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Annual Senator Troy Carter Family and Friends Thanksgiving Dinner

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Data Zone Page 6

November 30 - December 6, 2019 54th Year Volume 31 www.ladatanews.com

A Data News Weekly Exclusive



46TH ANNUAL Bayou Classic

New Orleans Get Ready for the Battle of the Cats


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46th Annual Bayou Classic

New Orleans Get Ready for the Battle of the Cats



Left to right: Mrs. Janis Bluford, Southern University head football coach Dawson Odums, Southern University President Dr. Ray L. Belton, New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell, Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser, Grambling State University President Rick Gallot, Grambling State University Head Football Coach Broderick Fobbs.



The Bayou Classic, football, fun and celebrating the spirit of Black Excellence.

Data News Weekly Staff Edited Report

The Bayou Classic that’s in its 46th year has become more than a football game. In its nearly 50 years of existence; it is one of the Nation’s greatest college sports rivalries, bringing the fans and alumni of Grambling State University Tigers and the Southern University

Jaguars to New Orleans each November. What was once a two-day event is now a week-long list of festivities featuring a Parade, Greek Show & Battle of the Bands and Fan Festival culminates with Saturday’s Bayou Classic football match-up and half-time show that is as of much interest as the game? This year’s big game will determine who will win

the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) West Division Title. “The Bayou Classic is an event that highlights our great HBCU’s,” remarked New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell, at the game’s Annual Press Conference surrounded by state leaders and representatives of Southern and Grambling.

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P.O. Box 57347, New Orleans, LA 70157-7347 | Phone: (504) 821-7421 | Fax: (504) 821-7622
editorial: datanewseditor@bellsouth.net | advertising: datanewsad@bellsouth.net

Terry B. Jones CEO/Publisher	Contributors E. Benjamin Fleur De Lis Charles Dickerson City of New Orleans Data News Weekly Staff Writers	Art Direction & Production Pubinator.com
Edwin Buggage Editor	Andreanecia Morris Darcie Ortique Cora Lester Derick E. Hingle/ USA Today Sports Chuck Cook - USA Today Sports	Editorial Submissions datanewseditor@bellsouth.net
Sharonda Green Executive Assistant		Advertising Inquiries datanewsad@bellsouth.net
June Hazeur Accounting		Distribution On The Run Courier Services

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Cover Story, Continued from page 2.

Dedication to Education: Southern University Systems and its Rich Legacy

Many know Southern as its main campus located in Baton Rouge and SUNO that is located in New Orleans but it's much more than that. What began as a dream more than 136 years ago is today a living legacy of determination, commitment, and success. The Southern University and A&M College System is the only Historically Black University System in America.

The System has a diverse enrollment of more than 12,000 students with locations in Louisiana's capital City of Baton Rouge, New Orleans, and Shreveport. A Law School and Agricultural and Research Center also are located in Baton Rouge. The System campuses appeal to students with various undergraduate, graduate, and professional degree offerings.

Widespread accomplishments of faculty and alumni have positively impacted society at every level. With a strong foundation, a proven record of achievement, and a fresh vision for the future, Southern University's charge to advance the mission of its founders' remains at the heart of our administrators, faculty, students, and alumni.

Sheryl Underwood Named an Ambassador of Bayou Classic

The Classic has always been a place where celebrities come to show their support of HBCUs. This year, comedian, actress, and television host Sheryl Underwood has been named an Ambassador of the upcoming 46th Annual Bayou Classic. Best known as the co-host of the Emmy-Award-Winning, CBS-television-show "The Talk," Underwood is committed to using her visibility and influence in positive ways. She is Founder & Chief Executive Officer of the Pack Rat Foundation for Education (PRFFE, 501c3) and is currently raising money to support Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and the students committed to pursuing a higher education.

"It is an honor and privilege to be an Ambassador for the 46th Annual Bayou Classic – the granddaddy of all football classics," said Sheryl Underwood, Ambassador for the 46th Annual Bayou Classic. "From our earliest beginnings, we knew that higher education was the key to jobs and freedom. Our families wanted more for their children which led many to HBCU's."

The Bayou Classic, ranked as the #1 HBCU Classic in the Nation

Since 1974 during the Thanksgiving Holiday weekend, New



Battle of the Bands and the halftime show on game day are must sees at the Bayou Classic !!



Sheryl Underwood has been named an Ambassador of the upcoming 46th Annual Bayou Classic.



Dr. Robyn Merrick, Vice President of External Affairs, Southern University

Orleans has experienced a rivalry that brings people from all over the country to what is known as the "Battle of the Cats."

Today, the Bayou Classic and New Orleans are synonymous. In

its nearly five decades; it has grown to include empowerment seminars, a parade, fan festival and much more. Given this is New Orleans, of course, parties also take place all over the city, as people come

together in the spirit of friendly rivalry, but most important the game and the many events are done to promote African American unity.

In this scenario, the scoreboard doesn't matter, and we all win as

we display Black Excellence every year.

List of Events for Bayou Classic:

FRIDAY

Coaches Luncheon (Invitation Only)

Friday, November 29, 2019
Hyatt Regency New Orleans 601 Loyola Avenue NOLA 70113
12:00 N – 1:30 PM

Bayou Classic BizTech Challenge Presented by LED

Friday, November 29, 2019
Hyatt Regency Hotel, 601 Loyola Ave, NOLA 70113
Doors Open at 1:00 PM

Greek Show Presented by Be the Match

& Battle of the Bands Presented by United States Marine Corps
Friday, November 29, 2019
Mercedes Benz-Superdome
1500 Sugarbowl Drive NOLA 70112
Doors Open at 6:00 PM | Show starts at 7:00 PM

SATURDAY

Doc Griggs 2X Around the Dome

Saturday, November 30, 2019
Mercedes Benz-Superdome
1500 Sugarbowl Drive NOLA 70112
8:00 AM

Bayou Classic Parade Presented by Cricket Wireless

Saturday, November 30, 2019
The Parade starts on Elysian Fields Ave. at N. Peters St. and finishes on Loyola Ave. at Perdido St.
9:30 AM

Fan Festival Presented by Cox

Saturday, November 30, 2019
Champions Square - Lasalle St, NOLA 70112
11:30 AM – 3:30 PM

The 46th Annual Bayou Classic

Southern University vs. Grambling State University
Saturday, November 30, 2019
Mercedes Benz-Superdome
1500 Sugarbowl Drive NOLA 70112
KICK-OFF at 4:00 PM

The Bayou Classic Halftime Show

Saturday, November 30, 2019
Mercedes Benz-Superdome
1500 Sugarbowl Drive NOLA 70112

E. Benjamin Contributed to this Report

Ransomware Attack on Louisiana Causes Governor John Bel Edwards to Declare a State of Emergency

**Data News Weekly Staff
Edited Report**

Last week's Ransomware Attack led to multiple state servers being shut down and closed agencies like the OMV for multiple days. This caused Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards to declare a State of

Emergency Friday following the Ransomware Attack on Louisiana. The declaration allows the several agencies to take actions, including waiving fees and fines, in relation to services that have been temporarily cut off by the attack. Louisiana's Technology Office expects to have all state agencies

resuming normal operations by early this week. It was discovered that ten percent of the state's 5,000 computer network's servers that power operations across state government and

1,600 PCs were damaged by this week's Ransomware Attack. The attack happened early on the morning of November 18, 2019. The state quickly took down computer network systems after they

detected an outside intrusion. An investigation into the source of the attack is ongoing. State employees sidelined by the downed servers did not have their pay affected, officials said.



Annual Senator Troy Carter Family and Friends Thanksgiving Dinner

Tis' the Season for Turkey! People from around the city joined State Senator Troy Carter for his Annual Thanksgiving Dinner on Saturday, November 23, 2019 at Behrman Gymnasium, 2529 General Meyer Avenue.

Those who attended had a great time eating Thanksgiving Dinner with all of the trimmings; in addition there was live entertainment. It was a fun-filled event for the entire family!



State Senator Troy Carter and people enjoying Thanksgiving dinner.



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



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-NATIONAL AVG. DEALER DISCOUNT \$2,839
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TOTAL
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2020 City Budget Is A Good Start But Much More Needs To Be Done

Put People First



Andreanecia Morris
Executive Director,
HousingNOLA

In this season of Thanksgiving, we have to look back on 2019 and reflect on how well or poorly we reacted to the challenges that continue to plague New Orleans. Unfortunately, our efforts continue to fall short even when we manage to achieve the miraculous. We have been dreading the Quadrennial Assessment, knowing that the unchecked Affordability Crisis would make an impact. Last year,

JP Morrell's Constitutional Amendment gave homeowners a chance for some relief. This year, we hoped that our local officials would do their part for renters and homeowners. We got Proposition 4, a ballot initiative that would give the City of New Orleans the chance to add tax relief to its affordability tool kit, but it came with a catch.

Instead of working on the rule promulgation and then putting it on the ballot later—the constitutional amendment was on the ballot with a host of legislative races and the primary for the governor's race. The measure only passed in New Orleans. Given that New Orleansians decided to not add the 3 mills the Mayor was requesting, but inexplicably chose to permanently dedicate short-term rental funding to the tourism industry. We also decided to allocate 5% of 500 million

towards the Affordable Bond Funding that will take years to raise. We're stuck in a never-ending loop, where we only do just enough to barely keep above water.

The 2020 Budget Process has followed the same path. While the City Council and Mayor agreed on a partial roll forward that would increase funding to the Neighborhood Housing Improvement Fund (NHIF), we also learned that there is \$8 million still sitting in the NHIF. The budget also failed to account for adequate enforcement of STR policies and the implementation of the Smart Housing Mix. Most troubling was the failure to fund the Continuum of Care Request for \$1.55 million for Rapid Re-Housing and Problem-Solving Services. The 2019 Point in Time (PIT) Count showed that there were 1,800 first time street homeless and providing

this funding would help prevent the same for the 2020 PIT.

We are also missing desperately needed state resources to provide transitional housing to the men and women who are being released from prison as a part of the Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI) – indeed there are incarcerated people who in jail today because they do not have a place to call home. The mayor and council have committed to work with advocates and Affordable Housing Providers, but we have to look at the results of those prior commitments. The 2019 HousingNOLA Report Card shows only a 65% adoption rate of policies that the mayor and council agreed on when the plan was launched in 2015 and they have recommitted to these priorities every year since.

UNITY's Martha Kegel, calls the fact that the Council has indicated

its interest in continuing to work with the Continuum of Care to reduce homelessness "important and heartening." She urges us to "not be deterred by the fact that they did not include this request explicitly in the 2020 budget" as this very first time "we have ever made a specific request to the Mayor and Council to use local funds to end homelessness." I agree with Martha and we know that it will take much more effort on all of our parts to get everyone to #PutHousingFirst, but I do know that we can no longer wait, and we certainly cannot have this exact conversation next Thanksgiving. We will be working with our Community Engagement Working Group and partners to chart a course that brings this issue to a head as we see this crisis moving to full-blown disaster is, we continue on our current course.

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Obesity Among Black Women Outrageously High

Part 1

Darcie Ortique
NNPA/OW Contributor

African American women are reportedly more susceptible to being overweight or obese than any other race. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health has reported that roughly four out of five African American women are either overweight or suffering from obesity. This statistic has a lot to do with the long-standing history of the African American culture, socioeconomic status, stress, and dietary habits that have been passed down from one generation to another.

Betty Busby, 55, has struggled with her weight since high school. "It's in my genes to be chubby, and I have always thanked God that I have a man that loves my shape," she said. "He still thinks I'm sexy with my

small waistline, big hips, and thighs. I will be forever grateful for that."

However, Busby's significant other has been upset—and sometimes frustrated—with her recent drop in weight and size of her hips. "I'm attempting to improve my health by dieting and exercising," Busby explained. She is under a diet regimen and is taking medication for high cholesterol and hypertension after feeling the pain of extra lower-body weight. "I sometimes get annoyed because he is constantly [overseeing] my meals and complains about the difference in hip size."

Living with Constant Harassment

In addition to health issues, Busby said her shape has caused problems in shopping for clothing that smaller women can typically buy off-the-rack. Men are often



verbally assertive with unsolicited comments and reactions to well-

endowed women.

"As a young adult, I had to

learn to live with the harassment," she said. "Butt slaps were really offensive. I just hated when a guy would not back down with coming up to me in a public place. I asked one guy why he was so persistent, and he responded with: 'I'm afraid if I go home without your number, I'll never meet someone like you again.'"

Busby also said the work world can be a tricky environment, particularly if you encounter a female superior with different [smaller] physical attributes than you. "Males will move boxes for you, open doors and pay special attention to you," said Busby who is employed by the Los Angeles Department of Public Social Services.

Part 2 will explore cultural standards of beauty and perceptions of fitness for African American women.

Commentary

Be Thankful



Charles Dickerson
Data News Weekly Columnist

We are at the time of year where we all gather as family and friends to give thanks. And while I am one who celebrates the Holiday of Thanksgiving and appreciates the sense of selflessness and giving it brings out; this is a spirit we should carry out year-round.

It is something that is very important in the times we live where people are so divided, as well as being unsatisfied and in a state of discontent with their lives. This is oftentimes connected to people feeling they do not have enough "stuff" making them unhappy with their lot in life.

But I am here to tell you that getting the most out of life is about how you look at it. It is a matter of perspective that is key to one's success and happiness. How so many of us we gauge our success in America is, unfortunately, a by-product of our capi-

talist society that many often equate excess with success, measuring success by bigness and external things.

I say this not to discourage one from achieving or aspiring to have material things, but I am suggesting also look at other things in your life to measure your success. What is your family life like, do you have a relationship with God, and how do you treat others? It is my view; success in life is mostly internal. I think if more people took this approach, they could be more content, get along with others and have a different worldview that would be more positive and optimistic.

In my opinion, if we spent more time looking inward and being thankful for what we have and not look at others to judge our success and progress; our lives would be much better. I encourage all to continue to strive to make your life better, but it would take the pressure off if every individual would focus on running their own race, and in their own lane. In this way; they can enjoy life as their own unique journey and measure success and happiness on their own terms.

"And Remember...That Little Things Mean A Lot"

So, on this Thanksgiving, I say be thankful for the life you have not only on this day, but every day.



Southern University System Foundation JAG TALKERS: Quionne Dabney, Kadarius Walker, and Courtney Johnson



To the Jaguar Nation,

Thank you for your continued support of the students, faculty, staff, and campuses of the Southern University System. Enjoy the City of New Orleans and the 45th Annual Bayou Classic.

The **Southern University System Foundation** is a private, nonprofit corporation established to secure financial support for each of the five campuses of the Southern University System. The Foundation is a voluntary institute of business and professional leaders, proudly incorporated to provide broader educational advantages to our students, encourage research among our faculty, and advance the University's role in helping to build an increasingly functional Louisiana.

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Nov 24, 2019; New Orleans, LA, USA; New Orleans Saints fans in the stands celebrate after a win against the Carolina Panthers at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome. Photo: Derick E. Hingle-USA TODAY Sports



Drew Brees Running off the field after their dramatic 34-31 victory over the Carolina Panthers...Give this man 2 minutes with the ball and anything is possible.

Fleur De Lis Data News Weekly Columnist

This is Fleur De Lis wishing all my NOLA folks Happy Thanksgiving. All I can say about this week's game is "whew" in their 34-31 win against the Carolina Panthers. Now they are four games up in the NFC South.

They are now 9-2 and are a game away from clinching their third straight NFC South Division Title. Next week if we beat up on the dirty birds of Atlanta, we can clinch the division and then fight to become the number one seed in the NFC playoffs.

We got San Francisco coming up in the next few weeks, which may be a preliminary for the NFC Championship game. I feel we have what it takes to knock them off and this year get to the Super Bowl in Miami. Even though we were one bad call away from making it last

year but let me stick to this year's team who is getting it done.

This year the Saints have shown that they have found all kinds of ways to win and that they can overcome injuries and adversity to make the big plays and win games.

This week they got it done, while not the best-played game, they made key plays and capitalized on the mistakes of the Panthers. This game was truly a nail biter that kept all of us on the edge of our seats. The fans in the stadium and all the fans cheered with excitement as in the final seconds the Saints put together a game-winning drive and Wil Lutz connected on a field goal to give the Saints a victory the same way he did in week one against the Houston Texans.

We got the W, I guess that's what matters, but this game should have been an easy game for our Saints, who are by far a better team than the Panthers. But as we move to



Nov 24, 2019; New Orleans, LA, USA; New Orleans Saints defensive end Cameron Jordan with his daughters before their game against the Carolina Panthers at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome. Photo: Chuck Cook-USA TODAY Sports

the playoffs where we will be playing the league's best, we have to put our best foot forward and play with consistency.

So now onto Atlanta on Thanks-

giving Day, which we hope will be a day where we will celebrate clinching the division and be second lining both in the N.O. and in the A.

In closing to all my NOLA peo-

ple, I say Happy Thanksgiving and Bayou Classic. Get out and enjoy your family, friends and loved ones. Be thankful for what you got and live your best life.

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New Orleans City Council Adopts 2020 City Budget

City of New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS - After several weeks of budget hearings, the Council adopted the City's 2020 Operating and Capital Budgets, concluding the Annual Budget Review Process and establishing spending levels for the coming year. Prior to the meeting, the City held a special Revenue Estimating Conference to adopt an adjusted 2020 revenue forecast and capture newly identified sources of revenue.

Since October 17, when Mayor LaToya Cantrell appeared before the Council to present a proposed \$721.9 million Annual Operating Budget from the City's general fund, the Council has held a rigorous budget review process to learn the needs of each department and listen to residents' concerns. As a result of the budget revenue process, the Council adopted an amended operating budget totaling \$725.9 million, which represents an increase of \$4 million.

"Today is a historic one for the City of New Orleans and our children. We're setting an unprecedentedly high bar for the State of Louisiana and the entire country with this incredible investment in our young people. We've gone from \$750,000 two years ago, to \$1.5 million in 2018, to an unprecedented \$3 million for early childhood education in 2020. I'm extremely grateful to my colleagues, the Administration, and my staff for the months of hard work that went into this budget. Our future and that of our children, has never been brighter," said District "D" Councilmember and Budget Chair Jared Brossett.

2020 Budget highlights include funding for the following:

- Early Childhood Education programs to expand access to quality early childcare and education in New Orleans (doubling funding by \$1.5M to bring the allocation to \$3M)
- Total Community Action to purchase a food pantry freezer to store food provides low-income vulnerable individuals/families with food supplements (\$8,000)
- Demolition of the blighted Higgins Gate apartment complex (\$800,000)
- Algiers Water Management Study (\$250,000)
- Code Enforcement to address quality of life needs and eliminate blight (\$700,000)



Bottom row L-R Helena Moreno, Council-at-Large, Cyndi Nguyen, Council District E, Kristin Gisleson Palmer, Council District C. Top Row L-R Jared C. Brossett, Council District D, Jason Rogers Williams, Council-at-Large, Joseph I. Giarrusso III, Council District A, Jay H. Banks, Council District B.

- Department of Health for mobile decibel monitors to address noise concerns (\$45,000)
- Department of Health for a Domestic Violence Initiative (\$250,000)

"I'm very pleased with the collaboration of the budget process," said Councilmember-At-Large Helena Moreno. "My colleagues and I on this Council have been laser-focused on making New Orleans a more affordable city to live in since we began in 2018. Today, the Council followed through by lowering - not raising - property taxes at a time when assessments are skyrocketing and potentially forcing long term homeowners out of their neighborhoods. The Council also made clear its priorities: infrastructure and public safety. I'm also proud that we once again doubled funding for early childhood education and allocated specific funding for domestic violence initiatives."

Throughout this year's budget hearings, Councilmember Brossett led a negotiation process with the Mayor's Administration to ensure critical initiatives and services are funded while minimizing the burden on our residents' tax bills. Given that the 2020 tax year is a quadrennial reassessment year, there has been considerable discus-

sion regarding the reassessment process and the rising property tax assessments that resulted, leading to heightened concern among residents about their tax bills and the effect a potential roll forward could have on that bill.

In a reassessment year, the Council may roll forward millages up to the maximum authorized rates. Recognizing the concerns of residents, Councilmember Brossett ensured the redirection of certain millages to fund public safety and infrastructure while reducing (rolling back) other millages during the negotiation process with the Administration. This redirection of millages allows the Council to ensure critical initiatives and services are funded while remaining revenue-neutral.

Key millages being funded:

- New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) & Fire Department (NOFD)
- Sewerage & Water Board (S&WB)
- City Alimony
- Neighborhood Housing Improvement Fund (NHIF)

Certain millages being levied below the rollback millage rate:

- Economic Development Fund
- Capital Improvement Fund
- Audubon Park
- New Orleans Public Library

"This budget is a true collaboration of the Administration and the Council to improve critical services that our City values and expects. We worked diligently to approve a budget that shows our shared priorities such as public safety, infrastructure, quality of life, economic development, and most importantly, the children of this City. I applaud everyone involved for a continued focus of providing better education outcomes for New Orleans' most vulnerable children by funding early childhood education, investing in our fire and police departments to ensure they have the resources to better serve our citizens, and securing much-needed monies to finally clean up, Higgins Gate, a huge blighted property in Algiers which I hope will spur new development on the West Bank," said District "C" Councilmember Kristin Gisleson Palmer.

"Today, we protected funding for vital public services in a smart way," said District "A" Councilmember Joe Giarrusso. "Government's first job is to provide those public services responsibly. This deal between the Mayor and Council concentrates on the quality of life issues with spending for first responders, streets, drainage, maintenance, and other fundamental needs."

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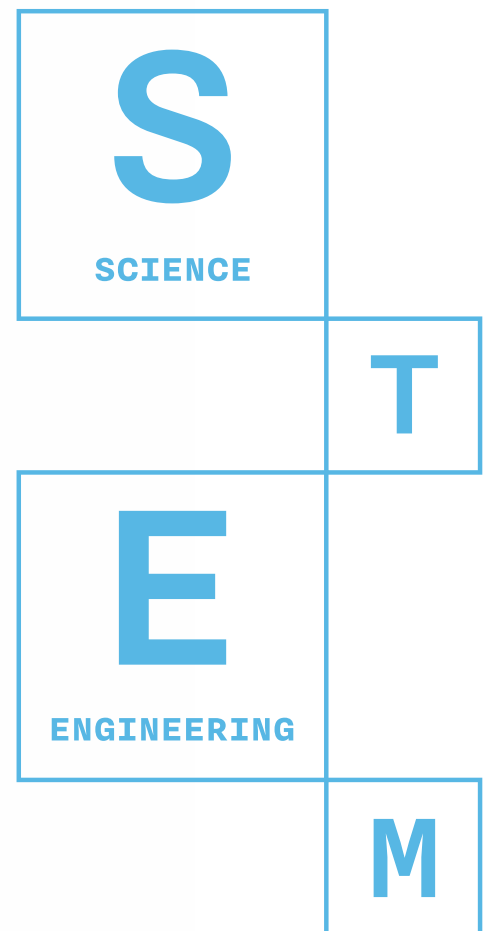
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