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New Orleans

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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

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Travis Lyons

A Grand Marshal for Change in New Orleans



Family is a cornerstone for community advocate Travis Lyons, who continues to serve New Orleans with passion and purpose. Pictured with his daughter, Ebony Jenkins, and grandson, Jhase Wright.

Edwin Buggage
Editor-in-Chief Data News Weekly

A Life Dedicated to Service

Travis Lyons is more than a community advocate, he is a force for change, a mentor, and a relentless voice for healing and transformation in New Orleans. As President of the Perfect Gentlemen Social Aid & Pleasure Club, Lyons has spent decades channeling the resilience of the Black Community into visible, vibrant action. His leadership breathes new life into tradition, especially through the club’s iconic Sunday Second Line Parades, which not only celebrate heritage but also foster unity and hope in neighborhoods that need it most. On June 15, 2025, the club is holding a second line that centers on Men’s Health.

“Growing up in New Orleans and coming out of the Magnolia Project,” Lyons recalls, “I felt like if I had an opportunity to do better, I would make a difference in the community I come from. I’ve been fortunate to become successful in my own right and been able to give back.”

Mentorship and Youth Advocacy

Beyond his cultural work, Lyons is deeply invested in mentoring the city’s youth, particularly Black boys and young men. Whether speaking at schools around the city or organizing anti-violence rallies, he brings both urgency and empathy to his advocacy.

“I’ve done a lot of mentoring, going to schools to talk to kids about staying away from drugs, gun violence, and things of that nature,” he explains. “I was organizing marches to stop youth violence when we started losing kids in our community, 16, 17, 18 years old. When you see that happening, you have to do something because our kids are the future of this city.”

He doesn’t just talk the talk; he’s created the infrastructure for change. Lyons founded Central City

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Youth Against Violence and The Forgotten Man, programs that center youth development and healing intergenerational wounds.

"With The Forgotten Man, we teach kids about their parents, especially their incarcerated fathers, and we bring them to Angola State Penitentiary or local jails to meet their fathers for the first time. Mentoring programs like these are close to my heart and mission to uplift my community."

Entrepreneurship as Empowerment

Lyons believes economic empowerment is central to community healing. He owns multiple businesses, including a security company, real estate holdings, transportation services (featuring sprinters, limos, and SUVs), and a music label, II Fire Records.

"Whatever I can do to help people in the community, give rides for cheap or free, open the studio for young brothers and sisters to record their music and express themselves, I do it. It's all about reaching the younger generation and giving them options, so they can succeed."

Second Line Culture as a Platform for Health and Healing

Travis Lyons has been immersed in New Orleans' second line tradition for over 50 years, using it as a stage for community outreach and public health awareness.

"I've been in the second line culture since I was five years old, Perfect Gentlemen for 35 years. I use this platform to raise awareness around HIV, drugs, violence, prostate cancer—everything our people face. We've lost a lot of fathers to gun violence. We are a village, and we have to do better at raising our youth." In a city facing profound challenges, Lyons is steadfast in his commitment to collective healing.

"The city's going through a lot. I'm addicted to New Orleans. I partnered with the Nation of Islam to do this historic second line to promote prayer, peace, and healing."

Health equity is also a core part of his mission.

"I've lost friends and employees to prostate cancer. Our men must get checked, it's life or death, also HIV education remains essential."



Travis Lyons, a dedicated advocate for youth, family, and fatherhood, has mentored his son Traion Lyons (pictured as a child) from a young age, along with many others, to become community advocates. Today, Traion, now a recording artist known as Tlyons, works alongside his father in the community, continues the second line tradition, and creates music in the Southern soul genre.

A Legacy Rooted in Love and Responsibility

At the heart of Lyons's work is family and a desire to build a better future for the generations to come.

"I love my kids and grandkids, and I want to be part of the change that makes life better for them and other kids in our community."

Through mentorship, entrepreneurship, and cultural celebration, Travis Lyons is more than a pillar of his community; he's building a foundation for its future.



Community advocate Travis Lyons stands as a steadfast leader in New Orleans, known for his work uplifting youth, promoting fatherhood, and preserving Black cultural traditions through mentorship and the city's vibrant second line parades.

Perfect Gentleman Social Aid and Pleasure Club/ Nation of Islam Father's Day Second Line to support Prostate Cancer and HIV Awareness. Time June 15, 2025 at 3:45 PM beginning at 2626 Magnolia Street.

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Making Waves



Tracee Dundas
Fashion Stylist

Photos: Courtesy of the Brands

As the heat rises so does the desire to make a bold splash with swimwear that celebrates culture, confidence, and curves. This season swimwear trends are merging high fashion and embraces the beauty of diverse body types—think dramatic cutouts, metallic fabrics, textured knits, vibrant Afro-Caribbean and Latin prints, and elevated textures that glisten like beads on a Mardi Gras Costume. Across New Orleans' rooftop pools and beach getaways along the Gulf Coast, it's clear: this summer is all about turning heads and honoring identity.

Stylish swimwear isn't just about what you wear in the water—it's also about how you transition. Breezy cover-ups in sheer mesh, lightweight linen, or matching sarongs are proving essential for going from poolside to café in effortless style. Tunics with bold prints and kimono-style robes are the new summer staples, doubling as statement pieces off the sand. Designers are crafting swimwear that moves seamlessly from poolside to party, with high-waisted bottoms, dramatic sleeves, and matching coverups that feel just as fitting for a rooftop pool or a weekend getaway to the Gulf Coast. Afrocentric prints and rich jewel tones dominate the color story, mirroring the vibrancy of New Orleans itself—colors that pop against melanin-rich skin and make a statement without saying a word.

Many Black-Owned swimwear brands are leading this movement, blending fashion with functionality, and creating space for women to feel seen and celebrated among the stand-out brands this season: BFyne, known



Group Photo Black & Sheer 1PC: Designer BFyne



Orange Fishnet Coverup: Designer Matte Collection



Sheer Ja-
maica Tee:
Designer
Samantha B



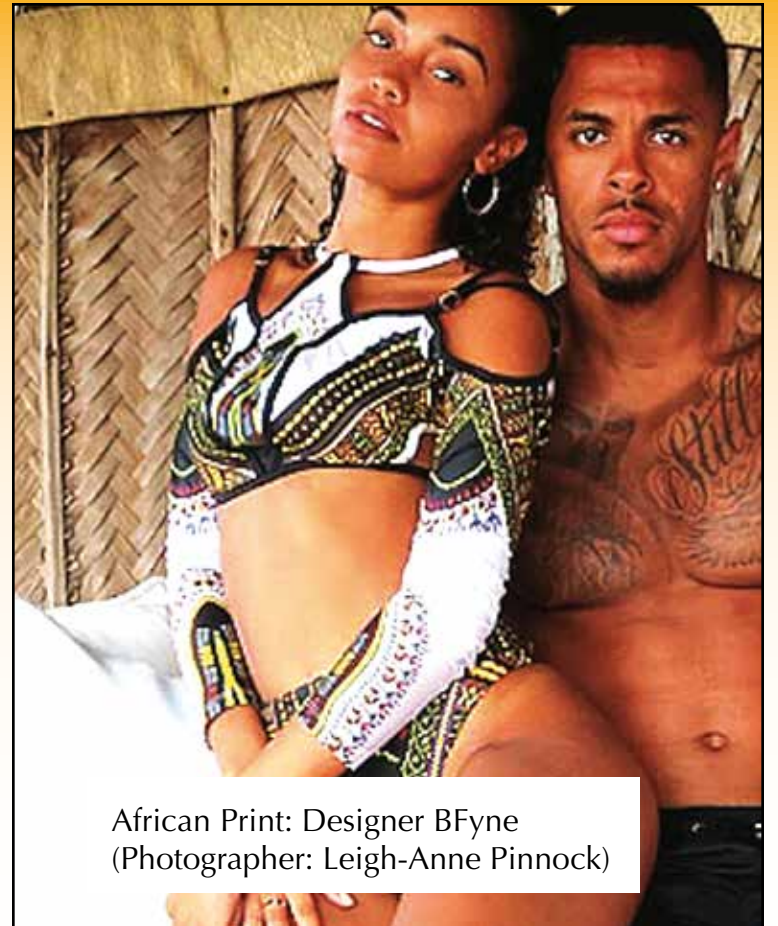
Emerald Green 2PC & Sheer Hoodie
Maxi Coverup: Designer Matte
Collection

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



Black Crepe: Designer Ego Swim



African Print: Designer BFyne
(Photographer: Leigh-Anne Pinnock)



Pink Sheer Skirt:
Designer Samantha B



Leather Top & Ivory Lace
Maxi Skirt: Designer Ego
Swim



Lime Green 2PC: Designer BFyne

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for its daring, Afrocentric silhouettes; Ego Swim, which fuses bold hues with body-positive cuts; and Samantha Black's Sammy B Designs, delivering runway-level swim looks with a streetwear edge. All bring undeniable flair and celebrate women of color with designs that empower and elevate.

Whether lounging at Bayou St. John, brunching after a dip at the Country Club, or planning your next beach escape, embrace swimwear that speaks to who you are—unapologetically vibrant, Southern, and stylish.

Annual Golf Tournament to Support Hon. Chelsey Richard Napoleon

Data News Staff Edited Report

The community is invited to enjoy a day of fellowship, friendly competition, and fundraising at the Annual Golf Tournament in support of Hon. Chelsey Richard Napoleon, Clerk of Civil District Court for Orleans Parish. The event will take place on Saturday, June 21, 2025, at the Historic Joseph M. Bartholomew, Sr. Municipal Golf Course, located at 6514 Congress Drive, New Orleans, LA 70126.

Tournament Schedule:

7:30 a.m. – Registration



8:30 a.m. – Shotgun Start
12:00 p.m. – Awards Presentation & Luncheon

Golfers will also have the chance to compete in the exciting \$20,000 Hole-In-One Competition (terms and conditions apply), adding an extra layer of excitement to the day.

Sponsorship and Participation Opportunities:

Titanium Sponsor – \$5,000
Prime luncheon signage, prominent inclusion on promotional materials, course signage, golf for 8
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Inclusion on promotional materials, course signage, golf for 4

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Golf for 4 players

Individual Player – \$250

Will be matched into a team of four

Hole Sponsor – \$200

per hole sign

Maximum individual

contribution: \$12,000

Join us for a day that combines sport, service, and community spirit, all in support of Hon. Chelsey Richard Napoleon's continued leadership and dedication to the people of New Orleans.

State & Local News

UNO to Join LSU System Following Legislative Approval

Benjamin Bates Data News Weekly Contributor

The University of New Orleans is set to transition into the LSU System following legislative approval aimed at stabilizing the financially challenged institution. The move comes after years of declining enrollment, budget constraints, and program reductions under the University of Louisiana System.

The bill, now awaiting the governor's signature, not only facilitates UNO's shift into the LSU System but also transfers its assets, liabilities, and obligations.

UNO President Kathy Johnson responded to the legislative action with optimism about the university's future:

"Today's passage of legislation approving the University of New Orleans' transition to the LSU System marks the beginning of an important new chapter in our institution's history," said Johnson. "This move, recommended unanimously by the Louisiana Board of Regents



and supported by Governor Jeff Landry and the Louisiana Legislature, reflects a shared commitment to securing UNO's long-term financial health and elevating its impact as a research-driven, student-centered public university."

Johnson emphasized that the university's primary focus remains supporting its students, faculty,

and staff through the transition, while positioning the institution for academic growth and economic relevance in the New Orleans Region.

"Joining the LSU System offers new opportunities for collaboration, innovation, and investment," she added. "Change on this scale requires careful planning and coordination. We are committed to

ensuring a smooth and transparent transition and to honoring the spirit of UNO as we move forward."

In closing, President Johnson thanked the broader UNO Community for its continued support and belief in the university's mission, vowing to continue advancing the institution in service of New Orleans and the State of Louisiana.

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Black Cities Targeted Again? Trump's Federal Playbook Expands



Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

As National Guard troops flood into Los Angeles at President Donald Trump's command—without the consent of California's governor—Black communities across the United States are seeing history repeat itself. The aggressive federal response mirrors what unfolded in Washington, D.C. in 2020, when Trump deployed federal forces to crush protests for George Floyd, resulting in the teargassing of peaceful demonstrators outside the White House. Now, with immigration raids sparking protest in majority-Black and Latino neighborhoods in Los Angeles like Compton and Paramount, Trump has again used federal troops to confront civilians.

For Black communities in Atlanta, Detroit, Baltimore, Memphis, New Orleans, and other cities where resistance often rises from the streets, the latest crackdown in Los Angeles is not just another news story—it's a clear and dangerous signal.

Here are five reasons why Black communities nationwide should be paying attention:

The Federal Response in L.A. Mirrors 2020's Assault on Black Protestors

What Trump is doing in Los Angeles—using military force against protestors without state consent—is the same tactic used against Black-led protests in 2020. From Minneapolis to Washington, D.C., Black communities bore the brunt of that crackdown. This is not a new chapter—it's a rerun.

Cities with High Black Populations Are Often Epicenters for Protest

Cities like Atlanta, Chicago, Memphis, and Ferguson have been home to historic uprisings against police violence and systemic racism. These cities are likely to be on the federal radar again if unrest rises—especially under a Trump administration with expanded authority and a clear record of targeting protest.

Project 2025 Would Strip Civil Rights Protections and Expand Federal Policing

Project 2025, developed by Trump allies at the Heritage Foundation, outlines plans to dismantle the DOJ's civil rights division, roll back diversity programs, and grant the president sweeping control over law enforcement. That puts Black-led movements, Black mayors, and Black communities directly in harm's way.

Federal Overreach Bypasses Local Black Leadership

Many majority-Black cities are led by Black mayors and city councils. But in 2020 and now again in 2025, the Trump administration has shown a willingness to ignore or override local Black leadership, sending in troops regardless of opposition. That same strategy could be applied to any Black-run city.

Trump's Rhetoric Continues to Criminalize Black Dissent

Trump's language—labeling protestors as “looters” and “thugs”—was widely condemned in 2020 as racist and inflammatory. Now, he's using it again in response to the L.A. demonstrations. Black voices demanding justice are still being framed as threats, justifying federal crackdowns in ways that disproportionately affect Black communities.

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Compensation is competitive and great story ideas will be appreciated.

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Phone Number:	Email Address:

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