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News Weekly

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Black History Month Special

All Black Towns

The Story of Fazendeville, Louisiana



Descendants and former residents of Fazendeville, in 2021 during a dedication of the site by the National Park Service.

Written and Edited by Edwin Buggage
Editor-in-Chief Data News Weekly

In these times where a nation is changing, and the collective voices of African Americans heard. The demands for empowerment, and the pursuit of what all Americans desire is not new. Today as Black Lives Matter have become the rallying cry of a new generation, this is part of a struggle for equality that has been going on since Black people have been in this country. As part of our Black History Month Celebration, Data News Weekly, will place the spotlight on all Black towns. With the goal being to inspire our people to

work together to build better communities. For we were able to do this in the aftermath of slavery, so today building communities we can be proud of is an accomplishable goal. Not only here in Louisiana, but all over America. “These towns represent the true aspirations of Black people to rule or govern themselves; the essence of self-determination” states Leon Waters, Board Chairperson of the Louisiana Museum of African American History. We have gathered resources to give our readers a snapshot of a community called Fazendeville, LA. It is located on what is now part of the Chalmette Battle-

field. Last year the National Park Service brought together the descendants of residents to recognize it as an historical site. **Fazendeville** According to the National Park Service the city was established in 1867, Fazendeville was an African American community located on land that is now part of the Chalmette Battlefield, site of the 1815 Battle of New Orleans. Jean Pierre Fazende, a free man of color and New Orleans grocer, had inherited the land in 1857. After the Civil War, he divided it and sold land to formerly enslaved people from area plantations. The community

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grew to be the home of more than two hundred people. The National Park Service bought the land in the mid-1960s after long, contentious negotiations. Many Fazendeville residents relocated to New Orleans' 9th Ward but kept their community alive through regular communication and social events.

Early records indicate that Pierre Fazende, a free man of color, owned a rice plantation on land that was a part of the Chalmette Plantation. When and how he acquired it is unknown. In 1856, he turned that property over to his son, also named Pierre.

Fazende the younger then subdivided the property into lots and sold them to other free people of color. There is reason to believe that some members of this community were freed slaves, who would have given them ownership of property for the first time. A one-street community of thirty-three lots evolved over the years. The census of 1870 mentions Pierre Fazende (age 60) and his wife, Pauline (age 40), living in "dwelling house #88." Both were farm laborers, and neither could read or write, but they were proud landowners.

The 1888 Census mentions seventeen families living in the community. The names mentioned in this census report are the ancestors of those who lived in Fazendeville throughout the remainder of its existence. Family names such as Cager and Minor dominated the neighborhood as off-springs built homes on property adjacent to their families' homes.

Symbol of Hope...A Small and Thriving Community

By the turn of the century, Fazendeville had become a stable community of about thirty families composed of thirty homes, a one-room schoolhouse (first to eighth grades), the Battleground Baptist Church, a dance hall, the Battleground grocery store and two bar rooms. A single road serviced the community. The houses were situated on the east side of the road. An open pasture lay behind the houses. It was used for a baseball field. A former millrace (a channel whose current is used to power a mill wheel) for a rice mill, now serving as a drainage ditch, ran along the west side of the road from the Mississippi River to the St. Bernard



Jean Pierre Fazende, a free man of color and New Orleans grocer, inherited the land in 1857. After the Civil War he divided it and sold it to formerly enslaved people from area plantations. By the turn of the 20th century, Fazendeville became a thriving community and source of pride for the residents.

nard Highway to the north. A large grove of pecan trees flourished west of this millrace, situated a short distance from the abandoned Beauregard House on the site of the Chalmette Monument.

As the years passed, the community became so close that the sound of each automobile was recognized as either belonging to a resident or an outsider. Deliverymen who serviced the community,

Black and White alike, testified to the kindness and generosity of the residents. If a car broke down, all would rush to help.

Fazendeville was an isolated community surrounded by open ground belonging to a variety of corporations who had no use for the land. Children caught crawfish in the abandoned rice mill canal; mothers collected pecans from the neighboring pecan grove; and fami-

lies played baseball and picnicked in the adjoining field.

There's No Place Like Home...The Displacement of the Residents of Fazendeville

In 1963 the government took possession of the land in order to expand the territory from the cemetery to the battlefield. In order to accomplish this task, a community was displaced; the town of Fazendeville, in a 2021 news story reported by WGNO News in New Orleans.

During this time there were many cases of Black towns being moved and many recognize it as an effort to keep Black people from voting and school districts at a time when the country was at the precipice of desegregation.

While the destruction of Black towns and communities across America took place during this time, for more than one hundred years, life in Fazendeville remained tranquil and undisturbed. Families grew, children were educated and some even went off to college to begin their professional careers. But they all called Fazendeville home.

FEBRUARY 2022

**JOIN US IN CELEBRATING
BLACK HISTORY MONTH
AND THE MARDI GRAS
SEASON
AS WE HIGHLIGHT SOME OF
OUR CITY'S CULTURE
BEARERS**

**IN-HOUSE AND
VIRTUAL**



Chelsey Richard Napoleon

CLERK OF CIVIL DISTRICT COURT
AND EX-OFFICIO RECORDER

FIND IT IN OUR ARCHIVES

As the Clerk of Civil District Court for Orleans Parish, I have the responsibility of preserving historical documents and records that date back to the 1700s. In addition to the crucial task of preservation, my office is also responsible for providing public access to our diverse collection of records.

Our collection offers a wide variety of research opportunities. Researchers from across the country have utilized our archives to uncover countless stories pertaining to property histories, family histories, architectural history, the history of New Orleans itself, and so much more.

I encourage you to come by the Clerk of Civil District Court's office or plan a tour with us so you too can discover what our spectacular collection of historical records has to offer. It would be our pleasure to help you uncover a story that fits your own interests.

In-House Showcase

The exhibit "A Selection of New Orleans Culture Bearers" will open on February 1, 2022

Virtual Showcase: Blog Posts

February 5, 2022	Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club Blog
February 11, 2022	The Mardi Gras Indians Blog
February 18, 2022	The Jugs Social Club-Krewe of NOMTOC Blog

For more information, including tour requests, please contact the Research Center at civilclerkresearchctr@orleanscdc.com or 504.407.0106

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Enjoy the Little Things



Diva Dionne Character
Female Empowerment
Columnist

There is a certain amount of gratitude one must have when appreciating a new flower in bloom, the simple sound of a loved one on the other end of the telephone or even a stranger, thanking us for giving them directions when they've been lost for what seems to have been hours until you arrived. These little acts are worth the joy that we may sometimes miss in life, as we focus on the big things, those that give us high anxiety and doubt because we have forgotten that happiness comes in all shapes and sizes.

While we can no longer go out and buy happiness because the world as we knew it is pretty tied up in vaccinations and unexplainable decisions, forcing us to think that we are defeated staying home when in fact, you are full of self-determination and drive, you are fighting for your family's health and you should be happy to be alive because you are wise enough to turn a blind eye to the news and let your imagination run rampant.

Start appreciating the little things by giving yourself permission to be happy with all things. The more



Life is too short do not sweat the small stuff but take the time to enjoy the little things. Give yourself permission to be happy with all things. The more devoted you become for the simple the more the universe will reward you with unimaginable things, keeping your mindset in a healthy place.

devoted you become for the simple, the more the universe will reward you with unimaginable things, keeping your mindset in a healthy place.

Reach out and call an old friend, send someone a handwritten card, buy yourself a few plants and watch them grow, as you feel yourself engaged in joy from

simple gestures of gratitude. Do whatever it takes for you to celebrate how much and how far you have come during these complicated times. We are all feeling disconnected as we can no longer socialize normally.

Do something to boost your own joy and stop chasing the big things and ap-

preciate the little things. Celebrate good weather by taking out a friend and going for a walk. Accept the simple things in life for they will always be meaningful because in the end, the little things will always outweigh the big.

Dionne Character can be reached at www.characterhollywood.com

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Faubourg Brewing Co. and the New Orleans Mardi Gras Indian Council Announce Special Partnership during Carnival Season

All proceeds from the sale of the Limited-Edition, Co-created 12-pack and Commemorative Poster to Benefit the New Orleans Mardi Gras Indian Council

The Spears Group

NEW ORLEANS - Today, Faubourg Brewing Company and the New Orleans Mardi Gras Indian Council (NOMGIC) announced a special partnership that will see the brewery launch a special edition 12-pack of the brand's premium lager and a commemorative poster. The elements were inspired by and selected by the Mardi Gras Indian Council, to celebrate the legacy and heritage of the Mardi Gras Indians during the 2022 Carnival Season, with all proceeds benefiting the celebrated organization.

This special edition of Faubourg's Flagship Beer features new co-created artwork, showcasing the iconic look of the Mardi Gras Indians on the carrying carton. The 12-pack is currently on display and can be purchased in stores throughout the region where Faubourg beers are sold. The partnership will also feature a limited-run commemorative poster that will go on sale to the general public through the Faubourg Brewing website and will be available for \$40, all benefiting the New Orleans Mardi Gras Indian Council.

"The New Orleans Mardi Gras Indians are woven into the very fabric of our city's culture, heritage and community," said Gayle Benson, owner of Faubourg Brewing Company. "Their legacy and contributions have helped make Mardi Gras a cultural revolution that is unrivaled anywhere else in the world. Through this partnership, we are not only investing in preserving the history of the Mardi Gras Indians, but also ensuring this vital community element continues for generations to come."

The limited-edition pack of Faubourg Lager is available for purchase through the rest of Mardi Gras, with the partnership between the two growing further into future carnival seasons.



Bertrand Butler, Founder/Executive Director of the New Orleans Mardi Gras Indian Council, New Orleans Mayor, LaToya Cantrell and Gayle Benson, owner of Faubourg Brewing Company and the New Orleans Saints. Together they are committed to celebrating and preserving the rich Mardi Gras Indian (Black Masking) culture of New Orleans. Photos by Maleah Pearson-New Orleans Saints



"The history of the Mardi Gras Indians is the history of New Orleans, and through this partnership, we will be able to tell our story for years to come" said Bertrand Butler, Founder/Executive Director of the New Orleans Mardi Gras Indian Council. Photos by Maleah Pearson-New Orleans Saints



"In our commitment to the city and neighborhoods of New Orleans, we also know that this amazing place would not be what it is today without the enduring Legacy of the Mardi Gras Indians and other cultural forces," said Jason Daniel, Vice President of Marketing of Faubourg Brewing Company. "This is just the beginning of how Faubourg Brewing Co. will continue to invest in the resources and people that make our city an iconic cultural destination."

The New Orleans Mardi Gras Indian Council consists of chiefs from over a dozen Tribes who meet regularly to discuss ways to enrich the lives of the citizens of New Orleans. Through this partnership with Faubourg and other

donations through a unique QR code found on the limited-edition package, the MGIC will continue its efforts with local education, youth development and historic preservation of Mardi Gras Indian Heritage.

"The history of the Mardi Gras Indians is the history of New Orleans, and through this partnership, we will be able to tell our story for years to come," said Bertrand Butler, Founder/Executive Director of the New Orleans Mardi Gras Indian Council. "Our culture bearers are the essence that helps make Mardi Gras and other events around the city so distinct and vibrant. We hope that this partnership will serve as a beacon to get other businesses involved in

preserving the people and places that make New Orleans what it is."

The Mardi Gras Indians and their traditions have been a staple of New Orleans Culture since the 1800s. African Americans, unable to participate in traditional Mardi Gras in New Orleans at the time, formed their own in their neighborhoods within the city. Their suits are hand-sewn every year and worn for the special days that dot the Mardi Gras Indian calendar in events such as Mardi Gras Day, Super Sunday, St. Joseph's Night and West Fest. Today, the city is home to more than 30 Mardi Gras Indian Tribes.

For more information, please visit faubourgbrewery.com.

New Orleans Head Coach Sean Payton Retires

Fleur De Lis
Data News Weekly
Contributor

After 15 years of leading the New Orleans Saints' Head Coach Sean Payton recently announced his retirement.

During his press conference, Payton thanked Saints owner Gayle Benson and her late husband, former Saints owner Tom Benson. Payton said he was glad Benson told him to spend some time away from the team for the past couple of weeks before he made his decision, "because it is a big decision that affects a lot of people."

Payton began coaching the Saints in 2006, turning the franchise into one of the NFL's best during his tenure. The 58-year-old Payton went 152-89 in 15 seasons with New Orleans, leading the Saints to the playoffs nine times, and to its first Super Bowl Title in the 2009 Season with a 31-17 victory over the Indianapolis Colts.

He and Drew Brees became the



Longtime Saints Head Coach Sean Payton, recently retired leaving behind a great legacy. He and Drew Brees led the Saints to become a winning franchise during their time with the Black and Gold. Payton also coached the Saints to a Super Bowl victory.



faces of the team leading them to become one of the winningest teams in the regular season. It is known that both will be inducted into the

NFL Hall of Fame, for what they did taking the Saints from worst to first.

Payton is the longest-tenured head coach in Saints history, and

the franchise's all-time leader in games coached (241), wins (151), playoff games (17) and playoff wins (nine).

The Who Dat Nation will miss him on the sidelines leading the Black and Gold.

State & Local News

Council President Moreno and Vice President Morrell Urge Plan from NOPD Chief on Addressing Violence

Data News Staff Edited
Report

NEW ORLEANS - City Council President Helena Moreno and Vice President JP Morrell are voicing increasing concern that NOPD Chief Shaun Ferguson has not revealed his plan to curb New Orleans' violence. More than a week has passed since Chief Ferguson went before the Council and explained that a plan was in the works. A news conference was scheduled by the Chief and Mayor Cantrell for last Thursday but then canceled.

The Council has acted with urgency by calling a series of meetings to address the drastic increase in carjackings and violence. Moreno and Morrell stand ready to assist the Chief with making our city safer but continue to ask, "where is the plan?"



City Council President Helena Moreno



City Council Vice-President JP Morrell

"The people of this city need to be assured that the Chief is taking major steps to reduce violence," said Council President Helena Moreno. "We need a plan now. I am

here to support the NOPD, and the Council wants to support NOPD. But no plan was presented on January 20th when the Chief came before the Council, and there's still no

plan. The Council has an extensive list of action items that will be released this Thursday, but the most important plan we're missing is the Chief's."

"We've spent weeks working with stakeholders across the city to craft a comprehensive plan to deal with the spike in violent crime," Council Vice President JP Morrell continued. "Everyone has come to the table with solutions, except for Superintendent Ferguson. Two weeks ago, Superintendent Ferguson committed to sharing a plan that this Council could publicly review to tackle this issue. To date, we've received no communication. Unfortunately, the Superintendent has time to attend parades but no urgency to produce a plan to be part of implementing the necessary changes to make us safe."



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Rap Mogul Jay-Z and Team ROC Demand DOJ Investigate Racism, Corruption in Kansas Police Department

Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

Hip-Hop Pioneer Jay-Z and Team ROC, the social justice side of his entertainment company, have demanded the U.S. Department of Justice probe the Kansas City, Kansas, Police Department for systemic misconduct.

Jay-Z, whose real name is Shawn Carter, joined in writing an open letter to the Justice Department stating that there's no excuse to justify the department's silence.

The letter asserted that "there is enough evidence of systemic police misconduct in the department that a pattern of practice investigation is necessary to review allegations of wrongdoing and discrimination."

The nonprofit Midwest Innocence Project has joined Team ROC in the call for an investigation.

"The DOJ's continued inaction



tells targeted minority communities held hostage to the whims of the carceral state that justice does not exist for them, that their lives do not matter," the organization wrote in the letter addressed to Associate Attorney General Vanita Gupta.

Alex Shapiro, Team ROC's lawyer, said incidents they've uncov-

ered include a former Kansas City detective whom federal authorities investigated in 2021 over allegations of exploiting Black women for sex and framing individuals for crimes they did not commit.

Shapiro noted that FBI records dating to the 1990s found numerous allegations of civil rights violations.

About 200 Kansas City police officers were accused of misconduct and excessive force complaints over the years.

"They kept hitting our desk over and over again, and we knew we had to get involved," Shapiro told reporters.

In its letter to the Justice Department, Team ROC noted that "we've seen the cover-up unfold right before our eyes.

And yet here we are having to plead with you to ensure the Justice Department allows the U.S. Attorney's Office to do the right thing.

"Because after years of denial and avoidance by the U.S. Attorney's office, your department, and despite the lives that have been broken and ruined by their criminal actions and your inaction, there's still time for you, as a leader in the department, to lift this city and these people up and out of the hell that has been their constant companion."

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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 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!

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Administrative Assistant Wanted

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“**mild**” or that you should get it to
“**get it over with.**” But you can't
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get. Many people in Louisiana are still
getting severely ill, and the risks of
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