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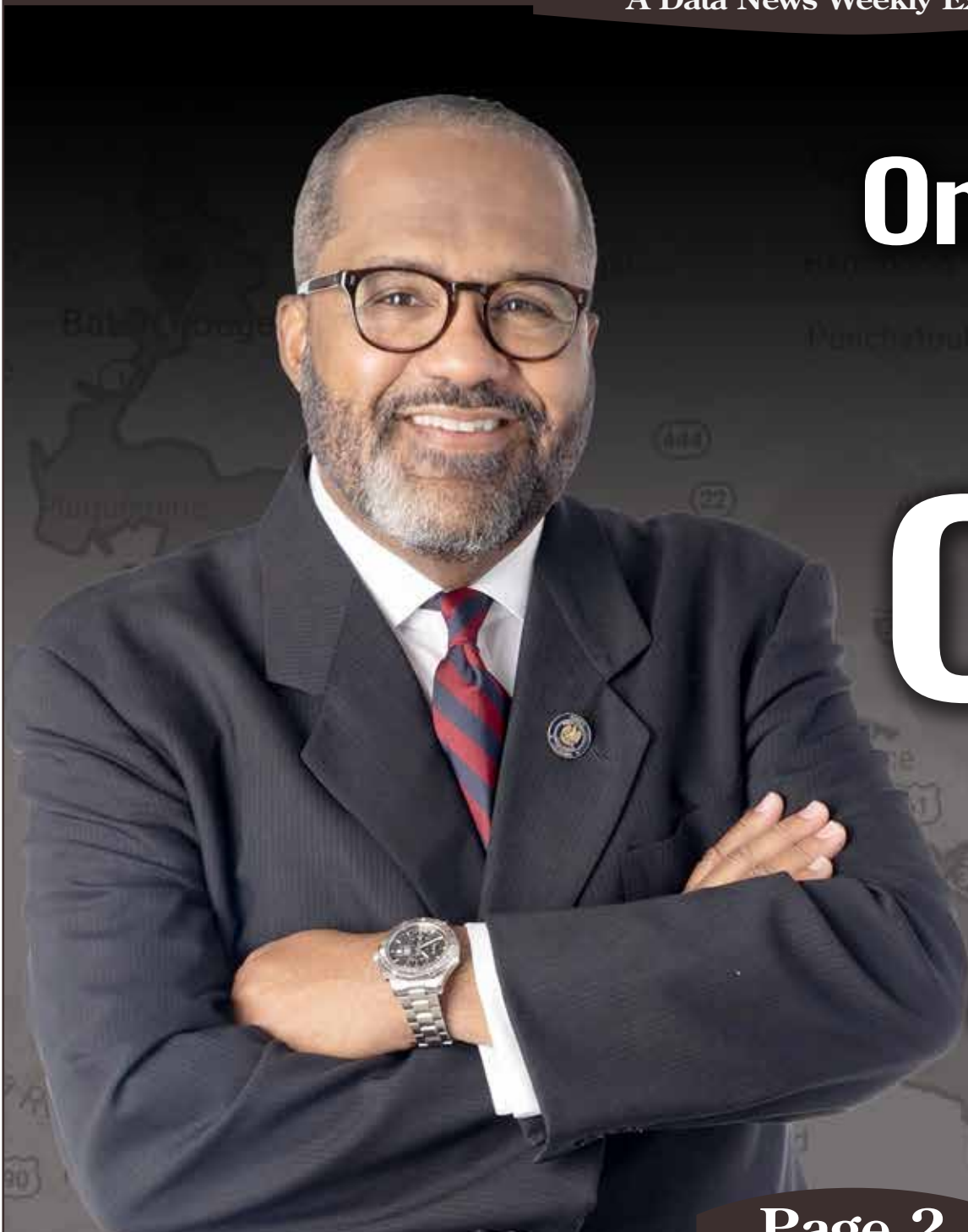
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A Data News Weekly Exclusive



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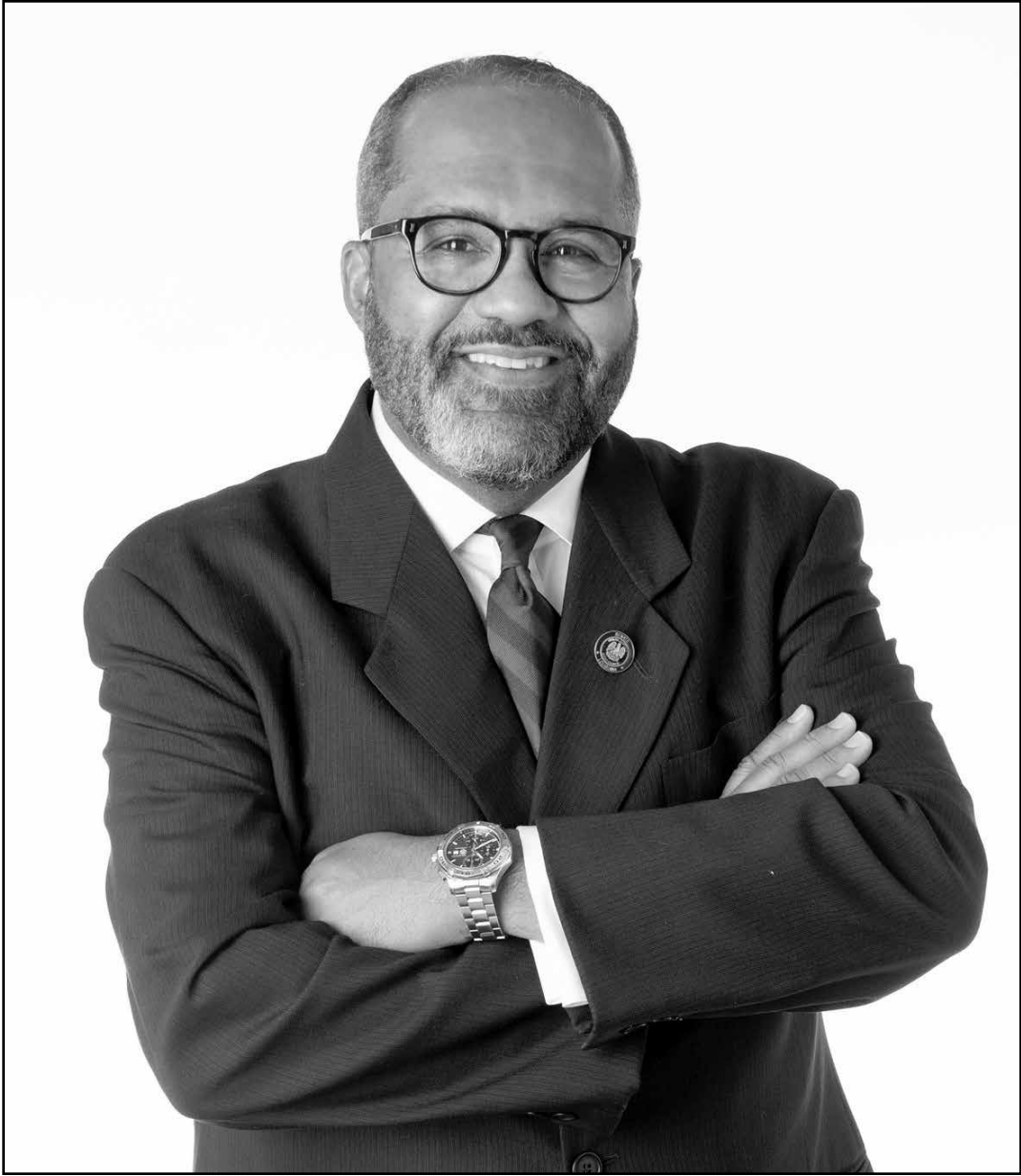
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One on One with Troy Carter

Candidate for Louisiana 2nd Congressional District



State Senator Troy Carter is a candidate for Louisiana 2nd Congressional District.

Edwin Buggage
Editor-in-Chief

The race for Louisiana 2nd Congressional District is in full swing as voters are heading to the polls for early voting that ends on April 17th. The run-off election is on April 24, 2021, and Data News Weekly is encouraging all to get out and vote.

Data News Weekly caught up with State Senator Troy Carter, who is a candidate and finished first in the primary to speak about his campaign.

“We feel optimistic heading into the run-off after a very strong showing in the Primary,” says Carter. Also, he spoke of how he’s built a strong coalition heading into Election Day. “It’s about connecting with voters and reaching them with our message.”

Carter has an ambitious agenda, “If elected I will work to expand access to quality and affordable health care, access to COVID-19 vaccinations and stimulus relief for all Americans with an emphasis on small businesses and individuals. Eliminate the ever-inflating student loan debt that is such a burden to students from working families. Fight for Criminal Justice Reform, environmental justice, equal pay, and a living wage for all Louisianians. Champion reproductive rights to ensure that government allow women to make 100% of decisions concerning their health. Continue to advocate for our citizens living with disabilities. Reduce police misconduct. Strengthen our community safety and homeland security from threats both foreign and domestic.”

The Carter Campaign is resonating with voters from all walks of life across the 2nd District. He’s also been endorsed by Cedric Richmond, who served in the U.S. House of Representatives Louisiana’s 2nd Congressional District office for a decade and now is a Senior Advisor in the Biden Administration and is endorsing Troy Carter.

“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.”

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DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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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 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."

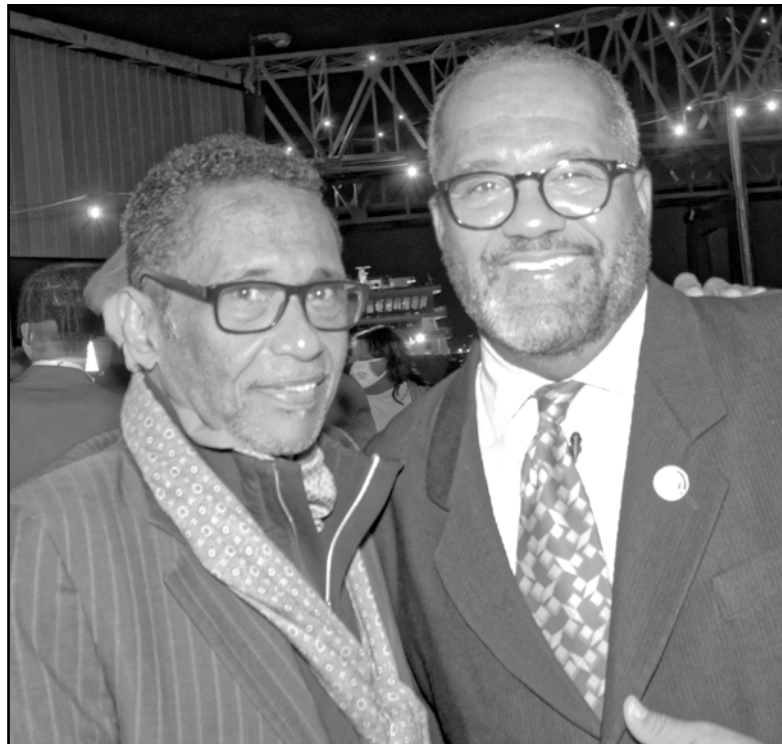
Speaking of his experience of



"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."



Speaking of his experience of building bridges of co-operation and getting things done Carter says, "As evidenced by my numerous local endorsements, I have a proven track record of cooperating and negotiating to get things done. While fighting for what's right is important, I understand that this is not a zero-sum game."



Troy Carter and Data News Weekly Publisher, Terry Jones at campaign event after his first place finish in the primary.

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"As the Minority Leader of the Louisiana State Senate, I can tell you that we don't always have the votes to get everything done that we would like to. However, that doesn't stop us from choosing our battles and doing what we can to help our constituents, this is why I file a yearly billion raising the minimum wage and enacting anti-discrimination legislation."

The District as is many across the country is suffering as a result of COVID-19. This is something that Carter plans to address if elected.

"People are hurting from both the COVID-19 Pandemic and the ever-present epidemic of racial injustice. With that said, I know that we must do what we can to help people immediately. Empty slogans don't pay bills"

Voter turnout is important, and Troy Carter is encouraging all to get out and vote, so that he can go to Washington D.C. and serve the people of the District and get things done.

"Exercising one's civic duty and voting is paramount to a strong Democracy. As we learned from our past two presidential elections, it is on all of us to do our part and vote. When the margins are so slim, and the consequences are so big – people must vote and make their voices heard. I would be humbled to have your vote on April 24th. I'm proud of my career as a public servant. I have always, and I will always, fight for you."



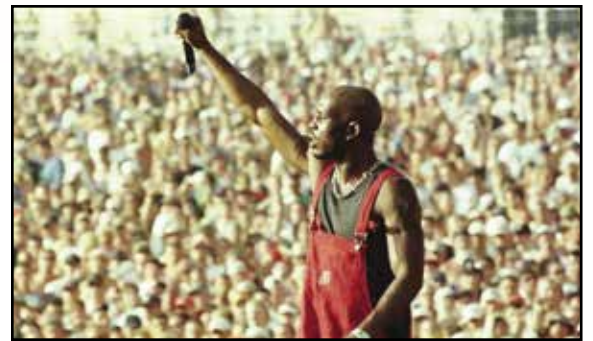
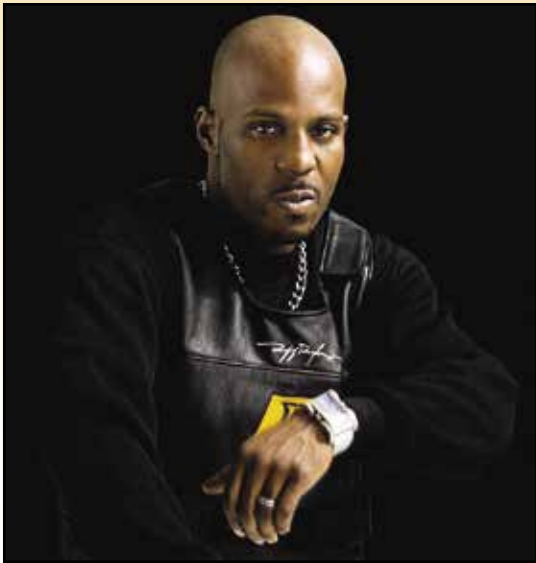
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IN MEMORIAM

Hip Hop Superstar DMX Has Died at 50



DMX (Earl Simmons) recently passed away at age 50. He was an icon who helped defined 90's hip hop. He was also a critically acclaimed actor, appearing in several films.

Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior National
Correspondent

DMX, the sensationally talented and gruff-voiced rap artist and actor who rose from the hardscrabble streets of Yonkers, New York, to become one of hip-hop's most prolific stars, has died at the age of 50.

Most famous for the "Ruff Ryders Anthem," DMX, whose real name is Earl Simmons, suffered a heart attack last week.

He was rushed to White Plains Hospital where doctors worked for several days to try and revive him.

"We are deeply saddened to announce today that our loved one, DMX, birth name of Earl Simmons, passed away at 50 years old at White Plains Hospital with his family by his side after being placed on life support for the past few days," the family wrote in a statement.

"Earl was a warrior who fought till the very end. He loved his family with all of his heart, and we cherish the

times we spent with him. Earl's music inspired countless fans across the world and his iconic legacy will live on forever. We appreciate all of the love and support during this incredibly difficult time. Please respect our privacy as we grieve the loss of our brother, father, uncle and the man the world knew as DMX. We will share information about his memorial service once details are finalized."

Raised by his aunt, DMX took hip-hop by storm in the 1990s.

He won Source magazine's Unsigned Hype Award in January 1991 and released the promo single 'Born Loser' for Columbia Records.

After a nearly three-year hiatus, DMX returned to the limelight with an appearance on LL Cool J's "4, 3, 2, 1."

He worked with the Diddy protégé Ma\$e on '24 Hours To Live', the LOX's "Money, Power & Respect," and the remix of Ice Cube's smash hit, "We Be Clubbin'."

After signing a contract with Ruff Ryders/ Def Jam Records, DMX recorded his iconic hit, "Get At Me Dog," which

quickly rose up the rap and pop music charts.

His seminal CD, "It's Dark and Hell is Hot," cemented his legacy as a rap music genius.

The website AllMusic.com noted that, following the deaths of Tupac Shakur and the Notorious B.I.G., DMX took over as the undisputed reigning king of hardcore rap.

"He was that rare commodity: a commercial powerhouse with artistic and street credibility to spare," editors at AllMusic.com wrote.

"His rapid ascent to stardom was actually almost a decade in the making, which gave him a chance to develop the theatrical image that made him one of rap's most distinctive personalities during his heyday."

Hype Williams' motion picture "Belly" was among the first to cast DMX in leading roles.

The 1998 film also included Nas, Taral Hicks, Method Man, R&B singer T-Boz, and National Newspaper Publishers Association President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.

Before the end of 1998, DMX completed his second album, and a pending buyout of Def Jam pushed the record into stores that December. Featuring a controversial cover photo of the rapper covered in blood, *Flesh of My Flesh, Blood of My Blood* entered the charts at number one and eventually went triple platinum.

The following year, DMX hit the road with Jay-Z and the Method Man/Redman team on the blockbuster *Hard Knock Life* tour.

"The Ruff Ryders posse – of which DMX was a core, founding member – released a showcase compilation, *Ryde or Die, Vol. 1*," AllMusic.com editors wrote.

"With contributions from DMX, as well as Eve, the LOX, and multiple guests, *Ryde or Die, Vol. 1* debuted at number one in the spring of 1999, further cementing DMX's Midas touch."

DMX went on to star in a myriad of motion pictures and television shows, including "Any Given Sunday," "Gone in 60 Seconds," and "Cradle 2 the Grave."

DMX reportedly is survived by a fiancée, his mother and 15 children.

Spring has Sprung

Decluttering Your Mind and Soul



Spring is here and it is time to declutter your mind and replenish your soul. Time to throw out the old things and replace with new things. We must change our mindset, eating habits and focus...becoming more aware of things that will set us free to enjoy a new season and reach our full potential.



Diva Dionne Character
Female Empowerment
Columnist

Ladies, it's time for us to clear our minds as we approach a new season of hope and joy, celebrating Spring, "decluttering," enjoying the month

of April along with the birds and the bees, grabbing some fresh lemonade, replenishing our souls with a good book as we lay in a field of fresh daisies.

Just as we have to throw out the old and replace with new things, we must change our mindset, eating habits and focus-- becoming more aware of the things that will set us free to enjoy a new season. If we never get organized we will never be able to see our full potential.

No matter what stage of life we

are at and no matter who we are, we all long to live happier lives, connecting with the universe in finding our true purpose. Maybe it's time to let go of unhappy people and unhealthy thoughts, which seem to stress our bodies, holding us back from becoming more confident and capable. Perhaps some of us should practice solitude turning off the television and our cell phones, becoming more in tuned with where we really would like to go and who we really are.

These things will certainly help

us become more content with understanding what's controllable.

It's time to plant some new seeds. It's time to declutter those old thoughts. It's time you focus on where you going and not where you've been all winter long. It's time to get a move on and do something fun!

Decide what you want today and start saying "no" to everything else. A simplified life is the key to a decluttered mind and soul.

Dionne Character can be reached at www.characterhollywood.com

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LSU Students Voice Safety Concerns In the Case of Missing Student Kori Gauthier

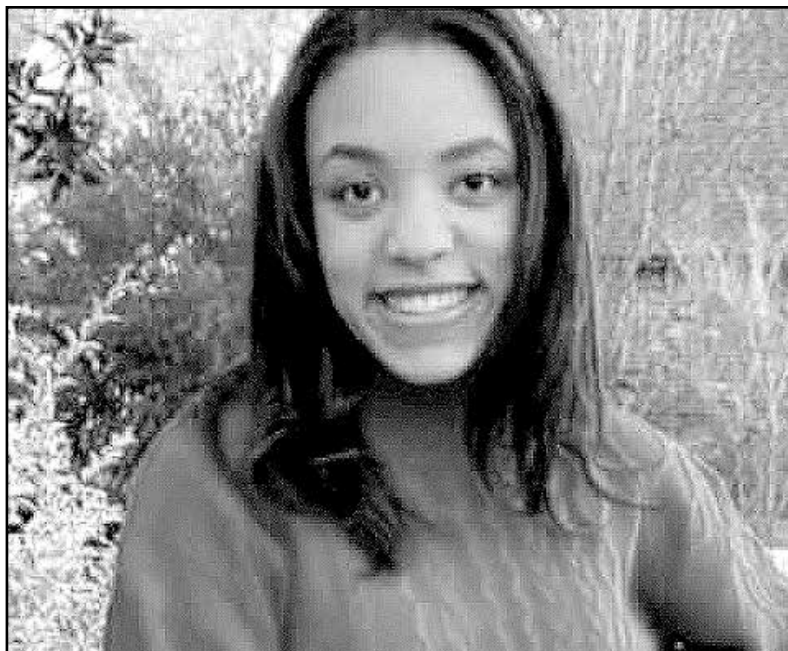
Kai Davis
Data News Weekly
Contributor

Young Black college students took to social media to join in on the ongoing search for a missing Louisiana State University freshman since Tuesday April 6, 2021. In addition to Gauthier's case, a report outlining LSU's failed compliance to Title IX reporting stemming from sexual misconduct reports have left many young people and parents in the greater New Orleans-Baton Rouge area concerned about the safety of the state's flagship Public University Campus.

Crews continue to search for Kori Gauthier as of Monday, April 12th, after the LSU freshman from Opelousas, was reported missing when her car was discovered on the Mississippi River Bridge on Interstate 10. Baton Rouge police indicate they do not have any evidence to suspect foul play or any criminal activity in the case. And while the search continues for Gauthier, current students say they feel not enough is being done to create a safe space for students.

"I think it's 1, pretty scary and 2, disheartening to realize it took LSU a few days until she was big on social media to say anything," said Naya McGill, a graduating senior at LSU. "By the time LSU sent an email, everyone on campus knew about Kori through social media. It was just very disappointing to watch all of that unfold," McGill said.

Students who attend LSU shared



Opelousas native Kori Gauthier has been missing since April 6.

that safety concerns regarding the recent news of Gauthier's disappearance and the ongoing coverage of sexual misconduct at the school has elevated conversations around whether the school is actively listening to students.

"When I was an undergrad student, I did not feel the safest. Some students could stay out late and not have a problem, but I was not one of those students," said Loreal Johnson, an LSU graduate student who will earn her master's degree there in May.

Routinely mishandling multiple sexual allegations, LSU is now under its second federal investigation of sexual misconduct.

"The whole situation with sexual misconduct allegations is very dis-

appointing, it really makes me question if they care to listen to their students' stories and to stop their horrendous situations from happening," McGill said.

Students complained on social media that university officials were initially removing posters to help find Gauthier. Amongst response to how LSU is handling Gauthier's situation, students said they felt there is a divide on what LSU students believe is the best for the school and what administration believe is best for the school's image.

"Maybe eight-to-nine hours passed following her disappearance and students were already making it aware, and efforts to spread. While an entire day and a half later, LSU finally made a statement con-



LSU students hold weekend prayer vigils for missing freshman.

cerning the disappearance of one of their students," said Colbe Perry, a senior LSU transfer student.

Students believe the campus is not taking timely precautions to handle Title IX reports and creating a safe space for students. LSU President Thomas Galligan said in a statement that the investigation reports were "brutally honest and objective evaluation of our culture." Students said they want the university to begin to address all forms of safety on campus.

"LSU makes it seem as if it is a safe campus for all students no matter gender or race, when in actuality, there are certain groups who cannot experience this safety and comfort," Perry said. "It is a great school, but until it's safe for all, the only thing LSU can do to prevent these types of circumstances from happening is to remain accountable and vigilant," Perry added.

Four of the 10 football players accused of sexual assault were arrested, while the other six faced allegations at LSU. In response to these allegations, LSU found that

a "highly recruited football player" was responsible for the sexual allegations made on campus.

LSU handled the news with lenient punishment being "disciplinary probation." Which forbade him from studying abroad, but still allowed him to play the entire 2017 and 2018 season, according to reports.

Upon the ongoing investigations and disappearance of Gauthier, LSU students have spread flyers, hosted prayer vigils, and walked the Mississippi River levee to continue to spread over social media and in the community, about Gauthier's disappearance.

"It makes me feel very concerned for the family especially, I just really hope they're able to find her," Johnson said. "Yes, LSU has a lot going on but the fact that a student is missing, and the family and students had to beg and plead to get information about her posted is really unacceptable. I really hope LSU makes necessary changes to become a better university overall," Johnson added.

State & Local News

Southern University Hosted Statewide Vaccination Day

Story and Photos by
Madison Brydie
Data News Weekly
Contributor

As the number of fully vaccinated residents in Louisiana increased weekly to 413,000 by April 12th, Southern University joined the statewide push in the fight against COVID-19 through its statewide vaccination day. On April 10th, the university administered the one-dose Johnson &

Johnson Vaccine across its five campuses and four additional sites, including its Southern University of New Orleans (SUNO) Campus. The university system provided the vaccines in collaboration with the Louisiana Department of Health, that was administered by the Louisiana National Guard. The vaccination event is part of the Southern University system's "Don't Wait. Vaccinate!" effort to encourage racial minority groups to get vaccinated.

"We have to put out more information about it and we have to circulate it on social media and circulate it through traditional media outlets as well, but to provide more information on how these vaccines were developed, [the] testing that it went through, and it has been approved by the USDA," said Alfred E. Harrell III, the Executive Director of the Southern University System Foundation.

The event is the second step in educating the African American

community on how important it is to maintain their health and get vaccinated. Despite African Americans being disproportionately affected by COVID-19, the community is still recording a lower vaccination rate statewide, Alfred explained.

Dozens of community members gathered on a Saturday at the SUNO Campus to get their vaccination and to access the free vaccine. After getting vaccinated, some residents shared their relief knowing that they are safer from the virus.

"Being able to be okay, because I had a sister that had it and she wasn't okay, it took a while for her to come back to us," said Shongyla Williams, 60, a retired Harrah's Casino host who said that it was this up-close reference to the effects of COVID-19 when her sister tested positive, that encouraged her to get vaccinated.

"As soon as she got on her feet and they started developing the

State & Local News,
Continued on page 7.

Winners of Local Competition for National Spelling Bee Announced



First-place, Ms. Zaila Avante-Garde



Second place - Annalise Perez



Third place - Harper Hill

New Orleans Agenda News Release

NEW ORLEANS - The New Orleans Chapter of The Links, Incorporated hosted the local competition of the Annual Scripps National Spelling Bee on Friday, March 12th via virtual platform. Students from these schools participated: Christian Brothers School, Clearwood Junior High School, Clover Lane

Home School, Metairie Academy for Advanced Studies, St. Angela Merici School, St. Francis Xavier School, Stuart Hall School for Boys, and Young Audiences Charter School. In total, fifty-seven students were assigned the online test.

The winners of the local bee are: first place - Zaila Avante-Garde who is an 8th grader at Clover Land Home School; second place - Annalise Perez who is a 6th grader at

Young Audiences Charter School; and third place - Harper Hill who is a 4th grader at Metairie Academy for Advanced Studies. All winners were presented with gift cards, trophies, and ribbons. Their teachers were also presented with gift cards in appreciation for their support.

The first-place winner, Ms. Zaila Avante-Garde, will receive an all-expense-paid trip to the Scripps National Spelling Bee which will

feature spellers from across the U.S. and the globe who will gather near Orlando, Florida, on July 8th to compete in the nationally televised event. The final rounds of this year's Bee will be hosted in person at ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex at Walt Disney World Resort. The finals, featuring 10-12 accomplished spellers, will be broadcast live in Primetime on ESPN2.



Alfred E. Harrell III is the Executive Director for the Southern University System Foundation.



SUNA student Sonaia M. joined many of her classmates to be vaccinated on her campus.



Conrad Barre, a Retail Manager, said he went to the Southern University Statewide Vaccination Day event because he wants life in the city to return to normal again.

State & Local News, Continued from page 6.

vaccine she got it and she told me to get it, and I did."

Other participants felt a similar sense of relief after their vaccination, like 19-year-old SUNO student Sanaia M. Despite a lower risk of severe complications from the virus, she shared that she still maintained a serious concern for COVID-19. After her vaccination, she was most excited about the new sense of safety from the immunity the vaccine creates.

"This vaccination has become a safeguard to relieve the fear of CO-

VID-19 in everyday lives. People hope to weaken the fear that affects them every day and get back to normal," she shared.

Normalcy was 43-year-old Retail Manager, Conrad Barre's main motivation for his vaccination. "I aspire to get back to regular, and get back to normalcy," Barre said. Just like Williams, he said when he left he felt great after receiving the vaccine and ready to continue his day.

A positive reaction was common among other participants; however, Bonita Robinson, 53, who got vaccinated with her daughter Brianna Robinson, 29, continued to hold

skepticism toward the vaccines, even after getting vaccinated herself. Both Bonita and her daughter's primary motivation behind getting the vaccine was concern for Bonita's mother and Brianna's grandmother's health. They also had different opinions on the vaccine research and trials.

Bonita said she still had reservations even after her vaccination.

"No, I was not excited about getting it. I got it for my mother. I don't think enough testing was done. I don't think 100,000 people is enough to test. I don't think they did enough tests on

interactions with other medicine and the long-term effects of that," Bonita said.

However, her daughter Brianna shared she was indifferent toward the vaccination.

"I didn't feel strongly about getting it, but I didn't feel strongly opposed to getting it, so why not get it. I got my mom to get it and got my friend here to get it as well," Brianna said.

Despite varying motivations to getting vaccinated, the SUNO event maintained a steady flow of residents throughout the day. About 81 residents were vaccinated at the SUNO location and over 100 Louisianans vaccinated statewide.

The university aims to host additional vaccination events in May, collaborating with Ochsner Health. The university system will also hold webinars on the differences between the Johnson & Johnson, Pfizer, and Moderna vaccines on May 4th. The public can get information on accessing the vaccine through the university's vaccine resource page on its website.

"Our goal is to continue to educate our citizens on how important it is to get vaccinated," Harrell said.

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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.

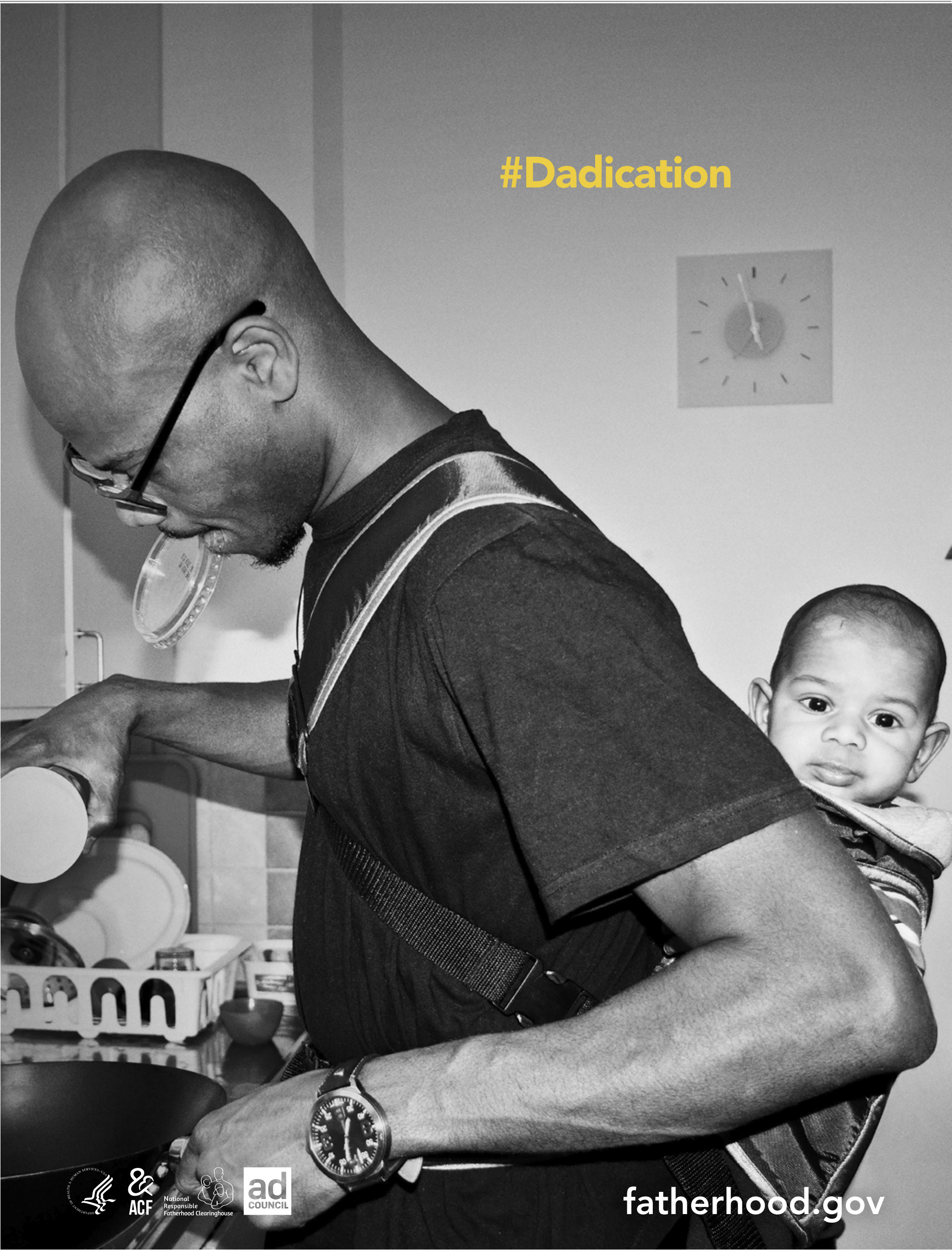
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