

The Weekly Press

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 6-12, 2020

A PEOPLE'S PUBLICATION

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Southern Prepares to Welcome Students Back to Campus...Pg 2

As SEC Relaxes Rules, Small Businesses Allowed to Raise Money Easier...Pg 5

Child Vaccinations Decline During COVID-19 Pandemic...Pg 6

La. Department of Education Provides Resources To School Systems To Ensure Strong Start For Every Student

New Resources Focus on Core Academics, Students with Diverse Needs, Educator Workforce and School Operations in 2020-2021 and Beyond

BATON ROUGE, La. -- The Louisiana Department of Education today released a suite of resources to help school systems ensure a strong start to the 2020-2021 school year for every student. The resources, which range from diagnostic assessments and mental health supports to services for diverse learners and teacher training, are now available on a dedicated "Strong Start 2020" page (will open in new tab) on the Department's website.

The resources released today complement funding and guidance issued last week. The Department distributed nearly \$260 million (will open in new tab) in federal relief funding to address unfinished learning from the 2019-2020 school year, set the foundation for continuous learning in 2020-2021 and prepare for potential modified operations in the future. The Department also provided a "Strong Start 2020 Planning Guide" (will open in new tab) to school systems on how to prioritize spending to meet those goals.

In its guidance, the Department articulated a strong start to the next school year must ensure:

Every student's academic needs are identified at the beginning of the year using a high-quality, standards-aligned diagnostic tool.

There is a plan for every

See **RESOURCES**, on page 2

EBR PARISH SCHOOL SYSTEM Getting Parents, Students 'Tech Ready' for Upcoming School Year



EBRPSS getting parents, students 'tech ready' for new school year of virtual learning

BATON ROUGE, La. - Many students in East Baton Rouge Parish are just days away from virtual learning.

During the first week of August, schools have been distributing Chromebooks and hot spots to students.

The East Baton Rouge Par-

ish School System (EBRPSS) wants to make sure parents and students are tech ready for the 2020-2021 school year.

"I think for parents you have to be more hands-on now," said Darrel Jackson, a parent.

Jackson is picking up devices for his children at

McKinley Middle School. He says he's happy students have a safe option for learning, but he is concerned about how lax things may be at home.

"You have parents that work so they're going to have to come home and make sure that their child is doing what

they're supposed to be doing, and not lollygagging and not just all over the place," Jackson said.

"A big thing with having families ready is to prepare a place in the home that is designated as a study area," said Amy

See **SCHOOL**, on page 2

Gov. Edwards Releases Statement on Court's Decision to Uphold the Mask Mandate, Bar Restrictions



Gov. John Bel Edwards

BATON ROUGE, La - Gov. John Bel Edwards released the following statement in response to Judge Janice Clark's ruling in the 19th Judicial District to uphold the mask mandate, bar restrictions and limits on gatherings to no more than 50 that he implemented on July 11 in response to the impact of COVID-19 statewide.

"I am pleased that Judge Clark upheld the critical mitigation measures I put in place to slow the spread of COVID-19 in Louisiana and to protect and save lives. The evidence is clear that mask mandates and bar closures work. Not only have they been proven effective in other states and countries, but 24 days into our own bar closure to on-site consumption and mask mandate our data is showing early signs of improvements in terms of decreasing reports of COVID-like illness, new cases and hospitalizations. What we are doing is necessary, and what we are doing is working. Further, my orders are fully consistent with the constitution and statutory authority I have as governor to protect our people during a public health emergency.

"Taking strong mitigation measures like closing businesses and mandating masks was not an easy decision, but it was data driven and based on the recommendations of public health experts and the White

See **MANDATE**, on page 5

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5 Day Forecast BR Area

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High 88°.

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NAACP Sues U.S. Education Secretary Over COVID-19 School Money

BY STACY M. BROWN,
NNPA Newswire Senior
Correspondent
@StacyBrownMedia

The coronavirus pandemic has focused the nation's attention on the essential role public schools play in families and communities' lives.

The NAACP said it's also exposed severe racial inequalities that continue to plague the country's education system and disadvan-

tagged students of color.

Rather than addressing those problems, NAACP President Derrick Johnson declared that U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos "exploited the pandemic to promote her personal



U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos

agenda of funneling taxpayer dollars to private schools and taking resources away from the schools and the students who need it most."

"We simply can't let this happen. So, we're taking her to court," Johnson announced.

The NAACP formally filed a lawsuit in federal court in Washington, D.C., accusing DeVos of illegally changing the rules for allocating \$13.2 billion in Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) money to benefit

wealthy private k-12 schools.

"Recently, Secretary DeVos issued regulations that would force public school districts to divert federal emergency relief funds from public schools and send them to private schools. By one estimate, over \$1 billion would be lost to private schools under the rule," Johnson declared.

"So, the NAACP filed a lawsuit along with public school families and school districts across the country, challenging this unfair,

unequal, and unjust rule. We'll fight this as hard as it takes - for as long as it takes - to protect our students, schools, and communities."

The NAACP's lawsuit suggests that the CARES Act, which was signed by President Donald Trump earlier this year, says explicitly that local school departments are to distribute the fund based on the number of Title I, or low-wealth

See **NAACP**, on page 6

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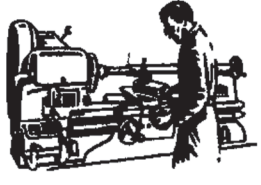
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Southern Prepares to Welcome Students Back to Campus

BATON ROUGE - As many students pack up to prepare for moving into dorms, Southern University has reworked that process to make it safer even though it sacrifices some school traditions.

"The move-in process had to change," Tracie Abraham, Southern's executive director of student services and residential life said. "We could not cram everybody in the lobbies of the facilities because we would not be in compliance with the social distancing guidelines."

Roughly 1,000 new Jaguars will be welcomed to campus and their dorm rooms Tuesday. This year, COVID-19 has forced school officials to redesign the entire process, typically known to bring large celebratory crowds to campus.

"It's going to look totally different," Abraham said. "Families will drive in and remain in their vehicles. We will give them their entire move-in packet under the tent and the students will go directly to their room."

Four check-in times over the



course of the day will reduce the number of people in the buildings at one time. Students will have two hours to move in and can have no more than two people help, which will give the event a different emotional resonance.

"Families come, grandparents come, little brothers, sisters,

everybody comes to help move in," Abraham said. "However this year, we can't allow your entire family to come. Tomorrow that's probably going to be the biggest change, that they're going to have to move all those things by themselves, and we won't have all the help."

Abraham and the rest of Southern's Residential Life and Housing team has spent the summer months crafting this altered move-in plan, working with other universities in the state and across the country. While she has nerves ahead of the unusual move-in process, she also knows the campus

is ready for what is always a big day for staff and students.

"We're just trying to make it a safe environment as possible for all the students," Abraham said. "The families can leave. The parents can leave with some peace of mind that their students are being left in good hands."

RESOURCES from page 1

student, including extra time and support for students with the greatest unfinished learning from the prior year.

There are clear next steps for every high school student and recent graduate, who will enter a new economy.

The expanded "Strong Start 2020" resources create a roadmap for school systems to accomplish this. Among the highlights, the resources include:

- Screeners and diagnostic assessments to gauge the learning levels of students in kindergarten through high school, and guidance on how to address unfinished learning;

ing;

- Social and mental health supports, including mental health screenings upon return to school, to promote the well-being of all students and educators;

- Top-rated instructional materials that can be easily adapted during modified school operations, and professional development for teachers on how to use them;

- Recommendations on continuous instruction in non-core subjects, including career and technical education coursework, regardless of setting;

- Information on how to secure discounted technology, like devices and broadband, to enable

high-tech distance education;

- Services for high school graduates to ensure a smooth transition into college or career; and

- Guidance and resources to support the unique needs of the state's most vulnerable students, including English Learners and students with disabilities.

"Louisiana school systems should be commended for having created strong academic plans. A strong start to the 2020-2021 academic year must not only retain but build on those academic priorities and ensure they are adapted to meet new demands, including how to open and operate facilities that keep staff, students, and their families safe," said Acting State Superintendent Beth Scioneaux. "The various resources released today, and those to come, aim to successfully steer that process."

Resources designed for child care providers and for families are now in development and will soon be released. They will be added to the "Strong Start 2020" webpage.

SCHOOL from page 1

Jones, director of technology for EBR Schools.

Jones recommends keeping virtual learning areas out of high traffic areas in the home and away from where pets play.

"Put them somewhere close to WiFi in your home or if you are on a hotspot, then make sure you are close to the outside of your building so that it gets that clear signal," Jones said.

She says parents using hotspots, which are ways to connect to the internet, should not have to worry about connection issues or what their children are doing online.

"They are filtered through our networks at school, adding a layer of protection that our chrome books also have with the management piece. So devices are filtered and they're safe for all families and they

can rely on that," said Jones.

"We're confident that once those parents and students log-in, that they will have the bandwidth that they need adequately from the district level," said Jones.

Parents can also access an online help desk and tutorial videos to help their children through virtual learning.

"I have to be honest with you, it's actually mixed feelings because you just don't know what you're coming into; you don't know what it's going to look like. But just like I try to teach my kids, you have to make the best out of what you have and what you have to deal with."

Parents can visit techready.ebrschools.org to register for devices or contact their child's school directly.



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Transforming Urban Communities from Within

TIFFANY L. FOXWORTH

For 19th Judicial District Court, Criminal Court, Division M

Tiffany Foxworth accepted a duty and obligation to this community, 15 years ago when she took an oath and was sworn in as an attorney. From that day forward, she has represented and fought vigilantly for the rights of hundreds of minorities charged with felony crimes, in the 19th Judicial District Court. She refused to sit back and wait to be elected judge before going into a courtroom to fight for Constitutional Protections to be extended to people who looked just like her. She states, "As a black woman, I am fully cognizant of the fact that racial disparities are prevalent, systemic racism exists and the lack of economic resources disproportionately affects black people, especially in the criminal justice system. Over incarceration is a huge problem but the disproportionate number of felony convictions amongst blacks, is an even bigger problem. It often results in psychological institutionalism, destroys family dynamics, marginalizes future earnings and economic power, and until recently convicted felons were prohibited from voting thus having no voice in their representation."

District Court judges are tasked with handling all minor and major felony cases, including capital punishment which results in the death penalty. Criminal Court Judges have a significant amount of power and discretion to remove children from the care of their parents, order people to give up their DNA, sentence people to life in prison, death by lethal injection.

For years, Louisiana has been ranked #1 in the nation for mass incarceration. She has fought relentlessly in the courtroom for equal protections under the laws, often with little to no compensation. Her philosophy for life is "to whom much is given much is required". Upon taking office, she plans to launch the "Get Back On Track Program" designed to provide resources to rehabilitated inmates to assist with entering the workforce after completion of sentence.

The vicious cycle of discriminatory practices will not cease to exist until real change is made in the judiciary and beyond. Being socially conscious is more than theory or a hashtag! It requires an awareness that black people regardless of their educational background, pedigree or careers are constantly reminded of daily as they go out to face the world!

TIFFANY FOXWORTH #218, candidate in the run-off election to be held August 15, 2020 to fill the vacant seat for Judge, 19th Judicial District Court, Criminal Court, Division M, voices she is:

- God fearing and directed;
- Socially conscious;
- Civically motivated;
- A competent attorney who has extensive misdemeanor and felony bench and jury trial experience within this jurisdiction;
- Mindful and respectful of others;
- A registered nurse whose nearly 20 years tenure enhanced her compassion for mankind, •A Veteran who served this country proudly for 13 years in the U.S. Army, as both an enlisted soldier and commissioned officer preparing her to lead when called upon to make tough decisions; and
- Above all, a Christian who will apply the principles of God to that of man to fairly administer justice in accordance with the laws of State of Louisiana.

SPECIAL ELECTION AUGUST 15

TIFFANY FOXWORTH #218 FOR JUDGE



19TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, DIVISION M

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for CRIMINAL COURT JUDGE

VOTE THIS SATURDAY, AUGUST 15

RELIGION

"I Have A Vision"

By: Bishop Thelma Pearl
Prophecy Given '1994'

While cleaning one day, I found this prophetic work that God gave to me. It was written in the year of 1994. This prophecy is in full fruition. I wanted to convey to people that prophecy is present, past and future. Those of you who have the true Spirit of God that has gifted you to discern, check this prophecy out! I promise no lie!! This stuff is for real! For more information, you can call me at (225) 246-2084. I will await your call. "And ye shall know the truth and truth shall Make you free!" John 8:32

And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, "I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams." Acts 2:17.

In these last and evil days,

when perilous times are here. It seems as though trials and tribulations are taking us down the escalators of frustrations and disastrous despairs. Our hopes and dreams seem to be shattered and turned wrong side out; our days and nights are stressful and even unbearable. We are not killed by night only; but openly in the day! Our homes are no longer sheltering us with love and security. Hatred walks in the midst of our families as weapons operating in the midst of a raging warfare with every intention to kill the enemy.

We are going deeper and deeper into an awful recession. SSI, Medicaid, Medicare, eligibility benefits for the poor in all respects are being weaned out.

Can we believe that this is the land of the free and the home of the brave? Where can we find peace? Can there ever be peace on earth? If so, how long will taxes eat up our pay check every time we get a



raise? How long will people drive up to the food stamp office in Caddillac and walk out with \$300.00 to \$400.00 food stamps, and the poor barely get enough to survive.

How long will good jobs be denied to us because of our color and not because of our ability to perform? How long will Christian people support majority groups hoping to get inside the circle and denounce minority groups?

(1) I have a vision that one day men of power are going to come to realize that even in high places, they are limited and that God is all power.

(2) I have a vision that jobs are going to be given to those who can meet qualifications without discrimination.

(3) I have a vision that Christians are going to get up, stand up, and speak up to sinner men, women, boys and girls that Jesus Christ is the way; Salvation is the only plan.

(4) I have a vision that Missionaries, Ministers and Evangelists are going to stand up and endorse the things that are Christ like.

(5) I have a vision that Christ

is going to come back and call this world to order. He's going to come down from Glory with great power and honor. When He comes, weak men are going to become strong men, hungry souls will become full souls! For Christ is the bread of life! Judges will not make irrational decisions that are cold and unjust. Remember, Christ is the righteous judge.

Yes, our land and world are going to be brought under the guidance and supervision of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Christ holds our future in the hollow of His hand, He said, "He whom I hold in the hollow of my hand, all the devils in hell can't pluck him out!" Yes, I have a vision, its on it's way to be reality. Christ is the answer! He is the hope of Glory! Over 1900 years ago, He died that we might be free. If the Son (Jesus) has set you free; then you are free indeed.

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The Prayers Of The Strong

By CREFLO DOLLAR

Life is a beautiful gift from God, but because there's an enemy loose in the world, the potential for it to turn ugly always exists. When this happens and trouble shows up, how we respond to it indicates our spiritual health. Evil can manifest itself in multiple ways. We can either let it intimidate us and shut us down, or face it head on and use prayer as a powerful weapon against it.

Evil is the driving force behind everything that can hurt, kill, or destroy us. It doesn't just happen randomly—there's actually someone planning and orchestrating it all. The enemy's intent is to steal every ounce of joy from our lives. "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). Connecting ourselves to God through prayer disables the thief.

When we pray, we have a heart-to-heart conversation with God. A strong prayer life keeps us plugged in to Him, and shields us from the devil's attacks. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Ephesians 6:12). Satan has operated as a defeated foe since Jesus stripped all his former authority from him; however, he still comes against us. Prayer strengthens us for the battle.

Our prayers should reflect the victory we receive by faith in the finished works of Christ. We don't have to beg and plead for Him to protect us from evil or deliver us from temptation; that—along with everything else we need to succeed—was

done two thousand years ago when He hung on the cross. We simply need to acknowledge what He did, and thank Him for it. "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God" (Philippians 4:6, NKJV).

New-covenant prayer enables us to talk directly to God and completely unburden ourselves in His presence. It provides us with a way to bypass our limited intellectual understanding, and lets the Holy Spirit intercede on our behalf. Praying in tongues is something religion doesn't understand, but greatly benefits us. "Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God" (Romans 8:26, 27, NKJV).

Praying in the Holy Spirit build us up like a strong tower, and allows us to pray about things we're not even aware of in our conscious minds. This gives us a tremendous advantage, because the Spirit guides us and keeps us safe from evil. "For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries" (1 Corinthians 14:2). This kind of prayer requires complete trust in Him.

For more on how to pray effectively according to the new covenant that Jesus established, click on the link below for the small companion book, The Power of Grace-Based Prayers.

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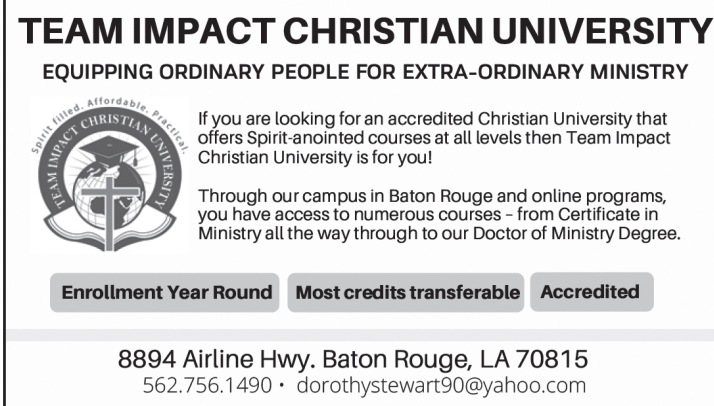
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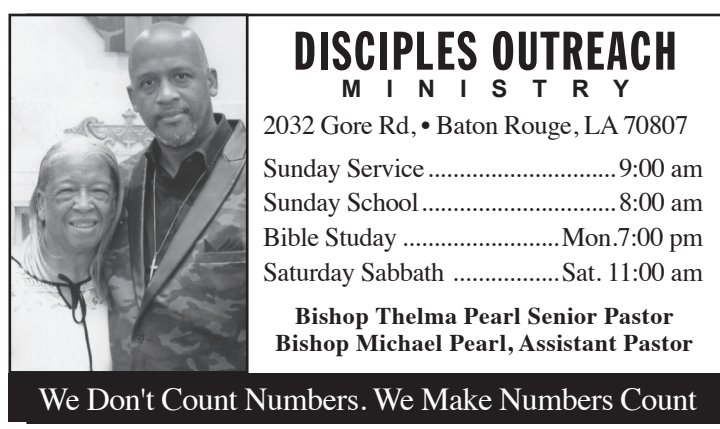
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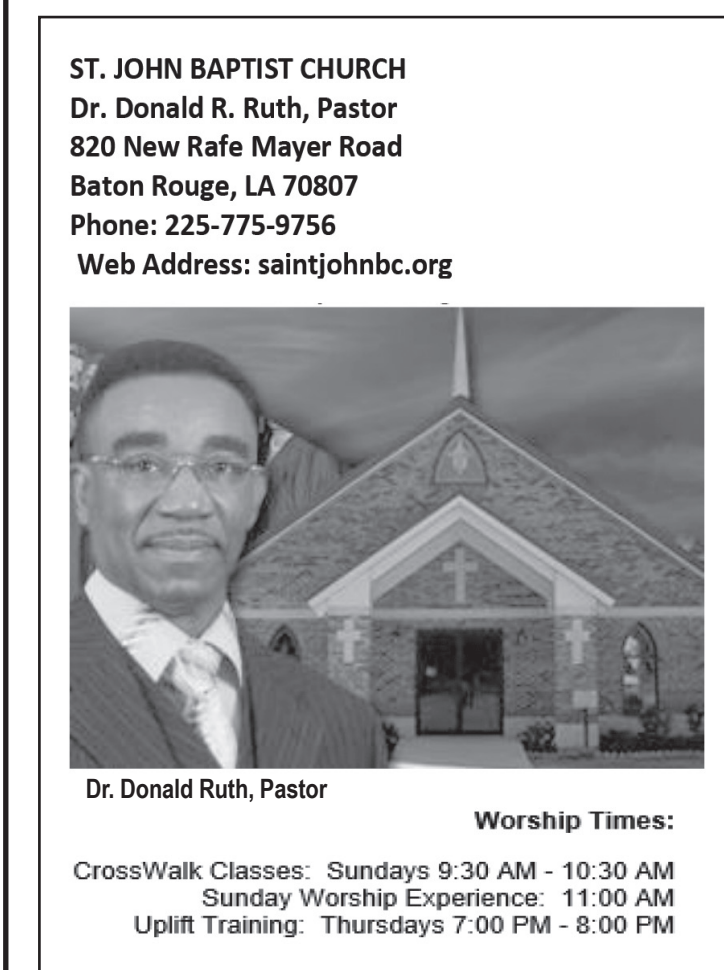


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'THE NEW LIFE' Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. — 2 Corinthians 5:17

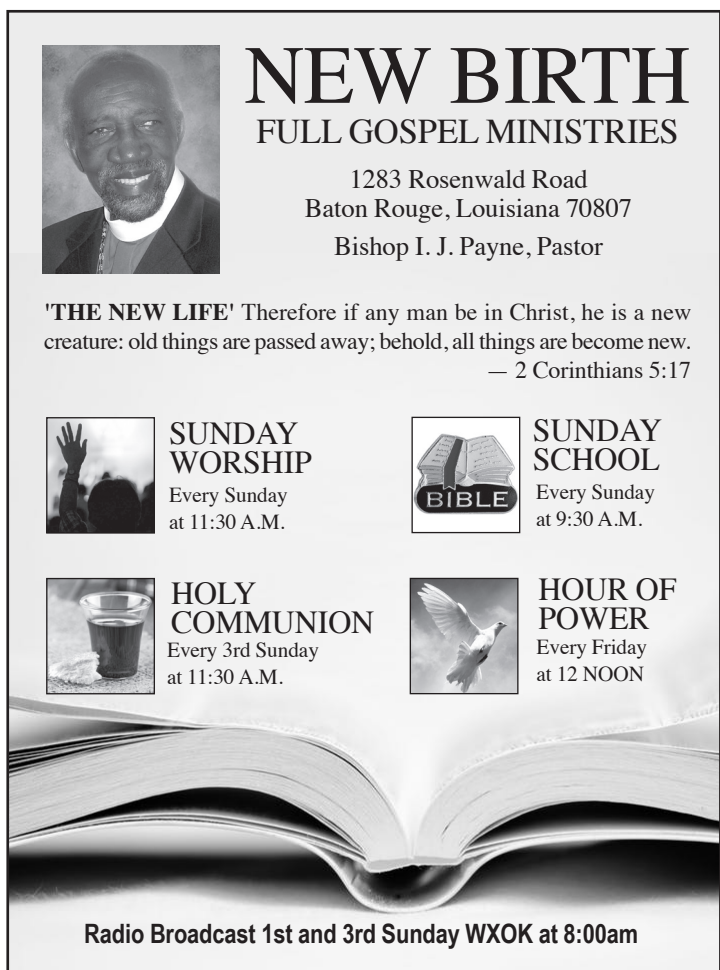
SUNDAY WORSHIP
Every Sunday at 11:30 A.M.

SUNDAY SCHOOL
Every Sunday at 9:30 A.M.

HOLY COMMUNION
Every 3rd Sunday at 11:30 A.M.

HOUR OF POWER
Every Friday at 12 NOON

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



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Toll Free: 888-700-6174
Websites: www.newhopebr.com

Rev. Leo Cyrus Sr., Pastor

CHURCH SCHEDULE

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

Mission Statement: New Hope Baptist Church is a family of baptized believers who worship the Lord our God in spirit and in truth, teach the saved to reach the lost and minister to the needs of others, while encouraging one another through acts of love and living in obedience to Gods Word



MANDATE from page 1

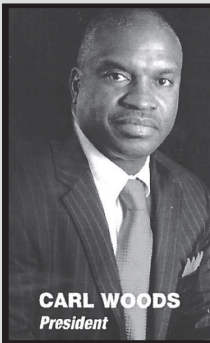
House Coronavirus Task Force, which has designated Louisiana as a red zone state. That means for states like ours with a high incidence of the virus and a high percent positivity rate statewide, bar restrictions and mask mandates are strongly recommended by the White House. We have had the

most cases per capita in the country, and there is more COVID-19 in our state now than ever, which is why I will continue to let science and data drive my decisions when it comes to the health and safety of the people of Louisiana. This is how we will be able to open as much of our economy as possible without overwhelming our capacity to deliver life-saving health care in our hospitals.”

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BUSINESS

As SEC Relaxes Rules, Small Businesses Allowed to Raise Money Easier

The temporary change in requirements will allow businesses to raise money more easily



Honeycomb Credit is a small crowdfunding company in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. It typically handles 10 inquiries a day from business owners seeking loans from the community. Since pandemic hit, it is averaging 30 to 40 daily.

“We’ve completed about a dozen live campaigns already and recently closed our first tranche of relief loans,” said Chip Homer, director of growth at Honeycomb Credit. “Eleven people in Pittsburgh are helping thousands of businesses reach out to the community to access capital.”

Honeycomb Credit’s business model differs from traditional crowdfunding sites like Kickstarter. Instead of letting people invest in return for merchandise, Honeycomb enables individuals to crowd-fund loans for local businesses. It’s running 12 relief loan campaigns and has deployed \$1.5 million in community capital since launching in 2017.

Government deregulation eases the process

The demand Honeycomb and other crowdfunding platforms are seeing is the result of the federal government’s well-intentioned moves that help and hurt small businesses. At the onset of the pandemic, Congress released \$350 billion in small business aid but that ran out in days. Small businesses were forced to look for alternatives. That’s where crowdfunding came in.

To help spur lending, the Securities and Exchange Commission is relaxing some of the crowdfunding rules to make it easier for small businesses to launch campaigns. The new rules require companies to file an independent audit only if they are raising \$250,000 or more. The limit was \$107,000 before the pandemic. Small businesses can also launch offerings without all the documentation traditionally required.

When announcing the SEC would temporarily ease reporting requirements, chairman Jay Clayton said he was responding to feedback from Small Business Capital Formation Advisory Committee and others who expressed difficulty in conducting an offering quickly enough to survive the pandemic-induced slowdown. “In the current environment, many established small businesses are facing challenges accessing urgently needed capital in a timely and cost-effective manner,” Clayton said.

While bank loans are an option, they are hard to come. Take the Federal Reserve’s Main Street Loan program, announced in March and launched in June. Businesses with less than 15,000 employees and under \$5 billion in revenue in 2019 are eligible to apply for loans through approved banks. Banks can sell most of the

loans to the Federal Reserve, mitigating their risk from defaults. But the Brookings Institution said in a recent research report banks aren’t showing much interest in the program. Some point to the complexity associated with the loans. As of the start of July, the Fed said not one bank has issued a Main Street loan.

In addition to crowdfunding loans, Honeycomb is selling loyalty bonds for its business customers. They are gift cards worth 1.3 times their value. Customers get the gift card in four installments over 24 months. Payouts start six months after the campaign ends to avoid overwhelming business owners. The crowdfunding company is currently running 37 loyalty bond campaigns. “They have been responsive and have streamlined some of the processes we had to go through to help during the pandemic,” said Homer of Honeycomb Credit. “It gives them more wiggle room.”

When the pandemic hit, Justin Strong, owner of Strong II Dry Cleaners in Pittsburgh, quickly took advantage of any aid available to small businesses. Even though dry cleaners were classified as essential businesses, shelter-in-place orders decreased the need for service.

Like other business owners, Strong found it difficult to wait for funding. Instead of remaining idle, he sought alternatives, including Honeycomb Credit. “I wasn’t really excited about putting my energy into crowdfunding. I was one foot in and one foot out,” said Strong. Strong did not need the crowdfunding as government loans came through during the application process.

Thanks to a little nudging by Honeycomb, Strong moved ahead with the campaign. He could use the money to purchase high-end equipment to provide deep cleaning services to gyms and hotels once businesses began to reopen. It also seems prudent to have money in the bank in case loans are harder to come by in the post-Covid-19 world.

A little over a week after Strong launched his campaign, he raised \$25,000 for the 90-year-old black-owned dry cleaning business. The campaign yielded \$15,000 more than his borrowing goal. Generally it takes 40 days for a campaign to fund. “It was surprising. A lot of people I didn’t know, random people, started investing,” said Strong. Strong isn’t a stranger to borrowing money as a business

owner. In the past he would pay much more for the access whether it was through a predatory loan or an equipment leasing arrangement.

Many business owners are turning to crowdfunding to raise capital. Ever since the Jumpstart Our Business Startups or JOBS Act made it possible for individuals to act as investors, crowdfunding has been taking off. “It’s here to stay,” said Ken Alozie, a certified SCORE mentor and principal at Greenwood Capital Advisors. “We’ve been seeing more and more activity in the crowdfunding market even prior to the pandemic.”

Crowdfunding donations

Crowdfunding is also a conduit to get donations into the hands

of struggling business owners. That’s what Soy Emprendedor, the Winston Salem, North Carolina group that inspires entrepreneurship among Latin and Hispanic populations, is doing with its “Restart Winston Salem: One Tile Campaign.” Launched at the end of May, Soy Emprendedor, The Cumi Group and PixGift teamed up to enable the community to donate to local businesses. Their fundraising efforts will help businesses reopen once restrictions lift. Donations cover cleaning supplies, restocking, marketing, utility bills, and payroll for employees during the first week the business reopens.

The group wants to raise \$20,000 initially, aiming to help 40 businesses. It’s currently at 44 percent of its goal. The crowdfunding campaign melds social media with fundraising by encouraging donors to upload a photo and leave a message for the local businesses.

“What we’re trying to accomplish with the donations is to give them a boost when they start reopening. Some of these businesses are so small that going through the process of getting loans and grants is very difficult,” said Karla Mounts, founder of Soy Emprendedor. “The platform allows us to community build virtually.”

Louisiana’s Experimental Research Design and Build

Hello, my name is Jacyln Dixon (civil, structural, architectural designer, and now teacher); my vision is to design and build an earthship in Louisiana. This type of sustainable architecture is needed now more than ever. Stories of families struggling to keep a roof over head, and worries associated with meeting monthly revolving bills must be addressed.

My design will follow Earthship Bioteecture eco-friendly principles which includes:

1. Thermal/Solar Heating & Cooling
2. Electricity generated by Solar, Wind & Water Turbines
3. Contained Sewage Treatment
4. Building with Natural & Recycled Materials
5. Harvesting Rainwater
6. Food Production grown in north facing passive solar greenhouse

Architect Michael Reynolds has been a major pioneer of earthship builds for over 40 years. He has helped developed The Greater World Earthship Community, located in New Mexico.

Reynold’s building school charges approximately \$225.00

per square foot (psf) and may take two years to construct a residential earthship. Last year I emailed Reynolds website regarding my interest in building an earthship; their response was, “we have no plans to build in Louisiana.” This response left me feeling a little disheartened, but after a two-year (2018-2019) battle with cancer, I decided to pioneer forward.

Traditionally, earthship walls are constructed of recycled tires. Tires are then filled with dirt, afterwards that dirt is compacted inside the tire through a ponding technique, once the tire expands it can then be stacked in a stagger pattern creating a desired wall height. Recycled cans and bottles are also used as fillers in wall construction.

I would like the earthships facade to be more modern and utilize more passive solar. This is an opportunity to train the younger generation how to build more sustainable buildings for the future. The current pandemic crisis should help us see sustainable design such as this is needed now. We must implement change before a worse crisis challenges or disrupts our current grid system.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
 Request for Proposals Drug and Alcohol Testing Services – Third Party Administrator
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The Capital Area Transit System (CATS), a political subdivision of the State of Louisiana, operating the public transit system in EBR Parish is accepting Offers for Drug and Testing Services. Sealed offers are due to CATS Procurement Department by September 8, 2020 at 10:00 AM (local time) at 2250 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70802. A copy of this RFP can be found on CATS website at: <https://www.brcats.com/page/procurement>. Written questions will be accepted through August 21, 2020 via email at: catsprocurement@brcats.com. Offers are reminded to check CATS website often for addenda and other important dates in reference to this RFP. CATS is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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Child Vaccinations Decline During COVID-19 Pandemic

August is National Immunization Awareness Month, and with childhood immunizations on the decline because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we're asking for your help in educating local parents about the importance of keeping their children's vaccinations up-to-date.

The CDC reports that child vaccination rates have declined by half during the COVID-19 pandemic. This decrease may be the result of stay-at-home orders, which may have caused parents to question the safety of health clinics and the significance of childhood checkups. In our state, as hospitals and health clinics update their safety procedures to ensure the safety of patients in their facilities, there is no need for parents to be afraid to take their children for these important wellness visits.

For National Immunization Awareness Month, please join us in encouraging parents and caregivers to schedule wellness visits for their children so that they don't fall behind on important immunizations.

Attached is an article you can use to share safety tips for parents to follow as they schedule these well visits, and you are also welcome to interview our Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Stewart Gordon, a well-known and respected pediatrician, to learn more about how parents can help their children get their vaccinations while protecting them from COVID-19. (Dr. Gordon's headshot and professional bio are attached for your consideration.)

If you'd like to schedule an interview with Dr. Gordon, or if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out. Thanks so much for helping us to promote childhood vaccinations so that Louisiana does not fall further behind in immunization rates.

NAACP from page 1

students, in a particular school. Congress allowed CARES funds to go to institutions that depend on tuition and donations because lawmakers said they recognized that some students from low-income families attend private schools.

The lawsuit claims the share going to private schools should have its basis on the number of Title I students attending those schools.

DeVos did not follow that rule, the NAACP contends, spelling out that hundreds of millions of dollars in CARES Act funds would immediately divert from public schools to affluent private schools.

The controversial education secretary reportedly holds a different interpretation of how local school districts should distribute the money.

Her interim final rule allows sharing the money equally with private schools based on the number of students in those schools, regardless of how many are Title I students.

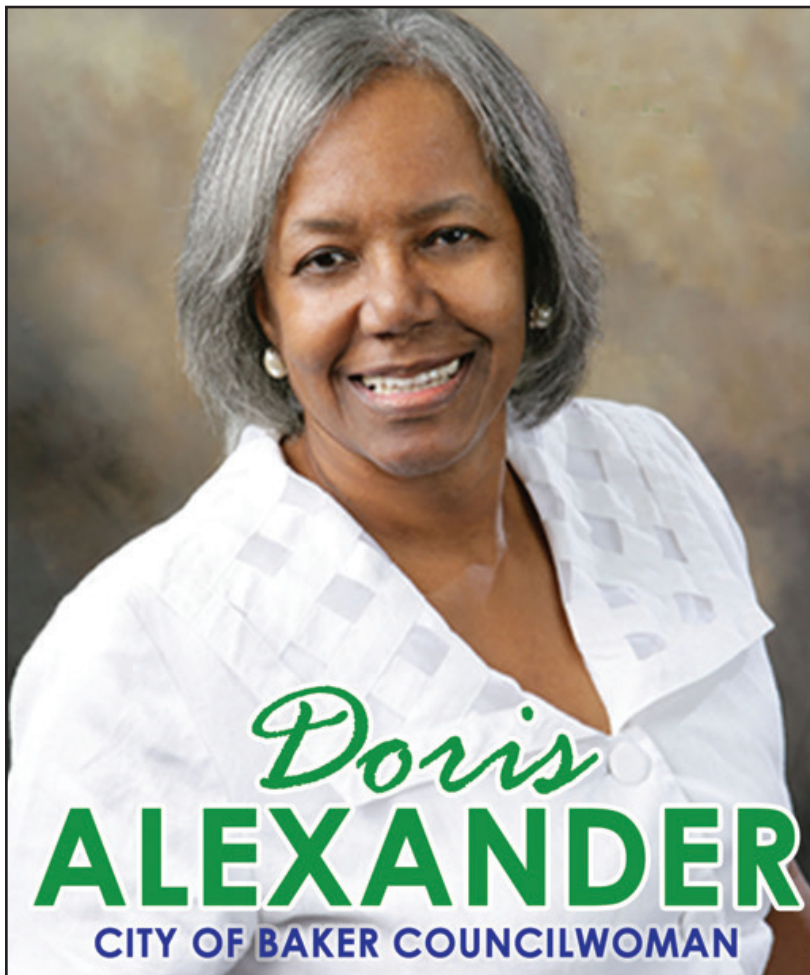
"The Rule is as immoral as it is illegal," NAACP lawyers argue.

The NAACP filed the lawsuit on behalf of a group of parents and their children, who are enrolled in economically disadvantaged public schools. The Pasadena, California, Unified School District, and Stamford, Connecticut, School District, joined the NAACP in the lawsuit asking for an injunction to prevent DeVos from immediately instituting her change to the rule.

"In this moment of crushing need for America's public schools, the Rule directs public school districts to divert desperately needed CARES Act 1 funds to affluent students in private schools or face unlawful limitations on the way that those funds can be spent – both in direct contravention of the Act," the lawsuit reads. "The Rule harms American children and subverts the will of Congress; it cannot stand."

If allowed to proceed, the DeVos' rule would change public schools, including some in which "80, 90 and 99 percent" of the students are from low-income families.

"She's trying to increase allocation disproportionately for private schools over public schools in the midst of the debate over whether or not schools should reopen. It's horrific what she's doing," Johnson told ABC News. "What will happen is you further take money away from children



Doris ALEXANDER
CITY OF BAKER COUNCILWOMAN

TOGETHER WE CAN SUCCEED

#236 ALEXANDER

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