

The Weekly Press

SERVING BAKER, CENTRAL, AND ZACHARY

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6-12, 2022

A PEOPLE'S PUBLICATION

VOL. 45 • NO.38 • FREE

Robert Williams Announces Candidacy for Zachary Chief of Police



Robert Williams

I am Robert Williams, and announcing my candidacy for Chief of Police for the City of Zachary. The Chief of Police is one of the most authoritative offices in the city.

Its leadership is vital with crucial decision-making, ensures the safety of families, fosters relationships, and maintains law and order, which is imperative to the continuous growth of Zachary.

I am a Zachary native, husband, father, and graduate of Northeast High School and the Capitol Area Regional Training Academy.

Zachary is a unique city with unique needs, requiring a committed person to be at the forefront. My training and eighteen-plus years of training in law enforcement have prepared me to provide the leadership needed to serve.

Throughout my career, I have mentored young men and women, secured school campuses, organized neighborhood watch, and policed in communities which afforded me the opportunity to change the quality of life for the residents.

As Chief of Police, the pledge to protect and serve, transparency, accountability, and bridge the gap between the community and police will govern my leadership. My willingness to work with the other elected officials in the city is my promise to the residents with the TEAM approach. I am committed to being a "hands-on and involved chief who is always available to the Zachary community."

I am confident that if elected and given the opportunity to serve, confidence in law enforcement will be retained, and Zachary will continue to be one of the safest cities to live.

"We are better together."

Your Guide to the Midterm Election This November

TAKE THE WEEKLY PRESS TO THE POLLS WITH YOU!

MIDTERM ELECTION

VOTER'S GUIDE

- COMMUNITY ENDORSEMENTS
- POLLING PLACES
- WHAT'S ON THE BALLOT & WHO IS ON THE BALLOT
- OVER 200,000 E-MARKET COVERAGE AND OVER 600 LOCATIONS

VOTE NOV. 8

The 2022 Midterm Election is coming up on Tuesday, November 8, with all 435 seats in the House of Representatives and 35 of the 100 seats in the Senate up for grabs across the nation.

In Louisiana, there's the Open Congressional Primary and New Orleans residents are voting on statewide, parishwide, and limited jurisdiction positions and propositions.

One item of note—that highlights why it's so important to cast your vote—is the 2022 Louisiana congressional redistricting following the 2020 census. Though Louisiana's population is about one-third Black, the redistricting resulted in only one staunchly Democratic majority Black district out of six. This was essentially the same representation as before, despite an increasing Black population, and many agree that it's racial gerrymandering which goes against

See **MIDTERM**, on page 2



Candidate for City of Baker School Board District 3

Desiree Odell-Collins honors 29 years of marriage to Gerald Collins, Sr. (Buffalo Soldiers Sports Organization's "Coach Gerald"), 5 adult children (each recipients of a public school education) and 2 granddaughters.



Desiree Odell-Collins

The Collins family have been residents/business owners, and volunteers in the City of Baker for over 28 years serving Baker families through Simple Pleasures Early Learning Center on the corner of Groom and McHugh, Buffalo Soldiers Sports Organization, and Baker Rotary Club-Interact GBR Sponsor. Desiree was a recipient of the City of Baker Citizen of the Year Award in 2017.

Purpose-driven, Desiree Collins serves alongside partners and stakeholders in the advancement of high-quality experiences for children and their families. In 2022, she was recognized by the City of Baton Rouge Metro Council, "for her enthusiastic support for normalizing play for children with autism and fostering autism awareness and acceptance", the City of Baker, "for the advancement in Early Childhood Education in the City of Baker", and City of Baker School Board for her Instructional Support to Baker Heights Elementary School Pre-K teachers in earning an "Excellent Score" from the Louisiana Department of Education.

Desiree Collins is a lifelong Educator beginning as a licensed family-home provider, opening a Type III early childhood program—Simple Pleasures Early Learning Center earning 4-stars and an A+ rating with the Better Business Bureau, a Technical Coach/Instructional Specialist in EBR, East Feliciana, St. Helena and Livingston parishes.

She mentors with passion, guiding her partners to effectively strengthen and elevate outcomes for children to new heights. She connects with the others and provides strategic plans for data driven growth, inspired to motivate professionals take their careers—themselves—their children—their families and the City of Baker School System to unprecedented levels in academic achievement.

Put #86 in the mix, vote Desiree Collins City of Baker School Board Representative and Servant Leader for District 3.

WEATHER

MON. 10/10
Partly Cloudy
High 84°.

TUE. 10/11
Sunny
High 86°.

WED. 10/12
Mostly Sunny
High 87°.

THUR. 10/13
Mostly Sunny
High 88°.

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Baker Chamber of Commerce Hosts "Leads for Lunch" with Special Guest LED Assistant.

Secretary Ms. Brenda Guess, Mayor Waites While Promoting Growth for the City of Baker!

September 15, 2022, marked a momentous occasion as the Baker Chamber of Commerce hosted "Leads for Lunch" - a chance for various leaders, companies, and businesses to come together and network after nearly two years of in-person events being canceled due to the pandemic.

The event opened with prayer and a scripture reading by Pastor Greensberry of New Beginnings Baptist Fellowship Church. He read from Psalm, chapter 133 whose title reads "When Brothers



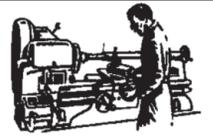
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Attendees at the Baker Chamber of Commerce Hosts "Leads for Lunch."



LOCAL & STATE

READER INFORMATION



How to Reach Us
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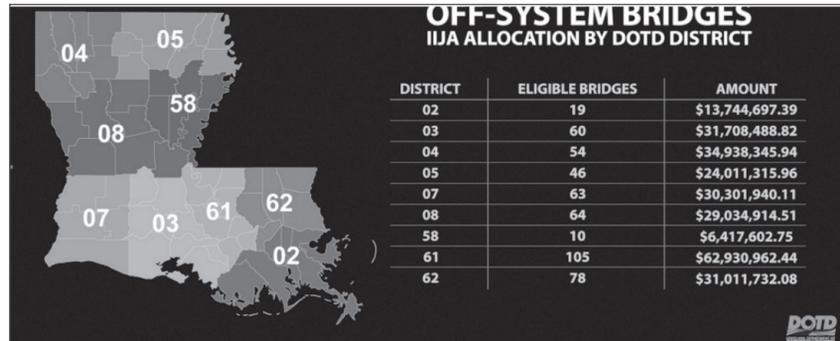
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Gov. Edwards Announces \$270 Million in Bridge Projects to be Funded through Bipartisan Infrastructure Law



A breakdown of the number of eligible districts in each DOTD district and the funds each district will receive (Courtesy of Louisiana DOTD)

BATON ROUGE, La. — Governor John Bel Edwards toured a locally owned bridge in East Baton Rouge today with inspectors from the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD). The bridge was deemed deficient and load posted in January 2022. This bridge is one of over 500 off-system bridges eligible to receive approximately \$1 billion over the course of five years through the Bridge Formula Program administered by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The Edwards administration has allocated approximately \$270 million specifically for the purpose of off-system bridge repair and replacement projects.

Louisiana is set to receive approximately \$1 billion over the course of five years through the Bridge Formula Program administered by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The Edwards administration has allocated approximately \$270 million specifically for the purpose of off-system bridge repair and replacement projects. The state of Louisiana has more than 4,700 locally-owned bridges, with 747 in need of reha-



John Bel Edwards

bilitation or replacement. Last year, DOTD closed 25 locally owned bridges, and 31 have been closed this year to date.

DOTD has executed contracts with consultants to speed up the delivery of this funding. The consultants will work with the parishes in each of the nine DOTD districts

to determine which bridges will be repaired or replaced. Bridges that meet the criteria specified in the BIL Bridge Formula Program for off-system structures and the FHWA criteria for repair or replacement will be eligible.

"The ability to fully fund these bridge projects will benefit thousands of residents across the state of Louisiana, many of them in rural areas," said Gov. Edwards. "This funding for bridges is just one way we will implement the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to grow our economy and improve quality-of-life. A special thanks to Sen. Bill Cassidy and Rep. Troy Carter for their support of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law."

"Bridges connect communities and, with an aging infrastructure system, we are actively working to ensure continued connectivity for all types of road users in these parishes," said DOTD Secretary Dr. Shawn D. Wilson, Ph.D. "Executing a consultant contract for each district will allow us to speed up the project development process and make the most of this historic investment in our infrastructure system while relying on local leadership for prioritization."

DOTD's role is to help guide parishes through the process and strategically allocate this funding to address as many eligible structures across the state as possible.

Non-construction costs, such as utility relocation and right-of-way acquisition, will also be included in this funding, which is in addition to what is traditionally available through DOTD's Off-System Bridge Program.

The IJA Bridge Formula Program will fully fund these bridge projects with federal dollars without requiring the typical local or state match. To read more about the program, click here.

MIDTERM from page 1

the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The Louisiana legislature drew a redistricting map. Governor John Bel Edwards vetoed it on the grounds that it didn't add a second majority-minority district, representative of the state's current demographics. The Louisiana legislature overrode the governor's veto. Civil Rights groups and Black voters filed a federal lawsuit (Robinson et al v. Ardoin). Then there was a hearing, appeal, special session, administrative stay, another special session, House Bills, testimonies, more special sessions, another stay, an amicus curiae brief (Alabama's Merrill v. Milligan)—months of back and forth. The U.S. Supreme Court will hear Merrill v. Milligan on October 4, once the new term has begun, with a ruling anticipated for spring 2023. That, unfortunately, won't affect the current election but will hopefully result in fair representation from 2023 and beyond.

WHAT'S ON THE BALLOT?

On the November 8, 2022 ballot, there are eight constitutional amendments, a parishwide amendment, U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative 1st Congressional District or U.S. Representative 2nd Congressional District, Court of Appeal 4th Circuit at Large Judge, Public Service Commissioner District 3, Municipal and Traffic Court Division D Judge, Municipal and Traffic Court Division E Judge, and 1st City Court Clerk.

You can see your exact ballot using the Geaux Vote app or on the Louisiana Secretary of State's voting portal.

Many ballots will include State Senator 5th Senatorial District, a special election with no runoff, to fill the position vacated by 23-year veteran Karen Carter Peterson.

Some will include Member of School Board District 1, Delachaise Security and Improvement District Proposition, Huntsville Security and Neighborhood Improvement District Proposition, and/or Lake Oaks Subdivision Improvement District Proposition.

One of the eight Louisiana constitutional amendments, Constitutional Amendment 7 (slavery), on the ballot posits adding language to Article I, Section 3 (Right to Dignity) that would eliminate involuntary servitude as punishment for crime. The Louisiana constitution currently reads, "Slavery and involuntary servitude are prohibited, except in the latter case as punishment for crime." Amendment 7, if passed, would delete the exception and prohibit it altogether.

This matters because many Louisianians are in correctional facilities, where they are working constantly for little or no pay. According to Prison Policy, Louisiana incarcerates more of its citizens than any other democracy. According to the Louisiana ACLU, prisoners earn between \$0.02 and \$0.40 per hour. They are working some of the same jobs as people outside of prison, for a fraction of the pay. At Louisiana State Penitentiary, better known as Angola, prisoners work land on a former plantation, with the same crops as during slavery, for only two cents an hour. The crops' yield is often sold to big companies, at a normal rate.

WHO'S RUNNING?

For the U.S. Senate seat 13 candidates are on the ballot including Beryl A. Billiot (No Party), Gary Chambers Jr., (D), Devin Lance Graham (R), "Xan" John, (O), John Kennedy (R - incumbent), W. Thomas La Fontaine Olson (No Party), Bradley Mc-

Morris (I), MV "Vinny" Mendoza (D), "Luke" Mixon (D), Salvador P. Rodriguez (D), Aaron C. Sigler (L), Syrita Steib (D), and Thoman Wenn (Other).

Katie Darling (D) and Howard Kearney (L) are vying to unseat Steve Scalise (R) for U.S. Representative 1st Congressional District. And, for U.S. Representative 2nd Congressional District, Troy A. Carter (Democrat - incumbent) is up against "Dan" Lux (R).

For the Court of Appeal 4th Circuit at Large Judge seat, the choices are "Joseph" Cao (R), Karen Herman (D), and Marie Williams (D).

Four other democrats are attempting to unseat Public Service Commissioner District 3 incumbent

Lambert Boissiere III (D) including Willie Jones, Davante Lewis, Gregory Manning, and Jesse T. Thompson.

Mandie Landry (D) and Royce Duplessis (D) are fighting to fill the position vacated by 23-year veteran Karen Carter Peterson for State Senator 5th Senatorial District, a special election with no runoff.

Derek Russ (D) is attempting to unseat Mark J. Shea (D) for Municipal and Traffic Court Division D Judge. For Municipal and Traffic Court Division E Judge, it's between Geoffrey L. Gates (D) and Bobbie Smith (D).

For 1st City Court Clerk, Donna Glapion (D) is attempting to take over for Austin Badon (D). And Patrice Sentino (D) is vying for Leila J. Eames' (D) seat as a Member of School Board District 1.

WHAT LOUISIANA CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS ARE ON THE BALLOT?

- Constitutional Amendment No. 1 (ACT 130, 2021 - HB 154) - Modifies the maximum amount of monies in certain state funds that may be invested in equities.
- Constitutional Amendment No. 2 (ACT 172, 2022 - HB 599) - Expands property tax exemptions for homestead exemption property for veterans with disabilities.
- Constitutional Amendment No. 3 (ACT 156, 2021 - HB 315) - Allows classified civil service employees to support election of family members to public office.
- Constitutional Amendment No. 4 (ACT 155, 2021 - HB 59) - Authorizes a political subdivision to waive charges for water under certain circumstances.
- Constitutional Amendment No. 5 (ACT 133, 2021 - SB 154) - Provides relative to property tax millage rate adjustments and maximum authorized millage rates.
- Constitutional Amendment No. 6 (ACT 129, 2021 - HB 143) - Limits the increase in assessed value of certain property following reappraisal in Orleans Parish.
- Constitutional Amendment No. 7 (ACT 246, 2022 - HB 298) - Provides relative to the prohibition of involuntary servitude and administration of criminal justice.
- Constitutional Amendment No. 8 (ACT 171, 2022 - HB 395) - Removes requirement of annual certification of income for certain eligible disabled homeowners.

WHAT'S THE PARISHWIDE AMENDMENT?

Parishwide Home Rule Charter Amendment (Art. IV, Sec. 4-106) - Requires New Orleans City Council approval of any person appointed by the Mayor of Chief Administrative Officer to head any office, unit, department, commission, or board created or recognized in the Home Rule Charter or otherwise established

See MIDTERM, on page 5



WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED

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2022 Early voting begins October 25

The 2022 voting season will soon be upon us, and now is a great time to make sure you're ready to cast your votes.

The deadline to register to vote or to make changes to your registration will be October 11. The following week, October 18, will be the deadline to register online or make changes to your online registration.

The early voting period will be from October 25 until November 1. Anyone who chooses to may vote early. Voters who want to vote early for any election may do so in person at designated locations in their parish. Two standard locations in Webster Parish are the Webster Parish Courthouse located at 410 Main Street, Room 101 in Minden or the Springhill Civic Center at 101 Machen Drive in Springhill.

The Louisiana Secretary of State's website states: "The registrars of voters will open their offices from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. for each day of early voting. When you go



EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS EAST BATON ROUGE

• MOTOR VEHICLE BLDG
2250 MAIN ST
BAKER, LA 70714-2529
225-389-5206

• FIRE STATION BLDG
11010 COURSEY BLVD
BATON ROUGE, LA 70816
225-389-7682

• LOUISIANA STATE ARCHIVES BLDG
3851 ESSEN LANE
BATON ROUGE, LA 70809

• CENTRAL BRANCH LIBRARY
11260 JOOR RD
BATON ROUGE, LA 70818

• BATON ROUGE CITY HALL
222 ST LOUIS ST, ROOM 607
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802
225-389-3940

to cast your vote early, you will be asked to identify yourself with either a photo ID or signature on a voter affidavit. You may use a Louisiana driver's license, a Louisiana special identification card, a United States military identification card that contains your name and picture or other generally recognized picture identification card that has your name and signature. You may wish to contact your local Registrar of Voters Office for specific locations, dates and times."

CHAMBER from page 1

Dwell in Unity", the central theme of the event. The scripture reads, "I A song of ascents of David, Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! 2 It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes! 3 It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion! For there the Lord has commanded the blessing, life forevermore."

Mayor Waites followed speaking on the importance of networking, unity and investment in the community. He then facilitated everyone in the room introducing themselves to the group before lunch was served.

Brenda Guess, Assistant Secretary Louisiana Department of Economic Development, and her team members Shamelda Pet, Marissa Doih, and Sonja Christophe followed Mayor Waites and gave a very informative presentation on the State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI).

The programs available under SSBCI promote capital access to all recipient jurisdictions, including in underserved areas, including:

• Venture Capital Programs: Jurisdictions may set up public-private partnerships for equity investing or invest in venture capital funds. These investments are focused on providing capital to underserved startups and democratizing venture capital across geography and to diverse founders.

• Loan Participation Programs: In these programs, states, the District of Columbia, territories, and Tribal governments buy an interest in the loans made by lenders or lend directly alongside private lenders, providing direct lending to finance small businesses.

• Loan Guarantee Programs: States, the District of Columbia, territories, and Tribal governments use SSBCI funds to provide an assurance to lenders that they will

be partially repaid in the event of default, after the lender makes every reasonable effort to collect, helping small businesses secure loans that may have otherwise been inaccessible or prohibitively expensive.

• Collateral Support Programs: The programs in this model set aside funds as collateral for new loans, enabling start-ups to borrow funds to help their businesses grow with the assistance of SSBCI capital.

The event was very informa-

tive for members that attended with Ms. Guess and her staff taking questions at the end of their presentation.

Following the presentation, door prizes were given via drawing by the Baker Chamber of Commerce whose members donated a variety of wonderful prizes.

Thanks to all who attended and thank you to Michel Woods, Baker Chamber of Commerce President, and the Chamber Ambassadors for such a great event!

Zachary Chief of Police

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.
Jeremiah 29:11

ELECTION DAY
NOVEMBER 8, 2022

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VOTE #86

Desiree ODELL-COLLINS
CITY OF BAKER SCHOOL BOARD
DISTRICT 3

"BUILDING SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS AND DELIVERING RESULTS"

VOTE #86

Desiree ODELL-COLLINS
CITY OF BAKER SCHOOL BOARD
DISTRICT 3

About Desiree Odell-Collins

My Vision

"BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS AND DELIVERING RESULTS"

- HONORING 29 YEARS OF MARRIAGE TO GERALD COLLINS, SR., 5 ADULT CHILDREN, 1 DAUGHTER-IN-LOVE, AND TWO GRANDDAUGHTERS.
- CITY OF BAKER CITIZEN OF THE YEAR-2017 AFTER ACQUIRING DISASTER RELIEF MATERIALS AND FURNITURE FOR BAKER RESIDENTS AFTER THE FLOOD OF 2016.
- SIMPLE PLEASURES EARLY LEARNING CENTER OWNER AND DIRECTOR, BAKER, LA. (1995-2015)
- EXCELLENCE IN STUDENT AND TEACHER WELL-BEING AND BELONGING
- EXCELLENCE IN STUDENT AND TEACHER LEARNING AND SUPPORT
- EXCELLENCE IN INCLUSION AND EQUITY FOR (ELL) ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS AND (ESS) EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT SERVICES FAMILIES
- EXCELLENCE IN STUDENT INVOLVEMENT IN SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT
- EXCELLENCE IN FAMILY ENGAGEMENT
- EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
- CREATE A SYSTEM-WIDE LITERACY INITIATIVE
- IDENTIFY FUNDING STREAMS TO IMPROVE AND OR BUILD FACILITIES

"My bid for office is an act of obedience. I am 'there' at the intersection of purpose and passion as a candidate for City of Baker School System District 3 Representative, and I would appreciate your vote."

Certifications to Support Our Community

- Louisiana Pathways Professional Development Trainer # IND-001156
- Triple P Positive Parenting- Trainer II
- Adverse Childhood Experiences- Educator

Instructional Specialist/Educational Consultant Baker, EBR, East Feliciana and St. Helen Schools (2021-2022 Baker Heights Elementary Pre-K Teachers average score rated "Excellent" with LDOE) -7 years

Interact Greater Baton Rouge Club Sponsor Baker, La. (High school scholar's community service, A.C.T. prep, career and college readiness and college tours) -10 years

THIS MONTH
[OCTOBER]

@ BREC

Fall in love with BREC!
BREC.ORG/PLAYBOOK

MOVIE IN THE PARK: ROCKY HORROR
Independence Park Theatre Lawn
Oct. 1 | 8-10 p.m.

REAUXXLER JAM
Perkins Road Community Park
Oct. 1 | 2-5 p.m.

BREW AT THE ZOO
BREC's Baton Rouge Zoo
Oct. 7 | 7-10 p.m.

THE SPOOKY SPECTRUM
Highland Road Park Observatory
Oct. 8 | 6-10 p.m.

MESSY MASTERPIECES
Saia Park
Oct. 8 | 10 a.m.-noon

RIDE + ROLL
Perkins Road Extreme Sports Park
Oct. 9 | 2-6 p.m.

CARDIO AT THE PAVILION
Independence Park Theatre Lawn
Oct. 10 + 17 + 24 | 5:30-7 p.m.

SWAMP HAUNTED HIKES
Bluebonnet Swamp Nature Center
Oct. 14 + 21 + 28 | 6 p.m.

GEAUX FISH CATFISH RODEO
Burbank Soccer Complex Pond
Oct. 15 | 7:30-11:30 a.m.

INSIDE OUT ARTS: PAINT LIKE A FRENCH IMPRESSIONIST
Zachary Community Park
Oct. 15 | 10-11:30 a.m.

FAMILY GAME NIGHT
Independence Community Park
Oct. 21 | 6:30-7:30 p.m.

TRICK + TREAT: ART UNLEASHED
City-Brooks Community Park
Oct. 21 | 5-8 p.m.

SUNSHINE SOCIAL: IT'S THE GREAT PUMPKIN
Jefferson Highway Park
Oct. 21 | 6-9 p.m.

BOO AT THE ZOO
BREC's Baton Rouge Zoo
Oct. 22 + 23 + 29 + 30 | 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

FULL MOON FETE: TRUNK OR TREAT
Forest Community Park
Oct. 29 | noon-3 p.m.

BREC.ORG/THISMONTH

BREC does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion, veteran status or sexual orientation in its programs and activities.

RELIGION



Holy Trinity to Hold Bishops Conference

Holy Trinity Baptist Fellowship Association, under the leadership of Bishop Harris Hayes, invites the public to attend the 2022 Conference beginning October 16 through October 19. Service will begin at 5:00 pm on October 16. Services on October 17 through 19 will begin at 7:00 pm. This year's theme is "Preaching Under the Power. The conference will be held at Holy Trinity Baptist Fellowship Community Center, 1700 McHugh Road, Baker, Louisiana.

For more information, contact Bishop David Ferguson, President at (225)362.1089.

We look forward to seeing you.

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Taking Political Sides

BY TONY EVANS

In Joshua 5, we read about the battle of Jericho. God had already promised Joshua victory in this battle, but Joshua still had to partner with God in bringing this victory into history. God was going to give Joshua victory but only on His terms. In other words, if the walls of Jericho were going to fall, Joshua had to follow God in order for the walls to fall.

As we read about this partnership in the process of securing the victory over Jericho, we learn more about how God sets an example for us when it comes to politics. The story we are going to look at starts in verse 13 where we read,

Now it came about when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing opposite him with his sword drawn in his hand, and Joshua went to him and said to him, "Are you for us or for our adversaries?" He said, "No; rather I indeed come now as captain of the host of the Lord." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and bowed down, and said to him, "What has my lord to say to his servant?" The captain of the Lord's host said to Joshua, "Remove your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so. (vv. 13-15)

In this passage, we find a man who is ready to fight. He is ready to go to battle. He has his sword drawn in his hand when Joshua runs into him. The obvious question comes from Joshua at this point, "Are you for us or for our enemy?" In other words, "Whose side are you on?"

This is a common question we hear when it comes to politics in America. Are you a Republican or a Democrat? Whose side are you

on? Are you a liberal? Or are you a conservative? Are you a left-winger? Or are you a right-winger? It's a common question we hear today, and it is really no different than what Joshua wanted to know of the man holding the sword and standing in front of him. It matters what side someone is on, or at least we think it does. Joshua wanted to know where this man leaned so that he could figure out his strategy and approach in confronting Jericho. After all, he was holding a sword.

But rather than take a side, the man told Joshua that he was on no one's side but God's. He was the captain of the host of the Lord. He hadn't come to take sides. He had come operating on a whole other level. He was representing a whole other program. Joshua came from the chosen people and the chosen nation, but that didn't equate to God taking sides. Just because they were His chosen people didn't mean God automatically took their side. Nor was He on Jericho's side, a city of people who barely knew His name. Rather, God is a kingdom independent. Let me write that again in case you missed it: the God of the Bible is a kingdom independent. He doesn't take sides when it comes to doing battle. He sits as the King over all and it is His glory and His kingdom He seeks to expand.

God is on His own side. Because of this, if anyone ever asks me if I am a Republican or a Democrat, I respond that I am neither. I am



Dr. Tony Evans

a kingdom independent. In fact, I would encourage all Christians to view themselves as kingdom independents. A kingdom independent is a Christian whose ultimate political alliance is to those persons, policies, and platforms that best represent the values of the kingdom of God. Now, that may manifest itself as either a vote for a Republican candidate or a Democrat candidate, or you may vote as a libertarian, or even as a write-in, but the only absolute alignment there should be is with God and His kingdom perspective.

Voting as a Kingdom Independent

The God of the Bible does not ride on the backs of donkeys or elephants. The God of the Bible is His own independent. He only votes for Himself. Problems arise when it comes to our decisions regarding voting when there exists no political party that only votes God's way. Some represent God's priorities on certain things but not on others. And vice versa. Thus, when it comes time to vote, one person may vote Republican because they are voting with an emphasis on life in the womb. But others may vote Democrat because they are voting with an emphasis on justice for life after the womb. We pick and choose based on our own personal histories and priorities; our conscience and how God is guiding us at that time. Regardless, you must only view yourself as a kingdom independent since your primary commitment will be to the kingdom of God over the politics of men.

No political party ought to ever hold your entire allegiance, because if it veers from God's values and priorities you need to remain committed to God. No politician should

See SIDES, on page 5

Honoring the life and Legacy of Flora Mae Rogers, An Officer and a lady

On Wednesday, October 5, 2022, one of Baton Rouge's finest was laid to rest at the Winfield Memorial Park Cemetery, BR La. Captain Flora Mae Rogers, a retired East Baton Rouge Police Officer, had her final salute before joining the great precinct in the sky.

Captain Rogers, one of the first Black female officers on the EBRPD, served tirelessly for more than forty years as a civil servant. More than four decades of her life were dedicated as a protector and watchman for the city of Baton Rouge.

She was well-known and loved by public officials, community leaders, and ordinary people. They all appreciated her for not being just another cop, but someone they could depend on in their times of need. This was shown as people from all walks of life gathered and shared memories of this beautiful soul throughout her day of remembrance.

Detective Sherri Harris so eloquently led the Baton Rouge Police Honor guard as they proudly and professionally stood over her remains. These officers stood on guard with pride and dignity in honor of their sister officer as countless former and current Baton Rouge police officers, as well as officers from surrounding areas, came to pay respect and say their last goodbyes to this beautiful courageous woman. Captain Rogers, a three-time cancer survivor, and over-comer of many other battles and challenges of life, turned every one of her tragedies into triumphs. She carried a gun, but her true confidence was in the God she served, and she believed in Him to walk with her every day.

At a time when policing was not just about carrying people off to jail, but about caring for them and making sure that they were safe and that they knew the police were there for them. The Baton Rouge community knew that Captain Rogers and the BRPD had them covered.

Often, Captain Rogers would be seen in the community talking to the children and lovingly steering them in the right direction. Even though sometimes her love was tough, they ran to her



BR La. Captain Flora Mae Rogers

police car and not away from it. She patrolled and paid attention to the people on the street. Captain Rogers, or Miss Flo as she was affectionately known by her colleagues, fellow officers, staff, neighbors, and acquaintances, was demonstrating community policing long before it was popular.

Deputy Chief Myron Daniels, who worked closely with Captain Rogers, gave tribute with real and beautiful heartfelt words of love and respect on the behalf of the East Baton Rouge Police Department. The distinguished uniformed officers who acted as pallbearers performed with the integrity and sensitivity that the now Chief Murphy Paul models for all of his officers.

"Baton Rouge Proud" is what the EBRPD exemplified as they honored this 1965 Capital High School graduate, a product of the Baton Rouge public school system. Born and raised in the 70802 in the Eden Park community, and a resident of the 70806 area where she chose to reside so that she could be a gatekeeper of her community. The daughter of the late Lolo and Luella Deon Rogers was a mother to one biological daughter, Kimberly Williams, but a surrogate to many others. She was one of ten siblings whom she loved dearly. Captain Rogers was an officer and a lady of honor. A mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and faithful friend.

See ROGERS, on page 5

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BUSINESS

Vice President Harris Announces Slate of Actions to Help Black and Minority-owned Small Businesses

BY STACY M. BROWN
NNPA Newswire
Senior National Correspondent

Vice President Kamala Harris used her time at Freedman's Bank Forum to announce new public and private-sector efforts to advance racial equity.

Harris said the administration recognizes the continued difficulty that Black-owned businesses have in finding funding.

She acknowledged that they routinely are the first to suffer during an economic downturn.

Among a slate of new actions by the Biden-Harris administration, the vice president announced that the Small Business Administration (SBA) would propose a rule this fall to expand its lender base by lifting the moratorium on new Small Business Lending Companies.

The action would allow new lenders to apply for a license to offer SBA-backed 7(a) small business loans.

Also, the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) will issue a \$100 million notice of funding opportunity to provide technical assistance grants for entrepreneurship technical assistance providers to help businesses owned by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals launch, scale, and connect with growth capital.

Harris said to facilitate greater availability of small-balance mortgages, and HUD would issue requests to solicit specific and actionable feedback on the barriers that prevent the



Vice President Kamala Harris

origination of these mortgages and recommendations for increasing the volume of small-mortgage loans in federal programs.

The White House said these and a host of other new policy steps follow two recent announcements by the administration of billions of dollars in investments for Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) and Minority Depository Institutions (MDIs).

The actions aim to deliver capital and resources to underserved small businesses and the community lenders who serve them, Harris stated.

"Small businesses are the engines of our economy and the path to economic prosperity for countless

Americans in underserved communities," the vice president asserted.

"Community lenders – including CDFIs, MDIs, and others – are vital to unlocking the full economic potential of these communities, turning previously sidelined talent into a source of economic growth and shared prosperity for all."

Earlier, Janet Yellen, the U.S. Department of Treasury secretary, said the White House sought to use the Freedman's Bank Forum to shine a spotlight on how the administration's pandemic relief efforts supported Black – and minority-owned businesses.

The forum, launched in 2015, seeks to develop strategies to help

stamp out and overcome systemic racism in the financial industry.

"Unfortunately, for too long, the small business ecosystem in underserved communities has struggled to keep up with better-funded businesses and entrepreneurs in more prosperous communities," Harris stated.

"Entrepreneurs of color regularly report being turned away by traditional financial institutions for loans at higher rates than their white counterparts. And the community lenders committed to filling that gap similarly report that shortfalls in capital and technical capacity limit their ability to invest in the communities that need them the most."

ROGERS from page 4

Flora Mae Rogers was a warrior and a strong, beautiful soul. She was a bright light in Baton Rouge. Her strength, character, faith, and fearlessness shall forever be remembered. Flora was a true gift from God, and she used all her gifts to his glory, a loving heart, a giving spirit, and a strong determination.

Captain Rogers never said goodbye; instead, it was always, "See you later." So, Captain Flora Mae Rogers, we salute you. Thank you for your service and your many sacred sacrifices for us all. Your presence and your light will be missed by your family, the EBRPD, your community, and this earth in its fullness. We love you. You are gone in body, but your spirit's essence is never forgotten. This is not goodbye, but "See you later." 10-4 over and out.

SIDES from page 4

supersede God's role in your life. No politician or party should receive the worship you are to give to God alone. Did you notice what Joshua did when he heard the captain of the Lord's army declare who he

was and whose side he was on? Joshua didn't argue. He didn't offer his opinion. He didn't point him to a popular talk show or political pundit. No, Joshua fell down on the earth and bowed down before him. When he bowed down on his knees, he was symbolizing his allegiance to God's cause.

We have Christians today who will bow down or take a knee for social causes, but won't bow down before God. It is time for all people who name the name of Jesus Christ to bow before the Almighty God and His kingdom cause. Bowing includes a position of submission.

MIDTERM from page 2

pursuant to the Home Rule Charter.

WHAT'S THE DEADLINE TO REGISTER TO VOTE?

October 11 is the deadline to register by mail or in-person. In-person registration can be done at the Registrar of Voters, any Office of Motor Vehicles, WIC, SNAP, Medicaid, Armed Forces, Department of Children and Family Services offices, or at any place serving

people with disabilities.

The online deadline to register is October 18.

CAN I VOTE EARLY?

Yes! Early voting takes place October 25 to November 1 (except Sunday October 26) from 8:30 am to 6 pm.

CAN I VOTE BY MAIL?

Yes, but only under certain cir-

cumstances such as hospitalization, being over 65 years old, residing in an inpatient mental health care facility, and military deployment. The deadline to register for absentee/mail voting is November 4 at 4:30 pm and those absentee/mail ballots must be received no later November 7 at 4:30 pm. For voters who are in the military, overseas, or hospitalized, the deadline to return mail ballots is November 8 at 8 pm. Absentee ballots can be tracked online at the voter portal.



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The Capital Area Transit System (CATS), a political subdivision of the State of Louisiana, operating the public transit system in EBR Parish is accepting Proposals for CAD/AVL Software. Sealed proposals are due to CATS Procurement Department by September 30, 2022 at 10:00 am (local time) at 2250 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70802. A copy of this RFP can be found on CATS website at: <http://www.brcats.com/page/procurement>. Bidders may submit written questions to: catsprocurement@brcats.com until Wednesday, August 31, 2022. Bidders are reminded to check CATS website often for addendums issued to this RFP. CATS is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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SPORTS

SU Jaguars Demolished Arkansas Pine Bluff with 59-3 Blowout Victory!!

BY: LYNWOOD ALBERT JR.
BR Weekly Press Sports

BATON ROUGE, La. – The Southern University Jaguars annihilated the visiting Arkansas-Pine Bluff Golden Lions on both sides of the field which resulted to an easy 59-3 victory Saturday night at A.W. Mumford Stadium.

Southern head coach Eric Dooley and his Jaguars picked up their first SWAC win of the season.

With the Golden Lions having to face the Jaguars' ceaseless ferocious and powerful defense they never stood a chance in the game.

Jalen Macon completed 12 of 21 passes for a mere 134 yards and three interceptions for the Golden Lions.

Besean McCray completed 14 of 18 passes for 241 yards, three four touchdown passes and one interception for the Jaguars.

Things got off to a quick and nonstop offensive start for the Jaguars. Early in the game McCray tossed the ball to Kendrick Rhymes for a 4-yard passing touchdown giving Southern a quick 7-0 lead.

To end the first quarter Cristofer Thompson made a 37-yard field goal for Arkansas-Pine Bluff which was the only points that the team scored.

On the Jaguars next possession McCray threw to Cornelius Dyson for a 35-yard passing touchdown eight seconds into the second quarter giving the Jaguars a 14-3 lead.

While on defense, defensive back Corione Harris intercepted a Macon pass and returned it 62 yards for a pick six increasing the



Gregory Perkins #83 for Southern enhancing the score to 49-3 with a 14 yard passing touch down.

Jaguars lead to 21-3.

Rhymes scored his second touchdown of the game with a 29-yard rushing touchdown to push Southern further ahead 28-3.

Southern scored two more times in less than three minutes when McCray ran for a 29-yard rushing touchdown which was followed up with a 13-yard rushing touchdown by Rhymes that gave Southern a 42-3 halftime lead.

Things didn't get any easier for Arkansas-Pine Bluff in the second half because to start the third quarter Macon was sacked by Tahj Brown which caused him to fumble the football that lead to McCray throwing a 14-yard passing touchdown to Gregory Perkins for Southern enhancing the score to 49-3.

On the Jaguars' very next drive McCray threw to Cassius Allen for a 10-yard passing touchdown, score 56-3.

Early in the fourth quarter Chancellor Edwards threw a pass for the Golden Lions which was intercepted by Jaguars cornerback Jordan Carter.

Luke Jackson made a 24-yard field goal for the Jaguars with 7:14 remaining in the 4th quarter, which was the last scoring play of the game making the final score 59-3.

Southern University (2-2) will hit the road to face Prairie View A&M next Saturday at 4pm.

Arkansas-Pine Bluff (2-3) will head back home to face Texas Southern next Saturday at 2pm.

HOSTED BY HENRY LOUIS GATES, JR.

MAKING BLACK AMERICA THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE

Tuesdays Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25 at 8PM

Corporate support for MAKING BLACK AMERICA: THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE is provided by Bank of America. Corporate support is also provided by Johnson & Johnson, Major Road by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Ford Foundation; Open Society Foundations; The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation; Glider Foundation; The Arthur Vining David and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. Additional funding by The Inkwell Society and its members Howard and Abby Mistein; Jim and Susan Swartz; Georgetown Palansky; Joanne L. Cassullo; Deval Patrick; Roger and Jurate Altman; David M. Cote; Betsy and Jesse Fink; John H. N. Fisher and Jennifer Caldwell; Nancy A. Ganich and Misan Sagay Schwabach; Josh Steiner; Richard and Kathy Taylor; Charlotte Wagner; Richard Cohen; David and Nina Flalkow; Steven L. Rattner; Robert F. Smith; Miha Kapur Klein; Connie Lurie; Nicole Commissiong and Darnell Armstrong; Diamond and Kia Martin; Gwen and Peter Norton; May and Samuel Rudin Family Foundation; Miha Wiley; Beth Rudin DeWoody; Grant S. Johnson; and Vincent and Elaine Luke. Funding also provided by public television viewers.

HOSTED BY KARA ST. CYR

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