

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

The Wedding of Latoya Christie Love-Berry and Kurte Michael Pellerin



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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

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Second Line Organizations “Return” to the Streets



Members of the Perfect Gentlemen SAPC at start of their 2021 parade near AL Davis Park in Uptown neighborhood of New Orleans. Photo Credit: Michael Mastrogiovanni

Rachel Carrico
Assistant Professor School of Theatre +
Dance College of the Arts University of
Florida

On June 20, 2021, two processions hosted by different second line organizations marked the City’s emergence from the COVID-19 quarantine. The Perfect Gentlemen Social & Pleasure Club hosted the first second line parade permitted by the city since its morato-

rium in March 2020. It was a humble but joyous affair. The Perfect Gentlemen, in white T-shirts, pants and baseball caps, carried canes wrapped in white tape. The TBC (To Be Continued Brass Band) led a crowd that grew in size over the course of a short, one-hour route.

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DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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To Be Continued (TBC) Brass Band with some of their young members perform on Father's Day in the 2021 Perfect Gentlemen SAP parade. Photo Credit: Michael Mastrogiovanni



Irvin Colbert, Traion Lyons and Perfect Gentlemen President, Travis Lyons. Photo Credit: Michael Mastrogiovanni



Ms. B of Perfect Gentlemen SAPC at start of the club's 2021 parade in Uptown Neighborhood of New Orleans. Photo Credit: Michael Mastrogiovanni



Start of 2021 Perfect Gentlemen SAPC parade in Uptown neighborhood of New Orleans. Photo Credit: Michael Mastrogiovanni



Ed Buckner leads the Big 7 Social Aid and Pleasure Club's "Stop the Violence Protest." Photo Credit: Freddy Hill



Traion Lyons of the Perfect Gentlemen SAPC comes flyin out the door at the start of their 2021 parade. Photo Credit: Michael Mastrogiovanni



Benjamin "BJ" Jones remembers his sons, victims of gun violence. Photo Credit: Freddy Hill

One of those clubs was the Original Big Seven Social Aid and Pleasure Club, who held a party, within gathering guidelines, on their regular Mother's Day parade date. On Sunday, they also led a crowd of people to dance through the streets accompanied by the Young Fellaz Brass Band. Their "Stop the Violence March" responded to a less celebratory aspect of the City's return to "normal:" a spike in violent crime. Big Seven members and supporters carried anti-violence signs while step-touching to the brass band's beats. Drivers honked and waved. Neighbors danced onto their porches. As the band passed an assisted living home, one elderly resident made her way to the sidewalk, leaned onto her walker, and grooved with a huge smile on her face.

The route, which bordered Dillard University, was not what the Big Seven originally intended. President Edward Bucker wanted to begin at Columbia Parc (former St. Bernard Public Housing Project), where he might reach young people affected by systemic violence (also the site of the club's founding). However, he said, the New Orleans Police Department required him to dramatically shorten the route which eliminated Columbia Parc. Despite complying with the City's permitting processes, NOPD officers never arrived. After waiting for 30 minutes, Bucker decided to proceed without escorts. At the time of writing, he has yet to receive word from NOPD about their absence.

The march reflected the Big Seven's public stance against gun violence. Following a shooting that halted their 2013 Mother's Day second line, Bucker issued a statement: "Crime and violence in New Orleans is a systemic problem and we strongly believe that safeguarding our cultural heritage helps to address the roots of violence. We are a cross-generational organization, ages 5-70. Our young people grow up in this culture, are fed by it, and feel loved, supported, and connected in ways that build real security. That's crime prevention."

Both events on Sunday showcased the power of cross-generational nourishment, love, support, and connection that is so needed as the City emerges from the grip of COVID-19. They also demonstrated Buckner's insistence that the second line culture "was never meant to be governed by the City." Yes, city-issued permits have returned, but that is not perhaps the most significant benchmark in the second line culture's path through the Pandemic's hardships.

Many regular second liners went toe-to-toe with club members and musicians in energetic exchanges of music and dance. Encouraging circles surrounded young people

who tried out new footwork skills. The intergenerational space of the second line resumed as if it had never stopped.

Perhaps that's because it never

did. Despite the City's refusal to grant second line permits for the past fifteen months, social aid and pleasure clubs have sustained their culture in all the ways possible un-

der gradually lifting restrictions: hosting dances, coronation ceremonies, picnics, and, once venues began to open again, attending brass band gigs.

Macy's Celebrates Black Creatives With Icons of Style



Tracee Dundas
Fashion Stylist

More and more Fortune 500 companies and corporations large and small are rethinking their branding strategy by embracing diversity and inclusion in their marketing campaign.

But for Macy's this isn't anything new. Macy's has always recognized the importance of inclusion for all and continues to be at the forefront.

With its recent launched Icon of Style, Macy's celebrates Black Creatives with a collaboration of five Black visionaries to help move the fashion world forward. Featuring exclusive designs across women's ready-to-wear, men's fashions, and shoes by Zerina Akers, Misa Hylton, Aminah Abdul Jillil, Allen Onyia and Ouigi Theodore. Their designs can be found exclusively at Macy's, each creative artfully designed a fashion-forward capsule of must-have fashion-forward styles, inspired by their unique perspective and dynamic style. Icons of Style is available at Macy's Lakeside and online at macys.com, as well as select store locations nationwide.

"We are thrilled to celebrate Black excellence and amplify the voices and exceptional talent of five Black Creatives," said Durand Guion, Vice President, Macy's Fashion Office. "We're using this moment to tell their stories and provide our fashion-devoted customers with exclusive, one-of-a-kind pieces to help them express their personal style."

But don't get it twisted, these fabulous fashions are designed for all fashion aficionados that are ready to stand out from the crowd.

Tracee Dundas
@fashionablyyoursnola
Fashion Editor

New Orleans Fashion Week
@neworleansfashionweek_



Group Photo of Designers - Zerina Akers, Allen Onyia, Ouigi Theodore, Misa Hylton, and Aminah Abdul Jillil

Allen Onyia



Men's Oversized-Fit Stretch Color blocked Floral Bowling Shirt, Paired with Gray Poplin Cargo Pants



Allen Onyia - Men's Red and Yellow Zip Hoodie, Paired with Off-White, Black Racing Stripes, Track Pants

Aminah Abdul Jillil for INC



Black, Lennox High Strappy Dress Sandals

Misa Hylton for INC



Tye-Dye Halter Maxi Dress

Ouigi Theodore



Left, Men's Wheat Color Linen Graphic Shirt paired with Dark Olive Patch Graphic Pants

Right, Men's Regular-Fit Color blocked Airplane-Print Polo Shirt, Paired with Olive Green WWII Cargo Pants



Zerina Akers for Bar III



Left, Fuchsia Pink Halter Tank and Orange Tube Top Combo, Paired with Turquoise Blue, Cutout Wide-Leg Pants

Right, Orange, Ruffled Cropped Top and Floral Mini Skirt with Ruffle Hem



Printed Boxy Cropped Shirt and Matching High-Rise Pleated Shorts

ALL PHOTOS
COURTESY OF
MACY'S

The Wedding of Latoya Christie Love-Berry and Kurte Michael Pellerinn

Entrepreneur and local music promoter Kurte Pellerin tied the knot with the former Ms. Latoya Berry at a beautiful outdoor ceremony at the Pellerin's own venue The Regency this past Sat. Services were officiated by Rev Charles Garrison and included performances by Casme, Rick David, Channing and Lisa Amos.



Kurte & Latoya Pellerin flanked by Herbert Alexander (right) and Latoya's Son Aaron Guidry (left).



Kurte & Latoya Pellerin



Kurte & Latoya Jumpin' the Broom



Brides Maids l-r Shirley Berry-Davis, Thea Berry, Bride Latoya Pellerin, Groom Kurte Pellerin, Brianna Brooks, Jonrika Norwood (maid of honor), Eriresha Terry-Lewis,



l-r, Gayle Bailey-Gray, Bailey Chapman, Micha Pellerin, Carrisa Carter, Jared Pellerin, Blake Woods.



l-r, Wayne Smith, Kurte & Latoya, Terry Scott, Edgar Lampin



Chef Leon Courtney, Kurte, Data's Terry Jones, Herbert Alexander & Elray "Ray's on the Ave" Holmes.

Your Shot At \$1,000,000

Get your COVID-19 Vaccine and Enter for a Chance to Win Cash and Prizes!

Louisiana Department of Health

The Louisiana Department of Health is offering the chance to win \$100,000 every week starting July 9th and a grand prize of \$1,000,000 at the end of the month to all Louisiana residents ages 18+ who have chosen to receive at least one dose of the COVID-19 Vaccine — all you have to do is enter.

Louisiana residents ages 12-17 who have gotten at least one dose of the vaccine are eligible to win one of nine \$100,000 scholarships.

Weekly Friday Drawings Starting July 9th

Louisiana residents who have received at least one dose of the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine, or the single dose of the Johnson & Johnson Vaccine, are eligible to enter the weekly drawings. Upon reg-

Drawing Schedule		
Entry End Date	Drawing Date	Announcement Date†
July 9, 2021 at 11:59:59 p.m. CDT	July 14, 2021	July 16, 2021
July 16, 2021 at 11:59:59 p.m. CDT	July 21, 2021	July 23, 2021
July 23, 2021 at 11:59:59 p.m. CDT	July 28, 2021	July 30, 2021
July 30, 2021 at 11:59:59 p.m. CDT	Aug 4, 2021	August 6, 2021
*July 31, 2021 at 11:59:59 p.m. CDT	Aug 6, 2021	August 13, 2021

istration, residents ages 18 or older are automatically entered to win the weekly drawings for \$100,000 and the grand prize of \$1,000,000, and residents ages 12-17 who have gotten at least one dose of the vac-

cine are eligible to win one of nine \$100,000 scholarships.

Vaccinated residents may enter the drawings at any point — now through July to be eligible for all remaining

drawings after registration.

Still need to take your shot? Please visit vaccines.gov/search for more information about statewide vaccination sites and accessibility.

If you would like further infor-

mation regarding the COVID-19 Vaccine Initiative in Louisiana and vaccine availability, call the Vaccine Hotline at 1-855-453-0774

Grand Prize drawing - \$1,000,000 cash prize and five \$100,000 college scholarships

Announcement dates are subject to change and may be delayed due to the verification of information and eligibility of potential winners.

Need more information?

For Questions About Shot At A Million
Call the Promotion Hotline at 1-877-356-1511
HOTLINE HOURS
8 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Monday - Saturday
12 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Sunday
For Questions About the COVID-19 Vaccine
Call the Vaccine Hotline at 1-855-453-0774

State & Local News

Kelsey Major of Dominican Named 2020-21 Gatorade Louisiana Girls Soccer Player of the Year

Major is also the State's Gatorade Player of the Year Winner in Girls Cross Country

CHICAGO — In its 36th Year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Kelsey Major of St. Mary's Dominican High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Louisiana Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Major is the third Gatorade Louisiana Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from St. Mary's Dominican High School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field, distinguishes Major as Louisiana's Best High School Girls Soccer Player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Soccer Player of the Year Award to be announced in June.

The 5-foot-5 junior forward scored 26 goals and passed for 19 assists this past season, leading St. Mary's Dominican (22-1-1) to

the Division 1 State Final. The state's Gatorade Player of the Year winner in girls cross country this past fall, Major was a First Team All-State Honoree, the Division 1 Offensive Player of the Year, and a United Soccer Coaches All-Region selection.

Major is a three-year member of her school's Student Leadership Council, as well as the Spanish Club, Spanish Honor Society, National English Honor Society and National Honor Society. An active member of her St. Pius X Church Community, she also donates her time mentoring youth soccer players with her club team. "Kelsey Major is outstanding," said Kyle Carmouche, Head Coach at St. Joseph's Catholic High. "She has a great shot, but she



Kelsey Major an extraordinary High School Athlete from New Orleans.

was equally a threat in how she split lines and how she helped her team attack. She's effective in multiple positions."

Major has maintained a weighted 4.67 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her senior year of high school this fall.

The Gatorade Player of the Year Program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track & field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee, which works with top sport-specific experts and a Media Advisory Board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Major joins recent Gatorade Louisiana Girls Soccer Players of the Year Jordan Grigsby (2019-20, Northshore High School), Maddie Moreau (2018-19, St. Thomas More Catholic High School), Sydney Vincens (2017-18, St. Scholastica Acad-

emy), and Audrey Viso (2016-17, St. Joseph's Academy), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Major has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Major is also eligible to submit a 30-second video explaining why the organization they chose is deserving of one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants, which will be announced throughout the year. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$2.7 million across 1,117 organizations.

Since the program's inception in 1985, Gatorade Player of the Year Award Recipients have won hundreds of professional and college championships, and many have also turned into pillars in their communities, becoming coaches, business owners and educators.

Future of Housing Depends on Drawing Fairer Maps

A Conversation with New Orleans Activist Andreanecia Morris

Khalil Abdullah
Ethnic Media Services

NEW ORLEANS - Andreanecia Morris' passion for housing has made her one of New Orleans' most ardent advocates of redistricting.

It seems a stretch – redistricting is that once-in-a-decade process when states, counties and cities get to redraw district lines that determine where people vote. But ultimately, Morris argues, redistricting is about whether your vote counts and that in turn determines where you live and even whether you get a place to call home.

"Housing," Morris says, "is the issue of our time. Without it, redistricting is often a rigged outcome."

Morris runs HousingNOLA, which she helped found in 2014 to improve housing conditions and expand the quantity of affordable housing in the city.

She also serves on the board of the National Community Reinvestment Coalition. She has spent decades as an activist building collaborations to promote housing with government agencies and community advocates.

"When people talk about civic



Andreanecia Morris, Executive Director of HousingNOLA, which helped found in 2014 to improve housing conditions and expand the quantity of affordable housing in the City of New Orleans.

engagement, they often say, 'I want to talk about getting people to vote,' and I'm like, 'what's the first thing you need to vote? An ID? No, no. You need an address.' Where you live determines who you vote for." And, she adds, it often determines whether you vote.

"You're sitting there talking about getting low- to moderate-income, mostly African Americans to vote, and they can't pay their rent.

They can't pay the light bill or may soon be foreclosed on. And you think you showing up at the door to register them to vote will fly? Not unless and until you talk to them about how you will fix those problems.

"I can show you how the failure to build properly functioning housing systems is at the root cause for all other issues—racial equity, economic disparity, police violence,

sexism, you name it. You can't address any of them without addressing housing," Morris says.

Morris' zeal was ignited when she first saw the dilapidated state of New Orleans' public housing properties, so at odds with her childhood memories of family shopping tours from her hometown of Edgard to Canal Street. She was working for the public housing agency fresh out of college. "My immediate reference point was Beirut – the televised images I'd seen in the 1980s of bombed-out buildings during Lebanon's civil war. We had verdant green grass, but that was the only difference between our large buildings and the ones in Beirut. I was appalled the government of the United States had done this to Americans."

More troubling, she says, was that "everyone just went along with it." Even after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, neglect was the status quo in her opinion. She became consumed in figuring out the policies and politics in play. "The way my mind works, I want to understand why things are broken, and I like fixing stuff."

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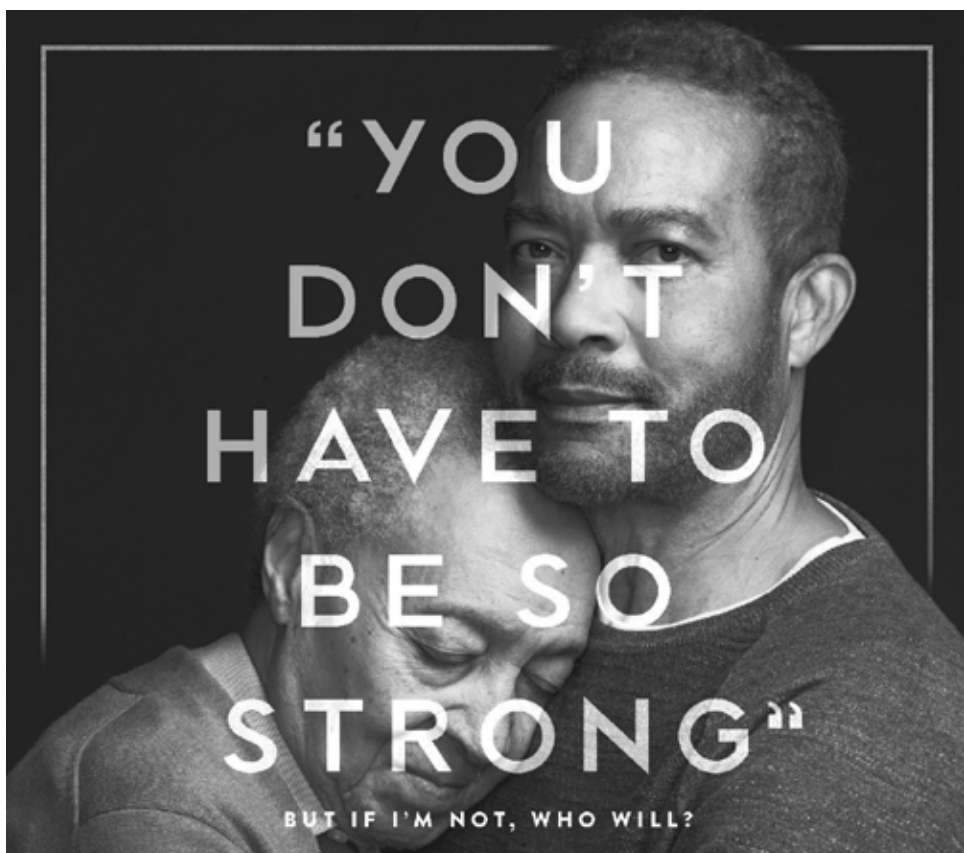
Freelance Writers Wanted

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.

We can't wait to hear from you!



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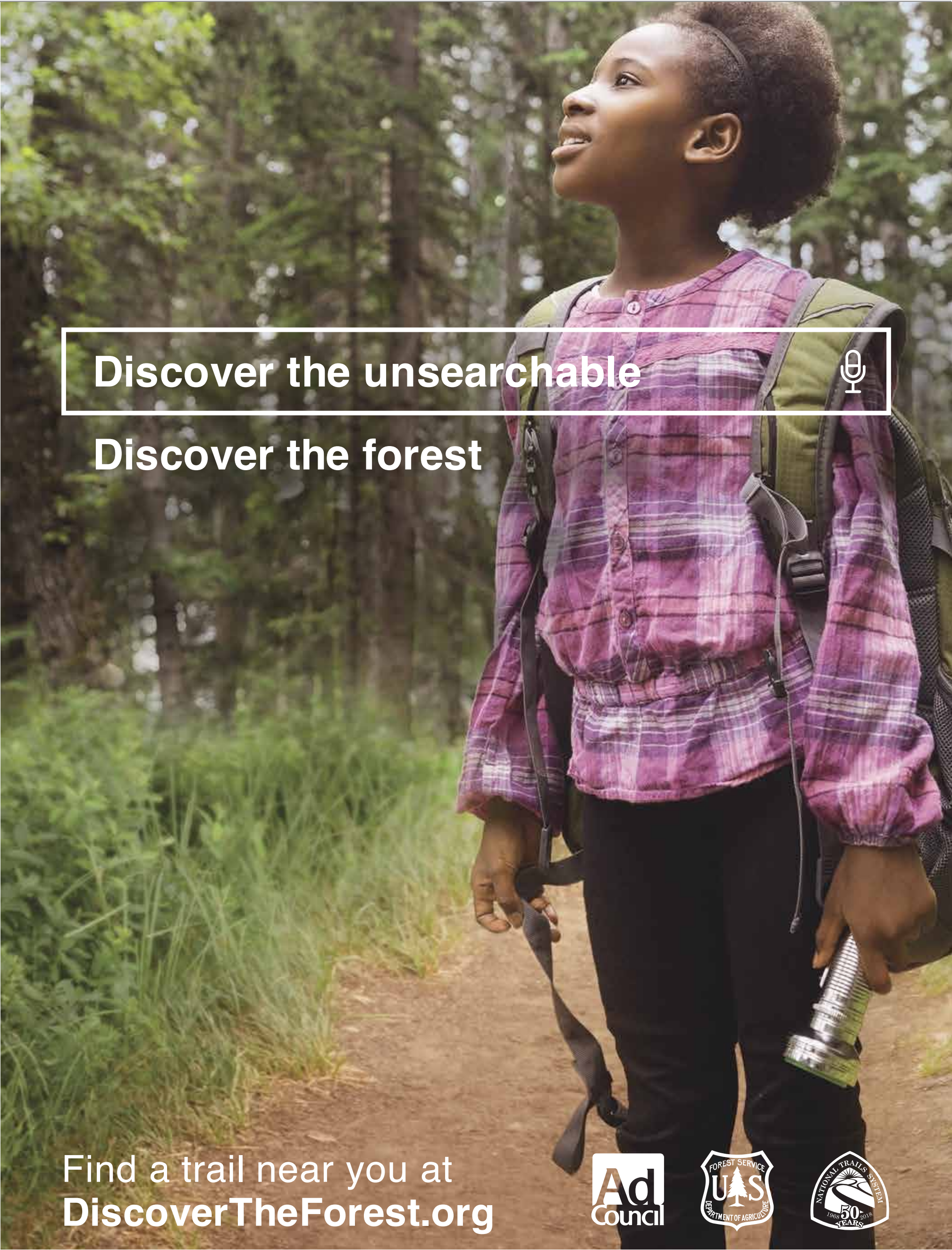
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