

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

# Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

Sealed With A Kiss

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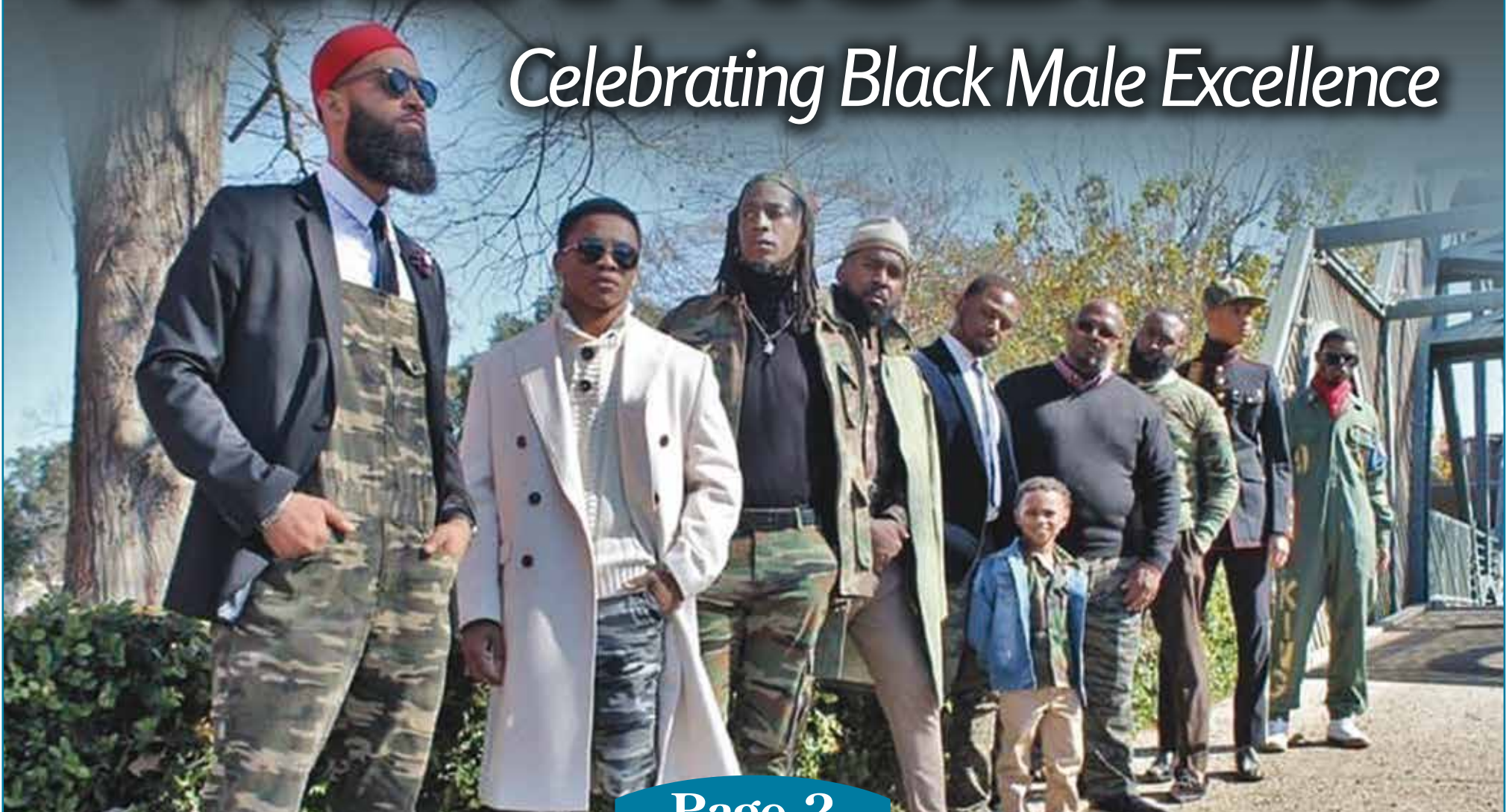
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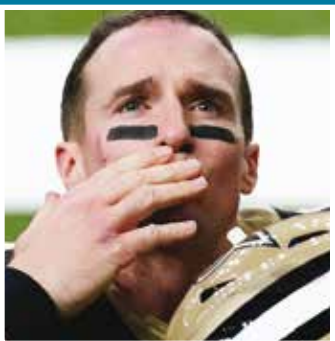
A Data News Weekly Exclusive

# NOLA NOBLES

*Celebrating Black Male Excellence*



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# NOLA NOBLES...

*Celebrating Black Male Excellence*



Torrence Taylor, founder of NOLA NOBLES' goal is to change the negative perception of Black Males and showcase Black Male Excellence.

Edwin Buggage  
Editor-in-Chief

Aspire to Reach Higher

Black males have been considered many things in their sojourn in America, most often these things are negative. Many of these perceptions have been institutionalized and have caused many atrocities in the treatment of Black men, leaving many discouraged and as a result some do not see their own beauty, ability, and their own humanity. Thus, they do not aspire to excellence.

New Orleans Native Torrence Taylor has set out to change these perceptions by creating NOLA NOBLES.

"I created NOLA NOBLES as a means for Black males in New Orleans to inspire each other first. We are often fed negative images of ourselves and many of our Brothers have believed that's how we are and that's NOT TRUE. Many and I mean MANY Black males BOYS and MEN are doing GREAT WORKS, and we must acknowledge our greatness and contributions to the WORLD. I ask that the brothers dress in a way that our forefathers did, not that this will avoid anyone from fearing us but that we will know that this is simply our heritage that's worthy to be honored. The goal is to build the self-esteem of the BLACK MALE. Believing that confidence and self-love will take us FAR in our goals for FAMILY, COMMUNITY and BUSINESS," explains Taylor.

The Definition of Greatness

His goal is to change the narrative relating to the image of Black Men. "I started it because as a Black male growing up in America born in the 70's raised in the 80's and living in the 90's, I've always heard negative things about Black Males and as I was living I also saw greatness in Black men and wanted to help in changing the perception of Black Men."

Taylor is working to demystify the stereotypes, misconceptions, and negative portrayals of Black men in New Orleans, who are often seen through the distorted lens of the anti-social behavior of some Black men.

"I remember a commercial in the 80's where they were referring to Black men as endangered species and I know the only time I heard of that was when someone was referring to an animal. I was thinking are we animals?"

"Fast forward to me being an adult and my career as a wardrobe stylist I know my intention was to better the image of the Black male for the Black male and not anyone else."

It Takes A Village

He believes that if Black men had safe spaces to "open up" to express themselves, be vulnerable, network and encourage one another, this would result in them being better men for themselves and the community.

"We needed to see greater images of ourselves for health reasons, for our mental state, heart conditions literally and figuratively, and have a better ap-

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On the Cover: Photo by URBAN504 Photography.

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### DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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Cover Story, Continued from page 2.



Their Annual MLK Day Photo Shoot theme this year was "Profiling Black Men" it is usually negative and stereotypical, but they are telling their stories and that is one of excellence and service to our community.



"The death of George Floyd, Alton Sterling in Baton Rouge and Philando Castile by police was something that is a concern because it could as easily been any of us, I needed a place where these brothers can shout, cry, be mad and reflect, hug each other dap each other," says Taylor of their monthly meetings at the Headquarters barbershop.

preciation and also to have space to learn about each other."

A place that's been traditionally a safe space in the Black community for brothers to express themselves have been the barbershop. Taylor's partnered with the Headquarters Barbershop where he holds monthly meetings.

Also in light of the events around the shooting and/or deaths of Black men at the hands of law enforcement or when they are preyed upon by others who assume they have done something wrong; these places provide a space for them to speak openly about their feelings surrounding these important issues and how it affects their lives.

"The death of George Floyd, Alton Sterling in Baton Rouge and Philando Castile by police was something that is a concern because it could as easily been any of us, I needed a place where these brothers can shout, cry, be mad and reflect, hug each other dap each other."

But as opposed to only speaking of these pressing issues, they discuss things that can empower them



Black Men in New Orleans throughout the City are doing great things. NOLA NOBLES, is one of the many examples of this.

as Black Men in America.

"In our meetings we speak about finances, mentoring, mental health, fatherhood, relationships and these are just a few of the topics we deal with."

### Black Male Excellence on Display

Recently, NOLA NOBLES hosted their 6th Annual Photo Shoot

to highlight Black men in New Orleans.

"Profiles" was the theme this year featuring individual head shots and focused on the individual male, their accomplishments, and their contributions to the City.

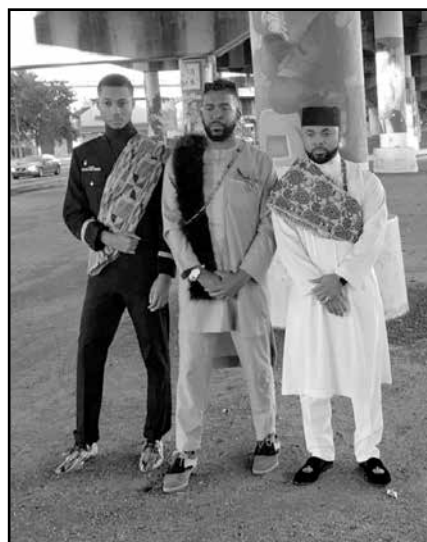
"When we did our first shoot, so many men were interested and wanted to be part of it. I thought about what better day to celebrate



"We needed to see greater images of ourselves for health reasons for our mental state, heart conditions literally and figuratively, and have a better appreciation and also to have space to learn about each other," says Taylor.



NOLA NOBLES is working towards changing negative perceptions and where they mentor youth and where they support and encourage each other, building bonds of brotherhood and showcasing Black Male Excellence.



Black manhood than a MLK Day photo shoot, and since then it has become an annual event that brings out men from all over the City."

"This year's theme was 'Profiling Black Men' it is usually negative and stereotypical, but we are telling our stories and that is one of excellence and service to our community."

The event was held at the Black Owned Art Bar.

Taylor who is a wardrobe stylist

and believes that feeling good also means looking good. NOLA NOBLES, every year holds something they call "Prom King" where they give a young man a tuxedo and provide a vehicle for them to attend the prom. Before the Pandemic, they were in the works of providing 300 tuxedos to young men from across the City.

In these pressing times where the City and nation is at a crossroads and that historic racism continues to rear its ugly head where Black Men are often times perceived and treated unfairly. NOLA NOBLES is work-

ing towards changing perceptions and building bonds of brotherhood showcasing Black Male Excellence.

"There are so many stories that don't get told about Black Men in New Orleans amazing stories where we can have opportunities to tell our story and that is what NOLA NOBLES is about."

For more information about NOLA NOBLES go to @nolanobles on Instagram or taylortorrence7@gmail.com



# Sealed With A Kiss

## *Perry/Blanks Winter Nuptials in NOLA*

Photos by Rodney H. White,  
R.H. White Photography

Miss Emory Cheron Perry and Mr. Anthony Blanks expressed their eternal love for one another at a candlelight ceremony in Uptown New Orleans on December 26th, 2020. The intimate winter wedding was attended by about 30 of the couple's closest family members and friends. The bride wore a beautiful A-line dress with subtle, cascading ruffles and a silk veil accented with crystals. The groom wore a black tuxedo with an all black tuxedo shirt, punctuated by all white Jordan Ones. The color scheme, including hues of deep red, black and silver embellished the wedding's winter/holiday theme. Guests dined on authentic New Orleans Cuisine by La Maison Creole Catering and by independent caterer, Mrs. Michele Cressey. Gorgeous live roses and floral designs were rendered by Crystal's Floral Designs & Events of Harvey, LA.



The couple seals their love with a kiss after they were pronounced husband and wife before an intimate audience of their closest family and friends.



The loving couple beams with happiness as they recite their vows. The Reverend Charles O. Martin, Pastor of Divine Worship M.B.C., officiated the ceremony.

Flower Girl,  
Miss Noel  
Cassidy  
Anderson  
and Ring  
Bearer, Master  
Lawrence  
Fizer, III,  
brother of the  
groom.



Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Blanks.

Data Zone,  
Continued on page 5.

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



Data Zone, Continued from page 4.



The bride and her family flanks the family matriarch, Mrs. Irene A. Burrell (seated). L-R: Mr. & Mrs. Raymond V. Tuner, Jr., Mrs. Emory C. Perry Blanks and Mr. & Mrs. Ron M. Perry with youngest daughter Kaylani (their center).



The bridesmaids, L-R: The groom's sister, Shayla Blanks; Sarah Bartholomew (Matron of Honor) and Kaylani Irene Perry, the bride's sister.



The groom's father and stepmother, Mr. & Mrs. Herb and Chastity Bailey.



The Perry Family, L-R: Renetta Burrell Perry, Emory Cheron Perry Blanks, Kaylani Irene Perry and Ron M. Perry.



The Bride and her Matron of Honor, Mrs. Sarah Bartholomew.



The Bride's aunt, Mrs. Marsha Perry and her first cousins, Princess Perry and Marshall Perry.



The Groom and his mother, Mrs. Shannon Blanks Fizer.



L-R: Best Man, Rashad Bailey (the groom's brother), Wayne LeBant, John Wricks (JT) Anthony Blanks and Jonathan Ramsey.



# Drew Brees...The G.O.A.T. (Greatest of All Time)

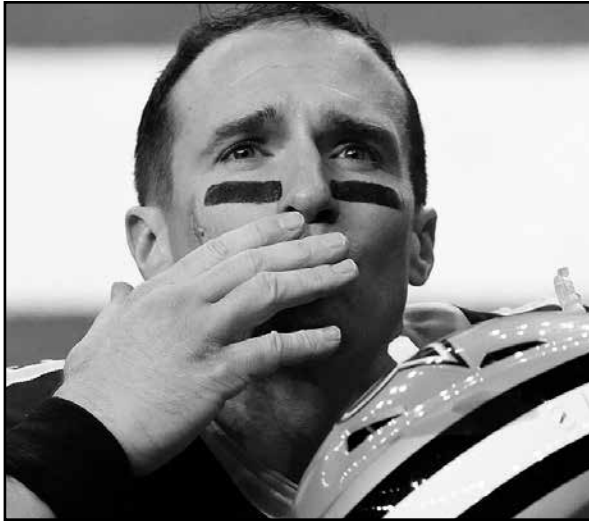
## *The End of an Era?*

Fleur De Lis  
Data News Weekly  
Contributor

This was an amazing year for the Black and Gold. In this year where the stands were not filled with fans because of COVID-19; the Saints won their division and during the regular season was one of the league's elite teams.

Again, as in the past few years, they fell short in the playoffs, and this year is different because with this loss, it may be the last time fans saw Drew Brees in a Saints uniform.

If, so he can hang his hat on a great career and being the leader of a Saints team that during his time



Drew Brees, is one of the best QB's in the history of the game. In his career, he's led the Saints to become one of the leagues elite teams and winning Super Bowl XLIV. People are wondering after this season will he retire, marking the end of an era for the Black and Gold.

as QB, they have become a winning franchise, breaking records and winning a Super Bowl.

In addition, Brees and his family have become part of the New Orleans community giving back to many worthy causes and inspiring many to do the same.

If this was his last game, he's left an impact on the game of football, the Saints organization and the City of New Orleans.

He is arguably, one of the greatest QB's of all time and we will see if this is his last game or will he come back for one more year to see if he can bring the Black and Gold to Super Bowl.

### State & Local News

## Lt. Gen. Russel Honoré to Lead Review of 'Security Infrastructure' after Capitol Attack



Retired Lt. General Russel Honoré will lead a review of the "security infrastructure" of Capitol Hill, following a violent riot that left five people dead earlier this month.

Data News Staff Edited  
Report

In the aftermath of what is a national crisis after the Jan. 6, 2021 storming of the Capitol by thousands of Trump supporters; House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Friday announced that retired Lt. General

Russel Honoré will lead a review of the "security infrastructure" of Capitol Hill, following a violent riot that left five people dead earlier this month.

Pelosi said in her announcement that Honoré "has strong experience with the security of the National Capital Region" and noted that members of the House leadership worked with him "during Katrina and saw firsthand his strategic and patriotic leadership."

The outspoken Honoré has been openly critical of President Trump during his time in office and has stated in interviews that law enforcement may have been complicit in allowing unrest on Jan. 6th in Washington, D.C.

A biographical section of the retired lieutenant general's website says, "Prior to his command of Joint Task Force-Katrina - leading the Department of Defense response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana - General Honoré served in a variety of command and staff positions which focused on Defense Support to Civil Authorities and Homeland Defense."

## A POLICE OFFICERS PLAYBOOK

### A CITIZENS GUIDE TO SURVIVE

JUSTIN BROWN

"A Police Officers Playbook/A Citizen's Guide To Survive" can be purchased on Amazon.com and Empoweryounola.com.



# "Let It Be Known:"

## NNPA Rolls out Live Daily Breaking News Broadcast

**Stacy M. Brown**  
NNPA Newswire Senior  
National Correspondent

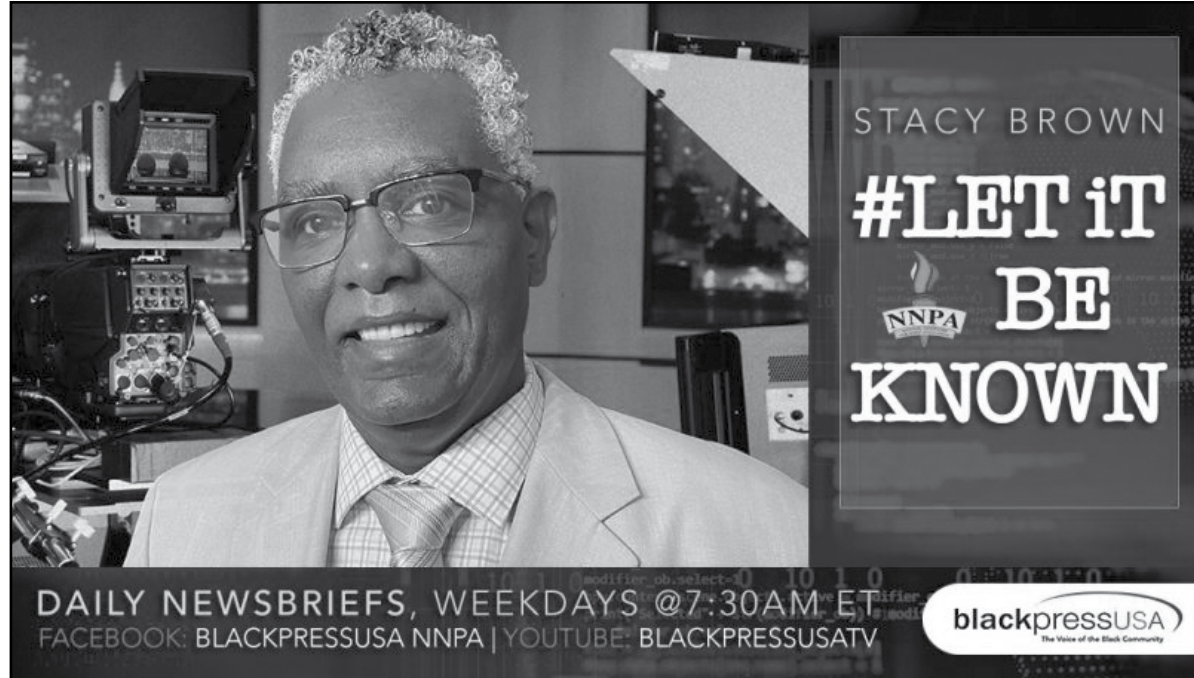
For 194 years, the Black Press of America has remained the voice of the African American community and the soul of the nation.

With more than 230 Black-owned newspapers and media companies comprising the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), the Black Press' contributions have remained indelibly associated with the fearlessness, determination, and the strive for excellence of the African American community across the nation.

Wholly embracing the print, social, and digital worlds, the NNPA finished 2020, having broadcast hundreds of livestreams over its many social media channels and on its primary news site, [www.BlackPressUSA.com](http://www.BlackPressUSA.com).

The NNPA's latest initiative into live broadcasts in 2021 is the new daily morning breaking news program, "Let It Be Known," hosted by NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent Stacy Brown.

NNPA President & CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. emphasized, "We are the only national trade association of Black owned newspapers, digital and social media companies in America. As such, we begin 2021 committed to publishing, distributing, and broadcasting the essential



news not only for Black Americans, but also for the entire nation and the international community. These are trying times. But this is also the time to reassert the value, impact, engagement, and commitment of the Black Press to speak truth to power. Let It Be Known: We break the news. We distribute the news. We advocate for freedom, justice and equality."

The new program, which kicked off earlier this month, features an interactive rundown of the hot topics of the day – providing news and information to an audience that demands Black inclusion.

Special guests will include NNPA publishers, reporters, photographers, and members of both chambers of Congress.

It will also include global influencers, change-makers, and celebrities.

The program builds upon NNPA's loaded vault of livestreams that have attracted such superstars as Ice Cube, Chuck D, Ziggy Marley, Kurtis Blow, Stephanie Mills, Mary Wilson, Sinbad, LL Cool J, and many others.

Previous guests include former ESPN anchor Jemele Hill, Meharry Medical College President Dr.

James Hildreth, New York Democratic Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Infectious Disease Leader Dr. Anthony Fauci, Temptations Legend Otis Williams, Democratic Majority Whip Congressman Jim Clyburn, New York Billionaire Michael Bloomberg, President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris.

The program adds to the long list of contributions of the Black Press of America, which includes the celebrated works of our founders and predecessors like John Russwurm, Samuel Cornish, Frederick Douglass, WEB DuBois, Ida B. Wells, Patrice Lumumba, Kwame Nkrumah, Robert Abbott, John Sengstacke, and other former NNPA Chairmen such as Dr. Carlton Goodlett and Garth Reeves Sr.

Tune in to NNPA's "Let It Be Known" weekdays at 7:30 a.m. EST at [Facebook.com/BlackPressUSA](https://www.facebook.com/BlackPressUSA).

### DATA CLASSIFIED

Call 504-821-7421 to place your classified ad.

#### Job Opportunity

#### Freelance Writers Wanted

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](mailto:terrybjones@bellsouth.net) and [datanewseditor@bellsouth.net](mailto:datanewseditor@bellsouth.net).

We can't wait to hear from you!

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# This shouldn't be how we say hello...or goodbye.



It's our reality right now. But it won't be if we do what it takes to beat COVID-19. Vaccines are coming, but until enough of us are vaccinated, we all still need to wear our masks, stay at least six feet from others, and avoid indoor social gatherings. The more we slow the spread, the faster we'll return to normal hellos ... and fewer goodbyes.

Learn more about vaccines and slowing the spread at [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)



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