Louisiana lawmakers pass state budget plan with only temporary teacher pay increase...pg 3



April Marks Consecutive Month of Baton Rouge Area Jobs High...pg 4

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THURSDAY, JUNE 8-14, 2023

A PEOPLE'S PUBLICATION

VOL. 46 • NO.15 • FREE

Louisiana governor to veto bills targeting LGBTQ+ youth



Gov. John Bel Edwards speaks to reporters June 8, 2023, after the Louisiana Legislature adjourned its 2023 regular session. (Greg LaRose/Louisiana Illuminator)

Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards, a Democrat, has announced his intention to veto three anti-LGBTQ+ bills passed by the Republican-dominated Louisiana Legislature. At his annual end-of-session press conference, Edwards stated that it is his expectation to reject the proposed bills. While he had not committed to vetoing them previously, Edwards expressed concerns last month about the negative impact of anti-LGBTQ+ legislation on the high suicide rate among transgender individuals in Louisiana.

The three bills targeted young queer and transgender people in the state. House Bill 466, introduced by Representative Dodie Horton, aims to prohibit discussions of gender identity and sexual orientation in public schools. House Bill 81, sponsored by Representative Raymond Crews, would prevent school employees from using transgender students' preferred names or pronouns without parental approval. House Bill 648, introduced by Representative Gabe Firment, seeks to ban

gender-affirming healthcare for transgender youth.

Advocates and progressive organizations, such as Step Up Louisiana, praised Governor Edwards for his decision to veto the bills. They expressed gratitude for his support of LGBTQ+ youth and vowed to continue fighting against the discriminatory legislation. The anti-LGBTQ+ bills in Louisiana follow a nationwide trend of similar legislation being introduced at the state level. While anti-LGBTQ+ bills were

previously introduced in Louisiana but failed to advance, this year's bills progressed further through the legislature. The bills faced criticism for undermining LGBTQ+ rights and potentially exacerbating the already high rates of homelessness and mental health challenges faced by transgender youth.

Mayor Broome Announces Upcoming Summer of Hope Community Events

BATON ROUGE, La. – June 8, 2023 – Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome announces the latest events for Summer of Hope. This 15-week, community-led initiative operating under Safe Hopeful Healthy Baton Rouge aims to promote peace, create opportunities, and spread joy throughout East Baton Rouge Parish.

"As we approach the Juneteenth Holiday, Baton Rouge is filled with even more events centered around joy, peace, and unity within our community," says Mayor Broome. "I invite all residents to join me in celebrating the significance of Juneteenth, a day that symbolizes freedom, resilience, and progress. It is a time for us to reflect on our shared history, honor the struggles and triumphs of the past, and embrace the diversity that enriches our community.

Mayor Broome encourages everyone to explore the local events and activities happening during Juneteenth and Summer of Hope at summerhopebr.com.

The Summer of Hope initiative focuses on areas within the community that are at high risk for violence or considered at risk. Mayor Broome urges residents to actively participate, as these events will serve as a powerful means to spread joy and hope within our community.

Postponed event:

WHAT: POSTPONED Community Public Safety Roundtable

WHO: Baton Rouge Community Street Team (BRCST) WHEN: Thursday June 8th, 6 PM- 8 PM WHERE: MLK Community Center 4000 Gus Young Ave. Baton Rouge, LA 70806

Upcoming events: WHAT: Neighborhood Arts Project WHO: LSU Museum of Art WHEN: Friday June 9th, 10 AM-12 PM WHERE: Shiloh Baptist Church 185 Eddie Robinson Sr. Dr. Baton Rouge, La 70802

■ WHAT: The 6th Annual Pedaling for Peace WHO: Mayor Pro Tempore Lamont Cole WHEN: Friday June 9th, 6 PM WHERE: Shoppers' Value 5355 Government Street to MLK Center

WHAT: Kid Fest 2023

It remains to be seen whether the legislature will attempt to override Governor Edwards' vetoes. A veto override session

See YOUTH, on page 3

WHO: CADAV, Scotlandville CDC WHEN: Saturday June 10, 2023 9:00 AM WHERE: Scotlandville Parkway at Bradley Rd and Veterans Memorial Blvd; 3200 Harding Boulevard Baton Rouge, LA 70813

See EVENTS, on page 3

Former President Donald Trump Indicted by Federal Grand Jury Criminal Charges

Former President Donald Trump has become the first former president to face federal criminal charges after being indicted by a federal grand jury in a historic development. The 37-count indictment was unsealed on Friday in the Southern District of Florida, accusing Trump of conspiring with an aide to unlawfully retain top-secret national security documents from his presidency. The indictment alleges that Trump deliberately withheld these documents, even from his own lawyers who were trying to comply with a federal order for their return.

Special Counsel Jack Smith, leading the investigation, expressed the intention to seek a speedy trial in the public interest and in accordance with the rights of the accused. Smith urged

Americans to read the full indictment to grasp the gravity of the charges. Trump, on his Truth Social platform, disclosed news of his indictment and announced that he would be arraigned in Miami.

According to the indictment, Trump took numerous boxes of records, some containing highly classified material, to his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida when he left the White House in 2021. The indictment alleges that Trump knowingly held onto unauthorized documents and shared classified information, in violation of the law. The initial counts in the indictment accuse Trump of withholding individual classified documents, many of which were marked as top secret and contained information about defense capabilities, including nuclear capabilities, as well as

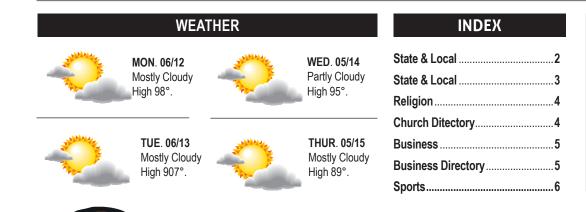
military vulnerabilities and plans for responding to foreign attacks.

Prosecutors claim that Trump stored the boxes of documents at Mar-a-Lago and also took some to his Trump National Golf Club in New Jersey. The indictment alleges that he shared their contents with individuals lacking security clearance on at least two occasions, knowingly divulging confidential information. The final six counts pertain to allegations

See TRUMP, on page 5

Former U.S. President Donald Trump gives a thumbs up during the pro-am prior to the LIV Golf Invitational – Bedminster at Trump National Golf Club Bedminster on July 28, 2022, in Bedminster, New Jersey. (Cliff Hawkins/Getty Images)





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REDSTICK RISING

Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome

Baton Rouge,

As Mayor-President of our wonderful City and Parish, I am proud to see the efforts of so many who are working to build a better and stronger community for the next generation. Young people are increasingly discovering the energy and opportunity available in our thriving community.

For Baton Rouge to continue its growth, we must focus on addressing the challenges many young people face in this community. Disinvestment in many neighborhoods, exasperated by the recent pandemic, spurred a rise in violence across the nation. Baton Rouge responded immediately, unwilling to stand by, while many of our young people fell victim to a vicious cycle. It was this resolve that spurred **Summer of Hope**.

Summer of Hope is an intensive community campaign led by residents and neighborhoods in Baton Rouge during the summer months. The mission is to restore hope in neighborhoods most affected by gun violence. The action plan involves eight weeks of events focused on creating positive, unifying moments for neighborhoods while offering resources and building community-based relationships with the individuals most impacted by violence.

Summer of Hope utilizes a data-driven approach to create maximum impact in the neighborhoods most in need. During the inaugural campaign in 2022, there was a correlation between the number of events and a decline in homicides-with, a 20 percent average reduction in homicides compared to the same time period the previous year,

Summer of Hope expands upon the larger community safety work of my Safe Hopeful Healthy BR program, where partners build relationships and facilitate violence intervention in schools, hospitals, and neighborhoods. We are empowering residents to lead the work to help families and build resilient communities.

Complimenting this work is the Mayor's Youth Workforce Experience. Every summer, hundreds of youth, ages 14 to 24, have an opportunity to work with local businesses and even City-Parish government. The program partners with dozens of companies, non-profits and public

Sector employers, giving participants a first-hand experience with a variety of careers. The youth learn industry specific skills while gaining professional experience and networking opportunities. In short, the program aims to inspire young people to invest in their career paths here in Baton Rouge.



Focusing on our youth and disinvested communities are essential for continued success in Baton Rouge. Our future depends on the opportunities and perception of our next generation. That's why we must ensure our community offers a vision they want to share.

MM AL

Sincerely

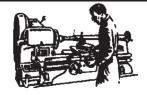
Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome



MAYOR-PRESIDENT SHARON WESTON BROOME



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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 225-775-200

VISIT US **ONLINE** @ brweeklypress.com

YOUTH from page 1

is automatically scheduled 40 days after a regular legislative session, unless canceled by a majority of lawmakers in either the House or the Senate. However, some legislators believe that a veto session is unlikely, citing exhaustion from the session and the anticipation of a new governor next year who is more likely to sign anti-LGBTQ+ legislation.

The Louisiana Republican Party-endorsed candidate for governor, Attorney General Jeff Landry, has previously expressed support for anti-LGBTQ+ measures, highlighting the potential future challenges for LGBTQ+ rights in the state.

LOCAL & STATE

Louisiana lawmakers pass state budget plan with only temporary teacher pay increase

BY: JULIE O'DONOGHUE

In the end, Louisiana public school teachers will get a pay increase, but it will only be effective for one year.

During the final, confusing 30 minutes of a twomonth legislative session, state lawmakers passed a budget plan Thursday that includes a \$2,000 temporary hike for teachers, as well as hundreds of millions of dollars that is supposed to cover universities, transportation needs, coastal restoration and legislators' pet projects in their home communities.

But lawmakers also reduced funding for the Louisiana Department of Health by \$100 million with little explanation about what that cutback might do. Gov. John Bel Edwards and several senators said they were blindsided by the health care change and that it could end up costing the state a few hundred million dollars more when lost federal funding is included.

"There was no heads up. Period," said Edwards about the health care reduction.

House Speaker Clay Schexnayder, R-Gonzales, and Senate President Page Cortez, R-Lafayette, couldn't explain what health services might be affected. Edwards vowed to try to lessen the impact, though he wasn't specific about what action he would take.

The teacher's pay raise will now function more like a stipend. Lawmakers never came to a consensus with the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) on a



Louisiana lawmakers passed a budget plan that included hundreds of millions of dollars in infrastructure payments. (Photo by Julie O'Donoghue)

school funding formula, which had to be approved by both ones to get extra money in this parties for the raises to carry over from year-to-year.

Now, teachers must hope the next governor and future state lawmakers work the pay raise into a new school funding formula next year. That will ensure it becomes part of their base salary moving forward.

Teachers are not the only state budget cycle with unprecedented resources. Edwards and legislators have spread around most of the \$2.2 billion in unexpected revenue available over the next 13 months.

See YOUTH, on page 5

EVENTS from page 1

REGISTER: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/kidfest-reg-istration-tickets-624389163797?utm-campaign=social&utmcontent=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utmterm=listing&utm-source=cp&aff=escb

WHAT: Levitt Amp Baton Rouge Music Series: For Our Health WHO: Scotland Saturdays WHEN: Saturday June 10, 2023 5:00 PM WHERE: Scotlandville Plaza 8551 Scotland Avenue

WHAT: Neighborhood Arts Project WHO: LSU Museum of Art WHEN: Tuesday June 13th, 10 AM-12 PM WHERE: New Hope Baptist Church 5856 Greenwell Springs Rd, Baton Rouge, LA 70806

WHAT: Neighborhood Arts Project WHO: LSU Museum of Art WHEN: Wednesday June 14th, 10 AM-12 PM WHERE: Mt. Gillion Baptist Church 346 E. Buchanan St. Baton Rouge, LA 70802

WHAT: Neighborhood Arts Project WHO: LSU Museum of Art WHEN: Thursday June 15th, 10 AM-12 PM WHERE: Village Resource Center 765 N. Acadian Thwy. Baton Rouge, LA 70802

WHAT: Neighborhood Arts Project

- WHO: LSU Museum of Art
- WHEN: Friday June 16th, 10 AM-12 PM
- WHERE: Delmont Gardens Branch Library 3351 Lorraine St. Baton Rouge, LA 70805

WHAT: Juneteenth Program: The Preacher, The Performer, and The Professor: How African Americans Found Liberation Post Emancipation Through The Arts, Politics, and Religion

WHO: LSU Museum of Art, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Beta Iota Lambda and Xi Nu Lambda Chapters

WHEN: Thursday June 15, 2023 6:00 PM WHERE: LSU Museum of Art 100 Lafayette St

WHAT: Juneteenth Unity Fest: Black in Bloom WHO: Various WHEN: Friday June 16, 2023 4:00 PM- 8:00 PM

WHERE: Galvez Plaza 238 North Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA 70801

WHAT: 19th Annual Terral C. Jackson, Sr. Ol' Skool Variety Greek Show

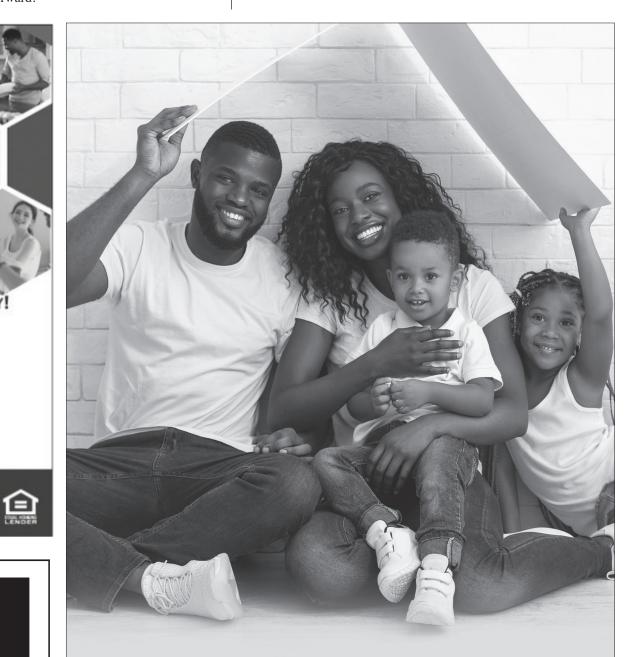
WHO: National Pan-Hellenic Council of Greater Baton Rouge WHEN: Friday June 16, 2023 7:00 PM WHERE: Southern University F.G. Clark Activity Center

REGISTER: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/19th-annual-terral-cjackson-sr-ol-skool-variety-greek-show-tickets-599979523907?utmcampaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=d-

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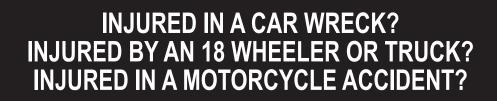


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RELIGION

A Blood-Bought Right To Prosperity

by Creflo Dollar

The world has a perverse and self-defeating fascination with money. The prevailing mindset is to pursue riches and make wealth our top priority; however, many people struggle financially without knowing why. Although the traditional mindset says that Christians should be broke and poor, the Bible says otherwise. Understanding that God wants believers to prosper in all areas, including in their finances, puts this in its proper perspective.

Prosperity is defined as succeeding in an enterprise or activity, becoming strong and flourishing, or achieving economic success. Jesus shed His blood to make all of this possible for us. Believing this strongly enough to declare it over our finances allows God to get involved with them the way He wants to. He knows we need money on a daily basis, but He doesn't want us to get our priorities mixed up. "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33).

The pressure comes from our external environment, which is dominated by the spirits of poverty, greed, and insufficiency. These spirits are controlled by the devil, who is, for now, the god of this world. Jesus' blood has defeated these spirits, and Satan knows his time to influence things on earth is running out. "And they have overcome (conquered) him by means of the blood of the Lamb and by the utterance of their testimony" (Revelation 12:11, AMPC). Confessing the victory that we have



because of what Jesus did renders the enemy powerless.

On a spiritual level, there's plenty of noise and static that can keep us from hearing God clearly. This is by design and is orchestrated by the devil, who is afraid of us finding out the truth of God's Word. Satan wants us to remain ignorant and think that our financial issues exist solely on the physical level; he doesn't want us to know the forces behind poverty and financial lack. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Ephe-

sians 6:12). Confessing the blood of Jesus over economic distress brings with it the power to destroy financial oppression.

Knowing what God says about money frees us from worldly thinking about it, and opens us up to receive the wisdom He wants us to have concerning our finances. His Word connects us to the supernatural, in which lack and insufficiency don't exist. God's will for us is exceeding abundance, so that we can stand out from the world and draw attention to who is ultimately responsible for our wealth. "And my God will liberally supply (fill to the full) your every need according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19, AMPC). There's nothing skimpy or stingy about God; He supplies all our needs overwhelmingly so that everyone can see what He's doing.

It's okay to have money; Jesus went to the cross to give us this blood-bought right. We must remember this when religion says otherwise. God wants to bless us in all areas, including our material wealth. "The blessing of the Lord makes a person rich, and he adds no sorrow with it" (Proverbs 10:22, NLT). Agreeing with God's Word on our prosperity results in more success than we could ever imagine.

New Single From VaShawn Mitchell Featuring Donnie McClurkin Available Now

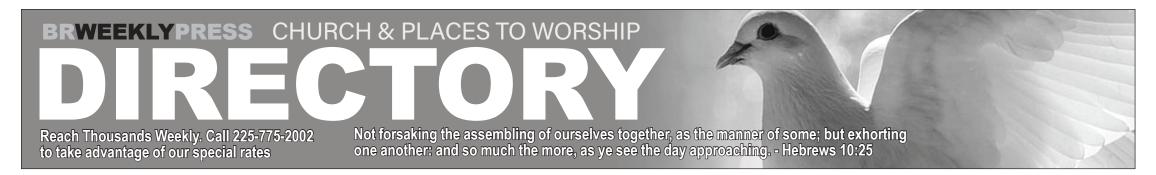


World-renowned gospel artist, and VaShawn Mitchell has just released the first new single from his new album, entitled "See The Goodness" featuring gospel music legend and 3x Grammy winner, Donnie McClurkin. The 7x Stellar Award winner, known for hits including "Nobody Greater" and "Turning Around For Me" which garnered over 68 million views on YouTube between the two, is letting fans know "you haven't heard anything yet!".

In this incredible faith declaration, Mitchell and McClurkin proclaim that "You will see the goodness of the Lord while you live". According to Mitchell, "Sometimes when a person is waiting on God for their breakthrough, the weight of the wait gets hard and a person could won-

der 'Is what I've been believing God for still going to manifest, and if so, will I even be alive to see it?' I wrote this song, to tell that person, 'Yes you can and yes you will!' That's why the song says, 'You're going to live until you see it!' So, to anyone who hears this song, allow it to minister to you and activate your expectation of seeing God's hand unfold in When asked about working with Mc-Clurkin, Mitchell says, "Donnie has always been a great mentor to me and I've been waiting for the perfect song for us to collaborate on and I knew this is the one. So when he said 'Yes I'll do it', I knew we had to make it special"

"See The Goodness" is now available on all streaming platforms,



Good Shepherd Full Gospel B.C. *The People's Church* 2865 Mission Drive • Baton Rouge, 70805 • Telephone (225)356-5873 Bishop H. Hayes, Pastor

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| Bible Study Wednesday | |
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BUSINESS

April Marks Consecutive Month of Baton Rouge Area Jobs High

BRAC releases economic updates in monthly dashboard

BATON ROUGE, La. -The Baton Rouge Area recorded 423,900 jobs in April, marking a consecutive record-high for the region, according to the monthly economic indicator dashboard released today by the Baton Rouge Area Chamber (BRAC). The dashboard, which examines and analyzes the state of the regional economy, can be downloaded directly here.

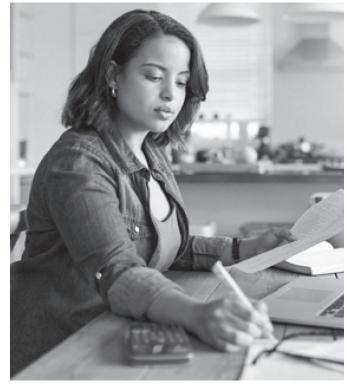
"In the face of record-low unemployment, the Capital Region continues its jobs hot streak: for the second straight month, Baton Rouge set a record for nonfarm jobs," said Jake Polansky, BRAC manager of economic and policy research. "How long this trend persists will depend on the Capital Region's ability to attract talent to supplement its dwindling labor pool. Consider two big motivating factors behind a person's decision to move - jobs and housing. Baton Rouge has available jobs - more than 32,000 in April including 5,400 in healthcare and professional services - but housing growth is slow. If East Baton Rouge wants to see the population growth visible in the region's suburban parishes, growing its housing stock is a good place to start.'

Key findings from this month's dashboard include:

• April marks consecutive months of record job counts in the BR Metro;

RUMP from page 1

that Trump instructed an aide to conceal classified documents from the FBI and his own lawyers, hindering the document production process after the National Archives and Records Administration requested Trump's presidential records.



• Unemployment rate is tied with December '22 for the region's lowest on record;

• Jobs in construction have grown 9.5% in the last year, reflecting the sector's strong post-pandemic rebound;

• Baton Rouge had the highest annual percentage job growth compared to peer metros once again in April;

• Education & healthcare jobs reached a record-high with over 60,000 jobs;

• Graduation weekend led to strong hotel performance in mid-May; and,

• The Capital Region's housing stock is growing faster than that of Louisiana overall.

BRAC's Economic Indica-

Smith stressed the importance of upholding laws that protect national defense information, emphasizing that violations of these laws jeopardize the country's safety and security. Smith highlighted the impartial collection of facts in the investigation and reiterated the principle of equal application of the law to all individuals involved. The indictment against Special Counsel Jack Trump carries significant legal

BBB Tip: Planning your next family vacation or trip

So far this year, according to the FTC, U.S. consumers have reported over \$265,140 lost to travel scams

When planning an event or looking for a good deal for a family vacation or getaway, the Better Business Bureau of South Central Louisiana encourages people to plan to save money, avoid scams, and travel safely.

Scammers often target people looking for great deals online by offering tempting vacation packages at unrealistically low prices. One place to begin an online search is BBB.org for finding reputable travel agencies, agents, and websites.

BBB adds the following tips to help ensure an enjoyable vacation:

Plan ahead. Allow plenty of time to research hotels, flights, and your stay area. Typically, the earlier reservations are made, the better the deals and the lower the risk of the destination being booked solid. Making reservations in advance also locks in rates and prevents higher prices later during the Summer.

Avoid broad internet searches. Entering phrases like 'best deals' into whichever search engine is used can sometimes bring up-websites that look official but are designed solely to rip people off.

Be alert for travel scams. Watch out for phone calls or letters claiming a 'free trip' or websites offering prices that appear too good to be true.

Do your homework. Ask family and friends to recommend a travel agent or website, and visit

See BBB TIPS, on page 6

JUMP from page 3

Lawmakers raised pay for public university faculty, local police and judges. They also continued to make heavy investments in infrastructure, with more money going to roads, bridges, college campus buildings, ports, and water and sewage systems. A popular roof fortification program and an incentive fund set up to lure more property insurance companies to the Louisiana market also received more financial support.

With so much money available to them, legislators also took advantage of the state's largesse to direct hundreds of millions of dollars into their parochial interests and initiatives.

Their budget plan includes







THE BATON ROUGE WEEKLY PRESS

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ment in Miami will proceed, shedding light on the outcomes and consequences of this highprofile case.

tor Dashboard looks at a number

of data points to illustrate the

economy's current state. With

data from a number of regional

stakeholders, the dashboard is

the most real-time analysis of

the Baton Rouge metro economy

BRAC's standalone research

consulting firm, provides cus-

tom research services on a com-

petitive fee-for-service basis,

including labor market research,

economic impact modeling, de-

mographic and economic data,

and general research and con-

sulting. Interested businesses

can learn more or submit re-

search project requests at riv-

and political implications as

the legal proceedings unfold,

marking a notable develop-

ment in U.S. history. Trump,

who vehemently denies any

wrongdoing, posted a video

on Truth Social proclaiming

his innocence. The arraign-

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available.

tens of millions of dollars in pet projects - allocations that lawmakers request in secret and receive no public vetting. Some of this money is going to nonprofit



Jaguars Season Comes To An End On Day Three Of The 2023 SWAC Baseball Tournament

ATLANTA, GA -- Southerns' season comes to an end on Friday afternoon, as the drop their second straight game of the tournament to Bethune-Cookman. Final score from Russ Chandler Stadium was 10-6.

Bethine-Cookman | Southern W: Yoansell Diaz (1-0) | S: Dale Michaud (2) L: Drew Lasseigne (5-3)

HOW IT HAPPENED

SU started off strong controlling the tempo until the seventh and eighth inning giving up eight runs in those two innings.

BCU scored eight runs in the final two innings to advance to the next round while sending the Jaguars home for the first time in three years.

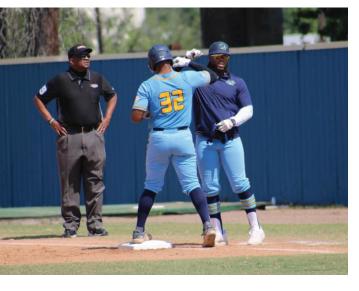
Lasseigne pitched one inning seeing 11 batters throwing 31 pitches, giving up 6 runs off 11 hits.

INSIDE THE NUMBERS

Southern finished the night with thirteen hits and Bethune-Cookman finished the night with sixteen hits.

SU finished the day with only one error, while BCU finished the day with no errors.

Southern left thirteen runners on base, while Bethune-Cookman



left eleven.

Southern struck out nine times and Bethune-Cookman struck six times

Jah'li Hendricks picked up the Jags first run of the day off Gustavo Nava Sanchez single up the middle of the field. Jaylen Armstrong and Hendricks led the Jags with two runs each, while Gustavo Nava Sanchez and Khyle Radcliffe scored one run each.

Seven different Jaguars batters recorded a hit. Armstrong and Hendricks led the Jags with three hits each, while JJ Rollon and Hunter

Tabb finish the day with two hits each. Khyle Radcliffe, Justin Wiley and Nava Sanchez recorded one hits each.

FOLLOW THE JAGUARS

For complete coverage of Southern University Athletics, please follow the Jaguars on social media at @ SouthernUsports (Twitter), @ SouthernUJaguars(Facebook), @southernusports (Instagram) or visit the official home of Southern University Athletics at www. gojagsports.com.





TWILIGHT TOURS BREC's Baton Rouge Zoo Every Tuesday + Thursday in June | 6-7:30 p.m.

MOVIES AT THE LAGOON:

JUNGLE CRUISE Liberty Lagoon June 2 | 7:30-9:30 p.m.

GUEST APPRECIATION DAYS BREC's Baton Rouge Zoo June 3-4 | Regular Zoo Hours

KID FEST Scotlandville Parkway at Badley Road + Veterans June 10 | 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Independence Event Center June 10 + 11 | 11 a.m-1 p.m.



BREC



MOVIES AT THE LAGOON: STRANGE WORLD Liberty Lagoon June 16 | 7:30-9:30 p.m.

DOG DAY AT THE SWAMP Bluebonnet Swamp Nature Center June 17 | 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

BREC'S LARGEST SWIM LESSON Liberty Lagoon June 30 | 8-8:30 a.m.

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BBB TIPS from page 5

BBB.org for free Business Profiles. Research the business and read customer reviews about any rentals under consideration.

Get trip details in writing. Before making a final payment, get all the trip details in writing. This should include the total cost, restrictions, cancellation penalties, and names of the airlines and hotels. Also, review and keep a copy of the airline and hotel cancellation and refund policies, as well as the

cancellation policies of the travel agency or booking site used.

Consider travel insurance. Travel insurance covers things like trip cancellations or medical emergencies. There are different levels of coverage based on what type of plan purchased. Ask many questions, and always read the fine print to see what's covered and what's not.

Pay with a credit card. Paying with a credit card provides additional protection if something should go wrong with the travel reservation.

Wait to post on social media.

It's fun to post adventures with friends and family but wait until getting back from the trip. Photos and social media posts of the family having a great time also lets thieves know the house is empty.

Check the weather conditions where you will be traveling and pack appropriate supplies and clothing.

Avoid traveling alone. Use the buddy system and stick with the group.

Use a hotel safe to store extra cash and keep valuables under lock and key.

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