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**Kurte Pellerin 65th Birthday Bash!**

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# A Formula for Success



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# A Formula for Success

*Xavier University's Magnificent Male Promotes Black Excellence*

**Edwin Buggage**  
Editor-in-Chief Data News Weekly

## Changing the Narrative

When many think of Black men in American society, it is rife with negative images. But there are many in the community who are working to change this distorted narrative. Recently, Xavier University of Louisiana hosted the Magnificent Male Weekend, an on-campus enrichment experience for nearly 100 young Black men from across 21 states. The participants and their families were welcomed to Xavier's campus for a weekend of empowering panel discussions with Xavier alums and other prominent figures, recreational activities, workshops, and excursions in the storied City of New Orleans.

"This program allows the university to walk alongside these young men and their parents from their sophomore, junior and senior years in high school to get them ready for not only coming to Xavier but going to any college," said Curtis Wright, Vice President of Student Affairs at Xavier in an interview with local media station WDSU.

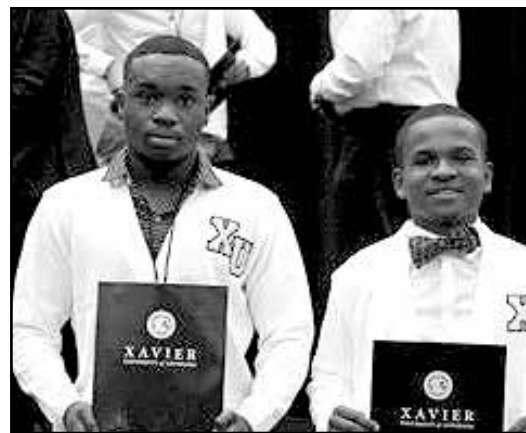
From over 500 applicants, just over one hundred were selected to join the program, which aims to support and empower young Black men by providing fellowship and mentorship in addition access to resources to enhance their skills in problem-solving, critical thinking, and interpersonal relationships.

"I come from a single parent background, and understanding the importance of seeing people who look like me- it's an experience that carries you a long way," said Kemani Howard, Coordinator for Black Male Engagement at Xavier and one of the event's organizers in an interview with WDSU. "When you see somebody who is successful and you hear the story, it gives power to succession. Building that community is what we're here for."

At the conclusion ceremony, each young man received a Xavier University of Louisiana cardigan and conditional acceptance to the university. Starting in September, participants will attend monthly, virtual



Kemani Howard (c) Coordinator of Black Male Engagement at Xavier University with students participating in Magnificent Male Weekend.



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## DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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## Cover Story, Continued from page 2.

sessions through May, whereupon completion they will receive guaranteed admission and a \$5,000 grant to the nation's only Historically Black and Catholic Institution.

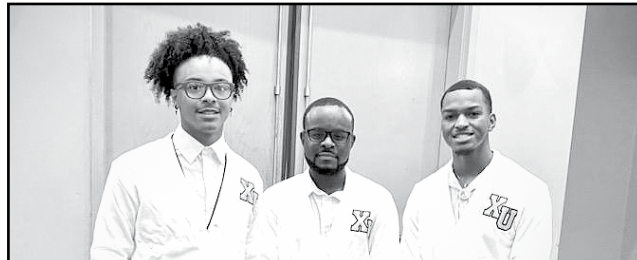
### Mentorship and Bridges to Success

Programs such as Magnificent Male are occurring around the nation to address the unique challenges and disparities that Black males may face in American society and the education system. These challenges can include systemic racism, stereotypes, socioeconomic factors, and lack of representation among educators.

Programs focused on Black male academic achievement aim to provide support, resources, and opportunities to help these students succeed academically. They might include Mentorship and Role Models: Pairing Black male students with mentors who can offer guidance, advice, and positive role modeling. Cultural Relevance: Incorporating culturally relevant curriculum and teaching methods that reflect the experiences and contributions of Black individuals and communities. Social-Emotional



Xavier Students Calabe Collins, Cameron Finn, and Alex Arnold served as mentors during this amazing event. Giving their experiences of university life, to inspire young men to consider attending Xavier.



Xavier University Collegiate 100 President Terrol Perkins (c) with student participants.



Through mentoring and providing support Xavier University Vice President of Student Affairs Curtis Wright (L), believes young Black men can reach their full potential.

Support: Providing counseling and support services to address mental health, self-esteem, and social challenges that might affect academic performance.

Also, it includes Parent and Family Engagement: Involving parents and families in their children's

education to create a supportive home environment. Academic Enrichment: Offering tutoring, after-school programs, and enrichment activities to reinforce learning and build skills. College and Career Preparation: Helping students explore higher education options and

career paths and providing guidance through the application process. Advocacy and Policy Change: Advocating for changes in education policies and practices to address systemic inequalities that impact Black male students. Community Partnerships: Collaborat-

ing with community organizations, businesses, and local leaders to create a network of support for Black male students. Creating Safe Spaces: Establishing safe and welcoming spaces where Black male students can express themselves, share experiences, and build a sense of community.

"Serving as a mentor for the 2023 Magnificent Male Program was an amazing opportunity to interact with young men who are aspiring to excellence. It was an honor to be part of this event that gave Black male high school students a chance to experience college life and get a taste of XU Pride. Also, I enjoyed being the co-moderator of a panel discussion about policing in America featuring several attorneys," says Terrol Perkins, Collegiate 100 Chapter President at Xavier University.

### Each One Teach One: Building for the Future

Male role models, especially within the context of Black boys' development, play a crucial role in shaping their identity, self-esteem,

Cover Story, Continued  
on page 7.

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# Kurte Pellerin 65th All-White Birthday Bash

Photos by Donald Taylor

It was the place to be and be seen. Kurte Pellerin recently held an All-White Party at Le Roux on the Lake to celebrate his 65th Birthday. There was food, fun, and great music. It was a grown and sexy event, with a great time being had by all, and Data News Weekly was there to catch all the action!!!



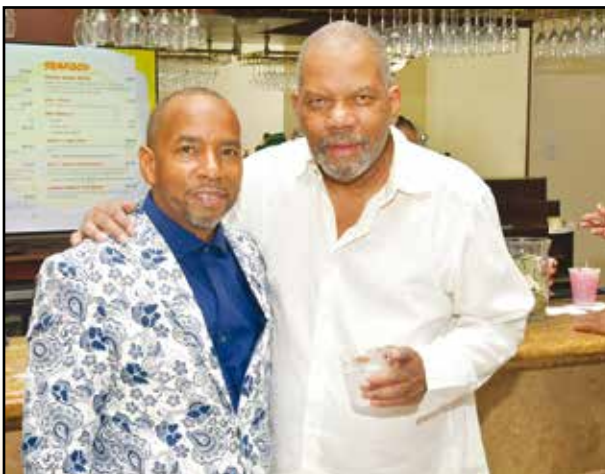
Kurte Pellerin – now 65.



Left to right - Lawrence Martin, The Boulevard Magazine, Kurte Pellerin, Proprietor of LeRoux's on the Lake (The 65-year-old), John Leftridge, Abra Ca Da Bra Bail Bondsman, Terry B. Jones, Publisher/CEO, Data News Weekly.



Mr. & Mrs. Kurte Pellerin



Visit [www.ladatanews.com](http://www.ladatanews.com) for more photos from these events.



# Satchmo Summerfest 2023

Photos by Demian Roberts  
Data News Weekly Contributor

Satchmo Summerfest Returned with Free Admission to the New Orleans Jazz Museum at the old U.S. Mint on August 5th & 6th! It was an amazing two-day celebration and is one of the only festivals in the world dedicated to honoring Louis Armstrong and features 2 stages of music, a delicious culinary lineup featuring Louisiana restaurants, and an incredible indoor lecture series poised to educate guests on Armstrong's history and enduring impact.



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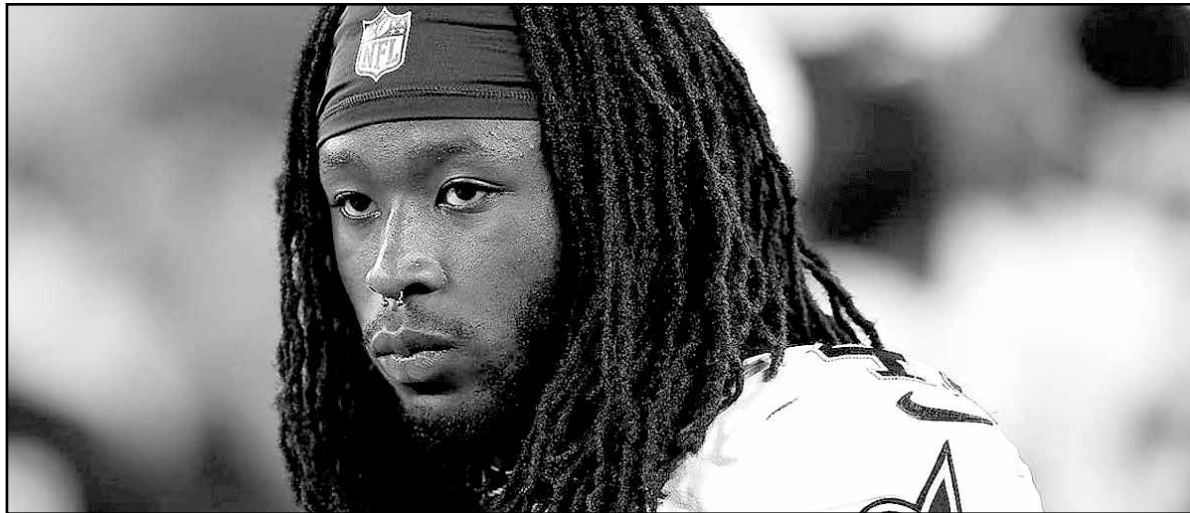
# Saints All-Pro Alvin Kamara Suspended 3 Games for Role in 2022 Incident in Las Vegas

## Data News Staff Edited Report

One of the top running backs in the NFL is set to miss the start of the 2023 season. Saints running back Alvin Kamara has been suspended for the first three games of the season for violating the NFL's personal conduct policy, the NFL announced.

Kamara was charged with battery resulting in substantial bodily harm, but he pleaded no contest to a misdemeanor charge of breach of peace on July 11th.

"It's been 18, 19 months that I've been dealing with this ordeal. It's a tough ordeal to be in," he said. "I never want to be involved in something where someone gets hurt or



Alvin Kamara

severely injured or anything. Poor judgment on my end, definitely a bad decision.

"But I'm a man, everything I've ever done in my life I've stood on and I can take accountability for

and I can say when I'm wrong. I was completely wrong. Embarrassed the Saints, embarrassed my family

and my mother, embarrassed myself, embarrassed this city and the shield, embarrassed the NFL."

Kamara will miss the Saints' home opener against the Tennessee Titans in Week 1 and road games against the Carolina Panthers and Green Bay Packers.

Kamara also said he has lost money and friendships because of the incident but has learned a valuable lesson.

"Obviously, it's self-inflicted but nonetheless, it's still something that's like a dark cloud," he said. "It's hard to kind of enjoy some of the smaller things. Today I just had like a little boost in practice. I just felt better, like a weight was off me. I'm looking forward to just focusing on football."

## State & Local News

# Mayor Cantrell, Office of Cultural Economy Provide Updates

## *Highlights of Cultural Initiatives and Opportunities from First Half of 2023*

### City of New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS — Mayor LaToya Cantrell today was joined by the Office of Cultural Economy (OCE), led by Director Lisa Alexis, at the historic Gallier Hall to provide updates and present impactful cultural initiatives that have transpired the first half of 2023, as well as highlight future opportunities for local artists and creatives to thrive.

Mayor Cantrell and OCE were also joined by Director of Community Partnerships and Education for the New Orleans Opera Dr. Tara Melvin and Local Artist Jacques Francois, who both spoke about the plentiful benefits of collaborating with OCE.

"We are more than elated to see the growth of our economy being stimulated by our cultural community and seeing them thrive following the COVID-19 Pandemic," said Mayor LaToya Cantrell. "This is why my team and I worked tirelessly with leaders at the state level to allocate more tax dollars derived from tourism to directly support our cultural and hospitality industries;



Mayor LaToya Cantrell and her team at the Office of Cultural Economy continue to make a positive impact for local creatives to thrive.



New Orleans is finally getting her fair share. This is also a reflection of the dedication and hard work of our partners but, most importantly, our cultural economy team. As the most Afro-Centric City in the United States, we have to be unapologetic and intentional about how we invest in, preserve and continue to grow the culture of our city."

Film New Orleans is in strong support of the Writer's Guild of America (WGA) strike, as well as the Screen Actors Guild – American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA) strike. These strikes have not only had an

immediate and unprecedented negative effect on the film industry in New Orleans but the film industry across the United States.

"Every major city has felt the impact of this strike," said Film New Orleans Director Carroll Morton. "Right now, we only have one project filming in the city, when we usually have 25. However, we are very hopeful that this can and will be resolved, as these issues, I believe, are existential for the entire industry."

Bryon Cornelison, Deputy Director of Programs, highlighted Gallier Hall's flexibility in not only

being a historic landmark of the city but also a space that can host a wide variety of events inside its halls. Recently, Gallier Hall celebrated the 170th Anniversary of when its doors were first opened. Cornelison also offered Francois the opportunity to discuss what his artistic vision was when creating the poster that was presented by Mayor Cantrell to Mayor Karen Bass of Los Angeles, as well as members of the Los Angeles City Council, as part of the New Orleans Corridor renaming celebration and inaugural Los Angeles International Jazz Festival announcement this past June.

Alana Harris, Deputy Director of Arts and Culture, noted the success of Mayor Cantrell's participation within multiple cultural events held in New Orleans throughout the first half of the year, including Mardi Gras, the 52nd New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, the 40th French Quarter Festival, the 29th Essence Festival of Cultural and more. Harris noted that OCE has more cultural event partnerships and activations in store for the rest of 2023, including Bayou Classic, Mayor Cantrell's Deck the Halls and more.

Harris also invited Dr. Melvin to speak on the cultural impact OCE has through its partnership, strengthening their ability to showcase the New Orleans Opera through its generous grant funding.

OCE continues to work to showcase and support local expressions of art through visual and literary arts, film, music, crafts, fashion and culinary from a diverse group of artists and the cultural sector. To discover more information about OCE, please visit [nola.gov/cultural-economy/](http://nola.gov/cultural-economy/).



# Tulsa Race Massacre Survivors Seek Reversal of Dismissal in Historic Court Appeal

Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Senior  
National Correspondent

Lessie Benningfield Randle, Viola Fletcher, and Hughes Van Ellis, Sr., the last three known survivors of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre, have continued their pursuit of justice. They have appealed to the Oklahoma Supreme Court, urging a swift reversal of Tulsa County District Judge Caroline Wall's controversial dismissal of their lawsuit. At a press conference held at the Oklahoma Supreme Court, the legal team representing the survivors expressed confidence in the likelihood of the Oklahoma Supreme Court overturning Judge Wall's ruling.

"The facts of this case align with the long-standing property-based limitations of Oklahoma's public nuisance statute," said Damario Solomon-Simmons, the lead attorney for the survivors and founder of Justice for Greenwood. "The District Court's imposition of a heightened pleading standard on the survivors is unprecedented in Oklahoma's legal history," Solomon-Simmons continued.

"Our clients have sufficiently pleaded a public nuisance claim, as defined by the Oklahoma Su-



Survivors of the 1921 Tulsa Massacre, Hughes Van Ellis, Lessie Benningfield Randle, and Viola Fletcher.

preme Court in its landmark decision on Johnson & Johnson in November 2021."

Randle, 107, Fletcher, 108, and Van Ellis, 102, are the remaining survivors of the horrific massacre, which destroyed the thriving Greenwood District in Tulsa and caused the loss of countless lives and property, has long been overlooked, and the survivors have been denied justice.

Their legal team contends that Judge Wall's ruling imposes an un-

just and burdensome requirement on parties alleging public nuisance claims.

The court mandated that the survivors provide a specific abatement remedy to address the issue before any discovery, trial, or liability determination occurs.

The survivor's co-counsel Randall Adams, a Schulte Roth & Zabel LLP litigation partner, said this unusual pleading standard lacks any foundation in Oklahoma's notice pleading code or prior case law.

Further, he said the District Court allowed the defendants to violate an agreement made in open court, promising not to file new motions to dismiss the survivors' unjust enrichment claims.

Despite the agreement, the defendants filed a second motion to dismiss the unjust enrichment claims, and to the dismay of the survivors' legal team, the District Court granted these baseless motions.

"It is imperative to recognize that allowing Judge Wall's decision to stand will have severe implications for individuals and businesses across Oklahoma seeking to uphold their legal rights," Solomon-Simmons emphasized.

He claimed that a favorable decision by the Oklahoma Supreme Court would "uphold the values of justice and fairness for all state residents and resolve the complaints of those who had suffered because of the Tulsa Race Massacre."

## Cover Story/ Continued from page 3.

aspirations, and overall well-being. There are several reasons this is important to ensure the success of Black males in American society.

First is, Representation and Identity: Black boys need to see individuals who look like them succeeding and thriving in various fields. Positive male role models can help Black boys develop a strong sense of identity and self-worth, fostering a belief that they too can achieve their goals regardless of any challenges they might face. Also, of note is, Counteracting Stereotypes: In American society, Black boys often encounter negative stereotypes that can impact their self-perception and how others perceive them. Male role models who defy these ste-

reotypes by demonstrating intelligence, resilience, compassion, and success can help challenge these biases. Moreover, Behavioral Modeling: Male role models can teach valuable life skills, work ethics, and social behaviors. They can serve as examples of positive behavior, decision-making, and interpersonal skills that Black boys can learn from and emulate.

In schools and society more broadly, the negative impact of low expectations and structural biases play a part in many Black males not reaching their full potential. To mitigate this there is a need for the following, Emotional Development: Male role models can help Black boys develop emotional intelligence by providing guidance

on handling emotions, managing stress, and building healthy relationships. This is particularly important as Black boys might face societal pressure to suppress their feelings. Academic Motivation: Positive male role models can inspire Black boys to take their education seriously and aspire to academic success. They can demonstrate the rewards of hard work and perseverance in school, which can influence academic engagement. Navigating Adversity: Male role models who have overcome challenges can provide invaluable lessons in resilience and perseverance. Seeing someone who has faced adversity and succeeded can instill a sense of hope and determination in Black boys. Career Aspirations: Exposure to male role models from various pro-

fessions and industries can broaden Black boys' horizons and encourage them to explore a wide range of career options. This exposure can help them set ambitious goals and work towards achieving the status of 'Magnificent Male.'

"The meaning of Magnificent Male is to show younger African American men that we are more than a statistic on a website," says Calabe Collins, a student-athlete and Financial Secretary of Xavier University's Collegiate 100. "We are more than the world paints us out to be. That we are image bearers of GOD, who have the ability to reach our full potential and with adequate support and nurturing the sky is the limit."

xula.edu contributed to this story.

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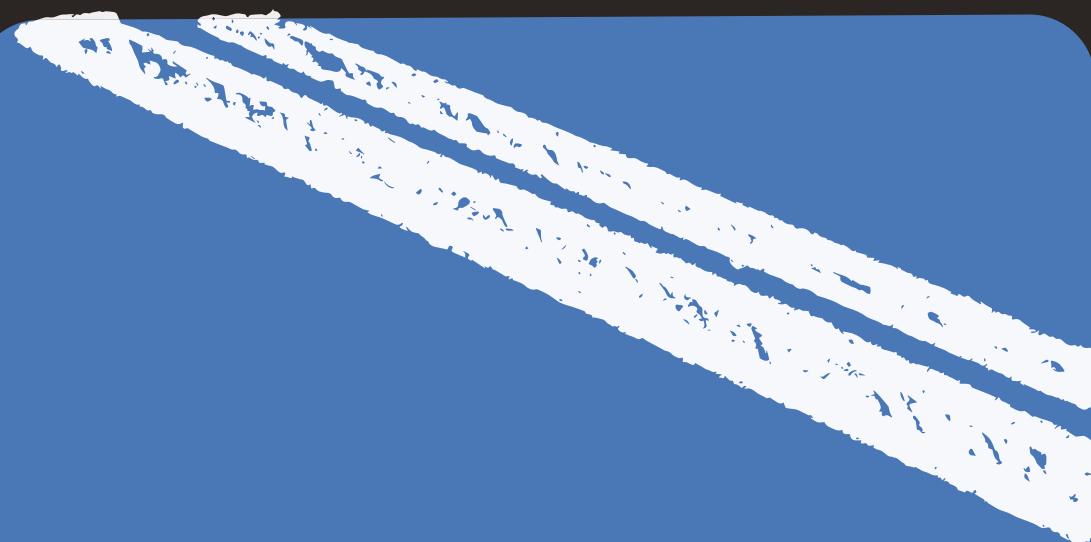
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