

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

FREE COPY

DJ Soul Sister Soul Train Themed the New Year's Eve Party

Data Zone Page 4

January 7 - January 13, 2023 57th Year Volume 37 www.ladatanews.com

A Data News Weekly Exclusive

Squashing the Beef... Before the Grief

*The Peacekeepers:
Offering Solutions to Crime
and Gun Violence in New Orleans*

Page 2



Newsmaker

LSU and Tulane Win
their Bowl Games in
Grand Fashion

Page 6

State & Local

Marc H. Morial Hosted
New Year's Eve Watch
Night Service



Page 6

Squashing the Beef... Before the Grief

The Peacekeepers: Offering Solutions to Crime and Gun Violence in New Orleans



The Peacekeepers is a group of citizens from different backgrounds committed to reducing violence in the City of New Orleans. They have a successful record of working in the community showing that it can be done.

Edwin Buggage
Editor-in-Chief Data News Weekly

Violence Plagues the City of New Orleans

As we enter 2023, New Orleans continues to struggle with crime and gun violence. Undoubtedly, the violence that proliferates does not discriminate. Thus, causing residents to feel

unsafe all over the city.

At the end of last year, Mayor LaToya Cantrell named a new Police Superintendent in Michelle Woodfork. While this is a historic choice, leadership changes at NOPD arguably will not curb the crime and gun violence that plagues the city. It will take a community effort, where all become stakeholders in making the city safer for all citizens.

Peacekeepers: Resolving Conflicts Key to Community Safety

This is an effort being taken on by the Peacekeepers, an organization that since 2009 have been inside communities across the city working to “Squash the Beef, Before the Grief.” Data News Weekly had the opportunity to speak to Willie Muhammad, Co-Founder of the New Orleans Peacekeepers to speak

about their work in New Orleans and around the nation to reduce violence.

“What we were doing is call for the community to get more involved in 2009 walking through the community to try to prevent violence and connecting people to resources that would better their lives. In 2011 we started the conflict resolution hotline that’s been successful in helping to deescalate situations between community members,” says

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
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 Los	Pubinator.com
Editor	DNW Staff Writers	Editorial and
Sharonda Green	Pamela Blackmon	Advertising Inquiries
Executive Assistant	Stacy M. Brown	datanewsweeklyad@gmail.com
June Hazeur		Distribution
Accounting		by Terrence Lee

Please call 504-309-9913 for subscription information or to obtain a back issue of the paper ONLY.
Dated material two weeks in advance. Not responsible for publishing or return of unsolicited manuscripts or photos.

Cover Story, Continued from page 2.



They believe it will take all members of the community to see themselves as stakeholders that can contribute to solutions to violence in the City of New Orleans.

Willie Muhammad, Co-Founder of the New Orleans Peacekeepers and Minister of the Nation of Islam Mosque #46.

We are all Stakeholders: A Community Approach

While they have been successful, Muhammad believes they still have a long way to go. Explaining where they have been effective, he says, "One reason we are both effective and successful is because we are connected to the community. We work with people who are connected to the community and with those relationships there is a level of trust and accountability. If we were able to build it out, we would like to create more awareness, as well as going into schools and even prisons to training people how to resolve conflicts."

The Peacekeepers are comprised of people of many faiths coming together to reduce violence. They are unified in their approach. "We have Christians, Muslims, Hebrews, and non-religious people, we believe that peace in our community is bigger than any faith or religious tradition that we have."

Getting Involved in Solutions to Crime and Violence

Recently, they have placed billboards in several location in the city to make citizens aware of their initiative.

There will be three billboards, one will be on Downman and Chef, Orleans and Broad and one on St. Bernard near Hunters field. Downman is the main thoroughfare and New Orleans East have seen an increase in the violence in the city. Really to get the word out that we are here to help you if you allow it."

The Peacekeepers have for over



Brother Willie Muhammad (pictured right) is co-founder of the New Orleans Peacekeepers and Minister of Muhammad Mosque #46. He is a visionary leader who works to bring together people of different faiths to solve the problem of violence in New Orleans.

a decade been doing the work to make communities safer, but Willie Muhmmad is looking to do more, and they are looking for those who want to support their mission.

"We need human capital, people who are willing to give their time and of course financial support to expand on what we are doing. We need all hands-on deck, so for those who are interested please give us a call at 504-321-3190."

How a Community Becomes Safe: All Hands-on Deck

"There are cities across the country who have taken on our initiative. We have trained over 1500 in this conflict resolution training as needed in their city. Everywhere we go they think it is a great initiative."

The Peacekeepers have done much of their work on a grassroots level but would like to have a seat



The Peacekeepers have been able to reach many of the youth that some have given up on. They not only work on conflict resolution, but also help young people believe that they can change the course of their lives and become assets to the community.



at the table when discussions are being had about how to reduce violence in the City of New Orleans.

"From day one Councilman Oliver Thomas has been supportive and has participated in the work we do. We are interested in working with city leaders, and there is no reason we shouldn't have a seat

at the table when leaders are speaking about solutions to gun violence in the city."

The Peacekeepers realize that violence in the community is everyone's problem, and no one is immune to its impact. Therefore, all must make a conscious effort to contributing to solutions.

"One of things that's missing is people have not realized that gun violence is not just a Black community issue. And I think that's how most people see it, that it does not affect their community."

"Our ultimate goal is to create an environment where conflict resolution is the norm."

DJ Soul Sister Soul Train Themed the New Year's Eve Party

Photos by Pamela Blackmon

DJ Soul Sister (Melissa Weber) is known for throwing some of the hottest parties in town, as well as being the go-to, opening for major acts who come to the Crescent City. Recently, she held her Annual New Year's Eve Party at the Civic, which featured original Soul Train Dancers, Freddie Maxie, and Marco De Santiago. In the words of Soul Train Creator, the late Don Cornelius, it was a stone gas with revelers dancing the night away ringing in the New Year where a good time was had by all.



Far left Tami Fairweather, DJ Soul Sister (Melissa Weber), Marco De Santiago, Freddie Maxie, Pamela Blackmon, and Charles Vaughn ringing in the New Year.



NO ONE GETS A DIPLOMA ALONE.

If you're thinking of finishing your high school diploma, you have more support than you realize. Find free adult education classes near you by texting FINISH to 97779 or by visiting FinishYourDiploma.org.



Message & Data Rates May Apply. Reply STOP to opt out. No purchase necessary. Terms and Privacy: adouncil.org/About-Us/Privacy-Policy.

“Freedom is Not Free...The Fight Continues” Watch Night Service Commemorating the 160th Year Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation

Data News Weekly
Staff Writer
Edited Report

To recognize a pivotal moment in our nation's history, Marc H. Morial, Judy Reese Morse, and Bishop Darryl S. Brister hosted “Freedom is Not Free...The Fight Continues” Watch Night Service Commemorating the 160th Year Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. This occasion took place on Saturday, December 31st.

Special guests in attendance included Louisiana Democratic Party Chair, Katie Bernhardt, New Orleans City Councilman, Eugene J. Green, Former Orleans Parish Sheriff, Marlin Gusman, Louisiana Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal Chief Judge, Terri F. Love, and Former Criminal Court Judge, Arthur Hunter.



CARE IS

AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana

Programs and services to enjoy
at our Community Wellness
and Opportunity Center!

All images are used under license for illustrative purposes only. Any individual depicted is a model.

Offerings include:

- Fitness classes, healthy eating tips, and weight loss support
- On-site health education and screenings
- Help to connect with community resources
- Internet-ready computer labs and help to build a resume

Location:

Gentilly Shopping Center,
3155 Gentilly Boulevard,
New Orleans, LA 70122

Hours:

Mondays – Fridays: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Our center is open to all!
We hope to see you soon.

Please visit www.careforla.com.



LSU and Tulane Win their Bowl Games in Grand Fashion

Fleur De Lis
Data News Weekly
Contributor

It was a great beginning of the year because both LSU and Tulane won their respective Bowl games. The Tigers dominated Purdue in a 63-7 route in the Citrus Bowl. The game was over by halftime as LSU lead 35-0. The 63 points set a bowl record. Also, Tulane pulled a stunning come from behind victory stunning heavily favorite USC in the Cotton Bowl scoring 16 points in the final 4 minutes. This has been a great year for Louisiana College Football. These victories cap off great seasons for both teams.



LSU and Tulane showcased the best of Louisiana College football. Both having amazing seasons and winning their Bowl games.

National News

Record Number of People Signed Up for Obamacare During 2022



Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

President Joe Biden said he promised to lower costs for families and ensure that all Americans have access to quality affordable health care.

On Tuesday, Dec. 27th, the president proclaimed that he'd delivered on that promise.

A record number of people – nearly 11.5 million – signed up for insurance on HealthCare.gov – about 1.8 million more and an 18% increase over last year.

With enrollment remaining open through Jan. 15th, and not counting those who signed up for coverage through their state marketplaces, Biden said gains like those have

helped to drive down the uninsured rate to eight percent, the lowest level in U.S. history.

"In recent days, we received further proof that our efforts are delivering record results and bringing families the peace of mind that comes with health insurance," the President stated.

"Right now, four out of five people who sign up for health insurance through the Affordable Care Act can find health care coverage for \$10 a month or less. These lower rates were set to expire at the end of this year, but thanks to the Inflation Reduction Act, we were able to extend them and save millions of Americans on Obamacare an average of \$800 a year."

The Biden administration noted that, on Jan. 1, Americans will see

the benefits of additional cost-saving measures because of the Inflation Reduction Act.

That includes seniors realizing a month's supply of insulin capped at \$35, Medicare beneficiaries paying \$0 out of pocket for recommended adult vaccines covered by their Part D plan, and prescription drug companies needing to pay Medicare a rebate if they try to raise their prices faster than inflation for drugs administered at a doctor's office.

"We're not finished working to make health care a right, not a privilege," Biden declared.

The administration continues to encourage individuals to visit HealthCare.gov by Jan. 15th to take advantage of lower rates and sign up for health care for the coming year.

State & Local News

Marc H. Morial Hosted New Year's Eve Watch Night Service Commemorating the 160th Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation

ALY Media

To celebrate a pivotal moment in our nation's history, Marc H. Morial, Judy Reese Morse, and Bishop Darryl S. Brister hosted "Freedom is Not Free...The Fight Continues" Watch Night Service Commemorating the 160th Year Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation.

This commemorative event was held on Saturday, December 31st. This celebration included a special video presentation, curated music, the lighting of the Kwanzaa candles, and words by President Marc H. Morial.

President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, as the nation approached its third year of the Civil War. The proclamation declared "that all persons held as slaves within the rebellious states are, and henceforward shall be free."

"While slavery has been outlawed for 159 years, Black Ameri-



Marc Morial, President and CEO of the National Urban League.

cans are still encountering racism and inequalities that keep them bound," said Marc H. Morial. "This is a time for families to bring in 2023 together and celebrate the resilience of African Americans...the fight must continue."

Social Media Mocks Tory Lanez's Family Blaming Jay-Z & Roc Nation for His Conviction

Data News Weekly
Staff Writer
Edited Report

On December 23rd, a California jury convicted Daystar "Tory Lanez" Peterson of assault with a semi-automatic handgun, having a loaded and unregistered firearm in a vehicle, and gross negligence in discharging his firearm.

Those charges stemmed from a July 2020 shooting that injured Hip Hop star Megan Thee Stallion. The "Savage" hitmaker publicly accused Tory Lanez of firing a weapon at her on the night in question. Megan later testified against him at trial.

Los Angeles County prosecutors secured a guilty verdict against Lanez in the felony assault case. However, the Sorry 4 What album creator's family immediately blamed the Jay-Z-founded Roc Nation Company for the legal outcome.



Tory Lanez

MeganThee Stallion

Tory Lanez's Dad Ignites Conspiracy Theories About Roc Nation

Roc Nation manages Megan Thee Stallion's career. According to reports, representatives of the agency attended the trial. Lanez's father, Sonstar Peterson, lashed out at Roc Nation after the court re-

vealed the guilty verdicts.

"I'll tell you exactly how I feel. I got some names I wanna call out," said Sonstar Peterson outside the courthouse last week. "[Attorney] Alex Spiro, [Roc Nation CEO] Desiree Perez, and the whole wicked system of Roc Nation, including you, Jay-Z."

Sonstar Peterson also speculated

that Roc Nation's alleged animosity to Tory Lanez is because the rapper/singer refused to sign a deal

with the record label. As of press time, no one has presented any evidence proving that claim.

KMEZ 102.9
New Orleans' Best Mix of R&B

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

f KMEZ 102.9 @mykmez1029
@kmez1029

www.kmez1029.com

DATA CLASSIFIED

Call 504-821-7421 to place your classified ad.

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 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!

Job Opportunity

Administrative Assistant Wanted

Data News Weekly, "The People's Paper," is looking for an administrative assistant.

Compensation is competitive and detail orientation will be appreciated.

If you are interested, please email your resume to: terrybjones@bellsouth.net

This space can be yours for only \$80

Call Now!

504-821-7421

follow us on

twitter

@DataNewsWeek

This space can be yours for only \$80

CALL NOW!!!

504-821-7421

ladatanews.com - The People's Website

FALL
OF THE
THINGS I
JUST FOUND
TOO HARD
TO SAY

LAUREN JAUREGUI //
TRACK 03

WHEN YOUR KID CAN'T FIND THE
LANGUAGE, FIND THE LYRICS.
USE THEM TO START A CONVERSATION
WITH YOUR KIDS ABOUT EMOTIONAL
WELLBEING. LISTEN TO THE ALBUM,
FIND TOOLS AND GET TIPS FROM
PROFESSIONALS AT
[SOUNDITOUTTOGETHER.ORG](https://sounditouttogether.org)

