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New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"



Leo Nocentelli Presents

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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

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51st Annual Bayou Classic Returns to New Orleans



The Bayou Classic continues to be an event that showcases Black Excellence and celebrates HBCUs.

Eric Connerly
Data News Weekly Contributor

It is that time of year again, where a tradition of Black Excellence will be on full display.

The 51st Annual Bayou Classic, presented by Procter & Gamble, is scheduled for November 29th & 30th,

2024, at the Caesars Superdome in New Orleans. This historic event features a series of fan and family-friendly activities leading up to the renowned football game between Southern University and Grambling State University.

Since 1974 the Battle of the Cats have been an event that showcases Black Excellence. This event

has grown over its over five decades existence, placing HBCU's in the spotlight for the entire nation. Data News Weekly, staying true to its mission as "The People's Paper" celebrates the Black Excellence that will be on full display. Here are some of what's going on during this amazing weekend.

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DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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Schedule of Events:

Monday, November 25th:

Bayou Classic Welcome Press Conference
 Time: 10:00 a.m.
 Location: Caesars Superdome

Thursday, November 28th (Thanksgiving Day):

Annual Bayou Classic Thanksgiving Day Parade
 Time: 3:00 p.m.
 Location: Throughout downtown New Orleans

Friday, November 29th:

Business at Bayou Classic: A Black Small Business Showcase
 Time: 10:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
 Location: Hyatt Regency New Orleans
 Details: Free and open to the public
Bayou Classic Coaches Luncheon
 Time: 12:00 p.m.
 Location: Hyatt Regency New Orleans
 Details: Invitation-only event
Bayou Classic Motivational Gameday Ball Run
 Departure: 5:30 a.m. from Baton Rouge
 Arrival: 1:00 – 1:30 p.m. at Caesars Superdome

Bayou Classic Battle of the Bands and Greek Show
 Time: 6:00 p.m. (Doors open at 5:00 p.m.)
 Location: Caesars Superdome
 Details: Ticket required for entry; clear bag policy in effect

Bayou Classic Official Battle of the Bands After Party
 Time: 11:00 p.m.
 Location: Metropolitan Nightclub (Generations Hall)
 Details: Ticket required for entry

Saturday, November 30th:

Doc Griggs "Two Times Around the Dome" Family Fitness Fun Walk
 Time: 8:00 a.m. (Registration at 7:30 a.m.)
 Location: Caesars Superdome, Plaza Level at Gate C
 Details: Registration required for entry

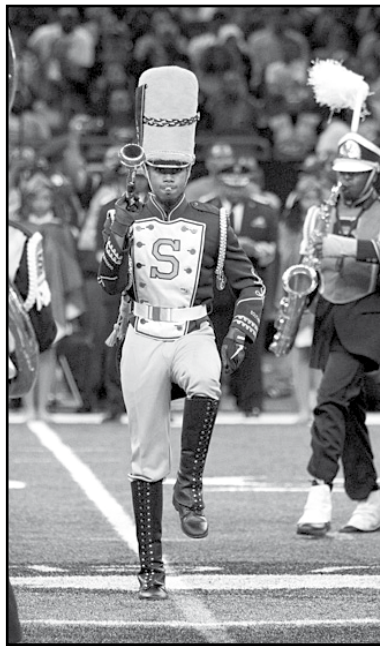
Fourth Annual Special Olympics Unified Rivalry Flag Football Game
 Time: 9:00 a.m.
 Location: St. Augustine Practice Field (2525 Bruxelles St.)

Bayou Classic Fan Festival
 Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
 Location: Champions Square at the Caesars Superdome
 Details: Free and open to the public; clear bag policy in effect

The 51st Annual Bayou Classic Football Game
 Time: 1:00 p.m. (Doors open at 11:00 a.m.)
 Location: Caesars Superdome
 Details: Ticket required for entry; clear bag policy in effect

Bayou Classic Official Celebrity After Party
 Time: 10:00 p.m.
 Location: Metropolitan Nightclub (Generations Hall)
 Details: Ticket required for entry

Ticket Information:
 Tickets for the Bayou Classic events are available for purchase through the Official Bayou Classic Website, Ticketmaster, the New Orleans Arena Box Office, the Grambling State University Ticket Office, and the Southern University Ticket Office. Seating arrangements designate Southern University as the home team, with fans seated on the west side (sections 129-156) of the Caesars Superdome, while Grambling State University fans will be on the east side (sections 101-128).






**DISTRICT E COUNCILMAN
 OLIVER M. THOMAS, JR.**

**WE WELCOME YOU TO
 NEW ORLEANS FOR THE 51ST BAYOU
 CLASSIC BETWEEN**

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY



AND

GRAMBLING STATE UNIVERSITY



WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT TO OUR CITY.

Leo Nocentelli Presents "Another Side: A Live Acoustic Reintroduction"

Photos by Glenn Summers
Data News Weekly Contributor

The legendary, Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award-winning guitarist, Leo Nocentelli, headlined

a recent concert at the Civic Theatre in downtown New Orleans. The concert celebrated the re-release of Leo's critically acclaimed acoustic guitar album Another Side. This project revealed a different dimension of his artistry and has captivated audiences worldwide.

The evening featured a stellar lineup that include Ray Parker Jr., composer and singer of the iconic 1984 theme song for the movie "Ghostbusters," plus several other musical icons with New Orleans roots.

Best known as the lead guitarist and founding mem-

WE DID IT, LA-02!

"Every day, I will continue to wake up inspired by your resilience, your strength, and your dreams for a better future. I am committed to giving my all -every fiber of my being to fight for each and every one of you. Together, we will keep pushing forward on the issues that matter most: creating jobs, ensuring justice, protecting our environment, expanding access to healthcare, and building a brighter future for our children and grandchildren."

THANK YOU!

It is my honor to continue to serve you!

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Leo Nocentelli (R) and Ray Parker Jr. (L)



ber of The Meters, Leo has made monumental contributions to the music industry, particularly within the funk genre. His innovative electric guitar work on classics like Hey Pocky Way, They All Ask'd for You "Cissy Strut" and "Look-Ka Py

Data Zone,
Continued on page 7.

ROUSES MARKETS

Welcomes
Southern University and
Grambling State University
to New Orleans for the

Historic 51st Bayou Classic Football Game



Southern
University



Grambling State
University

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Councilman Oliver Thomas Holds Annual Thanksgiving Celebration Luncheon for Senior Soldiers

Benjamin Bates
Data News Weekly
Contributor

Throughout his years in elected office, Councilman Oliver Thomas has been a leader who believes “to whom much is given much is required.” On Tuesday, November 19th, Councilman Oliver M. Thomas, Jr. held his Annual Thanksgiving Celebration Luncheon in honor of Senior Soldiers at the Sanchez Center in the Historic Lower Ninth Ward in District E. This year’s event fed over 550 members at all 13 Seniors Citizen Centers in Orleans Parish.



Several hundred seniors came out to a luncheon sponsored by Councilman Oliver Thomas.



District Attorney Jason Williams joined Thomas during the holiday celebration.



Councilman Oliver Thomas continues to be a leader for not just District E, but all the people of the City of New Orleans.

In speaking on the importance of this event, he stated: “As the Councilman for District E, I am always happy to sponsor this Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon for our senior soldiers. I am grateful for their presence in my life and for the blessings that they provide to our community on a daily basis. This event makes me feel extremely thankful for all that they have done and is my way of saying thank you for all that they have contributed to our community. I also want to personally thank the Council on Aging, NORD-C, sponsors, as well as the elected officials and community

State & Local News

Judge Halts Homeless Sweeps in New Orleans

Data News Staff Edited Report

The battle between the city and state on how to address the city’s homelessness problem continues. Admittedly, it is a complex problem, and a one size fits all solution is not the solution. This week, a New Orleans judge issued a temporary restraining order on Monday, pausing the ongoing sweeps of homeless encampments in the city, according to Councilmember Lesli Harris’ Chief of Staff.

This ruling comes on the heels of the Louisiana State Police (LSP) clearing encampments in the Historic French Quarter and relocating individuals to a site under the Business 90 overpass at Calliope Street.

The intervention has sparked debates between state and city officials. Governor Jeff Landry defended the state-led sweeps, citing the city’s failure to meet a self-imposed Thanksgiving deadline to clear the encampments.

“If the city is unable to do their part to clean New Orleans up, we will,” Landry stated.

Harris released a statement regarding the issue:

“The State began taking drastic action to hide unhoused residents last month when they concentrated people and their belongings in one



Councilmember Harris criticized the sweeps, arguing that they disrupted the city’s long-term efforts to rehouse individuals permanently. She noted that approximately 60 people awaiting permanent housing were displaced due to earlier sweeps near the Superdome.

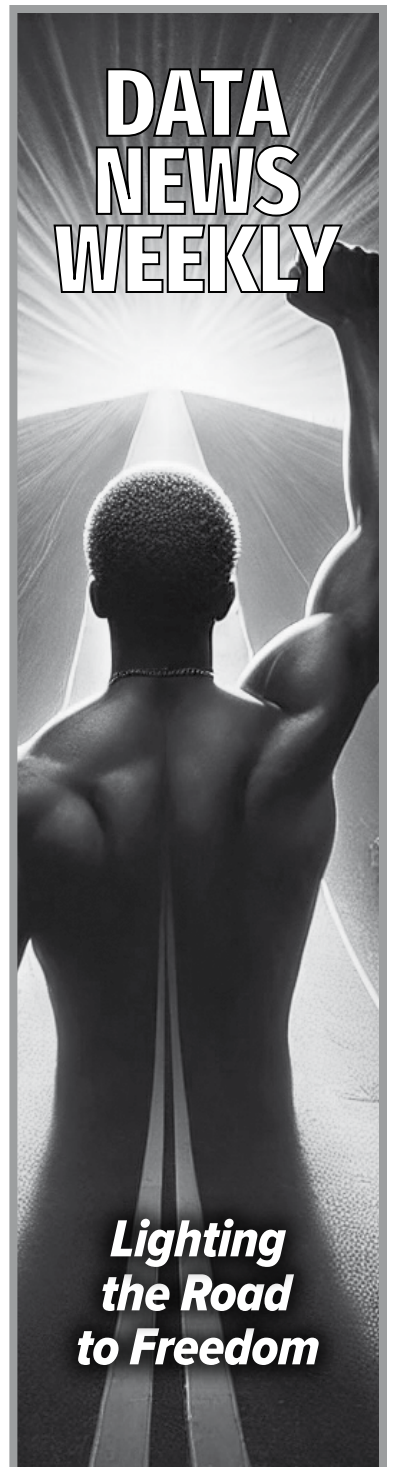
‘sanctioned encampment’ along Calliope. That location, where more than 75 people were moved, lacked basic health and safety facilities, including port-a-lets and trash cans. People lost their belongings and their dignity.

The sweeps had lasting consequences on the City’s push to de-commission encampments, which relies on connecting individuals to permanent supportive housing through the Home for Good initiative. Case Managers lost contact with over 63 unhoused residents,

who were set to be housed within weeks. Those same people made their way into neighborhoods, making outreach more difficult, and went back to previous encampments that had already been closed.

Despite a seemingly productive dialogue among State and City partners about effective ways to collaborate on homelessness, the State is set to move forward with another round of sweeps. As I did last month, I encourage residents to relay their concerns to the Governor’s constituent services office at 225-342-0991 or 844-860-1413.

My office is committed to partnering with the Office of Homeless Services and Strategy, the Health Department, Unity of Greater New Orleans, Traveler’s Aid, and Clutch Consulting to ensure unhoused residents receive needed services and are connected to housing. I truly commend OHSS, which has led the way in housing over 650 people since last year, many just in the last month. Their dedication is why I fought to ensure the City’s 2025 Budget added seven more positions to the City Homelessness Team, along with an increase in operating funds. As we did last month, local partners will try to track unhoused community members impacted by the upcoming sweeps to ensure they remain connected to services and housing resources.”



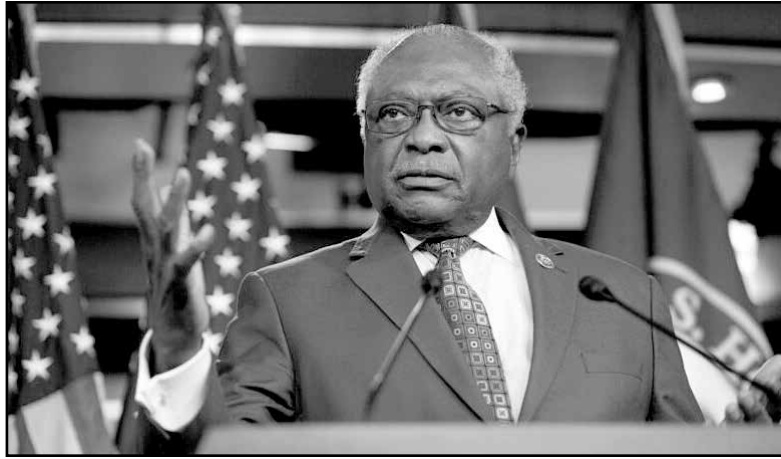
Clyburn, Pressley, Scanlon, Colleagues Urge Biden to Use Clemency Power to Address Mass Incarceration Before Leaving Office

Rep. James Clyburn (D-SC)

Last week, Congressman James E. Clyburn (SC-06), Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley (MA-07), and Congresswoman Mary Gay Scanlon (PA-05) led 60 of their colleagues in sending a letter to President Biden urging him to use his executive clemency power in the final months of his presidency to reunite families, address longstanding injustices in our legal system, and set our nation on the path toward ending mass incarceration.

The lawmakers hosted a press conference earlier today to discuss the letter. A full video of their press conference is available here and photos are available here.

“Now is the time to use your clemency authority to rectify unjust and unnecessary criminal laws passed by Congress and draconian sentences given by judges,” the lawmakers wrote in their letter. “The grant of pardons and commutations and the restoration of rights will undoubtedly send a powerful message across the country in support



Congressman James E. Clyburn (SC-06)

of fundamental fairness and furthering meaningful criminal justice reform.”

Mass incarceration remains a persistent, systemic injustice that erodes the soul of America. Our nation has the highest incarceration rate in the world, with nearly two million people locked in jails and prisons throughout the country. The extreme use of incarceration has resulted in one in two adults having had an incarcerated family member. People of color are disproportionately

put behind bars, along with individuals from low-income communities, LGBTQIA+ folks, and those with disabilities. The bloated prison system reflects and emboldens biases that undermine the ideals of our nation and diminish trust in the rule of law. Mass incarceration attacks the most vulnerable Americans, thereby destabilizing families and inflicting intergenerational trauma.

In their letter to President Biden, the lawmakers praised the President’s efforts to create a fair and just criminal legal system by pardoning people convicted of simple marijuana possession and LGBTQ+ former servicemembers and urged the President to use his clemency powers to help broad classes of people and cases, including the elderly and chronically ill, those on death row, people with unjustified sentencing disparities, and women who were punished for defending themselves against their abusers. The lawmakers also outlined the fiscal toll of the growing mass incarceration crisis.

“You have the support of millions of people across the country who have felt the harms of mass incarceration: young children longing to hug their grandparents, people who have taken responsibility for their mistakes, and those who simply were never given a fair chance,” the lawmakers wrote. “These are the people seeking help that only you can provide through the use of your presidential clemency power.”

DATA CLASSIFIED

Call 504-821-7421 to place your classified ad.

Job Opportunity

Freelance Writers Wanted

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.

We can’t wait to hear from you!

Data Zone

Data Zone, Continued from page 4.

Py” helped define the sound of an era and continues to influence musicians across genres. Another Side showcases Leo’s versatility as a songwriter and acoustic guitarist, offering a more introspective and soulful side of his musical genius.

The acoustic concert featured intimate performances of songs from Another Side, highlighting the album’s raw emotional power and Leo’s unmatched musicianship.

It was an amazing event for all, and Data News Weekly was there!

The All-Star Band Included:

- Leo Nocentelli-Lead Guitar
- Lo Faber-Guitar
- Angelo Nocentelli-Bass Guitar
- Keiko Komaki-Keys
- Steven Perriloux-Congas
- Jamal Batiste-Drums
- Jason Neville-Background Vocals

Special Guest:

- Ray Parker Jr.-Awarding Winning Artist, Songwriter and Producer
- Stanton Moore-Drummer/Galactic
- Anders Osborne-Singer Songwriter



Job Opportunity

Administrative Assistant Wanted

Data News Weekly, “The People’s Paper,” is looking for an administrative assistant.

Compensation is competitive and detail orientation will be appreciated.

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