

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"



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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

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The Year in Review

Edwin Buggage

Editor-in-Chief Data News Weekly

In our role as "The People's Paper" Data News Weekly continues to give you news that you can use. In this issue, we have compiled some of the stories we found to be important in 2022. We at Data News Weekly wish all our readers Happy Holidays and a prosperous New Year.

Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson



Data News Weekly covered the historical nomination and confirmation of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the United States Supreme Court.

A City that Celebrates Life



Festivals are a big part of life in New Orleans. After the COVID-19 outbreak several major events in New Orleans were cancelled. In 2022 Jazz Fest, French Quarter Festivals came back and better than ever.

Pontchartrain Park



New Orleans have a great history of African American Excellence. This year Pontchartrain Park, a section of the city how over the years have had many notable citizens as its residents was honored as an Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places.

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DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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YWCA Groundbreaking Ceremony



In the fall of this Year, the New Orleans YWCA, headed by Loyce Pierce Wright, broke ground on the rebuilding of a state-of-the-art facility. In attendance were leaders from the civic and business community. The goal of the project is to empower women, eliminate racism and promote peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all.

Phenomenal Women of New Orleans



The City of New Orleans have many women who are achieving at high levels and making a positive impact on the community in different sectors. This year Data News Weekly placed the spotlight on several of them.

Jamar Pierre: The Art and Soul of New Orleans



He is an incredible artist, whose work has been featured across the globe. Data News Weekly ran a feature story on him and his amazing project that chronicles 300 years of history in the City of New Orleans.

A New Direction



Since Covid-19, many cities have had to re-think their direction and focus. Similarly, questions of New Orleans' future are on the minds of many residents of the city. Specifically, issues surrounding education, the economy and public safety.

Effective Leadership Matters



This year New Orleans held elections for several key races. Data News Weekly endorsed several candidates that included Troy Carter, for the U.S. Congress, Royce Duplessis, for State Senator and Donna Glapion, for Clerk of First City Court.

Blessed to be a Blessing



Anthony Bean is one that is committed to the children of the City of New Orleans. This year Data News Weekly covered the opening of the ABCT Actor and Training Studio. Where Bean continues to bring to the stage productions that not only entertain but inspire the community.

On the Right Track



The Karr High School Male Track Team embodies excellence both on and off the field. Data News Weekly had the privilege to speak to the school's principal, as well as the coach, and young athletes and their parents regarding their great accomplishments. They are an inspiration to an entire community.

Katrina Babies



During the anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, Data News Weekly had a conversation with Edward Buckles Jr., the creator of the critically acclaimed documentary Katrina Babies, that appeared on HBO Max. He is a young talent that tells the stories of his native city, telling stories that inform, educate, and captivate.

Unity in the Community



The year ended with Data News Weekly telling the story of the relationship between Business and Civic Leader Arnie Fielkow and Civil Rights Advocate, Attorney Tracie Washington. In these fractious times they wrote an editorial regarding Black and Jewish relations in the City of New Orleans and how they are working towards solutions that bring people together. Data News Weekly, spoke with both, gaining insight and publishing a story that we hope can help citizens from all backgrounds find things that can unify them to make the city better for all citizens regardless of their background.

Sparkle and Shine



Tracee Dundas
Fashion Stylist

The New Year is about trying new things, and what better way to kick-off the New Year than with sparkle and shine! It's about making a fashion statement and bringing your A-game style to the party! The idea is to take your style to the next level to insure you are the center of attention and envy of many at your New Year's Eve bash. From sequins to satin, every fashionista will be decked out in styles that will ring in the New Year with glamorous sparkle and shine. After all, it's that one occasion in which the phrase "more is more" is completely appropriate, expected, and acceptable! Happy 2023!

Fashion Editor: Tracee Dundas
@fashionablyyoursnola
Photos Provided by Each Store



Green with Envy: Spruce green, alter neck jumpsuit with bow detail and chiffon overlay palazzo pants. Available at Indigo Boutique



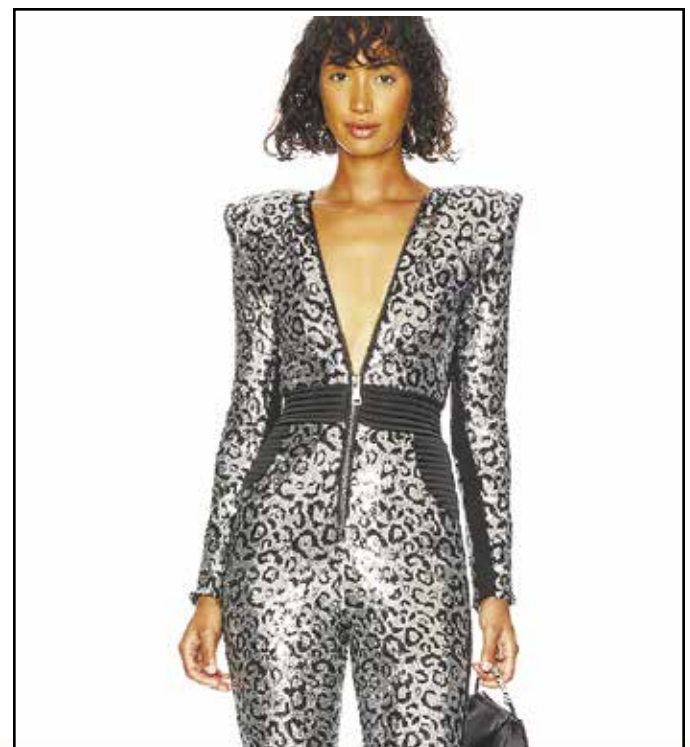
Code Blue: Abstract blue tone modern style, single button jacket with black shawl collar, classic oxford button front shirt, black skinny tie and paired with blue ankle length trousers. Available at Macy's



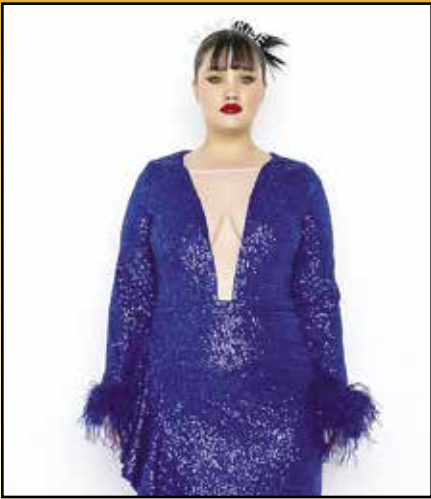
Black Tie Ready: Bodycon fabrication in bust form with crystal embellishment cascading tulle overlay skirt, and black cuffs. Available at West London Boutique



Glitti Glitz: Bronze, Sequined, 3-piece pant set includes halter top, cape style jacket and high rise, flared, straight fit pants – Available David Lee Boutique



Showstopper: Platinum, sequined embellishment throughout jumpsuit with plunging neckline, padded shoulders, and side pockets. Available at Revolve

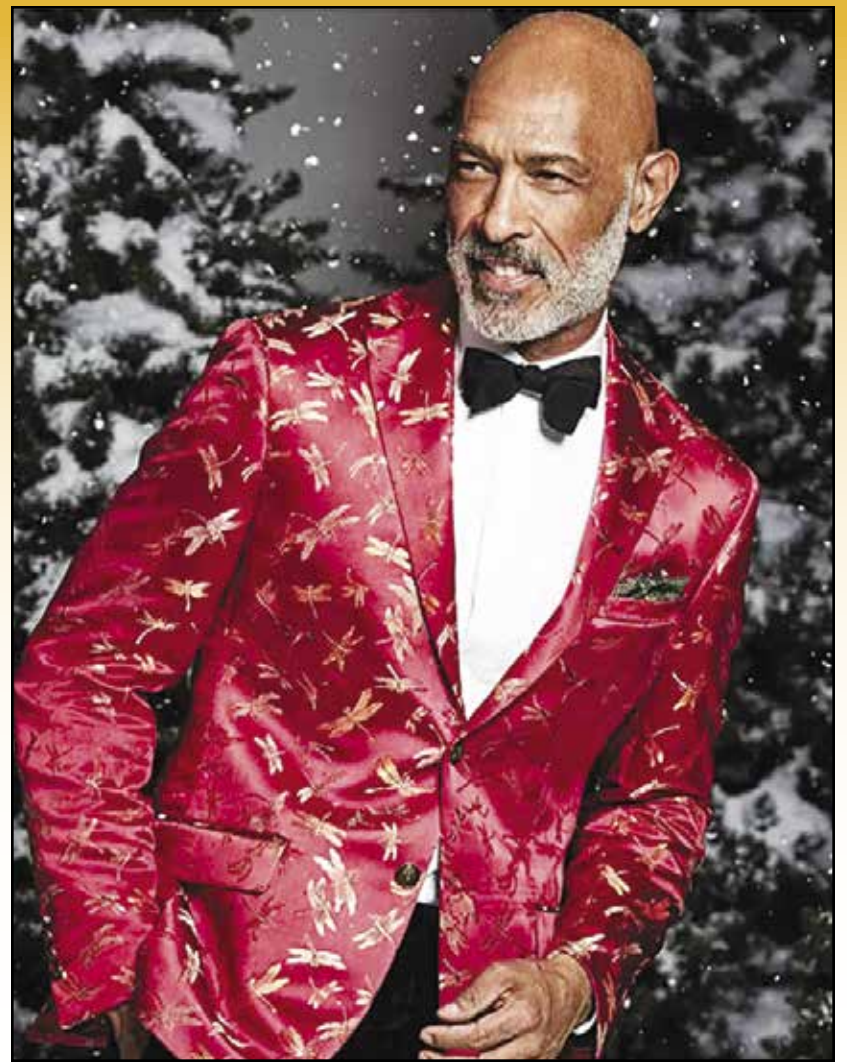


Blue Note: High low maxi sequin dress, plunging V-neckline with sheer mesh panel, long sleeves, and button front closures with voluminous tulle attachment. Available Akira



Party Ready: Red velvet 2-piece suit, shawl collar, single button jacket, flat-front, slim fit slacks; Gold, long sleeves, pleated throughout, plunging V-neckline, mini dress with crisscross tie; Black velvet strapless corset style top and purple satin skirt with large bow applique. All available at Saks

Left. **Birds of a Feather:** Iridescent sequins mini dress in a stained-glass pattern and ostrich feather trim on sleeve and hemline. Available Neiman Marcus



Step & Style: Red jacquard slim tailored, two-button dinner jacket with gold-tone dragonfly motifs throughout. Available at Macy's



Silver Lining: Silver fish scale sequins fitted, knee length dress, stand-up collar, open back with extra-narrow straps. Available at H&M

Making History as First Female to Lead NOPD

Michelle Woodfork Named Interim Superintendent of New Orleans Police Department

Data News Staff Edited Report

Last week Mayor LaToya Cantrell made history by announcing the appointment of Captain Michelle Woodfork as the Interim Superintendent of the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD). Woodfork will be the first woman to ever lead this department, effective Thursday, Dec. 22nd.

"Protecting this community remains my top priority," said Mayor LaToya Cantrell. "I heard from our residents during public meetings and met with over a dozen leaders within the department. It became crystal clear that there were a number of credible individuals capable of moving the NOPD forward. The foundation has been laid, and I believe appointing Captain Woodfork as Interim Superintendent of the NOPD is the best decision to ensure we maintain the strides and progress we've accomplished thus far. Captain Woodfork is a legacy within the NOPD and is deeply rooted within the community. She grew up understanding the importance of law and order and rose through the ranks with grit, tenacity, endurance, strong determination, and steadfast focus. I look forward to working with NOPD's new leadership under the direction of Captain Woodfork."

Captain Woodfork is a native New Orleanian and life-long resi-



Michelle Woodfork has been named Interim Superintendent of NOPD. She has a big job ahead of her in a city that is experiencing a major crime wave. The citizens of New Orleans will be looking to her leadership to make the city safer for all.

dent of New Orleans East. She has a long family history of law enforcement careers, including her father, who joined the force in 1968 as a cadet, and her uncle Warren G. Woodfork Sr., who was appointed as the first African American Superintendent of the NOPD. Woodfork is a graduate of St. Mary's Academy High School. She received both a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice with a minor in Political Science and a Master of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice with a concentration in Law Enforcement from Southern University at New

Orleans. She is also a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., where she has dedicated 28 years of service.

Captain Woodfork is a 32-year veteran of the department, joining the NOPD on Jan. 27, 1991. Since then, she has been assigned to five of the NOPD's eight districts at the rank of Patrol Officer, Sergeant, and Lieutenant. She served 12 years as a Detective and later as a Sergeant in the Department's Sex Crimes/Child Abuse Unit. In 2012, Woodfork was selected by former Superintendent Ronal Serpas to launch



the Alternative Police Response Unit, where she served as Commander. In 2016, she was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant, initially assigned to the 7th District before moving to the 2nd District under the supervision of then Commander Shaun Ferguson. She was then assigned as a Lieutenant in the 1st District before being promoted to the rank of Captain in Nov. of 2021. Woodfork currently serves as the Captain of the NOPD Management Services Bureau.

"Growing up, I was fortunate enough to be surrounded by excel-

lent policing and law enforcement as I watched both my father and uncle protect and serve the people of our city as NOPD officers," said Captain Michelle Woodfork. "The seed to serve and protect my community was planted, and today, I am the living representation of their legacy. Throughout my 32 years on the force, I have served as a Patrol Officer, Administrative Sergeant, Lieutenant, and now Captain in many neighborhoods throughout this city. I love this job. It is me. I am laser-focused on leading this department by working with community members, leaders, and the men and women of the NOPD with the goal of protecting and serving the citizens and visitors of New Orleans."

Throughout her career, Captain Woodfork has completed several specialized trainings and received many awards and commendations. Most notably, she received the Purple Heart Letter Award in 2017 after being struck by a drunk driver who plowed his vehicle into a crowd of 30 Endymion parade goers while she was on parade duty.

Captain Woodfork is a member of the Fraternal Order of Police and the Black Organization of Police. As a parent of a teenage son and lifelong resident of the City of New Orleans, Woodfork uniquely understands the challenges that the department and the city face as well as the success that can be achieved together.

State & Local News

Marc H. Morial Participates In Senior Citizen Food Distribution

Data News Staff Edited Report

On Wednesday, December 21st, Marc H. Morial stopped by to assist Bishop Tyrone Jefferson of Abundant Life Tabernacle with the distribution of food items to senior citizens. AARP Louisiana donated over \$2,000 of nonperishable food items to Abundant Life Tabernacle. Over 50 families were blessed with food for the holidays!

"I'm home and home is where the heart is! Seniors are the foundation of our communities, and we must always ensure that they are well taken care of," said Marc H. Morial.



Abundant Light Tabernacle Bishop Tyone Jefferson with National Urban League President Marc Morial, spreading the gift of giving back during the holiday season.



National Urban League President, Marc Morial was in town assisting Bishop Tyrone Jefferson of Abundant Life Tabernacle to distribute food items to senior citizens.



"The holidays can be tough for people...especially our senior citizens. We simply want to be a blessing to our community, and we are thankful that AARP Louisiana helped us to be able to do so," said Bishop Tyrone Jefferson.

Capitol Hill Lawmakers Push Bill that Hurts Local and Black-Owned Newspapers

Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

On the surface, the Journalism Competition and Preservation Act sounds like a win for news organizations that remain committed to providing vital information for their communities.

It also sounds suitable for the survival of important local news.

However, like many pieces of legislation that float around Capitol Hill, flaws abound.

Intended to support local journalism, the bill introduced by Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) would create a link tax on social media platforms.

The bill suggests lawmakers would carve out an exception in the federal antitrust law and allow U.S. publishers to negotiate payment from websites that profit from aggregating lists of links on the search and social media platforms where users can click on and visit a news site.

In Klobuchar and her colleagues' attempt to save local news from tech behemoths like Google, Facebook, and Twitter, critics contend that the legislation would be the final nail in the coffin of small and minority-owned newspapers and media companies.

The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), the trade organization representing more than 230 African American-owned newspapers and media companies, count among those objecting to the measure.

For further clarity, the NNPA represents the interest of the Black Press of America, which for 195 years, has published through slavery, Jim Crow, Civil Rights, and the modern-day era of Fake News.

"The JCPA would require tech platforms to carry and pay any eligible news publisher for 'access' to content. While this may, again, seem well-intentioned at first look, upon deeper inspection, the law defines 'access' so broadly it will require payment for simply crawling a website or sharing a link," NNPA President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. wrote in an editorial.

"Similarly, while a number of conglomerates are scoped into the bill, true independent or small newspapers are explicitly excluded from the legislation because the bill



says that an eligible publisher must earn more than \$100,000 per year," Chavis asserted.

The primary problem? "The bill itself wouldn't address the underlying problems that have news organizations struggling economically," Jeremy Littau of Future Tense wrote.

Littau further noted the bill's structural problem.

"The internet is built in ways that favor free link exchange, and news organizations risk not being missed if they are booted from platforms whose business ironically is built to deliver them traffic," he wrote.

"There's no oversight or accountability for whatever money is paid out to know whether the JCPA actually works as intended."

Littau continued:

"Finally, there's the innovation problem related to who is excluded. The JCPA would subsidize dying brands and, likely to avoid weighing in on the tiresome debate over whether bloggers are journalists, creates the \$100,000 threshold that leaves behind some of our most promising news startups. The future of news can't be about propping up struggling legacy players and punishing innovators."

Chavis also related that many African American and other BIPOC news outlets are independently owned.

Furthermore, these news outlets have developed and grown their audiences because mainstream media publications excluded the perspectives of minority voices.

"The Black Press built our own news outlets to support our own voices. As a result, this legislation would only further reinforce harmful racial exclusion trends rather

than actually help smaller local publications like those in the NNPA," Chavis insisted.

"Similarly, recent amendments to the bill requiring non-discrimination would require platforms to carry and pay for hate speech and objectionable content that could harm BIPOC communities."

He said if passed, the JCPA would boost misinformation and extremist content. News publications from either side of the aisle that support extremist views will receive money, and tech platforms will be required to carry them on their services.

"This will make it even harder for platforms to moderate harmful and false content. We know that communities like ours will suffer most," Chavis concluded.

Sen. Klobuchar did not respond to a request for comment from the Black Press.

Several lawmakers in both chambers, including Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.), Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.), Rep. Al Green (D-Texas), Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (D-N.Y.), Rep. Stacey Plaskett (D-V.I.), and Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-Texas), also did not return messages.

"Instead of supporting local broadcasters and improving our access to the news, the JCPA favors big broadcasters and threatens our ability to find factual information online," ACLU officials said.

Officials at the nonprofit Public Knowledge argued that the legislation would do nothing to help preserve local journalism.

They further claimed that it could compound some of the biggest problems in the information landscape today, including consoli-

dation and declining quality of information.

"While the JCPA has undergone extensive rewrites, it is still an antitrust exemption, a legal maneuver that has a history of failing to achieve beneficial goals," said Lisa Macpherson, Senior Policy Analyst at Public Knowledge.

"Allowing the largest media conglomerates – like Alden Global Capital, Gannett, Sinclair Broadcast Group, and News Corp – to collude on the terms of access and value of their content will hurt competition and make our news landscape worse, not better."

Macpherson continued:

"In a bill that is supposedly meant to encourage local journalism, there is no accountability for how the money is spent. Facebook and Google will fund more stock buybacks and executive bonuses than journalists' salaries. It also introduces a precedent of payment for simply linking to information on the internet.

"This bill is also a threat to content moderation. The JCPA allows publishers to sue Facebook or Google for taking down content that the platforms find offensive or contrary to their community standards.

"And with the most recent amendment, proposed by Sen. Cruz (R-Texas), harmful misinformation, networked disinformation, and hate speech will be even harder to police under this bill — and that is by design.

"The JCPA will not save local journalism. Instead, it will make a few billionaires even wealthier at the expense of a healthy and open internet and information environment for all of us."

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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

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