

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"



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Shoes Make the Man

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Neighborhood Voter Registration Drive Works to “Get Out the Vote”



Former First Lady Michelle Obama, is a voice that continues to speak to the importance of voting.

Kaleb Crump
Data News Weekly Contributor

The last presidential election was decided by 77,000 thousand votes.
With the Louisiana voter registration deadline steadily approaching on Oct. 13th, Xavier University

of Louisiana students, faculty, and staff held a voter registration day on Saturday, Oct. 3rd at the Gert Town Community Center to push for an increase in registered voters in the city. The event was hosted by Xavier’s chapters of the Collegiate 100, the NAACP, Mobilization at Xavier 2.0, the Student Government Association, the Association of Student Athletes, along with Resident Assistants.

“The ‘get out the vote’ is not only for our students but for the community, helping people register so that everyone can be franchised,” said C. Reynold Verret, Xavier’s President. “This is what we’ve been doing for many years. This is what our ancestors fought for. All Americans should be voting, no matter their party affiliation, everyone should be voting,” Verret said.

Photos by Kaleb Crump, Curtis Wright and Gert Town Community Center Neighborhood The Neighborhood Voter Registration Drive

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Xavierite's Lauren Bowman, Jasmine Cross, and Sariah Harris share the importance of voting through signs.



The last presidential election was decided by 77,000 thousand votes, so this election many are encouraging all to go out and vote in the 2020 Election because their votes matter.



The event also featured a neighborhood cook-out for a socially-distanced crowd.



The Neighborhood Voter Registration drive on Oct. 3 brought HBCU students alongside Gert Town residents to support and encourage voter registration.

Many institutions like HBCUs and community non-profits have been working in neighborhoods to help residents understand the many ways to vote during a pandemic.

"There's been a large push for voter registration in Gert Town recently," said Antoinette Williams, a candidate who is running for the

Orleans Parish School Board election. "Multiple organizations are pushing for a larger turnout because this election is a big one, not just for local races but for national races as well," Williams said.

The effort requires more volunteers to not only help residents with the process but to help them also to understand the

issues that are at stake.

"First and foremost, we need to increase the insight of policymakers and we need to do that by first opening conversations between those who are creating the policy and our students and teachers," said Williams, who is graduating from Xavier in December and who is one of the youngest candidates to run for the school board.

"I think oftentimes our students are left out because they're not of voting age but the policies we make directly impact them. So, we need to have their input when deciding what impacts them," said Williams, who studied political science and education.

After one hour of work, the group managed to obtain 25 more registrations.

"I believe my vote will be the difference between having a president that cares about issues that matter to me and policies within communities, like racial inequality and police injustices," said Lauren Bowman, a Xavier Speech Pathology major

who volunteered to register Gert Town residents.

HBCU students are motivated about this election, said Curtis Wright, Xavier's vice president for Student Affairs, because of the outcome of the 2016 presidential election and the impact that had on their communities.

"So, we understand how important it is to make sure that everybody who has the capacity to vote or, who is legally able to vote, has the ability to get registered," Wright said. "Some communities are suppressed, so our goal is to do

our part to help engage our civic responsibilities in our community to get people registered to vote," Wright said.

The voter registration event also worked to bring the campus closer to its community.

"We begin to grow our relationship with our community, so this is one way that we engage our community, but we'll continue the community and university partnership throughout the years," Wright said.

**THIS IS A SIGN THAT
YOU SHOULDN'T
DRIVE HIGH**

Shoes Make the Man



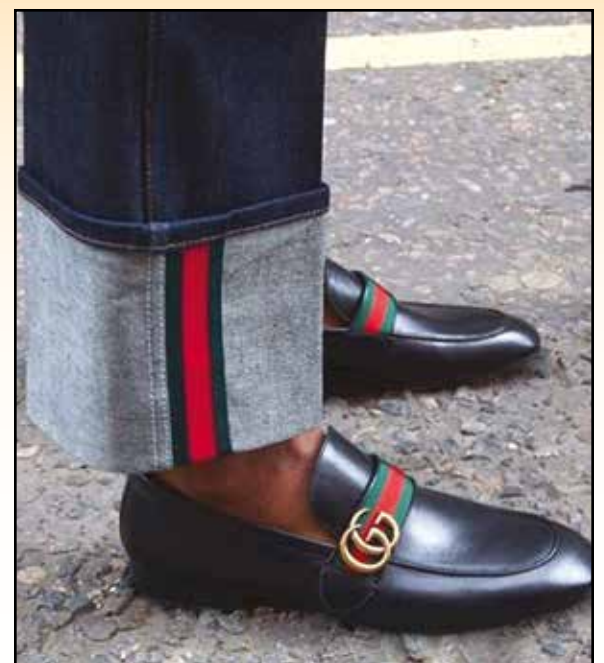
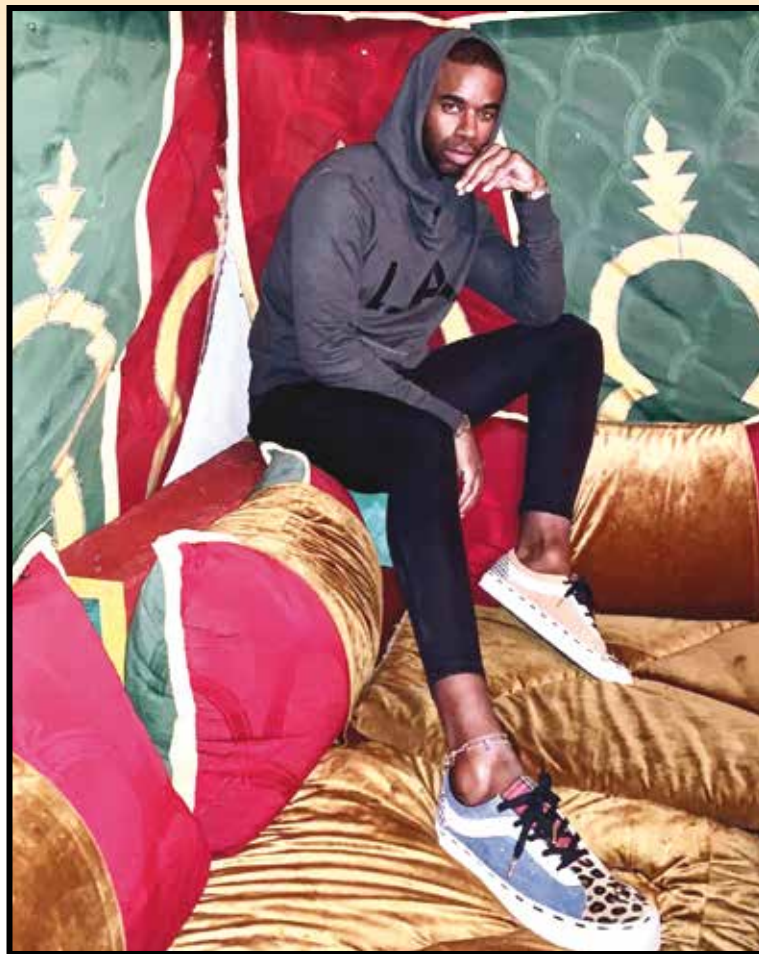
Tracee Dundas
Fashion Stylist

It was a weekly ritual growing up, my dad would gather the leather shoes, tiny-tin cans of shoe polish, a horsehair brush, several old cotton cloths, layout newspaper, and while listening to his favorite R&B tunes, he would polish and repair the family shoes.

As a kid this intrigued me, so one day I sat with him to observe the process as he started this weekly chore. I wanted to understand why he did this task like clockwork every weekend. Why it was important that everyone's shoes were spic-and-span clean. He explained that as a child his father instilled the importance of well-maintained shoes; noting that you can tell a lot about a man by his shoes and it's something he never forgot. He got a second dose of this lesson when he served in the army. Getting his boots inspected weekly by his army sergeant gave him a new appreciation for the phrase "spit shine".

Yep, spit shine. That level of shine used by the military to measure how much time, effort and care a soldier expends on their boots. A soldier is not completely dress unless his boots has a "spit shine". No longer in the military, my dad continued the task

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of maintaining his and the family's shoes. For him it was a sense of personal satisfaction and pride he felt in doing it.

Times have changed of course, and most guys get their shoes professionally shined. But the message has not changed; you can tell the measure of a man by his shoes. Of all the items in a man's wardrobe, shoes are the single most important element of style because it is a key accessory

in completing his outfit. Shoes are always noticed, but often never spoken of and could mean the difference between landing a job, getting a second date, or missing out on the next big deal. No surprise, women are the most observant; typically checking out a guy's shoes first then scanning the rest of his attire.

Truth be told, shoes do make the man. So, what does your shoes say about you?

Photo Notes:

Fashion Influencer - Marcus Stewart @thefashiondr

Gucci - Black leather, gold-tone signature hardware, loafer shoe - Saks Fifth Avenue at Canal Place | www.saks.com

Boots - Landon leather hightop boots. Perfect mix of casual and refined style - Allen Edmonds at Canal Place | www.allenedmonds.com

Oxfords - Leather, lace style oxfords - Allen Edmonds at Canal Place | www.allenedmonds.com

Leopard Print Sneaker - Faux suede, lace, hightop leopard print sneaker | www.4seasonsfashion.storeenvy.com

Dolce & Gabbana - Black, leather, triple buckle derby shoe -- Saks Fifth Avenue at Canal Place | www.saks.com

Steve Madden - Cognac brown leather lace up, athletic club shoe - www.stevemadden.com

OCTOBER 2020

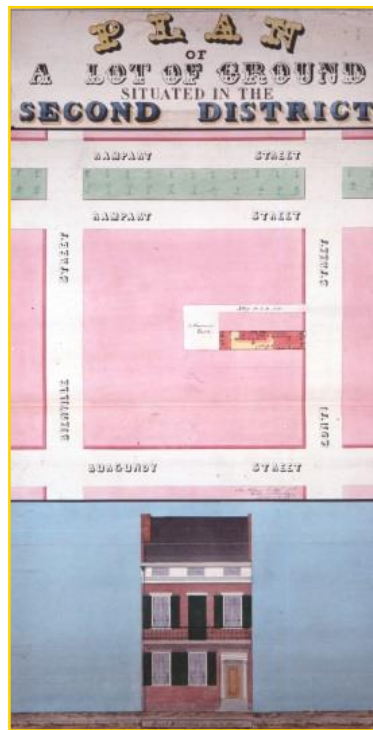
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Chelsey Richard Napoleon

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We will guide you in exploring our collection, which dates back to the 1700s and represents the rich history of New Orleans. Our archives can be used for property, family history, architectural, and landscaping research.

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Enjoy the unique architecture of the city of New Orleans through a series of archival drawings spanning from 1790 to 1930, which will be released as PowerPoint presentations.

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The PowerPoint presentations and blog posts will be added throughout the month. Visit our website for new posts during Archives Month **October 2020**.

**For more information, please contact the Research Center at
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City Begins Phase 3 Reopening

Kaleb Crump
Data News Weekly
Contributor

Mayor LaToya Cantrell announced the City of New Orleans will begin the loosening of COVID-19 restrictions by moving into a multi-layered Phase 3 reopening that started on Oct. 3rd. This comes just three weeks after Cantrell faced backlash for firmly resisting moving Orleans Parish from Phase 2, along with the rest of the state. There are now less than 50 new COVID-19 cases a day in Orleans Parish, according to the latest health data from the state.

"We have flattened the curve and slowed down the spread of this virus significantly," said Cantrell in her press conference on Oct. 1st, about the city entering Phase 3.

"We'll continue to be safe while really making sure we balance our economic recovery. With all of these phases the City of New Orleans has taken a different approach than the State of Louisiana and we will continue on that path," Cantrell said.

The City has now entered Phase 3.1. This means:

- There will be an increase in restaurant capacity to 75-percent indoors and 100-percent outdoors.
- Entertainment crowds indoors will be from 25 people to 50 people.
- Outdoor event capacity will return to 100-percent.
- Bars will be allowed to sell drinks to go.
- Salons and other businesses are allowed to increase to 75-percent capacity.
- Social distancing and masks will still be required throughout the entire phase 3.
- Phase 3.2 is the next phase and an announcement could come as early as Oct. 15th.

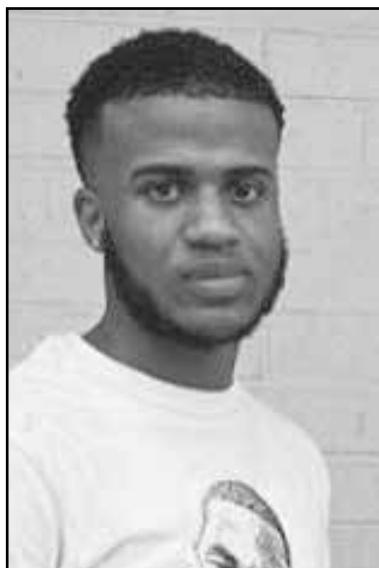
Residents said they remained concerned about what fewer restrictions could mean for the spread of the virus.

"I feel hesitant about it because I know moving into Phase 3 people will feel as if things can go back to normal meaning being in large groups and not wearing masks," said Da'Saia Dequair, a Tremé resident who works at Starbucks.

Dequair said she felt some residents pressured the mayor into moving out of Phase 2 along with other parishes across the state. "I



New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell announced the City will start Phase 3 at a press conference on Oct. 1, 2020. Dr. Jennifer Avegno, the head of the New Orleans Health Department announced what restrictions will be loosened in Phase 3.1.

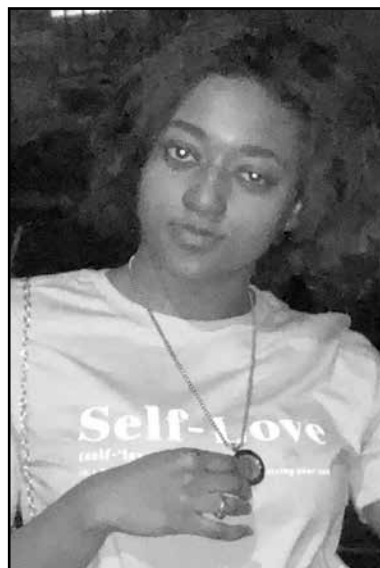


"Honestly, I don't think we are ready to move into Phase 3 so soon," said Mid-City resident Jammal Gibson, who works at a Walmart.

also believe Mayor Cantrell might feel a little forced to go into Phase 3 because of all the negative backlash that she received when she decided to keep NOLA in Phase 2 while the rest of the states moved on," Dequair said.

She hopes that, at the very least, a new phase may help some tourist industries hurt by the restrictions and encourage people to visit the city.

"I think moving into Phase 3 will affect tourism tremendously, New Orleans was already known for bringing in different kinds of people from all over the world to come and embrace our culture, so I think hearing New Orleans is in Phase



"I feel hesitant about it because I know moving into Phase 3 people will feel as if things can go back to normal meaning being in large groups and not wearing masks," said Da'Saia Dequair, a Tremé resident who works at Starbucks.

3 will persuade a huge number of people to come visit," Dequair said.

Over 74-percent of COVID-19 deaths in Orleans Parish have been African Americans while they have only made up 54-percent of positive cases. Positivity rates among the Hispanic community have been consistently three times higher than other demographics and in September was at 11-percent. Not only have Black and Hispanic communities experienced more cases of COVID-19 and had worse health outcomes, they have also been more likely to be affected economically, according to city data.

"We started as probably the fast growing national hotspot, but

thanks to the swift action of our mayor and residents we slowed the spread early on in a way that few other communities have done," said Dr. Jennifer Avegno at the Phase 3 press conference. Avegno is the head of the New Orleans Health Department.

"After a little bump as the mayor mentioned in our initial Phase 2 opening, we were able to zero in on those activities responsible for some of that spread and pull back as we needed to," Avegno explained about the slow pace of reopening. "Since mid-summer, we've been very successful in maintaining our low case numbers with the specific primary goal of getting kids back in the classroom safely," Avegno said.

The 12,672 New Orleanians who contracted the virus and the 587 who have died since March 9, 2020, is still a recent reminder for most residents about how deadly the virus still can be.

"Honestly, I don't think we are ready to move into Phase 3 so soon. I believe Mayor Cantrell's being forced into moving into Phase 3 because people are tired of the mask policy or not being able to go out to parties anymore," said Mid-City resident Jammal Gibson, who works at a Walmart.

"With everything that's going on in New Orleans, I think having tourists would just make things worse. I say this because why would we expect people to visit and listen to our policies if the majority of the people that live here don't listen to them," Gibson said.

Eldridge Austin Randolph Sr.



Eldridge Austin Randolph Sr.

Terry B. Jones
Data News Weekly
Publisher/CEO

Eldridge Austin Randolph Sr. recently departed this earth; leaving behind a lively, unique legacy in his passing. He graduated Xavier University in 1960 with a BS in Business Administration, and later went on to bravely serve his country in the United States Army during the Korean War. Eldridge was an innovative, hard-working individual who worked many years as a Sales Representative for Falstaff Brewing Company and Bacardi Imports, also becoming an independent taxi owner. Not only was he a hard-working businessman, but a dedicated patriarch as well. He fathered a big, beautiful family consisting of his beloved wife, three children, 7 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren.



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Process is Necessary for Progress



Joe Ricks, Ph.D.
Chair, Division of Business
Xavier University of Louisiana

Recently there has been a great deal of discussion regarding the importance of science and its benefits, particularly in medicine due to COVID-19. At this time in our history I think it is critically important that we understand the process that leads to scientific breakthroughs in medicine and our role in it. Scientists are currently working on a vaccine for COVID-19. COVID-19 has wreaked havoc on our communi-

ties' economy, schools, families, as well as our individual mental health. According to the New Orleans Business Alliance Economic Dashboard the city will lose an estimated 81.2 million dollars in tax revenue and in food service alone we will lose 12,000 jobs due to COVID-19. The total cost of COVID is significant on multiple fronts and these effects are disproportionately felt in African American communities. Therefore, it is critical that any new vaccine is safe and effective for African Americans. However, this won't happen without our participation in the scientific process.

Human trials for a vaccine go through three phases. At a very high level the three phases can be described as: phase I - the first administration of a vaccine candidate to humans primarily to evaluate its safety. Phase II - assess the impact of demographic and other

variables on immune response to identify the vaccine preparation, optimal dose, and schedule. Phase III - evaluates the efficacy and safety of the vaccine candidate on a large population. The important point here is that everything learned about the vaccine is based on the data that is gathered during these studies and if we are not a part of the data set any possible adjustments in preparation, dose, or schedule needed for the efficacy and safety for African Americans will be unknown. The more African Americans participate in the scientific process the more our communities will benefit.

We have a real opportunity to reduce some of the well-known health outcome disparities in our communities by making sure we are a part of the data used to develop a vaccine for a virus that's devastating our communities. I know

of the distrust of clinical trials that runs through our community and some of the historical reasons behind that distrust, but can we really afford to continue to allow vaccines and other treatments to be developed without being a part of the process to understand the efficacy and safety for our people? Recently the presidents of Xavier and Dillard Universities publicly disclosed their decision to volunteer for the phase three trials for a COVID-19 vaccine. After consultation with my doctor and my wife I have joined them in volunteering and challenge others in the African American community to consider doing the same. When it comes to science, being part of the process is necessary to benefit from the progress. If you would like more information regarding this particular trial, go to coronavirusprevention-network.org.

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Be eager to share, what it is you do
Eleven decades, plus an added year
The amazing **Lawrence Brooks**, it's you we cheer
Reading your story, you've made me so proud
Penetrating challenges, beginning as a cloud
A compassionate example for the future of our youth
Embrace healthy living and continue to produce
Guided by the Creator, those deserving
Decade after decade, you've committed to serving
Here in America, New Guinea, the Philippines
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With true inspiration, a Veteran to admire
A life of righteousness, longevity inspires
Inspires the hopeless or those in doubt
Your legacy speaks volumes, your legacy has clout
Happy Birthday, now and forever
The foolishness of life, you were willing to sever
In memory of your parents, relatives and friends
The amazing **Lawrence Brooks**, oh what a trend
The 91st Engineer Battalion, World War II
So much you've achieve, among just a few
You, in person, I would love to meet
One Hundred and eleven years, hurdling defeat
All that you've accomplished, must be written in a book
An iconic legend, the amazing **Lawrence Brooks**

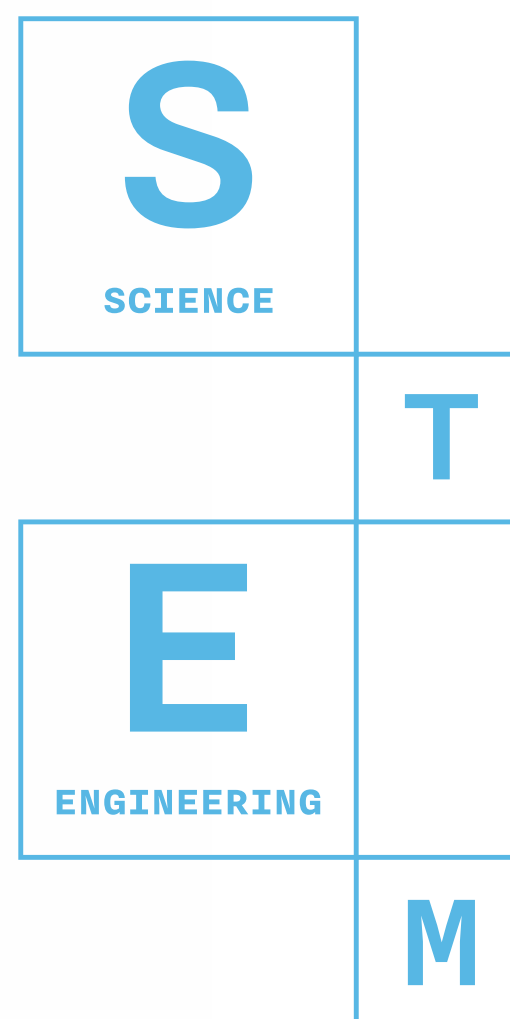
Competing in the marathon ~ May you continue to live on

PEACE

From Habibullah Saleem to the Oldest Living African American Veteran



Dear Recipient of this poem, please let me know how much this is appreciated. I am hoping to put each word to music as a CD, so other people can honor the wonderful life of Lawrence Brooks. In the word BROOKS is the word BOOKS. I can be reached by calling 504-407-0913.
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