

# The Weekly Press

SERVING BAKER, CENTRAL, AND ZACHARY

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10-16, 2024

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## Harris Unveils Medicare Plan for Senior Home Care



U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris speaks on gun violence during an event at John R. Lewis High School on June 2, 2023, in Springfield, Virginia.

Harris highlighted the challenges caregivers face, often forced to leave their jobs to care for aging relatives. "People are losing income and experiencing stress trying to do it all," Harris said.

**By: Shauneen Miranda**  
Courtesy of Louisiana Illuminator

Vice President Kamala Harris introduced a comprehensive plan on Tuesday aimed at expanding Medicare to cover long-term home care for seniors. Announced during her appearance on *The View*, the proposal targets the "sandwich generation" — Americans balancing the care of children and aging parents — and seeks to alleviate financial and emotional burdens for families.

Harris highlighted the challenges

caregivers face, often forced to leave their jobs to care for aging relatives. "People are losing income and experiencing stress trying to do it all," Harris said. Her plan would add home health care, as well as hearing and vision benefits to Medicare, which currently offers little support for long-term care services.

The expansion would be funded by increasing drug price negotiations, requiring pharmaceutical companies to provide deeper discounts, and cracking down on Medicare fraud. Harris also proposed reforms to pharmaceutical

See **HOME CARE**, on page 3

## Governor Landry's Tax Plan Sparks Concerns Over Impact on Low Income Residents



The image of a wildfire in Beauregard Parish from drone video taken Saturday, Aug. 26, 2023.

**By: Matt Washington**  
BR Weekly Press

BATON ROUGE, La. — Governor Jeff Landry's sweeping tax reform plan, aimed at modernizing Louisiana's tax structure, raises concerns from advocacy groups and lawmakers who fear the changes could disproportionately burden low-income residents.

At the heart of the proposal is a shift to a 3% flat income tax and new sales taxes on services like property repair, landscaping, massages, and digital streaming. While Landry emphasizes that the plan is designed to make special interest groups pay their fair share—including a tax on lobbying services—critics argue the broad expansion

of sales taxes could hit the state's most vulnerable populations the hardest.

"Sales taxes on essential services will always affect low-income families more," said a spokesperson for Invest Louisiana, one of the watchdog groups sounding the alarm. "We need to ensure that tax reform doesn't end up hurting the people who can least afford it."

Revenue Secretary Richard Nelson defended the plan, stating that it aims to modernize the state's outdated tax code, which has not kept pace with the digital economy. "What used to be rented from Blockbuster is now streamed online, and we need to account for that," Nelson said, advocating for

See **TAX PLAN**, on page 3

**READ ONLINE**

- Louisiana's Low Vaccination Rates Amid Misinformation Debate
- City of Baker Hosts Annual Buffalo Festival: A Celebration of Community and Connection
- The Ten Commandments in Our Schools, but Not in Our Hearts

**WEATHER**

MON. 10/14  
Mostly Cloudy  
High 94°.

MON. 10/15  
Mostly Cloudy  
High 80°.

MON. 10/16  
Mostly Cloudy  
High 73°.

MON. 10/17  
Mostly Cloudy  
High 80°.

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## EBR Parish Voters to Decide on Sweeping Government Changes in November



In November, East Baton Rouge Parish voters will face a critical decision regarding significant changes to their local government. With one vote, residents will be asked to approve or reject a 64-page proposal that could reshape how the parish is

governed for years.

During a Press Club meeting on October 7, Metro Council District 3 Representative Rowdy Gaudet addressed the proposed amendments,

See **VOTERS**, on page 2

## DFER PAC Announces Endorsement of Cleo Fields for Congress

BATON ROUGE, LA—Today, Democrats for Education Reform (DFER), a federal Political Action Committee (PAC), announced endorsements for the upcoming Congressional elections. In Louisiana, DFER has endorsed State Senator Cleo Fields in the upcoming election for Louisiana's newly drawn Sixth Congressional District, which spans from Baton Rouge to Shreveport, and includes portions of Lafayette and Alexandria.

"Now is a crucial moment for Democrats to lead on education and champion policies that strengthen our middle class. We need leaders in Washington who are dedicated to giving every child access to a top-quality education and the opportunities they need to thrive," said Jorge Elorza, CEO of DFER. "Senator Cleo Fields has consistently fought for public schools in Lou-

isiana and advocated for students nationwide. DFER is excited to support his ongoing efforts and work with him to make education a key driver of our nation's success."

"We are delighted that the DFER Federal PAC is recognizing Senator Cleo Fields for his commitment and leadership," said Terrence Lockett, Executive Director for Democrats for Education Reform Louisiana. "Senator Fields has been a trusted ally of our chapter since 2019, and we are eager to see him continue championing the needs of students at the national level."



Senator Cleo Fields

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# Social Security Recipients to Receive 2.5% Cost-of-Living Adjustment for 2025 Amid Easing Inflation

WASHINGTON — In a positive development for millions of Social Security beneficiaries, the Social Security Administration announced a 2.5% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for 2025. Starting in January, this adjustment will result in an average increase of over \$50 in monthly benefits for retirees and others who rely on the program.

Commissioner Martin O'Malley emphasized that this boost will help millions of Americans keep up with their expenses as inflation moderates. "This adjustment will provide relief for tens of millions of people, ensuring that they can maintain their purchasing power," O'Malley said. Approximately 72.5 million people, including retirees,



disabled individuals, and children, receive Social Security benefits. The 2025 increase, though smaller than the 3.2% boost in 2024 and the historic 8.7% increase in 2023, reflects the current economic environment of lower inflation.

Despite the positive adjustment, some recipients have expressed concerns about the rising cost of living. Sherri Myers, an 82-year-old retiree from Pensacola City, Florida, noted that the increase may not fully cover rising expenses. "I'd love to eat better, but groceries are expensive. Even McDonald's is pricey," Myers said.

The new COLA adjustment will also apply to nearly 7.5 million Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients, whose updated payments will start on December 31, 2024.

The announcement comes as discussions about the long-term financial sustainability of Social Security continue. The 2023 trustees report indicated that the program's trust fund may face a shortfall by 2035, potentially reducing benefit payments to 83% of scheduled

amounts without legislative action.

AARP CEO Jo Ann Jenkins called for bipartisan solutions to ensure the program's future. "We must do more to guarantee that older Americans can rely on Social Security for years to come," Jenkins said, urging Congress to take action.

With Social Security playing a critical role in the lives of millions, the topic remains central in political discussions. Both major presidential candidates, Democrat Kamala Harris and Republican Donald Trump, have presented contrasting approaches to securing the program's future. Harris advocates for increasing taxes on billionaires and corporations to bolster the trust fund, while Trump has promised to preserve benefits without raising the retirement age.

As beneficiaries prepare to receive their updated payments in January, the Social Security Administration plans to send detailed notifications of new benefit amounts by mail in early December.

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# NILES HAYMER

**BATON ROUGE CITY COURT**  
**JUDGE**

**Election Day is Nov. 5 • Early Voting is Oct. 18-29**

## Louisiana's Low Vaccination Rates Amid Misinformation Debate

Louisiana remains one of the least vaccinated states in the nation, with only 55% of eligible residents fully vaccinated against COVID-19, according to data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Polling conducted by LSU's Reilly Center for Media and Public Affairs reveals widespread opposition to COVID-19 vaccine mandates among the state's residents. This climate of mistrust has fueled ongoing legislative debates, as lawmakers continue to revisit vaccine-related issues in the state legislature.

Despite the state's low vaccination rate, numerous bills to limit vaccine requirements or

expand exemptions have failed to gain traction. Since the onset of the pandemic, dozens of such proposals from ultra-conservative lawmakers have died in the Louisiana Legislature. However, many of these legislators are gearing up for another push, suggesting that the debate is far from over.

Last week, the House Select Committee on Homeland Security held hearings that highlighted the ongoing divide over the state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. During these sessions, several doctors with fringe medical views, including Louisiana Surgeon General Ralph Abraham, pro-

See **DEBATE**, on page 4

# #64 DENISE MARCELLE

\*\*\* BATON ROUGE CITY CONSTABLE \*\*\*

## PROUDLY ACCEPTED ENDORSEMENTS

C. Denise Marcelle is honored to accept the endorsements of the following community leaders, politicians, and citizens across Baton Rouge:

 <b>Regina A. Barrow</b> Senator President Pro - Tem	 <b>Barbara W. Carpenter</b> State Representative	 <b>Major Reginald Brown</b> Former Constable	 <b>Yvonne Dorsey-Colomb</b> Former Senator	 <b>Paula Davis</b> State Representative	 <b>Pastor Conway L. Knighten</b>
 <b>Kenny Neal</b> Blues Artist	 <b>Luke Mixon</b> Former Candidate for US Senate	 <b>Tremaine Sterling</b> Community Activist	 <b>Dr. Leah Cullins</b> DSCC member - 67th District	 <b>Bishop Michael Pearl</b>	 <b>Bishop Thelma Pearl</b>
 <b>Keon Preston</b> Community Activist	 <b>Minister Antoine George</b>	 <b>Camilla Spillers</b> Community Leader (Scotlandville)	 <b>Jamie Robinson</b> Community Leader (Easy Town)	 <b>Ferma LeBeouf</b> Constituent of District 61	 <b>Phillip Payne Jr.</b> Former BR City Constable
 <b>Prophetess Rita Lee</b>	 <b>Scott Shavers</b> Former BR City Constable D.A.R.E.	 <b>Patty Merrick</b> Former President of Retired Teachers	 <b>Ursula Denise Carter</b> Community Leader (Eden Park)	 <b>Yvette Rhines</b> Former President of CATS Union	 <b>Bennie Stewart</b> Owner of Bennie's Lounge

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PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT C. DENISE MARCELLE FOR CONSTABLE.

**VOTECDENISEMARCELLE.COM | EARLY VOTING: OCT. 18-29**  
**ELECTION DAY: NOV. 5**

# LOCAL & STATE

## Louisiana Reduces LEAP Test Time by 20% to Ease Student Burden

**BATON ROUGE** — Louisiana students in grades 3 through 8 will face shorter LEAP exams starting in 2025, following new measures aimed at reducing testing time by 20%, the Louisiana Department of Education announced Wednesday.

State Superintendent of Education Dr. Cade Brumley outlined the changes, highlighting efforts to streamline the English language arts (ELA) and math sections of the standardized tests. The modifications are part of a broader initiative to ease the testing burden on students while maintaining the accuracy and reliability of the assessments.

"We've worked diligently with testing experts to ensure that we preserve the quality of the LEAP assessments while reducing unnecessary components," Brumley said. "This reduction in testing time will allow students to focus more on what truly measures their knowledge and skills."

Under the new plan, ELA testing time will be reduced by 40 to 75 minutes depending on grade level, with the number of writing prompts cut from two to one. Math sections



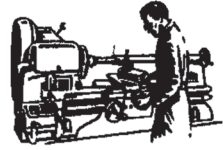
Louisiana State Superintendent of Education Dr. Cade Brumley discusses upcoming changes to the LEAP assessments, which will reduce testing time for students by 20%, starting in 2025.

will see a decrease of 30 to 40 minutes by removing several machine-scored and constructed-response tasks.

The changes, set to take effect in April 2025, reflect the Department of Education's ongoing commitment to improving the testing experience for students while still gathering essential data to track academic progress.

Brumley added that the state remains focused on further reducing testing time in the future as part of continued efforts to improve student assessments.

### READER INFORMATION



**How to Reach Us**  
General Information 225-775-2002  
Email brweeklypress@yahoo.com

The office is open 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday - Friday and located at 4910 Monticello Blvd. Baton Rouge, LA 70814

**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

### TAX PLAN from page 1

taxing digital products to enhance the state's business environment.

The plan also includes a corporate tax reduction from 7.5% to 3.5% and an increase in the retirement exemption for seniors, doubling it from \$6,000 to \$12,000. Nelson claimed the tax overhaul could significantly boost Louisiana's standing in national business rankings, moving the state from the bottom to the top tier.

However, introducing sales taxes on everyday services has sparked opposition from lawmakers on both sides of the aisle. As the plan moves through the legislative process, many are calling for amendments to mitigate the potential impact on lower-income residents.

The proposal is expected to face intense debate in the coming weeks as legislators weigh the benefits of attracting businesses against the risk of widening the gap for Louisiana's poorest citizens.

### HOME CARE from page 1

benefit managers to increase transparency and reduce prescription costs. While the campaign did not provide a full cost estimate, similar initiatives have been projected at \$40 billion annually.

Harris's proposal aligns with her broader economic agenda, including tax cuts for millions of Americans and

\$6,000 in tax relief for new parents in the first year of their child's life. She argued that expanding Medicare benefits would save money long-term by preventing hospitalizations and allowing caregivers to return to work.

### TRUMP CAMPAIGN PUSHES BACK

The Trump campaign swiftly criticized Harris's plan, accusing her of ignoring seniors. They emphasized

former President Donald Trump's efforts to expand Medicare Advantage and prioritize at-home care during his administration. The campaign reiterated Trump's commitment to supporting seniors through tax credits for unpaid family caregivers and addressing care worker shortages.

"Trump will always fight for America's seniors, who have

See **HOME CARE** on page 4

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**THIS MONTH [OCTOBER]**

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**ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW**  
Highland Road Community Park  
Oct. 4 | 6 p.m.

**THE GREAT PUMPKIN DASH**  
Hooper Road Park Oct. 5 | 8 a.m.

**GRAND OPENING + RIBBON CUTTING**  
BREC's Baton Rouge Zoo + Greenwood Community Park  
Oct. 5 | 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

**MAGNOLIA MOUND PUMPKIN PATCH**  
Magnolia Mound Oct. 6 | 1-4 p.m.

**FARR PARK OPEN HOUSE**  
Farr Park Equestrian Center  
Oct. 6 | 10 a.m.-noon

**VIBIN' YOGA**  
Zachary Community Park  
Oct. 8 + 22 | 6-7 p.m.

**FALL INTENSIVE PROGRAM: MEAN GIRLS**  
Independence Park Theatre  
Oct. 11 | 7 p.m.  
Oct. 12 | 2 p.m. + 7 p.m.

**SPOOKY SPECTRUM**  
Highland Road Park Observatory  
Oct. 12 | 6-10 p.m.

**GEAUX FISH! CATFISH RODEO**  
Howell Community Park  
Oct. 12 | 7:30-11:30 a.m.

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**WEDNESDAY NIGHT FAMILY TRIVIA**  
Jefferson Hwy Park  
Oct. 16 | 6:30-8 p.m.

**HOWL-O-WEEN** Forest Community Park  
Oct. 18 | 5-8 p.m.

**SUNSHINE SOCIAL: FLANNEL FRENZY**  
Milton J. Womack Park Ballroom  
Oct. 18 | 6-9 p.m.

**GHOSTIE FEST!** Drusilla Lane Park  
Oct. 19 | 10 a.m.-noon

**BOO AT THE ZOO**  
BREC's Baton Rouge Zoo  
Oct. 19-20 + 26-27 | 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

**ROLLER JAM** Perkins Road Community Park Oct. 19 | 2-5 p.m.

**GREAT FAMILY CAMPOUT** Flanacher Road Park Oct. 19-20 | 3 p.m.-10 a.m.

**FULL MOON FETE**  
Independence Community Park  
Oct. 26 | 4-8 p.m.

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**Tia MILLS**  
for METRO COUNCIL  
Baton Rouge, LA - District 2

**VOTE**

**TIA MILLS**  
for Metro Council - District 2

Election Day: Nov. 5th

Early voting: October 18th-29th.

#47

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT TIA MILLS

## City of Baker Hosts Annual Buffalo Festival: A Celebration of Community and Connection

BAKER, La. — The City of Baker is excited to announce the return of the Buffalo Festival, scheduled for Oct. 24-26, 2024, at the Baker Municipal Center, located at 3325 Groom Road. This beloved community event will feature a grand parade, live music, amusement rides, a car show, food vendors, and much more. Admission includes free parking, with strict security measures in place for a safe and enjoyable experience.

The festival will kick off with a parade showcasing colorful floats, dynamic marching bands, and a contest for the best entries. Attendees can look forward to live performances, various food and craft vendors, and an impressive car show.

Mayor Darrell Waites emphasized the festival's significance: "The Buffalo Festival



is more than just a celebration; it's a showcase of Baker's spirit and unity. It brings together friends, families, and neighbors to enjoy a weekend filled with fun and excitement while also strengthening our sense of community."

The event provides an opportunity for residents to engage with city services and stay informed about upcoming events. Citizens are encouraged to follow the City of Baker on social media, including Face-

book, Twitter, and Instagram, for real-time updates.

Vendor registration is required for those interested in participating. You can register by clicking here: Vendor Registration. Additionally, parade registration is open for those wishing to join the festivities. Sign up here: Parade Registration.

For more information, call (225) 778-0300 or contact Ashley Williams at awilliams@cityofbakerla.com.

**Election Day!**  
**NOVEMBER 5TH**  
EARLY VOTING: OCT 18TH-29TH



**RE-ELECT** #67

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for **CITY CONSTABLE CITY COURT**  
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ELECTION DAY IS NOV. 5 • EARLY VOTING IS OCT. 18-29

### HOME CARE from page 3

been left behind by Kamala Harris," the campaign said in a statement.

### HARRIS ESCALATES CRITICISM OF TRUMP

Harris continued her media blitz with an appearance on The Howard Stern Show, where she labeled Trump an "unserious man" and condemned his impact on the Supreme Court. She called the reversal of Roe v. Wade a dangerous precedent that threatens individual rights, saying, "It's not just about abortion—this is about the government deciding what happens to your body."

While Harris said she would consider appointing a Republican to her Cabinet,

she praised former Rep. Liz Cheney as a "remarkable" public servant but did not confirm whether Cheney would be selected. Cheney, a staunch critic of Trump, has endorsed Harris and campaigned with her in Wisconsin.

### TRUMP RESPONDS

In an interview on The Ben Shapiro Show, Trump called Harris "grossly incompetent," adding, "She answers questions like a child." He also criticized her performance on CBS's 60 Minutes, calling it "embarrassing."

As both campaigns press ahead, Harris is set to appear on The Late Show with Stephen Colbert and at a Univision town hall in Las Vegas. Trump, after postponing events due to Hurricane Milton, plans to campaign in Pennsylvania later this week.

### DEBATE from page 2

vided testimony. Abraham, a general practitioner and veterinarian, questioned the effectiveness of government measures like mask mandates and vaccines, labeling them "counterproductive."

Dr. Wyche Coleman III, the state's Deputy Surgeon General, also testified, going so far as to revive the debunked theory that vaccines cause autism. These controversial statements have raised concerns among public health advocates, who argue that the spread of misinformation by state officials could worsen Louisiana's already low vaccination rates.

Jennifer Herricks, a public health communicator with a Ph.D. in microbiology, criticized the state's leadership for perpetuating false narratives. "Using taxpayer dollars to legitimize this harmful rhetoric when our vaccination rates are

already dangerously low is irresponsible," she said. "It's disappointing to see these unfounded claims being amplified by those in positions of authority."

While the committee hearings have not yet led to any new laws, lawmakers have signaled that future bills related to COVID-19 vaccines are likely to be introduced. This debate continues as both sides grapple with how best to address public health while balancing individual freedoms, a core concern raised repeatedly during legislative discussions.

Although the efforts to pass anti-vaccine legislation have mostly failed, the spread of misinformation remains a significant public health issue. With Louisiana's vaccination rate lagging behind much of the country, experts warn that continued debates could deepen mistrust in vaccines, further complicating the state's recovery from the pandemic.

### VOTERS from page 1

acknowledging the complexity of the language and the potential challenges it presents for voters.

"The proposition language for these amendments is crafted in such a manner that I'm frankly not proud of," Gaudet admitted. "It is legal speak."

The proposed changes include the creation of a city manager position to oversee the operations of the mayor-president's office, a one-year residency requirement for candidates seeking office, and a controversial provision allowing the Metro Council to approve its pay raises without the need for voter approval.

Critics have expressed concerns that the proposal's language could confuse voters, making it difficult for them to fully grasp what they are being asked to decide on November 5. The pay raise provision, in particular, has drawn attention, with some warning that it could be seen as a move to bypass public accountability.

Gaudet admitted that he attempted to revise the language to make it clearer, but those efforts came too late. "The language of these propositions that will appear on the November 5 ballot is what it is at this point, despite efforts to clarify and make it a whole lot simpler," he explained.

To ensure voters understand the magnitude of what's at

stake, Gaudet has been working to inform the public. "This is about more than just a single vote. These are long-term changes that will affect how we govern," he said, emphasizing the importance of community engagement.

The inclusion of a city manager position has also sparked debate, as some view it as a necessary step to provide additional oversight in the mayor-president's office, while others worry it could dilute the authority of the elected official. Additionally, the one-year residency requirement for candidates seeks to ensure that those running for office are deeply rooted in the districts they aim to represent.

Despite the controversy, Gaudet urged voters to thoroughly review the proposed changes and make an informed decision. "It's important that everyone takes the time to understand the full scope of what's being proposed. It's not just about tweaking a few policies; this will shape the future of our local government," he said.

As election day approaches, the spotlight is on East Baton Rouge Parish, with the potential for these sweeping amendments to redefine the balance of power and responsibilities within the local government. Voters will have their say on November 5, a decision that could chart a new course for the parish's governance.

# RELIGION

## The Ten Commandments in Our Schools, but Not in Our Hearts

Louisiana's Governor is pushing for the display of the Ten Commandments in public schools, reigniting a conversation about the role of religion in education and public life. The proposal is rooted in the belief that this biblical moral code can provide a foundation for character development and ethical behavior. But will hanging the Ten Commandments on classroom walls really lead to the moral revival we need? Is it enough to display these commandments if they are not being lived out in the hearts of our children, teachers, and communities?

At first glance, displaying the Ten Commandments in schools may seem like a positive step. After all, the commandments serve as fundamental moral guidelines in Judeo-Christian tradition. They remind us not to steal, kill, or covet, and to honor our parents and the sanctity of life. These principles undoubtedly shape a society that values respect for one another, justice, and personal responsibility. But while the intent behind the Governor's push may be admirable, the truth is that placing the Ten Commandments on classroom walls does not guarantee that their spirit will take root in the hearts of our young people.

To understand this, we must look deeper into the teachings of Christ. In John 13:34, Jesus says: "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another." This passage is a profound statement that elevates the heart of moral living beyond a mere list of rules. Christ commands us to love one another, not as a guideline written in stone, but as an active, living expression of how we should treat each other. The commandments laid the foundation, but Christ's new commandment of love is the heart and soul of Christian ethics.

This begs the question: Is it enough to display the Ten Commandments if our children,

educators, and communities are not taught or shown how to embody love for one another? The problem is not that students are unaware of moral guidelines. In fact, many of them can recite the Ten Commandments, but reciting rules is not the same as living by them. When we focus solely on the outward display of religious laws without fostering an inner transformation, we risk reducing the commandments to mere symbols—relics of a morality we are failing to live out.

Consider the impact of teaching students Jesus' new commandment: to love one another. This command goes beyond "Thou shalt not" and pushes us into a space of active engagement, empathy, and compassion. Love is the force that turns the commandment "Thou shalt not kill" into a desire to preserve life and protect others. Love transforms "Thou shalt not steal" into a commitment to justice and fairness. Without love, these commandments remain as cold, impersonal rules. With love, they become the heartbeat of a moral and just society.

The juxtaposition of the push for the Ten Commandments with the ongoing neglect of our teachers exemplifies this point. Louisiana teachers are often underpaid, overworked, and overlooked, yet they are the ones tasked with shaping young minds and instilling these values in students. When educators face stagnant wages and lack adequate resources, how can we claim to foster an environment of love and respect? The love we are meant to embody as a community must extend to our educators, recognizing their dedication and hard work.

The absence of raises for teachers, combined with the emphasis on symbolic gestures, creates a troubling paradox. While we are eager to promote moral guidelines through public displays, we simultaneously undervalue the very people who embody those teachings daily. How can we expect students to learn the importance of love

and respect when their teachers struggle to make ends meet?

Furthermore, this inequity sends a troubling message to our students. It teaches them that while moral principles are important in theory, they can be easily disregarded in practice. If our educational systems prioritize symbolic gestures, like displaying the Ten Commandments, over addressing the real needs of educators, we risk cultivating a generation that learns to value appearances over authenticity.

To create an environment that genuinely reflects the values we wish to instill, we must ensure that our educators are adequately supported. This means advocating for pay raises, better benefits, and additional resources for professional development. It means creating a culture that recognizes and honors the invaluable contributions of teachers—not just in words, but in tangible ways.

If we truly want to embrace the essence of the Ten Commandments and the teachings of Christ, we must ensure that love and fairness permeate our educational system. It is time to move beyond symbolic gestures and take concrete steps to support our teachers. When we invest in those who shape our future, we demonstrate the very love that Jesus called us to embody.

In conclusion, while displaying the Ten Commandments in schools may symbolize a commitment to moral values, it becomes meaningless without genuine love and fairness in our treatment of educators. The call for compassion and justice must extend beyond our walls to ensure that our teachers receive the respect and resources they deserve. Only then can we create an environment where love flourishes, and where the true spirit of the commandments can be lived out daily—in the hearts of teachers and in the minds of students.



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Communion Service	2nd Sunday 9:00am
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Sister/Brotherhood Meeting	6:00pm

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Rev. Elenora Mackey Cushenberry, Th.D, Senior Pastor  
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.
Bible Study	Wed. 12:00 Noon and 5:00 p.m.
Prayer Ministry	Tues 6:00 p.m.

**Kingdom Life Family Center**

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SUNDAY SCHOOL	Every Sunday at 9:30 A.M.
HOLY COMMUNION	Every 3rd Sunday at 11:30 A.M.
HOUR OF POWER	Every Friday at 12 NOON

Radio Broadcast 1st and 3rd Sunday WXOK at 8:00am

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Baton Rouge, LA 70807  
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Web Address: [saintjohnbc.org](http://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  
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Toll Free: 888-700-6174  
Websites: [www.newhopebr.com](http://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 Launches \$46 Million Plank Road Revitalization Project

BATON ROUGE, La. — City officials, led by Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome, broke ground on the “Restoring Plank Road” initiative on Wednesday, Sept. 18. This transformative project will revitalize a 5.3-mile stretch of one of Baton Rouge’s most significant corridors, from I-110 to Airline Highway in north Baton Rouge. Scheduled to begin in October, the project will focus on much-needed infrastructure improvements in a historically underserved area.

The project will include repaving the entire road, adding new sidewalks and curbs, and installing ADA-compliant intersections to improve accessibility for all residents. Enhanced street lighting, updated traffic signals, and other safety measures will also be implemented to make the area safer for both pedestrians and drivers. Mayor Broome emphasized the importance of this project during the groundbreaking ceremony, stating, “This is more than just construction; it’s about restoring opportunity, safety, and pride to this community.”

“Restoring Plank Road” is part of the larger MOVEBR Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project, designed to modernize the public transportation infrastructure across Baton Rouge. This particular phase



Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome celebrated the groundbreaking of the “Restoring Plank Road” initiative, a transformative effort to breathe new life into one of the city’s most historic and vital corridors. (Office of Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome)

of the BRT project will introduce elevated bus stops and streamline transit routes along Plank Road, making public transportation faster and more efficient for underserved communities. Once completed, this system will better connect North Baton Rouge with key areas like Mid City, Downtown, and Louisiana State University (LSU).

The Plank Road section is the most ambitious part of the overall MOVEBR initiative, which encompasses more than 60 individual projects citywide. In addition to

transportation improvements, the project aims to revitalize the economic vitality of the area, attracting new investment and creating a hub of activity. With a budget of approximately \$46 million, the Plank Road revitalization reflects a major investment in north Baton Rouge’s future.

The project is expected to take 20 months to complete, addressing long-standing infrastructure challenges in the area. Key partners include the Capital Area Transit System (CATS), Build Baton Rouge, the Louisiana Department of

Transportation and Development (DOTD), and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). These organizations will provide oversight and resources to ensure the project’s successful completion.

City leaders view this effort as transformational, not only for transportation but also for the surrounding neighborhoods. As construction begins, residents will see immediate changes that will reshape Plank Road, making it a place of opportunity and investment for generations to come.

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**Public Notice of Intent to Sue Regarding Breach of Accord and Satisfaction Agreement And Quiet Title Action**

Date: October 10, 2024  
To: M&T Bank Corporation  
345 Main St  
Buffalo, NY 14203

Certified Mail Number:  
70200640000040340642

From: Harrison Truehill  
39327 Nutall Oak Ave  
Praineville, LA 70769

**Public Notice of Intent to Sue Regarding Breach of Accord and Satisfaction Agreement And Quiet Title Action**

Account Number :-  
4002514430

This Serves as a formal notice of intent to Sue Regarding Breach of Accord and Satisfaction Agreement we entered into on May 22, 2024 pertaining to Acct # 4002514430.

Background:  
On May 22, 2024 M&T Bank Corporation reached an agreement to settle a bonafide dispute related to my account. The terms of the agreement stipulated that Louisiana Revised Statutes Title 10, Section 3-311 applies when the claim is unliquidated or disputed in good faith by the debtor. This statute allows using writing on a check or money order stating "payment in full" as evidence of Accord and Satisfaction if certain conditions are met. In good faith I fulfilled my obligation under the agreement by disputing the debt by administratively and notifying as of no repayment in 90 days constitute full satisfaction.

Notation of the negotiable instruments Money orders for less the full amount, M&T Bank Corporation has failed to uphold its obligations under the Accord and Satisfaction Agreement under the rules of Louisiana by knowingly accepting each money order with clear and conspicuous restrictive endorsement on May 22, 2024 money order # 29372834160 amount \$1,000.00, Money order # 29372834158 amount \$1,000.00, Money order # 29372834092 amount \$1,000.00, Money order # 29372834171 amount \$606.46, Money order # 29372834114 amount \$1,000.00, Money order # 29372834125 amount \$1,000.00, Money order # 29372834136 amount \$1,000.00, Money order # 29372834147 amount \$1,000.00 and Money order # 29372834103 amount \$1,000.00.

Thanks,  
Harrison Truehill

**Public Notice of Intent to Sue Regarding Breach of Accord and Satisfaction Agreement And Quiet Title Action**

Date: October 10, 2024  
To: United Wholesale Mortgage  
585 South Blvd E  
Pontiac, Michigan 48341

Certified Mail Number:  
70210350000070465475

To: Regions Bank N.A  
1900 5th Ave N  
Birmingham, AL 35203

Certified Mail Number:  
70210350000070465154

From: Bryan Calhoun  
7008 Hwy 44  
Gonzales, LA 70737

**Public Notice of Intent to Sue Regarding Breach of Accord and Satisfaction Agreement And Quiet Title Action**

Account Number :-  
0161098686

This Serves as a formal notice of intent to Sue Regarding Breach of Accord and Satisfaction Agreement we entered into on May 06, 2024 pertaining to Acct # 441532630.

Background:  
On May 06, 2024 United Wholesale mortgage, LLC, reached an agreement to settle a bonafide dispute related to my account. The terms of the agreement stipulated that Louisiana Revised Statutes Title 10, Section 3-311 applies when the claim is unliquidated or disputed in good faith by the debtor. This statute allows using writing on a check or money order stating "payment in full" as evidence of Accord and Satisfaction if certain conditions are met. In good faith I fulfilled my obligation under the agreement by disputing the debt by administratively and notifying as of no repayment in 90 days constitute full satisfaction.

Notation of the negotiable instrument Money order for less the full amount, United Wholesale Mortgage has failed to uphold its obligations under the Accord and Satisfaction Agreement under the rules of Louisiana by knowingly accepting each money order with clear and conspicuous restrictive endorsement on May 06, 2024 money order # 29372833473 amount \$1,000.00, Money order # 29372833484 amount \$996.00, Money order# 29372833462 amount \$1,000.00, Money order# 29372826758 amount \$351.06.

This account is in regard to a dispute "in good faith" barring United Wholesale Mortgage from suing for the remaining balance. Breach of Agreement has occurred by reporting balance to Zero but transferring an alleged debt to Regions Bank, N.A, after 1st acceptance and cashing of Money orders. United Wholesale Mortgage opportunity to refund Money orders lapse on August 07, 2024 (90-day refund period per Louisiana Statute).

As I Clearly have the Proof bonafide dispute was delivered from Tracking number. And informed Regions Bank N.A that after 90 days or so Post office on site tracking system goes in Archive where it's a fee to obtain!

The breach has caused significant harm, such as financial loss and repayment after May 06, 2024 should be refunded totaling \$6,244.00.

Intent to Sue:  
If I do not receive a satisfactory response within 14 days from the date of this local publication, confirming that Regions Bank cease and desist & United Wholesale Mortgage, LLC will take the necessary steps to fulfill its obligations under the Accord and Satisfaction Agreement, I will be forced to pursue legal action to enforce the agreement and seek compensation for the damages I have incurred.

I am confident that we can resolve this matter amicably. However, I am prepared to take all necessary legal steps to protect my rights.

As it Relates to Quiet Title Action this notice is to inform any one who think they have any interest or claim to this property please feel free to mail me at ( 7038 Highway 44 Gonzales, LA 70737) or take heed that a State case will be filed in the State court of Ascension Parish in 14 days if Breach is not resolved and anyone is free to adjourn the Case.

Please contact me at the address listed above or on account file to discuss this matter further.

Thanks,  
Bryan Calhoun

**Public Notice of Intent to Sue Regarding Breach of Accord and Satisfaction Agreement And Quiet Title Action**

Date: October 10, 2024  
To: Lakeview Loan Servicing LLC  
4425 Ponce de Leon Blvd  
MS 5-251 Coral Gables, FL 33146

Certified Mail Number:  
70200640000040340635

From: Lloyd Russell III  
15180 Creek View Dr  
Gonzales, LA 70737

**Public Notice of Intent to Sue Regarding Breach of Accord and Satisfaction Agreement And Quiet Title Action**

Account Number :-  
0061994604

This Serves as a formal notice of intent to Sue Regarding Breach of Accord and Satisfaction Agreement we entered into on April 10, 2024 pertaining to Acct # 0061994604.

Background:  
On April 10, 2024 Lakeview Loan Servicing LLC reached an agreement to settle a bonafide dispute related to my account. The terms of the agreement stipulated that Louisiana Revised Statutes Title 10, Section 3-311 applies when the claim is unliquidated or disputed in good faith by the debtor. This statute allows using writing on a check or money order stating "payment in full" as evidence of Accord and Satisfaction if certain conditions are met. In good faith I fulfilled my obligation under the agreement by disputing the debt by administratively and notifying as of no repayment in 90 days constitute full satisfaction.

Notation of the negotiable instrument Money order for less the full amount, Lakeview Loan Servicing LLC has failed to uphold its obligations under the Accord and Satisfaction Agreement under the rules of Louisiana by knowingly accepting each money order with clear and conspicuous restrictive endorsement on April 10, 2024 money order # 29266942476 amount \$1,000.00 and Money order # 29266942487 amount \$351.06

This account is in regard to a dispute "in good faith" barring Lakeview Loan Servicing LLC from suing for the remaining balance. Breach of Agreement has occurred by continuing reporting a balance to credit report agencies after the 1st acceptance and cashing of Money orders. Lakeview Loan Servicing LLC opportunity to refund Money order lapse on July 11, 2024 (90-day refund period per Louisiana Statute).

The breach has caused significant harm, such as financial loss and repayment after April 10, 2024 should be refunded totaling \$8,106.36. Also affecting debt to income ratio.

Intent to Sue:  
If I do not receive a satisfactory response within 14 days from the date of this local publication, confirming that Lakeview Loan Servicing LLC will take the necessary steps to fulfill its obligations under the Accord and Satisfaction Agreement, I will be forced to pursue legal action to enforce the agreement and seek compensation for the damages I have incurred.

I am confident that we can resolve this matter amicably. However, I am prepared to take all necessary legal steps to protect my rights.

As it Relates to Quiet Title Action this notice is to inform any one who think they have any interest or claim to this property please feel free to mail me at ( 15180 Creek View Dr Gonzales, LA 70737) or take heed that a State case will be filed in the State court of Ascension Parish in 14 days if Breach is not resolved and anyone is free to adjourn the Case.

Please contact me at the address listed above or on account file to discuss this matter further.

Thanks,  
Lloyd Russell III

**Public Notice of Intent to Sue Regarding Breach of Accord and Satisfaction Agreement And Quiet Title Action**

Date: October 10, 2024  
To: New York Community Bancorp, INC dba Subsidiary Flagstar Bank, NA.  
102 Duffy Ave.  
Hicksville, NY 11801

Certified Mail Number:  
70203160000233462557

From: Taja Landry  
1702 W Coodrie Dr  
Gonzales, LA 70737

**Public Notice of Intent to Sue Regarding Breach of Accord and Satisfaction Agreement And Quiet Title Action**

Account Number :-  
441532630

This Serves as a formal notice of intent to Sue Regarding Breach of Accord and Satisfaction Agreement we entered into on April 10, 2024 pertaining to Acct # 441532630.

Background:  
On April 10, 2024 Flagstar Bank, NA, reached an agreement to settle a bonafide dispute related to my account. The terms of the agreement stipulated that Louisiana Revised Statutes Title 10, Section 3-311 applies when the claim is unliquidated or disputed in good faith by the debtor. This statute allows using writing on a check or money order stating "payment in full" as evidence of Accord and Satisfaction if certain conditions are met. In good faith I fulfilled my obligation under the agreement by disputing the debt by administratively and notifying as of no repayment in 90 days constitute full satisfaction.

Notation of the negotiable instrument Money order for less the full amount, Flagstar Bank, NA has failed to uphold its obligations under the Accord and Satisfaction Agreement under the rules of Louisiana by knowingly accepting each money order with clear and conspicuous restrictive endorsement on April 10, 2024 money order # 29266942498 amount \$1,000.00 and Money order # 29266942500 amount \$687.38

This account is in regard to a dispute "in good faith" barring Flagstar Bank, NA, from suing for the remaining balance. Breach of Agreement has occurred by continuing reporting a balance to credit report agencies after the 1st acceptance and cashing of Money orders. Flagstar Bank, NA, opportunity to refund Money order lapse on July 11, 2024 (90-day refund period per Louisiana Statute).

The breach has caused significant harm, such as financial loss and repayment after April 10, 2024 should be refunded totaling \$9,436.90. Also affecting debt to income ratio.

Intent to Sue:  
If I do not receive a satisfactory response within 14 days from the date of this local publication, confirming that Flagstar Bank, NA, will take the necessary steps to fulfill its obligations under the Accord and Satisfaction Agreement, I will be forced to pursue legal action to enforce the agreement and seek compensation for the damages I have incurred.

I am confident that we can resolve this matter amicably. However, I am prepared to take all necessary legal steps to protect my rights.

As it Relates to Quiet Title Action this notice is to inform any one who think they have any interest or claim to this property please feel free to mail me at ( 1702 W Coodrie Dr Gonzales, LA 70737) or take heed that a State case will be filed in the State court of Ascension Parish in 14 days if Breach is not resolved and anyone is free to adjourn the Case.

Please contact me at the address listed above or on account file to discuss this matter further.

Thanks,  
Taja Landry

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In November, voters will be asked to approve **two vital tax renewals comprising 65% of BREC's current budget**, continuing years of support and investment that set BREC apart from park systems across the country.

## These Tax Millages Have Completely Transformed Most of BREC's 175 Parks

[BREC.ORG/IMAGINEYOURPARKS3](https://www.brec.org/ImagineYourParks3)



## These Renewals Will Fund the Third Imagine Your Parks Plan

Conceptual renderings + examples of what could be done with funding.



## Significant Economic Impact [BREC.ORG/YOUR-PARKS-OUR-PURPOSE](https://www.brec.org/your-parks-our-purpose)

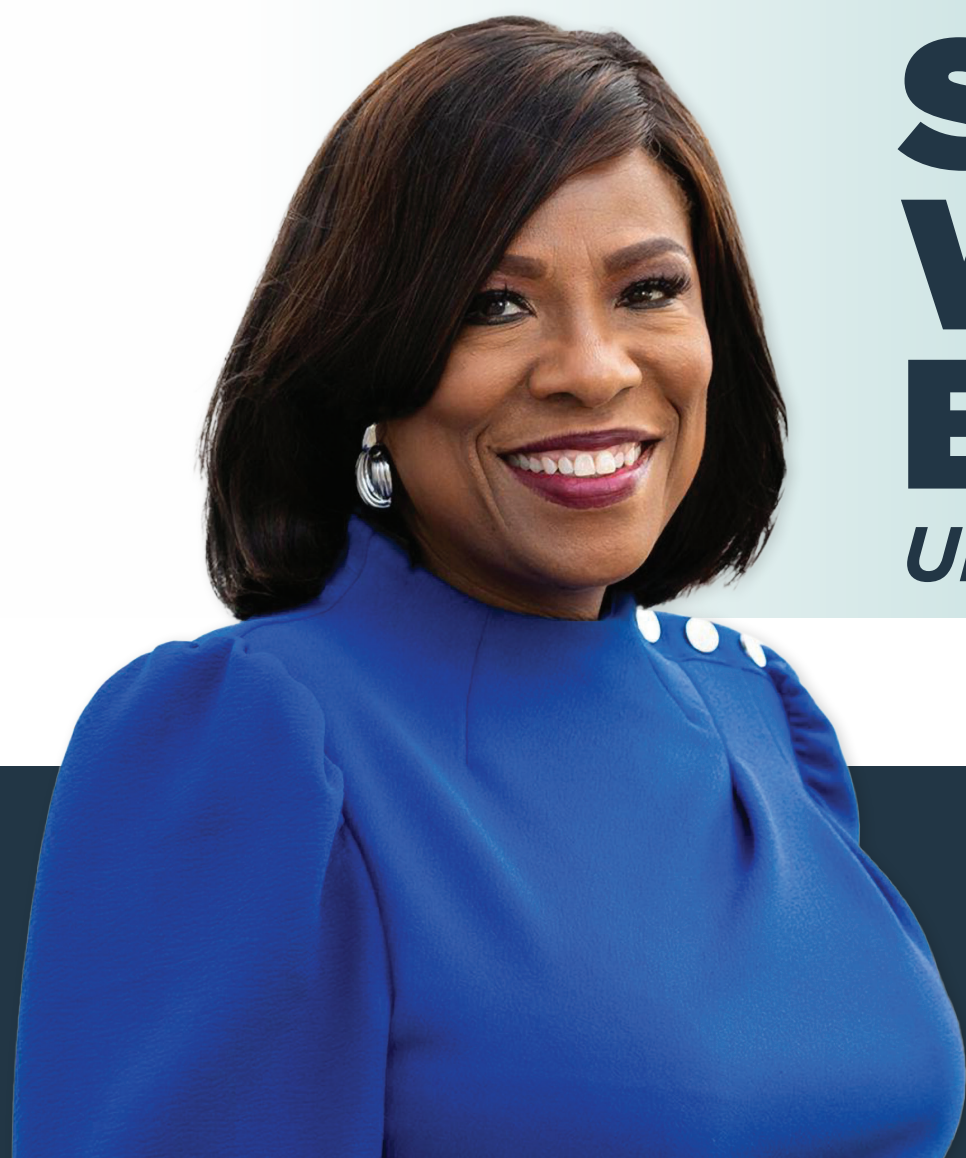
BREC'S annual economic impact in East Baton Rouge Parish is more than **FOUR TIMES** what it collects in ad valorem revenue. A Trust for Public Land study found that BREC's economic impact to the parish through recreational value, environmental benefits, healthcare cost savings, natural stormwater management, and more was approximately \$318 Million in 2023 when ad valorem tax revenue was \$73 Million.

## Learn More about BREC's Impact on East Baton Rouge Parish [BREC.ORG/PARKPERKS](https://www.brec.org/parkperks)



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- ✓ Established the first **DBE (disadvantaged business enterprise) program** to engage women and minority-owned businesses in City-Parish contracts
- ✓ **Funded the police with pay raises**, body cams and a new high-tech, real-time crime center and established the Safe, Hopeful Healthy BR community program to prevent crime
- ✓ Used federal tax dollars to remove 30,000 tons of debris from ditches, canals and waterways to **improve drainage and reduce flooding**
- ✓ **Led the fight against St. George** to keep our parish together and protect taxpayers
- ✓ Added 250+ new early childhood education seats through **Head Start Restart**
- ✓ Passed new laws focused on **reducing blight** throughout the parish
- ✓ Helped recruit Amazon to the parish **creating over 1,000 new jobs**



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