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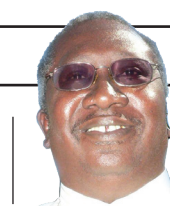
THURSDAY, JULY 29-AUGUST 4, 2021

A PEOPLE'S PUBLICATION

VOL. 45 • NO.05 • FREE

STATE & LOCAL PG 2
THE FOURTH ANNUAL MID CITY MICRO-CON!

STATE & LOCAL PG 3
GROUNDBREAKING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEADQUARTERS



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REMEMBERING WALTER DIXON, JR.

Gov. Edwards Urges Struggling Renters, Landlords to Apply for Assistance as Federal Eviction Moratorium Ends



Gov. John Bel Edwards

As the federal moratorium on evictions comes to an end Saturday, July 31, Gov. John Bel Edwards is urging residents who are struggling with rent or utility bills due to COVID-19 related financial hardship to apply for millions in federal funds through the Louisiana Emergency Rental Assistance Program, or through one of seven locally administered programs in Caddo, Calcasieu, East Baton Rouge, Jefferson, Lafayette, Orleans or St. Tammany parishes.

"It is important that our residents know that there are resources available to them if they need help with their rent or payment for their utilities," said Gov. Edwards. "Our goal is to keep people housed during the pandemic by preventing evictions for failure to pay rent."

The federal money is intended to cover rent and utility bills for those who have been financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Both renters and landlords may apply. In most cases, the financial assistance is paid directly to the landlord or to the utility company.

"This program is in place specifically to provide assistance that can keep people in their homes, relieve pandemic-related financial strain and help people get back on their feet," said the Division of Administration's Assistant Commissioner of Statewide Services Desirée Honoré Thomas, CPA, CGMA. "We strongly encourage those in need to apply as soon as possible."

To apply to the program or learn more visit LAStateRent.com

See EVICTION, on page 2

Councilwoman Chauna Banks held meeting to talk about the future of Howell Place and North Baton Rouge



Architectural presentation rendering of Howell Place



Metropolitan Councilwoman Banks

BATON ROUGE, LA. — Metropolitan Councilwoman Banks put together a community meeting on Thursday, July 22, at the YMCA at Howell Place to discuss plans to expand and grow North Baton Rouge. She stated on her social media pages that the meeting held for the public would detail the current land occupancy of Howell Place and proposals of future projects that will better the community. Councilwoman Banks also included

collaborative development plans for vacant properties within the boundaries of the development. Councilwoman Banks said that she wanted to focus on the communities input on the projects to relay their concerns and feedback and be included in the development process.

"Howell Place has several owners, and some properties have changed owners multiply times. We aim to bring a collective vision that will attract



Senator Regina Ashford Barrow was in attendance

growing families, millennials, and professionals", Councilwoman Banks said.

Howell Place and Park have a rich history in North Baton Rouge, named after the former mayor of Atlantic Beach, Florida, William S. 'Billy' Howell, in 1976. He was dedicated to his community and contributions to the city before his death in 2015.

Over two decades, Howell Park has grown to be a staple in the community. Council-

woman Banks wants to expand the community more and bring more businesses and business leaders to continue the growth efforts in North Baton Rouge.

Councilwoman Banks emphasized that she wanted the meeting to highlight the collaborative efforts between the community and the development team. She also said that she wanted to break ground on

See HOWELL PLACE, on page 3

Biden urges states, localities to offer \$100 to unvaccinated for getting shots



President Joe Biden

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden on Thursday announced sweeping new pandemic requirements aimed at boosting vaccination rates for millions of federal workers and contractors as he lamented the "American tragedy" of rising-yet-preventable deaths among the unvaccinated.

Federal workers will be required to sign forms attesting they've been vaccinated against the coronavirus or else comply with new rules on mandatory masking, weekly testing, distancing and more. The strict new guidelines are aimed at increasing sluggish vaccination rates among the huge number of Americans who draw federal paychecks — and to set an example for private employers around the country.

"Right now, too many people are dying or watching someone they love die and say, 'If I'd just got the vaccine,'" Biden said in a somber address from the East Room of the White House. "This is an American tragedy. People are dying who don't have to die."

However, pushback is certain to Biden's action. It puts him squarely in the center of a fierce political debate surrounding the government's ability to compel Americans to follow public health guidelines.

The federal government directly employs about 4 million people, but Biden's action could affect many more when federal contractors are factored in. New York University professor of public service Paul Light estimates

See SHOTS, on page 2

WEATHER



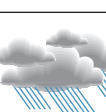
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High 89°.



TUE. 08/03
Scattered tstorms
High 87°.



WED. 08/04
Partly Cloudy
High 89°.



THUR. 08/05
PM Showers
High 90°.

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Mayor Broome announces mask requirement for City-Parish buildings

BATON ROUGE, La. - Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome has announced a mask requirement for entering City-Parish buildings starting on Friday, July 30.

The mask requirement is being instituted due to the surge of COVID-19 cases related to the Delta Variant.

"Masks are an important part of keeping us safe from COVID-19, in accordance with CDC and LDH guidance. However, I strongly encourage everyone to take the most important step and go get vaccinated," said Mayor Broome.

Free Pfizer vaccines are available Tuesday-Saturday, 11 am-6 pm, at the Mall



Mayor Sharon W. Broome



of Louisiana on the first floor near the main entrance in the old Williams Sonoma store. Free \$10 Visa Gift Cards are available for those receiving a vaccine while supplies last. Learn more about COVID vaccines in East Baton Rouge Parish at brla.gov/getvaccinated.

Louisiana State Rep. Edward "Ted" James to address Summer 2021 graduates

Louisiana State Rep. Edward "Ted" James will return to his alma mater to deliver the commencement address at Southern University's Summer Commencement on Friday, August 6. The ceremony, which includes the graduating class as well as graduates of Spring 2020 and Summer 2020, will begin at 10 a.m. in the F.G. Clark Activity Center. Southern continues to adhere to state and local COVID-19 guidelines, and will enforce the university's campus-wide face mask mandate.

The chief student marshal is Ella A. Dodor, who will be graduating with a bachelor's degree in computer science.



Rep. Edward "Ted" James

She has a cumulative GPA of 3.862.

Rep. James, a Baton Rouge native, was taught at an early age the value of service, strength of community, importance of quality education, and principles of social justice. In 2003, he earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from Southern. He continued his education at the Southern University Law Center, where he graduated cum laude and was Student Bar Association president. In 2006, he earned his juris doctorate and is currently an adjunct law professor.

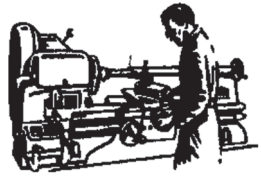
"My parents met at Southern; I did not just go to school there," James said. "The institution lives inside of me. I'm beyond humbled to be invited back as commencement speaker, and I consider it an honor. 'O Southern, Dear Southern, I owe my all to thee' are more than lyrics.

See GRADUATION, on page 6



STATE & LOCAL

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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 225-775-2002

The Weekly Press

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It's Time For The Fourth Annual Mid City Micro-Con!



Join us at the Fourth Annual Mid City Micro-Con as we celebrate diverse and inclusive comics, creators, and fans! This FREE event will take place at the Main Library at Goodwood, 7711 Goodwood Blvd., across two afternoons: 12-5 p.m. Saturday, August 7, and 2-5:30 p.m. Sunday, August 8.

Learn about topics like indie publishing, voice acting, nerdy businesses, and more from experienced creators on Saturday, sign up or cheer loud at the Cosplay Contest on Sunday, and discover local art and artists in the Arts & Comics Market all weekend long! Our featured panel discussion will take place Sunday afternoon, where creators will explore Creative Worldbuilding & Black History in comics, moderated by Rodney Hart and in collaboration with the Capitol Park Museum and their upcoming exhibition, The Negro Motorist Green Book, developed by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) in collaboration



with Candacy Taylor and made possible through the generous support of Exxon Mobil Corporation.

The weekend's special guests include graphic novel & television writers Erica Harrell & Desirée Proctor, creator & publisher Jacques Nyemb, voiceover actor Apphia Yu, creator of Crescent City Monsters Newton Lilavois,

local artist & writer Antoine GHOST Mitchell, multimedia artist Kevin McQuarn, and more! For a full schedule of events, list of participating guests, Cosplay Contest rules, links to last year's session recordings, & more information on authentic representation in comics, visit the Mid City Micro-Con InfoGuide at www.EBRPL.com/MCMC.

EVICITION from page 1

or call 877-459-6555, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

SHOTS from page 1

there are nearly 7 million more employees who could potentially be included, combining those who work for companies that contract with the government and those working under federal grants.

Biden, seemingly fed up with persistent vaccine resistance among many Americans, delivered a sharp rebuke to those who have yet to get shots, saying "they get sick and fill up our hospitals," taking beds away from others who need them.

"If in fact you are unvaccinated, you present a problem to yourself, to your family and those with whom you work," he said bluntly."

CATS expected to support \$1.6 billion in economic impact for Greater Baton Rouge

The Capital Area Transit System (CATS) is expected to support a total economic impact of \$1.6 billion over the next 10 years for the greater Baton Rouge area generated from operations and planned capital investments a recent study found.

The economic impact study, conducted by Dr. Stephen Barnes, director of the Kathleen Blanco Public Policy Center and associate professor of economics at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, demonstrates the significant value of the transit agency to the community in supporting local jobs and employers while spurring economic development. In his analysis, Dr. Barnes reviewed CATS' operations and projected capital investments over the next 10 years to identify the direct and indirect impact CATS is expected to have on the local economy each year.

"The return on investment with CATS is clear," said Dr. Barnes. "By leveraging local funds to secure additional federal dollars, CATS brings significant new capital to the Baton Rouge area that then circulates throughout the local economy while further enhancing its role in connecting thousands of riders daily to their jobs."

The study highlights that every local dollar invested in CATS results in \$7.40 in economic return on investment. The

American Public Transportation Association reports a national average of \$5 in economic return on investment for every dollar invested in transit. The higher return on investment shows how CATS leverages its local funding to bring in additional federal dollars to the local economy. This finding illustrates the quantifiable, far-reaching benefits of the transit agency for Baton Rouge's economy and continued growth.

"Beyond the value of connecting workers to jobs and critical services, as well as reducing traffic, it's great to see the measurable value of CATS on our local economy and community," said Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome. "This study demonstrates that CATS is not only a catalyst for economic development, but also plays an important role in supporting jobs and boosting our community during a time when we need it most."

Voters will consider renewing CATS' local millage on October 9. The agency has presented plans for how it intends to continue leveraging local revenue and federal funding to invest in environmentally friendly electric vehicles, transit hub connections, system expansion, new technology for rider accessibility and convenience, and capital projects such as bus rapid transit service. For more information, visit brcats.com/connects.

Vaccine lottery scams are making a comeback, BBB warns

BATON ROUGE, La. — Two Louisianans who rolled up their sleeves will win the latest vaccine lottery drawing Wednesday, July 28. The winners will be picked Wednesday, but won't be announced until Friday, July 30.

The Better Business Bureau of South Central Louisiana wants to make sure you're aware that vaccine lottery scams are making a comeback in our community.

The BBB said a government agency would never call, text, or email you. They said you should never give personal financial information to someone who contacts you.

"We just want people to be able to understand that's not how it works," said Carmen Million, President and CEO of the Better Business Bureau of South Central Louisiana. "The government is never going to call you. The state is never going to call you to help you register for the lottery. If you're seeing this information on the news or on the internet that the scammers are also seeing the same information, and they are targeting these consumers."

Million said not to give out the information on your vaccine cards because hackers could use that personal information to access your accounts.

Keep in mind that you have to register online to be eligible for the 'Shot At A Million,' and you are not required to pay money to enter. Million said law enforcement officials do not call and award prizes.

She said to not trust caller ID, because scammers can ma-



nipulate the phone system and make it look like it's from a government agency.

If you feel like you've been a victim of a scam, visit Million said not to give out the information on your vaccine cards because hackers could use that personal information to access your accounts.

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If you feel like you've been a victim of a scam, visit <https://bbb.org/ScamTracker>

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Mayor Broome Breaks Ground on New Department of Environmental Services Headquarters



Architectural rendering of the new Department of Environment Services Headquarters

Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome and City-Parish officials broke ground on a new headquarters for the Baton Rouge Department of Environmental Services

BATON ROUGE, La. — Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome and City-Parish officials broke ground on a new headquarters for the Baton Rouge Department of Environmental Services, located at the site of the former All Star Nissan at 12422 Florida Boulevard. When complete, this facility will house approximately 100 employees from four Department of Environmental Services divisions – wastewater collections, environmental, pump stations, and supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) – that currently work out of three facilities

across East Baton Rouge Parish. In addition to the operating efficiencies that will be created by co-locating these teams in one central environment, this new facility will provide residents and business owners with easy access to DES staff for answering questions or troubleshooting issues. It will also drive commerce throughout the area, revitalizing the former All Star Nissan location into a hub of activity that will support economic activity for surrounding businesses and the community. "Over the past several years, we have identified and imple-

mented measures to create efficiencies that are saving millions of dollars each year while we constantly look for new and more innovative ways to serve the hundreds of thousands of residents who rely on us to deliver some of their most basic and vital daily services. Our Department of Environmental Services is a great example of this commitment in action," said Mayor Broome. The new facility is expected to be completed in the first half of 2022. The project architect is RHH Architects, APAC, and the project contractor is Blount General Contractors, LLC.

Istrouma' Magnet Broadcast Communications Program offered opportunity to meet Industry Partners



Incoming Magnet Student, Jasmyn Shropshire, learns photographic compositions during Istrouma's Summer Bridge Program. Industry Partner Marciel Seals, from M Seals Photography is also pictured.

For incoming ninth graders, the transition to high school is often intimidating. Therefore, this summer Istrouma' Magnet Broadcast Communications Program offered our incoming scholars the opportunity to meet Faculty, Administration, and Industry Partners. Our

Summer Bridge Academy featured hands-on activities led by staff and industry community partners. Students had the opportunity to learn about photography, film production, journalism and much more. Principal Bester led a tour of the school allowing Parents a Q & A

session. We would like to thank representatives from WBRZ, The Advocate, G-Force Innovations, Seals Photography, T. Nicole Photography and Director Aaron Williams for taking their summertime to share the various spectrums in the Broadcast Communications field. Students will take on their first course of a four year curriculum this Fall at Istrouma Magnet High.

If you would like to be a part of our school's magnet program and pursue a career in the Media Industry contact the school's Magnet Site Coordinator Dr. Cynthia Weber at cweber2@ebrschools.org

HOWELL from page 1

the new frontier hitting Howell Place.

The Executive Director at the YMCA at Howell Place, Ronald Smith, presented the history of Howell Place at the meeting. He also highlighted the empty lots around the facility and on Howell Park Avenue that businesses can develop on.

Councilwoman Banks then presented one of the businesses that plan to build on some of the vacant lots.

President and CEO at CST Multifamily Real Estate Services, LLC, Tom Delahaye, talked about his and the construction team, Block Companies, plans to the Planning Commission. The companies plan to build a 108-unit affordable housing complex near Harding Boulevard and Plank Road. The multifamily complex will include the new construction of IDEA University Prep Charter School. The CEO said that the development would be an ideal family expansion.

"We want to build a place where our families would want to live in," he said, referring to his partners who are helping him with the project.

Delahaye said that the real estate company would use Low Income Housing Tax Credits to finance a good portion of the project. He added the company believes in affordable housing for all.

"We believe in marketing

details at an affordable price," he said. "We want to support the community in any way that we can."

Delahaye brought in a panel of women working towards the new development and whose ideals of affordable housing match his.

Deirdre Barrett, the Director of Diversity, Inclusion, and Marketing, was included in the panel.

As well as a local interior designer, Arianna Bellizaire, of Arianna Bellizaire Interiors, LLC to design the apartments. The women talked about their excitement about the project and what it would mean for North Baton Rouge.

Included in the presentation were representatives of other communities in hopes of collaborating their projects to help benefit Howell Place and North Baton Rouge.

Some of those representatives were the CEO of the East Baton Rouge Council on Aging (EBRCA), Tasha-Clark Amar, and the Chief Administrative Officer, Dr. James Gilmore, Jr.

Senator Regina Ashford Barrow was in attendance, and Byron Washington worked on the Scotlandville Historic District in North Baton Rouge.

The development of multifamily homes is set to start building early next year, with the approval of the Planning Commission. Delahaye hopes that they will complete the first sets of apartments by 2023.



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Camphor Memorial UMC welcomes New Pastor: Rev. Kermit Curtis "KC" Roberson, M.Div., MPA

BATON ROUGE, La — As we, the officers and members of Camphor Memorial United Methodist Church continue to Honor our rich and fruitful Heritage, we look forward to the future with brightness of Hope and Faith as we Welcome our new Senior Pastor, Rev. Kermit Curtis "KC" Roberson, M.Div., MPA.



Rev. Kermit Curtis "KC" Roberson

Rev. Roberson has been in Ministry more than 16 years, and is coming to Camphor from Brooks-Shaw Temple Peoples United Methodist Church where he served as Senior Pastor for three years.

He is the husband of Mrs. Natasha "Hope" Roberson. They are the proud parents of 4 children; Justin, Alexis, Kora and Noahble, and grandparents of: Ahmad, Adonis, & Justin, Jr.

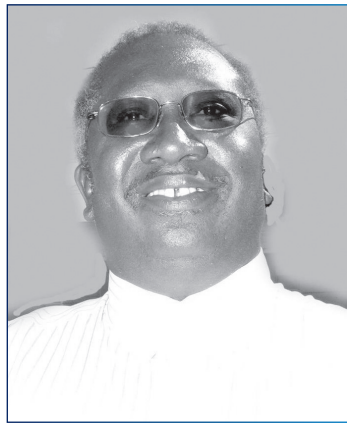
In Rev. Roberson's own words: "God will use the People for such a time as this. Let us get ready to serve the Least, Last,

Lost, and Marginalized together. We can do all things through Christ who strengthens. . .

We Welcome You, Rev. Roberson and look forward to embracing you and your family as we meet the Challenges and Blessings of the days ahead under your pastoral leadership.

RELIGION

Remembering Walter Dixon, Jr.



Walter Dixon, Jr.

By Stephanie Anthony

Friends, family, and associates of Walter Dixon gathered in Simmesport, Louisiana to fellowship and hold a balloon launch in celebration of his life. The historic Baton Rouge Weekly Press, office manager was well known for his big smile and smooth temperament.

Walter's only child Steven said his father did not want a funeral service of any kind. However good food and a common interest is reason enough for Louisiana folks to gather. Since Walter Dixon, Jr. was one of 12 siblings getting together was second nature. Walter may have considered there were enough family funerals since he was preceded in death by 4 siblings, Evette, Elvis, Sylvia, and Selena. Walter Dixon, Sr. had already passed away and his mother Ada most recently.

According to family and friends, Walter never met a stranger.



A gathering of family and friends remember Walter Dixon, Jr. and his big heart during balloon release.

He was born in Independence, Louisiana, grew up in Simmesport and went to Paul Dunbar High School and Louisiana State University. He is best known in Baton Rouge for his work with the Baton Rouge Weekly Press Newspaper. Former editor Stephanie Anthony explained, "He followed me as editor but never took the title. He edited the historic African American publication

under two publishers, Ivory J. Payne and later his son Ivory D. Payne. "He took the title Office Manager. It was a tip of his hat to me and the two others who did the job during the paper's 44-year history, she said." Anthony, "So, when people why I canceled my Saturday morning radio show and went to the great Louisiana town of Simmesport, I will say... I went to a laugh festival & balloon

launch. Cousins, in-laws, and friends wore T-Shirts with Walter's smiling face they happily released purple and gold balloons.

Walter Dixon was born February 3, 1956, and the July 10, 2021, get together at the Simmesport community center had the tone of a vintage birthday celebration without the cake. All agreed, Walter Dixon, Jr. would have been pleased.

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

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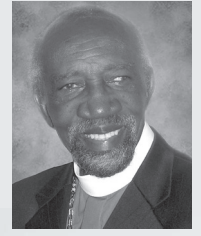
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Bible Study.....	Wed- @ 7:00 PM

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BUSINESS

The death of Kay DeBow Alford leaves a void in Black business empowerment

The National Black Chamber of Commerce announced this week the death of its co-founder Kay DeBow Alford on July 19, 2021.

Highly focused, efficient and determined, Kay was the linchpin of the Chamber, defining multi-tasking to its highest degree.

Kay, as she was affectionately known, was named Kayanne at birth on December 12, 1957, to the parents of Charles DeBow Jr. and Aurelia Jane Stuart in Indianapolis, Indiana. She seemed to be born for business leadership, coming from a family that were known educators and entrepreneurs.

Kay's father, Charles DeBow Jr. was one of the first four Tuskegee Airmen, serving in World War II. Kay's maternal family were the Stuarts, who were entrepreneurs, owning several successful businesses in the greater Indianapolis area.

A graduate of Shortridge High School in Indianapolis, she received her bachelor's degree from Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. She began her professional career at Colgate-Palmolive in Detroit, Michigan. It was in Detroit on June 8, 1980, Kay met husband-to-be Harry Cicero Alford Jr.

After a short courtship Kay and Harry were married on October 31, 1980.

The Alford's made their home in Indianapolis. Kay pursued government work and at the height of that work she became the Director of Marketing for the Hoosier State Lottery in Indiana.

The couple also became entrepreneurs owning several video stores and private ventures.

Through their business experiences, Kay and Harry early



The National Black Chamber of Commerce announced this week the death of its co-founder Kay DeBow Alford on July 19, 2021.

on realized there was a need for a national connection.

When Kay DeBow Alford and her husband Harry left Indianapolis, Indiana and moved to Washington, D.C. in September 1994, they had already founded the National Black Chamber of Commerce on May 23, 1993.

They had begun locally to fill the void of a Black business organization by founding the Hoosier Minority Chamber of Commerce in Indianapolis which evolved into the NBCC.

The NBCC was crafted from the empowerment principles of Booker T. Washington, the business acumen of Congressman

Parren Mitchell, and enforced by the father of affirmative Action Arthur Fletcher.

Kay and Harry Alford took the business mission to new heights.

The organization, comprised of chapters throughout the United States expanded its reach internationally to France, Mexico, England, Brazil, Costa Rica, Colombia, Kenya, and Ghana.

Kay coordinated and single-handedly organized and produced the national and international conventions and conferences.

She helped guide the NBCC, assuring its participation in business discussions on Capitol Hill

and their interaction with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Officers and members were saddened by Kay's death and sent along messages:

"Kay was the backbone of the National Black Chamber, the mother and driving force behind the great accomplishments of the NBCC. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her and who benefitted from her tireless drive to make the nation better for all Black business owners," said Chairman of the NBCC and President/CEO of the Illinois State Black Chamber of Commerce.

"We will continue her legacy

See ALFORD, on page 6

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SPORTS

SEC presidents vote to extend membership invitations to Texas, Oklahoma

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. - The Presidents and Chancellors of the Southeastern Conference on Thursday voted unanimously on Thursday, July 29, to extend membership invitations to the University of Oklahoma and the University of Texas to join the SEC effective July 1, 2025, with competition to begin in all sports for the 2025-26 academic year.

SEC Commissioner Greg Sankey communicated the invitations to the respective presidents of the two universities following today's videoconference meeting of the Conference's Presidents and Chancellors. The meeting was convened after the two universities submitted separate requests for membership invitations to the SEC on Tuesday, July 27.

"Today's unanimous vote is both a testament to the SEC's long-standing spirit of unity and mutual cooperation, as well as a recognition of the outstanding legacies of academic and athletic excellence established by the Universities of Oklahoma and Texas," said Commissioner Sankey. "I greatly appreciate the collective efforts of our Presidents and Chancellors in considering and acting upon each school's membership interest."

Today's actions are in accordance with SEC Bylaw 3.1.2, which authorizes the Chief Executive Officers of the Conference to extend invitations for membership if at least three-fourths of its 14 member institutions vote to approve.

Deion Sanders cuts SWAC Media Day interview short after taking issue with being called 'Deion'



Deion Sanders

Sanders referenced Alabama coach Nick Saban before abruptly departing the annual event

Deion Sanders is serious about being called "Coach Prime," or at least about not being called by his first name. This was confirmed on Tuesday as the former NFL megastar and second-year coach at Jackson State walked out of an appearance at SWAC Media Day after a reporter referred to him as "Deion," according to

Clarion-Ledger.

"If you call Nick (Saban), Nick, you'll get cussed out on the spot, so don't do that to me," Sanders said. "Treat me like Nick."

Sanders eventually addressed the matter on Twitter and denied he walked out of the interview session -- admitting he did move on to another media outlet while providing proof.

Sanders' reference to Saban came after a debate erupted late in the 2020 season over whether it is appropriate for reporters to call Saban by his first name when addressing the legendary coach. Saban never weighed in on the matter and doesn't seem to care

what he's called. Reporters customarily address the coaches they cover -- even Saban -- by their first names without being cussed out.

The Clarion-Ledger reporter covering Jackson State on Tuesday told his newspaper that he calls everyone he interviews by their first name. Many reporters who regularly cover Alabama do the same, and do so without any quarrel from Saban.

During his Wednesday appearance at SEC Media Days, Saban made it clear he doesn't care what he's called. But then again, he doesn't have a nickname nearly as cool as "Coach Prime."

GRADUATION from page 1

Southern took a young boy with potential and made him a man who recognizes his purpose. I take my responsibility to her seriously, and I hope that I've made her proud."

Upon being admitted to the Louisiana Bar, James began his career working for the administration of Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Babineaux Blanco. He assisted in securing a

\$25 million investment in the Louisiana Housing Trust Fund. Later, Gov. Bobby Jindal appointed James to serve on the Louisiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations.

James was elected to serve as Louisiana State Representative for District 101 in November 2011. He currently serves as chairman of the Administration of Criminal Justice Committee and chairman

of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus. With his passion for leadership, James created a bond with Vice President Kamala Harris after serving as one of her Louisiana co-chairs for her presidential election.

James has received numerous honors and awards for his hard work and dedication. He is the recipient of the Baton Rouge Business Report's "Forty Under 40" award, NAACP's "Top 40 Power Players Under 40" award, named to the National Bar Association's 2013 Nation's Best Advocates: 40 Lawyers Under 40, and more. James is a member of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. He is also the proud father of his daughter, Harper Ryan James.

For more information regarding our Summer 2021 commencement, visit <https://www.subr.edu/subhome/101>

ALFORD from page 5

to fight for the improvement of African American communities throughout the Black Diaspora."

John E. Harmon, Sr., Founder, President and CEO of the African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey (AACCNJ) remembered Kay by saying, "words, although spoken softly, were at times, penetrating, yet nurturing and impactful."

"Her commitment to attaining the best for Blacks was the cornerstone of her advocacy. I am grateful for the moments we shared together and her investment in my development as a Chamber Executive which has led to huge dividends for many and will never be forgotten."

"The business community lost one of its champions with the passing of Kay DeBow Alford. Co-founder of the National Black Chamber of Commerce (NBCC) with her husband, Harry

Alford, she was the power behind the scenes of the many accomplishments of the NBCC," said Dorothy R. Leavell, who served as a Board member and previous Chairman of the Board of the NBCC.

As serious and fierce as she was in the business arena, she was equally invested in her family. A devoted wife to Harry Jr. of forty-one years and the mother of twins, Harry III and Thomas, both successful sportsmen and businessmen.

Her most recent pride was being the grandma to Tatum and Archer. Her abounding love stretched out to her brothers, Charles Henry DeBow III and William Weir DeBow; sister, Natalie Jane; nephew Jonathon C. DeBow and countless nieces and nephews.

Services will culminate with burial in Shreveport, Louisiana. Services are entrusted to the Winfield Funeral Home, Shreveport, LA.

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