

*Lighting The Road To The Future*

**New Orleans**

# Data

**News Weekly**

*"The People's Paper"*



**A FINTastic Party**


**Data Zone**  
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October 12 - October 18, 2019 54th Year Volume 24 [www.ladatanews.com](http://www.ladatanews.com)

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≡ **Data News Weekly Endorsements** ≡

# YOUR VOICE YOUR VOTE!



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# Your Voice Your Vote



Governor John Bel Edwards - for Governor of Louisiana

**Terry Jones Publisher  
Data News Weekly**

Voting is important and we at Data News Weekly as “The People’s Paper” want all of you to get out and vote. This as all elections are important, so get out in cast your ballot. There are several races that Data News Weekly is endorsing candidates for several offices.

**Governor: John Bel Edwards**

This race is important for all of us in the State of Louisiana. Our Governor is the only Democrat that leads a Deep South state. Because of this many progressive policies have been on his agenda as well as him being fiscally responsible.

For example, Edwards inherited a 2-billion-dollar deficit from former Republican Governor Bobby Jindal. In his four years in office, in working with the state legislature with members from both parties, today there is a 500-million-dollar surplus. He also expanded Medicaid, something that’s helped healthcare available to nearly 500,000 people of our state to get the care they needed.

As the husband of an educator, Edwards also gets high marks increasing the investment in early childhood education. Additionally, teachers receive a pay raise. He has also been on the front lines of Criminal Justice Reform.

Over these four years, John Bel Edwards has shown that he can work across party lines and put people first. This is why President Trump and others are trying to stop Edwards. We want all to go out to vote because if you don’t many of the positive policies that have occurred in the last four years may disappear. So please go out and vote for

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**Tim Temple**  
Insurance Commissioner



**Joe Bouie**  
State Senate District 3



**Robert McKnight**  
State Representative 91



**Eugene Green**  
State Representative  
District 97



**Adonis Expose'**  
State Representative  
District 99

John Bel Edwards for Governor.

Do this in high numbers, so there will not be a run-off...Go out and Vote!!!

#### Insurance Commissioner: Tim Temple

We need someone who is fair and have all the people of Louisiana in mind regardless of race, ethnic background or social class. But most importantly, we need someone who has the integrity to hold this important office.

Before the incumbent, Jim Donelon came into office the last three who held this office went to federal prison. Tim Temple is an insurance professional with over 20 years in every facet of the insurance industry. He is also a business and community leader who believes the insurance industry needs reforms to make it more affordable.

He is what we need right now, a stable, strong, honest person in the office to turn the tide of corruption that's been associated with this seat from three of the last 4 Commis-

sioners. We need a positive change and Data News Weekly believes Tim Temple is the right person at the right time for reforming the Office of Insurance Commissioner.

#### State Senate District 3: Joe Bouie

Dr. Joe Bouie brings a host of experience in many areas including being an academic, civic and more recently, as a member of the House of Representatives in District 97. He has shown that in the state capitol, he is a voice and advocate of the people.

It is time to promote Dr. Bouie for the great work he is doing to the State Senate of District 3. We at Data News Weekly support and endorse the candidacy of this proven experienced leader.

#### State Representative 91: Robert McKnight

In a race in a district that is changing demographically, but still is a majority Black district at 55% there is a young man who is

a bridge-builder running in the State House for District 91. Robert McKnight is a fresh new face ready to take the mantle of leadership of many of the great freedom fighters that have come before him.

He is a local that is a graduate of St. Augustine and Southern University Law Center. He is an example of our best and brightest standing up and heeding the call to leadership. As the lone African American in this race, McKnight, who longs to represent a majority Black district, is the right candidate to turn the negative tide that's impacting communities across the city as others move in and determine the direction of neighborhoods.

The time is now for someone who can bring all stakeholders together for the common good of the District and that person is Robert McKnight.

#### State Representative District 97: Eugene Green

Eugene Green is the best choice for this crowded field of candidates.

He possesses the experience as evidenced by his many years in public service. He has worked in the past to secure funding and introduce legislation in his role as the leader of economic development and job creation in our state.

Green also has more leadership experience than all his opponents and the relationships necessary to get things done in Baton Rouge. He would be a good addition to the New Orleans Delegation in pushing through legislation that will benefit the citizens of his district and help move the City in a positive direction with policies that work. So, we at Data News Weekly, proudly endorse Eugene Green, for State Representative of District 97.

#### State Representative District 99: Adonis Expose'

In a district that spans parts of New Orleans East and the 9th Ward, it is time for a candidate who will work to re-develop these communities. The candidate Data News Weekly feels has the best

approach is Adonis Expose'.

We feel Expose' with his many years of work helping disadvantaged business as the Compliance Manager at RTA gives him a perspective his opponents lack. Throughout his professional career, he's worked towards inclusion for all in many of his other positions at the Department of Transportation and Development, Sewerage and Water Board and the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO).

Expose' is also civic-minded giving back to those in need and inspiring the next generation. As a former King of Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club in 2017, he continues to work on initiatives aimed at uplifting the community. He says he plans to bring in public and private dollars to help redevelop areas of the district. This combination of vision along with working with other leaders is what this district needs and a leader and Adonis Expose' is the person that can make this happen in District 99.

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PERSON-ABOUT-TO-  
FACT-CHECK-THIS-FACT.**

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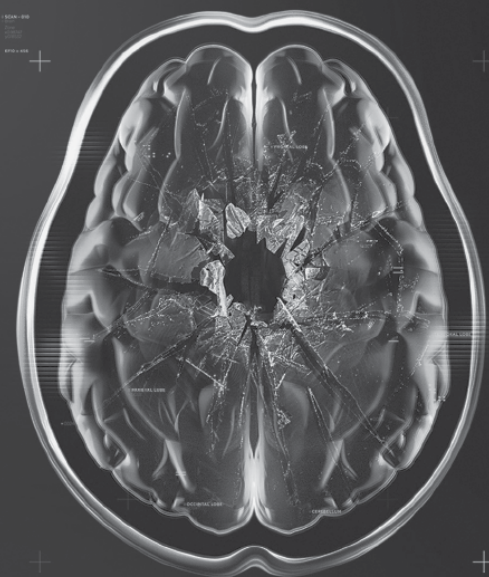
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# Annual Tremé Fest Puts Spotlight on Community

Story and Photos by  
Kortney Williams  
Data News Weekly  
Contributor

The sounds of New Orleans jazz played as the smell of fried fish and chicken filled the air for locals and tourists who gathered at the St. Augustine Catholic Church on Governor Nicholls Street for the 5th Annual Tremé Fall Festival that took place on Saturday, Oct. 5, 2019.

Treme' Fest is put on to help raise money for restorations of St. Augustine Catholic Church and other important landmarks in this historically African American part of the city. The festival is a mixture of art vendors, food vendors, and local performers. Wanda Rouzan, Naydja CoJoe, Dawn Richard, and Kermit Ruffins were just a few of the performers from this year's fes-



Members of Samba Kids, a free recreational program, display the art form and encourage families to sign their kids up at the Treme Festival on Oct. 5, 2019.

positive actions throughout not only the Tremé area, but the entire city.

"This is my second year attending Tremé Fest," said Bria Morlier, a Gentilly native. "[I'm] not sure what it is I love more: the food, music, or the arts, so I'll just say I love it all," Morlier added.

Performers from Samba Kids entertained the crowd as they danced on stilts to the beat of African drums. The program is a part of Casa Samba and is a New Orleans Recreation Development Commission Program that teaches Samba drumming and stilt walking to support cultural enrichment and healthy activities for young people in the area. The free program meets on Saturdays at the NORDC Center at 800 Race St., to teach the artform and welcomed members of the community who came to the festival to bring their children to learn the tradition.

I am a proud New Orleanian – I love our city and I love our people. New Orleans is like nowhere else on earth. We have incredible potential, and that's why I'm running for State House in District 99. I'm committed to using my experience, relationships, and energy to bring a new vision to our legislature. Together we can reach our potential.

**ADONIS**  
**EXPOSÉ**

STATE REPRESENTATIVE **DIST. 99**

AdonisForStateRep.com



#### EDUCATION

Southern University Agricultural and Mechanical College

Master of Public Administration  
University of Southwestern Louisiana  
(University of Louisiana at Lafayette)

Bachelor of Arts Degree in Mass Communication  
McDonogh #35 Senior High School

#### MEMBERSHIPS

Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club -  
Board Member and King Zulu 2017

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. - Member

Prince Hall Masons - Member

Pines Village Neighborhood Association - Member

Boys & Girls Club of Southeast Louisiana

Young Audiences of Louisiana

Committee for a Better New Orleans

Young Leadership Council

Forever Our Children, Inc.

Election day: October 12, 2019

Paid for by Friends of Adonis Exposé



Local performers Wanda Rouzan and Naydja CoJoe entertain residents and tourists at the Treme Festival on Oct. 5, 2019.

tival. Organizers set up the festival stage on gravel behind the church with tents and chairs, and a space-walk for kids to jump to attract the community.

"I was getting ready to wrap up, but they told me I have five more minutes on stage so let's keep partying y'all!" Wanda Rouzan told an energized crowd of dozens of spectators as she joined Naydja CoJoe together for a few selections that had the crowd on their feet dancing

through the heat.

Attendees were reminded to make their voices heard at the upcoming local election, and organizers included a registration booth to make it easier for members of the community to ensure they were prepared to exercise their civic duty on Oct. 12th.

Many attendees said this was more than a festival and saw the event as a way to inspire more community interaction and to promote

Destinee Ross, a California native, said it was the first time she attended and that she was excited about being at the festival.

"I just landed in New Orleans this morning and was looking for something to do, but I just wanted it to involve food," Ross said. "The food is a plus but seeing how this festival is doing its part to keep the community together is outstanding," she said.



# Spoken Word Artists Use Words For Change

Story by Lacey Ancar  
Data News Weekly  
Contributor  
Photos by Peter Nakhid  
(Courtesy of SUNO)

The artists needed no introduction.

"I wear an exclamation point as my name," proclaimed Poet Asali DeVan Ecclesiastes, one of the featured performers at "A Night of Spoken Word."

The artist showcase organized by the International Arts Foundation of New Orleans with the Center for African and African American Studies at Southern University at New Orleans took place on Friday, Oct. 4, 2019, at the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Auditorium on the campus.

"This is our first time hosting this event, but we've been hosting affairs and programs for quite some time," said Dr. Clyde Robertson, an Associate Professor of Humanities at SUNO who organized the event. Robertson said the event was part of a series of activities offered by SUNO to engage the community on educational, civic, cultural, and social action. The university will offer upcoming programs in a year-long series featuring keynote speakers from across the African Diaspora. Future events include a celebration of Nigerian Independence, and a Multi-Disciplinary Art Exhibition this month and in November.

The spoken word event celebrated the African Diaspora through poetry and featured spoken word and poetry artists. Jamaican Poet Allan "Mutabaruka" Hope and Nigerian Poet Wana "WanaWana" Udobang, joined New Orleans poets: Chuck Perkins, Asali DeVan Ecclesiastes, and Michael "Quess?" Moore. The works of the spoken word artists reflect activist poetry that speaks to the struggles and experiences of people of African descent. They also aim to uplift and empower Black people and connect them to their heritage and dignity.

Moore, who is better known for his stage name, "Quess?" he is a poet and educator from Brooklyn, N.Y., but since moving to New Orleans has been at the forefront of social activism. He is a co-founder of Team SNO, which stands for Slam New Orleans, the first New Orleans Slam Team since Hurricane Katrina. He said he fell in love with the



Asali DeVan Ecclesiastes



"Wana Wana" Udobang



Allan "Mutabaruka" Hope



Michael "Quess" Moore



Chuck Perkins

craft of writing at the age of six and was introduced to spoken word at age 10. He said he draws inspiration mostly from everyday injustices that Black people face.

"I was introduced to poetry by way of activism," Moore said. He tackles this topic from the point of view of a Black man in America, and he said he's lived experiences naturally provides him with lots to write about.

"I can't imagine not reacting to injustice through poetry," Moore said.

Moore said he was inspired by the early nineties Hip Hop influences like the Rap Duo A Tribe Called Quest, which inspired his name. As a young writer, Moore was completely sure of how he wanted to identify himself. So, he merged the word "guess" and "quest" to form "Quess?" because he wasn't sure where his journey would lead him.

Like Moore, Asali DeVan Ecclesiastes uses spoken word as a form of activism. The New Orleans native who is a poet and educator has been performing since 1997. She has taught the spoken word, social justice, and service-learning at Tulane University. Her pieces are inspired by injustices but from the point of view of Black women. She was a featured on TEDx Women in 2012, for an installment of TED Talks, performing a piece titled,

"The Rising," where she talks about the "innate danger of womanhood." A second piece called "Chasms" was featured by TED talk in 2018 where she offers uplifting narrative through her poetry. Ecclesiastes said she also likes to write pieces that celebrate the essence of Afri-

can people.

The power of words to call for action inspired those who attended to use their voices to educate others about their experiences or to uplift a community. Ed'Dijah Bridges, a local singer-songwriter attended the event and is pursuing a major

in mathematics at SUNO. Bridges said she related to spoken word the same way she relates to writing and performing music. "It's the way that you feel about the words you're singing," she said of the power of the spoken word.



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**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**

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# Scales & Ales

## A FINtastic Party for a Good Cause

Photos by Glenn Summers

The 10th Annual Scales & Ales Fundraiser on Friday, October 4th, at Audubon Aquarium of the Americas, where partygoers supported sharks – one of the most mysterious creatures of the deep – while enjoying a memorable evening of food, drink, and live entertainment.

Guests enjoyed beer from local breweries, wine, specialty cocktails and delicious cuisine from 50 local restaurants and bars as well as the enchanting sights and sounds of the Aquarium on the New Orleans Riverfront after dark.

Scales & Ales was an adult-only event on Friday, October 4th, 8 –11 p.m. Sponsors and Patrons enjoyed early admittance at 7 p.m. with access to the VIP Lounge aboard the Steamboat NATCHEZ throughout the event.



Data Zone,  
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Visit [www.ladatanews.com](http://www.ladatanews.com) for more photos from these events

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# Congress is Duty-Bound to Investigate Alarming Reports of Trump's Misconduct



**Marc Morial**  
President and CEO  
National Urban League

"Any attempt by a President to use the office of the presidency of the United States for personal political gain—rather than the national interest—fundamentally undermines our sovereignty, democracy, and the Constitution ... Misuse of the office of the presidency for such a corrupt purpose would thus represent a clear breach of the trust placed in the President to faithfully execute the laws of the United

States and to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution." – Statement by Rep. Adam Schiff, Chair of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Rep. Elijah E. Cummings, Chair of the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and Rep. Eliot L. Engel, Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

Ever since Russian interference in American democracy first was disclosed in September of 2016, the words of George Washington's 1796 Farewell Address have been invoked many times:

"Against the insidious wiles of foreign influence (I conjure you to believe me, fellow citizens) the jealousy of a free people ought to be constantly awake, since history and experience prove that foreign influence is one of the most baneful foes of republican government."

Credible allegations have been

made that President Trump not only solicited a foreign government for election assistance, but also sought help in discrediting an U.S. intelligence finding about previous foreign interference and implicitly threatened to withhold military aid if his requests are not honored.

The gravity of these allegations cannot be overstated. Congress is duty-bound to conduct a thorough and comprehensive investigation to protect American democracy.

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi is correct when she says this is a sad time for our country. Regardless of where one falls along the political spectrum, no one should take any pleasure in the idea that the Commander-In-Chief could be abusing the power of his office for personal and political gain.

"Our tone must be prayerful, respectful, solemn, worthy of the

Constitution," Pelosi said.

Nor should the impeachment process be abused for political gain. It is a remedy for only the most egregious betrayals of the public trust. Only a fact-driven, evidence-based inquiry can determine whether that remedy is warranted.

The integrity of American elections is sacrosanct for African-Americans, who have bled and died in defense of the right to vote. We at the National Urban League found reports that Russian interference specifically targeted African Americans so troubling that we devoted our 2019 State of Black America® report to an examination of the attacks.

What we found puts the egregiousness of President Trump's apparent efforts to absolve Russia into stark perspective. The greatest portion of Russia's online disinfor-

mation effort was aimed at dissuading African Americans from voting. Russian trolls exploited the credibility of legitimate online movements like #BlackLivesMatter, posing as activists, and abusing that trust to tamp down Black voter participation.

One Russian-created fake account, @WokeLuisa, garnered more than 50,000 followers, and its posts were highlighted by dozens of prominent news outlets.

All patriotic Americans should be outraged. Our leaders should be doing everything within their power to protect the integrity of our elections and thwart foreign interference. If, instead, President Trump is trying to deflect blame for this attack on democracy away from Russia, it is right to question where his loyalties lie.

## On October 12th Vote to #PutHousingFirst



**Andreanecia Morris**  
Executive Director,  
HousingNOLA

The Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance (GNOHA) once again conducted its in-depth interview process with candidates to score them on their commitment to #PutHousingFirst and support Affordable Housing Policies in office. Elected officials must adopt #PutHousingFirst, and with this

scorecard, the voters are able to make clear choices about which candidates will actually do that. Unfortunately, a distressing 55% of the October election candidates running to serve in the state legislature or statewide office received a failing grade on their #PutHousingFirst Scorecard presented by GNOHA.

The scorecard consists of survey questions focusing on critical Affordable Housing Policy Proposals, such as the state housing trust fund, living wage and diversifying the availability of Affordable Housing Funds. Responsive candidates were then asked to participate in an in-depth interview to discuss their survey answers, and further explain their positions on the items listed in the

#PutHousingFirst platform.

The number of failing grades highlights a sad, yet predictable, lack of concern for Affordable Housing from far too many candidates. With 34 of the 61 candidates failing because they simply don't care about Affordable Housing. This will only change with political pressure from the voters. The group launched its #PutHousingFirst Campaign leading up to the 2017 election cycle in the hopes of securing 80,000 registered voters over the next years to support advocacy efforts and hold elected officials accountable in prioritizing safe, affordable, healthy housing for all in New Orleans.

While GNOHA does not officially endorse any candidates, the

#PutHousingFirst Scorecard provides clear distinctions in almost every race as to who does care about Affordable Housing. GNOHA has worked to build a voter base to ensure that elected officials no longer dodge this important issue. This is the third year and fourth election GNOHA has conducted the assessments and this year marks the largest response to date.

The scorecard also makes recommendations on ballot initiatives that impact housing and this year this is only one clear cut issue on the October 12th ballot. A vote for Proposition 4 is a vote to #PutHousingFirst. New Orleans needs to be able to create a program to help long-time homeowners stay in their neighborhoods and help small land-

lords keep their rents reasonable and affordable.

With the recent discovery that New Orleans has lost more Affordable Housing than it has created in the next year, it is imperative that all public officials reaffirm their commitment to ending New Orleans' Affordable Housing Crisis. After next year's Census, we will be trusting the state legislature to redistrict in a manner that is fair and equitable. Those decisions should only be made by officials who #PutHousingFirst and have committed to ensuring that their constituents are not housing insecure. Voters should go to [www.puthousingfirst.org](http://www.puthousingfirst.org) to review the candidate scorecards for the statewide races and the New Orleans elections.



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# Groundbreaking Actress Diahann Carroll Dies at 84

**Stacy M. Brown**  
NNPA Newswire  
Correspondent

Diahann Carroll, the trailblazing actress and first Black woman to star in a non-servant role in a television series has died.

She was 84.

Carroll starred as nurse Julia Baker in "Julia," the hit NBC show that aired from 1968 to 1971.

The show represented the first time a Black person – man or woman – was cast as in the title role of a show, portraying a character that wasn't a maid or other type of domestic worker.

"For a hundred years we have been prevented from seeing accurate images of ourselves and we're

all overconcerned and overreacting," Carroll said in a 1968 interview with TV Guide.

"The needs of the White writer go to the superhuman being. At the moment, we are presenting the White Negro. And he has very little Negro-ness," Carroll stated.

Prior to "Julia," Carroll starred in the Broadway musical, "No Strings," for which she earned a Tony Award for best actress in 1962.

In perhaps her most memorable role, Carroll earned an Oscar nomination for best actress in the James Earl Jones-led motion picture, "Claudine."

She later starred in the hit nighttime soap opera, "Dynasty," and made recurring appearances on "Grey's Anatomy,"



Diahann Carroll

and "A Different World."

In 2011, Carroll was inducted into the Television Academy Hall of Fame.

"The National Newspaper Pub-

lishers Association (NNPA) salutes the living legacy of Diahann Carroll, may she rest in peace," said NNPA President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.

The NNPA is a trade association representing the broad expanse of African American-owned newspapers and media companies that make up the Black Press of America.

"Diahann Carroll was a courageous trailblazer, freedom-fighting sister leader in film, on stage, the TV screen, and in the African American community," Chavis stated.

"God bless and long live the irrepressible spirit of Diahann Carroll."

Several prominent celebrities also saluted Carroll on social media.

"Diahann Carroll you taught us so much," tweeted actress, dancer

and director Debbie Allen. "We are stronger, more beautiful and risk takers because of you. We will forever sing your praises and speak your name," Allen wrote.

Famed film director Ava DuVernay wrote that Carroll "walked this earth for 84 years and broke ground with every footstep."

DuVernay noted that Carroll was an icon.

"One of the all-time greats. She blazed trails through dense forests and elegantly left diamonds along the path for the rest of us to follow. Extraordinary life. Thank you, Ms. Carroll," DuVernay wrote.

According to NBC News, Carroll is survived by her daughter, Kay, and grandchildren, August and Sydney.

## Opinion

# All Our Responsibility



**Charles Dickerson**  
Data News Weekly Columnist

The day is here where we all will go to the polls and vote for our elected leaders, as well as several amendments that are on the ballot.

While I encourage people to get out and vote; we must do much more if we are to make our community better. Civic engagement does not end at the ballot box, for there is much more that we must do working to improve our communities in New Orleans.

Yes, it is true that those who we elect we must demand accountability from them but calling 311 alone is not a solution when we see problems in our community. It is us the citizens of our neighborhoods who must be on the front lines doing the heavy lifting to improve and maintain our communities.

The time has come for us as concerned citizens all across the City to begin to police our own children, relatives, and loved ones. Further, we must begin to hold ourselves and those who are in our charge account-

able to walk in excellence.

Not to mention, that politicians are not the ones that are raising our children we are. It is a 911 situation for us as a community to begin to do what is necessary to save our youth and guide them in ways where they do not believe that violence and shooting others is a way to resolve conflict.

Additionally, we must begin to teach morals and character to our children; but first, we must begin to do these same things ourselves. I live in a neighborhood that's been plagued by car break-ins and my neighbors and I are concerned about this; as many others are across the City.

Evidence shows that these incidents are committed mostly by young males; I ask where those who are responsible for them are? It is time to demand of those who have children to begin to take seriously the rearing of their children. Also, it is incumbent upon them to reach out if need be for resources to help them fill the gaps. It is because of this that many are not doing to get the necessary help in steering their children in the right direction.

As someone who has worked in education for nearly two decades; I have witnessed firsthand the results of children not getting what they need at home and in their communities. Teachers and counselors can only do so much, and we cannot simply test our way into making our children and

communities better.

We must decide what we will as citizens begin to re-invest in teaching what a community is and what does a healthy one looks like. For it is not about only economics, it is about building our people to have self-worth, pride, character, ethics, and morals.

It is as simple as the golden rule found in Matthew 7:12 "do unto oth-

ers as you would have them do unto you." If we can take this along with understanding the basic tenets found in the 10 Commandments, honoring your mother and father, not committing murder, not stealing, or coveting what your neighbor has; our community could begin to take steps in the right direction.

I say this as a Christian, but these

things go beyond religion that we must be our brother's and sister's keeper. We must decide that we can be a better community. Yes, we must vote because it is important. But ultimately, to make our community better it is us who must be responsible and that is something we must be committed to every day of the year.

Elect Dr. Joe  
**BOUIE**



**SENATE  
DISTRICT 3**

## EXPERIENCED LEADERSHIP When we Need it Most

As a floor leader for Gov. John Bel Edwards and former Chair of the Legislative Black Caucus, it is important that we maintain our level of experience in the legislature and continue to move our state forward.

Affordable housing, quality educational opportunities for all citizens, legislation to reduce flooding and increases in teacher pay are the issues I will continue to address.

Keep our New Orleans delegation strong. I am asking for your support, your prayers and your vote.

Together we can do this, you vote, we win!

**Elect Dr. Joe Bouie - Senate District 3, #55**

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Dr. Joe Bouie



# Teddy's Ready

## Fleur De Lis Data News Weekly Columnist

What's up NOLA, again it's ya people Fleur De Lis, giving it to you about how the Black and Gold is on a roll. They are tearing through all competitors and showing that they are one of the best if not the best team in the NFL. They have shown they have what it takes by knocking off two of the best teams in the Cowboys and the Seahawks. This week they did their thing against division rival the Tampa Bay Buccaneers put a spanking on 'em 31-24.

This week Teddy showed he was ready throwing four touchdowns as he picked apart Tampa Bay's secondary. The fans in the Superdome were ecstatic as chants of Teddy echoed throughout the game. Of course, everyone cannot wait for Drew to return, but as Teddy keeps putting up W's fans are excited and supporting him and the team that is getting it done on both sides of the ball.

Saints all-pro receiver Michael Thomas also showed up finishing



Cam Jordan and Saints Defense celebrate one of their six sacks against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

with 182 yards and two touchdown receptions on 11 catches. Dude was unstoppable, showing why he is one of the league's best and earning his keep showing that he deserves his

saying Teddy is ready and maybe the heir to Drew Brees's legacy once he decides to hang it up. But we hope that is no time soon as we are ready for number 9 to get back on the field. This looks like this could be our year. Black and Gold all the way to the Super Bowl and we know Brees has what it takes to get us there.

But we know the march to Miami is a week to week thing, so who is next up? We will be facing the Jacksonville Jaguars with New Orleans native Leonard Fournette at running back. We know the boy is bad and a Purple Knight alum and LSU standout, but we've got Kamara, Teddy, Money Mike, and company that is guaranteed to light up the scoreboard. Also, a defense that will key on him and shut him down. Look what they did to Zeke Elliott, the two-time rushing champ, hold-



Teddy and Payton fist bump after one of Bridgewater four touchdown tosses in game Saints defeated the Bucs 31-24.

### VOTE-ROBERT MCKNIGHT #91

#### EDUCATION

Southern University Law Center,  
J.D. – Cum Laude  
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#### EXPERIENCE

Orleans Public Defenders, Staff Attorney  
United States House of Representatives, Law Clerk  
Louisiana Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control, Law Clerk  
Louisiana State Senate, Legislative Aid

#### LEADERSHIP

Greater New Orleans Louisa A. Martinet Legal Society, Inc.  
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Texas Legislative Internship Program, Fellow  
Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Fellow

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new multi-year deal worth nearly 100 million dollars. That's what I'm talking about brother, get your paper.

On a different note the late Saints Defensive End Will Smith had his name placed in the Saints' Ring of Honor at the center level of the dome before Sunday's game next to the plaques of former players Archie Manning, Rickey Jackson, Willie Roaf and Morten Andersen.

It seemed his spirit was in the

building and was an inspiration for a defense that sacked Tampa Bay's quarterback Jamis Winston six times. It was an all-team affair, with everyone getting in on the action; Marcus Davenport got two of the sacks, Cam Jordan had one, Sheldon Rankins got one, tackle Malcolm Brown and Carl Granderson also had one apiece.

The Saints are on a roll and fans who were apprehensive are now

ing him on 18 carries for 35 yards in the Dallas game.

We all know we are a City with all kinds of flavor and this season, we have found a recipe to win as a team. Yeah, we know we got superstars, but it's still a game of X's and O's, so shout outs also go to Sean Payton and company. Until next time this is Fleur De Lis, signing off. Also, don't forget to get out and vote.

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# Botham Jean, Amber Guyger and the Delusion of Forgiveness

Anne Branigin  
Writer, the root.com

It was described as “stunning,” “rare,” and “inspirational”: Brandt Jean, the younger brother of Botham Jean, killed last year at the hands of a Dallas police officer who mistakenly walked into his apartment, asking his brother’s killer if he could hug her.

“I love you as a person,” Jean, who had been delivering his victim impact statement, told Amber Guyger at her sentencing. Sobs rippled through the courtroom as the two hugged. “I don’t wish anything bad on you.”

Video of the embrace immediately caused waves online. Some people, many of them white, valorized it, calling Jean’s act “inspirational.” Some, many of whom were black, were confused or disheartened by it. Others tried to pull from that hug some sort of instruction for how we, collectively, should feel about Guyger and what she did.

“I think he showed with his grace and forgiveness how we should heal,” defense attorney Toby Shook told the Today show’s, Gabe Gutierrez. “And I hope that people who were upset by the verdict will follow his example.”

The presentation of Jean’s act of forgiveness and the ensuing reaction was immediately reminiscent of when the survivors of the Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, S.C., publicly forgave Dylann Roof.

Then, as now, many correctly pointed out the complications with glorifying that act of forgiveness: That it shouldn’t invalidate the value and necessity of black rage. That it shouldn’t be taken as representative of what an entire race of people feels or ought to feel. That their act of forgiveness did not then and does not now absolve the country from dealing with white supremacy or systemic racism.

“What white people are really asking for when they demand forgiveness from a traumatized community is absolution. They want absolution from the racism that infects us all even though forgiveness cannot reconcile America’s racist sins. They want absolution from their silence in the face of all



Botham Jean’s family photographed outside the Frank Crowley Court-house in Dallas, Texas, on September 19, 2019.

## Data Q?

Do we  
forgive too  
much?

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Act of Grace and Forgiveness by Brandt Jean, younger brother of Botham Jean, as he hugs Amber Guyger who was convicted of murder and sentenced to 10 years.

what justice will look like in a world where I will never speak to, will never touch, will never hear or see my brother again.

I do know that Brandt Jean has mourned his brother every day for a year and 27 days. I do know that he will mourn his brother for the rest of his life, and that, because forgiveness, like mourning, isn’t a one-time transaction, he will be forgiving Guyger for the rest of his life.

What is delusional is to think reconciliation or forgiveness is the point, as Guyger’s attorney implied. Brandt Jean’s hug was not a political statement but a personal one, and it’s a distinction we need to make if we want to live in a world where his older brother is still alive. Because getting caught up in cheap absolution—an “inspiring” hug between a victim and a killer, meant to teach us how we ought to feel about cops who accidentally (or intention-

ally) kill the people they’re charged with protecting—is both dangerous and immoral. It distracts us from reckoning with the idea that a white police officer’s murder conviction came, in large part, because her victim was “perfect”: Jean was, quite literally, a choir boy. That the circumstances of his murder were so heinous—sudden and senseless, in his own home, eating a bowl of ice cream—that acquitting her would be a crime.

There are many more victims of police brutality we will never hear about; victims who are disproportionately black. There are many more victims of gun violence whose names we’ll never know.

Jean’s forgiveness of Guyger acquits no one: not Guyger and not the criminal justice system, which ought to show all the black defendants that pass through its halls with the compassion Judge Tammy Kemp showed to the former Dallas officer (she, too, embraced Guyger at the sentencing). It certainly doesn’t acquit America, which currently operates the largest prison system the world has ever known, from challenging the terms of our police state.

Rather than comforting ourselves with a Green Book-Esque visage of racial unity, Americans ought to consider a world where Guyger doesn’t even have a gun the night of Sept. 6, 2018, because our police force is largely unarmed. That the concept of an unarmed police force wouldn’t seem so ludicrous if gun violence weren’t a public health crisis. That disentangling police brutality from racial violence doesn’t just mean better training for cops, it means questioning how often we resort to state-sanctioned violence as a solution for our problems in the first place.

A small act of individual mercy changes none of that. Jean’s mother, Allison, speaking on Today, made that distinction.

“I think what Brandt did this afternoon was to heal himself, and to free himself from what has been wrapped up within him for the last year,” Allison Jean said. “And so we forgive. But I don’t want forgiveness to be mistaken with a total relinquishing of responsibility.”

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