



Rapides Workforce Development Board e-Bulletin



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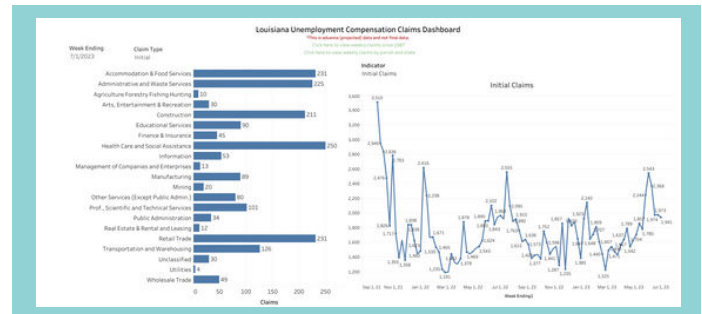
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Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims Drop for Week Ending July 1

The initial unemployment insurance claims for the week ending July 1, 2023, dropped to 2,157 from the week ending June 24, 2023, a total of 2,191. For a comparison, during the week ending July 2, 2022, 2,151 initial claims were filed.

The four-week moving average of initial claims decreased to 2,294 from the previous week's average of 2,447. The unemployment insurance continued claims for the week ending July 1, 2023, increased to 14,971 from the week ending June 24, 2023, a total of 14,639. The continued claims were above the comparable figure of 11,681 for the week ending July 2, 2022.

The four-week moving average of continued claims increased to 14,326 from the previous week's average of 13,696.

Graphic credit: LWC UI Dashboard

[full story here](#)

Career Opportunities



OUR TEAMS ARE HIRING

AVANT **BETA** **CREST** **CNR** **DIS-TRAN**
ORGANICS INDUSTRIES PACKAGED SUBSTATIONS

DIS-TRAN **ISS** **Millennium** **OPTIMAL**
STEEL GALVANIZING

CRESTOPERATIONS.COM/CAREERS

Crest Industries is hiring!
Explore open positions [here!](#)

WE'RE HIRING FURNITURE INSTALLERS!

- Got experience?
- Can you handle a drill?
- Move furniture?
- Follow instructions?
- Work independently or as part of a team?

MESSAGE US IF YOU WANT TO JOIN OUR TEAM!



Sayes Office Supplies is hiring!
Interested applicants may call 318.448.4225



RAPIDES PARISH SCHOOL BOARD WE'RE HIRING!

Join our team
for the 2023-2024 school year!

TEACHERS

Competitive starting salary
Positively impact our local community
Health benefits and retirement package
Alternative certification available for college graduates



CUSTODIANS

Jobs at many locations across the parish
Provide safe and clean learning environments
Make a difference for students and employees
Health benefits and retirement package



BUS DRIVERS

Safely transport students to school
Transportation schedule allows for daytime flexibility
School holidays and weekends off
Health benefits and retirement package



SUBSTITUTES

Jobs at many locations across the parish
Support and assist schools
Pick the days you work and your preferred schools
Receive training at no cost



VISIT RPSB.US AND SEE OUR OPEN POSITIONS!

RPSB offers a wide range of employment opportunities for those wanting to make a difference in the community!
See current positions [here!](#)

Central Louisiana State Hospital

Available positions include:

- Registered Nurses
- Licensed Practical Nurses
- Psychiatric Aides
- Psychologists



Health Care Career Opportunities

Benefits include:

- Special Entry Rate of Pay
- Retirement
- Health Insurance/Other Insurance
- Paid Holidays
- Sick Leave & Personal Leave

Come join our TEAM!



For more info visit
<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/louisiana>



LOOKING TO START YOUR NEW CAREER?

Visit our website to apply for a position with the City of Alexandria!

governmentjobs.com/CAREERS/ALEXANDRIA

Apply here!

Community Events

The Rapides Foundation 2023 Symposium

JOIN US FOR THE 10TH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

THE RAPIDES FOUNDATION SYMPOSIUM
An annual gathering around a topic of importance.

2023 FOCUS: OPPORTUNITY YOUTH

Thursday, September 7, 2023
3:00 p.m. (Doors open at 2:30 p.m.)
Coughlin-Saunders Performing Arts Center, Alexandria, LA
(Also available through Zoom webinar)

THE PROMISE OF OPPORTUNITY YOUTH

The Rapides Foundation is working to address the high number of young adults ages 16 to 24 who are neither in school nor working. Research shows that these young adults, often referred to as disconnected youth, have significantly lower incomes, are less likely to gain meaningful employment in the future and have poorer health outcomes than their peers. Disconnected Youth are also referred to as opportunity youth because of their potential to succeed and contribute to their communities. The Symposium program, "The Promise of Opportunity Youth," will feature a panel of national experts who will define opportunity youth in the region, outline the challenges in working with this group of young people, identify best practices among strategies and share what is working in other places.

This program is free, but registration is required. Visit www.rapidesfoundation.org/symposium to register.

THE RAPIDES FOUNDATION
www.rapidesfoundation.org/symposium

The Symposium is in recognition of the creation of The Rapides Foundation on September 1, 1994.

[Register here!](http://www.rapidesfoundation.org/symposium)

LSBDC at LSU of Alexandria Online Workshop

**Accounting Overview:
Understanding the basics**

Accounting can be intimidating for small business owners. Join us to get a realistic understanding of what's involved in accounting -- from the basics to the reports you must understand as a business owner. This webinar will highlight the many facets of accounting that can affect the health of your business. We hope you'll join us!

Speakers:
Boyle Henderson
CPA - Owner
Daenen Henderson & Company, LLC
Evelyn Jones
Business Consultant
LSBDC LSU Alexandria

**July 18, 2023
12:00 - 1:00 PM**

Register now!

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
CALL: (318) 545-5077
EMAIL: ejones@louisianasbdc.org

AMERICAN SBDC
LOUISIANA

LSUA
Louisiana State University
College of Business

LED LOUISIANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

LSU

The Louisiana Small Business Development Center, hosted by Louisiana State University, is a member of the National Association of Small Business Development Centers and funded part through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration, Louisiana Economic Development and participating universities and community colleges. All SBA Programs are extended to the public on a non-discriminatory basis. All opinions, conclusions, or recommendations expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SBA. Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities and/or limited English proficiency will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance.

[Register here!](http://www.louisianasbdc.org)



Child Adult Relationship Enhancement (CARE) Workshop

CARE is an evidence-based universal approach to help any adult interacting with children or teens. It uses skills designed to enhance child-adult relationships and to reduce mild to moderate behavior problems.

CARE provides a set of skills intended to improve child-adult relationships.

CARE is a trauma-informed training model for caregivers and professionals, paraprofessionals, and lay public who interact and work with children.

Registration is now open.

26 July 2023 – Alexandria Mega Shelter, Alexandria
[Register here.](#)

Training
is **FREE** of
charge



ALEXANDRIA
mall

Alexandria Mall Annual Back-to-School Bash Event

August 5, 2023, 12 PM – 2 PM
Alexandria Mall Center Court

- Karaoke with DJ BOW BOW
- Character visits with Sponge Bob & Marshall
- Community Information booths
- Freebies provided by local business and non-profits.

Alexandria Mall invites businesses and non-profits to participate in this event.

[Register here](#) or contact Clarissa Pugh
at 318-619-2742 or
clarissa.pugh@am.jll.com for more
information.

Alexandria Housing Authority Back2School Bash

**Mandated
Partner's
Updates!**

Alexandria Housing Authority

BACK² SCHOOL Bash



**SATURDAY
12TH AUGUST 10 AM**

PHONE: 318-442-8843
EXT 216



Charles Hayward Activity
Center 2586 Lololly Lane
Alexandria, LA

FREE SUPPLIES, FOOD, PRIZES & MORE!

(Email: m.joiner@alexhousing.org)

ATTENTION ALL AHA RESIDENTS!

Back2School Bash Registration Forms will be available at the Royal Ridge, Harmony Village, Magnolia Crossing and AHA Main Office.

You must register your household in order to attend Back2School Bash 2023!

Transportation will be provided from all AHA Properties.

You may call 318-442-8843 or email m.joiner@alexhousing.org for more information.

Cenla Community Action Committee PAD Drive & Summer Office Hours

Preventing a Disaster Drive

cenlacac.org/donations'. At the bottom, it says 'Cenla Community Action Committee, Inc. 2011 MacArthur Drive Bldg 1 Alexandria, LA 71301 / www.cenlacac.org / 318-314-3471'."/>

**P.A.D. Initiative
Prevent a
Disaster**

Donation Drive

Our agency is embarking upon a new project called the "Prevent a Disaster (PAD)" Initiative that will promote life-sustaining services to our residents. Every year, the summer months and hurricane season poses a threat to our seniors and disabled community. Just this year alone, we have lost precious lives to excessive heat. During hurricanes Laura and Ida, 16+ people died from excessive heat due to power outages. Two key issues stand out to us: 1) excessive heat and 2) power outages. Both issues pose major threats to our vulnerable communities. The PAD Initiative will provide households who lack the resources to equip themselves with life-sustaining devices to help provide relief during the aforementioned emergencies.

In this regard, may we respectfully request your sponsorship of one (1) or more of the following units:

1. 5,000 BTU or above ac unit(s)
2. 200W or above portable power station(s)
3. 8,000 BTU or above mini-split systems

Here is how you can make your contribution to this great initiative:

1. You may purchase item(s) and send or bring to our office (2011 MacArthur Drive, Bldg. #1) or
2. Give monetary donation on our website's Donation page at cenlacac.org/donations.

Cenla Community Action Committee, Inc.
2011 MacArthur Drive Bldg 1 Alexandria, LA 71301 / www.cenlacac.org / 318-314-3471

Sumer Office Hours update



**Cenla Community Action
Committee, Inc.**

**Effective
07/01/2023 - 08/11/2023**

**Our office will be
closed on Fridays.**

**We will resume our regular
Monday-Friday
work schedule on
08-14-2023.**

Success Stories

WIOA Youth Program

Charlie B. is a bright, positive, and dedicated youth. He decided to take the opportunity to make a change in his life and studied Welding at CLTCC. While attending his last semester, Charlie enrolled in the WIOA Youth Work Experience Program and quickly realized the program would help to prepare him for the future ahead. Through the WIOA Youth Program, soft skills training such as understanding the values of punctuality, good attendance, and work etiquette, Charlie was able to obtain what was needed to help him secure his next success. In a result, he was placed at Hayes Manufacturing as a Welder. Hayes Manufacturing is one of the leading manufacturers in the south and features a 150,000-square-foot fabrication shop, the latest in metal-working equipment, a fleet of cranes, and much more. The manufacturing plant is in Pineville, Louisiana.

His supervisor quickly noticed his talent in welding. Charlie, with his enthusiastic attitude, was retained by his work experience employer at Hayes Manufacturing. “I will never forget the excitement I felt when I received word, I was now a full-time employee. You must have some motivation whether it’s family, independence, or wanting to be a better you,” he said. Charlie now has a full-time welding position at Hayes Manufacturing. Due to Charlie’s excellence during his work experience training and learning about the daily responsibilities within the manufacturing department, Charlie’s starting job offer is \$19.00 an hour with full benefits. He takes pride in his job and enjoys the work environment.

For more information about the program, you may contact Lavern, Donna or Katrina, at youth@cenlaworks.org or (318) 314-0273.

Source: Donna M. Smith

WIOA Adult Training Program

Alfred D. is 31 years old and lives with his wife and six children in Rapides Parish. Before Alfred began the CDL program, he was working as a driver, delivering appliances for contract companies making \$10.00 an hour, but the contracts ended and so did his job. They were living off his wife’s job and SNAP. Alfred enjoyed driving delivery vans, and he wanted to get his CDL license and start driving trucks for a living. His desire to drive and travel grew from his personal experiences with delivery driving. The week before Alfred started his classes, he lost a 3-month-old baby to RSV. Between the WIOA Adult program and Coastal Truck Driving School, we were able to continue to help him with his dream and get his CDL license.

Alfred was in the WIOA Adult program from October 17, 2022, through November 10, 2022. He started working as a truck driver on December 7, 2022, in Alabama with Boyd Bros.

Transportation. The address is 3275 Hwy. 30 Clayton, AL 36016, and phone number is (334) 775-1400. He works 40 hours a week making \$20.00 an hour and his supervisor is B. Harris. Once Alfred finishes his training, he will have his own truck and receive full benefits. His wife is no longer working as she is staying home with the children. Alfred has weekends off and spends as much time as he can with his family. He plans on getting off public assistance as soon as his benefits start up at his new job.

For more information about the WIOA Adult Training program, you may contact Jackie Whitcher at 318-487-5652 or jwhitcher@cenlaworks.org.

Source: Jackie Whitcher

Acadian Ambulance Service Update



Acadian continues to demonstrate its dedication to fostering growth and development by expanding training programs and providing employment opportunities. With a focus on enhancing emergency medical services, Acadian has increased the number of Emergency Medical Technician EMT classes from 3 to 6 per year across all regional sites, including Alexandria. Additionally, the ongoing Emergency Medical Responder EMR classes ensure a steady influx of skilled professionals who are then seamlessly integrated into the next available EMT class. The Paramedic programs are also thriving, with 2 classes set to graduate 15 new paramedics later this year.

These initiatives have yielded remarkable results, with 134 individuals hired for Acadian's Central La region in the past year alone. Furthermore, 55 EMRs have been successfully trained, while 24 sponsorship students were enrolled in the Ad Hoc EMT class, benefiting from tuition-free education. Acadian's commitment to education and support extends company-wide, with approximately 700,000 invested last year in sponsorships, tuition assistance, and the innovative accel training program.

As Acadian continues to prioritize training and hiring, we remain dedicated to empowering individuals, strengthening communities, and ensuring the provision of exceptional emergency medical services professionals. If you are interested in joining Acadian or want to learn more about their training programs, their visit our [website](#).

Source: Paul Fuselier

WoodWorks Grads Sign with RoyOMartin



RoyOMartin celebrated 11 recent high school graduates who successfully completed their WoodWorks certification program. In June, a signing event was held at RoyOMartin corporate office in Alexandria, La., as they were officially hired as part of their team!

Currently offered in 16 central Louisiana and 5 east Texas high schools, RoyOMartin's WoodWorks program is a custom-designed curriculum that covers topics such as applied mathematics, industrial safety, and employability skills. Also included are tours of the company's manufacturing facilities and mentoring by RoyOMartin safety, maintenance, and operations professionals.

Source: Amanda Guillot



WoodWorks hires are (left to right) Isaac DeJesus (Corrigan-Camden ISD - Texas); Rayfeal Green (Grant High); Julian Paulino (Corrigan-Camden ISD - Texas); Ricky Inguanzo (Corrigan-Camden ISD - Texas); Christian Guzman (Corrigan-Camden ISD - Texas); Kenneth Douglas (Northwood High); Fisher Reese (Hudson High - Texas); Thomas Serna (Fairview High); Ean Dube (Simpson High); Zach Despino (Simpson High); and Germanlon Page (Natchitoches Central High).

[full story here](#)

New \$10 Million Facility Planned for CLTCC Rod Brady Campus in Jena



Louisiana District 32 State Senator Glen Womack, joined by a delegation of state leaders June 26 at the North Rapides Business and Industry Alliance meeting, announced a \$10 million investment to build a new facility for the Central Louisiana Technical Community College (CLTCC) Rod Brady campus in Jena. State officials joining Sen. Womack for the announcement included District 20 State Representative Neil Riser, District 22 State Representative Gabe Firment, and District 27 State Representative Mike Johnson. Representing CLTCC were Chancellor Dr. Jimmy Sawtelle and Interim Dean of the Rod Brady Campus Michelle Morea.

Sen. Womack announced the funding was included in the state capital outlay budget as an investment in the state's workforce development effort. "The stars lined up when this came about," Womack said. "Everything lined up because workforce development is very helpful and needed in this district and across the state."

Morea thanked the delegation noting, "We are so excited about the possibility of a new facility. It will allow us to continue in a pattern of growth both in numbers of students and in programs offered. Our hope is that a new facility will provide a hub within the community for education, collaboration, and expansion in and around LaSalle Parish."

"We are so very grateful to Sen. Womack, Representatives Firment, Johnson and Riser, to all of our state senators and representatives who supported this effort and to Gov. Edwards for approving the project," Sawtelle said. "We are very grateful to our Cenla Legislators and the LaSalle Parish Community as this is a significant investment in workforce development for Central Louisiana. I know this new facility will provide a tremendous return on this investment as we work to continue to provide the training necessary for central Louisiana residents to develop the skills they need to get a high-demand, high-paying career right here in central Louisiana. Not only will this investment benefit the people of Jena and Lasalle Parish, but it will provide economic benefits throughout central Louisiana and the state."

Source: Dr. Jimmy Sawtelle

We thank and acknowledge our Contributors!

City of Alexandria
LWC - Regine Williams
DCFS & Louisiana DOH
RPSB - Brendan Walls
CLSH - Celeste Gauthier
CLTCC - Jimmy Sawtelle
Cenla CAC - Sally Cowan
Alexandria Mall - Clarissa Pugh
RoyOMartin- Amanda Guillot
Crest Industries - Marianne Dore
Sayes Office Supply - Cindy Sayes
WIOA Youth Program - Donna Smith
The Rapides Foundation - Kathy Gunn
Acadian Ambulance Service - Paul Fuselier
LSBDC at LSU Alexandria - Evelyn Jones
United Way of Central LA - Katherine Jennings
Alexandria Housing Authority - Megan Joiner
WIOA Adult Training Program - Jackie Whitcher



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