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**Data Zone
Page 6**

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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

Celebrating its Golden Anniversary

The 50th Annual Bayou Classic Returns to New Orleans

Page 2



Newsmaker

**James Baldwin Exhibit
Showcases Timeless
Message Through Art**

Page 4

State & Local

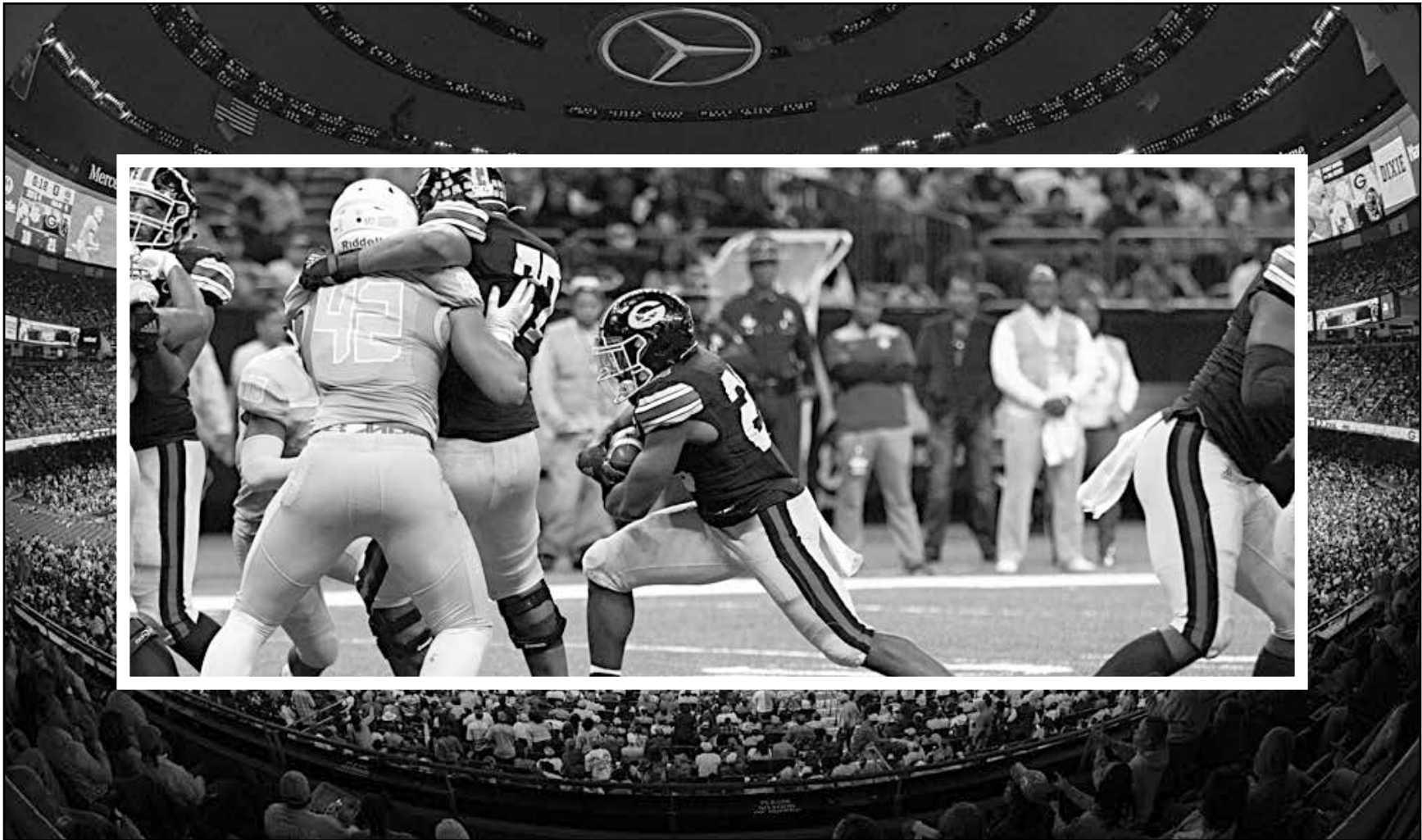
**Greater St. Stephen
Ministries Hosted a
Thanksgiving Giveaway**



Page 5

Celebrating its Golden Anniversary

The 50th Annual Bayou Classic Returns to New Orleans



Eric Connerly
Data News Weekly Contributor

The much-anticipated Bayou Classic is set to return to New Orleans on Nov. 23rd- 25th, bringing with it a weekend filled with tradition, college football excitement, and community celebration. This year's event,

featuring the storied rivalry between the Southern University Jaguars and Grambling State Tigers, promises to be a showcase of not just athletic prowess but also cultural heritage and academic excellence.

The Bayou Classic, now in its 50th year, is more than just a game. It's a celebration of football, family, and the rich cultural history of HBCUs. This year's Classic

is a continuation of a legacy that extends beyond the field. The classic is about community, resilience, and the unifying power of sports, and the showcasing of Black Excellence.

Event Highlights:

- Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 23rd

Cover Story, Continued on page 3.

INSIDE DATA	
Cover Story	2
Newsmaker	4
State & Local News . .	5
Data Zone	7
Women	8
National News	11

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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 & Production
CEO/Publisher	Edwin Buggage	Pubinator.com
Edwin Buggage	Eric Connerly	Editorial and
Editor	Renetta Perry	Advertising Inquiries
Sharonda Green	DNW Staff Writer	datanewsweeklyad@gmail.com
Executive Assistant	Tashia Hogue	Distribution
June Hazeur	Stacy M. Brown	by Terrence Lee
Accounting		

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Cover Story, Continued from page 2.



• Bayou Classic Thanksgiving Day Parade

It wouldn't be a New Orleans party without a parade.

The procession starts at 3 p.m. at the Caesars Superdome on Poydras Street, then continues toward the river and back.

Friday, Nov. 24th

Bayou Classic Motivational Gameday Ball Run (Bold)

Address: Begins at Southern University, 801 Harding Blvd., Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Saturday's prized football will arrive at the Superdome in style. ROTC Programs from both Southern University and Grambling State University will run the official game day ball more than 100 miles, through seven parishes, from Baton Rouge to New Orleans.

The sprint begins at 5:30 a.m. on Southern's campus in Baton Rouge and ends at 1:30 p.m. at the Superdome.

Battle of the Bands and Greek Show

Address: Caesars Superdome, 1500 Sugar Bowl Drive, New Orleans

More than just football is going down on the field this week.

Southern University's "Human Jukebox" Marching Band will face off against the Grambling State University Marching Band in the end zone, opening with a High School Battle of the Bands. TV and media personality Big Tigger, of Atlanta's Big Tigger Morning Show, will host the event.

The Greek show will feature comedic and creative skits from Black

Greek organizations across the state. (Bold)

The show begins at 6 p.m. at the Superdome. Tickets start at \$25 and can be purchased here.

Black Friday: the Official Battle of the Bands After Party

Address: 310 Andrew Higgins Drive

Feeling extra dance-y after the Battle of the Bands? Keep the party rolling at The METROpolitan Nightclub in Generations Hall for several hours of dancing, drinks, and DJs, beginning at 11 p.m.

Tickets begin at \$10

Saturday, Nov. 25th Bayou Classic Fan Festival

Address: Champions Square at the Superdome, 1500 Sugar Bowl

Drive, New Orleans

Get pumped up before kickoff at the "Embrace the Culture Stage," featuring musical acts like Boosie, Subtweet Shawn and DJ Poppa. The event starts at 9 a.m. and is free and open to all ages.

Only clear bags will be allowed entry to the festival.

The 50th Annual Bayou Classic

Address: Superdome, 1500 Sugar Bowl Drive, New Orleans

The Bayou Classic kicks off at 1 p.m., with doors opening at 11 a.m. Tickets to the game begin at \$20.

On the eve of the Biggest Classic in America. The Bayou Classic is not just a game; it's a gathering of community, a showcase of talent, and a testament to the spirit of these two great HB-

CUs in Louisiana.

Don't miss this unparalleled experience of culture, sport, and community spirit at this year's Bayou Classic.

About the Bayou Classic:

The Bayou Classic is one of the premier HBCU (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) sporting events in the nation and has been a key part of Louisiana's Cultural Heritage since 1974. This annual football classic features a weekend of events and celebrations culminating in a game between the Southern University Jaguars and the Grambling State University Tigers, attracting fans from across the country.

James Baldwin Exhibit Showcases Timeless Message Through Art

Story and Photos
by Tashia Hogue
Data News Weekly
Contributor

James Baldwin is notable for his literary works. However, his role in advocating for equality along with his discussions surrounding the comprehension of profound social changes is what makes his impact on the Black community timeless. The echoes of Baldwin's insights through art urged others to confront, engage, and transform their understanding of the world.

Baldwin's visionary is currently on display as part of a new exhibit "Frontline Prophet: James Baldwin," a travelling exhibition by Detroit native Sabrina Nelson at the New Orleans African American Museum on Governor Nicholls Street.

"Thinking about what he wrote, what his words said, and why it's important to revisit them, often we read books and we put them back on the shelf. It's okay to reread them and let them sink in, and to also pay it forward to people who have never read Baldwin," Nelson said.

The exhibit is co-curated by Omo Misha and Ashara Ekundayo to showcase Nelson's portrayal of Baldwin as a global thinker whose ideals hold relevance today and into the future. Nelson's work is inspired by Eastern and African philosophies. The Detroit Institute of Art studio Art Teacher has worked as an artist for over 35 years with exhibits showcased across the country including at Art Basel Miami and abroad at the American University in Paris.

"We know that New Orleans has impacted not only those of us who live here, but the entire world," said Gia Hamilton, the Executive Director and Chief Curator at NOAAM, who praised the curators for their contribution to the museum as she shared the historical significance of the Tremé area at the exhibit's opening on Nov. 9th.

"When we think about Detroit, this is our sister city, we know that artists, writers, cultural barriers, activists, and folks who are interested in changing the world are tethered by values and speaking truth, so it's important we host these events," Hamilton said.

New Orleans is the second stop for this traveling exhibition that will be on display until January 2024.



Detroit Artist Sabrina Nelson at the launch of the "Frontline Prophet: James Baldwin" travelling exhibit at the New Orleans African American Museum on Nov. 9th.



Treme' Singer and Trumpetist James Andrews and his band performs at the launch of the James Baldwin Exhibit on Nov. 9th at the New Orleans African American Museum.



Guests view the new exhibit on James Baldwin's Legacy curated by Omo Misha and Ashara Ekundayo. The exhibit remains on display for the public until January 2024.

Jazz Music celebrated Nelson and her mission to bring James Baldwin's work and impact to life at the exhibit launch.

"The exhibition is just so powerful it really connects to what is happening right now, just in the world a lot of people are quoting James Baldwin," said Britaney Kemp, a Decatur, GA. native, who attended the opening of the exhibit. She said that Nelson's work prompted her to reflect on her own creative journey as an artist.

"I continuously got chills. Just being in the space, seeing the art, and the beautiful faces in the room gave me a sense of hope, and also gave me a creative flair as well of like, how can I recreate James Baldwin in my own style?" Kemp added.

Nelson's vision transcended the physical space of the exhibition, as supporters gathered with questions and exchanged stories, along with famous Baldwin quotes. Nelson said her goal was evident: to invigorate minds and to foster conversations to keep the ongoing legacy of James Baldwin relevant.

The Frontline Prophet Exhibition invites viewers to face the challenges of their time, offering a lens through James Baldwin, a "truth-teller," whose work continues to guide in navigating the complexities of race, identity, and social injustices, Hamilton said.

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Shaun Mena Wins the Race for State Representative District 23



State Representative-Elect Shaun Mena and Data News Weekly Editor, Edwin Buggage.



Shaun Mena and State Senator Royce Duplessis.



Shaun Mena and mother Carmen Mena.



City Councilmember Eugene Green, Shaun Mena, and State Representative Alonzo Knox.

Edwin Buggage Editor-in-Chief Data News Weekly

In a significant victory, Shaun Mena was victorious in the race for State Representative District 23. In his first run for Political Office, he was able to build a coalition of varying interests across the district that

includes Mid-City, Bayou St. John, Gert Town, Hollygrove, and parts of the 7th Ward.

The election had a considerably low turnout across the city and state where other key races also took place. But Mena was able to show that a local-born candidate has what it takes to build a broad base of support between longtime residents and newcomers to the city. This is important

to note because the district has representation that understands all sides of the issues important to the various stakeholders in the district.

Throughout the campaign, Mena emphasized key campaign themes, such as economic policies, health-care, education, crime, etc. The campaign also saw him earn key endorsements across the spectrum of interest groups. This is key if he

is to govern with a focus on building bridges around the issues that matter the most to the constituents of the district.

Family, friends, and supporters were on hand for the watch party that saw him earn the trust of the voters in a convincing victory. In his speech, he noted that in these divisive times, it is important that people can come together to get things

done. This is what his campaign represented, one that built bridges between parties, interest groups, and racial and socioeconomic groups. Now, that he is preparing to take office, attention now turns to his upcoming initiatives, and challenges he might face. In a state legislature that is majority Republican, the Louisiana State Democratic Party is bolstered by this win.



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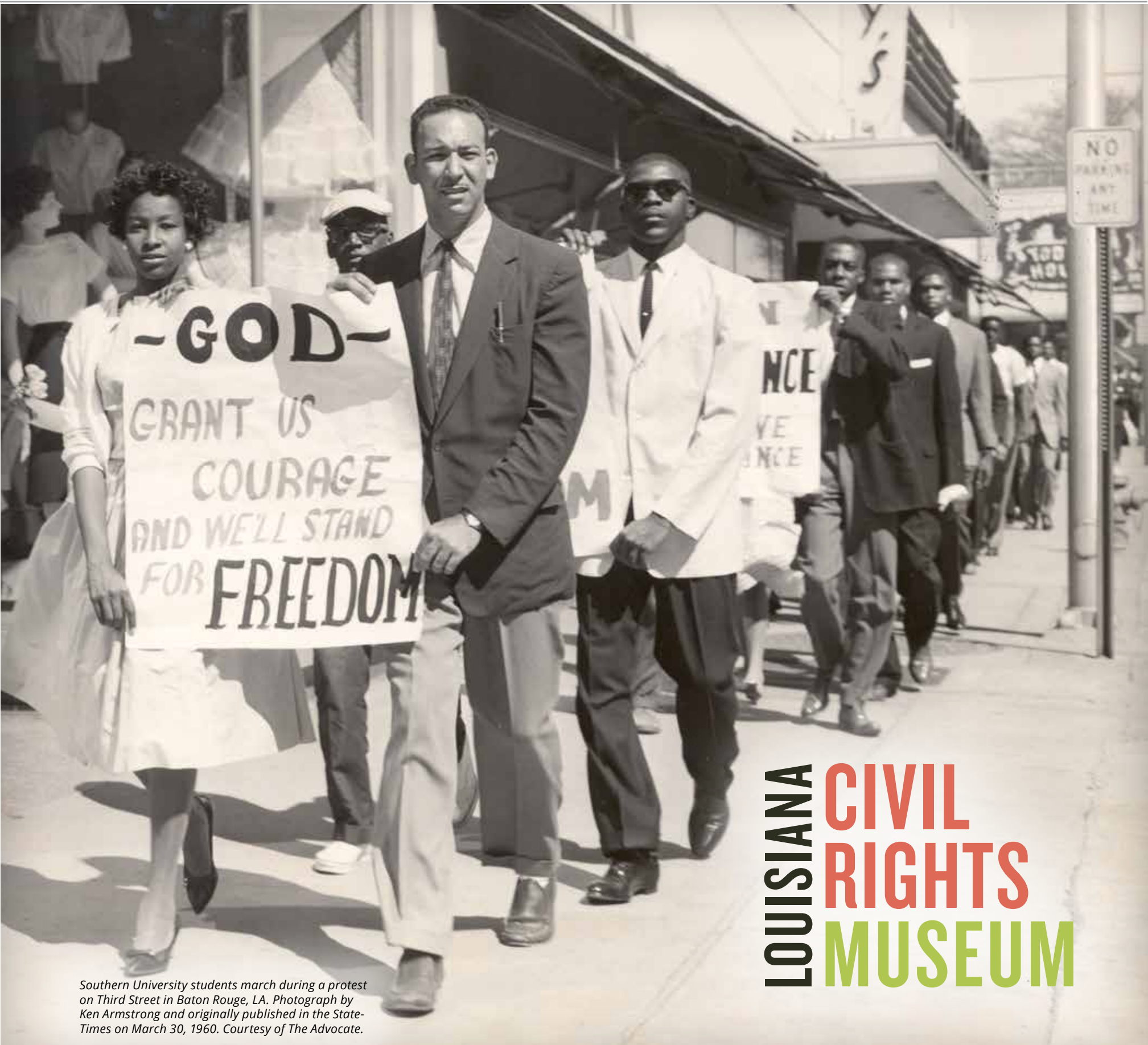
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- Writing skills and detail orientation will be appreciated.

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Southern University students march during a protest on Third Street in Baton Rouge, LA. Photograph by Ken Armstrong and originally published in the State-Times on March 30, 1960. Courtesy of The Advocate.

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NORD Announces Return of Annual Holiday in the Park to Joe W. Brown Park in New Orleans East

City of New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS — The New Orleans Recreation Development (NORD) Commission today announced the highly anticipated return of its Annual Holiday in the Park to New Orleans East. This celebration of lights, music and community will be held at Joe W. Brown Park (5601 Read Blvd.) and is free and open to the public.

Running until Jan. 2, 2024, visitors of all ages are invited to experience the magic of this unique event, which seamlessly blends a drive-through experience with a delightful walk-through adventure. Holiday in the Park will open each evening at dusk, with mesmerizing lights illuminating the park until 9 p.m. nightly.

Now in its fourth year, this cher-



ished community gathering aims to transform the park into a festive wonderland of lights, music, food and camaraderie. As visitors embark on the walk-through portion, they will have the opportunity to explore the park's vibrant atmosphere and indulge in a wide array of concessions. A kid favorite of 'Holiday in the Park' is the opportunity to drop off their heartfelt letters to Santa at the Joe W. Brown Gym.

Holiday in the Park is a project driven by a dedicated group of community volunteers, partners and generous sponsors, aiming to captivate the hearts of New Orleanians and families from surrounding communities. Families and friends are encouraged to immerse themselves in the holiday spirit, spreading joy and creating treasured memories that will last a lifetime.

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Greater St. Stephen Ministries Hosted a Community Thanksgiving Giveaway

Data News Staff Edited Report

In the lead-up to Thanksgiving, Greater St. Stephen Ministries hosted a Community Thanksgiving Giveaway on Saturday, November 18th. This was one of a few community events that are geared towards the eastern New Orleans area and was designed to provide food to the local community at large.

This community event was a collaborative effort of other community organizations and sponsors. The goal of the Community Thanksgiving Giveaway was to provide the community with access to free non-perishable items and \$20 grocery store gift cards during the holiday season. Everything will be first come, first served.



Giveaway/Continued
on Page 10.

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COUNCIL

Giveaway/Continued
from Page 9.

“Service to the community is at the heart of Greater St. Stephen Ministries’ Mission,” said Pastor T. Delbert Robinson, Senior Pastor of Greater St. Stephen. “We are dedicated to delivering a Happy Thanksgiving to residents during their time of need. The generosity of our partners and donors is greatly appreciated.”

About Greater St. Stephen Ministries

Since 1937, Greater St. Stephen has been committed to ethically sourcing and providing a standard platform for churches globally. Today, with churches planted across the world, Greater St. Stephen is the premier model for “Changing the way we do church”. Through visionary leaders, Senior Pastor T. Delbert Robinson and Elder Jasmine Morton Robinson, Greater St. Stephen has been a catalyst for change and advancement, not only in New Orleans but across the world.



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



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

*Welcome Southern
University and
Grambling University
teams, alumni, and
friends to New Orleans
for the 50th Anniversary
of the Bayou Classic.*



Southern Jaguars



Grambling Tigers

Hip Hop Icons and Entrepreneurs T.I. and Tiny Open Affordable Housing Complex in Atlanta

Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

Hip-hop power couple T.I. and Tiny celebrated the grand opening of their long-awaited Affordable Housing Complex, The Intrada Westside, during a ribbon-cutting ceremony in Atlanta. The complex is located northwest of the city. According to HipHopDX.com, it shows how committed the couple is to community development, and it has personal meaning for T.I. because it was once a grocery store where her grandmother shopped.

The Intrada Westside boasts 143 apartments and 25 unique units to house homeless youth. T.I., known for hits like "Whatever You Like," expressed gratitude for the support from the arts and entertainment industry, citing its profitability to offer much-needed resources to the community.

In a nod to the project's roots, T.I. shared, "The arts and entertainment industry in this city has been able to collaborate and be, I guess, profitable enough to offer the community so many things that are much needed."

This venture is reportedly not



the first time T.I. has invested in revitalizing his Atlanta community. In 2020, he urged his social media followers to shift their focus from luxury items to real estate. The rapper highlighted the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on consumer behavior and encouraged responsible spending.

HipHopDX.com said T.I. had been actively involved in community initiatives through his Buy Back

the Block initiative, investing over \$2.7 million since 2017 to acquire six properties and plots of land in his Center Hill neighborhood. The website said his philosophy emphasizes the potential for individuals to thrive financially while positively contributing to their communities.

"The Black Press of America salutes both the creative genius of T.I. and his concrete commitment to the economic development of Black

communities," National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. proclaimed. The NNPA is the trade association of America's more than 230 Black-owned newspapers and media companies. "The affordable housing development in Atlanta is an innovative and positive pathway forward," Chavis declared. "I know T.I. personally, and his character and integrity are impeccable."

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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.

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