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**New Orleans**

# Data

**News Weekly**

*"The People's Paper"*

**Black Masking Festival Highlights**

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March 24 - March 30, 2018 52nd Year Volume 47 [www.ladatanews.com](http://www.ladatanews.com)

A Data News Weekly Exclusive

# 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

*The Soul of New Orleans*

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# Data News Weekly Endorsements March 24th Election



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

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 long-time 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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## Cover Story, Continued from page 2.

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 Treme' 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 Jeffer-

son 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 commit-

ment 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.

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#6

ELECT

# ROYCE DUPLESSIS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE - DISTRICT 93



Paid for by the Committee to Elect Royce Duplessis





# 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



Xavier University's Ordinary People Student Organization lead a prayer for the demonstration on March 14, 2018. (Photo by Amyre Brandom-Skinner)

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.



## CUMULUS

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# Legacy of Female Musicians still a Little Known Story in Women's History

By Brianna Montgomery  
Data News Weekly  
Contributor

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 Clora 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



Judy Chaikin's award-winning documentary 'The Girls in the Band' focuses on female jazz and big band instrumentalists from the late 30's to the present day and their struggles to elevate their talents as they battled against sexism, racism and diminished opportunities.

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 required 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.

*In the race for Sheriff, the Choice is Clear.  
Elect Sheriff Joseph Lopinto to keep our  
communities safe.*



"Jefferson Parish needs a sheriff who is responsive to the needs of every neighborhood and community. Joe Lopinto has shown time and again that he is that kind of leader. We can count on Joe."

— Governor John Bel Edwards



"I served with Joe in the legislature, and I know his character. Joe Lopinto was a partner whose door was always open. He worked hard to represent every neighborhood, every community, and leave no one shut out. We need that kind of leadership in our next sheriff. Joe Lopinto is the right choice for the safety of our community."

— State Senator Troy Carter



"Joe is part of a new generation leading the way to greater equity and fairness in law enforcement. That's why I'm supporting him."

— Public Service Commissioner Lambert Boissiere, III

Sheriff  
— Joseph —  
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Election Day: March 24, 2018

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Joseph Lopinto Sheriff



# 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](http://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.



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

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Data Zone, Continued from page 7.



# 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**



Instagram Facebook Twitter @datkinsfor4th  
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Paid for by the Committee to Elect Dale Atkins Judge - 4th Circuit Court of Appeal

"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."



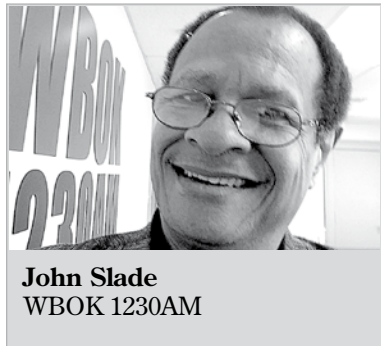
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HAZEUR**  
FOR  
JUDGE #10  
CIVIL DISTRICT COURT

Paid for by Committee to Elect Ellen Hazeur

**VOTE THIS SATURDAY, MARCH 24TH**



# We Don't Have To Respect Republicans Intellectually Any More



John Slade  
WBOK 1230AM

We no longer have to take the Republican Party seriously. It appears to be the one good thing that has come from the Trump misadministration. 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 can hear it in his remarks on s\*\*t 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 to be 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 by a Red Dawn of digital ones and zeros and nothing is being done. The Republican Congress slow walks any investigation into Russian interference. Don't talk to me about patriotism ever again Republicans.

We no longer have to listen to the Republican conservative bleating about God and religion anymore. Not after the White Evangelicals are willing to overlook Republican sins like sexual harassment, adultery, fooling around with underage children, looking at you Roy Moore, 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 the 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 repeal 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.

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# First Student-Led Jefferson Parish Sheriff Candidates Forum

*The Jeremiah Group continues to practice what the Founding Fathers preached: the ongoing attempts to make democracy an everyday reality for more and more Americans.*

By Tony Brual and Christian Schrimph

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



Student poses question to Jefferson Parish Sheriff Candidates, Joseph Lopinto and John Fortunato.



The Jeremiah Group and community Partners put on student led forum Jefferson Parish Candidate Forum.

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."

- Thabiti Boone

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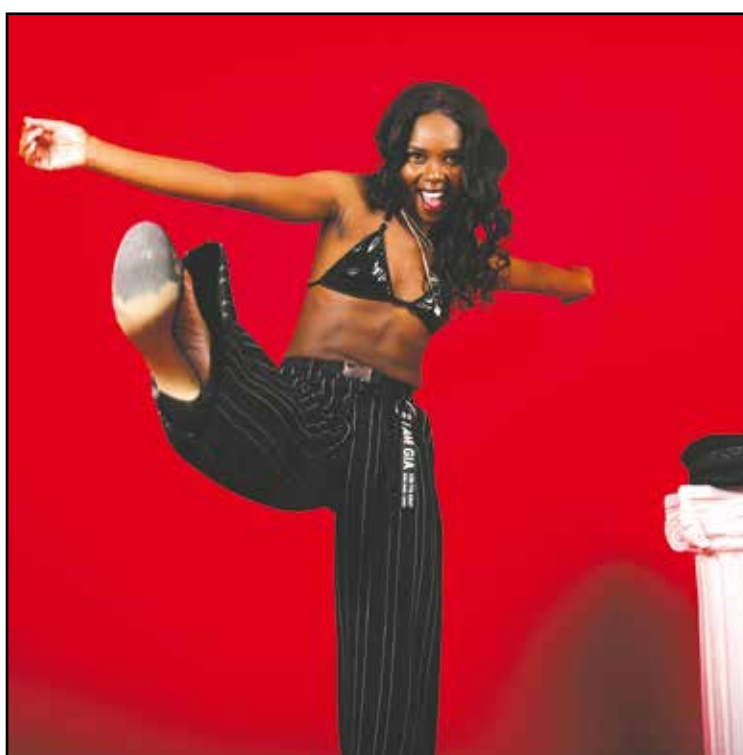


## Data Strut Award Winner

## Iyanni Davis



**Delaney George**  
Columnist



Top Left: Model Iyanni Davis, should be at the top your list to watch out for in the fashion world. Clothing by: Kay's Boutique 5419 Magazine St, New Orleans, LA 70115, shop the look! Left: Iyanni Davis' personality shines on and off the runway as she poses in exclusive Kay's Boutique Gear from head to toe. Above: Models just wanna have fun! Model and runway coach Iyanni Davis gets a kick out of her fabulous model life.

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

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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 want to hear from you if you are a working journalist, or an aspiring journalist who has 2 years or more of newspaper or PR writing experience. 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).

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