

The Weekly Press

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THURSDAY, MARCH 31- APRIL 6, 2022

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President Biden signs Anti-Lynching Act

Bill named after Emmett Till, received push-back from three Republicans – Andrew Clyde of Georgia, Thomas Massie of Kentucky, and Chip Roy of Texas

By Stacy M. Brown

On Tuesday, March 29, President Joe Biden signed into law the Emmett Till Antilynching Act of 2022, which makes lynching a federal hate crime.

Earlier this month, the bipartisan measure passed both chambers of Congress.

Named after Emmett Till, a 14-year-old African American savagely murdered by a group of white men in Mississippi in 1955, the legislation received pushback from three Republicans – Andrew Clyde of Georgia, Thomas Massie of Kentucky, and Chip Roy of Texas.

Each was the lone vote against the bill.

Emmett Till's murder sparked the civil rights movement, leading



Decades after Congress first took up the legislation; President Biden has signed a bill into law to make lynching a crime punishable by up to 30 years in prison. The bill is named after Emmett Till, a 14-year-old boy abducted and shot in Mississippi in 1955.

"This is a moment of historic consequence. Despite more than 200 attempts to make lynching a federal crime over the past 120 years, it has never before been done," added Congressional Black Caucus Chair Joyce Beatty (D-Ohio).



Black Caucus Chair Joyce Beatty

to bills like the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and other social justice laws.

"I could not have been prouder to stand behind President Biden as he signed the Emmett Till Anti-Lynching Act into law," National Urban League President Marc Morial stated.

"The act of lynching is a weapon of racial terror that has been used for decades, and these hate crimes still impact our communities to this day," Morial continued.

"This bill is long overdue, and I applaud President Biden and members of Congress for their leadership in honoring Emmett Till and other lynching victims bypassing this significant piece of legislation."

According to the bill's text, "Whoever conspires to commit any offense ... shall (A) if death results from the offense, be imprisoned for

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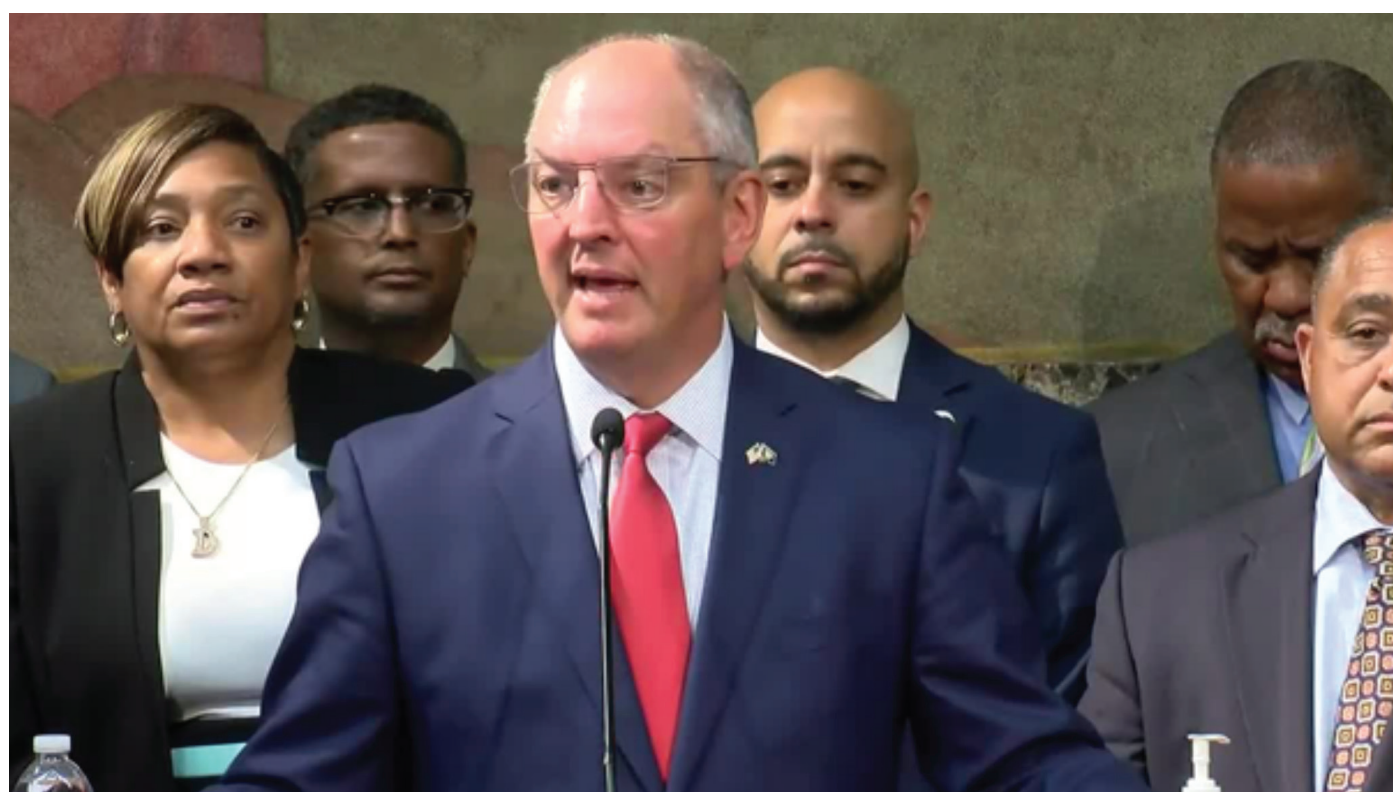
Biden is considering tapping oil reserves to control gas prices

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden is preparing to order the release of up to 1 million barrels of oil per day from the nation's strategic petroleum reserve, according to two people familiar with the decision, in a bid to control energy prices that have spiked as the U.S. and allies have imposed steep sanctions on Russia over its invasion of Ukraine.

The announcement could come as soon as Thursday when the White House says Biden plans to deliver remarks on his administration's plans to combat rising gas prices. The release duration hasn't been finalized but could last for several months. The people spoke on the condition of anonymity to preview the decision.

High oil prices have not coaxed more production, creating a challenge for Biden. The president has seen his popularity sink as inflation reached a 40-year high in February, and the cost of petroleum and gasoline climbed after Russia invaded Ukraine. Crude oil on Wednesday traded at nearly \$105 a barrel, up from about \$60 a year ago.

Gov. speaks after House, Senate override veto on redistricting maps



Gov. John Bel Edwards was joined by members of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus at a press conference after his veto was overridden.

"I can't help but feel what some of my ancestors might have felt as enslaved people. And that they too were not recognized by the constitution, and the constitution ignored the fact that they were human beings...they saw them as property. And they saw us not fully as people who could participate in a democratic process," said Sen. Karen Carter Peterson (D).



Sen. Karen Carter Peterson

"I drive my district through seven parishes. In the minority districts, I still see schools that look like they were built in 1960," Sen. Katrina Jackson (D)



Sen. Katrina Jackson

The vote by the Senate marked the third override of a governor's veto under Louisiana's modern constitution

BATON ROUGE, La. - The Louisiana Legislature made history on Wednesday, March 30.

The House voted 72-31 to override Gov. John Bel Edwards' veto of a congressional map passed in the redistricting session.

Later in a historic vote, the Senate joined the House in voting to override Gov. Edwards' veto.

The Senate vote was 27-11; it required only 26 votes.

The vote by the Senate marked the third override of a governor's veto under Louisiana's modern constitution. It was the first override of a veto in a veto session.

"For the first time in history, the Louisiana Legislature overrode a gubernatorial veto during a veto session. Today, the overwhelming will of the legislature was heard. House Bill 1 fulfills our constitutionally mandated duty to redistrict congress. It also shows true legislative independence and a clear separation of power from the executive branch," Rep. Schexnayder.

The Louisiana Democratic Party also issued the following statement Wednesday.

"Despite the clear moral compass of Democratic members on fair representation, the Republican-led legislature overturned the Governor's veto today. I am extremely disappointed in those who chose to ignore the will of the public and vote in their interests. While this outcome is not what we hoped for, I commend the tireless elected-officials, groups, and individuals who fought hard to ensure every voice in our state gets a vote. I remind Louisianans that the Democratic Party is the party of fair representation, the party of justice, and the party that will fight for all people. We lost this battle, but the war is not over; we will continue to fight until we have fair representation," Party Chair Katie Bernhardt said.

Before votes were tallied over on the Senate side, several black lawmakers took a minute to share their concerns and persuade other

See MAP, on page 5

Mayor Sharon Weston Broome to be Grand Marshall of the Buffalo Festival Parade

Baker, La. — The City of Baker is pleased to announce that Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome of East Baton Rouge Parish will be the Grand Marshall of the Buffalo Festival Parade.

We are grateful for Mayor-President Broome's support and look forward to her participation.

"I'm excited to see the citizens of Baker at the Buffalo Festival Parade! Let's show everyone how a beautiful community celebrates together!" Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome.



Mayor Sharon Weston Broome

LLBC releases statement regarding 2022 Veto Session

BATON ROUGE, La. -- Chairman Vincent J. Pierre of the Legislative Black Caucus has released a statement regarding the vote of the 2022 Veto Session.

"I am disappointed in the vote that occurred today. The African American population in this state grew by 4.4% from 2010 to 2020. Because of this increase, our state's congressional maps created should include at least two majority-minority districts, but unfortunately, they do not. Furthermore, these maps as drawn violate Section 2 of the vot-

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WEATHER

MON. 03/28
Partly Cloudy
High 85°

TUE. 03/29
Partly Cloudy
High 66°

WED. 3/30
Partly Cloudy
High 83°

THUR. 03/31
Partly Cloudy
High 72°

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LOCAL & STATE

ACT from page 1

Lynching counts as a longstanding and uniquely American weapon of racial terror that has for decades been used to maintain the white hierarchy," said Rush (D-Illinois).



Bobby Rush

"Perpetrators of lynching got away with murder time and time again — in most cases, they were never even brought to trial. Legislation to make lynching a federal crime and prevent racist killers from evading justice was introduced more than 200 times but never once passed into law," Rush stated.

years or life."

"(B) In any other case, be subjected to the same penalties as the penalties prescribed for the offense of the commission of which was the object of the conspiracy."

Specifically, the legislation makes lynching a federal hate crime punishable by up to life in prison.

The measure had faced defeat for more than 100 years, with lawmakers attempting to pass the legislation more than 200 times.

The House finally passed the bill on a 422-3 vote.

It passed unanimously in the Senate.

"This is a moment of historic consequence. Despite more than 200 attempts to make lynching a federal crime over the past 120 years, it has never before been done," added Congressional Black Caucus Chair Joyce Beatty (D-Ohio).

"We are proud Congressman Bobby Rush remained steadfast in championing this critical legislation," Beatty asserted.

"This bill conveys our nation will no longer ignore this shameful chapter of our history, and the full force of the U.S. federal government will be brought to bear against those who commit this heinous act."

Lynching counts as a longstanding and uniquely American weapon of racial terror that has for decades been used to maintain the white hierarchy," said Rush (D-Illinois).

"Perpetrators of lynching got away with murder time and time again — in most cases, they were never even brought to trial.

Legislation to make lynching a federal crime and prevent racist killers from evading justice was introduced more than 200 times but never once passed into law," Rush stated.

The founder of the Illinois chapter of the Black Panther Party, Rush previously promised to do all he could to push the legislation through before his retirement.

The congressman recalled that he was eight years old when he saw photos of Emmett Till's brutalized corpse in Jet Magazine.

"That shaped my consciousness as a Black man in America, changed the course of my life, and changed our nation," Rush affirmed.

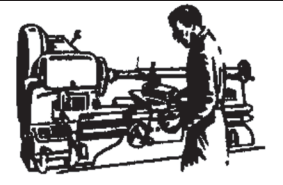
New Jersey Democratic Senator Cory Booker noted that between 1936 and 1938, the national headquarters of the NAACP hung a flag with the words "A man was lynched yesterday."

"That was a solemn reminder of the reality Black Americans experienced daily during some of the darkest chapters of America's history," Sen. Booker remarked.

"Used by white supremacists to oppress and subjugate Black communities, lynching is a form of racialized violence that has permeated much of our nation's past and must now be reckoned with," the Senator continued.

"Although this bill will not undo the terror and fear of the past, it's a necessary step that our nation must take to move forward."

READER INFORMATION



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School of Nursing, Ochsner partner for Jag Mobile clinic on wheels



The School of Nursing at Southern University on Thursday unveiled the Jag Mobile, its state-of-the-art custom mobile health unit that will provide services to medically underserved communities within a 50-mile radius of the Baton Rouge campus. "Today, we are the only historically Black college or university to have a mobile health unit in the state of Louisiana," said Sandra Brown, dean of the College of Nursing and Allied Health. "This will be archived in the School of Nursing history books for years to come."

Ochsner Health System partnered with the nursing school for the 38-foot-long unit, which will serve as a catalyst to provide more Louisiana residents with access to quality healthcare.

"This partnership is going to go

deep, and it is going to be strong and be a part of our initiative to change the health ranking in the state of Louisiana," said Christy Reeves, vice president for regional community affairs and government relations at Ochsner. "We have a big role ahead of us and this partnership is one of the most special we have at Ochsner."

The wheelchair-accessible mobile health clinic is fully equipped with two examination rooms that include state-of-the-art equipment that allows telehealth and in-person visits. Both pediatric and adult patients will be served. Southern University undergraduate and graduate nursing students will utilize the mobile clinic to meet clinical learning objectives in conjunction with the School of Nursing's curriculum.

"Healthcare has been tough for

the past two years," said Courtney Phillips, Louisiana Department of Health secretary. "To see so many people at Southern University and the students wearing their white uniforms lets me know that we still have individuals that are committed to service and the healthcare field, and that you have doubled down on your commitment to serve and educate."

The School of Nursing is lauded as one of the best nursing programs in the nation. Established in 1986, the School of Nursing at Southern currently offers four degrees: the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN); Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) with a specialty in family health; Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a major in nursing; and Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP).

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Bill would grant adoptees access to original birth certificate

BY LURA STABILER
LSU Manship School News Service

BATON ROUGE—The House voted 75-21 Monday night to advance a bill to grant adopted people access to their original birth certificates with their birth parents' names.

Rep. Charles Owen, R-Rosepine, sponsored the bill, which would grant the right to adoptees age 24 or older to learn the identity of their birth parents.

He chose that age because of Louisiana's forced inheritance laws. After 24, a child in not entitled to inheritance.

Currently, the only way for an adopted person to access their original birth certificate is to appear in front of a judge with compelling reasons.

Compelling reasons can be topics such as health and inheritance. This is not possible without hiring a lawyer, which Owen believes is not possible for all Louisiana citizens.

"Grown people should have access to their documents," said Owen.

Questions arose about whether the bill would violate the privacy of birth parents. When children are adopted, they receive new birth certificates with the names of their adoptive parents.

But Owen argued that the bill is about letting a person access a vital government record with his or her name on it rather than initiating meetings with parents.

"That is your document that the government holds," said Owen.

Rep. Greg Miller, R-Norco, proposed an amendment that would reach out to birth parents for consent before authorizing the release of birth certificates to adoptees. If consent was not given, adoptees would receive a redacted form of the certificate.

Rep. Alan Seabaugh, R-Shreveport, opposed the amendment, arguing that with all the DNA technology available like 23 and Me, anonymity no longer exists.

"There is no expectation of anonymity, it does not exist," Seabaugh said. "It might have existed in 1980. It might have, but it does not exist now."

Miller's amendment failed to pass in a 23-73 vote.

Rep. Beryl Amedee, R-Gray, although in favor of the bill, noted that Louisiana Right to Life and Louisiana Family Forum opposed the bill.

"They fear the passing of the bill might lead to an increase in mothers choosing abortion over adoption," Amedee said. "Now what we heard today is the statistics that are available show otherwise."

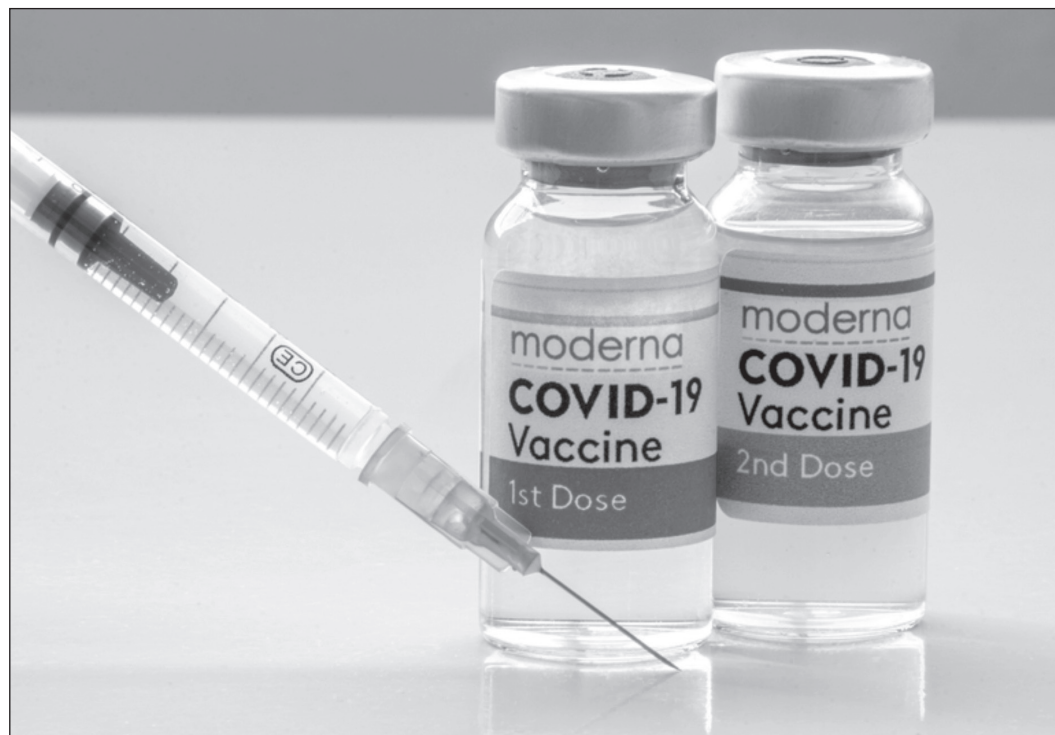
According to Owen, Alabama saw a significant decline in abortions after adopting a similar law.

"This is not an abortion issue," argued Seabaugh.

SESSION from page 1

ing rights act. We as a caucus are extremely frustrated, as there were multiple attempts made during our Redistricting session to pave the way for another majority-minority district. The LLBC will continue to do what it has always done - fight for those who are underrepresented in the state of Louisiana."

FDA authorizes 2nd COVID-19 booster shot for people over 50



The authorization is for individuals 50 and older, which health officials said would provide extra protection for the most vulnerable population if infections spike again.

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent
@StacyBrownMedia

The Food and Drug Administration has granted permission for a second COVID-19 booster shot - a fourth for those already receiving the additional dose.

The authorization is for individuals 50 and older, which health officials said would provide extra protection for the most vulnerable population if infections spike again.

The FDA previously approved fourth doses for those 12 and older with severely com-

promised immune systems. The agency noted that a third booster - or fifth shot - would also be available for that group.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has not yet commented on the FDA's authorizations.

According to an Associated Press report, the latest expansion, regardless of people's health, allows an extra shot to millions more Americans - and the question is whether everyone eligible should rush out and get it.

The report noted "limited evidence to tell how much benefit another booster could offer right now. FDA decided without

input from its independent panel of experts that has wrestled with how much data is required to expand shots."

"There might be a reason to top off the tanks a little bit" for older people and those with other health conditions, University of Pennsylvania immunologist E.

See FDA, on page 5



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RELIGION

LaShun Pace death: Gospel singer-songwriter dies aged 60

A deep devotion to God and a thunderous voice that drove listeners to their feet propelled Tarrion LaShun Pace to gospel superstardom. A series of health problems cut her remarkable life short.

Pace, a founding member of the Anointed Pace Sisters gospel group, died March 21 of kidney failure after five years of dialysis and a lifetime struggle with weight and diabetes that accompanied it. She was 60 years old.

A service celebrating the singer's life will place at 11 a.m., April 2, at Word of Faith Family Worship Cathedral on 212 Riverside Parkway, in Austell.

The Grammy-nominated singer led a life beset with trauma but blessed with success. Those close to her say Pace coped with the former with as much grace as the humility with which she handled the latter.

Pace survived divorce, the death of a young daughter, and esophagus rupture that nearly killed her, as well as cancer, among other health problems. She also hit the Billboard Gospel chart multiple times, both as a solo performer and with her eight Pace sisters: Duranice, Phyllis, June, Melonda, Dejuaii Leslie, Latrice and Lydia. Duranice Pace died in 2021.

"I Know I've Been Changed," a song from Pace's 1990 debut album, "He Lives," is widely regarded as a gospel classic. Moviemaker Tyler Perry wrote a musical by the same



Renowned Gospel singer-songwriter LaShun Pace has died, aged 60.

name, casting Pace in it and including her song.

The two remained friends for decades. In 2018, Perry bought a house for Pace's ailing mother.

Despite Pace's achievements, she never thought of herself as a star. She preferred the title, evangelist.

"She showed us how it was possible to love God, his people, and keep the mission at the forefront without being tainted by the industry," said the younger sister,

Latrice Pace. "Record labels never understood her. They were always looking to the selling aspect. They thought she was crazy when she went in and said, 'God told me what I should call this album. He told me I should use this photo.'"

"It caused her to lose some deals," Latrice added, "but she was doing the will of the Lord."

Pace never seemed to question her faith, even in the darkest of times. In 2001, Pace's 11-year-old

daughter, Xenia, died unexpectedly of an enlarged heart. The death sent Pace into a downward spiral. She moved temporarily into the home of her sister, June. There, said Pace in a 2014 interview, she listened to gospel music "24-7 to help cope with her loss.

"While I was laying there, believe it or not ... God said, 'do you trust me?'" Pace told the streaming

See **PAGE**, on page 5



FAITHFUL, FRUITFUL, FERTILE

BY DR. GAYLE YOUNG, HHP, MA, JD
Laughter in Your Belly Wellness

I know now that what I saw in my grandmother was love and faithfulness. She was a steady, constant grandmother and faithful to God. On January 21, 2021, our grandmother peacefully passed away at the age of 100. She lived to see her, and my grandfather's seven seeds produce four generations of offspring. She took communion every Sunday until her death. She was faithful, fruitful, and fertile with promise. My aunts, uncles, and cousins are her seed. We are supposed to soar, have an impact and be faithful to God. It is in our DNA.

I always knew that my mom's decision to follow Jesus in my father's faith tradition had created an opportunity for her growth. I witnessed her love for Jesus in different depths, desires, and discernment. As she matured, her developed faith became life-giving nourishment to us and so many others. Her table was always full of God's word and delicious food.

After marrying my father, she learned more about God's character, desires, and plans for her future. She became an astute student of His Word: A Bible scholar and teacher. She evolved not because of religion but because of obedience and honor to God and my father. I am grateful that my mother accepted the invitation from God through my father to grow closer to Him, to mature in her faith.

Women of God don't ever get hindered from producing fruit! Do not allow circumstances, people, attitudes, words, change, or separation to hinder you from God's

promises to you. Remain faithful, fruitful, and fertile in the promises of God. He has a plan for your life. He will fulfill it.

It is Your Time to Be Sent



Dr. Gayle Young

Faithful, Fruitful, Fertile women always get sent. Only two women in the Bible have books named after them: Ruth and Esther. Esther is our focus today. By the time we meet Esther, she is parentless, and her cousin Mordecai has taken her in. When Queen Vashti, the wife of King Xerxes (the emperor of Persia), did not obey the King to come to a feast and show off her beauty to all the nobles, he promptly divorced her. He later married the orphan Esther, who ascended from orphan to queen to save the Jewish people.

God knew that it was Esther's season. He knows all the seasons in our lives and when we are ready for promotion or elevation. He is the page-turner of our stories. God's timing sometimes feels delayed, but it isn't. Our promotions are rooted in what we become in our equipping phase, our growing season, and our obedience. Woman of God, you can determine the outcome of your life by being faithful to God and the ministry you are planted in. You should be fertile with promise and purpose, which is the reward of a reliable, fruitful woman. Esther's story teaches us that God's hands are always upon us. Continue to heal strong and follow this column. You are important to me.

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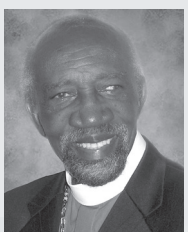
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Bible Study Wed- @ 7:00 PM

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

PACE from page 4

“When We Speak TV.” “And I was weeping. I said, ‘yes, Lord.’ He said, ‘if you trust me in this ... accept it.’”

Then her own song, “Just Because God Said It,” started playing. “I was through,” Pace said.

As a pastor’s daughter raised in a strict religious home in Poole Creek, Pace and her sisters were forbidden to see movies, have boyfriends, wear pants, among other restrictions.

“We even muted the TV commercials because of the secular music,” Latrice Pace said.

It was in that system that a family-wide problem with food and weight evolved. The sisters, minus LaShun, appeared on “Iyanla: Fix My Life” on the Oprah Winfrey Network in 2013 to talk about their weight problems.

In a May 2021 interview with another gospel singer, Audrey Dubois Harris, Pace lamented the difficulties of trying to get control of her weight and health. She described her congestive heart failure and having to be confined temporarily to

a wheelchair. “Take care of your bodies,” Pace implored her listeners. “It is the temple of God.”

In her final months, Pace recorded and posted videos in which she preached, sang and held virtual communion with viewers.

While Pace’s death was a shock, Latrice Pace wondered if her sister knew her end was coming.

“Everyone gets the gravity of her loss, the devastation of it,” Latrice Pace said. “She was the trailblazer for this entire family. The only reason we are able to do what we do today is because of her. I don’t think people understand what the trailblazers have gone through to make it different for those who come behind them.”

LaShun Pace didn’t seem to think she was that big of a deal. In the “When We Speak TV” interview, she said: “I’ve never seen myself as a diva. I just wanted to sing. Man, I love singing.”

Along with her sisters, Pace is survived by a daughter, Aarion Rhodes, who is following in her mother’s musical footsteps.

MAP from page 4

members votes.

“I can’t help but feel what some of my ancestors might have felt as enslaved people. And that they too were not recognized by the constitution, and the constitution ignored the fact that they were human beings... they saw them as property. And they saw us not fully as people who could participate in a democratic process,” said Sen. Karen Carter Peterson (D).

“I drive my district through seven parishes. In the minority districts, I still see schools that look like they were built in 1960,” Sen. Katrina Jackson (D) added.

But it ultimately was not enough to change any minds. In

response to the pushback from lawmakers, Governor Edwards says he’s disappointed but not at all surprised.

“When our state’s population is one-third African American, and we know that it is, then simple math and simple fairness mean two districts need to be minority districts,” Governor Edwards explained.

It may seem like it’s all over with, but it won’t end here. The Legislative Black Caucus and other activist groups plan to take the results from today and bring the fight to the courts, arguing that the map goes against the Voting Rights Act.

We’re told the State Supreme Court will likely take this up. We’ll watch how this litigation plays out and update you all when we learn more.

FDA from page 3

John Wherry, who wasn’t involved in the government’s decision, told the wire service.

But while he encourages older friends and relatives to follow the advice, the 50-year-old Wherry — who is healthy, vaccinated, and boosted — told AP that he doesn’t plan on getting a fourth shot right away. With protection against severe illness still strong, “I’m going

to wait until it seems like there’s a need,” he stated.

Further, the AP reported that none of the COVID-19 vaccines are as strong against the omicron mutant as they were against earlier virus versions. Also, protection against milder infections naturally wanes over time. “But the immune system builds multiple layers of defense, and the type that prevents severe illness and death is holding up,” the news service noted.

BUSINESS

SU Ag Center’s Drs. Tiffany Franklin, Renita Marshall have been featured in the National 4-H Trailblazers Campaign

BATON ROUGE, La. — Southern University Ag Center employees Drs. Tiffany Wilkerson-Franklin and Renita W. Marshall were recently featured in the National 4-H Council’s Trailblazers campaign.

The National 4-H Council initiated the campaign to recognize the people of 4-H who are breaking barriers, creating change, inspiring others, paving the way for generations to come, and bringing the 4-H mission to life.

Dr. Franklin is the SU Ag Center’s Associate Youth Specialist and Program Leader for 4-H and Youth Development. She serves as the principal investigator on a study of the 4-H LIFE mentoring program for children with incarcerated parents, among other work in Louisiana.

“4-H and positive youth development provide countless opportunities to young people across the world,” said Dr. Franklin. “Because of my engagement in 4-H and other activities which helped mold me into who I am today, I am intentional in my personal and professional efforts to ensure our youth and vulnerable groups



Dr. Renita W. Marshall



Dr. Tiffany Wilkerson-Franklin

have the same opportunities,” she expressed when asked about the importance of 4-H.

Dr. Marshall is the Vice Chancellor for Academics and Student Support at the SU Ag Center and Associate Dean of the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences (CAFCS). The Louisiana 4-H alum is the first African American female professor in the Southern University Agricultural Research & Extension Center, Charter President of the National Association for Black Veterinar-

sciences, while in elementary school and then transitioned to woodworking and livestock with FFA in high school,” shared Dr. Marshall.

When asked how they felt when they received notification of their selection? The two had this to say.

“I started receiving text messages and social media tags saying congratulations. My gut feeling was humility,” stated Dr. Franklin. “After processing the recognition, I visited the 4-H.org website and sat in amazement, viewing all the other amazing Trailblazers I sat amongst. I am especially excited to share this platform with Dr. Renita Marshall, as she is doing amazing things for the advancement of both faculty and students in the CAFCS. I am truly grateful for the opportunity and feel motivated to work harder for our young people,” added Franklin.

“I was very surprised, shocked, and humbled by the recognition because my older brother, Hendrix Broussard, who is a 4-H County Agent at Prairie View A&M University and who also started 4-H in 1980, nominated me for this distinction,” said Dr. Marshall.

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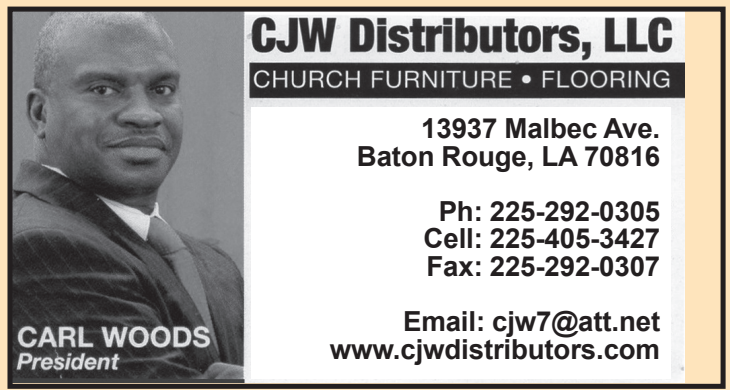
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