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White
Linen
Night

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Data Zone
Page 4



August 2 - August 6, 2025 60th Year Volume 15 www.ladatanews.com

A Data News Weekly Exclusive

Historic Marker Unveiled Honoring Horace C. Bynum Sr.



Page 2



Newsmaker

Judaea DoQui
A Heart for Fashion,
Music, and Purpose

Page 6

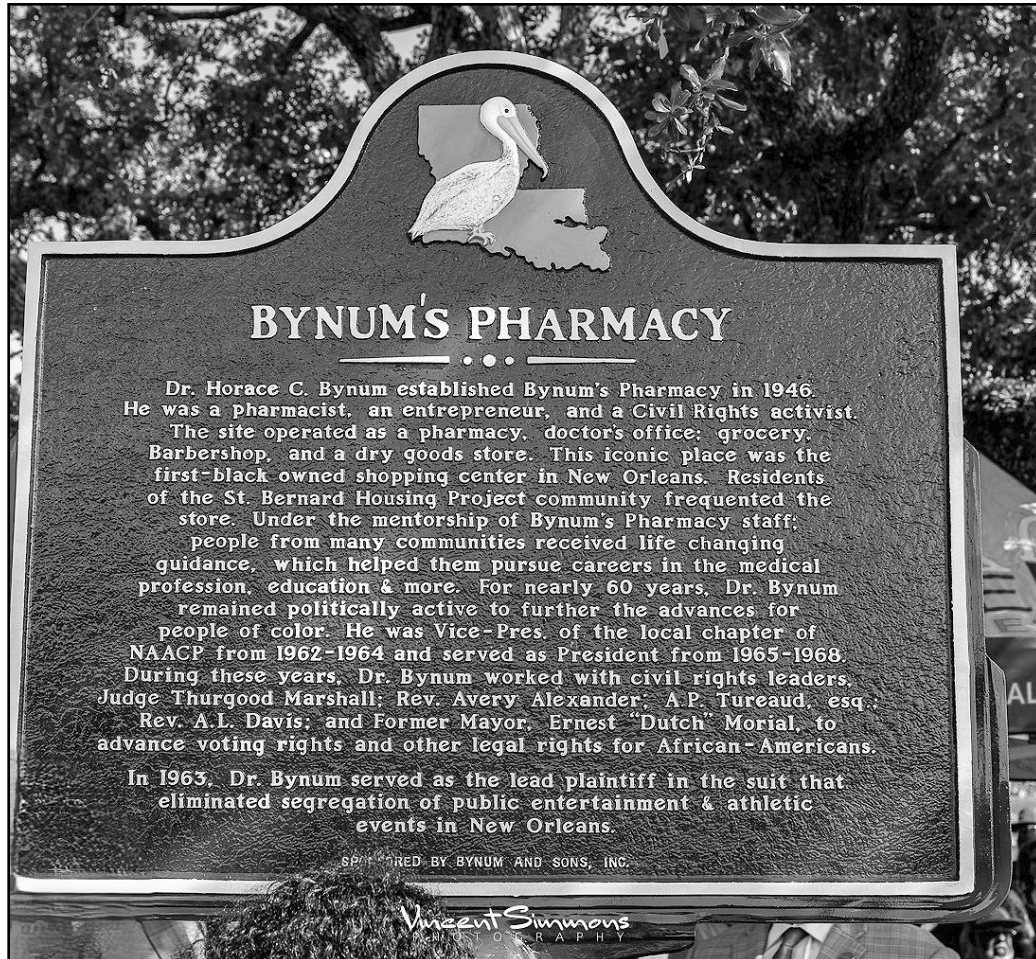
State & Local

Dillard University
Appoints New
Chief of Staff

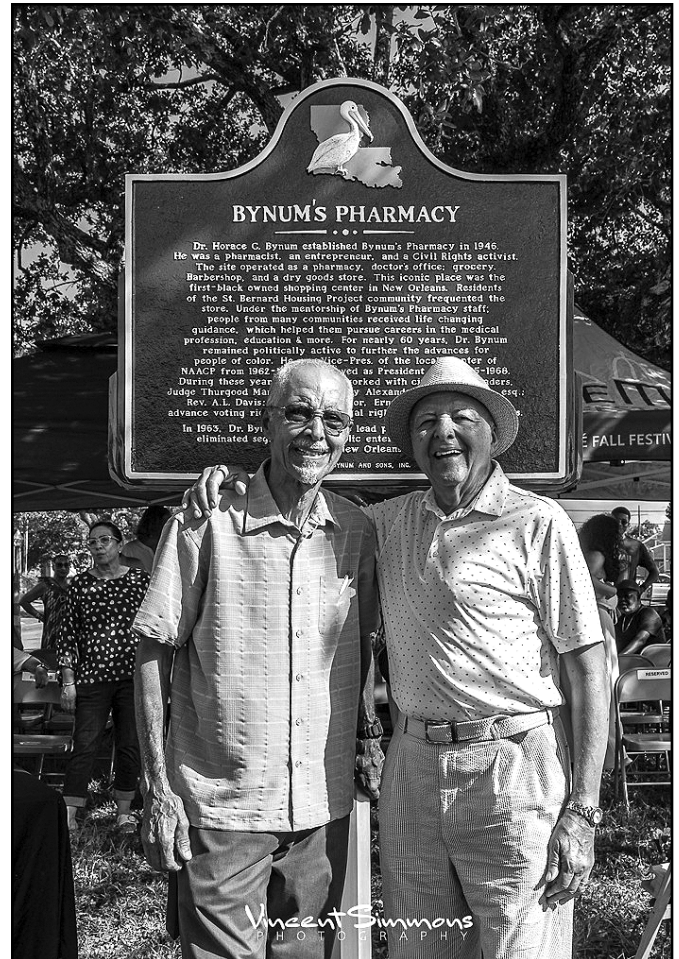


Page 6

Historic Marker Unveiled Honoring Horace C. Bynum Sr.



Historic Marker, Bynum's Pharmacy



Horace C. Bynum Jr. and Adolph Bynum Sr. (sons of Horace C Bynum Sr.)

Glenda Bell
Data News Weekly Contributor
Photos by Vincent Simmons

A large crowd gathered Sunday afternoon at 3840 St. Bernard Avenue to celebrate the unveiling of a Historic Marker honoring the Life and Legacy of Horace

C. Bynum Sr., a pioneering pharmacist, entrepreneur, and Civil Rights Leader in New Orleans. The marker stands at the former site of Bynum's Pharmacy, the business he founded during a time of limited opportunity for Black professionals in healthcare.

The ceremony began at 4:00 p.m. and was led by Mistress of Ceremonies Ilyanette Bernabel, with Mon-

signor John Cisewski delivering an opening invocation. The event brought together city officials, community leaders, historians, and members of the Bynum family, all united in honoring a man whose contributions spanned healthcare, business development, and Civil Rights Advocacy.

A native of Monroe, Louisiana, Bynum was among

Cover Story, Continued on page 3.

INSIDE DATA

Cover Story	2	Newsmaker	6
Data Zone	4	State & Local News . . .	6
Fleur De Lis	5	National News	7

DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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Please call 504-309-9913 for subscription information or to obtain a back issue of the paper ONLY.
Dated material two weeks in advance. Not responsible for publishing or return of unsolicited manuscripts or photos.

Cover Story, Continued from page 2.



Bynum Family

the early graduates of Xavier University's College of Pharmacy. Denied employment in White-owned pharmacies, he initially worked at the post office before launching Bynum's Pharmacy in 1947 in the St. Bernard Housing Development. His efforts didn't stop there; he later built the area's first Black-owned shopping center on St. Bernard Ave. and, with

his sons, developed 50 homes in what is now Village de L'Est.

"Mr. Bynum was a trailblazer not only in healthcare but in creating economic opportunities for the Black Community," said Liz Sherman, Executive Director of the Pharmacy Museum.

Former NAACP Chapter President Cyril Saulny reflected on

Bynum's instrumental leadership during the Civil Rights Movement. From 1965 to 1968, Bynum served as President of the local NAACP Chapter, collaborating with Civil Rights Icons such as Judge Thurgood Marshall, Rev. Avery Alexander, A.P. Tureaud, Rev. A.L. Davis, and Mayor Ernest "Dutch" Morial.

Attorney Ernest Jones, repre-



Saran Bynum, (granddaughter) shares her reflections on her early memories of working at the drugstore.

sented the Friends of the Louisiana Civil Rights Museum, presented the Bynum family with an official proclamation. "He was not just a businessman," said Jones, "he was a builder of a better future."

Family members Adolph By-

num Sr., Adolph Bynum Jr., and Saran Bynum offered personal reflections, standing proudly as the plaque was unveiled. Their remarks painted a picture of a man whose integrity, vision, and commitment left a lasting mark on the city.

The ceremony was attended by prominent local figures including City Councilmembers Eugene Green and Oliver Thomas, and Judge Arthur Hunter, highlighting Bynum's deep Civic Legacy.

As the sun began to set, casting a warm glow over the crowd, the unveiling served as a powerful reminder of how Horace C. Bynum Sr.'s life transformed a community. The newly installed Historic Marker not only commemorates his contributions but also stands as a lasting symbol of resilience, leadership, and progress for future generations.

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White Linen Night

A Summer Night of Art, Culture, and Fashions



Tracee Dundas
Fashion Stylist

On the first Saturday in August, New Orleans transforms into a sea of ecru and ivory for the Annual White Linen Night, a beloved summer tradition where art, culture, and fashion take center stage. Hosted in the heart of the Arts District along Julia Street, the event invites thousands of attendees to don their freshest white ensembles and explore dozens of open galleries, live music performances, and enjoying the sights of the fabulous white fashions.

It's no secret that New Orleans summers are notoriously hot and humid, so breathable fabrics like linen, cotton, and rayon take priority when choosing what to wear. White Linen Night was originally inspired by the need to beat the heat in the days before air conditioning. It has since evolved into a stylish celebration of New Orleans' thriving arts and creative communities. But make no mistake — fashion is the unofficial headline. The streets become an open-air runway as locals and visitors alike showcase their sartorial interpretations of “white hot” style. Expect to see everything from breezy linen suits and flowing sundresses to rompers and avant-garde takes with feathers, fringe, and bold accessories, such as large frame sunglasses or wide brim hats to keep the sun at bay.

Whether minimalist or maximalist, traditional or trendy, the fashion is a perfect reflection of New Orleans' spirit — expressive, fearless, and effortlessly cool. White Linen Night is more than an event — it's a cultural snapshot of style in motion.



Photo: Ellaelisque

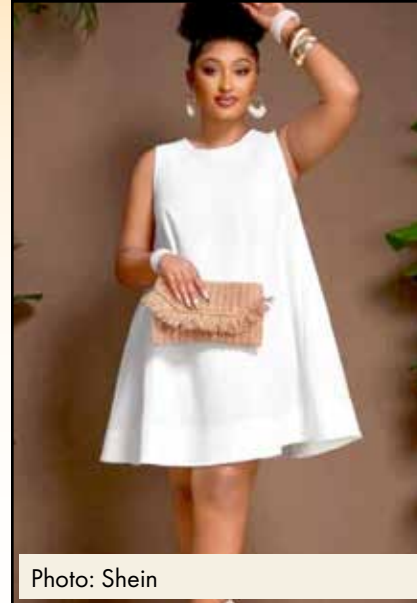


Photo: Shein



Photo: Juliusantwi



Photo: Akira



Photo: SlayDiva



Photo: Mooyius



Photo: JewelryBund



Photo: DHGate

“By The People” Debate Series Launches August 12th to Center Black and Brown Voices in New Orleans Elections

Benjamin Bates
Data News Weekly Contributor

As we near the election season, the “By The People” Debate Series, a groundbreaking civic initiative designed to center the voices, priorities, and lived experiences of Black and Brown communities in New Orleans, will launch on Monday, August 12th and continue through Monday, September 9th, culminating with the Mayoral Debate at Xavier University.

Organized by the Urban League of Louisiana, in collaboration with more than a dozen grassroots and civic partners, the series will host eight live debates across various districts and offices, offering voters the opportunity to engage directly with candidates seeking to shape the future of Orleans Parish.

Debate Schedule

Monday, August 12th
City Council District A

Loyola University
Nunemaker Hall | 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, August 15th
City Council At-Large, Division 2

McDonogh 35 Senior High School | 7:00 p.m.

Monday, August 19th
City Council District C

L.B. Landry High School | 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, August 20th
City Council District D

Dillard University

Georges Auditorium | 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 25th
City Council District E

Franklin Avenue Baptist Church | 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 3rd
City Council At-Large, Division 1

Ashé Cultural Arts Center
Powerhouse Theatre | 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 9th

BY THE PEOPLE
A CIVIC STAGE FOR CANDIDATES, COMMUNITIES & CONSEQUENCES

JOIN US FOR A DEBATE SERIES REDEFINING POWER, POLICY, AND PROGRESS FOR ORLEANS PARISH

COUNCIL SEAT A TUES, AUGUST 12 AT 7:00 PM LOYOLA UNIVERSITY NUNEMAKER HALL	COUNCIL SEAT E MON, AUGUST 25 AT 7:00 PM FRANKLIN AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH
COUNCIL AT-LARGE DIV 2 FRI, AUGUST 15 AT 7:00 PM MCDONOGH 35 SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM	COUNCIL AT-LARGE DIV 1 WED, SEPTEMBER 3 AT 7:00 PM ASHÉ CULTURAL ARTS CENTER POWERHOUSE THEATRE
COUNCIL SEAT C TUES, AUGUST 19 AT 7:00 PM L.B. LANDRY HIGH SCHOOL	ORLEANS PARISH ASSESSOR FRI, SEPTEMBER 5 AT 7:00 PM ASHÉ CULTURAL ARTS CENTER POWERHOUSE THEATRE
COUNCIL SEAT D WED, AUGUST 20 AT 7:00 PM DILLARD UNIVERSITY GEORGES AUDITORIUM	MAYORAL DEBATE TUES, SEPTEMBER 9 AT 7:00 PM XAVIER UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA CONVOCATION CENTER

5th

Orleans Parish Assessor

Ashé Cultural Arts Center
Powerhouse Theatre | 7:00 p.m.


Monday, September 9th –
Mayor of New Orleans

Xavier University – Convocation Center | 7:00 p.m.

A Coalition for Change:

The series is made possible through a powerful coalition of community organizations including Ashé Cultural Arts Center, Black Voters Matter, C.O.P., Eternal Seeds, GNOHA, Krewe of Themis, Lower 9th Ward Voters Coalition, NAACP New Orleans, National Coalition of 100 Black Women, New Orleans NPHC, NOLA HBCU Alumni Association, The Links, Inc. (Crescent City, Orleans, and Pontchartrain Chapters), Teamer Strategy Group, The Collaborative, and Xavier University.

VOTE
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Something About
Helena

She believes that we should all have a chance to compete. When big businesses wanted to create a so-called clean zone that spans half the city and excludes locals, Helena stood up for the community, and our opportunities multiplied.

Helena Moreno
MAYOR

A Heart for Fashion, Music, and Purpose

Celebrating Judaea DoQui

Edwin Buggage
Editor-in-Chief Data News Weekly

Judaea DoQui: Inspiring the Next Generation to Pursue Excellence

Judaea DoQui, a 2025 Graduate of St. Mary's Academy in New Orleans, is celebrated for her purpose, creativity, and compassion. This fall, she'll pursue a degree in Fashion Design and Business Administration at Clark Atlanta University, an art form she's loved since childhood. Known for her impeccable style and bold creativity, Judaea aims to use fashion to uplift others.

"Art inspires me daily," Judaea explains. "It's how I express myself. I want people to feel empowered and confident in who they are."

Her family has been her greatest support. Her father, Actor Robert DoQui, reflects,

"We always remind Judaea that she was born to create. She has the talent and heart to go far, and we're beyond proud of her."

Her mother, Tomeka, adds,

"Watching Judaea grow into this powerful young woman has been a blessing. We've always told her,



Proud parents, Robert and Tomeka DoQui beaming with love and pride.

your dreams matter."

Musical Foundations

Music laid the groundwork for Judaea's discipline and leadership. As a flute player and the First Sophomore Drum Major in St. Mary's History, she helped lead the school's Award-Winning Marching Band while maintain-

ing a 4.5 GPA in honors classes.

"I learned so much about leadership and commitment through band," she reflects. "It taught me that every role matters just like in life."

Her aunt, Iam Tucker, President & CEO of Integrated Logistical Support, Inc., and lifelong mentor, praises her drive:



Judaea DoQui, 2025 Graduate of St. Mary's Academy, is headed to Clark Atlanta University to study Fashion Design and Business Administration.

"Judaea embodies the essence of leadership—grace, confidence, and vision. Being a boss isn't about titles; it's a mindset. She leads with heart, shows up with intention, and puts in the work. That's the kind of power that changes the world, and I know she's just getting started."

Community Champion

Since age eight, Judaea has served as a Junior Board Member of Heart N Hands, helping to organize events, lead health-education initiatives, and inspire girls to embrace heart-healthy habits. Essence Harris Banks, Founder and President of Heart N Hands, shares,

"She's always been thoughtful and full of ideas. From advising our team on what girls need to representing us with poise at major events like the ESSENCE Festival, Judaea has been a true leader. We are incredibly proud of her journey."

At the 2025 ESSENCE Festival Wellness House, where over 25,000 women attended, Judaea staffed the Heart N Hands booth, teaching hands-only CPR and sharing Vital Heart Health Tips.

"It was an honor to represent an organization I love," she says. "It made me realize the impact young people can truly have."

As Judaea departs for Atlanta, she carries with her the lessons of family, faith, music, and service. Her story, rooted in purpose, promise, and heart, is only just beginning.

State & Local News

Dillard University Appoints Dr. Kim Vaz-Deville as Chief of Staff



Dr. Kim Vaz-Deville

New Orleans Agenda

Dillard University proudly announces the appointment of Kim Vaz-Deville, Ph.D., as Chief of Staff to the President, bringing with her a nationally recognized Portfolio of Scholarship, cultural leadership, and academic coordination.

Dr. Vaz-Deville is a leading Scholar of African American Ceremonial Culture in Louisiana, with an acclaimed body of work that focuses on spirituality, identity, and the preservation of Louisiana's Afro-Creole Traditions. She is the author of *The Baby Dolls: Breaking the Race and Gender Barriers of the New Orleans Mardi Gras Tradition* and editor of *Walking Raddy:*

The Baby Dolls of New Orleans, both of which have become foundational texts in the Study of New Orleans Masking Traditions. Her work has not only shaped local understanding but has reached international audiences through exhibitions in Louisiana and abroad, including at the Musée du quai Branly-Jacques Chirac in Paris.

In her new role as Chief of Staff, Dr. Vaz-Deville will support the President's strategic priorities, foster campus-wide collaboration, and help guide the University's academic and cultural mission. She brings to the position a wealth of experience from her previous leadership roles at Xavier University of Louisiana and the University

of South Florida.

"Dr. Vaz-Deville is a dynamic leader and a cultural visionary whose scholarship and service resonate deeply with Dillard's mission," said Dr. Monique Guillory, President of Dillard University. "Her commitment to excellence, equity, and community uplift make her an ideal partner as we chart a bold path forward. I am thrilled to welcome her to our team and excited for the transformative impact she will have on our university."

Dr. Vaz-Deville's current work includes *The Art of Resistance: Sacred Visual Creations of New Orleans' African American Mardi Gras Maskers*, a book project supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities and

the Radcliffe Institute at Harvard University, where she recently served as the 2023-2024 Lillian Gallay Knafel Fellow. Her initiative to revive Louisiana Creole (Kouri Vini) through Baby Doll Masking Culture exemplifies her dedication to preserving and celebrating Louisiana's unique cultural heritage.

In recognition of her significant contributions to education and cultural exchange, Dr. Vaz-Deville was named a Knight in the Order of Academic Palms by the French Republic in 2024.

At Dillard, she looks forward to working alongside faculty, staff, and students to enhance institutional alignment and advance the university's role as a steward of culture, learning, and social responsibility.

Black Church and Black Press Unite to Empower Black America

Black Press USA

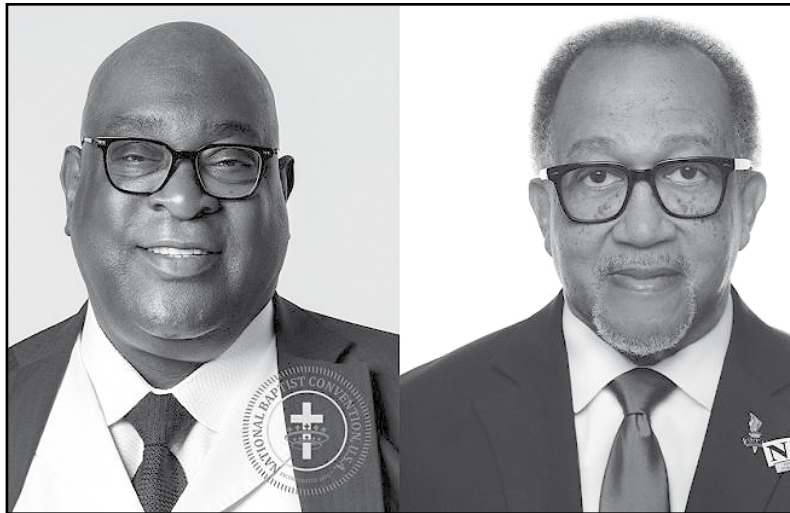
In a historic announcement, a coalition of leading Black Faith Organizations and the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) unveiled a strategic partnership and plan to confront systemic disparities impacting African American communities nationwide.

Dr. Boise Kimber, President of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.; Bishop J. Drew Sheard, Pre-siding Bishop of the Church of God in Christ (COGIC); Dr. Samuel Tolbert, President of the National Baptist Convention of America; and Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., Veteran Civil Rights Leader and President of the NNPA, are leading this collaboration between the Black Church and Black Media.

"There is strength in unity. There is power in our collective voice. There is hope in our actions," said Dr. Boise Kimber.

For generations, African American communities have endured deep-rooted inequities in health-care, education, criminal justice, economic opportunity, and access to capital. These challenges are not new. The coalition intends to put an end to fragmented responses and speak with one clear, concise and consolidated voice.

The Black Church and Black Media, two institutions that have



Dr. Boise Kimber, President, National Baptist Convention and Dr. Benjamin Chavis, Jr., President and CEO, National Newspaper Association (NNPA), Civil Rights Leader and Publisher.

long anchored and uplifted Black America, are now coming together with renewed focus and purpose.

This partnership is grounded in shared values, spiritual conviction, cultural empowerment, and an unwavering commitment to truth, justice, and progress.

The coalition will focus on five core initiatives: (BOLD)

Shaping a unified national narrative that challenges harmful stereotypes and amplifies stories of Black resilience, excellence, and innovation

Mobilizing faith-based and media networks to address community disparities through solutions-

Empowering the next generation by reclaiming our narratives and creating new pathways for education, leadership, and entrepreneurship

Holding elected officials accountable by spotlighting those whose policies do not align with the interests of the Black community. To earn our votes, they must heed our voices.

"This is more than a symbolic gesture; it is a strategic and spiritual alignment." When the Black Church and Black Media speak as one, we can ignite a movement. When we organize as one, we can shift the narrative. When we act as one, we cannot be ignored or denied," the coalition stated.

The coalition invites all stakeholders, faith leaders, media professionals, community organizers, educators, business leaders, and concerned citizens to join this movement for unity, justice, and progress.

focused advocacy and outreach

Holding corporate America accountable by demanding responsible reinvestment in Black communities through sustainable partnerships, economic equity, and community-led development

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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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