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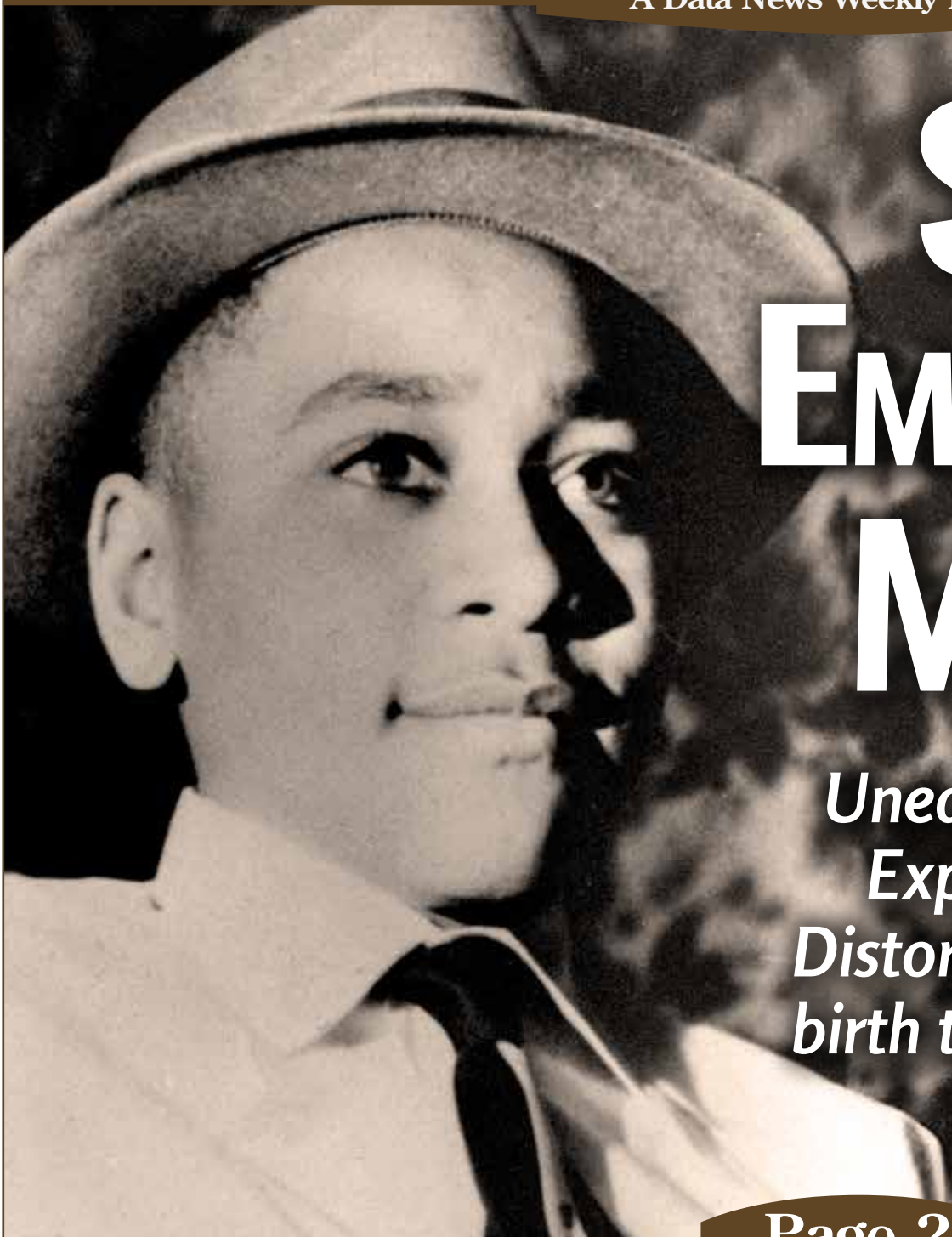
BRW at Le Roux's on the Lake

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SOLVING EMMETT TILL'S MURDER?

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Solving Emmett Till's Murder?

Unearthed Letters and Notes Expose Journalist's Role in Distorting the Case that helped birth the Civil Rights Movement



The paperwork is a 33-page, single-spaced analysis memorandum by Journalist William Bradford Huie and his correspondence with Lawyer John Whitten Jr., who defended Till's killers, J. W. Milam and his half-brother, Roy Bryant. The papers had been gifted to Florida State by Whitten's granddaughter, Ellen Whitten. (Photos of Emmett Till and his mother Mamie Till).

Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

Newly unearthed research notes and letters from William Bradford Huie, the journalist whose reporting on the 1955 lynching of Emmett Till helped shape the

public's understanding of the crime, reveal that Huie deliberately concealed vital details that could have implicated additional participants in the murder. These documents, recently released by the descendants of one of the lawyers involved in the case, suggest that Huie prioritized his financial interests and the protection of his sources over the pursuit of truth and justice.

The cache of documents, now housed in the Florida State University Digital Repository, includes a 33-page set of Huie's research notes and a series of letters exchanged between Huie and John Whitten, one of the defense attorneys for J.W. Milam and Roy Bryant, the two men acquitted of Till's murder. The content of these letters and notes reveals a complex

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Cover Story, Continued from page 2.



Mamie Till, mother of Emmett Till being comforted after the brutal murder of her 14-year-old son from Chicago who went to spend the summer with relatives in Mississippi and was brutally murdered for “talking too friendly” to a White woman in a store. His death in 1955, was viewed as a turning point in the Civil Rights Movement because of the notoriety it gave to the plight of African Americans in the South.

and troubling relationship between the journalist and the defense team, raising serious questions about the integrity of Huie’s reporting.

Huie’s notes indicate that he was aware of other individuals involved in the kidnapping and murder of Emmett Till but chose not to report this information. In a letter dated December 10, 1955, Huie confessed

his doubts about the story Milam and Bryant were telling him: “I began doubting myself... and one night I was on the point of coming back to Mississippi and ‘pistol-whipping’ Milam for telling me a fabric of lies.” Despite these doubts, Huie went ahead with his article in Look magazine, presenting Milam and Bryant’s version of events as the

complete truth.

The letters between Huie and Whitten also reveal the extent to which Huie was willing to collaborate with the defense attorneys to craft a narrative that would serve their mutual interests. In a letter dated November 16, 1955, Huie assured Whitten that he was carefully considering the “most effective pre-

sentation” of the story, stating, “We have been sort of marking time... and in due time and with great care, I’ll be in touch with you.” This close coordination suggests that Huie’s reporting was influenced not only by his desire to protect his sources but also by a shared goal of controlling how the public would receive the story.

Huie’s financial motivations are laid bare in another letter from Whitten, dated November 22, 1955, in which the attorney thanked Huie for a gift—a fine Cavanaugh hat—and expressed confidence that the criminal case would not proceed further despite any additional publicity. “My wife was so complimentary of the hat... that I finally had to tell her something about where it came from,” Whitten wrote, before adding, “Nevertheless, I think that we should not throw caution to the winds.”

Huie’s cynical approach extended to his portrayal of Till, as revealed in the same letter, where he explained that including a detail about Till having a picture of a White girl in his wallet would “pinpoint the hypocrisy” of white liber-

als and make them “very uncomfortable.” These remarks starkly contrast Huie’s public reputation as a journalist sympathetic to the Civil Rights Movement.

Huie’s reporting had an immediate and profound impact when it was published. His article in Look magazine led to a backlash against Milam and Bryant, even among white Mississippians who had previously supported them. U.S. Rep. Charles Diggs (D-Mich.) read the story into the congressional record, and it was hailed as “spectacular” by Black newspapers. However, Huie’s decision to omit critical details effectively ended efforts by Black journalists and the FBI to pursue additional suspects in the case.

The release of these documents exposes the uncomfortable truth that Huie’s reporting, while instrumental in bringing the horror of Emmett Till’s murder to national attention, was deeply compromised. The documents suggest that his decisions to prioritize financial gain and protect his sources over full transparency contributed to a narrative that left justice incomplete and the full story untold.

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New Orleans Fashion Week Ignites Fashion

Celebrating the Influence of Art & Culture in Fashion



Tracee Dundas
Fashion Stylist

Photos: Courtesy of New Orleans Portrait Photography

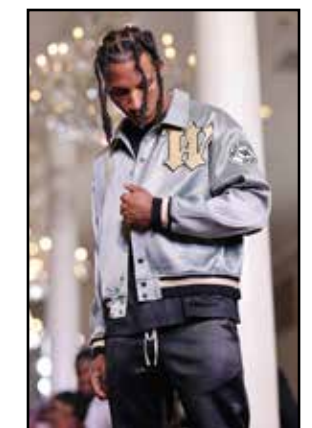
New Orleans Fashion Week (NOFW) announces its 2024 schedule of events with seven days of fashion ranging from streetwear to couture to ready-to-wear. Celebrating its 12th season, only having to pause due to the Pandemic, NOFW has consistently grown since its inception in 2011 by establishing the standard for regional fashion and designers. The renowned event unites fashion professionals with a series of runway shows, presentations, pop-up boutiques, networking opportunities and social experiences. The weeklong schedule of events encourages economic growth by creating opportunities for greater sustainability in the fashion community. Going beyond the Greater New Orleans area, NOFW will have designers from Chicago, Dallas and Orlando showcasing their collection on the runway at Gallier Hall.

Kicking off with a poolside soiree at Hyatt Centric to a collaboration with Longue Vue Gardens and a Fashion Collective Marketplace with Virgin Hotels, NOFW has events to please every fashion aficionado's palate. The week will culminate with two evenings of runway shows at Gallier Hall with over a dozen designers presenting each night, including a presentation from emerging design students from Tulane University.

Returning to the schedule of events is NOFW's Fashion Career Day. The day is open to those interested in learning more about career options and opportunities in apparel design, visual merchandising, and retail will have the chance to learn from industry professionals, leaders, and experts in different realms of the fashion world. The vision is to provide an enriching, creative space in which fashion-driven students can connect with those who may share some of the same aspirations in entering the fashion industry.

Tracee Dundas, NOFW Founder and Executive Director, emphasizes the program's impact. "Fashion Career Day is not just an event; it's an investment in the future of the fashion landscape in a city that is artistically centered. Relationships will begin, and dreams can materialize... that's the goal."

New Orleans Fashion Week is grateful for the support of The City of New Orleans, Embrace the Culture, New Orleans Theatre Association,



Hyatt Centric, Virgin Hotels, Canal Place, Paul Mitchell Cosmetology School, St. Charles Ave Magazine, Riverwalk Outlets, Data News Weekly, Inside New Orleans Magazine, FOX8, NOLA Throws, John Merritt Photography, New Orleans Chamber, Hispanic Chamber, Pilar Vanity, Chef Jason Lewis, New Orleans Portrait Photography, Bevolo, Westin Hotel

For more information on NOFW 2024 visit neworleansfashionweek.com and follow @nolafashionweek on Instagram and Facebook.



NEW ORLEANS FASHION WEEK 2024 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- Sunday, September 15** Kick Off Party – A Poolside Soiree | Virgin Hotels | 7PM
- Tuesday, September 17** Made to Match – Fashion Design Meets Interior Design | Longue Vue Gardens | 4PM
- Wednesday, September 18** Heyday of Canal Street – Fashions from Yesteryears | Hyatt Centric | 7PM
- Wednesday, September 18** Fashion Collective Market | Virgin Hotels | 5PM
- Thursday, September 19** Fashion Collective Market | Virgin Hotels | 5PM
- Thursday, September 19** NOFW X Indigo – Fall Fashion Fusion | Canal Place | 7PM
- *Dress for Success New Orleans Silent Auction Benefit
- Friday, September 20** Fashion Career Day | Gallier Hall | 8:30AM
- Friday, September 20** Designer Runway | Gallier Hall | Doors: 6PM, Show 7PM
- Saturday, September 21** Designer Runway | Gallier Hall | Doors: 6PM, Show 7PM
- Saturday, September 21** Wrap Party – Fashionably Late Wrap Party | Virgin Hotels | 9PM

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

BRW Gives Amazing Performance at Le Roux's on the Lake

Photos by Terry B. Jones
Publisher, Data News Weekly

It was a night for the grown and sexy as BRW, a New Orleans group who has been together for 52 years. They brought their soulful sounds originally performing at Le Roux's, now returning after several years to perform here at the New Le Roux's on the Lake, owned by Kurte Pellerin. The night was one filled with great music, and delicious food, as the audience sang along and danced to BRW performing R&B Classics. Data News Weekly was there for this great and memorable evening!!! If you would like to see more of BRW performances, they will be returning to Le Roux's on the Lake next month, check with Kurte for the dates. In the meantime, they will be at the New Orleans East Festival in Joe Brown Park on September 21st, 2024, and the Rock 'N Bowl in Carrollton on September 27th, 2024.



(L-R) Kurte Pellerin, Owner of Le Roux's on the Lake, BRW Group - Wayne Guidry, Vocalist, Billy Kennedy, Lead Vocalist, Rohillion Guidry, Vocalist, and Terry B. Jones, Publisher/CEO, Data News Weekly.



Several friends and fans pose for a group photo during intermission.



At left: Friends, Sabrina and Cynthia pose for a quick photo with Kurte Pellerin, Owner of Le Roux's on the Lake.



Billy Kennedy, Lead Vocalist of the group is seen here singing to the ladies.

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

Percy "Master P" Miller Named as City of New Orleans Entertainment Ambassador

Data News Staff Edited Report

Last week, New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell was joined by State Representative Candace Newell, Councilman Eugene Green, Director of the Office of Cultural Economy, Lisa Alexis, Director of the Office Economic Development, Jeff Schwartz, Interim Director of Mayor's Office of Nighttime Economy, Michael Ince, and several other City leaders to announce Businessman and Music Mogul Percy "Master P" Miller as the City of New Orleans Entertainment Ambassador.

The press conference represented the official kickoff of a collaborative effort to stimulate entertainment and cultural opportunities and celebrate the city's traditions to build next level



New Orleans Native Percy "Master P" Miller continues to be a force in entertainment and business. Recently being chosen to be part of a new initiative to help further grow the cultural economy of the City.

success for the future of New Orleans. This collaboration will connect more influential NOLA natives to operate as a diverse entertainment and cultural platform to develop entertainment content for film, television, music streaming projects, entertainment, culinary arts, design, literary arts and humanities, preservation, and visual arts and crafts.

This initiative will establish a "Hollywood South Collaborative" of master-class environments designed to mentor and teach essential entertainment business skills, while promoting the City of New Orleans to entertainment producers and managers, encouraging them to bring concerts and special events to the city. Strategies will be implemented to support the growth and business development of the city's live festival mar-

ketplace, allowing event management companies to thrive.

Master P was born and raised in New Orleans and attended Booker T. Washington High School and Warren Easton Charter School. He was motivated and determined to reach his goals and dreams which led him to become a successful businessman and music mogul. As a student-athlete at the University of Houston, he studied Business Communications and later relocated to Richmond, CA where he opened his first small business, a record store he called No Limit Records. Within a few years, he turned it into a record label, which flourished into one of the biggest music brands in the industry. He expanded his portfolio to include success in television, film, acting, producing, sports, clothing and real estate.

State & Local News

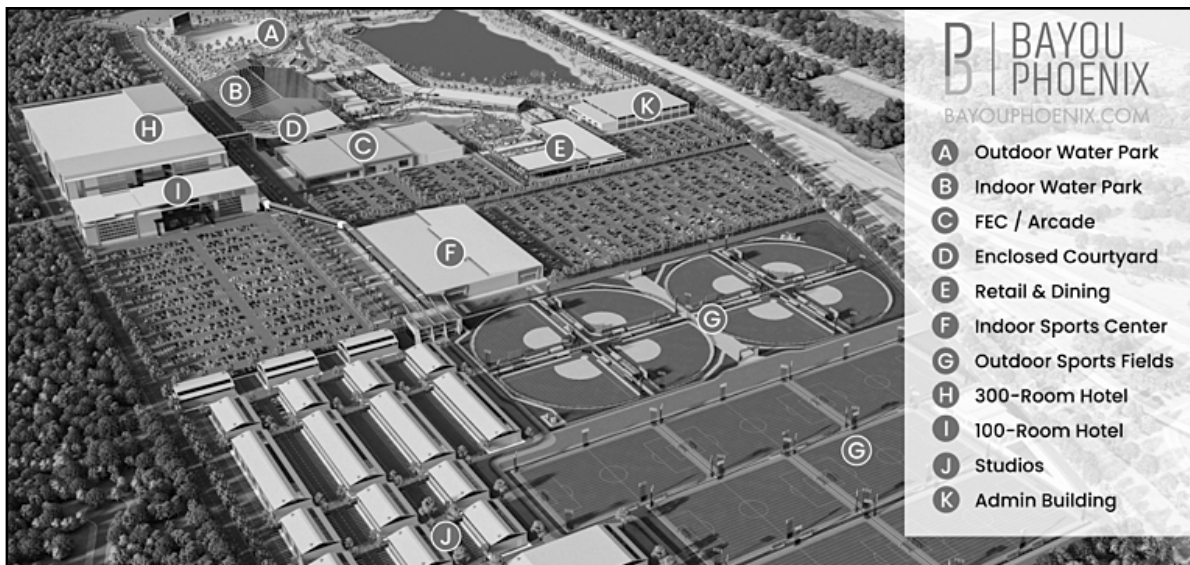
New Orleans Six Flags to begin Demolition and Redevelopment

Data News Staff Edited Report

Six Flags in New Orleans East has been abandoned for nearly 20 years Post-Katrina.

Janice Skinner lives in the Maple Ridge subdivision, a neighboring community. She said the wait has been too long for a project this size at the eyesore of a theme park. "It's something that we should have had like years ago," Skinner said. "So, it's unfortunate that nothing's happened before now, but I'm glad that they finally were able to basically sign on the line to have something start to have something in production."

Bayou Phoenix, the redevelop-



Once demolished, the former site of Six Flags will be transformed into Bayou Paradise, with youth sports fields, hotels, shops, a movie studio, and a water park.

ment company for the project, plans to transform the overgrown site in New Orleans East into a bustling \$500 million complex with youth sports fields, hotels, shops, a movie studio and a waterpark.

Troy Henry is the founder of the company taking over the redevelopment project. He said the plan is broken down into phases.

"We'll see demolition beginning in the next probably 30 to 60 days, just depending on the permitting process," Henry said. "And then after that, there's going to be a period of time where E. Ross will begin their construction in the first quarter of next year."

Bayou Paradise is expected to be completed in 2027.

Early Literacy is an Educational Priority

Dr. Herb Turner Founder, President and Principal Scientica Inc.

Dr. Marina Merrill Director of Research & Strategy Children's Institute

In 2023, the Oregon Legislature launched the Early Literacy Success Initiative to help all students learn to read, as only 46% of students read proficiently by the end of Grade 3. To support the initiative, the Children's Institute (CI) partnered with the Regional Educational Laboratory Northwest (REL Northwest) to compile accessible, evidence-based resources to support this effort and strengthen literacy practices for young children.

Preschool students at the Preschool Promise Program at the Center for African Immigrants and Refugees in Portland, Oregon.

Why early literacy matters

Why focus on birth to Grade 3? Early experiences shape the foundation for all future learning, with critical brain development occurring before age five. When young children develop strong language skills early on, they are better equipped to engage in learning and succeed academically. Children who fail to achieve reading proficiency by Grade 3 are four times more likely to drop out of high school. Thus, early literacy is an educational priority and an equity issue, as it can help mitigate the effects of poverty and systemic inequities.

Policy context and future directions

The shift toward identifying literacy skills on the zero-to-Grade-3 continuum reflects a growing recognition of the importance of



early childhood education. This approach aligns with national trends and funding opportunities, emphasizing the need for comprehensive early literacy strategies. By thinking beyond the traditional PreK-3 continuum, Oregon is positioning itself as a leader in early childhood education reform.

The infusion of state funding into early literacy initiatives, particularly the Early Literacy Success Initiative, opens new possibilities. By leveraging this funding, educators and policymakers can adopt and integrate these tools and strategies into their existing frameworks, ensuring that every child in Oregon can develop strong literacy skills from the earliest age.

By creating a more equitable education system that empowers all children to reach their full potential, this initiative aims to improve early literacy and foster a sense of shared responsibility and commitment to the future of our children and our communities. Lessons learned can or should inform efforts through-

out the country and inspire action on early literacy.

The Role of REL Northwest and Children's Institute

REL Northwest plays a crucial role in building the capacity of education stakeholders across

Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington and helping state and district leaders use data and evidence for informed decision-making. REL Northwest conducts applied research and provides training and technical support to state and local education agencies and community organization partners in the region.

Children's Institute, a nonprofit organization, focuses on improving the lives of children from prenatal to Fifth Grade in Oregon, especially those facing systemic barriers like poverty, racial inequities, disabilities, or rural areas. CI's work focuses on shaping state early childhood policy related to early learning and healthy development and working with schools and districts to strengthen teaching practices in preschool through fifth grade with its Early School Success initiative. They collaborate with various stakeholders, including families, educators, regional leaders, policymakers, and health organizations, to ensure a comprehensive approach to early childhood education.

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