

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

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News Weekly

"The People's Paper"



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Doris Bang' N Music Bingo

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September 13 - September 19, 2025 60th Year Volume 21 www.ladatanews.com

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WANT A CITY THAT

GIVES HOPE

FOR YOUTH AND

FAMILIES

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Voters Want a City that Gives Hope for Youth and Families



Musician Daniel Smith



Business Owner Stricen Carter

Kristopher Beavers
Data News Weekly Contributor

With one month left, New Orleans voters will return to the polls to elect a new mayor, sheriff, city council members and other court and civil positions. Early voting begins this month on Sep. 27th until Oct. 4th with

elections on Oct. 11th, 2025. Residents say they are going to the polls hoping to elect leaders who will focus on the city's recovery, expand opportunities for young people and tackle persistent problems of crime, addiction, and homelessness.

"One of the main things that needs to happen is for the crime rate to be lowered," said Daniel Smith, a

ninth ward native and brass band musician. "Our city doesn't have enough resources compared to cities like Houston or Atlanta."

The latest 2025 data from the New Orleans Police Department indicates that violent crimes continue to fall in the city, with homicides dropping by 35 percent. These are among the lowest rates for violent crime

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DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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the city has seen since the 1970s. However, recent prison escapes at the Orleans Parish Prison, as well as the terrorist attack at the start of this year has residents continuing to keep public safety as a priority.

For young people, residents say there is a lack of youth programs and organizations that provide safe spaces for children and teenagers to build their skills and connect with peers. Without those opportunities, mental health challenges are growing, residents said.

“There are simply not enough things for kids to do in the city,” said Gale Sherman, an eighth ward native and technology accountant with four grandchildren.

“Emphasis on spaces for kids to enjoy, like zoos and safe parks, is fully needed for the city to prosper,” Sherman said about what she wants new leaders to focus on.

Community members point to the closure of after-school programs and recreational centers due to a lack of state funding. Research shows that the ages of 13 to 25 are critical for personal development, and without support, young people are vulnerable to addiction, depres-



Writer Adrian Mac

sion, and crime. In 2024, the New Orleans Health Department noted that drug overdose deaths were on the rise among African Americans in New Orleans and that the impact of COVID-19 and the mental health effects of isolation on children and teens has increased the use of synthetic drugs like fentanyl and vaping stimulants that



Technology Accountant Gale Sherman

resulted in drug-related overdose and deaths in the city.

“There is a homeless problem that is due to those dealing with addiction and depression,” said Adrian Mac, a writer and West Bank native. “If you don’t fix the minimum problems like substance abuse, the problem will continue.”

While the city has invested re-

sources to lower overdose deaths in the city which dropped 44-percent from 2023 to 2024, residents said they still remain high. Men accounted for 78-percent of those deaths, and African Americans made up 65-percent with cocaine, methamphetamine, and opioids continuing to drive the crisis.

Substance abuse also spills over

to the Criminal Justice System, since African Americans remain disproportionately incarcerated for illicit drug use, compared to other groups, according to 2024 data from the New Orleans Health Department. Residents say the lack of opportunity, the decline in mental well-being, the use of illicit substances and continued high rates of incarceration among African American youth leads to a cycle.

“I would love to see more opportunities for the youth, like jobs or better community intervention,” said Stricen Carter, a third ward resident and owner of the Sweet Thangs Snowball Shop. “My main goal for my business was not only to be successful but to give back to the community by providing jobs for high school and college students.”

For this election season, residents say they want candidates to prioritize young people. If the City of New Orleans is to be a place families want to stay and settle in, voters said they want leaders to invest in the next generation of New Orleanians.

“Once you help the kids, you help the city,” Mac said.

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Doris Bang' N Music Bingo

Having Fun and Making Memories at Crystal Magnolia Country Club

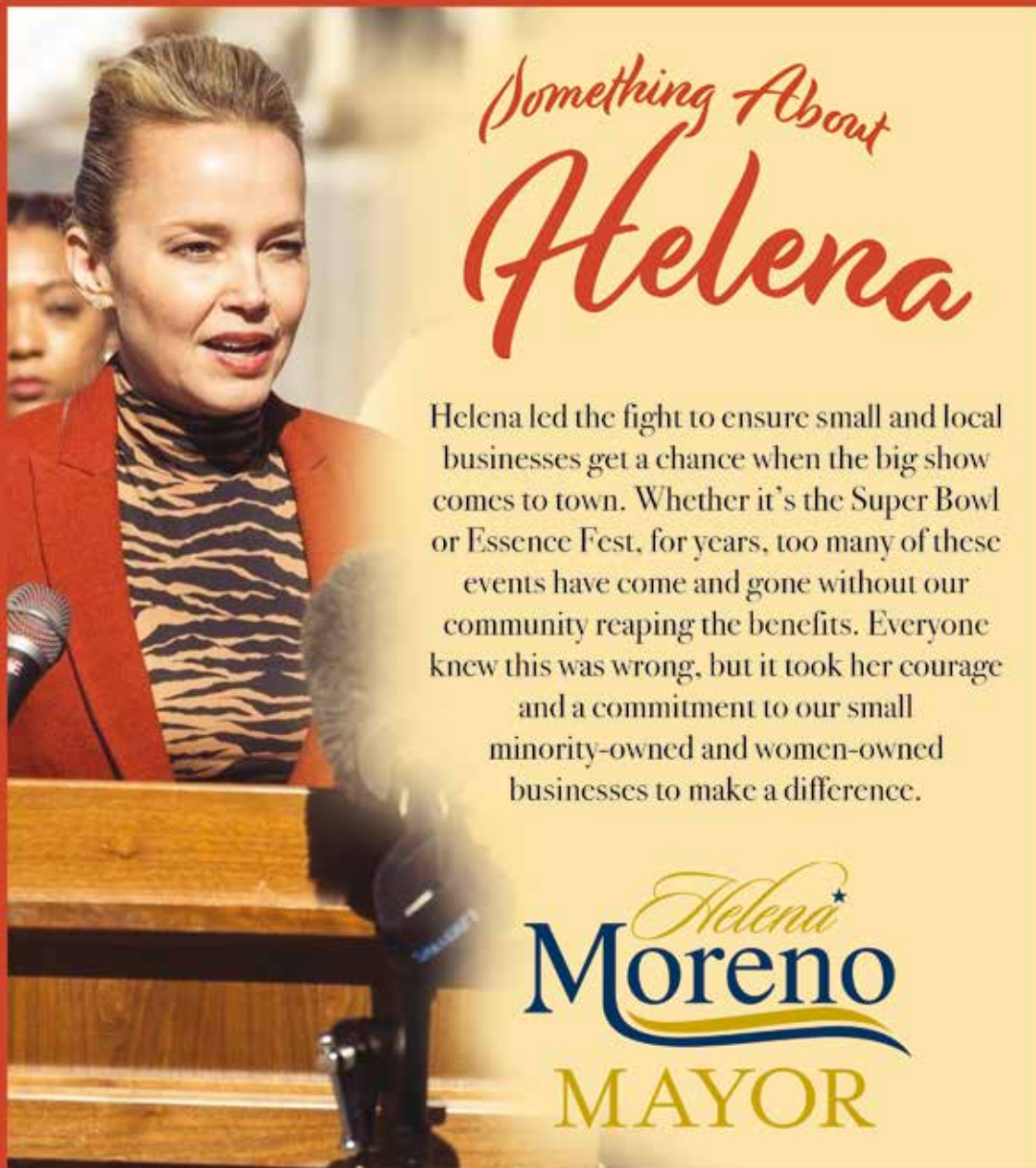
Photos Courtesy of Crystal Magnolia Country Club

The Crystal Magnolia Country Club was filled with laughter, music, and excitement as members and guests gathered for an evening of Bingo with a Musical Twist. Far from the traditional quiet game, this event brought a lively spin that had participants of all ages singing along to some of the most popular tunes from yesterday and today. From soulful classics to current chart-toppers, the soundtrack kept the energy high, and the crowd engaged throughout the night.

Adding to the fun were plenty of chances to win, with cash prizes and giveaways awarded to lucky winners. Whether belting out lyrics, marking cards, or dancing in their seats, at-



Doris Franklin with MKFF (Mystic Krewe Of Femme Fetale group)



Nekitha Johnson owner of Crystal Magnolia country club.



Prostate Cancer Awareness Month Event Brings Screenings to the Community

Story and Photos by
Gabrielle Cromwell
Data News Weekly Contributor

For men's Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, local doctors, survivors, and community leaders educated the community at Abundant Life Tabernacle to raise awareness for Prostate Cancer in the African American community. Black men are two times more likely to die from Prostate Cancer than White men. The event offered free health screenings and a men's health panel on Sept. 6th, 2025, where Bishop Tyrone G. Jefferson, Jr., Prostate Cancer Survivor, and the Founder and CEO of Abundant Life Tabernacle shared how discovering his own diagnosis likely saved his own life.

"A movement happened out of my experience. I praise God because we were able to bring awareness as well as education to the Black male," said Jefferson Jr.

The Abundant Life Tabernacle on Franklin Avenue partnered with Johnson & Johnson and Ochsner Health for the free screenings and informational sessions that included prostate checks, blood pressure and blood sugar testing, body fat analysis, and pneumonia and tetanus vaccines in order to promote the importance of health in the African American community. Guest speaker, Dr. Eric Griggs, led a discussion about overall health to residents, some of whom shared that they had survived heart attacks and cancer.

"The real heroes are survivors. You're the true experts in the field, and we need to have more conversations about health," Griggs said.

Other certified professionals who were a part of the larger men's health panel were Dr. Brian Halbert, Dr. Jorge Caso, Dr. Brendan King, and Dr. John McGill, in conversation with former veteran local Broadcaster Norman Robinson.

"Particularly within the Black community, we see that they are two times more likely to be diagnosed with Prostate Cancer, but they are three times more likely to die from Prostate Cancer," said Dr. Halbert of LCMC Health. "And if we don't get the word out to the community that you can get checked, you can get tested, you can get screened, you can get treated, and you can get saved," Halbert said.

All checked, cleared, and healthy,



Panel Host Norman Robinson



Ochsner Health representative administers a blood pressure exam on Upper Ninth Ward resident.

those who attended Abundant Life's First Annual Prostate Cancer Awareness Day gathered in the sanctuary to learn more about the significant impact of preventative care to live long and healthy lives.

"It's real important to do things like this. Get your blood tested, get screened for it, because again, if you catch it early enough, we can do something about it," Dr. Caso said.



Dr. Jorge Caso, Dr. Brian Halbert, Dr. Brendan King, Bishop Tyrone Jefferson Jr. on the panel stage.

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Helena Moreno Garnerers More Endorsements at Dooky Chase Event

Christine LeBlanc Data News Weekly Contributor
Photos by Terry Jones
Publisher, Data News Weekly

At the Legendary Dooky Chase's Restaurant in Tremé, Helena Moreno continued to build momentum in her bid for Mayor of New Orleans, winning new endorsements from civic, business, and community leaders who gathered in a place steeped in the city's history.

The choice of venue was intentional. For generations, Dooky Chase has been more than a restaurant; it has been a hub for Civil Rights organizing, political strategy, and cultural exchange. Against this backdrop, Moreno's growing list of endorsements took on added weight, signaling a broadening coalition that reaches across racial, economic, and generational lines.



Public Service Commissioner Davante Lewis, Orleans Parish District Attorney Jason Williams, and former Biden Advisor and U.S. Congressman Cedric Richmond joined Helena Moreno at Dooky Chase's Restaurant to formally announce their endorsements.

Among those standing with Moreno was former U.S. Congressman Cedric Richmond, who represented Louisiana's 2nd District and later served as a Senior Advisor to President Joe Biden.

Moreno, currently Vice President of the New Orleans City Council,

has been steadily amassing endorsements. Ranging from labor unions, newspapers, neighborhood associations, to national advocacy groups and now high-profile political figures like Richmond, her campaign has cultivated a reputation for building diverse alliances.



Helena Moreno surrounded by civic and business leaders.

Community leaders at the Dooky Chase Event emphasized Moreno's record of responsiveness and reform. Supporters pointed to her efforts on Criminal Justice Reform, Affordable Housing Initiatives, and expanding opportunities for working families as evidence of her readiness to lead the city. Several noted

that her leadership style, collaborative, inclusive, and grounded in community engagement, sets her apart from other contenders.

"This is more than an endorsement, it's a recognition of Helena's

Newsmaker, Continued on page 7.

Legal Notice

Multimillion Dollar Proposed Plan to Pay Sexual Abuse Claims in the Archdiocese of New Orleans Bankruptcy

Your rights could be impacted if you have sexual abuse claims against Catholic parishes, schools, or ministries. File your claim by December 2, 2025.

The Roman Catholic Church of the Archdiocese of New Orleans ("Archdiocese") and 157 affiliated Catholic organizations ("Catholic Entities") have agreed to compensate people who claim they were sexually abused by clergy or church personnel.

The Catholic Entities include Catholic parishes, schools, academies, Catholic Charities organizations, and other ministries. They plan to file for bankruptcy if at least two-thirds of sexual abuse claimants who vote support the Joint Plan. A complete list is available at www.NOLChurchclaims.com or by calling 1-877-476-4389.

What is the Joint Plan?

A Settlement Trust will be created to pay sexual abuse claimants. More money may be added from the sale of Church property or additional insurance settlements from a non-settling insurer. The Archdiocese has also asked the Court to approve separate settlement agreements with certain insurers that would add millions of dollars to the Trust. These agreements will only take effect if the Court confirms the Joint Plan and approves the settlement motion. The Joint Plan also includes rules for how money will be distributed and protections for children. If the Joint Plan is approved, you cannot sue the Archdiocese, Catholic Entities, or all but one of their insurers in the future. If the Joint Plan is approved, it will block any future claims against any insurance company except the non-settling insurer—even under Louisiana's "direct action" law that normally allows lawsuits against them.

Who is eligible to receive money?

If you experienced sexual abuse involving the Archdiocese or any of the Catholic Entities, you may be eligible to receive money from the Settlement Trust. If you already filed an Abuse Proof of Claim in this bankruptcy case or filed and served a lawsuit against the Archdiocese or any of the Catholic Entities by August 14, 2025, your claim already includes the Catholic Entities—you do not need to file again.

If you have not yet filed a claim or lawsuit against the Catholic Entities, you must do so by **December 2, 2025 at 11:59 p.m. Central Time** to preserve your right to compensation. Missing the deadline may result in the permanent loss of your right to receive money from the Settlement Trust.

"Sexual abuse" includes unwanted sexual behavior, contact, comments, or any behavior—whether or not you realized it was abuse at the time.

How to file a claim, vote on the Plan, or object?

File a claim online at www.NOLChurchclaims.com, download a claim form from the website, or call 1-877-476-4389 to request one by mail. If you file a claim by October 15, 2025, you may vote to accept or reject the Joint Plan. If you file a claim after October 15 but before December 2, 2025 at 11:59 p.m. Central Time, you will not be able to vote, but you may be entitled to compensation if the Joint Plan is approved. You may also object to the Plan to tell the Court what you don't like about it. The Court has set a hearing to consider whether to confirm of the Joint Plan.

Key Deadlines: Vote by **October 29, 2025**. File objections by **October 30, 2025**. Confirmation hearing begins: **November 12, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. Central Time**.

The case is called *In re: The Roman Catholic Church of the Archdiocese of New Orleans* (Bankr. E.D. La.). More details are available at www.NOLChurchclaims.com or by calling toll-free 1-877-476-4389.

Your information will be kept private.

The Violence Trump Claims to Fear Occurs Mostly in Red States

Stacy M. Brown
Black Press USA Senior
National Correspondent

Donald Trump continues to attack cities and jurisdictions heavily populated by minorities, often painting them as crime-ridden and unsafe despite evidence showing overall declines in many categories of crime. Nowhere is this tension clearer than in Washington, D.C., where residents face relentless scrutiny from Trump while Red States many with far less diversity quietly struggle with some of the highest murder rates in the nation.

The District of Columbia recorded the nation's highest murder rate in 2023 at 39 per 100,000 residents, with 265 murders. Despite local efforts to address violence, Trump routinely depicts the city as unlivable. To many residents, the greater tragedy is not just the crime itself but the reality that the Capital of the United States now looks like an occupied third-world country, with National Guard and federal troops visibly stationed throughout the city. Washingtonians, who have



already been denied full congressional representation, have become political pawns in Trump's rhetoric. What Trump avoids mentioning is that several Republican-led states top the list of the deadliest places. Louisiana had a murder rate of 14.5 per 100,000, recording 663 killings in 2023. New Mexico, Alabama, Tennessee, and Arkansas, all governed by Republicans in recent years, also posted murder rates

higher than 9 per 100,000 residents.

In Missouri, another GOP stronghold, the murder rate stood at 9.1 per 100,000 with 564 murders, disproportionately concentrated in cities like St. Louis and Kansas City. South Carolina, Alaska, and Georgia each ranked high, while Mississippi, often touted by conservatives as a bastion of "traditional values," has at times led the nation in murder rates. Meanwhile, states with

larger minority populations that Trump targets, including Illinois, Pennsylvania, and Maryland, often have lower murder rates than many of these Red States. Illinois, home to Chicago, recorded a rate of 6.56 per 100,000, below Alabama, Tennessee, and Arkansas.

Critics argue this is no accident. Trump's fixation on minority-heavy jurisdictions is part of a long-standing strategy of scapegoating urban areas with large Black and Latino populations, while sidestepping the systemic problems facing states where his support is strongest. "Murders were far more common in [Mississippi] than they were nationwide," the World Population Review reported, with Louisiana, Alabama, Missouri, and Arkansas following close behind. The report's numbers show that while Trump fixates on minority-heavy cities, the deadliest conditions are playing out in Red States that rarely draw his attention. "Murders are disproportionately concentrated in urban areas, especially in New Orleans and Baton Rouge," the researchers concluded.

Newsmaker, Continued from page 6.



Former U.S. Congressman Cedric Richmond endorsing Helena Moreno at Dooky Chase's Restaurant.

ability to bring people together," said one business leader in attendance. "She doesn't just talk about unity, she practices it, reaching out to communities across this city to make sure everyone has a seat at the table."

The atmosphere at Dooky Chase was both reflective and forward-looking. For many, it was a reminder of the restaurant's historic role as a meeting place for leaders like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and local activists during the Civil Rights Movement. Today, it served as the

stage for a new generation of leadership, with Moreno at the center of the conversation about New Orleans' future.

As the October 11th Mayoral Primary approaches, Moreno continues to dominate the endorsement race, adding momentum to her fundraising and polling advantages. The event at Dooky Chase highlighted not only her political strength but also her ability to inspire confidence in a cross-section of leaders committed to the city's progress.

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Doris Franklin with Linda Burke, one of the winners.

tendees embraced the festive atmosphere. It wasn't just about the competition; it was about connection, community, and pure joy.

The event highlighted the club's commitment to creating experiences that bring people together in a warm and welcoming setting.

Smiles, laughter, and even a few victory shouts echoed across the room as friends, families, and neighbors celebrated an unforgettable evening.

Truly, fun was had by all at Crystal Magnolia Country Club, a night where music met bingo, and memories were made.

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