

The Weekly Press

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THURSDAY, MARCH 10-16, 2022

A PEOPLE'S PUBLICATION

VOL. 45 • NO. 27 • FREE

Early Voting begins March 12 for the March 26 Municipal Primary Election



BATON ROUGE, La. — Secretary of State Kyle Ardoin is reminding voters that early voting for the March 26 Municipal Primary Election begins Saturday, March 12, and continues through Saturday, March 19 (excluding Sunday, March 13) from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Citizens who want to vote early may do so in person at their parish Registrar of Voters Office or at other designated locations.

Voters are encouraged to utilize Louisiana's award-winning, free smartphone app, GeauxVote Mobile, to locate parish early voting locations, Election Day voting site, or view their sample ballot. GeauxBot, the virtual voter assistant, is also available to access pertinent election information such as registration deadlines, election dates, polling locations, and hours. GeauxBot is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by visiting voterportal.sos.la.gov or by selecting Elections and Voting on sos.la.gov.

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

In addition to a Louisiana driv-

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OTHER STORIES

- "Girl Scout on the Go" Mobile Shop Begins Service in Southeast Louisiana
- La. lawmaker proposes plan to crack down on abortion pills
- Sen. Barrow to host District 15 Community Meeting
- McDonald's, Coke, Starbucks Join Others Exiting Russia
- FDA warns against use of certain unauthorized COVID antigen tests

WEATHER

MON. 03/14
Cloudy
High 64-82°

TUE. 03/15
Showers
High 68°

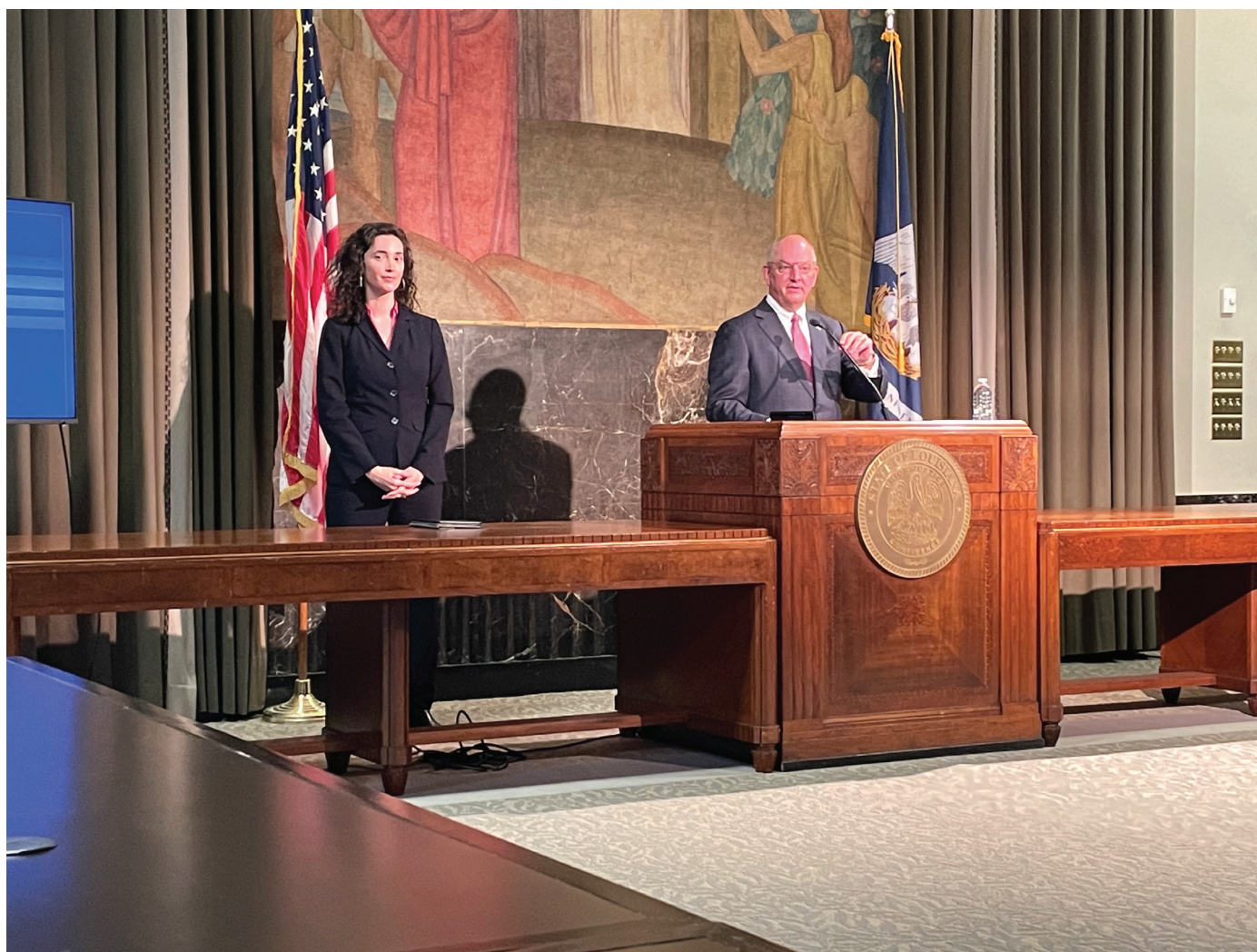
WED. 03/16
Partly Cloudy
High 73°

THUR. 03/17
Partly Cloudy
High 79°

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Gov. Edwards vetoes proposed congressional redistricting map



Gov. John Bel Edwards vetoed new congressional maps that did not provide for a second majority-minority district. Piper Hutchinson/LSU Manship School News Service

BY PIPER HUTCHINSON
LSU Manship School
News Service

BATON ROUGE, La. — Gov. John Bel Edwards on Wednesday vetoed maps that did little to change the boundaries of Louisiana's congressional districts, citing the failure to add a second majority Black district.

"I have vetoed the proposed congressional map drawn by Louisiana's Legislature because it does not include a second majority African American district, despite Black voters making up almost a third of Louisianians per the latest U.S. Census data," Edwards said. "This map is simply not fair to the people of Louisiana and does not meet the standards set forth in

the federal Voting Rights Act," he added.

Louisiana has six congressional districts, but they are drawn in such a way that a Black candidate could win in only one of them.

Edwards, a Democrat, asked the Republican-led Legislature to immediately begin work on a new map that includes a second majority Black district.

The governor signed off on new maps for the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Public Service Commission, saying he believes they provide fairer representation.

Despite the lack of additional majority minority districts in maps for the state House and Senate,

See **VETO**, on page 2

Russia-Ukraine talks fail with no progress on cease-fire, safe passage for civilians

Talks between Russia and Ukraine's foreign ministers in Turkey on Thursday appear to have ended in failure, with no progress made on establishing a cease-fire or safe passage for civilians trying to flee the besieged city of Mariupol.

The discussions, between Russia's foreign minister, Sergey Lavrov, and his Ukrainian counterpart Dmytro Kuleba, lasted just 1½ hours.

When he emerged, Kuleba

told a news conference that the talks had been "both easy and difficult."

"Easy because Minister Lavrov basically followed his traditional narratives about Ukraine, but difficult because I did my best to find a diplomatic solution to the humanitarian tragedy unfolding on the battleground and in the besieged cities," he said.

No progress had been made on Ukraine's proposal for a 24-hour cease-fire, Kuleba said, nor on

the establishment of a humanitarian corridor to and from Mariupol, both for citizens to flee the city, and for humanitarian aid to enter it.

The minister expressed his dismay that his Russian counterpart had not been in a position to authorize any kind of agreement on a cease-fire, saying "it seems there are other decision-makers on this matter, in Russia." Indeed, in a separate news conference, Lavrov said that "no one here was discussing a cease-fire."

The talks came as fighting continues to rage across Ukraine, with the country's president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, accusing Russia once again of war crimes after an attack on a children's hospital in Mariupol.

CNBC's Hadley Gamble asked Lavrov how Russia could justify the attack, which Ukrainian authorities said had killed three people, including a child.

Lavrov said it was "not the

See **TALKS**, on page 5

Drivers try to manage travel costs as gas prices near \$4 in Louisiana



According to AAA, the national average is \$4.00, and in the state of Louisiana, it's costing people an average of \$3.87.

Drivers can expect to see their gas stations go up in price. This past Friday one gas station was charging drivers \$3.70 for regular gas. Today, it is up to \$3.99 at the same station.

The hunt is on to find the lowest gas prices.

"It's really expensive, this is a 3500, I have to swipe my card twice just to fill it up," says Noah Gallow. Gallow works for Box K Events. He sets up for parties and weddings and often has to drive to out-of-town venues as part of his job. Lately, the company has had to increase costs for services.

"Gas prices are making it harder for us to give customers a fair price, and our quotes are making it harder for me to travel to get to work," Gallow adds.

With gas prices going up, everyone is trying to find a way to save at the pump and sometimes that's through memberships with local grocery stores here in Baton Rouge. It's why Lynn Courtney is filling up at Sam's today. She appreciates being able to get a discount just for being a Sam's Club Member.

"Well, I just saw \$3.99 a gallon at RaceTrac, and even though this is a little bit hard sometimes with the lines and getting through. Sometimes the printers don't work to give me a receipt, but it's still worth it. I mean this was \$3.35 here this morning versus \$3.99," Courtney tells reporters.

At a time when spring break and summer travels are just around the corner, some people are choosing to stay at home just to save on a little bit of money.

"Yeah, my son is ready to go to another state for spring break, but the way gas is right now I just don't think he will be able to go," Nick King explains.

It's why the Louisiana Office of the Lieutenant Governor is encouraging people to stick to traveling Louisiana roads to enjoy some of the state's local attractions and events.



Rep. Bobby Rush, D-Ill., speaks about the Emmett Till Anti-Lynching Act, which was named after a 14-year-old boy who was lynched in Mississippi in 1955.

Congressional Black Caucus applauds House, Senate passage of Emmett Till Antilynching Legislation

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Emmett Till Antilynching Act (H.R. 55), legislation introduced by Congressman Bobby L. Rush (D-Ill.), passed the House and the Senate the Congressional Black Caucus released the following statement:

"This is a moment of historic consequence. The Emmett Till Antilynching Act passed the United States House of Representatives in a vote 422-3 and unanimously in

the Senate. This bill is now headed to President Biden's desk for signature, finally designating lynching as a federal hate crime in America," said Congressional Black Caucus Chairwoman Joyce Beatty. "Despite more than 200 attempts to make lynching a federal crime over the past 120 years, it has never before been done. That ends today. We are proud Congressman Bobby Rush remained steadfast in championing this critical legislation. This bill clearly

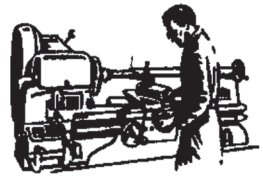
conveys our nation will no longer ignore this shameful chapter of our history, and the full force of the U.S. federal government will be brought to bear against those who commit this heinous act."

"Lynching is a longstanding and uniquely American weapon of racial terror that has for decades been used to maintain the white hierarchy," said

See **TILL**, on page 3



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Weekly Press

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

All money orders or checks should be made payable to The Baton Rouge Weekly Press 4910 Montecello Blvd., Suite C Baton Rouge, La. 70814

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 Office Hours: Monday-Friday
 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
 Closed Saturday, Sunday

LOCAL & STATE

“Girl Scout on the Go” Mobile Shop Begins Service in Southeast Louisiana



GONZALES, La.— This week, Girl Scouts Louisiana East will unveil “Girl Scouts on the Go,” a fully outfitted van which will travel around

the 23 parishes served by GSLE.

“Girl Scouts on the Go” will deliver uniforms, badges, patches, learning resources and materials needed by volunteers where they live, work and go to school. The new mobile shop will ensure that distance, transportation limitations and operating hours will never be a barrier to girls having the full Girl Scout Experience and volunteers getting what they need to effectively lead troops. The mobile shop will begin serving the southeast Louisiana community upon its unveiling Thursday afternoon.

GSLE serves Girl Scouts of every socioeconomic background and geographic region in southeast Louisiana from urban New Orleans to rural Washington Parish. Recognizing the great need to ensure all areas in southeast Louisiana are equitably served, GSLE secured grant funding to create this accessible alternative.

The Grand Unveiling of “Girl

Scouts on the Go” will take place from 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday, March 10, at the Capitol Park Museum in Baton Rouge. The event is open to the media and will include brief remarks by Girl Scouts Louisiana East CEO Dr. Rebecca Pennington. In addition, each participant who makes a purchase during the event will receive a free gift of Girl Scout merchandise.

“Girl Scouts on the Go” was made possible through a lead grant from the Huey and Angelina Wilson Foundation along with generous support from the Pennington Foundation, Capital Area United Way and United Way of St. Charles.

Girl Scouts Louisiana East will present the newest addition to its community-focused services – “Girl Scouts on the Go” on Thursday, March 10, in

See **MOBILE**, on page 3

La. lawmaker proposes plan to crack down on abortion pills



BATON ROUGE, La. — Sen. Sharon Hewitt, R-Slidell, wants to make it illegal to buy abortion pills without a prescription from a licensed physician and penalize companies selling abortion pills to women without a prescription.

“We think that’s good policy, it’s good for the health of the woman and it certainly brings a medical professional into the conversation,” said Sen. Hewitt.

The FDA, under the Biden administration, opened the door for women to get abortion pills in the mail.

“I don’t understand how a state lawmaker can tell me I can’t go to a doctor in Mississippi or Texas, that’s my business,” said Rep. Mandie Landry, D-New Orleans, who opposes the bill.

Rep. Landry tweeted about the bill Monday, calling it horrible, and says the mere premise of the bill is flawed.

“Well, you can’t get them right now without a prescription anywhere because they are prescription drugs,” added Rep. Landry.

But Sen. Hewitt says com-

panies outside of Louisiana are supplying pills to women anyway.

“Yes, and they’re doing it by mail order now since December of 2021. And so, there’s no requirement for pregnancy tests, you know, there’s just no checks and balances when it comes to the health of the woman,” Sen. Hewitt explained.

The penalty for buying or selling these pills without a prescription, depending on the offense and your age could range from financial penalties to jail time.

“While we want to protect every unborn child, we also want to make sure these women are not accessing these abortion pills from places that aren’t providing good services and good examinations of a woman’s current state,” said Ben Clapper with Louisiana Right to Life.

Gov. John Bel Edwards leans away from democrat positions on abortion and has been vocal about being pro-life. Rep. Landry is almost certain the bill will pass and the governor will sign it into law.

An attempt was made to reach Planned Parenthood for comment but there was no reply from the group.

This bill will be taken up in the Senate Health and Welfare Committee once the session begins on Monday, March 14.

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Edwards said that he will allow the maps to become law without his approval. He said he did not want those maps to become a distraction in the regular legislative session, which starts Monday.

“I do not believe the Legislature has the ability to draw new state House and Senate maps during this upcoming legislative session without the process halting the important work of the state of Louisiana,” Edwards said.

Rep. Royce Duplessis, a New Orleans Democrat, applauded the governor’s veto.

“I commend the Governor’s decision to veto the congressional map,” Duplessis said. “It was the right thing to do. The people of Louisiana deserve fair representation.”

Republicans were not as thrilled.

See **VETO**, on page 3

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Sen. Barrow to host District 15 Community Meeting

BATON ROUGE, La. — State Senator Regina Barrow, D-Baton Rouge, invites district 15 citizens to a community meeting Saturday, March 12, 2022. This meeting is co-hosted by PSC (Public Service Commission) Commissioner Dr. Craig C. Greene, District 2 and Mr. Lambert Boissiere, District 3



Sen. Regina Barrow

During this community meeting, attendees can expect to hear discussion regarding public utilities, light bills and infrastructure issues affecting the area. Space is limited for this event, and interested citizens are encouraged to pre-register to ensure they acquire a spot.

Sen. Barrow said, "I hope our area citizens take advantage of this opportunity to hear about our concerns for our city prior to the start of Legislative Session here in Louisiana. Our needs for the area, especially in regards to infrastructure are going to affect many and gaining this valuable knowledge should rank high as a priority to our leaders and our community."

Saturday's community meeting will be held at 10 am in room 1801 of BREC's main administrative building at Florida and Ardenwood. The address for the location is 6201 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, 70806. This meeting will also be available via Zoom, and individuals can register by contacting Sen. Barrow's office at 225-359-9400.

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

For more information, contact the Elections Division at 800.883.2805 or elections@sos.la.gov.

MOBILE from page 2

Baton Rouge.

This grant-funded mobile shop will eliminate geographic barriers to Girl Scouts and volunteers allowing better access to Girl Scout merchandise and support needed for a full Girl Scout experience.

TILL from page 1

Congressman Bobby Rush. "Perpetrators of lynching got away with murder time and time again — in most cases, they were never even brought to trial. Legislation to make lynching a federal crime and prevent racist killers from evading justice was introduced more than 200 times, but never once passed into law.

Congressman Troy Carter Funds \$17.5 Million In Local Projects

The seven projects funded will provide mental health services, public health research, student services, upgrade parks, build a new public athletic venue, and more as part of the overall government funding package

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congressman Troy A. Carter Sr. will vote to fund \$17.5 million in Community Project Funding that he previously secured for Louisiana's Second Congressional District. The committee released the full 2022 Appropriations budget bill earlier today, which includes funding for seven projects that were requested and advocated for by Congressman Carter in the summer of 2021, as one of his first acts upon being elected to Congress.

The full budget also includes critical funds to lower the cost of living for working families, \$13.6 billion to support Ukraine and \$15.6 billion to manage coronavirus at home and abroad. The text of the spending package, H.R. 2471, is available here and a full summary of the 12 regular appropriations bills is here.

The community projects announced today will directly benefit the people of Louisiana's Second Congressional District, funding upgrades to parks and student services at Xavier University, building a public athletic venue in New Orleans' 9th Ward, implementing multi-modal transportation improvements, increasing mental health services and jumpstarting public health research.

"This is a historic day for southeast Louisiana," said Congressman Carter. "These seven projects have the potential to do an enormous amount of good in Louisiana's Second Congressional District, and I am so proud to have fought for their inclusion and funding in this Congressional appropriations package. This \$17.5 million in funding announced today will go directly to our community, funding critical projects that will help boost our local economy as well as improve the health, well-being, environment, and public safety for the people of southeast Louisiana."

Congressman Carter continued, "These funds are part of the overall government funding legislation, which delivers transformative federal investments to help lower the cost of living for working families, create American jobs, support our most vulnerable, tackle COVID-19 and support the people of Ukraine."

The funded projects for Louisiana's Second Congressional District are as follows:

1. PROJECT SPONSOR: City of Baton Rouge
Amount Awarded: \$1,000,000
Purpose: The funding will be used to create the Baton Rouge Institute for Growth and Healing

VETO from page 2

Sen. Sharon Hewitt, R-Slidell and chair of the Senate committee that oversees redistricting, disagreed with the governor's assessment.

She indicated that Republican lawmakers will see if they can muster the two-thirds votes in each chamber needed to override his veto.

"I am disappointed in the

After Trauma (BRIGHT), a community-based, trans-disciplinary resource and service center for trauma-healing in Baton Rouge. BRIGHT will build upon the success of several trauma-relief initiatives. It will create a center to support the health and well-being of Baton Rouge during a time of unprecedented collective trauma.

1. PROJECT SPONSOR: LSU Health New Orleans
Amount Awarded: \$2,000,000

Purpose: The funding will be used for a project to learn more about the enduring effects of COVID in Louisiana and better prepare for successfully managing any future epidemic through discovery, research, and training. As one of the first places with a major COVID surge, it is important to understand what effects COVID has had on our population including health care workers and students.

1. PROJECT SPONSOR: Tulane University
Amount Awarded: \$1,000,000

Purpose: The funding will be used for to create a permanent home for an important collection that helps better understand the pathology, etiology, and epidemiology of trauma-related neurodegenerative disorders. This research is vital to understanding and treating traumatic brain injuries, including among U.S. service members. It will also help treat post-traumatic stress and other physical and psychological health concerns.

1. PROJECT SPONSOR: Xavier University
Amount Awarded: \$2,500,000

Purpose: The funding will be used to renovate St. Michael's, a residence hall for first-year students. The hall is historic, having been a place of refuge for the Freedom Riders in 1963. The renovations would turn the building into a center for pre-health advising and STEM education.

1. PROJECT SPONSOR: 9th Ward Stadium
Amount Awarded: \$3,000,000

Purpose: The funding will be used for to create a public athletic venue for the 9th Ward of New Orleans. The 9th Ward Stadium project is a re-energized initiative which seeks to provide critically important recreational facilities for public school students throughout eastern New Orleans and which will serve as an economic catalyst for the 9th Ward community.

1. PROJECT SPONSOR: City of New Orleans

Governor's decision to veto the congressional map & am confident that the map the legislature passed meets the requirements of the Voting Rights Act," Hewitt tweeted. "I look forward to the debate on a veto override."

Rep. Tanner Magee, R-Houma, the second-ranking legislator in the House, said that House leadership had not yet made a plan for addressing the veto. Magee said leadership would likely discuss the matter Thursday.

Amount Awarded: \$5,000,000

Purpose: The funding will be used for multi-modal transportation improvements along Morrison Road in New Orleans, Louisiana. Morrison Road is an important east-west major roadway that services a large part of the New Orleans East area. It directly accesses the interstate and is a major transit route in the Regional Transit Authority system and requires major



Troy Carter

improvements to enhance safety.

2. PROJECT SPONSOR: Audubon Nature Institute
Amount Awarded: \$3,000,000

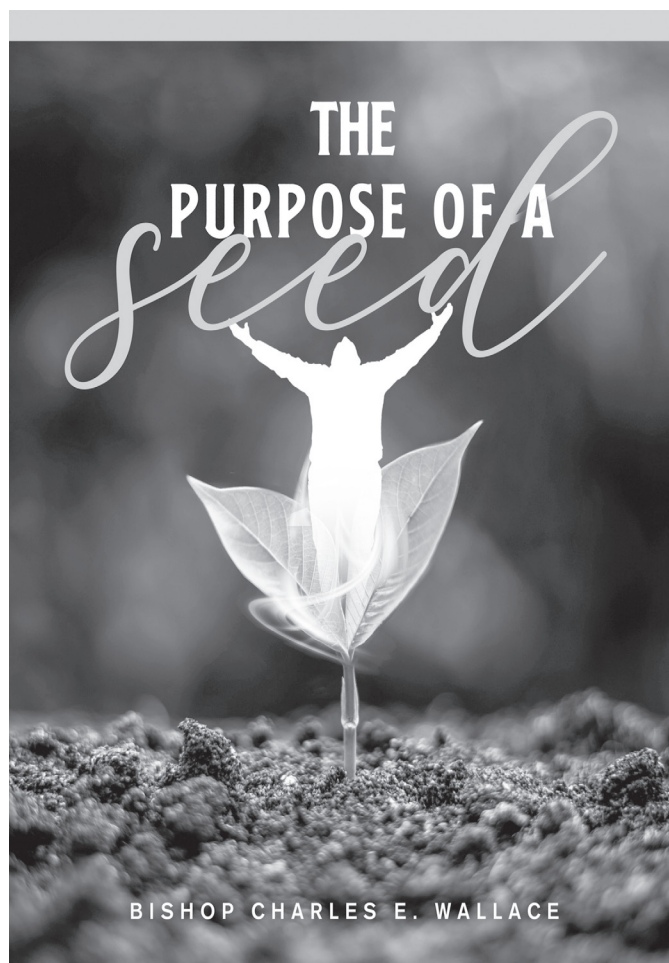
Purpose: The funding will be used to renovate Woldenberg Riverfront Park in downtown New Orleans. This project would upgrade transportation and safety features for southeast Louisiana community members and millions of annual visitors. This project will revitalize this 30-year-old park and have safety, mobility, and economic benefits.

These community projects were selected after conducting comprehensive outreach to local groups and stakeholders. This new initiative is

coupled with stringent eligibility, ethics, and transparency requirements.

The full twelve-bill government funding package that the House will vote on today will help middle class families with the cost of living, create American jobs, support the vulnerable, and give assistance small businesses and restaurants that are key to our economic future. Taken together, the funding for Louisiana's Second Congressional District and the funding increases for critical government programs will reverse decades of disinvestment in our communities and strengthen our nation.

BR Pastor Releases New Book: The Purpose of a Seed



Bishop Charles Wallace comes from humble beginnings. He often refers to himself as a bot from the park, referring to the area of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, named Eden Park, where he was reared. He attributes his success to the grace of God in his life.

He has been married to his wife, Gladys, for forty-nine years. They have been blessed with three beautiful daughters, two sons-in-law, grandsons, Solomon and Samuel, who are the light of their lives.

Bishop Wallace is the Senior Pastor of Oasis Christian Church. Oasis is a church that loves God, hates sin, and is always willing to give. The Purpose of a Seed was inspired by the Holy Spirit. When read and applied, this book will be life-changing.



This book will inform you step by step on how a seed produces the harvest within. The seed is God's way of reproducing. All of nature understands the concept. So, get ready to be informed and inspired for productivity for the Kingdom of God.



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FLAWED, SHAMED, ACCUSED, AND STILL HAVE A TESTIMONY

BY DR. GAYLE YOUNG, HHP, MA, JD

I loved growing up in the Church. Several schoolteachers attended my home church, Richardson Chapel COGIC. All week-long during Women's History Month, they, like other teachers, were in that group teaching about Harriet Tubman, Maya Angelou, Rosa Parks, and other wise women who impacted and changed history. But as soon as we got to church, in front of Pastor, ... you all know what happened, right? ... it was all about Jesus and what He did for women. I say this with fun. In any discussion about Jesus and women, my Godmother, Elmira Wheelock, always whipped out that concordance and broke that Word down to the nth degree. I loved how she loved the Word and taught it to me. Nan, you impacted my life- thank you!

As we celebrate Women's History Month, I am still waist-high in the love vibe that I got from reading the Word of God and the special place that women had in Jesus' ministry and heart. So, we are talking about the woman in John 8:5-8 who had been dragged before Jesus while He was teaching in the temple courts. As a former District Court Sex Crimes Prosecutor, I can easily visualize that scene and identify with how she must have felt. These religious leaders ganged up on her, drug her through the crowds that had gathered to hear Jesus, and then her accusers didn't show up. Liars and cowards are what

I said in my head, but not in church. As they began to tell Jesus that she was an adulteress who had been caught in adultery, they indeed forgot or ignored that the law required that both the adulterer and adulteress be put to death. So, where was that sinner, dude?

Jesus was not about to go for that, and He began writing in the dirt with his finger like we used to do on the dirt floor of our playhouse at the end of the circle on Desota Drive in Beechwood. John 8:7b, Jesus said: "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." Thank you, Jesus; I love how He put that Word back on them! In John 8:9, we see that all the accusers left, just Jesus and the Woman were left.

At that moment, Jesus loved her; instead of condemning her. He restored her dignity and redirected her life. This woman was facing a death sentence, but none of her accusers stayed to blame her, and Jesus didn't accuse her either.

Ladies, Jesus desires the best for us and wants us to choose Him. He told her, "Go now and leave your life of sin." He just wanted her to be his daughter. He wants you and me and all of us



Dr. Gayle Young

See WOMAN, on page 5

RELIGION

TRUSTING GOD IN EVERY SITUATION

By Creflo Dollar
World Changers International

Have you ever been in a situation that suddenly imploded on itself and fell apart without warning? Life is unpredictable sometimes, and things can be great one minute and scary the next. If we rely solely on ourselves to accomplish our goals without any guidance from a higher power, we won't get very far without running into real trouble. Thankfully for us, this "higher power" isn't just some fuzzy concept, but a God who knows exactly what we go through every day of our lives.

When everything goes terribly wrong with no advance warning, we don't have to struggle with it on our own. We have someone in our corner who is God in human form: He's always interceding on our behalf. "Now that we know what we have—Jesus, this great High Priest with ready access to God—let's not let it slip through our fingers. We don't have a priest who is out of touch with our reality. He's been through weakness and testing, experienced it all—all but the sin. So let's walk right up to him and get what he is so ready to give. Take the mercy, accept the help" (Hebrews 4:14-16, MSG). Jesus' promise to help us and deliver us from trouble is something we can confidently believe. Trusting Him when our back is against the wall allows Him to turn failure into success.

The situation may look hopeless, but looks can be deceiving. When Peter saw Jesus walking on water and trusted Him enough to get out of the boat and do the same, he

gained the ability to do what looked impossible. That ability came from God, but when Peter became afraid, stopped trusting Jesus, and fell, Jesus still rescued him.

And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, it is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid. And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. And he said, come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt? (Matthew 14:26-31).

When the storms of life threaten to drown us—and they will threaten—it takes courage to seek out God's direction on what to do. Having faith means trusting, even if what we hear from Him doesn't make sense at first. When God tested Abraham's faith by telling him to sacrifice his son, Abraham trusted God (Genesis 22:1-13). God took Abraham out of a nightmarish situation and turned the bad into good; He continues to do this even now.



Creflo Dollar

Disaster can show up unannounced in our lives at any time and in any form, but there's no reason to walk in fear. Jesus has given us His authority over adversity; having faith in this prevents adversity from overcoming us. "Trust in the Lord

with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Proverbs 3:5, 6). When we ask Him for help, we'll be amazed at what He can do.



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Disciple Bible Study	Wednesday 5:30 p.m.
Prayer Ministry	Tuesday 6:00 p.m.

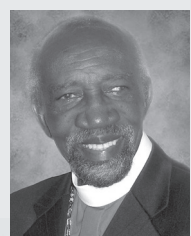
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CHURCH SCHEDULE

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

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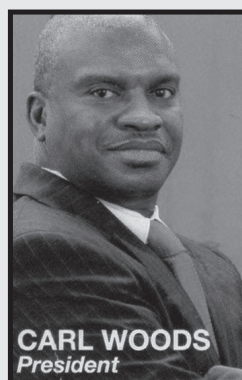


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BUSINESS

McDonald's, Coke, Starbucks Join Others Exiting Russia



The companies join a growing list of brands that have cut off Russian ties.

Add McDonald's, Coca-Cola, Starbucks, and Burger King to the list of American companies abandoning operations in Russia after the country invaded Ukraine.

On Tuesday, after days of criticism for failing to act quickly since the late-February attack on Ukraine, fast-food chain McDonald's (ticker: MCD) announced it is temporarily closing all 850 of its restaurants in Russia and will pause all operations in the market.

In addition, Coca-Cola (KO) announced it is suspending its business in Russia, and Starbucks (SBUX), which operates 130 cafés in Russia, all owned and operated by franchisees, is suspending all operations there, including shipments of Starbucks products.

McDonald's CEO Chris Kempczinski said in an email to employees and franchisees that it was "impossible to predict" when those restaurants in Russia could reopen.

McDonald's entered the Russian market in 1990, just before the collapse of the Soviet Union the next year. The New York Times reported that an estimated 30,000 people lined up to try its burgers for the first time.

But a growing number of companies in the West, includ-

ing oil majors Shell (SHEL) and BP (BP), as well as financial services companies such as Visa (V), Mastercard (MA) and American Express (AXP), and big tech companies such as Apple (AAPL), Netflix (NFLX) and Microsoft (MSFT) have all stopped operations there.

In a brief statement on Tuesday, Coke said "Our hearts are with the people who are enduring unconscionable effects from these tragic events in Ukraine."

Yum! Brands (YUM) is redirecting the profits from its 1,000 KFC restaurants and 50 Pizza Hut restaurants in Russia, nearly all franchisee-owned, to humanitarian relief, has suspended restaurant development and investment in Russia, and donated \$1 million to the Red Cross.

Burger King is donating profits from its 800 Russian restaurants to relief efforts and giving \$2 million worth of food vouchers to Ukrainian refugees, AP reported.

In the email, Kempczinski said McDonald's had seen supply chain disruptions and other operational issues and is closely monitoring the humanitarian situation.

"Our values mean we can-

not ignore the needless human suffering unfolding in Ukraine," Kempczinski said the email. "The conflict in Ukraine and the humanitarian crisis in Europe has caused unspeakable suffering to innocent people. As a System, we join the world in condemning aggression and violence and praying for peace."

The CEO said McDonald's will continue paying its 62,000 workers in Russia.

McDonald's has also temporarily closed 108 restaurants in Ukraine and is still paying the salaries of its nearly 10,000 Ukrainian employees. It donated \$5 million to its employee assistance fund and is supporting local relief efforts led by the International Red Cross.

Chicago-based McDonald's said in recent regulatory filings that its restaurants in Russia and Ukraine contributed about 2% of sales and about 9% of its annual revenue, or about \$2 billion.

McDonald's owns 84% of its restaurants in Russia and all of its locations in Ukraine.

TALKS from page 1

first time we've seen shouting in response to so-called atrocities," repeating a Russian line that the hospital had already been captured

by Ukrainian "ultra radicals." He presented no evidence for this claim.

He also said that pregnant women had been taken away from the hospital days ago, despite video evidence to the contrary which

showed pregnant women being carried from the hospital following the missile strike.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has condemned the attack, calling it "horrific" in a Twitter post.

TESTIMONY from page 4

to be his daughters. Jesus already paid the price, and He does not care

about our sins; He cares about us and where we spend eternity. My Sister, your past doesn't matter. You still have a testimony.

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timony and encourage our readers, please email me at laughterinyourbelly.com or call me at 225-443-WELL (9355). I love you. - Gayle

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