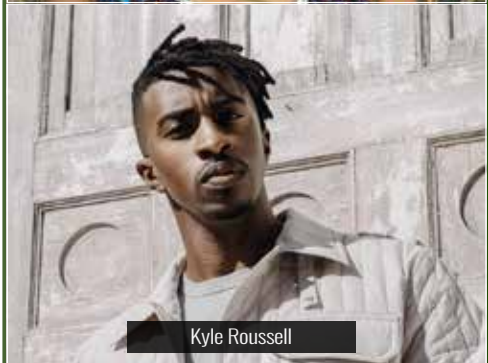


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Sunni Patterson



Kyle Roussell



Downtown Leslie Brown



Tonya Boyd-Cannon

Delfeayo Marsalis Presents:

# The First Annual Jazz at Congo Square Festival

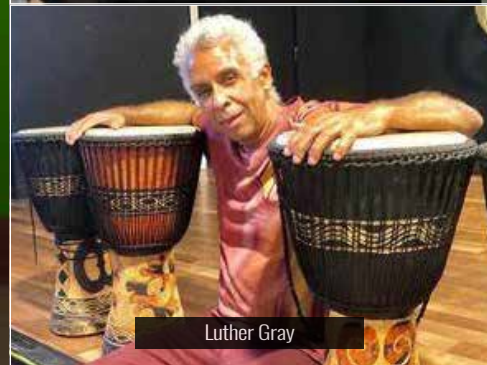
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The Stooges Brass Band



Vegas Cola Band



Luther Gray



Mykia Jovan



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Temporarily Reinstates  
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City to Host Community-  
Based Rental  
Assistance Event



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Delfeayo Marsalis Presents:  
**The First Annual  
Jazz at Congo Square Festival**



Delfeayo Marsalis and the Uptown Jazz Orchestra. Photos by Zac Smith



Delfeayo Marsalis and his father, the late great educator, musician and bandleader Ellis Marsalis.

**Edwin Buggage**  
Editor-in-Chief

**Celebrating and Honoring A  
Rich Cultural Heritage**

New Orleans continues to be a City rich and amazing in its heritage; one where people from across the globe keep coming to experience its awe. In its over three centuries, it has given the world many gifts in food, music, culture, and a way of life that merges Africa, Europe, the Caribbean and South America into a rich gumbo. It is the drumbeat of Bamboula, that began at Congo Square, and continues to be the heartbeat of the City.

On August 8, 2021, from 1-7 p.m. at Congo Square, Delfeayo Marsalis and the Uptown Jazz Orchestra will host the

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## Cover Story, Continued from page 2.

Inaugural Jazz at Congo Square, a FREE celebration of New Orleans music, culture, and traditions at Congo Square in Armstrong Park.

“Congo Square is important not just for Black folks in the City, but it is important for the entire country, and what it represents is not something we should only cherish, but we should also respect it and pay more homage to it,” says Delfeayo Marsalis, emphasizing the global, cultural importance of the Square’s sacred grounds. “Less political, it is like you can never honor your parents enough. This is a place we cannot honor too much. It is more about how our ancestors were and honoring community,” he adds.

### Preserving Community and Building for Future Generations

The festival will feature a variety of artists who have contributed tremendously to the City’s local scene and international music community. Jazz at Congo Square was created to promote and maintain the significance of Congo Square, while highlighting why the space is and should remain a Historical Landmark in New Orleans. The festival will also feature local art and merchandise vendors, food from local restaurants, chefs and non-profit organizations that are working to preserve the culture and heritage of New Orleans.

This year’s Jazz at Congo Square Festivities will kick off with a VIP Patron Party at Gallier Hall on Friday, August 6th, with a private and exclusive performance by Delfeayo Marsalis and the Uptown Jazz Orchestra at the Ty Tracy Theater inside Gallier Hall. VIP guests can bid on the original artwork created for the official festival poster and other items. The Sunday festival lineup will begin at 1:00 PM with a Call to the Ancestors, led by the Congo Square Preservation Society Drum Circle and Master Percussionist Luther Gray, and will feature poetry by acclaimed Activist Sunni Patterson, along with music by the Vegas Cola Band, Kyle Roussel, Mykia Jovan, Tonya Boyd Cannon (from the hit TV show “The Voice”), the Stooges Brass Band, and a performance by Delfeayo Marsalis and the Uptown Jazz Orchestra featuring music from their “Best of the Beat” award-winning CD, Jazz Party. The festival will open with a Call to the Ancestors led by the Congo Square Society Drum Circle and will culminate with a jam session and a second-line parade led by the Stooges Brass Band.



The Stooges Brass Band



The Vegas Cola Band



Vocalist Mykia Jovan



Poet and activist Sunni Patterson



Master percussionist Luther Gray

Proceeds from Jazz at Congo Square and the VIP Patron Party will benefit two other community-based organizations founded by Marsalis: the Uptown Music Theatre—an award-winning organization that empowers youth

through musical theatre training; and Keep NOLA Music Alive (KNOMA)—founded in the midst of the COVID-19 Pandemic for the purpose of providing emergency relief to native New Orleans culture bearers.

“Uptown Music Theatre has been running for 20 years and the kids have been doing a phenomenal job. And that is more like a family. We’re hoping that it would inspire them to do community-based organizations that will help

people,” says Marsalis. “Being a resource and helping young people, the Uptown Jazz Orchestra, is more of youth playing music and learning jazz.”

### Family, The “Rule” of a Life of Purpose

Marsalis’s greatness is rooted in family. Frequently, he speaks of the influence of his parents and brothers, and how it’s impacted his life. “My father Ellis Marsalis and older brothers Branford and Wynton influence what I do today, and it grew into something that’s amazing.” Speaking of his father, the late Musician and Educator Ellis Marsalis, he says, “My father was real. It was his greatest attribute. He had a great impact on us. He loved what he was doing and lived a life of purpose that’s been a part of how I live my life to today.”

### The Flavor of New Orleans... The Secret Ingredient

While some leave the City to pursue greatness, Marsalis continues to call New Orleans home. “There was no reason to leave a great City. There are great musicians, great people, and a way of life like no other place in the world. I am proud to call it home,” says Marsalis.

Perhaps it’s the mystique, the enchantment or the uncertainty that intrigue and continues to draw people across the globe to New Orleans. Because visitors and locals often can’t quite explain the phenom, many ask, what is the special ingredient that gives it such a unique flavor.

“The secret ingredient? In New Orleans it is those African traditions, the uniqueness, the idea of community, people and celebrations, and the joy and optimism in the face of adversity, the flavoring in the food, the dancing... these are things we trace that come out of the African traditions and other cultures too, but what makes it special,” says Marsalis of what gives the City its Je n’ais se quoi.

And even though traditions evolve throughout generations, Marsalis maintains that “we have an obligation to teach the tradition that even if they decide to take it in another direction or build upon it, at least they know where it came from and its significance. Young people need to develop a relationship with Congo Square and our culture. It is spiritual and to feel rooted and build bridges to connect generations of the people of New Orleans and our importance to the world in what we’ve created.”



# Transformation!



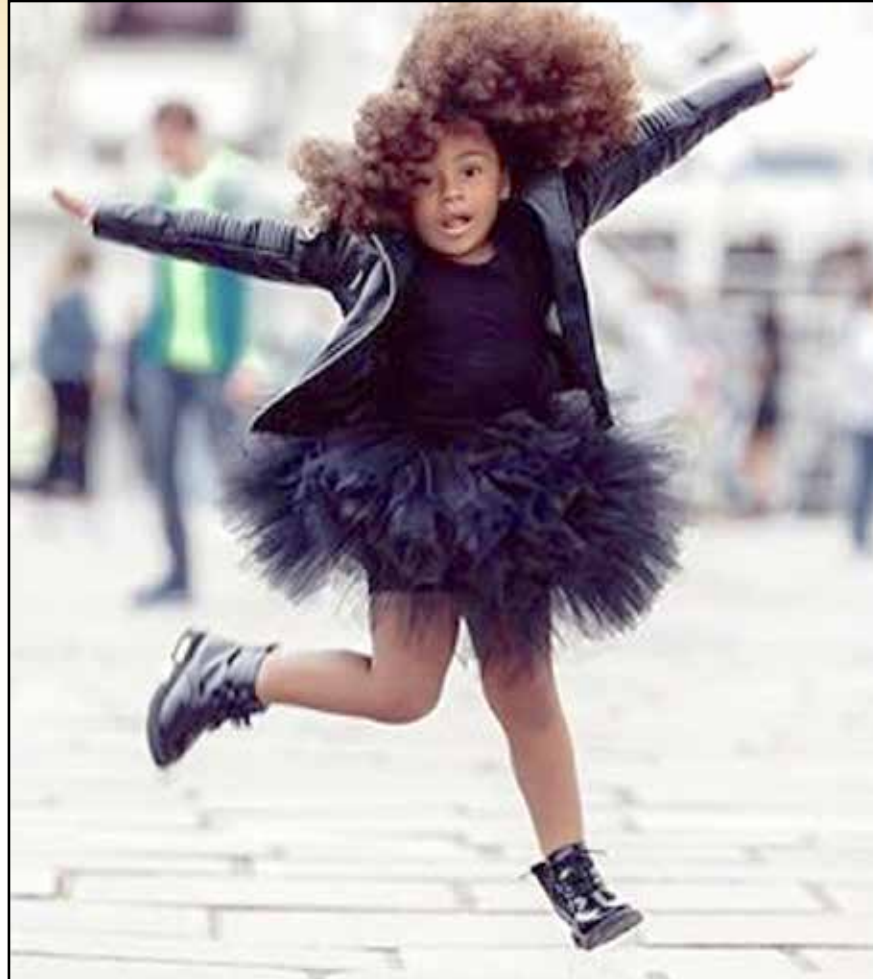
**Tracee Dundas**  
Fashion Stylist

## Transformation!

Who says you have to pack away your kids favorite summer frocks once the temperature starts to drop? With a little creativity and savvy styling tricks, some of those favorite pieces can transform right into the fall season.

## Helpful Styling Tips:

1. Add Opaque Tights
2. Choose Deep Autumn Colors
3. Layer Up Thoughtfully with a Denim Jacket, Scarf, etc.
4. Be Mindful of Fabric Texture and Weight
5. Hats and Scarfs can Complete the Transition
6. Pair with Boots or Converse Sneakers
7. Remember to Balance. Never Overdo
8. Be a Trendsetter



Flying High. Add a black moto jacket with tulle skirt



Fashion Forward. Pop the collar up on a fashion forward jumpsuit (Mini Model: McKenna Casbon)

Tracee Dundas  
Fashion Stylist

Fashion Story

Fashion Stylist: Tracee Dundas |  
@fashionablyoursnola

New Orleans Fashion Week | @nolafashionweek

Photos Courtesy of  
Facebook: Peyton Brown,  
McKenna Casbon, Avery Gavins, Skarlett Roa



Stay True. Add a leopard print bomber jacket with walking shorts and booties for a fall style



Walk This Way. Opaque tights and scarf take this look into fall jumpsuit (Mini Model: McKenna Casbon)





Sitting Pretty. Add a mock turtleneck under a carpenter style dress



Sista Sista. African print maxi dresses  
(Mini Models: Peyton Brown & McKenna Casbon)



**Far right:** Keep It Real. Autumn color camouflage pants. Paired with crop graphic tee for summer, tuck in tee for fall (Mini Models: Peyton Brown)

**Near Right:** Cool Kid. A denim jacket with trendy patches works with most everything (Mini Model: Avery Gavins)





# Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards Temporarily Reinstates Indoor Mask Mandate

## Data News Staff Edited Report

Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards (D) announced on August 2, 2021, that the state is reinstating a temporary indoor mask mandate for all people ages 5 and older.

This, in addition to a recent announcement by New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell that puts an indoor mask mandate in place for the City of New Orleans.

The move comes as the highly contagious Delta Variant drives up COVID-19 cases across the country and the state struggles with a low vaccination rate.

In July CDC Director Rochelle Walensky cited Louisiana as among a handful of states with low vaccination rates that are driving a plurality of new cases.

Louisiana is currently experi-



New Orleans and the entire State of Louisiana are now under an indoor mask mandate because of the recent spike in the Delta Variant of COVID-19 across the state.

encing its “worst surge of the COVID-19 Pandemic so far in terms of case growth rate, percent positivity and hospitalizations,” per a press release from the governor’s office.

• The indoor mask mandate, intended to stem a fourth wave of the virus, will stay in place until September 1, with the possibility of extension if necessary, according to

the press release.

• Both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals will be required to mask indoors at K-12 schools, universities, and other higher edu-

cation institutions, per the press release.

• In July, New Orleans officials issued a public health advisory “strongly recommending” that people wear face masks indoors.

“It has never been more clear that we are in an unchecked COVID surge that, in addition to threatening the health and well-being of many Louisianans, also threatens the capacity of our hospitals and medical facilities to deliver care to their patients,” Edwards said in the press release.

• “This decision is not one I take lightly, but as the fourth surge of COVID-19 is upon us, we know that mask wearing when you are in public is one way to greatly lower your risk of spreading or catching COVID,” he added.

## Commentary

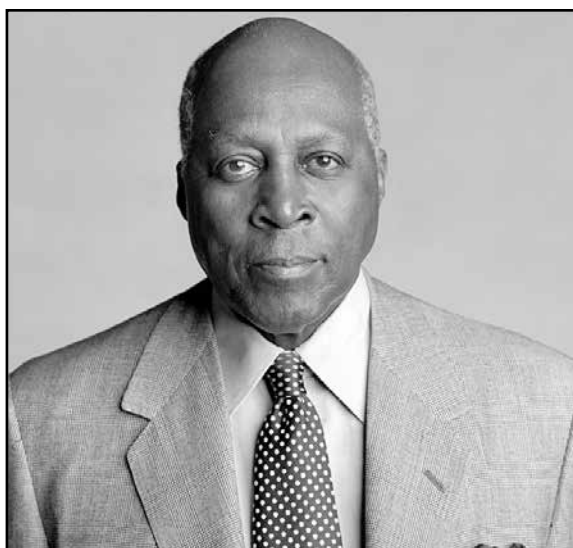
# Vernon Jordan on Whitney Young Jr.: One Visionary Warrior Pays Tribute to Another



**Marc Morial**  
President and CEO  
National Urban League

This Saturday, July 31st, we remember and celebrate Whitney Moore Young, Jr., on the centennial of his birth. Young served at the helm of the National Urban League during the turbulent decade from 1961 to 1971, overseeing the greatest expansion of scope and mission our organization has seen in more than a century. As the activism of the Civil Rights Movement expanded from the courts to mass-action non-violent demonstrations in the streets of both southern and northern communities, Young forcefully and publicly projected the League’s tenets of social work and civil rights as never before.

During our Equal Opportunity Dinner in November of 2019, the



Vernon Jordan

National Urban League honored three other former leaders – Vernon Jordan, John Jacob and Hugh Price – with the “Visionary Warriors” award for their years of unwavering leadership. Vernon Jordan, due to illness, was unable to attend, but shared prepared remarks in which he paid tribute to Whitney Young. We lost Jordan in March of this year. In honor of these giants of civil rights, we commemorate Young’s

centennial year by sharing Jordan’s tribute.

Good evening. It is an honor to be here, to be alongside two great leaders of the Urban League, my successor John Jacob, and his successor, Hugh Price. Of course, I, too, was a successor. And so tonight I’d like to thank my predecessor, the great Whitney Young, for this award – and dedicate it to him.

You see, I would not be here



Whitney Young Jr.

without Whitney. He was my mentor and guardian, my inspiration and dear friend. And for about as long as I knew him, he was trying to recruit me for the Urban League. I remember many years ago, in 1966, he gave me a ride from LaGuardia Airport and asked me to come work for him. But I was not ready to leave the South.

A few years later, in 1969, he asked me about becoming his dep-

uty – and then rescinded the offer! He said I was more suited to a different job – one he was not ready to vacate anytime soon. And not long after that, when I was offered the job as the Executive Director of the United Negro College Fund, I sought out his wise counsel. And he encouraged me to accept. So I moved to Manhattan, into the office just below his, and soon he became my greatest advisor and ally in this city, showing me the way forward as only he could.

I learned so much from him. His loss was tragic, and his impact was tremendous. Of course, his impact was not limited to me alone. In his near decade of leadership, he transformed the Urban League and had a profound impact. He was the original “Visionary” for this institution – imagining what it would be and could become for Black people in this country. And he pushed that vision closer to reality. He also was an original “Warrior,” a soldier in the army for civil rights ... alongside so many whom we still celebrate and others we have nearly forgotten.

**Commentary, Continued  
on page 7.**

# City of New Orleans to Host Community-Based Rental Assistance Event in New Orleans East

## City of New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS — The City of New Orleans today announced the Office of Housing Policy and Community Development will host a second Community-Based Rental Assistance event Tuesday, August 10th through Thursday, August 12th, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Joe Brown Park Recreational Facility located at 5601 Read Blvd.

City employees will be on site to provide updates and review documentation for rental assistance applicants with application numbers between 5,001 and 11,000. Specific applicants have received notices and have been asked to bring a form of identification, proof of address and current income, as well as documentation evidencing the amount owed in



back due rent. Translators, Entry Representatives and Legal Aid will be available. There will also be an opportunity to receive a vaccination upon leaving the event.

It is important to note that the City has expended the funds currently available for rental assistance. Approved applicants will be given a letter stating that they are preliminarily eligible for funding and are in line to receive funding once additional rental assistance funds are provided to New Orleans. The City hopes that the preliminary approval measure will decrease the processing time once funds are received.

Social distancing and masks will be required. For more information, please contact the Office of Housing Policy and Community Development at (504) 658-4231 or (504) 658-4232.

## Commentary, Continued from page 6.

And he set the standard for what it means to combine the two – to be a “voice for the voiceless,” and to fight tirelessly towards a vision of equality. Indeed, 48 years ago, almost to the day, at my first Equal Opportunity Day Dinner, as the designated Executive Director, I reflected on the incredible impact of Whitney Young. And I will say tonight what I said then, because it remains true, almost half a century later: “Whitney has left us the instrumentality for change, an agency with a proven record of effectiveness, a vehicle with the blueprint for getting the job done.

Thus, we have a charge to keep,

a constituency to serve, a people to lead.” I am grateful to John and Hugh and Marc for being such stewards of the Urban League of this living legacy of Whitney Young. And today, its work would not be more vital – for families and communities across the country. We still have our charge to keep, our constituency to serve, our people to lead. And we must continue to live by Whitney’s example.

So, before I go, perhaps even more than this award, I want to thank Whitney for the honor of a lifetime – the best job I’ve ever had. It has been an honor to be a soldier in Whitney’s army, a warrior for a vision we must all keep fighting for.

Thank you.

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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](mailto:terrybjones@bellsouth.net) and [datanewseditor@bellsouth.net](mailto:datanewseditor@bellsouth.net).

We can’t wait to hear from you!

This space can be

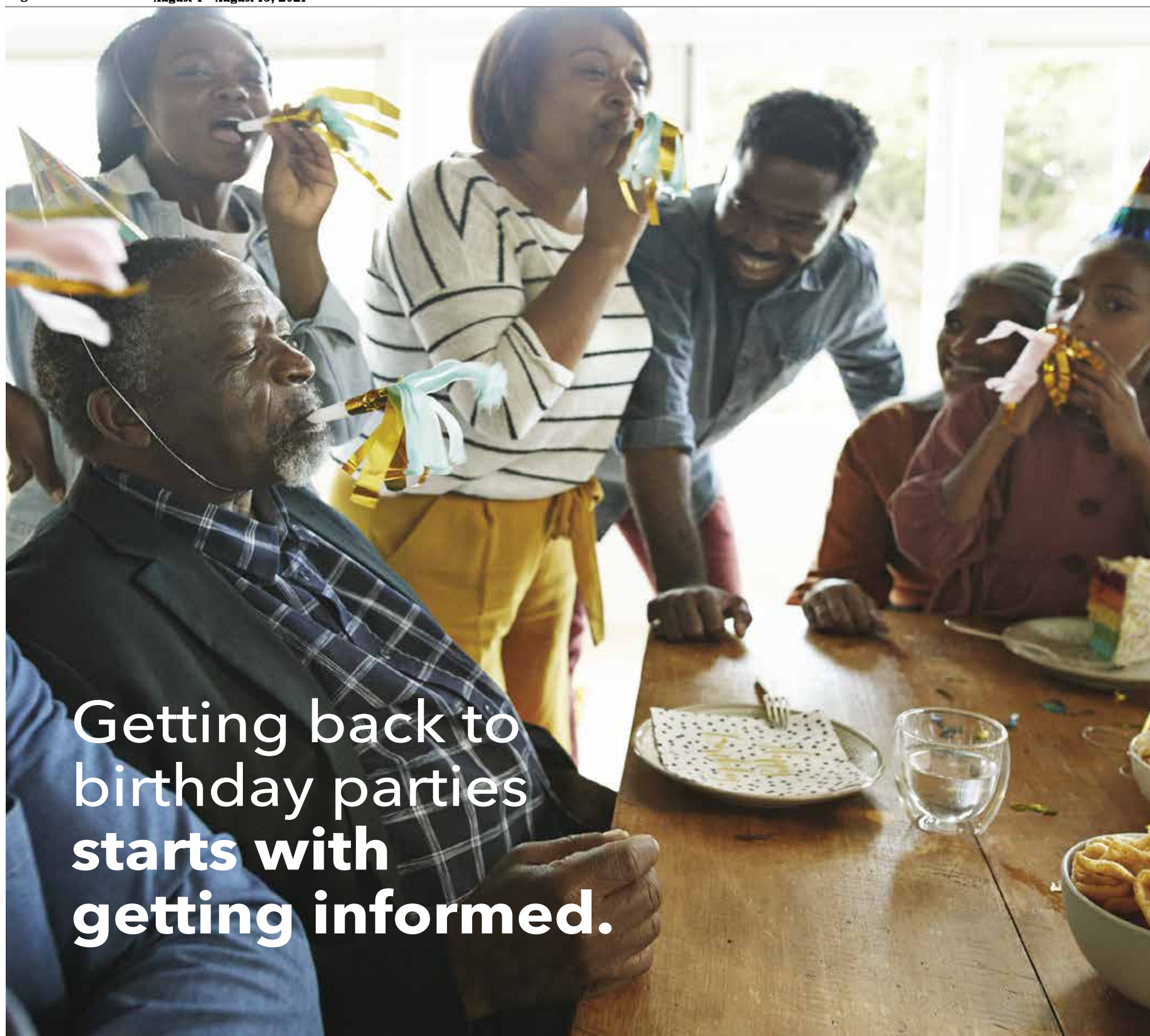
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