

The Weekly Press

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THURSDAY, JUNE 17-23, 2021

A PEOPLE'S PUBLICATION

VOL. 45 • NO.01 • FREE

Juneteenth SPECIAL EDITION

Kristen Clarke confirmed as first Black woman to run DOJ's Civil Rights Division



Kristen Clarke, the president of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, discusses the state of voting rights in America.

Kristen Clarke was confirmed to head the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division on Tuesday, despite intense pushback from Republicans over her views on policing, according to CNN.

She was approved in a 51-48 vote, with Maine Senator Susan Collins being the only Republican to vote for her. Clarke is the first Black woman to lead the division since its creation in 1957.

"Our nation is a healthier place when we respect the rights of all communities. In every role I've held, I have worked for and with people of all backgrounds — regardless of race, national origin, religion and disability status," Clarke wrote at her confirmation hearing in April. "I've listened deeply to all sides of debates, regardless of political affiliation. There is no substitute to listening and learning in this work, and I pledge to you that I will bring that to the role if confirmed."

Republicans previously went after Clarke following her nomination when they discovered she co-authored an article as an undergraduate in Harvard, where comparisons of the genetics of Black and white people were made.

The GOP also criticized Clarke for her stance on police reform, where she said police need to be reallocated to social programs.

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Louisiana lawmakers make Juneteenth a legal state holiday



DISTRICT 21 Rep. Travis Johnson stands behind Governor John Bel Edwards' right shoulder as Edwards signs a bill declaring June 19 as Juneteenth Observance Day, which commemorates the emancipation of enslaved people. The event was first celebrated in Texas at the end of the Civil War.

Louisiana has recognized Juneteenth, the day commemorating the end of slavery in the United States, as a legal state holiday.

The third Saturday in June will be celebrated as Juneteenth Day under a bill passed without any nay votes and signed by Gov. John Bel Edwards.

The House voted 87-0 for the measure by Baton Rouge Democratic Rep. Larry Selders, while senators gave it final passage 37-0.

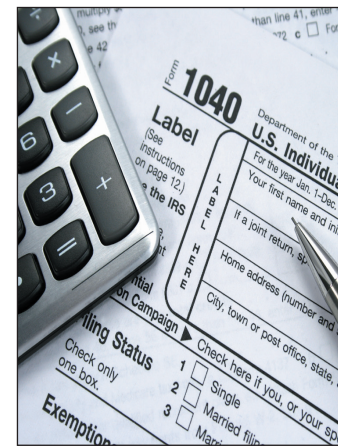
Juneteenth — which officially falls on June 19 — honors the day in 1865 when enslaved Blacks in Texas were freed with the arrival of federal troops.

Though slavery was not completely abolished until the 13th Amendment, which came six months later, Juneteenth has come to symbolize the end of slavery.

Acknowledged annually on June 19, the former regional holiday provokes celebration in Black communities nationwide.

Juneteenth, a portmanteau of the calendar date, is rooted in Texas and commemorates the ending of slavery. The homegrown holiday's Southern beginnings have evolved into a day of recognition for freedom and legacy in African American communities.

Louisiana tax deadline extended to Aug. 16 for 5 parishes



BATON ROUGE, La. — Louisiana state income taxes for 2020 are due Tuesday for most taxpayers around the state, but residents of five parishes struck by severe storms last month are getting an extension.

The state revenue department said the filing and payment deadline is Aug. 16 for people whose homes and principal places of business are in Ascension, Calcasieu, East Baton Rouge, Iberville and Lafayette parishes. Those parishes experienced heavy rain and flooding in mid-May.

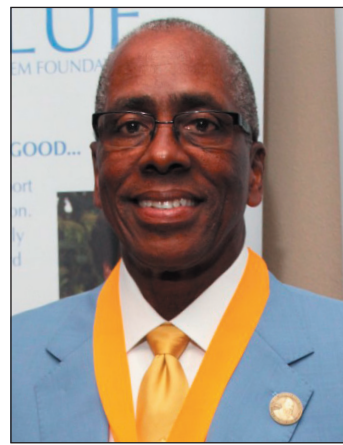
No late penalties or interest will apply to state income tax returns or tax payments submitted by people and businesses in those five parishes by the August deadline, the revenue department said.

More information is available online.

Alumnus Irving Matthews gifts \$1M to Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center

Southern University alumnus and Southern University System Foundation (SUSF) Trustee Irving Matthews gifted \$1M to expand programming creating the Southern University Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center. The gift will also provide seed funding for the construction of a new state-of-the-art 14,000 square foot building that will house the Center's operations.

In recognition of his gift, the Center will be named the Matthews Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. His philanthropic efforts benefitting Southern Uni-



Irving Matthews

versity spans three decades totaling \$916K. With this gift, Matthews' lifetime giving to Southern will exceed \$2M.

"I believe that the long-term success of Southern University is tied to the support it receives from the students that attended the University," Matthews said. "It is imperative that all alums give back to the University that has given so much to them. Southern has been there for us, so let's keep it around for future generations. I will forever be committed to giving back to my cherished alma mater."

The current Southern University Innovation Center is a collaboration between the Southern University System Foundation and Southern University and A&M College. In 2012, the SUSF received an award of \$1.2 million from the Economic Development Administration to construct the Innovation Center at Southern. The Innovation Center nurtures the development of entrepreneurial companies, helping them survive and grow during the start-up period when they are most vulnerable. These programs provide their client

companies with business support services and resources tailored to young firms.

"I say with tremendous gratitude, on behalf of the entirety of the SU System, how profoundly grateful we are for Mr. Irving Matthews' generosity and his unselfish giving as a dedicated alumnus of Southern University," said Ray L. Belton, president-chancellor of the Southern University System. "His benevolence to the System Foundation, in the form of large

See MATTHEWS, on page 2

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WEATHER

	MON. 06/21 Thunderstorms High 89°.
	TUE. 06/22 Thunderstorms High 85°.
	WED. 06/23 Thunderstorms High 87°.
	THUR. 06/24 Partly Cloudy High 89°.

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Ochsner Hospital for Children Named No. 1 in Louisiana by U.S. News & World Report

BATON ROUGE — Ochsner Hospital for Children ranks No. 1 in Louisiana in the new Best Children's Hospitals for 2021 — 22 rankings published online by U.S. News & World Report — the global authority in hospital rankings and consumer advice.

Pediatric specialists from this top-rated hospital also see patients at Ochsner Medical Complex - The Grove in Baton Rouge. These specialists work closely with their local peers, making Baton Rouge an extension of this outstanding quality care team. Very few children need extended hospitalization, but when they do, Ochsner Baton Rouge is able to quickly and seamlessly refer them to the top destination in the state for children's care.

In the latest US News & World Report rankings, Ochsner Hospital



Ochsner Hospital for Children

for Children was also recognized in pediatric cardiology and heart surgery. This is the fifth consecutive year Ochsner Hospital for Children has been recognized as a top Children's Hospital. Ochsner Hospital for Children is once again the only children's hospital in Louisiana to receive this prestigious honor.

"From schools closing to social distancing, we recognize a lot has changed for kids (and adults too) over the past year. What remains the same, however, is Ochsner Hospital for Children's unwavering commitment to providing high quality care to kids across the state of Louisiana," said Dr. William Lennarz System Chair of Pediatrics, Ochsner Hospital for Children.

See OCHSNER, on page 5

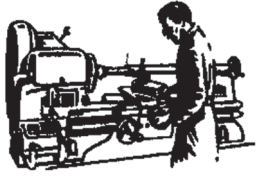


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Correction Policy
 The Baton Rouge Weekly Press strives to be fair and accurate. The newspaper corrects any significant errors of fact brought to the attention of the editor. If you think an error has been made, call 225-775-2002

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Local Film Directors Coordinate TEDxSCOTLANDVILLE



Councilwoman Chauna Banks pictured with local film directors, Queen Muhammad Ali and Hakeem Khaaliq.

TEDxSCOTLANDVILLE is a grassroots initiative, coordinated by Hakeem Khaaliq and Queen Muhammad. The event took place on Saturday, May 22, 2021 at BREC's Greenwood Community Park.

Hakeem and Queen moved to Scotlandville about a year ago and have already significantly enhanced the art, business, and landscape of the community.

Queen Muhammad Ali (Queen Melé Le'iato Tuiasosopo Muhammad Ali) is an American Samoan award-winning film director, photographer, graphic design artist, multimedia activist, television producer, humanitarian, writer, visual anthropologist, and the Direc-

tor of the Manuia Samoa, a social wellness hub in American Samoa. Ali is the great-granddaughter of Paramount Chief Tuli Le'iato of American Samoa.

Queen was also one of the organizers and a speaker at the highly publicized indigenous peoples march that occurred on January 18, 2019.

Queen made her debut as a TV producer in 2009, when she worked on T.I.'s Road to Redemption starring American rapper and actor T.I.

Aside from TV her multimedia production company Mobile Regime's client roster included State Farm, Xbox, Adidas, P.F. Chang's and pop icon Michael Jackson. [

In the winter of 2010, Queen and long time partner Hakeem Khaaliq established Nation19 which doubles as an artist collective and printed magazine that produces documentary films, and exhibits. In 2016, her short film #Bars4Justice was an official selection at the 24th Annual Pan African Film Festival in Los Angeles and she was the only woman selected to speak at the United Nations Global Peace dialogue in NYC on December 15th 2020

Hakeem Khaaliq (also Hakeem Abdul-Khaaliq) has earned quite an impressive credentials of his own. He is an American cinematographer, television producer, film director, photographer, multimedia activist, graphic design artist, and visual anthropologist. Before his career in film and television he worked as a music producer, music publisher, music supervisor and radio personality.

Khaaliq was born and raised in South Central, Los Angeles, CA. His father was a stuntman with work featured in the film The Spook Who Sat By The Door. Early in his career, Khaaliq began directing and producing documentary films (the first film he directed starred Snoop Dogg and Sean Puffy Combs), but his passion for social change and activism led him to direct and produce films focusing on pressing global issues

"TEDxSCOTLANDVILLE was organized by Queen and Hakeem and they are two passionate individuals who pursue new ideas and share their talents and knowledge with the community", said Councilwoman Chauna Banks.

This is only the third TEDx event in the State of Louisiana, more than 3000 events are now held annually.

SU Ag Center set to host a Small Farmers and Ranchers Cattleman's Field Day

BATON ROUGE, La. – The Southern University Ag Center will host a Small Farmers and Ranchers Cattleman's Field Day at 8 a.m. on June 26 at the Galilee Cattle Company, 25057 Hwy. 450 in Franklinton, LA.

The field day will feature farm demonstrations, animal vaccinations, hay baling, and information on animal health. There will also be a legal issues clinic and onsite computer training through the Southern University Ag Center's Mobile Technology Center.

Egeene Daniels, DVM and ranch owner will be the guest speaker for the event.

Daniels is the attending Veterinarian and Director of the Department of Laboratory Animal Medicine. He is also an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Biomedical Sciences at the University of North Texas Health Science Center (UNTHSC) in Fort Worth, Texas.

He serves on the Board of Directors and is the former President of the Texas Society of Biomedical Research. Dr. Daniels has extensive experience directing academic institutions which include program-wide accreditation of both biomedical and agriculture programs. While

proficient in multiple species of laboratory animal medicine and facilities, he has extensive experience in agriculture animals used for biomedical research and/or production. At the UNTHSC Dr. Daniels is responsible for the overall animal welfare program.

Egeene saw his dream of 50 years come true in 2014 when he and his wife, Rhonda Daniels, DVM, purchased what would become Galilee Cattle Company. The same place that he worked as a farmhand growing up.

Dr. Daniels earned his veterinary medical degree from Louisiana State University's School of Veterinary Medicine and completed his graduate work in Laboratory Animal Medicine and Epidemiology at LSU. He holds B.S. degrees in Animal Science and Agriculture Engineering/Agronomy, both from Southern University.

The field day is free and open to all small farmers and ranchers, but registration is required.

To register, visit <https://bit.ly/3zpHdnM>.

For additional information, contact Burnell Muse at burnell_muse@suagcenter.com.

CLARKE from page 1

according to CNN.

"I do not support defunding the police," Clarke said at her hearing. "I do support finding strategies to ensure that law enforcement can carry out their jobs more safely and effectively and channeling resources to emotional health treatment and other severely under-resourced areas."

Sen. Josh Hawley told CNN last week that there's a "pattern of nominees by this administration have a very sort of radical leftist background."

NAACP President Derrick Johnson told CNN he thinks fierce opposition to Clarke's

nomination is because she's Black.

"I think it's race, there is no other way to describe it," Johnson said. "No one else is being treated the way they are being treated in this moment. When you compare that to the appointments that the former administration presented, and how underqualified they were for the positions, especially for lifetime appointments to the federal bench, you can't draw any other conclusion but [that] it is racially motivated."

MATTHEWS from page 1

and enduring gifts, supports an important vision and creates a lasting legacy that will benefit generations to come. We thank him for his commitment to Southern University and to our mission of offering quality educational programs, conducting innovative research, and promoting valuable community engagement."

Matthews earned a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering technology. He is the president and owner of The Matthews Automotive Group, employing more than 300 employees, consisting of four automobile dealerships representing four franchises -- Ford, Kia,

Toyota, and Mazda.

Alfred Harrell, Southern University System Foundation CEO, echoed Belton's sentiments, "Irving's leadership at the governance level at Southern and other HBCUs continue to play a pivotal role in the growth and development of students, faculty, and University programming. We are profoundly grateful for his generosity, and I'm glad to know him as both a friend and mentor."

This is the second \$1M gift directed to the University in a month. Last week alumnus Mark and Dawn Malveaux made a gift of \$1M to establish an endowed scholarship in College of Business at the University.

Construction of the Matthews facility is expected to be complete in late 2022.



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Louisiana senators refuse to limit police officer immunity



In this Wednesday, June 17, 2020, file photo, Rep. Edmond Jordan, D-Baton Rouge, speaks about his bill that would eliminate police officers' wide-ranging immunity from civil lawsuits for damages for injury or death, in Baton Rouge, La. On Tuesday, June 1, 2021, a state Senate judiciary committee voted 4-2 against the measure from Jordan to put new restraints on the qualified immunity defense available to law enforcement officers against damage claims for wrongful death or injury.

BATON ROUGE, La. — A proposal to place new limits on police officers' broad immunity from civil lawsuits was rejected Tuesday by Louisiana state senators, stalling a key recommendation from a task force created to suggest policy changes addressing police misconduct.

A Senate judiciary committee voted 4-2 against the measure from Rep. Edmond Jordan, a Baton Rouge area Democrat, to put new restraints on the qualified immunity defense available to law enforcement officers against damage claims for wrongful death or injury.

Jordan's bill, which narrowly received House approval earlier this session, would have barred the use of qualified im-

munity if a court determines the police officer's conduct to be "unreasonable." It also would have expanded what's considered malfeasance for an officer.

Republicans voted against the proposal, while Democrats supported it.

This is the second year efforts from Black lawmakers to change Louisiana's qualified immunity law failed in the Legislature. But this second rejection came even after compromise language was hammered out by a task force that included lawmakers, advocacy groups and law enforcement organization leaders.

The Louisiana Sheriffs' Association backed the bill as it moved through the House and Senate. Other police orga-

nizations — such as the state Fraternal Order of Police and the state's police chiefs association — worked to defeat the proposal, even though they had representatives on the task force who didn't object to the recommendation when it received the panel's backing.

Supporters of the proposal said the qualified immunity law makes it nearly impossible to hold officers accountable for excessive force when prosecutors refuse to bring criminal charges. Opponents said legal avenues exist to prosecute police for inappropriate behavior, and they argued the changes could harm police recruitment.

Voting for the bill were Democratic Sens. Joe Bouie of

New Orleans and Greg Tarver of Shreveport. Voting against the bill were Republican Sens. Cameron Henry of Metairie, Ronnie Johns of Lake Charles, Mike Reese of Leesville and Kirk Talbot of River Ridge.

Other task force proposals have fared better with lawmakers. A 36-0 Senate vote Thursday

gave final passage to a bill by Democratic Sen. Cleo Fields, of Baton Rouge, to place new restrictions on the use of chokeholds and no-knock warrants. The measure also will require detailed policies for when body cameras and dash cameras must be turned on by officers who have them.

In addition, legislation by

Republican Rep. Tony Bacala, of Prairieville, calling for police agencies to design policies aimed at increasing minority recruitment and to require anti-bias training for state grant eligibility is headed to the governor's desk. It also will require suspension or revocation of a police officer's state certification if the

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<p>Session 1 Introduction to the Entrepreneurial Process: "Passion is energy. Feed the power that comes from focusing on what excites you." Oprah Winfrey 6:00 PM June 8 & 10, 2021</p>	<p>Session 2 Market Assessment and Research: "If we knew what we were doing, it wouldn't be research." Einstein 6:00 PM June 15 & 17, 2021</p>
<p>Session 3 Understanding Basic Accounting and Finance: "If it Don't Make Dollars then It Don't Make Sense!" 6:00 PM June 22 & 24, 2021</p>	<p>Session 4 Building the Entrepreneurial Team (Leadership Strategies): "None of us is as strong as all of us." 6:00 PM June 29 & July 1, 2021</p>
<p>Session 5 The Legal Aspects of Your Business and Branding Yourself: "As the LAW turns." 6:00 PM July 6 & 8, 2021</p>	<p>Session 6 Technology in Business: "What the TECH is going on?" 6:00 PM July 13 & 15, 2021</p>
<p>Session 7 The Business Plan: "Putting It All Together" 6:00 PM July 20 & 22, 2021</p>	<p>Session 8 Resources Acquisition & Conversation with Successful Entrepreneurs: "Your brand is the single most important investment you can make in your business." 6:00 PM July 27 & 29, 2021</p>

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BRECs Baton Rouge Zoo
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GUEST APPRECIATION DAYS
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June 5 + 6

CELEBRATION OF FATHERHOOD
Nairn Drive Park
June 12 | noon-4 p.m.

RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY
Forest Community Park
June 15 | 10 am-noon

BREC SUMMER CAMP
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DOG DAY AT THE SWAMP
Bluebonnet Swamp Nature Center
June 19 | 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

SUNSET PADDLE
Milford Wampold Memorial Park
June 16 + 30 | 7-8:30 p.m.

GLOW IN THE DARK CAPTURE THE FLAG
Kathy Drive Park
June 26 | sunset - 10 p.m.

NICK BROSSETTE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL 7V7 TOURNAMENT
Various Locations
June 26 + 27

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RELIGION

Brandon Camphor & One Way Release Acapella Rendition of "Lift Every Voice, Sing" For Black Music Month

Billboard charting Pop-Gospel group, Brandon Camphor & One Way, have recorded a brilliant acapella rendition of the Black National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing" (One Way Movement/Warner Music Group), in celebration of Black Music Month. "It's not only an anthem," says Camphor. "It's also a prayer of thanksgiving to God for His faithfulness and our freedom. That's what inspired us to record it."

Three of the Washington, D.C.-based foursome of Julia McMillan, Fred Cleveland, Angela Marie Jones, and group leader, Brandon Camphor, have been singing the song since their days as students at the Duke Ellington School for the Performing Arts. "Angela and I were in the school choir together, Fred was in the theater department," Camphor recalls. "We sang that at almost every school concert." The audio and a music video of the 2-minute rendition will release to Apple Music, iTunes, and YouTube on June 4th. On that date, the audio will also release to all other major digital service providers globally. Link: <https://smarturl.it/98upiw>

"After the great response to our acapella 'Happy Birthday, Jesus' Christmas song last year, we realized that people really liked hearing us deliver acapella music," Camphor adds. "It's also a way to



Brandon Camphor & One Way

showcase the group's vocal ability, harmony, and style."

The song was composed by James Weldon Johnson as a poem in 1900. His brother, J. Rosamond Johnson, set it to music in 1905 in recognition of Abraham Lincoln's birthday. In 1919, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) proclaimed it the Negro national an-

them. Over the years, the song has resonated with new generations. It's referenced in Maya Angelou's 1969 autobiography, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. Motown legend Kim Weston opened the WattStax concert film with her take on it. Branford Marsalis' rendition was featured in Spike Lee's 1989 film, *Do the Right Thing*. Melba Moore commandeered an

all-star version in 1990 with a host of R&B stars Beyoncé performed it at Coachella in 2018.

Over the last decade, the group has earned four Billboard Top 30 chart hits with the songs, "God of Mercy," "His Name," "You Are God," and their biggest hit yet, "I Choose You," which peaked at No. 21 on the Gospel Airplay chart in 2015.

Peace and Rest in Jesus

By Dr. Tony Evans

God has put a message on my heart to help you finish out 2012 filled with hope. That message includes two words: Peace. And rest.

PEACE

Peace doesn't mean that you will not have problems. Peace means that your problems will not have you. Jesus told us, "In this world you will have tribulation." Relationships may falter. Jobs may cease. Health may decline. The economy could continue to dip and turn. "But be of good cheer," says Christ, "because I have overcome this world."

Good cheer? How? Stand firmly in faith in your connection to Jesus Christ, and you will see Him usher in light where there once was darkness. Because if He has overcome your situation, friend, then YOU have overcome it as well ... in Him.

REST

Does it seem like you are working harder than ever these days yet still not finding a way to get it all done? We now have access to every possible gadget which is supposed to make our lives easier and more care-free. Yet, in

spite of their promises, we often find ourselves burdened with more meetings, more deadlines, and a longer list of things to do.



Dr. Tony Evans

Jesus tells us the secret to victory over heavy schedules – Himself. "Come to me all who are weary and heavy burdened," He invites, "and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from Me for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest"


I sometimes wonder if Jesus would have called it an iYoke, would we all sign up to download the latest version more so than we already do? Yet it is Christ's iYoke – downloadable through intimate abiding with Him. And by wearing Christ's yoke in faith, you will find rest in His sufficiency to "will and to do" all of God's good pleasure both in, and through, you.

In faith, you will discover the rest and the peace that you need to live out the remainder of 2012 in victory, and to enter 2013 with hope!

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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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

Sundays at 10am
 Wednesday Inspirational Service 7pm

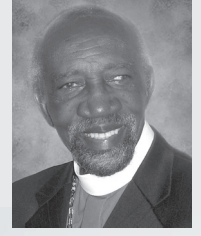


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CHURCH SCHEDULE

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

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

BRCC launches new program to meet growing healthcare job demands



BATON ROUGE, La. - Even as unemployment claims continue to drop and more people look for jobs, businesses are still struggling to get people on the payroll.

According to the Baton Rouge Area Chamber (BRAC), there are more than 33,000 job openings in the Capital Region. The three with the most postings include general medical and surgical hospitals, full-service restaurants, and specialized trucking.

Experts say you can blame some of the staffing issues on one problem.

"There are a lot of people who want those jobs that could pay up to \$90,000 a year," said Andrew Fitzgerald, senior director of Business Intelligence for BRAC. The issue there is a skill mismatch."

It's called the Workforce Healthcare Training Initiative. Chancellor Dr. Willie Smith says this project will provide community and healthcare providers with qualified, trained allied health professionals. The school

has partnered with six healthcare providers, including Ochsner Health System, Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center, Baton Rouge General, CareSouth Medical and Dental, Pointe Coupee General Hospital, and Eastern Louisiana Mental Health System.

"We know if these folks get these jobs that the return investment will be very great for our state, for Baton Rouge, for our economy but also uplift people out of poverty," said Smith.

An analysis by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics suggests employment in healthcare occupations is projected to grow 15 percent from 2019 to 2029, much faster than the average for all occupations, adding about 2.4 million new jobs.

"I think this will also help people with equity on making sure people are being trained on those high demand careers where they can take care of themselves and compete with other folks across the country for those jobs," added Smith.

OCHSNER from page 1

The 15th annual Best Children's Hospitals rankings recognize the top 50 pediatric facilities across the United States in 10 pediatric specialties: cancer, cardiology and heart surgery, diabetes and endocrinology, gastroenterology and gastrointestinal surgery, neonatology, nephrology, neurology and neurosurgery, orthopedics, pulmonology and lung surgery, and urology. New this year, the Best Children's Hospitals rankings included state rankings with Ochsner Hospital for Children securing the top spot in Louisiana.

Ochsner Hospital for Children has been at the forefront of the COVID-19 response, serving as a key resource for the Louisiana Department of Education, as well as more than 160 schools across the state as they navigated reopening safely. Ochsner Hos-

pital for Children continues to play a vital role in COVID-19 research. It is one of two locations in Louisiana to participate in the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine clinical trials for adolescents, which recently began enrolling children volunteers ages 5-11, with the goal of enrolling children as young as 6 months old in the near future.

Ochsner Hospital for Children has offered exceptional pediatric care for more than 75 years. Ochsner Hospital for Children offers the only pediatric heart and liver transplant program in the state, serving over 76,000 children every year with more than 140 physicians specializing in more than 30 pediatric specialties and sub-specialties.

For more information about Ochsner Hospital for Children, please visit www.ochsner.org/pediatrics. For more information, visit Best Children's Hospitals and use #BestHospitals on Facebook and Twitter.

BUSINESS

New Amazon fulfillment center to bring estimated 1,000 jobs to old Cortana Mall site

BATON ROUGE, La. - Gov. John Bel Edwards and the Baton Rouge Area Chamber announced Wednesday, June 16 the online retail giant Amazon will be opening a new fulfillment center at the former site of the Cortana Mall in Baton Rouge.

The new Amazon fulfillment center is expected to create 1,000 jobs with a minimum pay rate of \$15 per hour, officials said. Gov. Edwards said the new jobs include full medical, vision, and dental insurance and 401(k) savings with a 50 percent company match BRAC officials estimated the economic impact of the project will be \$2.9 billion between 2021 and 2040.

"This is the one we've been waiting for," said BRAC President and CEO Adam Knapp. "Amazon's project is transformational, both for creating a thousand jobs and serving as a model of intentional economic development. This has been a great team effort of state and local leadership with many public and private partners to secure this deal at this specific place. The project is meaningful for north Baton Rouge revitalization, for Mid City along Florida Boulevard, as well as for the entire region's economy when this blighted former mall will be reinvented as a 21st century, robotics-enabled logistics hub. This is the antidote to the poison that a shuttered Cortana might easily have become."



The old Cortana Mall will be the site of the new Amazon fulfillment center.

Louisiana has a long and storied history as a leading state for the shipping and transport of goods," said Gov. Edwards. "Today's announcement by Amazon reveals a new chapter in that his-

tory, as Baton Rouge will now be home to a state-of-the-art Amazon Robotics Fulfillment Center. I am proud to welcome this new investment to Louisiana's Capital Region, and I thank Amazon for its

continued investment in our great state - the third such investment in seven months. The new jobs and opportunities created by this project will be a tremendous value to Baton Rouge and the entire state."

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JUNETEENTH

Senate Passes Bill to Make Juneteenth a Federal Holiday

BY STACY M. BROWN
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

Texas Democratic Congressman Al Green began recognizing Juneteenth as a paid holiday in his office last year, so when the Senate passed legislation this week to make the date that commemorates freedom a national holiday, the congressman was among the first to cheer.

“What began as a grassroots movement to commemorate Texas history is now set to become our nation’s 12th federal holiday,” Congressman Green stated.

“In honor of the late Al Edwards – the father of the Juneteenth holiday in Texas – and every person illegally enslaved in Texas during the period between Lincoln’s proclamation and Granger’s announcement of emancipation, I eagerly anticipate the opportunity to vote for this legislation on the House floor.”

The passage is viewed as inevitable in the U.S. House before the measure heads to the White House for President Joe Biden’s signature.

Juneteenth is celebrated each year on June 19.

Also known as “Freedom Day,” Juneteenth marks the emancipation of former African American slaves who didn’t find out that President Lincoln proclaimed an end to slavery on Sept. 22, 1862.

In Galveston, Texas, African Americans learned of their freedom on June 19, 1865 – nearly three years later.

“We celebrate the first pas-



Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee speaks during the 2017 NNPA Leadership Awards Reception at the Renaissance Hotel in Washington, D.C. The congresswoman was instrumental in the push for Juneteenth Holiday/(Freddie Allen/AMG/NNPA)

sage of the bill in the Senate,” exclaimed Texas Democratic Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, who, along with Republican Texas Rep. John Cornyn, introduced the bill following the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

“This has been a long journey with the work of our fellow Texans, the late Representative Al Edwards, and Opal Lee,” Congresswoman Jackson Lee stated.

“We’re working very hard to get his bill signed by the President in the near days in order to have a historic celebration of Juneteenth this June 19, 2021. It has been a long journey. Juneteenth equals freedom, and freedom is

what America is about.”

Congressman Cornyn added that Juneteenth had been a state holiday in Texas for more than four decades, and it was time that every state formally recognized the date.

In 2020, lawmakers in New York, New Jersey, and Virginia said they would recognize Juneteenth as a holiday. Currently, North Dakota, South Dakota and Hawaii count as the only states that do not officially recognize Juneteenth.

“Now more than ever, we need to learn from our history and continue to form a more perfect union,” Congressman Cornyn exclaimed.

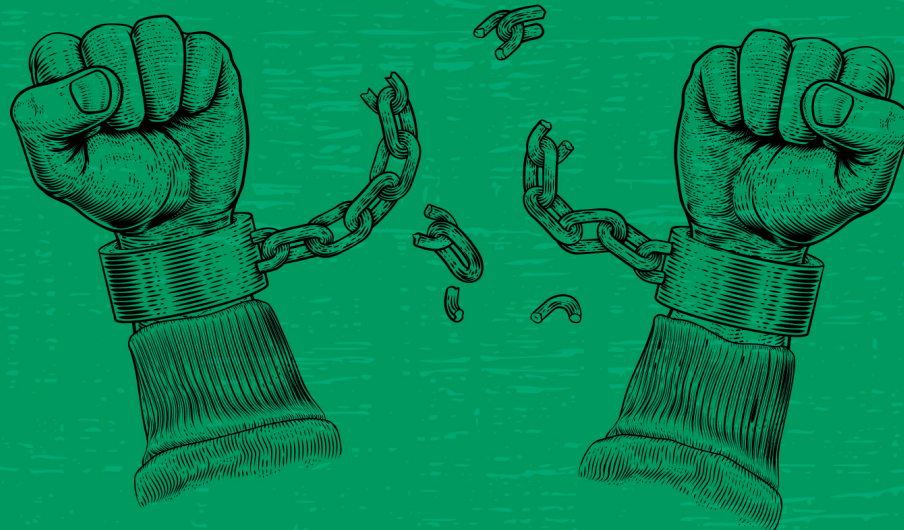
JUNETEENTH
A CELEBRATION OF
FREEDOM!

This marks the 156th year that Juneteenth is observed in the United States. Every year on June 19, the holiday is celebrated to commemorate the end of slavery in the United States. Juneteenth is rooted in history – although President Abraham Lincoln declared the emancipation proclamation on the first day of 1863, the news didn’t reach Texas for another two and a half years. It specifically hit on June 19, 1865, when Major General Gordon Granger and Union soldiers first brought news to Galveston that enslaved people were now free. Since then, the holiday has been observed in 45 U.S. states over time.

JUDGE TIFFANY L. FOXWORTH-ROBERTS
Criminal Section VIII, Division M
19th Judicial District Court

HAPPY JUNETEENTH 2021

CELEBRATING JUNETEENTH



“I pray that you and your family enjoy June 19th as a day to celebrate the freedom of our ancestors and reflect on the rich history of Juneteenth.”

Sharon Weston Broome
Mayor-President of East Baton Rouge Parish

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