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New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

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The Indian and African Connection in Louisiana



Glenn “Chayil” Jones Data News Contributor

Yes, it’s carnival time!!! What is carnival? We know what Mardi Gras is and its culture, or do we? Well, this year it all falls in February and that’s Black History Month. Is there a connection between Carnival, Mardi

Gras and Black History culture? Absolutely, but you won’t find it on Wikipedia or Google. This connection is deep in history, and we must use oral history as well. With that understanding let’s take a deep dive into the tradition, people and the city we love.
For clarity we must establish that Carnival and Mardi

Gras are separate! Carnival developed out of Mardi Gras with the intent and Jim Crow laws to support it, as being separate. In fact, Mardi Gras can be dated back to the Roman Empire Celebration of Saturnalia and repackaged in its colonizing nations of France, Spain, British (England) and others. These nations brought

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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 & Production
CEO/Publisher	Glenn “Chayil” Jones	Pubinator.com
Edwin Buggage	DNW Staff Writers	Editorial and
Editor	Diane Danthony	Advertising Inquiries
Sharonda Green	Terry B. Jones	datanewsweeklyad
Executive Assistant	Marc Morial	@gmail.com
June Hazeur	Stacy M. Brown	Distribution
Accounting		by Terrence Lee

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this celebration in their language i.e., French - Mardi Gras meaning Fat Tuesday denoting the day before Ash Wednesday. Carnival however was the celebration of the Aboriginal and West African Slaves "On that day," being they were given off by the Slave Masters. Carnival originated as a Mocking of Victorian Women (drag dressings), the skull and bones, Brass bands with drums and of course the Aboriginal back in Full Dress with West Africans adorning the feathers paying homage to the Choctaw and Chitimacha and other tribes that gave them refuge in the maroons away from the Slave Masters. In 1703 Mobile hosted the first Mardi Gras in its French/Spanish Colony. But this got extremely raunchy, violent and wild and was stopped. By 1830 it was being celebrated in New Orleans.

Now oral history will say this is the year Creole Wild West was started. Wikipedia says 1885. We should note that would be a carnival procession/second line and not a Mardi Gras celebration. Again, please note Wikipedia says Creole Wild West started from a "Traveling



Wild Bill show". Obviously, that's incorrect.

Which brings us to the Black history month connection. Well for one the Choctaw, Chitimacha, Natchez, Atakapa, Ishak, my mother's tribe Avoyelles, etc. were

all Black Aboriginal to this land which was called West Florida and this City Chapitoulas. Meaning "People by the River"! This is why the West Africans could blend in with the tribes and the Slaves

Cover Story, Continued on page 4.

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Cover Story

Cover Story, Continued
from page 3.

masters could not find them. I know during our 300 Year Tricentennial Celebration. Bulbancha became popular as an old name of New Orleans, but that was the name of the French market meaning "place of many tongues." Like I said we are deep diving!

As we are celebrating Black History, please remember the culture, the people, and the celebrations reach back further than slavery and colonization. Black History is a body of soul that has roots as deep as this earth. In fact, you may have to move earth and dirt to find the truth but know that it's THERE! So, this Carnival/Mardi Gras/Black History Month is like this city and its famous dish. Gumbo. It's a little bit of everything but it isn't anything without a proper ROUX! As the ROUX is the base of the People. and its history is the base of this state, city, wards, and its celebrations.

When you see the beautiful feathers and the colorful tribes/gangs such as Yellow Pocahontas, Black Hatchet, Wild Tchoupitoulas or Wild Magnolias please know your witnessing the descendants of the mix of Aboriginal and West African Slaves representing ancient cultures dating back to the mound builders keeping the oldest traditions of North America ALIVE in our neighborhoods.

SHALOM



Rep. Carter Slams Governor Landry's Decision to Deny Children Food

Data News Staff Edited Report

Congressman Troy A. Carter, Sr. (D-L.A.) released a statement following the announcement that Louisiana will not participate in the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer Program. This program would have given Louisiana families living at or under 185% of the Federal Poverty Line \$40 per month, per child during the summer — a total of \$120 per child. About 594,000 children would have benefited, according to the United States Department of Agriculture.

"The Governor's decision to turn down federal resources to feed children is unconscionable and it is ridiculous to assert that denying them food will somehow break the cycle of poverty. This decision will hurt our most vulnerable children and should be reversed immediately." In addition, Carter, Sr. released a statement following the announcement that Nebraska Governor Jim Pillen will accept Summer Electronic Benefits



Program (EBT) funding. Louisiana has until February 15, 2024, to reverse course and apply. "Governor Landry, it's not too late to reverse course and do the right thing for Louisiana's children. Nebraska showed the way and Louisiana can too!"-



Congressman Troy A. Carter, Sr.

A black and white photograph of two Black women smiling. The woman in the foreground has long braids and is wearing a light-colored top. The woman behind her is also smiling and wearing a dark top.

Who adopted who?
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A black and white portrait of Royce Duplessis, a Black man with a beard, wearing a suit and tie. He is smiling and looking towards the camera.

Honoring Our Past.
Empowering Our Future.
CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH.

.....


This Black History Month, let us **celebrate the resilience, achievements, and contributions** of the Black community.

Together, we honor the past and empower our future by staying **committed to equality, justice, and opportunity for all.**

Let's honor this month by taking action toward real change, overcoming challenges, and building a future that honors this enduring legacy.

.....

ROYCE DUPLESSIS
STATE SENATE - DISTRICT 5



Zulu Ball 2024 Highlights

This year Zulu Ball was an amazing event. The Morial Convention Center came alive with a night of splendor enjoyed by all and Data News Weekly was there!!



Data Zone, Continued on page 9.

The Clerk of Civil District Court for Orleans Parish announces a Real Estate Recording Notification Service (RNS) to help protect your property

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CLERK OF CIVIL DISTRICT COURT AND EX-OFFICIO RECORDER



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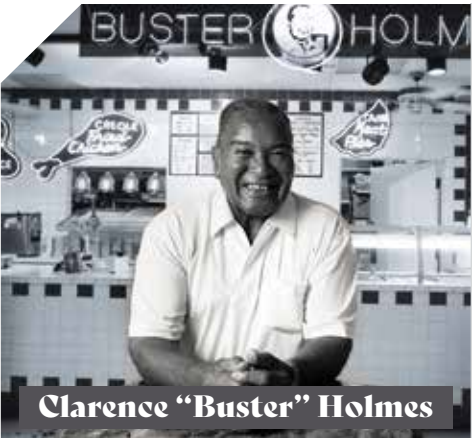
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Celebrating

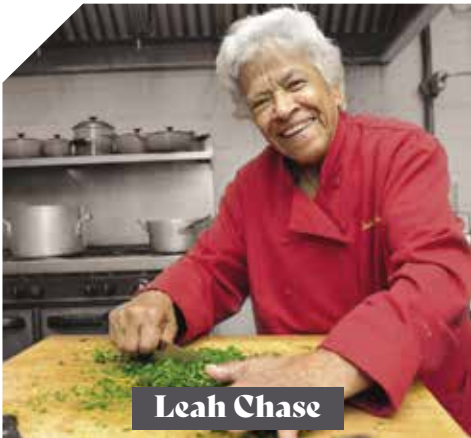
BLACK CULINARY HISTORY MONTH

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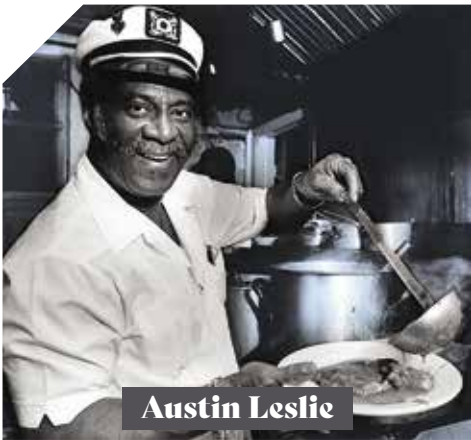
Clarence "Buster" Holmes ran an iconic soul-food restaurant where local musicians hung out: the eponymously named Buster Holmes, where all could enjoy a cheap but tasty meal. He sold his famed red beans and rice at the first New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival in 1970, and traveled the world as an ambassador of New Orleans cuisine.



Known the world over as the Queen of Creole Cuisine, **Leah Chase** ran Dooky Chase's Restaurant for decades, shining a national spotlight on Creole food. She hosted presidents and musicians, and inspired the Disney princess Tiana. The Chase family's historic restaurant was a hub for the Civil Rights movement in the 1960s.



Before Julia Child, there was **Lena Richard**. Though she started out as a domestic worker, by the late 1930s her empire included restaurants, cookbooks — even food manufacturing. She was the first Black woman to host her own cooking show, which debuted on WDSU in 1949, just one year after the station was launched.



New Orleans' own **Austin Leslie** was a world-famous chef whose cuisine was synonymous with Creole Soul. He was known for his famous fried chicken, which he served throughout his career at Chez Hélène, Jacques-Imo's and Pampy's. The chicken always came with his signature garnish: minced garlic, parsley and a slice of dill pickle.



U.S. Representative for Louisiana's
2nd Congressional District



CONGRESSMAN
TROY A. CARTER, SR.
Louisiana's 2nd Congressional District

In Celebration of Black History Month, I would
like to quote Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

“Black Lives Matter”

Fearless Fund Continues the Fight Against Defenders of White Supremacy



Marc Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League

"We are not stepping back; we are leaning into this cause to make sure that women of color get the support, the funding, to grow their businesses so they can achieve the American dream. Because that's why we're here. We're here to close this wealth gap. We are here to achieve the American dream, and to continue to serve communities."
— Ayana Parsons, Fearless Fund Co-Founder

Few had ever heard the term "woke" when Anti-Racial Justice Activist Edward Blum began his crusade to preserve systemic racism after losing a congressional race to a Black opponent in 1992.

Even fewer would have declared, much less loudly and proudly, their opposition to it after hearing it defined as "the belief there are systemic injustices in American society and the need to address them."

For most of this nation's existence, the only opponent, a congressional candidate like Edward Blum would have faced what would be another White man. The entire applicant pool for admission to an elite college or university would be White men. A White, male entrepreneur seeking funding to get his business off the

ground would be competing only against other White men.

The congressional seats, the college admissions, the business funding, all were theirs by right. If anyone else gained access to any of it, they must be a thief.

That's why Blum is trying to shut down the Fearless Fund, which asked an appeals court this week to lift an injunction against a program that provides grants to businesses that are majority owned by Black women.

Black women entrepreneurs receive less than 1% of Venture Capital Funding.

"And so, we are here fighting them to say, can we at least have 1%? They're saying, no, we want all the pie," Fearless Fund's Attorney, Ben Crump, said at a news conference following the hearing.

Blum's organization, which sued Fearless Fund under Section 1981 of the Civil Rights Act of 1866 in August, claimed its members were excluded from the grant program because of their race, but has not identified the members. In September, a court granted its request for an injunction shutting down the grant program while the lawsuit proceeds.

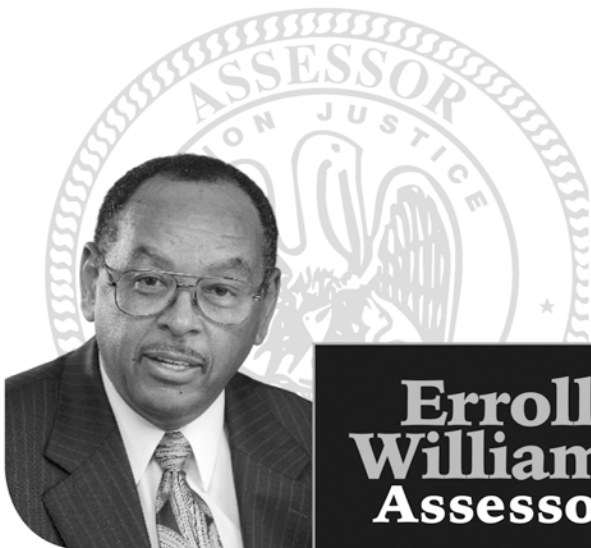
The National Urban League has joined in filing an Amicus Brief in the case, along with Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, National Action Network, NAACP, National Coalition on Black Civic Participation, and Latino Justice PRLDEF. As the brief explains, Section 1981 of the Civil Rights Act of 1866 was explicitly

designed to further the aims of the 13th Amendment by creating a remedy for discrimination against Black people that hampered their ability to enter into contracts and fully participate in the nation's economy.

Programs like Fearless Fund, which strengthen Black Americans' Rights to Equal Participation in the marketplace, are indisputably authorized under federal law.

Throughout his three-decade campaign to dismantle Racial Equity Initiatives, Blum has claimed to be seeking a "color-blind society." More specifically, he seeks a society that is blind to historic and Systemic Racial Inequity where he and his anonymous backers can maintain the fiction that their advantages are the result of "merit and hard work."

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Erroll Williams
Assessor

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"Our Story in Words and Songs." The Real History of Americans of African Descent

Data News Staff Edited
Report

The premier of an original play written, directed, and produced by Deacon Larry Cavlin titled, "Our Story in Words and Songs."

Performance will be at Corpus Christi-Epiphany Catholic Church on Sunday, February 25, 2024, beginning at 4:00 pm. Admission is free.

The play is an History of African Kingdoms, the kidnapping and enslavement of its people from their homeland, their quest for freedom, their emancipation, passage of Jim Crow Laws, terrorist attacks, the Civil Rights Movement and the present-day experiences of our people.




The play's mission is to educate those in attendance about the real and forgotten History of Americans of African descent including there were over 1.5 million slaves who died during the Transatlantic Slave Voyages, the largest slave rebellion that occurred in the United States took place in 1811 when about 500 slaves marched from what is now present day Laplace, Louisiana with the aim of establishing a free state in New Orleans, and lynching was not made a Federal Crime until 2022.


For more information, please contact: Deacon Larry L. Calvin, email address is larrycalvin @ bellsouth.net and his telephone contact is (504) 756-7119.

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LOUISIANA
STATE SENATE



LA State Senator Joseph Bouie Jr., District 3

As we celebrate Black History Month we would like to quote Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Mardi Gras Day Celebration

Mardi Gras in New Orleans is renowned for its vibrant parades, elaborate masquerade balls and street parties. The city comes alive during this time with brightly colored costumes and floats.



State & Local News

IT'S WHAT WE DO

New Orleans Leaders on the Clock for SB LIX

For a record 11th time, major event and hospitality hotspot New Orleans will play host to the NFL Championship Game; Leadership is well-equipped to tackle challenges and do what they do best.

Data News Staff Edited Report

No stranger to hosting football's biggest event the Super Bowl, New Orleans is officially "on the clock" as preparations officially get underway to host Super Bowl LIX on February 9, 2025.

During a news conference on Monday in Las Vegas, the Las Vegas Raiders, the City of Las Vegas, the Las Vegas Super Bowl Host Committee and National Football League (NFL) Commissioner Roger Goodell handed off hosting



Jay Cicero, President/CEO of The Greater New Orleans Sports Foundation, Gayle Benson, Owner New Orleans Saints, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, Louisiana Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser, LaToya Cantrell, Mayor City of New Orleans, Marcus Brown, Chair of the New Orleans Super Bowl LIX Host Committee.

duties to Mrs. Gayle Benson, owner of the New Orleans Saints, Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser of the State of Louisiana, City of New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell, Marcus Brown, Chair of the New Orleans Super Bowl LIX Host Committee, and Jay Cicero, President/CEO of the Greater New

Orleans Sports Foundation/Super Bowl LIX Host Committee. Using the phrase familiar to any NFL Draft fan, Goodell announced, "New Orleans, you are on the clock."

The New Orleans Saints led by Mrs. Gayle Benson play an integral role in the Super Bowl LIX hosting effort. "Hosting the biggest

sporting event in the world takes great teamwork and participation from our entire community and I am confident we will pull together, as we always do, to deliver the greatest experience possible for fans from around the country and world," Saints owner Gayle Benson said. "I'm proud to stand here

among these leaders on stage with me who will ensure a phenomenal Super Bowl 59 in February of 2025."

Since 1970, New Orleans has hosted the Super Bowl 10 times, and local hospitality and business leaders are familiar with the unique challenges associated with this colossal event. Led by the experienced teams at the New Orleans Saints and the Greater New Orleans Sports Foundation, the New Orleans Super Bowl LIX Host Committee is responsible for planning, executing and hosting Super Bowl LIX in February of 2025. Host Committee Founding Partner and Entergy Executive Vice President and General Counsel Marcus Brown, who serves as the 2025 Super Bowl LIX Host Committee Chair, confirmed New Orleans is ready to go, simply stating the Host Committee theme, "It's what we do."

"The City of New Orleans has a

State & Local, Continued on page 11.

Black Social Media Users React to Deputy Shooting of Distressed Black Woman

Stacy M. Brown NNPA
Newswire Senior National
Correspondent

The “White lady walks into the police station, and then shoots it up and still is alive.” Also, “she called for help and ended up dead. My gosh, our system is jacked.” Black people, “we must wake up. What we have here is a classic case of a Klansmen disguised as someone who is supposed to protect and serve.”

The comments were many of the more than 9,100 on an Instagram post detailing the deadly shooting of a distressed Black woman who called 911 for assistance from an allegedly abusive ex-boyfriend. In December, Deputy Ty Shelton and another officer arrived at the home of 27-year-old Niani Finlayson who reported a domestic violence incident, noting that her boyfriend had abused her nine-year-old daughter.

When Shelton and his partner arrived, a distressed and scared Finlayson was holding a knife and threatening to stab her ex-boyfriend if he wasn't removed from the home. On bodycam footage released recently, Shelton is heard ordering his partner to taser Finlayson, but within a split second and with Finlayson's daughter just a few feet away from her mother, Shelton unleashes four shots into the Black woman who was pronounced dead a short time later.



Reacting to the body-worn camera footage, the victim's father, Lamont Finlayson, expressed dismay at the shooting.

“When you look at the bodycam, you just have to shake your head and say, ‘Oh my God, what happened? What happened?’” he told KTLA-TV's Lauren Lyster. “They're supposed to be there to save her life, not to kill her. You throw the taser down and just automatically go for your weapon within one second. When I look at that, I'm saying, ‘Why is he still on the force? Where does this guy come from, where's his training?’”

In response to the case, the Sheriff's Department said that with all deputy-involved shootings, there is

a thorough review process, including by the Office of the Inspector General, the L.A. County District Attorney's Office and more, where every aspect of the shooting is evaluated.

However, it wasn't the first time that Shelton was involved in a domestic incident that turned deadly. According to the Instagram post, Shelton was also involved in the killing of Michael Thomas, 61, under similar circumstances.

In the aftermath of Finlayson's shooting, the Sheriff's Department said its investigation continues as Finlayson's family started the process of suing the department and county for \$30 million. “As she sought to be protected, instead she

was executed,” said Brad Gage, an attorney representing Finlayson's family. “Niani was sitting on the ground when she was shot in the back. Niani was obviously upset that this man had injured her and her daughter but did not take any violent actions.”

Authorities are asking anyone with information regarding the case to call LASD's Homicide Detectives at 323-890-5500. Anonymous tips can be submitted to L.A. Crimestoppers at 800-222-8477.

“They immediately treated her as the hostile one,” Instagram user “afrocrypt” wrote. “No attempt to calm anything.” Another user, “cymuzik,” posted about the deputy, “Trained to kill.”

State & Local, Continued from page 10.

rich history in hosting Super Bowls – from Tom Landry in his fedora at Tulane Stadium to the storied 1985 Chicago Bears and their ‘46 defense,’” said Louisiana Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser. “It's easy to remember what happens on the field, but as we all know, there's a team behind the scenes working diligently for these moments to happen. I'm proud to work alongside our Super Bowl LIX Host Committee to host our 11th Super Bowl. It's what we do best – together.”

New Orleans is a destination for culture and hospitality, which can be heard through the

sounds of musicians like Louis Armstrong, Jelly Roll Morton, Harry Connick Jr. and Jon Batiste. It can be seen through the one-of-a-kind architecture from historic St. Charles Avenue to the French Quarter. It can be tasted through the Creole and Cajun dishes served at the hundreds of local restaurants throughout the city. New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell and her staff have been working diligently with the leadership of the Super Bowl LIX Host Committee to showcase the Crescent City to visitors and media from around the world.

“You'll hear me time and time again say New Orleans is the perfect destination for major events like these – the Caesars

Superdome sits in the middle of our downtown, only steps away from over 25,000 hotel rooms and our world-famous French Quarter, first-class dining experiences and some of the best music you can find on this planet,” said New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell. “But perhaps our greatest asset in New Orleans is our people. These events are not possible without the hard work of our Host Committee Team, the commitments from local sponsors, the men and women in our city's services including our first responders, and the involvement of thousands of volunteers needed to create a successful event and the bustling hospitality industry.”



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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!

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Administrative Assistant Wanted

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

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