

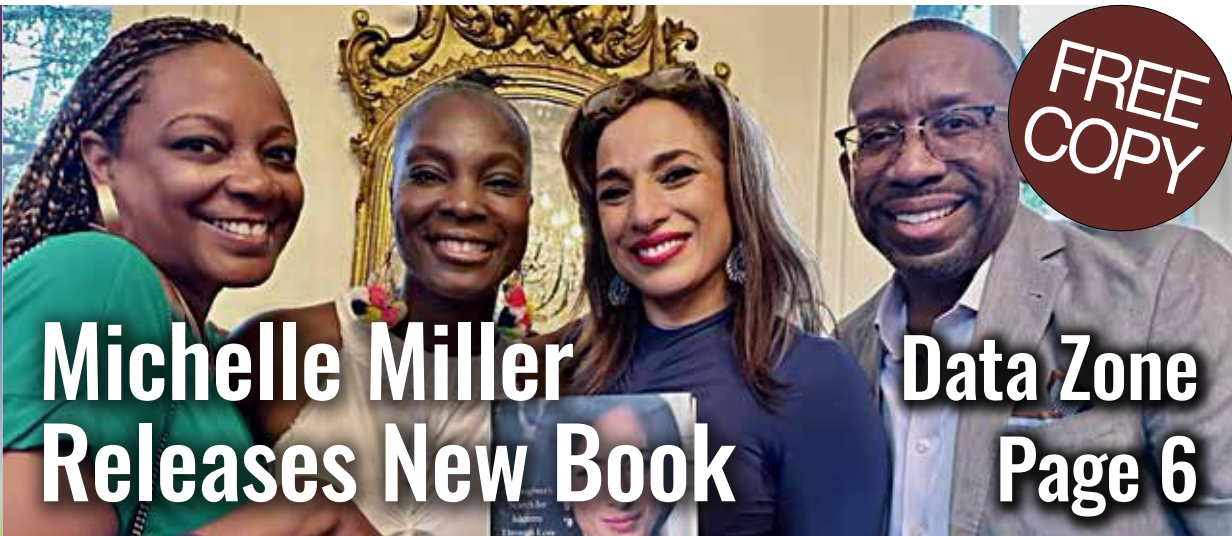
Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"



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Michelle Miller Releases New Book

Data Zone Page 6

May 20 - May 26, 2023 58th Year Volume 4 www.ladatanews.com

A Data News Weekly Exclusive

57 Years Strong With an Eye on the Future



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57 Years Strong With an Eye on the Future

One on One with Terry Jones, Publisher of Data News Weekly

Benjamin Bates
Data News Weekly Contributor

**Over Five Decades
of Impact**

It's been 57 years since Data News Weekly was started by Joseph "Scoop" Jones. In its early years the newspaper filled a void, making an impact on a community that needed to have a voice. Today that legacy continues under the leadership of Terry Jones, its publisher. His vision is one that is bold, where he believes Data News Weekly can reach new heights.

"We are and have always been 'The People's Paper.' We give voice to the voiceless and tell stories that matter to our community," says Jones.

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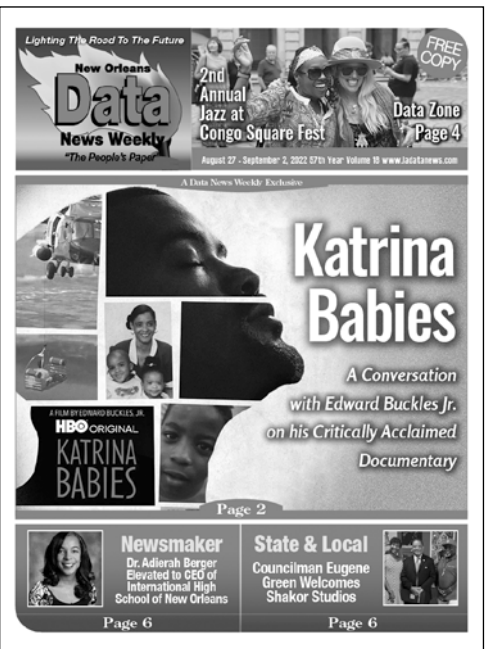
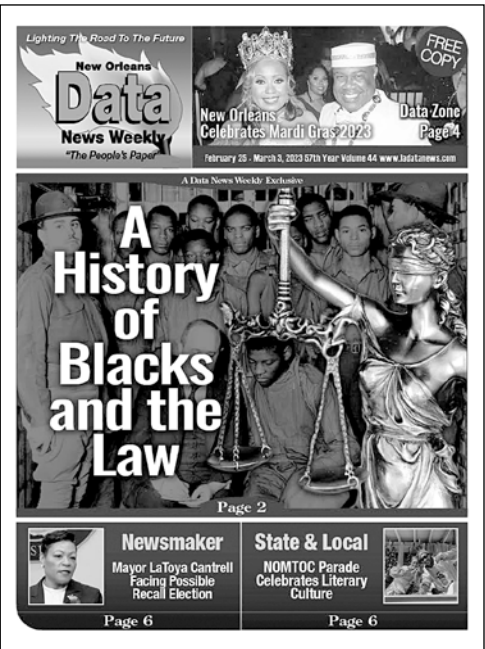
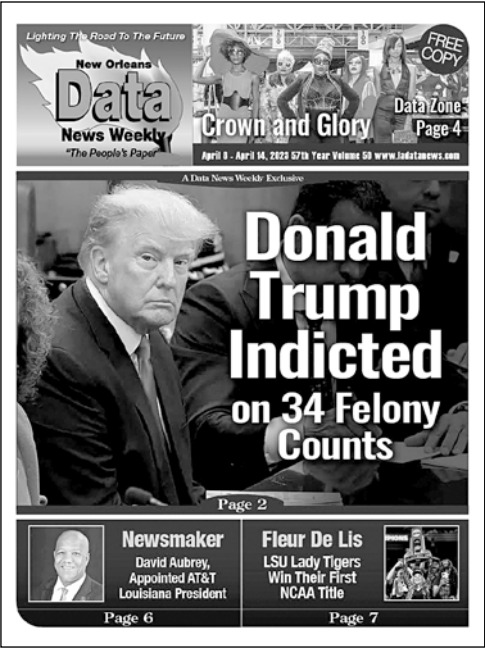
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P.O. Box 57347, New Orleans, LA 70157-7347 | Phone: (504) 821-7421 | Fax: (504) 821-7622
editorial: datanewseditor@bellsouth.net | advertising: datanewsad@bellsouth.net

Terry B. Jones	Contributors	Art Direction &
CEO/Publisher	Edwin Buggage	Production
Edwin Buggage	Benjamin Bates	Pubinator.com
Editor	Renetta Perry	Editorial and
Sharonda Green	Stacy M. Brown	Advertising Inquiries
Executive Assistant	N.O. Agenda	datanewsweeklyad
June Hazeur	DNW Staff Writer	@gmail.com
Accounting	Stacy M. Brown	Distribution
		by Terrence Lee

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Cover Story, Continued from page 2.



**Data News Weekly:
A National Leader in
African American News**

Data News Weekly continues to be an important Black newspaper across the city and the nation, giving Jones high recognition amongst

his peers as a leader in the Black Newspaper industry. Recognizing their important role, Jones is an advocate of Black newspapers expanding and having a larger footprint for a new generation of readers.

"We have to meet people where they are, and that is why we are be-

ginning to expand into other ways to engage our readers. In the coming months, we are expanding our digital presence, as well as launching a podcast and working with our media partners in radio and possibly television. This is an important strategy for us moving forward as a

leader in the Black media."

A Voice for the Community

In these pressing times, it is important that Black-owned media raise their voice in support of justice and equity. This is something that many companies have embraced

in their words, but Jones feels that more intentionality of investment in Black media is essential if these initiatives are to be successful.

"In light of what is going on in the world right now, it is more important than ever for the Black media to be advocates for our community. This is something we have always done at Data News Weekly during our 57 years. Now it is time for us to amplify our voices even more, to make sure we are at the table when decisions are being made that affect our community."

Forever the People's Paper

New Orleans Data News Weekly has become a staple that for every week gives the citizens of the New Orleans news they can use. "While we are celebrating our anniversary, moving forward we would like to build on our success by bringing our readers as well as our advertising partners, along on our journey to the next level. We have so many great things ahead as we are building on our rich legacy into a future where we will have an even greater impact."

A large black and white photograph of a group of young women, some wearing graduation caps and gowns, smiling and hugging. Overlaid on the left side is the text "NO ONE GETS A DIPLOMA ALONE." in large, bold, white capital letters. Below this text is a paragraph: "If you're thinking of finishing your high school diploma, you have more support than you realize. Find teachers and free adult education classes near you at **FinishYourDiploma.org**." In the bottom right corner, there are two logos: "ad COUNCIL" and "DOLLAR GENERAL LITERACY FOUNDATION".

Accomplishing Excellence Both On and Off the Track

Edna Karr Male Track Team Standout Student Athletes

Edwin Buggage
Editor-in-Chief Data News Weekly

A Record-Breaking Year

As we are concluding another school year, it's been one for the record books for members of the Edna Karr Male Track Team. During the LSHAA 5A District 9 Meet, Ra'Hji Dennis broke a 30-year record in the boys 200-meter dash by running a time of 21.09. Also, the 4X200-meter relay team, consisting of Dennis, Bryson Osborne, II, Camren Hardy and Kylen Lampton, broke an over 20-year district record by running a time of 1:25.16. Plus, Camren Hardy ran first in both the 100-meter and the 400-meter dash. For many that would be a banner year, but the Cougars, at the State Class A Boys State Track and



Champions both on and off the track. Karr's High School 4X200 relay team Ra'Hji Dennis, Kylen Lampton, Camren Hardy and Bryson Osborne II.

Field Championships, finished second overall. There they were competitive in many of the events and placed first in the 4X200 relay.

These young men are winners both on and off the track, and are supported by coaches, family, and friends. "The guys left it all out there," Karr Track Coach Errin Singleton stated after the meet. Osborne, II is a senior, who recently received a full academic and athletic scholarship to Xavier University. "As any father would be, I'm proud of Bryson. His academic and athletic achievements have exceeded my expectations and continue to wow me every day. I know the work he puts in both off and on the track. He understands that there aren't any days off for a student athlete, and that's the driving force behind his success," says his father Bryson Osborne I, who also thanks

his father-in-law Alvin Crusto, who continues to support his grandson in his many endeavors.

Changing the Narrative: Black Men Taking Care of their Responsibility

Oftentimes the media focuses on negative images of young Black men and Black fathers, but these men are changing the narrative. Guided by strong family and community support, these young men continue to display excellence on the track and in classroom. "I'm proud of this kid's focus! He is a good judge of character, as far as who he allows in his world and for him excelling at track and field. His work ethic is overwhelming! He's very determined to work for what he desires to achieve in life, not just

Newsmaker, Continued on page 8.



U.S. Representative for Louisiana's 2nd Congressional District

TROY CARTER



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TROY A. CARTER, SR.
Louisiana's 2nd Congressional District

Congratulations
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for
57 Years of
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to the
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and surrounding areas.

Reconcile New Orleans Announces Kheri Billy as New Chief Executive Officer

New Orleans Agenda

NEW ORLEANS-Reconcile New Orleans has announced that Khari Billy will serve as the nonprofit's new Chief Executive Officer. Billy will continue to advance Reconciler's mission of supporting young adults as they transform their lives through a holistic and personalized workforce development program with training experiences that prepare young people with the tools to achieve their potential.

As CEO, Billy will oversee the strategic direction of the organization's programs, operations, and finances while promoting Reconcile's culture and commitment to equity.

"With Kheri Billy as CEO, we are poised to impact the environment

young adults in New Orleans experience by changing the narrative around how they are supported and perceived" said Chris Ross, President of Reconcile's Board of Directors. "Kheri brings proven leadership and comprehensive expertise that will allow Reconcile to continue to advance. Most importantly, Kheri is a native and daughter of this city. As the organization's first ever Black and female leader, Kheri is driven and deeply committed to creating a future where young people can grow, live, and thrive in New Orleans. This is the heart of our work, and we are excited about our future under Kheri's leadership."

"I am honored to lead Reconcile alongside a progressive and inclusive team of champions who show up authentically for the young



Kheri Billy

people Reconcile serves, and young adults' community-wide," said Kheri Billy, Reconcile New Orleans CEO. "Together we will set the

standard for providing a safe space where young people are embraced and empowered to pursue their potential." added Billy.

Billy most recently served as Reconcile's Chief Financial Officer. Among the many contributions in her leadership role, Billy: transformed Reconcile's cash position and fiscal operations, reimaged and implemented the organization's first ever retirement program with matching benefits, spearheaded equity aligned salary restructuring for front line servers who now receive above market pay and benefit options, established and implemented a 360-review process for enhanced feedback of senior leaders, led the organization through significant management and structural changes during

the uncertainty of the Pandemic, and actively promoted equity in the workplace and championed a team culture of collaboration for staff and Reconcile's Interns.

Previously, Billy worked in leadership roles at nonprofit organizations including De La Salle High School, DePaul Community Health Centers, and Second Harvest Food Bank.

She has previously served on the boards of Elan Academy Charter School, American Society of Women Accountants, and Dancing Grounds New Orleans. Billy is currently involved at Delgado Community College as an accounting advisory committee member and a member of NOLA Public Schools Superintendent's Parent Advisory Council.

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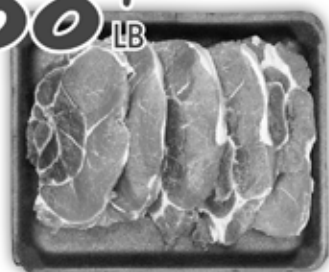
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Michelle Miller Releases New Book, “Belonging: A Daughter’s Search for Identity Through Loss and Love”

Michelle Miller is someone who makes her living telling other people’s stories.

But now she’s stepped into a new arena. Publishing her first book, “Belonging: A Daughter’s Search for Identity Through Loss and Love” Michelle Miller has written her own story, a poignant and captivatingly heartbreaking chronicle of her quest to find and connect with her mother.

Recently, she was in her adopted home of New Orleans promoting her new book and Data News Weekly was there to catch a glimpse of the intimate event.



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National Urban League Reception in New Orleans

The National Urban League held their Annual President's Meeting in New Orleans last week.

Marc Morial former Mayor of New Orleans and still National President of the Urban League took the time while in town to invite some community leaders to an evening reception at the Le Pavillon Hotel and Data News Weekly was there!!!



Joe Giarrusso

CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT A



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"Building Minds with Chess" by Ken Mask And Greg Ward is an Official Selection of 2023 Diversity in Cannes Short Film Showcase

An Amazing Leap from New Orleans to the Cannes Film Festival

New Orleans Agenda

LOS ANGELES (May 15, 2023) - Dr. Ken Mask, whose prolific body of work ranges from medicine to movie making, is thrilled about a short film he co-produced and directed, featuring International Grandmaster of Chess Pontus Carlsson, that is now positioned for global acclaim.

Yolonda Brinkley, founder of Diversity in Cannes, the independent film movement promoting inclusion at the Cannes Film Festival, has announced "BUILDING MINDS WITH CHESS" is an official selection of the 2023 Diversity in Cannes Short Film Showcase, which celebrates the achievements of globally diverse filmmakers telling stories specific to marginalized populations, at the world's most prestigious entertainment industry event.



Dr. Ken Mask is a board-certified physician, who is both analytical and creative. With deep ties to New Orleans, he has written several books inspired by this sultry city. He is also a filmmaker who channeled his appreciation for chess into a movie entitled "The Opera Game" set against the backdrop of 1850s New Orleans when prodigy Paul Morphy rose to world chess champion status. Dr. Mask collaborated with several talented partners to co-produce and direct the short film that was accepted as an Official Selection of the 2023 Diversity in Cannes Short Film Showcase.



Pontus Carlsson has been competing in chess matches since age 5 and he is currently a chess Grandmaster. His improbable journey to chess stardom started in 1985 when as a toddler, his biological parents died and he was adopted from an orphanage in South America by Ingvar Carlsson, a former head of the Swedish Chess Federation. His adoptive father took him to his home in Linköping, Sweden, and began teaching him chess at age 4.

Presented by Ms. Brinkley, American Publicist and Event Producer, with support from Academy Award Winner Viola Davis and Julius Tennon's JuVee Productions, the Diversity in Cannes Short Film Showcase will spotlight 18 films, selected by an international screening committee of diverse entertainment industry professionals and film enthusiasts. The competition was stiff with over 200 submissions from 31 countries including China, Denmark, Bolivia, Nigeria, Jamaica, Japan, Ukraine, Turkey and New Zealand. However, "BUILDING MINDS WITH CHESS" prevailed and will be screened in France during Diversity Day, concurrent with the 76th Festival de Cannes. Final winners will be selected onsite by an esteemed international jury and

Chess, Continued on page 10.

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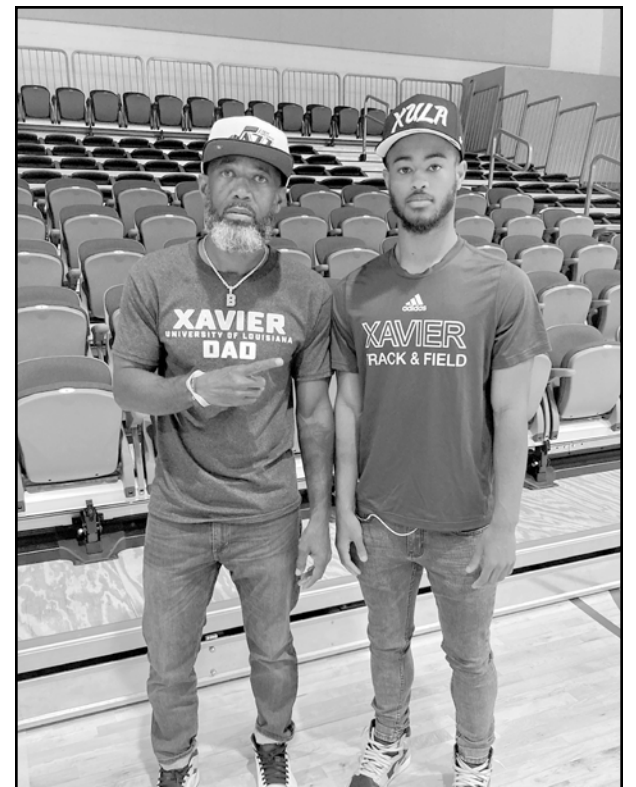
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Congratulations to Data News Weekly on 57 Years of Publishing

Newsmaker, Continued from page 4.



Ra'Hji Dennis is a standout student athlete, and his biggest fan and supporter is his father, Robert Dennis.



Bryson Osborne II (r) is a graduating senior at Karr, who recently accepted a full academic and athletic scholarship to Xavier University. He is pictured with his proud father Bryson Osborne I.

on the track but in the classroom as well," says Robert Dennis, proud father of Ra'Hji.

Standout team member Hardy comes from a family of sprinters. His father, uncle and grandfather all competed in track and field. "I love that Camren is competing in track. It brings back so many mem-

ories of when I ran and was there supporting my sons who were also sprinters. His dad was a sprinter at St. Aug. Camren has a bright future ahead of him, at one time he was leading the state in the 100, 200 and 400 meters," says his grandfather Wayne Hardy, Sr., of Camren carrying on the family tradition.

It takes a Village

For all these talented young men, it truly is a team effort to make them the successes they are both on and off the track. This point is summed up by Robert Dennis.

Newsmaker, Continued on page 9.

Mayor Cantrell Signs Ordinance Expanding School Zone Protections To High Schools

Data News Staff Edited Report

NEW ORLEANS - This week New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell signed an ordinance expanding school zone eligibility to include high schools, going from the existing grades K - 7 to now grades K - 12. This will allow for the installation of signage, designated crosswalks, street striping, and other traffic control devices at all elementary and secondary schools in the city.

"Public safety, specifically the safety of our children prompted my administration to request this ordinance," said Mayor LaToya Cantrell. "Unfortunately, we have seen an uptick in traffic incidents and fatalities around our city. The



New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell

City of New Orleans is taking bold action to remain proactive to ensure these incidents do not occur at or near our educational institutions. Every student, regardless of whether they are in elementary, middle, or high school deserves equitable safe access to and from school. I'd like to remind all drivers to please be mindful on our streets, share them with cyclists and pedestrians, and take extra precautions when traveling through school zones."

"I am pleased to sponsor this ordinance that adds high schools, grades 8-12, to the existing list of schools that protect their students, with enhanced safety markings and signage and lighting near the schools," said Councilmember Eugene Green, Chair of the Transportation Committee. "All schools will now have signage and

markers that note appropriate speed limits and clearly notify drivers of the need to be more cautious. Some streetlights will also be installed. This is a necessary investment in the protection that all youth attending school deserve, to ensure their safe arrivals and departures from school. I commend the Cantrell Administration and the Department of Public Works for their commitment to increasing pedestrian safety at all our schools. As the City Council Transportation Committee Chairman, I look forward to continuing work with the Mayor and my fellow Council members to increase road safety for pedestrians and drivers."

DPW anticipates the full implementation of this new ordinance by the start of 2024 - 2025 academic year.

Newsmaker, Continued from page 8.



Carrying on a family tradition of excellence in Track and Field, L-R, Wayne Hardy, Jr, Wayne Hardy, Sr., Camren Hardy and his father Corey Hardy.

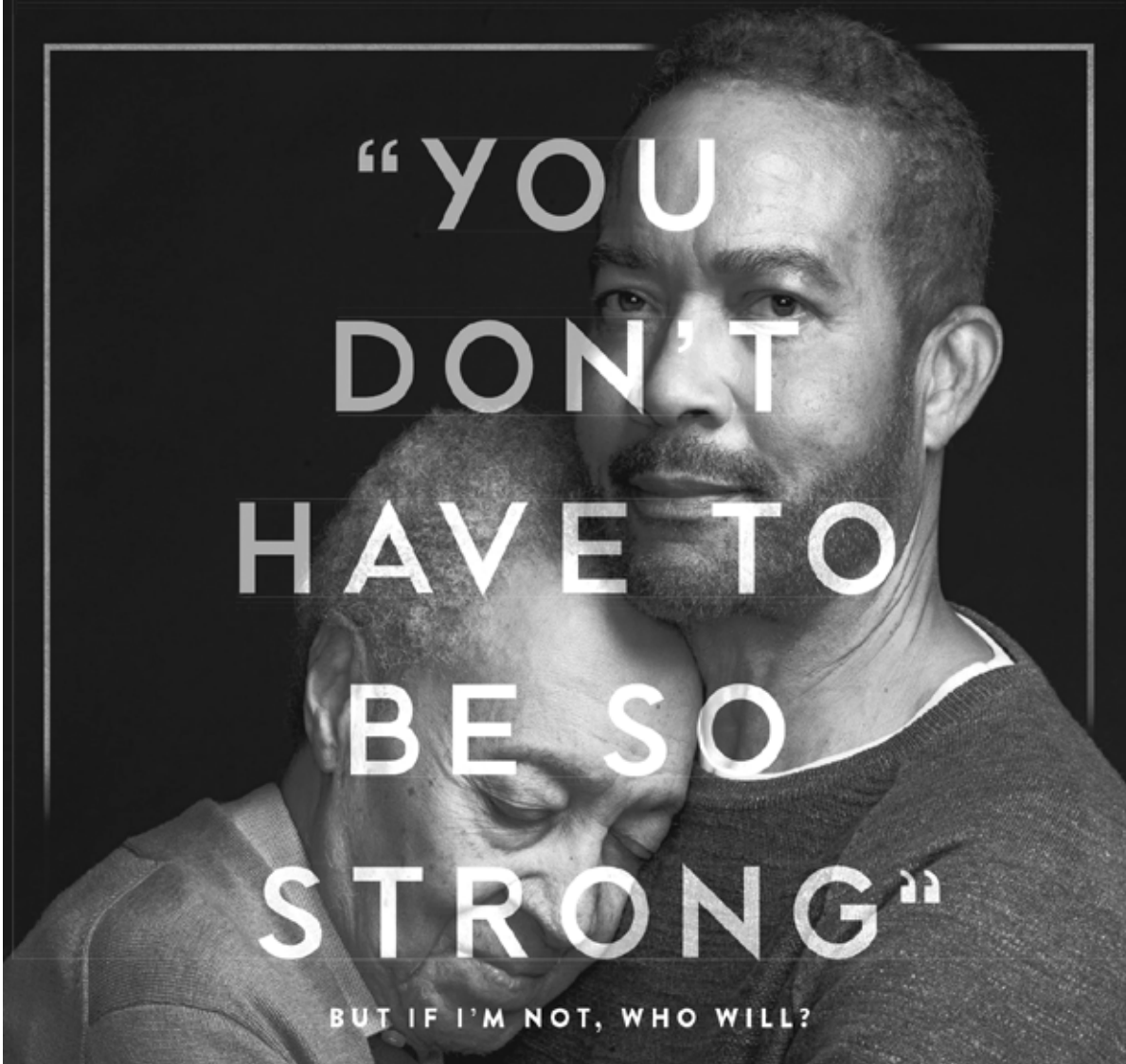
"It's more than just his mother and I that's credited for his support. Like the elders use to say, 'It Takes a Village!' And he's been blessed with that supporting team which allows him to be a 16-year-old kid, having

fun while achieving his goals."

All these young men are examples of excellence and have bright future ahead them, and because of all the love and support they receive, they are truly on the right track.

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National Urban League and Community Leaders Speak Out Against the Censorship Campaign in Our Nation's Schools

Data News Staff Edited Report

National Urban League President and CEO Marc H. Morial, Urban League affiliate CEOs, officials from Xavier University and Dillard University, and Barbara Arnwine of the Transformative Justice Coalition held a media briefing on their efforts to uplift the Freedom to Learn campaign.

The Freedom to Learn campaign was created to fight the growing disinformation campaign against the erasure of history and lived experiences of marginalized communities, critical race theory, and equitable legislation. New Orleans served as the hallmark of one of several press conferences happening around the country.



National Urban League President and CEO Marc Morial and a coalition of education and justice leaders recently launched the Freedom to Learn Campaign.



TO THE DATA NEWS WEEKLY TEAM
MAZEL TOV
ON 57 YEARS OF SERVICE

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CJMANOLA

Chess, Continued from page 8.

announced at an awards reception immediately following the showcase.

"The 2023 Diversity in Cannes Short Film Showcase International Screening Committee, had the awesome task of determining the official selections from hundreds of submissions globally. With an acceptance rate of less than 10%, I am delighted to announce "BUILDING MINDS WITH CHESS" as an Official Selection of the 2023 Diversity in Cannes Short Film Showcase," said Ms. Brinkley. "I am honored to pioneer the independent movement promoting diversity and inclusion at the Cannes Film Festival. It is the unwavering support of filmmakers like Ken Mask, Greg Ward, Fetteroff Colen, Marshall Woodworth and Matt Dillon, that inspires the continual momentum necessary to ensure marginalized voices and underrepresented stories are seen and heard at the Cannes Film Festival and beyond."

Diversity Day is Monday, May 22, 2023 at Hotel Gray D'Albion, Salon Esterel 2, 38 rue des Serbes Cannes, France 06400. For more information or to support the movement, email Diversity in Cannes or follow @diversencannes on all social media platforms.

For more on Dr. Mask, visit his Web site at <http://kenmaskstudios.com/>



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White Ex-Marine Charged with Manslaughter in Death of Black Homeless Man

Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

On the day that the White House has demanded a "thorough investigation" into the murder of a homeless Black man earlier this month on a subway car in New York, the suspect, an ex-Marine will face second degree manslaughter charges.

"We can confirm that Daniel Penny will be arrested on a charge of manslaughter in the second degree," the Manhattan District Attorney's office announced in a statement late Thursday, May 11th.

While riding the F train on May 1st, Jordan Neely appeared agitated as he sought food.

Penny inexplicably placed Neely in a chokehold for nearly 15 minutes.

Neely died shortly after the incident, and while police questioned Penny, they released him without charges.

Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg had said he would let a grand jury decide whether to file charges.

"Jordan Neely's killing was tragic and deeply disturbing," a White House spokesman said this week,



Daniel Penny has been charged with manslaughter in the 2nd degree in the death of Jordan Neely.

ahead of President Joe Biden's visit to the Big Apple.

"Our hearts go out to his family and loved ones. We firmly believe that the events surrounding his

death demand a thorough investigation."

Neely's passing sparked protests and a national debate and brought attention to the occasionally harsh

and violent treatment of homeless people, particularly those with mental illness.

Advocates and Neely's supporters expressed anger that police only briefly held Penny and that he has not faced charges.

Penny's attorneys have defended him despite a national uproar over the incident.

They claim that Neely was the aggressor, and his alleged mental illness exacerbated the situation.

"When Mr. Neely began aggressively threatening Daniel Penny and the other passengers, Daniel, with the help of others, acted to protect themselves until help arrived," Penny's lawyers stated.

"Daniel never intended to harm Mr. Neely and could not have foreseen his untimely death."

Neely's relatives responded, alleging Penny never helped Neely and didn't care about him.

According to Neely's attorneys, Daniel Penny's press release was not an apology, and the former marine hasn't expressed regret for his deadly act.

"It is a character assassination and a clear example of why he believed he was entitled to take Jordan's life."

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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.

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