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Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

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September 30 - October 6, 2023 58th Year Volume 23 www.ladatanews.com

A Data News Weekly Exclusive

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**Terry B. Jones Publisher,
Data News Weekly**

In these challenging and divisive times, it is important and necessary that our citizens let their collective voices be heard at the polls. In our role as the People’s Paper, we are encouraging all to participate in early

voting that is taking place from Sept. 30th through October 7th, 2023.

Along with the Governor’s race, there are many municipal seats, as well as amendments on the ballot, so get informed and involved because your voice matters.

Elections are the cornerstone of our democracy, and they provide us with an opportunity to make our

voices heard and influence the direction our society takes. Whether you are passionate about education, healthcare, the environment, or any other issue, voting is how you can make a difference. It’s a way to stand up for what you believe in and advocate for the changes you want to see.

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Here are a few reasons why your vote matters:

1. **Your Voice Matters:** Each vote is a reflection of your values and beliefs. It's a chance to express your views and be part of the decision-making process.
2. **Local Impact:** Local elections often have a direct impact on your daily life. From school board members to city councilors, these officials make decisions that affect your community, schools, and neighborhoods.
3. **National Impact:** In national elections, your vote helps determine who represents your state in Congress and who leads our country. The decisions made by these leaders can have far-reaching consequences.
4. **Change Starts with You:** If you're unhappy with the current state of affairs, voting is the most effective way to bring about change. By electing officials who align with your vision, you can help shape the policies that affect your life.
5. **Civic Responsibility:** Voting is not just a right; it's a respon-



sibility. It's a way to honor the sacrifices made by those who fought for our democracy and to ensure a better future for generations to come.

The process of voting is straightforward. Make sure you are reg-

istered, find your polling place, or request a mail-in ballot if applicable, and mark your choices on the ballot. Your vote is confidential, and every eligible citizen has an equal say.

If you're uncertain about the candidates or issues, take some time



to research and educate yourself. Attend town hall meetings, read up on the candidates' platforms, and engage in discussions with friends and family. Informed voting is a powerful tool.

Election Day is on October 14th,

2023, and your participation is crucial. Please mark your calendar, set a reminder, and make a plan to vote. Encourage your friends, family, and neighbors to do the same. Together, we can make a positive impact on our community and our nation.

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Gentilly Fest Returns for 15th Year

Data News Staff Edited Report

Please come out and celebrate Gentilly Fest 15th Year Anniversary on October 6, 7 and 8th. Head over to Pontchartrain Park Playground, corner of Press and Prentiss Drive, for a weekend of music, food and family fun. With three stages of live music the festival will be rocking all weekend. Our dedicated sponsors are committed to participating in this annual event that helps make our city special: great neighborhoods, world-class music, artists, and food.

On Friday night Oct. 6th, at 6:00 pm the festival will kick off the "Jazz under the Stars" Concert sponsored in partnership with Love Notes Music & Arts Foundation and The New Orleans Cultural Tourism Fund. The musical lineup begins with DJ Juane Jordan, Zahira Sims Collective, Cole Williams, and Nayo Jones Experience and is hosted by our special guest Malik Mingo of WWLTV's Great Day Louisiana.

Main Stage, Saturday, Oct. 7th the festival will kick off at 12 noon, the Main Stage acts include: DJ/Host Kristi Sugar-

cookie of Fox 8 News, Vybe into our Reality, Rick David and the Funky 5, Letrainiump, Jamal Batiste Band, Flagboy Giz, James Andrews and Ha-Sizzle.

Gospel Tent Saturday, Oct. 7th this very popular attraction will be sponsored by St. Thomas Community Health Center will feature soulful performances by choirs from throughout the city. The lineup includes - Anointed Joyettes, St. Raymond and St. Leo Choir, Akia Nevills, Grace United Methodist, Watson Memorial, Zulu Ensemble, Greater St. Stephen

FGBC Choir, Tyronne Foster and The Arc Singers.

Main Stage Sunday October 8th - Host, DC Paul, DJ B Sharp, MJ of NOLA, Mystic Krewe of Femme Fatale's Cherchez La Femme, Wanda Rouzan and a Taste of New Orleans, New Orleans Mystics, Kermit Ruffins. The Gentilly Fest will close out with a 50th Year Anniversary Tribute to Hip-Hop, curated by Raj Smoove.

Gospel Tent Sunday, October 8th - the lineup is as follows: Park Community Choir, Men of Bethel Colony Transformational Ministries, Lady Felicia Travis, Shades of Praise, Craig Adams and Voices of New Orleans, Jeffrey Pelean and Creative to Worship, Bishop Tyronne Jefferson and The Abundant Life FGBC Choir.

The festival offers delicious food from local vendors and caterers. This year, Folgers Coffee will offer festival attendees a chance to enjoy a cold or hot cup of their world-famous coffee products. The Kids Village will provide a Kids Entertainment Stage showcasing our

talented youth, face painting, storytelling and activities for everyone.

While you're at the festival don't forget to get the latest resources and information at the Dillard University Community Center's Wellness tent. Visit the tent and get a Q&A with Dr. Corey Hebert and other health service providers.

Numerous Arts & Crafts vendors will showcase and sell their beautiful creations at colorful booths. The Gentilly Fest will close out with a 50th year Anniversary tribute to Hip-Hop.

This year Gentilly Fest will implement a \$500 book voucher drawing to local university students who volunteer at least sixteen hours of service at the festival. For more details email Jimmy Stokes at edgewood-park@yahoo.com

VIP Experience: \$75/Day or \$125 for a 2-day pass, includes: special seating, refreshments, 2 beverages and parking!

The entire weekend has something to offer for everyone!

For more information visit: www.GentillyFestival.com

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Troy Carter & The CDC Event



Congressman Troy Carter had a successful CDC (Congressional Black Caucus) Event at the Train Station in Washington, DC. Entertainment was provided by Doug E. Fresh (known as

Troy Carter, Continued on page 5.

NNPA National Leadership Award Reception

The NNPA had a star-studded night as well, with the debut of our new NNPA Chairman, Bobby Henry publisher of the West-side Gazette in Fort Lauderdale, FL. The event was the National Leadership Award Reception held at the Embassy Suite Hotel in Washington, DC.



Bobby Henry, New NNPA Chairman



NNPA President, Benjamin Chavis, Brandy Alexander, Compassion & Choices, Alphonse, Terry Jones, Publisher, Data News Weekly.



Terry Jones, Data News Weekly, Nicole Simmons, General Motors, Benjamin Chavis, NNPA President.



NNPA President Benjamin Chavis and his family.

Troy Carter, Continued from page 4.



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HBCU Students Connect and Explore the Black British Experience



Anthony Thompson, Senior Chemistry Pre-medicine major and Co-President of Exponential Honors Program Student Council, in front of Buckingham Palace.



Birmingham City University Professor Kehinde Andrews explains Systemic Racism in the U.K.

Story and Photos by Ashton Broden Data News Weekly Contributor

London, U.K. - - The struggles and triumphs of Black people transcend national boundaries, echoing shared experiences that resonate far beyond geographical lines. Black British Scholars and public professionals revealed their fight against ongoing issues that their Black community continues to face.

"For Black Studies, we need a space defined by our scholarship and knowledge," said Kehinde Andrews, a Professor of Black Studies at Birmingham City University. Andrews discussed systemic racism in the U.K. with Xavier University of Louisiana students and faculty who visited there from Sept. 7th through

Sept. 13th, developing exchanges with Black British organizations and academic programs.

Andrews explained that most schools do not teach the full history of the U.K.'s exploitation of Africa and involvement in the Transatlantic Slave Trade. "Most universities have African studies and Caribbean studies but the history of both of those are colonialism, the White gaze," Andrews added. His latest book published in September 2023, titled "The Psychosis of Whiteness," explores how deeply rooted racism is in many parts of British culture and society.

"Seeing the resistance Black Brits make every day to colonial forces is inspiring, especially considering the inspiration they take from African American institutions and culture," said Katherine Jones,

a senior, Neuroscience major at Xavier, who participated in the visit to the U.K. that was coordinated by Xavier's Exponential Honors Program. "Going to the United Kingdom was a transformative experience; as students we're able to see global Blackness in the context of a colonial power," said Jones, a native of Brandon, Miss.

Most Black children who grow up in the U.K. often first gain an appreciation of their Black History, culture, and identity at home. Community projects like London's Boukman Academy were designed to provide children and young people with a deeper knowledge about their racial past. "I'm interested in race consciousness and understanding history," said Tyrone Smith, who founded the Boukman Academy. "I always had this founda-

tion from an artistic point of view of why things were happening the way they were," Smith said.

Racial awareness is important to address disparities in public services, particularly in the U.K.'s National Health Service, shared Elsie Gayle, a midwife for over 30 years, who has worked to address Black Maternal Health Disparities in the U.K. and with the United Nations. "We get no help," Gayle said, as she shared how pregnant Black women are often ignored or ostracized during pregnancy, through the birthing experience, and in post-partum care.

"[We see] from the research, from the people working in the field, that it completely neglects the institutional racism that's evident within our NHS and that's really what drives people's outcomes,"

said Dharmi Kapadia, a Lecturer and Researcher at The University of Manchester.

Advocates and scholars hope that in empowering communities they can address the disparities Black British people face. "I realized that minoritized groups find community even in a place like England, where only 3-percent of the population is Black," said Anthony Thompson, a senior, Chemistry, Pre-Medicine major at Xavier who participated in the exchange to the U.K. "Being Black in Britain is even more an isolated experience than in the United States. Even so, amongst the 32 boroughs of London, I found that community was formed not because of oppression but because of the collective need and desire for community amongst minoritized peoples," Thompson said.



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Usher to Headline Super Bowl 2024 Halftime Show

Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

Grammy-Winning Artist Usher plans to dazzle hundreds of millions of fans as he takes center stage for the highly anticipated 2024 Super Bowl halftime show. On February 11, 2024, the renowned performance will occur at the Allegiant Stadium in Paradise, Nevada, just outside the famed Las Vegas Strip.

Kim Kardashian surprised Usher with a phone call to announce that he would be headlining at X (previously known as Twitter).

The appearance will mark Usher's second appearance at the Super Bowl, following his 2011 performance alongside the Black Eyed Peas. Rihanna headlined the event last year and revealed her pregnancy to A\$AP Rocky during her unforgettable performance.

"It's an honor of a lifetime to finally check a Super Bowl performance off my bucket list. I can't wait to bring the world a show unlike any-



Usher to Headline Super Bowl 2024 Halftime Show

thing else they've seen from me before," Usher said in a statement.

He extended his gratitude, saying, "Thank you to the fans and everyone who made this opportunity happen. I'll see you real soon."

Jay-Z, whose Roc Nation Company is returning to produce the halftime show for the fifth consecutive year, also commended Usher. "Usher is the ultimate artist and showman. Ever since his debut at 15, he's been charting his own unique course. Beyond his flawless singing and exceptional choreography, Usher bares his soul," Jay-Z stated.

He added, "His remarkable journey has propelled him to one of the grandest stages in the world. I can't wait to see the magic." The rapper, 53, and Usher, 44, have previously collaborated on tracks including "Hot Tottie," "Anything," and "Best Thing."

Super Bowl LVIII will be broadcast live on CBS on February 11, 2024. The iconic halftime show generally draws hundreds of millions of viewers, making it one of the most sought-after platforms in music.

State & Local News

Martin Luther King High School Creates Hope through Action during National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

Data News Staff Edited
Report

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), suicide is the second leading cause of death for youth ages 10-24. In 2021, Louisiana youth accounted for nearly 5,000 suicide deaths. Martin Luther King High School (MLK) recognizes the urgency to address this public health problem and is empowering students and adults with the necessary tools to make suicide prevention a top priority.

"Starting at orientation, we address mental health and behavioral health to ensure that our students and families know that we are here for their success, their safety and their overall well-being," said Felice Brightman, High School Counselor at MLK.

The school hosts monthly assemblies and events throughout the year where counselors speak to students about suicide preven-

tion tips and resources that are available to them. "We make sure that our students are comfortable enough to talk to us about their issues. If it's something that isn't in our purview, we'll direct them to the appropriate person or resource," Brightman added.

Additionally, all counselors are required to participate in monthly social work meetings across the city as part of their Continuing Education Unit (CEU). There counselors learn about new treatments and resources to assist students and their families.

Parent liaisons are also in place to equip parents with the tools and

PREVENTING YOUTH SUICIDE: Tips for Parents & Educators

BY THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS

SUICIDE RISK FACTORS

- Mental illness including depression, conduct disorders, and substance abuse.
- Family stress/dysfunction.
- Environmental risks, including presence of a firearm in the home.
- Situational crises (e.g., traumatic death of a loved one, physical or sexual abuse, family violence).

WHAT TO DO

- Remain calm.
- Ask the youth directly if he or she is thinking about suicide.
- Focus on your concern for their well-being and avoid being accusatory.
- Listen.
- Reassure them that there is help and they will not feel like this forever.
- Do not judge.
- Provide constant supervision.
- Do not leave the youth alone.
- Remove means for self-harm.

GET HELP

No one should ever agree to keep a youth's suicidal thoughts a secret and instead tell an appropriate caregiving adult, such as a parent, teacher, or school psychologist. Parents should seek help from school or community mental health resources as soon as possible. School staff should take the student to a school-employed mental health professional or administrator.

If you or someone you know is suicidal, get help immediately via 911, or call Louisiana's Department of Health (LDH) 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.

abuse; family stress and dysfunction, environmental risks, including the presence of a firearm in the home; and situational crises such as traumatic death of a loved one, physical or sexual abuse and family violence. When dealing with an individual who may be suicidal, it is important to focus on the person's well-being, listen, and reassure them that there is help available.

"Creating Hope Through Action," is the Triennial Theme for World Suicide Prevention Day from 2021-2023. According to the World Health Organization, this theme serves as a call to action to remember that there is an alternative to suicide.

Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) launched the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline — the new 3-digit number to replace the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline to make it easier for people to receive assistance during a mental health crisis.

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Compensation is competitive and great story ideas will be appreciated.

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