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News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

Jon Batiste
Triumphs
at Grammy
Awards

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Data Zone
Page 5

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Blessed to be a Blessing

The Life and Legacy of Anthony Bean

Page 2



Newsmaker
Senate Advances
Judge Ketanji
Brown Jackson

Page 6

State & Local
College Slam
Dunk & 3-Point
Championship



Page 7

Blessed to be a Blessing

The Life and Legacy of Anthony Bean



ABCT Founder Anthony Bean continues to inspire people across the city with his impactful work in theater telling stories that uplift the African American community.

Edwin Buggage
Editor-in-Chief Data News Weekly

An Inspirational Journey
The Anthony Bean Community Theater (ABCT) continues to be a leader in bringing quality produc-

tions to the stage. For over two decades garnering many awards along the way lead by Anthony Bean, it is more than just theater, but is aimed at telling positive stories about African Americans, changing narratives, and empowering the community. While ABCT have been in existence for over 20 years, Anthony Bean’s history with theater goes back

to the 1970’s while still a teen, he and his older brother, the late Monroe “Jomo Kenyatta” Bean began the Ethiopian Theater in 1973. “I remember when we first began, and back then the debate was centered on should Black theater be more message oriented or aesthetic. I feel as Black people in the arts this is something that continues to this day. But I feel that you can do both,

Cover Story, Continued on page 3.

INSIDE DATA	
Cover Story	2
Data Zone	4
Newsmaker	6
Commentary.	6
State & Local News . .	7

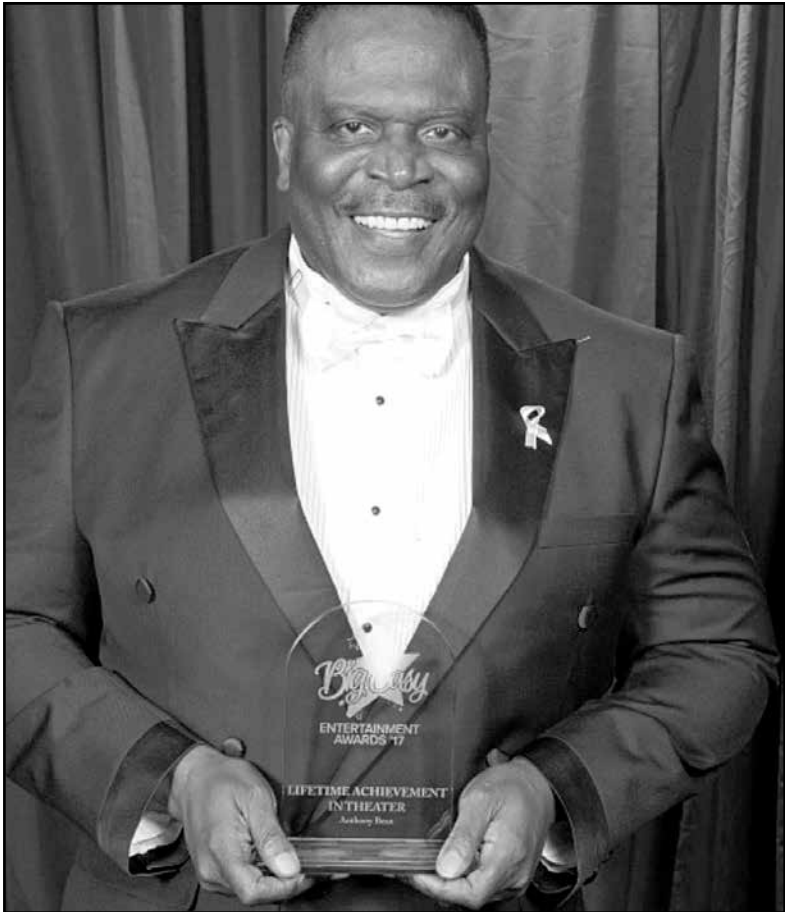
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Cover Story, Continued from page 2.



Anthony Bean Community Theater in its over two decades existence have won both local and national awards.



Bean's talent and mission has gained the support of legends that include the late Redd Foxx, who hosted a fundraiser in the 1980's.

this is what we do over at ABCT. We have stories that challenge our community to be better, but we execute it in a way that considers the highest standards of quality in set design, costumes, and other aspects of production."

Planting the Seeds of Greatness

Throughout his career in theater, Bean always was committed to teaching the craft of acting. Today, many of his students are getting into prestigious programs such as NOCCA, Julliard and working in television and film. One of his early students is acclaimed actor, businessman and advocate of all things New Orleans Wendell Pierce. "I saw something in him early, I could see the seeds of greatness in him even when he was young. I am glad that I was able to be part of his journey. He and so many others make me proud, knowing that my they too are not simply just creating great

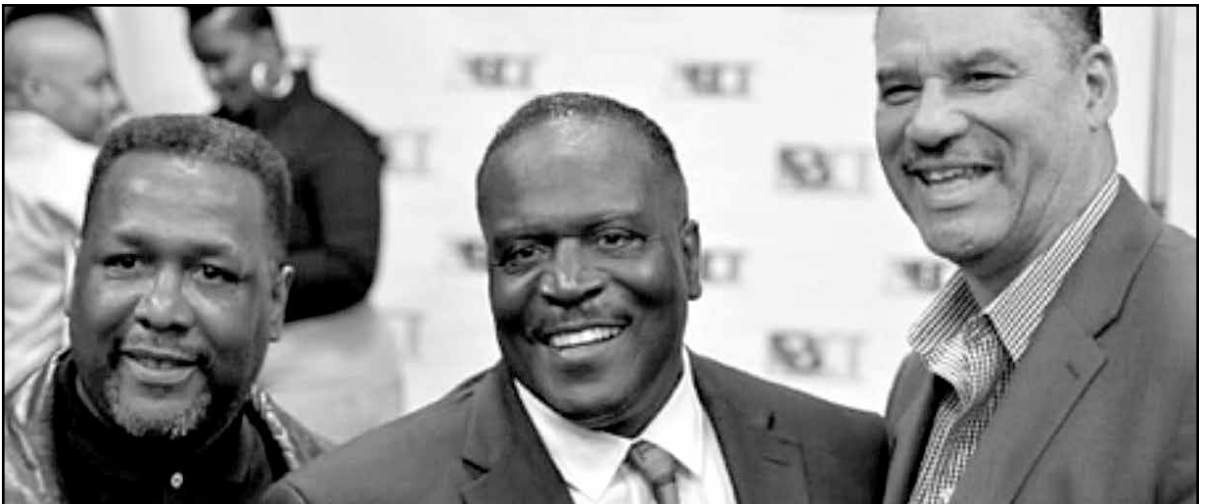
art, but are interested in empowering and giving voice to the aspirations of our community. Showing our city at its best," says Bean of his work that continues to give his life purpose and meaning.

It Takes A Village

Over the years, Bean's work has been recognized by national celebrities including the late Redd Foxx, who hosted a fundraiser for him in the 1980's. Local icons such as Irma Thomas and the late Allen Toussaint have also been supporters and have been the subjects of plays produced by Anthony Bean. In a city where the political landscape mirrors the greatest of stages with its drama and intrigue, Bean has found a way to get the support and put on the stage many who are or have been elected leaders in the City of New Orleans. "I remember getting the support of the City's first Black Mayor Ernest "Dutch" Morial, I can say I have lived to see us take



Local icons such as the late Allen Toussaint have collaborated with Bean over the years. Producing work that continues to have impact today.



Anthony Bean role as an actor, educator and advocate is evident in all he does. One of his former student's actor Wendell Pierce have followed in his footsteps being both an artist and an agent of change. He also has the support of local elected leaders such as City Councilman Oliver Thomas, who is a member of his board and have performed in his plays.



Bean's impact spans decades. Here he receives a proclamation from the city's first Black Mayor, Ernest "Dutch" Morial. He's also presently working with current New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell, trying to get more resources to help youth have alternatives to crime and violence. And legendary Singer Irma Thomas, is also one of Bean's supporters. Before her recent critically acclaimed PBS documentary, he worked with her on a play about her life.



the reins of power. Today though, we must consider how to use it to help those who need it the most in our city." He adds, "Others who have been instrumental in helping ABCT is Gail Glapion, who was on the New Orleans School Board, and is on the board of ABCT, she continues to be a supporter and advocate for the theater. Of course, I cannot forget City Councilmember Oliver Thomas, who as a longtime friend has always been committed

to young people and supporting ABCT."

Life, Legacy, and Empowering the Next Generation

As Bean continues to seal his legacy, he recently opened an the ABCT Actor Studio. It is home to a teen TV Show *What's Going On* and rehearsal space and classroom blazing the trail for the next generation. "My life is one that is dedicated to

giving and service. Of showing that we can own something that can empower our community. That has been my mission from day one because I feel I have been blessed and it is my job to bless others with the tools to live their best lives and aspiring to reach higher."

Anthony Bean Summer Camp is presently holding audition for his Performing Arts Youth Summer Camp for more information call 504-862-Play.

Jazz Fest 2022

Data News Staff Edited Report

The Jazz Fest Organization held its press conference last week announcing the official lineup for this year's Jazz Fest.

The New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival (commonly called Jazz Fest or Jazzfest) is an annual celebration of local music and culture held at the Fair Grounds Race Course in New Orleans, Louisiana. Jazz Fest attracts thousands of visitors to New Orleans each year. This year's festival will run over two weekends as customary. The first from Friday, April 29th through Sunday, May 1st and the second weekend from Thursday, May 5th through Sunday, May 8th, 2022.



Quint Davis the producer of the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival (Jazz Fest) founded by George Wein.



Terrance Osborne - N.O. Jazz Fest Poster Artist standing next to this year's poster entitled "We Are Music!" A Portrait of Jon Batiste.



Councilman Oliver Thomas and Governor John Bel Edwards



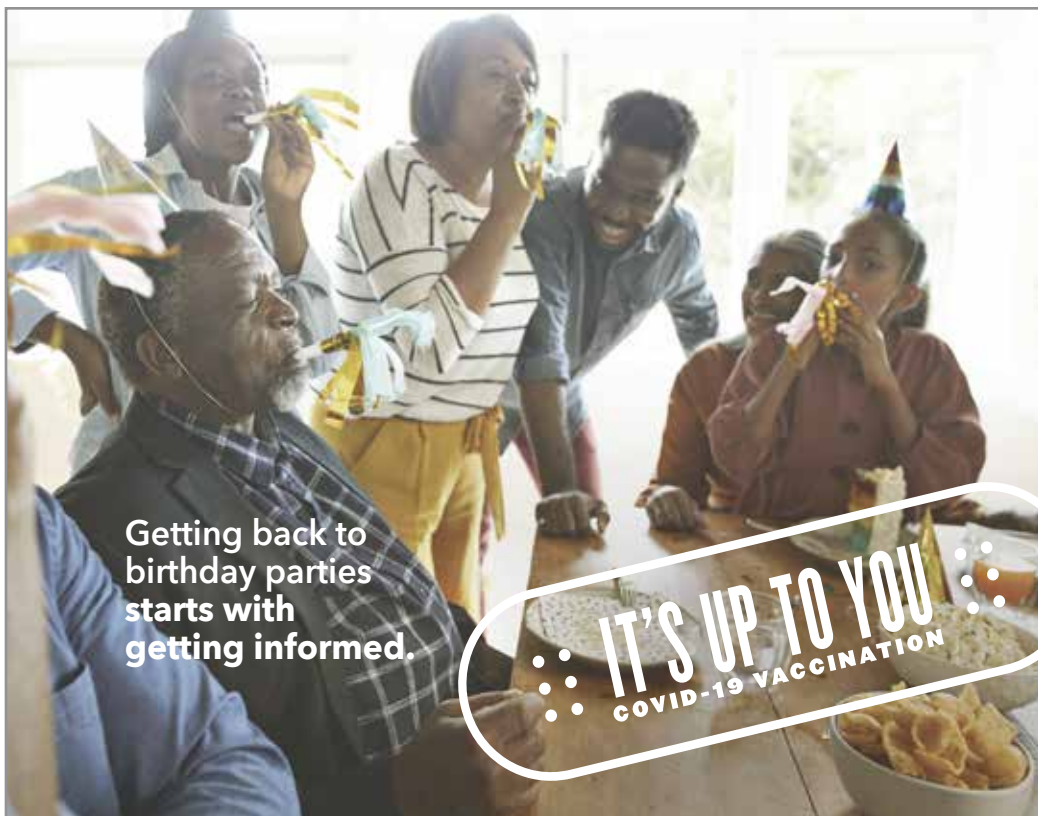
Kermit Ruffins - American jazz trumpeter, singer, composer, and actor from New Orleans with Judith Slack.



Councilman Eugene Green and friend



Trumpeter and singer Kermit Ruffins performing with a second-line Jazz Band.



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Jon Batiste Triumphs at Grammy Awards

Data News Staff Edited Report

Jon Batiste took home the Grammy for Album of the Year for “We Are” during Sunday night’s 2022 Grammys.

Reflecting a bit on how music has always played a prominent part in his life, Batiste said the craft of music is “more than entertainment” but rather a “spiritual practice” for him.

In addition to thanking his team and shouting out the family members featured on his album, Batiste also praised his fellow nominees. “I actually love and have had an out-of-body experience with your music. I honor you,” he said.

“This is for real artists, real musicians. Let’s just keep going: Be you,” he concluded his speech.

Going into the night, Batiste was the leading nominee with eleven nods, including in the top categories of Record of the Year and Album of the Year. Despite dominating this year’s race, Batiste was just shy a nomination to be a Grammy record-holder for most nominations in a single year, which has included Michael Jackson and Babyface, who each scored twelve nods in a single year. Meanwhile, Kendrick Lamar received eleven nominations for the 2016 ceremony but only won five awards.

In the non-televised ceremony earlier in the day, Batiste also won four awards: best music video for “Freedom,” best score soundtrack for visual media for Soul, and best American roots performance and best American roots song for “Cry.”

Backstage in the Grammys press room, Batiste continued to express how grateful he felt for the honor and how Lenny Kravitz presenting the award proved to be a “full-circle moment” for him.

“I really don’t do it for the awards. I really believe that music is something that’s so subjective, but I was having such a good time. We just performed, I was hanging with my family, and when my name came up and the ‘We Are’ title was said by Lenny, such a full-circle moment because we played together when I was sixteen,” he said of the “surreal” moment.



New Orleans native Jon Batiste represented the city at its finest at the 2022 Grammy Awards. On music’s biggest night he won five awards that included Album of the Year.



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

U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee Votes to Advance Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to Full Floor Vote to be Confirmed the First Black Woman U. S. Supreme Court Justice

Washington, D.C. – On Monday, April 4th, 2022, Melanie L. Campbell, President & CEO of the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation (NCBCP) and Convener of the Black Women's Roundtable (BWR) issued the following statement after the Senate Judiciary committee voted to advance Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson's Nomination to a full floor vote in the U.S. Senate to serve as the next U. S. Supreme Court Justice.

"I commend the U. S. Senate Judiciary Committee for acting swiftly on Judge Jackson's confirmation process. Now that Judge Jackson is voted out of committee, she is one step closer to being the first Black woman to serve on the United States Supreme Court. This historic moment brings her one step closer to realizing the promise of our nation; one step closer to having a legal system and federal

government that reflects our nation's full diversity; one step closer to a reality where little Black girls will see themselves on the highest court in the land. Simply put, we are one step closer to making herstory!

"As a Black woman, I could not be more proud and thankful to see how Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson persevered through this confirmation process. Her grace, confidence and mastery of the law demonstrated that she is more than qualified to serve on this nation's highest court. I, along with millions of Black women and our allies will continue to have her back as she is set to make history this week by becoming the first Black woman to serve on the U. S. Supreme Court. Further, today, as we observe the 54th Anniversary of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's Assassination, this vote is a part of the culmination of Dr. King's Legacy fighting for justice for all



U.S. Supreme Court Nominee Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson

people in our nation."

Advisory: In the lead-up to Judge Jackson's final confirmation, The

Black Women's Roundtable will continue its series of activations, digital engagements, and advoca-

cy under the banner of our Black Women & Allies Coalition. Please refer to the attached flier for the list of events and advocacy taking place between April 4th - April 8th in support of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson's confirmation.

The National Coalition on Black Civic Participation (NCBCP) is one of the most active Civil Rights and Social Justice Organizations in the nation "dedicated to increasing civic engagement, economic and voter empowerment in Black America." The Black Women's Roundtable (BWR) is the women and girl's empowerment arm of the NCBCP. At the forefront of championing just and equitable public policy on behalf of Black women, BWR promotes their health and wellness, economic security & prosperity, education, and global empowerment as key elements for success.

Commentary

National Support Grows for FCC to Adopt Rule Change to Empower Minority-Owned Media Businesses



Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.
NNPA Columnist

There is a growing national momentum of support among civil rights organizations, communications experts and media business leaders who are encouraging the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to adopt the proposed rule change that will help to empower minority-owned media businesses throughout the nation.

Black-owned radio stations and other minority-owned media busi-

nesses should be permitted by the FCC to compete fairly, equitably, and diversely with large television and cable stations that have been already granted the right by the FCC to geotarget audiences across America.

The established strategic alliance between The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), National Association of Black Owned Broadcasters (NABOB), the Multicultural Media, Telecom & Internet Council (MMTC), and other related national organizations is working diligently to ensure greater diversity, equity and inclusion in our nation's communications industry.

Today the issue of geotargeting of content to diverse and underserved communities is a critical and crucial threshold that minority-owned media businesses should

have the right to engage accordingly. We believe it is time now for the FCC to act and to vote favorably for this important rule change.

Local radio stations are the only ad medium not permitted to geotarget their audiences. Currently FCC rules prohibit content origination on FM boosters that preclude an innovative technology for local FM stations to offer over-the-air geotargeting. There is an FCC rulemaking proceeding now underway that would change the rule and let local radio stations do what all other local ad-supported media do with respect to geotargeted content and ads. Importantly, the rule change would allow stations to voluntarily adopt the geotargeting technology, but would not mandate it. The proposed rulemaking change will substantially increase the access to geotargeting by minority-owned radio stations

and other minority-owned businesses that is so vital and effective in today's global and national media marketplace.

The FCC has authorized experimental tests of the new technology in San Jose, California and Jackson, Mississippi. The test in Jackson was conducted on a Black owned station that serves a Black audience. The results of both tests show that the technology works exactly as predicted and that it can provide a very effective method of geotargeting to specific areas.

The proposed FCC rulemaking change is supported strongly by the major national civil rights organizations including the NAACP, National Urban League, National Action Network, National Council of Negro Women, National Coalition on Black Civic Participation, National Congress of Black Women,

Hispanic Federation, National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators, and the U.S Black Chambers.

In conclusion, I reiterate again the point I made in a previous letter on this subject to the FCC: "I have spent much of my career as a civil rights leader focused on ensuring that technological developments like the one at issue in this proceeding lift all of America, and not just some of us. Too often, I have seen the benefits of technological development accrue to the privileged, with little or no benefit to disadvantaged communities, including some with which I work on a daily basis."

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. is President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and Executive Producer/Host of The Chavis Chronicles (TCC) on PBS Television Stations across the nation. He can be reached at dr.bchavis@nnpa.org

College Slam Dunk & 3-Point Championship Showcased the Best in College Basketball

Skylar Stephens
Data News Weekly
Contributor
Photos by Christopher Taylor

While so many things were going on all over New Orleans during Final Four weekend where the Kanas Jayhawks captured their fourth NCAA National Championship. But that was not all that was going on in New Orleans.

Fans from everywhere packed Xavier University of Louisiana's Convocation Center on March 31st to see the State Farm College Slam Dunk & 3-Point Championship. The best college basketball players in the country came out to play in the 33rd Annual Event. Twenty-four athletes came to partake in three events, but only three left as the winners.

"If I could describe tonight in one word, it would be amazing. I felt like a little kid in a candy store," said Taze Moore, a guard at the University of Houston.

Moore won the College Slam Dunk title against six other players. He went up against Alondes Williams from Wake Forest University in the final round and was able to bring enough skill to take home the championship belt. Moore's success was no surprise given that he will be entering the 2022 National Basketball Association Draft. He ended the contest earning perfect scores for each of his final dunks, proving why he is amongst the best players.



University of New Orleans' Derek St. Hilaire dunks during the slam dunk competition in New Orleans on March 31, 2022.

"It's a blessing to be here around all of these great players. They picked me to be one of the best shooters in the country so I'm grateful to be here," said Amber Ramirez, a guard from the University of Arkansas.

Along with Ramirez, seven other women played in the women's 3-Point Competition. Kendall Spray from Florida Gulf Coast University was the winner of this category. Aisha Sheppard from Virginia Tech University was able to make it to the final round with Spray but with a score of 23-16, Spray took the title

and moved onto the Battle of the Champions.

The Battle of the Champions consisted of Spray and Jordan Bohannon, a player from the University of Iowa and the winner of the Men's 3 Point Competition. Despite her previous win, Spray lost this 3-point contest to Bohannon with

a score of 19-21. Bohannon, Spray, and Moore got to take home their titles, but every player proved why they were among the premier players in the country at the slam.

"This had to have been one of the best fields this event has ever had. This was a cool event. I was very fortunate to win," Bohannon said.



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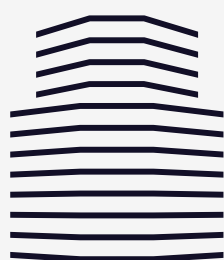
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