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New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

Beyoncé's 'Cowboy Carter' is No. 1 Country Album



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Data Zone
Page 4

April 13 - April 19, 2024 58th Year Volume 51 www.ladatanews.com

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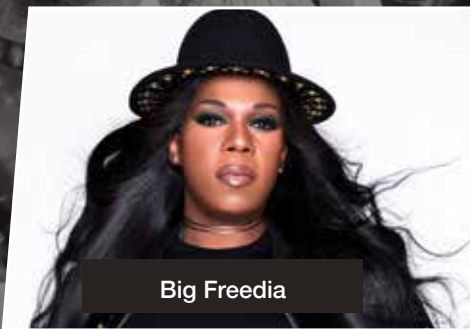
French Quarter Festival 2024



Irma Thomas



Kermit Ruffins



Big Freedia



Rebirth Brass Band



Charmaine Neville

Page 2



Newsmaker Heart N Hands Expands Reach

Page 6

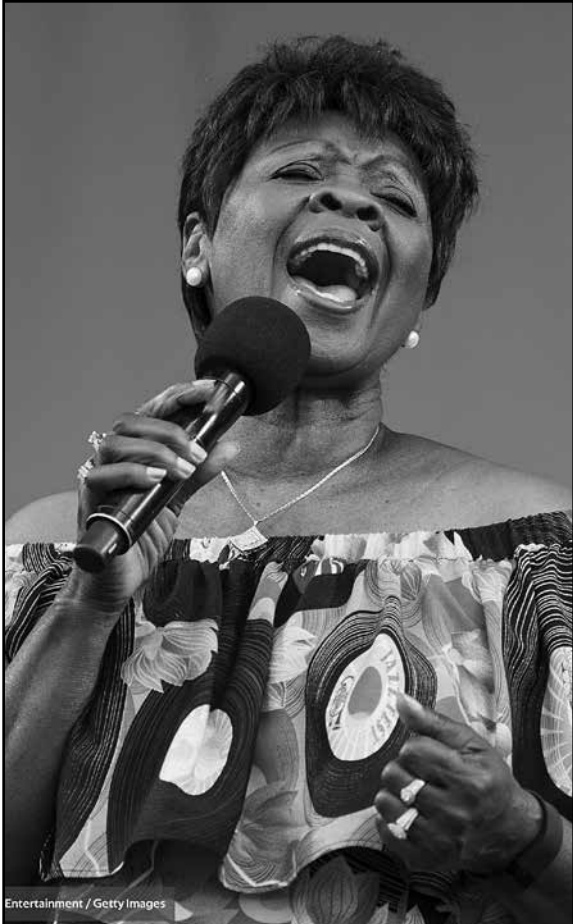
National News

Millions Across North
America Awed by Total
Solar Eclipse



Page 7

French Quarter Festival 2024



The French Quarter Festival will be held from April 11th through 14th. It will feature multiple stages throughout the Quarters and Woldenberg Park featuring great music. It is a great event for locals and tourists alike to enjoy.

Marie Bell
Data News Weekly Contributor

What started as a small festival for locals, has become one of the go-to festivals in the City of New Orleans.

The French Quarter Festival, presented by Chev-

ron, is gearing up to be the largest free celebration of Louisiana's music, food, and culture from April 11th to 14th, 2024. This year's event promises an impressive lineup with over 270 performances across 21 stages, offering a vibrant showcase of Louisiana's diverse musical heritage.

The French Quarter Festival in New Orleans is

celebrated as the largest free showcase of Louisiana music, food, and culture. This year proves to be one of the best ever.

Festival Facts

French Quarter Festival was first produced in 1984 as a way to bring residents back to the Quarters; fol-

Cover Story, Continued on page 3.

INSIDE DATA

Cover Story	2	Opinion	6
Data Zone	4	National News	7
Newsmaker	6		

DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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Dated material two weeks in advance. Not responsible for publishing or return of unsolicited manuscripts or photos.

Cover Story, Continued from page 2.

lowing the World's Fair and extensive sidewalk repairs in the French Quarter.

More than 1,500 community volunteers help to make the festival a success.

French Quarter Festivals, Inc. is a private, non-profit 501c(3) organization.

Chief sources of funding are sponsorships, beverage and merchandise sales, vendor fees, and Annual Gala.

More than 20 stages throughout the French Quarter celebrate local music and represent every genre from traditional and contemporary jazz to R&B, New Orleans Funk, brass bands, folk, gospel, Latin, Zydeco, classical, cabaret, and international.

New Orleans great restaurants serve food and beverages in Jackson Square, the Jazz Museum at the Mint, JAX Brewery, and Woldenberg Riverfront Park during French Quarter Festival weekend.

Satchmo SummerFest hosts New Orleans restaurants with Louis Armstrong-inspired dishes and great local cuisine. Louisiana restaurants are invited to participate in these festivals.



The music will feature acts from many different genres. Showcasing the rich musical gumbo that is New Orleans and Louisiana music. Some of the headliners will include Big Freedia, Charmaine Neville, Rebirth Brass Band and many more.

and local governments.

FQF employs more than 1,700 local musicians during Festival weekend

FQF hosts over 60 local restaurants which make up the culinary lineup at the Festival.

FQF employs only local companies during the Festival (sanitation, stages, sound, security, etc.). All money spent to produce the festival stays within the local economy.

Celebrating History and Heritage

These Festivals in New Orleans play a crucial role in celebrating and preserving the city's rich cultural heritage, including its music, food, and diverse community traditions. These events, such as the French Quarter Festival not only draw visitors from around the globe, boosting the local economy, but also strengthen communal ties by providing spaces for local artists, musicians, chefs, and craftspeople to showcase their talents. They are essential in maintaining New Orleans' unique identity and in promoting cultural exchange and understanding among its residents and guests.

French Quarter Festival has been consistently voted "favorite festival", "favorite food festival", and "favorite event open to the public" by locals.

Economic Impact

According to an analysis of the French Quarter Festival Visitors Survey conducted by The University of New Orleans (UNO) Hospital-

ity Research Center, in 2019 French Quarter Festival generated a total economic impact of \$190 million; the festival also generated nearly \$15 million in tax revenue for state

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New Orleans R&B Legend Clarence "Frogman" Henry Passes Away at Age 87

Fleur De Lis
Data News Weekly Contributor

As we have begun the season of festivals, where many come from across the globe to experience our culture and heritage. Recently, the city lost one of its musical greats, Clarence "Frogman" Henry, the R&B and Blues Singer with a distinctive voice that could mimic his nickname, died on April 7, 2024, at the age of 87.

During the heyday of New Orleans R&B, Clarence "Frogman" Henry rose to fame in the late 1950s with the songs "I Ain't Got No Home" and "I Don't Know Why" with his music standing the test of times as cover versions over the years. He was a festival favorite and even toured with the Beatles on their first American tour after opening for the group's performance in City Park.

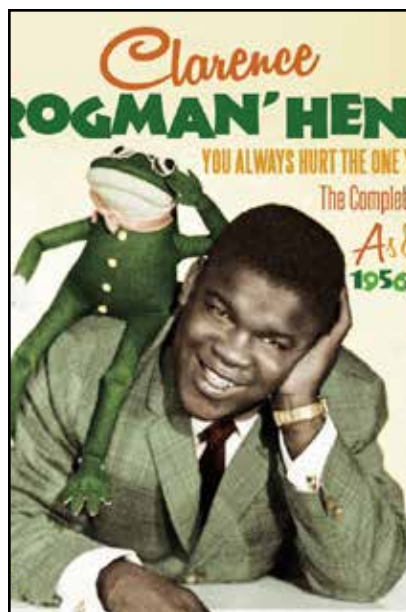
Many have made released statements regarding his passing, including Louisiana U.S. Congressman Troy A. Carter, Sr.

"I'm saddened to learn that our community has lost Clarence 'Frogman' Henry, the beloved New Orleans musician and Algiers native. Henry's playful voice and infectious energy made him a local legend. From his early days performing with Bobby Mitchell to sharing the stage with the Beatles, Henry's career spanned decades, leaving a lasting mark on Louisiana's music scene. His enduring hits and unique voice ensure that the rhythm of the 'Frogman' will resonate in the heart of New Orleans for generations to come. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends. May he rest in peace."

His long career was one where he always was known for his amazing performances. This New Orleans musical treasure will be missed by all.



Clarence "Frogman" Henry, a legend in spreading New Orleans R&B in the 1950's and 60's was known as a talented performer influencing generations of artists and shared the stage with many greats including the Beatles.



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Queen B Reigns

Beyoncé's 'Cowboy Carter' is First No. 1 Country Album by a Black Woman

Pilar Schenck
Data News Weekly Contributor

Queen B continues her reign as an artist that knows no limits. Over the years she's experimented with different genres achieving major success. Recently, Beyoncé's "Cowboy Carter" debuted on top of the Billboard 200 albums chart. It also debuted at the top of the country charts, making history.

After winning over 30 Grammy's, her latest effort, which is a foray into the country music genre, released March 29th, is the first album by a Black woman to reach No. 1 on Billboard's Top Country Albums Chart, according to Rolling Stone.

In its first week selling 407,000 equivalent album units, that's her biggest sales week since her impactful 2016 release "Lemonade" — "Cowboy Carter" is also significant because it represents the best sales week for a country album since Taylor Swift's "Speak Now (Taylor's Version)," which dropped last July.

The former Destiny's Child front-woman claimed ahead of the album's release that it wasn't a "country album" but rather a "Beyoncé album." Still, she tapped country music trailblazers Linda Martell, Dolly Parton and Willie Nelson for contributions, alongside pop sensations Miley Cyrus and Post Malone and lesser-known Black country artists such as Willie Jones, Tanner Addell, Brittney Spencer, Tiera Kennedy, Reyna Roberts and Shaboozey.

Amid controversy about airplay on country music radio stations, the album's lead single, "Texas Hold 'Em," also made history on the Hot Country Songs Chart. Additionally, Beyoncé, who has throughout her career incorporated the sound of New Orleans music released a New Orleans bounce-infused remix of her recent hit "Texas Hold 'Em" that is packing dancefloors across the globe.

"I feel honored to be the first Black woman with the number one single on the Hot Country Songs Chart," she wrote in a statement on March 19th.

Beyoncé's recent success exploring country music and speaking of its Black roots, is starting conversations about the genre and opening doors for Black artists in the genre.



Beyoncé continues to reign supreme as an artist who knows no limits. Her success embodies the "I'm Every Woman" approach to life, being a recording artist, mogul, wife, and mother. She is truly an inspiration to women across the globe.



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

Heart N Hands Expands Reach with New Chapter in Austin, Texas

Heart N Hands Austin will offer Programs and Services, including Educational Workshops and Resources on Heart Disease, Prevention, Wellness, and more.

New Orleans Agenda

April 4, 2024 /EINPresswire.com/ – Heart N Hands, a leading nonprofit organization dedicated to educating young girls about heart health and heart disease prevention, is proud to announce the establishment of its newest chapter in Austin, Texas.

This expansion marks a significant milestone in Heart N Hands' Mission to extend its reach and impact in serving young girls and their families nationwide. As Heart N Hands embarks on its 10-year Anniversary, the Austin Chapter will focus on addressing local needs through various programming to enhance the well-being and quality of life for young girls in the area. "We are thrilled to bring Heart N Hands to the vibrant, growing community of Austin," says Essence Harris Banks, CEO and Founder of Heart N Hands. "With the launch of this new chapter, we look forward to



Essence Harris, CEO and Founder of Heart N Hands is excited to expand the organization's reach to Austin, TX.

collaborating with local partners and volunteers to bring positive Heart Health Initiatives to the lives of those who need it most, deep in the Heart of Texas!"

Heart N Hands Austin will offer a range of programs and services tailored to the specific needs of the

community, including but not limited to:

Educational workshops and resources on heart disease, prevention, and wellness,

Food drives and distribution events to encourage healthy diet and lifestyle choices.



Latonia Booth, Chapter Lead for Heart N Hands Austin shows her enthusiasm for heart health.

Volunteer and community outreach opportunities for individuals and groups to give back.

"Every impactful mission has the advantages of both collective action and community support and that is what we aim to accomplish with the addition of Austin," added

Latonia Booth, Chapter Lead for Heart N Hands Austin. "With the amazing group of leaders we have here in the capital city, we can continue to create positive change in women's heart health and foster greater awareness throughout our communities."

Heart N Hands Austin Advisory Council Members include:

Latonia Booth, Chapter Lead
Pam Brooks
Thaysha Hill
Keisha Overton
Joy Scott

Heart N Hands invites residents of Austin and surrounding areas to join in its mission of defeating the number one killer of women - heart disease. To learn more about volunteer opportunities or to support the organization's work, please email info@heartnhands.org, visit the website, or follow on Instagram at @heartnhansnola.

Opinion

OP-ED: Embracing Black Men's Voices

Rebuilding Trust and Unity in the Democratic Party

Texas State Senator Ron Reynolds Story from NNPA Newswire

As a Black man deeply committed to the values of equality, justice, and progress, I find myself reflecting on a concerning trend within our political landscape: the departure of Black men from the Democratic Party. This phenomenon is not merely a statistical anomaly but represents a rupture in the relationship between the party and a significant segment of its base. As we navigate this pivotal moment in history, it is imperative that we explore the underlying causes of this departure and chart a path toward reconciliation and renewal.

The decision of many Black men to disengage from the Democratic Party is rooted in a complex interplay of historical disenchantment, unmet promises, and a sense of disillusionment with the political establishment. For too long, the voices and concerns of Black men have been marginalized and overlooked



Rep. Ron Reynolds is a devout Christian and a successful small business owner.

within the Democratic Party, leaving many feeling unheard and undervalued. As a result, a growing number of Black men have begun to seek alternatives, searching for political homes where their perspectives are acknowledged and their interests are prioritized.

To address this rift and revitalize the Democratic Party's relationship with Black men, we must embark on a journey of introspection and transformation. This journey begins with acknowledg-

ing and confronting our society's systemic injustices and inequalities. It requires a commitment to dismantling institutional barriers and creating opportunities for economic empowerment, educational advancement, and social mobility for the Black community.

Moreover, it calls for a fundamental shift in how the Democratic Party engages with Black men. We must foster genuine connections and meaningful dialogue instead of token gestures and superficial

outreach efforts. We must create spaces where Black men feel valued, respected, and empowered to contribute their insights and experiences to the political process.

Central to this endeavor is recognizing that Black men are not a monolithic group but a diverse and multifaceted community with a wide range of perspectives and priorities. As such, our approach must be intersectional, considering the intersecting identities and experiences that shape the lives of Black men, including race, gender, sexuality, and class.

Furthermore, we must actively work to address the unique challenges and vulnerabilities faced by Black men, including the disproportionate impact of mass incarceration, police violence, economic inequality, and lack of access to healthcare. By centering the needs and concerns of Black men in our policy agendas and advocacy efforts, we can rebuild trust and unity within the Democratic Party.

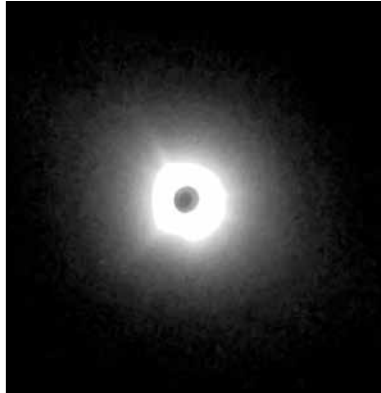
In conclusion, the exodus of

Black men from the Democratic Party represents a wake-up call for all committed to justice and equality. It is a reminder that political loyalty cannot be taken for granted but must be earned through genuine engagement, meaningful action, and tangible results. As we confront this challenge, let us seize the opportunity to create a more inclusive and just political landscape where every voice is heard, and every individual is valued.

It is time for the Democratic Party to embrace Black men's voices and reclaim its legacy as a champion of progress and social justice. It starts with prioritizing federal voting rights legislation, including the Freedom to Vote Act and John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, passing the George Floyd Policing Act, and raising the minimum wage to a livable wage.

The path forward may be challenging, but it is also filled with promise and potential. Let us rise to the occasion together and build a brighter future for all.

Millions Across North America Awed by Total Solar Eclipse Phenomenon



"I went to Dallas Daley Plaza to experience a once-in-a-lifetime celestial event. It was a truly eventful day for all who attended," said Jackie Wilson, a New Orleans native living in Los Angeles, who traveled to Dallas to witness the eclipse.

Many gathered in cities across North America to witness the solar eclipse that took place on April 8, 2024. It was an amazing celestial spectacle.

Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

The eagerly anticipated celestial spectacle of a total solar eclipse finally descended upon North America after a seven-year hiatus, captivating millions of skywatchers on Monday. With its grand entrance at the Mexican beachside resort town of Mazatlan, the eclipse marked the beginning of a mesmerizing journey along the "path of totality," stretching across various regions of the continent.

Eclipse enthusiasts congregated at numerous vantage points along the path, which spanned from Mexico's Pacific Coast through Texas, traversing 14 other U.S. states before reaching Canada. Cities like Wilmington, Del., Philadelphia, Penn., Baltimore, Md., and New York City witnessed citizens stepping outside their usual routines to behold this historic event. Similar scenes unfolded in urban centers across Illinois, Ohio, and Texas, where individuals paused to witness the cosmic marvel.

At a duration of up to 4 minutes and 28 seconds, the 2024 total eclipse exceeded its predecessor's duration in 2017, which lasted up to 2 minutes and 42 seconds. According to NASA, total eclipses can range from a fleeting 10 seconds to

an astonishing 7-1/2 minutes.

Other cities along the path of totality, such as San Antonio, Austin, and Dallas in Texas; Indianapolis, Indiana; Cleveland, Ohio; Erie, Pennsylvania; both Niagara Falls, New York, and Niagara Falls, Ontario, along with Montreal, Quebec, hosted eager eclipse-watchers. Approximately 32 million people in the United States reside within the path of totality, with federal officials predicting an additional 5 million to witness the phenomenon.

Numerous eclipse-watching events unfolded at bars, stadiums, fairgrounds, and parks along the eclipse's trajectory, offering diverse opportunities for people to experience this rare event. Scientists estimated that the entire process, from the initial moment the moon begins to obscure the sun to the culmination of totality and the subsequent return to normalcy, took about 80 minutes.

Veteran eclipse observers have described the moments preceding totality as ominous, with shadows taking on a peculiar sharpness and sunlight assuming an eerie hue. Just before totality, a phenomenon known as "shadow bands" may manifest, creating shimmering patterns akin to those seen at the bottom of a swimming pool.

As totality approaches, stars become visible in the midday sky, while the abrupt darkness causes tem-

peratures to plummet. "When a solar eclipse reaches totality, nocturnal wildlife sometimes wakes up, thinking that it's nighttime, and non-nocturnal wildlife might think it's time to head to sleep," NASA officials wrote

on the agency's website.

The final glimpse of brilliant sunlight before totality creates the enchanting "diamond ring effect," wherein a bright spot appears along the lunar edge as the

sun's corona forms a luminous ring around the moon.

According to NASA, the next solar eclipse that can be seen from the contiguous United States will occur on Aug. 23, 2044.

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APRIL 25 - MAY 5



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- Queen Latifah • Vampire Weekend • Greta Van Fleet • Heart • Widespread Panic • Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue
- Bonnie Raitt • Earth, Wind & Fire • Celebrating Jimmy Buffett with the Coral Reefer Band • Fantasia • The Revivalists • The Beach Boys
- Big Freedia • KEM • Michael Franti & Spearhead • Juvenile with Mannie Fresh • Irma Thomas • Joe Bonamassa
- Steel Pulse • Cyril Neville • George Thorogood & The Destroyers • Jeffrey Osborne • Rhiannon Giddens • Charles Lloyd
- PJ Morton • Galactic • Preservation Hall Jazz Band • Terence Blanchard • Grupo Niche • Molly Tuttle & Golden Highway
- The Wallflowers • Béla Fleck • Christone "Kingfish" Ingram • Samara Joy • Allison Russell • Dumpstaphunk
- The Dixie Cups • The Allman Betts Band • Stephen Marley • The Radiators • Tab Benoit • Anders Osborne • Nickel Creek
- The Soul Rebels • Bomba Estéreo • The Dirty Dozen Brass Band • Tower of Power • The Robert Cray Band
- Samantha Fish • George Porter Jr. • Leo Nocentelli • Zigaboo Modeliste • Donald Harrison Jr. • Patrice Rushen
- Nitty Gritty Dirt Band • Rockin' Dopsie Jr. & the Zydeco Twisters • Sweet Crude • Cowboy Mouth • BeauSoleil
- Davell Crawford • Rebirth Brass Band • Marcia Ball • Big Chief Monk Boudreaux & the Golden Eagles
- Kenny Barron Trio • Ronnie Lamarque • John Boutté • Nicholas Payton • Marc Broussard • Ruthie Foster
- Original Pinettes Brass Band • Zachary Richard • Kermit Ruffins • Dwayne Dopsie & the Zydeco Hellraisers
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