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New Orleans

# Data

## News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

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### Congressional Black Caucus Weekend 2025

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October 4 - October 10, 2025 60th Year Volume 24 [www.ladatanews.com](http://www.ladatanews.com)

A Data News Weekly Exclusive

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# The Power of the Vote in New Orleans' 2025 Election



Helena Moreno - Mayor



Delisha Boyd, Council-At-Large - District 1

**Terry B. Jones Publisher, Data News Weekly**

### New Orleans at a Turning Point

As the city approaches the 2025 Municipal Elections, New Orleans finds itself at a defining juncture.

With mayoral, city council, and sheriff's races on the ballot, the outcomes will shape the city's leadership for years to come. Old political alliances are giving way to new possibilities, as both experienced leaders and fresh candidates step forward. For the first time in decades, voters have a real chance to reshape

governance, strengthen transparency, and build accountability that serves the people directly.

### The Power of the Ballot

Voting is not just a responsibility—it is a pathway to influence and empowerment. In communities burdened by housing shortages, ag-

ing infrastructure, safety concerns, and underfunded schools; the ballot box remains the most effective tool for change. Casting a vote is a declaration that citizens will not be ignored. It is the mechanism through which leaders are held accountable, and government is made to reflect the will of the people.

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## DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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Cover Story, Continued from page 2.



JP Morrell, Council-At-Large - District 2



Edwin M. Shorty, Sheriff

**Defending Fair Representation**

This election takes place amid national struggles over voting rights and representation. Louisiana remains at the center of legal disputes around redistricting and the Voting Rights Act; battles with direct consequences for Black Communities—the cultural and demographic backbone of New Orleans. When suppression and gerrymandering threaten equal access, showing up to vote becomes more than participation; it is an act of defense, preserving the very core of Democracy.

**A History of Strength**

The History of New Orleans is marked by resilience. From enduring Jim Crow to surviving Hurricane Katrina, this city has repeatedly risen from hardship. Voting is part of that tradition of strength, transforming loss into progress and hope into policy. Each ballot cast honors the legacy of those who fought for Civil Rights and secured access to the vote for future generations.

# ROUSES MARKETS

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When You Buy 4

**4/\$10**

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# Congressional Black Caucus Weekend 2025

From dynamic panels to powerful networking, Washington, D.C. was the backdrop this past weekend for the 2025 Congressional Black Caucus Weekend, where African American leaders from across the nation gathered to shape policy, amplify community voices, and chart a path forward. Among the distinguished participants was Louisiana Congressman Troy A. Carter, recently elected as First Vice Chair of the CBC. The convening drew hundreds of elected officials, civic and business leaders, grassroots organizers, scholars, and media outlets, including Data News Weekly. All unite in the nation's capital to highlight legislative priorities, cultural solidarity, and strategic partnerships. The weekend ultimately reflected both the gravity and the promise of Black leadership in action.



Visit [www.ladatanews.com](http://www.ladatanews.com) for more photos from these events.

# BRW Receives a Proclamation from the New Orleans City Council

**June Hazeur**  
Data News Weekly Contributor

The New Orleans City Council recognized the BRW Musical Group, Billy Kennedy, Rohillion Guidry and Wayne Guidry. BRW, a New Orleans Singing Group came together in 1972, they entered a local talent contest, winning first place and the rest is history. The group incorporates a three-part harmony with high energy performances that is reminiscence of such legendary group O'Jays, The Temptations, Boyz 2 Men and many other iconic groups. They have also received the Lifetime Achievement Award for over 50 years in the music business.

Councilman Oliver Thomas said that it was an honor to have Ceasar

Elloie, with his sultry, soulful voice, to join BRW at the table. Continuing, he said, "that today they are honoring a long-established group, BRW. Performing live with a five-piece backup band. Thank you each of you for your years of incredible music, your songs have been to soundtracks by New Orleanians and music lovers worldwide. Your music talent is extraordinary and the emotion that you guys evoke from happiness, to joy, to just total all out glee resonates every time you open your mouths to sing whatever the rhythm or the song is."

He also thanked Ceasar Elloie for his recent rendition at St. Augustine's Church, "it brought tears of joy and celebration, to see you here with one of our great iconic groups, the songstress from heaven, dropped out of

**Data Zone,**  
Continued on page 7.



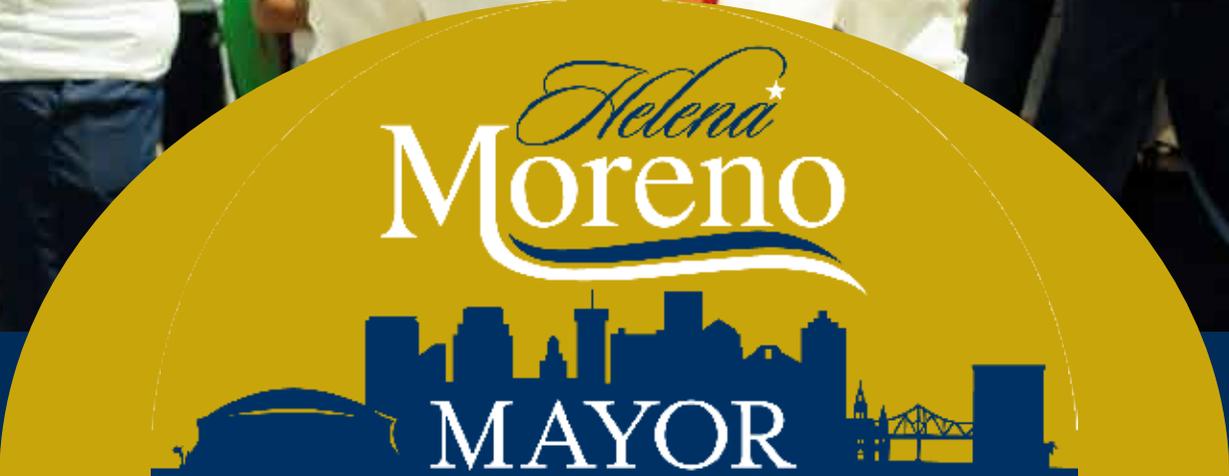
Billy Kennedy holding the Proclamation presented to the BRW Group - B-Billy Kennedy, R-Rohillion Guidry, and W-Wayne Guidry for their years of incredible music, their songs have been to soundtracks by New Orleanians and music lovers worldwide.



## It's Time for a **New** Direction



**Early Vote Begins 9/27!**



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Helena Moreno  
for our Future

# Parents of Southern University Student Caleb Wilson File Lawsuit After Fatal Hazing Incident

**Eric Connerly**  
Data News Weekly  
Contributor

The parents of Caleb Wilson, a Southern University student who died in a hazing ritual while pledging Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., have filed a Civil Lawsuit against both the fraternity and the university. The Wilson family is seeking damages for wrongful death and survival claims.

According to Fox 8 Live, Urania Brown Wilson and Corey Wilson Sr. filed their petition in the 19th Judicial District Court in Baton Rouge. The lawsuit names Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., its Beta Sigma and Lambda Alpha Chapters, and the Board of Supervisors of Southern University and A&M College as defendants. Twelve individual fra-



Caleb Wilson

ternity members are also listed, including Caleb M. McCray, Kyle M. Thurman, and Isaiah E. Smith, all of whom were arrested and charged

in connection with Wilson's death. Wilson's death occurred in February during an unsanctioned, off-campus fraternity initiation in a

Baton Rouge warehouse. Reports indicate that Wilson was repeatedly punched in the chest by several members and eventually collapsed. Initial accounts suggested he had collapsed while playing basketball, but this was later disproven. Investigators determined that McCray repeatedly struck Wilson, leading to his death. He now faces charges of manslaughter and felony criminal hazing.

In their lawsuit, Wilson's parents alleged negligence, gross negligence, and intentional misconduct. They argue that the fraternity failed to supervise its members and prevent illegal hazing, while the university failed in its duty to protect students from foreseeable harm.

Following the incident, Southern University permanently expelled the Beta Sigma chapter of Omega

Psi Phi after determining that the chapter had violated the student code of conduct by engaging in hazing. At the time, the university also issued a temporary ban on all new member intake activities for Greek Organizations. That ban has since been lifted, with activities now resumed.

The Wilson family is seeking compensation for their son's wrongful death, the pain and suffering he endured before he died, and funeral expenses.

Caleb Wilson was a 20-year-old Mechanical Engineering student from Kenner, Louisiana. He was also a beloved member of Southern University's Human Jukebox Marching Band.

## State & Local News

# NORD Week 3's Athlete of the Week is Khi'Zer "Khi" Cobbins

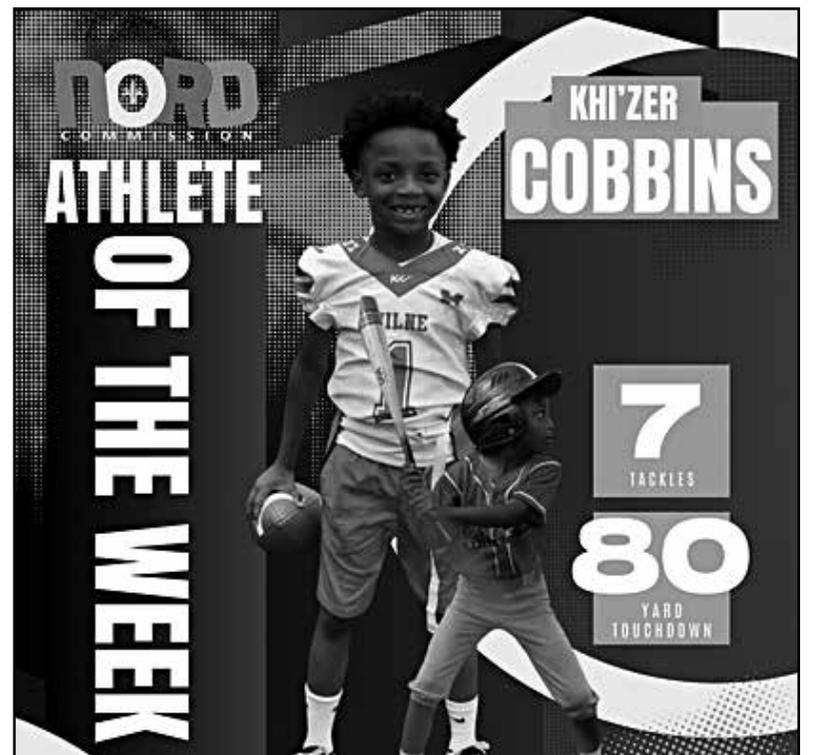
Data News Staff Edited  
Report

The New Orleans Recreation Development (NORD) Commission continues its 2025 Athlete of the Week Program by honoring another standout youth athlete who exemplifies leadership, skill, and heart both on and off the field.

Week 3's Athlete of the Week is Khi'Zer "Khi" Cobbins, a dynamic and versatile performer for the Milne Raiders. At just 6 years old, Khi is already making a big impact across multiple sports, including football, basketball, and baseball. A First Grader at Robert Russa Moton Charter School, Khi maintains a 4.0 GPA and is widely recognized as a natural leader among his peers.

Khi's recent performance in a key matchup against the Willie Hall Panthers showcased his all-around athletic ability. On defense, he racked up seven tackles, and on offense, he broke free for an electrifying 80-yard touchdown run. His knack for rising to the occasion has earned him a reputation as one of the most impactful young players in the league.

Khi draws inspiration from his



family—especially his mother—and looks up to his big brother, Ke'Michael Cobbins, his cousin Kolaj Cobbins (#48 for LSU), and NFL Star Lamar Jackson. That foundation of family and faith drives his belief that with determination, anything is possible.

Each week during football sea-

son, NORD recognizes one exceptional youth athlete from its leagues and local middle schools. Honorees are selected by coaches and NORD Officials based on skill, leadership, and dedication to the game. Featured athletes are celebrated every Friday at 11 p.m. on WGNO's Friday Night Football.

Fairness.  
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Accuracy.



#13

Re-elect

**Erroll Williams**  
Assessor

**VOTE October 11**

errollgwilliams.com

Paid for by the Erroll G. Williams Re-election Campaign Committee

# Ben Crump Pledges \$50K to the Black Press, Challenges Others to Follow His Lead

**Stacy M. Brown**  
Black Press USA Senior  
National Correspondent

The Conrad Hilton Hotel in Washington, D.C., pulsed with urgency and history as the Black Press of America gathered for its Annual National Leadership Awards and Reception. Honorees included House Minority Leader, Hakeem Jeffries, Congressional Black Caucus Chair, Yvette Clarke, and Communications Workers of America President, Claude Cummings Jr., who also serves on the Democratic National Committee's Executive Committee. Speaking on the Red Carpet to the Black Press' Let It Be Known Morning News Show; Cummings delivered a pointed message: "Democrats need to spend money now with the Black Press. The Black Press has always been that vehicle in our community that we've all needed and that has always been the trusted voice."

For nearly two centuries, the Black Press has served as that trusted voice—printing the truth when others refused. It showed the world the mutilated image of Emmett Till, amplified the words of Dr. King, and guided families through segregation and struggle. But with its 200th Anniversary approaching, the Black Press faces unprecedented challenges.

Attorney Ben Crump, often called "Black America's Attorney General," brought both urgency and action to the evening. Taking the stage, Crump addressed leaders in the room, including NAACP



NNPA Chairman Joh Warren, President and CEO Benjamin Chavis, and Benjamin Crump at the 2025 NNPA National Leadership Awards

President, Derrick Johnson and Board Chair, Leon Russell. "Right now, in America we're under attack like we've never been in our lifetime," he said. "We need institutions that are disseminating information to our people, being the clarion call for us to be ready to fight for our children and our communities. Nobody carries the Black narrative more passionately than the Black Press."

Crump denounced cuts to diversity, equity, and inclusion programs and warned of broader attacks on Black institutions. Yet he emphasized self-determination: "We don't need them to save us. We are going to save ourselves. We are all we need."

He reminded the audience of their duty to give back. "If you've been blessed, you got to pass the blessing on. You can't keep it to yourself. Everybody's got a role to play—the lawyers, the doctors, the bankers, the insurance agents. Even if you're not on the front line,

you have a responsibility to use your seat at the table to speak truth to power."

Quoting fellow Attorney Billy Murphy, Crump said, "We've got enough African Americans who are educated and articulate. What we lack is enough African Americans

with the courage to speak truth to power." He called for unapologetic defense of Black life and liberty, insisting that actions must match words.

Then, Crump acted—pledging \$50,000 to the Black Press, spread over five years. His donation was both a commitment and a challenge to others: "Right now we've got to support our own."

With the Black Press' Bicentennial on the horizon, leaders are urging individuals and institutions to step forward with sponsorships, advertising, and partnerships. A GoFundMe Campaign has been launched to secure its survival.

"The Black Press is needed more than ever before," Crump declared. His words—and his gift—underscored the urgent call to sustain the Trusted Voice of the Black Community.

## IMPORTANT MUST READ PRESS RELEASE

Sept. 16, 2025

### Registrar of Voters Reminds Residents About Upcoming City Council District Adjustments.

New Orleans, LA — The City of New Orleans reminds all residents that, in accordance with Section 3-103(2) of the City's Home Rule Charter and Ordinance No. 28968 of March 2022, changes were approved for some wards and precincts that may affect City Council Districts.

Although these adjustments won't take effect administratively until the new council is seated in January 2026, some voters may notice changes on their upcoming Oct. 11, 2025, ballots.

Before any election, the Registrar of Voters encourages residents to verify their voter registration, voting locations, and districts using the online voter portal at [geauxvote.com](http://geauxvote.com), by downloading the free **GeauxVote mobile app**, or by contacting the **Orleans Parish Registrar of Voters**.

**Sample ballots** are also available through the portal and app to confirm the candidates available on the voter's ballot.

For **more information** about the redistricting process, including maps, visit [nola.gov/council-maps](http://nola.gov/council-maps).

If voters have additional **questions**, contact the **Orleans Parish Registrar of Voters at (504) 658-8300. ###**

BRW, Continued from page 5.

the sky." He also thanked Mr. Elloie for being one of our notable funk and soul musicians. After Hurricane Katrina he assisted in the water removal as a Steam Plant Engineer for Sewerage and Water Board for over 36 years."

Other council members such as Freddie King, JP Morrell and Eugene Green each made comments about the group. They were each presented with a Proclamation from the City.

The Proclamation stated:

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

WHEREAS, the city of New Orleans is renowned for its food, festivals, famous citizens and foreign visitors; and

WHEREAS, the City Council takes great pride in paying tribute to events and activities; now, therefore

BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

That the Council recognizes: BILLY KENNEDY BRW

Congratulations 50 years in the music industry. An extraordinary milestone. Your music continues to captivate audiences worldwide; you are a musical artist of the highest calling.

In the name of and by the authority vested in the Council, at the Request of Councilman Oliver M. Thomas.

Signed by all the council members below.

**DATA CLASSIFIED**

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place your classified ad.

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](mailto:terrybjones@bellsouth.net) and [datanewseditor@bellsouth.net](mailto: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](mailto:terrybjones@bellsouth.net)

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# Election Day is October 11, 2025

*It's time to Vote! Let your Voice be Heard !*

**VOTE !!!**



**VOTE !!!**

Government Possible Shut Down!

Calling in the National Guard!

It's Time for New Leadership!

**It's Time to VOTE!**



**VOTE !!!**

*Paid for by*

*Congressman Troy A. Carter , Sr.*

If not **NOW**, **WHEN**,

if not **YOU**, **WHO!!!**

*It's time to be responsible.*