

The Weekly Press

SERVING BAKER, CENTRAL, AND ZACHARY

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9-19, 2023

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Lorri Burgess Ave. Unveiled in Baton Rouge



Lorri Burgess

Baton Rouge, LA - The city of Baton Rouge honored a local hero on Saturday, January 21, 2023, with the unveiling of a newly renamed street. E. Washington Street was officially renamed Lorri Burgess Ave. in honor of the late community icon.

The Metropolitan Council made the unanimous decision to honor Burgess, who served on the Council for 12 years, including a term as Mayor Pro Tempore. She was the first African-American female to hold that position. Burgess was also a dedicated philanthropist and Chief Operating Officer for the Sickle Cell Association of South Louisiana.

The grand unveiling of the street sign took place at the Dr. Leo S. Butler Community Center, and was attended by a large crowd of city residents, officials, and dignitaries. The event was a celebration of Burgess' legacy, and

See BURGESS, on page 5

100 Black Men of Baton Rouge Bridging the Opportunity Divide for Minority Students

In Baton Rouge, Louisiana, students have struggled in the classroom for years, particularly minority children. Statistics provided by the Louisiana Department of Education reveal that less than half of all third-graders in the state were on track to master English or math. The data also showed that Black students struggled more than their peers and are five times more likely to attend a "D" or "F" rated public school.

To address these issues, the 100 Black Men of Metro Baton Rouge organization was created to provide black students with more academic opportunities and resources. The organization has three programs: the ACT Prep Program, Let's Talk About It Book Club, and Stem and Robotics Summer Academy. The goal is to get students up to speed or keep them one step ahead.

Executive Director Dadrius Lanus believes that the school system alone cannot solve the problem and that all stakeholders need to be involved. Parents, teachers, students, and external organizations all play a role in driving change. The influence of the 100 Black Men is paying off, as evidenced by the success of straight-A student Arnold McCray Jr. who enrolled in the programs.

Lanus emphasizes that it's not just about exposing students to different things, but presenting them with unique opportunities that can shape their lives. "We have to be able to present them to unique opportunities that can help shape their lives," he said. The 100 Black Men of Metro Baton Rouge is dedicated to closing the gap and creating more opportunities for Black students in Baton Rouge.

BIDEN

Optimistic, Determined State of the Union Address, Outlines Policy Priorities



President Joe Biden took to the House Chamber on Tuesday for his annual State of the Union address, his message was one of unadulterated optimism - even in the face of open hostility.

In his second State of the Union address on Tuesday night, President Joe Biden delivered a determined and optimistic message to the American people. He highlighted his legislative and policy achievements and reiterated his stance on China and Ukraine. "Because the soul of this nation is strong, because the backbone of this nation is strong, because the people of this nation are strong, the state of the union is strong," Biden said. "I'm not new to this place. I stand here tonight - and I've served as long as about any one of you have ever served - I have never been more optimistic about the future of America. We just have to remember who we are. We are the United States of America and there is nothing, nothing beyond our capacity if we do it together."

The President's speech was delivered to a Congress that has



US Republican Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-GA) yells as US President Joe Biden delivers the State of the Union address at the US Capitol in Washington, DC, February 7, 2023.

vowed to oppose many of his priorities, led by Republican House Speaker Kevin McCarthy who sat stone-faced behind him in the chamber. Despite this, Biden

spoke in detail about the issue that matters most to Americans: the economy. "We're building an

See BIDEN, on page 3

Councilman Demands Report on Lethal Impact of Police Chases in Baton Rouge

BY WP STAFF WRITER

"An East Baton Rouge Metro Council member has ignited an explosive demand for a report on the effectiveness of police chases. Councilman Cleve Dunn Jr. is seeking a comprehensive investigation into the deadly impact of these pursuits.

The request for a report follows a devastating New Year's Eve incident where two young cheerleaders lost their lives as a result of a police chase. This tragedy has fueled the councilman's resolve to uncover the truth behind these pursuits and their consequences.

The data for the report will come from the East Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office and Baton Rouge police, spanning over the last ten years. The report will shed light on the human toll and financial liability these pursuits have had



Metro Council member Cleve Dunn Jr.

on the City-Parish.

It's time for action to be taken to address the dangerous effects of police chases. Councilman Dunn Jr. is leading the charge in this effort, and his report is expected to bring critical attention to this important issue."

CW5 Pamela R. Smith Retires After 30 Years in US Army

BATON ROUGE, La. — Chief Warrant Officer 5, Pamela Renee' Howard Smith, recently retired after 30 years of dedicated service to the United States Army. Smith made history as the first African American and second female in her department of Veterinary Science to reach the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 5.

Smith's journey to this high rank was not easy, but her determination and hard work paid off. Throughout her career, she provided excellent leadership and guidance, and her expertise was critical in maintaining the health and well-being of military working personnel.

Smith's achievements are a source of inspiration for future generations of women and people of color. She has broken barriers and demonstrated that anything is possible with determination and a strong work ethic.

In a time when opportunities



Chief Warrant Officer 5, Pamela Renee' Howard Smith

for women and people of color were limited, Smith's rise to the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 5 is even more significant. Her story serves as a reminder of the progress that has been made and the progress that is still possible.

Smith's retirement is a time to celebrate her achievements and

See SMITH, on page 3

Louisiana Legislature to Consider Tax Breaks for Rich Companies

Erin Hansen from Together Louisiana, an umbrella organization of nonprofits that has opposed ITEP, says that the bill fails to retain the most important aspects of the 2016 reforms, calling it a "bad deal for the locals."



Erin Hansen

The Louisiana Legislature is being asked to consider reducing or eliminating a controversial business tax break for some of the state's highest-earning companies. The proposals, which have not yet been determined in terms of their impact on the bottom line of the state and local governments and individual taxpayers, are being spearheaded by Sen. Brett Allain, R-Franklin.

Sen. Allain has proposed two measures to reduce Louisiana's inventory tax credit. Senate Bill 4 would eliminate corporate income taxes for companies in the state's highest tax bracket, while another

proposal would codify changes to the Industrial Tax Exemption Program. This bill would reduce rates in the first two corporate income tax brackets and eliminate the top bracket altogether, which currently carries a 7.5% tax on income above \$150,000.

Sen. Allain says that the bill is revenue neutral as it would partially repeal the state's inventory tax credit to offset the revenue loss. The Legislative Fiscal Office's staff is still calculating the fiscal impact of the bill. The



The Louisiana Capitol Building,

inventory tax credit has been a long-standing issue in the legislature as it is seen as a drain on

state finances and a way for businesses to shift their tax burdens onto residents and homeowners.

The Louisiana Constitution authorizes local governments to collect inventory taxes, but the state reimburses businesses through the inventory tax credit. Allain's legislation offers a compromise by giving corporations lower income taxes in exchange for getting rid of the inventory tax credit, which costs the state an annual \$280 million. However, not all businesses would lose the credit, as sole proprietors, partnerships, and limited liability companies would still be able to claim it, with about 75% of the credits currently being claimed by corporations.

While the state might break even with this proposal, it could benefit wealthy businesses that carry little or no inventory and

See TAX, on page 3

WEATHER



MON. 02/06
Sunny
High 74°



WED. 02/08
Cloudy
High 75°



TUE. 02/07
Cloudy
High 77°



THUR. 02/09
Rain
High 69°

INDEX

State & Local	2
State & Local	3
Religion	4
Church Directory	4
Business	5
Business Directory	5
Other News	6
Health	7
Sports	8

Weekly Press
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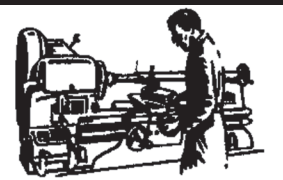
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Early voting task force urges legislative funding for elections



An early voting sign outside a voting location in Baker, La., for the 2022 midterm elections. (Photo credit: Wes Muller/Louisiana Illuminator)

BY: WESLEY MULLER
 Louisiana Illuminator

Louisiana's Task Force on Early Voting approved a measure Tuesday to recommend an expansion of early voting sites across the state and an increase in voter outreach efforts contingent on receiving adequate funding for elections from the Louisiana Legislature.

The task force, created last year through a resolution authored by Sen. Gary Carter, D-New Orleans, is charged with finding the best ways to increase early voting turnout and forwarding them as

recommendations to the legislature.

Prior to adopting the measure, the panel heard testimony from Joel Watson, who manages outreach services for the Secretary of State's Office. Watson presented data on how early voting has impacted elections across the country.

Early voting first became available in Louisiana in 2006, beginning with 71 early voting sites across 64 parishes. It has steadily grown since then to 109 sites for the fall 2022 election, Watson said.

Most states offer early voting periods ranging from three to 46 days with an average length of

23 days. Louisiana's early voting period will expand from seven to 10 days for presidential general elections starting next year.

There is no evidence to indicate longer early voting periods increase overall turnout. Rather, it just shifts when existing voters cast their ballots, according to data and studies Watson presented.

Task force members, many of whom are local election officials, agreed that expanding the number of early voting sites would make it easier for residents in their parishes to vote. The problem is the cost.

The startup cost for a small site runs about \$22,000 and costs about the same to operate each year, Watson said.

Ascension Parish Clerk of Court Bridget Hanna said her parish council members did not want to pay to staff a second early voting site for the 2020 presidential election. She ended up paying for the staff out of her own budget because she knew many Ascension Parish voters needed a location closer to their workplace to vote before the polls closed.

"I just felt like I knew that was a need out in the northern end of my parish because so many people work in Baton Rouge but live in Prairieville, and they just couldn't make it for 6 o'clock to get to Gonzales," Hanna said.

Hanna said election officials in other parishes might not have the budget to make such special accommodations.

First Assistant Secretary of State Nancy Landry agreed and said many parishes have been unwilling to fund additional early voting sites.

"I think all of us would like to increase the locations and make early voting sites more convenient for people, but it is a challenge financially," Landry said. "The parishes have to cover that cost."

Other task force members said Louisiana has too many elections

See ELECTION, on page 3

2nd Annual Senior Black American Health Fair Set for March 25 at Pennington Center

BATON ROUGE, La. — 2nd Annual Senior Black American Free Health Fair Scheduled for Saturday, March 25, 2023 at the Pennington Biomedical Research Center Conference Building

Robert L. Newton, Jr., PhD, Associate Professor, Physical Activity & Ethnic Minority Health, will be hosting the 2nd annual Senior Black American Health Fair scheduled for Saturday, March 25, 2023 at the Pennington Biomedical Research Center Conference Building.

This free event will bring African American Seniors (age 60+) together with local health professionals, to engage in a valuable information exchange

directly relating to issues of African Americans health, nutrition, and wellness.

The Senior Black American health Fair provides a forum for learning, health experiences, and open discussions relating to the health concerns and challenges facing African Americans. Last year, over 200 men and women attended the inaugural event!

The event and its activities are all 100% free for attendees. The event offerings include health screenings, 3-5 presentations on key health topics for African Americans, a fitness demonstration, a great group of health and wellness-related exhibitors.

Free Screening of 'Who Said You Can't': African American Women in Science

The film focuses on eight women who are pioneers in their industry.

They understand the struggle of being the only women, as well as the only women of color, in a predominantly male dominated industry, where their opinions and suggestions are often second guessed. More than anything else their mission is to change what the face of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) looks like by giving hope to the next generation. Running time is 72 minutes.

The documentary presents the stories of Dr. Alice Pendleton, a NASA space research scientist; three of the first Black Nurses hired at Baton Rouge General Hospital in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; NASA engineer Dr. K. Renee Horton; viral researcher and Tulane University doctoral candidate Antoinette Bell Kareem; educator in science Katherine Michele Sanders and Dr. Cordell Parris, the first African American female cardiologist in the state of Louisiana to fully own her practice.

Follow Dreams Productions is a film and media company created to assist others to bring their projects to reality.

BATON ROUGE, La. — Follow Dreams Productions is pleased to announce a free screening of the documentary "Who Said You Can't: African American Women in Science." The film is produced and directed by Gisele Haralson and co-produced by Rachel Kadushin. The screening will be held February 25 at 11:00 am at the City of Brenham- Nancy Carol Roberts Memorial Library located at 100 Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway, Brenham, TX 77833.

"Who Said You Can't: African American Women in Science" depicts eight African American women, from the past and present serving as a pathway to our future women in science and engineering. These women are committed to inspiring and motivating the next generation of African American women in science.

West Baton Rouge School Board Narrows Down Superintendent Search to Final Two Candidates

By Weekly Press Staff Writer

The West Baton Rouge School Board has taken another step closer to finding its next superintendent, selecting two of the five original candidates for a second round of interviews.

Troy Bell, the executive director of federal programs and academics in Franklin Parish, and Chandler Smith, the assistant superintendent for the Central Community School System, will both face the board on February 28. To make the process more transparent, attorney Bob Hammonds suggested opening a portal on the school board website for the public to submit questions.

To determine the order of the interviews, the board used a coin flip, with Smith going first at 5 p.m. and Bell following at 6 p.m.

Each candidate will have an hour-long interview, split into a public portion and a private portion with the board in executive session.

Though a final decision is not expected to be announced on February 28, the board will determine the next steps soon after the interviews are completed. Both Dr. Tammy Seneca and Charlotte Blanchard, as well as Patrick Jenkins, who withdrew his name from consideration on Friday, have not been eliminated from the selection process.

Hammonds had reviewed the candidates' personnel files and discussed his findings with the board during an executive session on Tuesday. The board will continue to weigh "character and professional competence" as they make their decision.



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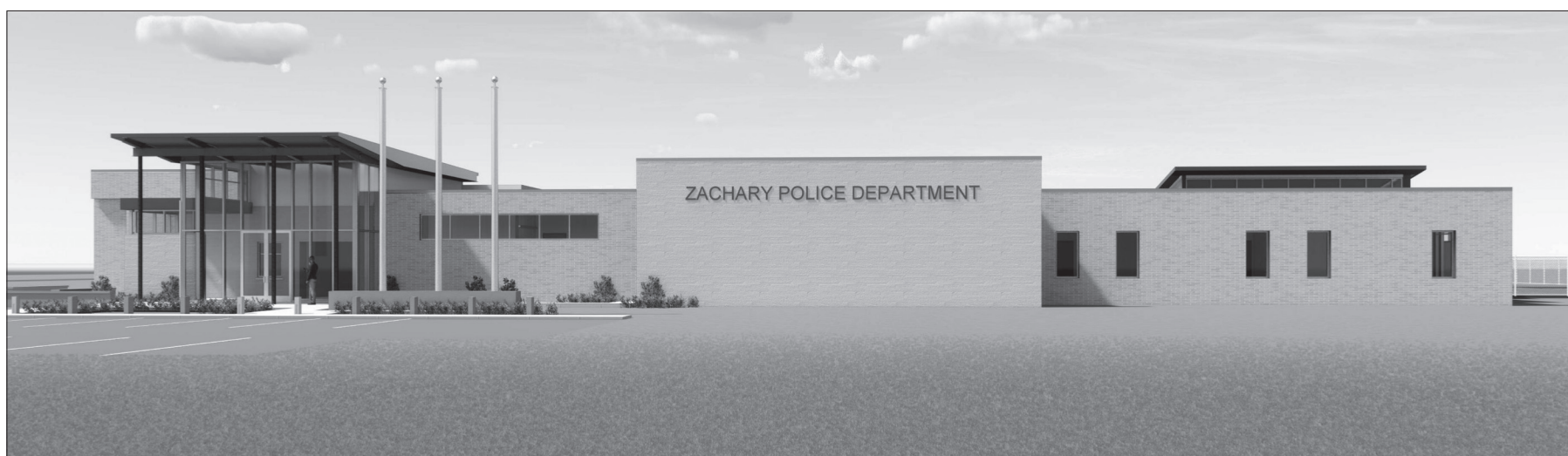
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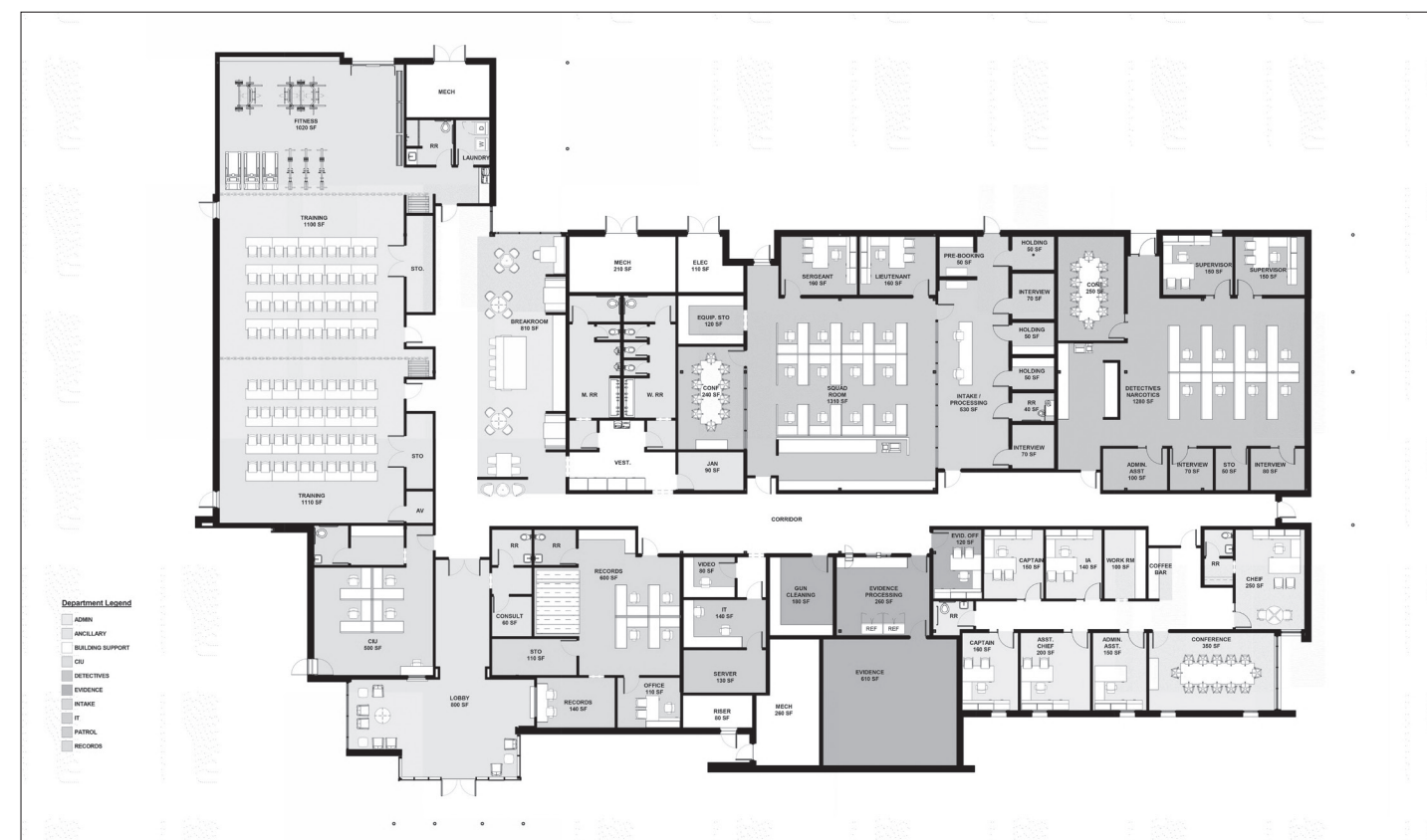
City of Zachary Breaks Ground on New Police Station



Zachary, La. – The City of Zachary has begun constructing a new 21,000-square-foot police station and training center. The long-awaited upgrade comes after the Police Department has been sharing facilities with the Zachary City Court for over 35 years. The new building will house the entire police force under one roof, providing more storage space and an in-house training center for the health and wellness of the members.

"I have watched firsthand as the department has outgrown the building, having worked in the police department complex for the past 34 years," said Darryl Lawrence, Police Chief of the City of Zachary. "I want to thank the prior administration and city council for allowing us to be a part of all aspects of choosing the architectural firm that designed the new building and selecting the location."

Grace Hebert Curtis Architects was selected to design the new police station, and the Government Capital Corporation of Southlake, Texas, provided financing for the project. "We had a very positive experience working with Government Capital on this project," stated Deanna Mankins, CFO of the City of Zachary. "The team delivered a



seamless experience, offering open lines of communication throughout the entire financing process."

The groundbreaking ceremony occurred earlier this month, and the city expects the new facility to be completed by the end of 2024. The new police

station will provide a modern and safe environment for the members of the force and better serve the Zachary community. "I want to congratulate Deanna Mankins and the City of Zachary on their new police station," said Marti Sauls, Vice President of Government Capital Corpora-

tion. "It is an honor to assist Louisiana cities in meeting their goals and objectives."

The City of Zachary was incorporated in 1889 and has a population of over 19,000. It is one of the fastest-growing small cities in Louisiana and is known for its affordable, comfortable,

and secure lifestyle. The city's school district has been ranked first in the state since 2005, and the Buy Zachary First initiative has encouraged substantial business and economic development.

"New Era for Zachary Police Force as Groundbreaking for New Station Takes Place!"

Baker Hosts Electrical Engineering STEM Saturday



Baker, La. - On Saturday, February 11th, 2023, the city of Baker is hosting a STEM Saturday event focused on Electrical Engineering. The event, which is being held at the City of Baker Workforce Development Center, will run from 9 am to 11 am and is open to the public.

The event aims to introduce electrical engineering and highlight the importance of STEM education. The event is organized by STEM in Baker, in partnership with the City of Baker, and will include hands-on activities and learning sessions aimed at students, educators, and parents.

The event is just one of the many initiatives being undertaken by STEM in Baker, an organization dedicated to integrating STEM education into the classroom and promoting college and career readiness. Through its partnerships with local schools and community organizations, STEM in Baker is helping to foster a love of STEM in the next generation of scientists, engineers, and technicians.

To register for the Electrical Engineering Day event, visit the Baton Rouge STEM website at www.batonrougestem.org. The organization also offers a range of another programming, including intro to coding and intro to robotics, that would be ideal for school family nights, open houses, recruitment fairs, or career days.

The Mayor of Baker and the City of Baker are proud to be partners with STEM in Baker and look forward to continued success in promoting STEM education in the community.

Get Your Rear in Gear: Baton Rouge 5K Run/Walk Kicks Off to Fight Colon Cancer



Get Your Rear in Gear - Baton Rouge 5K Run/Walk is a charity event that promises to be an exciting and fulfilling experience for all participants. On March 11, 2023, participants will come together at Pennington Biomedical Research Center located at 6400 Perkins Rd, Baton Rouge, LA 70808 to support a great cause.

The event starts at 8:00 am and is open to families, friends, and neighbors who want to make a difference. The event will feature a Kid's Fun Run and a giant inflatable colon that participants can walk through. The purpose of the event is to raise money for colon cancer screenings in Baton Rouge and to raise awareness of the importance of early detection.

Participation in the event is open to everyone, regardless of age or fitness level. Colon cancer survivors can register for free, while adults can register for \$35, youth (18 and under) for \$20, and kids (10 and under) for \$20. Virtual participants can also join the event by registering for \$25.

The event is organized by the Colon Cancer Coalition, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of people affected by colon cancer. The organization works tirelessly to raise awareness, promote early detection, and provide support to those

affected by the disease.

Join the fight against colon cancer and support the community by participating in Get Your Rear in Gear - Baton Rouge 5K Run/Walk. Don't wait, register today at <https://donate.coloncancercoalition.org/batonrouge/?rbref=cc> and show your support for a great cause.

TAX from page 1

stand to gain from the elimination of the top corporate tax bracket. The Louisiana Budget Project's Jan Moller questioned the impact of the proposal on other taxpayers, asking "If profitable corporations are going to pay less, who's going to pay more?" The net revenue from Louisiana's corporate income tax was approximately \$567 million in the 2020-2021 fiscal year, but it is unclear how much of that might be lost if the top bracket is eliminated.

Sen. Allain also has an alternative proposal in the form of Senate Bill 2, which proposes a constitutional amendment to phase out the inventory tax over a five-year period and cap ITEP exemptions at 60% for local school board property taxes and 80% for all other property taxes. This would indirectly phase out the inventory tax credit without leaving businesses to cover their local tax bills, but would also deprive local governments of a significant source of their revenue. To mitigate this impact, the bill offers a permanent version of

some of the 2016 ITEP reforms, which reduced the amount of the property tax exemption and added local control to the approval process.

Erin Hansen from Together Louisiana, an umbrella organization of nonprofits that has opposed ITEP, says that the bill fails to retain the most important aspects of the 2016 reforms, calling it a "bad deal for the locals." Sen. Allain counters by saying that guaranteeing 20% for local governments is better than the alternative, which could be nothing if the legislature continues to fail to

ELECTION from page 2

and voters often complain they were unaware an election was taking place. They agreed they would like to see more funding from the legislature to allow the Secretary of State's office to conduct more voter outreach.

"Sometimes there's just not somebody willing to spend money on an election," Landry said.

According to Carter's resolution, the task force has until March 1 to finalize its recommendations and submit its report to the Senate.

BIDEN from page 1

economy where no one's left behind. Jobs are coming back. Pride is coming back," he said. Biden also called for the debt ceiling to be raised and for Congress to enact his immigration reform plan. On the controversial topic of gun policy, he called for a renewed assault weapons ban and made it clear that he would veto any national abortion ban passed by Congress.

As is customary, the President honored special guests who symbolized important issues. He repeated his vow to support Ukraine against Russia's invasion and honored the parents of Tyre Nichols, who was killed by police in January. Biden used the tragedy to urge Congress to revisit the stalled police reform act. Biden also promoted his Cancer Moonshot program, inviting a young cancer patient, Ava, to watch the address from the White House.

In the Republican Party's

rebuttal speech, Arkansas Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders criticized Biden's policies and questioned his fitness for office. "From out-of-control inflation and violent crime to the dangerous border crisis and threat from China, Biden and the Democrats have failed you," she said. This sets up a political and legislative challenge for Biden as he embarks on his next two years in office with the Republicans holding control of the lower house of Congress.

President Biden's speech was well received by analysts, who viewed it as his best speech as President. "It was a strong statement of his record and he made his agenda sound reasonable, moderate, and personal," said Jeremi Suri, a professor of history at the University of Texas at Austin. Despite his detractors questioning his age and vigor, Biden's speech showed the American people that he is determined to move the country forward.

SMITH from page 1

remind ourselves of the possibilities still available for all African Americans to achieve.

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RELIGION



Good Health: God's Will For His People

BY CREFLO DOLLAR

Growing up, we may have watched family members or loved ones struggle with sickness or disease. They may have died an early death, leading us to believe that illness was simply a part of life we all have to put up with. However, this isn't what God wants for us. Finding out what His Word says about being healthy and living a long life gives us a new perspective.



shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith" (Mark 11:22, 23). Health issues may seem like a mountain to us in the natural but confessing the supernatural causes them to shrink and melt away.

God wants us strong and vigorous. Openly confessing this forces our minds to focus on what we just said and start meditating on it. "Dear friend, I hope all is well with you and that you are as healthy in body as you are strong in spirit" (3 John 1:2, NLT). Our thoughts naturally follow along the path that our speech establishes. There's great power in confessing our good health; it reminds us that we have authority over sickness and disease, and the ability to cast it out by speaking the Word.

There's nothing wrong with doctors and medicine, but they have their limitations. By comparison, God has no limitations. When the physicians have done everything they can but still can't change the outcome, we can speak to our bodies and command health to return. "And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever

Whatever we believe and have confidence in is the thing we should say; this is how we release our faith in God's Word. Disease and sickness are one way the devil comes against us; speaking our faith turns it into a powerful weapon against the enemy. Deliberately patterning our speech after what God has already said about our healing and good health distills all the power of heaven and puts it in our mouth. "It will be health to your flesh, And strength to your bones" (Proverbs 3:8, NKJV).

See **HEALTH**, on page 5

Advertorial

Patti Labelle, Kierra Sheard And Tye Tribbett To Headline Super Bowl Soulful Celebration



Headliners Patti LaBelle, Kierra Sheard, and Tye Tribbett will lead the charge, accompanied by other talented artists like Israel Houghton and the NFL Players Choir, celebrating its 15th anniversary.

Get ready for a night of soul-stirring inspiration and electrifying gospel music! The 24th Annual Super Bowl Soulful Celebration is here and bringing some of the biggest names in gospel to the stage for an unforgettable night of faith, hope, and joyful inspiration. Headliners Patti LaBelle, Kierra Sheard, and Tye Tribbett will lead the charge, accompanied by other talented artists like Israel Houghton and the NFL Players Choir, celebrating its

15th anniversary.

Radio personality Willie Moore Jr. will emcee the event, bringing his infectious energy to the stage as the only inspirational music event sanctioned by the NFL. With Philadelphia Eagles Quarterback and Super Bowl LVII contender Jalen Hurts being honored with the "Faith In Action" award, recognizing NFL players making a difference off the field, this promises to be a night to remember.

Join us at Mesa Arts Center on Feb. 8th at 7:30 pm MT for this uplifting celebration, and be a part of the legacy that Melanie Few, founder of the Super Bowl Soulful Celebration, is proud to have built with the NFL over the past 24 years. As she states, "It's an honor and a privilege!" Don't miss out on this one-of-a-kind evening that promises to bring faith, hope, and joyful inspiration to the biggest game on earth.

Don't Worry about Tomorrow

BY DR. TONY EVANS

So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. - (Matthew 6:34)

Most people are being crucified between two thieves: yesterday and tomorrow. They kill today because of what happened yesterday, and they are too scared today because of

what may happen tomorrow. Do you know that today is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday?

In other words, as long as you are on earth, you will never run out of tomorrows. There will always be a tomorrow. So until you learn to make today what today is supposed to be—to embrace today, seize it—then you will perpetually live your life either being bound by yesterday or tomorrow, or even chained between both.

I would like to challenge you to change one thing and watch that one thing change everything else: When you put God first, all else will fall in place. Make Him first in your thoughts, hopes, and decisions. Put Him first in how you spend your time. Place Him first in how you view the world around you. Please Him first, honor Him first, give to Him first . . . and all else will get in line.

God doesn't say that to put Him first is a request. This is a demand from a deserving King. But when you choose to obey this principle in your life, you will reap the benefits of experiencing the abundant life Christ came that you may have. God's got your back when you put Him first. He has you covered when you place His will and His kingdom as the first priority in all that you do, say, and think.

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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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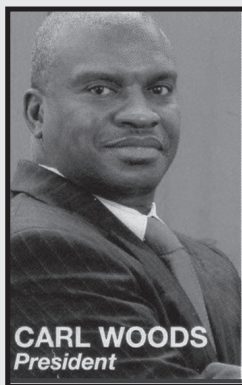
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BUSINESS

FuturEBR Comprehensive Plan Update Set to Launch Public Process



Baton Rouge, La. — The East Baton Rouge Parish Planning Department is preparing to initiate the public phase of the FuturEBR Comprehensive Plan update. As the five-year update takes place, the Planning Director, Ryan Holcomb, expects a significant emphasis on stormwater management and transportation-land use interconnections.

According to the Planning Commission's 2022 Annual Report, of the 464 action items identified in the 2018 update: 5% have been fully implemented, 39% are being continuously implemented, 41% are in progress, and 15% are yet to be initiated. The Planning staff has been conducting an in-depth analysis of growth trends, road project

impacts on land use patterns, and collaborating with agencies involved in the implementation of FuturEBR.

A brief presentation outlining the timeline and next steps will be given to the Metro Council next week. The Planning Department is finalizing a contract with a consultant to aid in the public outreach

process during the late spring and summer. The approval of the contract by the Planning Commission and the Council is expected to take place before the end of the year.

The FuturEBR Comprehensive Plan encompasses the city of Baton Rouge and the unincorporated areas of the parish.

BURGESS from page 1

the crowd was treated to a day of festivities, including a block party with free food, drinks, music, and entertainment.

As the street sign was unveiled, the crowd erupted into cheers and applause, honoring the memory of Lorri Burgess and her lasting impact on the community. The new Lorri Burgess Ave. serves as a testament to her legacy, and a reminder of the difference one person can make in the lives of those around them.

HEALTH from page 4

The world knows nothing of God's healing power, and therefore routinely contradicts His Word in this area. As believers, it's essential that we resist this doubt-filled way of thinking if we are to receive the healing that has already been made available to us. Genuine faith in what God said gives us rest and peace of mind; conversely, letting unbelief creep in blocks what our faith can bring about. "Let us therefore fear, lest,

a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it" (Hebrews 4:1, 2).

There's no reason to tolerate anything less than God's best; illness isn't in the overall picture He has for us. God isn't sick and there's no sickness in heaven; we can enjoy the same perfect health that He has. "... Because as he is, so are we in this

world" (1 John 4:17). Confessing His Word of grace reminds us of the authority we've been given by God, Himself, to command strength and vitality on our bodies. We're anything but helpless when it comes to our health.

Creflo Dollar is a founder and senior pastor of World Changers Church International (WCCI). He's a world-renowned Bible teacher, sought-after conference speaker, and bestselling author with hundreds of books, CDs, and DVDs in distribution worldwide.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

**Invitation to Bid (REBID) North Transfer Center Construction
Solicitation #2023-NorthtransitCenter-003**

The Capital Area Transit System (CATS), a political subdivision of the State of Louisiana, operating the public transit system in EBR Parish is accepting Proposals for North Transfer Center Construction. Sealed bids are due to CATS Procurement Department by April 10, 2023 at 10:00 am (local time) at 2250 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70802. Acopy of this ITB can be found on CATS and State Procurement websites at: <http://www.brcats.com/page/procurement> and <https://www.cfpdr.doa.louisiana.gov/osp/lapac/deptbids.cfm>

Bidders may submit written questions to: catsprocurement@breats.com until Friday, March 10, 2023. Bidders are reminded to check CATS website and State Procurement websites often for addendums issued to this ITB. CATS is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

A mandatory pre bid conference and job site visit will be held 9:00 am, February 24, 2023 at 350 N. Donmoor St, Baton Rouge, La. 70806.

City of Zachary Celebrates American Heart Month with #WearRedDay



Lane Regional Medical Center Wellness Nurse, Liz Sagley and Mayor David McDavid

Employees showed their support for the cause by "Rocking Red" and participating in a series of health awareness activities.

Zachary, LA - The City of Zachary celebrated American Heart Month today with a #WearRedDay event. Employees showed their support for the cause by "Rocking Red" and participating in a series of health awareness activities.

Liz Sagley, Wellness Consultant Nurse at Lane Regional Medical Center, was on hand to provide blood pressure screenings and distribute informational health pamphlets to the staff. The city also received a special heart-healthy lunch donated by Ty Stephens.

According to the American Heart Association, high blood pressure is a major risk factor for heart disease and stroke. High

blood pressure, also known as hypertension, refers to a persistently elevated blood pressure reading that can damage blood vessels, leading to heart disease and stroke. In fact, uncontrolled high blood pressure is a leading cause of heart disease and stroke, two of the leading causes of death worldwide.

However, the association notes that 80% of heart disease is preventable with lifestyle changes and risk factor management. The City of Zachary's #WearRedDay event aimed to raise awareness and encourage individuals to care for their heart health by managing their blood pressure and other risk factors for heart disease and stroke.

For those who want to learn more about managing their heart

health, the American Heart Association provides a wealth of information on its website, including tips for reducing risk factors, healthy lifestyle changes, and the importance of regular check-ups. The Lane Regional Medical Center, where Liz Sagley, the Occupational Medicine Coordinator, may also provide additional resources for heart health, such as educational events, support groups, and health clinics. Interested individuals can contact the center for more information.

Bobbie Guillory, Ty Stephens, Carneisha Hollins and Samirrah Robertson enjoy a heart-healthy lunch



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Doctors honored for helping develop evidence-based treatment guidelines that improve patient outcomes



From left, Drs. Gregg Fonarow, Lee Schwamm and Clyde Yancy are recipients of American Heart Association Gold Heart awards for their role in developing and supporting the AHA's Get With The Guidelines hospital quality improvement program. (Photos courtesy of Drs. Fonarow, Schwamm and Yancy)

Los Angeles, CA – Three of the leading medical professionals in the fields of heart failure and stroke, cardiologists Gregg Fonarow and Clyde Yancy and neurologist Lee Schwamm, are being honored with Gold Heart awards from the American Heart Association (AHA) for their decades of dedication to improving the outcomes of heart disease and stroke patients. The award ceremony will take place on June 28, 2023 and will be held virtually, allowing the public to view the event live online.

The three doctors have collaborated over the last 20 years as the driving force behind Get With The Guidelines, a program that provides evidence-based treatment protocols for hospitals to improve the quality of care for heart disease and stroke patients. The program has been instrumental in closing the treatment gap in cardiovascular disease, stroke, and resuscitation and has accelerated the adoption of science practice guidelines from 17 years to within weeks.

Their dedication and hard work have resulted in Get With The Guidelines being implemented in over 2,500 hospitals, a third of the nation's hospitals, with over 10 million patient records. The data collected helps to create vast national-level databases for advancing scientific research and provides more evidence, insights, and patterns for more effective patient treatment.

The award highlights "the importance of teamwork and collaboration, synergy and selflessness," said Yancy, who is the Vice

Dean of Diversity and Inclusion and Chief of Cardiology at the Northwestern Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago. He also calls himself a "gym rat" who works out five to six times a week and is a connoisseur of jazz.

Fonarow, who is the Interim Chief of the Division of Cardiology in the Department of Medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, enjoys running and gets in 30 to 40 miles a week. He has completed a couple of marathons and says that some of his best ideas have come to him while running. The COVID-19 pandemic brought him a new adventure, a "pandemic puppy" named Elliott, a 2-year-old cockapoo.

Schwamm, who got a philosophy degree from Harvard before changing his career path to medicine, is the Vice President of Virtual Care at Massachusetts General Brigham Hospital. He and his wife like to travel to other countries and discover cities and their cultures by bike. He has also been invited to join the Screen Actors Guild after appearing in a hospital commercial.

Together, the three doctors have written and inspired over 600 publications about the impact of Get With The Guidelines. Their collaboration and hard work have made a positive impact on millions of lives, and the Gold Heart awards serve as recognition of their achievements in the medical community.

HEALTH

Study finds social activity and aging education key to brain health in older African Americans

BATON ROUGE, La.—A recent study conducted by Dr. Robert L. Newton Jr. and Dr. Owen Carmichael at the Pennington Biomedical Research Center in Baton Rouge has revealed the potential benefits of social engagement and education in maintaining cognitive function. The research, funded by BrightFocus Alzheimer's Disease Research, focused on improving brain health among African American individuals aged 65 and above. African Americans are at a higher risk of developing Alzheimer's disease compared to white individuals, but there is limited research on preventing cognitive decline in this population.

The researchers designed a pilot clinical trial named Program for African American Cognition and Exercise (PAACE) to evaluate the effectiveness of exercise and other interventions in preventing cognitive decline among older African Americans. A total of 56 healthy African American participants, aged 65-85, were divided into two groups. One group underwent a 12-week exercise program that consisted of moderate to vigorous aerobic exercise for 150 minutes per week, while the other group attended weekly group sessions on healthy aging education.

The results showed that the education program group demonstrated significant improvements in cognition, whereas the exercise program group did not show any improvement in cognitive function. The authors speculated that the intensity of physical activity in the exercise program group



Alzheimer's Disease Research grantees Owen Carmichael, PhD, and Robert L. Newton, Jr., PhD

may have been insufficient, and that the education program group may have benefited from social engagement during the group discussions and from acting on information related to improving lifestyle behaviors.

The study also showed that women in the education program group had the highest level of cog-

nitive benefits, emphasizing the importance of social engagement and support for women's health. Future research should focus on improving the effectiveness of the exercise program, exploring why the education program was effective, and why women seemed to benefit the most.

Drs. Newton and Carmichael

have now started a new trial, Reducing African Americans' Alzheimer's Disease Risk Through Exercise (RAATE), with nearly \$2 million in funding from the National Institute on Aging. The trial will compare the effects of physical activity promotion and healthy aging information on cognition and is open for recruitment.

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SPORTS

Men's Basketball Slow Start Dooms Jaguars at Alabama A&M



Bryson Etienne was the shining star for the Southern Jaguars in their game against Alabama A&M on Saturday night. Despite a sluggish start, Bryson led the Jaguars offensively with 16 points, two rebounds, and two steals. Brion Whitley also chipped in with 10 points. However, their efforts were not enough to secure the win as

the Jaguars fell to the Bulldogs 61-82.

Southern struggled with their shots, only hitting 42.6 percent from the field and 25.0 percent from the 3-point line. However, they made up for it at the free-throw line, shooting 88.9 percent. The Jaguars received strong contributions from their bench with 25

bench points, and also capitalized on the Bulldogs' 15 turnovers for 25 points. Additionally, they had 24 points in the paint and 15 fast break points.

On the other hand, Alabama A&M dominated the floor with a shooting percentage of 62.0 percent and 45.0 percent from the 3-point line. They also shot

well from the charity stripe at 68.8 percent. The Bulldogs had a strong presence in the paint with 30 points, and 28 bench points. They also capitalized on the Jaguars' 17 turnovers for 21 points and added nine fast break points and six second-chance points to their score.

SWAC Champs, Lady Jags Send Seniors off With Title

D'IBERVILLE, MS – The Southwestern Athletic Conference celebrated the seniors for every team before the beginning of competition on the final day of the SWAC Round-Up Two at Cypress Lanes in D'Iberville, Mississippi. Southern (45-34, 20-8) had more to celebrate as the tournament concluded the regular season schedule. The Lady Jaguars sent off seniors Alanna Coward, Kymberly Jackson, Lindsey Ugas and Raja Anderson as SWAC Champions.

"I am so proud of this group of young ladies," head coach Barry Doyle said about his team's performance. "Just three years ago, the seniors started this journey with me, and I told them back then we could win it. Not sure if they believed it then but with some awesome recruits and hard work, they can now call themselves SWAC champs."

The Lady Jaguars held off a furious comeback from Texas Southern to start off the day, taking the game 91-89. Jailyn Rogers continued to lead Southern on the lanes, finishing the game with a 225. Coward would finish strong to end with a 190. After starting slow, Nyla Wilson would come back to finish with a 180.

Southern would have problems trying to carry in the second game against Grambling. The Lady Jaguars would end up with eight splits through the first seven frames and would be down 50-pins half way through the game. Down 30 going into the 10th, every Lady Jaguar marked to pull out the game 809-753. Coward, Quinney and Wilson would pace Southern with games in the 170. Coward would finish

with a 179, Quinney followed with a 177 and Wilson led off with a 174.

The Lady Jaguars would lock up the title in a big way against the four time defending SWAC regular season champions Prairie View A&M, 985-909. Rogers bounced back to score a 228 and Coward continued to move up in the individual standings with a 213. Ugas would finish out with a strong 191. Wilson's 180 and Quinney's 173 would round out the scoring, giving the Lady Jaguars their best game on the weekend.

With the championship in hand, coach Doyle let the seniors finish off the tournament against Florida A&M. The Rattlers would come out on top 946-849. Quinney would lead the Lady Jaguars with a 213. She would be followed by Wilson with a 177, Ugas at 174 and Coward with a 171.

"The Ladies performed well as a team all weekend," Doyle said. "We took the lead on the first day and never looked back. I can not say enough about the team effort, perseverance and the will to win. We completed a couple goals with the regular season title and a first round by in the tournament. SWAC tournament championship is next."

Individually, Rogers finished second overall with a 5,399 for 27 games, giving her a 199.96 average. Coward finished inside the top 10 with a 5,044 for 26 games, a 194 average. Quinney would finish just outside the top 10 with a 5,230 for 28 games, giving her a 186.79 average for the SWAC competition.



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