

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

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Grads Standout Style



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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

Essence Fest 2020

The Party with a Purpose Goes Virtual



PJ Morton



Tank



Big Freedia



Jon Batiste



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Mississippi to Change State Flag



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Essence Fest 2020

The Party with a Purpose Goes Virtual



New Orleans Mayor, LaToya Cantrell



Former First Lady, Michelle Obama



Atlanta Mayor, Keisha Lance Bottoms



Washington D.C. Mayor, Muriel Bowser



Me-Too Founder, Tarana Burke

Data News Staff Edited Report

Essence Fest 2020: The Party with a Purpose Goes Virtual

First-Ever Virtual Festival Includes Two UNSTOPPABLE Weekends of #ESSENCEFEST

with Daytime Empowerment Experiences and Nighttime Concerts

All Streaming on ESSENCEstudios.com, June 25-28 and July 2-5 (This whole part in small print as subtitle)

As the COVID-19 Pandemic continues to change the way many are living their lives these days where

the new normal have caused many large-scale events being cancelled. But in the continuing spirit of making lemonade out of lemons, Essence Fest 2020 will go on as a virtual festival. It is expected to as always bring people together for the party with a purpose and an amazing display of Black Excellence.

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DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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Cover Story, Continued from page 2.



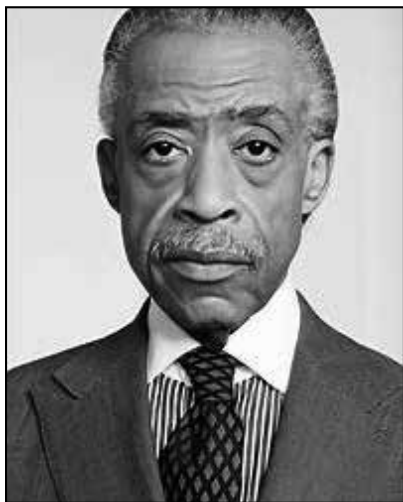
Comedian and TV Host, Loni Love



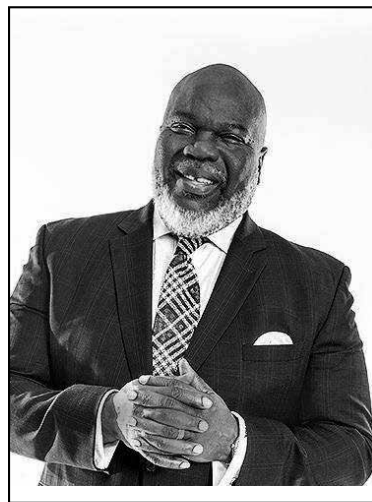
Entertainer, Tamela Mann



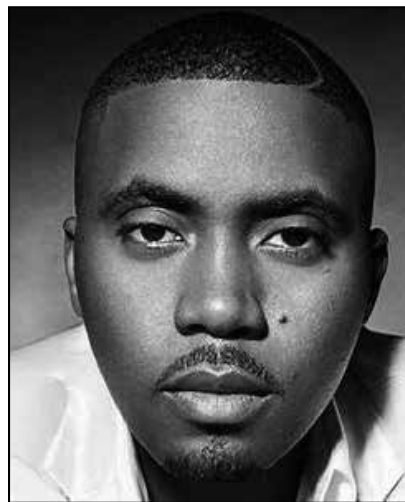
Legendary Singer, Patti LaBelle



Civil Rights Activist, Rev. Al Sharpton



Inspirational Leader, Bishop T.D. Jakes



Legendary Rapper, Nas



Singer, Songwriter and Humanitarian, John Legend

What's in Store

Under the leadership of Entrepreneur Richelieu Dennis who purchased ESSENCE in 2018, placing it back in the hands of 100 percent Black Ownership. Since that time, he and his team have expanded this 50-year-old company into new frontiers extended it to audiences globally.

Essence today is the leading media, technology and Commerce Company serving Black women and communities, today announced new additions to its stellar line-up for the 2020 ESSENCE Festival of Culture: Unstoppable Virtual Experience Presented by Coca-Cola. Taking place June 25th-28th and July 2nd-5th (Thursdays-Sundays) and streaming on ESSENCEstudios.com, the multi-day experience will extend to a global audience of viewers and feature virtual performances, summits, panels and more including leading musical artists, influencers and experts from around the world.

For the first time in the Festi-

val's 26-year history, the much-anticipated celebration – which annually draws more than 500,000 attendees and contributes almost \$300 million in economic impact over the July 4th weekend in New Orleans—will be produced as a fully virtual experience spanning two weekends of programming that entertain, empower, inspire, educate and mobilize. This year, in partnership with Michelle Obama's national, non-partisan organization, When We All Vote, ESSENCE will share voter registration and voting resources. The Festival will also include a benefit initiative to raise funds to support the critical needs and sustainability of Black and Brown entrepreneurs, micro and small businesses, and organizations focused on racial equity across the U.S. For an up-to-date artist lineup and schedule, click here. The 2020 ESSENCE Festival is presented by Coca-Cola. Major sponsors include Ford, McDonald's, Walmart, My Black is Beautiful, P&G. For more information and to register, visit

www.essencefestival.com. Join the conversation via social @EssenceFest.

Empowerment and Entertainment

Newly Announced participants include: First Lady Michelle Obama; Kerry Washington; Naomi Campbell; Lena Waithe; Ayesha and Stephen Curry; Rev. Al Sharpton; Marc Morial; Tamika Mallory; Tarana Burke; Jon Baptiste; Chronixx; Michaela Coel; Wyclef; Iyanla Vanzant; Sarah Jessica Parker; Iman Shumpert & Teyana Taylor. PLUS: Marco Borges; Jemele Hill; Misa Hylton; Jeanette Jenkins; MC Lyte; Jodie Patterson; Michael Jai White & Gillian White; Ebonie K. Williams; and many more.

The show is chockfull of amazing talent and people can expect incredible performances from:

Headliner Bruno Mars plus: Amanda Black, Andra Day, Bell Biv DeVoe (“BBD”), Burna Boy, Common, D-Nice, Damian Mar-

ley, Diamond Platnumz, Doug E. Fresh, Elephant Man, Estelle, India.Arie, John Legend, Ledisi, NAS, Patti LaBelle, Raphael Saadiq, Rapsody, Sauti Sol, Shaggy, Swizz Beatz and more, hosted by Loni Love.

New Orleans in the Spotlight During Fest

Leading a special tribute to the City of New Orleans will be Mayor LaToya Cantrell, PJ Morton, Big Freedia, Irma Thomas, Tank and The Bangas and Big 6 Brass Band. Also, featured in the popular Sunday Gospel Get Lifted Celebration are Anita Wilson, Bri Babineaux, Erica Campbell, Fred Hammond, Greater Sound of Greater St. Stephen FGBC, Jonathan McReynolds, Kierra Sheard, Kirk Franklin, Koryn Hawthorne, Marvin Sapp, Tamela Mann, The Clark Sisters, The Walls Group, Tye Tribbett, and more, along with Sunday sermons from Bishop Paul S. Morton and Bishop T.D. Jakes.

Voices of Change

Other culture-leaders and influencers raising their voices to speak include: New Orleans, LA, Mayor LaToya Cantrell; Atlanta, GA, Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms; Chicago, IL, Mayor Lori Lightfoot; Washington, D.C., Mayor Muriel Bowser; Ferguson, MO, Mayor-Elect Ella Jones; San Francisco, CA, Mayor London Breed; Don Lemon; Ryan Michelle Bathe; Kirk and Tammy Franklin; Lori Harvey; Ryan Destiny; Lexi Underwood; Egypt Sherrod; Lisa Nichols; Master P; Shaun T; Tabitha Brown and more.

These two amazing weekends are a testament to Essence and its continued role as a leader in empowering Black People and giving voice to the struggle for equality and justice. In these times where race is at the forefront Essence is showing that it is committed to empowering people of African descent not only here in America, but all over the globe.

Grads Standout Style



Tracee Dundas
Fashion Stylist

These standout 2020 graduates slayed in the classroom and scored an A+ for their outstanding fashion style!

Photos Courtesy
Of Graduates



Booker T. Washington

NIRCHA WILLIAMS

As a New Orleans Fashion Week runway model, Nircha has been known to slay on the runway as a New Orleans Fashion Week runway model. Her fashion style speaks to her personality as which she describes as free-spirited, open-minded with a mix of modern and retro vibe.



University View Academy

AMARI HURST

Amari has been part of New Orleans Fashion Week's as an intern since her freshmen year in high school. Over the years her fashion has evolved, but never straying away from her love for feminine, romantic styles that have a southern charm.



Lusher Charter School
ZOE KANGA

There's a French term "BoBo" which means Bourgeois-Bohemian, which is defined as an unexpected mix of classy and care-free. This is a good descriptor of Zoe's fashion style.
"Life is too short to wear boring clothing, it's important to keep it fun and not be a "cookie-cutter."
Zoe is a supporter of sustainable fashion and loves to thrift shop.



Xavier University of Louisiana
JESSICA NICHOLS

Jessica's fashion mantra is K.I.S.P. "Keep It Simple Period". She likes to include a statement piece (anything from unique jewelry, handbag, or shoes); that will pop and elevate her outfit.



CIERRA JOHNSON

As a visual artist, Cierra pulls her fashion inspo from Black Woman Artists like Rico Nasty and Rihanna, maintaining a style that is colorful, on-trendy and an artistic flare.



DR. CANAAN CAVALIER,

a Xavier University of Louisiana's College of Pharmacy. Fashion for Dr. Cavalier is about making a unique statement every day. He intends to maintain his unique style as he begins his medical career. "Because when you look good, you feel good."



Lee High School
PAIGE FOULCARD

Because of her busy schedule, Paige go-to fashion look is Street Style. Her fashion choices can be described as tomboyish with comfort and a hint of chicness.



Benjamin Franklin High School
GABRIEL ALLEN

Although his primary focus has been excelling academically (magna cum laude graduate); Gabriel likes to shine as well with his fashion choice by pairing a muted color palate with expressive patterns and textiles. Keeping his fashion original and interesting over a brand name is his preference.

'Donald Trump is More Focused on Saving Statues of Slaveholders & Confederate Generals than Protecting Americans from the Coronavirus'



Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA)
U.S. House of Representatives

slaveholders, Confederate generals, and racists, than protecting the health of living and breathing Americans.

"The United States remains the epicenter of the coronavirus pandemic, with more than 2.4 million cases and more than 124,000 deaths. My home state of California, Arizona, Texas, and Florida have seen their coronavirus cases skyrocket in the past two weeks.

"On Tuesday, Texas and California set records for having more than 5,000 coronavirus cases in a 24-hour period, and 33 states have reported a spike in their weekly average of coronavirus cases. Instead of using the full power of his office to fight this deadly pandemic, Donald Trump would rather ignore the

coronavirus and call in U.S. marshals to confront protestors who are taking down memorials to racist Confederate generals and slaveholders.

"For months, my colleagues and I have rung the alarm and done everything in our power to pass legislation that addresses the need for life-saving personal protective equipment (PPE), increases testing capacity, provides ventilators, and supports hospitals, community health centers, and frontline workers.

"Instead of bipartisan action, we have been faced with opposition from a president and a Republican party that are hiding their heads in the sand as thousands of Americans die. In the past week,

Donald Trump has defied the guidance of public health experts and held two large public events that placed the lives of his supporters at risk.

"Instead of enforcing mask wearing and social distancing in his events, he required attendees to sign waivers to protect his campaign from being sued if attendees contracted the virus. Donald Trump has decried efforts to increase coronavirus testing, and his administration has stripped federal funding for community testing sites in at least 13 states, including Texas, which is enduring a sharp increase in coronavirus cases.

"Donald Trump's negligence and lack of care for the American

people is contemptible.

"We have a real, deadly public health crisis on our hands, and Donald Trump is more concerned about statues and relics of the Confederacy and slavery than he is the survival of the American people.

"He's already had protestors in front of the White House forcibly removed and tear-gassed for a photo-op, now he is poised to do it again with protestors who are calling for the removal of statues and monuments to slaveholders and Confederate generals who withdrew from the United States and fought against the Union in the Civil War. All patriots who love this country and care about the well-being of its citizens must unite and hold Donald Trump accountable."

"One would hope that the president of the United States would rise to the level of leadership that our country needs in confronting the deadly uptick in coronavirus cases in America. Instead, we are left with Donald Trump, an incompetent and heartless man who is more focused on saving statues of

State & Local News

Louisiana Business Grant Program to Begin in July

Data News Staff Edited Report

Many Louisiana businesses have been hit hard by the COVID-19 Pandemic and its impact is being felt as many struggle to survive and others are closing all together.

The Louisiana's State Treasurer, John Schroder says some small businesses harmed by the Coronavirus Pandemic should start seeing grants from a \$300 million federally financed program beginning in July.

The money is part of \$1.8 billion in Direct Congressional Relief that Louisiana received to respond to COVID-19.

Most of the money is being used to fill state budget shortfalls amid the pandemic. But lawmakers set aside a portion for the small business grants.

Treasurer John Schroder told lawmakers Monday that he hopes to have distributed all of the aid over a few months.

DATA NEWS WEEKLY

Encourages All To Get Out to

VOTE

Early Voting Ends on July 4th and the Election is on July 11th

Let Your Voices Be Heard at the Polls

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Mississippi Legislature Approves Bill to Change State Flag

Data News Staff Edited Report



The movement to have Mississippi change its state flag was overwhelmingly approved by the state senate. Gov. Tate Reeves said he would sign the bill and then a nine member commission will meet to develop a new flag design.

As the tide of history is turning, the Mississippi Legislature made history Sunday, by approving a bill that will change the state flag and erase a Confederate Battle Emblem that many condemned as continuing the legacy of a racist past for the state.

In a statement regarding this issue, State Senator David Blount said, "It's a great day for Mississippi. It's the right thing to do."

The flag has flown over the Capitol for 126 years.

The House overwhelmingly ap-

proved the bill 91-23. The bill was then sent to the Senate, which passed it with a 37-14 vote. Republican Gov. Tate Reeves, said Saturday that he will sign the bill.

"Peoples' hearts have changed. That is for the better of the people of Mississippi," said Speaker of the House Philip Gunn.

The bill calls for the creation of a nine-member commission that would meet to develop a new design that does not include the Confederate Battle Emblem and shall include the words "In God, We Trust." They would report to the Secretary of State and the design would go before voters in November.

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

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 2 years or more of newspaper or PR writing experience. We need writers who can cover New Orleans news stories, ranging from local high school sports, community events, City Hall and entertainment. Experience in print is necessary, experience in digital and social media are encouraged.

Compensation is competitive and great story ideas will be appreciated.

If you are interested, please email your resume and 3 writing samples to: terrybjones@bellsouth.net and datanewseditor@bellsouth.net.

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THIS AD HAS BEEN CREATED TO BRING ATTENTION TO BLACK-OWNED BUSINESSES.

Power is in Black voices. Power is in Black actions. Power is in Black wallets.

Historically, Black people have been murdered for owning, thriving and being successful. To that, we say never again.

Roc Nation is committed to supporting Black entrepreneurs, their dreams, and companies. We challenge everyone to do the same.

**Roc Nation is proud to provide a list of Black-owned
local businesses suggested by New Orleans Data Weekly**

ABRA CA DA BRA BAIL BONDSMAN

BASKINS & ROBBINS N.O. EAST

BLUE FLAMINGO BAR & GRILL

BLUE JASMINE

BLUE LION KARATE ACADEMY

CARL R. JOHNSON, CPA

DASH TRANSPORTATION

DOOK'S PLACE

DOOKY CHASE RESTAURANT

DUNBARS RESTAURANT

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FRESH START COMMUNICATIONS, LLC

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MONA'S ACCENTS

NEW ORLEANS FINEST CAR SALES

NEYOW'S CREOLE CAFE

ON THE RUN DELIVERY

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SWANSON INSURANCE

THE MUNCH FACTORY

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ROCINATION



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GODRARD
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TIDAL
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