

The Weekly Press

SERVING BAKER, CENTRAL, AND ZACHARY

THURSDAY, JUNE 2-8, 2022

A PEOPLE'S PUBLICATION

VOL. 45 • NO.35 • FREE

Mayor Broome Announces Mayor's Youth Workforce Experience Document Round-Up Day

BATON ROUGE, La. — Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome announces in-person assistance for youth looking to apply for the Mayor's Youth Workforce Experience. This program, in partnership with Big Buddy, EmployBR, the Department of Human Development and Services, and the Office of Social Services, offers an opportunity for youth who have completed the 9th grade and are ages 14-24 to engage in positive activities, learn workforce and life skills, while earning money.



Mayor Sharon Weston Broome

Youth interested in being a part of this 8-week program are encouraged to attend the MYWE Youth Workforce Day this Saturday June 4th 9AM-3PM at LRCE, 5550 Florida Blvd, to receive in-person help filling out the application. Youth attending this event are asked to bring the following documents and answers to preliminary questions to ensure a smooth application process:

- State ID or Driver's License of applicant and parent/guardian
- Social Security Card for applicant and parent/guardian
- Proof of In-School Status
- Birth Certificate for applicant
- Proof of Residence (gas bill, electric bill, water bill with the parent/guardian address; must match address reflected on ID or License)
- Proof of Income for Head of Household
- Check stubs for 6 months OR a statement from employer of earnings
- Proof of public assistance (if applicable) SNAP, TANF, child support statement, etc.
- Selective service registration (only for applicants over 18 years old; We can assist in getting this document if needed)
- How many people live in your household?
- What is your family's yearly income?

Baton Rouge youth who may receive SNAP benefits or other assistance and are looking to connect to mentors who can support their professional and personal development. For any questions regarding the Mayor's Youth Workforce Experience, youth are encouraged to call Big Buddy at

House committee invites Gov. Edwards to testify



Gov. John Bel Edwards has been asked to testify before the special House committee on the death of Black motorist Ronald Greene. Photo by Piper Hutchinson/LSU Manship School News Service

"We are confident that this testimony will demonstrate that neither the Governor nor anyone on his staff had any role in any attempt to cover up the facts related to Mr. Greene's death," Block wrote.

BY PIPER HUTCHINSON
LSU Manship School News Service

BATON ROUGE—The House committee investigating the response to the death of Ronald Greene on Wednesday requested that Gov. John Bel Edwards and two members of his legal counsel testify before the committee.

"The Special Committee to inquire into the Circumstances and Investigation of the Death of Ronald Greene was created to search for the truth," House Speaker Clay Schexnayder said in a statement. "That search for truth has continually led us to serious questions that can only be answered by Governor John Bel Edwards and his executive staff."

"This committee will do its job and see this

through no matter where the evidence leads," Schexnayder said in the statement.

Matthew Block, executive counsel to the governor, responded in a statement several hours later.

"We are confident that this testimony will demonstrate that neither the Governor nor anyone on his staff had any role in any attempt to cover up the facts related to Mr. Greene's death," Block wrote.

The statement confirmed that Edwards and his attorneys will appear before the committee.

The House special committee is charged with investigating the slow response to the death of Greene, a Black motorist, who died after a violent encounter with State Police officers in 2019.

See **TESTIFY**, on page 2

Senate Committee guts 'constitutional carry' bill

amendment would allow teachers to carry concealed guns at schools



Rep. Danny McCormick's bill on concealed carry in general was amended to focus on school personnel. Photo by Piper Hutchinson/LSU Manship School News Service

BY: ALLISON ALLSOP
AND PIPER HUTCHINSON
LSU Manship School News Service

BATON ROUGE—A Senate committee struck provisions Wednesday that would have allowed for permit-less concealed carry dramatically altering a bill to instead allow for teachers to carry concealed guns on school property in certain circumstances.

House Bill 37, sponsored by Rep. Danny McCormick, R-Oil City, was intended to remove current requirements that an individual must have a concealed carry permit to carry a handgun in a concealed manner in Louisiana.

An amendment proposed by Sen. Eddie Lambert, R-Gonzales, removed provisions of the bill that would have allowed for permit-less carry and inserted language that would allow for teachers to become certified to carry weapons on school grounds.

The amendment passed 8-2 Wednesday evening, with Republican Sens. Jay Morris of Monroe and Mike Reese of Leesville in opposition.

Lambert pointed to the more than 40-minute period that police in Uvalde, Texas, were delayed in entering Robb Elementary School last week during a mass shooting that killed 19 children and two teachers.

Lambert argued that having an armed teacher inside could have mitigated the carnage, though critics around the country have asked how a teacher could stand up to a shooter with an AR-15 if police were afraid to challenge him.

Moments before the bill was discussed Wednesday, news broke of a mass shooting at a healthcare facility in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

The amendment would allow each school to designate one or more "school protection officers," who could be a teacher, an administrator or a retired teacher or administrator. The individual would have to have a concealed carry permit and undergo specialized training.

The identities of any teachers or administrators who become school protection officers would not be subject to public records requests, although law enforcement officers would have access to the information.

Tom Costanza, executive director of the Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops, spoke against the bill.

"This bill does not promote a culture of life," Costanza said.

McCormick would not commit to moving forward with the bill, saying in an interview that he had to review the amendments.

Last month, McCormick pulled a controversial bill criminalizing abortion after it was dramatically amended on the House floor.

McCormick did say that he would be in favor of arming teachers "in certain circumstances."

The original bill, referred to by supporters as a "constitutional carry bill," cleared the Senate Judiciary Committee on the same day of the

See **SENATE**, on page 3

President Biden Signs Landmark Police Reform Executive Order

BY STACY M. BROWN
NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent

President Joe Biden signed an executive order on police reform that he hopes will help prevent excessive force and encourage officers to intervene in such cases.

"Two years ago, the murder of George Floyd exposed for many what Black and Brown communities have long known and experienced — that more must be done to ensure that America lives up to its founding promise of fair and impartial justice for all," President Biden stated.

The President signed the order on May 25, the two-year anniversary of Floyd's death at the hands of police in Minneapolis.

Following the murder conviction of former Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin, three other cops were found guilty in federal court of violating Floyd's civil rights.

Prosecutors said the trio stood by while Chauvin pressed his knee into the unarmed 46-year-old's neck for more than nine minutes.

Thomas Lane recently agreed to a plea deal to avoid state prosecution and serve two years in prison.

The other two officers involved, J. Alexander Kueng and



Black Clergy United March for Justice on June 13, 2020 in Tampa, Florida. Photo Credit: Shutterstock.com

Tou Thao, face a state trial this summer.

"The incident sparked one of the largest social movements this country has ever seen, with calls

from all corners to acknowledge the legacy of systemic racism in our criminal justice system and in our institutions more broadly," administration officials stated prior to

Biden signing the executive order.

Biden's action will advance effective, accountable policing and

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WEATHER

	MON. 06/06 Mostly Sunny High 91°.
	TUE. 06/07 Partly Sunny High 93°.
	WED. 06/08 Mostly Sunny High 94°.
	THUR. 06/09 Mostly Sunny High 93°.

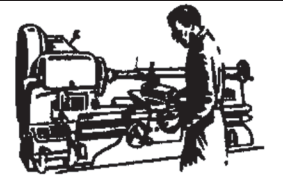
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Weekly Press

Newspaper is published weekly in Baton Rouge and distributed every Thursday with a circulation of 7,500. Subscription rates are \$65.00 per year for Louisiana residents; \$72.00 for one year for out-of-state residents; half price for six months subscription; and \$1.00 per single copy.

All money orders or checks should be made payable to The Baton Rouge Weekly Press 4910 Monticello Blvd., Suite C Baton Rouge, La. 70814

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 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
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City of Baker Department of Economic Development hold first Regional Job Fair

BAKER, La. — On May 26, 2022, the City of Baker Department of Economic Development held the first Regional Job Fair of 2022 from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM at the Baker Municipal Center Auditorium. The space was filled to capacity with area organizations and companies ready to meet and hire new employees and attendees eagerly anticipating the event.

Republic Services, Walmart, the City of Baker Public Works office, CATS, First Student, AT&T, Southeast Community Health Systems, EBR Sheriff Office, Drax Biomass, EBR Council of Aging, T.E.E.M. Academy, Baker Fire Department, Baker Police Department, American Red Cross, the Louisiana Department of Justice, Department of Children & Family Services, Hillcrest Memorial Gardens & Mausoleum, State of Louisiana Office of Juvenile Justice, First Student, City of Baton Rouge Public Works, State Farm, Shoppers Value, Mary Kay, City Year, Gulf Coast Social Services, Department of Environmental Services, Southern University and A&M College with Ilera Holistic Healthcare, America's SBDC, Baton Rouge Community College TRIO Educational Opportunity Centers, Louisiana Workforce Commission Veterans Program and LA Pro were among the employers meeting prospective with employees.

Delores Cavalier led the morning prayer thanking the Lord for the day, for His grace and mercy, for all the participants who made their way to the event and helping citizens to better themselves.

Mayor Waites thanked all those who were involved in making the regional job fair a huge success, wearing a smile from ear to ear as he went to greet every person who graced the auditorium with their presence. The energy in the auditorium was charged with positivity, unity and excitement as job seekers met with employers to discuss the various employment opportunities, with their eyes toward the future. Councilmembers Glenda Bryant, Brenda G. Jackson, and Robert



Mayor Waites

Young walked the auditorium, speaking with employers and job seekers at the respective booths, showing their support, taking photos, and giving out their phone numbers to help find opportunities for their constituents.

Outside the Louisiana Workforce Commission's Mobile Workforce Center was available to both job seekers and employers offering a wide variety of resources and services such as resume-writing and posting, job search and online applications, pre-employment testing, skills assessments, links to training opportunities, labor market information, and group training classes. The state-of-

the-art Mobile Workforce Center is equipped with broadband satellite, 4G LTE WiFi, 13 computer stations, and printing/scanning capabilities so as to support all of the needs of job seekers and employers on the spot.

Mayor Waites said "We are blessed to be able to provide this service to our residents and to have such great partners in the business community who are always eager to participate in the events we hold in the City of Baker. I am excited to bring job seekers together with these outstanding employers and hope that we continue to set great examples of working together where we continue the momentum of building Baker and moving our community forward. I want to thank my Economic Development team for their outreach with our business partners which made this event a great success. I appreciate their diligence and hard work."

Strong criticism of Pineville VA Hospital physician Dr. Shivani Negi, but system prevails over individual rights



RVP David and Kesha Hamilton with Primerica Financial Services

BY TOM ASWELL
 Courtesy of Louisiana Voice

The investigation into the practices of a physician at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) in Pineville appears to have ended with findings of no criminal wrongdoing on the part of Dr. Shivani Negi.

That's not to say that Dr. Negi escaped unscathed with then-5th District U.S. Rep. Dr. Ralph Abraham declaring, "The VA system is broken." Abraham also wrote that the Alexandria facility hired her "knowing that she had inadequate credentials for practicing medicine."

A former investigator for the Louisiana Attorney General's Office even said, "We were headed

toward an indictment" (of Negi) until Jeff Landry defeated his boss, incumbent Buddy Caldwell, in the 2015 election and closed the investigation. Investigator Arthur Orga left the AG's office shortly after Landry took over.

Complaints against Negi included allegations that she withheld treatment for patients, administered steroids to a diabetic patient even though he informed her he could not take steroids, that she altered medical records in another state to cover her failure to order a blood culture on a patient, that she screamed at staff, threw charts at fellow workers and was often referred to anger management classes. The most damning,

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The committee was started in March after an Associated Press report revealed that Edwards knew of Greene's beating months before he publicly admitted.

One video, taken from Trooper John Clary's body camera, is believed to be the most explicit in showing the violent treatment. This footage was not initially turned over to prosecutors, leading to allegations

of a coverup.

Christina Stephens, a spokesperson for the governor, has repeatedly stated that Edwards and his staff had no way of knowing that the video was not included in the criminal file.

House Speaker Clay Schexnayder, R-Gonzales, alleged that Edwards told him months ago that there was no need for a legislative inquiry, as Greene died in a wreck. Edwards denied saying this.

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criminal justice practices that will build public trust and strengthen public safety, the White House said.

"Police cannot fulfill their role to keep communities safe without public trust and confidence in law enforcement and the criminal justice system," administration officials wrote in a Fact Sheet.

"Yet, there are places in America today where the bonds of trust are frayed or broken. To heal as a nation, we must acknowledge that fatal encounters with law enforcement have disproportionately involved Black and Brown people," they continued.

The order intends to enhance public trust by promoting accountability, transparency, and the principles of equality and dignity in policing and the larger criminal justice system.

Increased trust makes policing more effective and thereby strengthens public safety, the President stated.

"Without that trust, victims do not call for help. Witnesses do not step forward. Crimes go unsolved. Justice is not served," he said.

The order mandates measures for all federal law enforcement agencies, leveraging the President's direct authority over the executive branch.

It requires the use of federal tools such as guidance on best practices, training, and technical assistance, and grantmaking to support reforms at state, tribal, local, and territorial law enforcement agencies that will strengthen public trust and improve public safety across the nation.

The order creates a new national database of police misconduct to include records of officer misconduct, including convictions, terminations, de-certifications, civil judgments, resignations, and retirements while under investigation for serious misconduct, and sustained complaints or records of disciplinary actions for serious misconduct.

The data also will have due pro-

cess protections for officers.

Biden's order requires federal agencies to adopt measures to promote thorough investigation and preservation of evidence after incidents involving the use of deadly force or deaths in custody, as well as to prevent unnecessary delays and ensure appropriate administration of discipline.

It also mandates the adoption of body-worn camera policies.

Further, the order bans the use of chokeholds and carotid restraints unless deadly force is authorized and restricts the use of no-knock entries.

Further, the order directs a government-wide strategic plan to propose interventions to reform the criminal justice system. A new committee with representatives from agencies across the federal government will produce a strategic plan that advances front-end diversion, alternatives to incarceration, rehabilitation, and reentry.

See **ORDER**, on page 3



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Wouldn't it be great to have it all figured out?

STEVE MELLOR, Performance Coach
<https://careercompetitor.com/steve@careercompetitor.com>



Steve Mellor

Take the experts that grace our phones and televisions for example. Where would we be without social media advertisements and infomercials offering us solutions to figuring out all our problems? How to get rich quickly. Lessons to lose 20lbs in as many days. The secrets to success revealed you never thought you needed until now! So many experts are being portrayed through a clickable, thirty-second ad. Creating a culture that with one simple click or call, you too will have life all figured out thanks to an investment in resolving this single problem.

To play spoiler for a moment, that someone offering a solution to this problem of yours does not have the secrets to life all figured out. You don't have it all figured out. And I definitely don't. If there were a secret to getting even close to having life figured out, it starts with accepting that we are continually evolving. Specifically, I believe humans are most likely to unleash their potential to be their best selves when there is a curiosity about how they can continue to grow.

Facilitating growth comes easy to me because I'm constantly demanding myself to do just that, grow! In fact, I believe that as I guide the growth of others in my role as a performance coach and culture consultant, my clients facilitate my growth, too. They motivate me to motivate them. They challenge me to challenge them. Not only is growth an internal quest we can all incorporate, but it is

endlessly reciprocal as well.

Human beings were not put on earth to sit and wait for when their time is up. We are wired with the ability to continually evolve and thrive, albeit with some resistance at times, when challenged to overcome and figure things out.

With growth and evolution comes adversity and reality, one being called upon as another is revealed, each interchangeable along the journey. A fair dose of each one of these every single day will make you a highly developed and, in time, high-performing human. One capable of identifying areas that need to be figured out and one with a proven track record of doing just that.

As you set out or continue this quest, maybe you will never reach the status to where you can grace social media or late-night infomercials. But at least you can take solace from now knowing these so-called experts have some holes in their armor too.

Because they don't have it all figured out, and neither do you.

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however, was the question raised over her qualifications in light of her failure to reveal to the State of Virginia the fact that her application for a license to practice had been rejected by the State of Florida.

In her application to the Virginia Board of Medicine, there was a section in which she was required to provide details about any prior denial of a medical license. She left that section on her application blank even though Florida had rejected her application on the grounds that she had concealed the fact that she had altered an admission order sheet after the fact to hide the fact that she had neglected to order a blood culture on a patient while employed at Maryland General Hospital.

A committee that investigated the incident reported that her actions and her subsequent "implausible response" reflected "not only bad judgment but also unethical behavior."

She was never licensed in Louisiana, but her Virginia license was considered adequate for her employment in the VA system.

Dr. John Sam, who worked with Dr. Negi for more than a decade at the VA facility in Pineville said that every year he worked with her, someone would report her behavior to the VA Office of Inspector General and she would end up in anger management. "Dr. Negi was rude and spoke in a harsh tone of voice to almost all the staff while I was a patient there," wrote one former patient in a sworn affidavit.

Another former patient, Dennis Egelston said, "The first time I saw Dr. Negi, she took me off

the antibiotics and started me on steroids. I told her I was diabetic and couldn't be put on steroids. This did not stop her even though I pleaded with her not to. She told me, 'I am the doctor and you are the patient, and I will do what I want to.' My blood sugar shot up from 180 to almost 500. This woman has no regard for human life."

Floyd Hamilton has been a particular thorn in Negi's side after she put in orders to remove his 84-year-old father from a breathing machine and took him off antibiotics against the wishes of the family.

Floyd Hamilton has been fighting a lonely battle against Negi and the VA 13 years, taking his case all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court which refused to hear his case.

He then went to law enforcement but with similar results.

While it appeared briefly that there might be a criminal indictment, those hopes were dashed with the election of Jeff Landry in 2015.

He fared no better with the office of 14th JDC District Attorney John DeRosier and his special investigator Hugo Holland.

Holland, in a three-page letter to the junior Hamilton, noted that the doctor's actions did not rise to the level of homicide or, for that matter, even medical malpractice.

Holland, who hires himself out to a dozen or more district attorneys across the state, specializes in more high-profile, primarily capital, cases involving defendants with few financial resources to mount a formidable defense and showed little interest in pursuing a case against a doctor and a federal agency with the resources to fight back.

Scotlandville High School class of 1961 celebrates 60th Year Reunion



The Scotlandville High School Class of 1961 celebrated its 60th year class reunion on Friday, April 22, 2022, at Lagniappe Seafood Restaurant in Baker, Louisiana. Seated from left: Rosa Alexander Williams, PhD, President, Venora Franklin LeGaux, Catherine Stewart Harri-

son, Reverend Jesse Monget, Ceola Johnson Beauchamp, Delores Carney Robinson; standing from left: Beverly Jones Carter, Sherman Robinson, Jesse Sanders, Joyce Hill Polk, EdD, Allen Hayes, Gladys Anderson Parker, Sam Parker, Dalton Honore, Roger Phillips and Roosevelt Gib-

son. Members of the class enjoyed the fellowship and were delighted to see some for the first time since graduation on May 31, 1961.

Also present was Mr. Leroy Poydras, teacher and class sponsor, who is now 101 years of age. He was accompanied by his wife, Mrs.

Elsie Poydras. Mr. Poydras shared words of wisdom. He was presented a gift from the class.

Classmates and guests present traveled from surrounding parishes as well as New Orleans and the states of Tennessee, and Georgia.

Over 11,000 Louisiana residents have accessed hepatitis C life-saving medication

Louisiana is first state to implement modified subscription model

BATON ROUGE, La. — The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) has reached a historic milestone on the path toward ending the hepatitis C (HCV) epidemic. Thanks to Louisiana's modified pharmaceutical subscription model, more than 11,000 Louisianians have been able to access a life-saving medication that can cure HCV in just 8 to 12 weeks.

Louisiana was the first state to implement the model and it remains the most comprehensive and well-utilized model in the country. The subscription model allows the state to have unrestricted access to the medication at one price - so there is no extra cost whether hundreds of people are treated or thousands of people are treated.

In July 2019, the Department entered into an innovative payment plan with Asegua Therapeutics, a subsidiary of Gilead Sciences, Inc., that allows the state to access an unrestricted amount of generic Sofvel/Epclusa (sofosbuvir/velpatasvir), a direct-acting anti-viral (DAA) medication used to treat HCV, for five years at a capped annual cost.

Unrestricted access to this drug has allowed LDH to expand HCV treatment to Medicaid and incarcerated populations, paving the way for tens of thousands of Louisiana residents to receive treatment at no cost to the individual. Of those who have accessed treatment, 9,687 are Medicaid members and 1,504 are incarcerated.

"Louisiana is proud to lead the nation in the fight against hepatitis C," said State Health Officer Dr. Joseph Kanter. "HCV is a significant health challenge in our community, and a safe, easy and effective cure is now available and accessible to Louisiana residents. This treatment has the potential to continue to improve health outcomes for many of

our community members, and our state is making great strides toward eliminating hepatitis C."

According to a report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), more than 57,000 people nationwide are infected with HCV, but many do not know their status. Hepatitis C is a viral infection transmitted through blood. About half of people living with HCV present no symptoms. As the virus spreads, it causes silent damage to the liver over decades. Left untreated, HCV can lead to long-term health issues, including

cancer, liver failure, diabetes, heart attack, stroke and even death. Prior to COVID-19, HCV accounted for more deaths than all other reportable infectious diseases combined, and it is 10 times more common than HIV.

However, there is a cure. DAAs are safe and effective with minimal side effects. More than 98% of people are cured after taking one pill once a day for 8 to 12 weeks.

"We are so proud of what we have been able to accomplish thus far, especially in light of all the challenges we've faced during the pandemic,

but we have a lot of work to do to reach our goal of eliminating HCV in Louisiana," said Office of Public Health Assistant Secretary Kimberly Hood, who was instrumental in the development of the plan. "With Medicaid expansion, we are able to reach more people than ever before, so we encourage everyone who is eligible to talk to their healthcare providers about getting tested for HCV and get on the path toward treatment and cure."

To learn more, see Louisiana's hepatitis C elimination plan at HepCuredLA.org.

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mass shooting at the Uvalde elementary school.

Louisiana, consistently a leader in murders and gun violence, is currently the top state for mass shootings per capita, according to the Gun

Violence Archive.

A bill similar to McCormick's original instrument was vetoed by Gov. John Bel Edwards. The Legislature attempted an override but fell short of the necessary votes.

Edwards opposed the bill primarily due to the fact that it would

eliminate training requirements for concealed carry.

The bill will now go to the Senate for a floor vote. If it passes the Senate, it would have to go back to the House for concurrence on amendments before the session ends on Monday.

THIS MONTH [JUNE] @ BREC

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 Liberty Lagoon
 June 2 | 7-9 p.m.

GUEST APPRECIATION DAYS
 BREC's Baton Rouge Zoo
 June 4-5 | 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

KIDZ FEST
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 June 11 | 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

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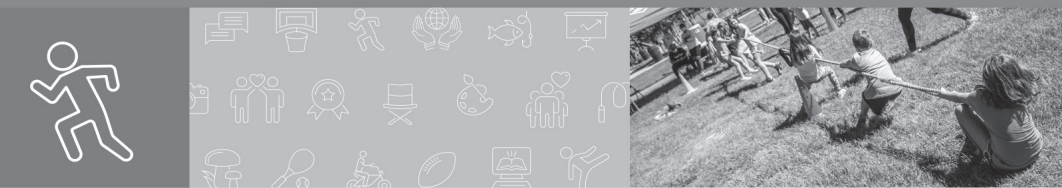
BADDIES WHO BRUNCH
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 June 25 | 11 a.m.

DOG DAY AT THE SWAMP
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RELIGION

With New Partnership, Gospel Music Competition How Sweet The Sound Highlights Mental Health In Communities Of Color

GREENVILLE, S.C. – With its impending return after a 10-year hiatus, How Sweet The Sound is poised to electrify the gospel music industry on June 4th 2022, at Bon Secours Wellness Arena in Greenville, South Carolina, as it selects the best gospel choir, soloist, and dance performance. The live, in-person gospel music competition also marks the start of a multi-dimensional partnership with the Ad Council on their Sound It Out campaign – an initiative to help parents and caregivers discuss mental health with their children.

The collaboration between the Ad Council and How Sweet The Sound seeks to encourage and equip people in the Black community to have more conversations about their emotional wellbeing, which has been further impacted by the pandemic. Black parents more often than white parents have reported that COVID-19 has negatively impacted their children's education, their ability to care for their children and their relationships with family members.[1]

How Sweet The Sound and the Sound It Out campaign both showcase the unifying role music can play in bringing people together. Their partnership helps empower parents through music, using it as a powerful tool to start conversations with kids about their emotional wellbeing. The Sound It Out campaign is focused

See **MENTAL HEALTH** on page 5

A God perspective, it's an option

BY JEROME SMITH, JR.

There is a phrase we use when we are trying to make things clear to others, like "get the big picture."

It means the complete overarching story or idea, the phrase usually implies that one should think of the future, or think of other parallel factors, and not focus on just the tiny details.

The big picture is an idiom, idioms are words used to express something but aren't Literal. For example, the phrase "it's raining cats and dogs" just means raining a lot and hard.

We've been created with the ability to choose, but in choosing, we are warned not to depend on our understanding.

It's challenging at times, trying to balance depending on earthly senses instead of walking in the spirit.

Paul encouraged us in Galatians 5:16 to walk in the spirit or live by the leading of the heart, heart leading, and we will not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

Depending on your understanding or the understanding of man leads to tunnel vision which keeps us from experiencing the fullness of God's promises.

We minimize God in our minds by only depending on earthly intellect.

Limited information produces limited understanding, which leads to ignorance.

God lives outside of time;



Pastor Jerome Smith, Sr.



he can't be controlled by time or events; he created time and all things.

Jeremiah 29:11: I know the plan I have for you, said the Lord, it's good and not evil, to give you a future and the desired end.

For example, a puzzle has many pieces that come together to reveal the "big picture," when you begin putting the cut-out pieces together, you slowly start getting the vision or understanding of the artist.

"From the beginning, I say what will happen at the end. Long ago, I spoke about future things that have not yet happened. I say this: "My purpose will not change. I will do everything that I want to do." Isaiah 46:10

The Creator competed you and then started you by letting your parents give birth to you; he was not surprised or caught off guard. He's always had a plan for you!

The product never decides its

worth are capabilities; it's determined by the creator the anguishes it.

Jesus had a friend named Lazarus who was very sick, and the message Jesus got was that he died, but he said he was only sleeping.

He died based on earthly standards; not only was he earthly dead, but by the time Jesus made it there, they said he was stinking by now.

God's perspective is beyond man's understanding, his thoughts are not our thoughts, and His ways are not our ways.

When life's difficult for you, you need to pause for a minute and wait on God's perspective.

"They that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength. They will soar like an eagle, walk, and not faint."

The point here is that we should live life with a God perspective; God will get the glory.

LAUGHTER IN YOUR BELLY
HOLISTIC HEALTH & WELLNESS

DADDY: TOTALLY DEPENDENT ON GOD

DR. GAYLE YOUNG

At the Baton Rouge Weekly Press, we are celebrating Father's all month long! I am kicking it off with a stroll down memory lane, reminiscing and sharing my love for my maternal Grandfather and my, "I-will-never-ever-forget-you Daddy", Roosevelt Harrell, Sr. He was Mr. Harrell to his customers at Plank Road Automotive, but always just Daddy to us.

Men, I am fondly remembering my Daddy, but celebrating, uplifting, and supporting you. I love celebrating men, especially the men of God. I have written here before under the column, "He is My Daddy Too", about my dad. My Father nurtured other men, he groomed them with his love to be resilient and to spread the love. Here at the BR Weekly Press, our goal is to nurture all men as if they were our Daddy. Your daddy, brother, your uncle, your pastor – Is my Daddy too!

Loving your Daddy means sowing into, supporting, promoting, and taking the initiative to support men's health, so no one has to lose their daddy too soon. It has been 21 years since my daddy died. It feels like yesterday, except then I am focusing on growing, and supporting other men.

It's easy for me to love – I had a great dad to practice on and a mother who daily celebrated the men in our lives. My maternal grandparents divorced when my mom was in elementary school. He didn't forget the 7 of them; he just wasn't very present in their formative years. He had disappointments and a hole in his heart full of pain – he died not knowing who his father was and we don't know either. But we knew love and forgiveness. He taught us that.

There was no doubt that my grandfather loved all his children and that my mom loved him to the core. When my Paw Paw and my mom finished swaying in and out of their forgiveness-to-finger pointing-to-love routine, they settled in as a well-knitted Father and Daughter team. They gave me

the chance to get a closeup of the beauty of forgiveness and the bliss of a father-daughter bond. Thank you, Paw Paw, for showing up with purpose despite your own personal pain. We are still celebrating you and we miss you every day. My mother was there for her daddy's last breath, the last hug, the last time.

My Pastor Father, Roosevelt Harrell, Sr., "Mr. Harrell" from the Plank Road Service station to many, is my in all things "totally dependent on God Daddy." My Dad's tough times gave him what I call, "Good Daddy Faith." I inherited his and my mother's faith, so I naturally, repel rejection and I am never scathed by criticism or injurious words, or behaviors, and the word NO, oh shucks, that Lil' two-letter word means nothing to me. My Daddy's work and the fruits of his labor will never die.

Bishop G.E. Patterson in his book, "Here Comes the Judge" encourages the reader to be "Totally Dependent on God" because the Spirit of the Lord makes all the difference! The Spirit of the Lord makes all of the difference, and you have everything it takes to accomplish everything God calls you to do:

- It doesn't matter if you don't have a degree hanging on the wall of your office
- It doesn't matter if you don't have money in the bank...
- It doesn't matter if you don't have a host of influential friends in high places.
- It doesn't matter if you don't have a family pedigree that says you are "somebody" ...
- ...if you have the Spirit of the Lord moving in you, you can do all things that truly matter and have a lasting worth.



Dr. Gayle Young

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



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Bible Study	Wednesday, Men's Mid-Day Study 12:00 p.m.
Disciple Bible Study	Wednesday 5:30 p.m.
Prayer Ministry	Tuesday 6:00 p.m.

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- Women's Ministry 2nd Saturday's



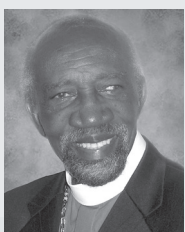
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CHURCH SCHEDULE

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

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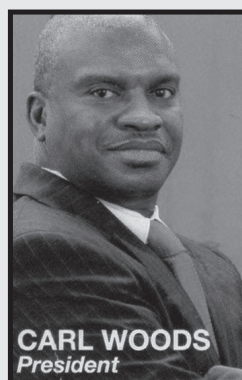


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Creating Positive Solutions in the Community of North Baton Rouge

"We wanted to teach students to understand entrepreneurship," Sherman said. "We want to teach them about opening a restaurant or starting their food truck business. There will be restaurant owners who will teach the students about real-life experiences in the culinary industry."



Laci Sherman

BATON ROUGE, La — A nonprofit is helping opportunity youth in North Baton Rouge find employment and educating them in financial literacy through their culinary program.

The Baton Rouge Bayou Kitchen has created a new program called the North Baton Rouge Culinary & Hospitality Training Program for Opportunity Youth. The program was designed in 2018; however, due to COVID, the program has slowed down its initial launch. Now, Southern University and A&M College Professor and Director of the program, Sherman Pittman, is rolling out the program for what the organization calls "opportunity youth" for an enrichment program that will help launch their culinary careers.

The program was designed after talking with the community in North Baton Rouge, who said they wanted their voices to be heard and desired change in North Baton Rouge.

"We wanted to provide hope," program coordinator Laci Sherman said. "We want to be a social standpoint to provide good news."

The program starts this summer, with orientation beginning on June 1. Professionals and business owners will be the teachers for the students, and bank representatives will teach the students financial literacy. In addition, the program will educate the students on topics including healthy food options, hos-



Our Professional Intake Coordinator will contact each applicant to schedule an assessment interview screening to qualify participants for the professional pathway program.

"We want to show an example of what the community can do when people work together," she said. "We also want to create positive news and solutions for the community."



Sherman Pittman

pitality services, vegan soul food, and innovation in the food industry.

"We wanted to teach students to understand entrepreneurship," Sherman said. "We want to teach them about opening a restaurant or starting their food truck business. There will be restaurant owners who will teach the students about real-life experiences in the culinary industry."

The culinary program will accept ten students for its summer pilot program. The students who are not chosen to participate in the program this summer will be in the organization's system and can be rolled in another term. Also, the coordinators are working with other organizations and nonprofits to help displace students in other areas.

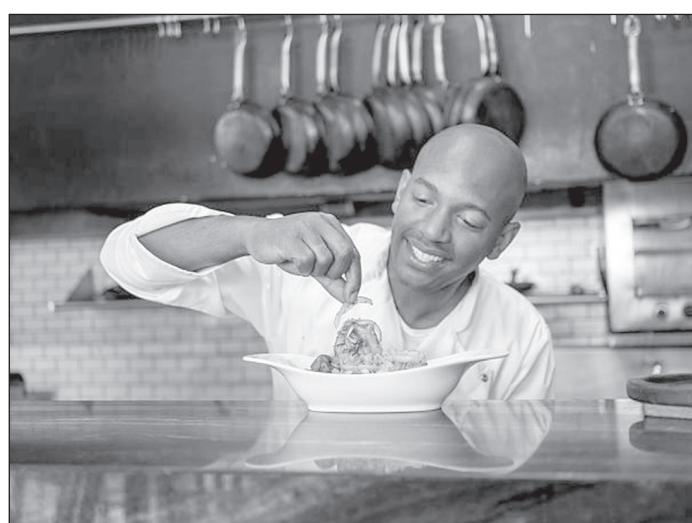
The coordinators are focusing on quality over quantity and want to provide an opportunity to students who otherwise wouldn't have the chance to experience this

exposure. They term their students as 'opportunity students' who they define as students who either have: social needs, lack of transportation, or are disconnected from high school or college.

Sherman emphasized that the program was created to show what business owners can do. She said this is an opportunity to implement and equip the next generation and keep young people in Baton Rouge.

"We want to show an example of what the community can do when people work together," she said. "We also want to create positive news and solutions for the community."

Interested applicants can apply for the program on the company's website.



Bayou Kitchen's FREE paid job training program will equip you with the tools to achieve your potential. Open to young adults ages 16-24 years old from Baton Rouge and surrounding areas. Our program offers the skills and support services any professional needs to be successful.

MENTAL HEALTH from page 4

on showing how music can be used to explore difficult emotions and experiences with middle schoolers (ages 10-14), with a particular emphasis on reaching students through parents and caregivers. Sound It Out is a joint effort of the Ad Council and Pivotal Ventures, an investment and incubation company created by philanthropist Melinda French Gates.

"In the faith-based community, we often shy away from talking about or dealing with mental health issues, and I hope this partnership will enable us to begin normalizing discussions around the subject,"

said Nathanael Brown, an award-winning choral director, saxophonist, and CEO of Gentle Giant Music Ministries, which owns the How Sweet The Sound brand.

In addition to announcing the new collaboration, How Sweet The Sound recently released its slate of celebrity judges. They include Grammy Award winner and pastor, Hezekiah Walker; Dove Award winner and Grammy nominated artist, actress and author Jekalyn Carr; renowned gospel choir director and Stellar Award winner Ricky Dillard; and national Billboard chart-topping choir director and syndicated radio host J.J. Hairston. The judges, along with How Sweet The Sound's host, Grammy Award-winning song writer and record producer Donald Lawrence, will perform live at

the event.

Youth and young adult choirs from across the United States can now enter the How Sweet The Sound Junior competition. Four finalists will perform live at the How Sweet The Sound pre-show,

competing for a \$1,000 cash prize. More information about this exciting youth competition is available here.

Tickets for How Sweet The Sound are available at Ticketmaster or Bon Secours Wellness Arena.

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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 Bids for Electric Buses – Extended Battery Range – Thirty-five (35') Foot. Sealed bids are due to CATS Procurement Department on June 27, 2022 at 10:00am (local time) at 2250 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70802. A copy of this ITB can be found on CATS website at: <https://www.brcats.com/page/procurement>. Bidders may submit written questions for Approved equals to: catsprocurement@brcats.com until June 10, 2022. Bidders are reminded to check CATS website often for addendums issued to this ITB. CATS is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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