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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

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The Legislation of Morality

Who has the right to choose?

PART 1



New Orleans City Council-at-Large members Jason Williams and Helena Moreno have introduced a resolution condemning the move by the State Legislature and Governor John Bel Edwards to sign the controversial "Heartbeat Bill" which bans abortions after six weeks of pregnancy.

Edwin Buggage
Editor-In-Chief

In the historic 1973 legal case *Roe v. Wade*, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that unduly restrictive state regulation of abortion is unconstitutional. But in progressive states like California and New York, abortion re-

strictions were lifted long before *Roe v. Wade*. Before the ruling, the vehement argument of pro-life versus pro-choice ensued State by State. Fast forward to 2019, ironically amidst the backdrop of the "Me Too" movement which has steered women on an unprecedented course towards the road to gender equality and conclude that a woman's right to keep or abort her unborn

child is once again in serious jeopardy.

Across the nation, but primarily in the southern states, anti-abortion legislation is being passed creating a heated debate about the future of abortion in America. Last week, Louisiana lawmakers voted to ban abortions after six weeks of a woman's pregnancy in what is being called "The Heartbeat Bill." This bill was

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signed by Democratic Governor John Bel Edwards, who describes himself as a pro-life Democrat. In Louisiana contrary to what some may think this is less of a partisan issue and although Republicans control the state senate, the measure Senate Bill 184 was written by a Democrat, State Sen. John Malkovich, also in the bill there are no exemptions for rape and incest.

In a statement Malkovich said defending his pro-life position, "As a citizen, I'm against abortions. I believe every time we commit abortion; we're committing a murder. When we say you cannot kill unborn babies, we're standing up for human life, and we are setting some boundaries that we believe are moral and to protect our people."

Tale of Two Sides

This measure is causing controversy and voices are coming out on both sides of the issue. Questions abound regarding the future of abortion in Louisiana and for that matter across the nation. What will be its impact on poor and minority communities and society in general? How will these laws be enforced, what will the penalties be, and what types of social services will be available for those who do not have resources and support when children are born?

"I am deeply disturbed by the prospect of this law becoming effective and the impact on women,



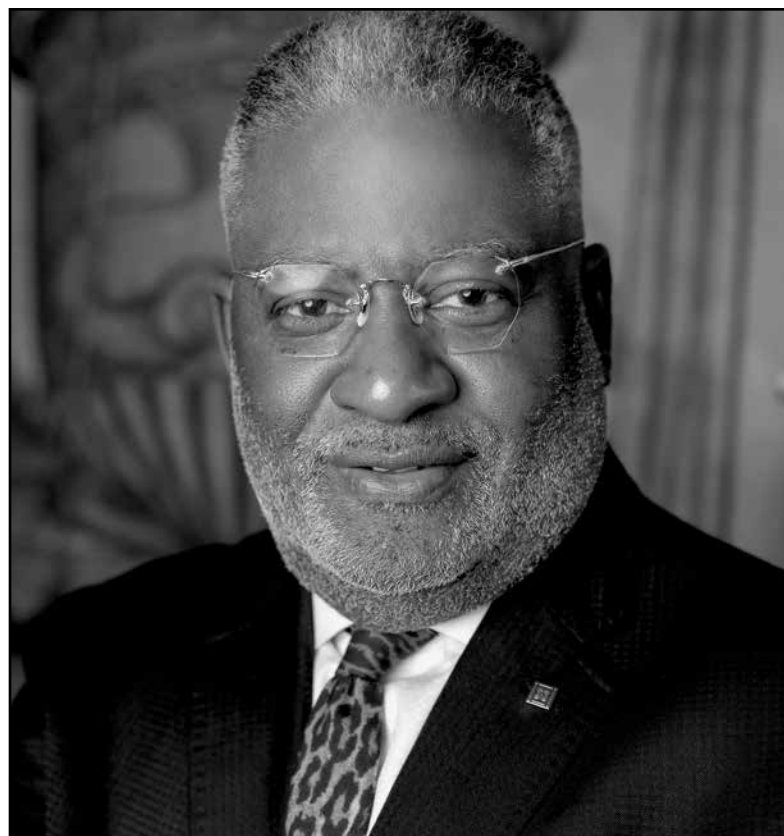
Louisiana State Senator Karen Carter Peterson expressed her concern over the Bill via Twitter, commenting that she is "deeply disturbed" by the law becoming effective because of its potential effect and impact on women and young girls who may have endured incest or rape.

particularly innocent young girls who might endure a traumatic rape experience and be forced to carry/raising the child of their rapist." State Senator Karen Carter, who voted against the measure said on Twitter.

New Orleans City Council-at-Large members Jason Williams and Helena Moreno introduced a resolution condemning the move by the State Legislature. "Pushing abstinence and draconian abortion ban (with no exception for rape or incest won't work). How about



Dr. Corey Hebert, Pediatrician and WDSU-TV's Medical Editor says there is not enough public education surrounding the scientific verbiage built into the Heartbeat Bill, and he points out that a lot of people don't know when a heartbeat of a fetus starts. "When you start to regulate medical procedures, you begin to put people's lives at risk, particularly those who are poor and disenfranchised," he says.



Bishop Tom Watson of Watson Memorial Teaching Ministries says he believes the Bill is hypocritical. "Every day our people are being aborted by lack of opportunities in employment, education and a host of other things we do where our people fall through the cracks because of lack of investments in their futures," he says adding, "you can't legislate morality."

some logic in LA.? Let's prevent unwanted pregnancies by providing access to sex ed and contraceptives instead," Moreno said on Twitter.

"You can't legislate morality," says Bishop Tom Watson of Watson Memorial Teaching Ministries. "The governor and all these legislators should not be in the business of telling women what to do with their bodies. I believe it is hypocritical that some of the anti-abortion advocates are talking about the sanctity of life when many of them are for the death penalty and do not see or acknowledge that every day our people are being aborted by lack of opportunities in employment, education and a host of other things we

do where our people fall through the cracks because of lack of investments in their futures."

He continues, "These same people do not want to talk about inequities in healthcare and access. To have solutions, a more holistic approach is needed to continue to fight for the child once it is outside the womb. To think of this pro-life position without investment is shortsighted in my view and leads to many adverse consequences for people without resources. With these kids that are born in the case where people have to keep them, what happens when they don't have the capacity to care for them? This is a conversation that is not being

had. Who cares about these children and what types of interventions will be put in place?"

This bill while not yet enforceable may, if enacted, produce dire consequences for those who do not have the means to leave the state to have an abortion. The question of abortion is not as black and white as portrayed in the mainstream media. In the African American community, many believe in women having the right to choose and should have access to abortions, but that does not mean they are pro-abortion. And because of spiritual and extended family the African American community adopted and has historically thrived on the Yoruba proverb, "it takes a village to raise a child."

This point is echoed by Corey Hebert M.D., a Pediatrician and Medical Editor for WDSU-TV 6, a local NBC Affiliate. "I am not pro-abortion, I am pro-choice. I wanted to make that clear." But he believes that legislators and the Governor are overreaching in this case with the Heartbeat Bill. "When you start to regulate medical procedures, you begin to put people's lives at risk, particularly those who are poor and disenfranchised."

The verbiage written into the Heartbeat Bill, does not pass the smell test since scientific evidence shows that a woman does not generally know she is pregnant until the 5th or 6th week after missing her menstrual cycle. As a health educator this is something that concerns Dr. Hebert, who says there isn't a lot of information out there regarding the science around this issue. He notes, "A lot of people don't know when a heartbeat of a fetus starts. It is usually around the 5th week." Continuing he says, "A woman generally does not know she is pregnant until after the 5th week, then it is too late to have an abortion as the Heartbeat Bill is written in the State of Louisiana. It is politically divisive because what you are doing in this scenario is basically outlawing abortion."

Our Choice

While it is true that this bill was passed overwhelmingly in both houses of the legislature; the decision to choose is ultimately up to the citizens of Louisiana. "People have to get involved. People are very passive, they are going to have to get in the streets, organize, talk to their legislators because this thing is not going away," says Hebert.

This issue is one that is divisive, but Hebert sees something positive in it which is bringing people together. "One thing that is good about this is that this runs across

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City of New Orleans Mourns the Loss of
World-Renowned Restaurateur, Civil Rights Icon

Leah Chase

1923-2019

Data Staff Writers

World-renowned Restaurateur and Iconic Civil Rights Activist Leah Lang Chase, Owner and Executive Chef of Dooky Chase's Restaurant died last Saturday surrounded by family members and friends, at the age of 96. The news of her death spurred a host of emotional messages and condolences across social media, from elected officials and celebrities paying tribute to her and reminiscing about her famous gumbo, to everyday citizens lamenting their enormous respect for her courage, generosity, wisdom and love for the community.

The list of uber-famous people she has cooked for and served throughout her career is staggering, but Chase's cooking took on a life of its own as she helped change the trajectory of a nation in turmoil during the Civil Rights Movement as she served prominent leaders, activists and freedom fighters. "In my dining room, we changed the course of America over a bowl of gumbo and some fried chicken," she was quoted as saying.

Former President Barack Obama, who enjoyed a seat at Chase's table in 2008 tweeted, "What a life. American history has always been driven by visionaries like Leah Chase- and all the men and women who worked and ate at Dooky Chase's over the years- folks who serve up progress one bowl of gumbo at a time."

"Leah Chase was a legend, an icon and an inspiration," said Mayor LaToya Cantrell. "It is impossible to overstate what she meant to our City and to our community. At Dooky Chase's Restaurant: she made Creole Cuisine the cultural force that it is today, she made a family-owned sandwich shop into one of the first African-American



Iconic, World-Renowned Restaurateur Leah Chase in the formal dining room of her historic restaurant, Dooky Chase's.

fine dining restaurants in the country, and she made history—with Dooky's serving as a cradle and a hot spot for the Civil Rights Movement.

"Leah Chase served presidents and celebrities, she served generations of locals and visitors, and she served her community. She was a culture-bearer in the truest sense. We are poorer for her loss, and richer for having known and having loved her. She will be sadly missed. My sincere condolences,

my prayers and my love go out to her family. The City of New Orleans will be there for them, in gratitude for all that Leah gave us. May she rest in God's perfect peace."

The National Urban League released the following statement via Twitter: "She united people through beloved #Creolecuisine and opened her doors to #DrKing and countless other movement leaders working to transform our country. In her own words, 'We changed the course of #America in this restaurant over

bowls of #gumbo.' #LeahChase's legacy won't soon be forgotten nor taken for granted. May she rest in eternal peace."

Journalist Lolis Eric Elie tweeted, "Who will call hot sausage #chaurice now that #leahchase is gone? Who but Leah Chase is responsible for the resurgence of #gumbozherbes?"

Chase's family released the following statement regarding her passing: The Chase Family official statement regarding the death of

Leyah (Leah) Lange Chase, Wife of the late Edgar L. "Dooky" Chase, Jr. and Owner and Chef of Dooky Chase's Restaurant. "The Chase family is heartbroken to share the news that our Mother, Grandmother and Great Grandmother, Leah Chase, passed away surrounded by her family on June 1, 2019. Leah Chase, lovingly referred to as the Queen of Creole Cuisine, was the Executive Chef and co-owner of the Historic and Legendary Dooky Chase's Restaurant. She was a major supporter of cultural and visual arts and an unwavering advocate for civil liberties and full inclusion of all. She was a proud entrepreneur, a believer in the Spirit of New Orleans and the good will of all people, and an extraordinary woman of faith.

"Mrs. Chase was a strong and selfless matriarch. Her daily joy was not simply cooking but preparing meals to bring people together. One of her most prized contributions was advocating for the Civil Rights Movement through feeding those on the front lines of the struggle for human dignity. She saw her role and that of Dooky Chase's Restaurant to serve as a vehicle for social change during a difficult time in our country's history. Throughout her tenure, Leah treasured all of her customers and was honored to have the privilege to meet and serve them.

"While we mourn her loss, we celebrate her remarkable life, and cherish the life lessons she taught us. The Family will continue her legacy of "Work, Pray, and Do for Others."

Funeral Arrangements:

A public viewing will take place on Saturday, June 8th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Xavier Convocation Center, 7910 Stroelitz Street. A Celebratory Program following at 6:00 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Monday, June 10, at 12 p.m. at St. Peter Claver Catholic Church, 1923 St. Philip Street, New Orleans. Visitation will also be on Monday from 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the same location. Seating inside of the church will be limited.

The Chase Family requests that in lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Edgar L. "Dooky" Jr. and Leah Chase Family Foundation - P.O. Box 791313 New Orleans, LA 70179.

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Mayor Cantrell Announces 'Amnesty Late Fee Forgiveness' Plan to Clear some Past-Due Accounts

Data Staff Writers

Mayor LaToya Cantrell and the City of New Orleans' Department of Finance today announced the launch of the three-month Amnesty Late Fee Forgiveness Program for residents to take advantage of incentives to clear past-due accounts with parking and camera tickets, sales and hotel/motel taxes, code enforcement violations, and library fees. From June 3, 2019, to Sept. 3, 2019, residents will be allowed in certain circumstances to pay fees without penalties or additional fees in order to get a fresh start when paying for City services.

"It's all about our residents being able to pay fines and fees or penalties that will be forgiven over the next three months," Mayor Cantrell said.

"We are very excited to work together with several departments to facilitate a program that gives our city and residents a fresh start. The amnesty program will meet our residents where they are and help them clean the slate as it relates to past due accounts," Chief Financial Officer Norman White said. "We believe this is a win-win for the city and our residents."

For general information, call the hotline at (504) 658-2019 or dial 3-1-1. Learn more about the program by visiting this link: <https://nola.gov/amnesty>.

Parking And Camera Tickets

The City of New Orleans is offering a limited opportunity to pay delinquent parking and/or photo safety citations without late penalties. This means anyone who owes money for parking tickets more than 30 days old, or photo safety citations more than 60 days past due will be able to pay them, minus any late fees. This opportunity to get amnesty will last from June 3-Sept. 3, 2019. This offer does not apply to any late penalties paid before or after the program's time frame. All previously paid late fees are non-refundable and full penalties and interest will be assessed after midnight on Sept. 3rd.

How To Participate

You may pay by phone. For parking tickets call (504) 525-0088. For camera tickets call (504) 658-8082. Or, you may pay online between

June 3-Sept. 3rd. You may also pay in person at the following locations, City Hall: 1300 Perdido St. (Adjudication Bureau) or City Auto Pound: 400 N. Claiborne Ave.

For more, visit: <https://nola.gov/amnesty-late-fee-forgiveness-program/#tickets>

Sales & Hotel/Motel Taxes

The City of New Orleans is giving business owners and operators the chance to support the Cantrell Administration's initiatives to help you pay your "Fair Share."

This is your opportunity to settle your delinquent tax accounts, by only paying the base tax amount due and a portion of the interest. You may obtain amnesty on outstanding sales, use, hotel/motel, parking, alcoholic beverage gallonage, occupational license taxes and various permits without penalty, negligence and only 50 percent interest. THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE PROPERTY TAXES OF ANY KIND.

How To Participate

In person: taxpayers must make an appointment with the Bureau of Revenue. Provide gross sales information for months under consideration. Taxpayers must be ready to pay all delinquencies qualified under the Amnesty period.

Online New Filers With Existing Revenue Accounts:

If you are new to the City of New Orleans EGov site, please setup your profile, add your account number and the City will approve the request within 24 hours. You will receive an email confirmation once you are approved to file your return.

Additionally, as an existing business, you should have received an Amnesty letter detailing your liability. The letter contains a coupon code which is a requirement to file online and receive the discounted tax calculation. Please make sure to have the letter and coupon code ready when you go online to pay.

New Filers With No Existing Account:

If you do not have a City of New Orleans Revenue account number, you will need to make an appointment with the Bureau of Revenue to get registered.



Payment Methods

The City of New Orleans will only accept certified funds for payment, this includes cashier's checks and

money orders. The City will make available a spreadsheet to help you calculate your liability to obtain the amount to submit in certified funds.

For more, visit: <https://nola.gov/amnesty-late-fee-forgiveness-program/#taxes>

Or call (504) 658-1TAX (1829) or (504) 658-1637, or email salestax@nola.gov.

Code Enforcement Violations

The Amnesty Late Fee Forgiveness Program for Code Enforcement is a limited opportunity for owners of properties previously found in violation of the Code of the City of New Orleans Chapter 26 Minimum Property Maintenance standards to satisfy liens at a reduced cost.

During Code Enforcement Amnesty, upon successful correction of all violations, reductions of \$100.00 per violation (plus administrative

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New Orleans Music Showcase Sends Four Local Artists to ESSENCE Festival Stages

Sold Out Event brings out the Community to Shine the Light on New Orleans Musicians

Data Staff Writers
Photos by Vincent Sylvain and Dauphin Tales

May 31, 2019 - It was standing room only at the New Orleans Jazz Market at the launch of the New Orleans Music Showcase (NOMS), which gave 10 Showcase finalists the opportunity of a lifetime to compete for a live performance at the 25th Anniversary ESSENCE Festival.

Showcase finalists thought they were vying for one slot at the Essence Festival. The crowd exploded when four winners were announced. "We've long known good music and great musicianship are in New Orleans DNA. But last night's showcase was a much-needed reminder why the next generation of NOLA artists are not only keeping that spirit alive but that they were born ready for the Essence Fest Stage," Cori Murray, ESSENCE Festival Entertainment Editor said. Murray surprised the audience and announced a fourth award in honor of the 25th Anniversary, which went to CASME.

"Coming to New Orleans and not recognizing the music is like going to the beach and ignoring the water," Glenda McKinley, NOMS Producer and CEO of GMC+Co. Strategic Communications said. "The goal was to combine the interests of our tourism and ESSENCE Festival clients to showcase New Orleans' homegrown talent on a huge platform. It was a perfect symbiosis" McKinley added.

"NOMS was an epic win for our local musicians," Essence Banks, Executive Director of the New Orleans Multicultural Tourism Network (NOMTN) said. "We look forward to next year and continuing to share the music and opportunities."

Mark Romig, President and CEO of the New Orleans Tourism Marketing Corporation echoed Banks' sentiment. "It doesn't get any better than a standing room only crowd to support our city's amazing talent. The energy was palpable, and this event was long overdue," Romig added.

The NOMS was co-sponsored by the New Orleans Multicultural Tourism Network and the New Orleans Tourism Marketing Corporation, ESSENCE Communications, and curated by GMC+Co. Strategic Communications.



2nd Place Winner: The Vegas Cola Band



3rd Place Winner: Drea Mire



4th Place Winner: Casmé



1st Place Winner: Dawn (Dawn Richard - Dawn is preferred name)



A panel of experts and nearly 60,000 online votes decided top ten finalists from over 60 submissions of original music from local artists. Award-winning Showcase judges included: Grammy Award winner, Irma Thomas, NPR Tiny Desk winner Tarriona "Tank" Ball from Tank and the Bangas and ESSENCE Festival Entertainment Editor, Cori Murray.



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2019 Nissan Maxima

By Frank S. Washington
AboutThatCar.com,
NNPA Newswire Contributor

DETROIT – The 2019 Nissan Maxima is not your average family sedan. Other than four-doors that may be where the similarity ends. It has the feel and the performance chops of a full-fledged sport sedan.

Where to begin? It lacks the conservative styling of most middle of the road large family sedans with styling designed to offend no one and appealing to even less. This car had an angular style that generated love it or loathe it responses and was unapologetic. The Maxima was no go along to get along sedan.

Nissan's flagship was quite a figure with its 19-inch diamond cut wheels, large boomerang shaped LED headlights and an oversized V-motion grille. The Maxima had a new front fascia a revised rear fascia with LED taillights and integrated quad-tip exhaust finishers, the dual exhaust was made to look like a quad exhaust.

It had a low stance. The lines were meant to evoke the image of a jet fighter. The doors had deep scallops. Blacked out A-pillars enhanced the floating roof appearance. Combine that with blacked out B- and C-pillars and you get a wraparound canopy look. The test vehicle had a dual panoramic roof with the front panel being retractable and the rear panel fixed.

Under the hood was a 3.5-liter



Nissan's flagship was quite a figure with its 19-inch diamond cut wheels, large boomerang shaped LED headlights and an oversized V-motion grille. The Maxima had a new front fascia a revised rear fascia with LED taillights and integrated quad-tip exhaust finishers, the dual exhaust was made to look like a quad exhaust. Nissan has invested more time and money into the development of CVTs than most automakers. It shows on the Maxima.

V6 that made 300 horsepower. It was mated to an Xtronic transmission. That is a continuously variable transmission with manual shift mode as well drive mode selector, it could be put in sport.

Nissan has invested more time and money into the development of CVTs than most automakers. It shows on the Maxima. Gone were the bugaboos like the drone and what seemed to be slow response

time.

Clearly the downsides of CVTs were gone. That left the upside. The Maxima had an EPA rating of 20 mpg in the city, 30 mpg on the highway and 24 mpg combined. That is pretty good for a 300-horsepower sedan.

This powertrain provided some exhilarating driving. Acceleration was impressive, cornering was good, and the suspension soaked

up imperfections in the road. The cabin was quiet, and the instruments were laid out in such way that it wasn't necessary for the driver to reach for anything.

The Maxima had a driver focused interior. All of the instruments were pointed at the driver. Even the center stack was slanted in the driver's direction.

The test vehicle was equipped with the Platinum Reserve Pack-

age. It featured tan semi-aniline leather appointments. The package interior also had Satin Bronze faceted interior finishers, tan steering wheel insert for a two-tone appearance and heated rear seats.

The leather was quilted; it was plush and really rivaled the inside of most luxury sedans. It was close by not in an uncomfortable way, it was snug. It really did feel like a cockpit.

The leather was soft, there was stitching throughout and the interior was modern but there were buttons where needed, like the audio controls. The back seats were heated. There was plenty of headroom and hip room. Three people could sit abreast but I don't think full size adults would be comfortable.

This Nissan Maxima had push button start and stop as well as lock and unlock. Now that I think about it, the car was equipped with one of the best overhead cameras that I've run across. It had a power tilt and telescopic steering wheel.

Of course, there were voice controls, satellite radio, Bluetooth, lane departure warning, heated and cooled front seats, blind spot warning, automatic high beams, automatic emergency braking with pedestrian protection and forward collision warning. And there was remote start; you'd be surprised how many vehicles don't have this feature.

As tested, the 2019 Maxima sticker was \$45,225. That just didn't seem like that much for all you got.

Frank S. Washington is Editor of AboutThatCar.com

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Cover Story, Continued from page 3.

lines whether one is rich, poor Black and White, Hispanic, Asian - it is a people issue; women of all races and socioeconomic status are affected when it comes to having access to abortions. I feel if people can come together around this issue; then there is hope that can produce results in this and other areas as well."

Today we as a society are living in times that are historic in many ways. It is necessary for citizens to become civically engaged. This is an issue that can have adverse effects on individuals, families, communities and society as a whole.

It is about not caricaturing one side against the other as the mainstream media often does. There are grey areas where productive dialog must be had to produce solutions. This bill is not an end, but only a beginning that may find its way to the U.S. Supreme Court. We must ask ourselves do we want to turn back the hands of time, or do we want to continue to move forward. This bill passage in Louisiana and states across this country shows that this issue is far from being resolved.

“The Undefeated”

Terri Schlichenmeyer
Data News Weekly
Contributor

The Undefeated
by Kwame Alexander,
Illustrations by Kadir Nelson
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You wanted it. And you wanted it very much.

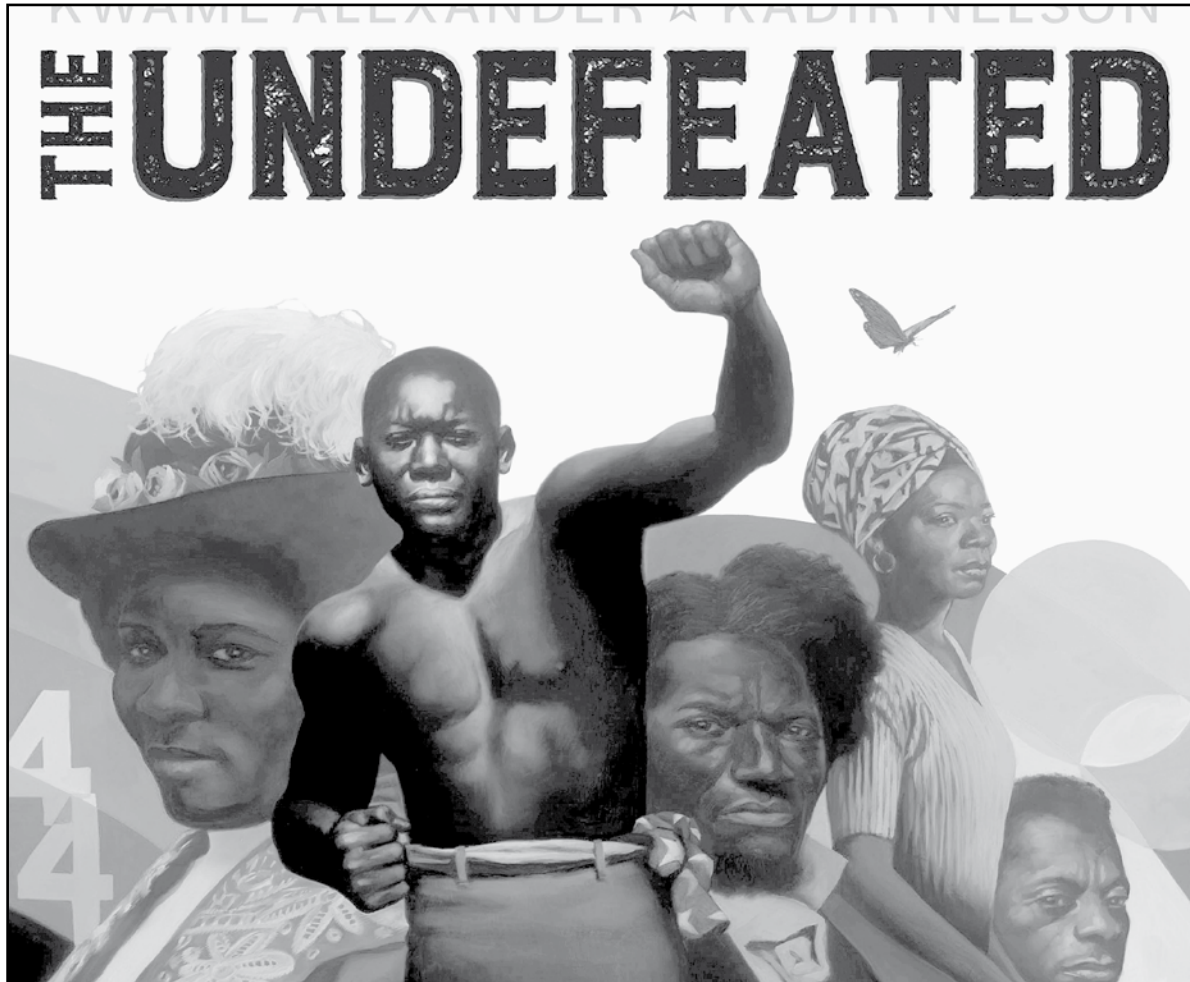
But, ah, well, you didn't get it. You worked and you begged and maybe you even saved but you didn't get what it was that you wanted. You were sad, but you got over it. You'll try again, work harder, save more and, as in “The Undefeated” by Kwame Alexander and Kadir Nelson, one day, you'll reach your goal.

This book is just for you. But it's something you have to share because it's “for the unforgettable,” too. It's for those people who opened the doors to all kinds of new opportunities for everyone, but they never became famous for it.

It's for people who did whatever it took to get to America, to thrive and find a home and happiness. This book is for people who struggled, and for those who didn't.

It's about people who were strong and were admired for that strength. It's for those who believed in themselves but who also put their faith in a higher power. It's for those who “tackle vision” and those who don't hide their light behind anything, ever.

It's for soldiers and dancers, marchers and players, boxers and parents and kids, and it's for you.



It's for Black lives that matter and for the people who never got a chance to know that. It's because of the “unspeakable.”

Share this book for those who won't be stopped, who'll keep dreaming and reaching and imagining and proving. It's for the athletes we know, and for the ones we don't know about yet. It's for performers we sing along with, and for songs not written. It's for those who tried and tried until the last breath they had.

You'll have to share it, but this book is for you. It's “for us.”

“The Undefeated” is one of those

things that's really had to nail down.

It's a quick read that may be

too quick for some kids; it's over

almost before it begins because

author Kwame Alexander's words are spare and not very attention-grabbing for the very youngest of children. It doesn't help that the picture-book-style illustrations are attractive but they aren't particularly colorful or active.

For gradeschoolers, none of that will matter because “The Undefeated” is a poem set to picture and it's inspirational for them, especially if they're just learning about African American history. But there's a possibility for those kids that the power behind the illustrations by Kadir Nelson might be missed because the stories of the people in this book are at the end and not always with the pictures.

Adults, however, might find this book to be a treasure. Alexander's poem pulses with strength and the artwork, from an adult's POV, is perfectly rendered. You may recognize the people depicted – and if not, there's always the back of the book.

The trick, perhaps, is to carefully share this book with the child you love, explain, and let it spark conversation. Once kids understand, “The Undefeated” is a book they'll want very much.

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Mayor Cantrell Kicks Off Summer Recreation Season with "Splash Day"

Data Staff Writers

Mayor LaToya Cantrell helped celebrate the opening of the Summer Recreation Season with the Annual "Splash Day" Event on June 3rd, joined by officials with New Orleans Recreation Development (NORD) Commission and other elected officials and supporters.

"We know that the future of our city truly rests within our young people, and how we provide them with the tools and the resources to have fun and to have recreation and to be all that they can be," Mayor Cantrell said. "We're not just talking, but we're really walking it. We want to give our families what they need."

Mayor Cantrell capped off the event by joining NORD CEO Larry Barabino, Jr. and summer campers for a dip in the pool. Campers included participants in the Passion Dance Camp, held at Lyons Recreation Center, and from Kingsley House's Camp that features STEM, swimming and water safety instruction.

NORD opens 17 pools for the summer, 13 of which are outdoors and located in communities across New Orleans. That includes Pradat Pool in New Orleans East and the Gert Town Pool, both of which are enjoying their second year of service. The Pradat Pool was reopened in 2018 for the first time since Hurricane Katrina, while



Mayor LaToya Cantrell, enjoys the cool water with kids at one of the City's 17 NORD pools which are now open for summer.

the Gert Town Pool opened next to the new home of the Second District Station for the New Orleans Police Department. The Gert Town Pool is the newest indoor/year-round pool that also offers competition swimming. Pools will be open as early as 8 a.m. and close as late as 8 p.m. weekdays.

All pools will open on Saturdays and some will open on Sundays.

NORD also offers a robust package of summer recreation opportu-

nities for residents of all ages that include aquatics, athletics, cultural arts, fitness, outdoors programming and special events.

Download the NORD summer brochure by clicking here.

"It is critical to our city that we continue to invest in our public pools and aquatics programming such as swim lessons and water safety classes. Being a city that is surrounded by water, knowing how to swim, or basic water skills can be

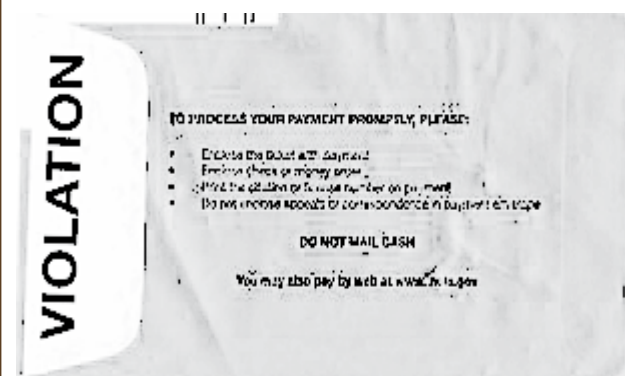
lifesaving," said NORD CEO Larry Barabino, Jr. "We have made great progress in improving and bringing NORD Facilities and Programming back online – and look forward to continuing the great work, along with Mayor Cantrell, and her administration, NORD Commission and City Council to move NORD and the City of New Orleans forward."

Barabino also thanks NORD's community partners, including Hertz Investment Group, Boh Brothers, Sodexo, No Kid Hungry, and Share Our Strength.

Also participating: District B City Councilmember Jay H. Banks and District D City Councilmember Jared Brossett; NORDC Commissioners Kimberly Abramson, Raquel Dufauchard and Randy Greenup; NORD Foundation Vice Chairman Ernest Price; and Rhonda Jackson of Share Our Strength.

State & Local, Continued from page 5.

cost) will be applied to fines with proof of abatement of all violations.



Actual costs such as demolition cost, grass cutting fees or administrative costs cannot be waived.

How To Participate:

Submit this form, with the following attached documents:

Proof of ownership copy of all recorded liens to be considered and current photographs showing each corrected violation.

For more info, visit this link: <https://nola.gov/amnesty-late-fee-forgiveness-program/#code> or call (504) 658-4346, and a Code Enforcement representative will assist you.

Library Fines

The New Orleans Public Library is offering a one-time fine and fee waiver for any outstanding fine

and fees up to \$100. Cardholders with outstanding fines and/or fees can come into any library branch

between June 3-Sept. 3rd and receive the one-time waiver. New Orleans Public Library recognizes that fines and fees can be a barrier to members of the community seek-

ing essential library services. The Public Library serves all members of the New Orleans community and hopes that this program will welcome community members back to the library.

How To Participate

Bring a picture ID or Library Card to any New Orleans Public Library Branch between June 3-September 3rd. Ask about the Amnesty Late Fee Forgiveness Program at any library service desk. Cardholders can bring any outstanding library materials to return fine free. Each cardholder only gets one waiver during the program.

For more info, visit this link: <https://nola.gov/amnesty-late-fee-forgiveness-program/#library>

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The List of Black and Missing Continues to Grow



Missing girls from left to right: Aneesa Reed, Keisha Hayes, Ashantay Jones and Tawny Reed. Anyone with information about the disappearance of either girl, please call police. For Tawny Reed or Aneesa Reed, Reno Police Department, 1-775-334-2121. For Ashantay Jones, Las Vegas Police Department, 1-702-828-3111. For Keaisha Hayes-Prater, Columbus Police Department, 1-614-645-4545.

The National Newspaper Publishers Association Continues its Series on Missing Black Women and Girls

By Stacy Brown
NNPA Newswire
Correspondent,
@StacyBrownMedia

Type the name Tawny Reed in the Google search engine and click on "News."

In doing so, one will find among the results, an obscure 1960s Welsh singer named Tawny Reed and even a headline from the Telegraph newspaper in the United Kingdom that reads, "The beautiful Turkish wonder you've probably never heard of."

What you won't find is Tawny Reed, the missing 14-year-old Black girl from Reno, Nevada who was last seen on May 1st.

It's a recurring theme: An African American female goes missing and there's no radar too low that she won't fly beneath.

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children – or NCMEC – said the number of reports of missing children made to law enforcement in the United States now totals more than 424,000.

Tawny stands five feet tall and weighs about 130 pounds and authorities haven't described what she was doing at the time of her disappearance or what she may have been wearing.

Less than two weeks before Tawny disappeared, Aneesa Reed also went missing in Reno.

Aneesa [no reported relation to Tawny] is 16 and authorities said she's five-feet and four inches tall and weighs 110 pounds. She was last seen on April 26th.

Across the state in Las Vegas, Ashantay Jones, 17, also disappeared.

The five-feet and 11 inches tall, Ashantay reportedly weighs about 135 pounds.

Like Tawny, Aneesa and Ashantay, a Google search of Keaisha Hayes-Prater, yields nothing about the missing Black teen in the news section.

The 13-year-old, who's listed at five feet tall and 148 pounds, disappeared on May 3rd in Columbus, Ohio.

Authorities believe she may still be in the local area, but they're unsure what may have happened to her.

The alarming number of missing Black females counts for a large chunk of disappearances nationwide. Yet, as the crisis continues, media attention remains largely diverted.

"I worked in Texas as a news anchor and the statistics there are shocking," said Liz Jeneault, an Emmy-nominated former TV news anchor who once hosted a public affairs show called, "In Focus," in Texas.

Jeneault, who now works as vice president of marketing for Faveable.com, said she believes some girls have fallen victim to human trafficking.

"I interviewed professionals from the University of Texas at Austin about how there are an estimated 79,000 child sex trafficking victims in Texas alone," Jeneault said.

"Houston is known to be a hub for trafficking and is unfortunately where Black women and girls are roped into the trade," she said.

It's really quite prophetic that so many African Americans have gone missing and are forgotten [by society], said Phyllis G. Williams, the co-host of Living the Principles Onward. Of course, they will never be forgotten by their friends and loved ones.

"Malcolm X said the most disrespected person in America is the Black woman. The most unprotected person in America is the Black woman and the most neglected person in America is the Black woman," Williams said.

"This was stated 57 years ago and sadly the words still ring true. Our lack of protection

mixed with constant disrespect and neglect contributes to little effort in being found when we are missing," she said.

"Many Americans are subconsciously programmed to view Black women and girls as promiscuous, angry, and of little overall value, which leads law enforcement, media and others to reason that there's little need to exhaust the system for someone others believe lack wholesomeness," said Williams, whose family has endured its own unsolved disappearance.

"My aunt Doll Crooks has been missing since the mid-1980s and, after more than 30 years, it appears she's just another cold case," Williams said.

"I can't help but wonder if my aunt Doll had blonde hair and blue eyes, while living in an upper-middle class neighborhood, [if] there would have been more detective work [done to find her]," she said.

Anyone with information about the disappearance of Tawny Reed or Aneesa Reed call the Reno Police Department at 1-775-334-2121. For Ashantay Jones, call the Las Vegas Police Department at 1-702-828-3111. For Keaisha Hayes-Prater, call the Columbus Police Department at 1-614-645-4545.

For information on anyone missing, call 1-800-THE-LOST, or visit www.missingkids.com.

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