

The Weekly Press

SERVING BAKER, CENTRAL, AND ZACHARY

THURSDAY, MAY 13-19, 2021

A PEOPLE'S PUBLICATION

VOL. 44 • NO.51 • FREE

STATE & LOCAL PG 2

LA. ECONOMY RECOVERING FROM PANDEMIC FASTER THAN EXPECTED

NATIONAL PG 3

CONOCOPHILLIPS HEADS DIVERSITY, INCLUSION EFFORTS IN OIL, GAS INDUSTRY

Southern Univerity President-Chancellor Belton among top 50 national higher education leaders

Southern University System President-Chancellor Ray L. Belton was recently recognized as one of the Top 50 Leaders in Higher Education by the National Diversity Council during its 17th Annual National Diversity and Leadership Conference. The virtual conference held in late April honored a number of diverse talents from different industries with this year's theme, "Be a Changemaker." According to the Council, "The Top 50 Leaders in Higher Education are innovators, strategists, and pioneers in this dynamic sector of local and global education. Educators are pivotal



President-Chancellor Ray L. Belton

See LEADERS, on page 2

Chauna Banks announce social media initiative to focus on blighted properties in District 2

Metro Councilwoman Chauna Banks announce a social media initiative to focus on blighted properties in District 2. The council district covers Alsen, Baker, Beechwood, Brownsfield, Scotlandville, and north of Hooper Road to the Comite River.



Councilwoman Chauna Banks

The Facebook page, District-2ForU: Spotlight on Blight will include informational topics regarding vacant and blighted property, and the projects that have been planned around this issue. District2ForU: Spotlight on Blight"

See BANKS, on page 2

Louisiana Democrat sworn into Congress, replacing Biden aide



House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of Calif., left, speaks during a ceremonial swearing-in for Rep. Troy Carter, D-La., right, as his wife Ana Carter, center, watches on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, May 11, 2021.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democratic Rep. Troy Carter of Louisiana was sworn into the House on Tuesday, adding some breathing room to the party's tight majority.

Carter, 57, represents a majority-Black district centered in New Orleans that extends up the Mississippi River into Baton Rouge. The seat opened after Democratic Rep. Cedric Richmond left the position to work as a special adviser to President Joe Biden.

Carter had served in a variety of local and state political positions over the course of three decades before winning a runoff election to succeed Richmond. He is the only Democratic member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

Carter said in his inaugural speech on the House floor that his district is known for Mardi Gras, jazz, great food and its vibrant manufacturing base, but he said it also has a lot of needs, including economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic, infrastruc-



House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of Calif., right, talks with Rep. Julia Letlow, R-La., left, before a mock swearing-in photo opportunity on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, April 14, 2021. Letlow easily won a special election for the northeast Louisiana-based U.S. House seat that her husband, Luke, couldn't fill because of his death from complications related to COVID-19.

ture investment, environmental justice and education.

"I commit to working with

everyone in the Congress and the White House to address those needs and to stand strong when

those needs are not being addressed," Carter said.

Carter's swearing-in gives Democrats a 219-212 edge in the House, with four vacancies. Of those vacancies, three seats had been held by Democrats and one by a Republican. No party turnover is expected when special elections are held to fill those vacancies.

The race to succeed Richmond was a crowded one. Carter and Karen Carter Peterson, both serving as state senators, emerged as the top vote-getters among 15 candidates in the March primary.

Carter had the backing of Richmond and House Majority Whip Jim Clyburn, D-S.C. Peterson was supported by voting rights advocate Stacey Abrams, progressive Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York and New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell.

As is the norm for swearing-in ceremonies, lawmakers put aside their party and political differences. Rep. Steve Scal-

See DEMOCRAT, on page 2

Gov. Edwards revises La.'s mask guidelines for fully vaccinated people

"Today is a great day and a clear sign that all three COVID vaccines currently available are not only safe but extremely effective at protecting us from the virus and helping us return to the normal way of life we have all been working hard to achieve," said Gov. Edwards.

Gov. John Bel Edwards announced that based on the recommendations by the CDC and in consultation with the Louisiana Dept. of Health, those who are fully vaccinated no longer have to wear masks indoors except in certain situations including: educational facilities, public transit, correctional settings, and health care facilities as regulated by LDH. This is in addition to recent guidance that also eased restrictions on masks outdoors for those who are fully vaccinated. Businesses may decide whether to continue requiring patrons to wear masks and are not limited by the revised proclamation. Further, local governments will continue to be able to make decisions to have further restrictions, including face covering requirements, in place.



Gov. John Bel Edwards

"Today is a great day and a clear sign that all three COVID vaccines currently available are not only safe but extremely effective at protecting us from the virus and helping us return to the normal way of life we have all been working hard to achieve," said Gov. Edwards. "Following the new CDC guidance and in consultation with the LDH, I have revised the current proclamation to give anyone who is fully vaccinated the option to no longer wear a mask while indoors in most places. We have

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WEATHER

	MON. 05/17 Thunderstorms High 81°.
	TUE. 04/18 Thunderstorms High 71°.
	WED. 04/19 Thunderstorms High 82°.
	THUR. 04/20 Partly Cloudy High 80°.

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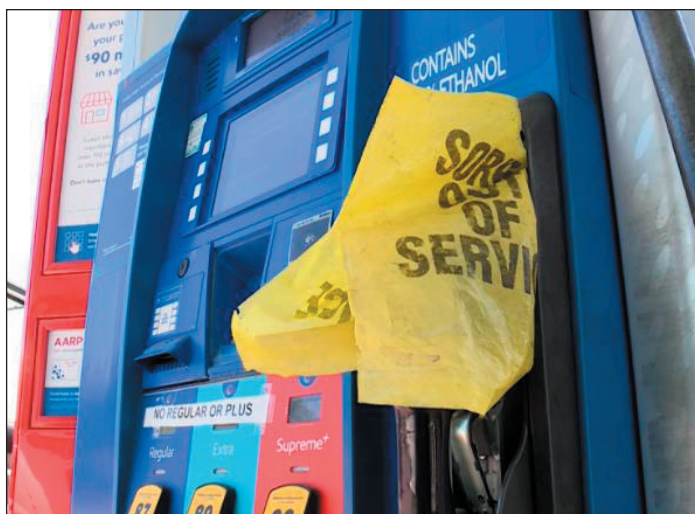
Panic buying could result in gas shortage

This as a result of the Colonial Pipeline hacking

NEW ORLEANS - Drivers along the East Coast face a combination of gas shortages and long lines as the shutdown of a major fuel pipeline entered its fifth day. More than one thousand gas stations ran out of gasoline, but energy officials say panic buying is primarily driving the gas shortages.

Locally, drivers may see a jump in the price of gasoline, but they won't be hit hard like other states.

Associate Director for Tulane University's Energy Institute Eric



Drivers brace for jump in gas prices after pipeline cyber attack

Smith said Louisiana drivers may be better off compared to other parts of the country.

"As long as we get this solved

See PANIC, on page 2

Louisiana House Republicans propose return-to-work bonus

BATON ROUGE, La. — Republican House lawmakers have started advancing a proposal to offer Louisiana residents receiving unemployment up to \$1,000 to go back to work.

But workers would have to give up their right to claim jobless benefits for six months.

GOP lawmakers on the House labor committee added the language from Rep. Mike Echols into a separate measure that sought to modestly increase the maximum weekly unemployment benefit in Louisiana.

The vote to add the incentive provision was 6-5. Republicans supported the measure and Democrats opposed it.



Republicans say federal unemployment benefits are discouraging people from seeking work. Democrats object to requiring people to give up unemployment rights.



STATE & LOCAL

EBR Mayor-President Broome to deliver keynote address at BRCC's 25th commencement ceremony on May 20

BATON ROUGE, LA—East Baton Rouge Parish Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome will deliver the keynote address at Baton Rouge Community College's 25th commencement ceremony, Thursday, May 20 at 9 a.m. The in-person ceremony will take place outside, south of the Magnolia Pavilion and Performing Arts Building on the Mid City Campus, 201 Community College Dr. The College will also live stream the event on its Facebook page, Facebook.com/mybrcc. The College has a contingency plan in place in case of inclement weather and will notify the students and guests in advance of the ceremony.

Mayor-President Broome serve as our spring commencement speaker," said BRCC Chancellor Dr. Willie E. Smith. "Over the course of the past year, Mayor Broome has shown tremendous leadership and strength as our parish and state navigated the COVID-19 virus. I am certain that she will deliver an inspiring message for our graduates who have also shown tremendous strength as well as dedication as they persevered and completed their studies this past year. We are all so proud of them."



Mayor Sharon Weston Broome

During the ceremony, degrees will be conferred for more than 700 students who completed their studies for spring 2021 and summer and fall 2020.

"We are honored to have

DEMOCRAT from page 1

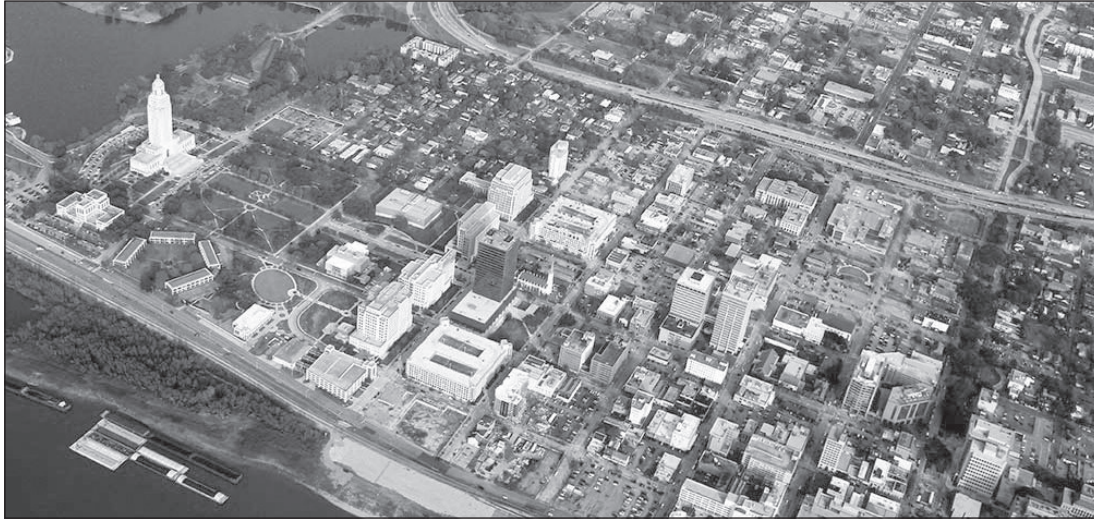
ise, the No. 2 Republican in the House, welcomed Carter, saying that "he's committed his life to public service."

"We look forward to continuing that great tradition as Republicans and Democrats working together for the best interests of our great state of

Louisiana as well as for the nation," said Sealise, who also represents Louisiana.

Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards, a Democrat, was also at the Capitol and spoke during a ceremonial event just outside the House floor. He called Carter "pretty strong-willed," prompting laughter from Carter's family and friends, before he added, "but always pleasant to deal with."

La. economy recovering from pandemic faster than expected, experts say



BATON ROUGE, La. - Baton Rouge economist Loren Scott says the state's economy is recovering from the pandemic faster than expected.

Scott says 69 percent of the 272,000 people who lost a job during the pandemic's height in April 2020 have returned to work. In Baton Rouge, more than two-thirds of laid-off workers are back.

"In other words, we're on a good track," Scott said. "If we get the vaccine out there and people use it more and more, then I think you're going to see us recover strongly."

Scott says the capital region is protected from some of the economic hardship other parts of the state have seen. Baton Rouge is home to Louisiana's largest employer: Louisiana's government.

"Generally speaking, state government has been a rock during this downturn," Scott said, noting a strange job dip in December that will likely deflate employment numbers.

Baton Rouge is also expecting a combined \$8 billion investment from chemical plants in the near future, and will not be as harshly hit by new restrictions on the oil and gas industry. The capital region is also less dependent on flailing tourism industry than New Orleans.

"Baton Rouge is a different animal... If you're in Houma or Lafayette, you've got to be worried right now." Scott says he and other economists expected 52 percent of jobs lost in April to return by the year's end, making the actual numbers a 17 percent improvement over their predictions.

He says the surprise comeback is driven by the retail industry, which has now completely recovered.

"Now, the vaccine is out and we're getting shots. Still have a lot to go, but we'll probably reach herd immunity a lot faster than we anticipated back then."

GUIDELINES from page 1

made tremendous progress in Louisiana with nearly 3 million doses administered and more than 1.3 million residents fully vaccinated and protected. Cases, hospitalizations and deaths continue to decrease and as more people, which now includes adolescents ages 12-15, are able to get the vaccine and that gives us an even greater

opportunity to put this pandemic behind us. There may still be some who choose to wear their masks in any setting, and those individuals should be respected and supported in their choices. Businesses may also continue to determine whether masks are required. I encourage those who have not yet gotten the COVID vaccine to do so as soon

as possible and to use this as motivation to ensure your loved ones, neighbors and communities are as safe as possible. This is further proof that by working together there isn't anything we can't accomplish, and those who have gone sleeves up against COVID can begin getting back to the things they know and love, without the stress."

LDH has reviewed the CDC guidance that says anyone who is fully vaccinated can participate in indoor and outdoor activities -- large

or small -- without wearing a mask or physically distancing, and agrees. The medical research is clear: if you are fully vaccinated, you are protected, and you can start doing the things that you stopped doing because of the pandemic.

"After our own review, we at the Louisiana Department of Health concur and eagerly adopt the updated CDC masking guidance. Growing evidence shows vaccines work in the real world, they are effective against the variants currently

circulating in the country and our state, and if you've gone sleeves up, you're less likely to spread the virus," said Dr. Joseph Kanter, State Health Officer. "Unfortunately, this also means that those who remain unvaccinated remain at risk of getting and spreading COVID. We encourage everyone who is eligible to get the vaccine now to protect themselves and their families, and go into summer with confidence."

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LEADERS from page 1

for the growth and development of individuals and subsequently, the organizations for which their students work. Educators' long term contributions have significantly and uniquely impacted the greater community. The National Diversity and Leadership Conference recognizes individuals who contribute to the growth of their students, organization, community, and are active in mentoring the next generation of professionals in the education sector."

BANKS from page 1

is a way for residents to post pictures of blighted, but must include a 311 report#, the address of the property, owner's information (if known).

"Often times, property owners do not live in the community where the property is located and are not aware to the blighted condition. By posting pictures and information, the community is better able to help locate owners or heirs so they can respond quicker

than DPW."

The goal of the District-2ForU: Spotlight on Blight Facebook page is to unite District 2 communities on the topic of reducing blight. "It is aimed at helping users to learn about this certain topic and exchange views, thoughts, and ideas to restore pride and beauty where we live. The problem with blight cannot be resolved by local government alone. It will take a vigilant effort on the part of residents, too," Banks said.

PANIC from page 1

within a week, we're probably ok," said Smith adding that the Colonial Pipeline is a major pipeline system that runs through the Southeast up to New Jersey and supplies about half of the fuel that is used in the upper Northeast Atlantic seaboard.

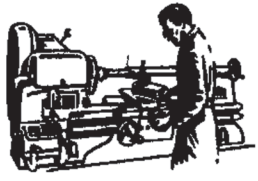
But for Louisiana, Smith said the shutdown of the pipeline shouldn't be a problem for many across the state.

"We've got so much refining capacity in the state and we're a major exporter for the rest of the country, so we've got plenty of fuel available locally," he said. "What you are seeing, however, is some strain from what we call 'panic buying'."

Which he said may be why some gas stations are selling out of gas or experiencing those long lines.

Smith said the Colonial Pipeline is a dual pipeline carrying other commodities like jet fuel. He said the longer the pipeline stays offline, impacts could become greater-- reaching airlines and other means of travel like trucking and shipping.

READER INFORMATION



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The Baton Rouge Weekly Press strives to be fair and accurate. The newspaper corrects any significant errors of fact brought to the attention of the editor. If you think an error has been made, call 225-775-2002

The Weekly Press

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 Montecello Blvd. Baton Rouge, La. 70814

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Office Hours: Monday-Friday
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Louisiana rental assistance expanding to include utilities

NEW ORLEANS — Louisiana is adding utility payment assistance to a state-run, federally funded program established to help renters and landlords affected by the coronavirus pandemic, the governor's office announced Friday.

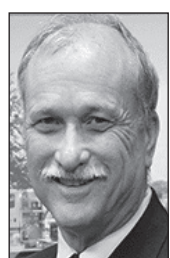
People facing financial problems because of the pandemic will be able to apply for help to pay for electricity, gas, fuel oil, water, sewerage and trash services through the state's rental assistance program.

The program covers most of the state. However, seven parishes — Caddo, Calcasieu, East Baton Rouge, Jefferson, Lafayette, Orleans and St. Tammany — have their own locally administered rental assistance programs. Availability and administration of utility assistance varies in those parishes.

The governor's news release says that, as of May 6, more than 13,000 renters have begun applications for the state-administered rental assistance program. And, \$2.6 million in rental assistance has been approved.

BRFD Chief Ed Smith announces retirement

BATON ROUGE, La. — After 19 years of service as Chief of the Baton Rouge Fire Department, Ed Smith has announced his retirement. Chief Smith's last day of duty will be May 17.



Chief Ed Smith

"Thank you to Chief Smith for his 47 years of service to the Baton Rouge Fire Department and to our community. Chief Smith

See SMITH, on page 5

NATIONAL

ConocoPhillips Heads Diversity and Inclusion Efforts in the Oil, Gas Industry



"[We are] figuring out how we can better task force, or diversify, the space," says Maalika Moore-Thomas.

BY STACY M. BROWN, NNPA NewsWire Senior National Correspondent

With projections that half of its workforce will consist of minorities by 2040, the oil and gas industry has continued to recruit individuals of color, women, veterans, and groups that have been mainly underrepresented.

At ConocoPhillips, Shawn Green and Maalika Moore-Thomas each take an optimistic approach to recruiting some of the best minority talent and minds.

Green, the manager of global services and technology, and Moore-Thomas, the senior supplier diversity coordinator, also keep a steady eye on diversity and inclusion with ConocoPhillips' contractors and suppliers.

"My day-to-day is basically working with our diverse suppliers from various backgrounds — minorities, LGBTQ community, and veterans — to ensure that our supplier base is well-rounded and to make sure that we have those diverse suppliers that we contract within our oil and gas specific jobs, as well as our professional services jobs," Moore-Thomas asserted.

Green's role is "to set the supply chain approach and strategy for automation, data analytics, and merchant technology," he stated.

"I'm ultimately accountable for the development approach for those programs that are under my purview."

Moore-Thomas added that ConocoPhillips and the industry continue to work toward a more inclusive environment that reflects different backgrounds, interests, and perspectives.

Green concurred. "One of our major initiatives is ensuring we have suppliers for the variety of categories and sourcing opportunities we have," Green remarked.

"It's really about making sure that we have a line of sight to those opportunities and a pipeline to diverse suppliers."

Added Moore-Thomas, "The importance of diversity is not just talking points or conversation. We believe each person is accountable for creating and sustaining an inclusive work environment. It's important to have diversity in backgrounds, but it's important to have diversity in thought and perspective at each table where decision making takes place."

Raised in a single-family

home in Tampa, Florida, Moore-Thomas later attended The Ohio State University and earned two degrees in psychology and criminology.

While working as a buyer for a small company, Moore-Thomas received a message from a ConocoPhillips manager that intrigued her enough to relocate to Houston eventually.

"I became very interested in oil and gas through learning about how much this industry truly influences the way we work and live," Moore-Thomas said.

"I applied for the position and never looked back."

Green grew up in Houston, where he lived with his grandparents. He said his primary focus was acquiring an education.

Green attended a magnet high school where engineers from Exxon often mentored him and other students.

Green attended Tulane University, where he majored in chemical engineering, and he later received an MBA with finance and management concentrations.



READ MORE of this story ONLINE at www.brweeklypress.com

BRAC Releases Statement on Groundbreaking of New College Drive Exit



Baton Rouge Area Chamber.

BATON ROUGE, La. — Baton Rouge Area Chamber (BRAC) President and CEO Adam Knapp issued the following statement today in response to the groundbreaking of the new College Drive exit on I-10: "It's important to recognize milestones, and today's I-10 an-

ouncement marks the beginning of a long project to widen Interstate 10 and address the traffic bottleneck between the I-10 bridge and the I-10/I-12 split. We applaud the Governor, Legislature and DOTD

See BRAC, on page 5

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@ BREC

PITCH, HIT + RUN COMPETITION

Forest Community Park
May 1 | 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

KAYAK CAMPING

Chicot State Park
May 1 | 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

RECTIME

Lovett Road Park
May 14 | 5:30-8:30 p.m.

OPEN HOUSE JR. SINGLES TOURNAMENT

Capital One Tennis Center at BREC's City-Brooks Community Park
May 14 | 4-8 p.m.

FLASHLIGHT NIGHT

Bluebonnet Swamp Nature Center
May 14 | 5-9 p.m.

MAY SPOTLIGHT EVENT:

KIDS TO PARKS DAY
Various Locations
May 15
brec.org/spotlightevents

PETS + PADDLE

Milford Wampold Memorial Park
May 15 | 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

NATURE PIONEERS

Palomino Dr. Park
May 15 | 9:30-11:30 a.m.

INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMY DAY

Highland Road Park Observatory
May 15 | 3-11 p.m.

E-SPORTS TOURNAMENT:

ROCKET LEAGUE
Forest Community Park
May 15 | noon

ADAPTIVE SUNSHINE

SOCIAL: PROM
Virtual
May 21 | 6-8 p.m.

NATURE NIGHT HIKE

Hooper Road Park
May 21 | 7-9 p.m.

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SWAMP BIRTHDAY

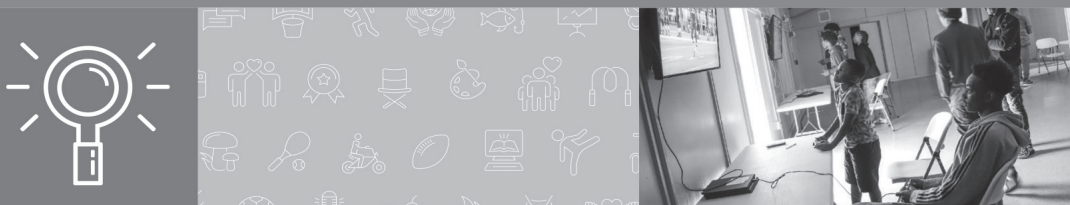
Bluebonnet Swamp Nature Center
May 22 | 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

JR. HOME RUN DERBY

Forest Community Park
May 29 | 10 a.m.-4 p.m.



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RELIGION

Pervis Staples, Co-Founder of Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Inductees, The Staple Singers, Passes Away at the Age of 85

Pervis Staples, a co-founding member of the legendary gospel group, The Staple Singers, passed away suddenly on May 6, 2021 at his home in Dolton, Illinois according to Adam Ayers, a member of Mavis Staples' 525 Worldwide Music management team. He was 85 years old. Beginning in 1956 with "Uncloudy Day" on Chicago's Vee Jay Record label and stretching into the early 1980s, the Staple Singers were one of the most influential acts in gospel, soul, and social protest music. Their signature songs such as "Uncloudy Day," "Why Am I Treated So Bad," "Respect Yourself" and "I'll Take You There" are hailed as soul music masterpieces.

Pervis Staples was born November 18, 1935 in Drew, Mississippi. His family moved to Chicago for economic opportunities, and he was raised on the city's Southside where his guitar-playing father, Roebuck "Pop" Staples, started teaching his children gospel songs to entertain them and occupy their time. Eventually, word spread throughout the Chicago church community about the singing family, and they cut their first recordings for a local label, United Records. However, it's when they started recording for Vee Jay Records that they gained a national following with rootsy songs such as "So Soon," "If I Could Hear My Mother Pray Again," "Will the Circle Be Unbroken," and "Uncloudy Day" — which has been reported to have sold a million copies.

The early Staples sound was constructed around Pop Staples' lite tenor and his understated,



The Staple Singers circa 1953

blues-influenced guitar playing. Surrounding it, was his teenaged daughter, Cleotha's soprano; and son Pervis' warm tenor. "Pervis' childhood was filled with wonderful experiences," Mavis Staples remembers. "He liked to think of this period of his life as setting the stage for all that he wanted to do in life. Some of Pervis' best friends as a youngster included Sam Cooke, Lou Rawls, and Jerry Butler. Pervis and the guys would stand under the lamp posts in the summertime singing doo-wop songs."

Mavis' unusually low voice on most of the songs led many to assume that was Pervis singing. "We'd trick 'em," Pervis told

journalist Greg Kot in his Mavis Staples biography, *I'll Take You There* (Scribner). "The audience would be looking for me to come up with the low part — this was for the people who heard the record but had never seen us before, I'd come up to the mike and switch over at the last second where Cleotha was, then Mavis would step up. That messed them up, but it woke up the crowd."

After graduating from the Dunbar Vocational Career Academy, Pervis served in the U.S. Army where he served with the Field Evaluation Agency and was a member of the U.S. Army Choral Group. While he was away from the group, his sister, Yvonne, stepped in to sing. After he was honorably discharged, he returned to the group.

Pop Staples had routinely turned down offers for the group to record R&B music as he felt it was a conflict with his faith. Pervis witnessed friends such as Lou Rawls and Sam Cooke crossover and he kept nudging his father to expand the group's repertoire. The compromise was message music after they signed with Riverside Records in 1961. The family became fast friends with folk artists like Bob Dylan on the festival circuit. Pervis and Dylan were close. In Kot's book, Pervis recalled Dylan showing him the song, "A Hard Rain's Gonna Fall" at the President Hotel in 1962. He lobbied Pop Staples to let the family record it. He did and it was done as a duet between Mavis and Pervis for the 1966 LP, *This Little Light of Mine* (Epic Records). Although Mavis opened the song, Pervis led the bulk

of it in a smooth, mellow, and commanding voice that was reminiscent of his father's but uniquely his own. Another stand-out solo for Pervis was his lead on The Staple Singers' remake of Hank Williams' 1952 cut, "Be Careful of the Stones You Throw," on their 1965 LP, *Amen* (Epic Records). Underneath a gentle southern-blues melody, Pervis recites the song in a pleasing tone as his sisters provide urgently earnest background vocals for the morality tale about a young girl who is killed saving the child of a woman who had gossiped about her.

Pervis' last album with The Staple Singers was their first for Stax Records, *Soul Folks in Action* (Stax Records), in 1968. The album featured new songs such as "The Ghetto" and their interpretations of tunes like Otis Redding's "(Sittin' On) The Dock of the Bay" and The Band's "The Weight." In Kot's book, Steve Cropper, an iconic session musician at Stax Records, credited Pervis with helping him with production on the album. "If I had an idea, he would work with the girls and stretch the idea," he said. "He would become the band leader, work with them over and over. Every idea wouldn't work right away, so he'd work on it until they got it right."

Pervis is also featured on duets with Carla Thomas on "I'm Trying" and "It's Unbelievable How You Control My Soul" for the LP, *Boy Meets Girl* (Stax Records), in 1969. He also appeared on the all-star, "Soul-A-luja," track that featured

See PERVIS, on page 5



Pervis Staples




Mavis and Pervis Staples in 2017

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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Prayer Ministry	Tues 6:00 p.m.


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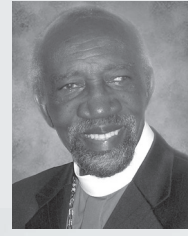


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CHURCH SCHEDULE

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

Claire Willis Named Executive Director of Young Entrepreneurs Academy of Baton Rouge

BATON ROUGE, La. — Young Entrepreneurs Academy of Baton Rouge (YEA BR) is pleased to announce Claire Willis as the YEA BR Executive Director. Having served as Principal of Cristo Rey Baton Rouge Franciscan High School for the past four years, Claire has unique qualifications to take the Young Entrepreneurs Academy of Baton Rouge to the next level.

“We are excited to have Claire join the YEA BR leadership team as we continue building a strong pipeline of Louisiana entrepreneurs,” said Deborah Sternberg, YEA BR Chair. “She has the experience, skills and passion we need to continue growing this transformative Academy.”

Claire’s role will focus on managing the weekly respon-

sibilities and operations of the Academy. Moreover, she will work closely with YEA BR’s instructors and continue building strong relationships with parents, students, educators and businesses throughout the region.

“I have seen firsthand the positive impact YEA BR has on students and am eager to build on that success,” said Claire Willis. “We have a tremendous opportunity to open the door for students across the greater Baton Rouge area to learn about business and succeed as entrepreneurs. I am ready to make that happen.”

Applications for the upcoming class are due August 20, with need-based scholarships available. Space is limited. Learn more at: <https://www.yeabr.org/apply>.

SMITH from page 3

has guided Baton Rouge through many emergency situations over the years, always demonstrating strong leadership and a reassuring presence,” said Mayor-President

GUIDELINES from page 2

Thursday, the Food and Drug Administration and the CDC also approved the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID vaccine for those ages 12-15. Already nearly 14,000 young people from 12-17 have started the vaccine process, and this number

Sharon Weston Broome.

Chad Major will serve as the interim until a new Chief is selected. Chad Major, retired from the Baton Rouge Fire Department in 2020 with 32 years of service. During his last 8 years, he served as the Administrative Assistant to Chief Smith.

will continue to grow. More than 70 percent of Louisianans age 65 and older have completed their vaccine series. In total, more than 1.35 million Louisianans have completed their vaccine series.



READ MORE of this story ONLINE at www.brweeklypress.com

BRAC from page 3

for taking meaningful steps to start this project. At the same time, today’s event should stand as a reminder that the job isn’t done. Full project funding will require at least twice as much investment

PERVIS from page 4

Stax artists such as Johnnie Taylor, William Bell, and Mavis Staples. It’s during this period that Pervis left the group to begin managing another Chicago act, The Hutchinson Sunbeams, who later became known as The Emotions. He was involved with several business ventures, including Perv’s House, a successful nightclub that was one of the most popular night-life spots on the south side in the 1970s.

The Staple Singers were awarded the Rhythm & Blues Foundation’s Pioneer Award in 1992. They were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1998 and earned a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award in 2005. They were also inducted into the Nashville-based Gospel Music Hall of Fame in 2018. “Pervis was one of a kind- comical

as has been allocated to this job-killing bottleneck. Moreover, the painful construction process could potentially be shorter if it were fully funded. We continue to call on the Legislature, Governor, and our Congressional delegation to find infrastructure dollars to accelerate this project.”

and downright fly,” Mavis Staples recalls. “He would want to be remembered as an upright man, always willing to help and encourage others. He was one of the good guys and will live on as a true Chicago legend.”

Staples preceded in death by his parents, Roebuck and Oeola; three sisters, Cynthia, Cleotha, and Yvonne. He is survived by his sister, Mavis Staples. He also leaves six children: Gwen Staples, Reverly Staples, Perleta (George) Sanders, Pervis Roe Staples, Paris Staples, Eala Yvonne (Michael) Sams; seven grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

Pervis Staples’ funeral services will be held Monday, May 17, 2021 in the King’s Chapel at Leak & Son’s Funeral Homes, 7838 South Cottage Grove Avenue, Chicago, IL 60619 - (773) 846-6567. The wake is 10 AM and the funeral is 11 AM.

BUSINESS

Graves Introduces Legislation to Strengthen Louisiana’s Seafood Industry



U.S. Congressman Garret Graves

“Generations of Louisiana’s fishing families have made our state one of the top seafood producers in the country. It is an important part of our economy and jobs.”



WASHINGTON, DC — U.S. Congressman Garret Graves (South Louisiana) introduced bipartisan legislation that will help to stop foreign Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing that undercuts Louisiana’s fisheries. The bill establishes monitoring and detection programs to identify and prevent IUU fisheries from unfairly competing with our domestic fishing boats. The legislation also strengthens international efforts to combat some of the worst

illegal fishing practices of countries like China, Cambodia and Russia that threaten the sustainability of fisheries in oceans across the globe.

“Generations of Louisiana’s fishing families have made our state one of the top seafood producers in the country. It is an important part of our economy and jobs. The combination of great chefs and our seafood has resulted in Louisiana being a foodie destination. However, hurricanes, government regulations, the pandemic and unfair competition from foreign fishing fleets are threatening the future of these hard-working men and women

and threatening the sustainability of fisheries around the globe. It has evolved from an environmental issue to an economic issue to a national security issue,” Graves said. “I want to thank Cong. Jared Huffman for his leadership on the IUU issue. His partnership on this bill will help ensure America’s fishers have a fighting chance and our children and grandchildren have fish to catch.”

“IUU fishing is an environmental and humanitarian crisis, and the U.S. should be a global leader in solving it,” said Rep. Huffman. “Illegal fishing operations dam-

age ocean ecosystems and healthy fisheries, and are often the same ones that rely on atrocious, illegal practices like human trafficking and forced labor. Our new legislation tackles IUU fishing to protect human lives, promote responsible fishing around the world, and level the playing field for U.S. fishermen. Not only do we need to ensure an ethical seafood supply chain, but we also need to stop IUU products from entering our markets and competing with those who follow the rules and who keep our domestic fishing industry sustainable.”

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SPORTS

Southern's Lewis Named To Stats Perform Fcs All-America Team

CHICAGO, IL. -- Southern's Jordan Lewis, a 6-3, 195-pound junior, ranked No. 1 in the FCS regular season in tackles for loss (15), tackles for loss per game (3.0), tackle yardage for loss (82), sacks (10.5), sacks per game (2.1) and sack yardage (73) over five games was named a Stats Perform FCS First Team All-American.

The Southwestern Athletic Conference Defensive Player of the Year and First Team All-SWAC defensive lineman finished with 27 overall tackles (19 solo), posting season highs of 11 tackles, five tackles for loss, four sacks and a forced fumble in a victory at Alabama State.

He was also named BOXTOROW HBCU Defensive Player of the Year and All-First Team Defense as well as one of three finalist for the Stats Perform FCS Buck Buchanan Award, which honors the defensive player of the year in college football's Division I FCS subdivision.



Jordan Lewis

2020-21 STATS PERFORM FCS ALL-AMERICA TEAM

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE

- QB – Eric Barriere, senior, 6-0, 200, Eastern Washington
- QB – Cole Kelley, senior, 6-7, 260, Southeastern Louisiana
- RB – Percy Agyei-Obese, senior, 6-0, 204, James Madison
- RB – Julius Chestnut, junior, 6-1, 215, Sacred Heart

- RB – Otis Weah, sophomore, 5-9, 195, North Dakota
- FB – Hunter Luepke, sophomore, 6-1, 245, North Dakota State
- WR – Avante Cox, junior, 5-10, 170, Southern Illinois
- WR – Jakob Herres, junior, 6-4, 211, VMI
- WR – Tyler Hudson, sophomore, 6-2, 185, Central Arkansas
- TE – Trae Barry, senior,

- 6-7, 245, Jacksonville State
- OL – P.J. Burkhalter, senior, 6-3, 330, Nicholls
- OL – Garrett Greenfield, sophomore, 6-6, 295, South Dakota State
- OL – Drew Himmelman, senior, 6-10, 315, Illinois State
- OL – David Kroll, senior, 6-7, 315, Delaware
- OL – Cordell Volson, senior, 6-7, 310, North Dakota State

- OL – Ty Whitworth, senior, 6-4, 300, Weber State

DEFENSE

- DL – Jared Brinkman, senior, 6-2, 290, Northern Iowa
- DL – Isaiah Chambers, grad, 6-5, 250, McNeese
- DL – Mike Greene, senior, 6-3, 285, James Madison
- DL – Jahari Kay, senior, 6-2, 255, Sam Houston
- DL – Jordan Lewis, junior,

6-3, 195, Southern

- LB – Colby Campbell, senior, 6-0, 230, Presbyterian
- LB – La'akea Kaho'ohanohano-Davis, junior, 6-1, 215, Southern Utah
- LB – Connor Mortensen, senior, 6-0, 215, Weber State
- LB – Stone Snyder, sophomore, 6-3, 225, VMI

- LB – Tre Walker, junior, 6-1, 235, Idaho
- DB – Chris Edmonds, sophomore, 6-2, 205, Samford

- DB – Nicario Harper, sophomore, 6-1, 205, Jacksonville State

- DB – Kordell Jackson, senior, 5-9, 188, Austin Peay

- DB – Robert Rochell, senior, 6-0, 195, Central Arkansas

- DB – Kedrick Whitehead, junior, 5-11, 195, Delaware

SPECIAL TEAMS

- PK – Ethan Ratke, senior, 5-10, 185, James Madison
- PK – Antonio Zita, senior, 5-9, 170, Tennessee State
- P – Garret Wegner, senior, 6-0, 197, North Dakota State
- P – Daniel Whelan, senior, 6-6, 215, UC Davis
- LS – Kyle Davis, junior, 5-11,

210, James Madison

- LS – Robert Soderholm, sophomore, 6-1, 216, VMI

- KR – Christian Watson, junior, 6-4, 200, North Dakota State

- PR – Devron Harper, junior, 5-10, 165, Gardner-Webb

- AP – Quay Holmes, junior, 6-1, 216, ETSU

- AP – Javon Williams Jr., sophomore, 6-2, 245, Southern Illinois

SECOND TEAM OFFENSE

- QB – Eric Schmid, junior, 6-1, 180, Sam Houston

- QB – Liam Welch, grad, 6-2, 194, Samford

- RB – Juwon Farri, sophomore, 5-10, 195, Monmouth

- RB – Karl Mofor, senior, 5-9, 229, Albany

- RB – Pierre Strong Jr., junior, 5-11, 210, South Dakota State

- FB – Nathan Walker, junior, 6-0, 225, Wofford

- WR – Talolo Limu-Jones, senior, 6-5, 220, Eastern Washington

- WR – Keith Pearson, senior, 5-9, 175, Presbyterian

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