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News Weekly

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Tyler Perry's New Documentary: Maxine's Baby

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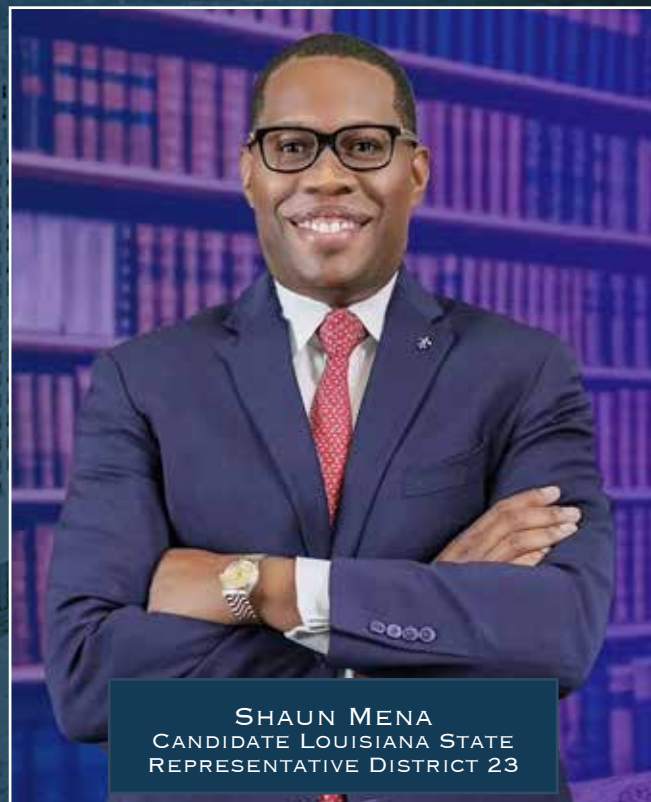
November 18 - November 24, 2023 58th Year Volume 30 www.ladatanews.com

A Data News Weekly Exclusive

Get Out and Vote Election Day November 18, 2023



LINDSEY CHEEK
CANDIDATE: LOUISIANA
ATTORNEY GENERAL



SHAUN MENA
CANDIDATE LOUISIANA STATE
REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 23

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Get Out and Vote Election Day November 18, 2023

Data News Weekly Endorsements



Shaun Mena: Candidate Louisiana State Representative District 23



Lindsey Creek: Candidate: Louisiana Attorney General

Terry B. Jones
Publisher, Data News Weekly

It is again time for us to go to the polls. We at Data News Weekly are encouraging all votes to get out and let your voices be heard on the ballot. During the primaries, we did not get out and show our collective power, and now we have to spend the next four years

considering having a Governor who may not prioritize African American issues in the State of Louisiana. These are in fact critical times as we will soon be in the Presidential season, where our apathy could lead to a lessening of our Democracy and the rights for which we have fought. It is time now to consider this as we enter the election on Saturday, November 18, 2023.

We at Data News Weekly are endorsing the following candidates:

Shaun Mena: State Representative District 23
In his first run for political office Mena brings an outlook that of forward-thinking and is a bridge-

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builder. He understands the importance of bringing people of different backgrounds together and getting results. It is in these times that we need coalition builders like him in the changing demographics of the city. One who understands the needs of those who are natives to the city, and those who are newcomers.

He understands the people of District 23, working as an attorney, small business owner, and son of hard-working immigrant parents from Honduras. Growing up in the inner city, he understands the needs of the residents. He is truly the best choice for this race and will provide leadership that the district needs now and into the future.

Lindsey Cheek: Attorney General

The State of Louisiana can ill afford to have an Attorney General who has views that mirror the former officeholder, and now Governor-Elect Jeff Landry. Therefore, it is necessary for the voters to consider electing Lindsey Cheek as Attorney General. She is tough but practical regarding the issues of everyday Louisianians. In her



practice, she continues to take on special interests in those who put larger corporations and donors before the interest of the hard-working people of this state.

We must decide that the red Republican wave that has become Louisiana politics must become balanced. If not, we will see policies that are counterproductive to our



community. In this office, it is truly important because those who are the most vulnerable need an advocate. This person is Lindsey Cheek. We are asking our readers to please

give her your vote in the race for Louisiana Attorney General.

Data News Weekly is encouraging all to please get out and vote on November 18, 2023.

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Tyler Perry New Documentary: Maxine's Baby Tells Actor's Struggles & Triumphs in Life

Data News Staff Edited Report

Prime Video will release a new documentary titled *Maxine's Baby: The Tyler Perry Story* on November 17, 2023. The documentary will showcase the life and struggles of Tyler Perry, an American actor, filmmaker, and playwright. Gelila Bekele and Armani Ortiz directed the documentary.

According to the documentary's official trailer on Prime Video's YouTube channel, the synopsis reads, "Writer, actor, filmmaker, studio head and media titan, Tyler Perry, is America's consummate multihyphenate. But underneath this entertainment behemoth is a man working humbly to heal his childhood trauma by transforming his pain into promise.

Maxine's Baby: The Tyler Perry Story, a nod to his mother's love, is a tender and intimate portrait of visionary and innovator Tyler Perry. His harrowing but faithful road to the top of an industry that didn't always include him."

It further states, "With unfettered access, first-time Directors Gelila Bekele and Armani Ortiz lead us into the inner world of a man, whose story has never fully been told, as he becomes a father and a media mogul with a mission to pave his own road to the top. The product is a profound lesson on remembering where you came from to know where you want to go."

Recently, Tyler Perry showed up on CBS Mornings to promote *Maxine's Baby: The Tyler Perry Story*. The actor said that he hardly had any involvement in the project except for being the subject. The cameras were on his back for a whole decade. Since he always has creative control over his work, it was a weird experience for him to star in this documentary.

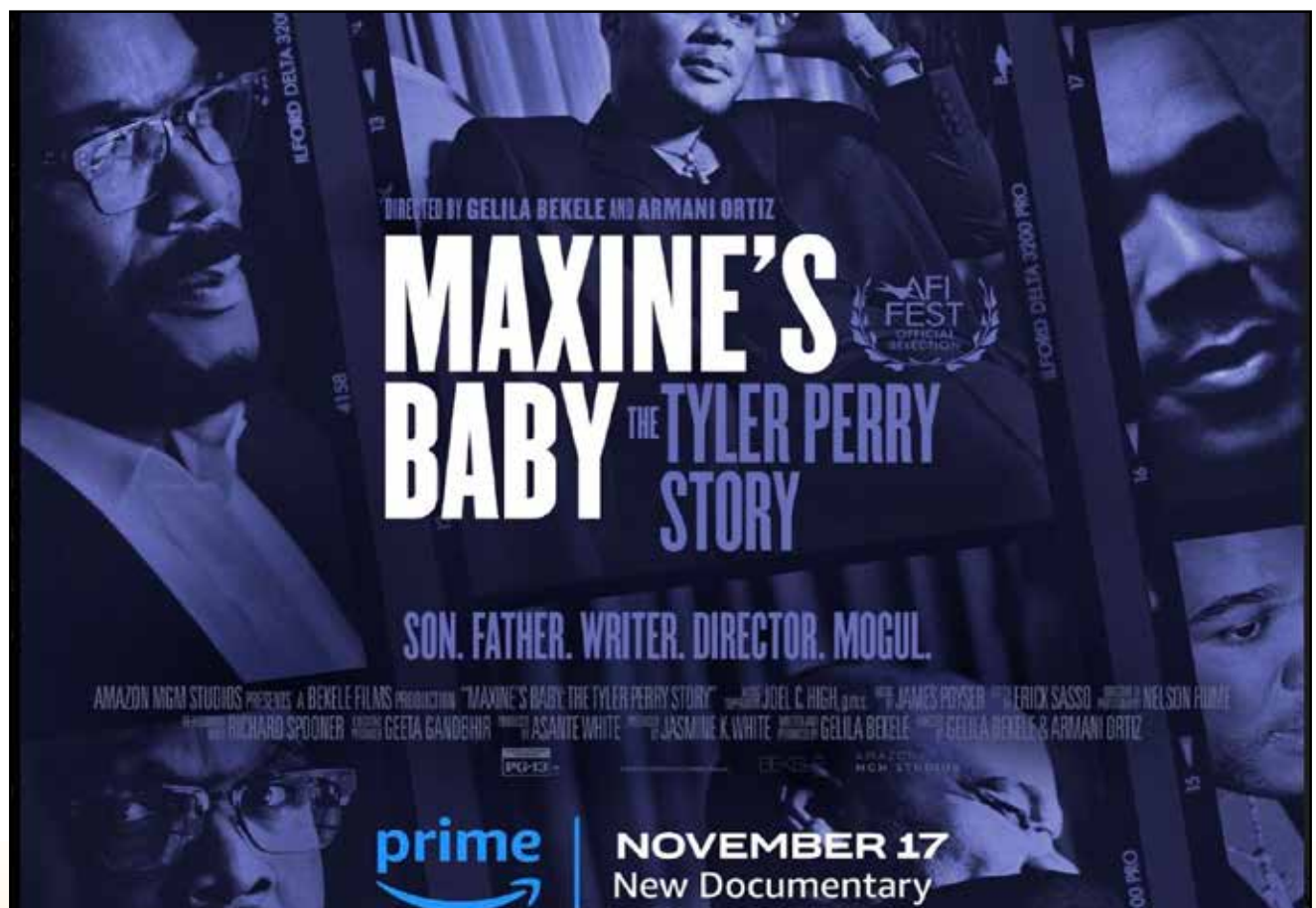
Perry further added that he wanted to inspire others by putting his story forward and letting people know about his triumphs and struggles. He said, "It's not a story that I'm telling ... It's my life. If that happens, then it was all worth it for me."



New Orleans Native and media mogul Tyler Perry pictured with his late mother Maxine Perry.



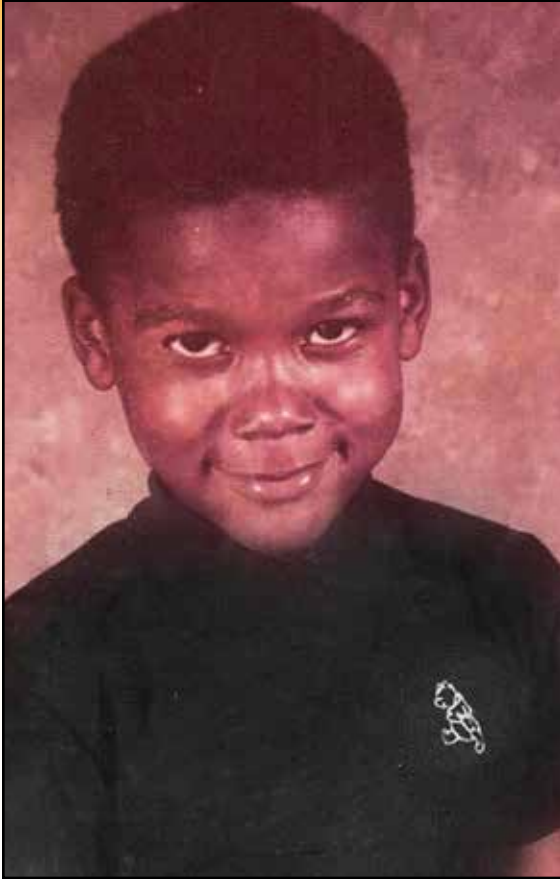
Tyler Perry gives us a look inside his life in the upcoming documentary *Maxine's Baby* premiering on Amazon Prime on November 17th.



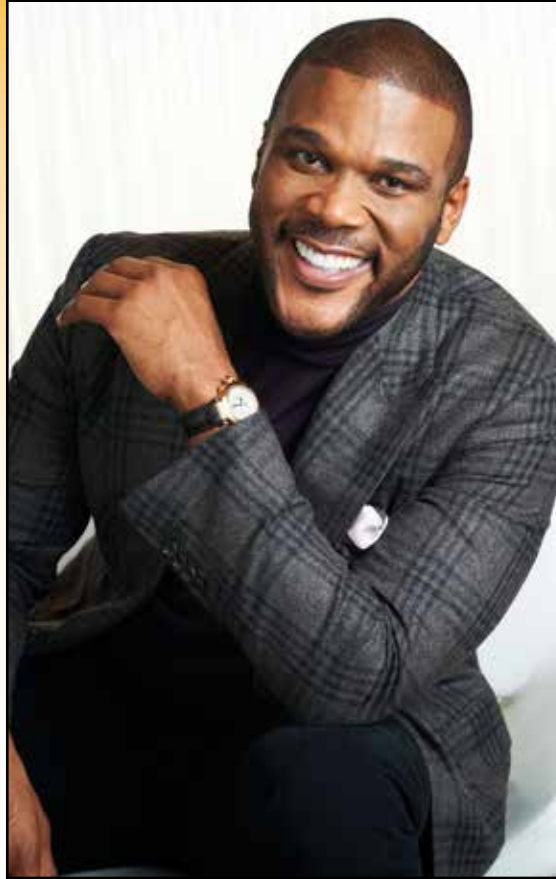
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Continued on page 5.

Visit www.ladatanews.com for more photos from these events.

Data Zone, Continued from page 4.



Tyler Perry's story is one of overcoming obstacles to become a success and inspiration for millions of people.



Tyler Perry with his aunt Jerry Banks and cousin Lucky Johnson, who is also an actor, producer and philanthropist during a recent screening of Maxine's Baby.



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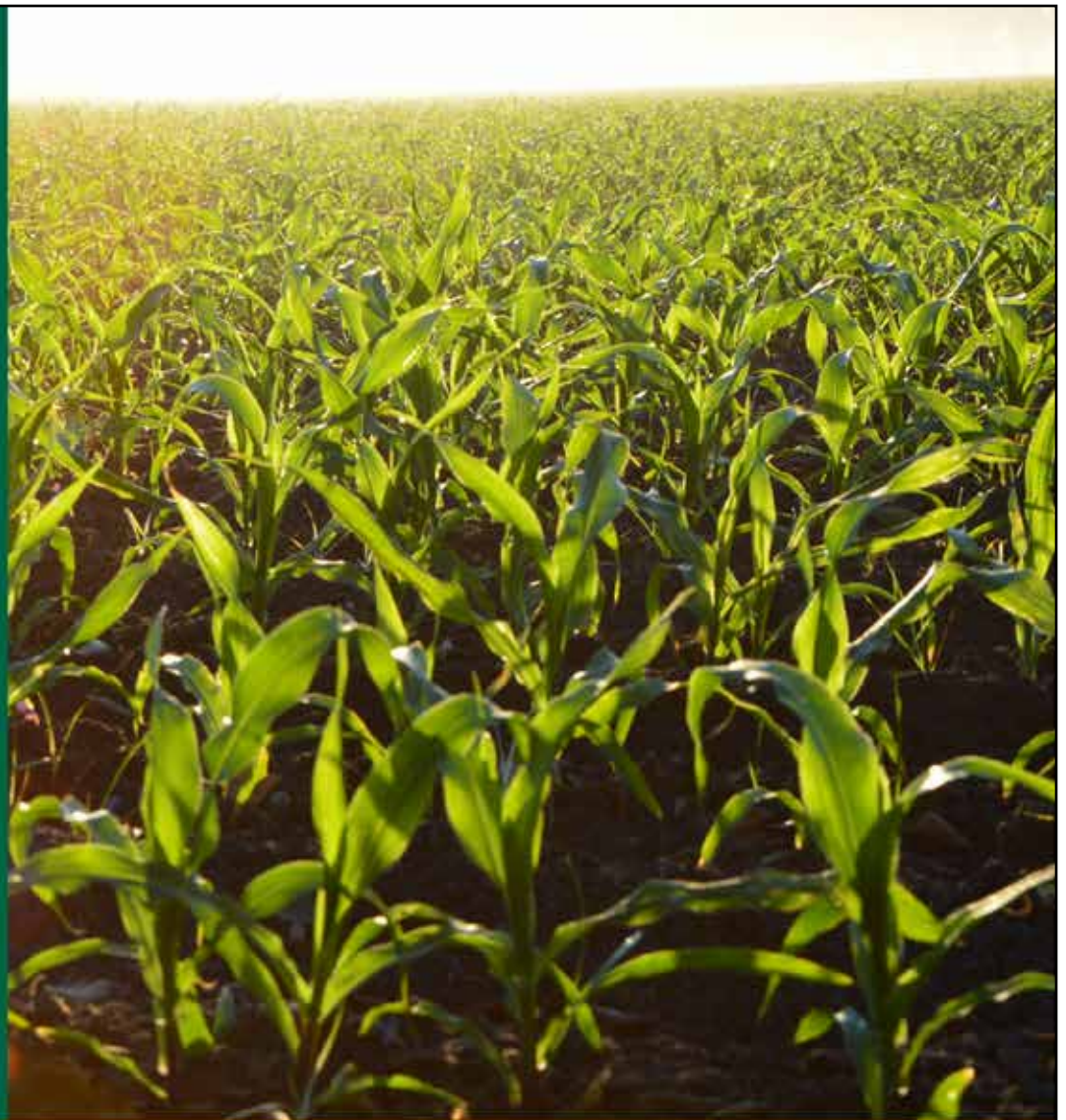
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District Attorney Schools City Council

David Soublet, Sr.
Think504.com

Ever attended or tuned in to the New Orleans Proposed Budget Hearings?

It's when all city agencies and departments present their accomplishments for the current year, and the dollars requested for next year. It goes on for hours and hours over many days. Drab? Boring? Certainly not the most interesting way to spend your time unless you don't have anything better to do. Every now and then, though, citizens can really learn important things about problems facing local government.

Tuesday November 7th was such a day when District Attorney Jason Williams addressed the council. First, he briefly covered the obligatory budget/staffing items. But most of his presentation addressed a huge problem his office faces. How to best protect domestic violence (DV) victims. Specifically, how quickly a person arrested for DV can be bailed out and returned to the streets.

District Attorney Schools City Council

In 2014, a De Soto Parish woman named Gwen Salley and her young

daughter were held at gunpoint by her estranged husband. He was arrested and held briefly in jail. But he quickly made bail bond and was released. Hours later he kidnapped Gwen at their daughter's day care center and murdered her in a secluded area near Shreveport. Legislative changes led to the passage of Gwen's Law in 2017. A key factor in Gwen's Law is the duty of the court to decide within 5 days whether to schedule a contradictory bail hearing. This hearing can make it more difficult, and sometimes prevent altogether, the release of the accused.

For over 45 minutes, Jason Williams deftly laid out his case as if in a court of law. He accused magistrate court judges, one in particular, of rushing to schedule Gwen's Law hearings, sometimes in less than 48 hours. Williams argued that in many cases it takes more than 2 days to prepare arguments for keeping the accused in jail. He and Andre Gaudin, Chief of Screening, reminded us of what occurs sometimes. When violators, who were previously arrested for similar violence against their spouses or lovers, are prematurely allowed to bail out bad things often happen. The two most recent tragic cases are those of Asia Davis and the fiery deaths of three young children on America Street this past October.



New Orleans District Attorney Jason Williams

District Attorney Schools City Council

DA Williams also railed against the format of these Gwen's Law hearings. Only days after an incident of DV, the victim is expected to appear in court and testify against their spouses/lovers. And they are normally seated only a few feet apart from each other. He sug-

gests that this format is intimidating for victims, normally women. It sometimes influences them to drop charges in fear of retaliation. If that's what goes on less than 5 days after a DV incident, then of course victims experience another round of emotional trauma.

Williams recommends the submission and consideration of po-

lice video responding to the DV call as a substitute for live victim testimony at contradictory bail hearings, provided such evidence exists. He also suggests that electronic monitoring devices (i.e., ankle bracelets) be imposed by judges as a crime deterrent.

Williams' persuasiveness and brilliance as a courtroom lawyer was on full display. Councilman and fellow Attorney Freddie King provided an alternative perspective. King is certainly sympathetic to alleged victims. But he brought up the issue of women falsely accusing men as revenge for failed relationships, or more maliciously to cause them to lose their jobs. Williams explained that police, witness, and other evidence are screened closely for that possibility. The DA thwarted King in no uncertain terms. He emphatically countered "The default in DV cases cannot be that the victim is lying."

Who would have thought that such an important criminal law concept like Gwen's Law hearings would be debated in detail during proposed budget hearings? I was about to tune out that day before this important crime fighting, sometimes life saving measures hit the agenda. The DA hit a grand slam this time. And I'm sure his 2024 budget requests are likely to be firmly approved.

State & Local News

Congressman Carter Invites You to his 31st Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner

Data News Staff Edited Report

The time has come again to celebrate and be grateful for God's blessings! Please join me on Saturday, November 18, 2023, for my 31st Annual Congressman Troy Carter Friends & Family Thanksgiving Dinner.

The event will be held at Al-

ice Harte Charter School at 5300 Berkley Drive from 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM. This event will be a drive-thru, and participants will be served on a first-come, first-served basis! Also, there is no need to register, no questions asked, and it is absolutely free to the public.

For more information, please do not hesitate to contact my office at (504) 381-3970.

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CONGRESSMAN TROY CARTER, SR.
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Overhaul Needed

Tackling Youth Incarceration and Racial Disparities

Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

In its report, "System Reforms to Reduce Youth Incarceration: Why We Must Explore Every Option Before Removing Any Young Person from Home," the Sentencing Project challenges the prevalent practice of youth incarceration. The study highlights the inefficacy of youth incarceration and underscores the urgent need for state and local youth justice systems to prioritize alternative-to-incarceration programs.

Research shows that it is rarely necessary or effective to incarcerate adolescent offenders, the authors concluded. Instead, incarceration often heightens the likelihood of repeat offenses, impedes educational and employment prospects, and exposes youth to harmful environments. Unsurprisingly, these negative impacts disproportionately affect youth of color, particularly African Americans.

According to the Vera Institute of Justice, more than eighty percent of all arrests involve low-level, nonviolent offenses associated with poverty. Further disconcerting, although Black males comprise just 13% of the total population, they represent an astounding 35% of those incarcerated. Additionally, compared to their white counterparts, Black youth are over four times more likely to be detained or committed to juvenile facilities.

The Sentencing Project said it wants youth justice leaders and legislators to recognize and fix the current failed strategy, and deal with the racial inequalities. The organi-



zation supports using alternatives to incarceration in most cases, except when there is a clear danger to public safety. The Sentencing Project's report delineates a comprehensive agenda of state and local reforms, drawing from successful implementations nationwide. The authors note proposed changes that include not sending children to state-run youth prisons for certain crimes, providing incentives to local courts to avoid sending kids to state custody, and using the funds saved from releasing kids for other programs.

Officials at the Sentencing Project suggest making changes at the local level. They recommend reducing the number of individuals who are sent to prison early in the legal process. It also suggests changing the way probation is done so that

it helps people succeed in the long term. Finally, the report recommends not putting young people in jail for breaking probation rules.

To effectively reduce youth in-

carceration, the report authors emphasized the need for collaboration between justice systems, families, and community partners. The authors insist that staff members who are highly motivated and trained must implement alternative-to-incarceration programs per core principles. They argue that efforts should be made to address the biases causing racial and ethnic disparities in confinement in the American youth justice system.

"The research is clear that incarceration is not necessary or effective in the vast majority of delinquency cases," said Richard Mendel, Senior Research Fellow at The Sentencing Project. "Most state and local youth justice systems continue to employ problematic policies and practices that often lead to incarceration of youth who pose minimal or modest risk to public safety. It's essential that state and local jurisdictions seize every opportunity to keep young people safely at home with their families, in their schools, and communities."



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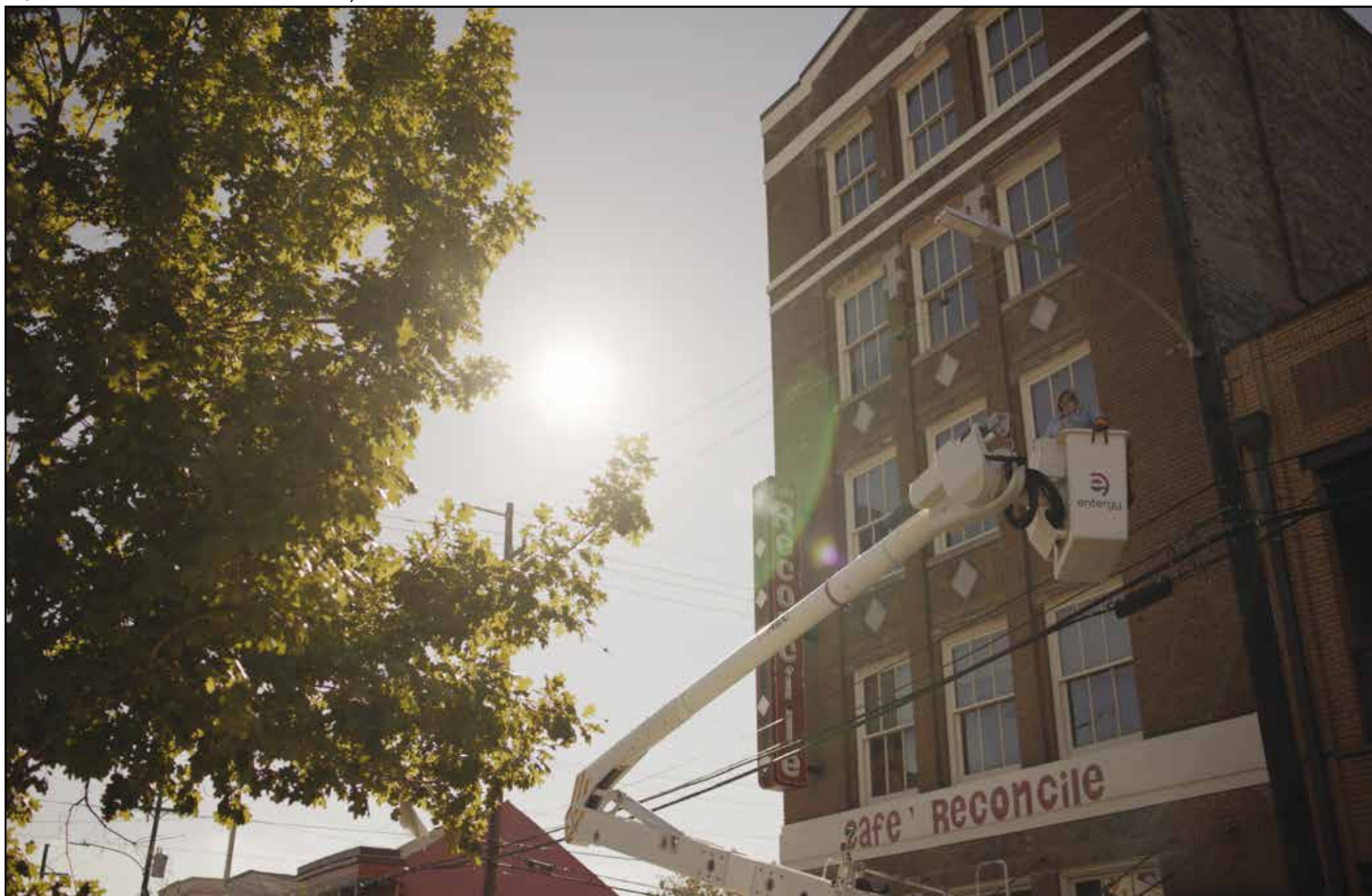
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