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## 12th Annual Congo Square Rhythms Festival

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# French Quarter Fest

## Adds More Music, Food



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# French Quarter Fest Adds More Music, Food



Kermit Ruffins

Data News Weekly Edited Report Known as the world’s largest showcase of Louisiana music, food, and culture, the French Quarter Fest returns for 2019. The April 11th – 14th weekend will bring a record number of debuts, headliners, a new riverfront stage, eight restaurant debuts, more than 1,700 Louisiana musicians—and even some recycling. Android and iPhone

users can install the updated FQF app to access the schedule, culinary lineup, maps, and whatever else is needed to plan their trip. Thanks to the expanded Chevron Evening Concert Series, festival-goers can expect more headliners on the music front. The Chevron Stage will feature more nightly genres, in addition to the Cajun/Zydeco music

it is known for. A new venue, the Pan-American Life Insurance Group Stage, will bring music to a newly renovated Moonwalk on Saturday and Sunday. The Jones Walker Let Them Talk Stage at the Jazz Museum will provide guests a rare chance to hear artists speak about their life in music. 2019 brings a record number of 48 debuts, including

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### DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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## Cover Story, Continued from page 2.

Galactic on the Abita Beer Stage. Debuts on the Festival's Street Stages include Sweet Olive String Band on the Hancock Whitney Stage, Doro Wat on the Dorignac's Food Center Stage, and Keith Burnstein's Kettle Black on the Caire Hotel & Restaurant Supply Stage. In addition, the Dow Chemical Stage will feature two-days of traditional jazz in the 500 block of Bourbon Street.

In Jackson Square, the Hilton Stage returns with an all-star lineup of New Orleans' most respected artists and culture-bearers including Ellis Marsalis, John Boutté, Leroy Jones, Shannon Powell, Robin Barnes, and James Andrews. The riverfront Abita Beer Stage brings four days of music, while the GE Stage returns with every genre from Funk to Gospel; artists include Chubby Carrier and the Bayou Swamp Band, Corey Henry & the Treme' Funktet, and Paul Sanchez and the Rolling Road Show. Artists on the Jack Daniel's Stage include Brass-A-Holics, Lena Prima, and Rory Danger & the Danger Dangers. At the Tropical Isle Stage, the lineup includes a Sunday morning Gospel performance from Betty Winn and One-A-Chord. At the Jazz Museum at the Mint, The Original Pinettes Brass Band, Treme' Brass Band, Hot 8 Brass Bands, and nearly a dozen more will be featured Friday-Sunday on the Louisiana Fish Fry Stage, and the WWL-TV Stage brings three days of music from crowd favorites like Benny Grunch and the Bunch, Creole String Beans, and Margie Perez.

Walking around is bound to make festival goers hungry, so be sure to check out the 65+ restaurants FQF has provided, including the eight new vendors. Thanks to Broussard's Restaurant and Courtyard, attendees have the opportunity to sample the most famous New Orleans dishes. This year FQFI welcomes culinary debuts Café Maspero, Dorignac's Food Center, Landry's Seafood, Messina's at the Terminal, Morrow's, New Orleans School of Cooking, Rizzuto's Ristorante & Chop House, Sweet Handkraft, and We Dat's Chicken and Shrimp; Tails to Geaux: Benefitting the Louisiana Hospitality Foundation with boil crawfish Friday - Sunday at the Jazz Museum at the Mint. Abita Beer returns as a major sponsor of the festival; this year the local brewing company brings favorites including Amber, The Boot (a Louisiana exclusive), Strawberry, Hop-on, and Purple Haze. There is also a new Wine Cafe at Washington Artillery Park. Other beverage debuts include Sonoma-Cutrer Rosé, Ko-



Galactic



Dixie Cups

rbel Brut Rosé, and Jack Daniel's Tennessee Rye. Bubly will also return as a non-alcoholic option.

Festival organizers have also announced a program that will allow attendees to recycle plastics and cans during FQF. The 2019 French Quarter Festival will also focus on improved access to make the event more inclusive. A new partnership with KultureCity will bring a Sensory Inclusive Program to the event, designed to help guests with sensory needs like Autism, PTSD, and more. The center will be staffed with professionals and work in tandem with the new ADA Info Booth and Services sponsored by Aetna Better Health of Louisiana. By implementing these new programs, FQFI aims to help ensure an enjoyable and safe festival experience for all.

FQF also provides some family fun. The Chevron STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Zone will be returning to the Natchez Wharf at the foot of Toulouse Street at the River on Sat-



Rebirth Brass Band

urday, April 13th and Sunday, April 14th. The 2019 theme is STEM World's Fair, and will showcase the seven continents and galaxy, while incorporating the elements of STEM into hands-on learning activities for children. Chevron will collaborate with many organizations in the community for FQF, such as: STEM NOLA's physics, science, chemistry, and math in action, where children will create a fire breathing dragon and test the density of a boat; at Rebuilding Together's an area kids will model ancient objects, such as pyramids utilizing pre-made slime; and at Fab Lab NOLA's Station, kids will fabricate their own miniature Eiffel Towers and also help to build a 5-foot-tall acrylic model. Other partners include Audubon Nature Institute, Children's Museum of St. Tammany, The Water Institute, Project Lead the Way, The Nature Conservancy, WWII Museum, Mad Science LA, and National Park Service.

Last but not least, after a good time, attendees can commemorate their experience with some new look merchandise. Attendees can represent the festival with styles like the Big Easy Camp, a black herringbone textured short sleeve camp shirt featuring festival icons; the More Jazz Dolman puts a unique twist on souvenir apparel with a fashion-forward way. New items like the Fleur Tumbler, branded wine cups, and ornaments will also debut at festival merchandise booths in 2019. More information and styles can be found on the website.

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# Mayor Cantrell Signs Ordinance for Mandatory Inclusion Zoning for Affordable Housing Policy

City of New Orleans NEW ORLEANS – Mayor LaToya Cantrell today signed the ordinance passed by the City Council that calls for inclusionary zoning for Affordable Housing. The Administration and sponsoring Councilmembers Jay H. Banks (District B), Cyndi Nguyen (District E), Kristin Gisleon Palmer (District C) and Council President Jason Williams passed the Inclusionary Zoning Ordinance that, if fully implemented, would mandate 10 percent of Affordable Housing units in new or rehabilitated housing construction over 10 units in the city's downtown core and a 5 percent Affordable Housing requirement in areas adjacent to downtown.

"Combating the Affordable Housing Crisis has been a priority since my time on the Council – and I'm proud to see this effort, five years in the making, finally accomplished," said Mayor Cantrell. "This Inclusionary Zoning Ordinance is a vital tool for preserving our culture and our City. By creating long-term Affordable Housing in high-opportunity areas, we're helping all our people get their fair share."

"As we continue to face a housing crisis that is pushing many longtime residents to the margins, we simply cannot afford to delay action. We must utilize all available tools to protect families from further dis-



placement or from having to choose between paying for food and paying the rent. Inclusionary Zoning is one of those tools. We're now on track to begin implementing our City's new Inclusionary Zoning Policy in the near future, and I'm proud to have been a part of crafting this solution," Councilmember Williams said. "There is still more work to do and admittedly this alone won't solve our affordability problem; however, it is an extremely mean-

ingful step in the right direction."

"For a city so dependent on its people to create the vibrant culture known around the world, it is critical that we implement solutions to provide stable, Affordable Housing for all in need. While the Inclusionary Zoning Ordinance is only one part of the solution, it is an important step in the right direction," Councilmember Palmer said.

"I am happy to be part of the work to put housing first. I want to

thank the Administration on their efforts to move this process to the next step. I will stay committed to making sure that all citizens have access to quality Affordable Housing," Councilmember Nguyen said.

New Orleans has traditionally been a city that has a mixture of all types of people in its neighborhoods, but increasingly housing prices have pushed many working families outside of the City's Historic Core and into Algiers and

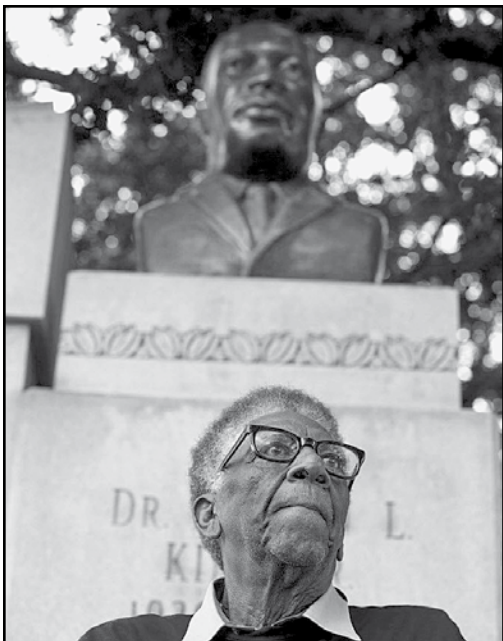
New Orleans East and surrounding parishes. This proposal is one way to ensure that all New Orleanians have a safe and affordable place that they can call home.

The proposal has been under threat of preemption from state legislators, who have been seeking to ban municipalities from passing ordinances of this type. An Inclusionary Zoning Feasibility Study from HR&A Advisors, Inc. informed the final ordinance and is meant to ensure that housing developments will continue in in-demand areas but will require Affordable Housing Units in buildings with 10 or more units that are new construction or rehabbed units. Units would be affordable to two-person households making up to \$30,000 a year or residents making – 60 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI). The Affordable Housing Units would mandate that they remain affordable for 99 years, the maximum term allowable by law in Louisiana. The Administration still needs to introduce legislation to map what areas of the city this policy will apply to, legislation regarding incentives for developers to make Inclusionary Zoning Projects pencil out, and legislation regarding enforcement of the policy.

The City Council passed the ordinance on Thursday, March 28th.

## Reverend Samson "Skip" Alexander Funeral Services

Data News Weekly Edited Report The Reverend Samson "Skip" Alexander, Civil Rights Activist and New Orleans Minister, passed away March 24th at his home. His funeral services will be held on Friday, April 5th at Christian Unity Baptist Church, located at 1700 Conti Street. The viewing is from 9 a.m. - 10 a.m., and the funeral will start at 10 a.m. Alexander will be buried at Southeast Louisiana Veterans Cemetery located at 34888 Grantham College Drive in Slidell, La.



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# Jolly Kids Academy Opens the Doors at 4949 Bullard Avenue in New Orleans East

New Orleans, LA – Jolly Kids Academy recently opened its doors at 4949 Bullard Avenue in New Orleans East, across the street from Fannie C. Williams Charter School. The family-owned day care center provides child-care, preschool, and before/after school programs to children ages six weeks to 12 years old. The 2,500 square foot facility features a full-service kitchen, indoor play areas, an outdoor playground, and a crib room for sleeping infants and toddlers.

Jolly Kids Academy at full capacity will welcome over 50 new students and employees in 2019, with the hopes of adding more space to the present facility in the near future.

Jolly Kids Academy will host daily enrollment visits by appointment, weekdays from 4:00pm to 6:00pm.

For more information, or to make an appointment, please contact Jolly Kids Academy at (504) 266-2070.

Jolly Kids Academy L.L.C. was established to educate children to reach their full potential with developmentally appropriate



curriculum. Jolly Kids Academy is driven to create an environment that leads children to a lifetime of learning. We are driven to meet the need for high quality childcare in the New Orleans East community, and the surrounding areas.



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# 12th Annual Congo Square Rhythms Festival

Data News Weekly Edited Report  
Photos by Kichea S. Burt  
and Ellen Rosenberg

Mardi Gras Indians, African dance, dance, brass bands, luscious jazz, soul-funk, Garifuna music from Honduras and West African highlife highlighted the 12th annual Congo Square Rhythms Festival, presented by the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation March 30-31 in Armstrong Park. Celebrating the New Orleans traditions that spring from the African diaspora, the Congo Square Rhythms Festival brought a joyful noise to the spot that those in the know consider the birthplace of American music. At the festivals, music fans got a chance to experience the fan-favorite Mardi Gras Indian "battle," multiple African dance troupes, the 8th annual Class Got Brass challenge, and more.



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

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# Class Got Brass Competition, New Orleans



Photos by Kichea S. Burt

Started in 2012 to revise a dying tradition, Class Got Brass band competition was introduced to the school community by The NOLA Jazz and Heritage Foundations' Scott Aiges, Director of Program, Marketing and Communications. According to the J&H Class Got Brass web page, Band Director of Landry High School, Wilbert Rawlins, noted that there are multiple new Brass Bands since this competition started.

For the 2019 competition this year there were 20 bands. Money prizes for instruments, etc. are given to the winning schools music departments in 1st 2nd, 3rd, for beginners and advanced bands. Every school that competes receives \$1000 for their school music program. The top six winners combined take home a total of \$34,000.

This year's winners are in the beginner's division: Lincoln Elementary School for The Arts, 3rd place; Park Forest Middle, 2nd place; Langston Hughes Academy, 1st place; in the advanced division: George Washington Carver, 3rd place; Landry Walker, 2nd place' and Edna Carr High School, 1st place.

One of the Jazz Fest presenting sponsors, Shell Oil, has produced a mini-documentary about the Class Got Brass program which can be viewed at the following youtube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TzlvbWIXDs&feature=youtu.be>. Or google Class Got Brass on YouTube.

Several of the band leaders expressed their appreciation for the program and the opportunities it creates for the schools and students.



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# The Next HANO Executive Director Must Put Housing First



**Andreanecia Morris**  
Executive Director,  
HousingNOLA

## GNOHA believes the new HANO needs to Put Housing First

The Housing Authority of New Orleans plays a crucial role in providing Affordable Housing to some of New Orleans' most vulnerable citizens: seniors on fixed incomes, low-wage renters and children living in poverty. In this week's column, we are sharing

the Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance's Statement on what HANO needs as it searches for its next Executive Director.

HANO began revitalizing its aged housing stock well before Hurricane Katrina. The agency brokered agreements to bring on-line 2,174 units of housing before the storm, and greenlit efforts to build another 5,366 units in the first 10 years after the flood waters receded. Unfortunately, 2,383 of those units remain unbuilt, meaning that there is a huge backlog of affordable homes that have not received 'notice to proceed.' There are a dozen developers who had projects authorized in the past few years, but they don't have Executed Master Development Agreements. There are many variables in the development process that

contribute to this backlog, however, an Executive Director who has experience and a practical understanding of real estate development would be most effective in working to advance projects in a more efficient manner to increase production and meet HANO's commitment goals.

GNOHA encourages HANO to seek an ED who would make it a priority to collaborate with entities throughout the state. Not only could HANO use vouchers to incentivize new development, advocacy that is coordinated by the Executive Director could play a role in securing and increasing statewide and local funding and securing additional funding for the Voucher Program to better serve New Orleans Families.

In November 2017, HANO re-

ported that about 53% of the approximately 18,000 voucher households were paying more than 30% of their income on housing costs even with assistance. As we combat the Affordable Housing Crisis, the new Executive Director must make it a priority to explore mobility counseling, landlord recruitment, expanded training for property managers, landlords and voucher holders, outreach to neighborhood groups and income discrimination ordinances.

Finally, the new Executive Director should be transparent and willing to accept feedback and suggestions from the community on how to improve the efficiency and impact of HANO Programs. We say Put Housing First because we believe that safe, stable and Affordable Housing is the first step, the foundation

for a thriving community. As a matter of course, Section 8 and public housing residents who are paying what they can afford, should have the chance to access resources that will increase their educational attainment, economic outlook and overall health and well-being.

Simply put, HANO can be a force for good in the lives of the people it serves, and the Executive Director should believe that and see it as a necessary goal. The next Executive Director will be charged with the duty of supporting this role in the most efficient ways possible. This is a necessary step in ensuring the execution of the HousingNOLA 10 Year Plan and guaranteeing that New Orleans is equitable and consistently Puts Housing First!

## In The Spirit

# Spirituality, Activism and Social Transformation



**Russell Simmons**  
NNPA Newswire Contributor

We live in an age where polarization is the norm and demonizing anyone who thinks differently is the practice. Yet we still see the black collective as loving with open arms and aspirations for the best for our families and communities as well as the best for all of humanity.

We continue to be great listeners and doers of good even after we have endured centuries of abuse and continued oppression. We have, by God's grace, still come out to be a very conscious and resilient people. While those who oppress continue to use our images as the faces of every example of unconscious negative acts from violence to sexual predatory behavior, we have remained steadfast in our exemplification of higher spiritual responses in a world where the norm is that hurt people hurt people.

The Black community in America has not lashed out with retribution, violence or hate. We

remain the most abused but have maintained a commitment to Dr. King's principle of non-violence. As a people we are still the most non-harming collective. Throughout the centuries we have been God-fearing and compassionate. But Scripture says, "faith without works is dead." We must, as a collective, come together and, where necessary, partner with others who have the same concerns and stand up.

We have all resources, challenges and opportunities. We play disproportionately on social media where modern revolutions are being built. Yet, we mostly are operating on a moral high ground. There are so many

issues that need to be addressed. It's ok because we are capable of changing and rising to the challenges of today.

We must whenever possible support all of our community members who take effective leadership roles. We have great examples like Van Jones, Meek Mills, Jay-Z, and even Kim Kardashian, who are fighting the prison industrial complex and unjust mass incarceration. We should support their efforts and leadership.

Yes, Black Lives Matter, and Tamika Mallory and Benjamin Crump are very visible and effective on the subject of police brutality. Our spirituality and sense of fair play should not extinguish our

activism. But instead, our spirituality should be as it always has been: an organizing force for social transformation. Traditionally, it has been the church that has united us spiritually, with a commitment to change the world for the better.

Where are our pastors and spiritual teachers in this moment of struggle? We must look to them to pick up the baton. Yet, we all should be engaged in the ongoing struggles for freedom, justice and equality in America and throughout the world.

We are under attack and prayers will only be answered for those who stand up, work together and take action. With great love, all things are possible.

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# Report Reveals How the NCAA Shortchanges Black Men

Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire  
Correspondent

With March Madness entering its final stages and the recent college admissions scandal continuing to unfurl, all eyes are on higher education.

Coming into view behind the excitement of the scoreboards and drama of the bribery scandal is a troubling dynamic playing out in real time: Big-time college sports are deepening the inequities faced by Black male students seeking higher education.

A new issue brief from the Center for American Progress (CAP), a Washington D.C.-based a nonpartisan research and educational institute, paints a vivid portrait of how college athletics distort the reality of Black male experiences on college campuses and raises significant concerns about racial equity in college admissions and the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).

The report, by Sara Garcia and Connor Maxwell, "The Madness Doesn't End in March: The Surprising Ways College Sports Shortchange Black Men," analyzes the total number of student athletes per athletic conference and the number of student athletes who receive some form of scholarship or athletic aid at a Power Five institution.

The authors said they found that Black men are overrepresented in major revenue-generating sports such as basketball and football – which have the highest risks of physical injury and academic inse-



curity – but are underrepresented on their campuses and in all other athletic programs.

Money earned by schools during the famed March Madness tournament and the revenue generated from the College Football Playoff (CFP) series, will likely total \$1 billion for the NCAA, according to the report.

Colleges make a significant amount of money as well. In 2016, the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) sent six schools to the tournament's round of 16, bringing in a collective \$39.9 million for the conference.

Simply making it to the March Madness tournament can bring a school more than \$1 million in revenue – even if its team doesn't win a single game.

What receives less attention, say

the report's authors, and is less easily observed on a TV screen, athletic court, or ballfield are the ways that college sports play into and obscure the inequities that Black male students face in higher education.

And, while Black men generate profit for their colleges and the NCAA, they see none of those benefits trickle down. For the first time, the CAP said it's calling for

compensating college athletes in revenue-generating sports.

"The NCAA relies on the athletic abilities of Black men to generate revenue but places little capital in their ability to complete a college degree," said Sara Garcia, senior research and advocacy manager for Postsecondary Education at CAP and co-author of the issue brief.

"It is time for these backwards,


inequitable priorities to change," she said.

"The experiences of Black male student athletes compared with those of their White counterparts stand out in sharp relief," Garcia further noted.

- The report, which can be viewed here, includes findings like:
- Black men comprise the minority of athletes in NCAA athletic programs.
- The majority of Black male athletes generate revenue, but they do not profit.
- White men have more opportunities to earn athletic scholarships.
- A disproportionately large share of Black men on college campuses are athletes.

"Colleges and the NCAA must do more to prioritize academics and post-graduation outcomes above athletics, as well as ensure more equitable representation for Black men on their campuses," Garcia said. "Failing to do so would send a clear message to student-athletes, and student-athletes of color in particular, that their academic success is secondary to the benefits they provide in their sports," she said.





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# Waffle House Hero James Shaw Shares His Story on Taking Action

**Kai Wilson**  
Data News Weekly  
Contributor

National hero James Shaw Jr. spoke on the importance of seizing the moment and treating mental health when his life changed after the Waffle House shooting in 2018 where he disarmed a gunman. He was the guest speaker for the Honors Convocation at Dillard University in the Lawless Memorial Chapel on March 26th.

On April 22, 2018, Shaw wrestled and disarmed a mass shooter at an Antioch, Tenn. Waffle House. Four people died, and others were injured, including Shaw, who was grazed by a bullet. The suspect, who had schizophrenia, was committed to a mental hospital and found unfit to stand trial. Although Shaw has been praised for his bravery, along with being honored by



James Shaw Jr., speaks at Lawless Chapel March 26TH. Photo by Kai Wilson.

BET with the first ever “Humanitarian Award” and by MTC with the “Best Hero Award,” heroism had never crossed his mind.

“[If] your first plan didn’t work, you might have to use your plan B. Because my first plan was to run, but that didn’t work, so I had to use

my plan B,” Shaw said, recalling the tragedy. “I will tell you right now that I was not trying to be a hero, I will say that 100 times over.”

The incident showed Shaw that it is always important to react. In that moment, he said he was not thinking of just himself. He said the

shooting gave him a different perspective on the value of life.

“I was just trying to live, but me and just trying to live and be selfish actually helped out 17-plus people because the shooter, and a lot of people don’t know this, had 120 rounds...he had discharged 31 bullets in 42 seconds,” Shaw said. “So, the whole incident was just 42-seconds long, but it felt like a lifetime,” he added.

The Tennessee State University alumnus encouraged Dillard students to see excellence in their lives as going beyond academics. He urged them to make a difference for others and to have a greater impact than professional achievements alone.

“Why am I speaking about excellence when you, 250 students have done something I’ve never done in college, which is making the dean’s list,” Shaw told the students. “It’s

because excellence goes far beyond scholastic achievements and business ventures.”

“The most important way of displaying and showing excellence is in the way of giving back to the community,” he added.

In addition to his bravery in the Waffle House shooting, Shaw has raised money for the victims of the incident through the James Shaw Jr. Foundation. The theme of the keynote was to always seize opportunities that are given instead of letting them get away. Walter Kimbrough, Dillard’s President, reflected on Shaw’s speech and related it to the lyrics from the Broadway musical, “Hamilton.”

“One song that became popular is called ‘My Shot,’” Kimbrough said. “And ‘When opportunities

**Waffle House Hero,**  
Continued on page 11.

## Children’s Expo Showcases Community Resources

**Travis Forstall**  
Data News Weekly  
Contributor

Lakeside Mall hosted its Annual Lakeside Kids Expo under its Veteran Skylight for Children on Saturday, March 30, 2019. Over 50-plus vendors participated in the event for families to learn about resources in the community and programs for children across the year and for the summer.

“This is our 20th year for the Lakeside Kids Expo. We have organizations from the community; it’s a really fun day for kids, we’re really excited to support the community,” said Toni Lanedche, a publisher for Kids & Family New Orleans.

Vendors included summer camps, area schools, and local groups with a range of programs for parents to enroll their children. Some programs aim to help develop children’s educational well-being and included opportunities for children with special needs. Health organizations like Smile Doctors and the Jefferson Parish Human Services Authority participated in the expo to promote hygiene and healthy practices for children.

“[The expo] is very informative, we are very new in the U.S. Actu-



ally, it’s been about one and a half years, it’s very important to get information about the local community programs,” said Bhavita Kumari, a parent attending the program with her two sons.

While providing educational services, it also provided children the chance to get involved in extracurricular activities

they may be interested in, such as athletics like martial arts, organized sports, and gymnastics. The expo also held a section for children interested in animals, particularly for equestrian activities. The vendor, Pony Tales, brought in two live ponies into the mall for the children to interact with.

“The summer camp expo at Lakeside has really given us a chance to expand our business and get our name out to the public, we’re a small birthday party venue and lessons in St. Rose Louisiana and this gives us a chance to meet the masses,” said Claudia Everett, the facilitator of the Pony Tales Section of the expo.

The children were entertained throughout the day by local puppeteer “Uncle” Wayne Daigrepoint of Porta-Puppet Players. They were also given a karate exhibition by Yonsei Martial Arts. With the different vendors amongst the expo, residents said the event was insightful and beneficial for finding resources in the community.

“This expo is amazing and it’s so much fun to do,” said Corine Everett, who attended the event with her mother.



# Chairwoman Waters Introduces Bill to End Homelessness in America

**Congresswoman  
Maxine Waters (D-CA)  
NNPA Newswire  
ContributorCongresswoman**

Maxine Waters (D-CA), Chairwoman of the House Financial Services Committee, introduced H.R. 1856, the Ending Homelessness Act of 2019, legislation that provides a comprehensive plan to ensure that every person experiencing homelessness in America has a place to call home.

"In the richest country in the world, it is simply unacceptable that we have people living in the streets," said Chairwoman Waters. "Today, there are over a half million people experiencing homelessness nationwide. Nearly 160,000 of them are children and nearly 38,000 are veterans who we have failed to support after their service to our nation.

"In Los Angeles County, there are over 50,000 people experiencing homelessness, nearly 5,000 of whom are children, and over 3,800 of whom are veterans.

"As Chairwoman of the House Financial Services Committee, I have made it a top priority to focus on this crisis. That is why I have introduced the Ending Homelessness Act of 2019, which would provide \$13.27 billion in new funding over five years to federal programs and initiatives to prevent homelessness.

"It is time for Congress to step up and provide the resources and funding necessary to address this important issue and I look forward to working with my colleagues in Congress to ensure that every American has a safe, affordable place to call home."

The Ending Homelessness Act



**Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-CA), Chairwoman of the House Financial Services Committee**

of 2019 would appropriate \$13.27 billion in mandatory emergency relief funding over five years to several critical federal housing programs and initiatives, providing the resources that these programs need to effectively address the homelessness crisis in America.

This bill includes the following funding amounts over and above what is already annually provided for these existing U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs:

-\$5 billion over five years to McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants, which is expected to provide 85,000 new permanent housing units;

-\$2.5 billion over five years to for new Special Purpose Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV), which is e-expected to provide an additional 300,000 housing vouch-

ers and would give preference to those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless;

-\$1.05 billion annually in mandatory spending dedicated to the National Housing Trust Fund, which in the first five years of funding is expected to create 25,000 new units affordable to extremely low-income households, with a priority for housing the homeless;

-\$500 million over five years in

outreach funding to ensure that homeless people are connected to the resources they need and;

-\$20 million for states and localities to integrate healthcare and housing initiatives, which provides technical assistance to help state and local governments coordinate their healthcare and housing initiatives that are funded by federal programs.

This bill is supported by the Center for Supportive Housing, Community Solutions, Council of Large Public Housing Authorities, Drug Policy Alliance, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Leading Age, Local Initiatives Support Corporation, National Alliance on Mental Illness, National Alliance to End Homelessness, National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, National Housing Conference, National Housing Law Project, National Housing Trust, National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty, National Low Income Housing Coalition, National Rural Housing Coalition, PATH (People Assisting the Homeless), Public Housing Authority Directors Association, Stewards for Affordable Housing for the Future, and TELACU Residential Management.

## Data News Weekly is Hiring

Data News Weekly Newspaper, The People's Paper, is hiring in our New Orleans Office.

### Editor/Reporters

#### About the Job

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#### Waffle House Hero, Continued from page 10.

knock, you don't send anyone to get it. Answer the door, welcome it, let it in, or regret it," he recited. Kimbrough motivated students to take on opportunities and to make the most of them just like Shaw did when he disarmed the gunman.

"It just goes to show that normal people can do life-changing [things] and daily commitments that could really change people's lives," said Todd Welch, a Dillard student. "You never know what your actions might lead to."

Graduating seniors were especially moved by the event and plan to continue to use the advice that they were given as they start their professional lives. "I didn't know who James Shaw was before, but after hearing his story and how he became an accidental hero it really inspired me to seize every moment and take every opportunity and not think that anything happens to me by chance, but it's by purpose," said Alexis Granville, a graduating Dillard senior.

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COREY HENRY AND CHIEF JUAN PARDO PHOTO BY ZACK SMITH PHOTOGRAPHY



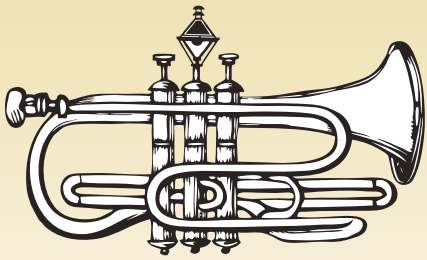
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