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New Orleans

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News Weekly

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Model
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Data Zone
Page 4

June 28 - July 4, 2025 60th Year Volume 9 www.ladatanews.com

A Data News Weekly Exclusive

New Orleans' Enduring Legacy in Black Music



Lil Wayne



Louis Armstrong



Aaron Neville



Irma Thomas



Ledisi

Page 2



Newsmaker
Growing
Iran-Israel
Conflict

Page 6

State & Local
Carter Introduces
Bill to Strengthen
Port Infrastructure



Page 6



Mahalia Jackson



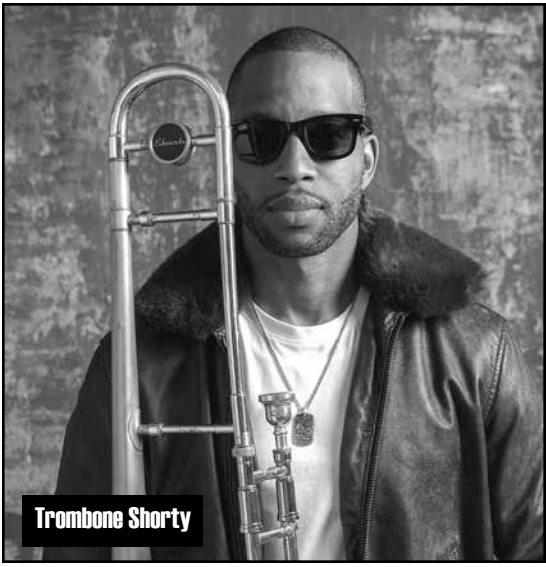
Irma Thomas



Ledisi



Louis Armstrong



Trombone Shorty



Mia X

New Orleans' Enduring Legacy in Black Music

Fleur De Lis
Data News Weekly Contributor

A Cultural Melting Pot of Sound
The city's African, Caribbean, and Creole influences created a unique sonic melting pot that shaped not only

American genres but also inspired global movements in music and culture. New Orleans gave rise to Jazz Legends like Louis Armstrong, Sidney Bechet, and Jelly Roll Morton, whose work laid the foundation for modern music. It is the home of Gospel Great Mahalia Jackson, whose soaring voice became the soundtrack of both faith and the Civil Rights Movement.

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	Fleur De Lis	Production
Edwin Buggage	Tracee Dundas	Pubinator.com
Editor	Bobby Lee	Editorial and
Sharonda Green	Benjamin Bates	Advertising Inquiries
Executive Assistant	DNW Staff Writer	datanewsweeklyad@gmail.com
June Hazeur	Lauren Burke	Distribution
Chief Operating Officer		by Terrence Lee

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Cover Story, Continued from page 2.

A Legacy of Musical Icons

The city's legacy also includes Funk Pioneers like The Meters and Dr. John; R&B and Soul Stars such as Irma Thomas, Aaron Neville, and Allen Toussaint; and Hip-Hop and Bounce Trailblazers like Juvenile, Lil Wayne, Mannie Fresh, Big Freedia, and 5th Ward Weebie. Contemporary Artists such as PJ Morton, Ledisi, and Trombone Shorty continue to push the boundaries of the New Orleans sound while staying rooted in the traditions that shaped them.

Spaces That Nurture and Sustain

Beyond individual artists, New Orleans has also nurtured institutions and cultural spaces that preserve and propel Black Music Traditions. Landmarks such as Preservation Hall, Tipitina's, and the Historic Dew Drop Inn have served as vital stages for Black Musicians to showcase their artistry. Community events like the Jazz & Heritage Festival, French Quarter Festival, and countless second lines ensure that music

remains deeply embedded in everyday life, bridging generations and bringing people together in celebration and resistance.

Global and Lasting Influence

The influence of New Orleans extends far beyond its borders. Its rhythms can be heard in the sounds of Rio de Janeiro, Havana, Lagos, and Paris. Its improvisational spirit has inspired genres from ska to soul, from blues to beat-making. Whether through the syncopation of jazz or the call-and-response of bounce, New Orleans' Musical DNA continues to shape global music in profound and dynamic ways.

A Living, Breathing Tradition

New Orleans' Music is more than performance, it's a living, breathing expression of resilience, identity, history, and hope. It tells the story of struggle and triumph, of migration and memory, of everyday Black life turned into song, rhythm, and dance.



Lil Wayne

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Strike a Pose

NOFW Model Casting Is Here!



Tracee Dundas
Fashion Stylist

Photographer Credit: Bobby Lee | @vivyd.magazine

The spotlight is calling, and it could be calling your name. New Orleans Fashion Week is back, and with it comes one of the most exciting opportunities of the year: the official model casting.

For aspiring and established models alike, this is the moment to make your mark and join the ranks of a growing list of NOFW Alumni Models who have gone on to sign with top agencies, appear in national campaigns, and walk in major fashion weeks across the country. NOFW has become a celebrated platform that launches careers, and the casting call is the first step toward the runway and beyond. "We're looking for fresh faces, confidence, and individuality," said a representative for NOFW. "We welcome models of all backgrounds, genders, and sizes. Diversity and authenticity are what define this event and the Spirit of New Orleans." This isn't just a chance to walk in front of an audience; it's a gateway to national exposure, networking with influential creatives, and becoming part of a style movement that's uniquely New Orleans.

This year promises to be bigger and bolder, with fashion influencers, media, and scouts watching closely. If you've ever dreamed of owning the runway, this is your time to shine. Bring your confidence, passion, and come ready to slay! You never know who will be watching.

The model casting is Saturday, June 28th 10AM-2PM at Paul Mitchell School of Cosmetology, Metairie, LA. Visit www.neworleansfashionweek.com for complete casting details and to register.



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



VOTE

DATA NEWS WEEKLY

Your Voice Matters

The Growing Iran-Israel Conflict and the Peril of U.S. Involvement

Benjamin Bates
Data News Weekly
Contributor

Over the weekend, the escalating conflict between Iran and Israel sparked renewed fears of a broader regional war in the Middle East—one that could once again draw the United States into a dangerous and prolonged military entanglement. As airstrikes intensify and rhetoric grows more aggressive on all sides, the U.S. faces mounting pressure to choose between deterrence, diplomacy, or direct military involvement. As voices across the political spectrum weigh in, it is critical for Americans to understand the historical context and complexities surrounding this conflict.

Background: A History of Tensions Boiling Over

The roots of the Iran-Israel conflict run deep. For decades, Israel has viewed Iran's nuclear ambitions and regional influence, especially its support for militant groups like Hezbollah and Hamas, as existential threats. Iran, for its part, has framed its opposition to Israel as part of a broader resistance against Western imperialism and Zionism.



Hostilities escalated dramatically in 2024, following the assassination of a Senior Iranian Revolutionary Guard Commander in Syria, which Tehran blamed on Israeli intelligence. What began as tit-for-tat airstrikes has now evolved into sustained military confrontations involving missile attacks, drone swarms, and naval clashes in the Persian Gulf.

Current Flashpoint: Risk of Regional Spillover

In recent weeks, Israel has struck targets deep inside Iran, including suspected nuclear fa-

cilities and military bases. Iran has responded with missile barrages targeting Israeli infrastructure and U.S. bases in Iraq. This raises the specter of a regional war involving Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and even Saudi Arabia each with its volatile alliances and rivalries.

The U.S., which maintains military forces and strategic interests across the region, is walking a tightrope. While President Trump has reiterated America's commitment to longstanding support for Israel's security, his administration is wary of being drawn into another open-ended Middle Eastern

conflict at a time when domestic fatigue over foreign wars remains high.

Potential Risks of U.S. Involvement

Wider Regional War: U.S. Military action against Iran could trigger a chain reaction, sparking attacks on U.S. allies, disrupting oil supply routes in the Strait of Hormuz, and dragging Gulf States into conflict.

Terrorism and Homeland Security: A U.S. entry into the conflict may provoke responses, including cyberattacks, sabotage, and terrorism targeting U.S. assets at home and abroad.

Economic Fallout: Oil prices are already rising amid regional instability. A full-scale war could send global energy markets into chaos, exacerbating inflation and economic inequality worldwide.

Strained International Alliances: While NATO allies may support Israel rhetorically, they are unlikely to back a U.S.-led Military Campaign against Iran. This could weaken transatlantic unity and leave Washington diplomatically isolated.

Erosion of Diplomatic Leverage: U.S. involvement could de-

stroy any remaining pathways to a negotiated nuclear deal with Iran, emboldening hardliners in Tehran and eliminating future opportunities for diplomacy.

A Choice Between Escalation and Restraint

As the drums of war grow louder, the Trump administration must weigh its next steps with extreme caution. While the U.S. has a longstanding alliance with Israel, uncritical military engagement could lead to a quagmire with devastating human, economic, and geopolitical consequences.

America's challenge lies in using its influence to de-escalate the conflict rather than inflame it. A combination of behind-the-scenes diplomacy, regional coalition-building, and strategic restraint could still prevent a wider war. The decisions made by the Trump administration will shape the future of the Middle East and America's role in it for generations to come. These choices must not be driven by political theater or spectacle, but by careful deliberation and a sincere commitment to finding compromises that promote peace and save lives.

State & Local News

Congressman Carter Introduces Bill to Strengthen Port Infrastructure and Support American Manufacturing

Data News Staff Edited Report

Congressman Troy A. Carter, Sr. (D-LA) and Congressman Mike Ezell (R-MS) have introduced the Strengthening American Maritime Dominance Act (SAMDA)—a bipartisan measure aimed at upgrading port infrastructure, supporting American manufacturing, and safeguarding thousands of jobs tied to the maritime economy.

"This legislation empowers Louisiana's ports—the backbone of our state's economy—to modernize with American-made infrastructure," said Rep. Carter. "It strengthens our national security, bolsters economic growth, and provides critical support for maritime busi-

nesses and workers. I am proud to lead this bipartisan effort with my colleague, Congressman Ezell."

The SAMDA expands the existing Capital Construction Fund (CCF) Program to allow Marine Terminal Operators (MTOs) to use tax-deferred accounts for the purchase of American-made cargo handling equipment. The goal is to streamline operations, enhance global competitiveness, and reinforce the resilience of U.S. supply chains.

"Strong ports mean a strong economy," added Rep. Ezell. "This bill promotes smart, forward-thinking investment, equipping our ports with the tools they need to thrive. For states like Mississippi and Louisiana,

this means stronger communities, more jobs, and a more secure future. I'm proud to work across the aisle with Rep. Carter to get this done."

By increasing financial flexibility for ports, SAMDA is expected to generate new employment opportunities, attract business investment, and stimulate growth in regional industries that depend on maritime trade.

Key Provisions of the Strengthening American Maritime Dominance Act:

Expands the Capital Construction Fund to support MTOs investing in U.S.-Made Cargo Equipment

Drives infrastructure upgrades

at ports across the United States

Prioritizes projects that boost American manufacturing and job creation

Improves supply chain efficiency and global competitiveness

Supports the long-term stability of the U.S. Merchant Marine Fleet

The proposed legislation underscores a united commitment to revitalizing American port infrastructure and reinforcing the nation's maritime dominance through innovation, job growth, and strategic investment.



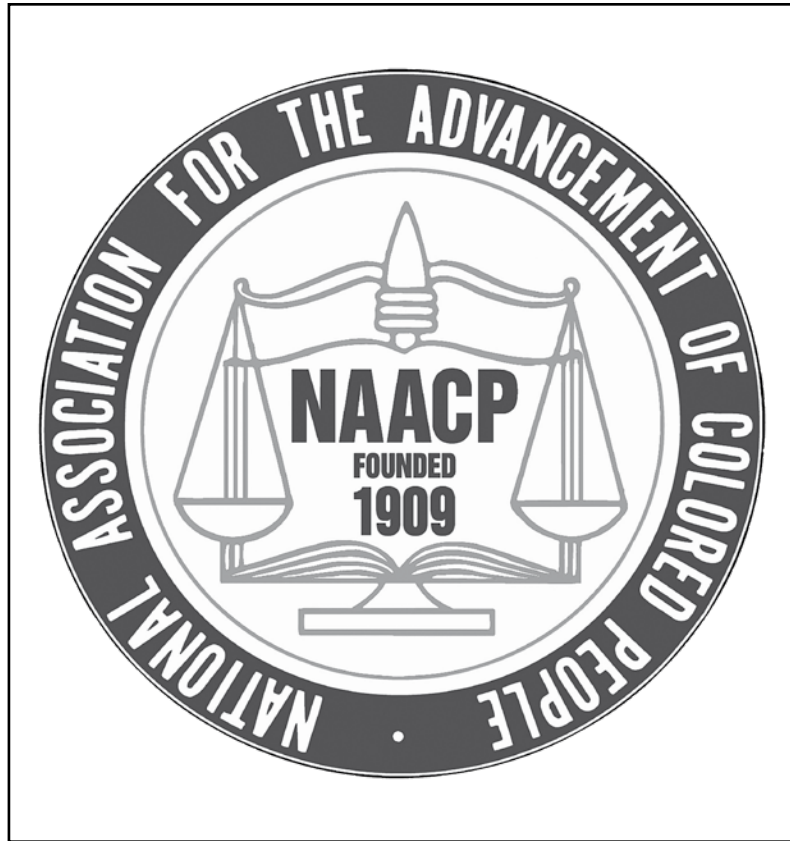
Congressman Troy A. Carter, Sr. (D-LA)
District 2.

For the First Time in its 116 Year History, the NAACP Won't invite the Sitting President to Their Annual Convention

Lauren Burke
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Citing Trump's "attacking our democracy," the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) will not invite President Donald Trump to its National Convention this year. The decision marks the first time that America's oldest Civil Rights Organization will exclude a sitting president at its convention. In a statement on the evening of June 16th, the reasons were made clear. "Donald Trump is attacking our democracy and our Civil Rights. He believes more in the fascist playbook than in the U.S. Constitution. This playbook is radical and un-American. The president has signed unconstitutional executive orders to oppress voters and undo federal Civil Rights Protections; he has illegally turned the military on our communities, and he continually undermines every pillar of our democracy to make himself more powerful and to personally benefit from the U.S. Government," the statement from the NAACP read in part.

The NAACP's Statement referred to President Trump's recent decision to send the National Guard to Los Angeles after protests against ICE Detentions and Abductions sent fear through parts of the Los Angeles community. The White House responded to the NAACP's June 16th Statement. "The NAACP isn't advancing anything but hate and division, while the President is focused on uniting our country, improving our economy, securing our borders, and establishing peace across the globe. This is the same vision for America that a record number of Black Americans supported in the resounding reelection



of President Trump," stated White House spokesperson Harrison Fields said in a written statement. Since he took office in January 2025 for his second term in The White House there has been a clear Anti-Black Policy focus pushed by the Trump Administration. Trump and members of his cabinet have constantly attacked diversity and inclusion since taking office.

The Trump Administration has also fired without cause several Black Officials in top roles such as General CQ Brown, who was Chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Dr. Carla Hayden, who served as the Librarian of Congress. It was reported in early April that books on racism, Civil Rights and the Black experience have been removed from the library at the U.S. Military Academy in Annapolis. The reason

was the stated policy by the Trump Administration against "diversity" and "inclusion."

"For 116 years, the NAACP has invited the sitting president of the United States to address the NAACP National Convention — regardless of their political party. There is a rich history of both Republicans and Democrats attending our convention — from Harry Truman to Dwight D. Eisenhower, Ronald Reagan, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, Barack Obama, and beyond. We're nonpartisan and always welcome those who believe in democracy and the Constitution," the organization led by Derrick Johnson, also stated. Republican Presidents Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush addressed racism during their speeches to the NAACP. The organization's annual convention is one of the largest gatherings of Black Leadership in the U.S. each year.

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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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ladatanews.com - The People's Website

The background of the advertisement is a Queen of Hearts playing card. It features a portrait of a Black woman with long, dark, curly hair, wearing a patterned shirt. She is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile, her hand resting near her chin. The card's background has a repeating pattern of hearts and floral motifs. The entire card is set against a solid red background.

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