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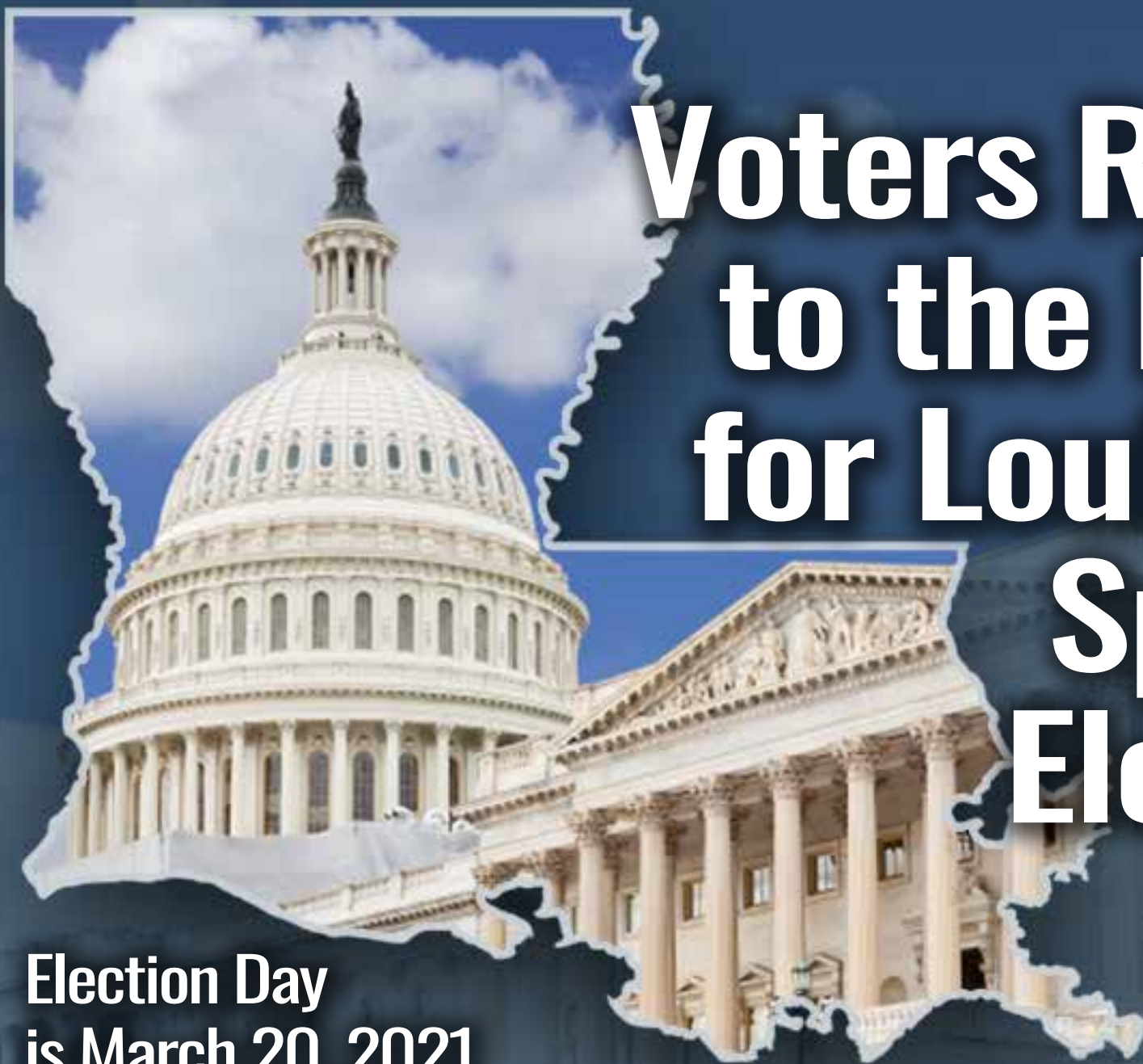
**A DIY on
Designing Your
Own Distressed
Jeans**

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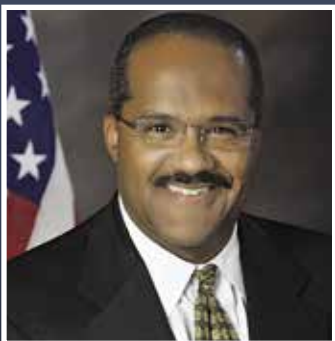
A Data News Weekly Exclusive



Voters Return to the Ballot for Louisiana Special Election

**Election Day
is March 20, 2021**

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The Right Choice

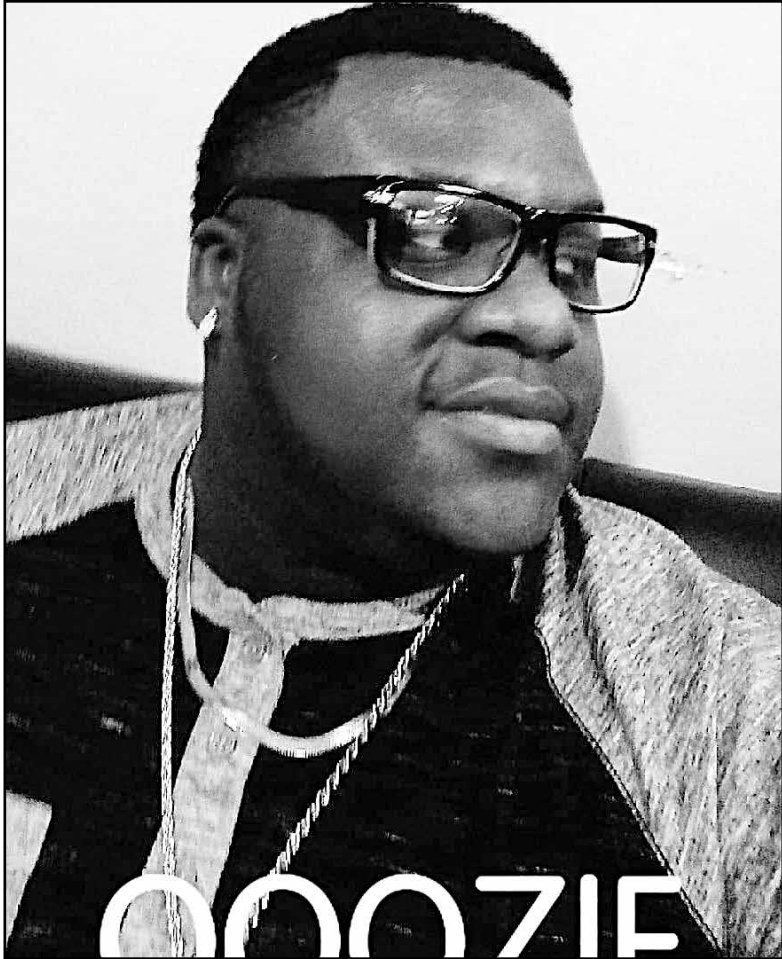
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Voters Return to the Ballot for Louisiana Special Election



Jeremiah James



Cabria Ridgnal

Cameron English
Data News Weekly Contributor

Louisiana voters in the Second and Fifth Congressional District will be electing new representation on March 20th. The current vacancies in the state’s delegation in Washington came as U.S. Rep. Cedric Richmond assumed his new role in 2020 as a senior advisor

to President Joe Biden as Director of the White House Office of Public Engagement.

Richmond was the only Black person and Democrat in the Louisiana Congressional delegation. Eight Democrats, four Republicans, one Libertarian and two Independent candidates are running to replace Richmond.

Additionally, the untimely death of Luke Letlow at the age of 41 to COVID-19 complications, days before

he was to be sworn in to represent Louisiana’s 5th Congressional District set off another special election for federal office in the state in 2021. Letlow served as Chief of Staff for former U.S. Rep. Ralph Abraham and would have represented parishes like Franklin, Washington, and portions of East Feliciana, St. Helena, St. Landry, and Tangipahoa parishes as part of his district. There are a total of twelve candidates running for Let-

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low's seat, including Letlow's wife Julia Letlow.

Voters say they are ready to return to the polls again during a Pandemic if it means that the issues, they care about will be acted on by elected officials.

"We know what is best for us, and the only way we can make that shake is if we vote and put our people in office," said Jeremiah James, a Gentilly resident, and a local activist.

"Nothing about us without us," James added. "We are not letting people in office or whatever to make decisions about us and our youth without our input and decisions in general because the decisions that are made impact us directly whether it is a good impact or not."

Some voters had hoped that Richmond's seat could have been easily filled by Governor John Bel Edwards, a Democrat, allowing for more time for a campaign to select the best replacement.

"I am not voting in the special election because I believe the Governor should fill the vacancy," said Teddo November, a Westbank resident and a producer. In some states, the governor would have the power to fill a vacancy left by a representative. In those cases, the governor would appoint people they see as qualified. The state's election laws require a special election instead.

Residents said they are paying attention to the wide slate of candidates to determine what issues they will champion most in Congress. Diedra Wickem said she plans to vote for Troy Carter in Louisiana's second district race and other Democrats in local races. She has been reviewing their platforms to see what "the candidates stand for and why they are running," she said. "The only news [I care] about is what happens in the White House, really," Wickem said.

Many of the same concerns affecting voters in the 2021 presidential elections still remain at the top of the list in the Louisiana special elections.

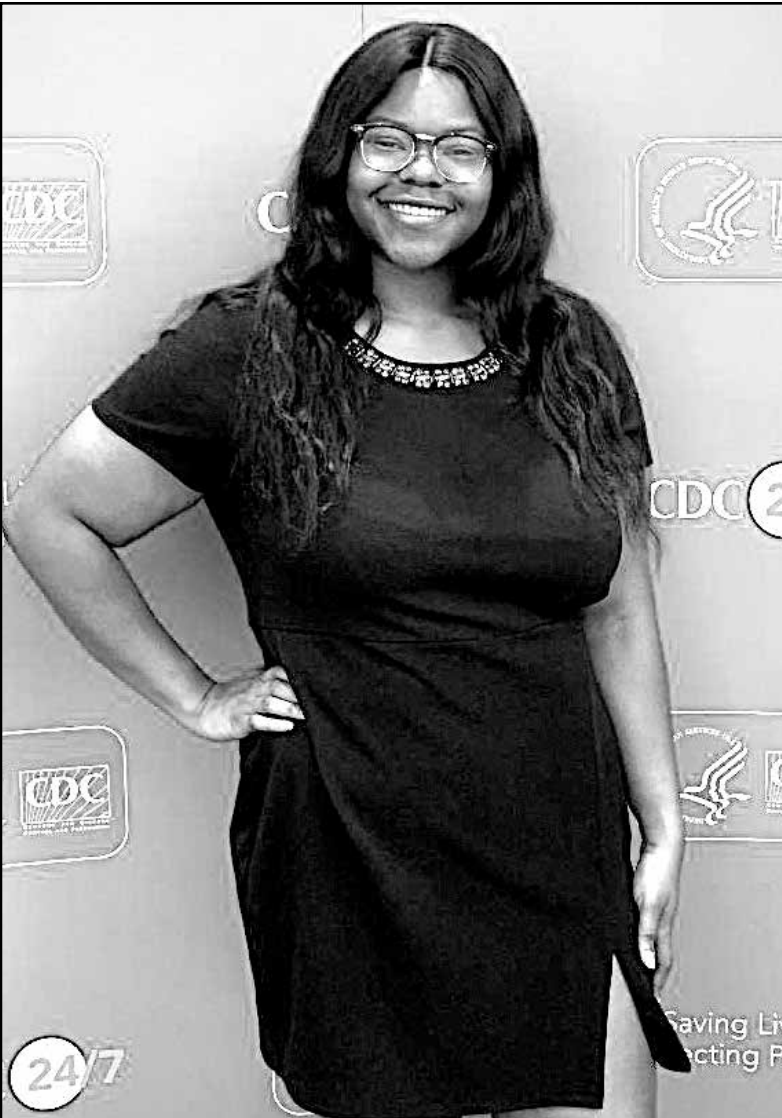
"Issues that matter most to me are healthcare, vaccinations, our economic response to COVID-19, racial justice, student debt relief, and safely reopening schools," said Donnell Bailey, a New Orleans resident, and a young professional.

The quality of education has been impacted significantly over the 12 months of the Pandemic and many students hope that and end to the Pandemic will improve their learning and the economy when they graduate.

"My top issues have to be vaccine administration, COVID relief, reproductive justice, and criminal justice reform," said Cabria Ridginal, a Gentilly resident who attends



Justin Hartley



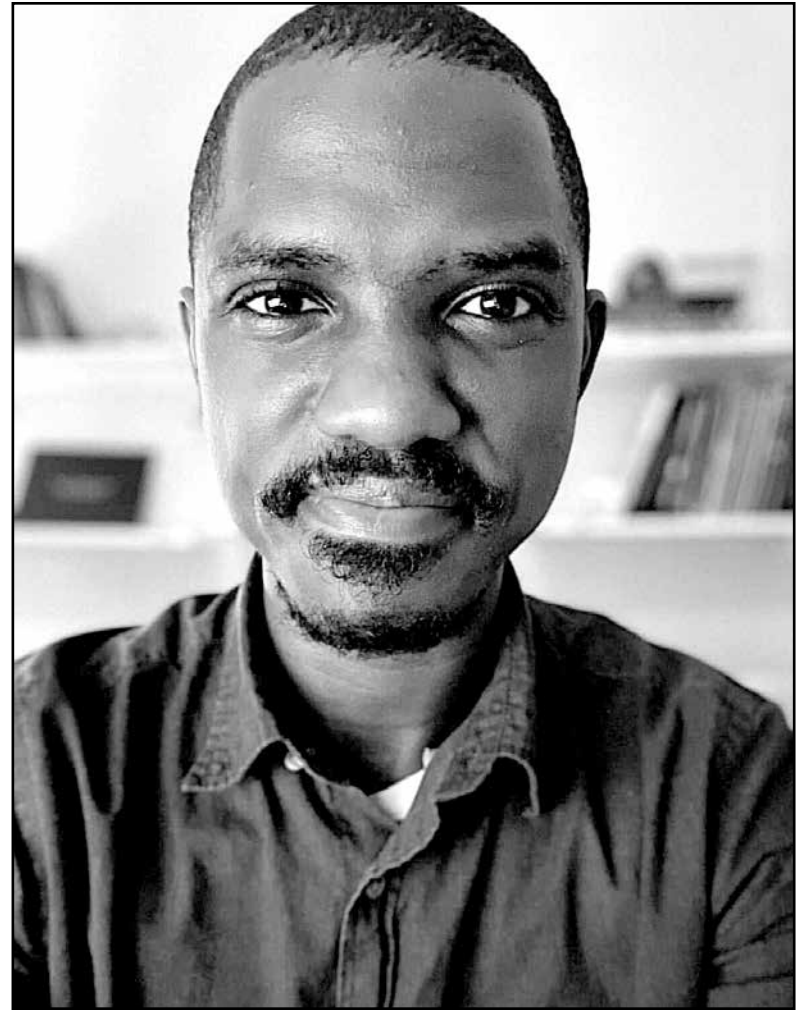
Diedra Wickem

Dillard University.

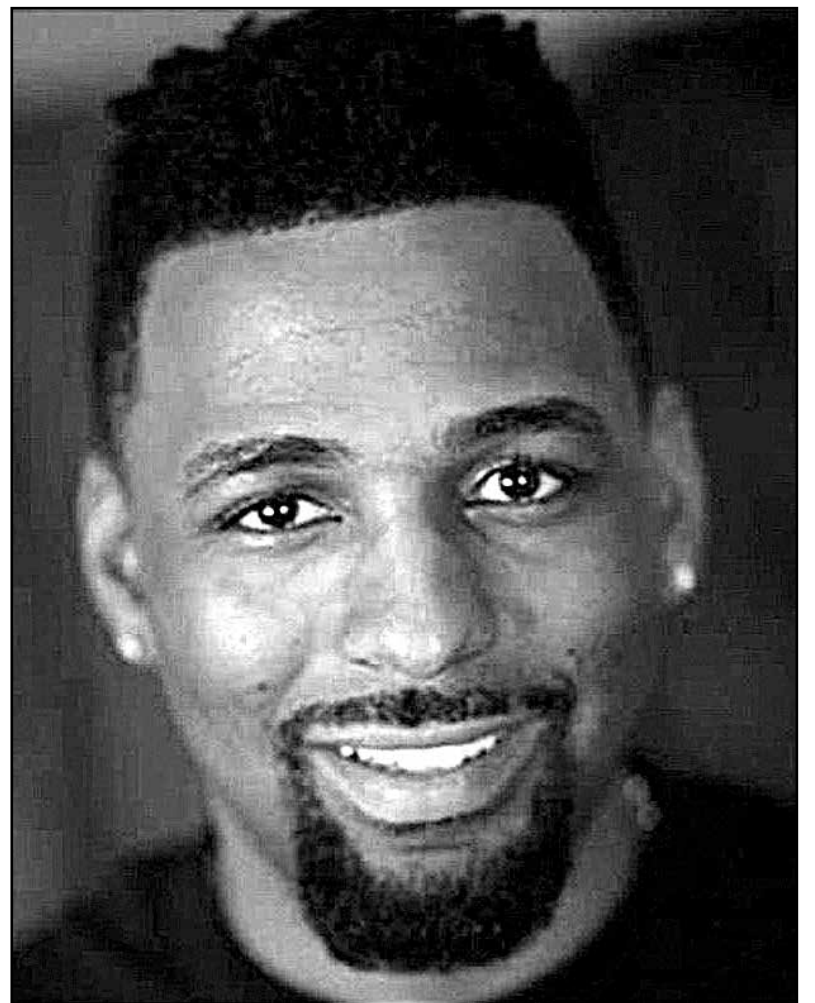
It is important for young people to shape policy and get involved in politics said Justin Hartley, a Tulane University student who shared Ridginal's concerns.

"My top issues this election cycle are electing a Congressperson who will fight for Medicare for all,

progressive climate change policy, such as a Green New Deal, and active protections for abortion access in Louisiana," Hatley said. "I am also interested in seeing the first Black woman elected to serve in a congressional role in Louisiana," said Hartley, who noted Louisiana residents have never had a Black



Donnell Bailey



Teddo November

woman from either party represent them in Congress.

Louisiana State Sen. Karen Cater Peterson is the sole Black woman running in the Louisiana second district race. Candy Christophe, a social worker, is the only Black woman and Democrat running for the Louisiana's fifth district race.

The early voting period for the special election ended on Saturday, March 13th. Polling locations open for election day voting on March 20th at 6:00 am and close at 8:00 pm. The March 20th election is primary, and if a run-off is called, it would take place on April 26th.

Feeling Distressed

A DIY on Designing Your Own Distressed Jeans



Tracee Dundas
Fashion Stylist

Feeling Distressed

Just like baseball and apple pie are an American classic so are denim jeans. From Levi's to Guess, denim has been around for many generations and everyone loves wearing them. And why not, denim is fashionable, can be dressed down or up and the trendiest apparel in modern time. It's always in style! But let's face it; in order to own the latest pair of designer jeans you may have to sacrifice mucho dinero.

So how can you get that designer style without the designer cost? Consider DIY (doing-it-yourself).

Here is an easy step-by-step guide for getting designer distressed denim style at a fraction of the cost. It's easy, fun, and how cool is it to say; "I designed this myself!"

Data Zone,
Continued on page 5.



TO DYE FOR | Courtesy of Tracee Dundas



SHREDDED UP - Designer Kayla St. Blanc | Photographer Zee Amer



OMBRE EFFECT | Courtesy of Pinterest



FRINGED OUT | Courtesy of Pinterest



LOVELY IN LACE | Courtesy of Pinterest

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TAIL FEATHER TULLE | Courtesy of Pinterest



FAIRYTALE LIKE | Courtesy of Pinterest



TEE TIME | Photographer Eduardo Benitez

- Start with a pair of blue jeans that you've decided you won't wear anymore or pick up a pair at the local thrift store.
- Looking at yourself in a mirror wearing the jeans, determine the length you would like them to be as shorts. Place a small mark at this point. Take off the jeans.
- Using a marker, draw a line on only the front of one pant leg. This line should be an inch below your original length mark to allow for fraying. Remember it's easy to cut more fabric if necessary, but once you've cut the fabric you can't add

it back on.

- Lay the jeans on a flat, smooth surface with front of jeans facing up. Cut only one leg across your marked line with scissors.
- Use the finished cut leg as a template to cut the other leg evenly by folding the cut leg over the other, smoothing out, and use the same technique to cut the second leg off.
- Put on your "new" denim shorts to make sure your lines are even, and the length is right.
- Time to add the distressed look! Select

where you'd like to have the distressed points on the shorts and make a small mark with your colored pen. Make sure your marks are not too close or you could end up with a huge hole!

- Pinch one area you marked and, using the tip of your scissors, cut a small slit in the center, followed by a short cut to each side to create one long cut across. Repeat this step at each distress mark you made.
- At each cut area use the tweezers or your fingers to pull down any threads to help get the fray finish started.

- At the cutline using a set of tweezers, pull out errant strands of thread you see along the entire hemline area. This will add fraying to complete the look.
- Toss the shorts in the washer and dryer to complete the fraying process.
- Take your DIY project to the next level by inserting tulle or other fabric, lace applique, or create a tie-dye or ombre effect.
- The final look is a fun, fabulous, stylish pair of denim shorts that didn't cost a small fortune and the best part is—you did-it-yourself!

TEXTING AND DRIVING MAKES GOOD PEOPLE LOOK BAD.

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The Right Choice

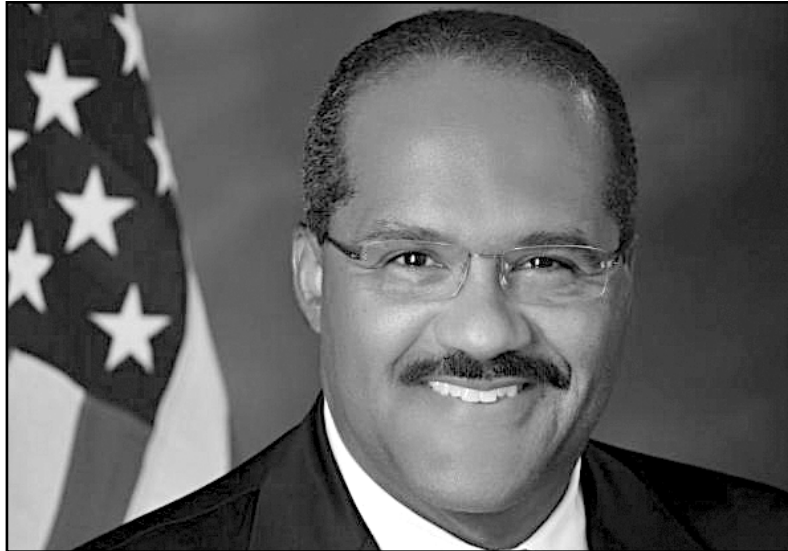
Get Out and Vote for Troy Carter



Terry B. Jones
Publisher,
Data News Weekly

It is time for Citizens to again go to the polls and vote. As Publisher of Data News Weekly... "The People's Paper"; it is my view that we must send someone to Washington, who can hit the ground running and get things done.

I know some may have already cast their ballots during early



Data News Weekly is endorsing Troy Carter in the race for Louisiana 2nd Congressional District race. We are encouraging all to get out and vote on March 20, 2021. Let your voices be heard at the polls.

voting, and for this we thank you for going out and letting your voice be heard.

In this large field with 15 candidates, this is a crowded race, but Troy Carter is the one person in this race who has the support of the diverse interest representing the district.

For this reason, we are asking all to get out and vote for Troy Carter and send a clear message that we overwhelmingly support a Proven Leader, with a record of excellence.

These are the reasons he's received endorsements across the spectrum of race, class and interest groups is because he is a bridge builder that can

bring people together across the District 2.

This is something he's done throughout his political career and now he can bring this to Washington D.C. as our next Congressman representing Louisiana Congressional District 2.

As I said in my earlier endorsement that these are serious times and on many fronts the District needs a fighter, but also someone who has the relationships with the leadership in Congress and the ear of the White House.

So please join me in supporting my friend Troy Carter for U.S. Louisiana 2nd Congressional District. The Right Choice for Louisiana U.S. Congressional District 2.

Commentary

From Desire To Purpose... A Dreamer's Journey

"Celebrating Our Phenomenal Women"



Renée Dugué
Co-Founder and Executive
Director of Reborn and Rising

As Earth's natural new year, the Vernal Equinox, approaches, how apropos is it that we celebrate Women's History in March. Flowing into 2021 and The Age of Aquarius, shifts are already evident. Newly elected feminine melanin poppin' in D.C., N.O., and all over the country has inspired much-needed hope after 2020's losses. Women are the backbone, the caretakers, the way-makers, and the change drivers that no society on this planet could exist without, and for the next twenty-one hundred fifty years, it's our time to shine!

I can't even imagine growing up in New Orleans without the women that shaped me. I literally reference or quote my maternal Grandmother every day. She had such a



Renée Dugué, pictured with women of the Small Soppo Village in Buea, Cameroon 2020, walks daily to raise awareness and funds to provide clean water to Africans in need. Also a Licensed Massage Therapist based in Houston, TX., her practice provides in-person and virtual healing services. Visit ReneeDugue.com to connect and learn more about her personal philosophy of healing through helping, and to support her WALK4WATER Campaign.

profound impact on my Daughter, that she named my Granddaughter after her. My Gram-Maw was something else! I'm sure yours, along with all the other women in your life were too. Drawing from our Ancestors' and Earth's collective consciousness, these Divine

Intuitives knew and had what you needed before you even knew you needed anything! Just like Aquarius, The Water Bearer (depicted as a man, but we know better LOL), they brought life! Their water pots bathed our bodies, healed our hurts, quenched our thirsts,

and fed our souls AND stomachs. How they knew to do that voodoo...transforming a pot of water and scraps into a world-renowned delicacy. Who's gumbo recipe is your favorite? Whether it's your Big Momma, Mamee, Ma Dear, Maw Maw, Mimi, Mother Dear, Nana, Grammie, Queenie, Teedy, or your NaNan's, they all (in my best Juvenile impression) knew how to make nothin' into somethin'! And it was all good Ha!?!

Our women walked their walk, danced their dance, sang their song, told their story...living lives that made history and impacts that still resonate with each of us. Emitting light and high vibrational energy, elevating our consciousness, heightening our creative and healing abilities, expanding our awareness and understanding of our obligation not only to those in our village but to love all of humanity, our phenomenal women built the platforms we stand on and blazed the trails we've surpassed. Their creations were magical. Their greatest being YOU! Be encouraged to honor them daily in all that you do, as you journey on your path that your loves will follow.

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Amazing stories start in shelters and rescues. Adopt today to start yours.

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theshelterpetproject.org



12 Year Old Prodigy Alena Wicker Personification of Black Excellence

Data News Staff Edited Report

Black Excellence is on full display as Alena Wicker, a 12-year-old whiz kid is getting ready to start college at Arizona State University with dreams of working for NASA.

It's a story that's gone viral

"I just had a goal I wanted to get to," said Wicker. She is an ambitious young girl, and the stratosphere is the limit, with her ultimate goal being able to work for NASA as an engineer.

"I always dreamed of being an engineer because throughout my life I liked the building," said Wicker.

She realized her passion when she started building LEGOS.

"At four years old she said I'm going to work at NASA," said her mother Daphne McQuarter.



Alena's Wicker's goal is to work for NASA and build rovers like the one sent to Mars in the perseverance mission.

"I'm kind of a nerd for the NASA-sized Legos," said Wicker. The prodigy finished high

school this year after acing her homeschool classes. She will start ASU classes in the summer.

"She just had a gift for numbers and LEGOS and science, so I started nurturing that gift," said McQuarter.

Wicker's mom says her child was born gifted.

Wicker will be majoring in Astronomical and Planetary Science and Chemistry. If all goes well, she'll be done with college at 16.

"I'll be driving in one of those future space mobiles by the time that I graduate college," said Wicker.

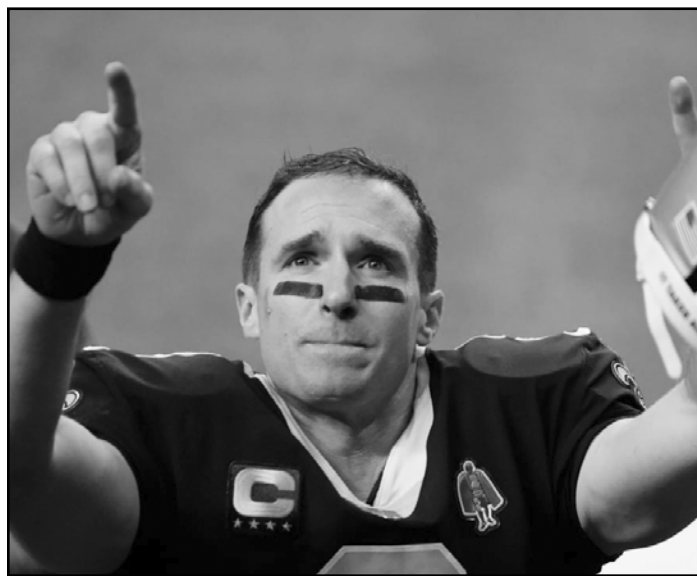
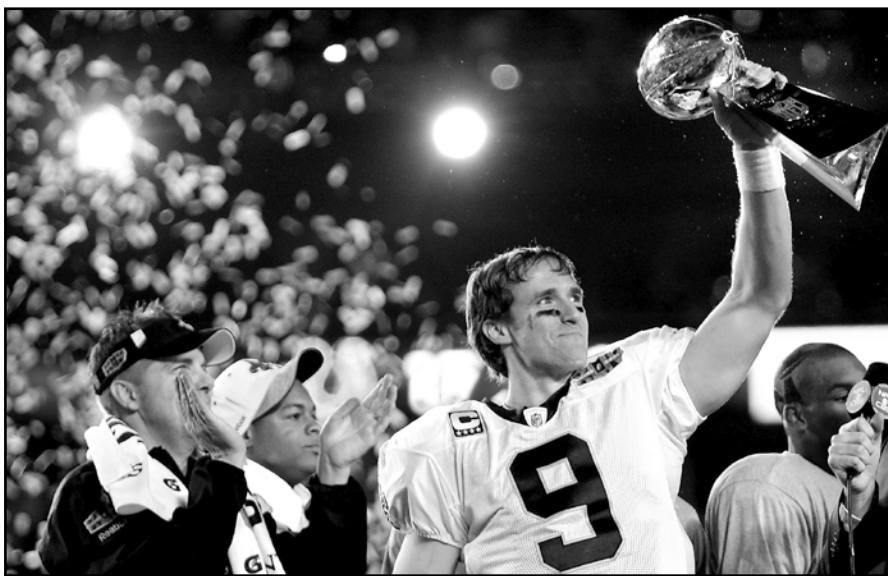
"Her goal is to, by the age of 16, be working for NASA," said McQuarter.

Alena's goal is to build rovers like the one sent to Mars in the perseverance mission.

"I'm just planning it all as I go. It doesn't matter what your age or what you're planning to do. Go for it, dream, then accomplish it," said Wicker.



Drew Brees Announces Retirement



Saints Great Drew Brees is retiring after 20 seasons in the NFL. Fifteen of those were with the Saints, where he led the team to a Super Bowl Victory and was named the game's MVP. He is arguably one of the greatest quarterbacks of all time.

Fleur De Lis Data News Weekly Contributor

Sunday's during football season will not be the same when the Saints begin its season later this next year. Drew Brees, one of the greatest QB's in league history is hanging up his cleats after appearing in 305 games over the last 20

years, 15 of them with the Black and Gold. Where he led the Saints a winner and gave the Who Dat Nation something to cheer about during football season.

His stellar career guarantees him a first choice for the Pro Football Hall of Fame. He leaves the gridiron owning the all-time record for career passing yards (80,358) and ranks second-best in league

history in touchdown passes (571) and completion percentage (67.7%). He's been an all-pro multiple times and he was also named Most Valuable Player after winning Super Bowl XLIV and bringing the Lombardi Trophy to New Orleans.

He was not only a champion on the field but off it as well, contributing time and money to worthy causes throughout

the City and State.

In his post NFL Career, Brees will be joining NBC Sports in the booth as an announcer.

Brees was a leader on the field and gave the City hope and something to cheer about. He is an inspiration and the fans of the Black and Gold will always cherish the memory of number 9...one of the greatest of all time.

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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 and datanewseditor@bellsouth.net.

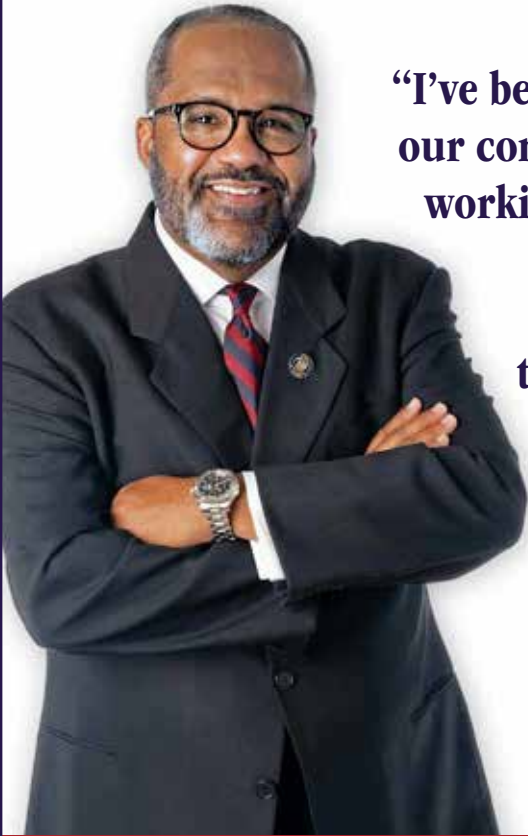
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THANK YOU TO THE DATA NEWS WEEKLY FOR THEIR ENDORSEMENT!



“I’ve been fighting for our communities and working with others to get things done. I am a trailblazer that has and will continue to be the voice of the people.”

— Troy Carter

THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

In Congress Troy will:

- ✓ Ensure COVID-19 recovery funding reaches everyone and that our community is not left behind while supporting small business, creating job training programs, and individuals who are suffering financially because of the pandemic.
- ✓ Expand access to quality and affordable healthcare while guaranteeing all Louisiana residents have access to the COVID-19 vaccine.
- ✓ Fight without ceasing for Louisianians to be able to live the “American Dream” by creating equal and fair housing legislation.
- ✓ Continue the fight for our citizens who are living with disabilities.
- ✓ Fight for criminal justice reform, environmental justice, equal pay and a living wage for all Louisianians.
- ✓ Advocate for the reduction or elimination of student loan debt.
- ✓ Champion for government to allow women to make 100% of the decisions concerning their health and reproductive rights.

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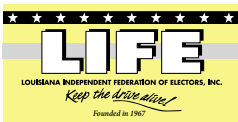
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