

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

Wonder Women

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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

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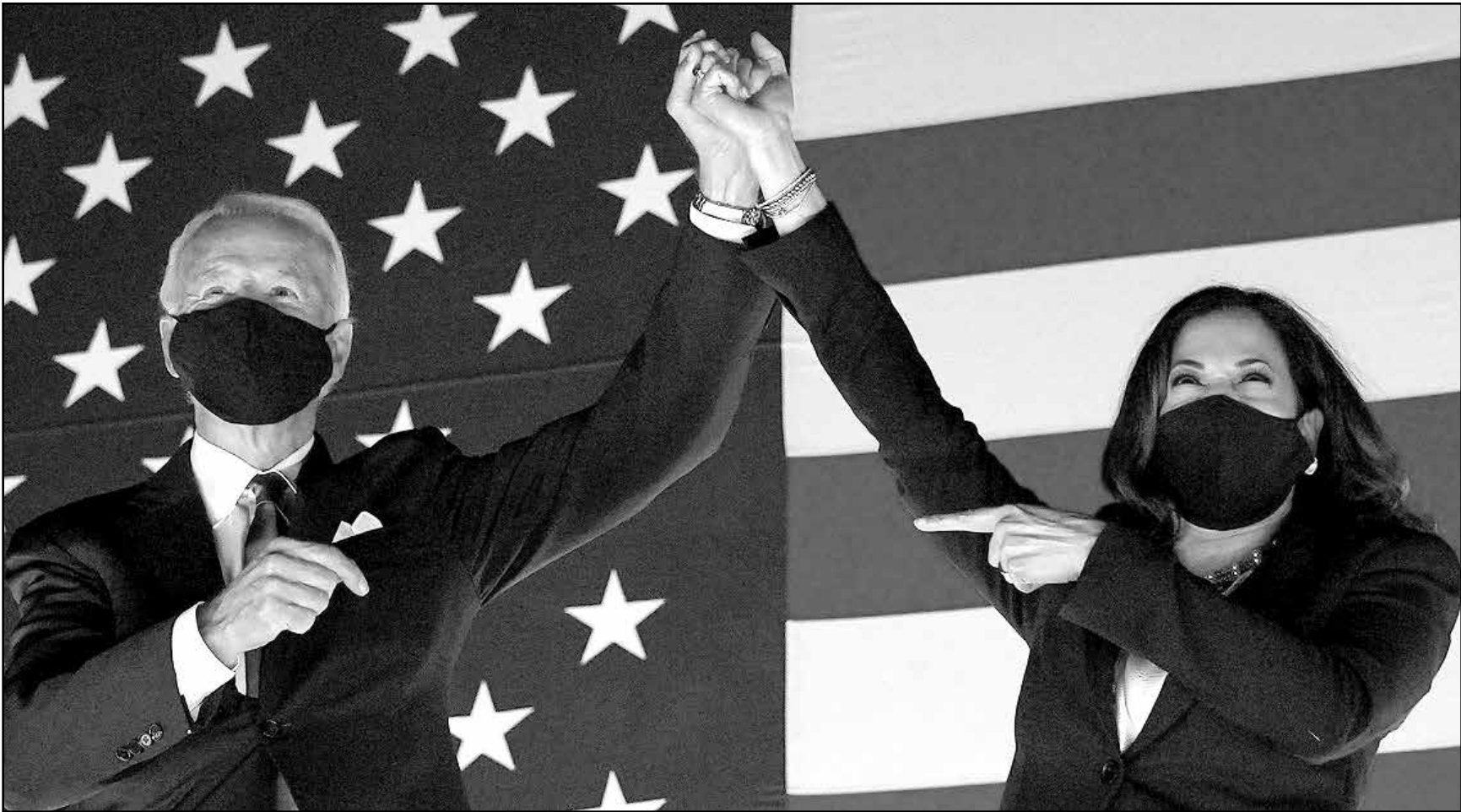


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Restoring Democracy

Uniting and Healing a Divided America

A New Orleans Perspective



The New President and Vice-President represents a changing direction for the nation.

Edwin Buggage
Editor-in-Chief

A New Direction for America

Last week, the nation began a new chapter with the Inauguration of the Joe Biden and Kamala Harris as

the President and Vice-President.
The theme throughout was one of healing, hope and redemption of a sharply divided nation.
As the nation is making history, with Kamala Harris, becoming the country's First woman of color being elected as Vice-President; conversely this is happening against a backdrop of an insurrection by supporters of

outgoing President Donald Trump.
Also, the administration will have New Orleans native and former Louisiana Congressman Cedric Richmond, who will serve as a Senior Advisor and Director of the White House Office of Public Engagement.
The direction of this experiment in Democracy finds itself again at a crossroads and Data News Week-

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New Orleans native and former Louisiana Congressman Cedric Richmond, will serve as a Senior Advisor and Director of the White House Office of Public Engagement.

ly spoke to several New Orleanians getting their thoughts on the historic election, the inauguration, and the direction of the country.

Democracy Reconsidered

During this election, many spoke of former President Donald Trump as an existential threat to Democracy. With him exiting the office, he is leaving a nation divided along many lines that includes race, class, age, urban vs. and many others are the fault lines that threaten to tear at the fabric of a country that's continually amended its way into becoming "A More Perfect Union."

"I feel optimistic about our future as a country and that we have turned a page on darkness that has bruised our democracy but not broken it," says Dr. Kyshun Webster, Founder and Chairman of Compassion Society Benefits Inc.

While some are optimistic with the incoming of a new administration, others are proud of the election of Kamala Harris breaking the barrier of race and gender with her election, but that this nation must address the historic issue of systematic racism.

"This is an important time for our Democracy and also how issues of race affect this country. We have recently witnessed history on two fronts with the election of Kamala Harris, becoming the first Woman of Color elected Vice-President. This is inspiring, but we've also had citizens that support the former President Donald Trump storm the Capitol. This seditious act in my view was handled very differently by law enforcement and shows the racial double standard that continues to be a problem in America. It is my hope that this administration put polices in place to help heal the wounds of this divided nation," says Anthony Bean, founder of the Anthony Bean Community Theater (ABCT).

We the People

It is a time in America that many in the country because of the COVID-19 Pandemic are seeing the American Dream slip through their fingertips as many do not have the means to maintain themselves and are struggling to survive.

This is a time where compassion and empathy must be front and center in creating policies that have a positive impact on American citizens.

Oliver Thomas is a former City-Councilman and popular radio talk show host on WBOK. He is one who has his ear to the street. Echoing the words of many of his listeners he says, "This potentially is a time to reverse directions in one of the most important times in the history of this Nation and World. A chance to put PEOPLE FIRST! A chance to make our Nation one that is 'For the People, and By the People' a chance to create a better future for our children and an opportunity to lead with our, Souls, and our Humanity, not our Ideology and Political Party."

The divisions that led to the election and the storming of the US Capitol are real, but some believe that with the new administration in the Oval Office there is hope but much work still needs to be done to unite Americans.

"The inauguration of President Joseph Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris has brought much needed hope to our divided nation. Our country is at a pivotal crossroads. Our new President and Vice President have been given a clear mandate — restore America's reputation globally; heal our country; and deliver strong results for the working class, not just the powerful few. President Biden made bold promises to invest in working class communities and communities of color. He has built a strong, capable team, and I'm confident he will deliver," says Jason Hughes State



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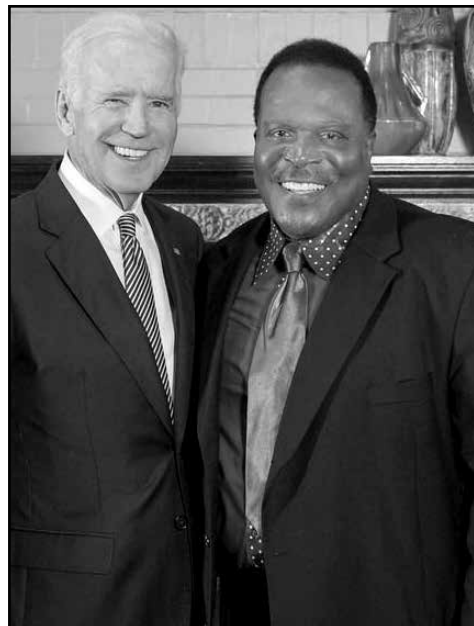
"I feel optimistic about our future as a country and that we have turned a page on darkness that has bruised our democracy but not broken it," says Dr. Kyshun Webster, Founder and Chairman of Compassion Society Benefits Inc.



"The Urban League of Louisiana welcomes the new administration of President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris as they begin the necessary work of unifying America and advancing policies and programs that reflect all of our country's residents," says Judy Reese Morse, President and CEO, Urban League of Louisiana.

Representative Louisiana House of Representatives, District 100.

"The 2020 presidential election revealed Americans haven't shifted much. We remain entrenched in our positions, bitterly divided, and



"This is an important time for our Democracy and also how issues of race affect this country. It is my hope that this administration put polices in place to help heal the wounds of this divided nation," says Anthony Bean, founder of the Anthony Bean Community Theater (ABCT) pictured with President Biden.



"The inauguration of President Joseph Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris has brought much needed hope to our divided nation. Our country is at a pivotal crossroads," says Jason Hughes State Representative Louisiana House of Representatives, District 100.



"Too many of our fellow countrymen and women remain fixated on a toxic vision of White supremacy and resentment, when we should be working together as a multi-ethnic democracy," says Bart Everson, Chair of the Green Party of New Orleans.

ill-served by our two-party system. It's tempting to celebrate the election of Biden and Harris as a repu-

diation of ethno-nationalism, but in fact if it wasn't for the Pandemic Trump might have won again. Too many of our fellow countrymen and women remain fixated on a toxic vision of White supremacy and resentment, when we should be working together as a multi-ethnic democracy. Talk of unity seems simplistic to me, but I do feel we need solidarity to solve the crucial issues of our day, such as the virus, social inequity, and the climate crisis," says Bart Everson, Chair of the Green Party of New Orleans.

Restoring Hope and the Soul of America

This year the nation found itself soul searching in a divided nation. This have created an environment that's been a call to arms for many to get involved in the fight for justice, fairness, and equality.

While this have spawned new movements of people dedicated to change; it's also taken many traditional Civil Rights Organizations and placed them squarely in the fight for positive change. One such organization is the National Urban League. A group that's nationally led by former New Orleans Mayor Marc Morial and locally by Judy Reese Morse, President and CEO, Urban League of Louisiana.

Morse sees the potential for charting a different and positive direction for the nation with the new administration.

"The Urban League of Louisiana welcomes the new administration of President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris as they begin the necessary work of unifying America and advancing policies and programs that reflect all of our country's residents. We stand ready to join the Biden/Harris Administration in efforts that will address the issues of economic and educational inequities, the dual Pandemics of COVID-19 and race and create more opportunities for African Americans and other communities to thrive."

"We understand that this work will not be easy. America has, for far too long, been afraid to face its truth and demonstrate an understanding of a need to right its wrongs. But when has anything worth achieving been easy? The Urban League of Louisiana has more than 82 years of history fighting for the civil rights and economic justice of those who have been discriminated against and systematically excluded simply because of their skin color. We are clear that the time has come, the time is now."

Wonder Women



Tracee Dundas
Fashion Stylist

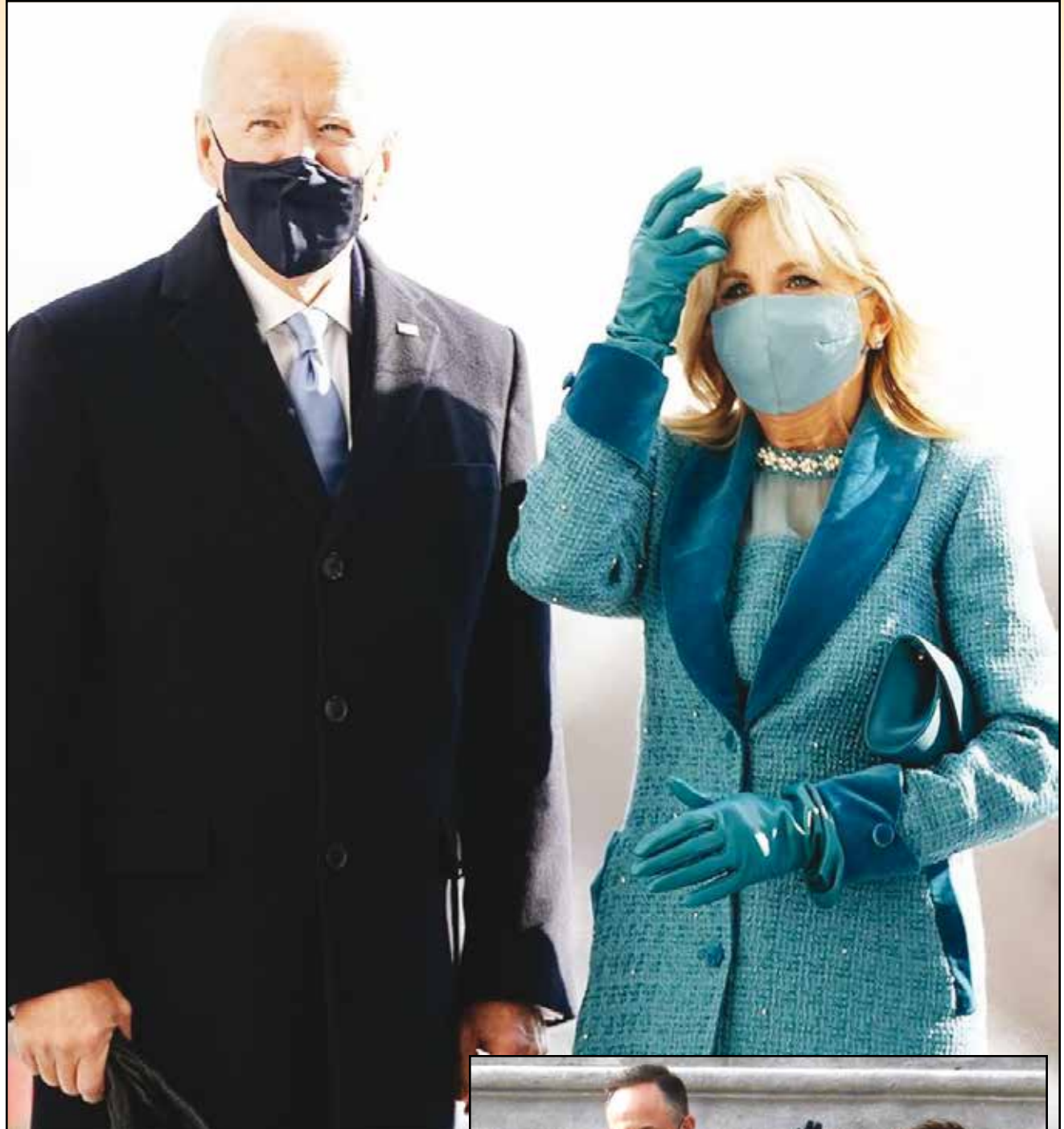
Appearing as a rainbow coalition of female empowerment, this group of wonder women did not disappoint with their fashion choices for The Presidential Inauguration. Collectively making an impactful statement of both Black and Female Power, each wearing a monochromatic outfit that spoke of unity, strength, bipartisanship, and grace.

Kamala Harris made history when she was sworn in as the first female and mixed race (Black & South Asian) Vice President. She strategically selected to wear the color purple, symbolic of royalty and also considered the 'bipartisan' color because red and blue blended together creates the purple hue. The monochromatic dress and 2-button coat were designed by Christopher John Rogers, a Baton Rouge, Louisiana native now living in NYC. Rogers is a heralded Black American Designer and the CFDA Emerging Designer of the Year.

Former First Lady Michelle Obama may have stolen the attention wearing a tone-on-tone plum ensemble. The look consisted of a stylish floor-length coat over a form-fitting turtleneck and wide-leg pants and wide-belt that cinched her waist. Designer Sergio Hudson, an emerging Black American Designer had the honor of dressing Mrs. Obama for the occasion.

Poet Amanda Gorman made a breathtaking appearance from head to toe as to deliver a captivating poem. Starting with her ruby red headband that was gifted to her by Oprah Winfrey, paired with a vibrant yellow full-length coat by Prada; both complimented her skin tone and her poetry.

Data Zone,
Continued on page 5.



Above. First Lady Dr. Jill Biden (President Joe Biden) wearing turquoise tweed set designed by Alexandria O'Neill Markarian



Right. Vice President Kamala Harris (with First Gentleman Doug Emhoff) wearing violet purple matching set designed by Baton Rouge native Christopher John Rogers



Vice President Kamala Harris & great-niece waving to inaugural attendees



Former First Lady Michelle Obama (with Former President Barack Obama) wearing monochromatic pant set designed by Sergio Hudson



Lady Gaga wearing a navy jacket and voluminous silk faille skirt custom Schiaparelli Haute Couture by Daniel Roseberry



Jennifer Lopez (Alex Rodriguez) drenched in a white Chanel ensemble



Amanda Gorman wearing sunshine yellow double breasted Prada coat and ruby red headband

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Other notable monochromatic attire worn at the Inauguration is First Lady Dr. Jill Biden, wearing a tweed turquoise dress and overcoat. The dress was bejew-

eled in Swarovski crystals neckline and completed with perfectly matching gloves and clutch. Her outfit was designed by Alexandria O'Neill Markarian.

Jennifer Lopez joined the homog-

enous fashion story donning ankle-length tweed coat, a sheer, high neck silk ruffle blouse and sequined palazzo pants all in white by Chanel. J Lo's decision to wear what was with purpose,

sending a message of suffragette.

As the nation moves forward with a new chapter, get ready for more powerful, diverse fashions from these Wonder(ful) Women.

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

"Sleeves Up NOLA" Promotes COVID-19 Vaccine



In an undated image provided by City of New Orleans, courtesy of Crista Rock, Norman Dixon of the Young Men Olympians Benevolent Association promotes vaccination in the "Sleeves Up, NOLA" campaign. (City of New Orleans, courtesy of Crista Rock via The New York Times)



In an undated image provided by City of New Orleans, courtesy of Crista Rock, the N'awlins Dawlins Baby Dolls, an all-female club that holds volunteer and social events, and dances mightily on Mardi Gras, promote vaccination in the "Sleeves Up, NOLA" campaign. (City of New Orleans, courtesy of Crista Rock via The New York Times)

Eric Connerly
Data News Weekly Contributor

It's been a slow roll out for people receiving the COVID-19 Vaccine across the nation.

In New Orleans, the City has just created public service announcement "Sleeves Up NOLA" to encourage residents to get the vaccinated.

This is especially important in a

City with a majority African American population, a group that's been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.

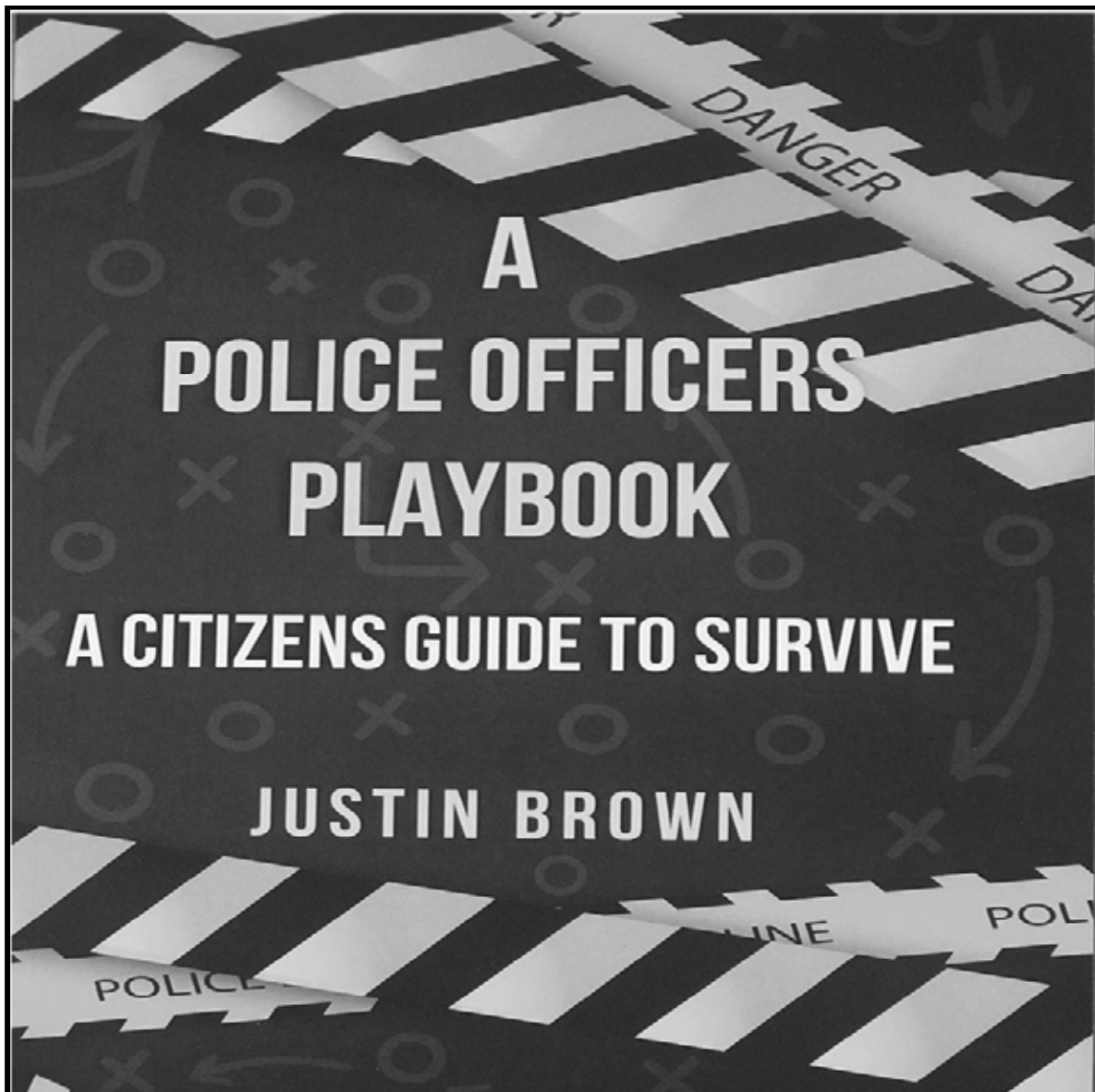
This ad is unique in that its using culture bearers displaying the rich,

colorful culture of the City to promote the need for residents to get the vaccine.

This is an important move to continue the culture of New Orleans and most importantly save lives.

To get more information about locations to make an appointment to receive the COVID-19 vaccine go to:

<https://ldh.la.gov/covidvaccine-locations/>



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

State & Local News

Councilmember Moreno Calls Special Utilities Meeting to Question Entergy New Orleans on Spiking Customer Bills

Data News Weekly Staff
Edited Report

This new year began with many New Orleanians being met with an unwelcome surprise – a soaring Entergy bill. Utilities Committee Chair Helena Moreno will call a special meeting next week to question Entergy executives on why many customers' bills have doubled.

The causes appear to extend beyond weather, including both Grand Gulf Nuclear Plant being down, along with ENO's Union Power Station also out for part of the same time.

"These higher bills couldn't have come at a more difficult time for our people, still wading through this Pandemic and its economic effects. We need Entergy to explain these costs and continue our systemic work to prevent future issues like this from occurring. I've been in communication and expressed my concern to Entergy New Orleans CEO David Ellis. Increased usage



Council member-at-Large Helena Moreno.

during the winter is not out of the ordinary, but doubling of some bills is alarming. Our advisors are currently looking into this matter, and I expect Entergy New Orleans to be able to detail the reasons for these costs thoroughly to the Council and their customers, the people of this City. From there, the Council will make a determination on potential additional steps to take," said City Council President and Utilities Chair Helena Moreno.

IN MEMORIAM

Baseball Icon Henry 'Hank' Aaron Dies at 86

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

Baseball's recognized home run king and an African American hero, Henry "Hank" Aaron, has died at the age of 86.

Aaron, who broke Babe Ruth's all-time home run record on April 8, 1974, was not just a baseball legend but a hero to superstars.

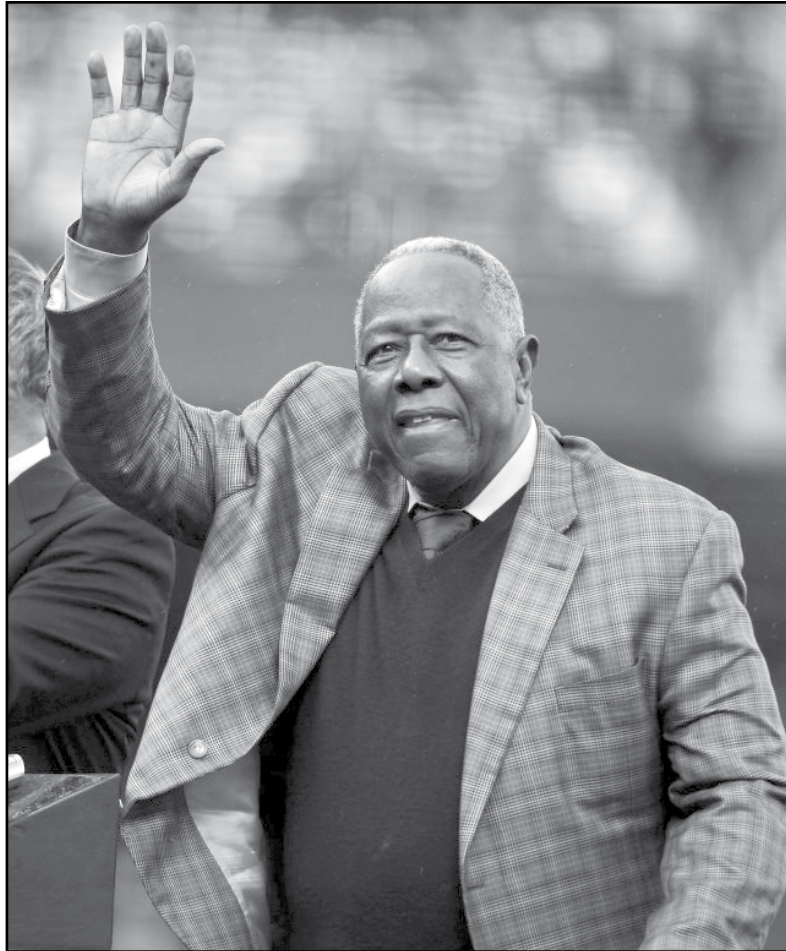
"He's the one man that I idolize more than myself," the late boxing legend Muhammad Ali once said about Aaron.

While with the Atlanta Braves, Aaron tied Ruth's mark of 714 homers on April 7. A day later, he slugged No. 715 against the Los Angeles Dodgers' Al Downing.

Before and throughout his chase of Ruth's longstanding record, Aaron was subjected to racism and hate. Death threats were common, and even some teammates and those throughout baseball despised Aaron as he approached their white hero's record.

Despite beefed up security at Atlanta's Fulton County Stadium, some fans breached the outfield walls as Aaron trotted around the bases following his record-setting dinger.

Born Henry Louis Aaron on February 5, 1934, in a poor Black section of Mobile, Alabama, called "Down the Bay," Hank Aaron was



Baseball Icon Henry 'Hank' Aaron

the third of eight children born to Estella and Herbert Aaron. Aaron's father made his living as a tavern owner and a dry dock boilermaker's assistant.

Aaron first starred in the Negro Leagues in 1952 and again in 1953,

batting .366, with five home runs and 33 RBIs in 26 official games. He began his Major League Baseball career in 1954 with the Milwaukee Braves and spent 23 seasons as an outfielder with Milwaukee – the franchise eventually moved to Atlanta.

Aaron finished his career with 755 home runs, a record topped by Barry Bonds of the San Francisco Giants in 2007.

The Hall biography notes that 1957 was arguably Aaron's best season. He hit .322 that year with 44 home runs and 132 RBI, captured the National League MVP Award, and led the Braves to their first World Series Championship since 1914.

The U.S. Postal Service once honored Aaron for receiving nearly 1 million pieces of mail, more than any non-politician.

On the 25th Anniversary of Aaron's 715th home run, Major League Baseball created the Hank Aaron Award, given annually to the players with the best overall offensive performances in each league.

Aaron received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award, from President George W. Bush in 2002.

According to the New York Times, the Baseball Hall of Fame opened a permanent exhibit in 2009 chronicling Aaron's life. His childhood home was moved on a flatbed truck to the grounds of Hank Aaron Stadium, which was the home of the Mobile BayBears, a former minor league team, and opened as a museum in 2010.

"Through his long career, Hank Aaron has been a model of humility, dignity, and quiet competence," former Atlanta Mayor and U.S. Ambassador Andrew Young noted in a statement. "He did not seek the adoration that is accorded to other national athletic heroes, yet he has now earned it."

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Freelance Writers Wanted

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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.

We can't wait to
hear from you!

For Immediate Release

MEDIA ALERT !!!VIEW DETAILS OF #NoUmBow International Virtual Carnival 2021!

About #NoUmBow International Virtual Carnival 2021 & Beyond!

This year the Black Masking Injun Community of New Orleans, affectionately known as the Mardi Gras Indians, will "Come Out" Virtually for the 1st time in History. Due to Covid-19 Restrictions, traditional Carnival activities will be viewed on Pay-Preview via www.blackmasking.org filmed at a private locations. The world will witness the #NoUmBow International Virtual Carnival 2021 - a four(4) day virtual event you don't want to miss.

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