

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

Celebrating Black Fathers

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The Right Side of History

Finding the Road to Democracy

Edwin Buggage
Editor-in-Chief

Rethinking “We The People”

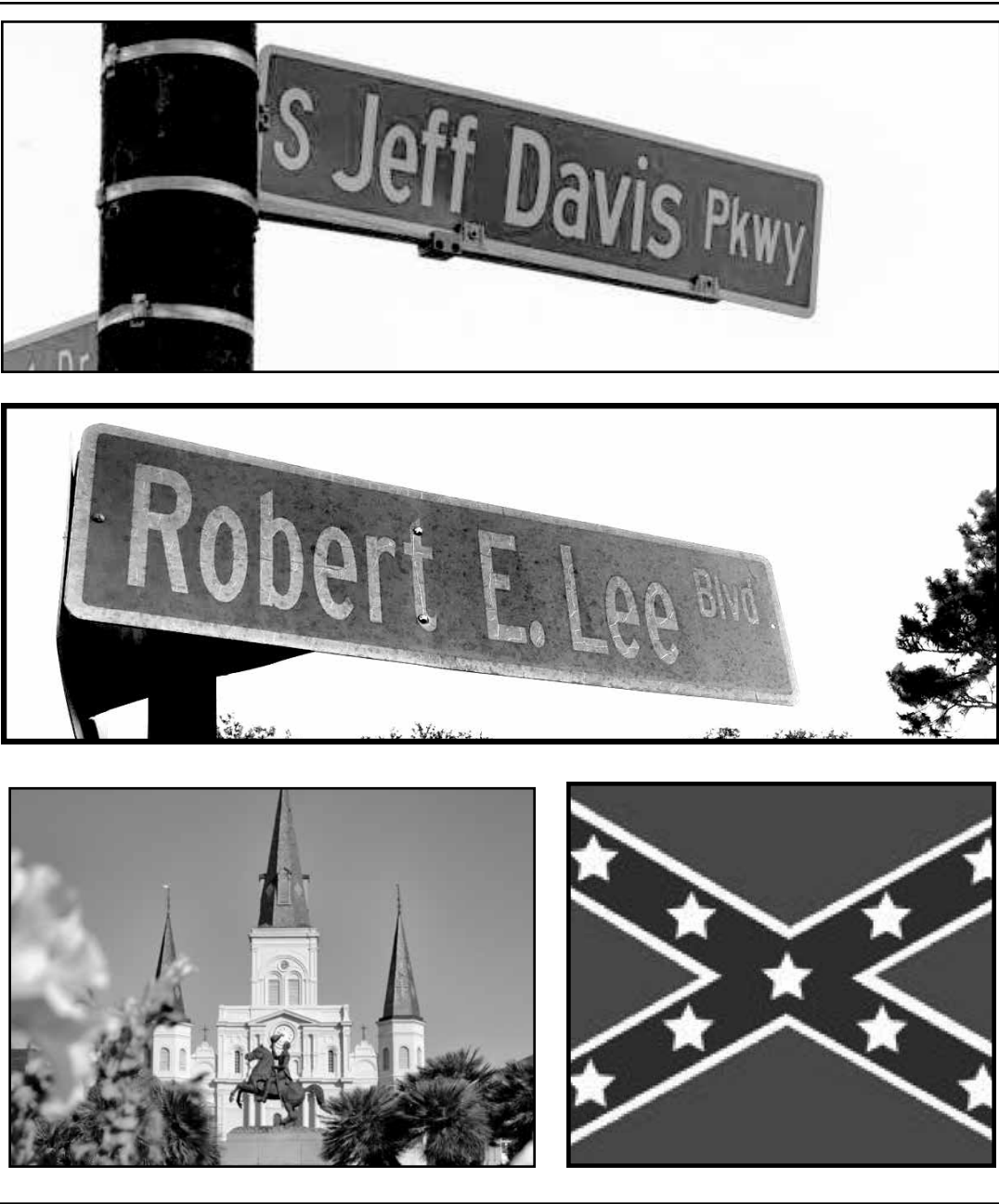
America is at a crossroads, trying to decipher what it will be in the 21st Century. It is a country with a history that in respect to race often finds itself falling short of the creed that “All People Are Created and most importantly treated Equal.” And on the eve of this year’s 4th of July, we are seeing a revolution happening that’s testing where we are in our experiment with democracy.

The killing of George Floyd by the hands of police has set off a firestorm of protests about the value of Black life in America. It is in this time of transformation that we are reminded that this is a nation that continues to grapple with the stain of systemic racism. We are also reminded that those whose ebony hands helped build this country were once deemed as 3/5’s of a person and had no rights that Whites were bound to respect.

Fast forward to today. There is a worldwide crescendo of voices in unison demanding recognition, rights and respect for Black lives and are echoing the cry that “Black Lives Matter,” and Black lives have the same value as White lives.

It is in with this backdrop that today people are in the streets demanding not only justice for George Floyd, but for the heinous acts perpetrated against Blacks by the hands of those in law enforcement or those who decide to take the law into their own hands and become police, judge, jury and executioner, hunting down Blacks.

And this is nothing new to the Black Experience – from lynch mobs, to White terrorist groups such as the Ku Klux Klan, to the killing of Emmitt Till and so many others. But today in the age of cell phones, anyone can broadcast “reality” as it is happening. Today decent people of all races can now see what before were the nameless, faceless, people who have suffered at the hands of police and witnessed the inhumanity of a society that sometimes believes that intoler-



People all over America are demanding the removal of Confederate monuments including New Orleans, where the City Council recently put together a task force to deal with this issue.

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erance and marginalization to their darker brothers is not real.

History vs. His Story

Today it is a struggle for the soul of a country that has to reconcile this history, and there are voices rising to re-write the history of a nation that has oftentimes created myths and propaganda cloaked in the guise of regional pride. This is what we see today as some are demanding the removal of Confederate statues, the changing of street names and a burgeoning movement beyond this dark point in our history.

Some wanted to hold onto this part of history, calling themselves patriots. But their “patriotism” could be translated into selective amnesia, because in truth they were fighting to preserve a way of life that kept their “knee on the neck” of Black Americans with policies that kept us bound as second class citizens.

For example, the removing of confederate monuments and the proposal of changing some of the street names in New Orleans is a step in the right direction. To change Jefferson Davis Parkway to Norman C. Francis is just the beginning of having streets that reflect where we want to go in our “Desire” to reach “Humanity” (which are also street names in our City).

Racism Reconsidered: America Reaching Its Full Potential

Racism is a disease that has infected this nation for too long and caused it not to reach its full potential. I remember interviewing the great Chef Leah Chase, whose name is also being proposed to replace the street name of Confederate General Robert E. Lee. She said, “Imagine what this country would be without the barriers of segregation and racism.” I pondered this and thought about all the great people who are non-White males who were confined to the margins, never being able to play in the major leagues of life.

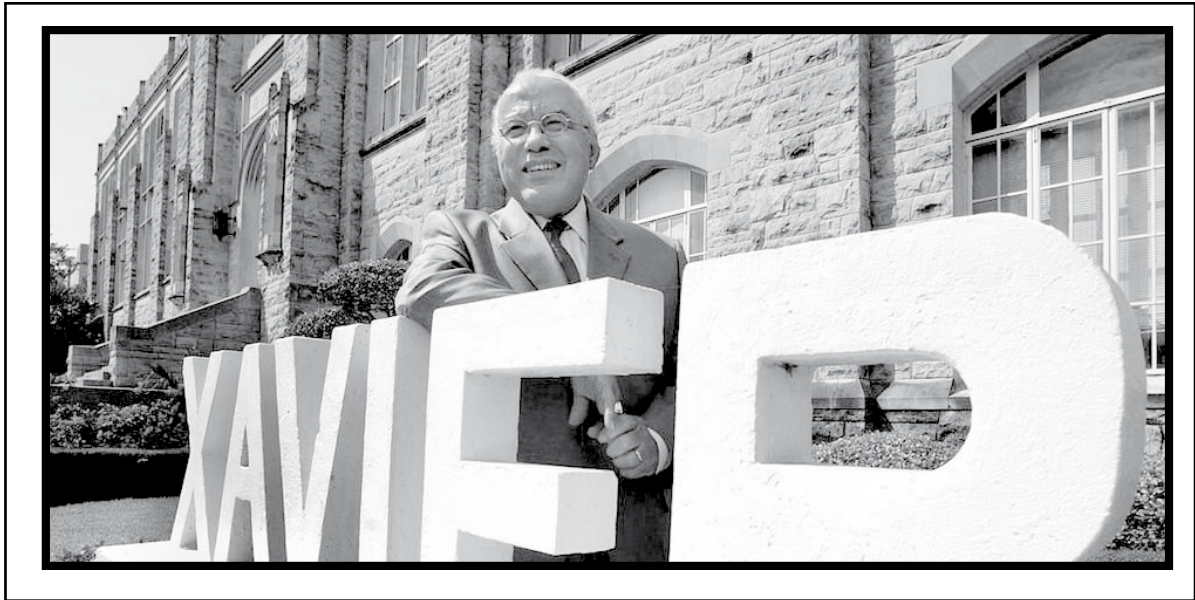
We have to ask what if after slavery ended there wasn’t segregation and Jim Crow after Reconstruction. And it was this age of “American Apartheid” where statues of traitors to the nation were resurrected and stood as symbols of racial repression and White domination. It is in this day that we have the opportunity to right the wrongs of the past and set a new course for this City, nation, and world as it reconsiders its past injustices.

To Change History is to Make History

Today it is encouraging to see the soldiers in this fight of differ-



The late great Chef Leah Chase cooking in front of Jackson Square with grandson Edgar “Dooky” Chase IV, owner of Dook’s Place and NBC Today Show’s Al Roker. (Some are calling for the taking down of the Andrew Jackson statue because he owned as many as 160 slaves and played a part in the Indian Removal Act).



There is a push to change the name of Confederate Jefferson Davis Parkway to Norman C. Francis Parkway, after the longtime Xavier University President, who was a trailblazer and built bridges of understanding between the races. His life embodies the spirit of what the City represents according to those who are demanding this name change.



New Orleans is taking a step in the right direction. To change Jefferson Davis Parkway to Norman C. Francis is just the beginning of having streets that reflect where we want to go in our “Desire” to reach “Humanity” (which are also street names in our City).

ent backgrounds shouting that “Black Lives Matter” and standing shoulder to shoulder with their fellow human beings. But in this flash-point in time it is important to note: what does a win look like? It means staying civically engaged; it means getting to the polls and voting; it means more young people deciding to run for public offices and letting their hands shape the world they desire. Also, it means resetting the table of power where more voices are heard. This is what is happening today.

Racism and intolerance are diseases that are curable, and we have the capacity to change and move in a new direction. We as a City, nation and world can choose decency, compassion, love, inclusion, and respect for all people’s humanity. These choices, while not easy for everyone, would put us on “The Right Side of History.”



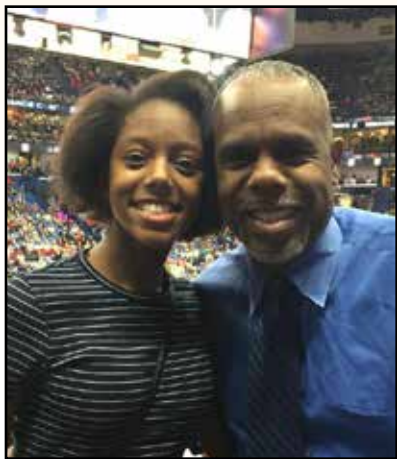
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Celebrating Black Fathers

Fleur De Lis
Data News Weekly Contributor

Recently, we celebrated Father's Day and Data News Weekly want to put the spotlight on theses amazing brothers and promote fatherhood in Black Community.



Joe Ricks and daughter Jaelynn Ricks.



Marcel Bates with his son and daughter Nasir and Simone Bates.



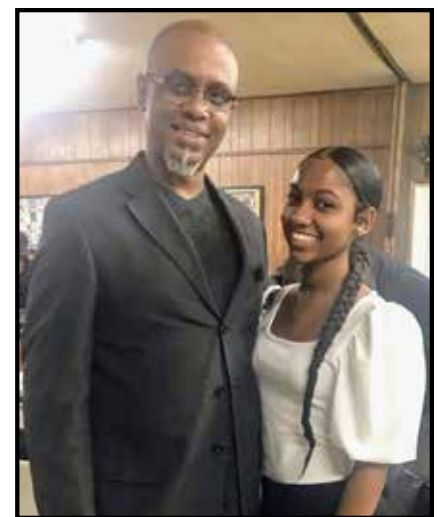
Charles Vaughn Jr., with daughters Amara and Liana Vaughn.



Al Mims and son Cameron Mims.



All about Family, Jean Baker pictured with his daughter Brejean Baker and his cousin Jevonee Rhea and her son Cameron LeBlanc.



Glenn Summers and daughter Caitlyn Summers.



Leonard Blair with sons Selim and Bilal Blair.

Visit www.ladatanews.com for more photos from these events

Renetta Perry's 50th Birthday

Renetta Perry celebrated her 50th birthday on June 19, 2020 with a house party, respecting the City's Phase 2 COVID-19 limitations. The milestone was enjoyed by an intimate group of Perry and a just few friends. Décor was provided by A-Creations (www.acreations22.bigcartel.com). The delicious food was catered by Michele Cressey, and music spanning each decade of Perry's life was provided by DJ DaJohn Vanison. Cake by Chris's Cakes, Bullard Ave., New Orleans.



Emory Perry hosted an intimate and elegant house party to celebrate her mother, Renetta Perry's 50th Birthday. Guests danced the night away to music spanning 70's, 80's, 90's and the 2000's mixed by local DJ DaJohn Vanison.

Visit www.ladatanews.com for more photos from these events



If I could do one thing, I'd have a daycare closer to work.

If you could do one thing for your community, what would it be? More daycare centers? More funding for Head Start? Completing the 2020 Census is a safe and easy way to inform how billions of dollars in funding flow into your community for hundreds of services. **Respond online, by phone, or by mail.**

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New Orleans Church Launches Voting Black & Brown Issues Campaign

Benjamin Bates
Data News Weekly
Contributor

During the COVID-19 Crisis it's been many of the faith leaders who are on the forefront providing help and inspiration in the community. Recently, Fifth African Baptist Church, located in Uptown New Orleans started an initiative where they are getting people registered to vote. In addition, they are providing Census Information and doing food and mask giveaways.

The church's Pastor Dale Sanders is spearheading this effort and enlisting several com-



Fifth African Baptist Church Pastor Dale Sanders and Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club President, Elroy James.



Recently, Fifth African Baptist Church, located in Uptown New Orleans started an initiative where they are getting people registered to vote. In addition, they are providing Census Information and doing food and mask giveaways.

munity partners, speaking of why he feels it is important he says; "After watching George Floyd, not resist arrest, but resist death, I knew that something must be done to combat systemic racism in our society. Out of this awareness the Voting Black & Brown Issues Campaign (VBBI) began. Our hope is to register thousands of African Americans throughout the country to vote and thereby change the landscape of this nation. We must resist the death of our hopes, dreams and aspirations by committing to vote our interest in America to see that justice prevails and righteousness rules."

Commentary

From Desire to Purpose...

A Dreamer's Journey

Renee Dugue'
Executive Director, Reborn
and Rising

I am truly Naturally New Orleans! To know me is to know that The N.O. raised me, The Most High's grace and mercy saved me, and life in The Desire gave me all that I need to compete and succeed.

I am so grateful for this life's journey. Each laugh, tear, up, down, joy, and pain has shaped, strengthened, and inspired me to continue on. As I live and learn, I've come to prioritize peace as the greatest attainment and joy as life's greatest gift. I realize the source of true peace dwells within, and that there is infinite joy in giving. It is with a sincere heart filled with pure intentions, that I want to share my gifts with you.

I am seeking to connect with kindred souls in search of a safe and sacred place to heal...to be heard, to be seen, to be fully accepted, to be supported, to be embraced, to be unconditionally loved, to be encouraged, to be inspired, to be empowered, to simply be who we know Our Creator is calling us to be.

As I write and you read, my desire for this column is for us to



Renee Dugue' is a Healer, Artist, Writer, Humanitarian and Co-Founder and Executive Director of Reborn & Rising, where they support minority male child homicide survivors beyond their grieving period through music, art, education, entrepreneurial ventures, travel, humanitarian efforts, and volunteerism.

seek the pathological origins of our behavior, and to be encouraged to uncover and unpack our issues related to the struggles we encounter, have overcome, and or still work through daily. I will personally share on topics of abuse, addiction, mental health, homicide, being a "Black" woman, raising a "Black" boy in America, and the impact of these and other traumas we face. I welcome you to do the same. No matter what our differences are whether it be religion,

gender, economics, or social class, our commonalities living this human experience are greater. We can support each other in identifying, accepting, and ultimately appreciating every aspect of existence, as completely necessary to fulfill our divine purpose. Through the sharing of our experiences, we will find the strength to heal, move forward on our paths, discover our passions, and explore tangible possibilities of making our dreams come true.

I am a Healer, Artist, Writer,

Humanitarian, Co-Founder and Executive Director of Reborn & Rising. We support minority male child homicide survivors beyond the grieving period through music, art, education, entrepreneurial ventures, travel, humanitarian efforts, and volunteerism.

I love spending quality time with family and friends, as we enjoy what I consider life's must-haves...lots of love, beaucoup laughs, tasty treats, and scrumptious sweets...while music that moves your soul plays on repeat.



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Noose Found in Black Race Car Driver Bubba Wallace Garage

Says He Will Continue His Fight for Justice

Data News Staff Edited Report

As the U.S. is now grappling with rectifying its racist past federal authorities recently confirmed they are investigating the discovery of a noose found in the Talladega Superspeedway garage stall of Bubba Wallace, NASCAR's only Black full-time driver who successfully pushed the stock car series to ban the Confederate flag at its venues earlier this month.

In a report published by AP, U.S. Attorney Jay Town said his office, the FBI and the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division were reviewing the situation.

"Regardless of whether federal charges can be brought, this type of action has no place in our society," Town said.

The stock car series, founded in the South more than 70 years ago, has tried to distance itself from the flag for years at the risk of alienating a core group of its fan base. At Wallace's urging, it went ahead with the ban as the nation grapples with social unrest largely tied to George Floyd, an unarmed Black man who died in the custody of Minneapolis police.

Hours after the race was postponed by rain, NASCAR said the



Wallace has worn a shirt that says "I Can't Breathe" over his fire suit and his No. 43 - made famous by Hall of Famer Richard Petty sported a Black Lives Matter paint scheme in a race last month in Martinsville, Virginia. His efforts are driving real change and says nothing is more important and he will not be deterred by the reprehensible actions of those who seek to spread hate."

noose had been found. The sanctioning body vowed to do everything possible to find who was responsible and "eliminate them from the sport."

"We are angry and outraged, and cannot state strongly enough how seriously we take this heinous act," the series said in a statement. "As we have stated unequivocally, there is no place for racism in NASCAR, and this act only strengthens our resolve to make the sport open and welcoming to all."

Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey said she was "shocked and appalled" by the "vile act" against Wallace, an Ala-

bama native.

"There is no place for this disgusting display of hatred in our state," Ivey said. "Bubba Wallace is one of us; he is a native of Mobile and on behalf of all Alabamians, I apologize to Bubba Wallace as well as to his family and friends for the hurt this has caused and regret the mark this leaves on our state."

The 26-year-old Wallace has not commented since a statement on social media late Sunday in which he said the "the despicable act of racism and hatred leaves me incredibly saddened and serves as a painful reminder of how much fur-

ther we have to go as a society and how persistent we must be in the fight against racism."

Wallace has worn a shirt that says "I Can't Breathe" over his fire suit and his No. 43 - made famous by Hall of Famer Richard Petty - sported a Black Lives Matter paint scheme in a race last month in Martinsville, Virginia. Wallace has said NASCAR assigned him two sheriff's deputies for security at Martinsville after he called for the ban. Petty, who is 82 and has not attended any races during the pandemic, was expected to be at Monday's race to support his driver.

Wallace said he has found support among fellow drivers for his stance on the flag. He noted that in his tweet after the noose announcement.

"Over the last several weeks, I have been overwhelmed by the support from people across the NASCAR industry including other drivers and team members in the garage," he said. "Together, our sport has made a commitment to driving real change and championing a community that is accepting and welcoming of everyone. Nothing is more important and we will not be deterred by the reprehensible actions of those who seek to spread hate."

State & Local News

Gov. Edwards Announces State to Remain in Phase 2 Until July 20th

Data News Staff Edited Report

As many anticipated the state fully re-opening at some point, Louisiana will remain under the Phase 2 for another month after Gov. John Bel Edwards announced the state will not move on to Phase 3 on June 26.

"Louisiana reached two sad milestones today as we surpassed 3,000 deaths and 50,000 positive tests in our state," Gov. Edwards said. "Each of these Louisianans is someone's child, sibling, parent or friend, and we mourn every one of these losses. It is clear that COVID is alive and well in Louisiana,



Louisiana Governor Jon Bel Edwards

and as we see more people testing positive and admitted to hospitals, we simply are not ready to move to

the next phase, and ease restrictions further as businesses open widely."

The second phase of reopening, which began on June 5, was expected to last a minimum of 21 days, which would have made June 26 the earliest opening date under the order Edwards signed earlier this month. The 28-day extension stretches the next proposed relaxing of restrictions until at least July 20.

In announcing the delay in moving to Phase 3, Edwards placed the blame on a lack of social distancing, masking and other restrictions that had been in place to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

"We have seen the number of COVID cases and related hospitalizations increase across the state over the last number of days," Edwards said. "If we were doing a better job as a state collectively of adhering to those mitigation measures we would not be seeing the case growth we're seeing today."

In his statement Gov. Edwards also stated,

"Many of you are doing the right thing and I thank you for it," Edwards said. "It's incredibly disappointing to hear that there are still some people who refuse to wear masks in public, which puts all of us at greater risk of becoming sick."

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Data News Weekly, "The People's Paper," is looking for freelance writers to join our team print and digital team. We want to hear from you if you are a working journalist, or an aspiring journalist who has 2 years or more of newspaper or PR writing experience. We need writers who can cover New Orleans news stories, ranging from local high school sports, community events, City Hall and entertainment. Experience in print is necessary, experience in digital and social media are encouraged.

Compensation is competitive and great story ideas will be appreciated.

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