

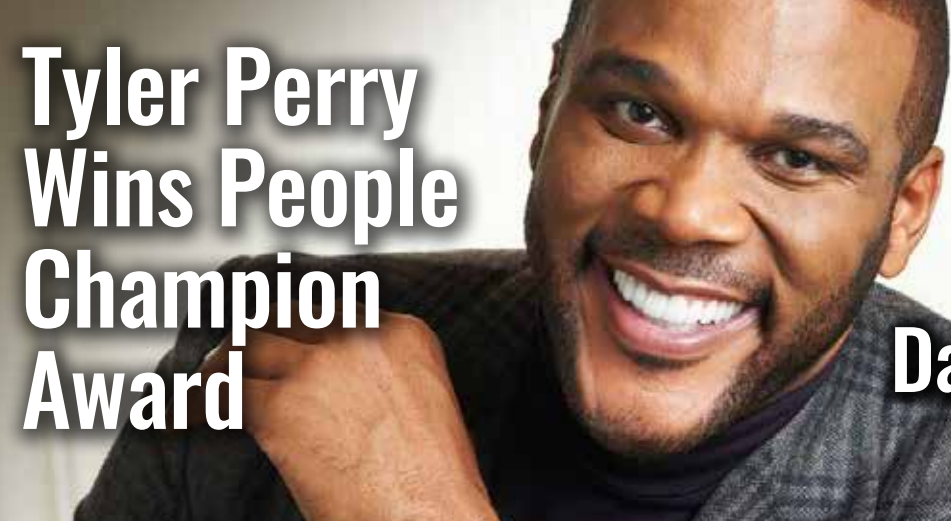
Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"




Tyler Perry Wins People Champion Award

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A Data News Weekly Exclusive



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LaToya Cantrell

The People's Mayor

Leading During Historic Times

Edwin Buggage
Editor-in-Chief

In these historic times for our nation and world as we are living through a Pandemic as well as an election that's testing the fabric of our Democracy; Data News Weekly recently spoke to New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell about these issues and a host of other things facing the City of New Orleans.

In her time in public life Cantrell as a politician has always shown a sense of sincerity and concern for those who have the least. It is this bottom up approach to leadership that's made her a champion among those often who do not have a voice representing them in the halls of power.

The Need for Investing in Infrastructure, Early Childhood, Libraries, Affordable Housing and Economic Development

On this day Cantrell is not only speaking more broadly about the historical moments we are facing in the City and nation, but of her support of three millage proposals that will be on the ballot in the December 5th election brining help to the City in the areas of Early Childhood Education and Libraries, Infrastructure, Affordable Housing and Economic Development.

The City over the years have had monies invested in these areas before, but Mayor Cantrell is taking an approach she feels is more efficient and most importantly sustainable and built around the growth of the City where all the citizens can prosper and have access to resources and a better quality of life.

"A millage renewal package is to keep resources very intentional about how we restructure it, and it will come to voters as a tax decrease proposition infrastructure and to maintain and upgrade projects across the entire City. We have never had a dedicated fund for maintenance. Since Katrina we have invested 1.5 billion, but no so call source of funds to maintain the investments we made."

"Early Childhood Education and libraries are important because we must invest in our young people



Mayor Cantrell is leading the effort against the spread of COVID-19 in the City of New Orleans. She is also a champion fighting for equity and opportunities for all residents of the City.

and also maintain our libraries as they are a valuable resource to our community."

"Affordable Housing and Economic Development are issues that are at the forefront and as a City we must pivot towards a more diverse economy to growth sectors and workforce development to ways we have not done before to build our people up. This will help lift our entire City if all our people have opportunities to have a job that can provide them the ladder to a better life."

Civic Engagement and Voting Matters in Shaping the Direction of the City of New Orleans (bold)

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Cover Story, Continued from page 2.



New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell continues to work with leaders from all sectors to move the City in a bold and new direction under her leadership.



New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell is an inspiration to women and girls to believe that all things are possible.



Mayor Cantrell stressing the importance of voting and civic engagement as key to empowerment.

People went to the polls across the City and nation in record numbers during the November Election. But what is expected is a drop in voting in the run-off, but Cantrell is optimistic and encourages the voters to stay civically engaged.

"I believe it is important for people to vote and get involved and having a voice on the direction of their community. We wanted to put our best foot forward to support this budget renewal and also

in the form of a tax decrease. These millage proposals are important because it aligns with the needs of our community and works to improve the quality of life in our City."

Affordable Housing continues to be an issue in a City that is experiencing gentrification that's changing some of the fabric of the neighborhoods. This is an issue that's divided the City. Mayor Cantrell is an advocate of progress, but also believes that the need for Affordable

Housing and the rich diversity of the residents of the City is important to maintain.

"We do not want to create pockets of poverty in our City. The need for Affordable Housing is needed everywhere and no one should be blocked out of any neighborhood. We are looking at this through an equity lens, and we continue to ask the Neighborhood Advisory

Committee for their very valuable input."

On the Millage that focuses on Affordable Housing, Mayor Cantrell says it can assist both renters and homeowner programs the City already has in place and she is taking a long-term approach to fixing this problem that is plaguing the City.

By passing this millage, it will give us the flexibility and

enable us to continue our Rental Assistance Programs that are operating. It will also give much needed help to our homeowner community because we are seeing them struggle to pay their mortgages. Our plan is one that takes a long-term approach that will help us immediately works to align us as a City with the needs of the community that may change over

the course of 20 years."

All People Matter... The Need for Equity

While there's economic activity and investment in new businesses that's occurring in the City, much of it many African American businesses and residents are not experiencing opportunities

Cover Story,
Continued on page 7.



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Tyler Perry Wins People Champion Award

New Orleans Native Continues to Inspire

Data News Staff Edited Report

Media Mogul Tyler Perry took home the coveted People's Champion Award at the 2020 E! People's Choice Awards on Sunday, honoring the 51-year-old trailblazing career and deep commitment to philanthropy.

After a heartfelt introduction from Tiffany Haddish, Perry took the stage at Barker Hangar in Santa Monica, California, and was joined remotely, via walls of monitors, by all his employees and staff at his production studios in Atlanta, Georgia.

Perry's inspirational speech focused largely on the importance of dedication, even in the face of seemingly insurmountable obstacles and unrelenting frustration. He used the metaphor of digging for wells, searching for water in realizing your dreams.

"Why am I talking about digging for water? In this world, we're all digging wells, in our lives, digging wells in relationships, we put in time and effort and energy and sometimes it doesn't give us what we need," Perry shared. "Time and effort and energy into dreams and business and it doesn't give us what we were after."

He continued with his passionate speech saying...

"But if you just keep digging... you may be four inches away from every gift and every blessing you ever wanted in your life. Had I given up when I was homeless, sleeping in my car, hungry, had I given up these people that you see on the screen right now wouldn't be part of my dream."

"Let me tell you something, listen to me, when you get there, to that water, and see it coming and know you have what you need, this is what I want you to always remember – make sure that

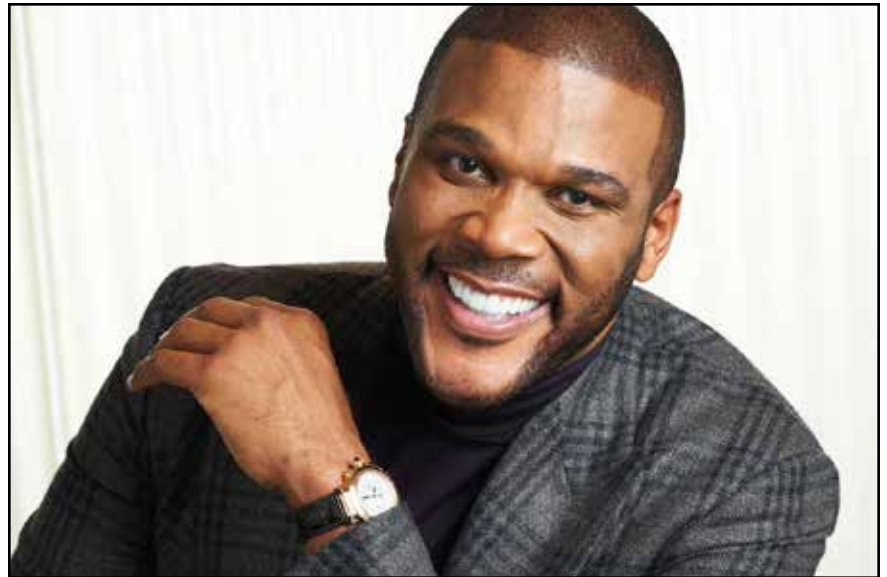


Tyler Perry continues to inspire and give back.

everybody you run into meets you at your worth," Perry concluded to resounding cheers.

In 2019, Perry celebrated the grand opening of Tyler Perry Studios in Atlanta, the first Black-owned Major Film Production Studio in the country. In the last 20 years, the New Orleans native has gone from battling homelessness to becoming a billionaire.

The People's Champion Award is the latest in a slew of accolades that Perry has earned this year, such as being named one of Time Magazine's 100 Most Influential People of 2020 and accepting the Governor's Award at the Emmys. Perry was also recently honored with the Wall Street Journal's 2020 Entertainment Innovator Award.



New Orleans native Tyler Perry went from sleeping in his car to becoming a billionaire. His story is one of prayer, passion and perseverance.

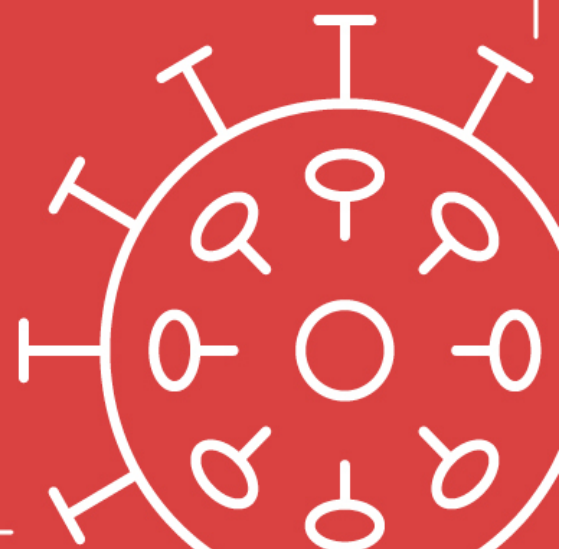
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What's Coming Is Better Than What is Gone

Diva Dionne Character
Female Empowerment Columnist

Queens on Thrones

The voices of women have been echoing for generations and while some of us are still screaming to the top of our lungs like school girls on black tops for rights and equality, we can finally take a breather because yesterday is long gone, and the only things that really matter now is- where will you be tomorrow and how will you begin to love yourself more today?

As women, we have the right to live a limitless life with no boundaries, moving forward, joining forces with others who have been suffering from a lack of self-love and admiration as we evolve.

Girl, it is time for you to start loving you more. It is time you start placing yourself in the front of the line, so that you can shine and grow into something more beautiful with bigger dreams. It's time for you to start realizing that your



"Diva" Dionne Character empowering women as a writer, blogger, speaker and musical performer.

life is more important because when the Queen is tired the entire kingdom will collapse. It is time to start by saying yes to you and no to those who have been taking advantage of your kindness, bringing you dead flowers expecting you to nurse them back to life.

Yesterday will only be as painful as you make it today. Start loving yourself more and the universe will grant you more opportunities because you are worthy of a million great things. You have the power to keep your heart free of other people's problems, so that you can tap into your own greatness.

Stand tall at the beginning of the line because what's coming will be far more beautiful than you'll ever recall. Focus your attention on you and let those things that have been holding you back go as we approach this new season of opportunities.

Dionne Character can be reached at characterinhollywood@gmail.com.

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Early Voting November 20th - 28th

Eric Connerly
Data News Weekly
Contributor

Residents of New Orleans will be going back to the polls for early voting for the December 5, 2020 Election.

Early voting is Nov. 20th - 28th from 8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. (excluding Sunday, Nov. 22nd, Thursday, Nov. 26th, (Thanksgiving), and Friday, Nov. 27th (Acadian Day); early voting is advanced one day because of the holidays).

During the Primary in November several races were decided at the City, state, and national levels. Where citizens braved long lines to let their voices be heard.

On the ballot is the runoff for District Attorney, several races for Judge and the School Board.

There is a constitutional amendment and three millage proposals



Early voting is taking place from November 20-28 for the December 5, 2020 run-off election.

that have to do with infrastructure, library and early childhood education, and housing and economic development.

The deadline to request an absentee by mail ballot is Dec. 1 by 4:30 p.m. You can request an absentee by mail ballot online through

our Voter Portal or in writing. To mail a request for an absentee ballot, please select and print the application that best meets your needs.

1. General absentee application 2. Disability application 3. Military/Overseas application.

The deadline for a registrar of voters to receive a voted mail ballot is Dec. 4th by 4:30 p.m. (other than military and overseas voters).

Early Voting Sites
City Hall
1300 Perdido Street, Room 1W24
New Orleans, LA 70112

Algiers Courthouse
225 Morgan Street, Room 105
New Orleans, LA 70114

Chef Menteur Voting Machine Warehouse Site
8870 Chef Menteur Highway
New Orleans, LA 70126

Lake Vista Community Center
6500 Spanish Fort Blvd.
New Orleans, LA 70124

Commentary

New Coronavirus Vaccine Requires 'Trust' of African American Community



Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

News that Pfizer and BioNTech's announcement that their coronavirus vaccine was more than 90 percent effective in preventing COVID-19 among those without previous infection arrives as the United States continues to realize record-breaking new cases.

For the first time on Thursday, November 12, the country surpassed 150,000 new coronavirus cases in a single day.

The total number of cases soared past 10.5 million, according to Johns Hopkins University.

Both California and Texas have recorded more than 1 million total cases, while states like Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey have seen significant rises in COVID infections.

The most recent available statistics show that the District of Columbia has more than 18,500 total positive cases and 657 deaths. Washington, DC health officials have administered nearly 572,000 COVID tests to roughly 272,000 residents.

More than 242,000 people have died in the United States since the declaration of the outbreak of the pandemic in March. Health officials have expressed that the new vaccine offers real hope for the future.

"It is a great day for science and humanity. The first set of results from our Phase 3 COVID-19 vaccine trial provides the initial evidence of our vaccine's ability to prevent COVID-19," Dr. Albert Bourla, Pfizer Chairman and CEO, offered

in a news release.

"We are reaching this critical milestone in our vaccine development program at a time when the world needs it most, with infection rates setting new records, hospitals nearing over-capacity, and economies struggling to reopen," Dr. Bourla remarked.

Pfizer has maintained a strategic partnership with the National Newspaper Publishers Association, offering insight on various rare diseases like sickle cell that disproportionately affect the African American community.

Dr. Kevin Williams, the Chief Medical Officer for Pfizer's Rare Disease unit, periodically writes a column in the Black Press to help keep the African American community informed.

According to information posted on the CDC's website, clinical development is a three-phase process.

During Phase I, small groups of people receive the trial vaccine.

State & Local News

Cedric Richmond To Become Senior Advisor in Biden Administration



Louisiana Congressman Cedric Richmond has been named to a senior post in the Biden Administration.

Data News Staff Edited Report

U.S. Rep. Cedric Richmond will leave his seat in Congress to join President-elect Joe Biden's Administration as a Senior Adviser to the President and Director of Public Engagement.

The New Orleans Democrat announced the move Tuesday morning in a news conference at Lake-

front Airport in New Orleans East, confirming reports from numerous media outlets.

Richmond, 47, described the decision to resign from the 2nd Congressional District seat he has held for a decade as a difficult one, but said he believes taking the post advising the president would allow him to better use his influence to help Louisiana.

Victor Glover Becomes First Black Astronaut on NASA's Extended Space Station

Biba Adams
The Grio

Glover, who earned three degrees in three years, joins a distinctive class of men in American history.

Navy commander and test pilot Victor J. Glover is now the first Black Astronaut to live aboard the International Space Station.

Commander Glover and three other astronauts departed on Sunday in a capsule called Resilience and will spend about six months aboard the space station.

Glover is not the first African American to visit the space station, but previous members were parts of space shuttle crews who only made brief stays at the center.

A native of Southern California, Glover is a graduate of California Polytechnic State University



NASA Astronaut Victor Glover making history.

sity and earned three master's degrees — in-flight test engineering, systems engineering and military operational art and science — in three years.

NASA released a short video to Twitter celebrating Glover's historic assignment.

Glover has been vocal about the significance of his mission, as well as those of other African Americans who have played a role in space exploration. NASA has also been diligent in highlighting "Hidden Figures to Modern Figures" within the history of the organization. The research led to the successful, Academy Award-Winning 2016 film, Hidden Figures.

Glover noted that his mission is "something to be celebrated once we accomplish it, and I am honored to be in this position and to be a part of this great and experienced crew."

Cover Story/ Continued
from page 3.

equal to their numbers in the population. Equity is something Mayor Cantrell has been fighting for even before her time ascending to the City's highest elected office. But has become a paramount priority of her administration being one of two Mayors from the U.S. to serve on a Global Task Force of Mayors from across the globe.

"The key to us being the City we can be is our commitment to small and minority businesses and people of color period. It is important we invest workforce development and helping our people and to develop the talent pipeline we need in these industries that are growing in particularly blue, green and grey infra-

structure so local people can have access to good paying jobs."

The Making of "Herstory"

The nation just experienced history as the nation elected its first woman and person of color Kamala Harris as Vice-President Elect. This rings something special for Cantrell as a first in her own right. In which time she's shown that she has what it takes to lead and take the stands that's needed and skills to work with people across the political aisles and varied interests.

"We will find great partners in the Biden Harris Administration, but I will say that we have maintained a relationship with all our federal partners. New Orleans sits very nicely, the relationship is good and will remain strong," says May-

or Cantrell.

On the significance of Kamala Harris being elected Vice-President and for the continued progress of women she says...

"It means progress on so many different levels in that we are one year removed from the 100 years of women getting the right to vote, but not necessarily Black women. But to have her represent women of color in our country the time is definitely right and her using the same words I used, 'that while she is the first, she will not be the last.' I appreciate those words coming from her and seeing the change happening from one generation to the next and while we are in these roles it is important that we do these jobs effectively so we will not be the last."



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Data News Weekly, "The People's Paper," is looking for freelance writers to join our team print and digital team. We want to hear from you if you are a working journalist, or an aspiring journalist who has 2 years or more of newspaper or PR writing experience. We need writers who can cover New Orleans news stories, ranging from local high school sports, community events, City Hall and entertainment. Experience in print is necessary, experience in digital and social media are encouraged.

Compensation is competitive and great story ideas will be appreciated.

If you are interested, please email your resume and 3 writing samples to: terrybjones@bellsouth.net and datanewseditor@bellsouth.net.

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BUILT *Ford* PROUD

*Preproduction computer generated image shown. Available late 2020.