

The Weekly Press

SERVING BAKER, CENTRAL, AND ZACHARY

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4-10, 2021

A PEOPLE'S PUBLICATION

VOL. 45 • NO.11 • FREE

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EBR FLOOD PREVENTION PLAN

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KERWIN FEALING "THE VOICE" NOW ON VTV NETWORK

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EXPERT ADDRESSES MIXING COVID BOOSTERS

Louisiana's 'Shot For 100' campaign extended through November

BATON ROUGE, La. — Louisiana is extending its "Shot For 100" COVID-19 vaccine incentive program through the month of November, Gov. John Bel Edwards says.



Gov. John Bel Edwards

The governor made the announcement via Twitter on Monday, Nov. 1.

The program gives Louisiana residents who get vaccinated at participating community-based sites a \$100 Visa gift card.

Residents must register online at ShotFor100.com before getting vac-

See NOVEMBER on page 2

BR has more job openings than people seeking employment

BATON ROUGE, La. — The holiday season has arrived, and with it comes the time for stores to hire on holiday workers but this year those seasonal jobs are looking more like a year-round need.

Like last year where we saw a big need for truck drivers and delivery services to meet the high demand of online shoppers, we're still seeing the same problem on top of the need for employees to physically be in stores also. Shoppers are opening their wallets about as much as they were before the pandemic. According to the Baton

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OTHER STORIES ONLINE



WEATHER



MON. 11/08
Sunny
High 74°.



TUE. 11/09
Mostly Sunny
High 76°.



WED. 11/10
Mostly Cloudy
High 77°.



THUR. 11/11
PM Showers
High 76°.

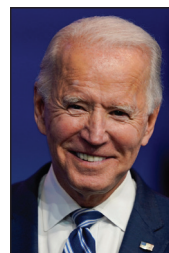
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CDC RECOMMENDS PFIZER'S COVID vaccine for children ages 5 through 11



Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine for young children is a lower-dose formulation of the companies' adult vaccine. It was found to be safe and nearly 91% effective at preventing COVID-19. Paul Hennessy/SOPA Images/LightRocket via Getty



President Joe Biden

President Biden issued a statement calling the decision "a turning point in our battle against COVID-19," and said the federal government has purchased enough of the low-dose children's vaccine "for every child in America."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is recommending that all children ages 5 through 11 get a low-dose COVID-19 vaccine made by Pfizer-BioNTech.

The move clears the way for shots to be administered as soon as tomorrow, though it may be a few days before the vaccine is widely available.

CDC director Rochelle Walensky issued the recommendation Tuesday, just hours after a unanimous vote by the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices supporting the use of the vaccine for children in this age group.

Walensky's decision means that approximately 28 million children ages 5 through

11 will be eligible for the shots. President Biden issued a statement calling the decision "a turning point in our battle against COVID-19," and said the federal government has purchased enough of the low-dose children's vaccine "for every child in America."

Shipments of the vaccine started last Friday following the Food and Drug Administration's decision to authorize the vaccine in this age group.

White House COVID-19 response coordinator Jeffrey Zients said some 15 million doses are being shipped this week, and the federal program for distributing the vaccine "will be fully operational" by next Monday, Nov. 8.

Some school districts have already scheduled vaccination drives in coming weeks, before the Thanksgiving holiday, though some districts have said they will not be providing

the vaccines through schools.

The Pfizer-BioNTech pediatric vaccine is one-third the adult dose and, like the adult formulation, is given in two doses, three weeks apart. The lower dose was chosen to minimize side effects and still produce strong immunity, Pfizer says.

See CDC on page 2

CDC director Rochelle Walensky issued the recommendation Tuesday, just hours after a unanimous vote by the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices supporting the use of the vaccine for children in this age group.



Rochelle Walensky

Lawmakers discuss ways to better fund state's justice system

BATON ROUGE, La. — This is just another example of Louisiana setting itself apart from practically every other state. Lawmakers say the way we finance our state's justice system is unreliable in most cases. In fact, some at the capitol would refer to it as somewhat archaic. And this morning's meeting with the justice system commission certainly highlighted that.



Right now, Louisiana's justice system is primarily funded through fines and fees that are paid by people like you when you get a speeding or parking ticket. But a group of lawmakers believes that way of financing has been outdated since almost the 70's. Now, they're looking for a better solution.

"A lot of states like Alabama and Florida, they did this, but they did it in the 70's and we're still now 50 years down the line looking at it. We know that it's a poor system, I mean there's no disputing that by almost anybody," said Rep. Tanner Magee (R).

Rep. Magee chairs the Commission on Justice System Funding and he said part of the reason Louisiana doesn't have an adequate system of funding is that it intentionally tries to do things differently from other states.

"I think unique is good when it's, you know, gumbo. I think it's not quite so good when it's the court system," Rep. Magee continued.

The main problem with relying on people to pay their fines and fees to support the system is whenever something like COVID or a hurricane comes through, it has the potential to throw the whole thing off the rails. It's also nearly impossible to predict how much money the state has to work with year-to-year.

"Because it's so unpredictable, for instance with COVID, a lot of courts were shut down, pretty much all the courts were shut down, so they weren't collecting any of these fines and fees. So, the idea is, how do we just get a setup of direct funding," said Peter Robins-Brown with Louisiana Progress.

That's exactly what the commission is trying to do. But before a new system can take effect, a decision on what that system will look like has to be made.

"It does appear both from what we saw today but some stuff we've seen from the past few weeks and months that we're getting there," Robins-Brown added.

"I don't think there's going to be any new taxes. So, existing taxes, trying to find if there's something in

See SYSTEM on page 3

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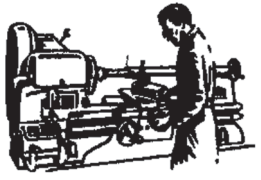
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The Weekly Press

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City-Parish Debris Removal Crews Making Progress, Expected to Complete Final Pass by Thanksgiving



Louisiana National Guard Senior Airman William Bommer, 159th Civil Engineering Squadron's heavy equipment journeyman, removes tree branches in downtown Lake Charles, La., Aug. 30, 2020, after Hurricane Laura caused heavy damage in the area.

BATON ROUGE, La. — Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome announced today that City-Parish debris removal crews completed their first parish wide pass, collecting more than 860,000 cubic yards of storm debris from Hurricane Ida so far.

Crews are now conducting their second and third comprehensive passes in all neighborhoods impacted by the storm, with trucks collecting debris along all residential roadways in the City of Baton Rouge and unincorporated areas of East Baton Rouge Parish.

City-Parish officials estimate crews will complete their final passes in all areas by Thanksgiving. During this time, debris removal crews and trucks will remain fully operational in addressing residents' debris removal needs. The City-Parish will begin transitioning bulky and woody waste collection services to Republic Services as crews complete their third and final pass.

City-Parish environmental specialists and debris monitors continue to assess damages on every street in impacted areas and direct trucks to debris removal piles. Residents

should continue organizing their storm debris into separate piles, as crews cannot collect storm debris that is mixed with other household trash or types of debris.

For more information and to track the status of the City-Parish's Hurricane Ida debris removal program, visit brla.gov/idadebribs.

JOBS from page 1

Rouge Area Chamber (BRAC), the demand for the items you're buying is expected to increase to the point it was back in 2019.

"Now, the issue is there are a lot of hiccups in the economy right now in terms of open jobs and supply chain issues," said Andrew Fitzgerald with BRAC.

With everyone mostly shopping online during the pandemic, the need for truck drivers soared. That problem still hasn't gone away. And it's likely now that businesses are open again, people won't be as patient to wait for their packages.

NOVEMBER from page 1

nated at participating locations to be eligible to receive the \$100 gift card.

Anyone receiving their first shot is eligible and may only participate once. Minors are eligible for the cash incentive but require parental consent to get the vaccine.

To learn more about Shot For 100, visit ShotFor100.com or call Louisiana's COVID-19 Vaccine Hotline at 1-855-453-0774. In addition to learning more about Shot For 100, the COVID-19 Vaccine Hotline can answer questions about the vaccines and connect callers to medical professionals.

BRAC Board Announces Support for Transit Millage Renewal

BATON ROUGE, La. — Today, the Board of Directors of the Baton Rouge Area Chamber (BRAC) announced a supportive position on the tax millage renewal of the Capital Area Transit System (CATS), which will appear on the November 13 ballot. Early voting begins October 30, and BRAC encourages voters to support extending transit funding for the city.

As the Capital Region's lead economic development organization and an advocacy voice for the business community, BRAC has long supported initiatives and efforts that positively impact transportation alternatives and quality of life of the Baton Rouge Area.

Public transit is an essential component of every thriving metropolitan economy. Recent BRAC analysis found that CATS' past performance largely achieved its goals over the last decade, and its goals over the next 10 years should position it for additional performance improvement. Based on its performance outcomes, BRAC's support focuses on the transit system's positive impact on the economy and the crucial role it plays connecting workers to jobs.

Ralph Bender, BRAC board chair and CFO of Manship Media, said, "For an overwhelming number of the people who use the CATS system, it is their only means of transportation to and from work. Not funding CATS puts significant risk in their ability to get to their jobs. This would create incredible adversity for hundreds, if not thousands of local businesses whose enterprise is dependent upon a reliable workforce."

BRAC's Board support is largely based on the following:

- CATS connects to over 225,000 jobs across the route

- 91% of CATS customers have no other transportation option
- 63% of riders use bus service at least five days per week
- 59% of riders rated the system good or excellent in a recent FuturePAC poll

Independent economic modeling by the ULL Blanco Center for Public Policy estimated that the agency will contribute \$1.6 billion in economic impact to the Baton Rouge Area in the next decade

- Revenue generated from the millage to be renewed represents 60% of CATS' annual budget

BRAC has asked CATS management and Board to increase and improve its transparency and accountability over its annual performance, by adding clearer, yearly reporting of all metrics and measures related to its new, Board-adopted, 10-year goals. CATS should also increase transparency over its fiscal management of taxpayer dollars, such as publishing its spending and contracts on Open Checkbook BR. It's important that CATS continue to respond in a timely and transparent manner to clear the record regarding recent accusations, and that all matters be fully reviewed and resolved by its management board. These recent media controversies, moreover, should be viewed alongside and measured against the transit agency's performance on key metrics over the last decade, as well as the service it provides to those without vehicles who continue to need access to jobs, health care, or family.

For an in-depth analysis of CATS performance and its new 10-year goals, please see this BRAC Public Policy Commentary.

CDC from page 1

Before the advisory committee meeting Tuesday, Walensky called this "a monumental day" as she urged the panel to consider the toll that COVID-19 has had on children. The CDC's latest data show that 172 children ages 5 to 11 have died from COVID-19 and more than 8,300 have been hospitalized.

"We also know that beyond the clinical impact of COVID on children, there have been detrimental social and mental health impacts that we are just beginning to fully understand," Walensky said in giving her charge to the panel. "It is our ongoing responsibility to make sure as many people as possible are vaccinated and protected from COVID-19."

Her statements left little doubt that she supported a broad recommendation to vaccinate all children 5 to 11 years old.

During a Monday briefing, White House COVID-19 response coordinator Jeffrey Zients said that the government has purchased enough of the low-dose children's vaccine for everyone in this age group. Zients said that the company began filling and labeling the vials and started shipping 15 million doses when the Food and Drug Administration authorized the vaccine last Friday.

The federal program for distributing the vaccine "will be fully operational" by next Monday, Nov. 8, Zients said, with some doses possibly available by the end of this week.

The vaccine is being shipped to pediatricians' and family doctors' offices, Zients said, as well as to community health centers, pharmacies, tribal health centers and other providers. School-based vaccine administration sites will also be included in some areas.

Some school districts have already scheduled vaccinations before the Thanksgiving holiday. And some clinics say they're ready to begin the shots Wednesday.

Parents will not need a doctor's order to get a vaccine, Zients said, though parents with questions may want to discuss the vaccine with a trusted health provider.

In a statement announcing her decision, Walensky underlined that point. "As a mom, I encourage parents with questions to talk to their pediatrician, school nurse or local pharmacist to learn more about the vaccine and the importance of getting their children vaccinated," she said.

During the Tuesday meeting of the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, panel members reviewed and discussed the science behind the FDA's Friday authorization of the vaccine in all children 5 to 11 years old. That authorization was based mostly on a Pfizer-BioNTech study of 4,600 children worldwide, of whom approximately 3,100 got the low-dose vaccine and about 1,500 got a placebo.

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FEMA Updates

If FEMA sent you a letter saying you are ineligible for assistance after Hurricane Ida damaged your home, you still have options. People are considered ineligible typically for one of several common reasons.

- FEMA determined you had insufficient damage to your residence: Consider applying with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) for a low-interest loan.

- You have an insurance policy that covered the damage to your home: Contact FEMA if your insurance settlement is delayed longer than 30 days or is insufficient to meet your Ida-related needs.

- You indicated that you were not willing to relocate while your damaged home was being repaired. This selection made you ineligible for FEMA temporary rental assistance, but you may still be eligible for home repair or personal property replacement grants. Contact FEMA's Helpline at 800-621-3362.

- A FEMA-contracted inspector may have tried to reach you numerous times but was unable to schedule an appointment: Call the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362 to check on your application.

- FEMA could not verify your identity: FEMA must be able to verify an applicant's identity with a valid Social Security number. See acceptable documents here: Common Reasons FEMA May Find you Ineligible for Assistance | FEMA.gov

- If you disagree with FEMA's decision on disaster assistance, you have the option to submit an appeal and have FEMA look at your case again.

After applying for FEMA assistance, you will receive a letter explaining FEMA's eligibility decision and the reason for that decision.

- Read your letter carefully because it specifies why you may not be eligible and recommends actions you can take that may change the decision.

- Everyone has the right to appeal a FEMA decision. An appeal must be filed in the form of a signed letter from the applicant, within 60 days of the date on the decision letter. In the appeal, explain why you disagree with the decision. Include any requested information and supporting documentation.

- Within 90 days of the receipt

of the appeal letter, FEMA will notify you in writing about the appeal decision.

19 FEMA disaster recovery centers (DRCs) are open in 14 Louisiana parishes hardest hit by Hurricane Ida. To find a DRC closest to you and the hours of operation, visit www.FEMA.gov/DRC or check the FEMA App.

DRC's in Baton Rouge area:

- 1112 East Ascension Complex
Gonzales, LA
- 26890 Highway 42
Springfield, LA

U.S. Small Business Administration Helping Survivors

- Federal low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) are available to businesses, homeowners and renters. As of Oct. 29, SBA has approved 15,801 loans for a total of \$789 million

- SBA Media Contact:
Rick Tillery
(571) 752-0659
Richard.tillery@sba.gov

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

- FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is ready to assist policyholders who experienced losses due to flooding from Hurricane Ida. Contact your insurance agent to report your loss. If you can't remember the name or number of the insurance company, call NFIP at 877-336-2627.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Louisiana Statewide Cemetery Response Task Force: 225-326-6056 or cemeterytaskforce@ag.louisiana.gov

- State of Louisiana's Hurricane Ida Sheltering Program: idahelteringla.com/ or call 844-268-0301

- FEMA Helpline (7 a.m. – 11 p.m., seven days a week): 800-621-3362 (TTY: 800-462-7585)

- SBA's Customer Service Center: 800-659-2955 or email DisasterCustomerService@sba.gov

- Louisiana's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): <http://defs.louisiana.gov/page/snap-hot-foods-waiver>

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- 63% of riders use bus service

SYSTEM from page 1

the future like medical marijuana, all these different things out there. What can we do to bring those revenues over to help fund this stuff. I think those are all options on the table," Rep. Magee explained.

The commission's goal is to reach an agreement and have something to vote on for the upcoming legislative session. If they fail to find a solution before session starts in March, we could very well be the same conversation about this well into next year.



Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce

at least five days per week

- 59% of riders rated the system good or excellent in a recent FuturePAC poll

- Independent economic modeling by the ULL Blanco Center for Public Policy estimated that the agency will contribute \$1.6 billion in economic impact to the Baton Rouge Area in the next decade

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For an in-depth analysis of CATS performance and its new 10-year goals, please see this BRAC Public Policy Commentary.

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RELIGION

Resurrection Restoration Praise Temple Ministry to host Pre-Thanksgiving Community Love Fest, Give-Away

Receive 1 of 500 Bags/Boxes Of FREE Groceries & Household Items

"A family feed is a family one step ahead." Resurrection Restoration Praise Temple Ministry, Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank and Louisiana Gospel Psalmists invite the residents of Baton Rouge and surrounding area communities to a "Pre-Thanksgiving Community Love Fest" Saturday, November 6th from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm. This family-friendly event will be held on the grounds of JJ's Inspection located at 6710 Plank Rd. Baton Rouge, LA 70811.

This free give-away of five-hundred (500) bags of food and household items, which will include dry goods, produce, pampers, toilet tissue, paper towels, Coke products, water, and more, will be given away on a first come, first serve basis. If you have room to receive, simply drive through JJ's Inspections, entering from Glen Oaks Drive, and exiting toward Plank Road. We will offer free face painting for the kids, and local vendors will be set

up to allow for some pre-Christmas shopping! Take a seat and just soak up the beautiful sunshine, or sing and clap along, as Louisiana Gospel Psalmists provide inspirational and soul-stirring music for your enjoyment.

This event is all about loving your neighbor, and helping those in need. So spread the word to family, friends, our senior citizens, college students, neighbors, co-workers, etc. Everyone is welcome. And it's going to be a whole lot of fun! Since this event is outdoors, please dress accordingly. We'll see you there!

Special Thanks to our generous sponsors: WTQT 106.1, Resurrection Restoration Ministry Praise Temple, Coke Cola, Kiwanis Club of Zachary, LA, Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank, and Louisiana Gospel Psalmists. VOLUNTEERS are appreciated and needed. For more information, call 225-287-4369

The Thankful, Grateful Christian

by Creflo Dollar

As Christians we know that prayer is a powerful tool at our disposal. However, we may never have learned how to pray effectively. Simply memorizing prayers we learned as children is only repeating empty words; true prayer is a conversation with God that doesn't necessarily fit into a pre-defined mold. When we're praying, remembering all the good things He has done and continues to do for us infuses thankfulness and gratitude into our prayers.

It's easy to focus on all the bad things happening around us, but that way of thinking isn't uplifting or beneficial to our frame of mind. It may take some initial effort on our part, but we can reject negative thoughts that try to invade our minds while welcoming the positive thoughts. "For the rest, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is worthy of reverence and is honorable and seemly, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely and lovable, whatever is kind

and winsome and gracious, if there is any virtue or excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think on and weigh and take account of these things [fix your minds on them]" (Philippians 4:8, AMPC). We have the authority as gatekeepers of our thought lives to allow only thoughts that agree with the Word of God to reside in our minds.

A thankful attitude empowers our prayer lives. We may remember our parents telling us as children to count our blessings. We need to do just that when we go to God in prayer. Reflecting on all the times He has turned bad situations around, and continues to do so, moves us to want to thank Him.

Prayer brings us into God's presence, and when we're in His presence we'll feel it. All anxiety and worry disappear and all that's left is His peace. "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6, 7, NKJV). We can be ourselves with Him and there are no limits to what we can pray about. As our heavenly Father, He always welcomes an opportunity to hear from His children.

Sometimes we may feel led to pray about particular individuals or certain circumstances. This is a prompting from the Holy Spirit that goes beyond our intellectual understanding because it comes directly from the mind of God. When we feel the need to pray but we can't think of the right words, we can depend on the Spirit to pray the perfect prayer for us. "Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not

know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God" (Romans 8:26, 27, NKJV).

God loves to get involved in every aspect of our lives and He takes great delight in blessing us. We don't have to look very far to see His goodness. "The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad" (Psalm 126:3). Prayer the way it was meant to be puts us in touch with our joy and gladness. Praying like this is God's will for us.

For more on how thankfulness is a game-changer not only in our prayers but also in our lives in general, click on the link to find the single message The Supernatural Power of Thanksgiving, in our eStore.

<http://bit.ly/TheSupernaturalPowerofThanksgivingSingleMessage>




Pastor Creflo Dollar

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Bishop Thelma Pearl Senior Pastor
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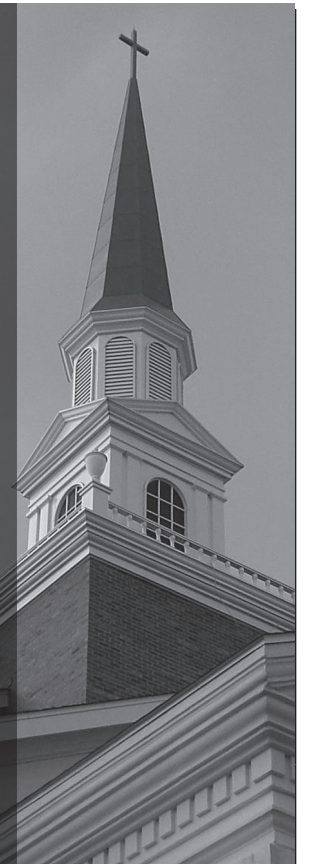
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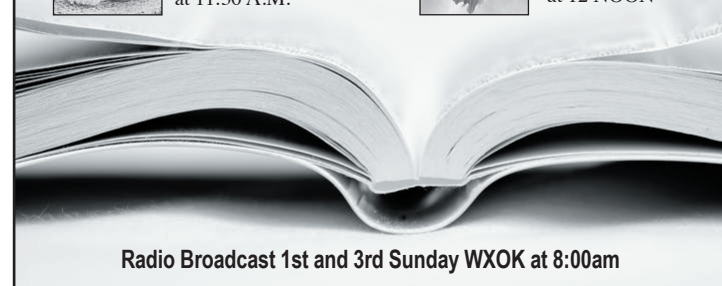
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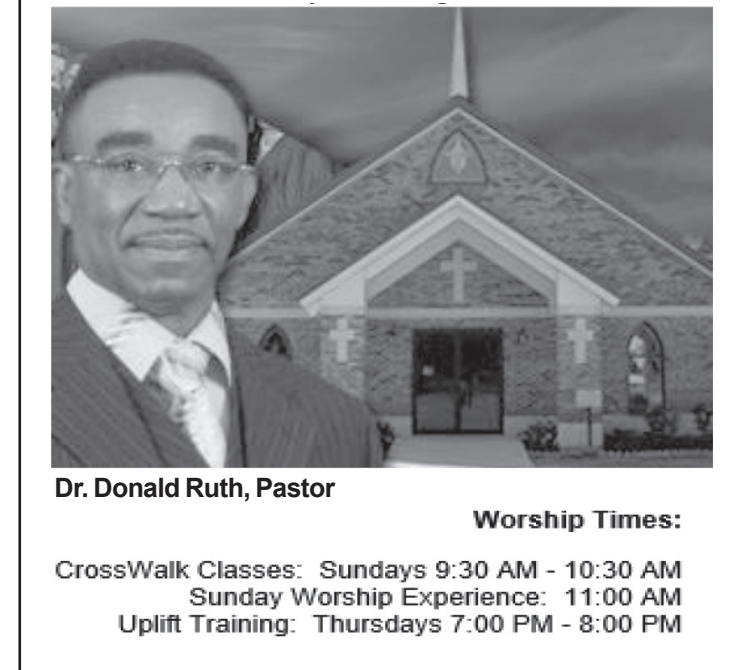
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Bible Study Wed- @ 7:00 PM

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Fad diets are out. It's your lifestyle habits that matter



Building healthy, long-term habits is key for a heart-healthy diet.

A full belly makes a happy heart, but your heart will be happier if you focus on sustaining long-term habits.

Heart-healthy eating starts with your eating patterns, according to the American Heart Association's recent scientific statement, "2021 Dietary Guidance to Improve Cardiovascular Health."

That doesn't mean giving up takeout or that five-minute meal kit from the grocery store altogether. The dietary guidance encourages people to adapt these habits into their lifestyle.

The statement identifies 10 features of heart-healthy eating patterns -- including guidance to combine a balanced diet with exercise; consume most nutrients through food over supplements;

eat whole grains; reduce sodium, added sugar and alcohol intake; use non-tropical plant oils; and eat minimally processed, over ultra-processed, foods.

"What's really important now is that people make modifications that can be sustainable in the long term," said Alice Lichtenstein, director of Tufts University's Cardiovascular Nutrition Laboratory and chair of the writing group for the AHA's new statement.

The statement's writing group evaluated literature and devised 10 features of heart-healthy dietary patterns. The group also expanded on the guidance, recognizing the need for sustainability and societal challenges that can be obstacles to achieving proper nutrition.

CDC updates health warning for aromatherapy spray

Federal agencies widened recalls and warnings to doctors Wednesday about aromatherapy sprays that have been linked to fatal cases of a rare tropical disease.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said doctors should be on the lookout for symptoms of melioidosis -- a difficult-to-diagnose infection caused by the bacteria *Burkholderia pseudomallei* -- and should ask patients about whether they've used certain sprays.

And people who have bought sprays containing "gemstones" should not throw them out but should pack them carefully and send them in for refunds, the CDC and the Consumer Product Safety Commission said.

Last month, the CDC said it had traced the case of a fatal *B. pseudomallei* infection in Georgia to an aromatherapy spray sold by Walmart. Three other cases, in



Mystery of exotic infectious disease traced to aromatherapy room spray

Kansas, Minnesota and Texas, had been genetically linked to the Georgia case and the patient in Kansas had also died.

The infection had mystified doctors because melioidosis, a tropical disease, is usually linked to travel and none of the infected people had traveled. Careful investigation implicated Better

Homes & Gardens Lavender & Chamomile Essential Oil Infused Aromatherapy Room Spray with Gemstones, which had been manufactured in India.

"Testing for the presence of *B. pseudomallei* is underway for the five other scents under the same brand with Gemstones including 'Lemon & Mandarin', 'Lavender', 'Peppermint', 'Lime & Eucalyptus', and 'Sandalwood & Vanilla,'" the CDC said.

HEALTH

LDH operating monoclonal antibody community-based treatment sites in every region of Louisiana

17 sites across Louisiana in operation 7 days a week



BATON ROUGE, La. — The Louisiana Department of Health is now operating 17 federally supported monoclonal antibody therapy (mAb) treatment sites across Louisiana. Each site is open 7 days a week from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. with an ability to serve more than 150 patients daily per site.

REGION 1: New Orleans

Segnette Field: South of John Alario Event Center, 2000 Segnette Blvd., Westwego, LA 70094
Val Riess Park: 1101 Magistrate St., Chalmette, LA 70043

REGION 2: Baton Rouge

Baton Rouge General: 3600 North Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806
Clinton Alternative Learning Center: 9414 Plank Road, Clinton, LA 70722

REGION 3: River Parishes

Big Lots: 404 N. Canal St., Thibodaux, LA 70301
Houma Municipal Community Center: 880 Verret St., Houma, LA 70360

REGION 4: Acadiana

Blackham Coliseum: 2330 Johnston St., Lafayette, LA 70503
Rayne Civic Center: 400 Frog Festival Drive, Rayne, LA 70578

REGION 5: Southwest

DeQuincy Ball Fields: 97 Bond Road, DeQuincy, LA 70633
Burton Coliseum: 7001 Gulf Hwy., Lake Charles, LA 70607

REGION 6: Cenla

Byrd Regional Hospital at Deer Creek: 810 S. 10th St., Leesville, LA 71496
Rapides Coliseum parking lot: 5600 Coliseum Blvd., Alexandria, LA 71303

REGION 7: Northwest

Troy Mayeaux Ball Field Parking Lot (within East Natchitoches Recreation Complex): 230 Dalme Drive, Natchitoches, LA
Louisiana Fairgrounds: 3701 Hudson Ave., Shreveport, LA 71109

REGION 8: Northeast

Moorehouse General Hospital: 323 W. Walnut Ave., Bastrop, LA 71220
Old State Farm Building: 24 Accent Drive, Monroe, LA 71203

REGION 9: Northshore

Florida Parishes Arena: 1301 N.W. Central Ave., Amite, LA 70422

Louisiana received its first allocation of monoclonal antibodies on November 12, 2020 and began administering to positive, symptomatic patients immediately.

In addition to the federally-supported sites, there are 216 providers statewide that had received mAb shipments they could administer as treatment.

Monoclonal antibodies are man-made antibodies produced in a laboratory that can mimic the human immune system response to infection. mAbs are designed to block viral at-

tachment and entry into human cells, thus neutralizing the virus that causes COVID-19.

Patients need to be referred by their doctor or other healthcare provider to a facility that offers mAb therapy such as a hospital or an infusion center. Those without a provider can be referred by an urgent care, community clinic, emergency department, hospitalist, etc.

Patients with a positive COVID-19 viral test should speak with their healthcare provider to determine whether they are eligible for mAb treatment and to discuss potential benefits and side effects.

Monoclonal antibody treatments may be used for the treatment of mild to moderate COVID-19 in adults and pediatric patients who are within 10 days of the start of their symptoms, at least 12 years of age or older and weigh at least 40 kilograms (88 pounds), and are at a high risk for progressing to severe COVID-19 and/or hospitalization.

The federal government has developed a searchable national map that show locations that have received shipments of monoclonal antibody therapeutics under FDA EUA authority, within the past several weeks. The scalable map is at <https://protect-public.hhs.gov/pages/therapeutics-distribution>.

A call center is available to answer questions and provide information related to mAb therapeutic treatments at 1-877-332-6585 (English language) or 1-877-366-0310 (Spanish language).

Eligibility criteria

In order to be eligible for mAb

treatment, the patient must meet all of the following:

- Have a positive test for SARS-CoV-2 (molecular/PCR or antigen)
- Are within 10 days of the start of their symptoms

Are at least 12 years of age or older and weigh at least 40 kilograms (88 pounds)

Are at a high risk for progressing to severe COVID-19 and/or hospitalization

Patients are reminded the procedure takes at least two hours. This includes 30 minutes to receive the infusion, then 1.5 hours of observation.

For patients who are taking medications, they should take their regular doses before treatment. It is also OK to eat before the treatment.

For more information about mAbs, visit ldh.la.gov/mab.

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Nov. 7 | 2-4 p.m.

NEIGHBORHOOD MOVIE IN THE PARK
T.D. Bickham Park Nov. 5
Flannery Road Park Nov. 12
Independence Community Park Nov. 23

VETERAN'S DAY AT THE ZOO
BREC's Baton Rouge Zoo
Nov. 6 | 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
(Grounds close at 5 p.m.)

E-SPORTS TOURNAMENT: MARIO KART 8
Red Oaks Park
Nov. 6 | noon

HOMAGE TO A HERO: RUBY BRIDGES
Milton J. Womack Park
Nov. 6 | 10:30 a.m.-noon

HOOPER HUSTLE Hooper Road Park
Nov. 7 | 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

10 + UNDER TENNIS TOURNAMENT
Highland Road Community Park
Tennis Center
Nov. 13 | 8:30 a.m.-noon

ART UNWIND: WINNIE & NEIGH
Farr Park Equestrian Center
Nov. 13 | 10 a.m.-noon

FALL BREAK HOLIDAY CAMPS
Nov. 22-26 brec.org/holidaycamp

SATURDAY MORNING STUDIO: RAINY DAY IN LONDON TOWN
Milton J. Womack Park
Nov. 13 | 10:30 a.m.-noon

MINI CARNIVAL + MOVIE IN THE PARK
City-Brooks Community Park
Nov. 13 | 1-4 p.m.

ZOO RUN RUN BREC's Baton Rouge Zoo
Nov. 13 | Registration begins at 6:30 a.m.

RIDE + ROLL
Perkins Road Extreme Sports Park
Nov. 13 | 2-6 p.m.

SWAMP ART SHOW FIELD DAYS
Bluebonnet Swamp Nature Center
Nov. 13 + 14

SUNSHINE SOCIAL: FALL FEST
Milton J. Womack Park
Nov. 19 | 6-9 p.m.

CREOLE CHRISTMAS + HOLIDAY FAIR
Magnolia Mound
Nov. 28 | noon-5 p.m.

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BUSINESS

North Baton Rouge loses another shopping option for groceries after the 'Save A Lot' closed



Metro Council Member Chauna Banks says more needs to be done, "So, to have a grocery store in North Baton Rouge, we have to have anchors that also draw people and that was not one of those stores."



Metro Council Member Chauna Banks

BATON ROUGE, La. — North Baton Rouge has one less shopping option for groceries after the "Save A Lot" closed over the weekend costing older residents vital resources that they need here.

Frankie Smith has lived in North Baton Rouge for 21 years. The food is her love language. Every day, she makes home-cooked meals for some of the older folks in the area.

"Half of the time they don't have anything to eat, if they don't have someone to bring them something to eat, you know drop it off at their door. You know half of them don't eat a meal, and this is so concerning," says Smith.

She's always happy to make the meals, but since they "Save A Lot" closed down, she's worried she won't find the same bulk deals at other grocery stores in the area. "We don't have anything over here where we can be able to

eat healthily, so I am very disappointed in what's going on," adds Smith. While she's disappointed to have to look for a new place to shop, the last thing she'd want to do is disappoint her neighbors who count on her for warm meals.

Smith says it's not just about the grocery store closing down, to her it's lights out at yet another business in North Baton Rouge. East Baton Rouge's Metro Council wants to revitalize the area. They established the North Economic District specifically to bring more businesses to that part of the parish. However, Metro Council Member Chauna Banks says more needs to be done. "So, to have a grocery store in North Baton Rouge, we have to have anchors that also draw people and that was not one of those stores."

There's no development, no housing for multiple years in that area, so it is a huge loss," Banks says city leaders need to start tak-

ing a different approach for the communities scattered throughout North Baton Rouge because no every neighborhood has the same needs. "It's going to be a huge task and it has been for the economic development district as it is currently cared to deal with all of those area because it's really large, we do need more situational operations," adds Banks.

A lot of the folks in Evangeline area would walk to the "Save A Lot" grocery store, while other stores are almost a mile away. Now older residents will have to figure out a way to get there now.

"Save A Lot" corporation says some of the reasons why they closed down the store was because of financial problems and if it did not fit into their long term plans.

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Strickly Business

By Rinaldi E. Jacobs Sr

The Metro- Council will take up the funding package from the Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome proposed use of fund from the American Rescue Plan. Mayor Broome has done a good job of spreading the funding throughout the Parish. The project ranges from drainage, fire and police department improvements. Sure, all council members want as much as possible for their districts.

However, some members of the Metro- Council and the media seems to be raising questions about the limited financial support being given to most qualified developer Teven Wade and Bradley Brown for their investment on Scotland Ave. To be clear, why is this even an issue? These young, gifted and Black developers have been putting in their money, time, sweat and talents in North Baton Rouge. They are taking a previous disinvested section of Scotland Ave and bring it back to life. This location is a gateway to Southern University and the wider community.

In my years of advocating for North Baton Rouge investing we have never gotten the same investment dollars as other parts of the Parish. All sources of the economic development world will tell that in order to turn disinvested around it will take partnerships between the public and private sectors. This is what the Mayor is doing with the use of the funds. This is within the guidelines of the American Rescue Plan.

When we sought to create the Baton Rouge North Economic Development District, I can't tell how many critics told me the people of North Baton Rouge would never vote in a tax for economic development. Boy ere they wrong! We won our election by ten percent of the vote, and the rest is history in the making. While working for the BRNEDD we helped to shape the map for Opportunity Zones. This is an investment tool established for disinvested areas in part. Baton Rouge has eighteen Opportunity Zones fifteen of which are in North Baton Rouge.

There have been countless times where developers have used tax credits, tax incentives, and other incentive on their projects outside to North Baton Rouge. Some of the noise makers never said a word. They never complained about the use of tax dollars for private development. We in North Baton Rouge do not have an ax to grind with other developer that put up their money on projects. It must be noted this is the time such a public sector investment has been made on this type of project in North Baton Rouge. We pay taxes like everybody else. Why should there be all the fuss?

People are always complaining about the people of North Baton Rouge not investing in our neighborhoods. This is a false narrative about the people of the City. We in fact need even more investments by both the private sector partnering with the public sector. Southern University's College of Business has a program called the Creating Sustainable Neighborhood Developers Program. The purpose of the program is to grow a group of community-based developers. They have graduated more than 200 people. This is how we are going to change North Baton Rouge, one investment at a time.

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