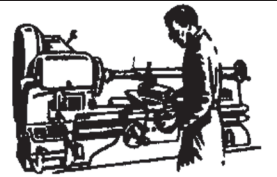
with a shared vision of public safety to maximize the response to high-risk people and make violence reduction sustainable.

The initiative will allow city leaders and local CVI organizations to expand their current action plans, with a goal to reduce gun

homicides and non-fatal shootings by 20 percent over five years.

The Coalition to Advance Public Safety will systematically deploy the leading technical assistance and training providers to work in these cities and reinforce sustained effective violence intervention initiatives.

READER INFORMATION



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

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Martha White's Refusal to Give Up Bus Seat Sparks Baton Rouge Bus Boycott and Civil Rights Movement



During the 1953 bus boycott in Baton Rouge, the African American community organized free carpools, enabling protestors to go about their daily business while simultaneously showing they would no longer accept second-class citizenship. COURTESY OF THE PHOTOGRAPHER, ERNEST RITCHIE.



Baton Rouge Bus Stop. Ritchie, Ernest (Photographer) COURTESY OF THE PHOTOGRAPHER, ERNEST RITCHIE.

Martha White was a woman whose simple act of refusing to vacate a seat on a Baton Rouge bus in 1953 had a profound impact on the civil rights movement in America. Her refusal to move from the front of the bus sparked a week-long boycott in Baton Rouge, which would serve as a model for the more famous Montgomery bus boycott led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. two and a half years later.



Martha White, civil rights pioneer who sparked the Baton Rouge Bus Boycott, remembered for her bravery.

White was a black housekeeper who was bone-weary coming home from work one day when she climbed aboard a city bus and saw only one seat left in the "whites only" section at the front. She took it, saying later that she was just tired and needed to sit down. Her simple act was a startling move in the Jim Crow south, and the bus driver promptly threw her off the bus, prompting black residents of the city to mount a bus boycott.

That protest led to a partial desegregation of the city's buses and was a milestone event in Louisiana.

White's role as the catalyst in the movement's first large-scale bus boycott had long been overshadowed by the events in Montgomery, Alabama, where Rosa Parks famously refused to give up her bus seat to a white man. But the Baton Rouge boycott was a template for the Montgomery boycott, and without White's courageous act, the Montgomery boycott might

never have happened.

White's refusal to give up her seat was the start of a chain of events that had a profound impact on American history. The Baton Rouge boycott, organized by the Rev. T.J. Jemison, who was pastor of Mount Zion First Baptist Church in Baton Rouge and would become part of the first generation of civil rights leaders, was settled by a partial desegregation of the city's buses. It was one of the earliest and most consequential events

of the civil rights movement.

By the time White died in 2019 at the age of 99, her role in the civil rights movement had largely been forgotten. But her family, along with civil rights leaders in Baton Rouge, were determined to make sure her contribution to the movement was not overlooked. They wanted to find a way to honor her and give her the recognition she deserved.

Eugene Collins, president of the Baton Rouge NAACP, said that

without White's actions, none of the rest of that history would have happened. "We can make the argument that none of the rest of that history happens without Martha White," he said in an interview.

White's family felt that her contribution to the movement had been lost in history and that she had not received the recognition she deserved. They wanted to find a way to honor her memory and ensure that she was not forgotten.

Byron Sharper, a family member, said, "I think we need to find a way to write her name in the history books and give her credit because it's due." Collins added, "If she was a man, I feel like she would have already had a statue built downtown."

The family wanted to see city leaders rename the CATS bus stop on Florida Blvd. in her honor and move the bus from the Baton Rouge African American Museum to that same bus stop. They believed that this would be a fitting tribute to a woman whose actions changed the course of history.

Martha White was a woman of courage and conviction whose simple act of refusing to give up her seat on a Baton Rouge bus changed the world. Her actions inspired a movement that would change the course of American history and set the stage for the civil rights movement that followed. Although her role in the movement had largely been forgotten, her legacy lives on, and her contribution to the struggle for equality and justice should never be overlooked.



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RELIGION

NYC Town Hall celebrates Gospel legend Twinkie Clark

New York, NY – New York City’s Town Hall presentation “A Celebration of Composer Twinkie Clark,” conducted by musical polymath Damien Sneed on Friday was a huge success.

The star-studded lineup included multiple Grammy Award-winning recording artists Karen Clark Sheard and Faith Evans, tenor saxophonist and jazz vocalist Camille Thurman, Pastor Juandolyn Stokes, along with featured vocalists Chenee Campbell, Tiffany Freeman, Markita Knight, and Alicia Peters-Jordan with the Orchestra of Tomorrow, founded by Sneed.

The packed audience came to pay homage to virtuoso and four-time Grammy Award-winning Gospel legend Elberta “Twinkie” Clark, who is celebrating a five-plus-decade career as one of the most prolific gospel composers in music history. The historic evening also included a proclamation from Mayor Eric Adams’ office, declaring Friday, Jan. 21, 2023, Dr. Elberta “Twinkie” Clark Day in New York City, which was presented by Faith Evans.

With standing ovations throughout, music composer Damien Sneed curated an evening fit for “The Queen of the B3 Hammond Organ” and the “Mother of Gospel Music,” with her well-known and sacred compositions which included a combination of full songs and medleys: “Now Is The Time,” “Ha Ya (Eternal Life),” “For The Love Of The People,” “Jesus Is A Love Song,” “Bless You Real Good,” “Jesus Saves,” “Pray For The USA,” “Pure God,” “Balm In Gilead,” “Worship The



Composer Twinkie Clark

King,” “Feed My Sheep,” “I Tried Him and I Know Him,” “Wonderful Counselor,” “Praying Spirit,” “Expect Your Miracle,” “Nothing To Lose,” “Is My Living In Vain,” “You Brought The Sunshine” and the finale “Hallelujah.”

In addition, vocalist Chenee Campbell brought the audience to their feet by singing Damien Sneed’s composition, “Here With You,” which Twinkie Clark featured and performed on her album, “Twinkie Clark & Friends...Live in Charlotte” (2002).

“I originally conceptualized this tribute to Twinkie Clark

many, many years ago while living in Detroit and traveling across the country as music director for The Clark Sisters,” said Sneed. “I am elated that everything turned out so well and most of all that Twinkie Clark was celebrated as the American treasure and musical genius she is.”

“Friday night was a once-in-a-lifetime concert event,” says Melay Araya, artistic director of The Hall, NYC. “Twinkie Clark came on stage to a full house and a stage of artists who came from around the country to honor her. Twinkie Clark set The Town Hall

and Damien Sneed off on a good foot as we move forward with our Black Voice series.”

Additionally, Sneed’s label, LeChateau Earl Records released Twinkie Clark’s debut solo instrumental project, Maestra. Executive produced by Sneed, the EP features the “Opening Prayer,” “Miracle,” “Yes Lord,” “Nothing To Lose,” and “A Praying Spirit,” and is available on all digital outlets everywhere.

Born and raised in Detroit, Mich., Elberta “Twinkie” Clark has composed more than 350 songs. She has been awarded nu-

merous awards including the Stellar Music Award, and is a recipient of the James Cleveland Lifetime Achievement Award, the GMA Dove, and Soul Train Music Award, among many others.

Clark was recently honored by the Church of God In Christ (COGIC) for her significant contributions to the music department and credited for helping to give the church-wide denomination its “COGIC Sound.”

Clark recorded several solo music projects including her debut studio album, “Praise Belongs to God” (1979), followed two years

later by “Ye Shall Receive Power” (1981), “Comin’ Home” (1992), and “The Masterpiece” (1996). In 1996, she made her live debut in the collaborative album, “Twinkie Clark-Terrell Presents the Florida A&M University Gospel Choir.” In 2002, she released “Twinkie Clark & Friends...Live in Charlotte,” and in 2014, she released “Home Once Again: Live in Detroit,” her highest-charting solo album to date. Clark also released “With Humility” (2011), “Live & Un-plugged” (2013), and a collaborative album “The Generations” (2020), with her nephew, Larry Clark.

Throughout her career, Clark has produced albums for choirs, and traveled abroad as an evangelist, music educator and workshop facilitator. Her compositions have been recorded and sampled by some of Gospel’s greats as well as award-winning popular music recording artists.

A Howard University alumnus, Clark credits her musical gifts to God and her mother, the late Dr. Mattie Moss Clark as her greatest inspiration. In April 2020, Lifetime honored The Clark Sisters in a biopic titled “The Clark Sisters: The First Ladies of Gospel,” to rave reviews. The movie details their humble beginnings and struggles to find their place, to later becoming the best-selling Gospel group in music. The movie featured recordings of some of The Clark Sisters’ biggest hits like “You Brought The Sunshine,” among others.

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BUSINESS

AmeriHealth Caritas Recognized Again for Longstanding Commitment to Diverse Businesses

Health plan has strong vision for equity and inclusion to support associates, members and the communities



For the second consecutive year, AmeriHealth Caritas, a national leader in Medicaid managed care and other health care solutions for those most in need, was once again honored by the Eastern Minority Supplier Development Council (ESMDC) for the organization's commitment to working with diverse businesses.

ESMDC has named AmeriHealth Caritas its 2022 National Corporation of the Year Award in recognition of the health plan's efforts to create business opportunities for certified Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs) and for con-

sistent commitment to the diverse suppliers in its supply chain. The managed care organization also received this award in 2021.

AmeriHealth Caritas continues to demonstrate dedication to supplier diversity through the diversity, equity, and inclusion policies embedded in its organization, innovative thought leadership, and execution in engaging MBEs.

In October, the National Minority Supplier Development Council selected AmeriHealth Caritas as a member of its Forefront 50, a listing of corporations that are leading the way in creating greater economic access and equity for systematically excluded entrepreneurs of color.

The Medicaid managed care organization implemented a

mentor-protégé program in 2021 to help provide small, minority- and women-owned businesses with tools and training to aid growth.

AmeriHealth Caritas was also recognized by the Women's Business Enterprise Center - East (WBEC-EAST) as its 2022 Partner of the Year for advocacy for women-owned business, specifically for its diverse spend with woman-owned businesses.

AmeriHealth Caritas Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer Karen Dale said economic stability is a social determinant that directly affects a person's ability to achieve and maintain health and wellness, along with education, access to healthy food, and other factors.

"By investing in supplier diversity, we are advancing equitable solutions while contributing to the economic stability of the communities we serve," Dale said. "Our commitment to working with small and diverse businesses reinforces our mission to build healthy communities."

COUNCIL from page 1

ing the various tactics employed by law enforcement agencies and the extent of harm inflicted upon civilians as a result. Recently, a woman who wished to remain anonymous shared her experience of having her home on Packer Street raided by police approximately a year ago. Following the search, her home was severely damaged and rendered uninhabitable. She was unable to afford the necessary repairs herself and reported that the police refused to cover the costs.

Upon hearing of this case, the homeowner approached Councilman Hurst about the issue. After learning of this woman's plight and hearing similar stories from around the parish, Hurst felt compelled to act. He stated, "They tear the windows out of homes, they put bombs in homes, they put other things that end up destroying the home and causes terrible damage...The police came in and tore the house apart. It was an errant property, and the people didn't have enough money to fix it. It became blighted and it hit the condemnation list, and now it's created even more of an

expense and the police won't pay for the repair."

According to Hurst, this woman's experience is not unique, and numerous others have encountered the same issue. Despite this, he is keen to emphasize that this is not an attack on law enforcement personnel, who he believes are fulfilling their duties by removing potential threats to the community and safeguarding public safety.

Hurst does acknowledge that there are cases where homeowners can receive reimbursement for damage inflicted upon their property during a search warrant. However, this does not happen in every instance, which is why he is seeking to review as much data as possible to formulate legislation that can aid homeowners, families, the city parish, and the police. He is also eager to ascertain what studies can be conducted and what research can be undertaken to generate a solution that better serves the needs of East Baton Rouge Parish.

BRPD and EBRSO have both committed to providing their reports to the council by next month. This will allow council members to obtain a more detailed understanding of the current situation and determine the appropriate course of action moving forward.

CRIME from page 1

ing at all. You be afraid to leave your house sometimes, you don't know what's gonna happen it's... It's just...It's just gotten worse."

However, Darius Lanus with the group 100 Black Men thanked national partners for their contribution to making Baton Rouge a "place where we can grow, where we can find expansion and opportunity, but most importantly where we can be a great city as we always have been." Safe, Hopeful, and Healthy BR's phase two will focus on solutions for neighborhood safety, employment, education, and health services.

PROGRAM from page 1

this much-needed program to assist homeowners in our communities. We need to ensure that our constituents have safe and secure homes."

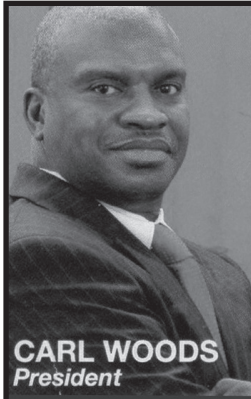
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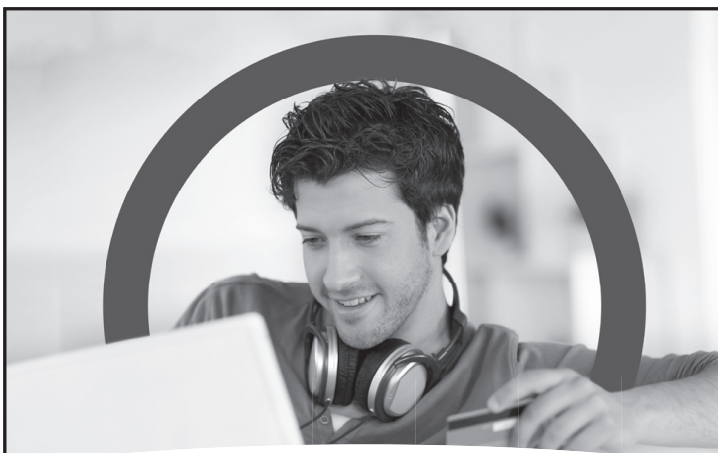


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Celebrating the accomplishments of History Makers, both past and present, is an important way to recognize their contributions to society and inspire others to pursue greatness. By acknowledging their achievements, we honor the hard work, dedication, and perseverance that have helped shape our world. Celebrating History Makers also allows us to reflect on the progress we have made as a society, and to recognize the ongoing struggles that continue to shape our collective future. Whether we look to our community leaders, historical figures, or everyday people who have made a difference in the world, celebrating History Makers helps us appreciate the power of human potential and the importance of making a positive impact on the world around us.



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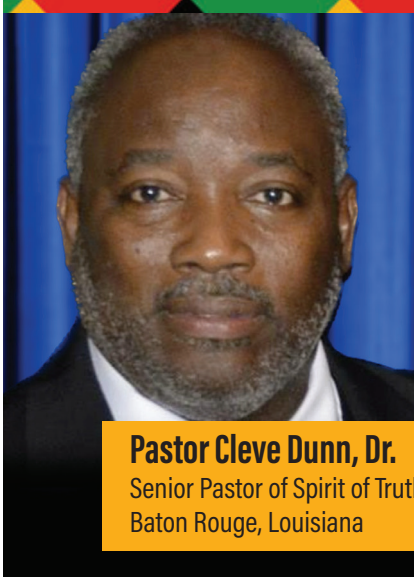
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#1

**THIS MONTH
[MARCH]**

@ BREC

- POLKADOTS: THE COOL KIDS MUSICAL**
Independence Park Theatre March 2 | 7 p.m.
- ARTIST'S STUDIO: COLLAGE**
Baringer Art Center March 3 | 9:30 a.m.-noon
- ART UNWIND: WELCOME SPRING!**
Baringer Art Center March 3 | 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- COMITE RIVER RUN**
Comite River Park March 4 | 8 a.m.-1 p.m.
- MOVIE IN THE PARK**
EGGSTRAVAGANZA
Anna T. Jordan Community Park March 8 | noon-3 p.m.
- THE EDGE OF NIGHT – WINTER**
Highland Road Park Observatory March 10 | 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- GLOW IN THE PARK: CAPTURE THE FLAG**
Antioch Boulevard Park March 10 | 6-7:30 p.m.
- GLOW IN THE PARK: KICKBALL**
Jackson Community Park March 10 | 6-7:30 p.m.
- MARDI GRAS FUN RUN 5K**
Perkins Road Community Park March 11 | 10 a.m.-noon
- ROCKIN' AT THE SWAMP**
Bluebonnet Swamp Nature Center March 11 | 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- ARTSFEST@BARINGER PARK**
Baringer Road Park March 11 | 5-8 p.m.
- ART INTENSIVE WORKSHOP: SKETCHBOOK 101**
Baringer Art Center March 13 | 9:30-11:30 a.m.
- ZOO + ME MORNINGS**
Baton Rouge Zoo March 14 | 9:30-11:30 a.m.
- MEMBER'S NIGHT AT THE ZOO**
Baton Rouge Zoo March 17 | 4-6:30 p.m.
- SUNSHINE SOCIAL: GREEN-OUT PARTY**
Milton J. Womack Park March 17 | 6-9 p.m.
- CONTINUOUS EGG HUNT**
Jackson Community Park March 18 | 1-3 p.m.
- Forest Community Park**
March 25 | 1-3 p.m.
- SUMMER CAMP**
REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 4
brec.org/summercamp
- ATHLETICS BASKETBALL OPEN HOUSE**
Sports Academy March 19 | noon-6 p.m.
- CAMP-IN' Lovett Road Park**
March 20 | 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
- SCOTLANDVILLE PARKWAY ARTWALK**
Scotlandville Parkway March 25 | 1-5 p.m.
- PLUS NIGHT: ASTEROIDS**
Highland Road Park Observatory March 25 | 7-10 p.m.
- ADULT FUN PICKLEBALL DOUBLES TOURNAMENT**
Greenwood Community Park Tennis Center March 25 | 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
- SENSORY BUNNY**
Zachary Community Park March 31 | 6-8 p.m.

BREC.ORG/THISMONTH





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