

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

FREE COPY

Highlights from UNCF Mayor's Masked Ball 2024

Data Zone Page 4

March 9 - March 15, 2024 58th Year Volume 46 www.ladatanews.com

A Data News Weekly Exclusive

Was Racism the Center of the Crime Session?

Why Gov. Jeff Landry and his Allies want to take Louisiana's Criminal Justice System back to the 1950s?

Page 2



Newsmaker
Dress for Success
New Orleans
25th Anniversary

Page 6

National News
National Urban League
Unveils 2024 State of
Black America



Page 7

Was Racism the Center of the Crime Session?

Why Gov. Jeff Landry and his Allies want to take Louisiana's Criminal Justice System back to the 1950s?



In a recently published editorial, State Senator Royce Duplessis said, "This special session on crime has been called by Gov. Jeff Landry will prohibit us from actually tackling the root causes of crime, and will instead force us to yet again go down the road of being tough on crime but soft on actual safety."



Louisiana Gov. Jeff Landry and his political allies in the State Legislature's answer to crime prevention strategy will cause more harm than good according to his critics. Additionally, they believe these policies will disproportionately affect the African American population of the state.

"I along with several of my colleagues, believe we can do relatively simple things like expanding youth services and education; reducing blight and litter; and improving street lighting. We also believe in ideas that go deeper, like violence intervention and trauma response programs; expanding mental health services; increasing access to housing; and reducing poverty. Notably, these proposals do not undermine necessary justice for victims and accountability for those who break the law," says, Louisiana State Senator, Royce Duplessis.

Robert Mann
Think504.com

I have at least four theories about the rationale behind Gov. Jeff Landry's recent Crime-Fighting" Special Session.
He and his supporters are ignorant and misguided.

Even though all available evidence proves otherwise, they are blinded by ideology that says packing our prisons will make us safer.
I know Landry has many State House and Senate allies who believe this. They're the kind of people for whom evidence from social scientists is suspect. They follow their feelings instead and are guided by vibes

and mindless adherence to Old Testament Theology. Their policy acumen is about as deep as the LSU lakes – shallow, silted in, and overrun by alien vegetation.
But if a state's incarceration rate made us safer, Louisiana would be a crime-free utopia.
Landry knows that what he's doing won't make Louisiana safer. But it will make his supporters feel safer,

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		Production
Edwin Buggage	Tracee Dundas	Pubinator.com
Editor	City of New Orleans	Editorial and
Sharonda Green	Glenn Summers	Advertising Inquiries
Executive Assistant		datanewsweeklyad
June Hazeur	Robert Mann	@gmail.com
Accounting	Stacy M. Brown	Distribution
		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.

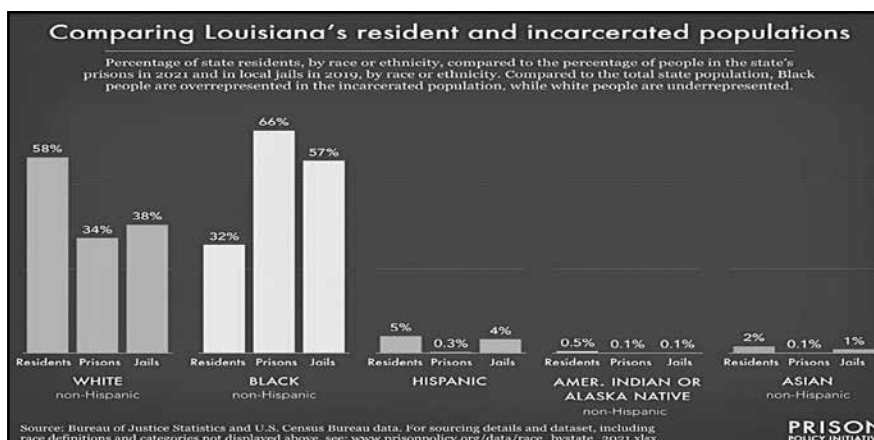
probably in the same way that an abusive husband feels virulent and in control after assaulting his wife.

It is a poisonous, destructive act that still gives Landry and his crowd a temporary adrenaline rush. And, as crime in Louisiana was already plummeting, he'll get credit for the inevitable continued decline, no matter the fact that we'd be even safer without his misguided policies.

This is nothing more than a sop to the sheriffs and the prison industrial complex that supported Landry's campaign and now will reap a financial windfall from all the warm bodies he'll be sending their way.

If you've been reading my posts here lately, you'll not be surprised to learn that I believe Landry's motivation combines two and three. But I think there's another reason that is the foundation upon which two and three are built.

Racism. I'm not talking here about personal bigotry, which is a not-insubstantial ideology among Landry's crowd. Instead, I'm talking about institutional racism. I



mean the racism that has dominated and guided our Legal and Criminal Justice Systems for more than a century.

Here's the truth: If most of those who will be rounded up and sent to prison were White, Landry would not stand for their incarceration. Can you imagine a state like Louisiana accepting a prison system that was mostly White? That's inconceivable.

Racism is the reason, for example, that Louisiana has never executed a White person for a crime against a Black person.

At its very foundation, Louisiana's social, economic, and legal systems are created by White people for the benefit of White people.

I'd go so far as to say that if most people sitting in Louisiana prisons for murder were White, Landry and his pals would find a way to legalize murder.

In a way, they just did. This

is precisely what the Civil Immunity Bill for people with concealed-carry permits will do: Allow White people to shoot and kill Black people they consider dangerous.

That's not only reckless and deadly; it's also racist.

Without institutional racism, much of what Landry did over the past few weeks wouldn't have been possible.

It's not just White people's irrational fears of Black people. That's certainly part of it, but it's not what I mean.

This is about power. This is about the White majority signaling to the Black minority that no matter what changes are happening across our land, no matter what power, influence, and freedom Black people have gained over the past 60 years, White people are still in charge.

Landry and his supporters say, in effect, "We have the power, and we are never giving it up. If we must imprison an entire generation of Black men to stomp out the social and political advances of the past two decades, that's exactly what we'll do."

ROUSES MARKETS

OFFICIAL SUPERMARKET OF THE NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE
WEEKLY SPECIALS

WWW.ROUSES.COM/WEEKLY-ADS

Prices good at New Orleans, Metairie, Gretna, Kenner, Marrero, Covington, Mandeville and Slidell locations
March 6th thru March 13th, 2024.

SAVE 72¢ LB

USDA GRADE A SANDERSON Fresh Chicken Thighs or Drumsticks

ONLY 97¢ LB

SAVE \$1.92

5 - 10 OZ SELECTED Taylor Farms Salads

ONLY \$1.97

SAVE \$2.52 LB

Hand-cut by our In-store Butchers!

VALUE PACK BONE-IN Quarter Loin Pork Chops

\$1.47 LB

SAVE \$3.00 LB

FARM RAISED Coho Salmon Fillet

\$8.99 LB

SAVE 98¢ ON 2

6 - 12 OZ Rouses Chunk, Shredded or Sliced Cheese

2/\$4

SAVE \$1.98 ON 3

15.7 - 23.4 OZ Red Baron Pizza

2/\$8

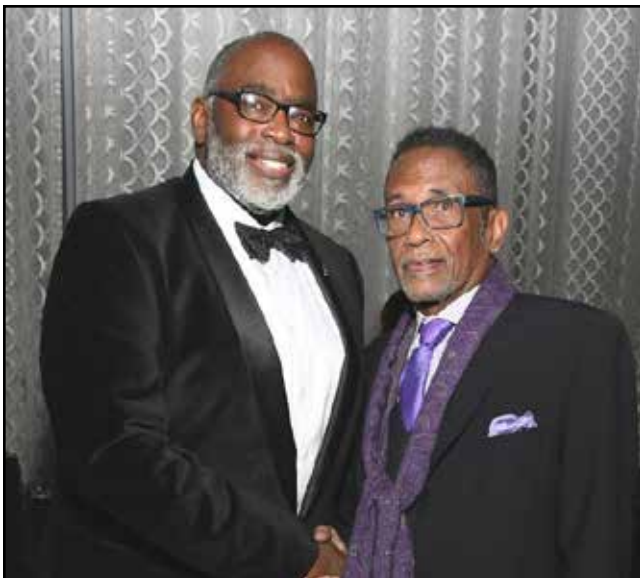
BRINGING THE BEST SEAFOOD TO THE GULF COAST!



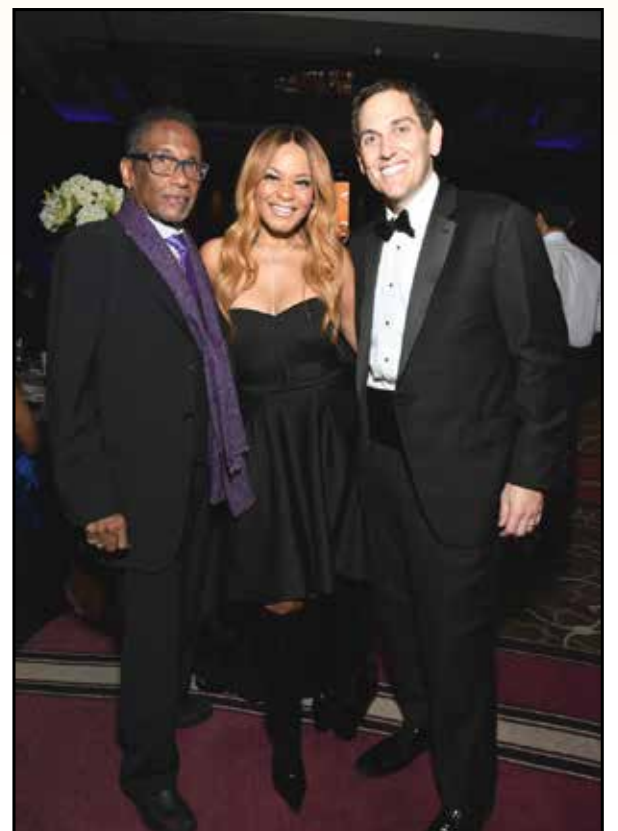
Highlights from UNCF Mayor's Masked Ball 2024

Photos by Glenn Summers
Data News Weekly Contributor

The 2024 New Orleans UNCF Mayors' Masked Ball is a Premier Fund-raising Gala and a major social event, focusing on raising public awareness and large corporate and individual donations to support deserving students through UNCF. The event was hosted by a diverse group of corporate sponsors and local businesses. The night was a fun-filled night of food and music. Guests included celebrities, dignitaries, business, civic, and education leaders, volunteers, public officials, alumni, and others who support UNCF's mission of investing in better futures for us all by getting students to and through college. Data News Weekly was there for this amazing event where guests gathered to invest in future leaders of our community. Staying true to UNCF's motto..."A Mind Is a Terrible Thing to Waste".



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



Dress for Success New Orleans 25th Anniversary Celebration

Friday, March 15, 2024 Hyatt Regency Hotel New Orleans

Tracee Dundas
FASHION EDITOR
@fashionablyoursnola

This year Dress for Success New Orleans celebrates 25 years of empowering women towards self-sufficiency with career development and employment retention services. The organization has been a beacon of hope, style, and empowerment, transforming the lives of over 10,000 women in the community.

In 1999, out of the trunk of her car, Hope Encalade, Dress for Success New Orleans Founder suited women with donated professional attire and saw the transformative power of dressing for success. Recognizing the profound impact that this could have on a woman's confidence and professional advancement, Dress for Success New Orleans was born. Since then, the organization has evolved from a humble initiative to a thriving force for change, uplifting women to achieve their full potential.

"It's been nothing short of incredible to witness the evolution of Dress for Success New Orleans from a small initiative to a powerful force for empowerment in our community." - Hope Encalade, DFSNO Founder



Client and Volunteer of the Year - Tasha Miller and Lynette Bates

At the core of DFSNO's goal is the understanding that empowering women goes beyond clothing; it's about building self-esteem, fostering skills, and creating a supportive community. More than half of women who walk through DFS-

NO doors are single mothers and a majority are women of color, some referred from partnering organizations like Grace House, Goodwill, and Eden House. DFSNO offers financial education with Capital One, confidence and self-care workshops



Dress to Impress Workshop led by Tracee Dundas

with ULTA Beauty, Digital Skills Ready with the AARP Foundation, and many more career development programs, mentorship, and networking opportunities that pave the way for lasting success.

"The women who come to us are from all walks of life, all ethnicities, and all education levels. They all have one thing in common: they want to do better. The programs that we offer these women allow them to take that first step toward a new life, and to keep the job and move up. When she gets the job,

not only is her life positively impacted, but also the lives of her children, her family, and the community." - Diane Riche, DFSNO Past Board President

Behind the racks of clothing and the workshops lies a thread of success stories that reflect the true impact of DFSNO. From women landing their dream jobs to entrepreneurs starting their own businesses, the organization has played a pivotal role in shaping the narra-

Newsmaker, Continued
on page 7.

State & Local News

New Orleans Recreation Development Commission Spring 2024 "Movies in the Park" Series

City of New Orleans



Last week the City of New Orleans announced that beginning this week, the New Orleans Recreation Development (NORD) Commission will kick off the Spring 2024 season of "Movies in the Park," featuring family-friendly, outdoor movie screenings across NORD parks and playgrounds.

The Spring 2024 season begins Friday, March 1, with "The Marvels" at A.L. Davis Park, located at 2600 LaSalle St. The rain site for this event is Lyons Recreation Center, located at 624 Louisiana Ave.

"Movies in the Park" are fun and

NORD "Movies in the Park" Spring 2024 SCHEDULE:

FRIDAY, MARCH 1 —
"THE MARVELS" AT A.L. DAVIS PARK, 2600 LASALLE ST.
Rain site: LYONS REC CENTER, 624 LOUISIANA AVE.

FRIDAY, MARCH 8 —
"AQUAMAN" AT BODENGER PARK, 3400 KANSAS ST.
Rain site: MORRIS F.X. JEFF REC CENTER, 2529 GENERAL MEYER AVE.

FRIDAY, MARCH 15 —
"SPACE JAM: A NEW LEGACY" AT GORETTI PARK, 7500 BENSON ST.
Rain site: JOE W. BROWN REC CENTER, 5601 READ BLVD.

FRIDAY, MARCH 22 —
"BARBIE" AT LATTER LIBRARY, 5120 ST. CHARLES AVE.
Rain site: LYONS REC CENTER, 624 LOUISIANA AVE.

FRIDAY, APRIL 5 —
"WONKA" AT PRATT PARK, 5733 CHATHAM DRIVE
Rain site: MILNE BROWN REC CENTER, 5420 FRANKLIN AVE.

FRIDAY, APRIL 12 —
"THE COLOR PURPLE" PG 13 AT PONTCHARTRAIN PARK, 6500 PRESS DRIVE
Rain site: JOE W. BROWN REC CENTER, 5601 READ BLVD.

FRIDAY, APRIL 19 —
"SUPER MARIO BROTHERS" AT LAFITTE GREENWAY, 1971 LAFITTE ST.
Rain site: TREME REC CENTER, 900 P. VILLERE ST.

FRIDAY, APRIL 26 —
"WAKANDA FOREVER" AT JOE W. BROWN PARK, 5601 READ BLVD.
Rain site: JOE W. BROWN REC CENTER, 5601 READ BLVD.

FRIDAY, MAY 3 —
"FINDING DORY" AT CANAL LIGHT HOUSE, 8001 LAKESHORE DRIVE
Rain site: MILNE REC CENTER, 5420 FRANKLIN AVE.

FRIDAY, MAY 10 —
"THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG" AT DELCAZEL PARK, 401 VERRET ST.
Rain site: MORRIS F.X. JEFF REC CENTER, 2529 GENERAL MEYER AVE.

safe evenings that bring community members together from all ages for a free event. It is also a great way to relax outdoors during the spring months. Concessions are available at select events, but moviegoers are encouraged to bring picnics, lawn chairs and blankets.

Participants under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult. No pets, alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, firearms, weapons, smoking or outdoor cooking are allowed during the event. Movies begin at dusk, and each film screening has an alternate, indoor location in case of inclement weather.

For more information on the "Movies in the Park" series, please visit www.nordc.org or call (504) 658-3027.

National Urban League Unveils 2024 State of Black America

Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

The National Urban League has unveiled its highly anticipated 2024 State of Black America Report, a comprehensive benchmark and thought leadership document offering profound insights into racial equality in the United States.

Established in 1976 under the visionary leadership of the late Mr. Vernon E. Jordan Jr., the organization's fifth president, the report remains a cornerstone for understanding the multifaceted challenges faced by Black Americans across crucial domains such as economics, employment, education, health, housing, criminal justice, and civic participation.

This year's edition continues the tradition of featuring insightful commentary from influential figures in various sectors, providing a comprehensive view of the complexities of the current landscape. Economic empowerment is central to the National Urban League's mission, and the Equality Index is a powerful tool to measure progress for Black Americans relative to whites.

Attributing the mission's core to economic empowerment, National Urban League President Marc Morial emphasized the nuanced progress revealed by the Equality Index. "Civic engagement and health show improvement among African Americans; however, significant work remains in the areas of economics and social justice," Morial stated.

The Equality Index visually represents how Black Americans fare in economic status, health, educa-



National Urban League CEO Marc Morial

tion, social justice, and civic engagement compared to their white counterparts, utilizing whites as the benchmark due to historical advantages. The 2024 Equality Index for Black America stands at 75.7%, indicating that despite notable strides, African Americans still miss approximately 24% of the pie that symbolizes full equality.

Breaking down the Equality Index, categories include economics, health, education, social justice, and civic engagement. Each category is carefully weighted based on its significance, and nationally representative statistics are employed to calculate sub-indices that capture the relative well-being of African Americans compared to whites. "Civic engagement and health are areas in which African Americans are doing much better," Morial noted. "However, economics and social

justice still need plenty of work."

The report delves into the persistent racial income gap, which has remained virtually unchanged for over two decades. Black Americans earn, on average, 64% of the income of their white counterparts. "The Civil Rights Act of '64, the Voting Rights Act of '65, and the Great Society programs in the middle 1960s probably cut the American poverty rate in half in 15 years," Morial remarked.

Civic participation among Black Americans presents a mixed picture, with increased voter registration (69% in 2020) but a decline in actual voter turnout (42.3% in 2022). Assessing President Joe Biden's performance, the report acknowledges achievements such as a record-low Black unemployment rate and efforts to expand health-care access and affordable housing

for Black Americans. However, it points to political opposition hindering the enactment of key policies, including voting rights and policing reform.

"We are in a world of deep attack by an ideological extreme that wants to erase so much of the civil-rights movement," said Maya Wiley, President of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and co-author of the study. Kristen Clarke, Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights in the Justice Department, assured, "We've been working across the country to reach underserved communities so that we understand the problems that communities face."

Despite those challenges, the National Urban League said it remains steadfast in its commitment to closing the racial gap. Morial urged accelerated action, emphasizing unrestricted voting access, economic reforms to address poverty and wealth disparities, and crucial support for children, such as the expired child tax credit that significantly reduced child poverty rates.

He asserted that the 2024 State of Black America Report serves as a comprehensive call to action, urging the nation to confront systemic challenges hindering Black Americans' journey toward genuine equality.

"What's dramatic is that the Civil Rights Act of '64, the Voting Rights Act of '65, the Great Society programs in the middle 1960s, probably cut the American poverty rate in half in a 15-year period," Morial said. "So can we? Yes, there are ways."

Newsmaker, Continued from page 6.

tives of countless individuals. These stories will be shared and celebrated at the SUSCO Styled for Success Luncheon Friday, March 15 at the Hyatt Regency New Orleans. The luncheon program will highlight the Client of the Year success story, award the Volunteer of the Year, and feature keynote speaker Dress for Success Worldwide CEO, Michele Meyer-Shipp. Michele joined Dress for Success Worldwide in 2022, from Major League Baseball, where she served as Chief People & Culture Officer. Additionally, there will be a fashion presentation featuring



Client strutting the runway - Sonya Hill

local boutiques such as Monomin, Pilot & Powell, Angelique and making a debut to the runway will be men's fashions provided by Luca Falcone Clothier.

DFSNO continues significant growth and programmatic expansions including:

- Over 500 unique women served annually
- 78% of clients are people of color, 56% are single mothers
- Job readiness workshops to include career development, digital and computer skills, Capital One financial planning as well as life skills and self-care
- The Coca-Cola Foundation provided a generous grant to sup-

port women entering the hospitality and tourism industry with new uniform apparel to meet the needs of those working in the service industry

- Strengthened relationships with local HBCUs by conducting professional wardrobe presentations, outfitting students with professional attire for interviewing, internships or full-time employment, and donated clothing to their campuses.

As Dress for Success New Orleans enters its next chapter, the organization remains committed to its vision of empowering women and fostering positive change for the next 25 years or more.

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

WE'RE READY
TO ANSWER
WHEN STORM
SEASON
COMES
KNOCKING.

BEFORE A DISASTER STRIKES, TAKE CONTROL.

- 1ASSESS YOUR
NEEDS
- 2MAKE A PLAN
- 3ENGAGE YOUR
SUPPORT NETWORK

When it comes to disasters and emergencies, it's not a matter of if, but when. Let's prepare so we all have a better story to tell.



Get started at Ready.gov/OlderAdults