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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

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Crime and Violence in New Orleans

In Search of Solutions



New Orleans continues to struggle with problems of crime and violence. Leaders as well as concerned citizens are searching for solutions to make the city safer for all residents.

Edwin Buggage
Editor-in-Chief Data News Weekly

Violent Crime Plagues New Orleans

In the City of New Orleans, violent crime continues to be on the rise. This phenomenon is causing alarm

for many as summer is approaching, where there is usually a spike in crime. All are looking for solutions both on a macro and micro level. Recently, leaders from across nine parishes in Louisiana came together with Crimestoppers raising the rewards to get citizens to assist in getting those who pose a threat to the community off the street. While many of these approaches

deal with the symptoms, they do not get to the root causes of crime and violence in the City of New Orleans.

Crime and violence are a not simply a criminal justice issue for those involved in law enforcement, but more broadly it is a social problem where various reasons for why people choose crime and violence over

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P.O. Box 57347, New Orleans, LA 70157-7347 | Phone: (504) 821-7421 | Fax: (504) 821-7622
editorial: datanewseditor@bellsouth.net | advertising: datanewsad@bellsouth.net

Terry B. Jones	Contributors	Art Direction &
CEO/Publisher	Edwin Buggage	Production
Edwin Buggage	Fleur De Lis	Pubinator.com
Editor	Demian Roberts	Editorial and
Sharonda Green	DNW Staff Writer	Advertising Inquiries
Executive Assistant	Tracee Dundas	datanewsweeklyad@gmail.com
June Hazeur	John Merritt	Distribution
Accounting	Stacy M. Brown	by Terrence Lee

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others choosing to not commit crime. For this is not to diminish the efforts of those who are in leadership positions, but it is necessary to shift the focus from getting tough on crime only, but to consider how to prevent the citizens of New Orleans, particularly Black males to consider other options to crime and violence.

Louisiana: The Prison Capital of the world

The State of Louisiana, per capita has the largest prison population in the world; imprisoning 1094 of every 100,000 residents according to a 2019 report. A compelling and troubling fact is that the majority of those imprisoned are Black males. For example, in the City of New Orleans, according to a 2017 study by The Vera Institute, Black males between the ages of 15-84, accounted for 26% of the city's population, but 81% of those incarcerated. It must be asked what accounts for these disparities?

For policymakers it is important to study and explore and compare the link between African American males in New Orleans to determine what factors links led them down the road to prison. Conversely, examine the links between positive school, family and community experiences that led others down alternative roads thus avoiding the Criminal Justice System.

This more comprehensive and holistic approach can contribute to the body of work already launched that can assist in informing public policy makers and other stakeholders on approaches that could reduce the number of Black males entering the prison/Criminal Justice System, and potentially suffice in improving their odds for successful outcomes in society.

The Link Between Education and Opportunity

In Louisiana and across the United States, African American males continue to lead in various negative educational statistical categories: school achievement, lower high school graduation rates, and suspensions. Reasons are embedded in the legacy of slavery, segregation, and institutional racism that continues to relegate Black males to second-class treatment in the United States. Similarly, this is mirrored in classrooms across the United States, particularly in urban, rural and resource poor communities.

The relationship between penal institutions and under resourced schools have been documented by scholars and advocacy groups. In a 2015 study by the Children's De-

fense Fund states 45.7% of children in Louisiana are growing up in economic poverty, a factor that impacts negative educational outcomes that often lead to imprisonment of African American males. According to the National Association for The Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Legal Defense Fund (LDF), school reform models (zero tolerance) where students are expelled and suspended in schools. This and other school reform policies are based on punitive vs. preventive measures for youth are leading to the over incarceration.

Black Boys and Men Matter

School reform models such as zero tolerance leads to Black males being suspended at three times the rate of White males and contributes to a pattern that leads to the school-to-prison pipeline. Indeed, a disturbing phenomenon, but this does not paint the entire picture of Black males in America. Conversely, Black males graduating from high school, attending college or trade schools, gainfully employed, and being responsible parents and husbands.

Moreover, these stereotypes refiguring low achievement for Black males does not denote inherent intellectual inferiority, but structural bias and barriers leading to poor outcomes for a portion of resource poor African American males. We must begin to seek and explore links between high and low Black male achievement, and strategies to remedy this from occurring to guide best practices to produce better outcomes for African American males in school and society.

Reducing Crime and Violence: It Will Take All of Us

Where answers do not lie in simply hiring more police officers, getting more convictions, and getting tough on crime. It is about investing in families, communities, and bringing resources that can increase the odds of success to the citizens of New Orleans. Particularly, African American males, for they tend to have the most adverse outcomes not just in New Orleans, but all over the United States. Indeed, this is a problem that has been here before any of the policymakers who are in office now held these seats of power. Also, it is not solely their responsibilities to solve these problems, but it is up to all the citizens to work towards solutions by doing their part whatever that is to contribute to make New Orleans a better and safer City for all to prosper and thrive.



Also, the media must begin to show more examples of Black male excellence, and not one dimensional images of Black boys and men as criminals.



It will take more than elected and civic leaders to solve the deep-rooted problems that plague the city making crime and gun violence a choice for too many citizens of New Orleans. For the city to move in a better direction it will take all citizens of the city working together doing their part to reduce crime and violence in New Orleans.



NOFW + Ecole' Duperre' Paris Presents Parade of Fashions



Tracee Dundas
Fashion Stylist

New Orleans Fashion Week recently hosted Ecolé Duperré Paris in a cultural fashion exchange in which the Parisian fashion design student showcased Avant-Garde and Fantasy Creations to a full house of fashion aficionados, dignitaries, and supporters.

Duperré School has aimed to train young people in the creative professions allowing them to explore their creativity outside the realm of conventional and ready-to-wear fashions. The vision is to think outside of the box and reflect on the evolution in which technology has played an active role in design in all its forms by taking a futuristic approach of what fashion can be. Clearly not fashions for daily wear, but creations that can be seen on the red carpets at events such as the Met Gala, Grammy Awards, and yes. . .New Orleans Fashion Week too.

Spearheaded by New Orleans Fashion Week and working closely with Attaché, Consulate General of France in New Orleans and Duperré School the vision was brought to life in a jaw dropping fashion presentation. With the support of The City of New Orleans Office of Cultural Economy the event was held at Gallier Hall. Lisa Alexis, Director of the Mayor's Office of Cultural Economy (OCE) and her team recognizes that fashion aligns with the OCE's mission to create opportunities and systems that embraces and connects the local cultural globally.

With that said, Duperré and New Orleans Fashion Week did not disappoint. Parade of Fashions was an international connection of like-minded creatives that included a touch of New Orleans spirit by embracing the local culture and introducing a new level of creative consciousness.

Stay tune for more fashions to come as NOFW soon announces its dates for this fall season runway shows.

Fashion Editor – Tracee Dundas | @fashionablyyournola Photographer: John Merrit | @johnmerritphotos Location: City of New Orleans - Gallier Hall New Orleans Fashion Week Models



Jazz Fest 2022 Not Just a Return, but a Rebirth

Photos by Demian Roberts

The festival producers announced on Tuesday that the total attendance for the just-completed 2022 Jazz Fest was 475,000. That was the same total as the 2019 Jazz Fest, the last festival before the Pandemic cancelled the 2020 and 2021 festivals.

The second week of the Jazz Fest was a huge success. When they opened on Friday, Davis asserted, the 2022 Jazz Fest, "is not just a return. This is a rebirth."

Here are some photos from that weekend. and Data News Weekly was there for the festivities!!!



Irma Thomas



Da Truth Brass Band Kids



Da Truth Brass Band



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Ziggy Marley



John Boutte'



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Homecoming

Tyrann Mathieu Signs Multi-Year Deal with Saints

Fleur De Lis
Data News Weekly
Contributor

The Saints just made a game changing acquisition by officially signing safety Tyrann Mathieu. Of course, all know that this will be a homecoming for the veteran safety.

Mathieu grew up in New Orleans attending St. Augustine High School and then attended LSU, where he was a standout before being drafted into the NFL career where he's played with the Cardinals, Texans, and Chiefs. Now Mathieu is coming home, perhaps to finish out a career that when it's all over he will be induct-



New Orleans native Tyrann Mathieu, who was a standout at both St. Augustine High School and LSU, is returning to New Orleans signing a three-year deal with the Saints. Fans are excited about his return and believe he will contribute to the Saints making a run for the Super Bowl this season.

ed into the Hall of Fame.

During the press conference following the announcement of the deal, Mathieu called it "most definitely a dream" to be playing for his hometown team and outlined the role he hopes to play in the Saints' secondary this season.

"I'm hoping I can come in and be a leader and make other guys' jobs easier," Mathieu said. This is especially the case since the retirement of Saints safety Malcolm Jenkins.

Mathieu is poised and ready to add to the Black and Gold, as they rebuild under new leadership. Fans can only wait and see what happens when the 2022 season begins.

The Future of Abortion in America?

Supreme Court Decision Can Have Impact on Louisiana

Data News Staff Edited Report

Last week news that the US Supreme Court is on the verge of overturning the landmark Roe v. Wade abortion ruling are raising many questions about the implications of such a momentous decision and exactly how we got to this point in legal history.

The draft document, which was leaked to Politico revealed potentially that a majority of the Supreme Court is prepared to overrule the Roe case, which legalized abortion nationwide nearly 50 years ago.

For the purpose of educating our readers, here is a rundown on the background of the ruling and what effect such a decision could have on abortion rights across the country:

What is Roe v. Wade?

The historic Roe v. Wade decision from 1973 legalized the right to have an abortion until the point



when a fetus can survive outside the womb — roughly 24 weeks.

Under the high court ruling, states have been able to regulate, but not ban, abortion before the point of viability.

What does the leaked SCOTUS draft opinion say?

The leaked draft opinion says that a majority of the Supreme Court is prepared to overrule the Roe v. Wade decision.

The opinion states there is no constitutional right to abortion and argues that "Roe was a wrong decision from the start."

As this decision hang in the balance, if the court does what the draft suggests, it will give states the power to decide whether to ban or heavily regulate abortions going forward.

Why is this all happening now?

As the impact of the Trump Presidency and its impact on the Judiciary is being felt with the appointment of more conservative judges not only on Roe v. Wade, but a move towards states to enact other items on their agenda that include more restrictive voting.

The leaked document — labeled a "1st Draft" of the "Opinion of the Court" — is dated from February and was written by Justice Samuel Alito, a member of the court's 6-3 conservative majority who was appointed by President George W. Bush.

The document appears to be based on an oral argument heard in December regarding Mississippi's

bid to revive its ban on abortion after 15 weeks.

The draft opinion suggests that when the Supreme Court justices met privately soon after hearing arguments in the Mississippi case on Dec. 1st, at least five voted to overrule Roe and Casey.

What does it mean if Roe v. Wade is overturned?

Twenty-six states are certain or likely to restrict abortion if Roe v. Wade is overturned, according to the Guttmacher Institute, a New York-based pro-choice think tank.

Of those, twenty-two states already have total or near-total abortion restrictions that would kick in as soon as Roe v. Wade falls: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

Karine Jean-Pierre Selected as First Black Woman White House Press Secretary

Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

Karine Jean-Pierre, whose long career in Democratic communications led her to the podium last year as the second Black woman to hold a White House daily briefing, will regularly host those news conferences.

On Thursday, May 5, President Joe Biden announced that he has selected the Martinique native as his next White House press secretary.

"Karine not only brings the experience, talent, and integrity needed for this difficult job, but she will continue to lead the way in communicating about the work of the Biden-Harris Administration on behalf of the American people," Biden said in a statement.

He added that outgoing press secretary Jen Psaki set the standard for returning decency, respect, and decorum to the White House Briefing Room.

Meanwhile, the historic nature of the appointment wasn't lost on the President and others.

"Karine is a lifelong public servant and fierce LGBTQ advocate," said Mayor Annise Parker, President & CEO of LGBTQ Victory Institute.

When Jean-Pierre steps to the podium on May 13, she'll become the first Black woman and first openly gay person to hold that job.

"We are proud to have advocated for her historic nomination. As White House press secretary, she will not only be able to use her podium to represent the Biden administration but also the LGBTQ community during a time of unprecedented anti-LGBTQ hate and attacks," Parker stated.

"As the first out LGBTQ person and the first Black person to hold



Karine Jean-Pierre will become the first Black White House Press Secretary in United States history. Congratulations to her on this monumental and historic accomplishment.

this office, her appointment will inspire countless young people looking for hope and motivation during a dark chapter in our nation's history," Parker continued.

"Shattering this lavender ceiling is a testament to Karine's grit, power, and commitment to our country's potential. We are confident she will continue to be a strong ally and partner as she works in the highest office of the land."

Psaki described Jean-Pierre as passionate.

"She is smart, and she has a moral core that makes her not just a great colleague but an amazing mom and human. Plus, she has a great sense of humor," Psaki tweeted.

CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. said Jean-Pierre's selection demonstrates that the Biden-Harris administration has held up its promise of a diverse staff.

"The NNPA, representing the Black Press of America, resolutely congratulates Karine Jean-Pierre, elevated as senior assistant to the President and White House press secretary," Chavis stated.

"This is another historic step forward by the Biden-Harris administration in fulfilling their promise of equity and equality in the White House."

In a 2021 appearance on The Chavis Chronicles, the Dr. Chavis-hosted PBS-TV show, Jean-Pierre said representation matters.

"We've seen that from the first day of this administration, the President signed an executive order to deal with racial inequity and making sure that we saw diversity and inclusion across the board in the federal government," Jean-Pierre said during her appearance on the show with Dr. Chavis.

"We're living in a polarized country right now, and the one thing that President talked about when he was running, he wanted to make sure that he was the President for all," Jean-Pierre remarked.

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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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