

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

**#NoUmBow
International
Virtual
Carnival 2021**

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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

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Re-Writing the History...

Building Bridges for a More Inclusive New Orleans



Four “Freedom Riders” are flanked by newsmen on arrival at the airport in New Orleans, Saturday, May 27, 1961, after posting bond in Jackson, MS., where they were arrested Thursday with 23 others at an interstate bus station. They are, from left, David Dennis, Doris Jean Castle, Julia Aaron and Jerome Smith.

Edwin Buggage
Editor-in-Chief

The Making of History

In these changing times for our City, nation, and world, it is a time that we are re-examining our history;

telling stories that reflects a more diverse portrait of all who’ve contributed to where we are today.

Data News Weekly, as the “People’s Paper” during Black History Month is contributing to this conversation through a Four-Part Series that “rights” the history of New Orleans. A City that’s become central to a nation that is working to reconcile its

history of racial exclusion and repression.

In our recent past New Orleans was front and center as it was one of the first American cities to begin to remove Confederate statues and monuments. Today the page is turning where a City is beginning by replacing them with more inclusive figures that’s impacted the City.

On the Cover: Leona Tate one of the Historic McDonogh Three, who integrated an New Orleans Public School then and now.

Cover Story, Continued on page 3.

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Leona Tate part of the Historic McDonogh Three, along with Tessie Prevost and Gail Etienne, who at the age of six, were the first Black students to integrate the New Orleans Public Schools an all-White school McDonogh 19 located in the Lower 9th Ward. On the same day, another six-year-old African American girl named Ruby Bridges integrated a second New Orleans public school called William Frantz Elementary.

Righting the Wrongs to Reflect the Reality of a Diverse Nation

Recently, the first of these changes took place with the renaming of Jefferson Davis Parkway to Norman C. Francis Parkway. This step in "righting" the history to reflect the rich multicultural history is a step in the right direction.

In our series we will highlight many of the changes that are taking place while reflecting on the past that's shaped it. Additionally, in these are a time of reconciliation for a nation and for this to happen there must be a re-writing of history, one that shows the contributions of Black excellence on many levels.

Today, as we turn the page on some of the darkest points in history, it is important to note that many of the people that we will spotlight are the unsung heroes that continue to do the work of bettering the City of New Orleans. That is names such as Sybil Morial, Jerome Smith, Don Hubbard, Leona Tate and many other are the shoulders that recent freedom fighter that include Angela Kinlaw and Michael "Quess" Moore stand on.

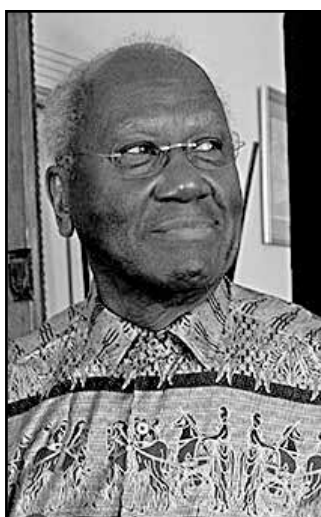
Strides Towards Freedom and Justice

From the beginning of this nation until now, Blacks have contributed to this nation that's come a long way from a past steeped in the horrors of slavery, Jim Crow, lynching and discrimination on many fronts. But this journey and strides towards freedom and justice for all is not over.

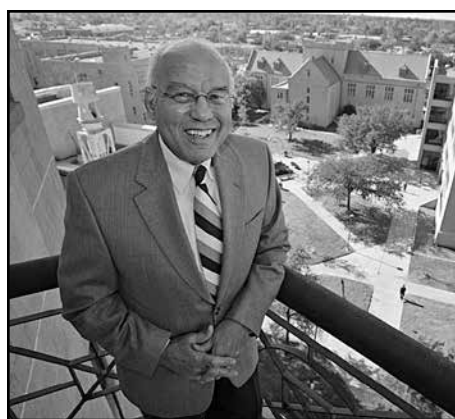
In the 21st Century we are seeing the baton being passed to young people of the "Black Lives Matter Movement" who've taken the cause of African Americans on the global stage. Today it is being nominated



Sybil Morial is a leader in Civil Rights and Education. She's the wife of the City's first Black Mayor Dutch Morial and mother of Former New Orleans Mayor and National Urban League CEO/President, Marc Morial.



Don Hubbard, is a civic and business leader who continues his work towards more inclusion of Blacks in leadership in the City of New Orleans.



Dr. Norman C. Francis, is an iconic leader in education and Civil Rights. As President of Xavier University for nearly five decades, he led the university in becoming a national leader in the STEM fields and producing medical professionals. Recently, the City of New Orleans renamed a street in his honor for his contribution to bettering the lives of all its citizens.

for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Black History Matters in 2021

Today Black History Month is as important as it was when

it began as a week by Dr. Carter G. Woodson in 1926 and later became a month in 1976 as the nation was celebrating its bi-centennial.

The City and the nation have



Jerome Smith, Freedom Rider, member of the Congress For Racial Equality and Founder of Tambourine and Fan, continues to be a voice of change in the City of New Orleans.



Ernest Dutch Morial, was the first Black Mayor in the City of New Orleans and broke many other barriers throughout his life blazing the trail for many Blacks to assume posts as political leaders.



Angela Kinlaw, is a leader in the field of education and activism. She was one of the leaders of "Take Em Down NOLA", who fought to have Confederate Monuments removed from public places in New Orleans. (Pictured with fellow activist L-R Malcolm Suber and Michael "Quess" Moore).

made many strides as we see Blacks in all fields of endeavor showing that Black Excellence and humanity exists on a nation that created historic barriers for Black People. This must contin-

ue and this month continues to be important to inform, educate and inspire this and future generations in Re-Writing the History and building bridges to a more diverse and unified nation.

#NoUmBow International Virtual Carnival 2021

*Bringing Together the “Carnival Communities”
of New Orleans, Brazil and Trinidad*

Edwin Buggage
Editor-in-Chief

This year the Black Masking Injun Community of New Orleans that is affectionately known as the Mardi Gras Indians, will “Come Out” Virtually for the 1st time in History. COVID-19 have changed the lives of many, but the spirit of a people and their Carnival Tradition continues, not just in New Orleans, but across the globe.

This year Carnival activities will be viewed on Pay-Per-View via www.blackmasking.org filmed at private locations. This will give the world the opportunity to witness the splendor, pageantry and rich Carnival traditions of New Orleans, Brazil, and Trinidad.

These historical “International Events” will take place from Lundi Gras Feb 15th thru Easter Sunday, April 4th.

“We are connecting the Carnival Diaspora from Trinidad and Brazil to New Orleans. We are Live Streaming to all three countries and more as we build an economic infrastructure via Blackmasking.org’s International Carnival MarketPlace (debut is St. Joseph night). Our Mission through these four events is to showcase the Carnival Culture of New Orleans,” says Glenn “Chayil” Jones, CEO of Beulah Productions and the producer of the event.

This series of events places the tradition of the Black Masking (Mardi Gras Indians) in its proper context as part of the African Diaspora and is a bridge that connects these Carnival traditions.

“For too long the Carnival Culture has taken a backseat to Mardi Gras. To the point we forget that we are part of a much bigger community and much greater history than we realize. These events are geared towards showing the similarities between New Orleans and Rio de Janeiro via our Carnival Ambassador Mestre Curtis Pierre. He has bridged the gap for us linguistically, historically as well as providing the Number 1 and 2 Brazilian Clubs Presidents to participate in our St. Joseph Night live stream, but also brought in Grammy winning Samba artist Neginho da Beija-Flor. I believe the cultural exchange will be invaluable to all Carnival communities as well as the on-demand audience.”

Jones believes that bringing these carnival traditions together to tell the



Big Chief Al Womble – Cheyenne Tribe



Mestre Curtis Pierre will be serve as the Brazilian Ambassador for the event.



The Number 1 and 2 Brazilian Clubs Presidents to participate in our St. Joseph Night live stream, but also brought in Grammy winning Samba artist Neginho da Beija-Flor (pictured here).



Big Chief Walter “il Walter” Cook of the Creole Wild West will be appearing.

“We are connecting the Carnival Diaspora from Trinidad and Brazil to New Orleans. We are Live Streaming to all three countries and more as we build an economic infrastructure via Blackmasking.org’s International Carnival MarketPlace (debut is St. Joseph night). Our Mission through these four events is to showcase the Carnival Culture of New Orleans,” says Glenn “Chayil” Jones, CEO of Beulah Productions and the producer of the event.



Big Chief KeKe of the Comanche Hunters also appearing in festival.

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collective story of a people and to create opportunities for cultural exchange is not only important, but necessary in a world that today is more global than ever.

“We came together to give a voice to our communities’ culture and traditions and to not let the Government or Disease

stop us. In doing so we were given an olive branch to Trinidad and Brazil. Now Internationally we as “The Carnival Community” are saying it together. NoUmBoW! We pray that all who hear of these events and participate in these events have that same understanding and spirit.

As a One of Kind experience, we believe all ages will enjoy and be enriched by this Virtual International Carnival.”

For More Information go to:
Eventbrite: Beulah Productions Events,
instagram: @blackmaskingnola
or on the web at Blackmasking.org.
Tickets are on sale now.

A New Chapter In History

*City Officially Declares Jefferson Davis Parkway
as Norman C. Francis Parkway*

Story and Photos
by Brier Evans
Data News Weekly
Contributor

The New Orleans City Council officially renamed South Jefferson Davis Parkway to South Norman C. Francis Parkway on Thursday, Jan. 28, 2021 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony to honor the former President of Xavier University of Louisiana. New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell, City officials, family and friends masked up to commemorate Dr. Norman C. Francis, 89, at the ceremony where U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris sent formal remarks to recognize Francis' Legacy.



Left to right: President of Xavier Dr. Reynold Verret, Councilmember Helena Moreno, Mayor LaToya Cantrell, Dr. Norman C. Francis, Councilmember Jay Banks, Chair of Xavier Board of Directors Justin Augustine, Vice-Chair of City Council Renaming Commission, Mark Raymond, Councilmember Kristin Palmer



Mayor LaToya Cantrell speaks on her memories as a student at Xavier when Francis was university president.



Dr. Norman C. Francis speaks at the Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony of the renaming of South Jefferson Davis Parkway on January 28, 2021.

Norman Francis,
Continued on page 7.

Girls' nights IN
are gonna take
COVID-19 OUT.



We don't get enough laughs these days. But, wherever they are, our friends are as close as a click. Vaccines are coming. But until enough of us are vaccinated, we still need to slow the spread. We can watch our distance, and not let COVID-19 keep us apart.

Learn more about vaccines and slowing the spread at cdc.gov/coronavirus

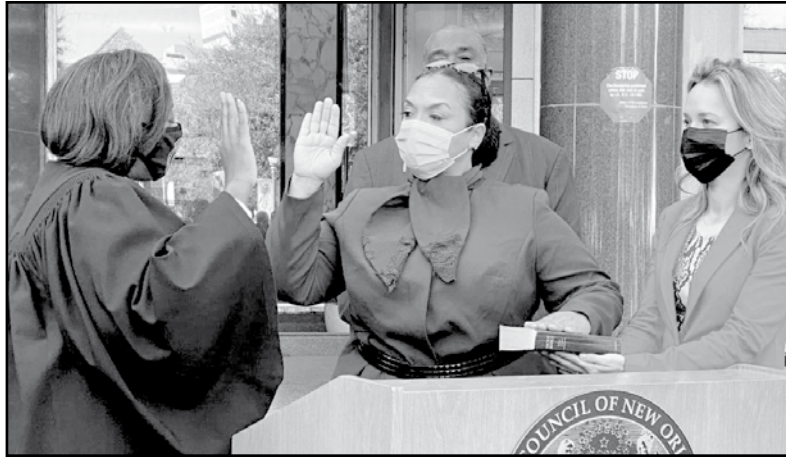


Brought to you by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Donna Glapion Sworn in as New At-Large City Councilmember

City of New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS - Today, the City Council held a private Swearing-in Ceremony to officially welcome Councilmember-At-Large Division 2 appointee Donna Glapion following her confirmation during Thursday's regular meeting. Councilmember Glapion will assume her duties immediately and will serve through the remainder of former Councilmember and newly-elected District Attorney Jason Williams' term.



Donna Glapion being sworn in as Councilmember-at-Large.

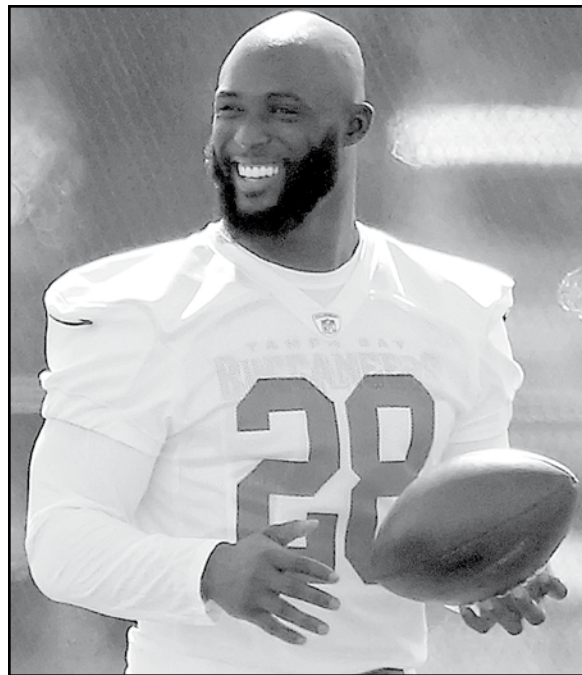


Jared Brossett Councilmember, Louisiana Supreme Court Judge Piper Griffin, Councilmember-at-Large Donna Glapion, Councilmember Jay Banks, New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell and Councilmember-at-Large Helena Moreno pose for group photo after swearing in ceremony.



Fleur De Lis

Two New Orleans Natives Tyrann Mathieu and Leonard Fournette will Take the field in Super Bowl LV



Kansas City Chiefs safety Tyrann Mathieu and Tampa Bay Buccaneers running back Leonard Fournette will take the field for their respective teams trying to win the big one.

Fleur De Lis Data News Weekly Columnist

Happy New Year and of course we are at the beginning of celebrating Black History Month. This is a time where we observe Black Excellence.

Of course, our New Orleans Saints did not make this year's Super Bowl, but two Crescent City natives will be competing for the Lombardi Trophy in Tampa and Black Excellence will be on full display.

Kansas City Chiefs safety

Tyrann Mathieu and Tampa Bay Buccaneers running back Leonard Fournette will take the field for their respective teams trying to win the big one.

Both are graduates of St. Augustine and attended LSU and are now both playing in the NFL. This is something that we all should be proud of seeing our people representing on the world's biggest stage in sports.

Super Bowl LV will be played on Sunday, Feb. 7, 2021. Kickoff is set

for 5:30 p.m. CST. And if you are going to a party to watch the game, please stay safe and enjoy the game where at the end one of our hometown heroes will be holding the championship trophy.

Until next time this is Fleur De Lis signing off, but I ask please take some time not just this month, but all throughout the year reflect on the great accomplishments of those who came before us and be inspired as our struggle for equality and justice continues.

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#NoUmBowInternationalVirtualCarnival2021



Medical Experts Work to Dispel COVID-19 Vaccine Myths

Kai Davis
Data News Weekly
Contributor

President Joe Biden's administration purchased 200 million COVID-19 vaccines at the end of January and plans to increase distributions by the millions to states in February. Medical experts are working to ensure that vaccine misinformation is addressed in time for wider distribution with the goal of reaching herd immunity by summer 2021, a goal set by the White House.

"Nine leading drug companies, including Pfizer and Moderna, released a joint statement saying they would put safety before speed," said Dr. Keith C. Ferdinand, a Cardiologist and Professor of Medicine at Tulane University's School of Medicine.

"Publicly available data, the safety and efficacy, the phase three studies, those are the big studies, with over 70,000 patients, the vaccines do appear to be safe and effective," Ferdinand said as part of a January 28th Community Town Hall of local scientists and medical experts organized by the Louisiana Community Engagement

Alliance Against COVID-19 Disparities (LA-CEAL), a statewide collaborative effort working to reduce vaccine hesitancy and ensure diverse communities get access to vaccines.

With approximately 382.2 million people in the United States, as of Jan. 28, 47 million vaccines



Tulane University Professor of Medicine and Clinical Cardiologist, Dr. Keith C. Ferdinand, a New Orleans native, receives the first dose of the COVID-19 Vaccine in January.

have been distributed. In Louisiana, about 7 percent of residents statewide have received or at least started the vaccination process according to the Louisiana Department of Health.

"These vaccines were not rushed, and I understand why people may not want to be first in line to get the vaccine but what I can tell you is, you are not the first in line. Millions and millions of people have received these vaccines, they are extremely safe as vaccines go," said Lisa Morici, Ph.D., a Microbiologist at Tulane's School of Medicine, who spoke at the LA-CEAL Community Town Hall.

The experts cleared up the most common vaccine myths. They noted that even if residents have contracted COVID-19, they should still



Medical and scientific experts addressed COVID-19 Vaccine myths at a January 28th Town Hall: "Your Health, Your Community, and COVID-19" organized by the Louisiana Community Engagement Alliance Against COVID-19 Disparities. The town hall was moderated by Dr. Kathleen Kennedy, Professor and Dean of Xavier University of Louisiana's College of Pharmacy. (photo above) The panelists were Dr. Keith C. Ferdinand, Clinical Cardiologist, and Professor of Medicine, Tulane University; Dr. Christopher Sylvain, Pharmacist, Dr. David M. Mushatt, Infectious Disease Expert, Tulane; Dr. Lisa Morici, Microbiologist, Tulane; and Dr. Robert F. Gary, Microbiologist, Tulane.

get vaccinated to boost their immunity. They noted that the vaccine's research had been years in the making by the scientific community. They also noted that the vaccine cannot give you the virus.

"The vaccines do not cause COVID-19, these are not live viruses, they cannot cause the disease," Morici said.

Many of the misleading rumors

about the vaccines have been the source of misinformation on social media, the experts said. Morici addressed the common myth, debunked this week by the World Health Organization, that the COVID-19 vaccine will cause infertility or miscarriages.

"There is no scientific evidence for this whatsoever, in fact there were multiple women in the Pfizer vaccine [study] who became pregnant. This is a myth that is being spread on social media," Morici said.

Some residents were concerned about side effects and pre-existing conditions. The experts pointed out that participants with pre-existing conditions also participated in vaccine clinical trials, and they explained that mild side effects demonstrate that the vaccine is working, and the body is responding to build immunity.

"I received my vaccine, my arm was a little sore, but that's about it," Ferdinand shared. "I felt fine. Some patients will get a fatigue sensation, low-grade fever, others may even have flu-like symptoms, but this is not really a side effect or complication," he said.

They reminded the public that cost should not hinder their decision to get vaccinated either.

"No one actually has to pay for the vaccine," said Christopher Sylvain, a Clinical Pharmacist and Pastor, who spoke at the townhall. "The vaccine is free, is safe, and it will be available."

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Job Opportunity

Freelance Writers Wanted

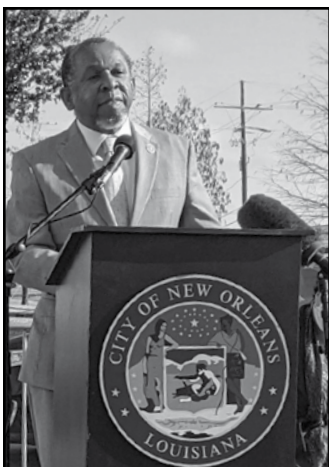
Data News Weekly, "The People's Paper," is looking for freelance writers to join our team print and digital team. We want to hear from you if you are a working journalist, or an aspiring journalist who has 2 years or more of newspaper or PR writing experience. We need writers who can cover New Orleans 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.

We can't wait to hear from you!

Norman Francis, Continued from page 5.



President of Xavier University, Dr. Reynold C. Verret speaks on Dr. Norman C. Francis' Legacy.



Justin Augustine, the Chair of Xavier Board of Directors, marks the importance of the renaming to continuing the fight for Civil Rights.



Official Ribbon Cutting to rename South Jefferson Davis Parkway on January 28, 2021.

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DATA NEWS WEEKLY

BLACK HISTORY MONTH SPECIAL EDITIONS 2021

This year, Data News Weekly is proud to present its Black History Month Special Editions focusing on the changes in philosophy and attitude throughout the country, especially in New Orleans. The series will be entitled "Rights: The History of New Orleans" which will focus on some of the things that are changing, like the name of Jefferson Davis Parkway to now become Norman C. Francis Blvd, removal of several Confederate statues, and the overall mood of a harmonious atmosphere not only here but throughout the country.



Robert E. Lee
Monument in Lee
Circle in New Orleans

Week 1 (02/06/2021): Overview of Series examining the removal of monuments and renaming of streets as an effort to make a more inclusive New Orleans.



This monument was removed May 20, 2017. It was the last of the 4 confederate monuments to be removed.

Week 2 (02/13/2021): Story of Norman C. Francis and his impact on the fields of education, Civil Rights, and Black Excellence.



[Norman Francis, legendary civil rights and higher education leader, to receive 2019 Laetare Medal](#)
On May 19, 2019, Francis received the [University of Notre Dame's 2019 Laetare Medal](#) at Notre Dame's 174th University Commencement Ceremony.



Sybil Morial



Don Hubbard

Week 3 (02/20/2021): Strides Towards Freedom: Reflections from historical New Orleans residents that include Sybil Morial, Don Hubbard, Jerome Smith, Leona Tate, and more.



Jerome Smith



Leona Tate

Week 4 (02/27/2021): The Future History Makers of New Orleans: This story looks at some of the younger leaders under 40 who are making an impact in the City of New Orleans.