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America’s Youth Take a Stand and March for Their Lives

Black Students from Across the Nation Join the March to Raise Voices Against Gun Violence

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The “March for Our Lives” protest in the nation’s capital was organized by students after 17 people were killed in a mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., last month.

The students are frustrated by what they say is the inaction of adults, especially politicians, who offer thoughts and prayers in the wake of school shootings but fail to pass legislation that protects kids from gun violence. They hope these marches will provide momentum for change ahead of the upcoming midterm elections.

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Data News Weekly Staff Edited Reports

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Cover Story, Continued from page 2.

one of more than 800 coast-to-coast to push for stricter gun laws.

In the U.S. Capital, chants of “vote them out” rang out in between dozens of student speakers from elementary to high school age, including several survivors of the Parkland shooting as well as Martin Luther King Jr.’s granddaughter. There were also performances by Jennifer Hudson, Miley Cyrus, and Ariana Grande.

Student speakers used the national stage to call for an assault weapons ban, limits on high-capacity magazines and universal background checks. They also called on young people to register to vote.

Saturday’s demonstrations follow a national school walkout on March 14th, exactly one month after the Parkland shooting, in which students across the country walked out of classes for 17 minutes to honor the 17 victims in Florida.

That deadly shooting inspired a generation of youth activists, who have been raised in a time marked by gun violence, to raise awareness of a growing support for tighter gun laws, which still face powerful political opposition from gun supporters backed by the National Rifle Association.

President Trump, who was in Florida for the weekend at his Mar-a-Lago Resort, had yet to weigh in on Twitter about the protests as of Saturday evening. After the Parkland shooting, Trump held a number of listening sessions with students and even floated the idea of raising the age of gun ownership to 21 and tightening background checks. But in the end, the administration didn’t push for any bold measures. However, on Friday, the Justice Department proposed a plan to ban bump stocks, which are devices that allow a semi-automatic weapon to fire like a machine gun.

Former President Barack Obama said on Twitter that he and Michelle Obama were “inspired” by the protests. Speaking at an event in Japan on Sunday, Barack Obama noted that the March for Our Lives events were “duplicated all around the world. And this was all because of the courage and effort of a handful of 15 and 16-year-olds.”

“‘There are many ways to silence young people and make them invisible. Many ways to anesthetize them, to make them keep quiet, ask nothing, question nothing. There are many ways to sedate them, to keep them from getting involved, to make their dreams flat and dreary, petty and plaintive,’ he said.”

“Dear young people, you have it in you to shout,” he told young people, urging them to be like the people who welcomed Jesus with palms rather than those who shouted for his crucifixion only days later.

“‘It is up to you not to keep quiet. Even if others keep quiet, if we older people and leaders, some corrupt, keep quiet, if the whole world keeps quiet and loses its joy, I ask you: Will you cry out?’”

“A group of young demonstrators heads from a Black Lives Matter DC gathering to the “March for Our Lives” in Southeast D.C. On their way, they chanted, “When Black lives are under attack, what do we do? Stand up. Fight back.”

A young protestor makes a sign in support of the March.

A young protestor stands with the MLK Monument in the background.

A young protestor makes a sign in support of the March.
Election Results March 24th Election

By Edwin Buggage
Data News Weekly Editor

As we continue our over 50-year mission as “The People’s Paper” we at Data News Weekly want to thank all of those who came out and voted in the election and let their voices be heard.

Here are the results from the March 24th Election:

The Importance of Voting
At Data News Weekly we encourage you to continue to stay civically engaged as we move toward the 2018 Mid-Term Elections. The stakes are high, and your participation is imperative.

Louisiana Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal: Dale Atkins
Dale Atkins is a longtime officeholder who has been elected to serve as Judge 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. In the race for Judge of Civil District Court, she won in a field of candidates.

Louisiana State Representative District 93: Royce Duplessis
District 93 consists of Tremé’ and the 7th Ward, the French Quarter, the Garden District and Central City. In the race for who will lead the District as its State Representative, Royce Duplessis bested a field of several candidates.

Jefferson Parish Sheriff: Joe Lopinto
In a hotly contested race for Jefferson Parish Sheriff, Joe Lopinto won by gaining a cross-section of voters.

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Election Night Highlights

Saturday, March 24, 2018, was a night of victory celebrations for several candidates. Friends, family, and supporters gathered at the Election Night venues for candidates Dale Atkins, Ellen Hazeur, and Royce Duplessis to offer their congratulations. And Data was there!!!

By the time she’s ready to attend college, the majority of all jobs will require education and training beyond high school. Jobs in healthcare, community services, and STEM will grow the fastest among occupational clusters. To be ready for these jobs of the future, students in grades K-12 need learning experiences that meet them where they are, engage them deeply, let them progress at a pace that meets their individual needs, and helps them master the skills for today and tomorrow.

The Every Student Succeeds Act empowers parents like you to make sure that the opportunity for a great education is the standard for every student. To get involved, visit www.nnpa.org/essa.

Made possible by a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

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2018 Super Sunday

Too Pretty to Miss

1 Week Rain Delay Can’t Stop The Indians

Photos by Kichea S. Burt
Data News Weekly Contributor

Nothing can stop it, even a rain delay of a week didn’t stop the tribes from coming out to honor their traditions. On Sunday, March 25th the Mardi Gras Indians held their Super Sunday around St. Joseph’s Day. Their festivities began at A.L. Davis Park (at Washington & LaSalle Streets) where the Mardi Gras Indians once again dressed in their feathers and suits and take to the streets to meet other “gangs”. The sights and sounds were beautiful, as always, and of course, Data was there!!!

Visit www.ladatanews.com for more photos from these events
From Rally to Power
The Civic Obligation of Young Black Leaders

By Tiffany Dena Loftin
Director, NAACP Youth and College Division

Who would have thought that in less than 15 days, I would have to coordinate and manage 1,000 young, Black student leaders from over 24 cities on 17 buses in the name of gun reform and safety?

The reality is, sometimes the work chooses you.

I started my new job one day before the mass school shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. We’ve got over 650 active and registered NAACP chapters on high school and college campuses across the country. We are the only organization, period, that can reach that many Black, young, organized members.

Since February 14, 2018, the day of the Parkland shooting, I have followed these students who have built a national discussion on the safety of young people at the school in less than a month. A movement that inspires, convicts and recruits people from across the country and now the world, to an issue, that Black folks have been talking about for over a decade.

When gun violence happens in White communities, it’s always reported on as a mental issue or because they were racist. When gun violence happens in the Black community, it is because of poverty, under-funded schools, police brutality or gangs. This is necessary to understand because the solution we are fighting for can’t just be regulations against automatic military style weapons.

It has to be a holistic solution to make all communities safe.

The March for Our Lives is only a march for our lives if people meet at the intersection of mass school shootings, community violence, poverty, the War on Drugs, police brutality and White supremacy. From Trayvon Martin to Stephon Clark, this is not the first time we’ve raised the issues of gun violence, but for many reasons, this moment is where we find ourselves with the most leverage of “people power.”

When the opportunity presented itself for us to be involved and bring our members, I spoke with my boss and told him I would only sign up to help build for the “March for Our Lives,” if we got to do two things:

First, I wanted to make sure that we weren’t just being used as representation at the march, but that we challenged the mainstream media, march organizers, and organizational partners to think about the intersection of gun violence when it comes to the Black community.

Second, it was important that this moment not turn into another rally, but the real opportunity for us to educate and engage future members about the organization.

Because a rally won’t end gun violence, I want my peers and young adults to make the clear connection from this issue to who should be held accountable for systemic and legislative change at the ballot box. That way, we know we showed up in numbers not just for a great rally, but for the start of a great revolution.

It is my belief, that if all of the young folks from this march, the women’s march, the immigration movement and Black Lives Matter joined together for a strategic effort, we could change this country literally overnight.

We must use this as a moment to help young Black folks see that if we want real gun reform if we want better public schools if we want community policing then we MUST show up to the ballot box. This demonstration, for the NAACP Youth and College Division, is not a free trip to a rally. It is the moment that we are using to build real power that will impact the political navigation of this country.

Black students have the solutions and the answers. We’re going to stop asking to be included in national movements, and just take over.

I am grateful to all of the staff, the partners and our donors who have helped make this vision possible. We can only use this moment to create bigger and better local victories for our people.

Cheers to the strong and fearless students from every community, who have ever stood up to violence in their communities. This march is a celebration of your leadership and a call to action for those looking to change the world.

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Ask Alma
My Co-worker Lied about her “Dead Sister” to Get Time Off

She didn’t have enough time off so I and another woman donated time to her so she could take off for the funeral and still be paid. To make this long story short, I have a friend of a friend who’s her friend and she said she doesn’t even have a sister. I can’t believe she lied about something like that. I think she should be fired, because she can’t be trusted.

What has happened with this woman is between her, her boss and Human Resources. Stay out of it! I don’t need to make room. Don’t you get me wrong, lying about your sister’s death is jack-shit-cky. But what does that have to do with you? Should you contact Human Resources or tell her boss directly?

Dear No Good Deed,

Ahh, what, excuse me? How about the first person that has never told a lie at work take two steps forward! Ummm, that’s alright, you don’t need to make room. Don’t get me wrong, lying about your sister’s death is jack-shit-cky. But what does that have to do with you? Should you contact HR or tell her boss? Tell her boss what?

I truly understand this to be a grown-up matter, so why don’t you take a grown-up approach. Ask her, straight up, did your sister pass away? If she says, “yes,” offer your condolences and go back to your desk.

Maybe in her mind, her sister did die, a sorority sister, step-sister, sister in Christ. She may have a cousin she loves like a sister. We don’t know her circumstances or what was in her heart. Ok, yeah, I’m stretching it and, it appears, she did, too. But right here is where I’ll cut her some slack and us a slice of patience and understanding.

This is serious business that ain’t really none of your business. I’m clear on your A and B options, so let’s consider my C option: Spend time doing the best job you were hired to do at your own desk. With whatever few extra minutes you have, kick it up a notch, and go the extra mile. If you focus on the work on your desk and the responsibilities in your own office, you won’t have time to walk down the hall carrying “buckets of you being upset” to the boss’ office. You feel me? What has happened with this woman is between her, her boss and Human Resources. Stay out of it! I know you’ve said all this and you feel like she has used and abused you, but, you know what – what goes around comes around.

You were trying to be a blessing and you’ll be blessed for it. Don’t look for her to repay you. Your good works will come back to you, in good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over.

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Alma Gill, NNPA Newswire Columnist

Dear Alma,

I work with a woman who came to work and said her sister died. She didn’t have enough time off so I and another woman donated time to her so she could take off for the funeral and still be paid. To make this long story short, I have a friend of a friend who’s her friend and she said she doesn’t even have a sister. I can’t believe she lied about something like that. I think she should be fired, because she can’t be trusted.

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Alma Gill’s newsroom experience spans more than 25 years, including various roles at USA Today, Newday and the Washington Post. Email questions to: alwaysaskalma@gmail.com. Follow her on Facebook at “Ask Alma” and Twitter @almaaskalma.
Political Veteran Donna Brazile Reflects on Golden Jubilee of Civil Rights Movement

By Temituyo Oduaja
Data News Weekly
Contributor

Former Chair of the Democratic National Committee, Donna Brazile, marked 50 years of the Civil Rights Movement in New Orleans and offered what she saw as solutions to the continued fight for equality today at a forum on March 24th. The event, held at Dillard University, was titled “Moving Through the Civil Rights Movement, The Role of Black Leadership in the City of New Orleans 1968-2018.” The AARP Louisiana, the National Coalition of 100 Black Women of Greater New Orleans, and the 190 Black Men of Metro New Orleans co-sponsored the event. Brazile spoke on a day when students marched nationally for safer schools, of the importance of educating young African Americans, so that they could create balance on the tilted “scale of justice.”

“I make them write, kids should learn how to write,” said Brazile, the first African American to manage a major party presidential campaign.

The Kenner native is the author of two recent best-selling books: 2017’s “Hacks: The Inside Story of the Breakins” and 2018’s “For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Politics.” Brazile herself is a pioneer in politics and received the 2017 W.E.B. Du Bois Medal, Harvard University Hutchins Center’s highest honor for contributions to African American and African life and culture. She has been a political analyst and contributor for ABC News and CNN and made cameo appearances on CBS’ The Good Wife and BET’s Being Mary Jane. She is also the Founder and Director of Brazile and Associates LLC, a general consulting, grassroots advocacy, and training firm.

In addressing challenges to activism today, Brazile said social media has become a potential disease that hinders the current generation from receiving the most significant information necessary for them to know the truth from fiction. Even with technology, young people still aren’t educated about the leaders that paved the way for the improvement of the lives of African Americans, she said.

“We should teach our generation of the men and women of valor that made sure the walls of discrimination would come down,” she said. On reflecting on the heroic and sacrificial lives that Civil Rights Activists led, Brazile encouraged young people today to mirror such dedication. “The life of sacrifice and bravery, she said, even when burdened and discouraged, was what shaped an individual for the trials of leadership, she said.

“We have to train our young people to be prepared for the battles ahead and our battles still continue to this day,” she said.

The legacy of the Civil Rights Movement is one that has expanded beyond just African American empowerment to a wide range of activism, participants at the event said.

“There is an intersection and I think the Civil Rights Movement is no longer about African Americans as it was,” said Carol Bebelle, one of the panelists at the event and the Co-Founder of the Ashe Cultural Arts Center in Central City. The Civil Rights Movement, Bebelle said, has shifted its objective to different aspects that have “contaminated the framework of activism.” It has diverted so much from a primary focus on African American inequality. Bebelle said, that it is something entirely different today.

“We have transformed from Civil Rights to Human Rights because the government fails to recognize the needs of the people,” said Paul Valette, a former Civil Sheriff for Orleans Parish. While the underlying reasons behind the drastic change in focus of the Civil Rights Movement are seldom examined, the panelists agreed that it is still important that African Americans continue to collaborate for change.

“We do not have to wait for one person, for a correlation of people can work together and that is a new movement,” said Walter Kimbrough, Dillard’s President.

Brazile reinforced the need to bridge the movement from the past to the present, equipping this generation with the tools to eliminate poverty, as well as other ills that “saturate” society today.

“We have to teach our young kids to support these institutions, the NAACP and other Civil Rights bodies,” she said. “We have to raise our children as entrepreneurs, whatever they want to be,” she said.

ASHE’s Kuumba Institute Summer Program 2018 Kicks-Off June 4

Data Staff Edited Report

Ashé Cultural Arts Center announces the Kuumba Institute Summer Program for children ages 6 to 16. The seven-week program runs from June 4 to July 20, 2018, operating Mondays through Fridays, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at the Ashé Power House, 1731 Baronne Street in New Orleans. After-care is available.

Students will receive training in African drumming, visual arts, drama, dance, poetry, photography, and participate in a weekly field trip as part of the program. A healthy breakfast, lunch and snack are served daily.

Registration is $50 per child. Tuition fees are: $350 for one child, $450 for a family of 2 children, and $550 for a family of 3 children.

The deadline to register is May 19, 2018. Those registered by May 5, 2018, with tuition paid in full, will receive a $50 discount.

This cultural enrichment program aims to inspire students to use culture and the arts to help develop their power of expression. Emphasis is placed on building relationships and the importance of developing communities with culture and creativity in mind. We believe that this will enhance young people’s abilities to be creative thinkers, thereby rendering them fluent in various art forms so they may be able to use art to work with life’s challenges.

Applications are available at Ashé Power House, 1731 Baronne Street. For more information, call (504) 569-9070.

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Sacramento Residents Demand Answers in Stephon Clark Killing

Sacramento Police Dept. Under Fire for Shooting Death of Stephon Clark, an Unarmed Black Man, in South Sacramento

By Genoa Barrow
Sacramento Observer NNPA Member

SACRAMENTO—Angry and frustrated residents are demanding answers after a police-involved shooting left an unarmed, Black man dead last week. Stephon Clark, 22, was fatally shot in his Meadowview area backyard Sunday, March 18 after two Sacramento Police Department (SPD) officers shot at him more than 20 times. Local law enforcement officers were in the area after receiving a 911 call about a man suspected of breaking into vehicles in the area.

A Sacramento County Sheriff's Department helicopter spotted a man they believed to be that suspect, described as being 6'1", thin, and wearing a black hoodie and dark pants, in a backyard and they directed SPD officers on the ground to that location.

Helicopter personnel also communicated to officers that the suspect had picked up a "toolbar" and broken a window to a residence. Officers who had been canvassing other yards eventually entered the front yard of a home on the 7500 block of 29th Street and observed Clark, along the side of the residence. Officers commanded Clark to stop and show his hands. According to a statement released by the SPD, the officers say Clark turned and advanced towards them while "holding an object which was extended in front of him." The officers said they believed Clark was pointing a gun at them and, "fearing for their safety," they fired their duty weapons.

Police admit they only found a cellphone, not a gun or a "toolbar," on the scene.

On Wednesday, March 21 the SPD released video footage of the interaction from the body cameras worn by both officers, as well as audio from the initial 911 calls and dispatch. Chief Daniel Hahn, the city's first African American police chief, has vowed to be transparent in such incidents since he took the position last year. Sacramento City Council policy on Police Use of Force mandates that the SPD release video and audio associated with police-involved shootings to the public within 30 days. The policy was adopted after a mentally ill Black man, Joseph Mann, was shot and killed by SPD officers in Del Paso Heights in 2016. The three-day turn around in the Clark shooting is much quicker than has happened in years past.

"SPD acknowledges the seriousness of this incident and the impact it has on our community," reads one of two statements on the shooting, released by the SPD last week.

“We are committed to providing timely information, communicating openly, and working directly with our community, so that they have a full understanding of what occurred," the statement continues.

The body camera videos are each about 17 minutes long. While neither officer has been identified, one appears to be White or Hispanic and the other African American. In the graphic video, the officers don’t appear to identify themselves as police officers, but simply say, "Hey, show me your hands, gun" and seconds later "Show me your hands, gun, gun, gun," before one officer shoots off 10 rounds and the other, at least 11.

Officers waited five minutes for backup to arrive and could be heard telling Clark, who was unresponsive, to show his hands. One officer tells another to grab a "non-lethal" from a police vehicle so they can "hit him a couple of times with that" before approaching him. When officers did approach Clark's body, he was lying face down on the ground. They handcuffed him and began CPR. He was pronounced dead at the scene by the Sacramento Fire Department.

The use of non-lethal weapons, such as rifles that shoot bean bags at suspects, were part of reforms fought for by local activists after the Clark incident and the shooting death of another Black man, Dazion Flenaugh, last year. The mandatory use of body cameras was also part of the reforms.

"You authorized non-lethal weapons. Why weren’t non-lethal weapons used in this instance?" Richard Owen, a co-chair of the Law Enforcement Accountability Directive, asked of the city council during a meeting where the Stephon Clark shooting incident was discussed.

Owen continued: "Did Mr. Clark really have to die? It doesn’t seem that way to the community."

Owen, a retired school principal, also questioned why officers waited before attempting to save Clark’s life. While Owen said he’d hold off on the video to reveal the facts, he addressed some of the most salacious rumors that have been circling in the community regarding the shooting.

"If this man was shot in the back and shot 20 times, that’s excessive force without question," Owen said.

Chief Hahn, who was at the meeting to read an official SPD statement, and answer questions, said those elements of the incident are currently under investigation. Family members are also asking why the body cameras were muted for a period of time.

Black Lives Sacramento leader Tanya Faison also spoke out at this week’s city council meeting.

"I’m sick of seeing people die that look like me," Ms. Faison said.

She called for the firing of the officers involved in the shooting, as others in the audience voiced their agreement.

"I know the City Manager doesn’t have the power to convict, but he does have the power to fire," Ms. Faison said. "You need to start firing these officers when they kill us in the streets. It needs to happen. I’m tired of this."

Also concerning members of the public is how police interacted with Clark’s family after the shooting. The home where the shooting occurred was that of his grandparents, with whom he’d been staying. His grandmother, Sequita Thompson, told local media that the police questioned her for hours about what she’d heard, but was never told that her grandson had been shot. It wasn’t until she looked out of a window that she saw him on the ground, dead.

Local and national Black leaders have vowed to demand justice for Clark and his family. Black Lives Matter and Rev. Les Simmons of South Sacramento Christian Center spearheaded vigils and rallies, where those who knew Clark called him a loving son and father of two young boys, who didn’t deserve to die.

The Rev. Al Sharpton says he’s talked with Clark’s mother, Sequette Clark, and that he’ll visit Sacramento in the coming weeks.

Rev. Sharpton has spoken out against the police involved deaths of Mike Brown in Ferguson, Missouri; Philando Castile in Falcon Heights, Minnesota; and Eric Garner on Staten Island, New York.

"It is an atrocity that an unarmed young man was shot at twenty times in his own backyard and shows the urgent need in these times for intervention against police misconduct. We will call for a complete and thorough investigation into this young man’s death," said Rev. Sharpton, the founder of the National Action Network, in a statement.

Sacramento NAACP President Betty Williams has vowed to "stand guard to (ensure) there is a just outcome for all parties involved." In a statement, Ms. Williams says she’s calling for an independent investigation and has asked the FBI to get involved.

"The NAACP is concerned with the tragic loss of life which continues to plague our nation," Ms. Williams said. "The recent incident in Sacramento that took the life of Stephon Clark and similar ones throughout the nation occur all too frequently. While we respect the role of (SPD) in our community, these shootings have angered, frustrated and frightened people in our community. We are also frustrated with the justice system which fails to indict (officers in) such killings."

The shooting is being investigated in conjunction with the Sacramento County District Attorney’s Office, the Sacramento City Attorney’s Office and the City’s Office of Public Safety Accountability. Per department policy, the two officers involved have been placed on paid administrative leave.
A Fashion Must-See

NOMA's A Queen Within

Delaney George
Data Fashion & Style
Columnist

The New Orleans Museum of Art is a key destination for all things cultural and inspiring. Attracting tourist with their historical artifacts and seasonal exhibits, NOMA never disappoints with their installations. This past weekend, I bore witness to what is one of the best exhibits installed at NOMA: A Queen Within.

The exhibit features some of the most high-fashion designs, photos, and couture in the world from several well-known designers such as Alexander McQueen. The exhibit focuses on femininity in its purest, most fabulous form and is unapologetically innovating.

Walking in, one is immediately dazed by the ambiance, sparkle, and style that comes from fashion art. This exhibit creates a feeling and a fashion experience that is highly recommended by Delaney’s Armoire. But don’t let us spoil it, you can check out the exhibit for free with a Louisiana State I.D. on Wednesdays.

Would you rock the look? Let us know your thoughts by submitting to delinkey@yahoo.com. Hurry to NOMA to experience this empowering and invigorating art exhibit.

For more information on the exhibit visit https://noma.org/exhibitions/queen-within-adorned-archetypes/.

Delaney George
Data Fashion & Style
Columnist

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 want to hear from you if you are a working journalist, or an aspiring journalist who has 5 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: terry@bellsouth.net and datanews@bellsouth.net.

We can’t wait to hear from you!

Data Classified

Call 504-821-7421 to place your classified ad.

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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.