

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

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January 18 - January 24, 2025 59th Year Volume 38 www.ladatanews.com

A Data News Weekly Exclusive

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ABCT Reality Teen Talk TV

Defining MLK's Dream for the Next Generation



Anthony Bean Community Theater (ABCT) is celebrating its 25th Anniversary with programming that showcases the talented young people hosting “ABCT Teen Talk TV” a series airing on WUPL-TV beginning January 18, 2025. “In my many years in the theater and community, I always felt it was always important to use this platform to help young people find their voice and reach their full potential and not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character,” says ABCT Founder, Anthony Bean.

Edwin Buggage
Editor-in-Chief Data News Weekly

As we are on the eve of this year’s MLK Day, it is important to note that these are truly turbulent and uncertain times where voices of reason are needed. In its 25th year, The Anthony Bean Community Theater

(ABCT) continues to make an impact with thought-provoking entertainment, education, and highlighting the best of New Orleans. ABCT Founder Anthony Bean is excited to announce the airing of the second season of “ABCT Reality Teen Talk TV” the critically acclaimed TV talk show hosted by his teen actors.

“In my many years in the theater and the commu-

nity, I felt it was always important to use this platform to help young people find their voice and reach their full potential and be judged not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character,” Bean told Data News Weekly.

Echoing the same theme ABCT youth Angel West says, “Dr. King’s vision was that each person would be

Data News Weekly in partnership with the Anthony Bean will broadcast episodes of ABCT Reality Teen Talk TV on My54-WUPL and on ladatanews.com.
Check out Data News Weekly. The People’s Paper. Lighting the Road to Future for nearly 60 years.

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ABCT TEEN TALK TV

SATURDAYS @ 10:30AM
JAN. 18 - APR. 5 | WUPL-TV

ANTHONYBEANTHEATER.COM

Guest **Edward Buckles** Filmmaker
Guest **Oliver Thomas** Councilman
Guest **Susan Hutson** Sheriff
Guest **Jason Williams** Dist. Attorney
Guest **Eugene Green** Councilman

my 54 WUPL-TV

judged by the content of their character, not the color of their skin. He gave people hope and inspired dreams, and I look at the world in the same sense of possibility, knowing I can achieve anything I set my mind to."

"Dr. King risked his life for freedom and justice for all. I believe great progress has been made, but there is much more to accomplish. Teaching us that we must never stop fighting, no matter how difficult the journey becomes," says ABCT youth Floyd Bean.

While progress for African Americans and other marginalized groups is undeniable, the dream MLK spoke

of in 1963 is still not a reality.

"It's a day meant for unity, for coming together to build a world where freedom rings for all. But this day also exposes some uncomfortable truths. We speak his name while violence claims our communities. We celebrate his dream while brothers and sisters are gunned down, unjustly jailed, and buried under the weight of prejudice. We walk into schools where we're misunderstood, disrespected, and labeled, then wonder why education feels broken. We thank Dr. King for a day off from work but forget to thank him for the right to stand with dignity, demand equality, and

walk with pride," says ABCT youth, Jordan Davis.

The program will provide teenagers with a platform to discuss the issues they confront daily. Each episode will feature dramatizations of a variety of topics that teenagers struggle with, followed by in-depth discussions that delve into the causes of these issues and propose potential solutions. Topics will include the Black Lives Matter Movement, sex, fears, drug use, grief, crime, bullying, theft, racial discrimination, and systemic racism. The show will also feature elected, civic, educational, and business leaders engaged in in-depth

discussions, sharing their thoughts with the ABCT youth.

These young people are standing on the shoulders of many of the giants of social uplift that came before them. "Dr. King is more than a man; he is a movement. Teaching me that when you stand for right, others will follow. Even in the face of fierce opposition, he never wavered in his commitment to justice," says ABCT youth, LouRian Jiles.

The discussions will raise awareness about important community issues and equip teens with tools and resources to create positive change. "ABCT Reality Teen Talk TV" will be broad-

cast on My54-WUPL.

"MLK's teachings remind me that with courage, determination, and unity, we can continue pushing forward, breaking down barriers, and achieving the dreams we once thought were impossible," says ABCT youth Javiann Harrell.

"Dr. King's message of hope and determination pushes me to create art that uplifts and unites, proving that in the face of struggle, creativity and purpose can spark lasting change," says ABCT youth Jordan Bates.

Beaming with pride regarding the ABCT youth and their hard work and dedication, Bean says, "The goal of the program is to build bridges of understanding surrounding the issues that affect our community. Also, we hope to showcase our young people in a positive light and prepare them to be future leaders in our city, state, and nation."

You can also follow each interview on ladatanews.com.

For more information go to www.anthonybeantheater.com

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Be Fur-Real



Tracee Dundas
Fashion Stylist

Photos by: The Fur Salon @ Saks Fifth Avenue

As winter settles in New Orleans, famously known for warm, humid air – gives way to chilly cold fronts that sweeps in during January and February. While the crisp temperatures are fleeting, they bring the perfect opportunity to showcase the unique sense of style when it comes to adding fur to your fashion ensemble.

Whether real and faux, fur always take center stage in New Orleans winter fashion. Luxurious fur-trimmed collars or full fur coats are often seen in deeper shades of brown, burgundy, or emerald—a perfect color palette for Mardi Gras season. The juxtaposition of traditional Southern warmth and the extravagance of fur evokes the city's blend of cultures and elegance.

In addition to coats, fur accents can be spotted everywhere, adding a touch of luxury and warmth to every look. Fur-trimmed boots, often paired with tailored trousers or cozy dresses, offer both style and function, keeping feet warm without sacrificing elegance. Statement fur hats and scarves are also popular, with plush pom-poms on beanies or sleek fur stoles draped over shoulders adding a playful yet sophisticated edge to the ensemble, perfect for the occasional cold front.

It's all about blending practicality with flair, that will make a bold statement when the mercury dips. Whether draped over a sequin dress for a night out or paired with casual denim for a stroll through the Quarter, you can be certain to see fur-inclusive fashions adding a touch of opulence and warmth to every outfit, capturing the city's vibrant spirit and its cool-weather flair.



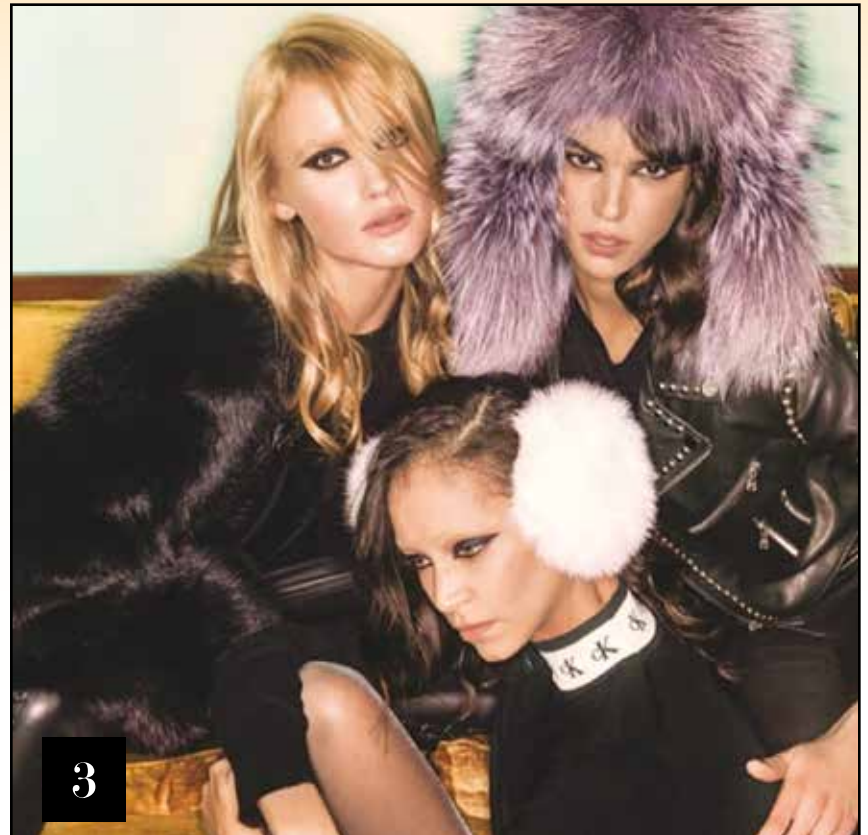
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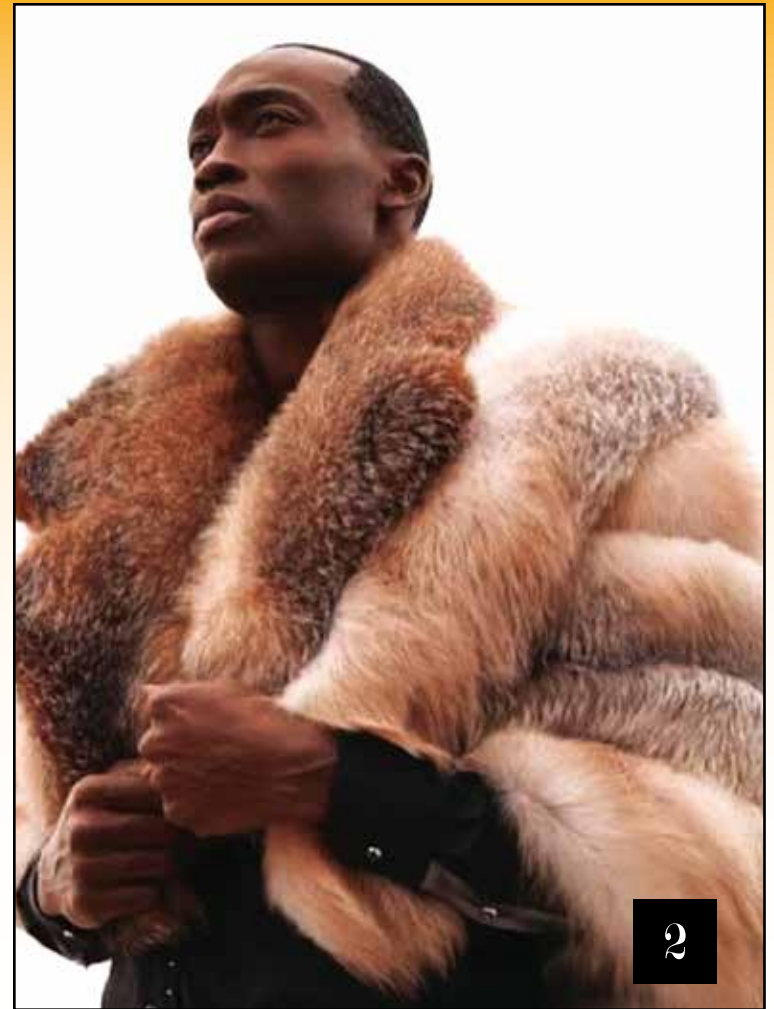
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1. Claire Sulmers wears Zuhair Murad goat and fox cape from The Fur Salon at Saks Fifth Avenue
2. Golden Island fox crop cape from The Fur Salon at Saks Fifth Avenue
3. Fox hat and earmuffs as featured in D4 Magazine from The Fur Salon at Saks Fifth Avenue
4. Famed photographer Ezequiel de la Rosa wears chinchilla vest from The Fur Salon at Saks Fifth Avenue
5. Leopard fur coat and Ganni Bou mini bag from The Fur Salon at Saks Fifth Avenue
6. Monique L'huillier grey mink bolero with fuschia embellishments as featured in JEZ Magazine from The Fur Salon at Saks Fifth Avenue
7. Bibhu Mohapatra grey mink jacket from The Fur Salon at Saks Fifth Avenue
8. Christian Dior black/white checked mink hooded duffle and vest from The Fur Salon at Saks Fifth Avenue

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



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A Time to Break Silence

African American Roots/American Fruits

The MLK Exhibition Celebrates 29 Years



Janet Tobias, Reverend Marie Ortiz, Lea Ambrose, and Jeffery Ambrose



Charlie T. Johnson, exhibit coordinator standing in front of his mixed media art "Love Triumphant"

Data News Staff Edited Report

The New Orleans Martin Luther King Jr. Exhibition Council has the responsibility to plan and raise funds for the Annual National Conference of Artists Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Art Exhibition. The 2025 MLK Exhibition in New Orleans is in two places. The artwork will be displayed at the New Orleans Rosa Keller Library by local artists Larry Ra has an opening reception on January 11th and close on March 31st. The second exhibition site at the Ashé Cultural Arts Center opens on January 18th and last until March 31, 2025, is a National Juried Exhibition with artists from New Orleans and around the country.

Artwork was chosen based on its creator's ability to visually interpret this year's theme: A Time to Break Silence: African Roots/ American Fruits. Visiting the MLK Exhibition had become a tradition for some people and was one of the highlights of activities for the New Orleans' Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Observances. The exhibition offers diverse opportunities for local students, first-time or infrequent exhibitors, and established artists. It provided on-site opening receptions, a catalog, tours, educational experiences, speakers, and art sales. We give first, second, and third place recognition in two categories, adults and students, whose artwork best depicted the exhibition's theme.



The National Conference of Artists, Inc. (NCA) preserves, promotes, and develops African and African American culture and the creative forces of artists that emanate from the African World Experience. The NCA MLK Commemorative Art Exhibition celebrates the life and legacy of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the Civil Rights Movement, and those working to further peace and human understanding. Through the arts and related activities, we recognize people around the world who work tirelessly for peace, justice, and responsible environmental cohabitation. The New Orleans Martin Luther King Jr. Exhibition Council (MLKEC) provides administrative and financial support for the Annual National Conference of Artists, Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Art Exhibition, and related activities.

State & Local News

Celebrating Janiya Amani Belle

2025 8th Grade Student of the Year Regional Honoree

New Orleans Agenda

Dear Algiers Charter Community,

It is with great pride and joy that I share some truly exciting news. Please join me in celebrating Janiya Amani Belle, an 8th-grade student at Behrman Middle School, who has been named a 2025 Student of the Year Regional Honoree by the Louisiana Department of Education.

This distinguished recognition honors Janiya's incredible accomplishments in leadership, academic excellence, service, citizenship, and personal achievements. She represents the very best of Algiers Charter and serves as an inspiration to her peers and our community.

The Students of the Year Program identifies exceptional students from across the state, with



Behrman Middle School Student Janiya Amani Belle has been named a 2025 Student of the Year Honoree by the Louisiana Department of Education. She is pictured with Dr. Tammi Griffin-Major, CEO of Algiers Charter.

honorees chosen through a rigorous selection process representing public, charter, and nonpublic schools. Janiya's commitment and hard work have earned her this remarkable honor, and we couldn't be more thrilled to celebrate her success.

As we look forward to the announcement of BESE Region Finalists later this school year, we remain proud of all that Janiya has achieved. She has brought immense pride to Behrman Middle School and the entire Algiers Charter family.

Congratulations, Janiya! We are honored to celebrate this incredible milestone with you.

Warm regards,
Dr. Tammi Griffin-Major
CEO, Algiers Charter
Louisiana-Students-of-the-Year

Data News Weekly in partnership with the Anthony Bean will broadcast episodes of ABCT Reality Teen Talk TV on My54-WUPL and on ladatanews.com.

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Los Angeles's Historic Black Community Devastated by Eaton Canyon Fires

Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

As flames tore through the picturesque foothills of Altadena and Pasadena on January 7, 2025, the Eaton Canyon fires left a historic Black community—rooted in the Civil Rights Movement—nearly wiped out. Among the hardest-hit areas in Los Angeles County, Altadena has seen its many Black-owned homes, churches, businesses, and landmarks reduced to ashes.

The unincorporated community in the San Gabriel Valley, home to 42,000 residents, has long stood as a beacon of Black homeownership and middle-class stability. With 18% of its population identifying as Black, Altadena also hosts a diverse community that includes Latino and Asian American residents. Tragically, the Eaton Fire alone destroyed over 1,000 structures, killed at least five residents in Altadena and displaced thousands.

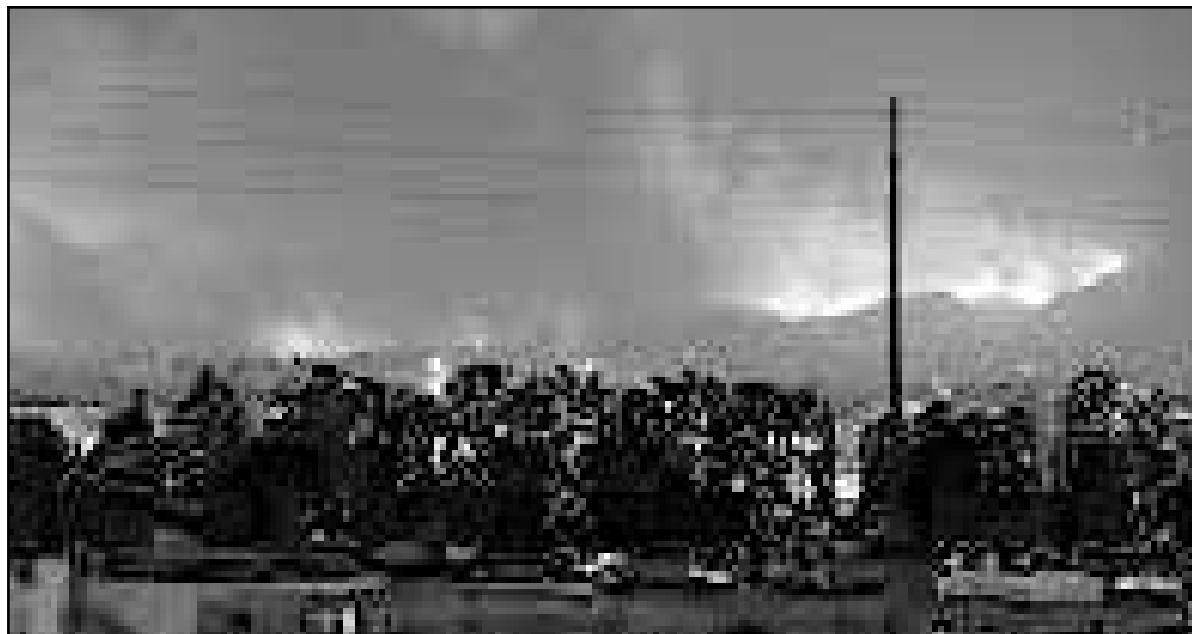
"Obviously it's been a tough couple of days, but our family is making it through," Los Angeles Sentinel Publisher Danny Bakewell Jr. said in a text to NNPA. "Both my girlfriend & my son lost their homes & the devastation is unreal for so many families—a lot of Black folks."

Jamal-Dominique Hopkins, a native of Altadena, lost his beloved childhood home on Loma Alta Drive to the blaze. His mother, Ruthie Hopkins, 81, and his son, Joshua, narrowly escaped thanks to the swift actions of Hopkins' older brother, who evacuated them to safety.

Hopkins described the devastation in a GoFundMe post, writing, "This isn't just a loss for our family; it's a loss for a community that has thrived despite challenges."

Ruthie Hopkins, the former editor and co-owner of The Pasadena Journal, a Black-owned newspaper, has been a cornerstone of the community for decades. The newspaper is a member of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), which represents the Black Press of America and is celebrating its 198th Anniversary in March.

The fire also destroyed the



Among the hardest-hit areas in Los Angeles County, Altadena has seen its many Black-owned homes, churches, businesses, and landmarks reduced to ashes.

family's SUV, which was vital for Ruthie's medical appointments. Now, she and Joshua are left with only the clothes they wore when escaping.

A Legacy Reduced to Ashes

Altadena's Black community flourished during the Civil Rights Movement, growing from 4% of the population in 1960 to 27% by 1970, following the passage of the Fair Housing Act in 1968. It became a haven for Black families seeking to escape discrimination elsewhere, offering homeownership opportunities unavailable in most parts of the country.

Before the fire, Altadena boasted a Black homeownership rate of 81.5%, nearly double the national average for African Americans. Families like Kenneth Snowden's embodied this legacy. Snowden's family purchased their first Altadena home in 1962, and nearly 20 years ago, Snowden bought his own home in the area. Both properties were destroyed in the fire.

"Your \$40 million home is no different than my \$2 million home," Snowden told reporters. "Give us the ability to rebuild, restart our lives. If you can spend billions of dollars fighting a war, you can spend a billion dollars to help us get back where we were at."

Shawn Brown, founder of Pasadena Rosebud Academy, lost her home and the Public Charter School she built to serve the community's children. Brown is working to raise funds to rebuild the school while seeking temporary locations in local churches—though some churches, like Altadena Baptist Church, have also burned.

Only the bell tower remains at Altadena Baptist. The Rev. George Van Alstine is helping church members navigate the challenges of insurance claims and federal aid. He fears the destruction will lead to gentrification, pushing out long-standing Black residents.

"We're seeing families who may have to leave because rebuilding here will be too expensive," he said.

Brown urged her fellow Black homeowners to hold onto their properties despite developers' offers. "Stand strong, rebuild, and continue the generational progress of African Americans," she said.

Mobilizing Support

The community and its allies have rallied to provide relief in response to the devastation. James Bryant, a partner at the Cochran Firm, organized a GoFundMe Campaign with support from Ivie McNeil Wyatt Purcell and Diggs, the Prince Hall Masons, and Community Advocate

Jasmyne Cannick. The campaign has raised nearly \$100,000 to assist Black residents of Pasadena and Altadena.

"The loss of a home is about more than property. It's the loss of memories, mementos, and generational pride," Bryant said.

Another GoFundMe Campaign created by Hopkins aims to help his mother and son rebuild their lives, covering temporary housing, medical supplies, clothing, and other necessities.

The Spill App has also compiled a comprehensive list of African American families and individuals affected by the fires, helping coordinate donations and relief efforts.

NNPA President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. has maintained close contact with NNPA-member newspapers and media companies in Southern California, including David Miller of Our Weekly, Kenneth Miller of Inglewood Today and Pluria Marshall of the Los Angeles Wave. Both Miller and Marshall confirmed their staff are safe but noted the community's urgent need for support.

Donations to Hopkins' Campaign can be made via GoFundMe. Supplies, including clothing, toiletries, and blankets, can be dropped off at Prince Hall, 9027 S. Figueroa St., Los Angeles, CA.

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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!

Job Opportunity

Administrative Assistant Wanted

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