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New Orleans

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News Weekly

"The People's Paper"



2nd Annual Jazz at Congo Square Fest

Data Zone Page 4

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Katrina Babies

*A Conversation
with Edward Buckles Jr.
on his Critically Acclaimed
Documentary*

Page 2



Newsmaker

Dr. Adierah Berger
Elevated to CEO of
International High
School of New Orleans

Page 6

State & Local

**Councilman Eugene
Green Welcomes
Shakor Studios**



Page 6

Katrina Babies

A Conversation with Edward Buckles Jr. on his Critically Acclaimed Documentary

Edwin Buggage
Editor-in-Chief
Data News Weekly

It is seventeen years later, and New Orleans continues to evolve into a city that is changing. Neighborhoods, schools, and communities are being reconfigured in ways that the traditional culture and landscapes are being altered. Beyond that, New Orleans most important asset, today, tomorrow and the future...its people, particularly its young are trying to find a new sense of normalcy in the city they call home.

As noted, young people are the future of the culture of a people. Edward Buckles Jr. is a native New Orleanian and filmmaker, who has created the critically acclaimed HBO documentary Katrina Babies, that premieres on August 24th. Data News Weekly had the opportunity to speak with him about the film, his life and mission to tell true stories of New Orleans and its people.

How a Young Man Feels in Love with the Arts

Today Ed Buckles Jr. name is ringing across the globe, but his story begins in New Orleans, a place that fed his soul, and is the creative gumbo that has given him his unique flavor and approach to filmmaking.

"I am from New Orleans and love my city," says Buckles with excitement in his voice. "I started out at Anthony Bean Theater that is where I got exposed to the arts and storytelling. I eventually went to Dillard University where initially I studied theater but once I got the camera I fell in love with that medium."

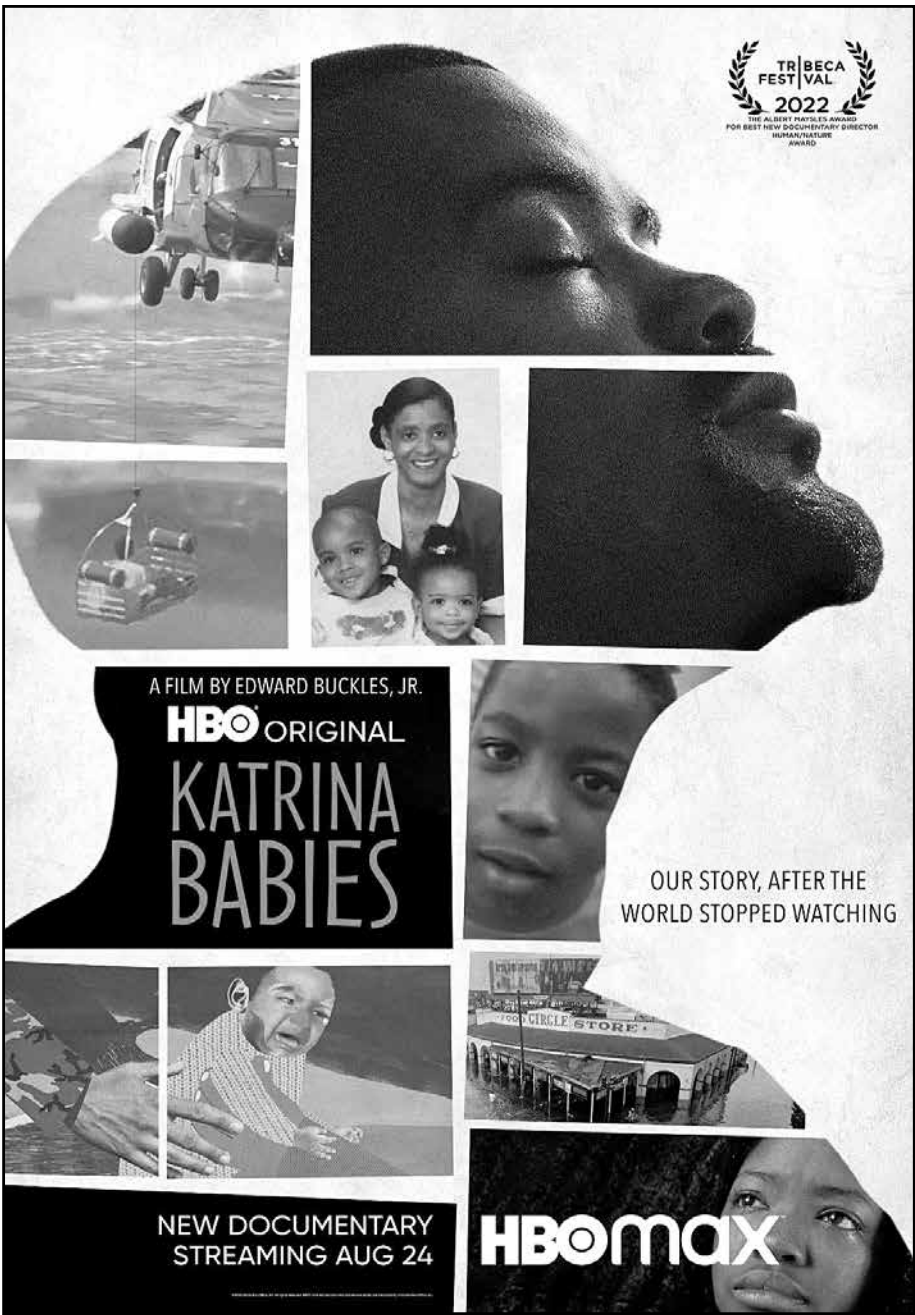
His love for the camera took him into a world where he began to document stories of his native city.

"I took what I learned and wanted to tell stories about what I saw in post Katrina New Orleans and some of the things I wanted to advocate for. That is where we are now, spreading awareness. I call it the gospel of what is happening in our community."

Katrina Babies: Telling the Story of the Young People of New Orleans

The documentary Katrina Babies takes an intimate look at the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and its impact on the youth of New Orleans. Buckles recalls the time when the idea for making this groundbreaking film.

"I was studying film and was taking a documentary filmmaking class



Cover Story, Continued on page 3.

Critically acclaimed documentary Katrina Babies by New Orleans native Edward Buckles Jr. will premiere on HBO Max on August 24th.

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

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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

Terry B. Jones	Contributors	Art Direction &
CEO/Publisher	Edwin Buggage	Production
Edwin Buggage	New Orleans Agenda	Pubinator.com
Editor	Anthony Bean	Editorial and
Sharonda Green	Andreanecia Morris	Advertising Inquiries
Executive Assistant	DNW Staff Writer	datanewsweeklyad
June Hazeur	Ronald Coleman	@gmail.com
Accounting	Larry Panna	Distribution
	Peter Nakhid	by Terrence Lee

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Cover Story, Continued from page 2.



"At the end of the day this project is about impact and telling the story of the young people of New Orleans affected by Katrina. Giving us a voice to add to the conversation of how we can heal as a community and as a people," says Edward Buckles on his groundbreaking film *Katrina Babies*.

and it sparked my interest in wanting to make a film. Then I received a call from my cousin who is still currently displaced in Shreveport. She called me and knew I was in the arts, and jokingly said one day she would allow me to read her diary and do a movie about it."

"I asked what was in the diary? That is when she told me it was about her experiences during and since Hurricane Katrina and that of my other cousins who were children at the time. At that moment something clicked, and I started to draw parallels with what I experienced growing up post Katrina. Fast forward to today, we are witnessing the horrible state of New Orleans youth, the education system and all the things they are experiencing, and I began to wonder if anything that is going on with our youth had anything to do with what happened in 2005."

Considering for all that lived through these horrendous times where people lost everything, and lives were changed forever. This

is something that impacted adults, and especially children according to Buckles.

"How does a kid who was locked in an attic, or saw dead bodies, who thought they were going to die, who felt neglected, how does that carry on if it is never talked about or dealt with or ever being treated? I did not think that this was many people, why are these kids being blamed for being bad, when they experienced what they did. I just wanted to start that conversation."

Believing in Oneself... Dreams Become Reality

While some may think Buckles success as something that has happened overnight, this is the culmination of seven years of work getting from the idea stage to HBO Max.

"I have had many mentors and support throughout this process. From family, friends, professional mentors and the people of my city, whose energy and spirit kept me going while making this film."

"My mentor Chike Ozah, a New Orleans native and part of the film-making dues Coodie and Chike has been advocating for this film since we met. He spoke to Warner Brothers about this project. We had a meeting and they wanted to partner with us and my producer Audrey Rosenberg who set up the meeting. They made a quick decision in 2019 on my vision board that I wanted to partner with HBO Max and in 2020 it happened."

Getting Love from Home and Beyond

Edward Buckles Jr. is becoming a household name in film circles with his first documentary receiving critical acclaim. A reality that is humbling to him, but also the fact that his city is giving him love for telling a story in a truly authentic way. A fact that is not always the case when people make films about the people and culture of New Orleans.

"It is very validating that my city

is receiving it the way they have. We are a tough crowd when it comes to telling stories about us, and rightfully so, because they tell our story the wrong way and misrepresent us," states Buckles.

When I first started making this project, I thought how would somebody outside of New Orleans relate to this story? But in fact, this is a very American story and a human story. It has been great to get this kind of recognition.

Making Impact...A Journey to Healing

The process of healing after trauma can be a long and hard process. Buckles speaks of how this film is more than a story, but therapeutic and hopes it can be the impetus of conversations centering on the mental health of children affected by Katrina, and the Black community more broadly.

"I never thought this film would or could bring healing. I grew up in a community where mental health

and wellness and information was not available. When I first picked up the camera in the process how healing brought about the possibility of healing for me and other people. One of the most beautiful things I have heard is from young people who reached out to me and said they wanted to document their story, and now they feel good because I am doing it. I feel like I can heal, I feel heard, I feel seen and that has been a beautiful journey."

"At the end of the day this project is about impact, this project is about changing conditions in our community especially the young people who are in a crisis right now. We see what is happening with violence, you see what is happening with education and with mental health in our Black disenfranchised communities when it comes to young people. I want us to put together a plan and begin healing our youth. This film starts this conversation, but only a small piece of what will be needed to get us solutions."

2nd Annual Congo Square Fest

Photos by Larry Panna
and Peter Nakhid

Congo Square, located in Armstrong Park, holds great significance to New Orleans and the world. Last week Delfeayo Marsalis held the 2nd Annual Congo Square Festival. It honored music greats Germaine Bazzle, Monk Boudreaux and Edward "Kidd" Jordan, at the patron party held at Gallier Hall. Also, the festival held at Congo Square featured great music, food and vendors. It was a great time had by all.



WWL-TV Anchor Charisse Gibson, honorees Monk Boudreaux, Violinist Rachel Jordan daughter of Edward "Kidd" Jordan, Germaine Bazzle, Delfeayo Marsalis and Shaddai Livingston.



The festival drew many people who enjoyed a great day of music, food and fun.



The Uptown Jazz Orchestra performing at the patron party held at Gallier Hall.



CULU Dance Troupe performing at Congo Square Fest.



Father and Daughter enjoying the fest.

Data Zone,
Continued on page 5.

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

Data Zone, Continued from page 4.



Data News Editor-in-Chief Edwin Buggage, Jazz at Congo Square Festival Founder Delfeayo Marsalis and Data News Publisher Terry Jones.



Singer Tonya Boyd-Cannon and Raquel "Rocky" Jackson, co-host of Bruh Let's Geaux.



Delfeayo Marsalis and Allison Reinhardt of Keep New Orleans Music Alive (KNOMA).



Revelers enjoying a great night of music and celebrating Congo Square.

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ARCHIVES MONTH EXHIBIT LAUNCH

Monday, October 3 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

DAYTIME TOURS

Thursday, October 13
10:00 AM-11:00 AM

Tuesday, October 18
2:00 PM-3:00 PM

EVENING TOUR

Thursday, October 20 6:00 PM-7:00 PM

VIRTUAL SHOWCASES

New Blog every Monday in October! Visit
www.orleanscivilclerk.com to view our blogs on Places of Worship,
What Once Was, and Iconic New Orleans Restaurants.

INTRODUCTION TO HISTORICAL RECORDS SEMINAR

Tuesday, October 11
9:00 AM-10:30 AM

RSVP by October 5

TITLE CHAIN SEMINAR

Thursday, October 27
9:00 AM-11:00 AM

RSVP by October 20

Dr. Adierah Berger Elevated to International High School of New Orleans' Next CEO and Head of School

New Orleans Agenda

NEW ORLEANS – Dr. Adierah Berger has been named CEO and Head of School for the International High School of New Orleans' by the Board of Trustees of the Voices for International Business and Education (VIBE). Dr. Berger was chosen from a large and impressive pool of candidates. Previously, Dr. Berger served as IHSNO's principal for 9 years.

Dr. Berger, a native New Orleanian, has worn several hats in the local education industry from teaching various classes to sever-



Dr. Adierah Berger

al high-level leadership positions. She has spent the last 10 years as a school principal in both the New Orleans elementary and secondary arena. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of New Orleans, her Master of Science in Public Health from Tulane University School of Public Health, and Tropical Medicine with a concentration in Health Education and Communication, and her Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Xavier University.

"I'm looking forward to working with our hardworking board of di-

rectors, faculty, staff and students in my new role as IHSNO Head of School," said Berger. "I view a collaborative school environment as the key to creating successful teachers and students and believe partnerships with parents and community partners are essential to enriching the experience in any school community."

Berger hopes to enhance IHSNO's profile as a destination for students interested in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. Currently, IHSNO is the only school in Downtown New Orleans.

State & Local News

Councilman Eugene Green Welcomes Shakor Studios to District "D"



Data News Staff Edited Report

Last week, Shakor Studios Art Studio and Gallery celebrated today the grand opening at its new location, 3306 Elysian Fields Avenue. Shakor, the proprietor, is a talented artist and successful entrepreneur who has shared his talents for decades with New Orleanians and visitors alike.

New Orleans District D City Councilman Eugene Green welcomed Shakor Studios to its new location with a message of support and a Proclamation. Green said: "It is great to celebrate with

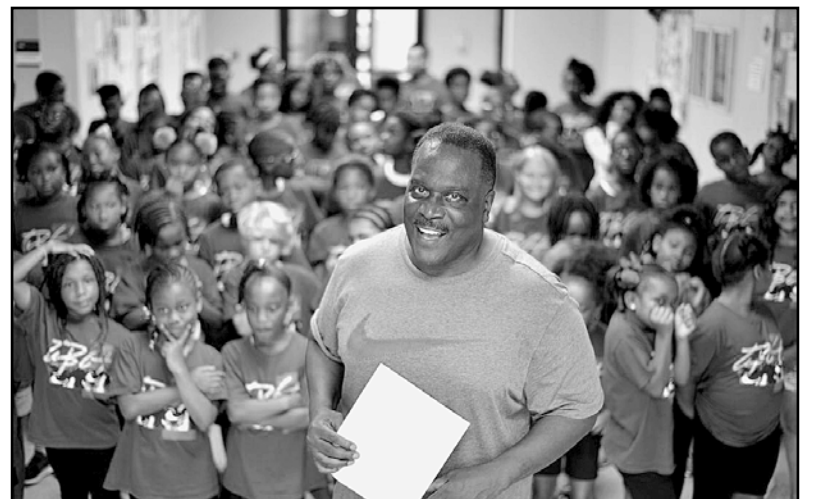
Shakor, and his wife Troylynn, the opening of this great and very attractive studio and gallery. That Shakor has chosen to invest and open their door in growing District D is a tremendous asset to this community."

Councilman Green, who has over the years promoted small businesses as the former Executive Assistant for Economic Development to Mayor Marc Morial. Also, as the Director of the City's Office of Small and Emerging Business Development, and a business owner himself said: "I have had the opportunity to watch for decades as Shakor shares his

talents far and wide, opening and operating a successful studio and gallery and placing his artwork throughout the nation. But he has also supported other entrepreneurs. He celebrates his own Shakor Studio opening today while giving other business owners an opportunity to display their products sums up his motivation, one that includes achieving success in business but also sharing his resources in support of the aspirations of others. I wish Shakor, and Troylynn, continued success. I know that the new Shakor Studios will be a great asset to this community for decades to come."

Commentary

Investing in the Children



Anthony Bean Founder and Director of ABCT

I am not a social scientist who can explain the why and wherefore of things, but it seems to me that Hurricane Katrina has a lasting effect on the minds of young folks. I am talking about the teens I interact with daily in my theater and acting school. I heard the term Katrina babies.

Children who were born during and after the storm. Not to mention the creative people who never return and hamper down in other cities. Children are the same as needing love, attention, and discipline. It is the concentration and commitment that are missing. My performing arts kids were committed

to learning their lines, keeping up with their homework, and showing respect at home. They understand that if they mess up at school or at home, their parents will remove them from the extra activities after school.

So, they wanted to belong, so they watched their steps. Now, it is more of a lackadaisical attitude. If they act up, it is because their parents were tripping, using their words. I will leave it up to others to understand why this is so, but my company is and will always be committed to the youth of New Orleans. If there are changing winds and we will identify this change and we'll change with it. We are committed to saving the child of New Orleans.

Homeownership/Education

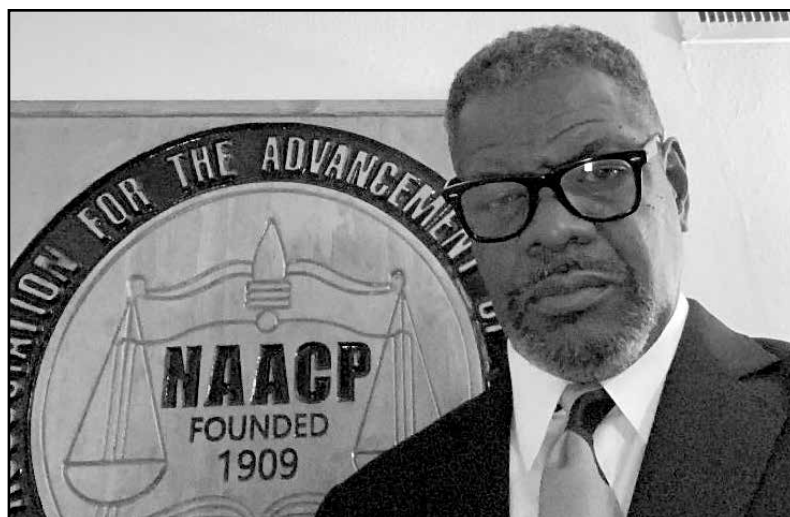
Part 2

Ronald Coleman
Executive Director
NAACP New Orleans Branch

New Orleans Post Katrina/Ida

My cousin Joe Luv III works in Transportation and earns about \$38,050.00 yearly, pays his taxes knowing the Government is going to take 12.8% tax rate making his take home \$33,176.00. La. St. tax \$2,013.00 (Forbes Advisor).

Before Katrina, a 3 Bedroom House rented for \$375.00 in 2004-2005. Afterward, there was a 500% increase in 2006 \$1350.00 due to HUD Section (8) Housing Voucher Program to assist poverty-stricken families. Cousin Joe is above the poverty threshold for housing assistance, the New Orleans City Council passes the overzealous BLIGHT HOUSING initiative with community activists opposed to the ordinance stating residents still evacuated will lose their property to code enforcement fines and fees. Insurance claims still incomplete and com-



mercial developers will come in and reduce the African American Community. Mayor Ray Nagin let the ordinance become law without his signature.

Hurricane IDA

The government failed the people again, no mandatory evacuation to a population with 41% residents on fixed income and 29% on medical emergency declaration, aftermath No Power food, fuel, and no way out of New Orleans.

Education

On Thursday, September 15, 2005, with Attorney Willie Zanders, we are heading to the Louisiana Department of Education for a New Orleans Public School hearing, I departed to the men's restroom went in the toilet stall only to witness Louisiana St. Superintendent Cecil Picard discussing a MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with several men only to learn that deal was cut in the men's room to take over the

finances of the district to consulting firm Alvarez & Marshal.

The RSD = Recovery School District

Reorganization of the public schools in New Orleans Pre-Kindergarten to eighth grade, High School Ninth grade to twelfth 2007, Teen Pregnancy increased Programs eliminated Civics, Social Studies, Penmanship, Jr High Musical and Vocational Training, 2010 dropout rates juvenile crime during school hours increased and alternative education (GED) programs upward.

2015 Survey Whites 70% said yes good times in public schools compared to 37% African Americans agreed.

"It is easy to count what had gotten better.

Much harder to measure what has been lost "

We lost Neighborhood schools, Food Service Workers, Janitorial Workers and General Maintenance Workers Parent Participation is low.

REFLECTIONS ON KATRINA AND IDA

Seventeen and One Year Later



Andreanecia Morris
Executive Director,
HousingNOLA

The last seventeen years have seen so many things change in New Orleans. At one point, we were the fastest growing city in America, but today our failure to guarantee housing has made staying impossible. In the ten years after Hurricane Katrina, the flood waters receded and over 88,000 subsidized homes and apartment were either built or rehabbed—with most of those homes going to people whose lives had been upended by Hurricane Katrina and found themselves without a home. Today, we still need to bring home over 55,000 people and we're no closer to getting there

than we were on the 10th Anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. Last year Hurricane Ida reminded us of how vulnerable and unprepared we were to deal with our changing climate. The vulnerabilities that were exposed during Hurricane Katrina and Rita haven't gone away. We've just built new homes and different opportunities on top of an incredibly shaky system.

We say #PutHousingFirst because we know that stabilizing everyone in New Orleans is not only possible, but also the only path forward. And our failure to do that is so deeply entrenched that now, as we approach the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Ida and the 17th Anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, our leaders are ignoring the lessons we learned. Last year during Hurricane Ida every single person in the metro New Orleans area, the river parishes, and the Houma - Thibodaux area were effectively rendered homeless. Those who lost their homes

due to storm damage experienced more traditional homelessness, but those of us who were without power for weeks and were forced to camp out in our own homes and try to make do with generators or find shelter with friends or in other communities experienced a type of homelessness as well. It is sad and tragic that less than a year later, not only have we not addressed the needs of the people who are still unhoused, we now have community members and elected officials attacking and blaming the homeless with no consideration or reflection on what happened to each and every one of us one year ago.

Recent headlines and articles paint those who are experiencing homelessness as "hurting businesses' bottom line and negatively impacting curb appeal." We are a city that has long prioritized appearing to pull together while pushing struggling residents out of the picture. And now we have

officials saying the homeless want to stay homeless or harassing people for likes and clicks on social media. This completely dismisses all systematic barriers that prevent our most vulnerable from being able to choose any other option. And I wish I could say I was surprised by this turn of events—given the recent narrative in mainstream media, we are not completely surprised by these sentiments. Last year, we had elected officials garnering press by invoking the welfare queen stereotype while evictions for Black women and their children skyrocketed because of COVID.

This rhetoric is extremely harmful, and we cannot continue to disparage our homeless community this way. This isn't an "us vs. them" scenario. We are all a part of New Orleans. We all belong here, and we need a community that puts its people first. If we don't #PutHousingFirst, we will face an emergency from which New Orleans can't recover.

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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 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!

Job Opportunity

Administrative Assistant Wanted

Data News Weekly, "The People's Paper," is looking for an administrative assistant.

Compensation is competitive and detail orientation will be appreciated.

If you are interested, please email your resume to: terrybjones@bellsouth.net

This space can be yours for only \$80

Call Now!

504-821-7421



Ida was strong. Louisiana is stronger.

It's been one year since Hurricane Ida left a trail of unprecedented destruction throughout our communities. It downed 1,000 miles of power lines, damaged 30,000 poles and took more than 27,000 line crews to safely restore power.

In the wake of this historic storm, we've strengthened and improved the grid so that it's more resilient today than ever before. We greatly appreciate your patience and cooperation through it all. Thank you, Louisiana.

We power life.SM

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