

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

FREE COPY



Barack and Michelle Obama
Return to White House

Data Zone
Page 5

September 17 - September 23, 2022 57th Year Volume 21 www.ladatanews.com

A Data News Weekly Exclusive

Jackson Residents Enter a Month without Clean Water



New Orleans Organizations Continue to Help

Page 2




Newsmaker

The Beginning
of a New Era

Page 6

Opinion

"God Did"



Page 7

Jackson Residents Enter a Month without Clean Water

New Orleans Organizations Continue to Help



The Xavier University of Louisiana Chapter of Collegiate 100 traveled to Jackson, Miss. to deliver and volunteer at a water drive held at New Horizon Baptist Church International.

Leah Clark
Data News Weekly Contributor

When Kennadie Boykin first moved from St. Louis, Mo. to Jackson, Miss., she noticed how often the city was placed under a boiled water notice.

Five years later, in 2022, Boykin is in her junior year of college at Jackson State University, a Historically Black University. Now, after constant boiled water notices, by September this year, she found herself among thousands of residents without running or clean wa-

ter in what culminated as the 2022 Jackson water crisis.

In late August, heavy rainfall entered the central-Mississippi area that caused the Pearl River and Ross Barnett Reservoir to rise to dangerously high flood levels. The O.B. Curtis Water Plant, one

of Jackson's two water-treatment plants, receives its water from the reservoir and was shut down as a result of the flooding.

The failure of the O.B. Curtis Water Plant left over 150,000 Jackson residents without clean drinking water and low

Photos courtesy Xavier University Collegiate 100

Cover Story, Continued on page 3.

INSIDE DATA

| | | | |
|-----------------------|---|--------------------------|---|
| Cover Story | 2 | State & Local News . . . | 6 |
| Data Zone | 4 | Opinion | 7 |
| Newsmaker | 6 | | |

DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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 | Fleur De Lis | Production |
| Edwin Buggage | Leah Clark | Pubinator.com |
| Editor | Xavier University | Editorial and |
| Sharonda Green | Collegiate 100 | Advertising Inquiries |
| Executive Assistant | Deanna Johns | datanewsweeklyad |
| June Hazeur | Stacy M. Brown | @gmail.com |
| Accounting | Mckenzi Neal | Distribution |
| | Hannah Stoutmire | by Terrence Lee |
| | & Zoe Trask | |
| | Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis | |

Please call 504-309-9913 for subscription information or to obtain a back issue of the paper ONLY.
Dated material two weeks in advance. Not responsible for publishing or return of unsolicited manuscripts or photos.

Cover Story, Continued from page 2.



Collegiate 100 members unload water cases to give Jackson residents during a water drive.



Xavier students load multiple water cases into the back seat of a Jackson resident's car.

to no water pressure. The week of Aug. 29th, Jackson Public Schools, Jackson State University, Millsaps College, Belhaven University, and numerous businesses temporarily closed and opted for virtual operations while the city was placed under a state of emergency.

Peggy Seaton-Cain, 33, is a teacher at Reimagine Preparatory School in Jackson and mother to a small child. Living in Jackson, Seaton-Cain has had to alter her schedule and life around the water crisis to provide for her son.

"School provides him social networking in his age group. The water crisis negatively affected his life by forcing him to pause his friendships," Seaton-Cain said. "As parents, we were met with another financial strain on our household budget."

For those like Boykin, who now lives in the city of Byram just outside of Jackson, she does not have to rely on Jackson's water system at home but still deals with it while attending classes at Jackson State.

Jackson's water issues have become a "common occurrence" for Boykin, but the situation has been like none other for those new to the metro-Jackson area.

"It's confusing especially being a college student," Boykin said. "Because I know people from out of town that are literally depending on the school to act, the state to act, and people out of the kindness of their hearts to act."

Jackson State students living on-campus have used hanging Gatorade coolers to store clean water for showering. For bathrooms, portable toilets were parked outside of buildings.

Boykin said the measures students have to go for basic use of water are "embarrassing" in some ways.



A Xavier student and Collegiate 100 member loads cases of water into the trunk of a Jackson resident car as part of relief efforts.

"It's already one thing to live on-campus," she said. "You have to share dorms, share bathrooms, and share buildings, but now you have to go outside your building to use the restroom."

However, this is not the first time Jackson, the capital of Mississippi, has undergone a water crisis.

In February 2021, a winter storm swept through the state and caused water outages in the city. Freezing temperatures caused pipes and water lines to burst and left tens of thousands in the city without water for almost three weeks.

A year and a half later, Jackson residents are facing water issues again. The recurring water issue stems from the city's aging infrastructure.

State and city officials have been aware of the water system's need for upgrades for decades. In March 2020, the U.S. Environmen-

tal Protection Agency sent officials a report that found the city's water treatment plants failed to detect lead and copper.

While Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves has blamed city officials for their handling of updating the water system, Jackson Mayor Chokwe A. Lumumba claims state officials have not cooperated with their attempts to find solutions.

Many residents, such as Boykin, seem to blame both the city and the state. Trinity Johnson, a sophomore at Tougaloo College, has lived in Jackson her entire life and said she feels sad about how the crisis is being handled.

"This could have been avoided years ago. This isn't the first time Jackson has had water problems," Johnson said. "I feel that it plays along socio-economics really because you don't hear Madison and Rankin counties having water prob-



Xavier students' direct traffic as Jackson residents receive cases of water from a water drive held at New Horizon Baptist Church International in Jackson.

lems versus Jackson, where the majority of African Americans stay."

Some experts agree with this assessment of the socio-economic and racial aspects of the water crisis in the majority-Black city. The current situation has gained national attention including from President Joe Biden, who has offered emergency resources to the state. Organizations inside and outside of the city have poured in emergency relief efforts.

The Xavier University of Louisiana Chapter of Collegiate 100, on Saturday, Sept. 10th, volunteered to pass out cases of water at New Horizon Church International in Jackson. Isaiah Washington, a member of the chapter, said he felt it was important for their New Orleans-based chapter to be in Jackson.

"No one should have to go through a crisis where they can't get access to safe drinking water,"

Washington said. "I'm glad we were able to provide water for the people in Jackson."

As the water crisis approached its one month mark, Jackson residents are hoping that an end appears soon. On Tuesday, Sept. 6th, officials announced that running water had returned to the city. However, the boiled water notice issued by Mayor Lumumba in July remains as many have reported discolored water.

Until then, residents continue to live through the crisis. For Boykin, it has cemented her interest in making a difference, whether as a future lawyer or politician.

"It makes me just want to go harder in my studies," Boykin said. "Mississippi, as a whole, is a little backward – a little behind times, so trying to catch up has been a real struggle."

Tattoo Festival Showcased Artists, Road Show Acts at Convention Center

Deanna Johns

Data News Weekly Contributor
Photos by Deanna Johns

Tattoo lovers from around the crescent city gathered at the New Orleans Convention Center for the Fifth Annual Villain Arts Tattoo Convention that took place from Friday, Sept. 9th through Sunday, Sept. 11th, 2022.

More than two-hundred tattoo artists and vendors gathered from around the country to network, sell merchandise, and show off their skills by providing customized tattoos for convention goers.

The festival also included live performances from America's Got Talent stars Captain & Maybelle, Ringling Brothers star James Maltman and Olde City Sideshow Reggie Bügmüncher.

"This is my third year attending the convention. It is always the highlight of my year," said Allen Bower, the owner of Body Ghouls, a tattoo shop in Southern California.

Allen said he first began attending the convention two years ago and has never looked back. He said one of his favorite aspects of the event is the celebrity appearances. At this year's convention visitors saw celebrity guests like Elva Stephani, Jake Parson, and Jordi Pla all from Paramount's hit television series "Ink Masters."

"As a new artist coming into this field, I love seeing how other artists represent themselves. It has been very enlightening to see so many fresh and original ideas come together to make this event happen," said Alexis Reed, a recent college graduate and tattoo artist from South Carolina.

Reed was one of many African American artists attending the event. It's not uncommon for African American artists to be underrepresented within spaces like this, according to local visitors to the festival. However, Villain Arts offered attendees a diversity of tattoo artists from different backgrounds.

"It's hard to find Black-owned shops in the city so it's cool to see so many of us in one spot. It lets me know I have options," said Liam Graham, a New Orleans native and a three-day pass holder to the Tattoo Convention.

Nick Romero, a New Orleans native, said that it was his first time



America's Got Talent Season 6 stars Captain and Maybelle brought their circus act to the Villain Arts Tattoo Convention on Sept. 10th.



Alexis Reed, the head artist of Black Swan Tattoo Studio (left) and her apprentice at Black Swan Tattoo Studio participate at the Tattoo Convention on Sept. 10th.

there and he couldn't wait to get his first tattoo.

"This is my first time attending the convention so I'm excited to be here. I am going to get Michael Meyers tattooed on my forearm before the night is over," Romero said.



Erick "Rock" Long, the owner of Platinum Koi Tattoo, is one of the artists featured at this year's Tattoo Festival.



Resident Nick Romero received his first tattoo from a local New Orleans artist at the Convention Center on Sept. 10th.

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

Barack and Michelle Obama Revel in ‘Family Reunion’ in Return to White House for Official Portrait Reveal

Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent

Former President Barack Obama declared a family reunion at the White House on Wednesday, Sept. 7th, as official portraits of him and former First Lady Michelle Obama were unveiled during a ceremony in the East Room.

“It’s great to be back,” Obama declared in a ceremony that included several officials and staffers from his administration.

Former presidents and first ladies usually have their official White House portraits unveiled by their successors. However, former President Donald Trump spent much of his presidency attempting to erase Obama’s legacy and never held the traditional ceremony.

“Welcome home,” President Joe Biden declared to the Obamas.



Former President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama admiring their Official White House portraits during their unveiling.

Biden, of course, served as Obama’s vice president for two terms beginning in 2008.

“Believe it or not, it is still a bit odd for me to stand in this historic space, see this big, beautiful painting staring back at me,” Michelle Obama remarked about the portraits.

The former first lady’s portrait was painted by Sharon Sprung, while Robert McCurdy painted the former president.

“Growing up on Euclid Avenue, I never could have imagined that any of this would be part of my story, but even if it’s all still a bit awkward for me, I do recognize why moments like these are important, why all of this is absolutely necessary,” Obama insisted.

“Traditions like this matter, not just for those of us who hold these positions but for everyone participating in and watching our democracy.”

OCTOBER 2022

**Join Us
for Archives Month
hosted by the
Notarial Archives
Research Center**

**IN-PERSON
AND VIRTUAL**



Chelsey Richard Napoleon
CLERK OF CIVIL DISTRICT COURT
AND EX-OFFICIO RECORDER

For more information, or to RSVP,
please contact the Research Center at
civilclerkresearchctr@orleanscdc.com
or 504.407.0106

Clerk of Civil District Court
Notarial Archives Research Center
1340 Poydras Street, Suite 360
New Orleans, LA 70112
WWW.ORLEANSCIVILCLERK.COM

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

The Beginning of a New Era

Saints Whip the Falcons in Season Opener

Fleur De Lis
Data News Weekly
Contributor

It went down to the wire, but the Saints showed they had what it took to overcome a 16 point deficit in the fourth quarter to beat their bitter rivals the Atlanta Falcons in the season opener.

The Who Dat Nation traveled to the ATL showing support for the boys in Black and Gold.

"It was great to see all the Saints fans that traveled to Atlanta for the game. My brother and I gave a bus ride with 50 people on it, and it was great. I love the way the team kept it together to come out with a win," said Charlie Tenner, a longtime Saints fan who often travels to games.

They showed they have what



After being plagued for two seasons with injuries, superstar wide receiver Michael Thomas came back in grand fashion with two touchdown receptions in the Saints season opener against the Atlanta Falcons.

it takes to win under new coach Dennis Allen. Quarterback Jameis Winston and wide receiver Michael Thomas came alive in the fourth quarter where they connected for two touchdowns. Also, kicker Wil Lutz hit a field goal to put the Saints up and the special teams also came alive blocking a last second field goal attempt by Atlanta to seal the victory.

All around the Saints showed in the fourth quarter the spark that's made them a great regular season team under Sean Payton and Drew Brees. They seem they can take this into this new era under Dennis Allen.

By the outpouring of support by the Who Dat Nation, it evident they are ready to roll with the Black and Gold. Hopefully, to this year's Super Bowl.

State & Local News

Tigers and Jaguars Meet Up in a Historic LSU vs. Southern Game

Mckenzi Neal
Data News Weekly
Contributor
Photos by Hannah Stoutmire and Zoe Trask

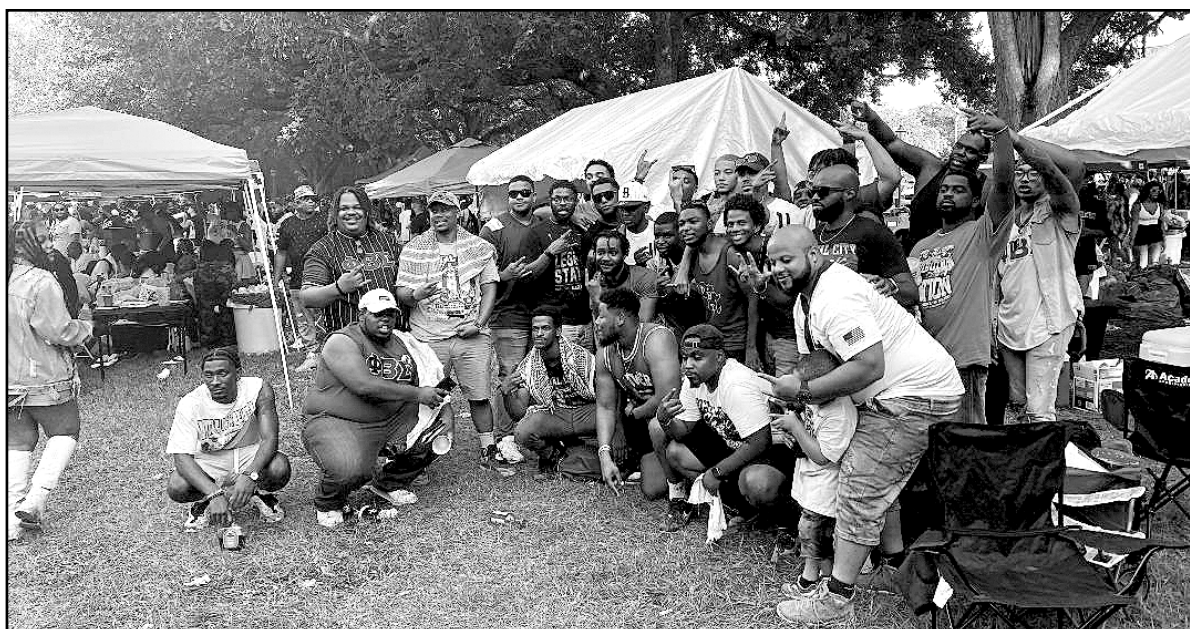
Fans from two universities in the state capital: Louisiana State University and Southern University-Baton Rouge, gathered at Death Valley to take part in a historical match-up on Sept. 10, 2022.

It was game day for LSU and Southern fans. Tents stood tall, cooked food filled the air, and the Tiger Stadium was full.

Tailgate season has officially started, and it did so with a historical match-up.

"We were excited for this opportunity. It was great for the community, playing a traditional HBCU school, which meant a lot. We were happy that we were able to get the game. But I think our guys wanted to get back on the field," said Brian Kelly, the head coach of LSU's football team, in a press conference.

Even though Southern University is not in the Southeastern Conference with LSU, the South-



Members of Divine Nine sororities and fraternities tailgate at the LSU-Southern game on LSU's campus on Sept. 10, 2022.

ern Jaguars have had success in the Southwestern Athletic Conference and are known to face off with Grambling University in the Bayou Classic. In 2003, Southern set a 12-1 record in the Black College Football National Championship. At the Parade of Champions in 2004, Ba-

ton Rouge celebrated conference wins by both teams.

Fans and students alike came together on LSU's campus for a city-wide tailgate before the big moment – kick off. This was the first time in LSU's history that they have played an HBCU. The event had a tremen-

dous turnout, having 102,321 in attendance at Death Valley, according to officials. One of the key features of the match-up was the highly anticipated pre-game parade by Southern's well-known "Human Jukebox" and LSU's marching band which led the public into the stadium.

"This tailgate was one of the biggest ones I had ever seen on LSU campus since I was there in 2017," said Tierni Savoie, an LSU Health New Orleans School of Nursing student.

"Southern students and alumni showed out today with their school colors, tents, and RVs. Even with it being hot and humid, that did not stop them all from coming to LSU's campus to cheer on their football team. I definitely loved seeing the HBCU representation on LSU's campus," Savoie said.

At the end of the game, despite hopes for an upset from the HBCU underdogs in the match-up, the home team won 65-17, bringing the classic to a close, but not before both marching bands performed a unifying half-time show that created the 225-zip code as a band formation.

"This historic weekend was electrifying. I felt a great deal of pride having an opportunity to tailgate with my peers. It was beautiful having everyone together in one place," said Shaylynn Bivens, a Southern University Law Center student.

"God Did"

At a time when world communities are experiencing increasing devastations from climate change, poverty, and human oppression, what are the enduring lessons that are being articulated and portrayed in our music, poetry, and art forms?

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr.
President and CEO,
National Newspaper
Publishers Association

Hip-hop culture continues to transcend the divisions that prevent a universal acknowledgment of the sacred affirmation of the oneness of all humanity. As soon as DJ Khaled dropped his latest album with that transformational featured production entitled, "God Did," I knew that as an elder OG supporter of the culture I needed to publicly respond.

DJ Khaled, Rick Ross, Lil Wayne, Jay-Z, John Legend and Fridayy were all masterful in their contributory segments. At a time when world communities are experiencing increasing devastations from climate change, poverty, and human oppression, what are the enduring lessons that are being articulated and portrayed in our music, poetry, and art forms?

First, I was pleased and inspired by the lyrical summons from "God Did" that called all of us out of the graveyards of despair and hopelessness to stand erect and upright before the divine God of all creation and liberation.

When the player haters of the culture refused to hear and listen to the truth about how hip-hop continues to shed a radiant light on systemic oppression, racism, addictions, and economic inequities, God did not permit those profound spitters of truth to be silenced and unappreciated. Those of us who love and respect hip-hop know what time it is.

What emerged out of the South Bronx, NY with youthful creative power, authenticity, raw vibes, and artistic genius over 50 years ago is today an unstoppable global cultural phenomenon that is contributing



"God Did" is the title of New Orleans native DJ Khaled's (pictured-R) album recently debuted at number 1 on the Billboard charts. It's been receiving critical acclaim since its release, and features some of the hottest names in music such as Rick Ross (pictured-L) Jay-Z, John Legend, Lil Wayne, Drake, Kanye West, Eminem, Lil Baby, City Girls, Travis Scott, Quavo, Future, SZA and many others.

to a positive and irrevocable transformation of the world's consciousness and demands for freedom, justice, equality and equity.

In the pre-chorus to "God Did," Fridayy and Rick Ross set the dramatic curtain riser with the verse:

"They wanted us down

But look at us now

They counted us out

They didn't think that we would make it

They didn't believe in us."

Then in a forceful staccato affirmation by Rick Ross and Fridayy the chorus begins: "But I know God did, God did (Oh, yes, He did)." DJ Khaled in his street-powerful voice shouts out in refrain:

"God did

Oh, yes, God did

Oh, God did (God is great)

But I know God did."

Yes, God did. And, yes, consequently DJ Khaled did.

Young people, especially Generation Z and millennials across America and throughout the world will connect, resonate, and engage with these lyrics and musical symphony because of how this hymn exposes the prevailing mispercep-

tions about the so-called irredeemable, downtrodden-ness of youth consciousness and lifestyles today in impoverished communities in urban and rural areas.

While the status quo wants to keep young people down and disillusioned, God via hip-hop has reawakened the masses of millions of youth to speak out, stand up, and to become empowered with truth, resilience, vitality and a transformed vision to strive to make the world a better place for all people.

In verse 1 Rick Ross hints at the importance of stopping any form of disunity and self-destruction, and to begin the God-inspired journey to acquire enough money to buy and own a bank.

In verse 2 Lil Wayne testifies about how God made him to be creative:

"God did His thing when he made me

With the odds stacked against me, I could crack Da Vinci

I know only God can judge us."

Verse 3 was the longest verse. It was another hip-hop classic with Hov, i.e.: Jay-Z, who upfront eloquently acknowledges that because

God did, Hov did. Jay-Z reminds the world that, "Hov did"

"Please, Lord forgive me for what the stove did

Nobody touched the billi' until Hov did

How many billionaires can come from Hov crib?

I count three, me, Ye, and Rih."

Jay-Z, Kanye West, and Rihanna all shattered previous recording industry achievement records that propelled each of them into the billionaire stratosphere on earth and in the heavens. Yes, God did. Yes, Hov did. God did and God is still doing!

Mass incarceration is not the answer. Voter suppression is not the answer. Poverty and economic inequities are not the answer. "God Did" is the answer that requires activism, struggle, compassion, creativity, and empowerment.

Jay-Z said it best:

"I pray none of your people die over jail phones again

All this pain from the outside, inspired all the growth within

So new planes getting' broken in Highest elevation of the self."

No one album alone will give all the answers to all the perplexing questions of society. Yet, I salute "God Did" as a welcomed and timely give back and cultural blessing to all of humanity. Hip-hop is a global antidote to the poison of racial oppression and economic inequalities. Thank you, DJ Khaled, for "God Did."

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr (Dr Ben) is President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and Executive Producer/Host of The Chavis Chronicles weekly on PBS TV stations throughout the U.S. and can be reached at dr.bchavis@nnpa.org

DATA CLASSIFIED

Call 504-821-7421 to
place your classified ad.

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

follow us on

twitter 
@DataNewsWeek

This space can be
yours for only \$80

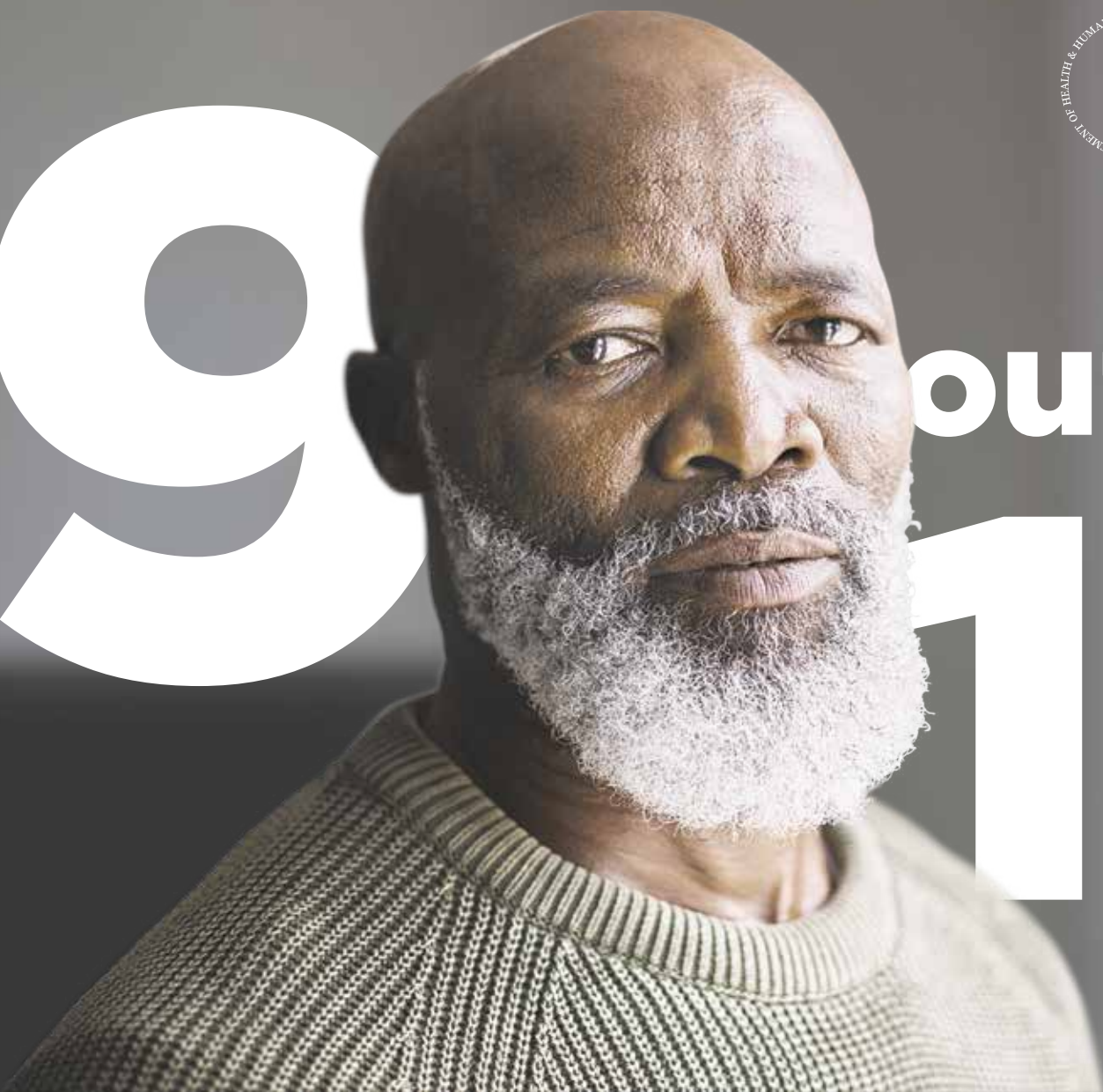
Call Now!

504-821-7421

ladatanews.com - The People's Website



Paid for by
the U.S. Department
of Health and
Human Services.



9 out of 10

9 OUT OF 10 COVID DEATHS IN THE U.S. WERE PEOPLE 50 AND OLDER.

The numbers are staggering. Your risk is even higher with a chronic condition like diabetes or heart disease. But vaccines have reduced the risk of hospitalization and death from COVID. Get your updated COVID vaccine now.

Find updated COVID vaccines at
[vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov)

