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**Idris Elba Stars in
Concrete Cowboy**

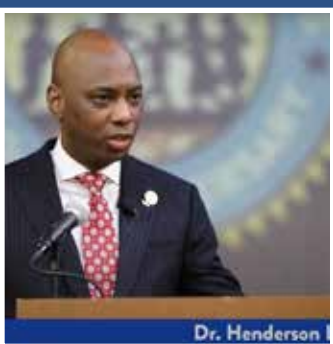
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April 10 - April 16, 2021 55th Year Volume 50 www.ladatanews.com

A Data News Weekly Exclusive

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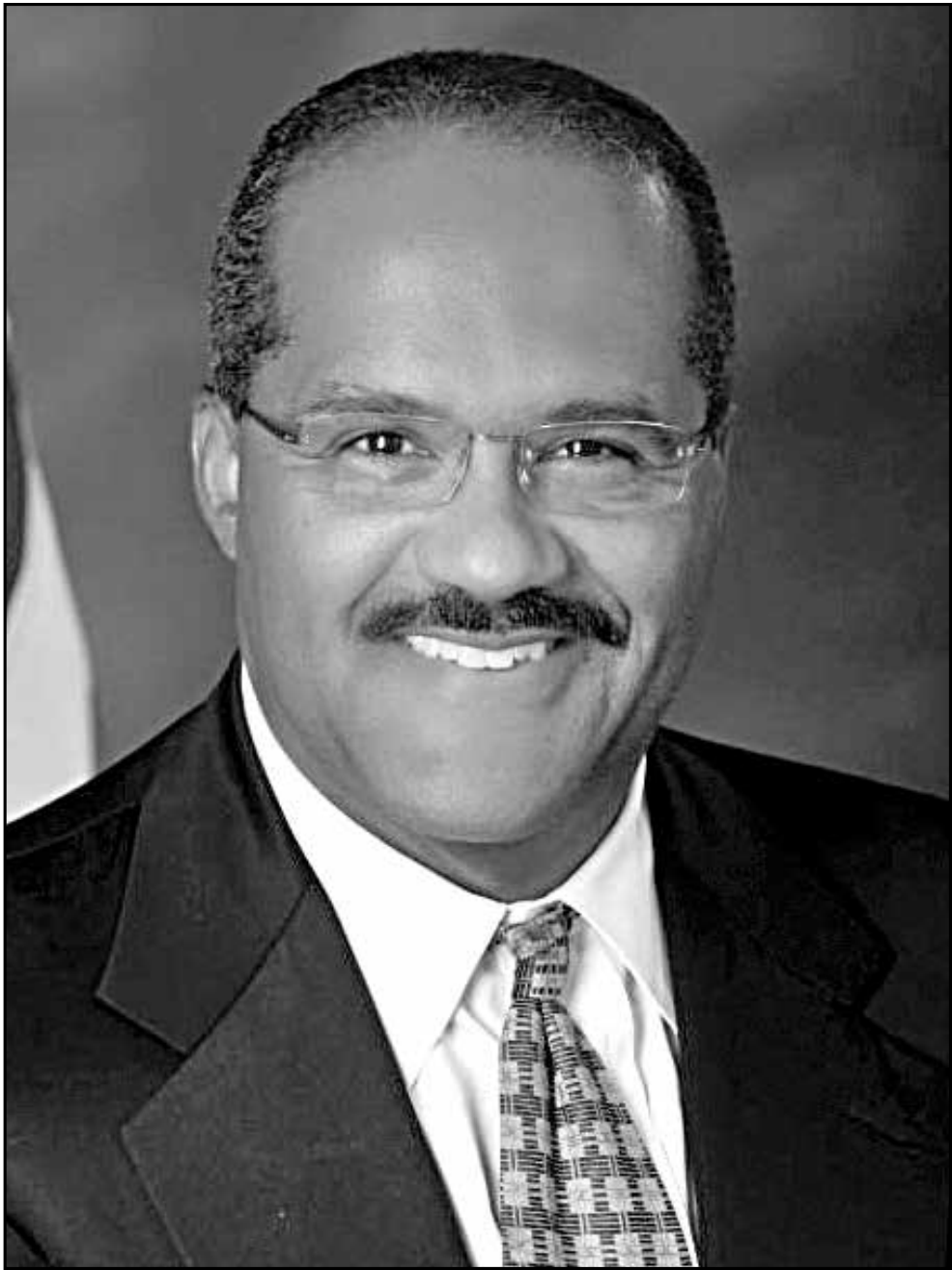
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Early Voting Begins in Race For Louisiana 2nd Congressional District

April 10th-17th... Let Your Voices Be Heard



Troy Carter placed first in the primary and is receiving the majority of endorsements from elected, business and civic leaders.

Benjamin Bates
Data News Weekly Contributor

It is that time again, as people are headed to the polls to decide who will represent Louisiana 2nd Congressional District.

In a race that began with 15 candidates it's come down to two. Both are from New Orleans and are presently serving in the Louisiana State Senate. Troy Carter, was the frontrunner in the primary, getting 36 percent of the vote. Karen Carter Peterson placed second with 23 percent of the vote.

Both are Democrats and on April 24, 2021, one of them will replace Cedric Richmond, who held the seat for a decade and presently is serving in the Biden Administration as the Director of Public Engagement.

Richmond endorsed Carter, who's also received the majority of endorsements from local, state, national and business leaders.

"I am proud to have a broad coalition of support from local elected officials from up and down the District. Garnering these endorsements is a testament to the relationships that I've built during my career in public service and my ability to work with others to provide meaningful and tangible change to strengthen our communities," says Carter of his campaign.

Third place finisher Gary Chambers, who received 21 percent of the vote endorsed Karen Carter Peterson. This will make turnout important where every vote count to who eventually will emerge as the victor in this race. In the primary turnout was low and both campaigns are working to get out their voters across the District.

Both candidates are touting their experience as lawmakers in their pitch to the voters of the District. While in the State House some of their positions are similar, Troy Carter believes he better understands how to govern and get things done to bring back

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The race for Louisiana's 2nd Congressional District started with 15 candidates and now is down to two. Troy Carter and Karen Carter Peterson will face off on April 24, 2021. Early voting is from April 10-17.



Karen Carter Peterson is attempting to make history as the first woman candidate to be elected to represent Louisiana 2nd Congressional District.



Data News Weekly is encouraging all to get out and vote. Let your voices be heard at the polls.

resources that are needed in the District.

He believes that his relationships with those presently in power will give the District a seat at the table and prioritize Louisiana 2nd Congressional District.

Karen Carter Peterson is running as a progressive and is saying that she will be a fighter if elected. Also, as we have seen a wave of female candidates run-

ning for office across the country, she is attempting to become the first woman elected to represent the District.

Both are attempting to build a coalition to win on Election Day.

"On the federal level, I am proud to have secured the endorsement of the outgoing

Congressman, Cedric Richmond, sitting members including Rep. Bennie Thompson, Majority



Voter turnout is key to victory for both candidates.

Whip Jim Clyburn, CBC Chair Joyce Beatty, Chairman Hakeem Jeffries, Rep Jerry Nadler, Rep

Raja Krishnamoorthi, Rep Filemon Vela Jr, and Rep Andre Carson, among others.

Locally, I am proud to have been endorsed by State Senators: Joseph Bouie, Jimmie Harris,

Paul Connick, Greg Tarver, Ed Price, State House Representatives: Jason Hughes, Ken Brass,

Randall Gaines, Rodney Lyons, Kyle Green, and Parish President Cynthia Lee Sheng.

I've also been endorsed by local organizations including; LA Democratic Party, IWO, LIFE,

SOUL, AFL-CIO, Alliance for Good Government, and JPDEC," says Troy Carter of his wide coalition of supporters.

Early Voting Sites:

City Hall IW24
1300 Perdido Street
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

Early voting begins on April 10th and runs through April 17th with the election on April 24th.

EARLY VOTE

APRIL 10-17

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Idris Elba Stars in Concrete Cowboy

A Must See Film Now Airing on Netflix

Edwin Buggage
Editor-in-Chief

Coming in at number one this week is the must-see movie "Concrete Cowboy" it is presently the most popular movie on Netflix, according to the streaming service's public ranking system.

In the film, Idris Elba, and Caleb McLaughlin of "Stranger Things" fame star as a father and son in this coming-of-age film of a young man who is sent to live with his father who is part of a horse-riding community inside of North Philadelphia.

It is a film that draws at the heart-strings as Fifteen-year-old Cole (McLaughlin) is a troubled kid who is sent from Detroit for the summer in Philadelphia to live with his estranged father Harp (Elba), a tough, old-West style cowboy who lives and rides at a century-old African American horsemanship institution called the Fletcher Street Urban Riding Club.

Cole is like many angry young Black men who do not have a father. But as he gets to know his father and those in the horse-riding community, they teach him the value of hard work and discipline.

Against this backdrop Cole also finds himself attracted to the lure of fast money when he reconnects with Smush (Jharrel Jerome), who plays a low-level drug dealer who points the way to any easier method of making money.

The film is loosely based on the book "Ghetto Cowboy" by Greg Neri, "Concrete Cowboy" is a different type of western from previous films featuring Blacks in this genre.

The characters are well-rounded and relatable. This is a film that is thought provoking, inspirational as well as entertaining.

While Elba is the draw for many, it is McLaughlin, whose depiction of Cole shows the incredible range of this young star on the rise. He shows the multiple layers of so many young Black men in how he brings together the vulnerability and innocence and rebelliousness of young men trying to navigate the bridge from boyhood to manhood.

Also of note is a great supporting cast, with Cliff "Method Man" Smith as a local, sympathetic cop and Lorraine Toussaint and real-life Fletcher Street Riders like Jamil Prattis, who



Caleb McLaughlin (L) gives a standout performance as Cole, a troubled teen sent to live with his father for the summer. Elba plays Harp his estranged father, who attempts to navigate his son to manhood.



Idris Elba stars in Concrete Cowboy, an amazing film that is presently the top streaming movie on Netflix.



Elba plays the role of Harp, the leader of a century old African American horse club in North Philadelphia called the Fletcher Riding Club.



Cole, played by McLaughlin while living with his father is caught between the values his father is trying to instill in him and the lure of fast money.



In the film the entire horse riding community takes Cole under their wing in this emotionally relevant story of father and son as well as a great and little known African American tradition.

portrays a wheelchair bound Fletcher Street stables fixture who brings a touch of authenticity to the film.

In the end "Concrete Cowboy" is more than a film about a father and son,

but a film about values and the love in a community with multi-layered characters that is not often shown in films featuring an African American cast.

This film I highly recommend for all,

but especially for Black men and teenage boys to watch. for it shows the importance of the need for Black fathers in our community to be involved in the lives of their children.

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



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New Orleans Public Schools turns 180 Years Old

Jonae Bond
Data News Weekly
Contributor

New Orleans founded one of the first public school systems in the South. On March 26, 2021, the school system marked its 180th Anniversary of the New Orleans Public Schools System. The journey of the NOLA Public School System has been marked by both major victories and the challenge to overcome socioeconomic and racial inequity.

"Improving society by expanding the education system has not come without struggle," said Justin McCorkle, the NOLA Public Schools Director of Community Relations. "But without these struggles we would not be where we are today."

Officially created in 1841, the Louisiana Legislature approved a part of state education funds to support public education in New Orleans. Although the system received approval, there were still many obstacles for it to overcome.

African Americans freed from slavery also sought to achieve advancement through public education, explained Ethan Ashley, the Orleans Parish School Board President. In 1900, the school board proceeded to restrict African American students to enroll in public schools. These barriers to entry for public education were set for the first five grades, even though Black students were attending public high schools for almost an entire generation. Racial segregation policies and a great lack of funding caused African American students to have different and low-quality public education.

"Without the official abolition of slavery... I would not be standing here as the school board president," Ashley said. "The system has fought so many reforms and the school board is only focused on getting better."

For 80 years, many of the South's population was excluded from education. In 1917, Julius Rosenwald, an American businessman and philanthropist, was inspired by a paper written by Booker T. Washington. Rosenwald took his fortune to help build 5,000 schools for the African American communities who were excluded from educational resources in the South. Some of these schools still stand today. For-



Dr. Henderson Lewis Jr, the superintendent of NOLA Public Schools shared how the schools have adapted during the pandemic at the 180th Anniversary event.



Orleans Parish School Board president Ethan Ashley shared how public schools enabled recently freed enslaved people in the South to find a path forward to economic advancement after centuries in bondage.

mer U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu explained at the anniversary event that almost the entire African American middle-class of the South can trace their roots back to one of those 5,000 schools.

"This root is deep in this community and we are trying to build schools that work for all races," Landrieu said. "We want to shine on in an amazing way to show how races can come together as one."

The achievement of NOLA Public Schools should also be considered when thinking about disparities in education around the world, Landrieu said.

"When we think of 180 years it is kind of hard to wrap it around

our heads," Landrieu said. "There are still nations today that do not believe in true access of education and equality."

Since Hurricane Katrina, the NOLA Public School System experienced its biggest change since desegregation of public schools. The city became the home to the first All-Charter School System in the United States. While New Orleans charter schools have had some improvements in academic performance each year along with an increase in graduation rates, the work to improve the quality of education in the system still continues. Orleans Parish Schools still carries a higher percentage of inexperienced teachers compared to surrounding parishes and the ratio of teachers of color to students of color in the system remains lower than other districts, according to recent data from The Education Trust.

The COVID-19 Pandemic has also been a test for educators, families, and the school system in moving education to remote, online formats and returning students and teachers back safely this year.

"Thank you to the men and women who have dedicated their lives to educating the children of NOLA," said New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell in her remarks. "Children are the best source of our future."

Despite the challenges to learning in the pandemic, Dr. Henderson Lewis Jr., the superintendent for NOLA Public Schools, said that there is much students have still achieved.

"You all can and will overcome," Lewis Jr. said. "At NOLA PS we have countless success stories of students that have been through and overcome the challenges you all face today."

The school system allocated \$5 million in 2020 to support students in continuing their education during the pandemic, Ashley said. Although the School Board and the NOLA Public Schools System has endured many challenges, its leaders said they will continue to push forward to make it more equitable for all students.

"Even though you may go through a lot...know we are going to hold you all close every day. We are going to let you know that you will get through it," Lewis Jr. said. "In the midst of darkness light will persist. Shine on NOLA Public Schools, shine on," he said.



Former U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu shared that NOLA Public Schools played an important role in educating African American families during the Civil Rights era.

Police Chief: Use of Force on George Floyd Unjustified

Data Staff Edited Report

In what's become a trial watched by people across the world. It is one where issues of racial justice and systemic racism in policing is on trial.

In what's been testimony filled with emotion the trial of former police officer Derek Chauvin moved into its second week on Monday April 5, 2021.

Dr. Bradford Langenfeld, the emergency physician who tried to resuscitate George Floyd, testified that he thought Floyd died of asphyxia. Langenfeld was on duty at the Hennepin County Medical Center when paramedics brought Floyd in after trying to resuscitate him for 30 minutes.

He said Floyd's heart had already stopped when he arrived,



Minneapolis Police Chief Medaria Arradondo told jurors Monday that former officer Derek Chauvin's restraint of Floyd "absolutely" violated department policy. He said that the restraint should have stopped "once Mr. Floyd stopped resisting" and "once he was in distress and verbalized it."

most likely from cardiac arrest after lack of oxygen. Prosecutors blamed Chauvin for pressing his knee on Floyd's neck for several minutes before Floyd died on May 25, 2020. When questioned by Chauvin's attorneys, the doctor confirmed fentanyl and methamphetamine, both of which were found in Floyd's body, can cause hypoxia, or insufficient oxygen.

Minneapolis Police Chief Medaria Arradondo testified that police policy and training require officers to de-escalate situations and minimize use of force. Officers are trained in basic first aid and must provide help as soon as possible while waiting for paramedics, and Chauvin should have stopped forcibly restraining Floyd when Floyd stopped resisting, Arradondo said.

Publisher

Troy Carter...

The Right Choice for LA 2nd Congressional District



Terry B. Jones
Publisher,
Data News Weekly

The time is now that citizens of Louisiana's 2nd Congressional Dis-

trict get out and vote for the person best suited to represent our district. that person my friends is Troy Carter.

After finishing first in the primary by double digits, it is time to put him over the top and send him to Washington D.C. where he can immediately begin getting things done. The reason Troy is being endorsed by a wide array of voters and interest groups is because over his career in politics and business, he's proven he is a bridge builder who can bring various interest together

under one tent.

He is also a dedicated to family and people in the community. Troy is one who gives back to the community and this is who we need. He has the compassion, competence, and dedication to continue the great work Cedric Richmond has done for the District.

He sees this and that is why Richmond and so many others that include Data News Weekly are endorsing Troy Carter.

And yes, it is important to have someone who is a fighter, but one must also have the temperament and understanding of compromise and relationships in getting the district the things we need. This is something Troy's done throughout his time as a public servant.

He is the right candidate, so we are asking all to please get out and vote for Troy Carter...THE RIGHT CHOICE for Louisiana 2nd Congressional District.

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