

The Weekly Press

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THURSDAY, APRIL 8-14, 2021

A PEOPLE'S PUBLICATION

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THE FREEDOM OF FORGIVENESS

Secretary Ardoin announces the La. Commission on Election Integrity and Voting



Secretary of State
Kyle Ardoin

BATON ROUGE, La. — In an effort to ensure Louisiana's continued confidence in election administration, Secretary of State Kyle Ardoin announces the formation of the Louisiana Commission on Election Integrity and Voting.

"Despite the challenges brought on by natural disasters and a global pandemic, the 2020 Presidential election in Louisiana was free from controversy as seen in other states around the country," Ardoin said. "With a record turnout of 70.1% in approximately 4,000 precincts across the state, our results were fully uploaded just after midnight."

In the months since the Presidential election, despite being a national leader in election administration, questions have been raised regarding the integrity of Louisiana's election processes and procedures by voters concerned with

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President Biden announces gun control actions

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden put on a modest White House ceremony Thursday to announce a half-dozen executive actions to combat what he called an "epidemic and an international embarrassment" of gun violence in America.

But he said much more is needed. And while Biden had proposed the most ambitious gun-control agenda of any modern presidential candidate, his moves underscored his limited power to act alone on guns with difficult politics impeding legislative action on Capitol Hill.

Biden's new steps include a move to crack down on "ghost guns," homemade firearms that lack serial numbers used to trace them and are often purchased without

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WEATHER



MON. 04/29
Showers
High 69°.



TUE. 04/30
Thunderstorms
High 77°.



WED. 03/31
Thunderstorms
High 81°.



THUR. 04/01
Showers
High 61°.

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Ochsner Community Health, Brees Family Center Grand Opening



Participants applaud after a ribbon-cutting held during a program commemorating the opening of the Ochsner Community Health Brees Family Center. It's a new 5,000-square-foot primary care health clinic, named after its main donor's nonprofit the Brees Dream Foundation. The Baton Rouge location is expected to serve 10,000 patients in its first year to underserved communities in north Baton Rouge with the goal of promoting health equality.

"Our goal is to work in collaboration, not competition, with other community partners to provide greater access to care,"

BATON ROUGE — Ochsner Baton Rouge, in conjunction with East Baton Rouge Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome and the Brees Dream Foundation held a ribbon cutting ceremony on Tuesday to mark the opening of Ochsner Community Health - Brees Family Center at Suite 320.

Located in North Baton Rouge, the community health center is designed to deliver primary care, pediatrics, obstetrics/gynecology and smoking cessation services to underserved communities with the goal of promoting

See HEALTH, on page 2



The Howell Place hospital opened in 2005 and was operated by Cambridge Healthcare Management Inc. of Dallas as a 10-bed surgical hospital until 2012.



East Baton Rouge Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome



District Councilwoman Chauna Banks, left and Dr Wanda Robinson



Kevin Green vp for clinic operations, Ochsner Center



Dr. Edith Mbagwu, MD, Family Medicine Specialist

La. lawmaker files bill making it potentially illegal to teach about racism & sexism

Bill is said to promote 'equality in education system'

BATON ROUGE, La. -- A new proposed bill in the Louisiana House of Representatives aims to make it potentially illegal for teachers to teach certain things about racism or sexism.



Rep. Ray Garofalo

"It's written from a viewpoint, as everybody's treated equally," said Representative Ray Garofalo, District 103.

Garofalo is the chairman of Louisiana's House Education Committee and is proposing a new bill to ban what he calls 'divisive concepts' in pretty much all Louisiana school systems.

"I want facts to be taught, I want our students to receive as much information as possible. I don't want to cover anything up. I think they should be informed, so they can make informed decisions. And that includes giving them as much factual history as possible. But when you start teaching from one perspective, you're indoctrinating. And it's not fair to students, and it's certainly not fair to them as they become young adults, because then they may only get that one side of the story. So I want to make sure that they're getting both sides, or in some times, multiple sides of the story, so that they can make their own informed decisions throughout their careers," said Rep. Garofalo.

Garofalo calls it an 'equality bill,' to level the playing field among students of all backgrounds.

Those divisive concepts he lists in the bill for educators to potentially not teach about are: <https://legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1211990>:

■ That one race or sex is inherently superior or inferior to another race or sex

■ That either the United States of America or the state of Louisiana is fundamentally, institutionally, or systemically racist or sexist.

■ That an individual, by virtue of the individual's race or sex, is inherently or systemically racist, sexist, or oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously, or has negative or positive characteristics that inhere in the individual's DNA.

■ That an individual should be discriminated against, favored, or receive differential treatment

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VOTER'S GUIDE EDITION

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- Polling time and places
- Endorsements and Recommendations
- Sample Ballots (Print & Digital)

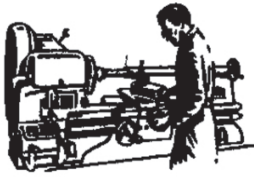
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VOTERS GUIDE 04/24/2021



STATE & LOCAL

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Correction Policy

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

The Weekly Press

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Vaccine hotline opens next week

Hotline will allow state residents to schedule COVID-19 vaccinations through special LDH events and vaccine providers

BATON ROUGE -- Gov. John Bel Edwards announced Tuesday that a COVID-19 vaccine hotline will go into effect next week.

"This is a smart solution, it is timely, and it comes at no additional cost," Edwards said.

The hotline will allow state residents to schedule COVID-19 vaccinations through special Louisiana Department of Health events and vaccine providers. The hotline also will connect residents with medical professionals so they can ask questions about the vaccines.

Edwards disclosed the plans for the hotline as he lifted capacity limits on bars, restaurants and casinos now that the number of virus cases has leveled off in the state. But unlike the governors in Texas and Mississippi, he kept a mask mandate in place for when people cannot socially distance to guard against the rise in cases that many other states are experiencing.

Edwards said that helping more residents get vaccinated remains the best solution. He said the hotline will address two barriers: lack of access to the Internet and "tech-savviness," or the time it takes to navigate the scheduling platforms, as well as a lack of ac-



Gov. John Bel Edwards announces the creation of a hotline to help residents obtain a COVID-18 vaccine. Catherine Hunt/LSU Manship School News Service

cess to medical professionals to ask specific questions.

"This is a big deal," Edwards said as he referred to the "Bring Back Louisiana" campaign and the vaccination hotline.

Difficulty in accessing vaccines due to a lack of computer access has been a problem for many poor people and some people living in rural areas.

The hotline will be staffed by

workers who were trained to trace the contacts of people who were infected with the virus to warn them of their exposure.

The health department will begin training 60 call agents this week, and 10 will be specifically trained for clinical support.

The phone number and hours of operation will be made public soon.

HEALTH from page 1

health equity for all.

Ochsner Health has committed more than \$10 million to open and operate 15 community health centers across the state, alongside a \$5 million gift announced last summer from Brittany and Drew Brees'

Brees Dream Foundation. Funds from the Brees Dream Foundation will support startup and operational costs for these facilities.

"Our goal is to work in collaboration, not competition, with other community partners to provide greater access to care," stated Kevin Green, Ochsner Vice President of Clinic Operations for Community

Health Centers. "Meeting patients where they are to help proactively manage any chronic diseases will help us improve overall health and well-being."

The newly renovated suite within the New Era Medical Complex has approximately 5,100 square feet and features 10 exam rooms. Onsite services include a lab draw area and x-ray capabilities. Providers at the center include the primary care team of Edith Mbagwu, M.D., and Coleatha Fowler, NP, pediatrician Durga Alahari, M.D., and women's services provider Molly McRae, FNP-BC, MSN.

Convenient parking is available in a surface lot in front of the building, which is located a short walk from the Route 54 bus stop on Harding Blvd. This significant investment to support the creation of community health centers bolsters Ochsner's long-term efforts to reduce barriers to healthcare by making services affordable, convenient, and accessible to all.

The Ochsner Community Health - Brees Family Center will bring approximately 19 new jobs to North Baton Rouge in the coming months. The center is open Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, or to make an appointment, call (225) 761-5200.

To learn more about the effort to create a healthier state, please visit ochsner.org/healthyyou.

VOTING from page 1

stories of voting issues in other parts of the country.

This bipartisan commission seeks to provide an overview of our election processes and answer these questions for the people of Louisiana:

- How do we assure continued confidence in our elections?
- How do we combat voter fatigue?
- How do we improve voters' experiences?

This commission will be made up of a diverse group of experts in the fields of election administration, cybersecurity and technology, and business and industry. The members represent all regions of the state and bring a wide array of backgrounds to their service on the commission. The commission will be chaired by former State Representative Quentin Dastugue.

"I am honored to serve with the distinguished members of this panel as we seek to clarify and confirm the processes behind Louisiana's elections," Dastugue stated.

The commission will begin meeting after the conclusion of the 2021 regular legislative session, and will issue their final report to Secretary Ardoin no later than February 1, 2022.

Gov. Edwards Announces New Program to Assist Renters and Landlords Impacted by COVID-19

The State of Louisiana is launching the U.S. Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance Program to provide emergency relief assistance to Louisiana residents who are at risk of experiencing homelessness or housing inability due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To learn more about the U.S. Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance Program, click here.

The state program financial assistance to cover past-due rent dating back to as early as April 1, 2020 and forward rent paid in increments of up to three months. This relief package includes \$25 billion for emergency rental assistance, of which \$161 million has been allocated to the state to provide assistance in all 57 Louisiana parishes.

For those who live in East Baton Rouge you must apply directly to the program on the parish website. Click here for more information on how to apply if you are in East Baton Rouge Parish.

The remaining Baton Rouge Metro Area Parishes will apply at the State website

- Ascension
- East Feliciana
- Iberville
- Livingston
- Pointe Coupee
- St. Helena
- West Baton Rouge
- West Feliciana

Click here for more information on how to apply if you are in one of the remaining Metro Parishes.

When applying for this program, you will need to register for an account with an active email address, create a password and make sure to notify if you are a renter or landlord applicant.

PROGRAM INFORMATION Eligibility

An "eligible household" is defined as a renter household in which at least one or more individuals meets the following criteria:

- Qualifies for unemployment

BILL from page 1

solely or partly because of the individual's race or sex.

■ That an individual of one race or sex should be treated disrespectfully regarding that individual's race or sex.

■ That an individual's moral character is any way defined, described, or determined by the individual's race or sex.

■ That an individual, by virtue of the individual's race or sex, bears responsibility or is to be held accountable for actions committed in the past by other members of the same race or sex.

■ That any individual should feel or be made to feel discomfort, guilt, anguish, or any other form of psychological or emotional distress on account of that individual's race or sex.

■ That the concept of meritocracy or traits such as a strong work ethic are racist or sexist or were created by a particular race or sex to oppress another race or sex.

■ That the concepts of capitalism, free markets, or working for a private party in exchange for wages are racist and sexist or oppress a given race or sex.

■ That the concepts of racial equity and gender equity, meaning the unequal treatment of individuals because of their race, sex, or national origin, should be given preference in education and advocacy over the concepts of ra-

or has experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs, or experienced a financial hardship due to COVID-19;

Demonstrates a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability; and

Has a household income at or below 80 percent of the area median.

Rental assistance provided to an eligible household should not be duplicative of any other federally funded rental assistance provided to such household.

Eligible households that include an individual who has been unemployed for the 90 days prior to application for assistance and households with income at or below 50 percent of the area median are to be prioritized for assistance.

Household income is determined as either the household's total income for calendar year 2020 or the household's monthly income at the time of application. For household incomes determined using the latter method, income eligibility must be redetermined every 3 months.

Eligible households may receive up to 12 months of assistance, plus an additional 3 months if the grantee determines the extra months are needed to ensure housing stability and grantee funds are available.

The payment of existing housing-related arrears that could result in eviction of an eligible household is prioritized.

Assistance must be provided to reduce an eligible household's rental arrears before the household may receive assistance for future rent payments.

Once a household's rental arrears are reduced, grantees may only commit to providing future assistance for up to three months at a time.

Households may reapply for additional assistance at the end of the three-month period if needed and the overall time limit for assistance is not exceeded.

cial equality and gender equality, meaning the equal treatment of individuals regardless of their race, sex, or national origin.

■ Any form of race or sex scapegoating or race or sex stereotyping. For purposes of this Subparagraph: "Race or sex scapegoating" means assigning fault, blame, or bias to a race or sex or to members of a race or sex because of their race or sex or claiming that consciously or unconsciously, and by virtue of a persons' race or sex, members of any race are inherently racist or inherently inclined to oppress others or that members of a sex are inherently sexist or inherently inclined to oppress others.

■ "Race or sex stereotyping" means ascribing character traits, values, moral and ethical codes, privileges, status, or beliefs to a race or sex or to an individual because of the individual's race or sex.

"It's specifically stated in there that you can teach about that, but you have to do it from a balanced viewpoint, you can't do it from one position over another. And let's face it, if you're only teaching one viewpoint, you're indoctrinating. So, we want to make sure our students are exposed to as much information as possible, with competing viewpoints, so that they get the big picture, so that they can make informed decisions," said Garofalo/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1211990

GUN ACTION from page 1

a background check. He's also moving to tighten regulations on pistol-stabilizing braces like the one used in Boulder, Colorado, in a shooting last month that left 10 dead.

The federal government has been working on a proposed rule that would change the definition of a firearm to include lower receivers, the essential piece of a semiautomatic rifle, in an effort to combat the proliferation of "ghost guns" and stave off losing court battles on the issue.

The process started in the waning months of the Trump ad-

ministration, according to four people familiar with the matter. Justice Department leaders and officials at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives had been working on language for a proposed rule since at least summer 2020, they said.

The proposal had gone through several layers of review by agency attorneys by last fall, and ATF officials have met with gun manufacturers and others to discuss the possibility of expanding the definition of a firearm, the people said.

They could not publicly discuss the details of the process and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.



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53 years after MLK’s assassination, children of civil rights icon fight voter suppression

By STACY M. BROWN,
NNPA Newswire
Senior National Correspondent

Fifty-three years after the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s death, the slain civil rights icon’s legacy is easily seen in how his daughter has continued to fight for many of the same causes.

Bernice A. King joined the children of late civil rights champions the Rev. C.T. Vivian, and U.S. Rep. John Lewis, in blasting voter suppression laws that have cropped up since the 2020 election.

In a letter, King, Al Vivian, and John-Miles Lewis took issue with corporate leaders who have done little or nothing to back up comments their businesses have made supporting racial equity.

The trio said those corporations have “disrespected” their fathers.

“Rather than sowing seeds to provide democracy the greatest chance to grow today and prevail tomorrow, legislators are attempting to transport us back to the shameful period of American history when mass voter suppression for communities of color was the law of the land,” King, Vivian, and Lewis, wrote.

Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp, a Republican, signed into law legisla-



Bernice A. King joined the children of late civil rights champions the Rev. C.T. Vivian, and U.S. Rep. John Lewis, in blasting voter suppression laws that have cropped up since the 2020 election. (Photo: Bernice A. King, daughter of Martin Luther King Jr. and the CEO of the King Center introduces civil rights leaders Julian Bond, John Lewis, and Andrew Young at the Civil Rights Summit at the LBJ Presidential Library. Photo by Lauren Gerson. / Wikimedia Commons)

tion that imposes new ID requirements for mail-in voting and limits ballot drop box availability.

The law also gives voters less time to request and return a mail-in ballot, and it prohibits anyone

from giving food or water to those standing in line to cast their votes.

The new law represents the state’s response to President Joe Biden’s victory in Georgia in November and Democratic Sens. Ra-

phael Warnock and Jon Ossoff winning run-off elections in January.

Coca-Cola, Delta Air Lines, Google, Apple, Microsoft, and others have either condemned the new voting restrictions or have issued social media statements expressing concern.

Reportedly, when Delta Air Lines ended its association with the National Rifle Association, Republican lawmakers removed a tax break from their tax reform bill that would have saved the airline \$40 million.

But King said that should not frighten businesses from making the right choice.

“Corporate leaders have the greatest influence in Washington and on our state legislators,” King told Forbes. “They pay lobbyists and invest in campaigns. They need to use their leverage—their lobbying leverage—on Capitol Hill and at the state level.”

On the evening of April 4, 1968, an assassin’s bullet tore through King while he stood on the balcony of his room at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee.

King, who was 39, arrived in Memphis to support a sanitation workers’ strike. The civil rights leader had repeatedly expressed concern about economic inequal-

ity and went to Memphis because of how poorly the city treated African American sanitation workers.

One night before he was killed, King delivered his final – some say prophetic – speech. “We’ve got some difficult days ahead,” the resolute King preached.

“But it really doesn’t matter with me now, because I’ve been to the mountaintop ... I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight that we, as a people, will get to the Promised Land.”

See SUPPRESSION, on page 5

EBRCOA Approved to Begin Construction of Lotus Village Senior Living Community

BATON ROUGE, La. – The East Baton Rouge Council on Aging (EBRCOA) and Gulf Coast Housing Partnership (GCHP) are excited to announce the successful closing of the Lotus Village Senior Living Community transaction. Once construction begins, the project is slated to be completed within 14 months. This new development will be located in Baton Rouge’s historical Gracie neighborhood and will transform the area into a mixed-use community that is sure to attract seniors and new commerce. The development team includes New

Orleans based developer, GCHP, MAP Design Group and Cobalt Construction Group.

“The need for access to safe, affordable and adaptable housing has been a frequent request of our seniors. We want the seniors of EBR Parish to know we heard them! EBRCOA is committed to serving the needs of the seniors and at the moment this is a dire need. We are excited to serve as pioneers in providing services to the aged community and we strive to continue to raise the bar. Lotus Village is a huge step in that di-

rection and I am honored to be a facilitator as this vision comes to fruition,” stated Tasha Clark-Amar, CEO of EBRCOA.

Lotus Village will be a multi-million dollar construction project that will create a community dedicated to the needs of seniors, most importantly the need for affordable housing. Lotus Village Senior Living Community will comprise of 116 residential rental home units within 56 individual buildings. EBRCOA will partner with CareSouth Medical and Dental to provide the state’s very first

Geriatric Healthcare facility with full medical, dental, vision, hearing and therapeutic services for the residents of the community.

EBRCOA is also conducting strategic conversations with

See COMMUNITY, on page 5

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RELIGION

The Freedom of Forgiveness

As those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion...bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. – Colossians 3:12-13

By DR. TONY EVANS

Many of us today find ourselves on a leash. The links in the chain are anger, bitterness, resentment, and revenge. All these, however, come down to one thing — unforgiveness. Unforgiveness holds us hostage, and when we try to pull away, it pulls us right back and we find ourselves prisoners of what someone else has done to us or perhaps what we have done to ourselves.



Dr Tony Evans

Most of us think forgiveness is a good idea until we have to give it. Forgiveness does not mean approving a wrong or excusing an evil. Forgiveness isn't necessarily the reconciliation of a relationship. The Greek word translated forgiveness literally means "to release." Forgiveness is our choice to release a person from an obligation for a wrong committed against us. In the New Testament times, the word was used when canceling a debt.

Why is there a struggle in our hearts to forgive what someone did? Because there is a bill out there that has not been paid. We



insist on being paid, yet years go by, and the offender won't pay the bill. But God says to forgive one another because He paid the greatest bill—the bill of our sin debt—with His own Son. If we can be the recipients of such great forgiveness, we need to learn how to offer forgiveness to others. When we do, we discover that we are the ones who have been set free.

Tony Evans

Dr. Tony Evans is the founder and senior pastor of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship in Dallas, founder and president of The Urban Alternative and author of over 100 books, booklets and Bible studies. The first African American to earn a doctorate of theology from Dallas Theological Seminary, he has been named one of the 12 Most Effective Preachers in the English-Speaking

World by Baylor University. Dr. Evans holds the honor of writing and publishing the first full-Bible commentary and study Bible by an African American. His radio broadcast, The Alternative with Dr. Tony Evans, can be heard on over 1,400 radio outlets daily and in more than 130 countries. Dr. Evans' sermons are also streamed and downloaded over 20,000,000 times annually.

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Rev. Tiffanie C. Postell, Associate Pastor

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 10:55 a.m.
Youth Sunday & Contemporary Worship 2nd Sun. 8:00 a.m.
Bible Study Wed. 12:00 Noon and 5:00 p.m.
Prayer Ministry Tues 6:00 p.m.

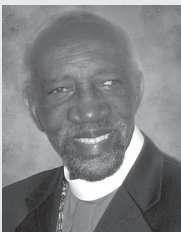
Kingdom Life Family Center

Sundays at 10am
Wednesday Inspirational Service 7pm

- Youth ministry every Sunday and Wednesday
- Women's Ministry 2nd Saturday's

BISHOP DESIGNATE DOROTHY DANIEL
SENIOR PASTOR

8894 AIRLINE HWY. BATON ROUGE, LA 70815
www.kingdomlifebr.com



NEW BIRTH FULL GOSPEL MINISTRIES

1283 Rosenwald Road
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70807
Bishop I. J. Payne, Pastor

'THE NEW LIFE' Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. — 2 Corinthians 5:17



SUNDAY WORSHIP
Every Sunday at 11:30 A.M.



SUNDAY SCHOOL
Every Sunday at 9:30 A.M.



HOLY COMMUNION
Every 3rd Sunday at 11:30 A.M.



HOURLY OF POWER
Every Friday at 12 NOON

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

ST. JOHN BAPTIST CHURCH

Dr. Donald R. Ruth, Pastor
820 New Rafe Mayer Road
Baton Rouge, LA 70807
Phone: 225-775-9756
Web Address: saintjohnbc.org



Dr. Donald Ruth, Pastor

Worship Times:

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



NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Rev. Leo Cyrus Sr., Pastor
CHURCH SCHEDULE

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

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

BBB warning about ‘tutors’ extorting students in homework helper scam

BATON ROUGE, La. - The Better Business Bureau is warning college and high school students who hire “tutors” to do their class assignments. They’ve gotten reports about scams where tutors are making money by threatening to report cheating students.

Carmen Million with the BBB of South Central Louisiana said many kids are struggling in class and are going online to find a tutoring company that will help them. “Tutors” aren’t the material but are doing the work for them.

Million said some have reported paying a couple of hundred dollars for help with assignments for math and technology classes.

When students pay up, instead of tutors helping you complete your homework, the company instead demands more money by saying it’s for “additional research” or will make another excuse.

When you don’t pay them,

the “tutor” turns on you and sends threatening emails or text messages claiming to contact your school and expose you as a cheater.

You can avoid the Homework Helper Scam by asking for referrals. Ask friends, family and teachers if they have any recommendations.

Some schools even offer Honor Society students as free or reduced-cost tutors. You should ask the tutor or tutoring service for references and contact them. Million said it’s best to talk to at least three references. Ask about their experience with the tutor and what sort of results they saw.

Lastly, it would be best if you decided on availability and rates upfront. Although some tutors may charge extra for additional sessions before a big test, this should all be discussed and negotiated upfront.

COMMUNITY from page 3

a local grocer with plans to bring an open-air grocery market to Lotus Village. EBRCOA is pursuing additional partnerships and sponsorships for infrastructure enhancements for Lotus Village. According to the project plan, Lotus Village will include a Geriatric Fitness Center, a full-service grocery market, relaxing walking paths and gardens.

SUPPRESSION from page 3

The letter, authored, in part, by Bernice King, highlighted the icon’s statements about overcoming racism.

“Evil cannot permanently organize. It bears within it seeds of its own destruction,” the let-

ter states.

The children of the three civil rights icons went on to state:

“This belief undergirds our abiding faith in America, even as legislators in Georgia and 39 other states attempt to root our nation in the oppressive weeds of yesterday through a new generation of Jim Crow voting laws.”

BUSINESS

Target pledges over \$2B with Black-owned businesses



A view of the Target store in Annapolis, Md., Wednesday, March 18, 2020. Target is closing their stores at 9 p.m. daily to give employees time to replenish and deep clean the stores for shopper amid the coronavirus outbreak. Target also announced it will limit the first hour of shopping each Wednesday to the elderly and people with underlying health conditions

Target committed to spending over \$2 billion with Black-owned businesses by 2025, the company announced on Wednesday, according to the New York Times.

The company will work together with more Black-marketing companies to introduce Black-owned products from over 500 Black-owned businesses to its store and website.

“We have a rich history of working with diverse businesses, but there’s more we can do to spark change across the retail industry, support the Black community and ensure Black guests feel welcomed and represented when they shop at Target,” said Christina Hennington, Target’s executive vice president and chief growth officer, said in a press release.

Target joins other retailers who have pledged to work more closely with Black-owned businesses since last year’s racial reckoning over police brutality following George Floyd and Breonna Taylor’s deaths.

The company previously committed to addressing racial equity in its business and improving representation among its worker, the Times reported.

\$300M La. bond sale replenishes construction account



BATON ROUGE, La. — Louisiana borrowed about \$300 million on Wednesday to refill the account that pays for state-financed construction work.

The Bond Commission, which oversees construction spending, approved the general obligation bond sale without objection.

The state borrows money by selling bonds to investors for up-front cash. The debt will be paid over 20 years with a 2.2% interest rate. J.P. Morgan Securities LLC was the winning bidder for the bond sale because it offered the lowest interest rate.

Without a new infusion of cash, Louisiana would run out of money for items in the state construction budget like building repairs, economic development projects, roadwork and lawmakers’ local projects.



CARPOOLS THAT DROVE A MOVEMENT

Two years before Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a bus in Alabama, many African Americans in Louisiana boycotted segregated buses in Baton Rouge. This became the model for the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Join the ride on the Louisiana Civil Rights Trail.



Office of the Lieutenant Governor
Billy Nungesser

WWW.LOUISIANACIVILRIGHTSTRAIL.COM



LouisianaTravel.com



Brought to you by the
U.S. Department of Health
and Human Services.

‘Essential’ takes on a whole new meaning with COVID.



Get vaccinated when it's your turn.

I'm an essential worker, because everyone needs food. You know what's essential for me? Not getting COVID. And it's a virus that keeps changing. Vaccines are here. But until enough of us are vaccinated, we still need to mask up, stay 6 feet apart, and avoid crowds. Whenever I see that, there's a smile behind my mask.

Learn more at [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)