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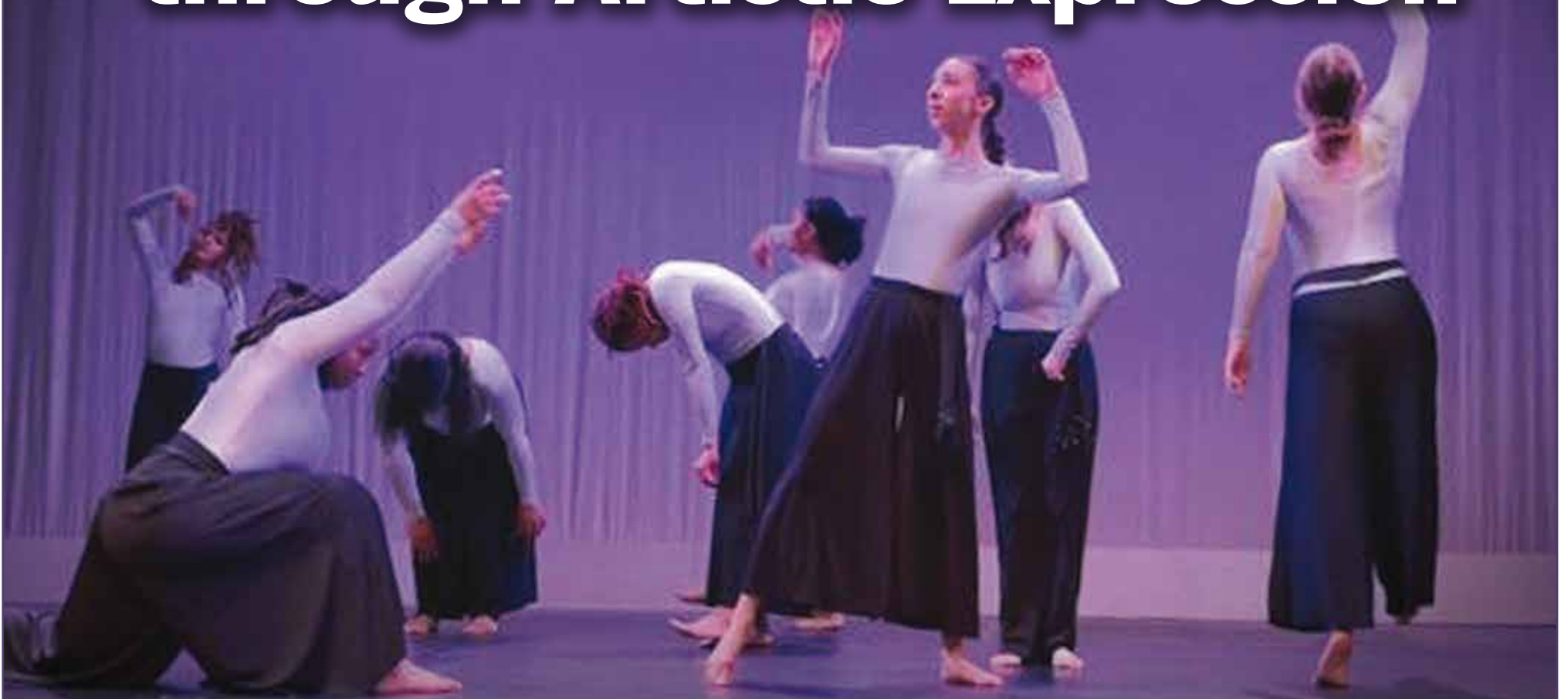
Carnival Fiesta Fashions

Data Zone Page 4

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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

Afro-Modern Performance Celebrates Heritage through Artistic Expression



Page 2



Newsmaker

OPSB Elects New Officers to Lead School Board

Page 6

National News

Dexter Scott King Dies of Cancer at 62



Page 7

Afro-Modern Performance Celebrates Heritage through Artistic Expression



Members of the Seasons Center Silhouette Dance Ensemble celebrate 15 years of dance on Jan. 20th at the Andre Cailloux Center.

Story and Photos by Shawniece Mitchell
Data News Weekly Contributor

Artistic Director Kai Knight and the Dancers of “Breathe” a Kai Knight Dance Collective delivered a moving performance of contemporary Afro-modern dance titled “Ori: Journey Within.” The performance

also marked the Anniversary for the Silhouette Dance Ensemble, housed through Seasons Center, which hosts a collective of dance and performance groups. “We’re celebrating 15 years of dancing with Silhouette [Dance Ensemble], so I am very proud, and we have a lot of big things still coming up,” said Knight, the Founder, Executive Director, and Artis-

tic Director of the Seasons Center which provides dance and performing programs across the city. The performance held at the Andre Cailloux Center for Performing Arts and Cultural Justice on Bayou Road took place on Jan. 20th. with dancers from several colleges and in the community. “Ori: Journey Within” used movement to find

Cover Story, Continued on page 3.

INSIDE DATA	
Cover Story	2
Data Zone	4
Newsmaker	6
State & Local News . . .	6
National News	7

DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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	DNW Staff Writer	Production
Edwin Buggage	N.O. Agenda	Pubinator.com
Editor	Tracee Dundas	Editorial and
Sharonda Green	Shawniece Mitchell	Advertising Inquiries
Executive Assistant	Jeff Thomas	datanewsweeklyad@gmail.com
June Hazeur	Stacy M. Brown	Distribution
Accounting		by Terrence Lee

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Cover Story, Continued from page 2.

one's spiritual center, incorporating techniques of African dance movement with contemporary and modern dance.

"I didn't think it was just beautiful, you all showed vulnerability by really going into places of pain, of suffering, of being desperate, of being stuck. I mean I saw the whole human depth in this, and that's why it was so moving," said Ina Fandrich, a long-time supporter of the dance company.

The performance showcased the ensemble's versatility and ability to convey a wide range of emotions through their art. Each routine was carefully choreographed to tell a unique story, leaving the audience captivated and moved.

"As far as tying the words to the movement, everybody had their own personal journey or experience or story to tell but when we came to rehearsal it was figuring out how everybody could stay individuals but also making sure that as a group, we're interacting with each other and flowing as a unit but still within our personal journeys," said Awiwe DuBois, a Lead Dancer with



Dancers with "Breathe: A Kai Knight Dance Theatre Collective" perform "Ori: Journey Within" at the Andre Cailloux Center on Bayou Road on Jan. 20th.

the Breathe Collective.

The dancers seamlessly de-

picted both the struggles and triumphs of self-discovery and mo-

ments of vulnerability, strength, and self-acceptance, creating a

captivating narrative that resonated with the audience.

"It was kind of spontaneous, whatever we felt in that moment was what we put on the floor and then we later took to putting it on paper," said Nandipha DuBois, another dancer with the Breathe Collective.

The dance company held a reception before the show, celebrating Knight's dedication and hard work. Silhouette Dance Ensemble Members reflected on their journey and future performances that will take place for the company.

In addition to being home for Breathe and the Silhouette Dance Ensemble, the Seasons Center's Dance Programs aim to help young performers connect to their heritage and identity, while developing their sense of confidence through artistic expression.

"I feel like we all connected as a group and as a family with this story," said Zion Crawford, a Lead Dancer with the center and daughter of the Executive Director, Knight.

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Carnival Fiesta Fashions



Tracee Dundas
Fashion Stylist

Sequins, feathers and over the top styles is what can be expected when attending any of the many Mardi Gras balls and festivities. After all that's exactly what Mardi Gras is known for and has been affectionally referred to as the "Met Gala of the South." It is the event of the year in which everyone's [both ladies and gents] goal is to make a jaw dropping fashion statement.

Considering a color that is symbolic to the occasion – Purple which represents justice, green symbolizes faith, and gold signifies power. By incorporating these colors into your attire, you not only embrace the festival's tradition but also make a statement about your values and pay homage to the culture and traditions.

To stand out at the Mardi Gras Celebrations, opt for a ballgown that embraces bold colors, intricate details, and dramatic silhouettes. Look for gowns with ornate embellishments, feathers, and sequins to capture the festive spirit. At the same time be certain to express your creativity and personal flare by customizing your gown with unique accessories, such as a statement mask, elaborate headpiece, or a colorful feather boa. This will help you express your creativity and showcase your individuality. But remember the key is feeling confident in what you wear. While fashion plays a pivotal role, your confidence is what truly makes a fashion statement. Walk with poise, carry yourself with grace, and exude the joyous spirit of Mardi Gras. Remember, a smile is the best accessory you can wear.

Carnival time is about celebration, so be sure to wear your gown with confidence and spread the infectious Mardi Gras spirit which ever ball you're attending!



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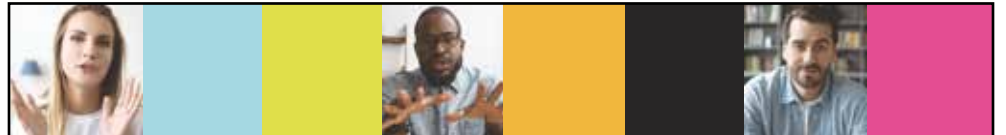


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OPSB Elects New President & Vice President to Lead School Board

New Orleans Agenda

During its regular monthly board meeting, the Orleans Parish School Board (OPSB) unanimously voted to elect Katie Baudouin as its President and Leila Jacobs Eames as its Vice President.

"I express my gratitude to my colleagues for placing their confidence in me. Being chosen by one's peers is a significant honor, and I want to convey my deep appreciation to the board. In recent weeks, a unanimous consensus has emerged among our board members, indicating a collective desire for a more robust vision from this school board. I echo this sentiment and believe that we owe it to the residents of our city and our outstanding superintendent to deliver on that aspiration," said OPSB President Baudouin.

"I'm honored to be elected Vice President of OPSB. I'd like to thank my board colleagues and District 1 Constituents for their confidence in my leadership abilities. Serving on the board has been a pleasure, and in my new role, I look forward to working with the board and the superintendent to continue to advance NOLA Public Schools. I pledge to continue to prioritize equity, safety, and the overall well-being of our



OPSB Newly elected leadership, Leila Jacobs Eames, Vice President, and Katie Baudouin, President.

schools," said Ms. Eames.

Newly Elected OPSB President Katie Baudouin represents District 5. Baudouin has spent her career working in state and local government and for nonprofit organizations. She started her career at the Louisiana Association of Nonprofit Organizations (Louisiana Alliance of Nonprofits) where she helped to advance progressive policies aimed

at improving quality of life for all Louisiana families.

She also worked at the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (Louisiana Department of Health), where she worked to improve health outcomes and expand Medicaid and LaCHIP Eligibility and Enrollment. And as a Policy Analyst at the National Academy for State Health Policy, where she

worked with states as they planned for Medicaid expansion.

Baudouin served for more than three years as staff to two New Orleans City Councilmembers Stacy Head and Joe Giarrusso, where she drafted legislation, assisted on land use matters, worked on budget priorities, and ensured that public money was being spent wisely.

Baudouin earned a Master of Public Administration from Louisiana State University and a Bachelor of Arts from Loyola University.

OPSB Vice President Leila Jacobs Eames represents District 1. Eames served as interim board member for District 1, after school board member John Brown stepped down in 2022. Mr. Brown resigned from the post when his daughter became a candidate during the NOLA Public Schools (NOLA-PS) superintendent search.

Mrs. Eames was born and raised in New Orleans and is a product of the school system in New Orleans. She holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Southern University in Baton Rouge with a master's in administration. She also earned certification in administration from Loyola University and the University of New Orleans. Mrs. Eames is a retiree of New Orleans Public

Schools where she worked professionally for more than 33 years. She served as a 5th grade teacher, Title 1 Resource Teacher, Title 1 Coordinator of Instruction, and Associate Superintendent of Federal Programs, where she managed a \$50 million Annual Budget.

Even though she is retired, Mrs. Eames serves as a member of The Pontchartrain Links Chapter where she chairs programming and a Commissioner on the Audubon Board. Mrs. Eames also served on two non-profit boards: Eastover Property Owners Association Board and the Non-Flood Protection Management Levee Board and the Lake Forest Charter School Board. In addition, she served as an Educational National Consultant providing support and assistance to school districts working with teachers, principals, and associate superintendents.

Mrs. Eames attends St. Maria Goretti Catholic Church, and this year she traveled to Ghana on a mission trip with her Links Chapter to help distribute food and supplies.

She is the mother of two children and the proud grandmother of five grandchildren. Mrs. Eames enjoys traveling, reading, playing bridge, playing golf, and shopping.

State & Local News

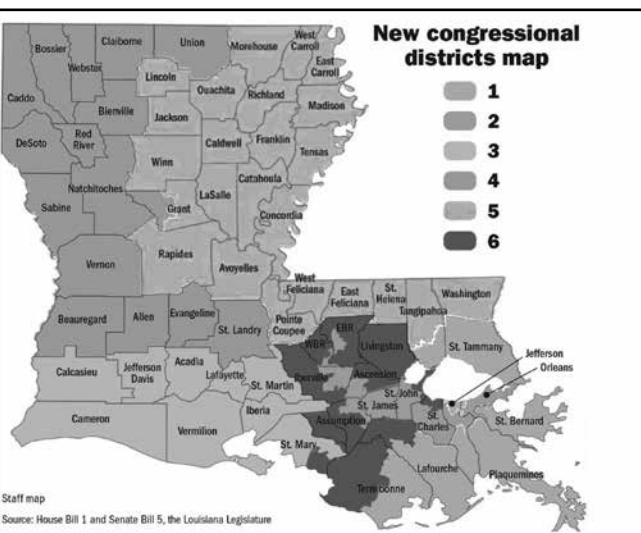
Louisiana Finally Adopted Second Black Congressional District

Jeff Thomas Think504.com

With a gun to their heads, the Louisiana Legislature finally redrew the state's Congressional map. African Americans comprise over 33% of the population. Now Louisiana finally has a second Black Congressional District. Only after a federal judge promised to draw the district, did the legislature finally come up with a new district. The newly elected and super conservative governor Jeff Landry's first order of business was to create the new "Black" District.

2nd Black District

You might remember the legislature held a statewide listening tour



to see what the citizens thought about forming a new district. Led by then Senator Sharon Hewitt, the

only one "Black" District Plan. In the face of judicial scrutiny, the legislature played the old delay and

committee decided the discriminatory old map with only one Majority Black District was in the senator's words a "good and right thing". The super majority Republican Legislature backed the

deny game. Ultimately, they could never agree on anything other than one majority minority district.

But Federal Judge Shelley Dick threatened to draw the new map herself. Then in stepped new Governor Jeff Landry. He had a political axe to grind. And he had no control over the map that Judge Dick would draw. So, his Political Adversary and Moderate Republican Garrett Graves was the sacrificial lamb. Graves committed many mortal sins in the eyes of the conservative wing of the State's Republican Party. He criticized then President Donald Trump. Graves said Trump's actions prior to the riot was wrong. Graves also did not say the election was stolen. The final straw was Graves endorsing

Steven Waguespack's for Governor against Landry.

RINO Graves Lost His Seat

Might as well have a Black Democrat then. So, Landry backed a map that eliminated Graves district. Where do moderate Republicans go to die? Will Graves back one of the new African Americans and further alienate himself? A former staffer for David Vitter, Graves political future is murky at best. His lost is the state's gain.

A new and more realistic congressional delegation will represent Louisiana going forward. Black or White, rich or poor, Democrat or Republican, every Louisianian finally gets a true look at what democracy looks like.

The Sentencing Project Unveils Final Report in 'One in Five' Series Reveals Mass Incarceration's Role in Deepening Inequality and Harming Public Safety

Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

The collateral consequences of a criminal conviction often amount to a lifelong disadvantage, particularly for African Americans. According to the Sentencing Project, in 2010, one in three (33%) African American adult men had a felony conviction on their record, compared to 13% of all adult men.

Researchers found that employers discriminate against job candidates who have criminal histories, especially against those who are Black. Further, application questions about criminal histories deter some people from applying to certain jobs and colleges, with a 2017 study finding that nearly half of unemployed men had a criminal conviction. Additionally, almost one-third of all U.S. jobs require an occupational license, and many licensing boards bar or impose cumbersome obstacles for people with criminal records.

Fee-based programs to seal criminal records also exacerbate racial disparities, and the Sentencing Project noted that these policies stand in stark contrast to a growing evidence base showing that post-incarceration employment prevents recidivism and that



tackling heightened labor market discrimination against Black people with criminal records would reduce recidivism rates.

The Sentencing Project has again highlighted a critical element causing inequalities in incarceration with "One in Five: How Mass Incarceration Deepens Inequality and Harms Public Safety." The report highlights laws and policies that worsen inequality and unfairly burden communities of color. Initiated to provide an in-depth analysis of racial inequities within America's Criminal Legal System, the series of reports covers a spectrum of topics.

From the progress made in the 21st Century in reducing the U.S. prison population to disparities in crime and policing, the series also explores the key causes of racial and ethnic disparities in imprisonment. Additionally, it highlights reforms that have played a pivotal role in mitigating these sources of disparity.

"A primary driver of disparity within the U.S. Criminal Legal System is the multitude of laws and policies that intensify economic and social inequalities, diverting public spending from effective public safety investments," stated Nazgol Ghandnoosh, Co-Director

of Research with The Sentencing Project and Lead Author of the report. Ghandnoosh emphasized the importance of protecting and expanding promising reforms initiated by states and local jurisdictions nationwide.

The report delves into various criminal legal laws and policies, including fines, fees, predatory pricing, exploitative wages, collateral consequences, and the diversion of adequate investments in public safety. The report proposes two key strategies to eliminate racial disparities in incarceration, including addressing sources of inequality by limiting socioeconomic disadvantage resulting from a criminal conviction and significantly increasing investments in effective Public Safety Programs.

The "One in Five" series concludes with a call to action, emphasizing the need for durable investments in communities of color, a reduction in policing footprint, and ongoing efforts to tackle critical drivers of racial disparity.

"Certain regulations intensify the marginalization of justice-involved people – who are disproportionately people of color – by wearing down economic and social buffers against crime and increasing the likelihood of police contact," added Ghandnoosh.

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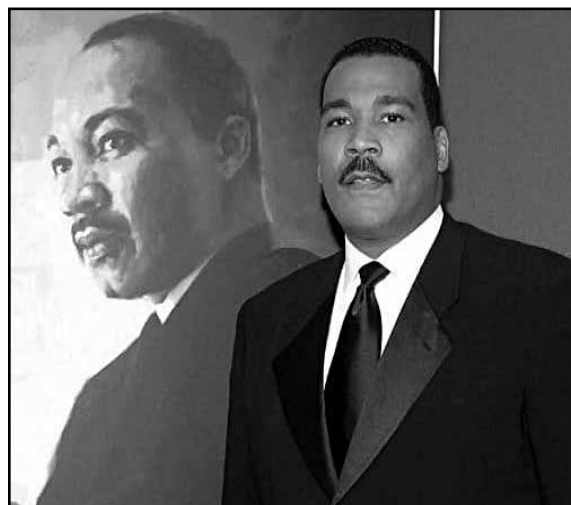
Dexter Scott King, Son of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., Dies of Cancer at 62

Data News Staff Edited Report

Dexter Scott King, the younger son of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King died Monday after battling prostate cancer.

The King Center in Atlanta, which Dexter King served as Chairman, said the 62-year-old son of the Civil Rights Icon died at his home in Malibu, California. His wife, Leah Weber King, said in a statement that he died "peacefully in his sleep."

The third of the Kings' four children, Dexter King was named for the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama, where his father served as a pastor when



the Montgomery Bus Boycott launched him to national prominence in the wake of the 1955 arrest

these are difficult poses to maintain, even if you're a person with perfect equilibrium, with all the

of Rosa Parks.

Dexter King was just 7 years old when his father was assassinated in April 1968 while supporting striking sanitation workers in Memphis, Tennessee.

"Ever since I was seven, I've felt I must be formal," he wrote, adding: "Formality, seriousness, certitude — all

drama life throws at you."

As an adult, Dexter King became an attorney and focused on shepherding his father's legacy and protecting the King family's intellectual property. In addition to serving as chairman of the King Center, he was also President of the King Estate.

"Words cannot express the heart break I feel from losing another sibling," the Rev. Bernice A. King, the youngest of the four, said in a statement.

His older brother, Martin Luther King III, said: "The sudden shock is devastating. It is hard to have the right words at a moment like this. We ask for your prayers at this time for the entire King family."

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