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Joe Bouie Wins District 3 Senate Seat

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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

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Experts Call for More Conversations around Black Toxic Masculinity



Dillard University President Dr. Walter Kimbrough, Scholar Dr. Treva Lindsey, Hip Hop Artist Jasiri “X” Smith, Poet Jessica Care Moore, Author Dr. Mark Anthony Neal and Poet Michael “Quess?” Moore, participate in a conversation around toxic masculinity on Oct. 10, 2019.

Lacee Ancar
Data News Weekly Contributor

The perception of what is masculine is present in all communities, however, in the Black community, Black masculinity is defined in the media, in the community and even in the household. Black masculinity in the

media is often portrayed as an emotionless “thug” with anything resembling more moderate features as being too “girly” or feminine. However, in an era of the Me-Too Movement, more men say they must lead conversations around Black masculinity where the subject was taboo before.

“When I first started calling myself a Black feminist,

there was always a push back or a surprise,” said Mark Anthony Neal, the author of “Looking for Leroy: Illegible Black Masculinities.” “However, I feel like that is less so now.”

The idea of Black men being feminists may seem foreign to some, Neal said, but that is slowly changing. From politics to art and activism, the Black commu-

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Cover Story, Continued from page 2.



Dillard University President Dr. Walter Kimbrough leads a conversation on toxic masculinity on Oct. 10, 2019, in the Georges Auditorium.



Hip Hop Artist and Activist Jasiri "X" Smith speaks at the "Toxic Masculinity: Consent, Silences and Institutional Complicity" panel on Oct. 10, 2019.



Poet Jessica Care Moore (left) and Black Feminist Scholar Dr. Treva Lindsey (right) explains what it's like to be a feminist and how we can improve our environment.

nity has also begun its own work to dismantle toxic masculinity and its impact not just on women and children but also on men and boys.

"It's beyond time that we sit down and talk about something that has been happening in our community for a long time," said Dillard University President Dr. Walter Kimbrough who hosted a public panel on Oct. 10th with Neal, Poet Jessica Care Moore, Black Feminist Scholar Dr. Treva Lindsey, and Hip Hop Artist and Activist Jasiri "X" Smith, who moderated the conversation.

According to Neal, the reason why Black men are starting to identify more with feminist movements is that they understand that the movement was never about bashing Black men and generalizing all men, but to help Black men understand the role they can play in empowering others, even while still being a man. Neal credits influential leaders such as former first

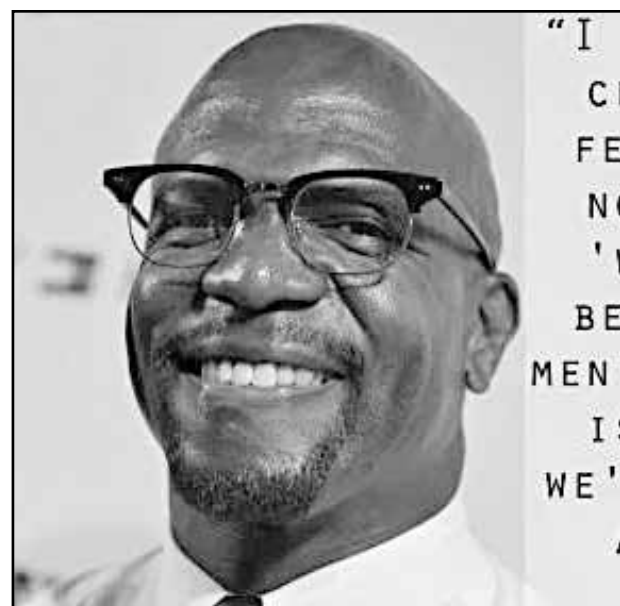
lady Michelle Obama and writer and commentator Roxanne Gay in helping make conversations around Black women's experiences to become more mainstream.

"We've raised a generation of men and boys now who've understood that Black feminism was never about attacking Black men, but actually helping us better recognize our humanity," Neal said.

The Me-Too Movement has also put Black women's experiences back in the forefront. Poet and Activist Jessica Care Moore, who is the Executive Producer of Black Women Rock! said the current times have forced men to reconsider how they interact with women on a regular basis, not just only in more violent cases like sexual assault.



The time has come for men, but especially black men to re-think the meaning of what it means to be masculine.



Terry Crews, the actor gave a detailed account of his painful experience before the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on the Sexual Assault Survivor Bill of Rights, which establishes rights for sexual assault survivors. He opened up about toxic masculinity and sexual assault in hopes of raising awareness and changing the status quo not only in Hollywood but the rest of the country.

sity in Columbus, Ohio.

"In order to get closer to being a positive Black community, we have to address the things that keep us from one another," Lindsey said.

Black queer and trans people are displaced from their homes early on because of homophobia and transphobia they experience from family, and it can be directly traced to toxic masculinity, Lindsey said of her studies in this area. Growing up, young boys are told certain behavior is unacceptable but never given a reason why.

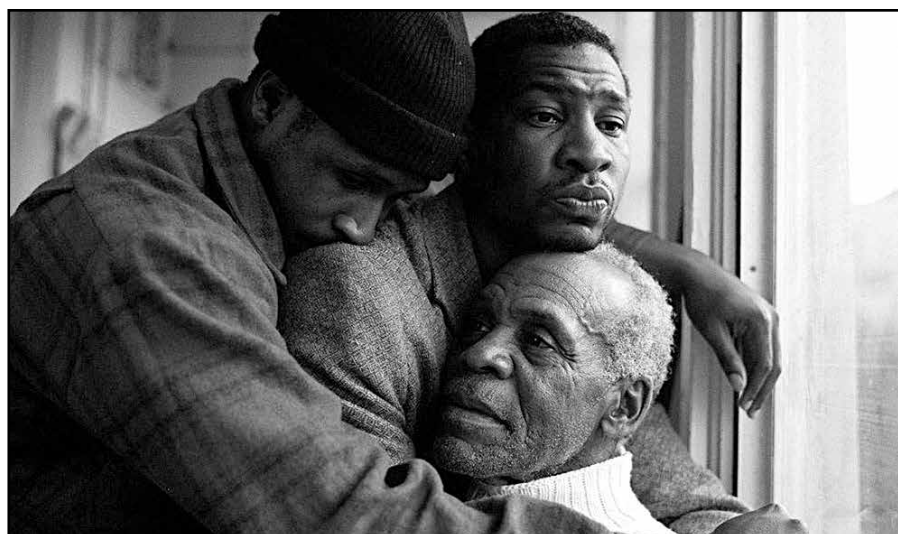
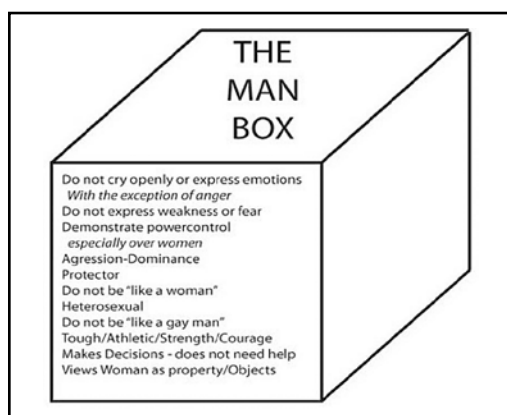
"When I was younger, I always knew I was gay. I just was afraid to talk about it because I was taught it was not okay by my father," said Joe Brown III, a senior at Xavier University of Louisiana. "I grew up around a typical toxic male environment, where I was taught not to cross my legs or walk a certain way, and I always wondered why it was never okay to do those things."

Through art and activism, the panelists shared that the Black community can begin to identify what is toxic behavior, how as a culture this is perpetuated, and how to move forward as a community.

"It's important to note that different people recognize toxic masculinity in different ways," said Khaelyn Jackson, a Dillard sophomore student who attended the discussion. "And that can cause some confusion as to how to address it, and what actions we can take to tackle it."

The panelists agreed that the conversation should not just end with sexual assault but expand to conversations around the treatment of Black women on a daily basis, and homophobia and transphobia, which they admit are still difficult and polarizing conversations in the Black community.

"Homophobia, transphobia, [and] ableism can often pull us apart. So, when we're organizing movements, it's important to keep in mind who is the most vulnerable in our communities," Kimbrough said.



Black masculinity in the media is often portrayed as an emotionless "thug" with anything resembling more moderate features as being too "girly" or feminine. However, in an era of the Me-Too Movement, more men say they must lead conversations around Black masculinity where the subject was taboo before.

develop as a young woman.

"But I also wasn't violated by my father. I was allowed to be a girl, and nobody violated my space," Moore said. "I was able to come into womanhood unscathed and that made a difference in my ability to love men," Moore said.

The fetishization of Black wom-

en is only one outcome of toxic masculinity. Both high levels of homophobia and transphobia in Black culture also stem from widely held notions of Black masculinity, according to Dr. Treva Lindsey, an Associate Professor in the Department of Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies at Ohio State Univer-

Governor John Bel Edwards faces Eddie Rispone in Run-Off on Nov. 16th

Local Races Also on Ballot

E. Benjamin
Data News Weekly Staff
Writer

Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards, a Democrat, in his race for re-election fell short of the majority of the vote needed to win re-election in the primary and will face Republican businessman Eddie Rispone in the general election next month.

Edwards was in a hard-fought race where both President Donald Trump and Vice-President Mike Pence came to the state in an attempt to force Edwards, the only Democratic Governor in the Deep South into a run-off.

In the primary, he received 47 percent of the votes cast, according to the AP, with 99 percent of precincts reporting. Rispone, held off a fellow Republican rival, Rep. Ralph Abraham, besting him with 27 percent versus 24 percent, to capture second place and earn a head-to-head shot against Ed-



Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards and his wife, Donna, celebrated Oct. 12, 2019. | Brett Duke/AP Photo

wards on Nov. 16th.

There were other races on the ballot including, Joseph Bouie winning the race for State Senate District 3 and incumbent Karen Carter Peterson winning big at the polls to continue to represent Louisiana Senate District 5.

In other local races that will be on run-off ballot:

Louisiana State Representative District 91

Robert McKnight will face off Marie Landry.

Louisiana District 97

Eugene Green will face off vs. Matthew Willard.

Louisiana District 99

Adonis Expose' and Candace Newell are also headed to a November run-off.

Data News Weekly encourages all our readers to stay civically engaged, so get out and vote in the Nov. 16th election that is right around the corner. Have a hand in shaping the future of New Orleans.

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Mayor Cantrell provides Update on Hotel Construction Collapse

Data News Staff Edited Report

NEW ORLEANS – Mayor LaToya Cantrell joined public safety officials to provide the most recent updates in the response to the partial collapse of the Hard Rock Hotel building under construction in the downtown area of the city. Two people are confirmed dead with one other person unaccounted for.

“Search and rescue continue to remain our top priority at this time. We want people to heed all traffic precautions that we have put out as we stabilize this area. This is going to be a long process, and we just want people to pay attention to any advisories that come from the Mayor’s Office of Communications,” said Mayor Cantrell, noting that the business week in the affected areas will have major road closures in the downtown area as well as adjustments to public transportation service.



Mayor LaToya Cantrell joined public safety officials to provide the most recent updates in the response to the partial collapse of the Hard Rock Hotel building under construction in the downtown area of the City

Affected residents and businesses are asked to remain patient as these closures are required to ensure public safety.

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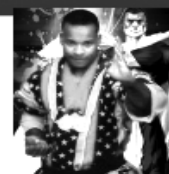
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Gentilly Fest also offered a variety of practical recovery information offered by local organizations and an opportunity for neighbors and friends to come together with

their families in a safe, festive environment to build closer relationships with our police & fire departments, elected officials and each other.

Gentilly Fest supports the New Orleans Police, Fire, EMS, Children's Music camps and other New Orleans organizations that need our help.

This year, Gentilly Fest will also donate funds to the Sports Programs of Pontchartrain Park & Milne Playgrounds and The Roots of Music.

It was another year that was truly amazing, celebrating the culture and heritage of Gentilly and their spirit of giving back and service to others.



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Highlights from Some of Data's Endorsed Candidates

Voters went to the polls on October 12, 2019 during the primary election. Many officers were on the ballot including Governor and other state and local offices. Last week, Data News Weekly endorsed several candidates who either won or made it to the run-off election on Nov. 16.

Right, Robert McKnight pictured with supporters has advanced to run-off in District 91 in November.



Saints Legend Rickey Jackson, Businessman Henry Coaxum, State Senator-Elect Dr. Joseph Bouie, City Councilman Jared Brossett and U.S. Congressman Cedric Richmond at victory celebration for Bouie.



Joe Bouie surrounded by supporters on Election Day.

Far left, top row and at left: District 99 Candidate Adonis Expose' at campaign party surrounded by his supporters. (photos by Glenn Summers)

Visit www.ladatanews.com for more photos from these events



AUDUBON NATURE INSTITUTE EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

WILBERT JOHNSON GUEST SERVICES TEAM LEAD, AUDUBON AQUARIUM OF THE AMERICAS

As a guest services team lead at Audubon Aquarium of the Americas, Wilbert Johnson does one of his favorite things — he helps guests from all over the world have an amazing Audubon experience. Since visiting Audubon Zoo as a child, working at Audubon has been a dream for Wilbert, and he made that dream come true when he applied for a job while in a transition program for people with disabilities. He has been promoted multiple times for his dedication and talent for sharing joy with guests. When he's not making guests' day at the Aquarium, Wilbert volunteers with his church and assists people with disabilities.

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Fashion, Fluidity, Feminism and Pharrell

Music's Fashionable Multihyphenate Talks Masculinity With GQ



Maiysha Kai
Managing Editor, theRoot.com

"I am my most comfortable self when I'm being a character," says Pharrell in his cover story for GQ's "The New Masculinity" issue, where the producer-entertainer-designer dons what this writer immediately characterized as "dorm room comforter chic"...albeit in a cloak from the collaboration between luxury outerwear brand Moncler and Valentino designer Pierpaolo Piccioli.

"When I saw the look, I didn't question it. I still don't know if it's unisex or not. All I knew was, it's going to look amazing, and I think that's the new masculinity. Having the willingness to just be. Just live and let live," Pharrell told GQ. "I mean, how f---g insecure must you be, as a human being, that because you are uncomfortable with doing something, somebody else shouldn't be able to do it? I don't accept that. That's unacceptable to me."

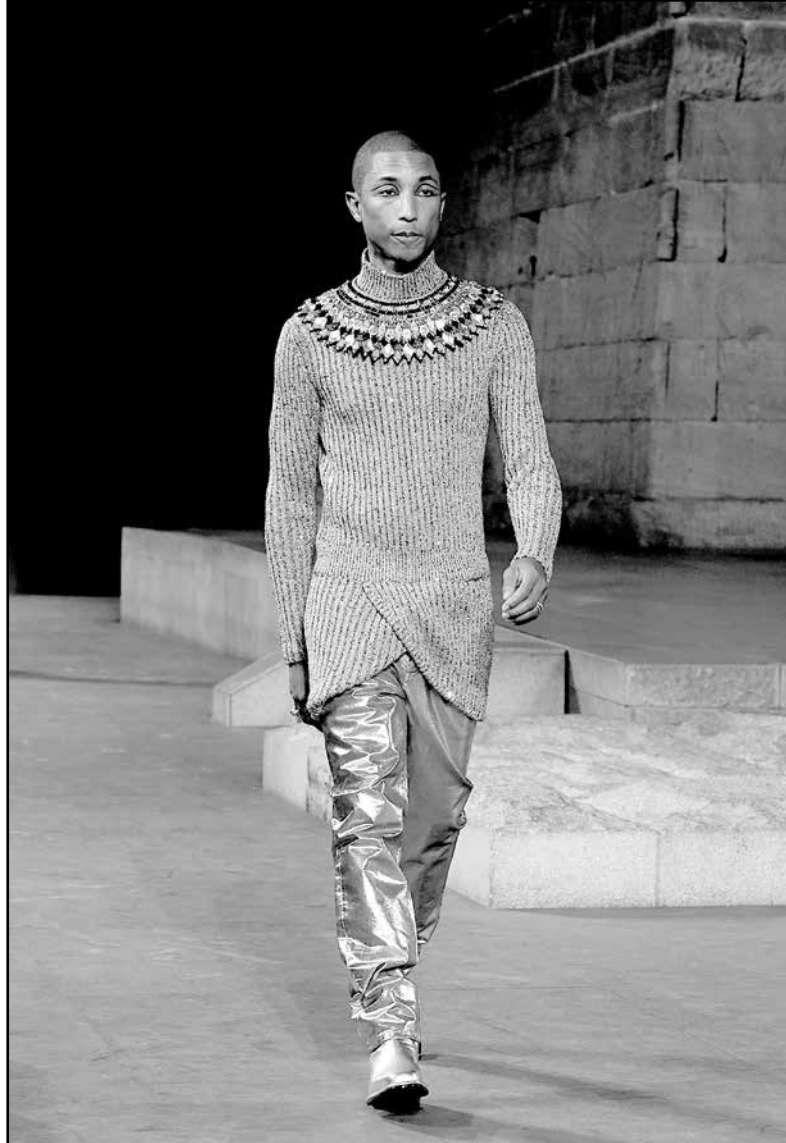
As not only a platinum-selling, award-winning producer and artist, but the first celebrity to collaborate

on a collection with Chanel, Pharrell—like Kanye and Rihanna—has helped propel the next wave of the already existing bridge between hip-hop and luxury fashion. And as a Gen X-er who affectionately calls Jay-Z and Sean Combs his "big brothers" and has weathered the "rapey" backlash (and copyright lawsuit from Marvin Gaye's estate) sparked by "Blurred Lines," his collaboration with Robin Thicke, Pharrell has also been at the uncomfortable cusp of evolution when it comes to the #MeToo and #TimesUp movements.

"Some of my old songs, I would never write or sing today. I get embarrassed by some of that stuff. It just took a lot of time and growth to get to that place...I think 'Blurred Lines' opened me up," he said (though we did hear Pharrell perform a portion of "Blurred Lines" during this year's Essence Fest). "I realized that there are men who use that same language when taking advantage of a woman, and it doesn't matter that that's not my behavior. Or the way I think about things. It just matters how it affects women."

Pharrell also expressed concern for how a binary world continues to affect non-binary identities and psyches.

"What is happening to a transgender person? What are they going through? They feel like their body is not connected to their spirit. And what kind of toxic environment



Pharrell Williams Channels a Pharaoh at Chanel Runway Show

do we live in that they have to justify how they feel? That must feel

incredibly insane. That is spiritual warfare. So I wanted to be in the

conversation. On the surface, it is an older-straight-white-male world. But it has prompted this conversation that I think is deeper than what the new masculinity is or what a non-gender-binary world looks like. I think we're in spiritual warfare.

"Well, when it comes to having this conversation, I don't necessarily know that the masculinity is new as much as the conversation is new," he later added. "That's number one. But I think this is a way that I can speak up at a time where we're in the middle of a spiritual plight. A spiritual war."

That said, while Pharrell believes in freedom for all, he tells GQ his personal expressions still have distinct boundaries.

"I do have my lines. Like, I can't wear no skirt. Nor am I interested in wearing a blouse. That's not my deal. But things that are made for women that I feel will look good on me—that I like—I will wear," he says. "I can just say, for me, the minute that I stopped worrying about what other people thought, and stopped catering to the fears that are taught to you—the minute that I let all that shit go—that's when I started, like Oh, that Chanel belt? I could wear that. That Chanel hat? I like it. I could pull that off...When you listen to yourself and you're comfortable in who you are, you wear what you feel like fits and looks right on you. And that's it."

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Climate Activists urge Small and Big Actions to Address Environmental Change

Hannah Joy Shareef
Data News Weekly
Contributor

Climate change and environmental degradation have become an existential problem for communities, advocates said, yet the topic of climate change is overlooked because people still remain uninformed. Citizens automatically think that when the weather is too cold or too hot, it is a normal environmental occurrence. Residents, activists, and young people participated in climate change awareness activities from hosting a community forum on Sept. 16, 2019, to joining in on the global climate strike on Sept. 20th. South African Activist Desmond D'Sa spoke in solidarity with New Orleans activists on changing the narrative about debates on the environment as part of a Justice & Beyond Climate Change Forum at Café Istanbul.

"I want change, even if the people around me don't want it for themselves," said D'sa 2014 Goldman Environmental Prize Winner, who worked with residents of South Durban to shut down a toxic waste dump in his home country.

"The late 80s and early 90s, I came from an oppressive system. I love to fight for human rights and justice, but the 90s opened my eyes and shaped my thinking that the worse challenges and the worse systems we are facing is a system that is big on making a few people rich," said D'Sa, who lived through South Africa's apartheid.

He shared how the very systems that make some people rich, also make many sick, and their communities toxic. Over-time, industries that harm the environment also harm the well-being of poorer or working-class communities who either suffer the health or climatic impacts of air and environmental pollution.

"When you see people coughing out of nowhere when walking outside that is the climate changing and the senses of the human body reacting to it," D'Sa shared of his experience working in communities in South Africa. "Pollution kills, I know this because my brother



Young residents join in on the national climate strike on Sept. 20 at St. Charles and Napoleon (photos courtesy Justice and Beyond).

had cancer and my daughters and grand-daughters have chronic asthma and I know many people that were healthy in my community who died because of the air being polluted and toxic," D'Sa said.

The effects of climate change and pollution is something that activists in the city shared they were also working to educate citizens on. Hotter temperatures mean more extreme events, particularly since the year 2000, said Attorney Faye Matthews who facilitated the panel of young activists at the forum. Scientists have recorded 2016 as being one of the hottest years in recent history. The impacts of this are connected to summer flooding's in the city, Matthews noted.

"Hurricane Katrina has battered Louisiana. Every time the water floods on a regular day in New Orleans, it feels as though we relive the moment in 2005 when people lost their lives, homes, and cultural identity," Matthews said.

She argued that education on the small steps ordinary citizens can take to combat such problems is the start of protecting vulnerable communities. "Every day the people of New Orleans try to gain their sanity back but fail to do so because of lack of knowledge, communica-

tion skills, and accountability. People don't realize we are the problem, but we can fix the problem if we work together," Matthews said.

At the meeting held at Cafe Istanbul, young activists shared their concerns regarding climate change along with their personal contribu-

tions to save the climate and how they are making other people in the community aware of the toxicity of their communities. They repeated the third-grade lesson to "reuse, reduce and recycle" as being basic steps all residents of all ages can use to minimize pollution. Resi-

dents also shared why it was important for all citizens to do their part for future generations.

"I'm 65 years old and I'm experiencing health issues in my lungs and I ain't never been a smoker. I know it's the air," said Ben Simpson, a resident, and former school teacher, who attended the forum. "The humidity in New Orleans doesn't make no sense and how it floods from the rain on certain days of the week. As old as I am, I want to help. There is still work to be done. I miss sitting outside and watching my grandchildren catch the bus to school and I miss watching second lines throughout the year. I miss experiencing the culture of New Orleans," Simpson said, adding that climate change affects the quality of life.

The activists noted that climate change vigilance starts with each neighbor educating their streets, blocks, and entire communities.

"To give people their life back," D'Sa said, "start by telling your neighbors, friends, sisters, or brothers.... because when you reach someone then you can teach them the road to making our environment better."



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Saints and Tigers Roar to Victory



Quarterback Joe Burrow is leading the LSU Tigers to victory after victory and is atop the list of those this year that is being considered for the Heisman Trophy.



Teddy B, is getting it done, as Saints are 5-1 with him leading the team on the field. The Black and Gold are on a roll.

Fleur De Lis Data News Columnist

This ya peeps Fleur De Lis, it has been another great week for both our Saints and LSU Tigers, who won their games this week. Teddy and company held it down and beat the Jacksonville Jaguars in their own backyard by a score of 13-6 and LSU knocked off their SEC rivals the Florida Gators.

In a low scoring game, Jacksonville Rookie Quarterback Gardner Minshew was harassed, hurried and humbled by the Saints in his worst performance of the season.

But in a strange twist of fate, their victory came just a few hours after



Death Valley is the home of LSU where fans support the Purple and Gold.

Pope Francis accidentally tweeted support for our Saints.

"Today we give thanks to the Lord for our new (hash) Saints," Pope Francis tweeted. "They walked by faith and now we invoke their intercession."

The hashtag and capitalization inadvertently added the Fleur de Lis, the emblem associated with the Saints and worn on their helmets. It was widely regarded as a good omen for New Orleans.

We are thankful whether by accident or not we thank the Pope for his tweet. With this victory, the Saints continued their winning streak and now their record is 5-1 leading the NFC South.

Down the road in Baton Rouge,

the LSU Tigers continue their dominance on offense led by Quarterback Joe Burrow, who is making a bid for the Heisman Trophy where they handled the Florida Gators 42-28.

We are looking good on both fronts as far as our two major football teams are concerned, the Black and Gold and Purple and Gold. These two teams are both symbols of pride for our city and our state.

So, we will continue on our march towards the National Championship supporting our Tigers and of course our Saints getting to Miami in the Superbowl.

Until next time, this is Fleur De Lis signing off.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

On September 13, 2019 the New Orleans Regional Transit Authority (RTA) will release a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the provision of **Ferry Service Operations and Maintenance (O&M)**. The RTA is seeking to engage a qualified firm, or a joint venture of qualified firms, to provide the day-to-day O&M for the passenger and vehicular ferry services crossing the Mississippi River in New Orleans and the vicinity. The deadline for submissions is November 7, 2019. Visit driveRTAforward.com for more information and instructions to proposers.

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ladatanews.com

The Fort Worth Officer who Killed a Woman in her Own Home has Resigned and is Charged with Murder

Data News Weekly Staff
Edited Report

Police-Involved Shooting in Fort Worth

The former Fort Worth police officer who fatally shot Atatiana Jefferson in her home Saturday morning was arrested and charged with murder Monday, police said.

The officer, Aaron Dean, the White police officer in Fort Worth, Texas who fatally shot a Black woman in her own home while she was babysitting her nephew over the weekend has been arrested and charged with murder and posted bail about 3 hours later, officials said. He was being held on a \$200,000 bond, according to the county's inmate information website.

"The family of Atatiana Jefferson is relieved that Aaron Dean has been arrested & charged with murder," Lee Merritt, an attorney for Jefferson's family, said in a statement.

"He did get what I wanted him to get, and this is only the start," Adarius Carr, Jefferson's brother, told CNN. "There's no way this is enough. We know this is a good step in the direction where we want to go, but it's definitely not the end."

There will be "a long road to a prosecution, conviction and an appropriate sentence," Merritt said.

Police declined to say whether Dean was arrested by a Fort Worth officer or if he turned himself in. The department's major case and internal affairs units were "working diligently to conclude the criminal administrative investigation" into the shooting, said Sgt. Chris Daniels.

"We value the trust that we've had in our community, we will continue to build that trust," Daniels said. "To the citizens and residents of our city, we feel and understand your anger and disappointment."

Dean was served a written administrative complaint Sunday, placed on detached duty and stripped of his badge and firearm, interim Police Chief Ed Kraus said. He resigned Monday.

"My intent was to meet with him today to terminate his employment with the Fort Worth Police Department. However, the officer ten-



Flowers are left in front of the home where 28-year-old Atatiana Jefferson was shot and killed by Aaron Dean, a White police officer in Fort Worth, Texas.



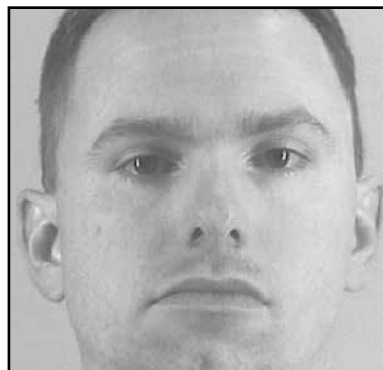
Atatiana Jefferson, a graduate of Xavier University of Louisiana in 2014 with a degree in Biology and worked in pharmaceutical equipment sales was fatally shot by a Fort Worth Police Officer in her own home while she was babysitting her nephew over the weekend. Jefferson had moved into her ailing mother's home earlier this year to take care of her, Merritt said. Her mother was in the hospital on the night her daughter was shot by police.

dered his resignation this morning before we met," Kraus said.

If Dean had not resigned, he would have been fired for several policy violations, including the department's use of force and de-escalation policies, and unprofessional conduct, Kraus said.

The department has presented a preliminary case to the FBI to review the officer's actions for possible civil rights violations, Kraus said.

"None of this information can ease the pain of Atatiana's family but I hope it shows the community



Fort Worth Police Officer Aaron Dean, mugshot after being arrested for fatally shooting Atatiana Jefferson inside her own home.

that we take these incidents seriously," he said.

Dean was hired in August 2017 and commissioned as a licensed officer in April 2018, Kraus said.

'There is nothing that can justify what happened,' mayor says.

Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price said Monday the killing of Jefferson was unjustified.

"I'm so sorry. On behalf of the entire City of Fort Worth, I'm sorry," Price told reporters. "To Atatiana's family, it's unacceptable. There is nothing that can justify what happened on Saturday morning. Nothing."

Police responded to Jefferson's house around 2:25 a.m. Saturday after a concerned neighbor noticed her doors were open in the middle of the night.

The neighbor, James Smith, told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram he called a non-emergency police number for a safety check. He said

he was worried because he knew Jefferson was at home with her nephew.

Officers searched the perimeter of Jefferson's house and saw "a person standing inside the residence near a window," Fort Worth police said.

In heavily edited body camera video released by police, Dean can be seen pointing his weapon at the window and yelling "Put your hands up!"

Show me your hands!" He does not identify himself as a police officer.

Two seconds later, he fired through the window.

A doting aunt who took care of her ailing mother.

Jefferson had moved into her ailing mother's home earlier this year to take care of her, Merritt said. Her mother was in the hospital on the night her daughter was shot by police.

Merritt said Jefferson graduated from Xavier University of Louisiana in 2014 with a degree in Biology and worked in pharmaceutical equipment sales.

"She was very close to her family," Merritt wrote on a GoFundMe page benefiting Jefferson's family. "Her mom had recently gotten very sick, so she was home taking care of the house and loving her life. There was no reason for her to be murdered."

He said the funds collected "will go directly to funeral cost and other expenses associated with this tragedy."

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