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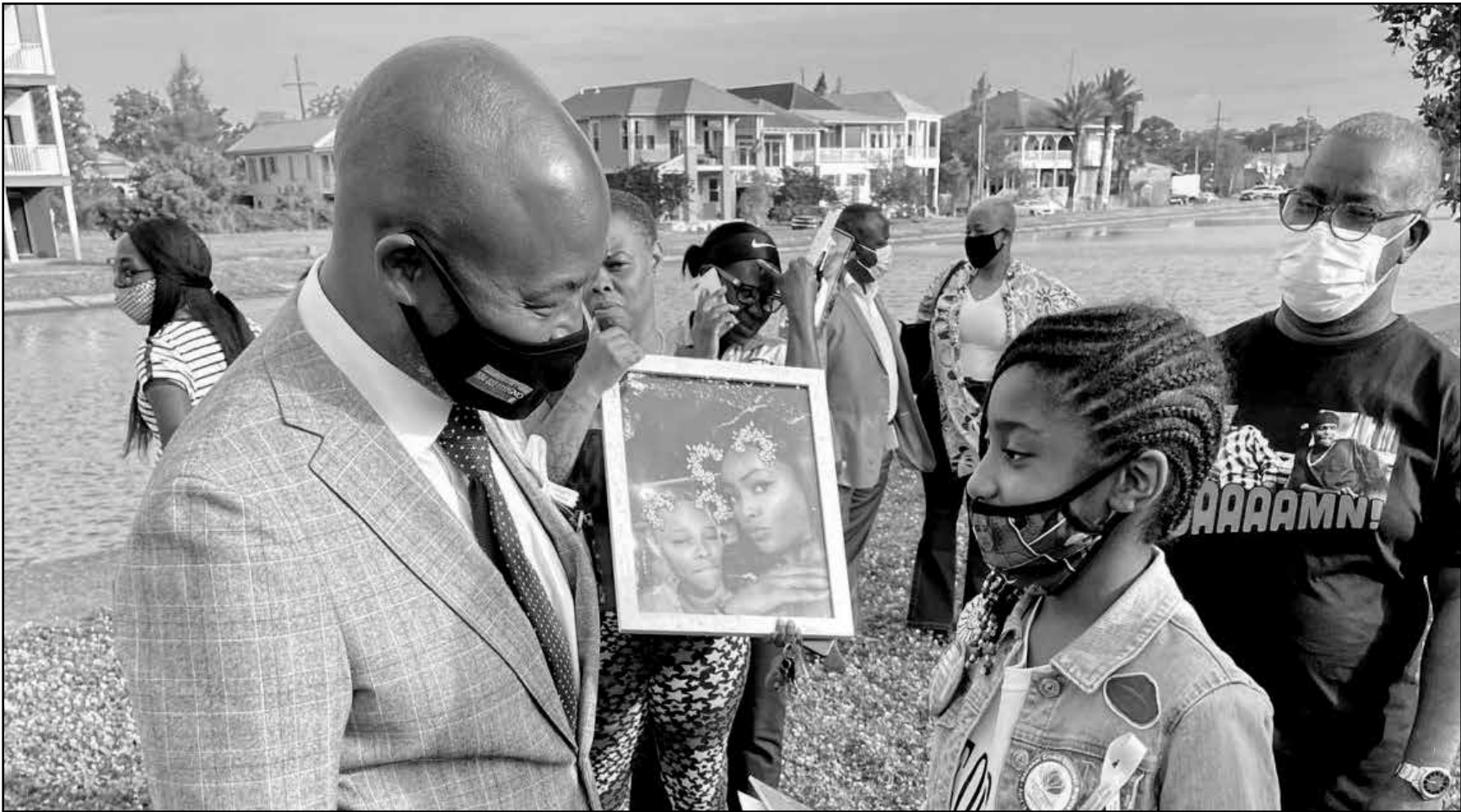
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DA Williams Discusses Manslaughter Conviction, Stands With French Quarter Community Against Violence



New Orleans District Attorney Jason Williams continues to work with partners across the city to help deal with the problem of crime and violence in the community. He is taking a holistic approach to coming up with solutions.

Data News Staff Edited Report

NEW ORLEANS (May 1, 2023) – Today, District Attorney Williams, joined by Assistant District Attorney (ADA) Forrest Ladd and members of the Ricou Family, discussed the conviction of defendant James Patton for the fatal shooting of Russell Ricou,

Jr., which took place in the French Quarter in January of 2022; the defendant received the maximum penalty for each charge: 40 years for manslaughter, 20 years for obstruction of justice, and 20 years for being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm. Additionally, DA Williams stood with the French Quarter community and business leaders includ-

ing Councilmember Freddie King; Project NOLA Executive Director, Bryan LaGarde; NOPD Eighth District Captain, LeJon Roberts; Business Council Criminal Justice Task Force Chair, Jim Cook; French Quarter Business Association Board Member, Jessica Dietz and members of the French Quarter Management District to take a stand against vio-

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Cover Story, Continued from page 2.

lence in the French Quarter and across New Orleans.

The French Quarter is a destination for many, but we must never forget that it is a residential community and is home to one of the largest concentrations of locally owned small businesses. We have to reclaim this fragile neighborhood, along with every other neighborhood in this city, from those who are seeking to wreak havoc and ignore the rule of law. This is a community group lift. No single agency or single solution alone will be sufficient enough to tackle the senseless violence plaguing our community. The DA's Office is executing on outside-the-box solutions, utilizing new tools, and developing new partnerships to be more effective in court. The conviction of James Patton and his 3 maximum sentences are proof positive of these efforts to ensure that violent offenders are held accountable," said DA Williams. "Having tried this case personally, I understand how essential crime camera video evidence was to the successful prosecution of this case. The witnesses who saw this murder happen did not show up in court for Mr. Ricou but we were able to meet our burden of proof in court because of



DA Williams is not only working with leaders in the French Quarter, but all stakeholders. He is a vigilant leader in the fight to make New Orleans a safe city for all citizens and those who visit.

that Project NOLA Crime Camera. I am extremely grateful to Russell's family for the support and strength they've shown throughout this case. I also want to express our appreciation for the women and men of the NOPD, French Quarter community and business leaders, and all who sacrifice their time and resources to protect this important neighborhood and support the work of the DA's Office as well as the criminal Legal System at large. Today, we take a stand, refusing to accept crime in the French Quarter or anywhere else in

New Orleans. Together, we will reclaim The Quarter."

According to police reports, Patton fatally shot Ricou in the head during a physical altercation. Last month, a jury unanimously found him guilty of manslaughter. Today, he received the maximum penalty for each charge: 40 years for manslaughter, 20 years for obstruction of justice, and 20 years for being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm.

Victim's Brother Denis Ricou said, "On behalf of the family of



Russell Ricou, Jr., I want to thank the NOPD for their hard work in apprehending the criminal, Project NOLA for being the eye-in-the-sky witness, and the Orleans DA's Office and judge for their quick deliberate moves to ensure justice was served. I implore the citizens and businesses of New Orleans to take back their city in the name of my brother and to take back control of their lives by preventing violent crimes and prosecuting to the fullest anyone that doesn't follow the rule of law."

As part of the investigation, the DA's Office was able to use camera footage supplied by local businesses as evidence to support the prosecution. It played a critical role in proving guilty to the jury.

In addition to being home to a strong business community, the French Quarter also has a thriving residential community. DA Williams was joined by a number of French Quarter stakeholders committed to maintaining a safe community.

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1st Weekend of Jazz Fest

The first Jazz Fest was an amazing first weekend full of food, fun and music. A great time was had by all. And Data News Weekly was there to catch all the highlights.

Photo credit:
Demian Roberts



Wanda Rouzan



Anglique Kidjo



Black Magic Drumline



Jill Scott



Creole Wild West kids



Zion Harmonizers



Nicholas Payton Mono Neon Corey Fonville



Charlie Gabriel Roger Lewis



Taj Mahal

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

45th Annual Hancock Whitney Zoo-To-Do 2023

The Annual Hancock Whitney Zoo-To-Do event was held at Audubon Zoo amongst the trees this past weekend. The event is a black-tie gala that features live music, food from over 70 restaurants, specialty libations, an auction, and a car raffle. Hundreds of people head to the zoo for an unforgettable night each year with great food and entertainment. This year's event was a great success. And Data News Weekly was there enjoying the festivities.



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Marc H. Morial Returned to State Legislature to be Honored On Former State Senators Recognition Day



Marc Morial with other former State Legislators who were honored recently.



Baton Rouge Mayor Sharon Weston Broome with National Urban League President and CEO, Marc H. Morial.



Marc Morial along with 47 other former Louisiana State Senators were honored recently in Baton Rouge.

Data News Staff Edited Story

NEW ORLEANS, LA. — In honor of former State Senator Recognition Day, Marc H. Morial, along with 47 other former Louisiana State Senators, were recognized for

their contribution to the State Legislature on Monday, April 24th.

Morial served as a State Senator from 1992-1994. During his tenure, he was named Legislative Rookie of the Year, Education Senator of the Year, and Environ-

mental Senator of the Year, while authoring laws on a wide range of important subjects.

"I was honored to receive this recognition from the Louisiana State Senate, which is solely focused on advancing public good

through policy," Morial said. "As President and CEO of the National Urban League, I will continue to live up to the mission of public officials working together for the greater good, especially during a time when collaboration,

diversity, and problem-solving are needed more than ever."

Sharon Weston Broome, Mayor-President of Baton Rouge, and Sydney Barthelemy, Former Mayor of New Orleans, were among those honored.

State & Local News

NFL Draft Takes Place and the Saints are Building for the Future



Veteran Defensive all-pros Demario Davis and Cam Jordan, leads the Saints top ranked defense that's building for the future.



In addition to picking up QB Derek Carr in the offseason, the Saints also drafted QB Jake Haener, who is poised to have a great future as a member of the Black and Gold.

Fleur De Lis Data News Weekly Contributor

The Black and Gold are gearing up for this season and the fans are excited to see how they will do this year under second year Coach Dennis Allen. Last year was one where the Saints got off to a promising start, then injuries to key players led them to not make the playoffs.

During the offseason decisions

were made about the direction of the team moving forward. The Saints acquired Derek Carr, who will be the starting quarterback next year replacing Jameis Winston, who will be the backup. Also, the team drafted Jake Haener, to shore up the QB position and build for the future.

While the defense continues to be led by all-pros Cam Jordan and Demario Davis, in this year's draft, they selected Brian Breese and Isa-

iah Foskey. These new additions are to shore up a great defense. One that the Who Dat Nation hopes will keep opponents from getting points on the scoreboard.

This year, as the second that's post Drew Brees and Sean Payton era is one the fans hope will show signs of what the Saints will look like in the years to come. One that hopefully has the Black and Gold among the league's elite teams and maybe make a Super Bowl run this year.

Commentary

Statement from former New Orleans City Councilman Arnie Fielkow on the Recent Violence in Our City



Arnie Fielkow
Former New Orleans
City Council President

Like all my fellow New Orleanians, I am outraged and sickened by the horrific shooting incident at Mandina's restaurant in Mid-City Friday night. My condolences go out to the victims and their families; our hearts are with them, Mandina's ownership, and staff.

The current violent crime situation in New Orleans is truly unacceptable and a top-of-mind topic for every New Orleanian. It is incumbent upon all of us-citizens,

elected officials, law enforcement, the business community, and faith-based leadership to work together to find immediate solutions to keep the New Orleans citizenry safe. New Orleanians are truly scared. Almost every day, we hear of violent crimes being perpetrated in every neighborhood and at every time of day. It is vitally important that a sense of confidence and safety be quickly restored. We must all be united in working together to achieve this. A failure to accomplish this will result in the continued departure of our residents, irrespective of how much they love this wonderful city.

We all look forward to Mandina's reopening on Monday so that both New Orleanians and visitors from around the world can enjoy Mandina's legendary food at what should be one of the most festive times of the New Orleans calendar."

President Biden Calls Black Press 'Heroes' During Pointed and Hilarious White House Correspondents Dinner

Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

President Joe Biden proved likely as funny and prescient in his White House Correspondents Dinner remarks as hired comedian and Daily Show correspondent Roy Wood Jr.

But the commander in chief struck a rather serious and forceful tone during his 22-minute speech when he declared how vital the Black Press remains after 196 years of speaking truth to power.

After hilariously railing on everyone from Fox News, Tucker Carlson, Donald Trump and Republican Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, the president made fun of himself in a tour de force of hilariously self-deprecating jokes.

But it was his proclamation calling the Black Press heroes that punctuated a 22-plus minute speech that proved one for the ages.

"During Black History Month this year, I hosted the screening of the movie Till, the president stated, after such quips like "MSNBC is owned by NBC Universal and Fox News is owned by Dominion Voting Systems."

"The story of Emmett Till and his mother is a story of a family's promise and loss and a nation's reckoning with hate, violence, and the abuse of power," Biden recounted as he started his championing of the Black Press.

"It's a story that was seared into our memory and our conscience – the nation's conscience – when Mrs. Till insisted that an open casket for her murdered and maimed 14-year-old son be the means by which he was transported. She said, 'Let the people see what I've seen.'"

The president continued:

"The reason the world saw what



she saw was because of another hero in this story: the Black Press. That's a fact. Jet Magazine, the Chicago Defender, and other Black radio and newspapers were unflinching and brave in making sure America saw what she saw. And I mean it."

He quoted Ida B. Wells, who exclaimed that "The way to right wrongs is to turn the light of truth upon the wrongs."

"That's the sacred view, in my view," Biden asserted.

"That's the sacred charge of a free press. And I mean that."

Earlier the White House Correspondents Association honored fallen PBS Star Journalist Gwen Ifill, and Biden took notice.

"That's what someone we still miss so much, who you honored posthumously, stood for. Gwen Ifill," he said.

"She moderated my first debate for vice president and was a trusted voice for millions of Americans. Gwen understood that the louder the noise, the more it was on all of us to cut through the noise to the truth. The truth matters."

Before given way to Wood, the president reminisced about the 2022 dinner.

"As I said last year at this dinner,

a poison is running through our democracy and parts of the extreme press," Biden reassured.

"The truth buried by lies and lies living on as truth. Lies told for profit and power. Lies of conspiracy and malice repeated over and over again, designed to generate a cycle of anger, hate, and even violence."

He concluded:

"A cycle that emboldens history to be buried, books to be banned, children and families to be attacked by the state, and the rule of law and our rights and freedoms to be stripped away. And where elected representatives of the people are expelled from statehouses for standing for the people."

"I've made clear that we know in our bones – and you know it too – our democracy remains at risk. But I've also made it clear, as I've seen throughout my life, it's within our power, each and every one of us, to preserve our democracy. We can. We must. We will."

National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) President and CEO, Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., who sat nearby as the president spoke, offered praise to Biden.

"The NNPA thanks President Joe Biden for the highlight, the strategic importance, and ongoing

value of the Black Press of America," Chavis stated.

"Biden's speech to the 2023 White House Correspondents Dinner in Washington, D.C., was another historic tribute to the Black Press as the NNPA reaffirms being the trusted voice of Black America."

Following the president's speech, Wood jumped in.

"Real quick, Mr. President, I think you left some of your classified documents up here," Woods quipped. "I'll put them in a safe place, he doesn't know where to keep them."

While that led to hearty chuckles, Wood went on to deliver belly-aching laughter when he zeroed in on Florida Governor, Ron DeSantis; Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas; former Fox host, Tucker Carlson; former CNN host Don Lemon, and others.

"Ron, everybody knows how to do politics. This is America," Wood said in addressing DeSantis.

"We don't pass laws. You make a promise to voters. And then you don't do it. That's what the great leaders in this room understand."

"Ask any Republican [to] try to explain CRT, they sound like a Democrat trying to explain the charges against Trump."

He continued:

"You are trying to erase Black people and a lot of Black people wouldn't mind some of that erasure as long as that Black person is Clarence Thomas."

And while Trump, and so many others proved targets, Wood didn't spare Biden.

"When the retirement age went up two years to 64 [in France] they rioted because they didn't want to work till 64," Wood said.

"Meanwhile in America, we have an 80-year-old man begging us for four more years of work."

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