

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

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**Urban League of
Louisiana Annual Gala**

**Data Zone
Page 4**

August 13 - August 19, 2022 57th Year Volume 16 www.ladatanews.com

A Data News Weekly Exclusive



A New Direction

*What is the Future
of New Orleans?*

Page 2



Newsmaker
**Greenfield "Back
to School Festival"**
Excites Community

Page 6

State & Local

Gov. Edwards Appoints
Xavier University of Louisiana
Professor to NOCCA
Board of Directors



Page 6

A New Direction

What is the Future of New Orleans?



The future of New Orleans is the children. The question is can the school system become one where all students receive a quality education?

Edwin Buggage
Editor-in-Chief
New Orleans Data News Weekly

A Changing City

As the City of New Orleans is on the eve of Hurricane Katrina, it must be asked where is it today? Is it getting better or worse? It would depend on your vantage point. Does a city that is experienced a shrinking population (484, 674) pre-Katrina, today has an estimated population of 383,997 people look like a bright future? Does It is 195 neighborhoods that is demographically changing, as newcomers are moving in displacing long term residents make

the city a better place for all its residents? These are questions nearly two decades after Katrina people are asking themselves.

Moreover, in this time New Orleans has become a city that's become for many too expensive to live in. Further, while it is an historical and a place that many loves to come and experience, the native people, who give the city its heartbeat are arguably on life support trying to hold on for dear life in a city that does not resemble its pre-Katrina self.

Conversely, many of the proponents of change would argue, the city is experiencing a renaissance, and refashioning where people are coming in re-populating areas, buying homes and spending money with businesses, and adding to the value of New

Orleans. Thus, increasing the quality of life for all the city's residents.

Crime and the Economic Divide

In this sea of change, the city continues to attract young, educated and predominately White people to New Orleans, who are planting new roots in a place that has an enviable lifestyle where one can truly enjoy life. Additionally, it offers where many of the amenities that are rated among the top in the world. Nevertheless, there is an underside to this narrative where an economic and racial divide are contributing factors to widespread crime and violence. It should be noted, today with fewer residents New Orleans again is on track to become the homicide capital of

Cover Story, Continued on page 3.

INSIDE DATA	
Cover Story	2
Data Zone	4
Newsmaker	6
State & Local News . .	6
National News	7

DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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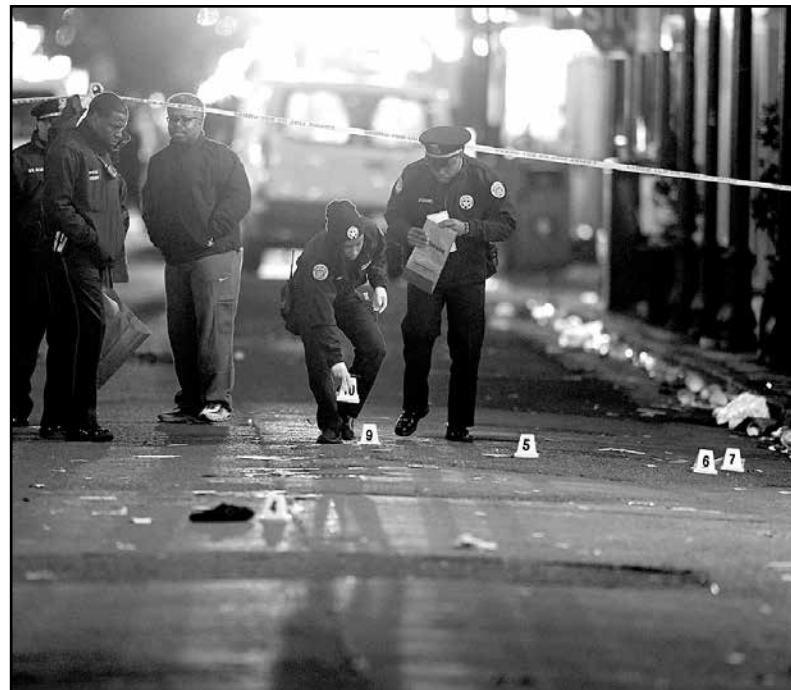
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Dated material two weeks in advance. Not responsible for publishing or return of unsolicited manuscripts or photos.

Cover Story, Continued from page 2.



New Orleans culture is unlike any other. With the changes occurring in the city, how will it impact the next generation of culture bearers who may no longer live in the communities that help shape their genius?



New Orleans is on the path to lead the nation in homicides in 2022. Finding solutions for crime and violence is important to the future of the city for all residents.



Gentrification is something that is changing neighborhoods throughout the city. The question moving forward is how does a city find a balance in welcoming newcomers without pricing out and displacing long time residents of the city.

the nation with a rate of seventy-two per 100,000 residents. This jump in 2022 has taken place after a 50 year low in homicides with 121 in 2019. A truly troubling trend for the City of New Orleans citizens who desire safety in their neighborhoods and communities.

Education

In post Katrina New Orleans, the educational system has changed dramatically. Where after the storm and levee breach left 80% of the city underwater, during this time of tumult, chaos, and uncertainty, over seven thousand New Orleans Public School teacher were terminated. Leaving in its midst fertile ground for New Orleans as ground zero for educational experiments. Some argue today that they have netted better results in terms of scores on standardized test, etc.

Whereas it fails to examine from a holistic perspective the impact that this decision had on the City of New Orleans beyond schools. Consider the mass layoffs of veteran

teachers who made up a considerable amount of the Black middle class of New Orleans. That were homeowners, taxpayers, provided community leadership, inspiration, and role models for the children of K-12 education in the public schools of the city.

Fast forward to what took its place, programs such as Teach for America and charter school experiments have been met with mixed results. Some would argue that the teachers are inexperienced, do not have the cultural competency to work with diverse learners, and because of them they have contributed to the teaching profession in New Orleans becoming transient and negatively impacting students and communities adversely.

Housing

In a city during pre-Katrina was considered affordable, today the housing market is unrecognizable, as low-income renters and African American homeowners are being priced out of the market. This is



Almost 20 years after Hurricane Katrina, issues of racial and class inequality continue to exist in New Orleans.

forcing many to live in neighboring parishes and being an impediment for others who desire to return to New Orleans. This has created a population shift, as moderate-income renters and particularly homeowners who did not have the resources to rebuild their homes and decided to either abandon or sell homes to developers, who often made hefty profits in the new housing market in New Orleans.

Another factor contributing to the shortage of affordable housing is the boom in short term rentals reducing the number of rental properties available. Further exacerbating the problem in neighborhoods, particularly those on higher ground have seen Black working-class people displaced by Whites who see these areas as attractive and are willing to buy them at inflated prices or pay higher rents.



The cost of affordable housing is an issue that continues to plague many in post-Katrina New Orleans.

The Culture and Traditions of New Orleans

New Orleans is a city where its culture is the lifeblood running through the veins giving the city its rich life and heritage. This some would say is not fully in jeopardy because it is a feature people come to enjoy, food, music, architecture, and the joie de vivre of the city. Some would argue that having a watered-down version of this is ok for tourists and newcomers to the city. Because authenticity is not important, only the superficial spectacle of what the culture is without appreciation of its history, traditions, or significance.

What is the Future of New Orleans and Who Will Determine its Direction?

To summarize, in this nearly 20 years later after a storm washed

away a city, and possibly a way of life. We must ask ourselves, what will become of the most important ingredient in what makes the city special, its people? For they are a vital source of the rich gumbo that makes it what it is. Nevertheless, it does not negate the need for change in so many areas to make the city better for all, but at what cost? Ask yourself, does the city need to become a vanilla, Disneyfied version of itself to move forward? Or can it be a city where some who have left can return? Where all children can receive a quality education? Where our leaders can attract jobs that would place more citizens in the middle class? And most importantly, can the city bridge the racial divide that was exposed for the world to see during Hurricane Katrina?

Urban League of Louisiana Annual Gala



The 2022 Urban League of Louisiana Gala was a major success with a good time had by all.

The entire team at the Urban League of Louisiana would like to express our sincerest gratitude to you for joining us for our 2022 Annual Gala. We were so excited to have everyone back in-person after a long three years to celebrate the amazing trailblazers Impacting Change for Good.

Without your generosity and commitment to our organization, our efforts to bring impactful change for good in Education and Youth Development, Workforce and Economic Development, and Policy and Social Justice would not be able to reach the heights we constantly aim to achieve.

Data Zone, continued on page 5.

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DOLLAR GENERAL
LITERACY FOUNDATION

Data Zone, Continued from page 4.

After hearing the inspiring stories from our honorees, we are motivated more than ever to work relentlessly to deliver on our organization's mission of assisting African Americans and other communities seeking equity to secure economic self-reliance, parity, and civil rights.

Thank you again for being a part of our special night! We hope you will be able to join us next month at The Big Health Event!

Yours in the Movement,

Judy Reese Morse
President & CEO, Urban
League of Louisiana



Judy Reese Morse
President & CEO
Urban League of Louisiana



Michael Sawaya
Gala Chairperson
Ernest N. Morial Convention
Center



Matthew Brady
Gala Co-Chairperson
Enterprise Holdings



Erika McConduit
Gala Co-Chairperson
Louisiana Healthcare
Connections

Visit www.ladatanews.com for more photos from these events.

AM I OKAY TO DRIVE?

BUZZED DRIVING

IS DRUNK DRIVING

Greenfield “Back to School Festival” Excites Community

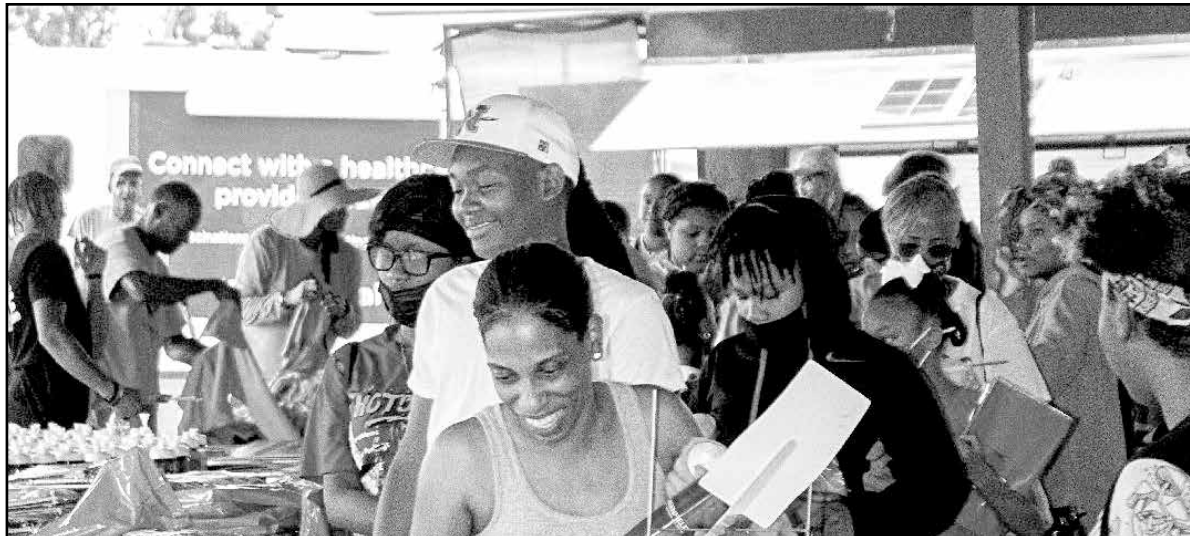
500 Local Residents Turn Up for Full Afternoon of Fun Including School Giveaway, COVID-19 Vaccinations, Voter Registration, Resources for Hurricane IDA Survivors, Music, Line Dancing, Food from Local Vendors, and more.

Data News Staff Edited Report

St. John the Baptist Parish, LA – This past weekend five hundred area residents enjoyed a “Back to School Festival” at Juan Anthony Joseph Memorial Park featuring an afternoon of fun and resources for the entire community organized by Greenfield Louisiana, River Region Chamber of Commerce, Elevated Gents, and partners.

The event featured:

- Five hundred school supply packages given out for West St. John students
- Five hundred meals served from local vendors
- Ten COVID-19 vaccinations provided by Ochsner
- Resources for Survivors of Hurricane IDA provided by Louisiana Spirit Crisis Counseling Program
- Line dancing with Susan Bailey
- Music by DJ Child Support



Residents of Greenfield take part in school supply giveaway.

The “Back to School Festival” represents Greenfield’s continued commitment to supporting local schools and students as part of their plan to revitalize the community and regional economy, and the facility will provide safe, green, and

good-paying jobs for the local community.

Greenfield Louisiana recently awarded a scholarship to West St. John High School graduate Ja’Ron Minor for two years tuition to River Parishes Community College, a \$250 monthly stipend, and an op-

portunity for employment at the grain elevator once he completes schooling.

About Greenfield

Greenfield Louisiana is constructing a new state-of-the-art Export Grain Terminal located in Wal-

lace, LA. The facility will help the West Bank transition to a cleaner, more sustainable local economy that builds prosperity while also honoring and protecting the natural, cultural, and historic resources of the region.

Central to this transition is its commitment to combatting the legacy of environmental injustice that has historically damaged the health and well-being of Black communities along the Mississippi. Greenfield will be the most technologically advanced and environmentally-sound facility of its kind in North America, creating good-paying, safe green-jobs in a growing industry.

Its economic benefits will include investments in training and workforce development support for pillars of the community like West St. John High School, hundreds of additional jobs and activity at local small businesses, and millions of dollars in new tax revenue.

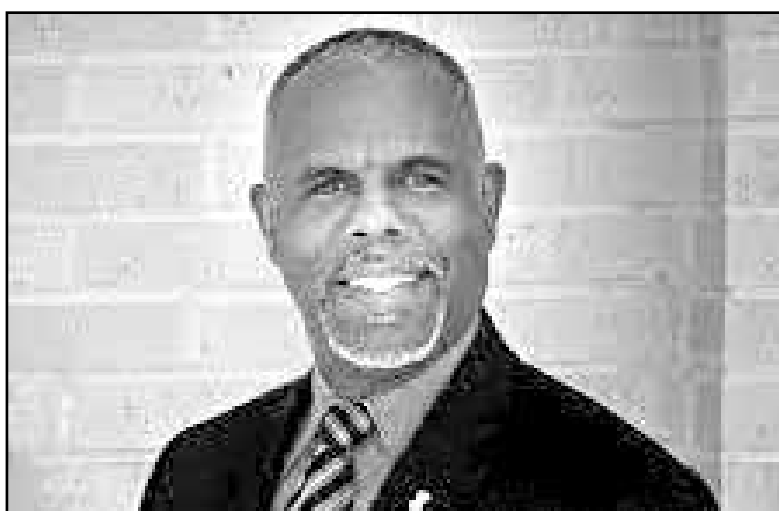
State & Local News

Governor Edwards Appoints Xavier University of Louisiana Professor to New Orleans Center for Creative Arts Board of Directors

XULA.EDU

Dr. Joe M. Ricks, Professor of Sales and Marketing in Xavier’s Department of Business, was appointed to the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA) Board of Directors by Governor John Bel Edwards.

New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA) is a regional, Professional Arts Training Center that offers students intensive instruction in music, theatre, dance, media, filmmaking and audio production, creative writing, visual and culinary arts. NOCCA has demanded academic excellence since 1973, founded by a diverse coalition of artists, educators, business leaders, and community activists who saw the need for an institution devoted to Louisiana’s burgeoning young talent. NOCCA emphasizes the power of the arts, instilling the dis-



Joe Ricks, Ph.D. JP Morgan Chase Professor of Sales and Marketing at Xavier University of Louisiana.

cipline and responsibility necessary for students to become productive members of society. NOCCA aligns with Xavier’s mission as the center aspires to nurture young minds to create a just, sustainable, and joyful

world. Dr. Ricks was motivated to serve on NOCCA’s Board of Directors after observing its impact on his daughter.

Dr. Ricks’ daughter, a 2022 NOCCA graduate, was passionate about

musical theatre from a young age. After witnessing her talents flourish at NOCCA, Dr. Ricks was inspired to work with the center.

“My daughter’s growth as a student, artist and young lady was pretty impressive to me. I knew a way for me to contribute would be to serve on the NOCCA board,” said Dr. Ricks.

This appointment is unique as it is the first board position Dr. Ricks actively sought out, driven by his daughter’s progression at NOCCA. He contacted Royce Duplessis, Louisiana State Representative and Xavier alumnus, regarding the NOCCA’s board opportunities. Duplessis recommended Dr. Ricks to the governor’s office, and after applying for the board appointment, he was selected.

His dedication to Louisiana communities is demonstrated through Dr. Ricks’ extensive leadership ex-

perience. Since 2004, he has served on the Louisiana Quality Foundation Board. He has also served as a board member for Uptown Music Theatre and the City of New Orleans Ethics Review Board. Being of service has been a critical component to Dr. Ricks’ leadership positions.

“I truly believe in the saying ‘the service you rent to others is the rent that you pay for your room on earth.’ I’ve been blessed to use my talents and leadership skills and have always believed you should use your skills to make things better. This drives the types of services I do,” said Dr. Ricks.

NOCCA’s board members will be responsible for the hiring and evaluating NOCCA program executives, finances, and facilities. Dr. Ricks is

State & Local,
Continued on page 7.

Donald Trump Raided by FBI; Is Arrest Imminent?

Stacy M. Brown NNPA
Newswire Senior National
Correspondent

The FBI on Monday executed a search warrant on former President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort in Palm Beach, Florida.

"My beautiful home, Mar-A-Lago in Palm Beach, Florida, is currently under siege, raided, and occupied by a large group of FBI agents," Trump said in a statement first sent to CNN.

It wasn't immediately clear what the FBI was looking for and what spurred the raid.

However, the Department of Justice recently acknowledged it had launched an investigation into Trump's actions leading up to Jan. 6.

Multiple outlets cited several individuals familiar with the investigation in their reports.

The outlets noted that prosecutors had asked witnesses before a grand jury about conversations with Trump.

"Some of the questions focused on substituting Trump allies for electors in states President Joe Biden won and on a pressure campaign on then-Vice President Mike Pence to overturn the election, the newspaper reported," the Washington Post reported earlier this month.

The newspaper said the Justice Department obtained aides' telephone records, including former Trump chief of staff Mark Meadows.



The Department of Justice, a Trump spokesperson, and a lawyer for Meadows did not respond to requests for comment.

In an NBC Nightly News interview last week, U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland said "anyone" would be held accountable.

"We will hold accountable anyone who was criminally responsible for attempting to interfere with the transfer, legitimate, lawful transfer of power from one administration to the next," Garland said.

The former President declared the election as fraudulent "right out of the box on election night before there was any potential of looking at

the evidence," former U.S. Attorney William Barr said in a taped deposition played by Committee members in June.

Matt Morgan, the Trump campaign's general counsel, provided a videotaped deposition in which he noted that "the law firms were not comfortable making arguments that (lawyer and advisor) Rudy Giuliani was making pub-

licly" about election fraud.

One lawmaker described Giuliani as "apparently inebriated."

At the same time, Trump's daughter Ivanka Trump and her husband, Jared Kushner, testified that the former President waited in the White House in a room with advisers while awaiting election results.

Meanwhile, Trump's former campaign manager Bill Stepien, said his boss disagreed with those who suggested it was too early to call the election.

"They were going to go in a different direction," related Kushner, who admitted telling Trump that "it was not the approach I would take if I were you."

Following Joe Biden's election win, Trump publicly declared himself the victor, and the Big Lie began.

He told supporters at the White House, including Barr, that a big vote dump had occurred in Detroit.

"I said, 'Did anyone point out to you - did all the people complaining about it point out to you, you actually did better in Detroit than you did last time?' Barr stated.

The former attorney general declared, "there's no indication of fraud in Detroit."

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State & Local, Continued from page 6.

excited about the NOCCA board opportunity as it will allow him to serve an organization, he believes in. He looks forward to learning the board committee operations and utilizing his skillset to benefit the illustrious center. Dr. Ricks has been a dedicated Xavier faculty member for more than twenty years. He has found his role at Xavier to be fulfilling as he's able to play a role in creating successful graduates who go on to have outstanding careers. He is also proud to be part of an institution that shares his core beliefs.

"At Xavier, I'm at a place where the mission fits me; it's similar to my personal mission. The intrinsic reward of having the opportunity to develop a critical mass of young

African American talent is enough," said Dr. Ricks.

After gaining a greater understanding of the arts through his daughter, Dr. Ricks emphasized the significance of art educational programs such as NOCCA. He looks to the board of directors' role as a unique opportunity to uplift and support future generations of artists.

"I've witnessed the discipline and determination of creative-minded people who plan to earn their living in the arts," said Dr. Ricks. "I knew NOCCA would be a great place to contribute to, particularly in a city like New Orleans, which has a large cultural economy based on arts and artistic expression."

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