

The Weekly Press

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NEWS PG 3

METRO COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR BROOME'S AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

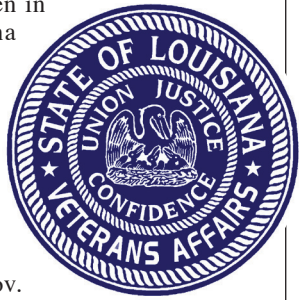
NEWS PG 4

FORMER PRESIDENTS, DIGNITARIES PAY TRIBUTE TO COLIN POWELL

La. Department of Veterans Affairs to dedicate Never Forget Garden on Veterans Day

The following information is from the La. Department of Veterans Affairs

BATON ROUGE, La. — The Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs dedicated the Never Forget Garden in the Louisiana Veterans Memorial Park adjacent to the State Capitol on Veterans Day, Thursday, Nov. 11 at 11 a.m. Gov. John Bel Edwards and First Lady Donna Edwards will join LDVA Secretary Joey Strickland, COL (USA Retired) for the dedication.



"The dedication of the Never Forget Garden in our Veterans Park is important because it coincides with the 100th anniversary of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier," said LDVA Secretary Joey Strickland, COL (USA Retired). "These gardens are being put in around the country as a constant reminder of the ultimate sacrifice made by our service men and women who died with their remains unidentified."

The National Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier enlisted the American Rose Society to encourage the creation of Never Forget Gardens to ensure the millions of American service members are forever honored and remembered. The garden in the Louisiana Veterans Memorial Park is a statewide volunteer project by Louisiana members of the American Rose Society, the Louisiana Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Louisiana Garden Club Federation.

2021 marks the centennial of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The Tomb is Arlington National Cemetery's most iconic memorial and stands atop a hill overlooking Washington, D.C. Since 1921, it has provided a final resting place for one of America's unidentified World War I service members, and Unknowns from later wars were added in 1958 and 1984. The Tomb has also served as a place of mourning and a site for reflection on military service.

Louisiana set to receive nearly \$6B from Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act



The following information is from the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development:



Gov. John Bel Edwards

"Over the next five years, this nearly \$6 billion federal investment will have a significant impact on major projects allocated to highways, bridges, public transportation, electric vehicle infrastructure, ports, and airports, and it will create a more resilient transportation system that can withstand disruptions from extreme weather," said Gov. John Bel Edwards.

BATON ROUGE, La. - The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development announced that the state is slated to receive nearly \$6 billion from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) after the United States House of Representatives passed the bipartisan bill, which was passed by the U.S. Senate this past August. The IIJA is the largest dedicated highway and bridge investment since the construction of the interstate highway system. In addition,

Louisiana is well positioned to compete for billions more with the Bridge Investment Program and other major projects that will deliver substantial economic benefits to communities across Louisiana, including broadband, resiliency, ports and rail.

"Over the next five years, this nearly \$6 billion federal investment will have a significant impact on major projects allocated to highways, bridges, public transportation, electric vehicle infrastructure, ports,

and airports, and it will create a more resilient transportation system that can withstand disruptions from extreme weather," said Gov. John Bel Edwards. "Louisiana's aging infrastructure will receive improvements that will create a better overall quality of life for all users, help build the economy, and provide a more reliable transportation system for citizens and businesses in Louisiana. In addition, it will go a significant way in addressing broadband issues around

access, affordability and digital literacy. This will directly impact farmers, teachers, small businesses, healthcare professionals and many others. The historic investment levels of the IIJA provide a unique opportunity to improve and transform our state now and for generations to come.

"The IIJA is crucial for Louisiana, as it will allow the state to advance several much-needed major road and bridge projects in which fund-

See **JON ACT** on page 4

Louisiana voters face significant tax changes on Nov. ballot

"We cannot afford to let politicians who have no ties to New Orleans make decisions that affect our future without our input or guidance"



NOLA Mayor LaToya Cantrell

BATON ROUGE, La. — Voters in Louisiana's Nov. 13 election will be deciding whether to back two constitutional changes that would heavily rewrite state sales and income tax laws to more closely match the regulations of other states.

The tax amendments were pushed by the Louisiana Legislature's Republican leaders, backed by overwhelming bipartisan votes in the House and Senate and supported by Democratic Gov. John Bel Edwards, who called the proposals "real fiscal reform for the state."

But the two measures have provoked strong disagreement among others as early voting is underway.

Constitutional Amendment 1 would start the centralization of the state's sales tax collections through an eight-member commission, rather than through more than 50 local government agencies ranging from sheriffs to school boards.

The change is a long-sought goal of business organizations that argue the current system is too complicated and expensive for companies to remit the taxes they collect. Details of how the commission works, however, still would have to be hammered out by lawmakers.

Supporters say Louisiana is one of only three states with a fragmented system.

"A cooperative, statewide electronic tax filing system for businesses would drastically simplify this process and make the State of Louisiana much more business-friendly," the Baton Rouge Area Chamber said in a statement.

Some local government officials don't want to give up the collection authority.

Calling it a "state power grab," New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell suggests the commission could with-



See **CHANGE** on page 4

OTHER STORIES ONLINE



WEATHER



MON. 11/15
Sunny
High 71°.



TUE. 11/16
Sunny
High 76°.



WED. 11/17
Partly Cloudy
High 79°.



THUR. 11/18
Partly Cloudy
High 77°.

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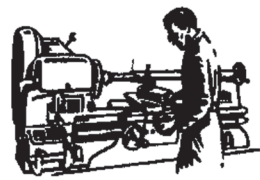
COVID hospitalizations of young people have tripled since the start of summer. However, vaccines are highly effective in preventing hospitalizations and deaths, even from the Delta variant.

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LOCAL & STATE

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School of Nursing named Nursing School of the Year for graduate degree program



The Southern University School of Nursing was recently honored as the "2021 Nursing School of the Year, Graduate Degree Program," by the Louisiana Nurses Foundation. The honor was bestowed upon the School during the annual Nightingale Awards Gala held on Oct. 22. The gala was held virtually this year due to COVID-19.

"Receiving this award amid a global pandemic makes it extra special," said Sandra Brown, dean of the College of Nursing and Allied Health at Southern. "It illuminates the talents, the commitment, and the sacrifices that our faculty and staff make to provide a quality education for our students."

The award recognizes a school of nursing offering formal education for registered nurses seeking a

graduate degree for advanced clinical practice roles as well as nursing administration, nursing education and research.

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

The BSN program has produced more than 2,355 RNs since its inception. The MSN program, which began in 1992, has produced more than 489 graduates, many of whom are from disadvantaged backgrounds, with an average pass rate of 95 percent on the national certification exam (exceeding the national average).

The School of Nursing is the largest producer of Black MSN graduates, accounting for nearly three-fourths of all Black family nurse practitioners residing in the state of Louisiana, thereby fulfilling a significant role in building a diverse nursing workforce that is representative of the population of care. Of the 328 accredited MSN (FNP) programs nationwide, the School of Nursing was selected as one of the two best value programs in the state of Louisiana for 2019-2020. Programs were selected based on their affordability, quality, and value.

The graduate nursing program expanded in 2012 to fulfill its promise to build a stronger and more diverse advanced practiced registered nurse (APRN) workforce in Louisiana and has produced 30 DNP graduates since its inception. This practice-focused doctoral nursing program is designed for nurses seeking careers in advanced clinical nursing practice at the nurse executive leadership rank.

The Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) program, a research-oriented doctorate, focuses on global issues and public policy associated with the health of vulnerable women and children. The program prepares nurse scientists whose research trajectories expand the substantive knowledge base that informs nursing education, practice and research. Since its establishment in 2001, the Ph.D. program has produced 45 graduates.

Graduate faculty consists of nationally recognized educators, researchers and expert clinicians who are transforming health care and influencing policy. Graduate faculty are involved in various professional entities, including the National League for Nursing, Certified Nurse Educators, American Academy of Nursing, American Academy of Nurse Educators, American Association of Nurse Practitioners, National Gerontological Nursing Association, and the National Hartford Center of Gerontological Nursing Excellence. These faculty maintain specialty certifications, and hold leadership positions in local, state, and national professional nursing organizations.

See PROGRAM on page 8

Metro Council approves Mayor Broome's plan to use of \$73M from American Rescue Plan

"A future where our residents can rest assured their drainage ways are flowing as they should. A future where we know our youth and our families can live without fear of losing a loved one to gun violence or opioid overdoses."

BATON ROUGE, La. - The East Baton Rouge Parish Metro Council unanimously approved Mayor Sharon Weston Broome's plan to use \$73M allocated to the city-parish from the American Rescue Plan on Thursday, Nov. 4, according to the mayor's office.

The mayor says her plan will fund critical drainage projects, public safety, and economic initiatives in the parish.

"These proposed allotments will help us create a stronger future for East Baton Rouge Parish," said Mayor Broome. "A future where our residents can rest assured their drainage ways are flowing as they should. A future where we know our youth and our families can live without fear of losing a loved one to gun violence or opioid overdoses. A future where everyone can rest assured they have the resources they need to lead Safe, Hopeful and Healthy lives."

Mayor Broome says the Metro Council approved the following initiatives:

- \$20 million for additional drainage improvements:
 - \$6 million for drainage box and pipe cleaning
 - \$1 million for roadside drainage cave-ins
 - \$1 million for roadside ditch cleaning
 - \$1.4 million for engineering/project management
 - \$5 million for Jones Creek Watershed drainage improvements
 - \$5.6 million for channel clearing and grubbing
 - \$14.2 million for Community Violence Intervention Initiatives:
 - \$1.8 million to increase and enhance the BRPD's technological capabilities, benefiting law enforcement throughout East Baton Rouge Parish including automated license plate readers and technology for strategic community camera programs.
 - \$3.3 million to implement gun violence reduction strategies in areas dominated by gun violence and increase community policing.
 - \$8 million for the replacement of BRPD patrol units and other vehicles.
 - \$100,000 for the Chances-Innovative Gun-Violence Intervention Program administered by the East Baton Rouge Parish District Attorney's Office (EBRPDA), a program that will target youthful offenders who have been identified as most at risk of either committing a gun violence offense or being victimized by gun violence.
 - \$100,000 for the expansion of the Hospital Violence Intervention Program (HVIP) administered by the EBRPDA, a program that focuses on patients who are victims of violence/intentional injuries and seeks to capitalize on such potentially life-altering moments in an effort to disrupt the cycles, and further perpetuation of violence. Studies show that survivors of violent/traumatic experiences are significantly more likely to be re-victimized and/or become violent offenders themselves.
- \$2 million for equipment upgrades for Baton Rouge Fire Department including emergency vehicles and facilities.
- \$2.25 million for blight elimination which could include removing or demolishing dilapidated buildings or structures and clearing vegetative growth and debris from vacant lots.
- \$1.4 million for security and COVID-19 safety upgrades at the entrances of City Hall which could include the installation of new doors with hands-free capability to limit the transmission of the coronavirus and other viruses, metal detectors and possession scanners, and check-in kiosks that provide information for constituents and employees.
- \$4 million for HVAC upgrades to improve the indoor air quality and ventilation at the River Center arena, City Hall, the Public Safety Complex, the Louisiana Arts and Science Museum and the Advanced Traffic Management building.
- \$1.2 million to provide proper office space for social distancing at the Public Safety Complex.
- \$2 million for upgrades at BRPD's First and Second Precinct Headquarters.
- \$6 million to provide partial funding for the proposed Housing for Hero development, a multi-use low and moderate-income housing development for essential workers and professionals located in a Qualified Census Tract area.
- \$1.5 million to provide partial funding for a two-story mixed-use, mixed-income, urban development on Plank Road that will include an Early Head Start center run by the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) of Greater Baton Rouge.
- \$1.9 million to enhance City-Parish cybersecurity technology software and infrastructure.
- \$3 million for grant and program administration to assist with the administering and reporting requirements of the American Rescue Plan Act funding.

IBR CITY OF BATON ROUGE PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE METRO COUNCIL



Sharon Weston Broome

by collecting and sharing data.

■ \$500,000 for additional special prosecutors and public defenders on matters relating to the ongoing backlog of cases.

■ \$250,000 for youth employment programs that directly address the negative economic impacts of the pandemic on young people and their families and communities.

■ \$4 million for premium pay to essential employees (this proposal is pending an Attorney General opinion).

■ \$2 million for Economic Development and Tourism Initiatives in response to the pandemic's negative impact on the tourism industry and related sectors.

■ \$9.6 million for equipment upgrades for Baton Rouge Fire Department including emergency vehicles and facilities.

■ \$2.25 million for blight elimination which could include removing or demolishing dilapidated buildings or structures and clearing vegetative growth and debris from vacant lots.

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■ \$3 million for grant and program administration to assist with the administering and reporting requirements of the American Rescue Plan Act funding.



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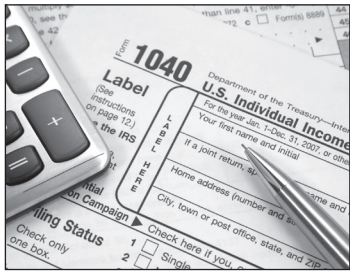
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CHANGE from page 1

hold sales taxes owed to municipalities when state officials are unhappy with local decisions.

"We cannot afford to let politicians who have no ties to New Orleans make decisions that affect our future without our input or guidance," the mayor said in a campaign email.

Local government associations would get four seats on the commission. The revenue department, the governor, the House speaker and the Senate president would appoint the other four members.



For Constitutional Amendment 2, the one-sentence ballot language suggests voters are making a decision purely about whether to cut taxes. But the amendment involves a tax tradeoff that won't lower everyone's taxes.

A multibill package tied to the amendment would get rid of personal income tax and corporate tax deductions for federal income taxes paid in exchange for lowering income tax rates. Louisiana also would eliminate the corporate franchise tax for small businesses, lower the rate for others and do away with most excess itemized deductions taken by middle- and upper-income earners.

Under the current system, when federal income taxes go up, Louisiana collects less in state taxes. When federal income taxes go down, state tax collections rise. That leaves Louisiana out of control of its own tax collections — one of only a few states with such ties.

"This is an effort to improve our tax structure and make it less complicated than it needs to be," the nonpartisan Council for A Better Louisiana said.

The Legislature's chief economist, Greg Albrecht, said most individual income taxpayers who don't itemize would see a tax cut, while those who itemize likely would pay more. On the business side, Albrecht's study estimated fewer than 2% of those who file corporate taxes would see tax bills rise.

Opponents criticize the tax package as more generous to corporations and the rich. The left-leaning Louisiana Budget Project, which advocates for low- to moderate-income people, also objects to triggers in the package that would lower tax rates in later years if Louisiana hits certain revenue growth, rather than allowing the state to spend that money on services.

"It just doesn't meet the test of reform," Jan Moller, head of the organization, said in an online discussion about the amendments.

In exchange for losing the tax break for federal taxes paid, taxpayers would receive a 1.85% personal income tax rate on the first \$12,500 of net income, down from 2%. The tax rate for the next \$37,500 of income would fall from 4% to 3.5%, and the rate for income above \$50,000 would drop from 6% to 4.25%.

Lawmakers wouldn't ever be able to raise personal income tax rates above 4.75% without getting voter approval.

On the corporate side, the proposal would scrap rates that range from 4% to 8% and companies would lose the ability to deduct federal taxes paid from their state taxes. In exchange, companies would see a 3.5% tax rate on the first \$50,000 of earnings; 5.5% on earnings above \$50,000 and up to \$150,000; and 7.5% on earnings above \$150,000.

JOB ACT from page 1

ing has not yet been fully identified," said DOTD Secretary Shawn D. Wilson, Ph.D., President of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials. "Our state's infrastructure system is relying solely on a fuel tax that's over 30 years old; as a result, we have a backlog of \$15 billion in road and bridge repairs that will never be eliminated with the current gas tax. In recent years we've relied heavily on federal dollars and innovative funding methods, such as public-private partnerships, to continue investing in our aging transportation system. Not only will this act benefit infrastructure projects, but it will also greatly help our multimodal system such as our waterways, ports and rail programs. With this funding, DOTD will be able to close the gap in funding on major projects and implement more projects to help slow the backlog of growing needs. I applaud Senator Bill Cassidy of our state who was instrumental in gathering bipartisan support for this bill in the Senate, and we are grateful for his hard work. I would also like to thank Congressman Troy Carter for his vote and continued support to improve Louisiana's infrastructure."

NATIONAL

COLIN POWELL

Former presidents and dignitaries pay tribute to 'A great lion with a big heart'



US President Joe Biden (C), First Lady Jill Biden, and former President Barack Obama (R) attend the funeral service of former Secretary of State Colin Powell at Washington National Cathedral on November 05, 2021 in Washington, DC. - Powell who was battling a rare blood cancer, died last month at 84 from complications related to Covid-19.

Gen. Colin Powell was remembered Friday as a patriotic statesman who served his country in peace and war at a funeral service that was marked not only by its reverence for the former secretary of state but by a bipartisan attendance of former presidents and dignitaries who paid tribute to the late giant of Washington.

While much was made of his leadership and life of public service in tributes to Powell, friends and family shared personal anecdotes and mourned him as a family man and "a great lion with a big heart." Powell died on October 18 from complications from Covid-19 at the age of 84.

"The example of Colin Powell does not call on us to emulate his resume, which is too formidable for mere mortals. It is to emulate his character and his example as a human being. We can strive to do that. We can choose to be good," former FCC chair Michael Powell, Powell's son, said in a moving tribute to his father.

"My father made a monumental difference. He lived, he lived well. I've heard it asked, 'Are we still making his kind?' I believe the answer to that question is up to us. To honor his legacy, I hope we do more than consign him to the history books. I hope we recommit ourselves to being a nation where we are still making his kind," he said.

At one point, Michael Powell spoke of how he held his father's hand in the ICU the night before he died and how he "felt my father's love in that hand."

"That hand that took my mother's hand in matrimony, that hand that held me as baby, that hand that signed report cards, tossed baseballs and fixed old

cars, that hand that signed treaties and war orders, saluted service members and gestured joyfully while telling a story," Powell said, his voice quivering with emotion. "That hand is still now, but it left a deep imprint on the lives of family and dear friends, soldiers and sailors, presidents and prime ministers, and a generation of aspiring young people."

Richard Armitage, who shared a 40-year friendship with Powell and served for a time as Powell's deputy secretary of state, recalled Powell's "sense of humor, his insatiable curiosity and his comfort in his own skin." Madeleine Albright, Powell's predecessor at the State Department, noted that despite their differences in background, she and Powell became close friends.

"The reason is that, beneath that glossy exterior of warrior statesman, was one of the gentlest and most decent people any of us will ever meet," Albright said.

The solemn service, which was closed to the public but broadcast on television, brought together leaders from both parties at Washington National Cathedral.

President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden were seated in the front pew, along with former Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama and former first ladies Laura Bush and Michelle Obama. Former Secretaries of State Hillary Clinton and Condoleezza Rice and current Secretary of State Antony Blinken were there, along with current Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Mark Milley. Former Presidents Bill Clinton, who was recently hospitalized with an infection, and Donald Trump were not in attendance.

The musical selections for the funeral's organ and brass prelude were a mix of patriotic songs, religious hymns and popular music, including Bob Marley's "Three Little Birds," a nod to his Jamaican heritage, and ABBA's "Dancing Queen," as Powell was a noted fan of the Swedish pop group.

Armitage also spoke of Powell's love of music and of the church, and how nothing made him happier than

to "sneak away" from his security detail when he was working at State.

Michael Powell said his father's "zest for life derived from his endless passion for people."

"He was genuinely interested in everyone he met. He loved the hot dog vendor, a bank teller, a janitor and a student as much as any world leader," he said of his father.

Michael Powell added that while his father was famous for his "13 rules," "our family life was unregimented" and their home was "warm and joyous and loving."

Powell's daughter, Annema-

See **POWELL** on page 7

Southern University, Sasol announce \$1 million endowment and scholarship program

Southern University and A&M College and Sasol, an international chemicals and energy company with operations in Southwest Louisiana, announced today a long-term partnership to establish an interdisciplinary academic initiative to provide research, career development and training support to Southern students in Louisiana.

This partnership will provide Southern students with the resources needed to enter the workforce in high-demand, high-growth fields. Louisiana's business climate continues to rank at the top of the national list, and this partnership works to maintain that competitive advantage.

"I applaud Southern University and Sasol on being committed to workforce development and creating new opportunities for



all Louisianans to be successful," Gov. John Bel Edwards said.

The fund, developed in honor of South African Ambassador to the United States MJ Mahlangu, will create the Sasol Endowed Chair in the Nelson Mandela College of Government and Social Sciences. A doctoral fellowship will also be awarded to a Southern doctoral student conducting research on a global issue in environmental science policy, global science policy, science education, increasing minority participation in global commerce, or corporate

See **SASSOL** on page 8

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Why Won't Democrats Fight?

BY JULIANNE MALVEAUX,
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Julianne Malveaux

Not a day goes by that I don't get a text or three from the Democratic National Committee asking for contributions. Sometimes they come from Vice President Harris. Sometimes, from President Biden himself. Occasionally, from House Speaker Nancy Pelosi or DNC Chair Jaime Harrison. Not to mention the texts that come from Congressional candidates all over the country, looking for \$10, \$17, or \$27. I don't know where they get these odd numbers from, nor do I know where they got mine. I suppose someone I donated to, sold their list, and I am likely to be cyber-panhandled indefinitely.

I sometimes contribute to Democratic political candidates, as well as to the Democratic party. I'm not so in the mood to contribute these days because Democrats are so busy fighting each other that they won't put up an aggressive fight for people's economic rights. They seem willing to streamline the Biden Build Back Better plan instead of insisting that our human infrastructure – childcare and elder care, school improvement – is as critical as our physical one.

To be sure, politics is the art of compromise. Someone needs to send Mitch McConnell the memo. He does not want to raise the debt ceiling, putting a vote on that off until December. He does not want Biden's \$3.5 trillion infrastructure repair plan. He does not want to guarantee voting rights. And few Republicans are willing to stand up to him, instead of hiding behind party unity, even when they know better.

But I'm not worried about Republicans. I'm angry about the dithering Democrats who can't seem to get off their rusty duffs and do what they were elected to do. I'm mad at the amount of power that has been ceded to West Virginia's Joe Manchin and Arizona's Krysten Sinema, who would cut the Biden proposal by more than half. If Manchin had his way, the Biden plan would be whittled to \$1.5 trillion from the initially proposed \$3.5 trillion. Manchin's colleagues need to invite him to a small room to have an impactful conversation about his role. He also needs to be reminded that many of his constituents in one of our nation's most impoverished states would benefit mightily from the Biden plan.

While Republicans don't seem to roll their sleeves up and get into the trenches, some Democrats behave as if they are sipping tea and munching on scones at an afternoon garden party, a portrait in civility. Dems seem reluctant to call some Republicans the liars, hypocrites, and scalawags that they are. While name-calling can be perceived as uncivil, so

can lying, cheating, and stealing. Civility plus the filibuster will get the American people nothing. It is time for Democrats to play hardball.

Younger Democratic members of Congress get hardball. They've been playing hardball with the older Democratic establishment, vowing not to vote for beneficial legislation if it does not honor their demands, especially for human infrastructure needs. They've dug their heels in and have threatened to withhold votes until their demands are heeded. I like their fighting spirit, but not the likely results. Are they prepared to walk away with nothing? A pared-down infrastructure bill? No legislation at all?

President Biden and Vice President Harris, along with other members of the Biden-Harris team, need to take this to the people and the streets. Most people support most provisions of the Build Back Better legislation. West Virginians and Arizonans need to get in Manchin and Sinema's faces and demand flexibility from them. And Republican senators also need to face a deluge of telephone calls, emails and more, demanding that they budge and put some infrastructure money in the economy.

Democrats are imperiling their chances to keep Congress and the Senate in 2022. Their inaction lets indifferent voters know what going out on a limb for Democrats may not have the desired results when we live with politics as usual. The filibuster elevates the minority over the majority and favors predatory capitalism over fairness.

To be sure, the Biden-Harris Administration has been productive in their short nine months in office, with appointments, regulatory corrections, and more. They've also committed too many unforced errors and exposed themselves to public ridicule because of the mistakes (Afghanistan, Haiti, and more). And Dems have allowed themselves to be portrayed as weak quills who won't fight for people's rights.

In some ways, Dems are great at fighting, especially when we are fighting each other. Memo to Dems: Fight enemies of progress, not each other. And don't expect either votes or contributions if you are unwilling to fight for the people who voted for you.

Dr. Julianne Malveaux is an economist, author and Dean of the College of Ethnic Studies at Cal State LA.

Congress Should Remove 'Blood Thirsty' Rep. Gosar for Fantasy About Murdering AOC, President Biden

BY STACY M. BROWN
NNPA Newswire
Senior National Correspondent

Stacy M. Brown

The Congressional Black Caucus is leading the call for sanctions against Arizona Republican Congressman Paul Gosar after tweeting a video depicting him striking New York Democratic Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez with a sword.

The Arizona Republican's fantasy of butchering the congresswoman continues as he appears to attack President Joe Biden in the reimagined video physically. "A creepy member I work with shared a fantasy video of him killing," Rep. Ocasio-Cortez shared on Twitter, while also noting that institutions "don't protect women of color."

During the 90-second video, Rep. Gosar shares an altered version of a Japanese anime series, shots of border patrol officers and migrants.

The animated characters' faces are replaced with Congressman Gosar and Republican Reps. Marjorie Taylor Greene and Lauren Boebert are pictured fighting other characters. Rep. Gosar's character viciously attacks and strikes Ocasio-Cortez in the neck with a sword. "This dude is a just a collection of wet toothpicks anyway," the New York representative remarked.

"White supremacy is for extremely fragile people and sad men like him, whose self-concept relies on the myth that he was born superior because deep down he knows he couldn't open a pickle jar or read a whole book by himself."

Twitter flagged the tweet with officials noting that it violated the platform's rules concerning hateful conduct. They declined to remove the tweet but placed a "public interest notice" on the message.

"[Twitter] determined that it may be in the public's interest for the Tweet to remain accessible," a spokesperson stated.

But Caucus members said they would seek harsh discipline for Con-

gressman Gosar.

"This man should not serve in Congress," Rep. Ilhan Omar stated. "Fantasizing about violently attacking your colleagues has no place in our political discourse and society." Congressman Ted Lieu (D-Calif.) called Gosar's action "sick."

"In any workplace in America, if a coworker made an anime video killing another coworker, that person would be fired," Lieu wrote on Twitter. Noting that Gosar and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy are ardent supporters of former President Donald Trump, California Democratic Rep. Eric Swalwell called the Republicans "blood thirsty."

"These blood-thirsty losers are more comfortable with violence than voting. So keep exposing them," Swalwell demanded.

Congressman Adam Schiff (D-Calif.) also weighed in.

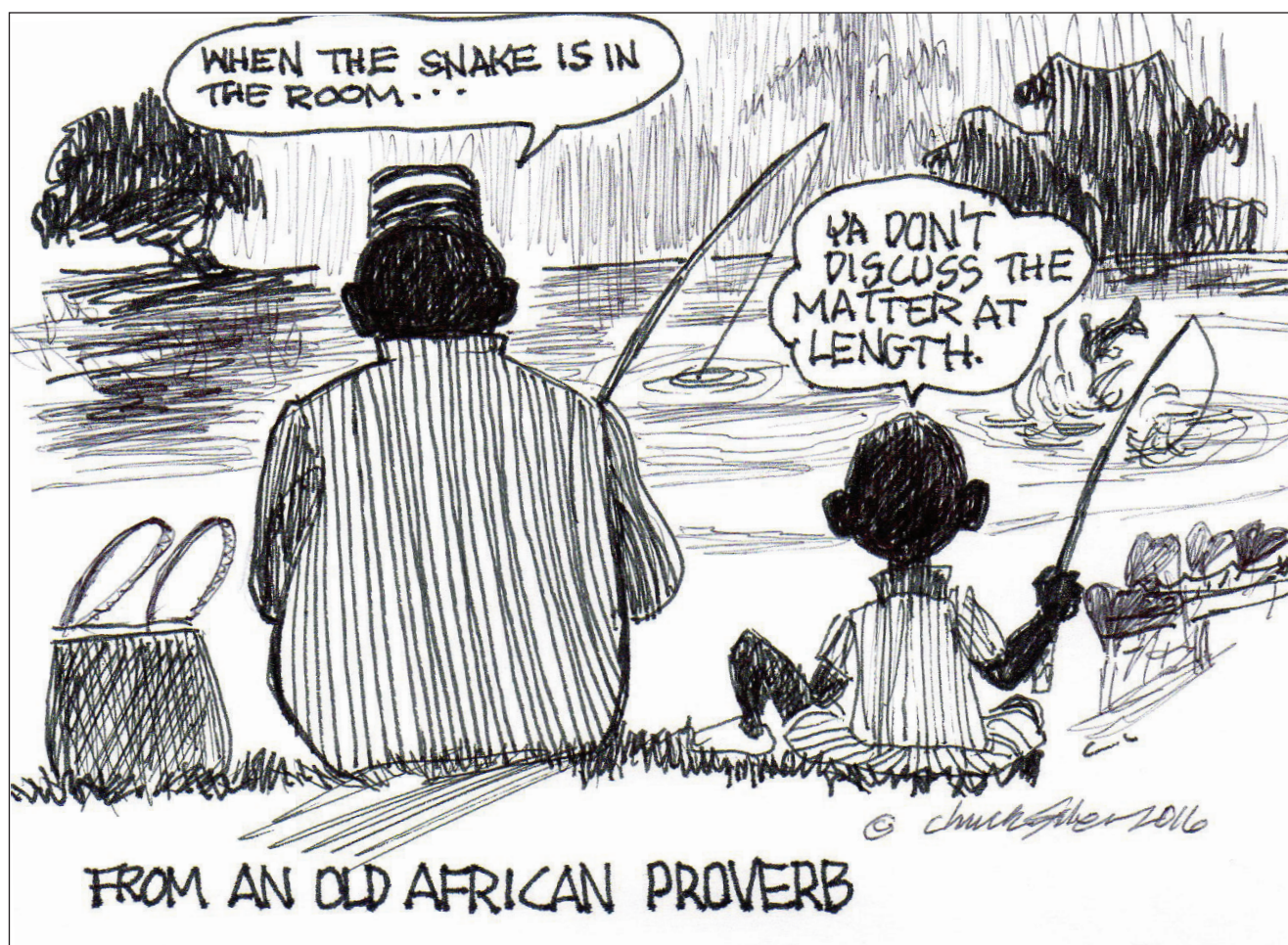
"Rep. Paul Gosar has no business being in Congress. [Republicans] are repeatedly glorifying violence," Schiff stated in a national television interview.

Activist Barbara Malmset also expressed outrage.

"Gosar must be removed from Congress right now," Malmset insisted. "Hopefully [Rep. Ocasio-Cortez] has extra protection from the crazies."

Writer and producer Matthew Sheffield called Rep. Gosar a racist and Christian supremacist and denounced the media's coverage of the foolishly contrived "Sen. Ted Cruz vs. Big Bird" faux controversy.

"America's elite media is obsessing over fake anger at Big Bird [instead of Rep. Gosar's actions]," Sheffield wrote.



Black America Supports Biden's Build Back Better and Infrastructure Bills

By Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr.,
National Newspaper Publishers Association
President and CEO

For 194 years the Black Press of America has consistently "pleaded our own cause" for freedom, justice, equality and empowerment. Today we continue to plead that all elected officials at the federal, state, and local levels do all that is politically possible to act and to ensure progress that significantly improves the quality of life for our families, communities and businesses.

Now is the time for the Congress of the United States to act and to vote to pass President Joe Biden's bold and consequential legislations: Build Back Better Framework and Infrastructure bills. Surveying across African American communities throughout the nation reveals overwhelming support for President Joe Biden's legislative initiatives.

Decades ago, when The Honorable Congressman Adam Clayton Powell (D-NY) would repeatedly say, "Keep the faith, baby," it was actually a call to action for Black America and for the U.S. Congress.

The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) salutes all the members of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), Congressional Hispanic Caucus, and the Progressive Caucus. In particular we acknowledge the outstanding leadership of CBC Chair, The Honorable Joyce Beatty (D-OH).

Here are the pertinent racial equity facts concerning Biden's legislative agenda that must be voted on now without delay:

President Biden believes we must invest in our country and communities of color by creating good jobs, lowering costs that hold back families, and building an economy where not just the wealthy get ahead.

The Build Back Better Agenda and the bipartisan infrastructure deal will deliver progress towards this vision for working families across the country.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal will create good-paying, union jobs all across the country by fixing our roads and bridges, replacing lead pipes, installing electric vehicle charging stations, and more.

And the Build Back Better Agenda invests in our people and gives working people in this country a fair shot to build a decent middle-class life, succeed, and thrive – instead of just trying to get by.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal includes investments that will take critical steps in advancing equity and racial justice throughout our economy – making our economy more fair, equitable, and just.

BROADBAND: Ensures every American has access to reliable high-speed internet with a historic investment in broadband infrastruc-

ture deployment, helping lower prices for internet service and helping all Americans do their jobs, equally participate in school, access health care, and stay connected. Black families are 9% less likely to have high-speed internet than their white peers, and Latino Americans are 15% less likely. The deal will help close the digital divide.

CLEAN WATER: Makes the largest investment in clean drinking water in American history, replacing all of the nation's lead service pipes to deliver safe and clean drinking water to families and children – including the families of color who are at highest risk for lead exposure. Communities of color in cities like Chicago, Milwaukee, and Newark are also at particular risk.

TRANSIT: Makes the largest federal investment in public transit to modernize our transit and replace thousands of transit vehicles, including buses, with clean, zero-emissions vehicles – reducing commute times and creating more opportunity for communities of color. Bus and transit workers are 31% Black and 19% Hispanic, compared to 12% and 18% respectively of the workforce overall.

ELECTRIC BUSES: Delivers thousands of electrical school buses nationwide, including in rural communities, while helping school districts buy clean, American-made, zero-emissions buses and help make sure kids can breathe clean air since polluted air disproportionately impacts kids of color.

LEGACY POLLUTION: Makes the largest investment in the country's history to address legacy pollution, cleaning up Superfund sites, Brownfields, coal and hard rock mines, and abandoned oil and natural gas wells to create good-paying, union jobs and advance environmental justice – including in rural communities and communities of color. 26% of Black Americans and 29% of Hispanic Americans live within 3 miles of a Superfund site, a higher percentage than for Americans overall.

RESILIENCE: Makes the largest investment in the resilience of physical and natural systems in American history, helping safeguard communities of color from the climate crisis and extreme weather events since people of color are more likely to live in areas most vulnerable to these risks that can wash out roads, cause power outages, or flood schools. People of color are more likely to live in areas most vulnerable to flooding and other climate change-related weather.

And, President Biden and Democrats in Congress are making progress on the Build Back Better which will:

CLIMATE: To position the U.S. to tackle the climate crisis and advance environmental justice, the plan creates good-paying, union jobs – like those building electric cars – that

build a clean energy future, strengthens our nation's resilience to more frequent extreme weather events, puts people to work capping wells and restoring abandoned mines, and puts in place tax cuts that accelerate clean energy technology and bolster domestic supply chains.

HEALTH: The plan makes health care costs and premiums more affordable by extending the American Rescue Plan's cost savings, closing the Medicaid gap for low-income Americans, letting Medicare negotiate drug prices to lower prescription drug costs, and helping seniors access critical health care services like dental, vision, and hearing care.

Extending the ARP's cost savings helps 360,000 Black people and 730,000 Latinos save an average of \$50 per person per month and allows 328,000 uninsured Black people and 580,000 uninsured Latinos to gain coverage.

The plan also adds dental, vision, and hearing coverage for the more than 5.8 million Black people and 5 million Hispanic people on Medicare and closes the Medicaid gap for low-income Americans.

FAMILY: The plan makes caring for your family more affordable by extending the Child Tax Credit; making child care and elder care more affordable; helping people, especially women, get back into the workforce; and making sure every 3- and 4-year old in America can go to pre-k.

Only 62.6 percent of all three- and four-year-old Black children and only 59.4 percent of all three- and four-year-old Hispanic children are enrolled in preschool or kindergarten programs.

The President is working to get both pieces of legislation across the finish line, and the American people are demanding exactly the kind of investment that President Biden and the Democrats are proposing. These are investments that will create jobs, lower taxes, and make life more affordable for working families.

Keeping the faith is not about patience or procrastination. It is about the courage to act, vote, and to enact legislation in real time. That time is now. Congress finally must now vote to approve Biden's Build Back Better and Infrastructure bills. The future of our communities and the future of the nation are at stake.

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. is President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and Executive Producer/Host of The Chavis Chronicles weekly on PBS TV stations throughout the United States; and can be reached at dr.bchavis@nnpa.org

FEMA Changing Rules That Have Historically Deprived African Americans of Crucial Aid

By Stacy M. Brown,
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

In the past, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) – relied on deeds to prove that land belonged to disaster victims before sending relief funds.

However, those guidelines proved to deny aid to many African American applicants whose homes or land were inherited informally without written wills.

But, as first reported by NBC News, the rules quietly have changed.

As floodwaters and the after-effects of Hurricane Ida ravaged Louisiana, Mississippi, and eventually wreaked havoc in the northeast, FEMA officials announced that there will be significant changes in how they verify the ownership status of disaster relief applicants, noting that the objective in making the changes is to better assist applicants whose property was inherited without a will.

"What we're trying to do is make sure that we understand each individual

situation is unique and that we need not have a one-size-fits-all approach," FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell told the news outlet.

"We're going to continue to try to improve our program and make additional changes. Some of them we can do right away, like this. Some of them will require some regulatory change," she said. "But we are really driving hard to make these changes."

African Americans, particularly those in southern states, have routinely had difficulty proving property ownership.

Even without a damaging natural disaster, the Gullah Geechee community of St. Helena Island told the Black Press last year that they were fighting to protect their lands and the legacy left by their ancestors, who toiled for lifetimes under the brutal oppression of slavery.

Local tax officials held an auction of some of the property on the island belonging to families, citing delinquent tax payments that have accumulated over the years.

The descendants who have lived in the

Gullah Geechee community, which extends the coastal areas of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, possessed deeds but lacked titles to their properties.

Many in the community discovered that their ancestors left no wills and never possessed a title.

That was primarily because of oppressive laws.

The freed slaves were deprived of an education and were at the mercy of White men who sold the land for as little as \$1.25 per acre and never provided appropriate sale documentation.

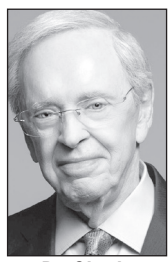
"The heirs don't have a title in their names," said Sara Reynolds Green, an activist, and farmer who raises produce on the St. Helena plot of land passed down throughout her family's generations.

While FEMA's new rules don't necessarily apply to St. Helena, they should provide a more level playing field for African Americans affected by hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, and other disasters.

RELIGION

When God looks on us with favor

Thus saith the Lord, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest? 2 For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the Lord: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.— Isaiah 66:1-2



Dr. Charles Stanley

Believers are always under the canopy of God's grace and love. Nothing we do can change that. At the same time, our behavior and heart condition do determine whether we receive the fullness of His blessings. Today's passage teaches us how to experience the Father's favor.

First, He desires that we have a contrite heart and a humble spirit (Ps. 51:17). For that to be the case, all aspects of our lives must be surrendered to Jesus. Yet some dreams, desires, and people are difficult to release into His hands.

Anything we do not give over to His authority is evidence of pride, the exact opposite of what our Father wants in His children. Remember that "God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble" (James 4:6). Lack of submission proves that we think our way is better than His plan.

Second, God tells us to tremble at His Word (Isa. 66:2). Scripture—the unfolding revelation of Jesus Himself—is living and powerful to teach and transform us. Consider how we treat this treasure. Do we devote time each day to know what the Bible says and how to apply its principles? Do we hunger for more of the Word in our lives so we can know its Author better? One measure of our reverence is obedience: to honor the Lord, we must obey Him.

We all desire God's favor. Are you living in a manner that positions you to receive His full blessings? Prayerfully consider whether you have submitted all areas of your life—from finances and health to relationships and work habits—to Jesus Christ. Recognize His authority in all things, and revere His Word.

For more biblical teaching and resources from Dr. Charles Stanley, please visit www.intouch.org.

Leadership and counsel from above

BY CREFFLO DALLAR

Getting wise advice is the key to making good decisions. The input we receive from others before we take action can guide us into the right choices; however, the opposite is also true when we follow foolish advice. Therefore, we must be mindful of who we go to for guidance. Following advice from the world leads us astray; following advice from godly people allows God to give us His wisdom.

In the Old Testament, one of the reasons why David was so successful was that he routinely sought out God's counsel before battle and prior to making any important decisions. When he went to war with the Philistines he wouldn't make a move without consulting God, first. David succeeded because he trusted God for leadership (1 Samuel 23:2-5). We need the same kind of wisdom.

Surrounding ourselves with godly advisors greatly boosts our chances of success. Life has many hidden pitfalls we'll never see with our own limited knowledge. What can appear calm on the surface may be completely different underneath. Whether we blunder into a bad situation or stay safe depends on who



Pastor Crefflo Dollar

we listen to. "Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors there is safety" (Proverbs 11:14).

There's a cost to everything we do. Gathering information before taking the first step in something gives us the insight we need to calculate the best course of action. When everything is on the line, we can't afford to make the wrong decision.

For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand?

(Luke 14:28-31).

The wisdom to see something through to a successful finish comes only from God.

Accepting advice can be humbling, but it enables God to give us the guidance we need. He knows much more than we do. Depending on God to tell us where to step, and what to avoid, gives us a tremendous advantage over others who depend on themselves to make the right call. "Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end" (Proverbs 19:20).

Taking godly advice is difficult, if not impossible, for proud people. Refusing to listen to others' warnings against doing something that will end badly can cause us to make avoidable mistakes. God calls such prideful people fools. "Fools think their own way is right, but the wise listen to others" (Proverbs 12:15, NLT). Often our willingness to accept a course correction from other believers is an indication of our spiritual maturity.

Life has too many moving parts to successfully navigate it on our own. Sometimes the best advice is to simply rely on God to lead us where

See **LEADERSHIP** on page 7

Motown Gospel celebrates three nominations for 2021 Soul Train Awards



Tasha Cobbs Leonard



Brian Courtney Wilson



Kelly Price

NASHVILLE, TN — Motown Gospel celebrates three nominations in this year's 34th annual Soul Train Awards. Tasha Cobbs Leonard, Brian Courtney Wilson and Kelly Price were each recognized in this year's Best Gospel/Inspirational category, a testament

See **AWARDS** on page 7

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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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Live Vape Free gives teens new tool to quit vaping

Improved mental health cited as one important reason to quit



NEW ORLEANS, La. – The Louisiana Campaign for Tobacco-Free Living (TFL) and Well-Ahead Louisiana are calling on youth to quit vaping and offering them a new tool to help.

Live Vape Free is a free texting program for Louisiana teens ages 13 to 17 who use e-cigarettes or vapes. The interactive program teaches skills that teens can use to quit vaping for good.

“We’ve learned that rates of depression and anxiety in children and adolescents have doubled since the start of the pandemic,” said Dr. Earl Benjamin-Robinson, director of TFL. “While teens may be turning to vapes to help with their mental state, another study has shown that sustained use of e-cigarettes actually increases the rates of depressive symptoms in youth.”

“This, along with the physical harm vaping causes, makes it more important than ever that teens know about the cessation resources available to them.”

The rate of e-cigarette use among Louisiana teens has tripled since 2015, according to the Louisiana Youth Tobacco Survey. Live Vape Free is part of cessation services offered through the Louisiana Tobacco Quitline.

“Teenagers always seem to be on their phones, so we wanted to offer this support to meet them where they are,” explained Well-Ahead Louisiana Director Melissa Martin. “Quitting a tobacco product isn’t easy for anyone, but we must provide the tools to help our residents – even our youth – try.”

The support provided through Live Vape Free is text-message-

based and offers interactive coaching specifically geared towards teens. Participants have access to a Quit Coach at any time who can provide additional education, tools, and guidance to help them along their quit journey. Features include videos, quizzes, self-assessments, podcasts, and help for a teen to find their “why.”

Any teen in Louisiana ages 13 to 17 can enroll by texting “VAPE-FREE” to 873373 and answering a few quick questions to get started.

The Louisiana Tobacco Quitline is a 24-hour, confidential, free tobacco cessation helpline that links people who are ready to quit using tobacco with trained tobacco cessation specialists who help create an individualized plan to quit. The Quitline can provide Louisiana residents free counseling and nicotine replacement therapies to help them quit tobacco for good.

A program of the Louisiana Public Health Institute, TFL engages in local and statewide tobacco control policy efforts that focus on preventing tobacco use, eliminating exposure to second-hand smoke, promoting cessation services, and identifying and eliminating tobacco-related disparities. For more information, visit www.tobaccofreeliving.org.

Well-Ahead Louisiana is the chronic disease prevention and healthcare access arm of the state Department of Health. Well-Ahead connects communities to tools and resources that help improve the health of Louisiana’s residents where they live, work, learn and play. For more information, visit www.wellaheadla.com.

POWELL from page 4

rie Powell Lyons, also delivered a reading from the Bible during the service.

Considered a “favorite” of presidents, Powell served in several top roles in Republican administrations, most famously in the younger Bush’s administration.

Powell was also national security adviser to former President Ronald Reagan and chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for former President George H. W. Bush. He was the first African American man in US history to fill those roles.

He again broke barriers when President George W. Bush selected him to be the 65th secretary of state. When he was sworn-in in 2001, Powell became the first Black US secretary of state and the highest-ranking Black public official to date in the country, standing fourth in the presidential line of succession.

LEADERSHIP from page 6

we need to go. “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths” (Proverbs 3:5, 6). He’ll never steer us wrong.

AWARDS from page 6

to the impact of their music over the past year.

“It’s always incredible when our artists can be recognized for their musical contributions,” share EJ Gaines & Monica Coates, Co-Executive Directors, Motown Gospel. “It’s particularly special when that recognition comes from an institution like Soul Train, which has had such an impact on the culture of America.”

Tasha Cobbs Leonard, recently dubbed the Top Gospel Artist of the Decade by Billboard, continues to deliver chart-topping music following the release of her latest full-length LP, *Royalty: Live at the Ryman*, at the end of 2020. This year alone, her televised appearances have included two separate performances on Good Morning America and a performance of her inspiring rendition of “Lift Every Voice & Sing” on CNN’s annual Fourth in America special broadcast on Independence Day.

Powell’s legacy would be defined by two US wars against Iraq. He was viewed as a hero in the 1991 Gulf War, overseeing Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

His record, however, was marred by his 2003 speech before the United Nations, in which he pushed faulty US intelligence about weapons of mass destruction to advocate for the US to go to war with Iraq. Powell left public office in January 2005.

Despite spending majority of his public service career in Republican administrations, Powell would later support Democratic presidential candidates and told CNN after the January 6 attack at the US Capitol that he no longer considered himself a Republican.

He broke with his party to support Obama’s 2008 campaign and endorsed him again in 2012. Powell voted for Hillary Clinton in 2016 over Trump, whom he called a “national disgrace and an international pariah,” and supported Biden over Trump’s bid for a second term in 2020.

Powell also had a storied military career, serving two tours of duty in South Vietnam in the 1960s.

He is survived by his wife, Alma Vivian (Johnson) Powell, whom he married in 1962, as well as three children.

Brian Courtney Wilson’s newest album, *Still*, follows the timely and relevant convictions of his double-GRAMMY®-nominated A Great Work, and features the #1 radio single and title track, “Still.” With the recent release of his first holiday EP, *At Christmas*, Wilson continues to demonstrate why he is a favorite among male vocalists in gospel, inspirational and soul music.

Earlier this year, nine-time GRAMMY® nominated singer/songwriter Kelly Price released her 6-song EP, titled *Grace*, in partnership with Motown Gospel. Fueled by the lead single and title track, Price promoted the project on multiple national platforms, including The Breakfast Club, GMA3 and Access Hollywood.

The 2021 Soul Train Awards, hosted for the fourth consecutive year by Tisha Campbell and Tichina Arnold, will be taped at the world-famous Apollo Theater in New York City, and will air on BET on Sunday, November 28th at 8pm ET/7pm CST.

HEALTH

Up, Up and Away! Ochsner Officially Opens Pediatric Super-Clinic



Ochsner Baton Rouge announced the opening of its pediatric super-clinic inside Ochsner Medical Complex – The Grove. The public announcement of the clinic opening was made via a Facebook video highlighting the clinic space. In the video, children serve as clinical staff, while the patients are represented by superheroes.

BATON ROUGE – Ochsner Baton Rouge is excited to announce the opening of its pediatric super-clinic inside Ochsner Medical Complex – The Grove. The public announcement of the clinic opening was made via a Facebook video highlighting the clinic space. In the video, children serve as clinical staff, while the patients are represented by superheroes. The first child was seen inside the super-clinic at 7:40am on November 11th. In addition, the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for children is available from 4-7 p.m., on Thursday at the super-clinic.

The new space – which accounts for approximately 18,000 square feet and nearly the entire fifth floor of the building – combines pediatricians with pediatric specialty services all under one roof. This strategy will help parents avoid the traffic of Baton Rouge for appointments at various locations. In addition, the new super-clinic architecture provides children with a fun, friendly and welcoming environment that, as it becomes a familiar space, will help lower anxiety.

As medicine advances at an accelerated pace, most children do not need extended inpatient hospital services. The Grove does offer same-day surgical procedures for children through its surgical hospital component.

“This is a modern and medically advanced clinic built as a one-stop-shop dedicated to the health and well-being of our children,” stated Chuck Daigle, CEO, Ochsner Baton Rouge. “Most kids need outpatient services in a clinic or at a same-day surgery center – everything we have here at The Grove. Our team of dedicated providers deliver this care right here in Baton Rouge. It’s amazing to be able to bring your child to three doctor’s appointments all in one place, not driving to multiple locations.”

Design elements inside the space feature an underwater theme with bubbles, fish, bright ocean colors and thriving water plants on glass panels. A showcase of the waiting room is kid-friendly built-in cutouts intended for children to use as “kids only” reserved seating. Exam rooms were built on the exterior of the space, allowing for ample natural lighting to surround patient rooms and hallways.

Medical services include general pediatrics, pediatric gastroenterology, pediatric neurology, pediatric plastic and reconstructive surgery, pediatric orthopedics, pediatric urology, pediatric cancer care, pediatric hepatology, pediatric ENT (ear, nose & throat), pediatric pulmonology, pediatric general surgery, child and adolescent psychiatry, allergy and dermatology.

A key feature that will lead to physician-to-physician collaboration, idea generation and greater medical innovation is locating the physician spaces together inside the super-clinic’s core. With multiple specialties together, some children could have several appointments with different doctors on the same day and never leave their exam room.

There are 48 patient rooms on the fifth floor including a dedicated 3,318 square-foot child development center. This area within the super-clinic will feature physical, occupational, speech and feeding therapy. It is designed to provide personalized, family-centered patient care like Ochsner’s Michael R. Boh Center for Child Development. Additional services for children include EEG, infusion, pulmonary testing, and lactation support.

The project represents a \$6.8 million investment, which includes over \$700,000 in pediatric-specific medical equipment. The contractor for the project was The Lemoine Company and the architect was Grace Hebert Curtis Architects.

Ochsner Baton Rouge projects nearly 200,000 pediatric visits at The Grove in the next five years. In addition to The Grove, general pediatrics continues to be available at Ochsner clinics throughout the region at Ochsner Community Health - Brees Family Center and five Ochsner Health Centers (Bluebonnet South, Goodwood, O’Neal,



Ochsner Medical Complex – The Grove

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BUSINESS

Rural Sourcing to Establish 150-Job Software Development Center in Downtown Baton Rouge

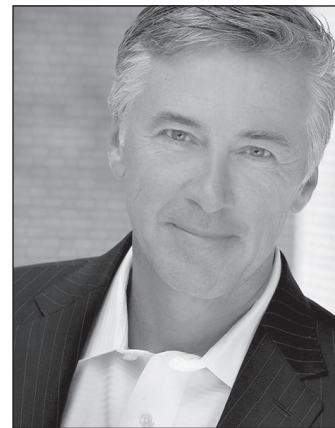
Louisiana office will be company's ninth; project to result in 166 indirect jobs



RURAL SOURCING



Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards



Rural Sourcing CEO Monty Hamilton



Mayor Sharon Weston Broome

BATON ROUGE, La. — The Baton Rouge Area Chamber (BRAC) joined Gov. John Bel Edwards and Rural Sourcing CEO Monty Hamilton in announcing that the company will establish a new software development center in downtown Baton Rouge. The project will create 150 direct new jobs with average salaries of \$75,000, plus benefits. Louisiana Economic Development estimates the project will result in 166 new indirect jobs, for a total of 316 new jobs in Louisiana's Capital Region.

Atlanta-based Rural Sourcing provides its clients easy access to multidisciplinary teams of software experts to build, deploy and optimize critical software applications. The company offers a variety of digital engineering services, including application development, data analytics, cloud migration, application security, and more. For its new Baton Rouge center, the company will hire for positions in full stack development, or roles that work on both front- and back-end website development.

"On behalf of Louisiana, I welcome Rural Sourcing to our state and to Baton Rouge," Gov. Edwards said. "As we work to strengthen and diversify our economy, I am proud that digital media and software development companies continue to find a home in Louisiana. Our highly skilled workforce, competitive resources and welcoming business climate will ensure that Rural Sourcing can hit the ground running on day one."

Established in 2009, Rural Sourcing provides information technology services for a wide variety of well-known clients. The company specializes in establishing operations and employing residents in middle-American cities.

"We chose Louisiana, and specifically Baton Rouge, because of its broad and diverse talent pool and more than 50,000 graduating students in the region," Hamilton said. "The focus and investment in STEM education at the middle and high school levels, as well as the state's overall investment in software development talent, make it a great location for us. The demand for our 'Scrum-as-a-Service' delivery model continues to grow among our Fortune 500 clients as well as for fast moving digital platform companies. Our plans are to create and fill 150 software engineering jobs in Louisiana to help meet this strong market need."

In addition to the Baton Rouge software development center, the company operates offices in Albuquerque, New Mexico; Augusta, Georgia; Fort Wayne, Indiana; Jonesboro, Arkansas; Madison, Wisconsin; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Mobile, Alabama, and Oklahoma City.

"Baton Rouge is excited to welcome Rural Sourcing to our community; this expansion project will bring quality job opportunities for our residents, and contribute to the economic growth we are seeing in our city and parish," said Baton Rouge Mayor-President

Sharon Weston Broome. "We have incredible talent in all of our parish's higher education institutions, and we are building our technology sector to provide more opportunities to retain our young professionals after graduation."

To secure Rural Sourcing's development center in Baton Rouge, the State of Louisiana provided the company with a competitive incentive package, which includes the services of LED FastStart, ranked the No. 1 workforce development program in the nation for the past 12 years. Additionally, the company is receiving an award from the Louisiana's Digital Media and Software Development program.

"Growing the software sector in the region and increasing the availability of quality tech jobs will help supercharge regional employment growth long term," said Adam Knapp, president and CEO of BRAC. "Rural Sourcing's decision to bring 150 high-paying, quality software jobs to downtown Baton Rouge underscores that our region is poised not only to compete in the knowledge economy, but to win. Our team looks forward to continuing to support Rural Sourcing as it becomes part of the broader Baton Rouge community."

Rural Sourcing will begin hiring for its Baton Rouge software development center immediately. To keep up-to-date with career opportunities at Rural Sourcing in Baton Rouge, visit <https://ledfaststart.phenompro.com/global/en/rural-sourcing-careers>.

Appeals court temporarily halts vaccine mandate on larger businesses

NEW ORLEANS — A federal appeals court on Saturday temporarily halted the Biden administration's vaccine requirement for businesses with 100 or more workers.

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals granted an emergency stay of the requirement by the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration that those workers be vaccinated by Jan. 4 or face mask requirements and weekly tests.

Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry said the action stops Democrat President Joe Biden "from moving forward with his unlawful overreach."

"The president will not impose medical procedures on the American people without the checks and balances afforded by the constitution," said a statement from Landry, a Republican.

At least 27 states filed lawsuits challenging the rule in several circuits, some of which were made more conservative by the judicial appointments of former Republican President Donald Trump.

The Biden administration has been encouraging widespread vaccinations as the quickest way to end the pandemic that has claimed more than 750,000 lives in the United States.

The administration says it is confident that the requirement, which includes penalties of nearly \$14,000 per violation, will withstand legal challenges in part because its safety rules pre-empt state laws.

The 5th Circuit, based in New Orleans, said it was delaying the federal vaccine requirement because of potential "grave statutory and constitutional issues" raised by the plaintiffs. The government must provide an expedited reply to the motion for a permanent injunction Monday, followed by petitioners' reply on Tuesday.

PROGRAM from page 1

Additionally, faculty hold board positions in nursing and healthcare organizations. This is the fifth time that the School of Nursing has been chosen as Nursing School/Program of the Year. Southern was also selected as Nursing School/Program of the Year in 2010, 2012, 2015, and 2017. Anissa Leachman Stover is the interim chairperson of the graduate

SUPER-CLINIC from page 7

Prairieville and Zachary). "Our growing pediatrics presence is impressive and one of the reasons I chose to come to Ochsner," said James Wayne, M.D., Section Head of Pediatrics, Ochsner Baton Rouge. "We offer general pediatrics across the region to provide convenient options to parents. With all our specialists centrally located, it will be easy for kids to receive the care they need here in Baton Rouge."

For more information or to schedule an appointment with an Ochsner practitioner, call (225) 761-5200, or visit Ochsner.org/doctors to schedule online. Online appointments are also available through the MyOchsner patient portal.

SASOL from page 4

diplomacy. "This partnership speaks volumes about the value of our students and programs at Southern," said Ray L. Belton, president of the Southern University System and chancellor of Southern University Baton Rouge. "Sasol's investment in our STEM programs are in alignment with our campus strategic plan, including significant enrollment increases and advanced academic offerings that reflect an ever-changing workforce."

In addition to the endowment fund, Sasol is joining the Future of

STEM Scholars Initiative (FOSSI), the chemicals industry's collaborative equity, diversity and inclusion initiative aimed at creating pathways for more underrepresented groups to enter and succeed in STEM.

Sasol's investment will provide \$40,000 each to three Southern students majoring in STEM fields over the course of their college career.

The endowment fund will also award up to 100 scholarships through 2030 for students enrolled in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, public administration, or public policy fields of study.

"Sasol has long supported Louisiana higher education institutions because these workforce development pipelines are critical to our industry's sustainability in Louisiana," said Eric Stouder, Sasol senior vice president. "We are thrilled about our partnership with Southern and the meaningful educational results to come."

Under terms of the endowment fund agreement, Sasol will provide \$600,000 over four years. Following receipt of the last Sasol installment in 2023, the university will apply for a \$400,000 match from the Louisiana Board of Regents, resulting in a total of \$1 million to fund the program.

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