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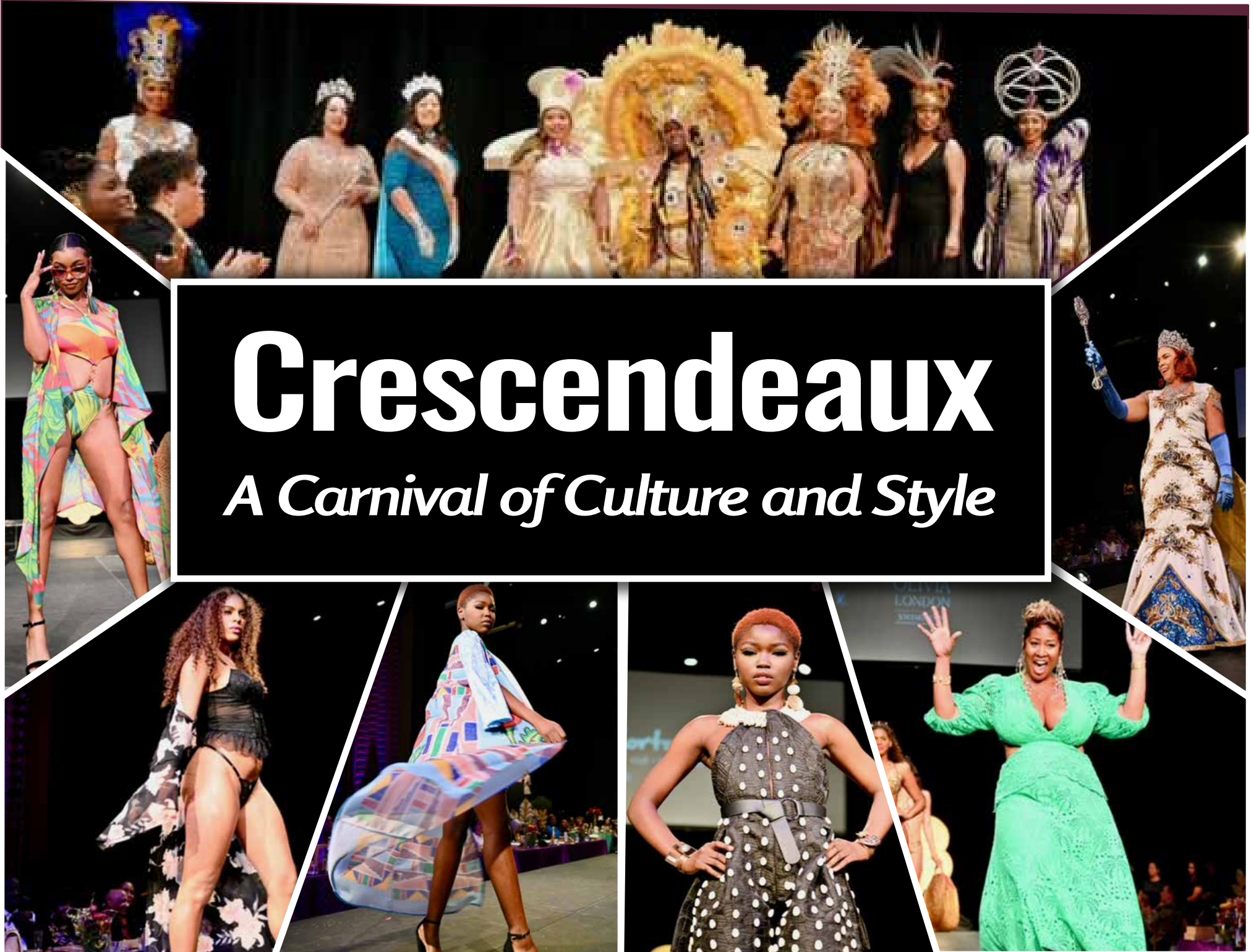


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# Crescendeaux

*A Carnival of Culture and Style*



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# Crescendeaux

*A Carnival of Culture and Style*



Mardi Gras Royalty walk the runway at Crescendeaux.



Hosts Terrol Lynn Foxx and Uptown Angela.



Sophia Omoro and Creative Director, Quentin Alexander



Designer Korto Momolu, featured on Season 5 of Project Runway, closes out the Fashion Show.

**Tracee Dundas**  
**Fashion Editor**  
**@fashionablyyoursnola**

A night filled with glitz, glamour and grandiose is the best description for the 2nd Annual Crescendeaux event “A Carnival of Culture.” The highly anticipated event was presented by the Women’s Foundation of

the South, bringing together renowned Southern designers, upscale boutiques and celebrating the splendor of Southern women of color in all hues, body types and full gender expression. The runway show featured a mesmerizing display of cutting-edge fashions that was full of color, pop, originality, and cultural appeal. Showcasing on the catwalk included Dr. Sophia Omoro, a New Orleans

Designer and practicing Otolaryngologist and Neck Surgeon. The brand, odAomo is a handcrafted curated collection of apparel, and accessories with a cross-cultural aesthetic. Gracing the runway with captivating fashions that bridges European style with American culture was West London Btq., a New Orleans Boutique located on Magazine Street. Owner and entrepreneur, Mariah Walton-Bencik

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### DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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2023 Zulu Queen, Dr. Christy Lagarde Spears.



Guests were greeted on the purple carpet with a live champagne display.



Founding Board Member Gladys Kroger Washington and guest Samantha Bickham



Queen Zulu 2022, Crystal Guillemet.



Model LaVerne Toombs wearing fashion from West London Boutique.

is thoughtful in the fashions she selects, always seeking intricate fabrics and textiles that are feminine, romantic, and dramatic. Arkansas Designer Korto Momolu is inspired by her African roots, with a women's wear and accessory line that celebrates the essence of her rich heritage using traditional, luxury fabrics. Joining the Carnival of Culture was Brocade Stops Black Eagle, a ready-

to-wear collection that is a direct reflection of her native community, Crow Indian Reservation in Montana. The beadwork and designs are inspired by old Crow geometric designs and color palate. Celeste Johnny-Madhere is no novice when it comes to the art of fashion. Her brand, Olivia London Swimwear made big waves on the runway with hand-beaded custom pieces that have a Carib-

bean influence. Rounding out the evening of exquisite fashions was Delisa Rose, founded by Taquiela Wright. Delisa Rose is a luxury lingerie brand that focus on empowering women by allowing them to embrace their bodies and differences while boosting their confidence through design that is elegant, luxurious, and accommodating to all shapes, sizes, and ethnicities.

Carmen James Randolph, Women's Foundation of the South Founding President & CEO, stressed Crescendeaux is more than just a fashion show. "It is our flagship fundraiser gala that celebrates the beauty, creative genius, diversity, and power of women of color. We proudly showcase the artistry of top Southern women of color designers and businesses committed to their craft. Our aim is

to lift Southern women and girls of color into their full power and limitless promise."

The Crescendeaux Fashion Experience truly left an indelible mark on the fashion landscape, reaffirming the south's position as a hub of creativity and innovation in the industry. The event served as a tribute and reminder the impact women of color continue to make.

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# Cultural Fall Fest

The Cultural Fall Fest in St. Charles Parish, LA, which took place on November 4, 2023, was an incredible display of the unique cultural heritage of Louisiana. This was on full display as the melting pot festivalgoers had the opportunity to enjoy outstanding food, vendors, and entertainment. Also, the festival featured cultural awareness of Louisiana History, as the First Annual Cultural Fest in St. Charles Parish, presented by the Feather-Fund/NOLA, celebrating the intersections of many different cultures that have contributed to the rich history of the state. It was an overwhelming success, and Data News Weekly was there!!!



Big Chief Romeo (9th ward and Big Chief Jigga (7th Ward) of the 79rs (no e) welcomes Drum Chief Eric B to stage in red feathers Suit.



Brass Hearts Brass Band



Amanda Shaw



Vendor Sharonda Green of @Artbysharonda



Vendor Sandy of Sandy's Kitchen



Big Chief Walter Cook Jr. (Honoree of fest) Big Chief Jigga-79rs Gang, Glenn "Chayil" Jones.

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Visit [www.ladatanews.com](http://www.ladatanews.com) for more photos from these events.



Data Zone, Continued from page 4.



Vendor Logan Green(@Artbylogan26), Edward and Stephanie Rodriguez -fest goers/customers.



Ricardo Smith, Rachel Ledet, Glenn Chayil Jones - FeatherFundNola/La Curatives- event coordinators



Keith Brown, Chris Fontenot, Chayil Jones, Big Chief Walter Cook Jr., Seth Brown.



Gabriel Jones, Michelle Fontenot, Mitze Jones, Janet & Eugene Johnson, (seated below him) Kim Brown, (standing end of table) Keith Brown, (seated in front of table - left to right) Chris Fontenot and Ann Randolph.



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# Senator Royce Duplessis Wants to Bring Voices of New Orleans Residents to Governor-Elect Jeff Landry's Transition Council

## New Orleans Agenda

My top priority as a State Senator is improving the quality of life of the people I represent. New Orleans is the crown jewel of Louisiana and an international treasure. Like many other residents of our great city, I was concerned when I learned about an unprecedented Transition Council that focuses exclusively on New Orleans and no other city in the state.

While our city clearly has challenges, the people of New Orleans make an outsized contribution to making this city and state special. Obviously, Governor-elect Jeff



State Senator Royce Duplessis

Landry and I strongly diverge on many issues, and I proudly supported Shawn Wilson for Governor. However, that election is over and true leadership requires us to work with people whom we disagree with in order to improve the lives of our constituents.

I am accepting the Governor-elect's invitation to serve on the New Orleans Transition Council to ensure that the voices of all New Orleanians are represented as much as possible. While I'm going into this in good faith focused on real solutions, my involvement does not presuppose that I will support any recommendations that are

not in the interests of the people I serve. The bottom line is, we are in a critical moment for the state and city which will require us to ensure we have a voice.

We must deliver solutions to move our city and state forward. To that end, I am inviting all residents to share your recommendations with me on what you hope the new gubernatorial administration will prioritize at the state level to help strengthen the lived experiences of our people. My commitment is to be your voice.

Let's ensure we all have a seat at the table. Join the conversation at [royceduplessis.com/NOLAvoices](http://royceduplessis.com/NOLAvoices).

## State & Local News

# New Orleans Saints Mid-Season Report

## Data News Staff Edited Report

The New Orleans Saints have struggled this the first half of this season, one game above 500 but winless against teams with winning records.

With the arrival of veteran Quarterback Derek Carr in free agency has not yet had a dramatic effect on an offense that sometimes looks explosive but also has been weighed down by intermittent stagnation on third downs or in the red zone.

The Saints have done enough, however, to sit alone atop the NFC South. Meanwhile, a favorable upcoming schedule — including four games in their own anemic division — gives New Orleans (5-4) an opportunity to make a playoff push.

"We've learned from our own mistakes," Offensive Lineman James Hurst said Monday. "On offense, particularly early in the year, we beat ourselves with penalties, with some turnovers, miscommunications or missed assignments, and we've seen that kind of trend in the right direction."



"And I think we have seen on both sides of the ball, what we can be — the points we can score and the type of defense that we can play," Hurst added.

There are moments when the Saints look good enough to compete with the NFL's elite, whether it's Carr hitting speedy receiver Rashid Shaheed deep downfield, as he did twice in Week 8, or Tayson Hill producing touchdowns in every way possible or third-year defensive back Paulson Adebo causing turnovers.

"At the end of the day, we won," Carr said, emphasizing the bottom

line. "This is professional football."

Indeed, plenty of other NFL teams — including every other team in the NFC South — would like to be in New Orleans' shoes. The Saints are in prime position to end a two-year playoff absence.

"We've done a lot of really good things," said coach Dennis Allen, now in his second season since being promoted from defensive coordinator following Sean Payton's decision to briefly retire.

"There's a lot of things we have to improve on," Allen continued. "Ultimately, we're sitting here in control of all of it."

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# Mississippi Leaders Unite in Plea to Honor Medgar Evers with Medal of Freedom

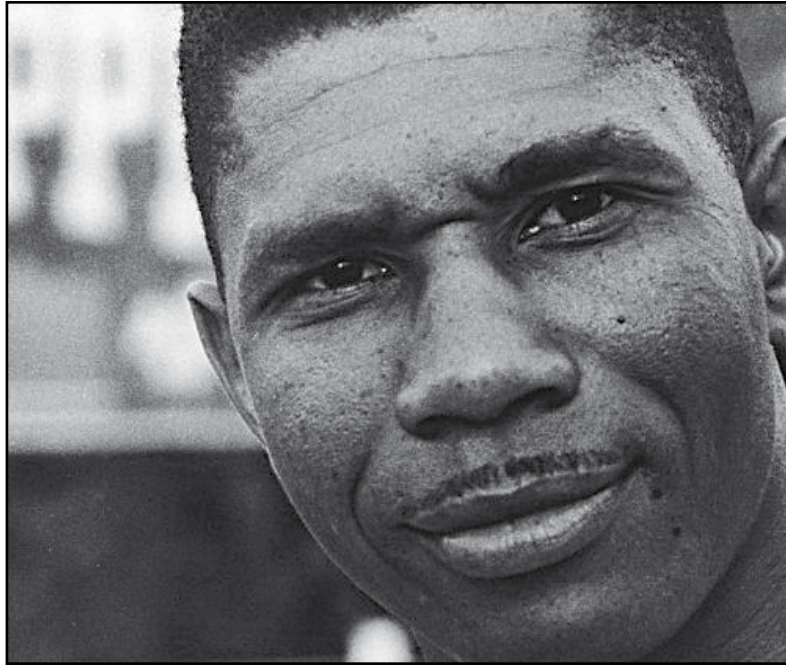
Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Senior  
National Correspondent

Mississippi's Congressional Delegation has called on President Joe Biden to posthumously award Civil Rights Icon Medgar Wiley Evers with the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Senators Roger Wicker and Cindy Hyde-Smith, alongside Representatives Bennie Thompson, Trent Kelly, Michael Guest, and Mike Ezell, penned a heartfelt letter to Biden, imploring him to bestow the honor upon Evers, whose unwavering dedication to equality, voting rights, and social justice culminated in his tragic assassination outside his Jackson, Mississippi, home on June 12, 1963.

The Presidential Medal of Freedom is the highest civilian honor in the United States, recognizing those who have made an indelible mark through "an especially meritorious contribution to the security or national interests of the United States, world peace, cultural, or other significant public or private endeavors." The President personally chooses the recipients of the award.

Throughout his too-brief life, Evers stood as a beacon of courage against the entrenched racism of the segregated South. He waged a tireless battle against the oppressive Jim Crow laws, championed the desegregation of education, and boldly probed into the horrific Emmett Till lynching. His pivotal role as the inaugural field officer for the NAACP in Mississippi allowed him to forge new local chapters, organize crucial voter registration drives, and lead historic protests for desegregation in public schools, parks, and the iconic Mississippi Gold Coast beaches.

Evers' journey as a civil rights activist began with a harrowing encounter when he and five friends were forcibly turned away from a



Civil Rights Leader, Medgar Evers

local election at gunpoint. The intensely personal experience, coupled with his service in the Battle of Normandy during World War II, drove Evers to confront the painful reality that even defending his nation did not shield him from the scourge of racism or guarantee him equal rights.

According to his official NAACP bio, following his studies at the historically Black Alcorn State University and his tenure selling life insurance in Mound Bayou, a predominantly Black community, Evers assumed leadership of the Regional Council of Negro Leadership (RCNL). Under his guidance, the RCNL launched a successful boycott of gas stations that denied restroom access to Black patrons, distributing bumper stickers emblazoned with the rallying cry, "Don't Buy Gas Where You Can't Use the Restroom." The annual conferences held between 1952 and 1954 in Mound Bayou drew tens of thousands, underscoring Evers' magnetic ability to inspire collective action.

The NAACP said Evers' relentless pursuit of desegregation at the University of Mississippi Law School culminated in the landmark 1962 enrollment of James Meredith, eight years after he initiated that battle. On that fateful June 12, 1963, evening, Evers, bearing

NAACP T-shirts emblazoned with the defiant slogan "Jim Crow Must Go," was shot in the back upon entering his driveway. He succumbed to his wounds at a local hospital, a martyr for the cause of civil rights. His assassination, occurring mere hours after President John F. Kennedy's historic televised address in support of civil rights, sent shockwaves through the nation.

Though Byron De La Beckwith, a member of the Ku Klux Klan, was arrested for Evers' murder, he remained free after all-White juries twice failed to reach a verdict on his guilt. It would take three decades for justice to prevail, as De La Beckwith was finally convicted. Evers was buried at Arlington National Cemetery, honored with full military rites and in the presence of over 3,000 mourners.

Evers' legacy endures, echoed in the music of luminaries like Bob Dylan and Phil Ochs, and immortalized in the 1996 film "The Ghosts of Mississippi." His family, including his wife, Myrlie Evers-Williams, and brother Charles, continued to carry forth his torch.

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