

The Weekly Press

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THURSDAY, JULY 15-21, 2021

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WOMEN IN MEDIA HOLDS ANNUAL CLOTHING DRIVE



SPORTS PG 6

SAINTS 2021 TRAINING CAMP SCHEDULE

Broome aims to eliminate "choke point" that backs up Ward Creek

BATON ROUGE, La. — East Baton Rouge Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome announced on Tuesday, July 13, plans to eliminate a "choke point" along Ward Creek.



Mayor Sharon Weston Broome

Ward Creek narrows as the bank bows out when it crosses under Siegen Lane. Broome said the parish secured \$1.8 million in federal funds to widen the canal 40 feet to match the widths on either side of the road. The project is expected to allow floodwaters to freely flow downstream, reducing flood risks by up to two feet in neighborhoods like Morning Glen and Audubon Terrace.

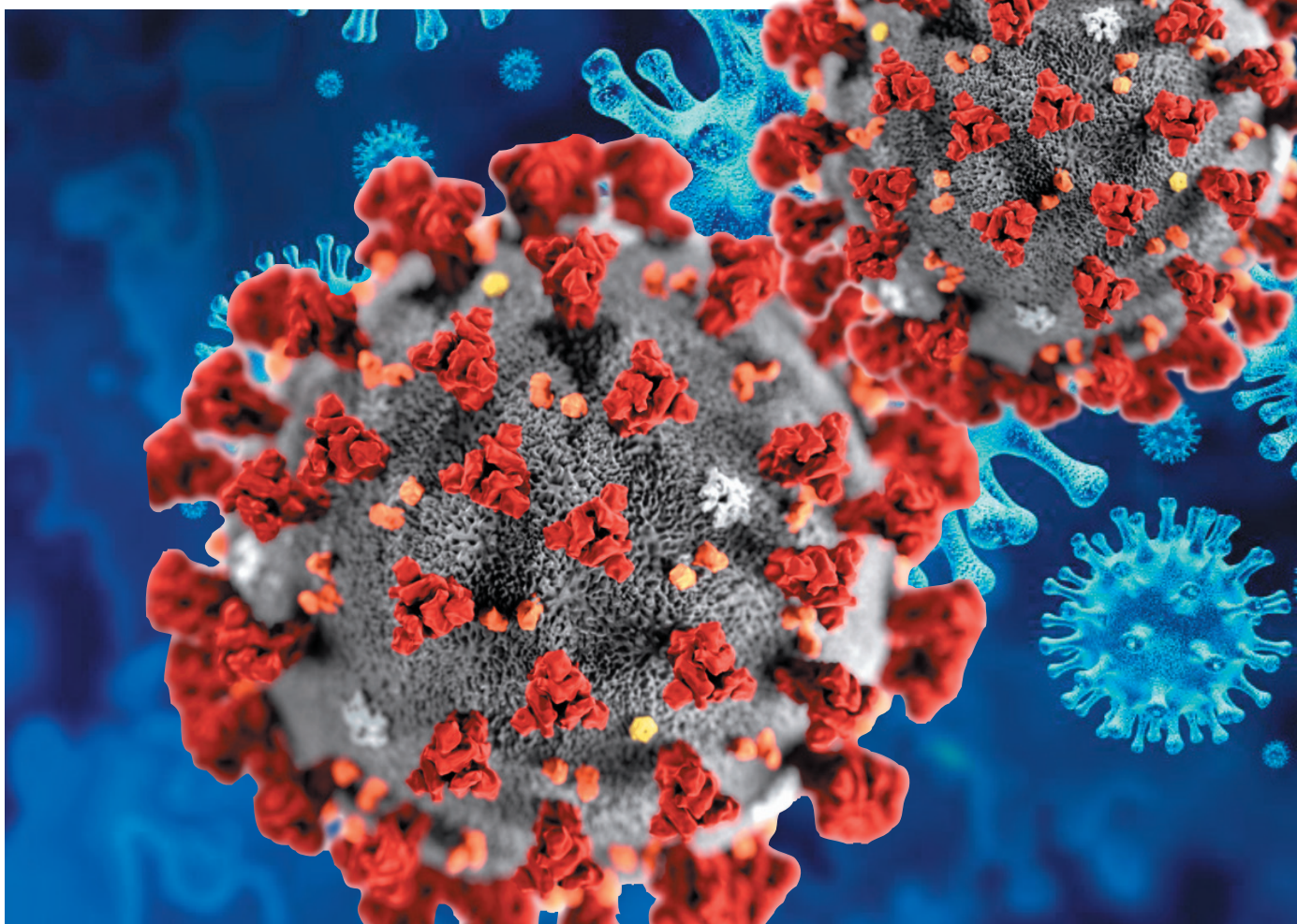
"We will probably have at least a two-foot reduction in flood levels upstream," said Frain Raiford, director of the East Baton Rouge Parish Transportation and Drainage Dept. "Is that significant? You better believe it, particularly for the people who have faced flooding before."

The project was initially set in motion back in 2018 after modeling indicated that eliminating the

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COVID-19 POSITIVITY RATES UP

Delta Is Now The Dominant Coronavirus Variant In La., Cases On The Rise



NEW ORLEANS, La. - COVID-19 positivity rates are up to double digits.

Some parishes and the state document more coronavirus Delta variant cases among those who have been vaccinated, but those

cases are minuscule compared to the new variant cases among the unvaccinated.

State health officials say 59% of all new COVID-19 cases in Louisiana are the Delta vari-

ant, and they say it's cause for concern.

"If you were going to be exposed to COVID tomorrow, odds are it would be the Delta variant. It's more transmissible, it's more dangerous, it makes

people sicker, and it seems to be better at infecting kids as well," said State Health Director Dr. Joseph Kanter.

But some vaccinated people

See COVID, on page 2



Photo courtesy of en.wikipedia.org
Former-four term Democratic former Louisiana Gov. Edwin Edwards.

Democratic Gov. Edwin Edwards Former La. Governor, Dies at 93

A populist firebrand of Louisiana politics has died. Four-term Democratic Gov. Edwin Edwards, who also served prison time for corruption, died Monday at his home in Gonzales, La. He was 93. A statement from his family said he'd been in hospice care for the past week with respiratory problems.

Edwards was the last of the larger-than-life populists who once dominated Louisiana politics. He built his career on political patronage, public works and sheer force of personality.

"I'm of the people. I'm common. I'm ordinary. I don't speak good English, cher," he said at age 87, employing his wayward charm trying to stage a political comeback.

Funeral services have been announced for former Louisiana Gov. Edwin Edwards.

According to state officials, Edwin Edwards will lie in state at the State Capitol on Saturday, July 17.

Public viewing will be available from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m.

A private funeral services will be Sunday, July 18, at noon in Louisiana's Old State Capitol.

Edwards, Louisiana's longest serving Governor, died Monday at home surrounded by family.

Economic Development District Coming to Plank Road Corridor

BATON ROUGE, La. — The Baton Rouge Area Chamber (BRAC), Baton Rouge North Economic Development District, Build Baton Rouge, and Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome today joined Governor John Bel Edwards and Senator Regina Barrow in celebrating the passage of SB227, Barrow's bill to establish an economic development district (EDD) along the Plank Road Corridor in North Baton Rouge. The bill marks an important milestone in accelerating economic development in the North Baton Rouge area.

"It is vitally important to me

to see economic development that is linked to employment and income opportunities for residents in the North Baton Rouge area. When North Baton Rouge thrives, our entire city and parish thrives. I will continue to be an advocate for economic development that grows existing businesses and welcomes new businesses in North Baton

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Ceremonial signing of SB227, Barrow's bill to establish an economic development district (EDD) along the Plank Road Corridor in North Baton Rouge.



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WEATHER



MON. 07/19
Scattered tstorms
High 86°.



TUE. 07/20
Scattered tstorms
High 84°.



WED. 07/21
Scattered tstorms
High 86°.



THUR. 07/22
Scattered tstorms
High 86°.

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Louisiana first Democrat-led state to drop enhanced unemployment benefits

BATON ROUGE, La. — Louisiana will become the first Democrat-led state to end federal enhanced unemployment benefits early, joining 25 Republican-led states that announced they will end the programs before they were set to run out in September. Democratic Governor John Bel Edwards signed a bill into law on Wednesday that ends the \$300-a-week supplementary federal unemployment assistance as well as other pandemic-related unemployment programs at the end of July. At the same time, Louisiana will increase the state's weekly maximum unemployment benefit by \$28 starting next year. Some of the GOP-led states have al-



ready begun ending enhanced federal benefits, citing the recovering economy and workforce shortages. Iowa, Missouri and Mississippi ended federal programs extended under the American Rescue Plan until early September on June 12. This week, nine more states will join them in exiting the programs, including Alabama, Alaska, Idaho, Indiana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, West Virginia and Wyoming. Not including Louisiana, more than 3.9 million workers in the 25 states will lose the weekly \$300 supplemental payments, the National Employment Law Project recently found.

Louisiana gas prices fall, 34 cents cheaper than national average

Louisiana gas prices have fallen 1.7 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$2.71/g today, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 2,436 stations in Louisiana. Gas prices in Louisiana are unchanged versus a month ago and stand 93.5 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. The cheapest station in Louisiana is priced at \$2.39/g today while the most expensive is \$3.09/g, a difference of 70.0 cents per gallon. "The ferocious rise in gas prices has finally started to cool as gas prices have eased across a majority of the country for the first time in months," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy. The national average price of gasoline has fallen 2.1 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.05/g today. The national average is up 2.0 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 93.5 cents



per gallon higher than a year ago. "There have been some challenges in pockets across the country as demand remains very healthy, and stations in some areas where demand is very high struggle to keep up with demand thanks to the truck driver shortage. As we head toward the July 4 holiday, I'm optimistic that we'll continue to see prices slowly drift lower before pos-

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STATE & LOCAL

MSW program at Louisiana college receives accreditation

Louisiana College's Master of Social Work program has received accreditation from the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE).

LC's MSW program, one of the newer degrees at the college has been working through the three to four-year process of accreditation, which includes writing reports, site visits, monitoring and building the program to ensure compliance with standards set by the CSWE, said Sheri Duffy, MSW program director. The first MSW cohort of students began in January 2018.

"This is tremendous for our program, school, and community," Duffy said. "It allows us to continue to train students who will complete the master's degree in social work and will go on to be licensed professionals serving in our community, region, state and beyond."

The MSW program, like other new programs, faced challenges during COVID-19, but it is growing and filling a unique need in the community, Duffy said.

"The purpose of the College's MSW program from its inception has been to apply the Heart of Christ to the Hurt of Humanity," said President Rick Brewer. "I am excited that the

program has already been recognized with accreditation for its level of academic rigor and achieving best practice standards."

Brewer said this accreditation also confirms the distinctively unique Healthcare Certificate component embedded in LC's MSW program.

The program was the grateful recipient of a Healthcare Occupations Program Grant from the Rapides Foundation.

"Access to quality healthcare services is important to reduce health disparities and improve health status," said Joe Rosier, president and CEO of The Rapides Foundation. "Because availability of qualified healthcare professionals is often cited as one of the main barriers limiting care, the Foundation developed its Healthcare Occupations Program Grant to address the supply and demand gap in the healthcare workforce by building the capacity of regional postsecondary institutions to meet healthcare workforce needs. The Foundation's grant to Louisiana College to develop its new Master of Social Work degree will create a pipeline of behavioral health professionals, which is a great need in all the communities we serve."

La. residents set to receive money from Child Tax Credit Expansion

BATON ROUGE, La. — Hundreds of thousands of Louisiana households could begin getting direct payments Thursday, as part of the expanded child tax credits.

It's all part of the American Rescue Plan, which Congress passed back in March.

The goal is to reduce child poverty in the country by 50%.

"And there hasn't been a program that has this kind of impact in families, since 1960," said Congressman Troy Carter (D), 2nd District.

Congressman Carter was in Baton Rouge for a town hall Wednesday, to talk with families about how the new child tax credit expansion works, and who can actually receive these payments.

"You qualify if you make less than \$150,000 as a couple, or \$75,000 as an individual," said Rep. Carter.



Troy Carter



Beginning July 15 and running through December, families who qualify can get up to:

- 300 bucks a month per child, for children ages 0 to 5
- 250 dollars a month per child, for children ages 6 to 17

"So, it truly is something for everyone. Black, white, Republican, Democrat, it's an American thing, it's a Louisiana thing, it's a people thing," said the Congressman.

"Hoping that we can use it on things that he needs," said Trinece Finley, who attended the town hall.

Finley is a single mom and says every little bit helps when it comes to extra money for her 6-year-old son Logan.

"Swimming lessons, and whatever he needs at school and stuff like that," said Finley.

"It sure does, every dollar counts," said Deshawn Porter, who

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Rouge," said Senator Barrow.

The EDD was created in collaboration with and supported by a broad coalition of community organizations including BRAC, Baton Rouge North Economic Development District, Build Baton Rouge, and the Office of Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome.

"Reinvestment in disinvested communities is critical to the success of Baton Rouge's economy," said Adam Knapp, president and CEO of BRAC. "This step of

creating an EDD in North Baton Rouge will encourage greater levels of successful Black business ownership, foster wealth creation in Black communities, and drive greater community reinvestment and greater access to employment. BRAC identified this priority as part of our legislative agenda, and we are pleased to see it becoming a reality."

The EDD will include Plank Road from its southern origin to Hooper Road and surrounding areas. The legislation allows for the creation of a governing board of the EDD that allows for

tax revenue generated in the EDD to be utilized for redevelopment. The EDD ensures that tax revenues from increased economic activity in the district are invested within the district's boundaries, while not diminishing the prior level of tax collections for the City-Parish. The EDD, combined with anticipated increased private investment, is set to prime the area for a renaissance.

"When we work together, we win. Thanks to Build Baton Rouge, the Mayor's Office, Senator Barrow, and the Baton Rouge Area Chamber for shining a light of economic opportunity for an area of our Parish ripe with opportunity," said Dr. James Gilmore, chairman of the Baton Rouge North Economic Development District.

"When we launched the Imagine Plank Road Plan for Equitable Development three years ago, we knew it would set in motion other efforts that would help build a critical mass of activity and resources to catalyze equitable, transformative development,"

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"choke point" would significantly reduce flooding risks. Raiford added progress has been slow as the parish has had to navigate the legal red tape of federal funding for flood projects.

According to the parish, the contractor will be approved during the next Metro Council meeting. Once approved, planning and design will take place. Dirt is not expected to be moved until late 2022. The project is expected to wrap up six to eight months after work begins.

COVID from page 1

have contracted the Delta variant, including Ralph Badeaux's vaccinated daughter; it's a so-called "breakthrough" case.

"She called me that night and said, 'I got some bad news,' and I'm waiting to hear the death of a relative, but she says, 'I got COVID,'" said Badeaux.

He says his 44-year-old daughter was bedridden for three days, but some breakthrough cases in Louisiana have been fatal.

"There were approximately 27 deaths attributed to breakthrough cases from COVID-19 among fully vaccinated people, but that compares to more than 3,800 deaths among unvaccinated people since vaccines became available," said Dr. Kanter.

The state health director says most of the serious breakthrough cases have occurred among people in their 70s, but it's not an exclusive club.

"For most of the time, these breakthrough cases have mild symptoms or asymptomatic, but they are happening and people should be aware of that," the doctor said.

In fact, even though his daughter and others did get the

Delta variant after they got the vaccination, Badeaux says he's glad she got the shot.

"She is great, but I think she's ready to go back to work, but she's in quarantine," said Badeaux.

Positivity rates are up and are now approaching 13% in St. Charles Parish.

"We are concerned about breakthrough cases, but we are much more concerned about the overwhelming number of hospitalizations and death among unvaccinated people," said Benjamin Springate, M.D., M.P.H. with LSU Health Sciences.

Health officials say it's a good idea to get vaccinated, start wearing masks again, and social distance if you're going to be around people who may be unvaccinated.

"The message is if you are not yet fully vaccinated and are around other people indoors, you really do need to be masking and distancing," said Dr. Kanter.

Dr. Kanter says 95% of all new coronavirus cases continue to plague those who have not been vaccinated. And he says even in breakthrough cases, symptoms are less severe for those who have gotten their shots.

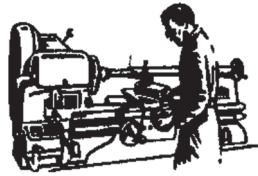
GAS PRICES from page 1

sibly rising in later July or August should we see any disruptions from hurricane season. But for now it seems most Americans are simply happy to be getting outside and back to some sense of normal."

GasBuddy is the authoritative voice for gas prices and the

only source for station-level data spanning nearly two decades. GasBuddy's survey updates 288 times every day from the most diverse list of sources covering nearly 150,000 stations nationwide, the most comprehensive and up-to-date in the country. GasBuddy data is accessible at <http://FuelInsights.GasBuddy.com>.

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

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Local Louisianians return to work in-person as SchoolMint re-opens its doors

LAFAYETTE, La. -- As the COVID-19 pandemic eases, businesses around the country are returning to a mix of both normal and 'new normal.' Some businesses have resumed operating much as they had before the pandemic, some have transformed, and others have closed entirely. For many companies, COVID-19 represented both a challenge and an opportunity to transform and emerge even stronger.

Education technology startup SchoolMint became just such a company when it chose to move its US headquarters from Silicon Valley in San Francisco as well as its smaller offices in New York City and Miami, to the heart of Cajun Country: Lafayette, LA.

In early March 2020, School-



Mint "shut our doors and started working remotely," says SchoolMint CEO Bryan MacDonald. "In less than a week, half of our nation's schools had taken the unprecedented step of also closing their doors and sending students into a never-before-tried online learning environment. By the end of March, virtually 100% of US schools were operating virtually."

As a former middle school teacher himself, MacDonald immediately realized the impact

COVID-19 was about to have on K-12 schools and their operations. SchoolMint quickly moved to support its customers and manage the sudden surge in demand for the company's online student enrollment and behavior management tools. "We knew that rapid growth would be necessary to keep up, and we began considering options for growing our team."

After considering 15 locations around the country, SchoolMint chose Lafayette, LA, in June 2020

as the new home for its growing team. SchoolMint was drawn to the region's unbeatable mix of unique culture, talented and hardworking people, affordability, and quality of life.

SchoolMint has thrived in its new home. Many employees and most of the company's leadership team relocated their families from San Francisco to Lafayette mid-pandemic.

Achieving another post-pandemic milestone, SchoolMint has fully reopened its Lafayette headquarters facility. The team, which has tripled in size since the pandemic began, is returning to the office in person. "When we closed our doors 15 months ago, things looked very different," says MacDonald. "We were a lot smaller then and certainly more spread out across the US. We already have more people in Lafayette than we had across all

of our locations in 2020."

In the past year, SchoolMint has also fueled its growth by acquiring other edtech companies and technology, including Whetstone Education, Bright Minds Marketing, Enquiry Tracker, and most recently Schoolrunner. "We now have more than 215 employees between our Lafayette headquarters, our New Orleans office, our Costa Rica office, and remote workers across the country," says MacDonald. "And we have no intentions to stop growing. It's what we do."

In the 9 months since choosing to move headquarters to Lafayette, SchoolMint has steadily hired and grown in Louisiana. In that time, they've hired 59 Louisianians (47 in Lafayette; 12 in New Orleans) and are looking for even more. Visit SchoolMint.com/careers to view open positions.

The growth story doesn't stop

there. "This fall, SchoolMint will be releasing two new products," adds MacDonald. "SchoolMint Enroll, an all-inclusive next-generation enrollment platform, and SchoolMint Connect, a customer relationship management (CRM) tool built specifically for schools and districts." Combined with SchoolMint's existing portfolio of enrollment software, lottery and application, student behavior management, and early learning education services, these acquisitions and new products solidify SchoolMint's position as the K-12 leader in strategic enrollment management.

As a breath of fresh air amid these times of great change, SchoolMint continues to make a difference in not only K-12 education — but also in their new community.

Women in Media Holds Annual Clothing Drive

BATON ROUGE, La. — Women in Media, a professional organization, is once again partnering with Kean's Fine Dry Cleaning to host its annual Attire for Hire Clothing Drive to benefit local, disadvantaged women re-entering the workforce. The clothing drive will be held from 9 a.m. until noon on Saturday, July 31, at the YMCA, 350 South Foster Drive in Baton Rouge.

The organization is seeking donations of gently used or new professional women's clothing and accessories, including business suits, professional blouses, slacks, dresses, scarves, shoes and purses.

The donated clothes go directly to organizations assisting women who struggle with financial issues, are victims of mental and physical abuse, and who are recovering from alcohol and drug addictions by providing counseling, therapy, education, job training and employment assistance.

"These donations truly change the lives for some of the women in our community," Hardison said. "We are proud to once again host this event and appreciate the support from our event partners and the generosity of our donors."

For more information about Attire for Hire, contact Laurie Hardison at 225-931-7090 or email info@womeninmediabr.com.

PLANK ROAD from page 2

said Chris Tyson, CEO of Build Baton Rouge. "The EDD is another tool to advance the Plank Road masterplan and we thank Senator Barrow and all of our partners for their continued support of the Plank Road corridor."

"Creating economic opportunities for entrepreneurs and small businesses in our underserved neighborhoods is an important step to revitalizing those communities. Success begins when we empower our citizens to create their own wealth so they can reinvest in their own neighborhoods — this economic development district is but another example of that pathway to empowerment," said Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome.

NATIONAL

CBC issues statement regarding the death of Haitian President Moïse



Moïse had faced fierce protests since he took office as president in 2017

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) Chairwoman Joyce Beatty (OH-03), issued the following statement in response to the assassination of Haitian President Jovenel Moïse:

"On behalf of the CBC, I extend my condolences to the family of Haitian President Jovenel Moïse and keep first lady Martine Moïse in our prayers for a speedy recovery. Sadly, yesterday's events are a culmination of the rising level of violence that has plagued Haiti for the last several years. The Congressional Black Caucus joins with the Biden-Harris Administration in pledging our support to the Haitian people."

Members of the CBC also joined with Chairman and CBC Member Gregory Meeks (NY-05) in pledging support and assistance to Haiti.

"As the Haitian people confront this crisis, it is incumbent on the United States and our partners in the international community to work with a broad swathe of Haitian civil society and political groups to ensure that all voices are heard and that the current challenges on the ground do not further spiral



(CBC) Chairwoman Joyce Beatty

out of control," said Chairman Meeks. "I urge the Haitian government to maintain peace, calm, and respect for human rights."

Chairman Meeks continued, "My colleagues and I stand ready to assist the Haitian government in investigating and holding the perpetrators of this tragic attack accountable. I categorically reject this act of violence and urge the acting government to preserve constitutional order and ensure a peaceful transition of power."



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TAX CREDIT from page 2

attended the town hall.

Porter is in the same boat, and already has some ideas on what she would use the extra cash for.

"School supplies, school uniforms, because these days stuff is so high, you know, we have to sacrifice to get what we have to get," said Porter.

If you've filed your tax returns for 2019 or 2020, or if you signed up to receive a stimulus check from the IRS, you will get this money automatically. So, you don't need to sign up anywhere.

"You will probably have this remittance deposited straight into your checking account (if you filed electronically). If you have not filed that way, checks are going to start dropping in the mailbox, so you will get it via mail," said Rep. Carter.

While this is only a 6-month program, Carter is hopeful it will become permanent. But Congress will need some bipartisan support, to do so.

"Why shouldn't we provide resources for people that are here

in our country, that are fighting and living in America, the greatest country in the world," said Troy Carter.

Scammers are already finding ways to take money from families who are waiting on those child tax credits.

The Better Business Bureau of South Central Louisiana wants to remind you that the IRS is the only agency dispersing the payments.

That means the IRS will not send you a text or email asking for your social security number or personal banking information.

So, if you get an odd message asking for that, do not reply.

You can visit Congressman Troy Carter's website for more assistance.

If you have questions about these credits, check your status and eligibility, visit <https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/advance-child-tax-credit-payments-in-2021>

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RELIGION

The God of Second Chances

By Creflo Dollar

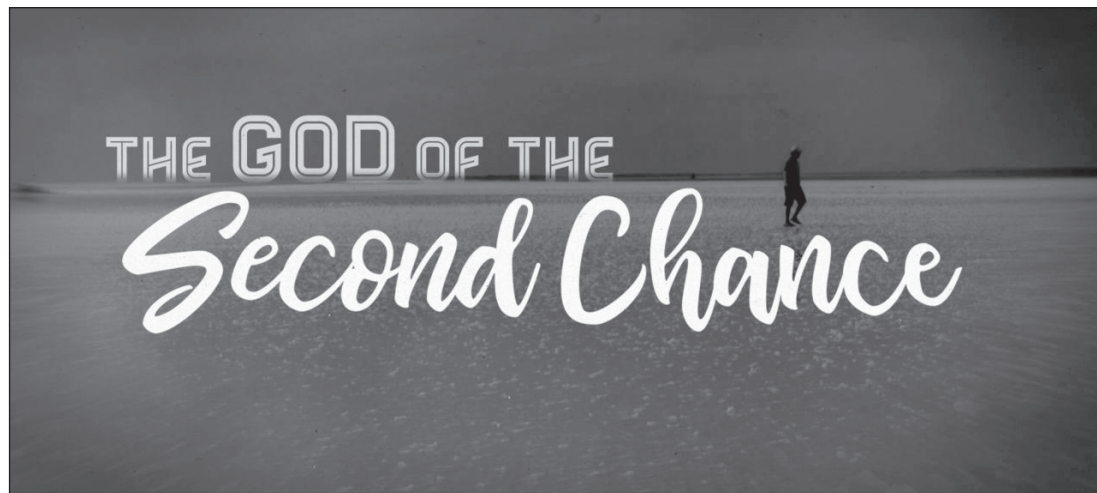
We've all experienced moments when we realized that despite all our efforts, we made a mistake and fell short of someone's expectations. At times like this, it's tempting to condemn ourselves and feel guilty. We may wonder if we'll ever get another chance to redeem ourselves before others. Thankfully, no matter how many times we fall, God is always willing to forgive and give us another chance.



Dr. Creflo Dollar

This is something that the world just doesn't do. We're expected to be self-sufficient and strong enough to make our own way in life; any weaknesses we have aren't tolerated. However, God doesn't operate like that. The times when we're at our weakest are the times when God most wants us to rely on Him. "And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness..." (2 Corinthians 12:9).

We can feel acute regret and remorse for our sinful acts, but our feelings of guilt and self-condemnation don't accomplish anything positive. We can't possibly atone for our own shortcomings; thankfully, we don't have to. Our attempts to redeem ourselves aren't necessary because we al-



ready received redemption when Jesus went to the cross for us. "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace" (Ephesians 1:7).

When we hurt someone else or do something wrong, God's favor and forgiveness are available and ready for us to receive when we need it. We don't have to work hard in an attempt to earn back others' acceptance because Jesus bled and died to redeem us and buy us back from the power of sin. Approval from the world doesn't matter; if we've been born again, God has already approved of us. "...For he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye" (Zechariah 2:8).

Everyone messes up at one time or another but there's no need to beat ourselves up over our mistakes. Jesus already took all the guilt, shame, condemnation, and punishment meant for us onto

Himself. We've been forgiven by our Lord and Savior. "Where is the god who can compare with you—wiping the slate clean of guilt, Turning a blind eye, a deaf ear, to the past sins of your purged and precious people? You don't nurse your anger and don't stay angry long, for mercy is your specialty. That's what you love most. And compassion is on its way to us. You'll stamp out our wrongdoing. You'll sink our sins to the bottom of the ocean" (Micah 7:18, 19, MSG).

When Jesus comes into our lives, He kicks out any lingering self-condemnation and replaces it with the knowledge that we're in good-standing with the Father. With Jesus living inside us we have redemption, because He is redemption. "He has sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant forever: Holy and awesome is His name"

(Psalm 111:9, NKJV). In the Old Testament, before Jesus came, the people had no second chance after they sinned. Now, our futures are much brighter because He is our second chance.

We most likely will continue to make mistakes for the rest of our lives because that's part of being human. However, we don't have to live feeling guilty or condemned for our sins, because we've been forgiven. "So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1, NLT). God offers us as many chances as we need.

For more on how accepting Jesus Christ gives us a second chance at life, go to (https://cystore.com/products/the-face-of-grace-3-message-series?_pos=17&_sid=faf49f0f7&_ss=r) to find the three-message series, The Face of Grace, in our eStore.

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

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

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BUSINESS

Southeastern Grocers Brightens Futures for Military Families with \$1.5M Donation to Folds of Honor

Community donation program will provide 300 educational scholarships to military legacies

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – Southeastern Grocers Inc. (SEG), parent company and home of Fresco y Más, Harveys Supermarket and Winn-Dixie grocery stores, today announces the donation of \$1.5 million to Folds of Honor to help provide educational scholarships to the spouses and children of America's fallen and disabled service members. This significant donation is made possible through contributions from valued partners and generous in-store customer donations, as well as the grocer's charitable foundation.

The six-week community donation program kicked-off with a \$50,000 donation from world-class chef Robert Irvine through The Robert Irvine Foundation in partnership with Coca-Cola. From May 26 – July 4, Fresco y Más, Harveys Supermarket and Winn-Dixie customers were invited to round up their total grocery bill to the nearest dollar or make a donation of their choice at check out in honor of United States military heroes and their loved ones. Inspired by the outpouring support of the community, the grocer's charitable foundation, SEG Gives, also made a \$500,000 donation to the program to provide an additional 100 scholarships.

Anthony Hucker, President and CEO of Southeastern Grocers, said, "At Southeastern Grocers, we are devoted to our local communities and passionate about giving back to those who have given so much for our freedoms. Through our continued partnership with Folds of Honor, we are able to make a lasting impact in the lives of local military service families by helping educate our



Southeastern Grocers associates present a \$1.5 million donation to Folds of Honor and scholarship recipients on behalf of valued partners, generous in-store customer donations and the grocer's charitable foundation. (Photo: Business Wire)

nation's future. It's an honor that we take great pride in, and we are pleased to announce that we have donated more than 1,100 educational scholarships to the families of America's fallen and disabled veterans over the past three years. We believe it's our duty to pay it forward, and we are extremely thankful to our customers, associates and partners for standing with us in support of Folds of Honor."

Lt. Col. Dan Rooney, CEO and Founder of Folds of Honor, said, "We are so grateful for our partnership with Southeastern Grocers as they continue to make a positive impact in the lives of our military service families throughout the Southeast year after year. The loyalty and kindness of their customers and community is simply unmatched. More than a thousand lives, families and futures are now changed thanks to America's most patriotic grocery store."

During the program, the

grocer continued its partnership with country music star John Rich where 10% of proceeds from his Redneck Riviera Whiskey supported the cause. SEG also donated \$1 for every bottle sold throughout the duration of the community donation program. In addition, a portion of proceeds from every bottle of Redneck Riviera's 1776 BBQ Sauce (Original and Kickin' Honey) sold in stores benefited Folds of Honor. Vendor partner Tito's Handmade Vodka also pledged \$1 to Folds of Honor for each bottle sold during the month of May. These generous donations expanded the grocer's support for the customers, associates and families of those who have served, continue to serve or have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

Every cent donated during the campaign will go directly to Folds of Honor to provide 300 educational scholarships for spouses

and children of America's fallen and disabled service members. Scholarships awarded through Folds of Honor provide private education tuition and tutoring for children in grades K-12, along with higher education tuition assistance for children, spouses and dependents.

Since 2018, SEG has donated more than \$5.5 million to Folds of Honor, which has provided more than 1,100 educational scholarships to the children and spouses impacted by a loved one's sacrifice for the United States military. Since 2007, Folds of Honor has awarded approximately 29,000 educational scholarships to spouses and children of America's fallen and disabled service members. Last year alone, Folds of Honor awarded 4,500 educational scholarships throughout the United States, including 874 life-changing scholarships within the five states SEG serves.

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SPORTS

Saints announce schedule for 2021 Training Camp

The New Orleans Saints have unveiled their 2021 Training Camp presented by SeatGeek schedule, with seven practices scheduled to be open to the public at the Ochsner Sports Performance Center in Metairie, La. The first practice that is open to the public will take place on Friday, July 30 at 9:30 a.m.

2021 Saints Training Camp presented by SeatGeek will continue the focus on a positive fan experience with several enhancements to the viewing experience that debuted in 2019 before the 2020 camp was not open to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All bleacher seating at the Ochsner Sports Performance Center will again be covered and misted, providing fans with shade and a more comfortable experience. Upgraded concession and merchandise sales options will once again be available to fans.

Tickets for the practices open to the public are free, but capacity is limited. Fans can reserve tickets by registering at www.neworleanssaints.com. Saints season ticketholders can register for training camp tickets on Wednesday, July 21, season ticket waiting list members may register on Thursday, July 22 and the general public can register on Friday, July 23.

All training camp practices are subject to short notice changes and adjustments based on weather and/or football operations decisions. The most updated information can be obtained by visiting www.neworleanssaints.com or following the Saints' official Twitter (@Saints) or Facebook (facebook.com/neworleanssaints) platforms.

Jackson State claims 2021 SWAC Women's Basketball Tournament Championship



The Jackson State Lady Tigers

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – The Jackson State Lady Tigers are headed to the Big Dance after defeating the Alabama State Lady Hornets by a final score of 67-66 at the 2021 Cricket Wireless Women's Basketball Tournament at the Bartow Arena.

In the first quarter of play, the Lady Tigers and Lady Hornets were locked into a close game midway through the quarter before JSU opened it up with a 22-14 lead at the end of the first quarter.

In the second quarter, ASU used a 9-4 swing to pull back to within a 29-23 deficit with 4:07 remaining in the half. Down the stretch of the second quarter, JSU knocked down seven free throws to take a 37-24 lead into the half.

Alabama State trailed 46-29 with 4:44 remaining in the third, trimming the deficit down to just four points in that same period before Jackson State pushed the lead back to nine in the fourth

quarter at 59-50. The Lady Hornets pulled to within four at 61-57 with 3:08 remaining in the game on a Farrah Pearson lay-up, and then to within 61-60 on a three-point play by Ayana Emmanuel.

After a defensive stop, Alabama State took the lead with 2:06 remaining on an Emmanuel three-pointer (63-61) and then the two teams traded baskets until Pearson put the Lady Hornets up 66-65 with just 30 seconds remaining. Jackson State hit a pair of free throws with 13 seconds left to take a 67-66 lead which prompted an Alabama State timeout.

Alabama State had a pair of good looks at the basket in the final three seconds before Jackson State cleared the rebound to claim the win and earn the automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament for the conference.

The Lady Tigers were led by Dayzsha Rogan who finished with 25 points in the game and three assists. She was subse-

quently named the Cricket Wireless SWAC Women's Basketball Tournament Most Valuable Player. JSU's Jones had 13 points and nine rebounds while Keshuna Luckett had nine points. Williams finished with 11 points, 13 rebounds, and six blocks.

Emmanuel led the Lady Hornets with 17 points and four assists, while Tamirea Thomas added a career-high 11 points and five rebounds off the bench. ASU's Pearson added nine and Jayla Crawford had eight points for Alabama State who finished shooting 33.8 (23-for-68) percent from the floor and 26.7 (4-for-15) percent from beyond the arc.

As a team, Jackson State went 20-of-52 from the field and out rebounded Alabama State 46-36. JSU improved to 18-5 overall on the season, 15-1 in SWAC play, and achieved their first SWAC Tournament Championship since 2008.

Atlanta Hawks announce Inaugural Sekou Smith Hawks Summer League Experience

The Atlanta Hawks are proud to offer the inaugural Sekou Smith Hawks Summer League Experience. Named in honor of the former Atlanta Journal-Constitution Hawks beat writer and NBA Digital personality, who passed away on January 26, 2021 at the age of 48.

The Sekou Smith Hawks Summer League Experience uniquely combines Smith's passions, friendships and expertise to create a one-of-a-kind internship that focuses on providing real-world, highly-visible experience to a deserving journalism, broadcasting or multi-media student from a Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) university or college.

The SWAC is comprised of historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) including Jackson State University, Smith's alma mater.

To learn more about Smith, please read <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/28/obituaries/sekou-smith-dead-coronavirus.html>

The student will receive the following:

- An all-expenses paid trip to the NBA Summer League, including flight and hotel accommodations with a per diem for meals and incidentals.

- The opportunity for their work to appear on Hawks.com and the team's other digital properties and social media channels.

- Collaborative experiences with the Hawks PR and Digital Content teams on feature assignments.

- Mentorship meetings with some of the most respected journalists in the NBA, including close colleagues of Smith.

Internship Summary:

The intern will work under the direction of the Basketball Communications team across a



Sekou Smith, one of the most well-known and respected NBA reporters in the country

variety of areas such as journalism, PR and social media. The successful student intern is a self-starter who is professional, eager to learn and ready for a fast-paced, hands-on experience.

The ideal candidate will have a passion for basketball, strong writing skills and a vast knowledge of current sports media trends. This energetic professional should exude confidence, possess excellent communication skills, demonstrate creativity, and be ready for a career-defining experience.

Responsibilities:

- Draft feature stories for Hawks.com.

- Assist with creating social media and web content.

- Assist with media availability, player interviews and press conferences.

- Other duties as assigned.

Requirements:

- Must be able to travel to Las Vegas and available to work August 1 – 18*

- Must be a minimum of 21 years old by August 1, 2021.

- Must be fully COVID vaccinated by August 1, 2021.

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