

# The Weekly Press

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19-25, 2020

A PEOPLE'S PUBLICATION

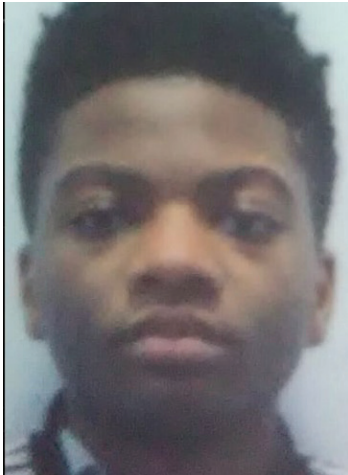
VOL. 43 • NO.26 • FREE



LOCAL & STATE PG 2  
OCHSNER HEALTH ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO #MASKUP

LOCAL & STATE PG 3  
COVID CLINICAL STUDY SCAMS PROMISE BIG BUCKS

## Killing of Black Teen, Quawan Bobby Charles, was 'Emmett Till-like Lynching' Says Local Residents



Many gathered along with Quawan's family on Wednesday, Nov. 11, outside of the Iberia Parish Courthouse to demand more information be released.

BY STACY M. BROWN,  
NNPA Newswire  
Senior National Correspondent

Who is Quawan "Bobby" Charles, and why are some comparing his death to Emmett Till?

The 15-year-old's death has sparked demonstrations in rural Iberia Parish, Louisiana, a densely populated county where African Americans comprise about 31 percent of its residents.

According to multiple reports and photos circulating the internet, Quawan's battered body was found by authorities sometime during or after Halloween night.

Police have not confirmed where and exactly when they found Quawan's body, but family members have claimed it was discovered in a sugar cane field not far from his home.

A photo shows the teen's face badly discolored and swollen, with parts of his jaw exposed and skin missing. There are bruises on his forehead.

"Many say Charles' body resembles 14-year-old Emmett Till who was lynched in Mississippi in 1955 after being accused of offending a white woman in her family's grocery store," reported the news website, The NC Beat, which published a side-by-side photo comparison of Quawan Charles and Emmett Till.

Law enforcement officials in Louisiana have not confirmed the authenticity of Quawan's photo.

Investigators have noted that they're still processing evidence, interviewing various individuals, and are awaiting autopsy results.

"The disrespect [from law enforcement] and lack of transpar-

See TEEN, on page 3

# 'Louisiana Battle Third Surge of Pandemic'

## Gov. Edwards gives strong warnings to residents before Thanksgiving holiday

BATON ROUGE, La. - Gov. John Bel Edwards gave a stern warning to Louisiana residents about the alarming rise of COVID-19 cases in the state and urged them to follow COVID-19 prevention guidelines during a news conference Thursday, Nov. 19.

Gov. Edwards, who was joined by two doctors, said the situation in Louisiana is dire with COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations on the rise for the third time this year.

"Make no mistake, Louisiana is in the third surge of this pandemic," Gov. Edwards said.

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) reported more than 2,000 new cases of COVID-19 for the third day in a row Thursday. The number of COVID-19 patients hospitalized due to the virus also surpassed 900 for the first time since late August.

The governor said Thursday the number of hospitalizations in



Gov. John Bel Edwards and health officials painted a grim picture of Louisiana's current plight amid the coronavirus pandemic on Thursday, casting aside any doubt as to where the state currently stands.

Louisiana increased by more than 250 patients in just one week. He said CEOs of Louisiana's hospitals told him earlier Thursday that the outlook for the state's hospital capacity was "grim" if cases do not trend downward.

Gov. Edwards called the rise

in both cases and hospitalizations over the last few days a "disturbing trend" and said officials with the White House's Coronavirus Task Force informed him that this surge was worse than the first two surges that happened in the spring and summer.

He said the spread of cases was likely from people gatherings and failing to practice COVID-19 prevention measures over the Halloween weekend. The governor said it was critical

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## Gov. Edwards Announces Federal Grant for COVID-19 Economic Recovery

Gov. John Bel Edwards and Louisiana Economic Development Secretary Don Pierson welcomed the award of \$2.4 million in federal funds to spur business recovery throughout Louisiana in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. LED will match \$600,000 in state funds for a \$3 million initiative. The department will work with economic developers statewide on recovery-focused efforts to retain and attract small and large businesses.

U.S. Department of Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross announced the Louisiana award today, with the grant coming from the Commerce Department's Economic Development Administration, or EDA.

"We are deeply appreciative

See GRANT, on page 5

## EARLY VOTING BEGINS NOV. 20 FOR THE DEC. 5 ELECTION

BATON ROUGE, La. - Secretary of State Kyle Ardoin is reminding voters that early voting begins Friday, Nov. 20, and continues through Saturday, Nov. 28 from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily, excluding Sunday, Nov. 22, Thursday, Nov. 26 and Friday, Nov. 27 (due to the state observed holiday for Thanksgiving and Acadian Day).

Citizens who want to vote early may do so in person at the parish Registrar of Voters Office or at other designated locations. Due to Hurricanes Laura and Delta, some polling locations have been relocated. For a complete listing of early voting locations, please visit <https://voterportal.sos.la.gov/>



Early Voting.

Voters are encouraged to utilize Louisiana's award-winning, free smartphone app, GeauxVote Mobile, to locate their early voting site, Election Day voting site, or view their sample ballot. GeauxBot, the virtual voter as-

istant, is also available to access pertinent election information such as registration deadlines, election dates, polling locations, and hours. GeauxBot is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by visiting [voterportal.sos.la.gov](http://voterportal.sos.la.gov) or by selecting Elections and Voting

on [sos.la.gov](http://sos.la.gov).

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, our polling commissioners will be supplied with personal protective equipment and will regularly sanitize designated areas and wipe down voting machines between each voter. Hand sanitizer will be provided to voters and masks are recommended, although not required.

In addition to a Louisiana driver's license, a Louisiana Special ID, or a generally recognized ID with picture and signature, voters may use a digital license via LA Wallet.

For more information, contact the Elections Division at 800.883.2805 or [elections@sos.la.gov](mailto:elections@sos.la.gov).

## FEMA Deadline to Register for Hurricane Laura One Week Away



BATON ROUGE, La. - Renters and homeowners in parishes designated for FEMA assistance after Hurricane Laura have until Nov. 27 to register for help.

Federal assistance includes help for temporary housing, rental assistance and repair or replacement

See FEMA, on page 5

### SAINTS SCORE 20 UNANSWERED POINTS



President-elect Joe Biden announced members of the incoming White House senior staff this week, naming Rep. Cedric Richmond (D-LA) as Senior Advisor to the President and Director of the White House Office of Public Engagement. Richmond is the first American official named by the incoming Biden-Harris Administration for a West Wing post. ...See Page 6

### STATE & LOCAL



#### EVERYONE #MASKUP

Ochsner Health is among 100 of the nation's top health care systems, representing thousands of hospitals in communities across the U.S., coming together with an urgent plea for all Americans - mask up, ...Page 2

### RELIGION



#### THE EFFECTS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Sometimes we stand in front of the window, looking out and trying to watch the events of what's going on in the lives of others. By looking, we make judgments on what we think we see...See Page 4

### BUSINESS



#### CATS STRATEGIC PLANNING

CATS announced the transit agency is launching an update of its strategic plan to advance its mission in connecting residents to their jobs, grocery stores, healthcare appointments...Page 5

### SEND YOUR NEWS

to the news department at the Baton Rouge Weekly Press by emailing it to: [brweeklypress@yahoo.com](mailto:brweeklypress@yahoo.com)

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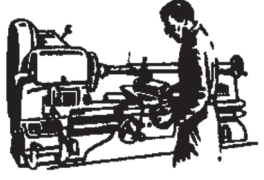
#### CLASSIFIED

Buying or selling a service, looking for a good job? Check out the classifieds.



# STATE & LOCAL

## READER INFORMATION



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### Correction Policy

The Baton Rouge Weekly Press strives to be fair and accurate. The newspaper corrects any significant errors of fact brought to the attention of the editor. If you think an error has been made, call 225-775-2002

## The Weekly Press

Newspaper is published weekly in Baton Rouge and distributed every Thursday with a circulation of 7,500. Subscription rates are \$65.00 per year for Louisiana residents; \$72.00 for one year for out-of-state residents; half price for six months subscription; and \$1.00 per single copy.

All money orders or checks should be made payable to The Baton Rouge Weekly Press  
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 Closed Saturday, Sunday

# Ochsner Health Joins Thousands of Top U.S. Hospitals to Encourage Everyone to #MaskUp

BATON ROUGE, La. – Ochsner Health is among 100 of the nation's top health care systems, representing thousands of hospitals in communities across the U.S., coming together with an urgent plea for all Americans – mask up, because wearing a facemask is our best chance at slowing the surging COVID-19 pandemic now.

More than 11.5 million Americans have tested positive for the virus – including an additional one million in just the past week – leading more than 250,000 deaths.

The current trends are daunting and frightening. If the nation stays on its current course, hospital leaders are increasingly concerned that more healthcare facilities will be overwhelmed as shortages of healthy caregivers make it difficult to handle a rapidly increasing number of patients. Unfortunately, this is already happening in parts of our country.

The next several months will be critical. Though there has been positive news about vaccine development, no one knows when those vaccines will be ready for widespread use. In the meantime, everyone must remain vigilant, take precautions and follow public health orders.

The country has reached a tipping point. The power to do what is right is now in the hands of everyone everywhere.

Beginning today, a public service message will run in The New York Times, USA Today, The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post and The Los Angeles Times.



Investments will support projects that eliminate barriers to healthcare; bring resources into underserved, urban and rural communities; collaborate with partners to research and better understand health disparities; utilize technology and innovation to improve outcomes and invest in Louisiana's next generation of healthcare providers and frontline staff.

Additionally, hospitals and health systems across the country will continue to unite to share these messages regionally.

The message reads: "As the top nationally-ranked hospitals, we know it's tough that we all need to do our part and keep wearing masks. But, here's what we also know: The science has not changed. Masks slow the spread of COVID-19. So, please join us as we all embrace this simple ask:

Wear. Care. Share with #MaskUp. Together, wearing is caring. And together, we are saving lives."

In an effort to reach a broader audience, the public service effort will also include messages on digital platforms, social media, online information, links to vital health resources and more. Combining resources demonstrates that these health organizations are working together, will accomplish this today and will get through this together. The U.S. Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention points to recent studies that have shown facemasks successfully limit spread of the COVID-19 virus. Wearing facemasks protect in key ways: by protecting the wearer against inhalation of harmful pathogens and particulates and by preventing exposure of those around the wearer.

In addition to masking, the CDC suggests that everyone minimize the number of non-household contacts, maintain a physical dis-

tance of at least six feet, and limit the amount of time around others, especially while indoors and in poorly ventilated areas. For further information about masking guidelines – how to choose a mask, how to properly wear a mask – visit the CDC website.

The following hospitals and health systems are helping to spread this message across the country.

- AdventHealth
- Adventist Health
- Allegheny Health Network
- Atrium Health
- Avera Health
- Banner Health
- Baptist Health Northeast Florida
- Baylor Scott & White Health
- Baystate Health
- BJC HealthCare
- Bon Secours Mercy Health
- Boston Children's Hospital
- Cedars-Sinai
- Children's Hospital Los Angeles
- Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
- Children's Hospital of Orange County
- Children's National Hospital
- ChristianaCare
- Cincinnati Children's
- Hospital Medical Center
- City of Hope
- Cleveland Clinic
- CommonSpirit Health
- Community Health Systems
- Cooper University Health Care

See **MASKUP**, on page 3

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**L i g h t S**

NOVEMBER 27 - DECEMBER 30 5:30-8 PM NIGHTLY

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**PANDEMIC** from page 1

that residents change their plans for Thanksgiving to ensure the gatherings were small and were only with members of their immediate household, otherwise the holiday would be a catalyst for cases to continue to rise at an exponential rate. Families should also anticipate minimizing gatherings for Christmas too, he said. (See the governor's full news conference in the video below).

One of the governor's two guest speakers at the news conference, Dr. Christopher Thomas with the COVID-19 unit at Our Lady of the Lake in Baton Rouge gave an impassioned speech imploring Louisiana residents to take responsibility to help their fellow residents and loved ones.

Dr. Thomas said he, himself, contracted COVID-19 earlier this year and called it a "scary" experience despite his medical knowledge and experience treating patients with the virus. He said he and his staff have treated the sickest patients they've ever seen during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The doctor said every Louisiana resident should consider themselves a "healthcare provider" because they have the ability to prevent the virus from spreading to others particularly, their loved ones.

Dr. Thomas said the issue with hospital capacity is not whether a hospital has enough beds but instead whether a hospital has adequate staff to care for both COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 patients. He said his staff is tired and stressed out and with more COVID-19 patients, the more likely hospital staffers are to contract the virus themselves. The doctor also said additional personnel cannot be brought in from other parts of the U.S. because hospitals in every state are also dealing with a surge in patients.

"We wouldn't ask the LSU Tigers to play a game against three other teams," Dr. Thomas said.

Dr. Joseph Kanter, LDH's interim assistant secretary of public health, echoed Gov. Edwards' message of keeping Thanksgiving holiday gatherings small saying the risk of transmission of the coronavirus is higher when you bring people from outside your home inside your home. He also said large gatherings inside without masks increased the chances for the virus to spread.

Dr. Kanter called the progress being made by Moderna and Pfizer on COVID-19 vaccines "a light at the end of the tunnel." However, Dr. Kanter said we have to focus on reducing cases and hospitalizations now.

Gov. Edwards added saying that once a COVID-19 vaccine is available it will take months before it's actually available to the general public. Hospitals and nursing homes have the first priority in receiving the vaccine in Louisiana.

"I think it is fair to say, there is light at the end of the tunnel, but I just want you to know it's a very long tunnel. And if we want to live to see it, there's some things we have to do today and continue to do until we can finally put this [pandemic] in the rearview mirror," Gov. Edwards said.

Here's a snapshot of hospitals in our region as of November 19:

- There are a total of 169 patients hospitalized for COVID in the Ochsner systems throughout Louisiana
- Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center has 49 patients.
- There are 37 at Baton Rouge General's Bluebonnet and Mid City locations.

"We have seen our hospitalizations go up this week. Particularly in the last 48 hours. We're seeing a number of sicker Covid patients than we were earlier in the week and certainly more than last week," said Dr. Louis Minsky, Chief of Staff at Baton Rouge General.

Dr. Minsky says Louisiana is paralleling the previous two COVID-19 spikes, and the worst may still be ahead.

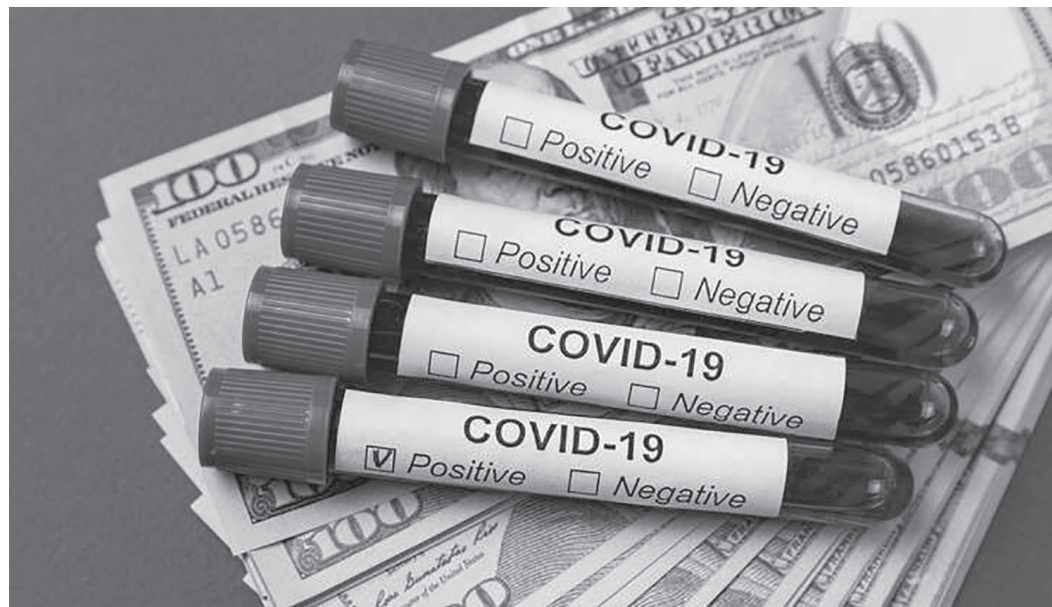
"We're already in the uprise for the third spike. And if it started this week, then 7 to 14 days later, is when that hospital capacity starts to surge up," he said.

While doctors are utilizing a number of therapy treatments to help Covid patients, and have better knowledge about the virus now, medical workers are worn out.

The big fear is with Thanksgiving so close, it's tempting to let your guard down. But doctors say now is the time to buckle down.

"Until there is a vaccine available for the general public which is still a number of months away, we need to be doing all we can, to help one another," said Dr. Kanter.

# BBB SCAM ALERT: COVID Clinical Study Scams Promise Big Bucks



Thought you had seen the end of COVID-19 scams? Think again! Scammers are sending out text messages promoting participation in phony clinical studies. Don't be tempted by the opportunity to help scientists while making extra cash. The Better Business Bureau of South Central Louisiana wants you to make sure it's the real thing before you sign up.

**How the Scam Works**

You receive an unsolicited message via text, email, or a social media message. It explains that you may qualify for a COVID-19 study, which pays upwards of \$1,000. One version received by BBB staff read: "Local Covid19 Study: Compensation up to \$1,220! Qualify Here: [link removed] stop2stop."

No matter how curious you are – or how much you could use an extra \$1,200 – don't click. It's a scam! The phony message includes a link to see whether or not you qualify for the study. If you click it, you could unknowingly download malware onto your computer or phone. This virus can give scammers access to

your usernames, passwords, and other personal information stored on your computer.

In other cases, the link may take you to a website that looks like a real clinical trial. You will be asked for personal information, such as government ID or bank account

numbers. Real medical researchers would never ask for this information during the screening process!

**How to Avoid Clinical Trial Scams**

• Look up the domain. Use [lookup.icann.org](http://lookup.icann.org) to look up the URL. Look for warning signs such

as a very recent registration date or registration in a foreign country.

Think the trial is real? Find it on the official website. If you receive a message about a study and want to confirm whether it's true, go directly to (or do a web search for) the organization's website for further information. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Library of Medicine (NLM) also maintain ClinicalTrials.gov, a free searchable database of clinical studies on a wide range of diseases. If there is no government agency, university, or hospital mentioned, it's likely a scam.

Never pay to be part of a clinical trial. Real clinical trials will never ask you to pay them.

Legitimate clinical trials do gather information about candidates – but not financial information. To screen for participants, a real study might ask for your name, contact information, age, gender, race, ethnicity, or various pre-existing medical conditions. But they should never ask you for information like your bank account details.

**TEEN** from page 1

ency are unacceptable," ACLU of Louisiana executive director Alanah Odoms Hebert wrote in a statement.

"We join the family in demanding a full and transparent investigation into the circumstances surrounding Bobby's death," Hebert continued. "This family is grieving and deserves answers – not disrespect and stonewalling."

Demonstrators have reportedly questioned the possibility that the case involves foul play.

Many gathered along with Quawan's family on Wednesday, Nov. 11, outside of the Iberia Parish Courthouse to demand more information be released.

"We are here to demand justice for a family of people who gruesomely lost their loved one, a 15-year-old child who was found in a way that just breaks my heart," demonstrator Jamal Taylor told Louisiana's WAFB-TV.

"Members of law enforcement have done what they do well, which is deny and hide behind a pending investigation. This family deserves answers," Taylor remarked.

Ron Haley, the attorney representing Quawan's family, also chided authorities for their lack of

transparency.

"There are certain circumstances where I absolutely understand – and I think anybody would – why things aren't made [available] to the public," Haley said.

"But let's talk specifically about Bobby Charles. His family should know... His mother and father should be made aware of every step of this investigation."

Racial tensions have routinely boiled over in Iberia Parish, where lynching of Black people became a regular occurrence following Reconstruction.

A blistering 2018 article published in The Acadiana Advocate reported that the Iberia Parish Sheriff's Office had employed a violent gang with racist tendencies and batons.

According to the report, deputies in the Sheriff Department's elite narcotics squad routinely beat suspects, and sometimes just random African Americans they confronted.

"Some of the same deputies fabricated reports, made bogus arrests and lied under oath to cover their tracks," the newspaper reported. "And to hear federal prosecutors tell it, Sheriff Louis Ackal was the architect of the whole thing."

Not long after he took office, in

2008, three of Ackal's drug agents got caught jumping two young black residents just for kicks.

Ackal allegedly dismissed the matter as "just another case of n\*\*\*\*r-knocking," a comment deputies said made the rounds of the narcotics squad and set a free-swinging tone for years of abuse.

Nearly a dozen Iberia Parish deputies would eventually confess to civil rights violations, and several agreed to testify against their boss over the biggest policing scandal in Louisiana in a decade.

But then Ackal beat the rap in 2016 and came back to town.

Quawan's family has started a GoFundMe to help pay for an independent autopsy. The site also contains a graphic photo of the teen's body.

So far, the effort has raised more than \$65,000 against its original \$15,000 goal.

"According to Eugene Weatherspoon Collins of the Baton Rouge NAACP, Quawan Charles was lynched just like Emmett Till," Baton Rouge activist Gary Chambers wrote this week on Facebook.

"There is no other way to put it."

**MASKUP** from page 2

- Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
- Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health
- Duke Health
- Emory Healthcare
- Geisinger
- Hackensack Meridian Health
- HCA Healthcare
- Inspira Health
- Intermountain Healthcare
- Jefferson Health
- Johns Hopkins Medicine
- Kaiser Permanente
- Keck Medicine of USC
- LifePoint Health
- Mass General Brigham
- Mayo Clinic
- MedStar Health
- Memorial Hermann
- Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
- MemorialCare (Southern California)
- Mercy
- Michigan Medicine
- Mount Sinai Health System

- National Jewish Health
- Nationwide Children's Hospital
- Nebraska Medicine
- Nemours Children's Health System
- NewYork-Presbyterian
- Northwell Health
- Northwestern Medicine
- Norton Healthcare
- Ochsner Health
- OhioHealth
- Oregon Health & Science University
- OSF HealthCare
- OU Health
- PeaceHealth
- Penn Medicine
- Penn State Health
- Providence
- Renown Health
- Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center
- Rush University System for Health
- RWJ Barnabas Health
- Saint Luke's Health System (Kansas City, MO)
- SCL Health
- Scripps Health
- Sharp HealthCare

- Southwestern Health Resources
- SSM Health
- St. Elizabeth Healthcare
- St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
- St. Luke's Hospital (St. Louis)
- Stanford Health Care
- Sutter Health
- Temple Health
- Texas Health Resources
- The Christ Hospital Health Network
- The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center
- The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
- ThedaCare
- TriHealth (Cincinnati)
- Trinity Health
- UC Davis Health
- UCHHealth
- UC Health CINCINNATI
- UC San Diego Health
- UChicago Medicine
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# RELIGION

## The Effects Of Righteousness

By CREFLO DOLLAR

As children in school, we may have read about the triumphs of great historical conquerors written up in the textbooks. Their works are no doubt legendary, but they were most likely not known for their righteousness, their faith, or their Christian principles. True triumph comes not from conquering others or performing heroic acts through our own efforts, but through a relationship with Jesus Christ.

A relationship with Jesus makes us righteous in God's eyes, and opens the door to eternal life for us. The beauty of this is that it operates not according to what we can do, but according to what Jesus has already done for us through His death and resurrection. He literally conquered death; through Him, we can have the same triumph. "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?... But thanks be to God, which giveth us the



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victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:55, 57).

The world won't accept the concept of this relationship making us righteous and holy, because it can't comprehend something so simple and yet so powerful. "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (1 Corinthians 1:18). It doesn't understand the message because it doesn't know Jesus. There is no victory as great as that of overcoming death, but we have it through Jesus Christ.

The effects of righteousness are far-reaching, and start with renewing the mind. When we get born again, one of the biggest hurdles

we face is an intellectual one. We may find it hard to wrap our minds around the fact that we have brand-new identities in Christ, with no past, like newborn babies. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

It doesn't matter what we did last week, yesterday, or even ten minutes ago. God meets us where we are and accepts us the way we are, regardless of how many mistakes we've made or how many times we've failed. The world doesn't work this way, but being in Christ enables us to transcend earthly limitations. "But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption" (1 Corinthians 1:30). Others may not see us as righteous; however, God does.

Our relationship with Jesus isn't by bloodlines, but by faith. It puts us in right-standing with God, and nothing can cancel it. He loves us so much that nothing

can tear us away from Him.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?... Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:35, 37-39).

Knowing Him is a game-changer, and gives us success in every area of our lives.

For more on how a relationship with Jesus Christ makes us righteous in God's eyes, click on the link below for the two-message series, Triumph: Righteous is the Key to Victory.

<https://bit.ly/TriumphRighteousisTheKeytoVictory2MessageSeries>

## Gratitude in Affliction

By DR CHARLES STANLEY

*Psalms 119:65-72*

65 Thou hast dealt well with thy servant, O Lord, according unto thy word. 66 Teach me good judgment and knowledge: for I have believed thy commandments. 67 Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word. 68 Thou art good, and doest good; teach me thy statutes. 69 The proud have forged a lie against me: but I will keep thy precepts with my whole heart. 70 Their heart is as fat as grease; but I delight in thy law. 71 It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes. 72 The law of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver.

At Thanksgiving, we typically express gratitude for God's blessings. But did you ever consider thanking Him for something that doesn't seem like a blessing—such as a trying circumstance you want Him to remove or change? A grateful heart is most precious to God when, humanly speaking, our situations don't warrant giving thanks. By making four foundational decisions, we can begin to see the value of our adversities and respond with appreciation.

Believe and trust the Lord. Only by viewing life from a scriptural perspective can we understand His purposes in our trials and trust His wisdom in allowing them.

Accept the situation as



Dr. Charles Stanley

coming from God—either directly sent or permissively allowed. If we truly believe He's working for our good (Rom 8:28-29), we can choose to receive each difficulty as coming from

His loving hand. Then we can say "Thank You."

Submit to God in the circumstance. Although we may not like the situation, knowing that God "[is] good and does good" (v. 68) allows us to confidently place our lives under His authority.

Draw from Him the strength to endure. No one has the ability within himself to endure hardships with gratefulness. Only by relying on the Lord can believers go through adversity with an appreciative heart.

Now, think about that circumstance you would like changed, and with a new mindset, offer this prayer to God: "Lord, I accept this situation as coming from You. In faith and trust, I place myself under Your loving authority, and draw from You the strength I need to endure with gratitude."

For more biblical teaching and resources from Dr. Charles Stanley, please visit [www.intouch.org](http://www.intouch.org).

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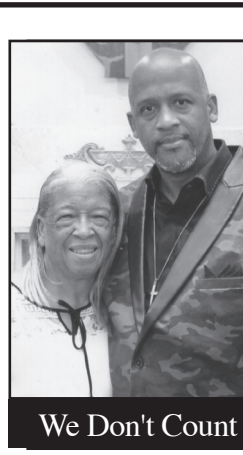
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Bishop Thelma Pearl Senior Pastor  
Bishop Michael Pearl, Assistant Pastor

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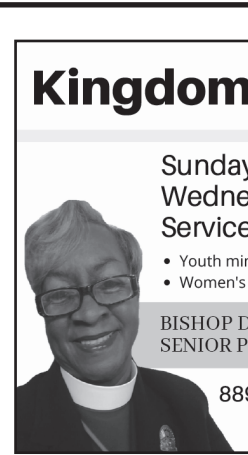
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Rev. Tiffanie C. Postell, Associate Pastor

Sunday School ..... 9:30 a.m.  
Worship Service ..... 10:55 a.m.  
Youth Sunday & Contemporary Worship ..... 2nd Sun. 8:00 a.m.  
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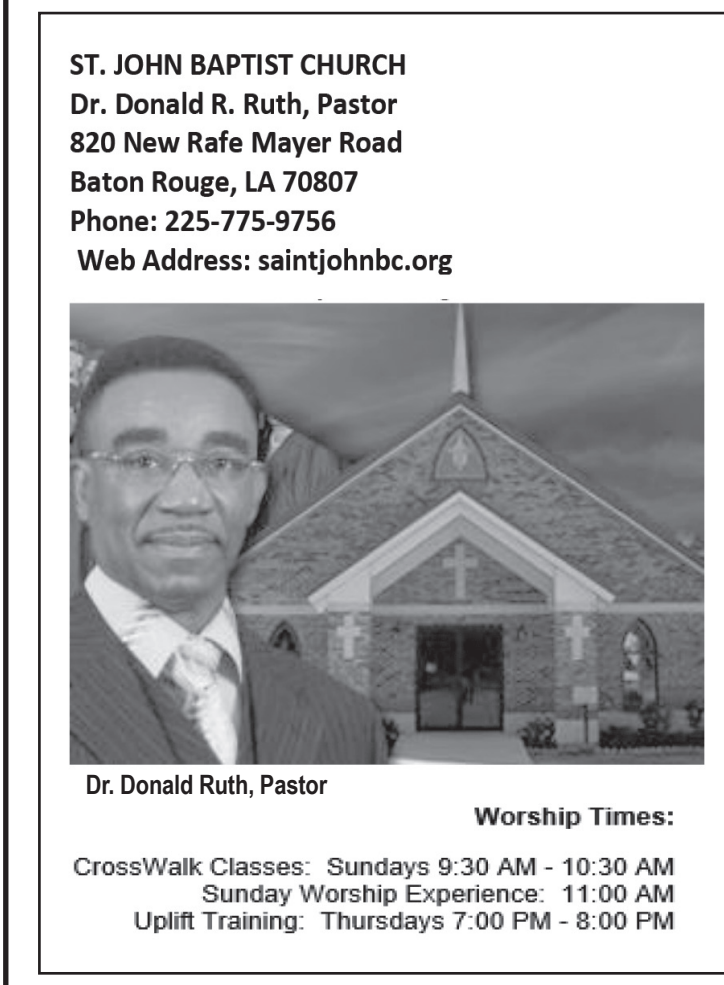


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Dr. Donald Ruth, Pastor

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Sunday Worship Experience: 11:00 AM  
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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

Mission Statement: New Hope Baptist Church is a family of baptized believers who worship the Lord our God in spirit and in truth, teach the saved to reach the lost and minister to the needs of others, while encouraging one another through acts of love and living in obedience to Gods Word



**GRANT** from page 1

of this EDA technical assistance grant and what it can do for business recovery throughout our state," Gov. Edwards said. "As we continue to chart a path toward COVID-19 health recovery, we also are mindful of the major impact this health crisis has had upon the businesses of Louisiana. LED will work with its regional and local partners across the state to fund meaningful economic development programs that can secure jobs and investment for our economy."

The EDA grant represents \$2.4 million in CARES Act recovery assistance, part of a \$1.5 billion package of economic development assistance programs to help communities prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus pandemic.

In Louisiana, LED will survey key economic development organizations and small business service-providers to identify COVID-19 recovery projects. Those efforts will focus on local projects designed to have maximum impact on the state's economic recovery.

"President Trump is working diligently every day to support our nation's economy following the impacts of COVID-19 through the CARES Act," Commerce Secretary Ross said. "This investment will provide the resources that Louisiana needs to rebound from the coronavirus pandemic and, in turn, create a stronger and more resilient state economy for the future."

**FEMA** from page 1

of damaged property.

Additionally, grants may be available to help with other expenses such as medical and dental care, childcare, funeral and burial costs, replacing essential household items, moving and storage, vehicle repairs and cleanup.

To see if you live in a designated parish, visit: <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4559/designated-areas>.

For more information or to register for assistance:

Call the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362 (TTY 800-462-7585).

Visit [disasterassistance.gov/](https://disasterassistance.gov/).

To find a drive-thru Disaster Recovery Center (DRC), text 43362 and type DRC and a ZIP code (for example DRC 12345).

To receive a link to download the FEMA app:

Apple devices: text APPLE to 43362

Android devices: text ANDROID to 43362

Visit [fema.gov/about/news-multimedia/app](https://fema.gov/about/news-multimedia/app).

Those who use a relay service such as a videophone, InnoCaption or CapTel should update FEMA with their specific number assigned to that service.

Hurricane Laura survivors with home repair questions should contact FEMA mitigation outreach at 866-579-0820 or at [fema-mitoutreach-4559@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:fema-mitoutreach-4559@fema.dhs.gov) Monday-Saturday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. CDT. To view mitigation resources visit <https://fema.connectsolutions.com/lauramit/>.

For the latest information on Hurricane Laura, visit [www.fema.gov/disaster/4559](https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4559) or follow the FEMA Region 6 Twitter account at [twitter.com/FEMARegion6](https://twitter.com/FEMARegion6).

# BUSINESS

## \$2.4 Million in CARES Act Recovery Assistance to La. Economic Development to Stimulate Business

WASHINGTON, DC – U.S. Congressman Garret Graves (South Louisiana) announced the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) is awarding a \$2.4 million CARES Act Recovery Assistance grant to the Louisiana Economic Development (LED) to develop a technical assistance program and support business attraction and retention efforts across the state in response to adverse economic impacts caused by COVID-19. The EDA grant will be matched with \$600,000 in local funds.

"Louisiana faces challenges time and time again, but we are the state you can count on to come back stronger. Between the pandemic, seven storms, tornadoes, and a few other obstacles thrown in the mix, this year has forced our businesses to adapt and recover in more ways than one, but our resiliency will prevail. We owe it to our business owners and entrepreneurs to keep working for long-term solutions to reignite Louisiana and America's economy," Graves said.

"President Trump is working diligently every day to support our nation's economy following the impacts of COVID-19 through the CARES Act," said Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross. "This investment will provide the resources



that Louisiana needs to rebound from the coronavirus pandemic and, in turn, create a stronger and more resilient state economy for the future."

"This investment comes at a crucial time to help Louisiana and our nation's economy come roaring back and provide hard-working Americans with new opportunities," said Dana Gartzke, Performing the Delegated Duties of the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development. "EDA

is pleased to invest this CARES Act funding to make resources available for technical assistance programs, business attraction and retention across Louisiana, and efforts to diversify the economy through new outreach to international markets."

On September 1, 2020, Graves announced \$2,134,000 in CARES Act Recovery Assistance grants to South Central Planning and Development Commission. On that same day, EDA awarded a total of \$7.2

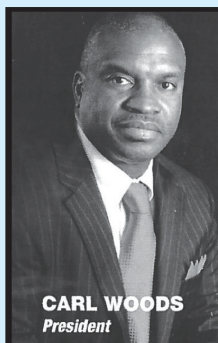
million across Louisiana to help provide critical gap financing to small businesses and entrepreneurs adversely affected by the coronavirus pandemic across the state.

Graves also announced \$400,000 awarded to South Central Planning and Development Commission, Inc. from EDA on August 14, 2020 to help them respond to the unusual and compelling urgency of the coronavirus pandemic.

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# Congressman Cedric Richmond Appointed To Biden's White House Senior Staff



President-elect Joseph R. Biden Jr. greeted Representative Cedric L. Richmond of Louisiana last month. Mr. Richmond has been widely expected to join the Biden White House.

The Louisiana Representative is the first African American named by the Biden-Harris white house transition team.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — President-elect Joe Biden announced members of the incoming White House senior staff this week, naming Rep. Cedric Richmond (D-LA) as Senior Advisor to the President and Director of the White House Office of Public Engagement. Richmond is the

first African American official named by the incoming Biden-Harris Administration for a West Wing post.

"America faces great challenges," Biden said in a statement. His vowed that his team will bring "diverse perspectives and a shared commitment to tackling these challenges and emerging on the other side a stronger, more united nation."

Richmond has spent months on the campaign trail as National Co-Chairman of the Biden-Harris Campaign, and he's currently a Co-Chair of the Biden-Harris Transition Team. Since 2011, the Morehouse and Tulane University School of Law alum has represented Louisiana's 2nd Congressional District in the House of Representatives.

During his time in Congress,

the New Orleans native has served on the House Ways and Means Committee, the House Committee on Homeland Security, the House Committee on the Judiciary, and also served as the House Democratic Assistant to the Majority Whip, among other roles. He was formerly chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus during the 115th Congress, and, most recently, Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation.

Richmond was a leader in helping to enact landmark criminal justice reform and ensuring that the people of Louisiana's 2nd District were prepared for emergencies and natural disasters through his oversight of the Federal Emergency Management Agency on the House Committee on Homeland Security.

The Congressional Black

Caucus sent congratulations in a statement. "... We are proud of the role CBC members like Cedric Richmond will continue to play in getting our country closer to a more perfect union, one that truly delivers liberty and justice for all Americans. We remain steadfast partners in this effort and wish our friend and colleague well on this most awesome journey."

The caucus also expressed its pride in Senator Kamala Harris as Vice President-elect; Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester as a national co-chair of the Biden campaign; and Rep. [James] Clyburn for his role in the South Carolina Caucus. "We are proud to have sent three CBC Members to the White House: Barack Obama, Kamala Harris, and Cedric Richmond."

# CATS Announces Launch of Strategic Planning Process



BATON ROUGE, La. — CATS announced the transit agency is launching an update of its strategic plan to advance its mission in connecting residents to their jobs, grocery stores, healthcare appointments, and other essential services critical to the riding public.

"It's more critical than ever for the residents we serve to have a reliable transit system during this pandemic, with tens of thousands of frontline workers relying on us every day to meet their mobility needs," Bill Deville, CATS Chief Executive Officer, said. "Our strategic plan will solidify our next steps for moving forward as we continue our important work in building a transit system that effectively serves our community in the years to come."

"The strategic plan will serve not only as a guide for aligning CATS staff and the Board of Commissioners in the important decisions our agency makes each day, but it will also be used as a tool for promoting accountability and transparency among our internal CATS team and our external partners and stakeholders," Mark Bellue, CATS Board President, said.

Over the past decade, CATS has invested heavily in system improvements, replacing its fleet of buses, and making significant advancements in modernizing operations to provide safe and efficient transit for Baton Rouge area

residents. The strategic plan will lay out a comprehensive strategy for building on these successes and momentum; it will also identify opportunities for enhancing the current system by expanding transit options such as bus rapid transit and microtransit, while continuing to align its strategic initiatives with the needs of customers. The planning process will be overseen by CATS Director of Planning, Scheduling and Program Development, Cheri Soileau, who joined the agency in August 2020 bringing over twenty years of transit experience from her former roles at Dallas Area Rapid Transit and Imperial Calcasieu Regional Planning and Development Commission. The strategic plan will also identify a core set of priorities that position the agency to emerge from the pandemic in a way that builds on the successful system modifications implemented to provide services amid this new reality, such as modifying services, implementing rigorous safety practices, and maintaining routes that provide access to critical jobs and lifesaving services.

The strategic plan process is expected to conclude by February 2021 with a clear vision and plan to guide operations and capital improvements over the next three to five years. For more information about this process, visit [brcats.com](http://brcats.com).

**"We have made great progress in the last four years but there is more work we need to do for our parish. This is our last chance to vote in 2020 to keep moving forward. Let's keep moving forward with a vision of peace, prosperity and progress for everyone."**

— MAYOR SHARON WESTON BROOME



**"Her past results and vision for the future are making this city and parish safer and healthier, and our economy stronger."**

— GOVERNOR JOHN BEL EDWARDS



**Early Voting is Available Friday Nov. 20th thru Saturday Nov. 28th**

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**ELECTION DAY IS SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5TH**

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