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New Orleans

# Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"



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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

# Carrying on the Tradition



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# Carrying on the Tradition

*Wild Magnolias Big Chief Bo Dollis Jr. Discusses  
New Album and Life In New Orleans*



Bo Dollis Jr. is The Big Chief of The Wild Magnolias. He's released a new album entitled *My Name Is Bo*, produced by Cyril Neville. He describes It as a two sided album, one which is traditional Mardi Gras Indian music and the other incorporates other music including Zydeco, Blues, Funk, Jazz and Rap.

**Edwin Buggage**  
Editor-in-Chief

**A City Where...Art, Heritage  
and Culture Matters**

In a City like New Orleans, it is one filled with art on so many levels. It is a place where one is exposed to so much creativity. It is what draws many to this incredible City.

From this great aesthetic menu is "The Mardi Gras Indians" of "Black Masking Tradition" it is a centuries old tradition of craftsmanship and design that combines colorful feathers, beads, sewing styles, songs,

and camaraderie and that is an amazing part of the unique culture of New Orleans.

**Carrying on the Tradition**

One of the Big Chiefs that made history was Bo Dollis Sr., of the Wild Magnolias, who in the 1970's made the first recording of this amazing and incredible music. During his amazing life, he was also known for making large, elaborate Indian suits.

Since then, many have recorded the music of the rich Indian Culture, and their suits, culture and way of life have been on stages across the globe. Giving the world a glimpse of the sacred rhythms, that's so relevant to New Orleans, and its people.

In 2015, the great Bo Dollis, passed away, but left a great legacy in his son Gerard "Bo" Dollis Jr., who is continuing in the spirit of his father, but adding new elements to Mardi Gras Indian Music.

"My dad was the first to record Mardi Gras Indian music on wax," Dollis says proudly, in his unmistakable New Orleans accent. "I learned a lot from him and have taken many of the lessons that guides my life in my approach to music and how I live my life."

Dollis Jr. took over as Big Chief of the Wild Magnolias and Funk Band and have created a sound that respects the tradition but adds other elements to give it something extra. Young Bo is also known for an incredible stage show that keep crowds on their feet.

Cover story photos by Christine DuMouchel

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P.O. Box 57347, New Orleans, LA 70157-7347 | Phone: (504) 821-7421 | Fax: (504) 821-7622  
editorial: datanewseditor@bellsouth.net | advertising: datanewsad@bellsouth.net

<b>Terry B. Jones</b>	<b>Contributors</b>	<b>Art Direction &amp;</b>
<b>CEO/Publisher</b>	Eric Connerly	<b>Production</b>
Edwin Buggage	Edwin Buggage	Pubinator.com
<b>Editor</b>	DNW Staff Writer	<b>Editorial and</b>
Sharonda Green	Terrol Perkins	<b>Advertising Inquiries</b>
<b>Executive Assistant</b>	Tracee Dundas	datanewsweeklyad
June Hazeur	Ann Chandler	@gmail.com
<b>Accounting</b>	Brand X MensIndigo Angel	<b>Distribution</b>
	Christine BluntSoule	by Terrence Lee
	Dark Garden Corsetry & Couture	
	James Fair	

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### My Name is Bo

His new album is called My Name is Bo. He describes it by saying, "It is a two-sided album, one side is traditional, and the other side incorporates all of New Orleans, Zydeco, Blues, Funk, Jazz, and Rap."

In his latest project, he worked with many including the great Cyril Neville.

"I grew up under Cyril Neville traveling with my dad, and when I made my first album Cyril came up to me and said, 'hey I want to produce your next album.' I called him and he was excited about it. We exchanged ideas many of them were similar. Like for example, I have a song called Indian Blues and he had a song called the same thing and we combined them. Overall, I feel good about this album and people are receiving it well since its release."



Bo Dollis Jr., is an introspective artist, who believes the spirit of the Mardi Gras Indians continues to be important and is a cultural practice worth preserving.

these people's spirits continue to live in the people and the lives they touch. It is one where the ancestors are revered and celebrated.

### Lessons from my Father...A Recipe for a Great and Purposeful Life

This is something Lil Bo reflects on when speaking of his father and the legacy he left behind.

"He left me big shoes to fill, and I am taking what he gave me and reshaping it to fit who I am and give the people music they can enjoy and build on our tradition."

"Also, my dad rooted me in what is important and that is first my family and the Indians, that's been in my blood since I've been born; these are the two things I wake up and look forward to."

And in these pressing times, Bo gives his recipe for a great and purposeful life, harkening back



Dollis believes in the empowerment and uplifting of the Black community and it's contribution to New Orleans.

### Masking Indian

The music and culture of the Indians is something that's been in his blood as he recounts learning the tradition from his father and the intricate work that goes into making a suit, drawing from many African and Native American traditions.

"Black Masking Indian, it started in the neighborhoods because we couldn't parade in the French Quarter or on St. Charles Avenue. We brought the parades to the people," says Dollis, who continues to take it to the streets of New Orleans where it began, to stages in every corner of the globe representing New Orleans.

It is something he does and takes very seriously and is passionate about. "When it comes to making a suit, you have to love Masking Indian, there are a lot of sacrifices involved in it. It is a labor of creativity and love, sewing bead by bead and stone by stone, to come up with what we create."

### Culture...The Heartbeat of a City

The City is changing, and some would say a City like New Orleans, with its many traditions are in danger of possible extinction. Dollis feels like they will live on saying, "I don't see it changing but the City is changing, but as far as the Indians I don't see that. You can't change the spirit of it, and I believe it will get bigger and better."

Like so much COVID-19 have affected lives everywhere. But in a City like New Orleans, where physical touch, intimacy and closeness is so much part of the fabric of life, it's had an impact on the Black Masking Tradition as well.

"Right before COVID hit in 2020, I made a big white suit and wore it one time. I am hoping with the canceling of a lot of festivals that by 2022, we will be on the other side of COVID-19, so we can continue to practice our culture and make people feel good with the beautiful

suits we create and our music that bring people together."

"COVID have made many think about not making suits and Masking Indian, because of the time and cost, but right now I am making a suit for 2022 Mardi Gras."

### Resilience and the Spirit of a People

As the City is on the eve of the anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, Dollis says it is important as ever to celebrate the traditions and heritage of the City. He hopes that this album shows that one can maintain traditions and yet, build on them.

"Katrina changed neighborhood, it didn't change the Indians we were good to see each other, it wasn't so much about suits, it was about the community," Dollis Jr., says reflecting on what is truly important is people, and their resilience surrounding preserving their culture and heritage."



Bo Dollis Jr. says of his father, the late great Bo Dollis Sr., "He left me big shoes to fill, and I am taking what he gave me and reshaping it to fit who I am and give the people music they can enjoy built on our tradition."



As he continues, Dollis Jr., talks about how people are fascinated by how in New Orleans people party when someone dies. But in a City with so much mysticism and magic,

to his father...less stress, he did not stress about nothing," he says laughing, and then says something that sums up life in New Orleans... "Eat good and less stress."



# Time to Slay

*Calling All Models! Here's Your Chance to Slay the Runway!*



**Tracee Dundas**  
Fashion Stylist

Ladies strap on your stilettos! Guys get ready to show your swagger! New Orleans Fashion Week is in search of the fiercest models to be part of its upcoming event; "A Taste of Fashion Week" schedule to take place in New Orleans, November 4-6, 2021.

Models selected from the casting calls will be given the chance to take their talents to the runway during NOFW, work with top designers, photographers, and glam squad in the gulf coast region. Additionally, models will be seen by some of the top agencies in the region presenting opportunity to take their modeling career to the next level.

In past seasons, New Orleans Fashion Week has advanced the career of a promising model with the "Model Walk-Off" event, a competition awarding a scouting trip to Los Angeles, compliments of Launch Model and Talent Agency, a local agency.

Since its inaugural event in 2011, NOFW played a part in the success of numerous designers and models. Including the two-time fashion week model, Victoria Henley, who placed in the Top 5 of America's Next Top Model, Skylar McCartney signed with agencies and walked in fashion weeks in both Paris and New York;

Taylor Hamric, discovered on the NOFW's runway and signed with Wilhelmina Models New York; Bianca Finch was discovered at NOFW model casting and is now signed with NEXT Model Management Los Angeles and has since gone on to book work with Anastasia Beverly Hills, Forever21 and Baddeley Mischka.

NOFW is casting both girls and guys that want to be something that gives a platform for like-minded creatives to showcase their fashions. It's about having an amazing walk, great stage presence and a certain 'je ne sais quoi' that makes brings the fashions to life!". No experience is necessary.



Data Zone,  
Continued on page 5.

Visit [www.ladatanews.com](http://www.ladatanews.com) for more photos from these events



Data Zone, Continued from page 4.



#### MODEL CASTING CALL DETAILS:

The model casting call will take place on Saturday, August 21 from 1-3PM at Vanguard Paul Mitchell School of Cosmetology, 3321 Hessmer Ave., Metairie, LA.

#### Casting requirements are:

Female: 5'7 and Taller, Size Range 0-4 | Plus Female: 5'7 and Taller, Size Range 12-20 | Male: 5'11 and Taller, Size 30-34. Pre-registration required. All models welcome that meet the height requirement. Interested models should visit [www.neworleans-fashionweek.com](http://www.neworleans-fashionweek.com) to complete the model application. No experience necessary.

#### Models slay the runway at New Orleans Fashion Week, Season 9.

#### PHOTOS:

1. Designer Cookie Dubois
2. Designer Monique Rougelot
3. Designer Ann Chandler
4. Designer Ann Chandler
5. Brand X Mens
6. Designer Christina Blunt
7. Dark Garden Corsetry
8. Dark Garden Corsetry
9. God's Eye Clothing
10. Indigo Angel
11. Soule
12. Sparkle City

Fashion Stylist: Tracee Dundas | @fashionablyyoursnola  
New Orleans Fashion Week | @nolafashionweek  
Photographer: James Fair

Visit [www.ladatanews.com](http://www.ladatanews.com) for more photos from these events



# New Orleans Mandates Proof of Vaccination or Negative COVID Test for Some Indoor Establishments

**Eric Connerly**  
Data News Weekly  
Contributor

In a move to slow the spread of the Delta Variant of COVID-19, New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell and New Orleans Health Department Director Dr. Jennifer Avegno have recently announce that beginning August 16, 2021, that proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours of entry for large crowds indoors.

New Orleans leads the state with 53% of the adult population vaccinated, this number is a above the state rate which is 37% and the nation which is at 50%.

According to the new guidelines, the following businesses will be affected:

\* Indoor dining and drinking such as restaurants, bars, breweries, micro-breweries, distilleries, and



micro-distilleries

\* Indoor fitness such as gyms and indoor group fitness centers or individual fitness classes

\* Indoor entertainment and/or performances, indoor sports complexes/stadiums/arenas, concert, and music halls

\* Event spaces (hotel ballroom, event venue, reception halls)  
\* Pool halls, bowling alleys, indoor play centers, arcades, skating

rinks, indoor playgrounds, and arcades

\* Adult live performance venues  
\* Casinos, racetracks, and video poker establishments  
\* Indoor amusement facilities

Acceptable evidence of a COVID-19 vaccination includes:

\* LA Wallet App's SMART Health Card,

\* An original, digital photograph, or photocopy of CDC Vaccination Card (both sides)

\* An official vaccine record issued by another state, a foreign nation, or the World Health Organization  
The announcement comes as Louisiana sees record high coronavirus cases and hospitalizations.

It was announced earlier this week that Saints fans would be required to wear masks inside for games due to the rise in COVID-19 case across the state.

## Commentary

### Together We Rise

**Terrol Perkins**  
Data News Weekly Contributor

Throughout the ages, through the times,  
Black men have always thrived.  
Through thick and thin, our community  
Remains intact from within.

The Black queen remains triumphant  
Despite having to deal with all of  
The ruckus.

The ranting and raving, the shouting  
And fighting, the oppression and  
Depression have strengthened us to  
Overcome being a possession!

Now is the time to rise to  
Greatness and stop settling for the  
Fakeness. Only together can we rise,  
It's our decision to do or die.

## State & Local News

### NOLAKEYS "Stop the Violence" Youth Bike Ride for Peace & School Supply Giveaway

Recently, at First Grace United Methodist Church, 3401 Canal Street, New Orleans NOLAKEYS held a Stop the Violence Bike Ride and school supply giveaway.

The goals of the event were to bring the New Orleans Community together to STOP the VIOLENCE and STAND for PEACE.

To bring the New Orleans Community together to support programs that offer FREE services to educate and develop New Orleans YOUTH.

Also, to raise funds to expand programming for undeserved YOUTH in New Orleans.

It was a successful event that their goal was to educate, empower and support the youth of New Orleans.



Top and bottom: Photos from the NOLAKEYS "Stop the Violence" Youth Bike Ride for Peace & School Supply Giveaway

Right: Senias Edwards III, Founder and Director of NOLAKEYS and Civil District Clerk of Court, Chelsey Napoleon.



# AT&T Names Eric Jones New External Affairs Regional Director for New Orleans, Southeast Louisiana

## Data News Staff Edited Report

Eric T. Jones has been appointed Regional Director of External Affairs for AT&T\* in New Orleans and Southeast Louisiana.

A 19-year veteran of AT&T, he succeeds Michael Ruffin, who was promoted to a position in Kansas.

"We are thrilled that Eric will now be overseeing our operations in the greater New Orleans region," said Sonia Perez, President of AT&T-Louisiana. "He brings a tremendous combination of technical expertise and first-hand knowledge of the area that will enable him to be an exceptional resource as developments in communications technology continue to reshape nearly every aspect of our business and personal lives."

Previously, Jones was an area manager in AT&T's Network Organization in New Orleans, supervising the installation and maintenance



Eric T. Jones

of advanced services such as high-speed broadband, as well as disaster-recovery efforts. Prior to joining the network organization, Jones was a manager in the company's business sales organization in Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana.

"This region has been home for 12 years and I am excited about this opportunity to serve in this new role," Jones said. "The technologies and capabilities AT&T brings together help stimulate the economy and create jobs, while driving innovation that makes life better. I look forward to helping our company and leaders throughout the area connect to meet today's needs and to lay the foundation for future growth."

A former officer in the US Army, Jones holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from Alcorn State University and a Master's Degree in Management from Webster University. He and his wife, Demetrice, have three children.

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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).

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hear from you!

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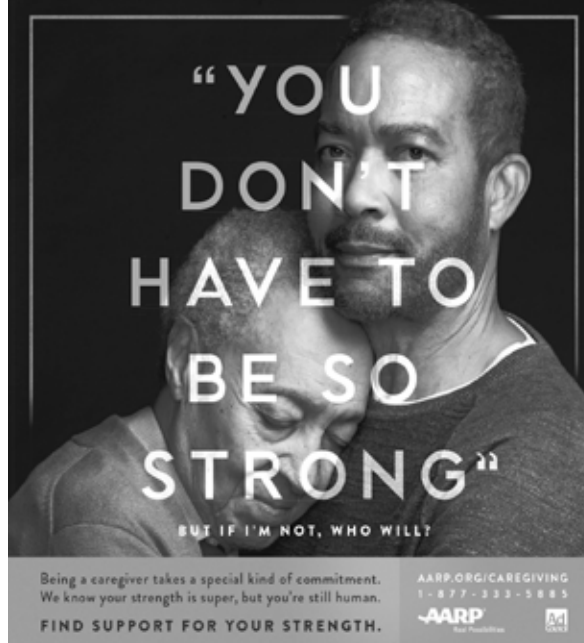


His first football season, Isaiah told us, 'Wear a jersey with my name on it. I want everyone to know you're here for me.'

Darnell and Denna, adopted 16-year-old Isaiah

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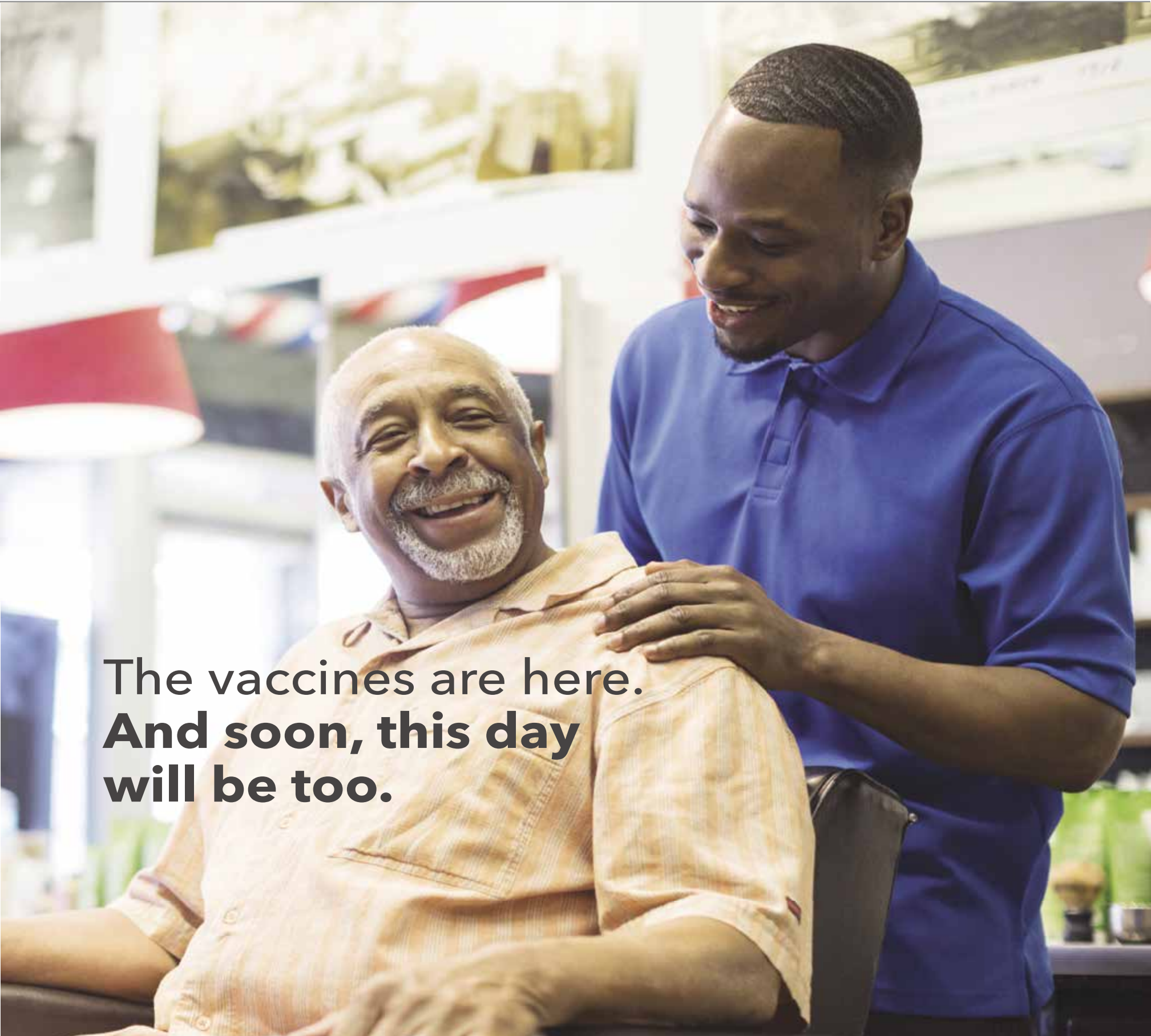
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**And soon, this day  
will be too.**

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