

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

The Weekly Press

SERVING BAKER, CENTRAL, AND ZACHARY

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17-23, 2022

A PEOPLE'S PUBLICATION

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Mayor Sharon Weston Broome, Activist Cathy Toliver partner to present 'The Table is Spread'

BATON ROUGE, La. — The East Baton Rouge Parish Mayor-President's Office Sharon Weston Broome and Community Activist Cathy Toliver partner to present 'The Table is Spread,' a day of hope and encouragement to victims and families impacted by gun violence, law enforcement, the first responders, caregivers, clergy, and concerned members of the community. The inspirational event will serve dinner and feature musical recording artist Elder Timothy Britten, the IFA Music and Arts Ministry, and more.

The grandmother of Devin Page Jr. is turning her pain into progress to help heal the community. Three-year-old Devin Page Jr. was tragically killed by a stray bullet in April 2022 while asleep in his home. The event will be held Sunday, November 20, 2022, at 3:00 PM at Southern University F.G. Clark Activity Center. For more information and to register, visit <https://thetableisspread.eventbrite.com>



Mayor Sharon Weston Broome

Mayor Waites statement pertaining to FEMA trailers on Groom Road in Baker, LA.

With regard to the FEMA trailers being located on the State of Louisiana's land located on Groom Road; the State has advised that they are being stored there in preparation for bulk auction.

The site has been secured with fencing and efforts have been made to provide covering on the fence so as to reduce the visibility to the community.

We have not been provided a date as of yet as to when the auction will take place and are hopeful that it will be in the very near future.

As we receive additional information it will be provided to the public."



Baker Mayor Darnell Waites

Gov. Edwards issues state apology for fatal 1972 shootings at Southern University



Gov. John Bel Edwards signs a resolution of apology Wednesday, Nov. 16, 2022, at the Old State Capitol. The apology was made on behalf of the state to former Southern University protest leaders and the families of two Southern students an unidentified sheriff's deputy shot and killed on campus in 1972. (Alex Tirado/LSU Manship News Service)

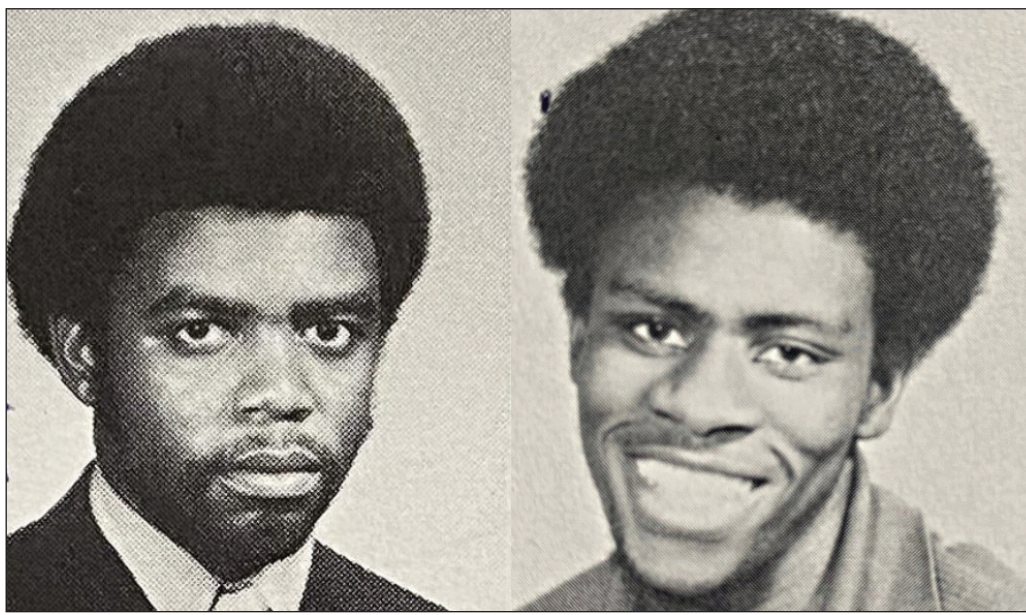
BY DREW HAWKINS AND CLAIRE SULLIVAN
LSU Manship School News Service

BATON ROUGE—Gov. John Bel Edwards apologized Wednesday on behalf of the state to former Southern University protest leaders and the families of two Southern students who were killed by an unidentified sheriff's deputy 50 years ago.

"To the extent that the state of Louisiana can try to make this right, that's what we're gonna try to do," Edwards said at an event at the Old State Capitol building to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the shooting.

Edwards said that on the morning of the shooting, students "bravely and peacefully to protest the disparities of educational opportunities in Louisiana.

He said the nine protest leaders who were banned from Southern's campus following the protests were "unjustly punished." He said he wanted "to make amends to those who were victims to injustices perpetrated by the state," including the families of Leonard



Leonard Brown and Denver Smith were killed by an unidentified sheriff's deputy in front of Southern University's administration building on Nov. 16, 1972. (Photos courtesy Southern University)

Brown and Denver Smith, the two 20-year-old students who were shot and killed.

He said wished to "recognize the lost potential of the lives" of the two young men.

The governor then signed

a proclamation formalizing the apology.

Southern President Dennis Shields also spoke at the event. "Today marks a significant and sorrowful day in the history of Southern University and A&M

college," he said.

"We sincerely welcome you back," Shields said, referencing the recent decision by Southern's board to lift bans on the protest

See **APOLOGY**, on page 2

Texas Judge Stops President Biden's Student Loan Forgiveness Program

The conservative group, Job Creators Network Foundation, filed the lawsuit against the plan on behalf who two individuals who didn't qualify for relief under Biden's program

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire
Senior National Correspondent

A federal judge in Texas bent to the will of a few and struck down President Joe Biden's student loan forgiveness program that offered relief to at least 40 million borrowers.



President Joe Biden

The conservative group, Job Creators Network Foundation, filed the lawsuit against the plan on behalf who two individuals who didn't qualify for relief under Biden's program.

There remains another legal challenge to the plan.

"We strongly disagree with the District Court's ruling on our student debt relief program, and the Department of Justice has filed an appeal," White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said.

"The President and this Administration are determined to help working, and middle-class Americans get back on their feet, while our opponents — backed by extreme Republican special interests — sued to block millions of Americans from getting much-needed relief," she stated.

White House officials maintain that the secretary of education received power from Congress to discharge student loan debt under the 2003 HEROES Act.

"The program is thus an unconstitutional exercise of Congress's legislative power and must be vacated," wrote Judge Mark Pittman, a Donald Trump nominee.

"In this country, we are not ruled by an all-powerful executive with a pen and a phone," he continued.

Under the president's plan, borrowers who earned less than \$125,000 in either 2020 or 2021 and married couples or heads of households who made less than \$250,000 annually in those years are eligible to have up to \$10,000 of their federal student loan debt forgiven.

If a qualifying borrower also received a federal Pell grant, the individual would receive as much as \$20,000 of debt forgiveness.

In October, the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals placed an administrative hold on Biden's forgiveness program based on a suit filed by six GOP-led states.

In the most recent case in Texas, one plaintiff did not qualify for the student loan forgiveness program because the federal government does not hold her loans.

The other plaintiff is only eligible for \$10,000 in debt relief because he did not receive a Pell grant.



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WEATHER

	MON. 11/22 Partly Cloudy High 56°.
	TUE. 11/23 Sunny High 62°.
	WED. 11/24 Mostly Sunny High 67°.
	THUR. 11/25 Mostly Sunny High 67°.

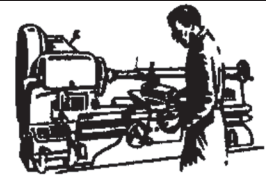
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LOCAL & STATE

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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 225-775-200

Weekly Press

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Louisiana voters reject ban on slavery, involuntary servitude; author also opposed it



Rep. Edmond Jordan (center), D-Baton Rouge, opposed an amendment he sponsored on slavery and involuntary servitude (Greg LaRose/Louisiana Illuminator)

BY: PIPER HUTCHINSON
 Courtesy of Louisiana Illuminator

With all ballots counted from Tuesday, six out of every 10 Louisiana voters opposed an amendment to the state constitution that would prohibit slavery and involuntary servitude but allow forced labor as part of a criminal sentence.

It possibly set the tone for the rejection of five out of the eight proposed amendments on the ballot.

Amendment 7, which in its original wording would have banned slavery and involuntary servitude, was watered down during the legislative process to the point that its author, Rep. Edmond Jordan, D-Baton Rouge, asked voters to reject the proposal.

Here's how the other proposed amendments fared:

AMENDMENT 1

Nearly two-thirds of voters opposed an amendment would have increased the maximum amount of money the state treasurer can invest from seven state trust funds on Wall Street. Caps will remain in place on those funds, which the treasurer has argued will limit profits.

AMENDMENT 2

Nearly three-quarters of voters approved Amendment 2, which increases the property tax exemption for veterans disabled in the line of service and for their spouses after their deaths.

AMENDMENT 3

Two-thirds of voters have "no" on the proposal to allow most Louisiana's public employees participate in certain campaign activities if the candidate is an immediate family member. Critics knocked the list of qualifying kin and step-kin in the proposal as too expansive.

AMENDMENT 4

Three quarters of voters voted "yes" for an amendment to let local water utilities reduce customer bills if the charges stem from water use outside of the customer's control. It targets water systems with undressed leaks that a homeowner of business couldn't have stopped.

See **VOTERS**, on page 3

Louisiana Mayor Velma Hendrix killed in car crash on election day

According to CBS News, an 84-year-old mayor running for reelection in Melville, La., was killed on election day.

Velma Hendrix died on Tuesday, November 11, after being involved in a car accident. Hendrix was riding in the back seat of a 2008 Acura with three others when it was hit by a 2015 Ram 2500 pickup truck on the passenger's side, according to the Louisiana State Police. The accident happened on U.S. Highway 190 near Louisiana Highway 741 at approximately 11 a.m. on Nov. 8. The driver of the pickup truck reportedly failed to yield at an intersection.

The mayor was not wearing a



Mayor Velma Hendrix

seatbelt and was taken to the emergency room in critical condition. However, she ultimately passed away due to her injuries. Three other passengers were also taken to the hospital with "moderate to critical injuries."

Rural Health Scholars Program offers students opportunity to learn in rural, underserved areas

73% of Louisianians live in Health Professional Shortage Areas

Baton Rouge, La. (November 17, 2022) — This National Rural Health Day, the Louisiana Department of Health is celebrating the student healthcare professionals who are experiencing what it is like to practice medicine in underserved areas of the state through the Well-Ahead Louisiana Rural Health Scholars Program, as well as to encourage applications to the program.

The program is part of LDH's Fiscal Year 2022 business plan

strategy to diversify the state's health workforce and improve patient experiences. LDH will further build upon this work in Fiscal Year 2023.

Managed by Well-Ahead Louisiana within the LDH Office of Public Health (OPH), the Rural Health Scholars Program matches students from Louisiana colleges and universities who are studying to be a physician assistant (PA) or

See **PROGRAM**, on page 3

Apology from page 1

leaders returning to the campus.

Some of the protest leaders also met with Shields privately right before the commemoration event.

Some of the former protest leaders echoed concerns they demonstrated for 50 years ago, including current funding disparities between Southern and other public universities, like LSU and Louisiana Tech, and called for the formation of a board of representatives at Southern that included student members to hear and address student concerns.

They also called for the Smith and Brown families to be compensated for the loss of their loved ones.

Some of them said Shields listened to their concerns and seemed sincere in his commitment to work with them to help find a resolution.

"It's not the end of the conversation," Shields said. "It's the beginning of the conversation that will continue past today."

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Russia Transfers Brittney Griner to Dreaded Penal Colony

By Stacy M. Brown
NCPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent

Russian authorities have transferred Brittney Griner to the country's dreaded penal colony, a move that, while expected, she and her family had hoped could be avoided.

Attorneys for Griner said they don't expect to know her exact location for a couple of weeks.

Russian officials jailed Griner in February when authorities arrested her at a Moscow airport after finding a small amount of cannabis oil in her luggage.

A court convicted Griner in August of trying to smuggle narcotics. She received a nine-year sentence, which an appeals court upheld last month.

White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said President Biden had directed all in the administration to prevail on her "Russian captors" to improve Griner's treatment and the conditions many must endure in the country's penal colony.

Individuals who've spent time at one of Russia's infamous penal colonies reported that prisoners aren't allowed outside contact for weeks.

During her court testimony,



According to her legal team, American basketball player Brittney Griner, who is now being held, has been transferred to a Russian correctional colony.

Griner said she's still unsure how cannabis oil ended up in her luggage.

She said a doctor recommended cannabis oil for her injuries on the basketball court.

"I still don't understand to this day how they ended up in my bags," Griner said, adding that she was aware of the Russian law outlawing cannabis oil and that she had not intended to break it.

"I didn't have any intention to

use or keep in my possession any substance that is prohibited in Russia," Griner said.

U.S. officials continue to wait for word from the Russian government on whether they will accept the swap.

READ MORE of this story ONLINE at www.brweeklypress.com

North Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce hold 3rd Annual Giveback Thanksgiving Community Drive

BATON ROUGE, LA— The North Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce today announced the Chamber's 3rd Annual Giveback, "THANKSGIVING COMMUNITY DRIVE", a community event to provide a Thanksgiving basket for families in need. The Giveback will

be held on:

- Sunday, November 20, 2022, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
- Times of Refreshing Ministry (aka The Fresh Church)
- Pastor's Rev. Calvin & Shawne Emery
- 3745 Mohican Street Baton

December 31. To apply for year two, visit wellaheadla.com/rural-health-scholars-program.

Rural communities are disproportionately impacted by poor health outcomes and are less likely to have access to quality healthcare. In Louisiana, 73% of residents live in a Health Professional Shortage Area.

"Though rural areas are vital to Louisiana, these areas are often underserved in terms of healthcare. We are excited to further expand the Rural Health Scholars Program, to ultimately decrease the percentage of people living in underserved areas and provide greater access to primary care for all Louisiana residents," said LDH Secretary Dr. Courtney N. Phillips. "This innovative program links healthcare students with rural healthcare facilities, increasing access to more Louisiana residents while also giving the next generation of health professionals vital experience in providing care to rural populations."

"We take pride in the rich heritage and diverse communities across our state," said Melissa R. Martin, director of Well-Ahead Louisiana. "Through the Rural Health Scholars Program, we have the opportunity to showcase not only the impact future healthcare professionals can make in these rural communities, but also share the many benefits of living in Louisiana."

PROGRAM from page 2

nurse practitioner (NP) with health-care facilities in Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs). HPSAs are geographic areas, populations and facilities with too few primary care physicians, dentists and mental health providers or services. The 17 scholars in year one were placed at 14 healthcare sites, including one with four locations:

- Acadiana Pediatrics, Rayne
- Common Ground Clinic, Gretna
- CommuniHealth Services, Bastrop Pediatric Center
- Family First Medicine, Ruston
- Family Healthcare of Loranger
- Hood Memorial Hospital, Amite
- Iberia Comprehensive Community Health Center, Lafayette
- Lady of the Sea Medical Clinic, Larose
- Southcare Medical Clinic, Abbeville
- Southeast Community Health System, Independence, Kentwood, Greensburg and Albany
- St. James Primary Care Clinic, Gramercy

Well-Ahead has already selected 14 students for year two and is accepting applications through

VOTERS from page 2

AMENDMENT 5

Almost 60% of voters were against an amendment that would have eliminated a requirement that local taxing bodies "roll forward" property millages in order to renew those taxes at the same rate. Although it had the potential to benefit taxpayers, it was a complex proposal that saw very little advocacy on its behalf.


AMENDMENT 6

In a closer referendum, an amendment to limit property tax

increases in Orleans Parish failed by less than 7,000 votes. Increases would have been capped at 10% of the property's assessed value in the previous year, softening the blow for taxpayers with big jumps in their tax bills.

AMENDMENT 8

More than half of voters voted to remove the requirement that certain property owners with disabilities annually certify their income in order to receive a property tax rate freeze.



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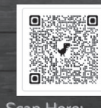
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THIS MONTH

[NOVEMBER]

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

HOMAGE TO A HERO:
JANE GOODALL
Milton J. Womack Park
Nov. 5 | 10:30 a.m.-noon

INSIDE OUT ARTS
Zachary Community Park
Nov. 5 | 10-11:30 a.m.

MOVIE IN THE PARK
JURASSIC WORLD: DOMINION
Church Street Park
Nov. 5 | 5-7 p.m.

MOVIE IN THE PARK:
FATHERHOOD
Ben Burge Park
Nov. 5 | 6:30-9 p.m.

TOTAL LUNAR ECLIPSE
Highland Road Park
Observatory
Nov. 8 | 2-5 a.m.

ART UNWIND
Baringer Art Center
Nov. 11 | 6:30-8:30 p.m.

MOVIE IN THE PARK: SOUL
Baker Park
Nov. 11 | 6:30-9 p.m.



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ZOO RUN RUN
BREC's Baton Rouge Zoo
Nov. 12
Registration begins at 6:30 a.m.

SATURDAY MORNING STUDIO
Milton J. Womack Park
Nov. 12 | 10:30 a.m.-noon

MOVIE IN THE PARK: VIVO
Cedar Ridge Park
Nov. 12 | 6:30-9 p.m.

SUNSHINE SOCIAL:
FALL Y'ALL HOEDOWN
Jefferson Hwy Park
Nov. 18 | 6-9 p.m.

MOVIE IN THE PARK
MINIONS: THE RISE OF GRU
North Street Park
Nov. 18 | 6:30-9 p.m.

FALL FUN FEST
Zachary Community Park
Nov. 19 | 1-4 p.m.

HRPO 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
Highland Road Park
Observatory
Nov. 19 | 4 p.m.-midnight

WINTER WREATH MAKING
Anna T. Jordan
Community Park
Nov. 20 | 2-4 p.m.

ZOOLIGHTS
BREC's Baton Rouge Zoo
Nov. 25-Dec. 30
(Closed Dec. 24 + 25)
5:30-8 p.m.
Grounds close at 9 p.m.

CREOLE CHRISTMAS + HOLIDAY FAIR
Magnolia Mound
Nov. 27 | noon-5 p.m.

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RELIGION

Tony Evans urges Christian voters on life issue: Don't ignore 'abortion' outside the womb

Unless the sanctity of life at all stages is fully recognized, "you will not have a biblical view on the role of government. "You'll just have a partisan view or a personal view. But you won't be dealing with life as God deals with it."

BY LEAH MARIEANN KLETT,
Assistant Editor
The Christian Post

Over a month ahead of election day, Pastor Tony Evans urged U.S. citizens to consider the value of life — both inside and outside the womb — before voting, warning that ignoring what God says about human dignity will result in "chaos."

"When you don't start with the image of God, then you make life what you call it to be, not what God has created it and stamped it to be," Evans, the longtime pastor of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship in Texas, said on Sunday. "Till we see it through God's eyes, then we will not start in the right place."

"God views it as a personal insult when life is not given the value He gives ... to it because what you said is what God did is not worth protecting. So any discussion of life has to start there. Any discussion of life has to start with the divine mark. And the job of government, the Bible says, is to protect that life."

When God is left out of government, "life and its value gets downgraded, reduced, dishonored and attacked," he warned. "So when you think about Kingdom voting, you



Pastor Tony Evans speaks at Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship.

must think about the question of life."

"Life," Evans explained, includes "pre-born life and post-born life; abortion before birth, and abortion after birth."

"See the problem we get in with voting is that we choose a term insurance policy, not a whole life insurance policy," he said. "We choose a pre-born insurance policy, and not a post-born insurance policy because we do not view all of life in terms of the image of God. And as a result, Christians take sides."

Unless the sanctity of life at all stages is fully recognized, "you will not have a biblical view on the role of government," Evans said. "You'll just have a partisan view or a personal view. But you won't be dealing with

life as God deals with it."

The pastor, who also founded The Urban Alternative, went on to highlight the horrors of abortion, asking: "Can you imagine if Mary had the option of abortion and decided to take it? We know that couldn't happen in the providence of God, but [under] some of the laws today, it would be OK to kill the Savior."

He cited Galatians 1:15-16, which speaks to the reality of life in the womb, adding: "So when the government talks about it, 'it's OK to abort,' it's saying it's OK to attack God."

Ignoring what God says about life in the womb will result in "chaos," Evans warned.

"When you attack life in the

womb, you have come against Him. He doesn't like it. That's why He said in Genesis 9, 'You attack my life, I will attack you.' You want the government to keep you safe? It better keep you safe by keeping God happy. It keeps you safe by keeping God happy by not ... legalizing death in the womb."

In the U.S., 40% of voters see abortion as "very important" to their vote, according to a summer poll from Pew.

Additionally, a spring poll from Gallup found that 30% of people who consider themselves "pro-life" say they would only vote for a candidate who shares that view compared to 19% of people who consider themselves "pro-choice."

the length of their existence or the well-being of their existence so it just depends on which abortion you talking about."

He contended that when Christians fail to "reject and rebel" against such policies, then "we have become co-conspirators to oppressive regimes."

Citing Psalm 89:14, Evans stressed that both "righteousness" and "justice" are the foundation of God's throne and that they can't be separated.

"Don't just talk to me about moral laws, talk to me about it but don't put a period there. Talk to me also about the just application of the law without discrimination. Talk to me not only about what you're going to do with the poor but how you're going to handle the rich who are breaking my standard. But because they have money they can bypass it or eat their way out of it," he said. "No, there's two kind of abortions. There's abortion in the womb but there's abortion on your way to the tomb so that people don't get to live out their divinely ordained destiny."

"Yes, we should protest abortion in the womb. But that same number of people or more are to righteously and peacefully protest abortion outside of the womb."

Life starts at conception and ends with death, but between the two should be "dignity and protection." Because everyone has the "stamp of God" on them, they have divine value.

"It is time for Christians to adopt their whole life agenda and vote for government to protect a whole life agenda," he declared. "And if your government party only

See EVANS, on page 5

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Web Address: saintjohnbc.org

Dr. Donald Ruth, Pastor

Worship Times:
CrossWalk Classes: Sundays 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM
Sunday Worship Experience: 11:00 AM
Uplift Training: Thursdays 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH
5856 Greenwell Springs Road • Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806
Telephone: (225) 926-0246 • Facsimile: (225) 925-8022
Toll Free: 888-700-6174
Websites: www.newhopebr.com

Rev. Leo Cyrus Sr., Pastor

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

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

BUSINESS

Baton Rouge Ranked Third Most Digital City in the U.S.



Baton Rouge ranks third among mid-sized cities, highlighting the City-Parish's investments in numerous initiatives to improve internal efficiencies, modernize critical systems, engage East Baton Rouge Parish residents in data-related areas and technology, and deliver more effective services.

BATON ROUGE, La. – Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome announced today that the Center for Digital Government had named Baton Rouge a Top 10 Digital City for the eighth consecutive year.

This year, Baton Rouge ranks third among mid-sized cities, highlighting the City-Parish's investments in numerous initiatives to improve internal efficiencies, modernize critical systems, engage East Baton Rouge Parish residents in data-related areas and technology, and deliver more effective services.

"Since day one of my administration, we have been committed to leveraging technology and digital resources to enhance how we efficiently and effectively serve our community. Since then, our team has worked diligently to integrate innovative technology across our departments to expand the services we offer our

residents," said Mayor Broome. "Baton Rouge's continued standing as a Top 10 Digital City is a testament to our progress while serving as a reminder of the value in our efforts. I am immensely proud of our City-Parish government. I look forward to building on this success in delivering a stronger digital foundation for our future in East Baton Rouge Parish."

Each year, the Center for Digital Government—a national research and advisory institute on IT policies and best practices in state and local government—conducts the Digital Cities Survey to inform its digital city rankings. This comprehensive survey is distributed to all U.S. cities, towns, villages, and consolidated city-county governments.

The Top 10 Digital City rankings recognize a distinguished group of cities implementing best practices for public-sector IT orga-

nizations to improve their digital, citizen, and government experiences. In 2022, Baton Rouge will be ranked alongside leading digital cities, including Bellevue, Washington, and Alexandria, Virginia.

Over the past year, the City-Parish has allocated millions of dollars in one-time federal funding to enhance cybersecurity technology, software, and infrastructure, improve its cybersecurity operations, and strengthen its email security system. In addition to its investments in cybersecurity, the City-Parish has leveraged its vast data repository available through the award-winning Open Data BR platform to inform drainage maintenance work, public safety initiatives, and upcoming capital projects throughout East Baton Rouge Parish. The City-Parish has also invested in a unified communications system, which has consolidated 40+ disparate phone systems to maximize efficiency

within our phone system and has already seen reduced operational costs while improving internal collaboration and communication.

Additionally, the City-Parish launched and expanded its Citizen Data Academy: On Demand, an award-winning video series designed to help empower residents with the tools and information to navigate and use its extensive open data and analytics resources.

The City-Parish and all of this year's honorees will be recognized on Nov. 17 at an awards reception in Kansas City, Missouri. For more information on the 2022 Digital City awards and other honorees, visit <https://www.govtech.com/dc/digital-cities-2022-winners-announced> and for Baton Rouge's population category, <https://www.govtech.com/dc/digital-cities-2022-125-000-to-249-999-population-category>.

EVANS from page 4

is going to protect one side of it, then you hold them accountable and responsible to not ignore the other side of it."

"You do it in a righteous way because if you try to do it in an unrighteous way, God's not going to be with you there either. It is time for Kingdom voters, voters who take their stand as best they can, based on their conscience, to take a stand

for life."

Evans' sermon was part of a series titled "Kingdom Voting."

"Kingdom voting is the opportunity and responsibility of committed Christians to partner with God by expanding His rule in society through civil government," Evans previously explained. "It's only to the degree that you include God's person and God's policies in society through civil government — as He defines it, not as you prefer it — that we can begin to see healing in the

Church so that it can be modeled in the culture."

In recent months, numerous pastors have weighed in on how Christians should operate amid a particularly contentious election season.

Scott Sauls, bestselling author and senior pastor of Christ Presbyterian Church in Nashville, Tennessee, previously told The Christian Post that Christians must "become more nuanced in our political engagement, become willing to critique the party

that we align with, and also affirm the party that we don't align with."

"In some respects, we ought to feel politically homeless," he said. "And that doesn't mean we all need to become moderates. But we all need to transcend the American political system just as Jesus transcended the political system that He was part of. When we give our whole selves to Jesus, it will become utterly impossible for us to give ourselves wholesale to a political party."

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