

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

2022 Bayou Classic Networking Event



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Data Zone Page 4

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A Data News Weekly Exclusive



Annual Network Coalition Reception Spotlights Black Excellence Across the State of Louisiana

Page 2



Newsmaker

Seat Belts Look Good On You

Page 6

National News

Racist Sentenced to Life in Prison Buffalo Mass Killing



Page 7

Annual Network Coalition Reception Spotlights Black Excellence Across the State of Louisiana



(l to r) Allen Semien, Sen. Regina Barrow, Mayor Jennifer Vidrine, Artist Ted Ellis, Congressman Troy Carter, LA DA Associations President - DA Bridget Dinvaout, Atty. Ron Haley, Tony Brown & Black Voters Matter Duo - Omari Ho-Sang and Keturah Reed-Butler and Rep. Jason Hughes.

Allen L. Semien, Sr.,
MALS President &
CEO VCI INTERNATIONAL
Photos by YD Photo and Art LLC

The 29th Annual Network Coalition Reception recognized statewide personalities making a difference in

Louisiana. Those honored were from many walks of life. The 15-year-old middle schooler, Alexandria Hookfin from Loranger Middle School wowed the audience w/ her explanation of what represents a true community servant. She started a local movement that resulted in her collecting 1000 cases of water for the people of Jackson, MS.

Then Ms. ArkLaTex/Soul Food Queen, Taylor Sims discussed why it is important to use your given platform to amplify needs of your community. Sims, 24, is being recruited to seek the Miss Louisiana title due to her poise and passion for making a significant difference in her state. The other highlights of the evening included pay-

Cover Story, Continued on page 3.

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

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Cover Story, Continued from page 2.



(l to r) Allen Semien, President & CEO, VCI INTERNATIONAL, Artist Ted Ellis & Terry Jones, Publisher, Data News Weekly



(l to r) Allen Semien, Tiffany Haley, Congressman Troy Carter, Artist Ted Ellis



Taylor Sims - Miss ArkLaTex & Miss Soul Food



(l to r) Demetric Mercadel (Congressman Carter's office), Mayor Jennifer Vidrine & Allen Semien

ing tribute to other difference makers. State Senator Regina Barrow, State Representative Jason Hughes, Attorney Ron Haley and Attorney Terry Landry, Jr were all recognized for the tireless hours they put in defending and protecting our children. Attorney Katina Semien - Smothers was also honored for her stellar work at the Louisiana Children Fund and now with the Community Grants Programs which includes LCF.

A standing ovation was given to Mayor Jennifer Vidrine of Ville Platte for being the first African American Female State President of the LA Municipal Association in 96 years and DA Bridget Dinvaut of St. John Parish for being elected as the first African American Female State President of the LA District Attorneys Association Both were dubbed as "glass ceilings shatters" for their accomplishments.

Also, a salute was given to activist radio personality Tony Brown

for being on the air getting things right for 20 yrs.

Further, City Councilman Vernon "Step" Martin of Crowley was recognized for being a "uniting force" across the entire State of Louisiana. The 6-term LMA Black Caucus State President continues to pull all factions together.

After coming off a contentious election cycle many in the room were very excited to meet and hear from the dynamic duo Omari Hoo-Sang and Keturah Reed-Butler who orchestrated the Black Voters Matter Campaign. Both Omari Hoo-Sang and Keturah Reed-Butler accepted their awards and challenged everyone in attendance to speak up & speak out.

And don't forget to VOTE!!!

The standing room only crowd enjoyed great food & great knowledge absorbed from this Invitation - Only high-profile event at The Jung Hotel.



(l to r) Candace@Drum, Alice Tisdale@ Jackson Advocate, Mayor Troung, Artist Ted Ellis & Allen Semien

2022 Bayou Classic Networking Event

**Photos by YD Photo
and Art LLC**

The Bayou Classic is more than simply a football game and battle of the bands. It is about service, networking, making impact and placing the spotlight on Black Excellence.

This year's networking event spotlighted Renowned Artist Ted Ellis, who received the LIFE-TIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD at a Congressional Commendation for his passion and his art at this event.

"This is about as gratifying as it gets for me. I am indeed humbled and touched by this high honor," stated Ellis.



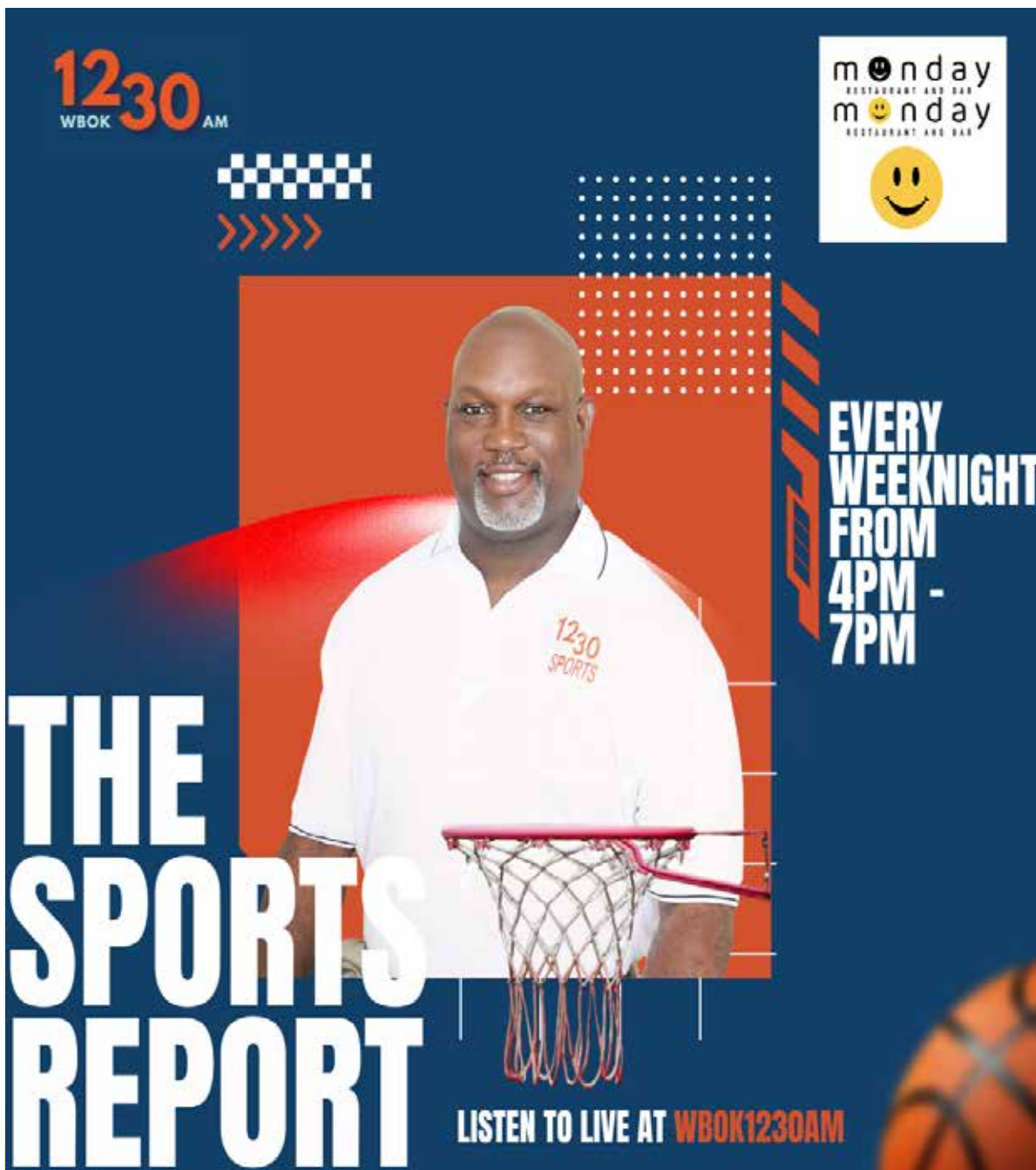
Dr C Reuben Walker, Exec VP SU AG
Center



Terry Jones, Publisher, Data News Weekly



Congressman Troy Carter



Bishop Dr WLT Littleton, CLOUT Ministerial Alliance of LA



Mayor Tyrin Z Troung- Bogalusa 23 years old



(r to l) Condoleezza Semien/Taylor Sims & Yulani Semien

Data Zone, Continued from page 4.



Ray Bias - Acadian Cos. (Ret.)



Alexandria Hookfin - 15 yrs. Old - Collected 1000 cases of water for folks in Jackson, Mississippi.



BR State Sen Regina Barrow



Artist Ted Ellis & Tiffany Elle Foxworth-Haley



Sisters Taylor & KC Sims

Unveiling of Louisiana African American Judges Soon



SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
L A W C E N T E R

Louis A. Berry Institute for Civil Rights & Justice

Le Sanctuary, Inc. and Louisiana Highway Safety Announces Their "Seat Belts Look Good On You" Campaign

Eric Connerly
Data News Weekly
Contributor

Le Sanctuary, Inc., and the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission (LHSC) held a press conference announcing their Seat Belts Look Good on You Campaign, on Friday, November 25th.

Special Guests In Attendance Included: Louisiana Highway Safety Commission Executive Director, Lisa Freeman, Louisiana State Police Department Assistant Superintendent, Lieutenant Colonel Chavez H. Cammon, Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development Secretary, Dr. Shawn D. Wilson, Orleans Parish Sheriff, Susan Hutson, New Orleans Police Department Deputy Superintendent, Christopher Goodly, Grambling State University Police Department Chief, Rodney Demery, Southern University Police Department Public Information Officer, Corporal Marquis Baldwin, Southwestern Athletic Conference Commissioner, Dr. Charles F. McClelland, New Orleans Convention Corporation, Inc. Director of Intergovernmental and Community Relations, Tari Bradford, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. Southwestern Region Centennial Regional Director, Miranda Moore, 69th Miss Grambling State University, Kelli Copes, and Grambling State University Student Government Association President, Jaquel Brooks

This Holiday Season kicked off



New Orleans Criminal Sheriff Susan Hutson.



Pictured from left to right: Charles F. McClelland, Angela L. Young, Marquis Baldwin, Miranda Moore, Tari Bradford, Susan Hutson, Chanita Vazquez, Lisa Freeman, Shawn D. Wilson, Chavez H. Cammon, Christopher Goodly, and Daphney Young.

with people traveling across the country to see their loved ones, many traveling by car. Studies have shown that Black people are more likely to not wear seat belts. A practice that potentially can lead to the potential of being injured or to fatalities while driving.

Last week during Bayou Classic, Le Sanctuary and LHSC team members were joined by state and local public safety officials at the press conference to encourage seat belt usage for everyone in a vehicle.

Recognizing that the proper use of seatbelts can reduce the risk of death by 45 percent and serious

injuries by 50 percent, all traffic safety advocates and stakeholders throughout Louisiana are committed to increasing awareness that proper use of seatbelts saves lives. In Louisiana, motor vehicle crashes continue to be a leading cause of traffic-related deaths due to people not wearing seat belts.

"Most good accessories cost a pretty penny," Executive Director Lisa Freeman said. "Even still, some are beyond the reach of many—and then, there's no guarantee that it will flatter the person wearing it."

LHSC re-introduced the single most important accessory—one

that is universally available and happens to mean the difference between a happy ending and a tragedy: It is the good, old-fashioned SEAT BELT—it goes with everything, it looks good on everyone, and it never clashes with whatever team colors you're wearing.

And, most critically, seat belts save lives. In a time where Louisiana is seeing increases in roadway fatalities, this is the one item that can make a difference in you and your family getting to your destination. Arriving alive is the best way to look good. So, we encouraged everyone at the Bayou Classic to

maximize and accessorize safety. Be a fashionista for safety—Buckle up day and night. Every seat, every trip, every time.

Le Sanctuary, Inc. and the LHSC are fully committed to promoting seatbelt safety through law enforcement responses and public education. The Seat Belts Look Good on You Campaign aimed to encourage all Louisianans to drive safely during this holiday season, and that begins with everyone in a vehicle using a seatbelt in all travels near and far.

State & Local News

Get Out and Vote Early Voting is November 26th through December 3rd

Terry B. Jones
Publisher, Data News Weekly

It is that time again, so please get out to the polls and vote. We need all to get out and elect leaders that will serve all the people of our city and state with honor and integrity. Again, we would like to congratulate all those we endorsed who were victorious in the primary. But we have one more race where we are endorsing who we feel is the best candidate. In the race for the

Louisiana Public Service Commission District 3, we recommend that you vote for Lambert Boissiere III.

Dec. 10, 2022 - General Election

- Early voting is Nov. 26th through Dec. 3rd (excluding Sunday, Nov. 27th) from 8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- The deadline to request an absentee ballot is Dec. 6th by 4:30 p.m. (other than military and overseas voters). You can request an absentee ballot online through our

Voter Portal or in writing through your Registrar of Voters Office.

- The deadline for a registrar of voters to receive a voted absentee ballot is Dec. 9th by 4:30 p.m. (other than military and overseas voters).
- On election day, the polls are open from 7 a.m.- 8 p.m.

Early Voting Sites

City Hall
1300 Perdido Street, Room 1W24
New Orleans, LA 70112

Algiers Courthouse
225 Morgan Street, Room 105
New Orleans, LA 70114

Chef Mentour Voting Machine Warehouse Site
8870 Chef Mentour Highway
New Orleans, LA 70126

Lake Vista Community Center
6500 Spanish Fort Blvd.
New Orleans, LA 70124

2022 Constitutional Amendments on the December 10th Ballot

Amendment No. 1
(Act 279 HB 178 of 2022 RS) would expressly prohibit non-U.S. Citizens from being allowed to register to vote or vote in Louisiana.
A vote FOR would limit the right to vote to a person who is both a citizen of this state and of the United States with certain exceptions and would prohibit a person who is not a citizen of the United States from registering and voting in this state.
A vote AGAINST would retain the existing right of every citizen of the state to register and vote with certain exceptions.

Amendment No. 2
(Act 281 - SB 160 of 2022 RS) seeks to require Senate confirmation of gubernatorial appointments to the State Civil Service Commission.
A vote FOR would require the governor's appointees to the State Civil Service Commission to be subject to Senate confirmation.
A vote AGAINST would retain the ability of the governor appointing members to the State Civil Service Commission without Senate confirmation.

Amendment No. 3
(Act 280 - SB 75 of 2022 RS) seeks to require Senate confirmation of gubernatorial appointments to the State Police Commission.
A vote FOR would require the governor's appointees to the State Police Commission to be subject to Senate confirmation.
A vote AGAINST would retain the ability of the governor appointing members to the State Police Commission without Senate confirmation.

Early voting is now until December 3, 2022 "Let Your Voices Be Heard" at the polls.

Racist Sentenced to Life in Prison for Buffalo Mass Killing of African Americans

Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

A White man who traveled to a Buffalo grocery store in May and killed 10 African Americans, including Black Press writer Katherine Massey, pled guilty to 25 criminal counts on Monday and will spend the rest of his life in prison.

A grand jury previously indicted Payton Gendron, 19, on domestic terrorism, first-degree murder, attempted murder, hate crimes, and weapons possession.

A single domestic terrorism motivated by hate charge carries an automatic life sentence upon conviction.

Prosecutors said Gendron acknowledged that he committed the heinous crimes "for the future of the White race."

A lawyer for the victims indicated relief that the state's case didn't go to trial.

"It avoids a lengthy trial that they believe would be very difficult for the families," said Terrence Connors, an attorney representing the victims' families.

"I think it was pretty clear they had no real defense."

The self-described White Supremacist, Gendron, previously pled not guilty to federal hate crime charges. Federal law allows for the death penalty in those cases.

He still faces 27 federal counts, including ten counts of hate crimes resulting in deaths, three counts of hate crimes involving an attempt to kill, and 13 counts of using, carrying, or discharging a firearm related to a hate crime.

Prosecutors said Gendron possessed a 180-page manifesto that revealed troubling perceptions the self-avowed White Supremacist had.



He complained of the dwindling size of the White population and included his fears of ethnic and cultural replacement of White people.

Gendron described himself as a fascist, a White Supremacist, and an anti-Semite.

His live-streamed shooting spree has left at least ten dead and several more wounded.

Unlike the many unarmed Black people killed during encounters with law enforcement, the White racist is alive to plead not guilty in court.

"While past violent White Supremacist attacks seem to have factored into this heinous act, we must acknowledge that extremist rhetoric espoused by some media and political leaders on the right promoting theories that vilify or dehumanize segments of our society like 'the great replacement theory' is a factor too," wrote U.S. House Homeland Security Chairman Bennie Thompson in an earlier statement.

Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) National Deputy Director Edward Ahmed Mitchell added that the organization condemns the White Supremacist terrorist attack targeting Black men and women in Buffalo and the racist rhetoric that has sparked such

violence.

"The constant repetition of White Supremacist conspiracy theories on social media and even mainstream media outlets has led to horrific violence in places as distant as Christchurch, El Paso, Oslo, and Charleston," Mitchell asserted earlier.

"Those who promote racism, White supremacy, antisemitism, Islamophobia, and other forms of bigotry must be held accountable for the violence they inspire."

Mitchell added that CAIR has often spoken against those who promote the "great replacement" and other racist conspiracy theories.

Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown told National Newspaper Publishers Association's live daily morning show, Let It Be Known, that Gendron surveilled both the community and the grocery store as part of the attack's planning.

Brown said the teen surveilled the area for several days and targeted a busy place in an area predominantly populated by Black people.

Gendron's manifesto noted, "Zip code 14208 in Buffalo has the highest Black percentage that is close enough to where I live."

According to the U.S. Census, the zip code is 78 percent Black and among the top 2 percent of zip codes nationwide with the highest

percentage of the Black population. In addition, it has the highest rate of the Black population of any zip code in upstate New York.

"Well, this manifesto tells everything to us. And that is what's so bone-chilling about

it is that there is the ability for people to write and subscribe to such philosophies filled with hate," New York Gov. Kathy Hochul said after the shootings.

"The White Supremacist acts of terrorism that are being fermented on social media and to know that what this one individual did has been shared with the rest of the world as well as the live-streaming of this military-style execution that occurred in the streets of my hometown."

Massey, one of Gendron's victims, spent her life trying to clean up and help her community. While she retired from Blue Cross Blue Shield, Massey, 72, remained active in her community as the Cherry Street block club president and as a columnist for the Buffalo Challenger, an NNPA member newspaper.

"She was the greatest person you will ever meet in your life," her nephew, Demetrius Massey, told reporters.

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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.

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AMERICA'S DEADLIEST SHOOTINGS ARE ONES WE DON'T TALK ABOUT

On any given day in America, an average of 63 of our mothers, brothers, partners, and friends are taken from us by gun suicide. But tomorrow's deaths could be prevented. Give your loved ones a second chance at life. Store your guns safely: locked, unloaded, and away from ammo.