

The Weekly Press

SERVING BAKER, CENTRAL, AND ZACHARY

THURSDAY, DEC. 30, 2021- JAN. 5, 2022

A PEOPLE'S PUBLICATION

VOL. 45 • NO.19 • FREE

Wishing You a Happy & Prosperous New Year

The United Way of Southeast Louisiana to honor Senator Regina Barrow



Sen. Regina Barrow, D-Baton Rouge

The United Way of Southeast Louisiana will honor Sen. Regina Barrow, D-Baton Rouge, as a 2021 Legislative Champion at a Jan. 12 banquet in New Orleans.

Barrow's efforts in the Legislature have focused on helping children and families by promoting education and paving ways to improve the livelihood of families. She chairs the Senate Select Committee on Women and Children and led efforts to eradicate power-based violence and harassment on college campuses, causing Louisiana's colleges and universities to institute improved policies.

"It is my great honor to congratulate you on being selected," Charmaine Caccioppi, executive vice president and COO of United Way of Southeast Louisiana said in notifying Sen. Barrow of the award. "During the 2021 state legislative session, your efforts to remove barriers and create opportunities for families living under the ALICE threshold were unparalleled!"

"I am pleased that my efforts to improve the lives of Louisiana's hardworking families are being recognized," Barrow said, "but I will not stop until the job is completely done and people across the state are paid a true living wage which will decrease poverty and bridge the disparity gap."

"ALICE" – Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed – refers to households with income above the official Federal Poverty Level but

See **BARROW**, on page 4

OTHER STORIES ONLINE



WEATHER

MON. 01/03
Partly Cloudy
High 51°.

TUE. 01/04
Partly Cloudy
High 61°.

WED. 01/05
Partly Cloudy
High 71°.

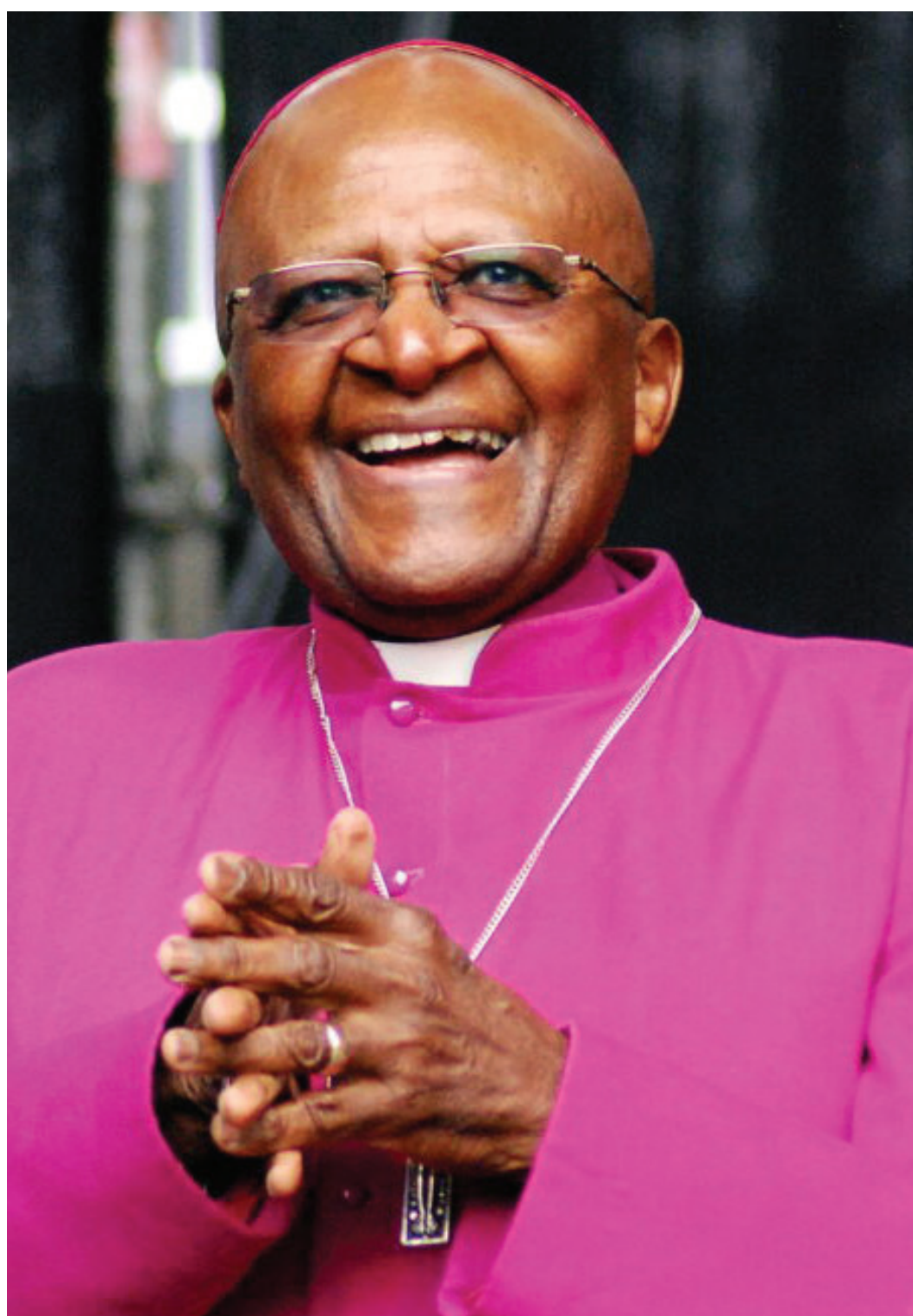
THUR. 01/06
Partly Cloudy
High 70°.

INDEX

State & Local.....	3 & 4
Business.....	5
Business Directory.....	5
Classifieds.....	5
Religion.....	6
Church Directory.....	6
Health & Wellness.....	7

DESMOND TUTU

an icon who helped end apartheid in South Africa, dies at 90



South Africa's leading advocate for change and reconciliation under a Black majority rule and the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize winner, Bishop Tutu, died in Cape Town on December 26 at the age of 90.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the Nobel Peace Prize-winning Anglican cleric whose good humor, inspiring message and conscientious work for civil and human rights made him a revered leader during the struggle to end apartheid in his native South Africa, has died. He was 90.

In a statement confirming his death on Sunday, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa expressed his condolences to Tutu's family and friends, calling him "a patriot without equal."

"A man of extraordinary intellect, integrity and invincibility against the forces of apartheid, he was also tender and vulnerable in his compassion for those who had

suffered oppression, injustice and violence under apartheid, and oppressed and downtrodden people around the world," Ramaphosa said.

Tutu had been in ill health for years. In 2013, he underwent tests for a persistent infection, and he was admitted to hospital several times in following years.

For six decades, Tutu -- known affectionately as «the Arch» -- was one of the primary voices in exhorting the South African government to end apartheid, the country's official policy of racial segregation. After apartheid ended in the early '90s and the long-imprisoned Nelson Mandela became president of the country, Tutu was named chair of South Africa's Truth and Reconcili-

ation Commission.

The Nelson Mandela foundation called Tutu's loss "immeasurable."

"He was larger than life, and for so many in South Africa and around the world his life has been a blessing," the foundation said in a statement. "His contributions to struggles against injustice, locally and globally, are matched only by the depth of his thinking about the making of liberatory futures for human societies."

Tutu's civil and human rights work led to prominent honors from around the world. Former US President Barack Obama awarded him

See **TUTU**, on page 4

Gov. Edwards Extends Louisiana's Public Health Emergency



Gov. John Bel Edwards has extended Louisiana's Public Health Emergency order related to COVID-19, including a provision allowing all state government agencies to require mask wearing.

Gov. John Bel Edwards extended Louisiana's Public Health Emergency order related to COVID-19, including a provision allowing all state government agencies to require mask wearing, given the fast-spreading Omicron variant, which is now the dominant strain in the United States and Louisiana according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). State agencies in the Governor's Cabinet will begin requiring masks of employees and visitors.

"While vaccines and booster doses are the strongest tools we have in the fight against COVID,

public health experts also agree that masks are an important way to slow the spread of the Omicron variant now. This means you should be masking indoors around people who aren't in your household," Gov. Edwards said. "While it is concerning to still see rising cases, as President Joe Biden noted earlier today -- we have come a long way since March 2020. Around 50 percent of Louisianians have already been vaccinated and are

See **EDWARDS**, on page 7

Local leaders help with COVID test kits



Sen. Cleo Fields



Councilwoman Carolyn Coleman

BATON ROUGE, La. — Local leaders want you to get tested. Sen. Cleo Fields (D) and Councilwoman Carolyn Coleman hosted a COVID test giveaway on Thursday, Dec. 29. Handing out several hundred at home kits.

Within minutes the boxes

were gone and the drive-thru cleared out. Remember the early days of the pandemic when people searched stores desperately looking for toilet paper? Fast forward two years later, your toilet paper is stocked but the

See **KITS**, on page 4

SUITS • HATS • SHOES • SHIRTS • FASHION ACCESSORIES

EVERYDAY SALE

SUPER COOL

A BRAND OF STYLE AND SOPHISTICATION

Visit The Syle Master
"Mr. Super Cool
Keith B. O'Connor"

6180 Airline Hwy
Baton Rouge, La. 70805
225.357.5796



I'm a mom first.

I may be Dr. Nina Ford Johnson a pediatrician, but I'm a mom first. My babies are my top priority, always. With COVID going around affecting Black kids at a higher rate, I'm telling any parent with children 5 and older to get the COVID vaccine.

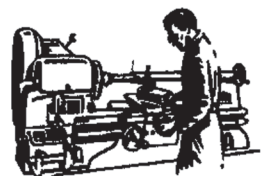


Brought to you by the
U.S. Department of Health
and Human Services.

Find vaccines near you
at [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov)

LOCAL & STATE

READER INFORMATION



How to Reach Us

General Information 225-775-2002
Email brweeklypress@yahoo.com

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

Correction Policy

The Baton Rouge Weekly Press strives to be fair and accurate. The newspaper corrects any significant errors of fact brought to the attention of the editor. If you think an error has been made, call 225-775-200

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., Suite C
Baton Rouge, La. 70814

Phone: (225) 775-2002
E-Mail brweeklypress@yahoo.com
Office Hours: Monday-Friday
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Closed Saturday, Sunday

EMAIL YOUR NEWS AND INFORMATION TO
brweeklypress@yahoo.com

Biden appoints Louisiana Legislature Black Caucus Chair Ted James to Small Business Administration



Rep. Ted James (D-Baton Rouge) (Photo by Wes Muller/Louisiana Illuminator)

BY: WES MULLER
Courtesy Louisiana Illuminator

President Joe Biden has appointed state Rep. Ted James (D-Baton Rouge) to serve as a regional administrator in the U.S. Small Business Administration.

James was among six oth-

ers appointed to what the White House called "key regional leadership roles." As the SBA's Region 6 administrator, James will oversee district offices in Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. The district offices are the point of delivery for most SBA programs, providing service to the

local small business community.

The news release said the appointments are consistent with Biden's commitment to build a diverse administration and "critical to the President's efforts to rebuild communities most impacted by the pandemic, the economic recovery, and climate change."

James was first elected to the Louisiana House in November 2011 and serves as chairman of the House Administration of Criminal Justice Committee and chairman of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus. Outside of the legislature, James is an attorney and director of operations for the

Baton Rouge office of the Urban League of Louisiana.

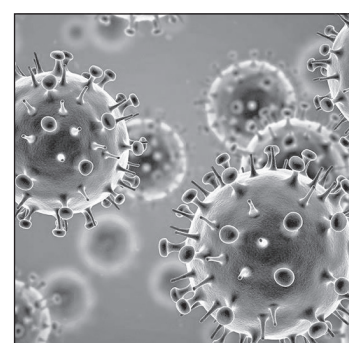
James said he intends to step down from his legislative position in January and will hold a press conference on his departure next week. The Legislature meets for its special session on political redistricting in February.

Louisiana reports highest number of new COVID-19 cases since pandemic began

NEW ORLEANS - The Louisiana Department of Health reported over 9,300 new cases of COVID-19 on Dec. 29, a pandemic high, according to Governor John Bel Edwards.

On Wednesday, the LDH says 9,378 people tested positive for COVID-19. The state recorded an additional 145 patients in hospitals, bringing the total to 659 statewide. On Tuesday, hospitalizations increased by about 50 and there were more than 4,000 new cases.

A spokesperson for Gov. Edwards says they cannot find a single day with more new cases since the beginning of the pandemic last year. During the August delta surge, LDH reported over



10,000 new cases at least twice, but those numbers were for three-day periods.

Over the Christmas weekend four-day period, LDH reported over 12,000 new cases of COVID-19.

The revelation supports what

health experts across the nation have been saying since the omicron variant was discovered in South Africa; this variant is more contagious, though symptoms appear milder.

Even though hospitalizations tripled since Dec. 16, Louisiana is still well below the peak number of hospitalizations, over 3,000 during the delta surge.

Florida reported almost 47,000 new cases on Dec. 29, shattering the previous record for new cases in a single day.

People not fully vaccinated account for 64% of new cases from Dec. 16 - 22, according to LDH. Those not fully vaccinated account for 79% of COVID-19 hospitalizations on Dec. 28.



WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED

I can help you protect more than you'd expect. I also have lots of ways to help you save when you bundle your policies. Get the savings you deserve. Call or stop by my office for a free quote.



AGNES SMITH ANDREWS



Insurance Agent/Owner
214 S. Acadian Thruway
Baton Rouge LA 70806
Phone: 225.383.0877
Fax: 225.383.0877
Claims: 225.383.0877



Allstate
You're in good hands.

Email: AgnesAndrews@Allstate.com
www.allstateagencies.com/agnesandrews

LACY BAAHETH & ASSOCIATES

YOUR BATON ROUGE REAL ESTATE PROS
TRUSTED • RESPECTED • RECOMMENDED

LACY BAAHETH
2226 WOODDALE BLVD,
BATON ROUGE, LA 70806
PH: (225) 906-9350 • FAX (225) 906-9658
LACY@SELLSWITHLACY.COM
WWW.VIEWHOMESWITHLACY.NET

Join Our Free Business Listing • Sending Our Information to:
brweeklypress@yahoo.com or call 225.775.2002

Mayor Waives End of Year Message

As we reach the end of 2021, I would like to reflect on the on the past 12 months. Although we all continue to face challenges, such as those presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, and our ongoing efforts to ensure an equitable society for all we stand together, determined to succeed.



Mayor Darnell Waites

As many of our neighbors have faced tragedy over the past year, please join me in keeping in our prayers all who have lost loved ones during the pandemic. We pray you are surrounded by love and compassion and lift you up.

We pray for our service members and their families and thank them for their service and sacrifice as they continue to strive to uphold and protect the ideals of our democracy.

I remain thankful for the character, courage, resilience, and resolve in each of you working tirelessly, serving our community; those who teach, heal, comfort, protect and serve, volunteer, and work every day to make our City the best it can be. Your efforts show how we succeed when we share our gifts, especially when we work with appreciation and gratitude in our hearts and goodwill for our neighbors. This is community at its finest and I am humbled to be a part of it, working alongside you

as we take care to look out for each other and set aside our differences in pursuit of a greater good for all.

As I reflect, I am reminded of the things we all care about which unite us at the holidays and every day of the year – these are faith, family and friendship. Second only to Christ, the gift of family is God's greatest gift to us, for it's within the family of faith that we experience the fullness of God's love. Just as family is a gift from God our family grows with our friendships. As C.S. Lewis wrote, "...friendship is not a reward for our discriminating and good taste in finding one another out. It is the instrument by which God reveals to each of us the beauties of others." Through our friends, we practice care and compassion for others and learn to put them before our own needs. We learn to see others through God's eyes and simultaneously we receive the comfort of knowing our friends are there for us.

In the coming year, I pray that we continue to be unified in our resolve to work for the betterment of our community and that we take the words found in 1 Peter 4:9-11 to heart:

1 Peter 4:9-11 Use hospitality one to another without grudging. 10 As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 11 If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

BRCC to Delay Start of Spring 2022 Semester

BATON ROUGE, La. — Baton Rouge Community College (BRCC) will delay the start of the Spring 2022 semester by one week. The first day of classes originally scheduled for Monday, Jan. 10 will now be rescheduled to Tuesday, Jan. 18.

With the delay of the start of the semester, BRCC's Spring Commencement will now be held on Friday, May 20 instead of May 13. The Mardi Gras holiday and Spring Break dates will remain the same. The Mardi Gras holiday will be observed Monday, February 28 and Tuesday, March 1. Spring Break will be observed Saturday, April 16 through Sunday, April 24.

During the Spring semester, BRCC will continue to offer various modes of instruction at its educational sites, including in-person, online and hybrid classes. Students can register for classes at one of BRCC's eight sites located throughout the Capital Region.

BRCC is currently closed for Winter Break through Sunday, Jan. 2. The College will resume normal business operations on Monday, Jan. 3. Current and prospective students can enroll online at my-brcc.edu or in-person by visiting the Bienvenue Student Center on the Mid City Campus, 201 Community College D

TUTU from page 1

the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2009. Obama called Tutu a "mentor, a friend, and a moral compass" in a statement after his death.

"Archbishop Tutu was grounded in the struggle for liberation and justice in his own country, but also concerned with injustice everywhere. He never lost his impish sense of humor and willingness to find humanity in his adversaries," said Obama.

President Joe Biden also mourned Tutu on Sunday. «His courage and moral clarity helped inspire our commitment to change American policy toward the repressive Apartheid regime in South Africa.» the President said in a joint statement with first lady Jill Biden. «His legacy transcends borders and will echo throughout the ages.»

In 2012, Tutu was awarded a \$1 million grant by the Mo Ibrahim Foundation for "his lifelong commitment to speaking truth to power." The following year, he received the Templeton Prize for his "life-long work in advancing spiritual principles such as love and forgiveness which has helped to

liberate people around the world."

Most notably, he received the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize, following in the footsteps of his countryman, Albert Lutuli, who received the prize in 1960.

The Nobel cemented Tutu's status as an instrumental figure in South Africa, a position he gained in the wake of protests against apartheid. Despite anger about the policy within South Africa, as well as widespread global disapproval – the country was banned from the Olympics from 1964 through 1988 – the South African government quashed opposition, banning the African National Congress political party and imprisoning its leaders, including Mandela.

No Permit, No Problem: More States Allow Residents to Carry a Hidden Gun

Louisiana Legislature considered permitless carry bill this year

Six more states no longer require residents to hold a permit to carry a concealed firearm.

Arkansas, Iowa, Montana, Tennessee, Texas and Utah this year enacted what gun rights advocates often refer to as "constitutional carry" measures. A legislative priority for groups such as the National Rifle Association, 21 states now have such measures in place. Many of these states still have restrictions on possessing firearms in certain government buildings.

More states may be added to that list before the end of this legislative season. The Ohio House last month passed a bill along party lines that would eliminate a requirement for gun owners to take an eight-hour class and undergo a background check to carry a concealed firearm in public. It is now before the state Senate, which also is controlled by Republicans. Wisconsin lawmakers also are debating a permitless carry bill.

Similar bills have passed in one legislative chamber in both Louisiana and South Carolina this year. Meanwhile, the U.S. Supreme Court is considering whether New York's gun permitting system violates the Second Amendment—a case that could gut firearm permit provisions nationwide.

Permitless carry laws eliminate what proponents say is an onerous and time-consuming step for people who want to arm themselves for self-

protection. When Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee signed his state's permitless carry law earlier this year, the Republican tweeted that "it shouldn't be hard for law-abiding Tennesseans to exercise their" Second Amendment rights.

Gun safety advocates and law enforcement agencies argue that having more people with concealed firearms in public places endangers communities and police officers.

"This is a dangerous step for states," said Eugenio Weigend, director of the gun violence prevention program at the Center for American Progress, a liberal think tank. "This could easily raise some confrontations in some places, further escalating violence to reach lethal levels."

The debate over self-defense figured prominently in the recent trial of Kyle Rittenhouse, who was charged with homicide after he killed two people in the tumultuous aftermath of a police shooting in Kenosha, Wisconsin, in 2020. A jury acquitted Rittenhouse last month, finding that his use of deadly force in the chaotic streets was legally justifiable. Prosecutors called him a dangerous vigilante.

In Georgia, Travis McMichael argued he was acting in self-defense when he shot and killed Ahmaud Arbery, an unarmed Black man who was jogging in McMichael's neighborhood. McMichael was convicted of murder last month, along with his father and a neighbor. The three men pursued Arbery in a pickup truck.

Wisconsin's permitless carry bill, which received a public hearing in the state Senate in October, also would prohibit local governments from banning weapons on public transportation. It's unclear when the

legislation will get a vote, but gun rights advocates are confident it will pass.

Eliminating the permit requirement would be a welcome change for gun owners uneasy about being on a government list, said Nik Clark, president of Wisconsin Carry, a Milwaukee-based gun rights organization. It also would allow people who want a gun for self-protection to acquire one without having to wait through the permitting process, which Clark said is important in cases of domestic abuse or in situations such as the civil unrest of 2020.

"We have a human right to self-defense," Clark said. "To say that you need permission from the government to do that is crazy. It's anti-American."

Gun rights advocates such as Clark have been pushing for a permitless carry law in Wisconsin for more than a decade. It never

See GUN, on page 5

Louisiana doubling welfare aid after 20 years at same rate

BATON ROUGE, La. — Louisiana is doubling cash payments available to poor families through its welfare programs next year, the first increase in more than two decades, according to the state's social services department.

Benefits will be boosted to the national average for people receiving cash assistance through the federal Family Independence Temporary Assistance Program and Kinship Care Subsidy Program.

The Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services said the new payment amounts — in-

See RATE, on page 7

KITS from page 1

hard-to-find item is an at-home testing kit.

"We know that they're scarce, so we want to give the people the opportunity to be tested," said Sen. Fields

Sen. Fields and Councilwoman Coleman gave out all 200 kits in just 25 minutes.

"Folks got to do what needs to be done in order to stay away from large crowds, being in bars, and real huge family gatherings," Councilwoman Coleman said firmly.

But warnings like that aren't stopping folks determined to kiss 2021 goodbye. We stopped by Louisiana Fireworks this afternoon where people we saw said they have no intention of canceling their plans.

"We just gonna have a good time popping fireworks," said Carolyn Smith who was shopping for fireworks.

Smith says despite the virus, she won't drop the ball on her plans to have family over to set off fireworks.

"Not a whole bunch, I mean, my sisters and nephews and my neighbors will come by," said Smith.

"I definitely haven't heard anything about COVID. So um, everybody's just having big parties, they're just trying to get their loved ones together and...it is what it is at this point," said store owner Jessica Munoz.

Dwaine Valois says for him and his family, COVID is on the backburner.

"Nobody's not gonna come because of COVID. But, you know, we usually have about 10-15 people but not too many people are worried about it," said Valois.

While some people may not

consider COVID as pressing as counting down to 2022, state leaders urge those of you determined to celebrate to at least make sure you're negative first.

FRANK O'S
OVER 18 YEARS EXPERIENCE

PEST CONTROL

CONTROLLING PEST OF ALL TYPES: ROACHES • BED BUGS
ANTS • SPIDERS • FLEAS • RODENTS • BEES • TERMITES

OFFICE 225.772.1876

FRANKOPESTCONTROL@COX.NET

BARROW from page 1

below a newly defined basic survival income level.

The United Way SELA's Legislative Champions Celebration is set for 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Jan. 12 at Copper Vine, 1001 Poydras Street in New Orleans. At the event, the Louisiana Policy Institute for Children will recognize its 2021 Early Care and Education Legislative Champions, as well as United Way SELA's 2021 Legislative Champions and Public Policy Collaborative Partners for their work to create a stronger, more equitable Louisiana.

GERARD FLOORING
COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL FLOORING INSTALLATION SPECIALISTS

For over 20 years Gerard Flooring has served Baton Rouge and surrounding areas. Let us transform your existing flooring into something you can be proud to show your neighbors, friends or business associates. After all, first impressions are lasting so why not make a good one? We can help!

CERAMIC TILE • MARBLE • HARDWOOD FLOORS
COUNTER TOPS • STRIPING AND REFINISHING
MEXICAN AND BRICK FLOORS

SCHEDULE YOUR FREE ESTIMATE TODAY!
CONTACT DAVID G. PAYNE (225) 235-4281

EMAIL YOUR NEWS AND INFORMATION TO
brweeklypress@yahoo.com

247 PRAISE RADIO
YOUR GLOBAL INSPIRATION STATION

LISTEN LIVE! WWW.247PRAISERADIO.COM

LET US HELP YOU REACH THOUSANDS IN THE 247 PRAISE RADIO COMMUNITY AND BEYOND

These special rates are exclusive to the BR Weekly Press advertising partner. TheBR Weekly Press is an official representative and media partner of 247 Parise Radio.com

Stellar Awards MILLIONS OF LISTENERS PER HOUR
NOMINATED

GOSPEL INTERNET RADIO STATION OF THE YEAR

Broadcast Rates

• 15 min \$25.00	4 broadcast per month \$100
• 30 min \$35.00	4 broadcast per month \$140
• 60 min \$43.75	4 broadcast per month \$175

CALL FOR MORE DETAILS **225.775.2002**

ALWAYS CRYSTAL CLEAR 24/7 NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE IN THE CITY, STATE, COUNTRY OR IN THE WORLD

**BRWEEKLYPRESS
BUSINESS/SERVICE**

DIRECTORY



FOR BUSINESS

**PANDEMIC AND HURRICANE RECOVERY
SPECIALS CALL TO RESERVE YOUR SPACE
IN THE BRWEEKLYPRESS
BUSINESS DIRECTORY 225.775.2002 TODAY!**

Call - 225-875-8350 FAX - 225-256-2502

Jim's Remodeling & Landscaping
Mr. See - Owner
High Quality Work | Free Quotes

No Job To Big Or Small Jimmysee09@gmail.com PO Box 2423 Baton Rouge, LA 70802

WTAA ENGINEERS
ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS AND CONSTRUCTION SUPPORT SERVICES

"Team Working For Success Through Quality Performance"

Civil Engineers Needed
W.T. Winfield, Manager
2622 North Street, Baton Rouge, LA
222-383-0822 or 1-866-324-WTAA Toll Free

CJW Distributors, LLC
CHURCH FURNITURE • FLOORING

13937 Malbec Ave.
Baton Rouge, LA 70816

Ph: 225-292-0305
Cell: 225-405-3427
Fax: 225-292-0307

Email: cjw7@att.net
www.cjwdistributors.com

CARL WOODS
President

Young Man's Lawn Service, LLC

A professional job, for a reasonable price
Free estimates. Commercial and Residential

Jeremiah Sadler
Owner
225-400-3862

Tayla Hickman

Tayla Maids
Cleaning Service

Residential & Commercial * General and Full Service
FREE ESTIMATE

225.572.7677 • taylahickman@gmail.com

Lordes Insurance Group

Gloria Brandon
Independent Insurance Agent
Multi-State

Cell: 225.247.6216 | Fax: 985.259.8848
gbrandon@lordesig.com
www.lordesig.com

Life Health Annuities Medicare Options

CYNTHIA M. DUNN, REALTOR

INNERSPACE
Properties, LLC

STEP BY STEP
IT'S DUNN

2900 Westford Dr, #401
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70827
Cell: 225.302.4598 • Hm: 225.752.5440
Email: cynthiadunn@innerspacebr.com

**TO ADVERTISE HERE, CALL THE BATON ROUGE
WEEKLY PRESS AT 225.775.2002**

BUSINESS

Feds halt Louisiana program that waives back taxes for employers with misclassified workers



The Louisiana Capitol Building, April 8, 2021. (Wes Muller/Louisiana Illuminator).

BY: WES MULLER
Courtesy Louisiana Illuminator

A new law passed this year that would have waived unemployment taxes and penalties for employers who misclassify their workers as independent contractors will not take effect in January as scheduled because parts of the statute violate federal labor laws, according to the Louisiana Department of Revenue and Louisiana Workforce Commission.

The law had been pushed by the state's biggest and most powerful business group, the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry. In a bulletin issued Wednesday, the Louisiana Department of Revenue stated it was delaying implementation of certain provisions of the Fresh Start Program that lawmakers passed and Gov. John Bel Edwards signed into law during the

2021 Regular Session. The Louisiana Workforce Commission has likewise halted parts of the law after the U.S. Department of Labor found the provisions were "not permissible under federal unemployment compensation (UC) law," according to an emergency declaration issued by the Workforce Commission.

The Fresh Start Program is scheduled to take effect Jan. 1, 2022, but it will do so without key provisions that lawmakers designed for businesses that have characterized their regular employees as independent contractors — and failed to pay the employee taxes that are required. Under the program, the state would have waived any prior unemployment taxes and interest for certain employers who agreed to properly reclassify their workers as regular employees.

Worker misclassification is a

problem in Louisiana, particularly in the construction industry, and often deprives employees of basic labor rights and protections for workplace injuries, fair wages, family leave and unemployment insurance. It has also put a strain on Louisiana's unemployment trust fund and has cost the state an estimated \$9 million in income tax revenue, according to the Louisiana Legislative Auditor.

Compared to other states, Louisiana's laws have been lax on enforcement to address the problem. First-time offenders can receive a \$500 fine, but that penalty can be waived if the employer correctly reclassifies the worker within 60 days notice.

Sponsored by Sen. Jay Luneau (D-Alexandria), the legislation that created the Fresh Start Program was championed by business lobbyists and lawmakers as an alternative to heavy-handed enforcement in the

hope that it would provide a path for employers who wanted to become legitimate tax payers but have avoided doing so because they would owe large amounts in back taxes.

However, the Labor Department told state officials that they cannot waive back taxes on unemployment insurance because it would violate the Federal Unemployment Tax Act and the State Unemployment Tax Act.

"Waiving employer liability for back UI taxes is not permissible under federal unemployment compensation (UC) law and regulations," the Louisiana Workforce Commission notice stated.

Luneau could not be reached for comment Friday.

The delay will last until the legislation can be amended in the 2022 Regular Session.

GUN from page 4

gained the support of key state legislative leaders or former Republican Gov. Scott Walker, who said in 2017 that licenses for concealed firearms were "appropriate."

But pressure continued from advocates. Bolstered by national momentum, this year's bill in Wisconsin has 31 cosponsors, all of whom are Republican. If the bill passes, Democratic Gov. Tony Evers would likely veto it, to the relief of gun safety advocates.

"This puts our citizens at higher risk," said Jeri Bonavia, executive director of the Wisconsin Anti-Violence Effort Educational Fund, a gun safety group.

Bonavia and researchers at the Center for American Progress found in a September study that since Wisconsin enacted a law in 2011 allowing residents to carry concealed weapons with a permit, gun-related homicides and aggravated assaults have risen. Gun-related homicides and assaults

were on the decline in Wisconsin before 2012, but began to shift upward during the implementation of the law, the researchers found.

The gun homicide rate in Wisconsin from 2012 to 2019 was a third higher than it was from 2004 to 2011. The annual average of aggravated assaults with firearms from 2012 to 2019 increased by more than half compared with 2004 to 2011. The increase in gun homicide rates after 2011 did not occur in neighboring states without a concealed carry law.

Last month, the Republican-led Pennsylvania legislature passed a similar permitless carry bill. However, Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf vetoed the legislation last week.

"Unfortunately, this bill would make gun violence worse and would put law enforcement officers at greater risk of harm," Wolf said in his veto message.

Until 2011, Vermont was the only state that did not require its residents to have a permit to carry concealed weapons. Since then, Republican-led states have steadily

dropped permit requirements. In several states, the law applies to residents who are 21 and over, with some exceptions for members of the military who are 18 and over.

These new laws have coincided with measures allowing guns in houses of worship and on school grounds and public transportation.

While Democrats widely reject the permitless carry policy, polling suggests it also lacks widespread support in the GOP. Most of the pressure on lawmakers to pass these bills has come from gun rights lobbyists at the NRA and other groups, Bonavia said.

"These bills are not a result of public demand," she said. "There is not a groundswell of support that we need to carry these guns without any regulations."

Indeed, just over a third of Republicans support allowing people to carry concealed guns without a permit, according to an April survey by the Pew Research Center. (The center is a subsidiary of The Pew Charitable Trusts, which funds Stateline.)

Gun safety advocates have called

on state lawmakers to restrict gun access, rather than expand it, citing a spike in gun violence and recent school shootings, including one at a Michigan high school last week that left four dead.

While most Americans generally support stricter laws around firearms, that support has waned since it reached its pinnacle in the aftermath of the school shooting in Parkland, Florida, in February 2018 and the nationwide, student-led protests that followed. According to Gallup polling, support for stricter gun laws declined from 67% in March 2018 to 52% this October.

Gun rights advocates such as Clark argue that the civil unrest that occurred in some places during the mostly peaceful anti-racism protests in summer 2020 demonstrated the importance of allowing Americans to carry concealed firearms without a permit.

"If people need protection quickly," he said, "they don't have time to take a class."

Classifieds

PLACE AN AD

For legal, please call the Classified Department at (225) 225.775.2002 or email brweeklypress@yahoo.com

Sell your stuff, advertise jobs or a place to rent. **You can do it ALL here!**

SELL YOUR CAR - 1 month for \$80

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS - 1 month for \$150

ADVERTISE ON 247praisradio.com

FIND IT ALL IN THE CLASSIFIEDS • 225.775.2002

CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIEDS

CHURCH CUSTODIAN

Full time church custodian with benefits. Salary depends on experience. Background/drug test will be required. Send resume to Gloryland Baptist Church, 6745 Greenwell Springs Road, Baton Rouge, La. 70805 or email to: jgreen.gbc@gmail.com.

NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE.



**CALL 225-775-2002
TO RESERVE YOUR AD TODAY!**



The BRWeekly Press looking for hire social media and emarketing team member. Please call The BR Weekly Press at 225.775.2002

The Weekly Press

RELIGION

Divine Intervention

BY CREFLO DOLLAR

At one time or another, we've all had scary or painful things happen in our lives. There are no exceptions; the question isn't if they will happen, but when. Trouble comes to everyone, but the difference between being overwhelmed and successfully dealing with it is in our response to the situation. Nothing just happens randomly; with that in mind, the Bible gives us useful information on putting the "why" into perspective.



Creflo Dollar

When bad things happen, it's not because God is punishing us. He gives everyone the freedom to make their own choices and won't interfere with that freedom. He does, however, strongly advise us to make the right choices that will lead to success. "See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil...



I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live" (Deuteronomy 30:15, 19, NKJV). God said this in the Old Testament when the people turned away from Him, but its timeless message still applies.

God loves us enough to let us

make our own decisions, whether they're right or wrong. When we make bad choices and find ourselves in a tough situation, it's the inevitable consequence of our actions. God may let us go through the resulting "junk" that the mistake causes so that we can grow, mature, and learn from it. However, when we trust Him in the midst of it, He can intervene and turn things around in ways we

could never do on our own. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).

Sometimes the pain doesn't come from what we do, but from what a family member or loved one does. Watching someone we deeply care for make the wrong choices, and not being able to do anything except watch, hurts very much. When we don't know what to do, we can trust that God knows exactly what to do and is working on the situation even when we don't understand all the details. "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Proverbs 3:5, 6). We can rely on Him for the wisdom to correctly handle the issue.

Trusting in God's mercy and goodness gives us the courage to go on when we're at our lowest. When adversity strikes, some people give up in despair, throw their hands up, and wail "All is lost!" Supernatural intervention comes when we respond

See PEACE, on page 7

Experiencing God's Goodness

When we look and listen for God's goodness, we will truly know He is good because evidence of His love shines all around us.

When life is pleasant, we find praising God easy because His kindness is evident. But recognizing hardship as an expression of His care is hard. In difficult times, we need to remind ourselves of today's passage, which tells us the Lord has stored up goodness for those who trust and obey Him. If you feel He's benevolent only when circumstances are to your liking, then you misunderstand His nature. Those who know His character are able to see evidence of His goodness in all situations.



Charles Stanley

I didn't always understand this truth. When I was growing up,

my goal was to be obedient so God wouldn't do anything bad to me. But the difficult and painful situations in my life hindered my understanding. Now as I look back, I can see His love and wisdom in allowing and using those trials to shape my character.

Today when God does something that I don't like, I pour out my heart to Him. After seeking His perspective and listening, I'm filled with gratitude and trust in His character. And then I am willing to accept His wise choice for my life.

We live under the umbrella of God's goodness. When circumstances and feelings tell you otherwise, rely on what you know. Throughout the day, look for signs of His loving care. As your perspective changes, then no matter which way you turn, you'll be able to see confirmations that He is good.

Camphor Memorial United Methodist Church to host COVID-19 vaccination event

BATON ROUGE, La. - To help vaccinate the community and stop the spread of COVID-19, Camphor Memorial United Methodist Church's outreach ministry will host a COVID-19 vaccination event on Saturday, Jan. 15 from 9 a.m. - noon at 8742 Scenic Highway, Baton Rouge.

First and second doses of the

COVID vaccine will be offered, as well as the booster, according to the event's organizer. To receive a COVID vaccine, a person must be at least 12-years-old and have valid identification. No insurance is required.

The event will also include a food giveaway, free health snack bags, and free COVID survival kits.

BRWEEKLYPRESS CHURCH & PLACES TO WORSHIP

DIRECTORY

Reach Thousands Weekly. Call 225-775-2002 to take advantage of our special rates

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



NEW RISING SUN BAPTIST CHURCH
16444 Highland Road • Baton Rouge, LA 70810
Church: 225.302.5062
Home: 225.654.8947 • Cell: 225.572.7036

Bishop Ernest Mills & Evangelist Yvonne Mills

Sunday School 11:00 am
Worship 12 Noon
Communion 4th Sunday
Bible Class Tuesday 7:00 pm
Saturday Prayer Service 7:30 am

DISCIPLES OUTREACH MINISTRY
2032 Gore Rd. • Baton Rouge, LA 70807

Sunday Service 9:00 am
Sunday School 8:00 am
Bible Study Mon. 7:00 pm
Saturday Sabbath Sat. 11:00 am

Bishop Thelma Pearl Senior Pastor
Bishop Michael Pearl, Assistant Pastor

We Don't Count Numbers. We Make Numbers Count

TEAM IMPACT CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY
EQUIPPING ORDINARY PEOPLE FOR EXTRA-ORDINARY MINISTRY

If you are looking for an accredited Christian University that offers Spirit-anointed courses at all levels then Team Impact Christian University is for you!

Through our campus in Baton Rouge and online programs, you have access to numerous courses - from Certificate in Ministry all the way through to our Doctor of Ministry Degree.

Enrollment Year Round Most credits transferable Accredited

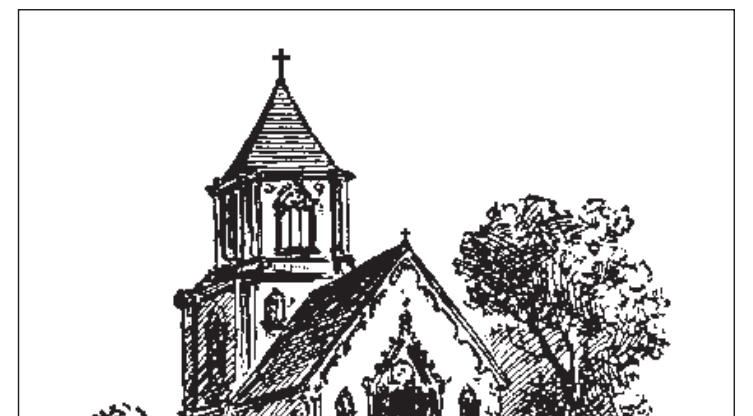
8894 Airline Hwy. Baton Rouge, LA 70815
562.756.1490 • dorothystewart90@yahoo.com

Good Shepherd Full Gospel B.C.
The People's Church
2865 Mission Drive • Baton Rouge, 70805 • Telephone (225)356-5873
Bishop H. Hayes, Pastor

Hour of Power 12 Noon Each Wednesday
Sunday School 8:00am
Church Service 9:00am
Communion Service 2nd Sunday 9:00am
Bible Study Wednesday 7:00pm
Sister/Brotherhood Meeting 6:00pm

OASIS CHRISTIAN CHURCH
4524 East Brookstone Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70805
www.occhr.org
See Website for Service and Streaming Live Times

BISHOP CHARLES E. WALLACE, PASTOR



CAMPBOR MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
8742 Scenic Highway - Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70807
Telephone: (225) 775-4106 • Fax: (225) 615-8359
Rev. Kermit Curtis "KC" Roberson, M.Div., MPA Senior Pastor

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 1st, 3rd, & 4th Sundays 10:55 a.m.
Contemporary Worship 2nd & 5th Sunday 8:00 a.m.
(And any Sunday that falls on a Holiday)
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.

Kingdom Life Family Center

Sundays at 10am
Wednesday Inspirational Service 7pm

• Youth ministry every Sunday and Wednesday
• Women's Ministry 2nd Saturday's

BISHOP DESIGNATE DOROTHY DANIEL SENIOR PASTOR

8894 AIRLINE HWY. BATON ROUGE, LA 70815
www.kingdomlifebr.com

THE BRWEEKLY PRESS CHURCH DIRECTORY ADVERTISE YOUR

• Church Services and programs
• Streaming Live URL
• FREE first priority announcement place

STARTING AT ONLY **\$1000** per week

For details call 225.775.2002

NEW BIRTH FULL GOSPEL MINISTRIES
1283 Rosenwald Road
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70807
Bishop I. J. Payne, Pastor

'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

ST. JOHN BAPTIST CHURCH
Dr. Donald R. Ruth, Pastor
820 New Rafe Mayer Road
Baton Rouge, LA 70807
Phone: 225-775-9756
Web Address: saintjohnbc.org

Dr. Donald Ruth, Pastor

Worship Times:
CrossWalk Classes: Sundays 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM
Sunday Worship Experience: 11:00 AM
Uplift Training: Thursdays 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH
5856 Greenwell Springs Road • Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806
Telephone: (225) 926-0246 • Facsimile: (225) 925-8022
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

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Health



One Call: That's All

By Gayle Young and Megan Anderson

If you live in Louisiana, you have heard the "One Call, That's All" commercial. I can see that commercial with no sound and repeat the slogan in perfect sync.

As a 93' LSU Law Graduate, I was still figuring out my space that I would dominate in the world. My parents were church leaders and later pastors in COGIC, so I knew that as a newly minted lawyer I had to focus on serving others.

This is where one call changed my life.

In 2021, The slogan "One Call, That's All" became my reality and no longer familiar words that I heard on television or the radio.

It was July 23, 2021, after 4:00pm. I made a call to the Mayor's Office of Homeland Security. I was assisting a friend who had recently lost his wife and daughter, just a mere 11 months apart, wrap up some loose ends.

I was just serving another, like I had been taught. At least that is what I thought I was just doing, until Megan answered the phone.

The phone was answered promptly and the voice I heard said, "Mayor's Office of Homeland Security, how can I help?" In that moment I was so confused, I looked at my cellphone to make sure I had dialed, EBR and sure enough I had. The voice was like a radio station personality, on the late-night shift, soothing, engaging, and reassuring that life is going to be alright for me, for my friend. Who sounds like that on a government line? Megan does! ... and then life was alright for all of us.

The person I called for was gone for the day. Megan took a message.

For her it was a somber day; her mother and sister had both passed a year before and her truest friend passed in mid-March 2021.

Her mood was reflective, blended with a little bit of missing loved ones, trying to figure out her next step, and seeking solid ground to launch the rest of her life. All of that was happening in the very moment, the very hour that I called.

Later she said I had an equally positive voice and that to her my voice was powerful, knowledgeable, and strong. She felt that I could be a mentor, a guide, a friend.

It was obvious, that in our lives, our conversations with God were getting real. She says that she knew that God had answered her prayers and I knew God had answered mine too.

Mine was to be of service and to be able to love, nurture, support women as they find their "Great" spot in life.

She had been telling God to send her someone who could do just that. And, she needed woman that woman in her life, right now. But she added, "an older person like me." (I think that is a compliment).

We scheduled an "intention connect." And, it is true, "One Call: That's All"



Dr. Gayle Young

EDWARDS from page 1

much more protected against COVID than they have ever been. The more than 460,000 Louisianians who have already taken a booster dose have even stronger protection.

"Now more than ever it is important that everyone get vaccinated or, if they are eligible, take a COVID booster. The vaccines are safe, effective and widely available all across Louisiana, and we know from the most recent CDC data that unvaccinated people are ten times more likely to test positive for COVID and 20 times more likely to die from COVID than fully vaccinated people who also have gotten their booster shots," Gov. Edwards said. "Simply put, one of the riskiest things you can be in Louisiana right now is unvaccinated. You're signing up for the potential of severe illness, hospitalization or something even worse. We have seen how previous COVID surges have torn through our state and none of us wants to go back to the days of August and September, when thousands of people were hospitalized and dying."

While many people are vacci-

nated, only around a quarter of eligible Louisianians have their booster doses. A Pfizer-BioNTech booster shot increases antibody levels 25-fold against Omicron. Similarly, early data show a Moderna booster shot can increase antibody levels 37-fold against Omicron. Getting your booster has never been more urgent.

In addition to the Governor's public health order, the Louisiana Department of Health on Monday issued revised recommendations and guidance for Louisianians during the holiday season, particularly if they are traveling. These include getting vaccines and boosters, masking indoors around people who aren't in your household and getting tested regularly. In addition, any person who has COVID symptoms should get tested and stay in quarantine to avoid spreading illness to others.

There are COVID-19 test sites throughout Louisiana. Visit ldh.la.gov/covidtesting or call 211 to find a test site near you. As a reminder, all community-based sites operated by the Louisiana National Guard will be closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

JUMP from page 6

to the situation by deliberately praising God for the victory He's already given us. Rejoicing through the pain is an act of faith. "In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials" (1 Peter 1:6, NIV).

When the problem makes us feel completely surrounded and cut off, God carries us through the flood and

sets us down in a safe place. He'll never abandon us. "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee" (Isaiah 43:2). Suffering is temporary, but God's promises are forever; therefore, we can confidently turn the situation over to Him and let Him handle it.

RATE from page 4

tended to help families with food, shelter and clothing — will begin in January.

"We know there are many more families who could benefit from the programs, not only for the much-needed cash assistance but also for the valuable workforce development and educational opportunities these programs offer. We hope this increase in benefit amounts will attract more people," agency Secretary Marketa Garner Walters said in a statement.

The latest data provided by the department show 1,484 households receive cash assistance through the Family Independence Temporary Assistance Program and

1,338 households get kinship care subsidies. Those are available to relatives caring for children whose parents don't live with them.

A three-person household that currently gets \$240 in welfare assistance will see that amount grow to the national average of \$484, according to the social services agency. People who are under the age of 60 and who aren't disabled or caring for someone who is disabled are required to work or participate in an education or job training program aimed at helping them find employment.

Kinship care subsidies will grow from \$222 per child to \$450.

The change will be the first increase since July 2000 in a state where 19% of residents live in poverty.

Upcoming webinar discusses effects of COVID-19 on African American/Black population

Virtual presentation, Q&A scheduled Jan. 11



SACRAMENTO – As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to disproportionately affect African American and Black populations, UC Davis Health and a local social justice organization will host a free webinar via Zoom to discuss the effects of COVID-19 on these communities and offer strategies and solutions to help.

The event will be held Tuesday, Jan. 11 from 6-7 p.m. Those interested in attending must register in advance.

UC Davis Health pediatri-

cian Michael Lucien will present evidence-based, up-to-date and accessible information about the current state of the pandemic and discuss vaccines, boosters and other strategies against COVID-19.

The other presenter is the Sacramento Area Youth Speaks (SAYS) associate director Denisha "Coco" Bland

A Q&A session with Lucien and Bland will follow their presentation.

The event is part of a webinar series called "Parenting in a

Pandemic." It is coordinated by the IDEA Center of the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and the Healthy Yolo Together initiative. The webinar is co-sponsored by UC Davis Health and SAYS, a social justice movement that empowers youth and transforms education by creating platforms for critical literacy, access to higher education, youth voice and civic engagement.

Register to attend this virtual event by using this link: https://ucdavis.zoom.us/webinar/register/N_6Xt7WNtWSdyalc0HxjRCw

EBRPSS to continue current mask guidance amid surge in COVID cases

After reviewing the most current community spread data; infection rates across staff and students; and upon the advisement of our Health Advisory Committee, the East Baton Rouge Parish School System will continue the current mask guidance from the fall 2021 semester.

Upon return of staff on Jan. 3, 2022, all staff, students and visitors to EBRPSS sites will be required to wear a mask or face covering.

The Health Advisory Committee comprises the area's leading epidemiologists, infectious disease experts, Louisiana Department of Health advisers and physicians. The recommendation of the committee took into account a number of factors, including rates of infection among staff and students; community infection rates; and area hospitalizations.

The EBRPSS and Health Advisory Committee will re-evaluate our school and community level data at the end of January to determine if it is safe to consider optional masking.

"We have continued to make all public health decisions based upon the most recently available data and based upon the advice of our health care professionals. The health and safety of our staff and students always come first. We will continue to evaluate the data and will consider optional masking at such a time when it is safe for both students and employees to do so," stated Superintendent Sito Narcisse, Ed. D.

The school system will continue to utilize all proven mitigation efforts, including deep cleaning and sanitizing of rooms; periodic handwashing; employee and staff testing; improved air filtration systems; and other proven mitigation efforts.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Wishing you a happy and prosperous new year



Ivory D. Payne
CEO/Publisher



Ivory J. Payne
Publisher Emeritus

To All of our Advertisers and Readers. THANK YOU for Your Support!

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

The Weekly Press

A PEOPLE'S PUBLICATION

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

SHOP BLACK 365

Join Our Free Business Listing • Sending Our Information to: brweeklypress@yahoo.com or call 225.775.2002

CELEBRATE SAFELY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON



THE GREATEST GIFT YOU CAN GIVE THIS SEASON IS
the gift of good health.

**Protect yourself, your family and your friends from COVID-19.
Talk to your doctor about the safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine.**

THE COVID-19 VACCINE IS PROVEN TO BE SAFE AND EFFECTIVE IN CHILDREN AS YOUNG AS 5 YEARS OLD. THE VACCINE IS SO SAFE THAT THE CDC AND AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS (AAP) URGE ALL ELIGIBLE PEOPLE TO GET THE COVID-19 VACCINE AS SOON AS IT IS AVAILABLE TO THEM.

PROTECT YOURSELF — TODAY. —

ON NOV. 26, 2021, THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO) CLASSIFIED A NEW VARIANT, OMICRON, AS A VARIANT OF CONCERN.

**The best thing you can do to prepare is
get vaccinated or get a booster shot if
you are already vaccinated.**



GET THE FACTS:

visit covidvaccine.la.gov or
call the Vaccine Hotline at
1-855-453-0774.

