

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

**Kurte Pellerin
and Tyronne Reed
All White
Birthday
Bash**



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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

NATIONAL BLACK BUSINESS MONTH

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National Black Business Month

Supporting New Orleans Entrepreneurs



Eric Connerly
Data News Weekly Contributor

A City Built on Black Entrepreneurship

August is National Black Business Month, a time to recognize and uplift Black-owned businesses nationwide. In New Orleans—a city whose culture,

cuisine, and music are inseparable from African American traditions, supporting Black Entrepreneurs is more than an economic investment; it's a celebration of heritage and community.

From small shops in Gentilly to restaurants in Tremé and professional services downtown, Black-owned businesses have long been neighborhood anchors. They've endured storms, both literal and economic, and continue to provide opportunity, stability, and pride.

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Cover Story, Continued from page 2.

Economic Impact and Cultural Preservation

Black-owned businesses contribute billions to the U.S. Economy each year, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In New Orleans, their impact is especially visible. They not only provide jobs but also help preserve cultural traditions that attract millions of visitors annually.

Whether it's a family-run po'boy shop, a boutique in the French Market, or a financial services firm, each business strengthens the city's economic fabric. Supporting them ensures that growth in New Orleans remains inclusive and equitable.

Resilience in the Face of Challenges

Despite their importance, Black-owned businesses often face barriers such as limited access to capital, the long-term effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic, and rising costs. Yet, these entrepreneurs continue to adapt and push forward with resilience.

Organizations like the NOLA



Black Business Alliance and local Chambers of Commerce are stepping up to provide resources, mentorship, and financial support.

National Black Business Month highlights the need to continue this support year-round.

Spotlight on Local Entrepreneurs:

Examples of Black Business Excellence can be found across New Orleans:

Restaurants that preserve Creole and Soul Food Traditions.

Shops and art galleries that showcase the creativity of local Black Artists.

Professional Services Firms in healthcare, finance, law, and technology that provide vital expertise while mentoring the next generation.

These businesses remind us that buying Black isn't just about products or services—it's about sustaining legacies.

How the Community Can Support:

Supporting Black-owned businesses is easy and impactful. A few steps include:

i. Shop local: Choose Black-owned businesses for everyday needs.

ii. Spread the word: Share your experiences on social media or recommend them to friends.

iii. Invest and collaborate: Larger institutions can create partnerships and contracts with Black-owned firms.

iv. Attend events: Participate in markets, pop-ups, and festivals that highlight Black Entrepreneurs.

v. Every purchase helps strengthen New Orleans communities.

A Call to Action

National Black Business Month is more than a celebration—it's a call to action. A stronger New Orleans depends on all communities thriving, and investing in Black-owned businesses is essential to building a more resilient and equitable future.

This August, and throughout the year, New Orleanians are encouraged to rally behind the city's Black Entrepreneurs. Supporting them ensures that the Cultural Heartbeat of New Orleans, its creativity, perseverance, and pride, resonates for generations to come.

ROUSES MARKETS

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WEEKLY SPECIALS

WWW.ROUSES.COM/WEEKLY-ADS

Prices good at New Orleans, Metairie, Gretna, Kenner, Marrero, Covington, Mandeville and Slidell locations August 20th - 27th, 2025.

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LB

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ANGUS CHOICE BEEF

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LB

SAVE
\$1.51

3 LB BAG U.S. #1

**Yellow
Onions**

— ONLY —
\$14.88

CRAZY 8 SALE!

Look for prices
ending in 8!

CRAZY 8 SALE!

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VALUE PACK
BONE-IN
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Pork Chops**

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LB

SAVE
\$1.31



PINT CONTAINER
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Blueberries**
Limit 2

\$18.88

SAVE
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When You Buy 3



8 OZ CAN
**Rouses
Tomato
Sauce**

3/88¢

SAVE
up to \$11.90
When You Buy 10



12 - 16 OZ PACK
Luxury Pasta
24 - 26.5 OZ CAN
Hunt's Pasta Sauce

10/\$10

Kurte Pellerin and Tyronne Reed All White Birthday Bash Lights Up Le Roux's on the Lake

Photos by Terry Jones
Publisher, Data News
Weekly

Family, friends, and well-wishers gathered at the elegant Le Roux's on the Lake to celebrate the birthdays of Kurte Pellerin and Tyronne Reed. The evening was filled with great food, music, and unforgettable moments as guests came together in style to honor two of New Orleans' own, and Data News Weekly was there!!



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

Swimming Upstream

The Katrina Monologues Returns to Mahalia Jackson Theater to Commemorate the 20th Anniversary



ASHÉ
CULTURAL ARTS CENTER PRESENTS

SWIMMING UPSTREAM
The Katrina Monologues

AUGUST 29 & 30, 2025
MAHALIA JACKSON THEATER

20 YEARS AFTER HURRICANES KATRINA AND RITA TORE THROUGH THE SOCIAL FABRIC OF OUR CITY, WITNESS THE POWERFUL STORIES OF THE WOMEN WHO HAVE SEWN IT BACK TOGETHER THROUGH SONG, MOVEMENT AND DETERMINATION.

PURCHASE TICKETS WWW.MAHALIAJACKSONTHEATER.COM

Data News Staff Edited Report

In honor of the 20th Anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, Ashé Cultural Arts Center proudly announces the return of Swimming Upstream: The Katrina Monologues to the Mahalia Jackson Theater. This powerful stage production shares the true stories of wom-

en navigating the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita—stories of survival, displacement, return, and transformation—through spoken word, song, and movement.

Originally produced by Carol Bebel and V (formerly known as Eve Ensler), Swimming Upstream was first performed at the Superdome to mark the 10th Anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. Co-written

by a collective of women artists and activists from New Orleans, the work uplifts voices too often left out of mainstream recovery narratives—voices that not only endured the storm but helped shape the city's Post-Disaster Renaissance.

The ensemble includes cultural icons and community leaders including Troi Bechet and Sekyiwa Shakur;

revered performers like Joanna Hale and Jennifer Pagan; and community voices such as Monique Domingue, Simone Immanuel, Australia James, and Karel Sloane.

“As a co-writer and original cast member of this revolutionary piece—after traveling the country as a young artist to bring New Orleans stories to the stage with the likes of Kerry Washington, Jasmine Guy, and the great Phylicia Rashad—I’ve witnessed audiences be transformed and healed by our work,” said Asali DeVan Ecclesiastes, CEO of Ashé Cultural Arts Center. “It is with immense gratitude that I now have the opportunity to bring Swimming Upstream back home, to our beloved Congo Square and the Mahalia

Jackson Theater.”

Swimming Upstream: The Katrina Monologues is co-directed by New Orleans Theater Legend, Tommye Myrick, and Internationally Acclaimed Author and Activist V. The production will run Friday, August 29th at 7:00 PM and Saturday, August 30th at 5:00 PM at the Mahalia Jackson Theater for the Performing Arts (1419 Basin St., New Orleans, LA). The performance will also be a part of the Katrina 20 Week of Action Programming.

Tickets start at \$25 and are available for purchase at www.mahaliajacksontheater.com and at the theater box office on Friday, August 15. Schools and community organizations may request complimentary tickets at info@ashenola.org.



For yourself. For family. For community.

The Global Parkinson's Genetics Program (GP2) is an international research program.

GP2 aims to learn more about gene changes that may cause Parkinson's in people from all backgrounds.

GP2 is seeking Black and African American people age 18 and older — both with and without Parkinson's disease — for a research study.



Participants will help advance knowledge about Parkinson's disease in Black and African American people.

To learn more, please call 1-866-274-1912 or visit blaacpd.org

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

Historic Indictment Rocks New Orleans

Mayor LaToya Cantrell Faces Federal Charges

Benjamin Bates
Data News Weekly
Contributor

In a historic and unexpected turn, Mayor LaToya Cantrell has been indicted by a Federal Grand Jury, marking the first time a Sitting Mayor of New Orleans faces Criminal Charges. The indictment, unsealed in Mid-August, alleges a scheme to defraud the city of more than \$70,000 by exploiting public funds in connection with her personal relationship with her former bodyguard, Jeffrey Paul Vappie II.

Federal Prosecutors accuse Cantrell and Vappie, who reportedly became romantically involved in October 2021, of orchestrating a series of domestic and international trips under the guise



Mayor LaToya Cantrell

of professional security duties, while Vappie was, in fact, spending personal time with the mayor. Their conduct allegedly included

deceptive time sheets, misuse of city property, and wrongful claims of travel reimbursements.

Central to the allegations are encrypted WhatsApp Communications, more than 15,000 messages, images, and audio clips, exchanged over several months. Investigators say Cantrell and Vappie deleted evidence, lied to federal agents, and misled a grand jury during the ongoing investigation.

The charges span multiple counts, including conspiracy to commit wire fraud, obstruction of justice, and false declarations under oath. In total, Cantrell faces up to six counts of wire fraud, one count each of conspiracy and obstruction, and two counts of false declaration before a grand jury. Vappie, too, faces similar charges, including additional wire fraud counts and false

statements to the FBI.

While Cantrell has yet to issue a public response, her attorney acknowledged the indictment and said the legal team is reviewing the details. The unfolding legal drama arrives only months before she leaves office, her term ends in January, is already reshaping the political landscape. Candidates for mayor are now under pressure to address issues of ethics and government integrity as New Orleans grapple with eroded public trust in City Hall.

This indictment deepens a legacy of political controversy in New Orleans, a city no stranger to mayoral scandals. Legal experts warn that, regardless of the outcome, the proceedings are likely to overshadow Cantrell's tenure and further divide an already polarized city.

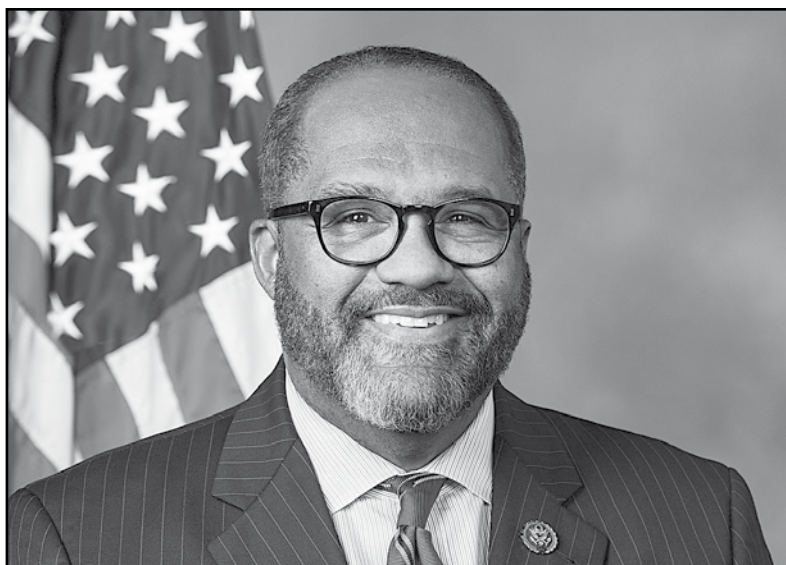
Rep. Troy Carter Statement on Medicaid Audit

Eric Connerly
Data News Weekly
Contributor

"There has been a lot of noise about so-called 'fraud' in Medicaid, but this audit makes one thing very clear: the problem is not with families, seniors, or vulnerable people abusing the system. The real problem lies with insurance companies being paid millions of dollars even after patients had already died.

"As a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, I have said repeatedly that the real fraud is not among the most vulnerable. It is among corporations and insurers who exploit the system for profit. This study confirms that point once again. While some politicians choose to target the poor, the sick, and the struggling, the true leakage is happening in boardrooms, not living rooms.

"Medicaid was created to serve veterans who wore the uniform, seniors who built this country, disabled Americans who deserve dignity, and working families fighting to make ends meet. These are the people who must



Congressman Troy Carter (D-LA)

never be scapegoated while insurance companies pocket taxpayer dollars meant for care.

"This is why I have opposed Donald Trump's so-called 'One Big Beautiful Bill' or as I call it, the Big Ugly Law, from the very beginning. It is nothing more than a massive giveaway to the wealthy and well-connected at the expense of those who need help the most. This audit should serve as a wake-up call to Trump and his allies: it is time to reverse

course, repeal this harmful law, and restore Medicaid to its rightful purpose, serving people, not padding profits.

"We must hold insurers accountable, strengthen oversight, and make sure every taxpayer dollar is spent with integrity. Medicaid is not a luxury. It is a lifeline. And I will continue to fight to protect it, for every child, every veteran, every senior, every person with a disability, and every hardworking family who depends on it."

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to Freedom**

Trump's Racist Takeover of Smithsonian Targets Black History and Censors Presidential Truths

Stacy M. Brown
Black Press USA Senior
National Correspondent

Donald Trump's Administration has intensified its takeover of the Smithsonian Institution, advancing an agenda that historians and civil rights leaders say is rooted in racism and political censorship. Under the guise of "Restoring Truth and Sanity to American History," Trump's March executive order placed Vice President J.D. Vance in charge of purging Smithsonian Exhibitions of what the White House calls "divisive" narratives, targeting especially those that address race, slavery, and systemic injustice. The latest moves include the removal of references to Trump's two impeachments from the National Museum of American History's "Limits of Presidential Power" exhibit. Smithsonian officials claimed the change was part of a "restoration" to the exhibit's 2008 version, but ABC News reported on August 1, 2025, that it followed White House pressure during a broader content review. Trump is the only U.S. president impeached twice, once in 2019 for abuse of power and obstruction of Congress, and again in 2021 for incitement of insurrection, but both proceedings were temporarily erased from the museum's public record.

The administration's focus has been even more aggressive toward the National Museum of African American History and Culture. In April, Pulitzer Prize-Winning Journalist Nikole Hannah-Jones told Black Press USA that Trump's targeting of the museum's slavery section "is a sign of a deep sickness" and that "to erase or minimize the slavery and freedom part of that story is to create a fantasy of how we got here". She warned, "We literally would not be in the United States without slavery." Civil Rights Icon Dr. Amos C. Brown, speaking on April 29, 2025, on the Black Press USA's Let It Be Known Show, revealed that the museum had abruptly returned historic artifacts he had loaned, a Bible from the Civil Rights Era and one of the earliest histories of Black people in America, without discussion. "This



is a direct result of Project 2025," Brown said. "There is a move in this country to induce cultural and historical Alzheimer's".

Smithsonian Secretary Lonnie Bunch, who has led the institution since 2019, has publicly pledged to "remain committed to telling the multi-faceted stories of this country's extraordinary heritage" despite the White House Directive. But Trump's order grants Vance authority over content, funding, and even appointments to the Board of Regents, an unprecedented level of federal interference in the 178-year-old institution's governance. The scope of the takeover, outlined in an August 12th White House letter to Bunch, demands access to internal curatorial documents, exhibition plans, and educational materials from eight major museums. The administration insists on "content corrections" to replace narratives it deems "ideologically driven" with those celebrating "American Exceptionalism". Critics say the moves echo authoritarian tactics. "We cannot be a free democratic society when you have the most powerful people in the world who will take control of a history museum and force them to tell a lie," Hannah-Jones said in April.



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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

Data News Weekly, "The People's Paper," is looking for an administrative assistant.

Compensation is competitive and detail orientation will be appreciated.


If you are interested, please email your resume to: terrybjones@bellsouth.net

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