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New Orleans

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Back to Normal...A New Beginning for New Orleans ?

Life... Before...During and After COVID-19



Many in the City are excited about soon everything may be back to normal, in a City that recipe for life is Food, Fun, Festivals and Family.



Business Owner, Nathanael Scales and daughter Aspen Emma Scales enjoying a beautiful day in New Orleans.



The City is opening up as more people are out enjoying the City and what it has to offer. (Photo by Effram Hill)

Edwin Buggage
Editor-in-Chief

Life In the New Normal

It's been over a year where all of people's lives around the world have changed because of the CO-

VID-19 Pandemic. Mask wearing, social distancing, sickness and unfortunately death has become the new normal.

Now it sees the tide is shifting because more people are getting vaccinated and CDC recommendations have been revised and more people are beginning to live life as if it were Pre-COVID. Going maskless and

gathering in large groups outside of their pods, not knowing whether or not the person standing next to them are vaccinated.

Cautiously Back to Normal

In the City of New Orleans over the Memorial Day weekend, people were out and about both locals and

Cover Story, Continued on page 3.

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New Orleans Hip-Hop Legend, Mia X, with her aunt Gail. Like many, the love and hugs of friends and relatives are a welcome sign things are getting back to normal.

tourist, as the City's hotels was at 90% occupancy, they were enjoying life in a way that they hadn't in some time.

Generations of families were able to gather for events. Any who have been suffering from the depression that isolation brings were out being social and trying to find a new normal. Some are still taking a hybrid approach to mask wearing, knowing that the honor's system is something that cannot be completely trusted. In addition, many of the top authorities on the Pandemic, continues to stress we are not at herd immunity and the new guidelines apply to vaccinated individuals.

From Worse to First.... The Race to Herd Immunity

But in a society where there's not been safeguards put in place where one would have to prove they are vaccinated; it can be reasonably argued that by default we have in some regard reached herd immunity. For those who actually wanted to get the vaccine many already have, and for those who are skeptical many of the incentives some are offering is not enough to get them to consider being vaccinated.

This for a place like New Orleans is a destination City could potentially be a recipe for worse days to come in the coming months with new strains of the virus that could possibly make its way into the City. Hopefully, this will not occur, but we must remember when the Pandemic first began, New Orleans recorded some of the highest numbers.

And it must be noted, that in spite of pressure from some in the business sector, Mayor LaToya Cantrell and her team followed the science and the number of cases dropped and today the City leads

the state in the percentage of the population that are vaccinated. And in early March of this year, led the country in the percentage of people being vaccinated.

While restrictions have been loosened, it is important to note that the goal for the City is to get to 75-80% of citizens getting vaccinated. This is not the time to begin to celebrate that the Pandemic is over, and that people decide to live life as they did prior to the Pandemic.

Safety First.... People Wearing Masks and Other COVID-19 Protocols May Be with Us to Stay

In fact, because of the Pandemic, citizens should consider forming new habits based on some of the safety protocols that were put in place. Hand washing, using hand sanitizer, not putting hands in face near eyes and mouth, social distancing, etc. Even in workplaces, many of the things such as shields for some customer service workers should possibly continue.

These practices can in some ways help mitigate the potential of spreading the virus or other germs/illnesses to others. Before COVID-19, several would look at many international tourists, especially those from parts of Asia, wearing face coverings in public.

But much of this was normalized as a regular part of the street scene in parts of Asia after the deadly severe outbreak of Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) that started in China in 2002 before spreading to Singapore and Taiwan over the following year. Today manufacturers in East Asia are pumping out 10 to 20 million units per month. Who would have thought that in the U.S. that many will not be taking off their mask for a while and others are considering when in certain in-



Hip-hop legend Misdemeanor of Partners in Crime (r) chilling with friends.

stances to always mask up.

New Orleans Turning the Corner but Not Fully There Yet

The future is one that is uncertain, but it seems we are heading back to some sense of normalcy. Seeing the full face and the smile of grandma and to give her a big hug, or to "dap up" your friends or someone you have not seen in a long time. To "buckjump" at a second line, either tailgate or go to the game to cheer on the Saints, or to go to a full church to worship.

These are the things we live and breathe in the City of New Orleans. A place where people "work to live" and have a recipe for a full life that put enjoying life and people first. We are not fully back yet from the throes of COVID-19, but as more people get vaccinated and hopefully even more, so that the City can reach herd immunity, we can be truly unmasked, beginning a new chapter in one of the World's Most Amazing Cities.



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Rouses Markets New Store on Freret Street Officially Opened its doors on Wednesday, May 26th

Add another foodie destination to Freret's Restaurant Row between Napoleon and Jefferson Avenues in Uptown New Orleans. The new Rouses Market at 4645 Freret Street features an unrivaled selection of prepared foods, from chopped salads made to order to Rouses-In-House prepared entrees and sides, to sushi, poke, stir-fries, and ramen made right before your eyes. The market also houses the company's first full-scale restaurant. Freret Faire is open for breakfast and lunch. The menu is predominantly vegan.

The store was designed specifically for the neighborhood. Murals inside honor Big Chief Monk Boudreaux of the Golden Eagles, and his wife and children and grandchildren, who now form the members of the Golden Eagles. The Mardi Gras Indian craftsman and musician lives in and is deeply rooted in the Freret community. The murals were created by Monika Kelly Studio in consultation with Collections of Collections and Rouses Creative Team, using photos by Erika Goldring, who is a Golden Eagle Baby Doll, and lives in the neighborhood.

While this is a small-format store, it features all of the fresh food and services that Rouses Markets is known for, plus some exciting new local food and products picked from Rouses Pop Ups.

Regular store hours are 6am to 11pm.



Pictured in front of the New Rouses Market is Big Chief Monk Boudreaux and his son Joe Boudreaux celebrating the opening where "Chief Monk" is being honored.



Tim Acosta, Director of Marketing, pictured right, with Freret Street store manager and local entrepreneurs whose products will be on display to be sold in the New Rouses Market.



Louisiana General Managers there to support the opening of the Rouses Market on Freret Street.



Gourmet Popcorn and other specialty products being sold at this location.



Keyala, owner of Keyala Candy Pralines is one of the local products on display at the Freret Market.



Murals inside honor Big Chief Monk Boudreaux of the Golden Eagles, and his wife and children and grandchildren, who now form the members of the Golden Eagles.

The Nation Must Awake

My Witness to the Tulsa Race Massacre

Data News Staff Edited Report

In these times of being “woke” and where calls for justice and equality are being heard all over America; a great book explores the Tulsa Riot of 1921. It was a time where Blacks, following slavery began to build an economy and created one of several “Black Wall Street” with thriving businesses.

As seen in numerous new reports recently; it's been 100 years since the Tulsa Race Massacre — one of the worst episodes of racial violence in U.S. History; where an armed White mob attacked Greenwood, a prosperous Black community in Tulsa, Okla., killing as many as 300 people. What was known as Black Wall Street was burned to the ground.

In addition to the loss of life, there was more than \$1 million in property losses that would amount to more than \$20 million today. Before the massacre, the Greenwood District was considered one of the most affluent all-Black communities in the country, a mecca for African American culture, business, and prosperity.

The Nation Must Awake, published for a wide audience for the first time, is Mary E. Jones Parrish's first-person account, along with the recollections of dozens of others, compiled immediately following the tragedy. With meticulous attention to detail that transports readers to those fateful days, Parrish documents the magnitude of the loss of human life and property at the hands of White vigilantes. The testimonies shine light on Black residents' bravery and the horror of seeing their neighbors gunned down and their community lost to flames.

In the book, Parrish described her heroic escape from the angry mob and her risky return to Greenwood to document the truth of what happened. She included photographs and eyewitness accounts from others, and also recounted the myriad obstacles to rebuilding imposed by the City of Tulsa. In the appendix of the red hardcover, Parrish recorded the value of the property destroyed or taken, including her own two apartments and the secretarial school she operated.

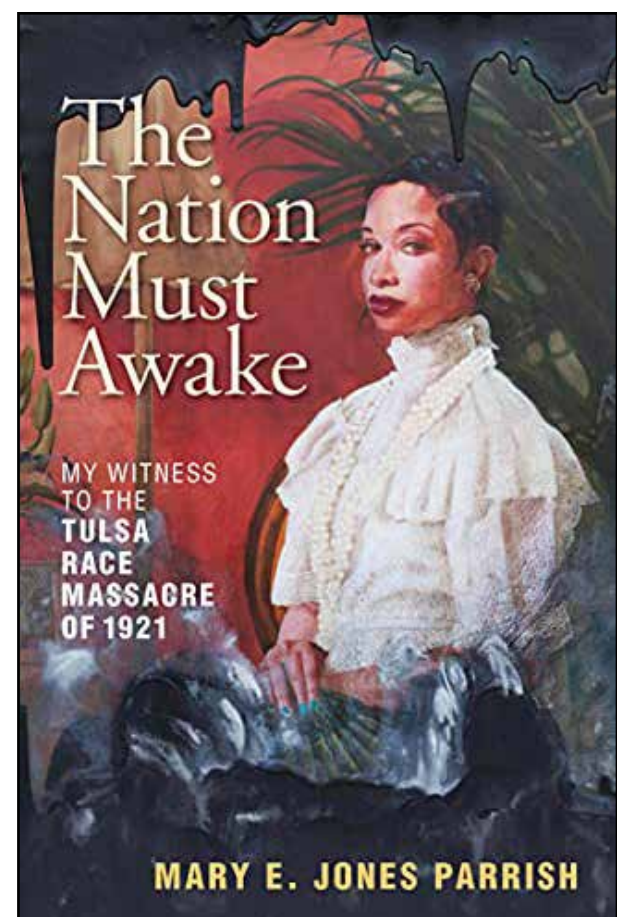
But the book is more than just a historical account. It's also Parrish's plea for America to live up to the Promise of Democracy, something in light of the recent events of the nation still grapples within the 21st Century.



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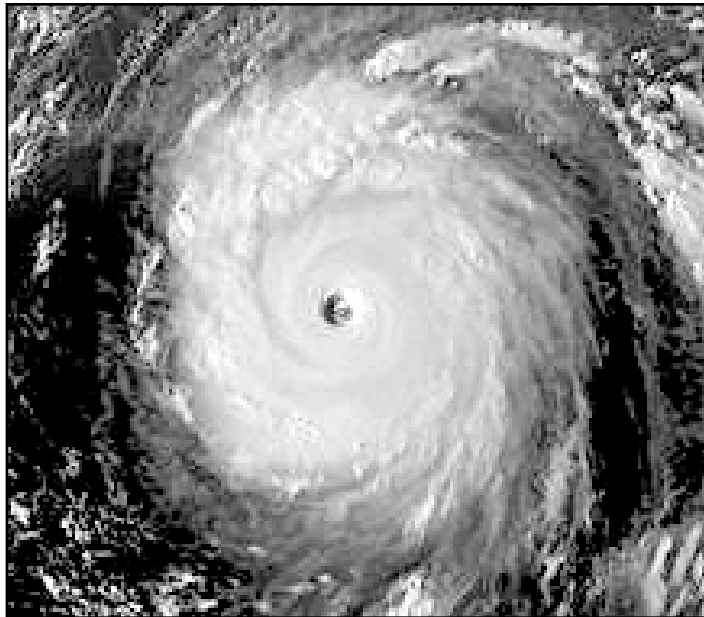
2021 is Expected to be an Active Hurricane Season

Eric Connerly
Data News Weekly
Contributor

It is that time again; the 2021 Hurricane Season is expected to be busier than normal, with 13 to 20 named storms with 6 to 10 of them hurricanes and 3 to 5 reaching major hurricane strength of Category 3 or higher.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, said there's a 60% chance of a more-active-than-normal season, a 30% chance of a near-normal season and only a 10% chance of a below-normal season.

If this forecast is accurate, this will be a record-setting year with an above normal number of tropical events, even after the agency raised its averages for storms in a normal season. And it follows the record-breaking 2020 season with 30 named storms, with 11 of those



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2021 STORM NAMES			FIRST WARNING
ANA	BILL	CLAUDETTE	
DANNY	ELSA	FRED	
GRACE	HENRI	IDA	
JULIAN	KATE	LARRY	
MINDY	NICHOLAS	ODETTE	
PETER	ROSE	SAM	
TERESA	VICTOR	WANDA	

making landfall in the United States - including six hurricanes.

The previous record was in 2005, which saw 28 named storms,

including Hurricanes Katrina and Rita striking Louisiana.

Hurricane season runs from June 1st through Nov. 30th.

Commentary

Too Much Rhetoric, Where are the Solutions?



Terrol Perkins
Data News Weekly Contributor

I will never forget the events that transpired on May 25, 2020, when a cop named Derek Chauvin subdued George Floyd to the pavement and knelt on his neck for nine minutes and twenty-nine seconds. After that day, America

stood still in disbelief and mourning. Ever since the graphic video was released of Rodney King's brutal beating by police in 1991, the general public continues to watch atrocious misuses of police power on their television screens. Since 1991, there have been multiple cases of police brutality against African American men, such as Michael Brown and Philando Castile, but the Floyd's case resonated differently amongst many Americans, especially Black Americans. While being suffocated by Chauvin, Floyd repeatedly stated that he "couldn't breathe." The fact that he begged for Chauvin get his knee off of his

neck for such a long period of time was infuriating to the bystanders and the general public. I remember weeping after watching the video of Floyd's death repeatedly on CNN. I, along with many other Americans of all races and creed were outraged. Many took to the streets to protest, which defined the summer of 2020. Not only were we living in the middle of a Pandemic, but we were also undergoing a racial reckoning which still continues today.

Although most protests were predominantly peaceful, the nights of the summer months in many cities of the United States were often plagued with riots

and violence. Some misguided souls thought that peacefully demonstrating wasn't adequately enough to make the rich and powerful take notice of the racism that minorities face. My family and I never tried to condone the riots because we knew that violence is never the answer in seeking for impactful reform in our society. Yet, despite all of the protests, riots, and proposals to reform policing in this country created by Congressmen or separate organizations, a year has passed, and no tangible progress has been made to transform policing on a national scale. The George Floyd Justice in Policing Act has yet to be rati-

fied by Congress and both parties seem unable to come to a consensus on how to deal with police misconduct.

As I observed President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris welcome the Floyd family to the White House on the Anniversary of George's death this year, I feel like we are at exactly the same place we were a year ago: all talk but no results. However, I remain optimistic, I have faith that our leaders will overcome petty partisan squabbles, pass tangible and reasonable police reform to protect Black and brown communities, so we won't have to live through another George Floyd incident.

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Ava Duvernay Speaks to the Arts Influencing Mental Health

*Event Showcases How Physical and Mental
Health are Inextricably Entwined*

Lisa Olivia Fitch
Our Weekly News

Filmmaker Ava DuVernay was interviewed last week for #WOW2021, a virtual event featuring a variety of personalities in conversation with preeminent UCLA doctors and researchers. The goal was to raise awareness and reduce the stigma of mental illness.

The first #WOW event took place in 2018 as an all-day summit—#WOW The Wonder of Women—conceived by women, for women, about women. #WOW2021 welcomed men to the conversation. This year's theme was "Whole Health includes Mental Health" and the fundraiser supported the UCLA Friends of the Semel Institute Research Scholars and UCLA Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital Board of Advisors.

"I started to meditate during the quarantine, which has been interesting and helpful," DuVernay said. "And the days that I meditate, I can tell."

She recently joined the Coalition for School Well-Being. Formed in the wake of the Pandemic and widespread recognition of racial and social injustices, the coalition is a public/private partnership to make social-emotional learning, mental health, and racial and social justice the cornerstone of education in California.

DuVernay and her staff have created learning companion pieces that pair with the TV shows and movies she directs. She is concerned with how youth are dealing with the Pandemic during adolescence.

"Can you imagine that age?" she asked. "We're barely dealing with it as adults."



Ava Duvernay

DuVernay had a double major in college—English and African-American Studies—and after 15 years in Public Relations, she followed her dream, a dream which has led to becoming the first Black woman to direct a big-budget film "A Wrinkle in Time" and be nominated for Academy Awards for directing for "Selma" and "13th."

During the interview, which highlighted National Mental Health Month, DuVernay noted that Blacks especially suffer from a lot of mental stress, and not just during the current Pandemic.

"The fact that we're not all out of our minds truly is a testament to the strength of Black people," she said. "We're talking about 400 years of degradation and dehumanization; 400-plus years of human bondage,

where we were property. And families are a real thing. That stuff gets passed down, right? Not being able to speak your mind for fear of being lynched. You really have to think about the history and not gloss over the harm that's been done."

When asked just how she has coped with all the historical and recent stresses of the world, DuVernay credited her upbringing.

"I've been fortunate to be fortified by a deep and abiding faith in a power higher than myself," she said, noting that she practices an attitude of gratitude regularly. "I have really been taught to embrace and love life as its own living, breathing entity. That you're not just living life—like you are part of a life being lived cooperatively with a lot of other people."

DuVernay explained that connectivity, that sense of community and camaraderie, is something that she was raised with.

"It's something that's really guided me through moments of instability or imbalance, moments of injustice and oppression, moments of being an individual inside of a system that really not only wasn't made for me but was made to depress and dampen my ability to live a full life."

She went on to explain that although living in a community seems simple and goes to the core, foundational elements that keep her in balance, not everyone learns that.

"Generally, in American culture, we're not taught those foundation things, so we have a lot fewer tools to cope when there's upheaval when there's a challenge," DuVernay said. "Not to say I'm living a storybook, but I do feel like I have tools and weapons to fight back when there are challenges."

Appreciating the arts is another tool, she believes.

"Art is truly an appreciation of beauty, in my mind," DuVernay said. "Whether you're watching a horror movie or whether you're listening to a song about nothing, it's the beauty. To take it in. To laugh, to be able to gasp, to be able to emote, that's what art does. So, when you tap into that, it is transformative."

"How many of us after a long day have gone home and put on something and your spirits can get raised by a film or a piece of music, or a painting or a beautiful novel," she added. "I believe that art is a lifeblood and the more that we say that and name it, embrace it, the healthier we can be because it's really within everyone's grasp."

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