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New Orleans

# Data

News Weekly

*"The People's Paper"*

New Orleans  
NOLA  
Reggae  
Fest

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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

# Cultural Fall Fest Promotes Unity

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# Cultural Fall Fest Promotes Unity

## *Celebrates Heritage and Traditions*



Amanda Shaw



79ers

**Iniko McNeil**  
Data News Weekly Contributor

When clocks roll back an extra hour this weekend, one way to enjoy the cooling weather this Sunday is at the 4th Annual Fall Cultural Fest. Organized by The Feather Fund Nola, a local cultural preservation non-

profit, the event was created to celebrate and uplift the ancestors who occupied and thrived on the land called Louisiana today.

“The Feather Fund and (previous organizing group) ‘Black Masking,’ was designed to give back to our cultural community known to many as the Mardi Gras Indians but we refer to them as the Aboriginal

Carnival (Injuns) Indians,” said event organizer, Glenn “Chayil” Jones.

Artists will gather at the West Bank Bridge Park in St. Charles Parish on Nov. 5, 2023, from noon to 7 p.m., to participate in performances from local schools, community organizations, and Indian tribes. The festival will feature artwork contributed for display by

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### 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	Iniko McNeil	Production
Edwin Buggage		Pubinator.com
Editor	Eric Connerly	Editorial and
Sharonda Green	DNW Staff Writer	Advertising Inquiries
Executive Assistant		datanewsweeklyad
June Hazeur	Effram Hill	@gmail.com
Accounting	Stacy M. Brown	Distribution
		by Terrence Lee

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Brass Hearts



3rd Degree

several St. Charles Parish Schools. The family-friendly festival includes face painting, art displays, and artisan crafts. The festival is free for children 12 and under.

The Feather Fund is hosting the festival alongside partners Shell, the United Way of St. Charles Parish, and the Port of South Louisiana, among other sponsors. Families can dine from

a number of food trucks while enjoying musical performances from the Grammy-nominated The 79ers Gang, Amanda Shaw, Bettis 3rd Degree Hip Hop Brass Band, the Brasshearts Brass Band, and the Harold Jackson Quartet.

"We are an education company, and our goal is to educate everyone on the history from Poverty Point, which is a World Heritage site to

what they call modern day Mardi Gras Indians," Jones said of the festival's mission to preserve cultural practices in the state.

"And to explain how our culture here in Louisiana matured to where it is now or evolved to where it is now," Jones added.

Poverty Point received its UNESCO World Heritage site designation only in 2014, but over 2,200

years ago it served as a residential, trade, and ceremonial space for Native Americans. It became a National Historical Landmark in 1962, becoming one of only 3 archaeological sites in the country with this designation.

The Fall Festival aimed to celebrate the intersection of many cultures over the History of Louisiana, uplifting and uniting these cultures

that make the City of New Orleans so unique, Jones explained. Jones said those who attend the festival can both enjoy themselves while learning more about these connecting histories.

"To make that connection with the River Parishes which are very strong in their culture and their history involving the Spanish, French, Irish, and German and then now explaining how all of those cultures came together through our festival with some entertainment and some food; we are just very thankful of [Matthew] Jewel, the President of St. Charles Parish, who has really opened his arms and his office to bring us [here]," Jones said.

Through a partnership with the St. Charles Parish School System, which is recognized as having one of the top Robotics Departments in the state, the festival will spotlight a Robotics Show from noon to 2 p.m. to start off the entertainment slate. Live performances will follow, kicking off first by local star Amanda Shaw, the Harold Jackson Quartet, and homegrown world-renowned Grammy-nominated funk band, The 79ers.

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# New Orleans NOLA Reggae Fest

Photos by Effram Hill  
Data News Weekly  
Contributor

The New Orleans NOLA Reggae Fest was amazing. It created lasting memories with friends and family of all ages immersing themselves in Caribbean and African Diasporic-inspired fun. Taking place in Congo Square, it encompassed lively dance and music to captivating art and cultural demonstrations, the festival offered a rich blend of entertainment. And let's not forget about the delicious food trucks and vendors! Data News Weekly was there to capture some of the highlights of this Irie Good Times!!!



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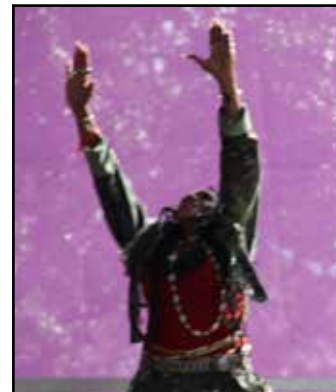
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# Spooktacular Halloween Party at Le Roux's On The Lake

Kurte Pellerin continues to bring the grown and sexy out to have a good time. Recently, he held his first Annual Spooktacular Halloween Party at Le Roux's On The Lake. It was a night filled with food, drinks and fun. A great time was had by all at this incredible event.

Right: Kurte Pellerin (L), Le Roux's On The Lake Owner is bringing a quality experience to his patrons. Since its opening, it has become one of the premier clubs for adults in the City of New Orleans.



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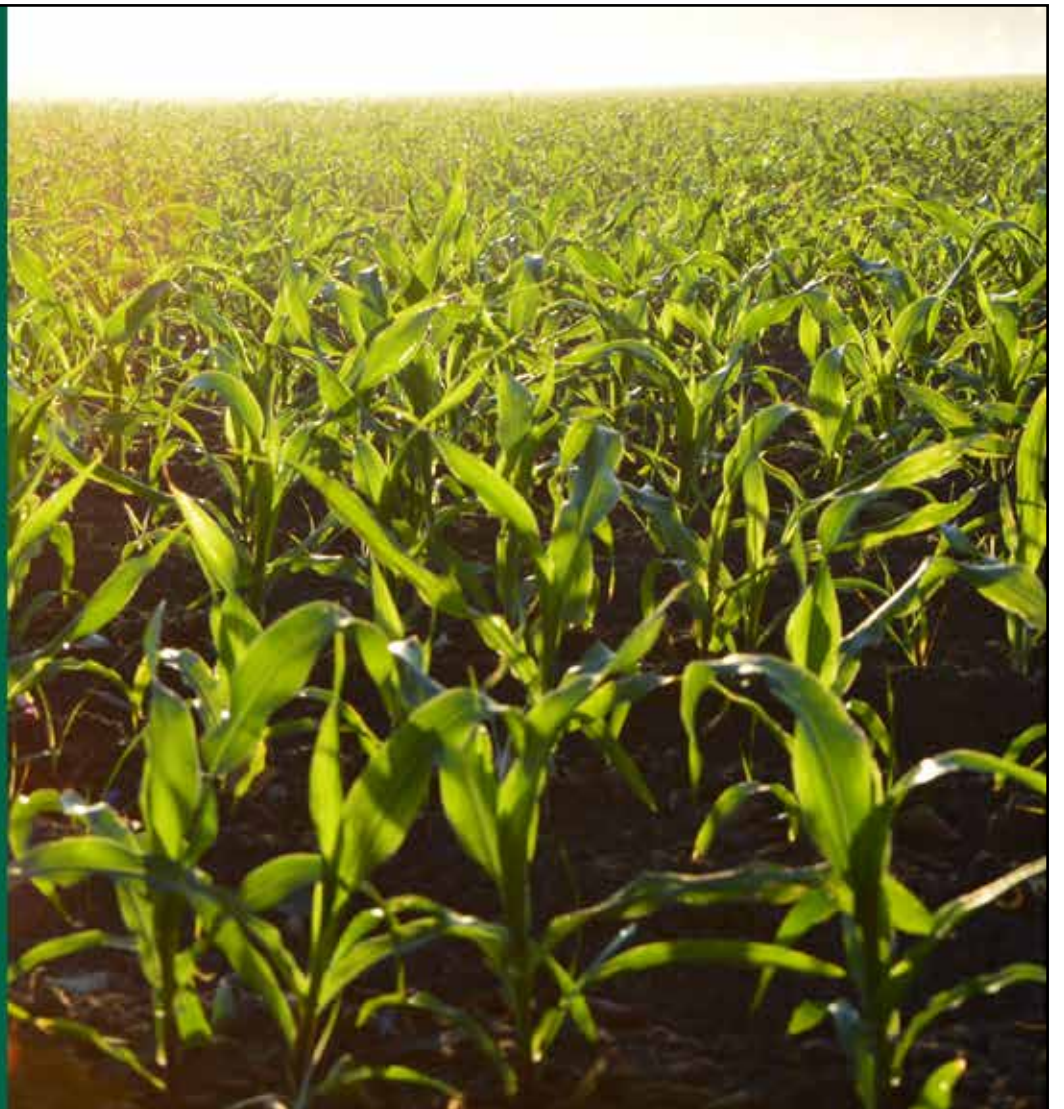
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# Anti-Violence Conference for Young Boys

## *A Beacon of Hope and Empowerment*



Young men from Sophie B. Wright stand in unity.



Bishop Tom Watson addresses youth during Anti-Violence Conference.

**Eric Connerly**  
Data News Weekly  
Contributor

In a room of about 100 young Black men from Sophie B. Wright and Eleanor McMain High Schools filled a room.

“What is the narrative as it relates to young Black boys in New Orleans right now? What do people think of you all?” they were asked.

In a time when violence and inequality continue to plague many communities, the recent Anti-Violence Conference for Young

Black Boys stands out as a beacon of hope and empowerment. This groundbreaking event held last Friday, October 27th at Watson Memorial Teaching Ministries, brought together young Black boys from various backgrounds and provided them with the tools, inspiration, and support they need to break free from the cycle of violence that disproportionately affects their demographics. With a resounding message of unity, education, and mentorship, the conference was a resounding success in its mission to create a safer, more equitable

future for these young individuals.

“We are seeing the way people think about Black boys and what they see because of how they wear their hair, because of how they dress. They are actually dismantling who the child can become,” Reverend Pat Watson, CEO of the Family Center of Hope, said. The Family Center of Hope is a non-profit organization that works with the City of New Orleans, providing alternatives for system-involved youth by serving as an Evening Reporting Center for Juvenile Delinquents to get the help they need.

The Center has an 82% success rate with deterring youth recidivism.

The success of the Citywide Men’s Conference for Young Black Boys goes beyond immediate outcomes. It represents a transformative shift in the narrative surrounding young Black boys, emphasizing their potential, resilience, and the importance of providing them with the opportunities and support they deserve. The event was made possible with support from Foundation for Louisiana, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, BENOLA, 100 Black Men and The New Orleans Crime Coali-

tion.

In a world where violence and inequality continue to affect marginalized communities, initiatives like this conference serve as a shining example of what can be achieved through education, mentorship, and community unity. These young Black boys are not just the leaders of tomorrow; they are the leaders of today, and the success of this conference reaffirms their potential to make a positive and lasting impact on their communities and the world at large.

### State & Local News

## Early Voting from November 3rd through November 11th

**Data News Staff Edited Report**

After a low turnout, we are on the eve of another election. While many of the larger races have been decided, it is still important to get out and vote during this election cycle.

Early voting is Nov. 3rd through Nov. 11th (excluding Sunday, Nov. 5th and Friday, Nov. 10th for Veterans Day) from 8:30 a.m.- 6 p.m.

Here are some of the things to know if you plan to vote.

The deadline to request an absentee ballot is November 14, 2023, by 4:30 p.m. (other than military and overseas voters). You can re-



quest an absentee ballot online through our Voter Portal or in writing through your Registrar of Voters Office.

Early voting dates for the November 18, 2023, Election will be

held Friday, November 3, 2023, through Saturday, November 11, 2023 (excluding Sunday, November 5, 2023, and Friday, November 10, 2023, for Veterans Day) beginning daily at 8:30 am to 6:00 pm.

There are four early voting locations:

City Hall-1300 Perdido Street, New Orleans LA 70112 Room 1W24  
Algiers Courthouse- 225 Morgan Street, New Orleans LA 70114 Room 105

Voting Machine Warehouse- 8870 Chef Mentour Highway, New Orleans LA 70127

Lake Vista Community Center- 6500 Spanish Fort Blvd.-2nd Floor Meeting Room



Help Wanted

## Administrative Assistant

- Data News Weekly, “The People’s Paper, is looking for an administrative assistant.
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- Writing skills and detail orientation will be appreciated.

Call (504) 821-7421 to apply.



# Black Americans Demand Fairer News Coverage: Study Reveals Critical Views and Recommendations

**Stacy M. Brown**  
**NNPA Newswire Senior**  
**National Correspondent**

An in-depth study by the Pew Research Center took a deep dive into the experiences of Black Americans with news coverage, shedding light on critical perspectives and recommendations for more equitable representation. The survey involved 4,742 U.S. adults identifying as Black and offered an extensive and comprehensive insight into their attitudes, habits, and experiences with news and information.

The findings revealed a stark divide in how Black individuals perceive news coverage of their community. “There’s not a lot of African American coverage unless it’s February or it’s criminal,” one individual stated, according to Pew. That sentiment was echoed by another respondent who stated, “They over-emphasize the bad, and not some of the good things that are happening in the community, or if they do talk about the good things, it’s just a blurb and they want to focus on the one thing [that] was just terrible.”

Almost two-thirds (63%) believe that news about Black people is often portrayed in a negative light compared to other racial and ethnic groups. Furthermore, a significant 57% feel that the news only focuses on specific segments of the Black community, while just 9% believe it covers a diverse range of individuals.

Half of the respondents expressed dissatisfaction with the coverage, asserting that it often needs vital information, whereas only 9% believe it provides a comprehensive picture. Disturbingly, 43% claim that the coverage tends to stereotype Black individuals, contrasting starkly with the 11% who disagree.



The critical views transcended age, gender, and political affiliations and painted a consistent picture of discontent.

According to the survey, 39% of Black Americans frequently encounter news that is racist or racially insensitive towards their community, while an additional 41% report occasional exposure. The respondents identified various factors contributing to this problem, including media outlets pushing agendas (51%), journalists' lack of informed perspectives (45%), and the presence of racist views within news organizations (42%).

Despite the prevailing skepticism, only 14% of Black Americans are highly confident that fair representation in news coverage will occur within their lifetimes. A notable 64% of those who have witnessed racially insensitive coverage believe that educating all journalists about issues affecting Black Americans would be an extremely or very effective way to ensure fairer coverage. "There's definitely less empathy, I think, for people of color, for working-class people from people who are not Black... I think they

deliver the news in a way that is different than how someone who does understand our experiences would deliver the news,” another survey respondent observed, according to Pew.

Substantial percentages also advocate for including more Black voices as sources (54%) and for hiring Black individuals in leadership roles within newsrooms (53%). That echoed the call for diversification in newsrooms made over five decades ago by the 1967 Kerner Commission.

These findings resonate with the observations of the 1967 Kerner Commission, which highlighted sensationalist, divisive, and inaccurate representations of Black communities in the media. The Commission emphasized the urgent need to diversify newsrooms, a call that remains relevant more than five decades later.

While many Black Americans value the perspective of Black journalists in reporting on racial issues, only 14% consider it highly important for news in general to come from Black journalists. Just 15% believe a journalist's race is an

extremely or very important factor in determining a story's credibility, ranking below factors such as cited sources (53%), multiple outlets (50%), and the news outlet itself (46%).

Diverging opinions emerged when considering the importance of racial identity among Black Americans. Those who place a high value on their Black identity expressed a significantly stronger preference for journalists who understand the historical context of stories involving Black individuals (82%). Conversely, this dropped to 55% among those who attach less importance to their racial identity.

The study also identified generational and educational divides in perceptions of Black journalists' effectiveness. Younger Black adults, aged 18 to 29, were more likely to believe that Black journalists excel at covering issues related to race (54%) and understanding them (50%) compared to their older counterparts. Likewise, individuals with higher levels of formal education and income expressed more positive views toward the work of Black journalists.

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## 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.

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