

The Weekly Press

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A PEOPLE'S PUBLICATION

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Southern University names Dennis Shields new president, chancellor



Dennis Shields, former chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Platteville

The Southern University System board selected Dennis Shields, former chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, as its next president-chancellor at a board meeting Friday afternoon.

"I am humbled and honored by your confidence in me..." Shields said to the Southern board over Zoom during the meeting. "I had a remarkable and inspiring visit (to campus) and was able to spend some time with the students. I take it as a great responsibility to help continue the rise of the Southern University System."

Shields held the top post at Wisconsin-Platteville since 2010. Before that, he held administrative positions in admissions at the University of Iowa College of Law, University of Michigan Law School and Duke University School of Law.

The current Southern president-chancellor, Ray Belton, announced in July that he will retire at the end of the next fall semester.

Belton has served in the role for seven years. Before that, he served as chancellor for Southern University Shreveport for 14 years. He also has worked in faculty and administration at Southern for more than 34 years.

OTHER STORIES

- Metro Council denies BRPD chief's request to increase legal fund by \$80K
- Entergy customers to pay \$3.2 billion for storm repairs over 15 years
- Chief Dunn, the first Black Chief of Police in the City of Baker
- FDA Alerts the Public to Potentially Contaminated Products from Family Dollar Stores in Six States
- Red River Bank Opens Newest Banking Center in Lafayette, Louisiana

WEATHER

	MON. 02/21 Mostly Sunny High 66°.
	TUE. 02/22 Partly Cloudy High 71°.
	WED. 02/23 Mostly Sunny High 74°.
	THUR. 02/24 Partly Cloudy High 75°.

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La. Legislature leaders won't answer questions on redistricting law firm deal

Senate president: 'I don't want to discuss that anymore'



Louisiana House Speaker Clay Schexnayder, R-Gonzales, speaks on behalf of Republican leadership.

Hewitt, R-Slidell, oversaw the redistricting process in the Senate. Under public questioning from Democrats, she said the person the law firm hired for voting analysis was "somebody from Stanford University," but she has declined to answer other questions about the arrangement.



Hewitt, Slidell

BakerHostetler law firm estimated billing Louisiana \$10,000 per month for "redistricting advice"

BY: JULIE O'DONOGHUE

Cortez and House Speaker Clay Schexnayder, R-French Settlement, said the firm will represent Louisiana in court if the state is sued over the maps lawmakers approved last week. Lawsuits are likely because civil rights

organizations have already threatened to go to court over the redistricting plans.

Only four legislators—Cortez, Schexnayder, Sen. Sharon Hewitt and Rep. John Stefanski—had access to the firm's attorneys. Other lawmakers weren't aware BakerHostetler had been retained until media reports surfaced about its contract.

Cortez and other legislative leaders have not been willing to answer the following questions about the contract for more than a week, though taxpayer dollars are expected to cover the costs.

What other experts were hired?

Cortez and Hewitt said BakerHostetler subcontracted with a

Cortez also wouldn't provide the name of the subcontractor. Stefanski, R-Crowley, who oversaw redistricting in the House, said he never spoke to anyone at BakerHostetler about the voting analysis and didn't know the name of the person doing the study.



Page Cortez

person or people to conduct a racially polarized voting analysis of Louisiana, but they refused to say who was hired to do this work.

Hewitt, R-Slidell, oversaw the redistricting process in the Senate. Under public questioning from Democrats, she said the person the law firm hired for voting analysis was "somebody from Stanford University," but she has declined to answer other questions about the arrangement.

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One of BakerHostetler's attorneys, Kate McKnight, advised legislators from around the coun-

ty last summer to conduct racially polarized voting analyses of their states' voting patterns. The study can help lawmakers determine how many majority-minority political districts are needed to meet legal requirements. It's also useful when fending off a lawsuit, she said publicly.

"It's a very important piece of analysis," McKnight said at an event the National Conference on State Legislatures held last year. "You need to have an understanding of minority voting patterns before you can figure out what district needs to be drawn."

Yet Hewitt said, in Louisi-

Statement from Gov. John Bel Edwards on Louisiana Legislature Redistricting Session



Gov. John Bel Edwards

Gov. John Bel Edwards on released the following statement as the Louisiana Legislature adjourned its Special Redistricting Session sine die.

Gov. Edwards said: "As Americans, voting for the leaders who will represent us is one of our most cherished and important rights and responsibilities. As elected officials, regardless of our political party or affiliations, we all have the responsibility to ensure that the process of voting is fair for all and that the electoral maps do not result in diluting the voting strength of certain groups. As I've often said: the voters should be choosing their leaders; leaders should not be picking and choosing our voters."

"Throughout this Legislative Session, I have had discussions with a diverse group of legislators and leaders about different map proposals, and I will closely review the new district maps Louisiana's Legislature has passed before making a decision on how to proceed. I remain adamant that the maps should reflect the growth of the African American population in our state over the last 10 years, allowing for minority groups to have an opportunity at electing candidates of their own choosing, and I do have concerns that several of the maps do not fulfill that moral and legal requirement."

"I thank the Legislature for the time and attention paid to these maps and for the sometimes emotional and difficult debate leading up to their passage. I pledge to the people of Louisiana to very carefully examine

See DEAL, on page 2

See EDWARDS, on page 1

Biden announces new sanctions as Russia attacks Ukraine

President Biden issued a new round of economic sanctions meant to punish Russian President Vladimir Putin for attacking Ukraine.

Biden said that the U.S. will sanction four more Russian banks and limit Russia's access to high tech. He said the actions will limit Russia's ability to do business "in dollars, pounds, euros and yen."

"The U.S. stands up to bullies," Biden said. "We stand up to freedom."

Biden has condemned what he called an "unprovoked and unjustified" attack.

"President Putin has chosen a premeditated war that will bring a catastrophic loss of life and human suffering," Biden said in a statement. "Russia alone is responsible for the death and destruction this attack will bring."

He pledged that the United

States and its allies will hold Russia accountable.

Sanctions that Biden announced Tuesday were just the start.

The first wave of sanctions against Russia targeted two Russian financial institutions along with the government's ability to access Western financing. There were also sanctions against the Russian-owned company building the Nord Stream 2 natural gas pipeline.

Biden has warned that these were the first "tranche" of sanctions and that the administration would ratchet up the response based on

See BIDEN, on page 3

President Biden delivers remarks about Russia's "unprovoked and unjustified" military invasion of Ukraine on Thursday.



LOCAL & STATE

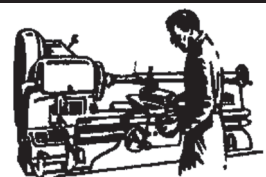
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4910 Montecello Blvd., Suite C
Baton Rouge, La. 70814

Phone: (225) 775-2002
E-Mail: brweeklypress@yahoo.com
Office Hours: Monday-Friday
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How to Reach Us
General Information: 225-775-2002
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Metro Council denies BRPD chief's request to increase legal fund by \$80K



Baton Rouge Police Chief Murphy Paul

Six council members voted for the motion and six council members voted against it. The resolution needed seven votes in order to pass. If passed, it would have increased the maximum compensation to Paul's legal counsel to \$230,000.00.

BATON ROUGE, La. - The East Baton Rouge Parish Metro Council denied a request from Baton Rouge Police Chief Murphy Paul, to increase his legal fund by \$80,000.

It happened at their meeting Wednesday night, February 23.

Six council members voted for the motion and six council members voted against it. The resolution needed seven votes in order to pass.

If passed, it would have increased the maximum compensation to Paul's legal counsel to \$230,000.00.

The budget for his legal costs already grew up to \$150,000.00 in 2021.

"You're asking for increases for the chief to defend his office and his disciplinary options, yet the officers don't have the taxpayer-funded

ability of legal counsel. There has to be some kind of line, as to why this keeps happening," said Metro Councilman Aaron Moak, District 4, who voted against the measure.

"I would've supported another deferral tonight to gather more information, but when that wasn't an option I couldn't support it. Because I feel like it was known to them last October, when we were going up to \$150,000, that they were already going to exceed that amount. There's been a lack of transparency, and I'm just trying to figure out who know what and when," said Metro Councilman Brandon Noel, District 1.

In prior meetings in front of the Metro Council, Chief Paul has stated his requests for rising legal costs, are due to a small number of officers who continue to resist the reforms he is making within the police department since he was appointed back in December of 2017.

"The BRPD is experiencing a season of reckoning as it relates to addressing police brutality by reforming police unions, training, practices, and accountability. After the item for the chiefs legal team fail to pass, the former officer and two other gentlemen were celebrating. This is an example of what the Police Chief is facing. Though the contested disciplinary actions are filed by individuals, it's mostly part of a large scale defiance," said Metro Councilwoman Chauna Banks, District 2, who voted for the measure.

The resolution on the Metro Council's agenda reads:

Authorizing the Mayor-President, on behalf of the Baton Rouge Police Department, to amend a professional legal services contract entered into by and between the City of Baton Rouge/Parish of East Baton Rouge on behalf of the Office of the Parish Attorney ("City-Parish") and Timothy W. Hardy of Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson, LLP ("Counsel"). The amendment would increase the maximum compensation effective March 19, 2020, by \$80,000.00 from \$150,000.00 to \$230,000.00. All other terms and conditions of the Contract shall remain in effect, including options to amend the scope and term. By Police Chief

Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation, Louisiana women legislators, accepting applications for Educational Advancement Opportunity Scholarship

The Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation, along with the Louisiana women legislators, is currently accepting applications for the 2022 Educational Advancement Opportunity (EAO) Scholarship. Each scholarship is worth \$1,000. The number of scholarships to be awarded is dependent upon fundraising efforts. The deadline to apply is Thursday, March 31, 2022. Applicants can find the scholarship criteria and application online at www.llwcf.org and house.louisiana.gov/llwc. Recipients will be announced in May 2022 and will be recognized at the Louisiana Legislature in late

May or early June 2022 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

The women legislators along with dedicated sponsors and donors through the LLWC Foundation have been awarding scholarships to deserving women and girls in Louisiana since 2010. To date, \$115,000 in scholarships have been awarded to help educate students.

For more information on the work of the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus, please visit <https://house.louisiana.gov/llwc>. To learn more about the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation, please visit www.llwcf.org.

Chief Dunn, the first Black Chief of Police in the City of Baker

BAKER, La. The City of Baker Communication Department sat down with Chief Carl K. Dunn to discuss Black History Month, his accomplishments and inspirations.

Chief Dunn, the first Black Chief of Police in the City of Baker, is a husband and father of 6 children and a Marine Corp Veteran. His Law Enforcement career reflects his commitment to service, with 24 Letters of Commendation, an Outstanding Officer of the Year Award, and three Chief's Certificate of Commendation awards. Chief Dunn was the first African American Uniform Patrol Bureau Commander in Baton Rouge. While discussing law enforcement, being Chief of Police in the City of Baker, he told us "[he] recognizes the need for change and is glad to be a part of that." Adding, "I am always glad to be able to be a part of something that is heading in the right direction."



Chief Carl K. Dunn

As we discussed his career, influences, and inspirations he told us that "The good impressions left by my various Supervisors throughout the 38 years I

See DUNN, on page 5



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DEAL from page 1

ana's case, a polarized voting analysis couldn't be completed because of "scatter" in the state's voting data. She also said she couldn't provide documentation about the attempted analysis because "I don't have anything in writing."

There have also been questions about whether Cortez and Schexnayder hired another political consultant to work on the political maps.

In December, Louisiana political consultant John Couvillion told the Illuminator that Cortez and Schexnayder had hired him to help with redistricting. Couvillion is a polling expert who has worked on several legislative campaigns.

Earlier this month, Schexnayder told reporters the Legislature did not hire Couvillion for redistricting. Cortez declined to answer questions about whether Couvillion was doing work for the leadership team.

Couvillion also stopped answering questions a couple of weeks ago about any redistricting work he might be doing.

"I cannot and do not comment on work I do or don't do," he said in a phone interview when asked whether he was working on the state's redistricting plans.

What other law firms were considered?

Democrats have been concerned about the BakerHostetler contract. One of the firm's attorneys, Mark Braden, has a history of defending Republicans accused of gerrymandering political districts to dilute minority voting power. Braden is also the former general counsel for the Republican National Committee.

Schexnayder and Stefanski said the legislative leadership interviewed a few law firms before selecting BakerHostetler, but they have not been willing to identify them. In an interview, Stefanski said he couldn't remember the names of the other law firms considered.

A person close to Legislative leadership, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said Charles Spies was also up for the redistricting contract. Spies has a similar background to Braden's. He worked for the Republican National Committee and previously served as general counsel and chief financial officer for the Republican Governors Association.

Spies also has Louisiana connections. He works on the Conservative Louisiana PAC that supports U.S. Sen. John Kennedy and helped former U.S. Sen. David

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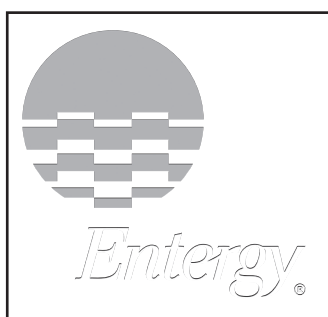
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Entergy customers to pay \$3.2 billion for storm repairs over 15 years

Utility CEO collects \$4 million pay increase



BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — State regulators have approved a plan in which Entergy Louisiana customers will pay for \$3.2 billion in costs the utility incurred because of five storms that hit the state in 2020 and 2021.

The Daily Advertiser reports that the Louisiana Public Service Commission voted 4-1 for the plan.

The money will be collected over 15 years. The utility estimates it will add about \$8 to the monthly bill for a 1,000-kilowatt residential customer; however, that could be affected if interest rates change by the time bond financing for the storm cost plan is completed.

Entergy will return to the commission later this year to ask for another \$1.4 billion in reimbursements from ratepayers to complete its expense recovery from Hurricane Ida, The Daily Advertiser reported.

Commissioner Foster Campbell of Elm Grove, a Democrat who represents north Louisiana on the commission, cast the only no vote. He said people who

live outside areas affected by the hurricanes should pay less. He also expressed frustration that the company is entitled by law to recover all of its expenses from its customers, complaining that Entergy Corp. CEO Leo Denault earned \$16 million in total annual compensation in 2020 and that the company paid out \$1.5 billion in dividends during the past two years while ratepayers are covering recovery costs.

Other commissioners argued Entergy Louisiana's low-interest financing plan will save ratepayers money over the long haul. And they agreed that all of the utility's customers should share in the costs.

"We are one state of citizens," said Commissioner Eric Skrmetta, a Republican from Metairie.

BakerHostetler estimated it would bill Louisiana \$10,000 per month for "redistricting advice," but the contract allows the law firm to "true up" at the end of 90 days, meaning it can retroactively charge the state above and beyond that amount. The \$10,000 monthly fee also doesn't cover ancillary expenses, such as the use of legal databases and expert witnesses.

In its contract, the law firm said it expected to charge Louisiana monthly for its work, but the Legislature has not received an invoice or bill from the firm yet, according to public records responses from the House and Senate staff.

ministration is working on export controls, which would block Russia from buying semiconductors and other technology.

Other Russian elites and oligarchs could be targeted, too.

Meanwhile, the administration and bipartisan members of Congress have been discussing providing additional assistance to Ukraine and allies and partners.

"No financial institution is safe," White House press secretary Jen Psaki told reporters

BLACK HISTORY

Auburn Celebrating Harriet Tubman's Life As Free Woman For 200th Birthday

Auburn, a city in Cayuga County, New York, is known for its arts and culture, but also for its deep connections to abolitionist Harriet Tubman.

As Tubman's 200th birthday approaches, Auburn is gearing up for a bicentennial celebration honoring her legacy and her life after slavery. The famed Black figure is discussed at lengths in relation to topics like fighting slavery and the Underground Railroad, but the history of her life after freeing other slaves is rarely taught.

According to the National Park Service, Tubman purchased a home in Auburn from Secretary of State William Seward in 1859. She later established the Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged, a place where she took in African Americans who were elderly, sick and mentally disabled and cared for them for free.

Tubman also married her second husband, Nelson Davis, at a church in Auburn in March 1869. She died in the city on March 10, 1913, and she's buried in Auburn at Fort Hill Cemetery.

The city has kept Tubman's legacy alive by turning her home, the church where she married her husband, frequent stops along the Underground Railroad and the cemetery where she's buried into museums or landmarks. To honor Tubman and the 200th anniversary of her birth, the New York State Equal Rights Heritage Center and the City of Auburn Historic and Cultural Sites Commission are planning an array of events and programs to take place from Harriet Tubman Day on March 10 through September.

"With the opening of the Heritage Center, we started out in 2019 with Harriet Tubman Day," Courtney Kasper, the New York State Equal Rights Heritage Center's visitor experience manager, said. "Moving into 2020 we did Harriet Tubman weekend... Then we moved virtually to Harriet Tubman week, but when you're talking about 2022, it's the bicentennial of Harriet Tubman's birth."

Tubman was born in Maryland, but Auburn realizes its importance in her life. "While we are not the place where she was born, we are the important half part, the last 54 years of her life story, here in Auburn," Kasper said. The center wants to remind the Auburn community of Tubman's legacy in the town while also attracting visitors to go immerse themselves in the



This photo shows a statue of Harriet Tubman outside of the New York State Equal Rights Heritage Center in Auburn, New York. (Photo: Tour Cayuga)

rich history present.

While Tubman's legacy is often celebrated throughout Auburn, the local school system did not always teach students about Tubman's connection to the town. Dr. Rhoda Overstreet-Wilson, a school board member and community activist born and raised in Auburn, said it's important to know about Tubman's life other than its connections to slavery.

"Although we may celebrate Harriet Tubman every year, this year there is a big spotlight and the spotlight isn't just connected to her connections to the Underground Railroad," Overstreet-Wilson said. "It's beyond that. It is the fact that this city, this community and those historical associations and societies are banding together to tell her true story."

It wasn't until she was out of the school that Overstreet-Wilson learned about Auburn and the importance it played in Tubman's legacy. "It's encouraging that my grandchildren will have the opportunity to learn more about this than I did," she said. "Maybe they'll do it in school and not become a full-grown woman before [understanding] her life and legacy is bigger

than any story that could be told in any classroom around here. Her importance is much bigger than any story that's actually already been told about her and I'm glad that Auburn is owning it."

Kasper said Tubman's work freeing slaves became the singular thing she was remembered for, but she did so much more. "Part of the story is in Maryland. That's part of the story that we're used to. The Underground Railroad story and that's been romanticized to a point where that is what people automatically associate when they hear Harriet Tubman," Kasper said. "It's really important to share her story as a woman. To share who she was as a woman and those things she did in this place that was her chosen free home."

The hope is that visitors learn that Tubman was, as Kasper said, "an ordinary woman who did extraordinary things" as the events attempt to show the historical figure as a human being.

Karen Kuhl, the director for tourism in Cayuga County, New York, became more inspired by Tubman with the more she learned about her life in Auburn. "I am inspired by Harriet Tubman and all

she was and like everybody else, I knew she was an amazing Underground Railroad conductor and that she accomplished unimaginable fetes just from that," Kuhl said. "But, the more I learned about her and the more I learned of her as an individual living here in Auburn and the woman she became, that's what truly inspires me."

Like many of us, Tubman was a regular person who experienced trauma, loss, and heartache, but she did not let it stop her from doing incredible things, like being an activist and a philanthropist. In order for society to view her this way, we have to get past viewing her singularly as the way we see her in the popular photo of her in old age in the rocking chair.

There will be several events for community members and visitors to participate in, including panel discussions, exhibits, a memorial service, a birthday ceremony and a reunion for her descendants. The sculpture Harriet Tubman - The Journey to Freedom will also be on display over the summer after traveling across the country.

DEAL from page 2

Vitter overturn a Louisiana law that limited PAC campaign contributions to \$100,000.

Spies works for Dickinson Wright law firm and could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

How much will the law firm cost taxpayers?

The BakerHostetler contract was released in response to a public records request earlier this month, but it doesn't shed much light on how much the law firm's work might eventually cost.

The firm's contract doesn't include a hard cap on expenses.

BIDEN from page 1

Russia's next steps. Senior administration officials say the group of Russian elites and their family members who are being sanctioned have "shared in the corrupt gains of the Kremlin, and they will now share in the pain."

But the White House has warned that it was ready to cut the biggest Russian banks out of Western markets. And the ad-

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BLACK HISTORY

2022

RELIGION

Maranda Curtis, new album Die To Live, out now!

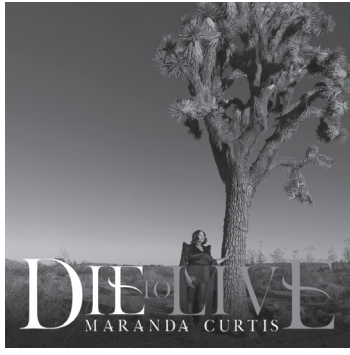


Chart-topper Maranda Curtis will release a powerful new album with DIE TO LIVE, available for pre-order now. Unveiling the album cover for DIE TO LIVE, available with the album pre-order are two instant grat tracks, "Lazarus" and "Run." Comprising fifteen tracks in total, DIE TO LIVE will be released on Friday, February 18th, 2022.

Maranda Curtis recorded her DIE TO LIVE album live in Toronto, Canada, and wrote on twelve of the tracks. The chart-topping singer/songwriter behind the #1 Billboard Gospel albums The Maranda Curtis Experience, Vol.1, and the live album Open Heaven: The Maranda Experience – which garnered seven Stellar Award nominations – presents an album of hope and facing adversity on her latest project.

Shining a light to persevere with strength and faith, the acclaimed worship leader brings her powerhouse vocals to her live performances on

See CURTIS, on page 5

BR Pastor Releases New Book: The Purpose of a Seed

Bishop Charles Wallace comes from humble beginnings. He often refers to himself as a bot from the park, referring to the area of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, named Eden Park, where he was reared. He attributes his success to the grace of God in his life.

He has been married to his wife, Gladys, for forty-nine years. They have been blessed with three beautiful daughters, two sons-in-law, grandsons, Solomon and Samuel, who are the light of their lives.

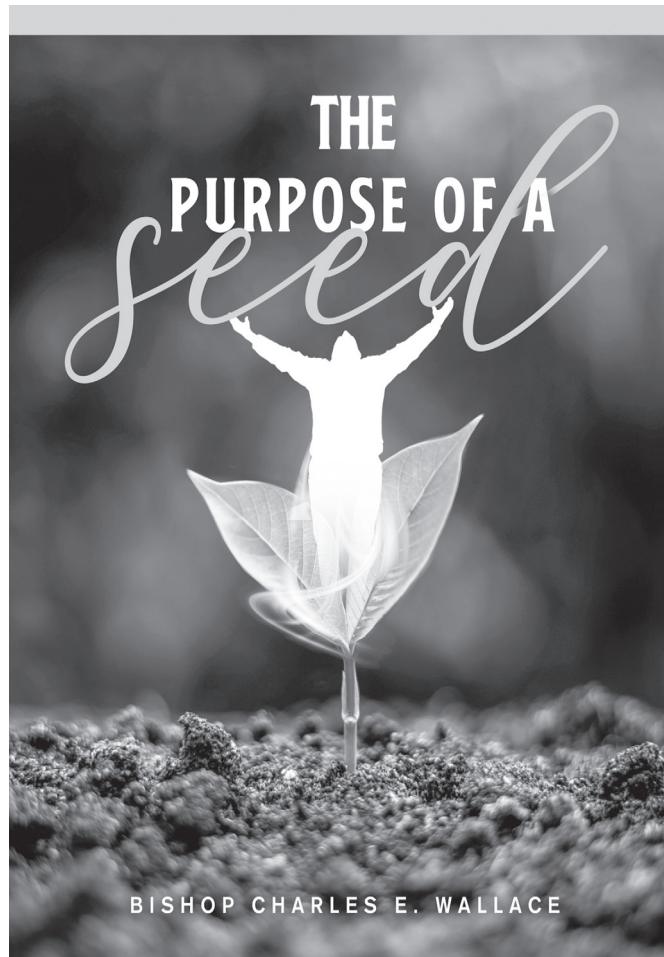
Bishop Wallace is the Senior Pastor of Oasis Christian Church. Oasis is a church that loves God, hates sin, and is always willing to give. The Purpose of a Seed was inspired by the Holy Spirit. When read and applied, this book will be life-changing.



This book will inform you step by step on how a seed produces the harvest within. The seed is God's way of reproducing. All of nature understands the concept. So, get ready to be informed and inspired for productivity for the Kingdom of God.



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MIRACLE WORKER

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The expression of miracle-working faith that was most prominent in my life was that of my mother, Mildred Harrell. Her life was and is a miracle.

SPOON-FED FAITH

Mom spoon-fed our faith daily. When Daddy was having a struggle in life, I would hear her reminding him that he was her husband! And I would think... so what is the big deal about Daddy being her husband? And, then with utter disdain, she would quip "Satan ought to know better than that to mess with my husband!"

Mom was always up early communing with God. When we were dressed and headed to breakfast, she was fired up in full worship mode. In the Morning she sang loud, in her sultry alto voice, belting out praise songs, about the goodness of God!

One of her favorite worship songs was, "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus." Nobody could sing it like momma. And she always put that COGIC spin on it making me want to sing along.

I prayed after she sang and lay in bed waiting for her to check on me, stroke my face, and say that familiar, "Gay Gay... it's time to get up baby", then lean over and kiss me with that fresh momma sweet Listerine breath.

Every day she prayed a different variation of a familiar prayer. In closing, she thanked God for being a miracle worker. Softly she'd leave my room and head to my brother's room, where she prayed for him

with the same vigor and tears. He was a big boy, but he was her baby too.

Momma always collaborated with God. Her display of faith during trouble proved it. And trouble came.



Dr. Gayle Young

MOMMA NEEDED A MIRACLE WORKER

One evening my parents sat us down to talk. Sitting and talking meant this was serious. Mom's Doctor the renowned Dr. Robert L. Elliott called her and my dad in for a consultation to report that her routine imaging revealed a large tumor in her breast. He suggested immediate surgery. Momma chose prayer.

She told the Doc she would pray about surgery and additional treatments and get back to him. He was furious! So, he scheduled surgery anyway and gave mom the date. Mom began fasting and praying. The night before the surgery, she had a vision of God squeezing her breast with his two big hands, she saw a big tumor erupt from her breast! She didn't know where it went, but the vision was vivid. She was confident of the miracle.

FAITH TO SEE THE IMPOSSIBLE


The morning of surgery we arrived early at the hospital and my "saved", on her way to "Heaven

See WORKER, on page 5

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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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Bible Study	Wednesday, Men's Mid-Day Study 12:00 p.m.
Disciple Bible Study	Wednesday 5:30 p.m.
Prayer Ministry	Tuesday 6:00 p.m.

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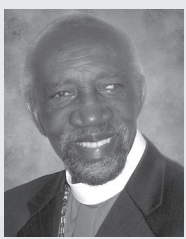
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CHURCH SCHEDULE

Sunday Morning Worship	10:45 AM
Lord's Supper	3rd Sundays
Sunday School	9:30 AM
Prayer Service	Wed. @ 6:00 PM
Bible Study	Wed- @ 7:00 PM

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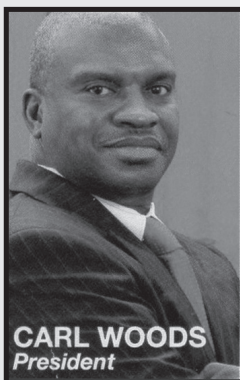


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BUSINESS

FDA Alerts the Public to Potentially Contaminated Products from Family Dollar Stores in Six States

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is alerting the public that several categories of FDA-regulated products purchased from Jan. 1, 2021, through the present from Family Dollar stores in Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee may be unsafe for consumers to use. The impacted products originated from the company's distribution facility in West Memphis, Arkansas, where an FDA inspection found insanitary conditions, including a rodent infestation, that could cause many of the products to become contaminated. The FDA is working with the company to initiate a voluntary recall of the affected products.

"Families rely on stores like Family Dollar for products such as food and medicine. They deserve products that are safe," said Associate Commissioner for Regulatory Affairs Judith McMeekin, Pharm.D. "No one should be subjected to products stored in the kind of unacceptable conditions that we found in this Family Dollar distribution facility. These conditions appear to be violations of federal law that could put families' health at risk. We will continue to work to protect consumers."

This alert covers FDA-regulated products purchased from Family Dollar stores in those six states from Jan. 1, 2021, through the present. Some examples of these products include human foods (including dietary supple-



ments (vitamin, herbal and mineral supplements), cosmetics (skincare products, baby oils, lipsticks, shampoos, baby wipes), animal foods (kibble, pet treats, wild bird seed), medical devices (feminine hygiene products, surgical masks, contact lens cleaning solutions, bandages, nasal care products) and over-the-counter (OTC) medications (pain medications, eye drops, dental products, antacids, other medications for both adults and children).

Consumers are advised not to use and to contact the company regarding impacted products. The agency is also advising that all drugs, medical devices, cosmetics and dietary supplements, regardless of packaging, be discarded. Food in non-permeable packaging (such as undamaged glass or all-metal cans) may be suitable for use if thoroughly cleaned and sanitized. Consumers should wash their hands immediately after han-

dling any products from the affected Family Dollar stores.

Consumers who recently purchased affected products should contact a health care professional immediately if they have health concerns after using or handling impacted products. Rodent contamination may cause Salmonella and infectious diseases, which may pose the greatest risk to infants, children, pregnant women, the elderly and immunocompromised people.

Following a consumer complaint, the FDA began an investigation of the Family Dollar distribution facility in West Memphis, Arkansas, in January 2022. Family Dollar ceased distribution of products within days of the FDA inspection team's arrival on-site and the inspection concluded on Feb. 11. Conditions observed during the inspection included live rodents, dead rodents in various states of decay, rodent feces and urine, evidence of gnawing, nesting and rodent odors throughout the facility, dead birds and bird droppings, and products stored in conditions that did not protect against contamination. More than 1,100 dead rodents were recovered from the facility following a fumigation at the facility in January 2022. Additionally, a review of the company's internal records also indicated the collection of more than 2,300 rodents between Mar. 29 and Sep. 17, 2021, demonstrating a history of infestation.

DUNN from page 2

have spent in law enforcement that reinforced placing community first" played a big role in how he leads today, but his true inspiration was his father Adolphus "Doc" Dunn Sr. (6/3/1932-9/17/2017). "I grew up watching and assisting him helping everyone in the community and never asking for any compensation. Being called Doc, short for doc-

tor, he never faced anything broken that he couldn't fix. He was always working and always very happy. He had aspirations of becoming a police officer, but after being told he was too small (he was under 150 pounds) he worked in the construction industry, for one company, for 57 years."

Chief Dunn's description of his father reminds us of Romans 12:9-13 - 9 Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. 10 Be

kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another; 11 not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; 12 rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; 13 distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.

We thank you Chief Dunn for your commitment to the City of Baker and for sharing this wonderful memory of your father with us.

CURTIS from page 4

DIE TO LIVE, creating a captivating live experience of praise and worship in the midst of personal trials, after dealing with the loss of her mother in 2019. Among other standout inspiring tracks include "Freedom Song," "To Know Me,"

"Live Again," "Overcome," and the title track "Die to Live," with Curtis teaming up with songwriting collaborators Phillip Bryant, Bart Orr, Justin Savage, Rich Tolbert Jr., Ernest Vaughan, Don Moen, and more.

Maranda Curtis shares about her new album, "This is my most vulnerable body of work so far, as it

was born out of the most heartbreaking period in my life. I poured out my grief, my loneliness, my pain, and discovered the peace, contentment and hope that only God can give. My prayer for the listener is that they experience true healing, and know that in every situation there is a Savior who they can run to."

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WE HAVE THE TOOLS TO FIGHT OMICRON

As the Omicron variant continues to spread, we must remember that we have more tools than ever to slow the spread of COVID-19.

If you are not yet vaccinated, you are unprotected. Vaccines protect you against severe outcomes from COVID-19, like hospitalization and death. According to data from the CDC, unvaccinated people are 10 times more likely to be infected and 20 times more likely to die due to COVID compared to a fully vaccinated person with a booster shot.

- ✓ **Get vaccinated** and, if eligible, get boosted.
- ✓ **Wear a mask** in all public indoor settings, all indoor private spaces with people who are not in your immediate household, and outdoors when not able to social distance.
- ✓ **Limit exposure** to those outside your household.
- ✓ Practice **social distancing**.
- ✓ **Stay home** if you are not feeling well.
- ✓ **Wash your hands** with soap and water.
- ✓ **Get tested** if you're experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or if you have been recently exposed to someone with COVID-19.

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