Data Endorses

Dale Atkins
LA. 4th Circuit Court of Appeal

Ellen Hazeur
Civil District Court

Royce Duplessis
LA State Rep - 93rd District

Joseph Lopinto
Sheriff, Jefferson Parish

Vote on March 24, 2018

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Data News Weekly Endorsements
March 24th Election

By Terry B. Jones
Publisher, Data News Weekly

For over 50 years, in our mission as “The People’s Paper” we at Data News Weekly have championed the critical importance of having and exercising our right to vote, and we encourage you to get out and vote on March 24th. In Orleans Parish, there are three races on the ballot and we are endorsing the following candidates.

Louisiana Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal: Dale Atkins

Dale Atkins is a longtime officeholder and has been someone whose honesty and integrity is needed in this most important position as a judge on the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal. With experience in private practice and inside of government, she is armed with the tools to do an effective job. Her record of excellence is undeniable as evidenced by the public’s confidence in her ability as they continued to re-elect her as Clerk of Civil District Court for nearly three decades.

It is time for one of our most able elected officials; Dale Atkins, to be given the opportunity to serve on the Louisiana Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal.

Civil District Court: Ellen Hazeur

Ellen Hazeur has held multiple offices including serving on the New Orleans City Council and longtime Clerk of First City Court. Of the candidates in the race, she is the most prepared to hit the ground run-

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ning and there will be no learning curve for Hazeur. She is someone who has the temperament, experience and varied background in the law to be effective as a Civil District Court Judge.

Experience and Integrity matters and we feel Ellen Hazeur possess these qualities and is the best qualified to occupy the bench as one of the Judges at Civil District Court.

Louisiana State Representative District 93: Royce Duplessis

District 93 includes Parts of Tremé and the 7th Ward, the French Quarter, the Garden District and Central City. While all areas of the City are important these areas have become places where changes are happening at a dramatic pace. We have seen development post-Katrina that is both exciting and troubling at the same time. In this seat, there must be someone who can balance these new changes forging ahead without leaving our most vulnerable citizens behind. Whoever is elected to this seat must be someone with the ability to have relationships with all the diverse stakeholders in this district to have a voice in it moving forward.

Data News Weekly believes the best candidate to accomplish this is Royce Duplessis; he is young, smart and a breath of fresh air. He has also been able to effectively forge relationships ranging from those from the old New Orleans to the new millennials that are entering the City. But as the City changes, it is important to have a new breed of local leaders to emerge and Royce Duplessis fits the bill and is equipped to fill this role.

In addition, we have looked at the hotly contested race for Jefferson Parish Sheriff. And, because of the significant population of African-Americans in the Jefferson whose voices often do not get heard but can change the outcome of an election, we decided to endorse who we felt was the best candidate in the race for Jefferson Parish Sheriff.

Sheriff Jefferson Parish: Joseph Lopinto

In the race for Jefferson Parish Sheriff Data News Weekly believes Joseph Lopinto is the best candidate to occupy this seat. He is someone who has a holistic view of law enforcement and keeping the community safe. Understanding the job of a sheriff requires more than being an officer in the street, but taking an approach that has all of the stakeholders involved guiding solutions. Throughout his long career as a deputy then a narcotics detective. Later, he worked was an attorney and managing partner of Lopinto Law Firm, LLC, a Metairie law firm that is engaged in a general civil practice and specializes in civil rights defense of sheriff’s offices and their employees.

In addition to his background in law and law enforcement; he was elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives serving as Chairman of the House Committee on the Administration of Criminal Justice. Presently, Lopinto is the interim Sheriff and has proven an effective leader. He’s also been instrumental in educating his fellow law enforcement community serving as both a teacher and mentor in the Jefferson Parish Academy as well as with other Sheriffs and law schools throughout the state. It is because of his breadth and depth of his experience and commitment we endorse Joseph Lopinto for Jefferson Parish Sheriff.

Get Out and Vote

We encourage all our citizens to get out and vote. Even though this is a special election we must in every election let our voices be heard. And while many are concerned about what is happening on the national level with President Trump, it is in these local elections where things are decided that affect us the people of New Orleans. We at the New Orleans Data News Weekly want you to get out and vote, and let your voices be heard in the shaping of our City.
College Students Join National Walkout Day Protests

By Amyre Brandom-Skinner
Data News Weekly
Contributor

Across the country, students walked out of their classrooms in response to the national debate on gun violence. And in New Orleans, crowds of students left their classrooms at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, March 14th to call for new laws for gun control. University students stood in solidarity with K-through-12 students who were victims of recent school shootings. At Xavier University, led by the Ordinary People Student Group, students marched from their classes to the center of campus to support calls to address gun violence.

“No justice, no peace,” said De’ahn Huddleston, a Xavier freshman. “The yells from students participating in the walkout woke me up,” she said.

Xavier students said they joined together to represent the university's mission statement of “promoting a more just and humane society.”

“The real way of thinking as a Xavierite means knowing that we are a community. We have a responsibility to one another,” said C. Reynold Verret, Xavier’s president. “By speaking and mobilizing, students have shown the need for the government to take care of the needs of the people,” he said.

The campus organizers told the crowd that protesting was a way to bring about action. “In order to affect change in all our communities, we must stand up and speak out,” said Bralen Johnson, a Xavier student.

Most importantly, the walkout sought to remember the victims of mass shootings. Organizers recalled the tragedy that took place on Feb. 14th in Parkland, Fla., and the 17 lives lost on this day. Many students reflected on the potentially unsafe environments that their family members are sent to every day by attending school.

“Today we stand in solidarity to say that enough is enough,” said Indigo Gill, a Xavier student. “We need stricter gun laws that look out for the safety of everyone and do not unjustly target any one group of individuals,” she said.

Organizers said it was not enough to remain silent about gun violence. Students were encouraged to engage in more topics like this one, as the first step to bring change to an issue that particularly affects the Black community.

“There is a war going on right now for our lives,” said Ahmed Oyale Arasah, a Xavier student. “Don’t be discouraged, don’t be afraid because of that truth, but understand your position in that war, sharpen your tools and begin to activate,” he said.

Faculty members who participated in the march reminded students that education was an important tool when fighting for change. They urged students to put their degrees to use in ways that can improve the community.

“An education is not simply the discipline or the degree, an education has to do something,” said Robin Vander, an Associate Professor for English and African-American and Diaspora Studies. “It not only gets you a good job and a way to give back, but an education arms an individual with the critical thinking skills and the know how to not only transform one person’s life… take it to the community and let it spread,” she said.

The national walkout was seen in several states as a rallying call for Congress to act on the existing gun laws and in particular to stand up to the influence of organizations like the National Rifle Association. Students who participated said this is just the first step to activism that brings about reforms.

“It is our duty to fight for our freedom,” said Jalisa Orellana, a Xavier student. “We have nothing to lose but our chains,” she said.

Tylan Nash contributed to this report.
Female musicians have been in the shadows of male musicians for many decades, but their stories are hardly ever told. But in revisiting the Judy Chaikin Documentary “The Girls in the Band,” their voices take center stage.

The sexism, racism, and prejudice that made many of these female pioneers into trailblazers was the heart of a Women’s History Month talk on March 1, 2018, led by Kimberly Chandler, an Associate Professor of Communication Studies and Performance Studies at Xavier University, who teaches Women Studies courses.

“In the music industry when you decide that I am not going to let men determine who I am as a woman you become penalized, then treated as if you’re not their stereotype of a woman,” Chandler said.

The film touches on female musicians from the 1930s to present day, particularly in the big band era and jazz. Women of all races and background were looked down on in the industry and kept from playing musical instruments for the larger orchestras. This film tells the story of the journey of young talented women during this period, as they fought their way through sexism, with many becoming involved in women’s rights movements.

The documentary explored the story of musicians like Clara Bryant, an African American Jazz Trumpeter who first developed her musical abilities when she attended Prairie View College, as this Historically Black University was called at the time. Bryant played in an all-women’s band for 30-plus years starting in the 1940s. She then led a trailblazing career as part of the all-Black female jazz band called Queens of Swing. The group was considered the first female jazz band on a television variety program. Later in her career, she was invited to the Soviet Union to tour and lecture on jazz, a first of its kind visit for a jazz musician.

Bryant’s career is still significant today, because other than Beyoncé, Chandler said, there are few contemporary artists who hire only women in their bands. The rise of female musicians in the 1930s occurred because during World War II many female musicians got their first big breaks. This occurred as male musicians went off to fight a war, and this created a space for women to provide their musical talents to popular bands and orchestras. At that moment, men in the music industry got to finally see the talent of many female musicians that was once hidden.

It was also an important moment for White female musicians as well who played in mostly Black bands. Roz Cron was just 16 when she was spotted for her talents as a saxophonist in the 1930s. She played alongside Black women musicians and encountered the segregation her Black female bandmates faced. She was jailed and harassed for racial mixing at the time, the documentary showed.

Image also mattered, Chandler said. Even female musicians were considered to have a certain physical look. In the documentary, some female musicians were told they did not look attractive enough to appear on television, while many more were told to wear dresses or outfits that revealed a lot of skin. Cron recalled in the film that said she was told to smile while playing her instrument.

“How are we supposed to smile with an instrument pressed against your lips,” Cron said in the film.

During the Civil Rights Era, many female groups had to worry about Jim Crow and segregation when traveling through the states in the South. African-American women were denied access to play in some bands and venues because of segregation and racism.

“When I think of the music industry now, they don’t show women as musicians they show them as the veneer of the music business,” said Paula Singleton, an Assistant Director with Xavier’s library, who showed the film as part of a Library Film Series.

She said she hoped the documentary brought awareness to an era where women were equally valued for creating and performing music, as they are today for just selling albums and singles.
Black Masking Cultural Festival Highlights

Photos by Lamarcus Smith, Glenn Summers & Kichea S. Burt

On March 18, 2018, the Inaugural Black Masking Cultural Festival and Feather Fundraiser took place. This event was in association with Data News Weekly, French Market Association, Cumulus Broadcasting, BNOLA and Beulah Productions and was held in two parts. Crescent Park Pavilion hosted the festival, and later that evening, Tipitinas played host to the Feather Fundraiser featuring the Legendary Cyril Neville, Big Chief Bo Dollis Jr and the Wild Magnolias and Love Evolution. Here are some of the highlights of the events and for more information on how you can be a part of keeping this culture alive visit www.ladatanews.com
The 2018 UNCF Mayor’s Masked Ball
A Night of Elegance

Photos by Cedric A. Ellsworth, Vincent Sylvain & Edwin Buggage

The UNCF Mayor’s Masked Ball is one of New Orleans’ signature fundraising galas and premier social events of the year. On hand for the festive event were a diverse group of corporate sponsors and individuals including dignitaries, civic leaders, volunteers, public officials, alumni and others who support UNCF’s mission of investing in America’s future by getting students to and then through college. The Mistress of Ceremonies for the evening was Tamaron Hall and featured a silent and live auction, elegant dining, the “Parade of Masks”, dancing and live entertainment provided by The O’Jays and comedian Johnathon Slocumb. The event was presented by UNCF New Orleans, and of course, Data was there.

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

Data Zone, Continued from page 7.

Vote This Saturday, March 24th
Paid for by Committee to Elect Ellen Hazeur
Ellen Hazeur
CIVIL DISTRICT COURT
Judge
for
#10

“I am proud to receive the endorsement of Data News Weekly. I promise to work hard, be fair and just and treat all who come before me with respect and dignity. I humbly ask for your vote for Judge of Civil District Court.”

Ellen Hazeur
TRIBUNE AD 3/13 COPY 2

ELECT

Dale Atkins
JUDGE
4TH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEAL

A Record of Public Service to the City of New Orleans

For Dale Atkins, commitment to community has always come first. Atkins’ dedication to the citizens of New Orleans is reflected in the lives she’s touched. Whether in church, school or in her community, she has proudly served us for over 30 years, first as an assistant district attorney and later as Clerk of Civil District Court. As Clerk, she has provided a solid foundation in our court system for those seeking access to justice. We need her impartiality, integrity and independence as our next judge at the 4th Circuit Court of Appeal.

✔ Election Day
March 24, 2018

@datkinsfor4th
daleatkinsforjudge.com

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Dale Atkins Judge - 4th Circuit Court of Appeal

VOTE THIS SATURDAY, MARCH 24TH
We Don’t Have To Respect Republicans Intellectually Any More

We no longer have to take the Republicans Party seriously. It appears to be the one good thing that has come from the Trump mis-administration. First, we no longer have to listen to the GOP apologists on the subject of racism in their party. You see, a new Associated Press and NORC poll came out recently and over 51% of Americans think Trump is racist. Racism and White Supremacy have been the only thing he’s delivered on. You see, a new Associated Press and NORC poll came out recently and over 51% of Americans think Trump is racist. Racism and White Supremacy have been the only thing he’s delivered on. You can hear it in his remarks on ‘it’ hole countries and why can’t we get more people from Norway which is a White country of course. Never mind that the folks in Norway seem quite happy with healthcare,
education levels, and the quality of life they enjoy, if that weren’t the case then we would already see an uptick in immigration from Norway. Right?

We no longer have to listen to the patriotic blather from the GOP anymore too. Trump betrays the country with his stalling on Russian sanctions which were passed with veto-proof majorities in both Houses of Congress. Russia has meddled in the Presidential elections of 2016, even Trump himself has used the word “meddling.” It appears that Russia is going to meddle again in the upcoming mid-term election as well. Meanwhile, 120 million dollars to the State Department and Rex Tillerson to help circumvent future Russian interference just sits as not a dime of that money has been spent. The country is under attack and bearing false witness against a neighbor, birther nonsense anyone? Also, wanting to destroy the safety net for the poor and unfortunate. What would Jesus do, to the Religious right that is?

Lastly, we no longer have to suffer the Republican stupidity about the economy anymore as well now that Trump has decided to impose tariffs on steel and aluminum by 25% and 10% respectively from all countries friend and economic foe alike. Collectively that might take over three billion dollars out the US economy for starters. Now the US is open to retaliatory tariffs from other countries that won’t just sit still for this. Our ally, the European Union will also join in the retaliation. Corporate America will have to give back some of that brand-new tax cut money they coveted. Welcome to the recession of late 2019 everyone.

How did this happen? Well, the first mainstream media even today can’t wrap its head around the fact that decades ago the Republican Party became the safe space for White racism, sexism, religious intolerance, and all the rest of the reactionary ideas. The GOP couldn’t either, nay they even happily took advantage of it. Ideas designed to appeal the 20th Century. The economic elites went along with all of this to crush the workers and institute a harsh economic regime in the United States that enriches them. It never occurred to them that there was a price to be paid for this. If you go along with crackpot ideas like White Supremacy all the other crackpot ideas like tariffs come along too. Bubba and Daisy Mae don’t care a lick about big business as they voted for racism and Trump. Shoot, they think big business is part of their racial and economic troubles. That’s what Trump tapped into you dumb stupid economic elites. Perhaps some are only now realizing the Faustian bargain struck with the reactionaries, who are now in charge of the Republican party. These Trumpian voters only care about Whiteness and Trump is giving them what they voted for. Nothing else matters except this. The rest of us don’t have to respect the Republican Party intellectually anymore and I thank Trump for that.
On Monday, March 12, 2018, The Jeremiah Group presented the first ever student-led sheriff candidate forum. The forum was driven by Jeremiah’s successful 2017 Voter Registration Drive in Jefferson Parish Public High Schools. It included registering young adults between the ages of 18-21 residing in Jefferson Parish. The drive resulted in over 6000 new voters being added to the rolls.

With an upcoming Sheriff Election quickly approaching, the recent school shooting, and the deteriorating relationship between the youth and law enforcement, it was imperative that the people most affected have an opportunity to express their concerns. Jeremiah is a staunch advocate for public safety. We strongly believe that since young people have unique concerns and issues, they should have their own platform for their voices to be heard.

It was the goal of Jeremiah to have young adults participate in the public arena: by becoming registered voters, by learning about issues and candidates, by expressing their concerns, and by better positioning themselves to make an informed voting decision at the polls.

Jeremiah designed and administered a “Public/School Safety Survey” for students at twelve (12) Jefferson Parish Public High Schools, and the students took it from there. When the students were asked if they wanted to speak with the candidates, the overwhelming response was, “Yes, let’s do it!” A core group of three (3) students from each school used the results to come up with questions ranging from racial profiling to arming teachers. The Student Core Teams from each high school directed these questions to the candidates, Interim Sheriff Joseph Lopinto and Retired Col. John Fortunato.

Leaders from Jeremiah taught the students how to plan a forum and to organize the committees needed for a successful event. With the guidance of our leadership, the students were excited to get to work.

The students’ weeks of preparation set the stage for the first ever student-led sheriff candidate forum. With an audience of over 300 hundred students, they listened attentively to questions which a direct reflection of their experiences and perception of law enforcement were. They applauded when they agreed with the answers and sat quietly when answers were not quite what they expected to hear.

The students felt a spark because the forum was organized by them, for them, and most importantly, with their voices being heard.

Both candidates committed, if elected, to work with The Jeremiah Group and the youth to improve its relationship with the community.

The Jeremiah Group Youth Initiative is moving in the right direction. It is another strategy to keep democracy alive. The Jefferson Parish Public Schools System partnered in the effort by providing the venue, transportation, and lunch for the students.

“Depression doesn’t have to keep us down. The healing is in me, and the healing can be extended to others.”

- Teddy Boone

Mental health is share ourselves. Healing starts with us.

()SAMHSA

86 MILLION
AMERICANS
MAYBE EVEN YOU,
HAVE PREDIABETES.
PERSON-ABOUT-TO-
FACT-CHECK-THIS-FACT.
Data Strut Award Winner

Iyanni Davis

Being a model is more than your high heels, and beauty. Being a model is being a live display of how to be, a model shows the way, and 17-year-old Iyanni Davis is the epitome of just that. Davis is Data’s first Data Strut Award Winner and the student by day, and model 24/7 has been modeling for over four years.

The St. Martinville native made her first modeling debut in a denim photo shoot and immediately fell in love with her craft. Since then, modeling has led Davis to be featured in shows like NOFW and NYFW.

“When I’m on the runway it feels, amazing----the room just turns black, and it’s just me and the cameras which are like my mirrors, I love it,” said Davis.

When she’s not ripping the runway, she’s teaching others how. Davis, along with her runway coach Dutchis, dedicates her time to teaching younger aspiring models proper runway etiquette. Davis admires most of the top names in fashion such as Naomi Campbell and Tyra Banks and says the key is to study your craft.

“I pay close attention to the people who inspire me, even the way they hold themselves on social media, confidence is key, but you must know your craft,” said Davis.

Aside from her modeling life, she values things like family, respect, discipline, and humility in her everyday life. Davis believes a humble model is the best model and she appreciates modeling because of the confidence it’s given her over the years.

“Growing up, I was a tomboy, I did not have the confidence I have now or the belief I have in myself like I do now, and that is why I get chosen. My confidence today is something I can’t hide. When I’m on the runway I can’t hold that back” said Davis.

As a model coach, Davis wants all young ladies to remain themselves and to love themselves. She wants girls to understand how important inner beauty and personality is in the fashion industry.

“It’s not always about your modeling talent, but who you are as a person makes a huge difference in getting picked. The way you treat people matters, so you can’t just rely on your outside beauty if you have ugly ways” said Davis.

In the future, Davis plans to audition to be on America’s Next Top Model in hopes of taking her modeling career further. Davis also plans to be in NYFW for a second time later in the year.

“I received the same love at those shows as I do at home and it inspired me to go back. Doing NYFW boosted my confidence all the way up and made me feel like WOW I can really do this,” said Davis.

For more information on Iyanni Davis and her modeling career follow her Instagram @IyanniDavis.

#TeamYa
SOME PARENTS BEG THEIR KIDS TO DO HOMEWORK. SOME KIDS ARE BEGGING FOR IT TO MAKE SENSE.

Learning and attention issues can look different to parents and kids. That’s why there’s Understood, a free online resource with answers, advice and tools to help your child thrive. Go from misunderstanding to understood.org.

Understood
for learning & attention issues

Brought to you by 15 nonprofit partners